



# George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Volume 10 • Number 3

Summer 1991

## You are invited...

A full moon in August, a chicken barbecue, a plant sale, a moonlit walk in the woods, and country dance music; what more could Arboretum members want for our first special event for members only?

We hope you will join us on Saturday, August 24, for Moonlight Madness and Greenhouse Overflow Plant Sale. Starting at 4:00 p.m. Pamela will sell every plant that we don't have space for in the heated part of the greenhouse. These bargains will delight you and help us out of a bind!

Up in the field by the Meeting House, the famous Brooks Barbecue

team will have been working for hours in order to serve you a fantastic chicken dinner. Serving will start at 5:00. Dinner is a half-chicken, baked potato, slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert. Dinner tickets are \$8 adult, \$7 child.

We must have at least 200 dinners reserved in order to have the Brooks folks put on the food for us, so send in your reservation right away (deadline for RSVP's is July 26.) You will want to bring a picnic blanket or lawn chairs or even a card table if you're feeling fancy as there certainly isn't enough seating at picnic tables for our huge Arboretum family! Non-member friends are welcome as your

guests (a good time to introduce new people to our garden.)

Try some country dancing to the tunes of Phiny Brugman, Bob Cates and R.P. Hills as they play dulcimer, fiddle and piano in the Meeting House after supper, and then we'll take a moonlit stroll to enjoy our gorgeous trees in a different light!

Come to the Arboretum's largest picnic! Let's make this the first of many!

Please send your RSVP coupon today.

Bus trip to New York Botanic Garden is planned for October 5. (Bronx Zoo is across the street for those who prefer fauna to flora.) Details in September.

## Arbor Day Fun and Prizes

On April 27 we celebrated Arbor Day with the winners of the "My Favorite Tree" essay contest, their families, and other folks who came for the fun. Over twenty fourth and fifth grade classes participated in the essay contest this year, producing an astounding number of delightful essays.

The \$25 First Prize went to Erica Anderson of Cobleskill Central School. Second place (\$15) went to Peter Degnan of Hamagrael School, Delmar, and Third (\$10) to Reginald Conway of Pleasant Valley School, Schenectady. The prize money was donated by Elizabeth Corning and Margaret Law. Each winner and all Honorable Mention recipients received gift certificates for ice cream cones provided by John Patanian of the Village Ice Cream Parlor.

Nurseryman Jeff Schworm lectured on proper tree planting and aftercare as we planted the Arbor Day tree (a weeping Colorado Spruce), and then everybody moved on to the Meeting House where they made enviro-ropes and recycled paper and went on a Tree Detective scavenger hunt.

For your reading pleasure, the three winning essays are printed here with.

### First Prize

Erica Anderson

Mrs. Gaida's Class

Cobleskill Central School

### My Favorite Tree: The Maple

I like many trees, but my favorite is the maple tree. It provides us with many things.

One thing I like about this is what it makes ...sap! In early spring you tap the tree and collect the sap. Then you boil it so it gets brown and goeey. You then have maple syrup! Is it ever delicious.

I also like the leaves of this tree. One neat thing about the maple leaf is that it is the symbol of the Canadian Flag. In the fall these leaves turn beautiful colors. That's why many people come from all over to come leaf watching. When the leaves fall off this tree like to rake them up and jump in them. What fun!

One interesting thing is about it's seeds. Did you know the seeds can plant themselves? On the tree there grows a seed. When the wind blows, the seeds fall off the tree. It then lands on the ground. After it rains, the seed begins to grow. The seeds also provide food for animals. I love to see squirrels collect the seeds for winter.

Maple trees are great climbing trees since the branches are strong and sturdy. Sometimes I like to sit in the blowing leaves and watch the birds fly to their nests.

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The growing season is well underway. It is difficult to ignore the exceptional blooming display afforded by the rather mild winter just past. From clouds of white shad to the beauty of spring's orchards, lilacs, and ornamentals of all sorts, it was a colorful season. New growth on conifers is longer than usual and coning appears particularly heavy.

