



LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

Esperance, New York

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 25, NO. 2

SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 20 AND SUNDAY, MAY 21, 10AM TO 4PM

Preparations for the 34th Spring Plant Sale are nearing completion. This will be the Arboretum's largest fundraiser, and the proceeds will go to provide maintenance and improvements at Landis. The sale provides an opportunity for you to help the Arboretum and acquire beautiful and unusual plants, shrubs, and trees for your gardens. Admission and parking are free. For the details of the sale, see pages 5–8 of the *Newsletter*.

We have requested warm and sunny weather (no guarantees). Regardless of weather, the sale will go on as scheduled: Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, from 10 am to 4 pm. No sales will be made before these dates except for the members-only "Pick of the Pots" Preview Party on Friday, May 19, 5–8pm—our way of saying "thank you" to all who support the Landis Arboretum through membership. **Call 518-875-6935 for information.**

—Fred Breglia, Plant Sale Chairman

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"An often requested item is *Corylus contorta* 'Harry Lauder' or Harry Lauder's walking stick. We'll have these plants in several sizes."

—Jeff

About the Plants

by Jeff Schworm

You will not want to miss this year's **Spring Plant Sale!** Our efforts over the long winter promise a great bounty of plant selections for you to introduce to your gardens and landscape projects.

Although not featured in the sale (see page 5 of this issue of the *Newsletter*), we expect to have a nice selection of shade and ornamental trees. Two great elm trees, Commendation and Accolade, will be on stage. *Ulmus Morton*

Accolade elm™ and 'Morton Stalwart' Commendation™ elm are the result of the extensive breeding efforts of the Chicagoland Grows program in cooperation with the Morton Arboretum. Bred from several Asian species, these trees suggest the beauty and grace of American elm and are highly immune to the insect and disease problems associated with *Ulmus americana*.

Acer freemanii 'Autumn Blaze' is an excellent recent introduction that retains the best characteristics of its parents.

We'll also have some great *Acer rubrum* (red maple) cultivars like 'Red Sunser' and 'Somerset.' The 'Somerset' maples will be available as multi-stem or low-branched trees which would excellent for screening or in

—continued on page 6.

photo by Marian Hotopp



Half man, half plant? Who is this plant sale volunteer? See page 8.

About the Sale

Volunteers

Without our volunteers, the plant sale can't happen. It takes many hands to orchestrate the plant sale. Well over 1,500 hours of volunteers time are needed in a variety of activities. Some of these activities require heavy-lifting, but most do not. Some need to be scheduled in the week preceding or following the sale, and a lot more on the actual days of the sale. If you can spare four hours or a day (or two), please contact our volunteer coordinator, Sonja Javarone at (518) 875-6935. It is a great way to learn about plants and trees!

Plant Donations

If you are donating plants for the sale, make sure they are "sale ready" and clearly labeled; we will do the pricing. If you have plants you wish to donate, please call the office to make arrangements to drop them off. For more information call the Arb at (518) 875-6935.

Plant Consignments

In addition to donations, the Arboretum grows some plants for the sale (see page 8). Many more are purchased from plant growers. For a list of featured plants, shrubs, and trees, see pages 5–8.

—continued on page 7.

For a list of events and information about the plant sale, see pages 5–8 of this issue.

Saturday, June 17, 7–10 pm
at the Arboretum



See page 4 for an invitation.

THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for its members. The Arboretum's mission is to foster the appreciation of trees and other plants and their importance in our environment.

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Miller Printing and Litho
Amsterdam, NY

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The Arboretum is located one and one-half miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead.

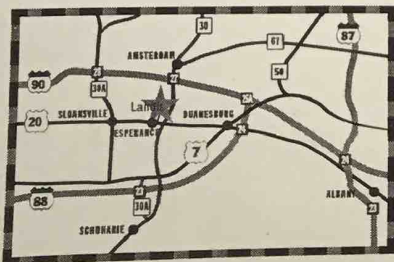


Photo of Sonja by Fred Breglia.



FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonja Javarone

The Board of Trustees contracted with Thom O'Connor to serve as a marketing consultant. Thom has his own business and will be working as an independent contractor. He has an extensive background in corporate and marketing communications in the New York City area prior to moving to Schoharie County several years ago. His expertise encompasses fundraising, grant writing, public relations, and media services.

I will be taking over the position of executive director on a volunteer basis to carry on the day-to-day business of the Arboretum.

Now that the Landis Board of Trustees is done buying land (our major 2005 project), it is time to revisit projects that are pending and prioritize our work for the coming year. Projects that come to mind include: meeting house renovation, library and greenhouse upgrading, new plantings above the lower parking lot, gardens planned for behind the greenhouse, plant sales, expansion of education offerings, and locating money sources for all of the above.

These are ambitious goals, but with long-range planning, regional support, and a bit of luck, I believe that we can achieve all these goals and more.

Landis Arboretum Receives \$20,000 from Senator James Seward

Photo: Ken Nichols



THANK YOU

TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

American Hotel,
Doug Plummer & Garth Roberts
Environmental Clearinghouse
of Schenectady
Glenbrook Farm,
Viktoria Serafin

Gardener's Workshop
Keyserkill Studios, Inc.,
Tressa Vellozzi
Plantscapes Country Gardens
Temper Corp, John Rode
Young Home Heating Fuels,
Robert Young

STEWART'S HOLIDAY MATCHING PROGRAM GRANT RECEIVED FOR EXPLORER BACKPACKS

Landis is pleased to have received a grant from the Stewart's Holiday Matching Program to create two Explorer Backpacks for children to use while they are visiting the Arboretum with their families.

The backpacks will contain hand lenses, "bug boxes" (small plastic containers with a magnifier in the lid), an insect net, children's binoculars, a compass, a plastic jar, plastic spoons, a laminated Landis trail map, and field guides for children. The backpacks will also include a list of family activities such as the hikes and scavenger hunts.

Backpack users will be asked to leave a small deposit. Look for the Explorer Backpacks in the Acorn Shop the end of May.



FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Susan Carver

Program Update

I hope you have been able to explore the 2006 *Calendar of Events* in the winter issue of

your newsletter. Perhaps you've noticed that we have expanded the number and types of our offerings. For example, we are now presenting monthly programs for four and five-year-olds, a summer camp for 8- to 12-year-olds, and a special "Members Only" Arbor Day potluck gathering.

You may also have noticed that the current program listing runs through August. You will receive another *Calendar of Events* in the summer newsletter, and this calendar will include programs scheduled from August 2006 -February 2007.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas for new programs and events.

Program Review

The Second Sunday Snowshoe program series at Landis started off with a bang on January 8. Twenty-four participants, ranging in age from 10 to mid-sixties, explored the Willow Pond and Acorn Trails on snowshoes. Along the way, they learned about winter tree identification and hunted for animal tracks. Many of the program attendees had never been snowshoeing before. Thanks to the donation of ten pairs of snowshoes from Advanced Automotive of Voorheesville and the loan of snowshoes from SUNY Cobleskill, the snowshoeing novices were able to participate in this enjoyable winter sport.

A threatened snowstorm did not deter participants for the "snowshoe" program on February 12. We just had 3" of snow on the ground and a constant light snowfall. Since there was not enough snow to snowshoe, we had a nice hike along the Frontier and Lape Trails. We saw lots of deer tracks (including some that were only a few minutes old), subnivean (under the snow) tunnels of nice, voles, and shrews, mink tracks by the upper pond, and rabbit tracks along the field edges. We paused to admire the snowflakes on our jackets with a magnifying glass. Most of the snowflakes we saw were small, columnar-shaped ones; only a few were those beautiful six-sided ones.

Ken Hotopp's "Managing the Family Forest" program kept seven students busy learning techniques used not only to access a

stand of timber but also to manage that stand for timber sales, wildlife enhancement, and/or recreation.

