

THE NEWSLETTER
**LANDIS
ARBORETUM**

Esperance, New York

SPRING 2003

VOLUME 22, NO. 2

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S P R I N G P L A N T S A L E

SATURDAY, MAY 17 AND SUNDAY, MAY 18, 10AM TO 4PM



reparations for our 31st Annual Spring Plant Sale began in May 2002. This is our largest fund-raiser, the proceeds going to maintaining and improving the Arboretum. The plant sales provide an opportunity for you to help the Arboretum while acquiring beautiful and unusual plants, shrubs, and trees for your home gardens. **Admission and parking are free.**

We hope for good weather but regardless of rain, shine or even s**w, the sale will go on as scheduled: Saturday May 17 and Sunday May 18 from 10am to 4pm. No sales will be made prior to these dates except for the Members Only

"Pick of the Pots" Preview Party—our way of saying "thank you" to all of you who support Landis through membership (see information below). Call 518-875-6935, for information.

Plant Donations

We are seeking **donations of desirable and healthy plants** for the sale. We do need to have donated plants "sale-ready"—there is not time for volunteers to repot, groom or label the plants. The Arboretum can supply standard-sized containers for your use; plants should be clearly labeled.

Facilities

- **Ample parking, restrooms and picnic tables** are available for your convenience. Limited handicapped parking is available. Please inform parking attendants of your needs.
- Dogs are welcome on the Arboretum grounds, but not in the plant sale area.
- **New this year:** please have your sales slip available to be hole-punched as you leave.

Other Activities

- **Lunch** (hotdogs and hamburgers) and refreshments will be for sale courtesy of the Esperance Volunteer Fire Department.

- **Saturday Bake Sale.** The Garden Volunteers will again hold their bake sale on Saturday to raise money for the care of our perennial gardens. The selection of cookies, pies, cakes and breads is as varied and unusual as our plants. Donations of home-baked goods are appreciated (call 875-6935).

- **The Book Sale.** The Book Sale continues to grow and add to our proceeds. We welcome donations of all types of books. When you clear space on your shelves by donating books, think of all the room you will have for new books!

- **Raffles.** The third annual raffle quilt will be on display and tickets will be on sale. The drawing will be in December 2003. One or more garden-related items will be raffled at the plant sale.

- **The Acorn Shop** will be open (see the article on page 8).

- **Soil Testing.** Bring a sample of your garden soil in a plastic sandwich bag for pH testing. \$2 per test. Results in about two weeks. Volunteers from the Master Gardener Program of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County will be on site to collect the samples.

"Pick of the Pots"

Members Only "Pick of the Pots" Preview Party will be held on Friday evening, May 16, 5pm–8pm.

- Get first pick of the plants before the public sale.
- Registration with payment is required by Friday, May 16. Cost of the party is \$10.
- If you are not a member, join and register with payment by Friday, May 16. Members are entitled to a 10% discount on all plants and Acorn Shop purchases.
- A complimentary buffet dinner (5:30pm–7:30pm) is available to the first 150 people who register with payment by Monday, May 12.



Photos by Sonja Javaronic

H. paniculata grandiflora
Hydrangeas are one of the featured plant groups at the Spring Plant Sale. See page 6.

Call the office, 875-6935, for information and registration.

—more on pages 3, 5, 6 & 8.

THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for its members. The Arboretum's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through its programs and through its plant collection.

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FINDING A COOL GRAND OR MEMBER LANDS GRAND FOR LANDIS

by David Buddle, Arboretum member and volunteer

This month Delmar Learning, a publishing company in Clifton Park and my employer, made a \$1,000 grant to the Arboretum to support the Tough Trees for Tough Sites collection. The grant was awarded on the basis of a short application Gloria Van Duyne and I wrote. I'm writing this article to urge other members to find out if their employers might also want to support the Arboretum.

Delmar Learning delivers lifelong learning products and services to customers in the career education, health care, and technology and trades markets. It offers learning solutions for all points along a customer's career, from introductory coursework to professional certification and continuing education.

The grant to Landis fits closely with Delmar Learning's charitable goal of supporting organizations that help promote education, health and wellness, children's issues, the arts, environmental or animal welfare issues, and community improvement. It prefers to give to organizations that employees already support with their own time or money.

The \$1,000 from Delmar Learning brings the Arboretum seven trees closer to having the complete Tough Trees for Tough Sites collection. The Arboretum already has 75 of the 100 trees that can grow successfully in tough sites. Nina Bassuk identified these trees in her book *Urban Trees* (Cornell Publications), which discusses the characteristics that make sites difficult for tree survival. The book's title refers to the fact that some of the most difficult growing conditions exist in cities. Once the Tough Trees collection is complete, Landis will have the only collection of trees recommended for urban and difficult sites in the northeastern United States.