The Arboretum is now an official weather monitoring station for the U.S. Weather Bureau. Currently we are monitoring precipitation, but in the near future they will be adding equipment which will track minimum and maximum temperature extremes throughout the year. The tracking of these very basic environmental variables is essential for evaluation of plant performance, particularly hardiness. Plants to be evaluated will be those currently in the plantings and the many plants that are currently being added to our collections (please see Garden Forum page 7).

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held May 19, 1991, at the Arboretum Meeting House. At this

### The George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

is published quarterly for members of the Arboretum. The GLA's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through programs and through its plant collections.

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meeting the Trustees accepted the retirement of two Trustees, Ms. Marian Wait Walsh and Mr. Richard M. Law. I would like to thank them for their service on the Board; Marian for her legal expertise and good judgement and Richard for among his many jobs his service as Arboretum Treasurer, a most demanding job. Two new Trustees were welcomed to the Board, Ms. Brenda Ladd and Mr. Richard Southwick. Ms. Ladd's field of expertise is finance and show management - two areas where we could use additional guidance. Mr. Southwick is a long time associate of the Arboretum. A retired SUNY professor of Horticulture - with a particularly good hand at propagation - he worked with Fred Lape for many years as friend, horticultural advisor and Trustee. The professional and interpersonal skills of both of these individuals will be invaluable assets to our garden as we continue to grow.

On your next visit to the garden you will notice a few changes. Due to the large number of volunteers working on various projects and the success of educational programs we have moved Laura and Amy and the office records the Homestead. This move makes the staff much easier for visitors to find and frees up space in the library to aid in the completion of interior work begun last winter. My files and desk remain in the library (can't bear to be away from the greenhouse). The barn is receiving a much needed facelift, a loving effort by dedicated volunteer Chuck Huppert who is using the siding donated by Beverly Waite. We all realize that the barn is still in need of much jacking up, etc., but as money for this extensive a project may not be available for many years have decided to protect the structure now.

A project that is funded is the perennial garden improvements initiated by Barbara Rusch's family. While volunteers and staff are doing some of the work, her memorial fund is paying for labor such as bed preparation as well as new plants. Again, our thanks to the Rusch family and Barbara's friends.

Many of our volunteers are rather clandestine. Quiet and industrious, you almost don't know they've been here until you see the work accomplished. David Vermilyea, our resident woodsman, is just such a volunteer. He prefers to work on dead tree removals, thinning crowns and trail making.

Our educational programs for children and adults have been well attended. Staff educator Laura Lehtonen and volunteer teachers had a full schedule teaching our Wonderful World of Trees program. This project was funded by the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums grant program which is administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for the Natural Heritage Trust. Teachers needed, *please* inquire!

Due to State budgetary problems the legislative item grant that we were to receive has been withdrawn. This money would have been used to correct severe drainage problems in the lower parking area. These improvements will have to wait until funding is available in the future.

Last issue we were finishing preparations for our spring benefit at the Desmond Americana. Unfortunately the keynote speaker, Fred McGourty, was unable due to illness to speak at the event. His wife Mary Anne did an excellent

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# Garden Exotica

## The "Other" Lilacs

Pamela Rowling

The genus *Syringa* is composed of 23 species. Two are European in origin, the remaining 21 species are predominantly Asiatic. *S. vulgaris* hails from the Balkan Mountains of Romania, Yugoslavia and Moldavia. The other European species, *S. josikaea*, is native to Hungary and Romania hence its colloquial name, Hungarian Lilac.

*Syringa vulgaris*, known also as the common or 'French' Lilac is the plant that is generally envisioned when one mentions lilacs. Ease of culture, fragrance and color are undoubtedly the factors which have inspired the development by plant breeders of literally hundreds of varieties and cultivars of this species.

The dark violet-blue Hungarian Lilac is a robust grower but a mediocre bloomer. It is more useful for the effect of its large, heavily veined and lustrous foliage than its blossoms, but has been used as a parent for many late-blooming hybrids.

Of the "other" lilacs, many Asiatic species and their hybrids are now available at retail nurseries (see our Gardener's Resource Directory). By incorporating these plants in your garden you can greatly extend the lilac blooming season as well as add variety of texture, color and scent.