The last of the snowshoe programs fell on a warm March day with rain in the forecast. Six people from Schoharie and Montgomery counties came out for a pleasant walk along the Willow Pond and Acorn Trails. Looking for signs of spring, we saw buds swelling, a pair of bluebirds, and lichens turning spring green.

Volunteers

We have revamped the sign-in procedures for volunteers. Volunteers now have their own folders containing a simplified sign-in sheet to record the hours of their work. Please be sure to sign in and out each time you help Landis. Your volunteer hours are important to us! We use the information on grant applications and for a volunteer recognition program.

If you find yourself with some extra time on your hands, please consider volunteering at Landis. From late spring through early fall we need help maintaining the perennial gardens and pruning our trees and shrubs. We can always use help in the office with entering data, making photocopies, helping with mailings—and many other tasks. We also need assistance in education and outreach. Help us staff a Landis table at a fair or teach a program on your favorite horticultural topic. To learn more about how you can serve as a volunteer, call 875-6935.

The Bluebirds Are Back!

On March 6, the first bluebird pair was seen in the field below the barn and library. These harbingers of spring were flitting about the field, checking out the nest boxes, and perching on the power wires. We hope this pair stays here and nests.

Landis began the Bluebird Trail in 1999 with nine nest box pairs. Since then, the trail has grown to 20 nest box pairs spread throughout the fields on the east side of Lape Road. This trail provides one of the few places for the public to view Eastern bluebird, our state bird.

The nest boxes are placed in pairs because tree swallows also like the bluebird nest boxes and they start their mating before the bluebirds. Since swallows do not like members

NEW • ACORN GIFT SHOP • NEW



The Acorn Gift Shop will be under new management.

A Heartfelt Thank You

to Barbara Hunt, for the many years of volunteer service managing the Acorn Gift Shop.

We welcome Bernadette Kloczko.

The new hours are Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm, Sunday, 12 pm to 4pm; Monday-Friday, 10 am to 3:30 pm (someone in the office will assist you).

Gift Items

We will have lots of new items for children and adults, including quality pruning tools, mud gloves, t-shirts, finger puppets, specialty soaps, and books. Stop by, browse, buy, and say hello.

Volunteers needed

The Acorn Gift Shop needs volunteers to operate the shop on weekends. Weekday volunteers are also needed for the shop and for the office. Call 518-875-6935 for more information.

of another swallow family nesting too near them, bluebird nest boxes are placed in pairs so that, hopefully, the bluebirds will be able to use one of the two boxes.

Last year was a very successful year for bluebirds at Landis. We had eight nesting pairs of bluebirds that produced 36 fledgling bluebirds. This is the second highest number of fledglings Landis has recorded. The highest was in 2004 with 45 fledgling bluebirds.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the bluebird trail and other bluebird projects. This is a great opportunity to get out on the property and help with one of our research projects. For more information, please contact landisfun@midtel.net or 518-875-6935.

Party • Party • Party.

Saturday, June 17, 2006 from 7
to 10pm at the Landis
Arboretum.

Proceeds will go towards the
maintenance and improvement
of the Van Loveland Perennial
Gardens at the Arboretum.

Larry Sombke,
author, garden designer, and
radio personality, is our
featured speaker. He will
answer questions about
garden design and plants
for the summer garden.



Please join us in celebrating a wonderful summer evening of food, including special tastings, music—classical guitar and harp—and gardening lore under the white tent. Tours of the Arboretum's gardens and collections will require walking over a natural terrain—please bring appropriate shoes.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call the Arboretum office at 518-875-693 or fill out the return card below. Tickets will also be available at the Landis Arboretum Spring Plant Sale on May 20 and 21 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Reserved seating tickets are \$30 per person. After June 6 tickets are \$40 per person. (please note the incorrect date listed in the Calendar of events) Tables for eight can be reserved for \$240. (\$30 per person).