Homeowners and municipalities often plant trees that are unsuitable for the chosen locations but don't realize it until the trees mature. Poor selection and maintenance contribute to the shamefully short lifespan of urban trees, estimated to be just

nine years. While Dr. Bassuk's book is a great resource, the Arboretum's living collection of these tough trees allows homeowners and municipalities to see mature specimens before purchasing their own trees.

Landis has been working with the Village of Cobleskill to improve understanding and care of street trees. A tree committee, made up of municipal workers and volunteers, has received training in proper planting, mulching, and pruning techniques from Landis horticulturist Fred Breglia. Cobleskill is the first of many municipalities Landis will work with and educate about site requirements and proper health care techniques.

The Arboretum staff deserves the credit for bringing this \$1,000 grant to the Arboretum. Executive Director Gloria Van Duyne suggested that the grant application focus on the Tough Trees collection because it is so close to completion. She drafted the grant proposal, and Roberta Krause assembled newspaper clippings to document the work Fred has already done with Cobleskill's Tree Committee. I put the finishing touches on the application.

I urge all Landis members to ask their employers two questions: Does the company make charitable contributions? How can the Arboretum be considered for support? Let them know you already support the Arboretum.—then call Gloria for ideas about Arboretum programs that fit your company's charitable priorities. By focusing on a single program, the contributing company gets more bang for the buck; it makes a noticeable impact on one of the Arboretum's many important programs.

Many large companies contribute to charitable organizations because it is good public relations. These are win-win partnerships that allow the Arboretum to provide top-notch horticultural education through its programs and plant collections.

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS AND CONTINUING SUPPORT—

Sam Bass for his generous contribution to help save the Great Oak.

Everyone who contributed to the new computer project for Fred.

AND TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

Patrick Clear, ECOS

Glenbrook Farm, Viktoria Serafin

Dana Todd Realty

Gardener's Workshop

WELCOME New Members

Lois & William Asher

Karen Brown

Warren & Jean Burton

Margaret Caballeira

Arthur Coleman

Veronica Drislane

Joseph & Lynne

Golonka

Ken & Marian Hotopp

Paul, Lisa & Cieran
Murphy

Phyllis Ochs

Helen & Peter
Schnitzer

Dick Van Duyne

Janet Vinyard

Tressa Vellozzi

Robert & Patricia Wall

Landis Arboretum Rated Strongest Northeast Oak Collection in US



Photo by Gloria Van Dyne

The Landis Arboretum has been named the official holder of oaks of the northeastern United States by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretas (AABGA) North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC) program. The NAPCC is a program started to preserve living genetic material for all plant species in North America and is part of a collaborative effort with gardens worldwide to safeguard all plant species from extinction. Each year many species of plants become extinct due to loss of habitat, pollution, grazing, and exotic diseases and pests.

Gardens in the NAPCC have committed themselves to the conservation and care of specific plant collections. To become an NAPCC holder for a specific plant group, a botanical garden must meet strict standards for collections management and genetic quality. The collection must be genetically and taxonomically diverse as well as have a good representation of the specified plant group. The AABGA review committee evaluates applicants whose members have expertise in horticulture, curatorial practices, landscape management, and plant genetics. According to Tracy Omar, site evaluator for the AABGA and Manager of Collections at the Botanic Garden of Smith College, in his review of the Landis oak collection, "...it is probably the strongest collection in North America."



NAPCC Review. Tracy Omar (right) and Fred Breglia checking out the Mongolian Oak at Landis.

Photo by Gloria Van Dyne

selection and breeding, evaluation, introduction or re-introduction, and taxonomic study.

Recently Sonja Javarone and I attended a presentation on oaks by Kevin Nixon, author of the oak section in the authoritative *Flora of North America*, and a leading world authority on oaks species. We invited him on a tour of Landis Arboretum showcasing our very diverse oak collection.

Landis Arboretum is the only garden in New York State to be an official holder for the NAPCC and the first garden to apply to the NAPCC program with an annual operating budget under \$500,000. The NAPCC status puts us on a list of prestigious gardens and arboreta including the Arnold Arboretum, US National Arboretum, The North Carolina Arboretum, Morton Arboretum, and Scott Arboretum.

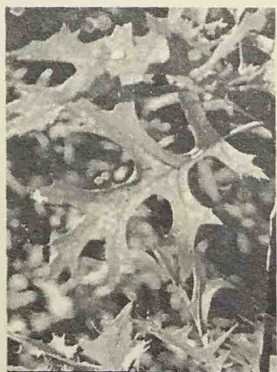
Gardens that are official NAPCC holders could be eligible for funding to help develop the collection as part of this conservation effort. Gardens may also receive access to curatorial information, mentoring, and networking as well as increased exposure in AABGA publications and website, collaborations with plant societies, plant collectors, and garden magazines, and a NAPCC participation certificate.