*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim' is a selected seedling of a Korean species found by Professor Meader in 1947. It is an outstanding shrub, fine in texture and not at all rampant in growth. This plant may reach 8 feet in many years with equal spread but tends to be rather dwarfish. Leaves are small dark green with wavy margins in the summer turning to a lovely burgundy red in autumn. Flowers are pale light lavender (purple in bud and fading to white before falling) and have a spicy odor. Panicles (flower clusters) are not large but are generally borne in great profusion and follow *S. vulgaris* slightly.

The Meyer Lilac is known only in cultivation and was first found in gardens of northern China. *Syringa meyeri* var. 'Palibin' is a compact growing form that is prevalent in the trade. Slow growing, it reaches an eventual height of 4-5 feet and 5-7 feet wide forming a neat rounded mound. As in the preceding species flower clusters are small but numerous. Dark green smallish leaves offer a medium-fine textural component for the summer garden and are resistant to that summer bane of the Common Lilac, powdery mildew.



As previously mentioned the Asiatic species have been used in the development of a number of successful hybrids. The Rouen or Chinese Lilac is such a plant. *Syringa x chinensis* is the product of a cross between *S. laciniata* and *S. vulgaris*. Growing to 15 feet in height with an upright mounded form this hybrid is a good choice for the shrub border. Enormous numbers of flowers develop from the tips of slender branches and lateral buds. Two exceptional varieties are available in the trade. 'Saungeana' and 'Rothmagensis' are both lovely pink single flowered forms.

Canadian plant breeder Miss Isabella Preston in 1920 crossed two Chinese species. *S. villosa* was pollinated with pollen from *S. reflexa* and produced a race of late blooming

hardy lilacs which are named in her honor *Syringa x prestoniae* or the Prestonian Hybrids. These are very strong growers and quickly reach 10-12 feet in height. Foliage is light green, the large leaves coarse in texture. The flower colors range from pink to pinkish lavender and are attractive to both hummingbirds and butterflies. Flower clusters are large and abundantly borne as are the subsequent seed heads. Blooming well into June and ease of culture are two of the factors influencing their growing popularity. 'James MacFarland' and 'Miss Canada' are both single pink forms developed by Yaeger '59 and Cumming '67 respectively.

With proper pruning many of the larger growing species and hybrids may be trained to assume a tree form, however there are two species of lilac that grow as single stemmed trees naturally. The taxonomy of this group is rather confusing but basically there are two species *Syringa reticulata* (the Japanese Tree Lilac) and *Syringa pekinensis* (Pekin Lilac). They are very similar in appearance. Both have cherry-like bark and large panicles of creamy white flowers. In stature and in size of flower clusters *S. reticulata* is a larger species. It grows to 20 to 30 feet in height and may reach 25 feet in spread. Panicles are 6 to 12 inches in length and 6 inches wide. This is about the last lilac to bloom in early to mid June. Fragrance is reminiscent of privet and as such not appealing to everyone. Both species are extremely trouble free and deserve wider use as street trees, lawn specimens and border subjects.

All of the lilacs mentioned deserve wider usage. They expand the horizons of the genus offering great variability of texture, form, color and fragrance. Arboretum founder Fred Lape was a lilac enthusiast and hybridizer and our collection is home to many of his creations. The Cheat series, a number of named *vulgaris* selections and his outstanding *S. x prestoniae* 'Summer White' are among the plants currently being rehabilitated. Lilacs may be enjoyed here from approximately the first week of May until the end of June.



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Clue # 4

Look for me, I'm always green,  
I add dark color to a winter scene.  
My branches are feathery,  
my leaves are very small,  
Some call them needles,  
but they don't hurt at all!  
At the tips of my branches tiny cones  
you will see,  
My seeds are eaten by pine siskin and  
chickadee.



Clue #5

My trunk once stood firm, straight  
and tall,  
"Till lightning struck  
and made me fall.  
Although I've fallen, I do not hurt,  
And soon I'll turn to dark, rich dirt.  
Now I am home to beetles and bugs,  
And moss carpets me,  
like a soft, green rug.  
Mushrooms use my wood for food,  
Don't you think I serve some good?