Members Only

Friday, May 19, 5–8pm
Plant Sale Opens May 20

Pick-of-the-Pots Preview Party

Because of the limited availability of many plants, you improve your chances to get the ones you want by attending the Pick-of-the-Pots Preview Party. This is a benefit of membership. **Non-members are invited to join the Arboretum and make a reservation to attend.**

Members are invited to attend the Preview Party the Friday evening prior to the sale opening to the public for a cost of \$15. A complimentary buffet dinner (5:30–7:30) is available to the first 150 people who register with payment by Monday, May 17. \$15 tickets to the Preview Party (without dinner) will continue to be available through Friday, May 19.

Reservations for the Preview Party are required. Call 875-6935 for information.

Yes, I plan to attend the Soiree

Please reserve _____ seats at \$30 each. \$ _____

I would like to reserve a table for eight at \$240. \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please send tickets to:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF GUESTS _____

No, I cannot attend, but would like to make a contribution to the care and improvement of the perennial gardens at Landis in the amount of \$ _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Landis Arboretum

Credit card Visa MasterCard

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE CLIP, ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK, AND MAIL THE RETURN CARD TO LANDIS ARBORETUM, PO BOX 186, ESPERANCE, NY

Holiday Luncheon Live Auction Winners

The lucky people listed below made the winning bids on the silent auction at the Arboretum's Holiday Celebration at SUNY Cobleskill last December

Anne Myers	Ancient Forests of the Northeast	Laurie Meyers	Soup tureen
Marsha Foster	Yorktown soup tureen	Cyndi LaPierre	Vacation weekend
Paul Turner	Cookies	Lawson Harris	Painting by Fred Breglia
Lisa Murphy	Barn door plaque	Bob Grimm	American Hotel certificate
	Consult with Fred (1 hour)	Jean Dorman	Ancient Forests of the Northeast
Marsha Haas	Roof slate	Fred Breglia	Rake
Paul Blair	Flower pot		
Helen Suites	Two bowls		

LANDIS ARBORETUM

Spring Plant Sale 2006

SATURDAY, MAY 20 • SUNDAY, MAY 21 • 10-4PM • RAIN OR SHINE • LANDIS ARBORETUM • LAPE ROAD • ESPERANCE • NY • 518-875-6935

This year we decided to take a slightly different approach to the plants featured in our upcoming annual spring sale. We asked each member of our procurement

committee and several other experts to select a favorite plant. Since there are seven of us who made selections, the moniker "The Magnificent Seven" seemed to fit. It's not that we will be suiting up in cowboy hats

or that we're a very conceited bunch—no, seven humble volunteers picked seven magnificent plants for your gardening pleasure.

The Magnificent Seven

by Jeff Schworm

Nick Zabawsky writes that his selection, the Salet Moss Rose (*Rosa* × 'Salet'), is one of the few repeat-blooming moss roses, which have the distinction of producing a characteristic moss-like covering over their buds, many varieties of which are fragrant, especially when lightly caressed with the fingers. The moss of 'Salet' is not highly fragrant, but the heavy repeating bloom will make up for that short-coming. 'Salet' was created by Francois Lacharme of Lyons, France, in 1854. During the Victorian Era, the moss rose types were at the zenith of their popularity.

'Salet' is a very reliable and hardy rose, surviving without protection through winter temperatures of 20 below zero (F) with little or no dieback. It is somewhat forgiving of poor soils, but optimal blooming requires attention to soil quality, fertility levels, and, of course, watering. The bush itself will reach a height of about 4 feet with very few thorns. Flowers are in clusters of medium pink with fully double ruffled blossoms that are very fragrant. In addition, the plant is highly resistant

to most common rose ailments; 'Salet' is often used as breeding stock to create modern moss rose varieties. We'll also have plenty of great companion plants for this magnificent rose.