Our growing conditions and climate are very favorable for oaks and we have a large diverse group of collected and native oak species. The Landis Arboretum oak collection consists of 17 different species of oaks of which 10 are Northeast natives. In addition, we also have a number of oaks in the old growth area of our native woodland that exceed 250 years of age including one white oak, (The Great Oak) which is over 400 years old.

Researchers, college students, horticultural and arboricultural professionals can access official North American collections for



English Oak, *Quercus robur*



Oak, *Quercus* sp



Swamp White Oak, *Quercus*



Chestnut Oak, *Quercus prinus*



Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus*

Photos by Sonja Javarone

WISH LIST

We are looking for the following items (or estimated dollar amount to purchase items).

Books

Lilacs: The Genus Syringa, Fr. John L. Fiala

Equipment

- Laminating machine
- New computer for Windows version of collections database. (\$150)
- Picnic tables and benches. (\$250)
- Professional climbing saw (\$150)
- D.R. brush mower (\$2500)
- Hardback rakes, shovels, loppers, and mulch fork (\$200)
- Four-wheel drive pickup in good shape
- Troy Built hand cart

And always, the large tractor—

- A John Deere 790 (or machine of equal quality) 4wd, 30hp, with backhoe and loader. (\$20,000)
- Trowels and other small gardening tools

Acorn Shop

- clear plastic containers for storage:
Three 6" deep x 11" high x 26" long
Ten 9" deep x 11" high x 15-18" long

Project Wish List

We are looking for volunteers familiar with the following tasks (or equivalent dollar amount to complete these projects).

- Stone walkways to and from the farmhouse need rebuilding. (\$1000)
- Stone walls around the greenhouse and walls around perennial garden need rebuilding. (\$800)
- Machinery maintenance volunteer to do oil changes, tune-ups, etc. on our equipment. (\$500)
- Scraping and painting the Arboretum's identification signs

HORTICULTURIST'S Corner

by Fred Breglia, Head of Horticulture and Operations

Tree Fertilization—Part II

The age, species, and health of a tree, as well as the form of the fertilizer, method of application, and the site conditions are all factors affecting tree fertilization.

Before deciding how much and what kind of fertilizer, you should determine your goal. I always like to make analogies between plants and people. Young children require different types of nutrients and care compared to the needs of their grandparents. To develop stronger more healthy trees, the goal for a young tree is to help establish the plant at the site and increase the rate of growth. Very large trees that have been in our landscapes for some time will require a fertilization program aimed at creating a stable growing environment. The objective is not to make these big trees even larger, but rather to make them happy and healthy throughout their lives. For trees that have sustained some injuries, the goal is to help the trees overcome the damage.

Another factor to consider is the soil pH. This is the measure of the alkalinity or acidity of a soil and this measure dramatically affects the plant's ability to absorb nutrients. The pH scale runs from the most acidic (0) to the most alkaline (14) with 7 being neutral. Most plants prefer a pH in the range of 6.5 to 6.8. Acid-loving plants (rhododendrons) prefer the pH on the lower side and alkaline-loving plants (lilacs) prefer the pH on the higher side. The pH directly affects the availability of nutrients in the fertilizer to plants by preventing or allowing the absorption of certain elements by feeder roots. A low cost way to check pH before applying fertilizer is to take a soil sample from your yard to the local Cornell Cooperative Extension, or purchase a test kit from them and do it yourself.

A general recommendation is to fertilize the majority of trees with at least 50% water insoluble nitrogen (WIN); that is at the rate of one to three pounds nitrogen per 1000 square foot of root area. Quick-release fertilizers are used only when the objectives of fertilization cannot be met with slow-release forms. Nitrogen (N) is used in the largest quantities by plants but micro-nutrients are equally important. Even though these elements are needed in much smaller quantities, a deficiency of even one element can have a profound effect on the health of the tree. A fertility test can be very valuable in determining what elements are needed for optimal plant growth. Soils can be tested for fertility at any Cooperative Extension Center for a nominal fee.

There are many different ways to apply fertilizers. Surface application is the easiest and least

expensive. Fertilizer is broadcast over the soil surface using a calibrated spreader to apply the desired amount of nitrogen per square foot. Following the application the area should be thoroughly watered to help dissolve the material and wash it off the turf and into the soil. There are several advantages to this method. It requires the least amount of time to apply and no expensive sophisticated equipment is needed. Remember that most of the tree's absorbing roots are located in the upper 12 inches of the soil and since nitrogen is leached down with draining water, this method delivers more nitrogen into the desired zone. Techniques that require drilling holes in the soil around the tree's root system will often put available nitrogen below the actively feeding roots of trees.