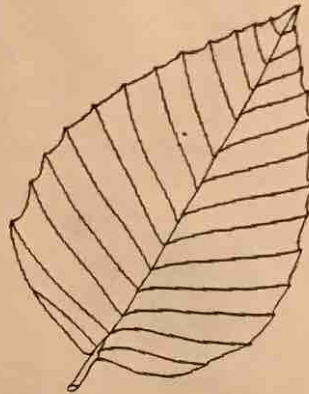
Clue #6

My trunk is ridged,  
my bark gray/brown,  
My leaves have five, deep lobes  
all around.  
In early spring my trunk you'll tap,  
To let out the sweet, liquid sap.  
Cook it up and make it slow,  
So on your pancakes it will flow!



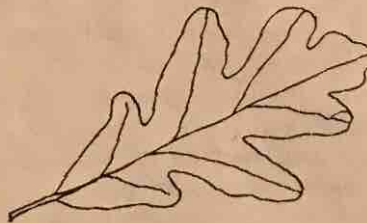
Clue #7

When I am found in a big city park,  
Hearts and initials are carved  
in my bark.  
Here in the forest my bark is scarred,  
Light gray, smooth and sleek,  
wrapping wood strong and hard.  
My leaves are long, straight-veined  
with teeth on each side,  
They hang on in winter even after  
they've died.  
Wild turkey and pheasant, or a grouse  
they will steal,  
My triangular nut for a sweet  
autumn meal.



Clue #8

Here is the last stop and we think  
you'll agree,  
I'm the biggest and oldest of these  
mystery trees.  
One person can't hug me my trunk  
is so wide,  
It has four large holes where  
animals hide.  
My leaves have round lobes,  
light below, green on top.  
In the fall I make acorns,  
a wild food crop.



Director's Report , continued from page 2

job in his place. Everyone appeared to have a fine time. The auction under the direction of Erastus Corning III featured many generous donations from area nurseries and horticultural professionals. Special National Arboretum plant introductions and books were offered by Drs. Theodore and Elizabeth Dudley. My thanks to the Chairs of the event Elizabeth Corning and Evelyn Sturdevan and all the volunteers who offered their support. A special note of thanks to Charles Yunck and Eugenia Wade of Yunck's Nursery whose consistent generosity is much appreciated.

The Annual Rare Plant Sale was almost too successful! Approximately three times the usual number of people attended and the crowds were literally crushing. I thank the two chairs of this event, Margaret Law and John Abbuhl, for their hard work as well as all others who joined to make this trying day a success. I hope you will all attend the Plant Sale in '92.

There are a number of changes which we are going to institute to alleviate the problems encountered this year.

Perennial gardening is definitely popular as evidenced by the enthusiasm of the group of buyers who attended the Perennial Sale on June 8. There were crowds but the sale was held outdoors in the Van Loveland Garden area and there was enough room for everyone. Delightful weather was an added bonus.

Assistant Director, Amy Lent, handler of public relations and literally the voice of the garden, has certainly honed the tricks of her trade to a fine degree. Our increased visibility is due in great measure to her efforts. Cooperative news media and an enthusiastic Ernie Walk of WQBK have afforded us great exposure to the people of the greater Capital District.

On with the endless, joyous chores of summer. We hope you visit soon.

- #5- A fallen log (you pick your favorite)
- #6- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- #7- Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- #8- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

- #1- White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
- #2- Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)
- #3- Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- #4- Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

ANSWERS:



# Gardener's Workshop

## Perennial Pleasure

### Water, Beautiful Water

Summer is fully upon us at last, and the frenzy of spring gardening has settled into an easy pattering. Still, there can't be perfect ease, for the gardener must be ever watchful as to the condition of the soil and the poise of his plants, solicitously monitoring their need for water. Seldom do we have occasion to realize more fully how dependent on water we are for all life.

Here in the Northeast, plentiful water is a luxury easily taken for granted. But as anyone who relies on a well could tell you, the pure water we rely on for household and garden use is a very limited source indeed.

So what can a gardener do to reduce the use of water in the gardens?

There are a number of cultural approaches, any one of which will reduce the need for water, and if used together will make a dramatic difference in the water demands of the garden.

1. *Soil conditioning.* Include plenty of organic matter when preparing the beds. Organically rich soil retains water well. Available compost, leaf mold, and veggie scraps from the kitchen can be dug in, or commercial products such as peat moss.