The perennial chosen by Laurie Meyer for Spring Sale '06 is *Polemonium reptans* 'Stairway to Heaven.' A recent introduction from Bill Cullins of the New England Wildflower Society, this plant has it all: a 12" h x 18" w mound-shape, variegated foliage with cream-colored margins that turn pink when planted in full sun or in cooler temperatures, and a three-season interest. Clusters of true-blue bell-shaped flowers make a grand show in May and June. Perfect in the shade garden, 'Stairway to Heaven' is wonderful planted amongst heucheras and hostas, especially the blue-leaved varieties. As if all this weren't enough, *Polemonium reptans* 'Stairway to Heaven' takes a full range of sun and is hardy to zone 3! We have had two years' experience growing this great perennial without any problems. We will be offering the plants in 5-pint, 1-gallon, and 2-gallon sizes. This polmonium

is truly a must-have for the spring perennial garden.

A stalwart supporter of the Landis Arboretum, Paul Blair, sends us his special choice: *Syringa* 'Adelaide Dunbar,' the "Dark Lady of Lilacs." This beautiful cultivar was selected in the early 1900s and is part of a special grouping of common lilacs known as the French hybrids. The 'Adelaide Dunbar' lilac was named after the wife of John Dunbar, who inspired the "Lilac City" name for Rochester, NY. French hybrid lilacs are noted for their bloom size and fragrance, and this selection is no exception. 'Adelaide Dunbar' is a double-flowering lilac with dark purple trusses that will mature at a height of about 8-10 feet. Paul notes that full sun and low nitrogen levels are key to successful cultivation, along with a timely after-bloom pruning. Paul reports that this cultivar has shown good resistance to powdery mildew. We think that Paul's choice is magnificent!

—continued on page 6



Top row: Nick Zabawsky Laurie Meyer Paul Blair Red stem dogwood (Ed Miller*) (Scott Trees*) Fred Breglia Jeff Schworm

Bottom row: top row's plant picks 'Salet' Moss Rose Polemonium reptans lilac 'Adelaide Dunbar' Spice bush River Birch 'Heritage' Parasol beech 'contorta' Norway spruce

*No pics of Ed or Scott were available. We used their "picks" instead.

The Magnificent Seven—
continued from page 5.

Ed Miller, our intrepid native plantsman, comments: red stem dogwood, or red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), is a wonderfully adaptable shrub of the wetlands that does well on well-drained sites too. Our offering will be *C. sericea* 'Bailey,' which is reliable, representative of the species, and, well, red. These plants are very effective in the winter landscape, especially when used in mass.

Spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*) is a great shrub, attractive to butterflies and resistant to deer. This true harbinger of spring is striking in borders and naturalizes freely, since it is adaptable in both sun and shade conditions. The small yellow flowers show up just before the leaves and are a subtle but very pleasing addition to the garden. The plant is native to a wide range of the US but has a preference for moist but well-drained conditions.

Fred Breglia, our "Old Growth Guy," has challenged us with a selection that screams old and gnarly! *Fagus sylvatica* 'Tortuosa' truly fits the descriptor, magnificent. The tree looks old and tortured long before its time. The contorted weeping beech is certainly a prized specimen, especially in winter, when the unique branching structure is exposed. Overall, the tree is small in stature, reaching only about 10–15 feet. Sometimes



Photo by Sonja Javarone

About the Plants—
continued from page 1.

border plantings and are available at \$52.

This year, we will have a better than usual selection of well-priced flowering crabs such as *Malus* 'Louisa,' 'Beverly,' 'Profusion,' 'Red Jewel' and 'Snowdrift' in 15-gallon containers for \$75 each. We expect to have a nice smattering of natives as well; and the very beautiful *Cornus mas* (Cornelian cherry).

An often requested item is *Corylus contorta* 'Harry Lauder' or Harry Lauder's walking stick. We'll have these plants in several sizes. We also anticipate having some young grafts on standard, which are usually shrub-form plant scions grafted onto a compatible

referred to as parasol beech, it forms a wide rounded dome of typical beech foliage and is very trouble-free. It can actually be found in the wild in parts of Europe, but it is relatively rare in the nursery trade, at least in this country. We'll have these "contorted" beeches, as well as some of the even rarer purple cultivars.