Sometimes sub-surface techniques are better than surface feeding, especially when we want to provide the root system with elements that do not leach with the downward draining water. The drill hole method requires use of an earth auger. Drill 1.5-inch diameter holes spaced 18 inches apart to a depth of four to ten inches around the entire rooting surface of the tree, starting several feet from the trunk and extending out to at least the tree's drip line. Actively absorbing roots extend out from the trees trunk up to two times the diameter of the drip line. After calculating the exact amount required, a granular fertilizer is then distributed evenly in the holes. This method is preferred in areas where run-off may be a problem. An advantage to this method is partial aeration of the soil in addition to fertilization.

Foliar sprays can give a quick response from the fertilizer to sick or stressed trees, but should generally be looked at as a supplement and not a substitute for soil applications.

Regardless of when we apply fertilizers, these elements will not be absorbed until growth actually begins in the early spring. Studies show that nitrogen uptake is greatest in the spring and early summer when metabolic activity is greatest. Early spring applications are the most effective. When the buds of trees begin to swell is a good time to apply fertilizers. The needed elements will be in the soil when the roots are actively absorbing and feeding leading to optimum uptake. Late fall applications are also recommended but only when all possibility of growth has past.

We hope this article gives you a better understanding of some of the many approaches to tree fertilization. These methods have been very effective in improving the health, vigor, and appearance of many of the Landis Arboretum specimens.

Antique Apples

by Scott Trees, Plant Procurement Committee

Many modern apples, like Red and Yellow Delicious, were commercially popularized in the mid twentieth century, although they were known well before they began to dominate the market. 90 percent of the apples grown in the United States come from 16 varieties, and 80 percent come from only 8 varieties. Little wonder that there are so few choices when we visit our local grocery stores. Most modern apples available at commercial outlets were chosen for their economic attributes rather than their taste or texture. Grocers wanted apples that were attractive, free of blemishes and bruises, and had a long shelf life. Commercial growers wanted apple trees that had a high annual yield and produced apples that could be mechanically picked, could withstand being tossed into boxes or crates, and could survive the time and jostling inherent in being shipped long distances. The average apple purchased in a store in the U.S. has traveled 1200 miles. Although taste is important, in the world of big business it is less important than being able to survive a trip equivalent to the distance between Albany, NY and Miami, FL, and arrive looking as if the fruit were newly molded plastic.

The distinction between modern apples and antique apples (or heirloom apples) is not precise. Apples, which are a member of the rose family, were written about as early as the fourth century B.C. in Egypt, Babylon, and China. The first Pilgrim settlers planted apple trees in Massachusetts. To be sure, these were not Red or Yellow Delicious. Over 17,000 different apple varieties have been documented, but many of these have disappeared. Currently there are an estimated 7500 varieties of apples grown world-wide, and about 2500 of these are grown in the United States. So which of these are antique apples? In all likelihood the vast majority would qualify. Most writers look to apples known prior to World War II and exclude from this list those that have become highly commercialized. In sum, most of the 2500 varieties of apples that are grown in the United States would fall in this category, but very few of us have heard of them.

Some antique apples are sweet, some are tart, some are large, others are small, some make great cider, some make great sauces, others are used for pies, and a few are an acquired taste. I particularly like some of the names of the apples, and some of the wonderful stories about their origins and history. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out what the names of apples like Westfield-Seek-No-Further (first introduced in 1790 in Westfield, MA) and Pound Sweet (a very large, sweet, firm fleshed apple esteemed for baking) are meant to convey. But did you know that John Chapman's (Johnny Appleseed's) favorite apple was Rambo, or that Esopus Spitzenburg (an orangey-red oblong fruit that has hints of pineapple and cinnamon) was the favorite of Thomas Jefferson? Lady (very small red and yellow dessert apples), also known as Lady Sweet or Christmas Apple, dates to the Roman Empire, and was a favorite of the ladies of the court during the Middle Ages. Lady apples were small enough to easily fit in the folds of women's gowns and could be discreetly eaten.

The laurel leaf willow is no doubt the most beautiful, desirable, and successful member of the genus *Salix*.

This native of Europe has escaped cultivation in the East and is widely used in shelterbelt plantings in the Midwest and Canada. It grows nicely into a single stem or a many-stemmed small tree with a nice compact oval form, 50 feet in mature height with a 50-foot spread.