2. *Choose drought tolerant plants.* There are an astonishing number of perennials available for sun and shade that stand up to drought for a long time before they beg for water.

Where more sensitive plants are desired, group them according to water need, then each section of garden may be watered only as needed.

3. *Mulch* is probably the greatest water saver of all. Mulching is the "wonder pill" for the garden. In addition to holding moisture in the ground, it cools the soil in summer, gains warmth in the cold months, prevents the surface from compacting, keeps weeds down, and enriches the soil as it decomposes.

To digress slightly, there are two

schools of thought regarding soil cultivation. Probably the most common approach is to loosen the surface of the soil around plants so that water will be absorbed easily rather than flowing off the compacted upper layer. Another interesting concept is that the dry surface crust actually seals water in the soil, and that the deep cracks that appear after prolonged drought allow rainfall to penetrate quickly to a considerable depth during brief summer storms.

But one needn't bother to decide which of the above ideas best "holds water". Avoid the dilemma altogether by adopting the more effective alternative of mulching.

Mulch is a layer of material about two inches thick, spread over the soil between (but not touching) the stems of plants. Any number of purchased or homemade materials can be used as a mulch. Readily available in summer, grass clippings are great but should be layered on no more than an inch thick at a time - add more next time you mow.

4. *Good watering practices* can increase the benefit from each gallon of water.

- If possible, water plants at ground level rather than spraying the foliage. Besides getting water directly to the roots where it is needed, this will minimize losses to evaporation and the spread of fungal disease.

- Water infrequently and deeply so that deep roots will develop. Frequent light watering results in shallow rooted plants with a hose dependency.

- Time the watering to give maximum benefit. Don't water during hottest hours of the day as a great deal of water is simply lost to evaporation, and wet foliage can be damaged by the intense heat. Studies have demonstrated that the very early hours of morning are best for watering. If local watering restrictions dictate evening water use, begin in early evening so that foliage will have time to dry before dark to avoid those

fungal problems.

5. *The lawn* sets off the garden beautifully, but requires vast amounts of water. Again the rule is to water deeply and infrequently. Many lawn grasses go dormant during the heat of summer. If the area doesn't take much foot traffic just let it go brown, it will revive when the weather cools.

Mow and maintain grass at about three inches high, which will keep the grass cool in its own shade and minimize moisture loss.

These few ideas are simple enough and require at most a new way of thinking about water and how to keep it where you want it. In the long run you will discover that these methods save effort as well as water.

Enjoy your garden and treat it well. But remember that it is part of a much larger garden which is the Earth.

### Perennial Duties

- Divide iris and poppies in July, other perennials when the weather cools at end of September.

- Continue pinching chrysanthemums back until the end of July.

- Stake any plants that require it.

- Make note of bloom and foliage combinations and gaps in the border for later repair, and of plants that will need dividing in the fall. Write these things down!

- Send in fall plant orders early.

- Keep weeding and dead-heading.

### Villain of the Season - Japanese Beetle

A long season of woe has begun for those afflicted with this pest. In large numbers they are a despoiling plague.

If there are only a few, they can be crushed between the fingers. (Personally, I am too squeemish to do this without gloves!) Otherwise knock them into a bottle of soapy water as you find them during your daily garden tour.

The Japanese beetle traps do work, but be sure to place them away from your garden, as they lure. Hand-picking will still be necessary.

Andrea Madney



# How Does Our Garden Grow?

New Members (\*) and Renewals  
March - May 1991

## Members

Carter & Linnea Andersson-Wintle  
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Verna Bejian\*  
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Diane Breslin\*  
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Oakridge Adult Home  
Schoharie Valley Garden Club

## Patrons

Village Ice Cream Parlor

## Donations

John Abbuhl for slide show production  
Elizabeth Corning and Margaret Law;  
prizes for the essay contest  
Charles Huppert; lumber for barn repairs

## In-Kind gifts

John Abbuhl; assorted trees for the collection  
Elizabeth Corning; *Magnolia x 'Elizabeth'*  
Ina Jones & Catherine Mosera poem written by Ina Jones in memory of Fred Lape, for display in reception area  
Pamela H. Rowling; collection of *Ilex verticillata* and *Ilex serrata x verticillata* cultivars

## Memorials

Garden bench; Given in memory of Charles Edward Johnson by his wife Joan and daughters.  
Garden bench; Given in memory of Charles E. Johnson by Winsor A. Lott and family.  
Information Shed; dedicated to the memory of Mildred Bouton Zinser, a woman who loved trees, by Phyllis Rosenblum.