Scott Trees, our marvelously wild and enthusiastic professor, has chosen the 'Heritage' river birch to meet his requirements for "magnificent." Not that there's really anything wrong with regular species river birch (*Betula nigra*), but 'Heritage' is an improvement on the species without sacrifice. *Betula nigra* 'Heritage' has the cold hardiness and adaptability of the river birch along with expanded heat tolerance. Scott likes them because they're tough. River birches are usually at home by a lake, pond, or stream, but 'Heritage' will probably love it in your front yard. Glossy large green leaves and an exfoliating cinnamon-to-coffee-with-cream bark are the delights of this cultivar, along with trouble-free performance. River birches can grow to over 50 feet in height, so yours will need some room. River birches are best pruned in summer to avoid bleeding.

Scott also encourages us to consider planting seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*). With its very beautiful leaves and free-form growth

understock (standard). These are sometimes referred to as "tree forms," but true tree forms are on their own roots and are trained to a straight stem.

Roses 'Carefree Wonder' and 'Morden Sunrise' will be available in quantity at \$15, as well as a wonderful collection of many other rose selections.

This year's sale will include a larger than usual lineup of perennials too. Daylilies 'Pandora's Box' and 'Root Beer,' a wide variety of hosta, such as 'Carnival,' and astilbe 'Elizabeth' will lead the way at the great price of \$7.50. But the selections are many and the list is long, including:

• 'Jacob Kline' bee balm, sedum 'Lidakense,'

patterns, it is another magnificent plant that we will have available for you at our sale.

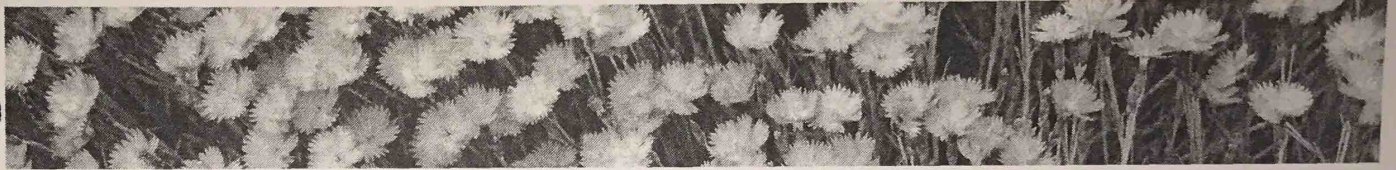
Jeff Schworm, "Piceaman" to some of his admirers, has wowed us with *Picea abies*, the stately and magnificent Norway spruce, and numerous cultivars of the same species. Norway spruce is a great tree for shelter and windbreak planting and, when given plenty of room, makes a beautiful specimen planting. In maturity, this tree develops a horizontal branching with secondary branches that droop below the main branches. Included among the selection of *P. abies* cultivars we will be offering at the Spring Sale are included: 'Cincinata,' 'Formanek,' 'Hillside Upright,' 'Little Gem,' 'Eleagans,' 'Gregoryana Parsoni,' 'Nidiformis,' 'Pendula,' and 'Virgata,' as well as an example of one of the grand newcomers to the Arboretum, the very old and very reliable 'Clanbrassiliana'—there is one planted just inside the farmhouse gate. The Arboretum's 'Clanbrassiliana' is typical of what can be expected of a 30 year old specimen, being three feet or less in height. Additionally, there will be a very special offering of the more rare *Picea abies* 'Clanbrassiliana Stricta.' This tree has never been pruned, sheared, or otherwise controlled and yet is the perfect shape of a Christmas tree. The specimen we will be offering is six to seven feet in height with a nearly four-foot spread. Magnificent! There will also be a great selection of other spruce species.

eidelweiss, rock soapwort, Oriental poppies, dianthus

And woody plants, too, including:

- Lilacs, *Spirea* 'Snowmound,' and burning bush 'Fireball' and 'Compacta,' along with viburnums and numerous weigelas.
- *Daphne cneorum*, Russian daphne, and 'Carol Mackie,' will accent a great selection of broadleaves, chosen especially for hardiness. The latter include:
- *Pieris* 'Brower's Beauty' and *P. floribunda* 'Karenoma,' *Rhododendron* 'Chionoides' and 'Henry's Red,' along with some beautiful 'Herbert' azaleas, for \$21 each;
- Hydrangeas 'Endless Summer,' 'Limelight,' and 'Annabelle'.