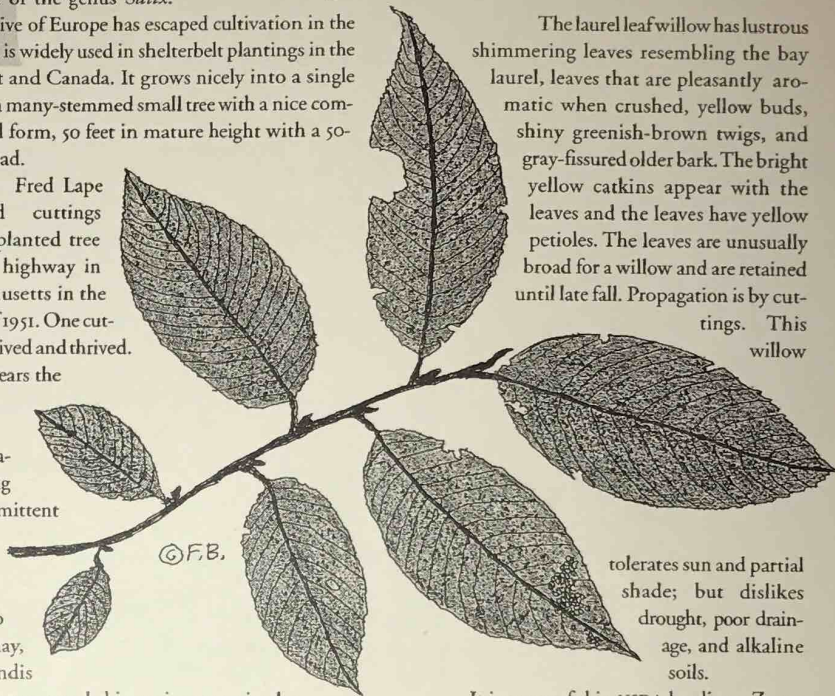
Fred Lape collected cuttings from a planted tree along a highway in Massachusetts in the spring of 1951. One cutting survived and thrived. In fifty years the tree matured in its location along the intermittent stream below the Lape Stone. To our dismay, this Landis specimen was toppled in an ice storm in the spring of 2002. We can report however that new growth is sprouting on the stump and whips of the fallen tree have regenerated and will be available at our spring plant sale.

Laurel Leaf Willow

Salix pentandra

by Sonja Javarone

The laurel leaf willow has lustrous shimmering leaves resembling the bay laurel, leaves that are pleasantly aromatic when crushed, yellow buds, shiny greenish-brown twigs, and gray-fissured older bark. The bright yellow catkins appear with the leaves and the leaves have yellow petioles. The leaves are unusually broad for a willow and are retained until late fall. Propagation is by cuttings. This willow



tolerates sun and partial shade; but dislikes drought, poor drainage, and alkaline soils.

It is successful in USDA hardiness Zones 2-5. Pruning is limited to removing dead, diseased, or broken branches.

As a landscape specimen, park planting, or shelterbelt planting, the laurel leaf willow is a functional, well-behaving, and beautiful tree.

Drawing by Fred Breglia

For those who wish to try their hand at growing antique apples, it is important to remember the following: apple trees do not adapt well to particularly wet or particularly dry soil. I know from experience that heavy clay soil should be avoided. Apple trees like sun and benefit from pruning to let light into the tree. Unless you cut it off at ground level, it is difficult to over-prune an apple tree. Do not plant apple trees near juniper or cedar, or cedar apple rust could rear its ugly head. Again, I know this from experience. In the Northeast, particularly where winter temperatures can drop below -20 (zone 4), standard size trees are preferred over dwarf or semi-dwarf forms. Standard trees take a little longer to yield fruit, but they live longer and are much hardier. The standard size antique apples we will be selling at the Spring Plant Sale will mature in the 12 to 15 foot range, but can easily be pruned to grow only 10 to 12 feet. For the first year after planting, apple trees need regular watering during dry months. Although some apple trees are self-fruitful, meaning that they do not need to be planted near a different variety to yield fruit, better crops are produced with cross-pollination, and it is recommended that at least two different varieties be planted near each other. As a final comment, organic gardening, when possible, is highly recommended. But growing organic apples is

extremely difficult and requires significant attention to detail. If you choose to go this route, I strongly recommend reading Michael Phillips *The Apple Grower: A Guide for the Organic Orchardist*. Of course, you could also do what I do, which is to practice benign neglect. Using this method approximately 90 to 95 percent of your crop will be damaged, but with hundreds of apples per tree, there is enough good, organic fruit for me and my family to happily munch and bake for weeks.

"Why do we need so many kinds of apples? Because there are so many folks. A person has a right to gratify his legitimate tastes. If he wants twenty or forty kinds of apples for his personal use, running from Early Harvest to Roxbury Russet, he should be accorded the privilege. Some place should be provided where he may obtain trees or scions. There is merit in variety itself. It provides more points of contact with life, and leads away from uniformity and monotony."