## Barbara Rusch Memorial

Philip D. Archer  
Larry & Becky Black  
Jeffrey A. Dean  
Depart. Educational Psychology, SUNYA  
Cheryl J. Gowie  
Peg & Jim Gowie  
Pauline Grippen  
Laura D. Harckham  
Robert Hayden  
Mary D. Horan  
Leda D. Kim  
Edna Lake  
Vijay & Arlene Macwan  
William B. Michael  
Douglas Penfield  
Fay Rusch  
Rachel Rusch  
School of Education, SUNYA  
Pamela Shannon  
Cathryne H. Sivers  
Verona & Reuben Rusch  
Paul J. Vermette  
Linda & Lawrence Wightman



# Garden Forum

We thought you'd like to know

The Garden Forum column is intended for articles by Arboretum friends. Please contribute! This issue, however, it is an update on our plant collections.

For years, four now, you have all been hearing us talk about all the cleanup work that is being done. We have added a few plants now and again but this year for the first time we are able to make substantial additions to our living collections. This is due to several factors. The greenhouse is an invaluable resource and has allowed us to grow from seed a number of plants from various sources to test in our plantings. It has also provided a place to store plants and protect new smaller plants acquired from numerous sources until they are large enough to move outside. A second factor influencing the numbers of additions are plant donations from horticulturally minded supporters of Arboretum, either as gifts or in the form of living memorials through our dedicated trees program.

The majority of plants recently received will be used to fill out existing plantings e.g. the perennial gardens area or lilac plantings etc. While the plants are too numerous to

be listed in this issue, two groups in particular may be of interest to our readers. These plants and their sources are listed below.

From Dr. Theodore Dudley, Research Botanist at the U.S. National Arboretum, we received plants collected on various expeditions in China, Japan, Korea and the Soviet Union: *Photinia villosa* var. *longipes*, *Photinia villosa*, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, *Grewia biloba* var. *parviflora*, *Meliosma myriantha*, *Ilex macropoda*, *Acer ginnala*, *Rhamnella franguloides*, *Crataegus pinnatifida* var. *major*, *Juniperus rigida*, *Weigelia praecox*, *Meliosma Oldhamii*, *Hydrangea aspera* ssp. *strigosa* and *Lindera erythrocarpa*.

Plants from China, Korea, Norway, Czechoslovakia and USSR have arrived for hardiness testing in Esperance as part of our participation in USDA plant trials. These are from Mr. Mark P. Widrechner at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa: *Ampelopsis aconitifolia* var. *glabra*, *Euonymus hamiltonianus*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Staphylea bumaldii*, *Staphylea colchica*, *Viburnum bitchiuense*, *Delphinium laxiflorum*, *Caragana manshurica* and *Caragana arborescens*.

## Spring Benefit Donors

The following businesses gave plants or other garden items for the 1991 Spring Benefit:

Callander's Nursery  
Jay Carnevale Landscape and Flower Design  
Cascade Landscaping  
Chris' Florist and Nursery  
Colonial Acres Nursery  
Dave Coughlin  
Faddegon's Nursery  
Four Seasons Nursery  
Jim Girard Landscape Maintenance  
Thomas P. Grogan  
F.A. Guernsey Schoharie Nurseries  
Helderledge  
Northern Nurseries  
J.L. Schworm  
My Acres Nursery  
Nursery's Nursery  
White Birch Nursery  
Willow Spring Perennial Farm  
Yunck's Nursery

## Essays, continued from page 1

Maple trees do a lot for all of us, so let's plant more of these trees to clean the air, give us oxygen to breathe, give people enjoyment for many years to come.

## Second Prize

Peter Degnan  
Mrs. DeHart's Class  
Hamagrael School, Delmar

## Maple and Me

Big tall maple trees sit in my yard. They are very important to me. For without those maple trees what good would panckaes be. Where would I put my hammock, if it was not for those maple trees. Those maple trees are like good friends standing near by me.