And, finally, cameo appearances by such new talent as 'Lavender Twist' redbud, an unbelievable Zone 4 ornamental tree, and 'Pincushion' boxwood.



SCHEDULE OF PLANT SALE EVENTS

IN ADDITION TO OVER 6,000 PLANTS TO CHOOSE FROM, OTHER HIGHLIGHTS AT OUR SPRING PLANT SALE INCLUDE:

- **Pick of the Pots.** Because of the limited availability of many plants, you improve your chances to get the ones you want by attending the **Pick-of-the-Pots Preview Party** on Friday evening at 5pm. A complimentary buffet dinner (5:30–7:30pm) is available to the first 150 people who register with payment, by Monday, May 17. Reservations and \$15 tickets to the Preview Party (without dinner) will be available through Friday, May 13.
- **Saturday & Sunday Bake Sale** with unusual and extremely tasty home baked cookies, cakes, pies and breads. Beverages including soda, water, and coffee will be available. Proceeds go toward Landis's perennial gardens.
- **Book Sale** (undercover in the Barn) with hundreds of used books of all topics including horticulture, nature & science, cooking, philosophy, self-help, sports, mystery, science fiction, and more.
- **The Acorn Gift Shop** will be open. Some new and popular items include polo and sweatshirts with our logo, high-quality pruning tools, animal puppets, nature games, and books.
- **Plant Raffle.** Special plants will be raffled off at this year's sale.
- **Lunch.** Food and beverages will be for sale. Food will be provided by Miller's BBQ Catering, Esperance.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION


TO HELP YOU AND OUR VOLUNTEERS:

- **Reservations** are required for the Members Only Preview Party.
- **Our plant experts** will be available all weekend to answer your questions, and to provide suggestions and advice on plant selection, site requirements, and proper planting and care techniques. We cannot take orders or set plants aside prior to the sale.
- **Restrooms and picnic tables** are available for your convenience.
- **Cars** should park in our upper parking area next to the Meeting House when lower parking lot is full.
- **Limited handicapped** parking and drop-off space is available. Please inform the parking attendants of your needs.
- **Starting times** and dates for the sale are firm. Purchases may not be made prior to the sale.
- **Dogs** are not permitted at the Plant Sale. (Dogs should never be left in cars on warm days because temperatures rise quickly inside vehicles.)
- **Please have your sales slip** available to be hole-punched as you leave. Have your membership card handy for quicker checkout.
- **All purchased plants** must be removed by 4pm, Sunday. Landis does not make deliveries and is not responsible for items left beyond 4pm Sunday.

Photo credits— page 5

• Photo of Nick Zabauskys, by Gloria Van Duyne; photos of Laurie, Paul, and Jeff, by Fred Breglia
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 • Polemonium, © plantdelights.com
 • Lilac, © mtshadow.com
 • Red twig dogwood, Sonja Javarone
 • Spice bush, © naturehills.com
 • River birch © millane.com
 • Parasol beech, Fred Breglia
 • Norway spruce © Gary Fewless, uwgb.edu

(518) 439-8105



Sandra S. Walck
 Garden Design

Installation & Maintenance with Ecological Emphasis

20 Dykeman Road
 Delmar, NY 12054

NYS Wild Acres Habitat for Wildlife
 Wildlife Biologists

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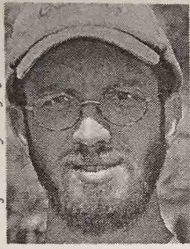
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COLLECTIONS NEWS

Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Winter is gone and spring is here!