Liberty Hyde Bailey
The Apple Tree (1922)

Wow! Flowers, foliage, tree form, shrub form, climbing vine, ground cover—that's hydrangea in a nutshell. The hydrangeas are a beautifully interesting group of hardy shrubs, and woody climbers. Certainly, the genus has plenty to offer gardeners in our area. Choices abound from the easy care, reliable favorites like *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora' (Pee Gee) to the striking *H. macrophylla* 'Glowing Embers' for the more adventurous gardener.

Many popular hydrangeas have come to us from Asia and the Himalayas, although there are two types that can be found as natives in the eastern U.S. region. *H. arborescens* or smooth hydrangea is at home in the Appalachians while *H. quercifolia* (oakleaf hydrangea) is found scattered through the Piedmont region. The species *H. arborescens* is an excellent choice for many northern gardens due to its relative ease in blooming and a very simple care routine—cutting it to the ground in the fall.

There is some confusion in the nursery trade regarding hydrangea flower types and growth habits of the individual species. I will attempt to enlighten as well as entertain. Hydrangeas have always fascinated me due to the diversity of the genus as well the many landscape uses and florist quality flowers. My personal favorite is *H. arborescens* 'Annabelle'. In 30 years of nursery endeavors, this plant has never failed me. In the nursery, I use the big leaf types as indicator plants for water management. They are always the first to let you know they need a drink.

H hydrangeas, generally, exhibit two types of flowers, lacecaps and mopheads (hortensias). The lacecaps are flattened, and disc-like with individual flowers generally being less showy. The mopheads are the very large globular or cone-like flowers, which are prized by florists and dried flower artisans. Flower color varies greatly, especially within the *H. macrophylla* (big leaf hydrangea) and are significantly affected by soil pH. *H. macrophylla* will feature either lacecap or mophead flowers. And, just for those who always ask, high pH levels (over 7) will intensify many red and pinks, while levels in the 4.0–5.5 range will produce the brighter or deeper blues. Keep in mind that this is dependent upon varietal selection. You won't be able to turn a pure red one into a blue one!

In the landscape, it is best to consider hydrangea relative to their function and form. A great use for this plant, generally, is in transi-

The Genus *Hydrangea*

tioning from one garden to another. *H. arborescens* 'Annabelle' is a newer version of one of Grandma's favorites, *H. a.* 'Grandiflora' or A.G. The plant sports large green to white flowers on new growth in summer and is tolerant of light shade. It's great as a specimen or en masse, forming a low mounding plant (3x5 feet) that is best cut back annually to the ground each fall. *H. arborescens radiata* is another wonderful subspecies with silvery leaf bottoms—a nice contrast!

H. macrophylla 'All Summer Beauty' is relatively small in growth habit (3x3 feet) and is a prolific bloomer with rich blue flowers, although it is very much a beauty when not quite blue. As with all *H. macrophylla*, flowers form on the previous season's growth. Never prune a *H. macrophylla* in late summer or fall as you will be removing a future show of flowers. Big leaf hydrangea offer many exciting varieties, including *H. m.* 'Forever Pink', one of the most hardy of the *H. macrophyllas*—a reliable performer in Zone 4. *H. m.* 'Variegata', a 4' blue lacecap with leaves edged in creamy white; and *H. m.* 'Masja' a compact and hardy red mophead are also worthy of attention. 'Masja' boasts 4 to 6-inch flowers from July to nearly frost and has a very shiny foliage on a 3 to 4-foot plant. For such a hardy thing it is unbelievably flashy. Many of the lesser bud hardy selections may require some over wintering protection in Zone 4. Some gardeners enjoy them in a patio container and then put them away from severe cold in winter.

Panicle hydrangeas (*H. paniculata*) all flower on current year's growth and have hortensia type flowers on large shrubs or small trees. Some excellent varieties are 'Tardiva', 'Kyushu', 'Unique', 'Pink Diamond' and 'Limelight'. Most of the panicle types are great for drying and dried arrangements, and are exceptionally hardy. These are really capable of anchoring a landscape as a backdrop or as specimens. Several panicle types are grown in tree form with a single stem usually staked when young. These are striking even standing alone in a moderate to small yard.

Hydrangea quercifolia or oakleaf hydrangea is generally a mounding shrub with a rough texture that is a great contrast in a garden setting. Fragrant white flowers (hortensia type) form on past season's growth and mature to purple. Speaking of color, autumn foliage

colors on the *quercifolia* vary from shades of red to purple and burgundy as well as orange. Sweet! A few selections of *quercifolia* that are worthy of attention are 'Snowflake' and 'Snowqueen' and the newer dwarf 'Pee Wee'. 'Snowflake' is proven performer in Zone 4 and is a strong grower along with having a longer lasting flower. These plants are great choices for lightly shaded or protected locations.