In the fall the maple leaves are like hands falling on me. Without those maple trees where would I put my tree house high in the sky. Where I could spy and keep a sharp eye. Where would I hide if there were no maple trees.

In the Fall those maple trees look like little gold leaves. In the Winter those maple trees shield icy cold snowballs. In the Spring those maple trees have my maple syrup. In the Summer those maple trees are good for sitting in the shade and reading a good book. So you see those maple trees are going to stay.

## Third Prize

Reginald Conway  
Mrs. Horton's Class  
Pleasant Valley School, Schenectady

Once upon a time, when trees could grow where they please. A boy who loved trees was born. His name was Red. When he was 9 he grew his own tree. By the time he was 10 he didn't have one friend. So he began to believe the tree was his friend. One Saturday he built a treehouse and a swing. Everyday he played with the tree until one day a new boy moved in next door. The boy had no friends either so they became friends. Red played less and less with the tree until one day he didn't play with the tree anymore. Then the boy next door said "Let's build a treehouse". Red remembered the treehouse and the swing he had built. Red said "We don't have to. I have already built one." So they started to play all day long. Then the boy next door said, "Can you plant a tree for me?" So the next day they started "Plan Tree". By next month both boys had trees, and then they started their own club, the "Tree Club". Then a wonderful thing happened. They had a new neighbor, it was a girl. Her name was Diane. So they voted her in and before long they had five kids. Their names were Red, Diane, Fred, George and Billy. They were all best friends. They played together and worked together. Then they got an idea. What if they could tell people to start planting trees? So that's what they did, and before long every boy or girl had there own tree. So that's how trees became popular.



# In the Shade of the Oak

## A Hunt for Trees

Laura Lehtonen is the newest member of the Arboretum staff. Solve this little mystery and see how much fun nature education can be!

Sometimes we take a hike without really seeing the trees for the forest! Can you identify some trees at the Arboretum with a minimum of clues? Find out during your next visit.

These clues are designed to be used along the Woodland Trail. To find the

trail, park in the upper parking lot by the Meeting House. Stop in to get a map and then walk across the field to the green and white Woodland Trail sign.

Begin your search (with Clue #1), before entering the woods. Walk at a leisurely pace - the clues correspond to trees or other woodland features approximately 50 - 70 feet apart, located along the trail. However,

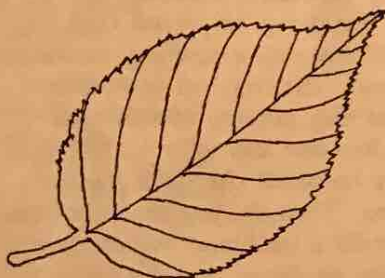
Laura Lehtonen

these same trees are found at the beginning of the trail and throughout the woods (with the exception of Clue #8), so don't get discouraged if you can't find the trees in order. The illustrations also provide information about the trees you are searching for. The object is to have fun and use your powers of observation.

Answers on page 4.

### Clue #1

An Indian who saw me knew  
My bark would make a light canoe  
He would cut me down  
and take me back  
To peel my bark - all white with black  
The sheets of bark  
were shaped and bound  
To build a vessel watertight  
and sound.

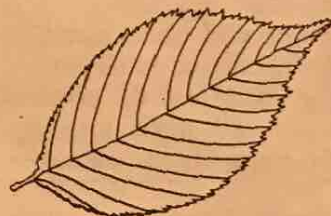


### Clue #2

An animal I'm not, no zebra  
nor a skunk,  
Yet green and white stripes run  
the length of my trunk.  
I'm smooth and skinny and not  
very tall,  
If you look straight above you won't  
see me at all.  
My leaves have three lobes, with green  
on each side,  
And although I need sun, in the shade  
I will thrive.

### Clue #3

My leaves are like saw blades edged  
with sharp teeth,  
If you touch them they're fuzzy above  
and beneath.  
I'm not very wide,  
I grow medium - tall,  
If not for my bark you might not  
see me at all.  
My bark peels and shreds into  
strip - like rectangles  
That jut into the air at all kinds  
of angles.



Continued on page 4

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