H. serrata or mountain hydrangea, while somewhat sensitive like some of the *H. macrophyllas*, offer us promise of improved performance and hardiness. Varieties such as *H. s.* 'Bluebird' (3x3) and 'Preziosa' (4x5) are beautiful and excellent performers in Zone 5—and with some over wintering care, can be a continual delight in a patio container throughout our area. *H. serrata* generally are compact shrubs with smaller and thicker leaves. They are also somewhat less sensitive to pH levels for flower response. 'Bluebird' and 'Blue Billow' are two very nice lacecaps and top choices for those who think of the seashore when they see a blue hydrangea.

When you are looking for an excellent vigorous clinging vine, look no further than the climbing hydrangea, *H. anomala petiolaris*. This hydrangea is sometimes confused with the less hardy Japanese hydrangea vine, *Schizophragma hydrangeaeoides*, due to their great similarities. Subspecies *H. a. petiolaris* features white lacecap flowers and loves a shady wall although it can perform well in sun. Shiny dark green leaves throughout the growing season give way to a golden fall hue. For an arbor or a solid brick wall, you'll have to search the internet for quite a while to find something better or more beautiful.

If you're into life on the edge (yes, Zone 5b is awfully close to Zone 6.), try *Hydrangea aspera*. This villosa type has pretty lacecap flowers that sort of run the range of color from bluish-purple to rosey-lilac to almost white. It's really a Zone 6 plant that is at home in a natural woods edge setting. If you consider your location a warm Zone 5, I encourage you to try it if you can find it.

You can find most of these fine selections and then some at the Landis Arboretum Spring Plant Sale. There are more than 15 varieties of *H. macrophylla*—a great opportunity for collection starting or finishing, numerous tree form varieties and more rare selections such as *H. m.* 'Lemon Wave' and 'Nigra' and the unique *H. paniculata* 'Barbara' aka 'The Swan'. Don't miss it!

WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

1 sha

NAME		CITY		ZIP		PHONE	
ADDRESS							
Workshop/Event	Reg. Date	Number of members attending	\$ @ = \$ subtotal	Number of nonmembers attending	@ \$ = \$ subtotal	\$ Total	
Payment Method							
Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Please make payable to Landis Arboretum				Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard			
Card number				Exp. Date			
Signature						Total \$	

CALENDAR Upcoming Events

For registration and information call 518-875-6935 or landis@midtel.net; or use the registration form on page 7. Enclose with payment and mail to: Landis Arboretum, Lape Road, Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066-0186

All events take place at the Arboretum unless noted.

Family programs with nature educator George Steele begin at the Arboretum Meeting House. Programs are free and no registration is necessary. Donations are greatly appreciated. Programs are held rain or shine.

Advance payment and registration is required for all general classes and workshops, trips and Horticulture Certificate classes. Call the Arboretum for workshop fees. For your convenience, payment can be made via Visa or MasterCard.

For a more complete description of course contents, see the "Coming Attractions" insert in the Winter 2003 Newsletter.

MAY

3 (Saturday) 9am-2pm
GENERAL CLASS
Old Growth Tour: Pine Lake Forest, Oneonta
Instructor: David Hutchison
Registration and payment, April 30. \$30 members/\$35 non-members)

10 (Saturday) 7:30-10am
FAMILY PROGRAM
Bird Walk
Instructor: Chris Keefer

16 (Friday) 5-8pm
PLANT SALE
Members Only: Pick of the Pots Party
See story on page 1.

17-18 (Saturday-Sunday)
10am-4pm
PLANT SALE
Spring Plant Sale
See related stories on pp. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8.

17 (Saturday) 8-9:30pm
FAMILY PROGRAM
Woodcock Walk

22 (Thursday) 6am-7pm
BUS TRIP
Garden in the Woods tour
The bus will leave Wade Tours on Burdeck St. in Rotterdam at 6:30. Depart from the gardens at 3pm and arrive back in Rotterdam around 7pm. There will be one rest stop along the Mass. Turnpike. Bring a bag lunch. Registration and prepayment deadline is Monday, May 12. \$55 members/\$60 non-members.

24 (Saturday) 9am-2pm
GENERAL CLASS
Sacred Space: Finding Spirit in the Land
Instructor: David Yarrow
Registration and payment by Thu. May 22. \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers

25 (Sunday) 6-9am
FAMILY PROGRAM
Early Morning Bird Walk

30 (Friday) 10pm
ASTRONOMERS
Star Party

JUNE

3 (Tuesday) 6:30-8:30pm
Schoharie Blue Bird Society
Free. All are welcome.

7 (Saturday) 9am-1pm
GENERAL CLASS
Attracting Bluebirds To Your Backyard
Instructors: Fred Breglia and Ray Briggs
Registration and payment deadline is Friday, June 6. \$20 member families; \$25 non-member families.

7 (Saturday) 9am-2pm
OUTDOOR MURAL
Open Your Eyes To Nature
Everyone welcome. Call the office for more information and additional dates.

11 (Wednesday) 9am-2pm
OUTDOOR MURAL
Open Your Eyes To Nature

14 (Saturday) 9am-3pm
GENERAL CLASS
Finding our Ancient Forests
Instructors: Fred Breglia and Bob Leverett, Neil Pederson, and Bruce Kerschner. Reservations \$20 members/\$30 nonmembers.

14 (Saturday) 10:30pm
FAMILY PROGRAM
Moth Watch

20 (Friday) 10pm
ASTRONOMERS
Star Party

27 (Friday) 10pm
ASTRONOMERS
Constellation Program: A Walk Among the Summer Stars

29 (Sunday) 8:30-10pm
Family Program
School's Out Campfire Sing-a-long

JULY

9 (Wednesday) 9am-2pm
OUTDOOR MURAL
Open your eyes to nature

12 (Saturday) 9am-12pm
GENERAL CLASS
Basic Pruning Workshop
Instructor: Fred Breglia
Registration by Wed. July 19
\$25 members/\$30 non-members

12 (Saturday) 12-2pm
ASTRONOMERS
Solar Observing

12 (Saturday) 2-3:30pm
FAMILY PROGRAM
Amphibian and Reptile Search

19 (Saturday) 10am-3pm
COMMUNITY DAY
Tours, education, fun, food. Free

26 (Saturday) 9am-12pm
GENERAL CLASS
Advanced Pruning Workshop
Instructor: Fred Breglia
Registration and payment by Wed. July 23. \$25 members/\$30 non-members

26 (Saturday) 9am-2pm
GENERAL CLASS
Old Growth Tour: Lisha Kill Forest Preserve, Niskayuna
Instructor: Howard Stoner
Registration & payment Wed. July 23
\$30 members/\$35 non-members

26 (Saturday) 9am-2pm
OUTDOOR MURAL
Open your eyes to nature


27 (Sunday) 2-3:30pm
FAMILY PROGRAM
Mammal Skulls and Bones

AUGUST

5-10 (Tuesday-Sunday) 9am-10pm
Cobleskill Sunshine Fair

8 (Friday) 8:30-10pm
FAMILY PROGRAM
Bats

16 (Saturday) 9am-12pm
GENERAL CLASS
Perennial Garden Design & Plant Propagation Workshop
Instructor: Fred Breglia
Registration & payment by Wed. Aug. 13. \$20 members/\$25 non-members.



(518) 439-8105

Sandra S. Walck
Garden Design

Installation & Maintenance with Ecological Emphasis

20 Dykeman Road
Delmar, NY 12054

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Do Your Holiday Shopping Early

Acorn Gift Shop To Reopen on May 3

by Judith Lott

The Acorn Gift Shop is a small treasure at the Landis Arboretum. Plan to stop in on your next visit—the Shop will be open from May 3 until Christmas. The volunteers who run the shop have stocked it with new merchandise such as polo shirts and sweatshirts with the Landis logo embroidered on them, and other popular colorful floral-and plant-related shirts. (We have the best-selling “Endangered Feces” t-shirt).

Gift items include wind chimes, jewelry, books and glass bluebirds. Our most popular items like pruners, weeders (the much-prized long handled ones), bug nets, garden soap and “how to” books are available. Children will find a variety of nature-related such as magnifying glasses, really gross plastic bugs and snakes, animal bubble blowers, puzzles, and books.

Craft items include candles and honey, place mats and napkins, jewelry, colorful decoupage pots, decorative wall hangings and much more.

- **The Acorn Shop is open weekdays 9–4 when the office staff is on duty; on weekends— Saturdays from 12–5 and Sundays from 1–5.**
- **If there is something you would like to see in our shop, please let us know; or call us at the numbers below.**
- **If you would like to volunteer in the shop, call the office, 518-875-6935, Judy Lott at 377-0262, or Barbara Hunt at 762-8390.**



Kay Kosikowski of Thomaston, CT, proudly displays the beautiful leaf-quilt. she won at the Arboretum's 2002 quilt raffle. (photo at left)

Frances Kahn of Burnt Hills was the lucky winner of the Raffle Bag at the Capital District Flower Show in March. The handsome tote bag was filled with all kinds of goodies needed to make Frances' 2003 garden the best ever. Congratulations!