The Chinese witchhazel is the first woody plant of the season to bloom, and this year it put on a magnificent show, completely covered with yellow flowers. The Chinese version of witchhazel, like many of the Asian species, is showier than its native cousins in our woodlands.

The Perennial Gardens are starting off the season with the white-blooming snowdrops contrasting with the bright purple flowers of scilla and the yellow flowers of the winter aconite.

Plant Sale Preparations

There has been a flurry of indoor activity at Landis too. The staff has worked harder than ever making presentations, working on grants, and gearing up for the **Spring Plant Sale**. This year's plant sale focuses on 'Favorite Plants.' Anyone who has ever had a tour of the Arboretum with me knows that I have many favorite plants. Topping my list is the contorted beech, one of the most photographed trees at the Arboretum and a specimen that we will offer at our plant sale. Other favorites include Paul Blair's 'Adelaide Dunbar' lilac, Nick Zabawsky's scarlet moss rose, Jeff Schworm's Norway spruce cultivars, Scott Tree's 'Heritage' river birch, Laurie Meyer's 'Stairway to Heaven' polemonium, and native plant expert Ed Miller's spice bush and red twig dogwood. **See page 5 for more information** on these plants and others that will be featured at the Sale.

We will be using the propagation room and greenhouse here at Landis to grow some unusual perennials, annuals, and Arboretum woody plants to feature at the sale. **We are also looking for plant donations.** Please consider donating at least one plant from your garden to our spring sale. These donations are very important to us because we can offer shoppers species that we might not otherwise have and because they are pure profit for us, which helps make this annual fundraiser even more successful. You can bring plant donations to the Arboretum Monday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm. Calling me at the office (**518-875-6935**) before you bring them may be a good idea to make sure someone is here to take your donations.

Summer Garden Party

Another highlight of the season is the Summer Garden Party. See this newsletter for more details on this event.

Maps and Markers

We received a grant from New York State Agriculture and Markets. This grant will pay for two new three-foot photo-metal trail maps of the Landis Arboretum to be placed at the main entry points, one near the information kiosk and the other by the Meeting House. These maps will show all existing trails at the Arboretum and include the new trails to the Ancient Forest and the Bass Woodland. In addition to these large metal maps, folding trail maps showing all the trails will assist visitors to Landis. We have new labels for the many trees and shrubs all along the Woodland Trail and for our specimens in the formal collections, as well as the perennial gardens.

More highlights

Erin McKenna, Landis Arboretum gardener, who is finishing her Bachelor's Degree in floriculture, is beginning her internship at Landis. Erin will continue the work she has already done in our Van Loveland Perennial Garden. She will also propagate new varieties of perennials and annuals in our greenhouse to offer at our Spring Plant Sale and to plant in the perennial gardens. She will install new photo-metal identification labels in the Van Loveland Garden. Perhaps most significantly, Erin will also inventory the historic Quarry Garden, initiate the process of cleaning up, redesigning and replanting this area, and shore up the stone steps to make walking through this site safe for visitors. Plans are to open up the Quarry Garden to the public this fall.

I am also pleased to announce that Landis will be establishing a collaborative collection of oaks with the APGA (American Public Gardens Association), formerly the AABGA (American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta). The plan is to have a comprehensive collection of all oak species grown under cultivation in the participating gardens. As you may know, the oak genus (*Quercus*) encompasses over 800 species worldwide, a sizeable number compared to other genera. The task of growing them all in any one garden is impossible because of the different cultural conditions associated with the many different groups of

species: southern oaks, northern oaks, western oaks, coastal oaks, and tropical oaks. The APGA is looking at a number of different gardens with strong oak collections in their geographic region to be a part of the larger collaborative collection. Landis will join the ranks of many prestigious gardens with its NAPCC (North American Plant Collection Consortium) registered Northeast Oak Collection. Plans are to attend the APGA's national conference held in San Francisco this summer to discuss and plan the oak collections.

On that note, I will leave you with a few trivia questions on oaks.

Question: What species of oak produces the largest acorn in the world?

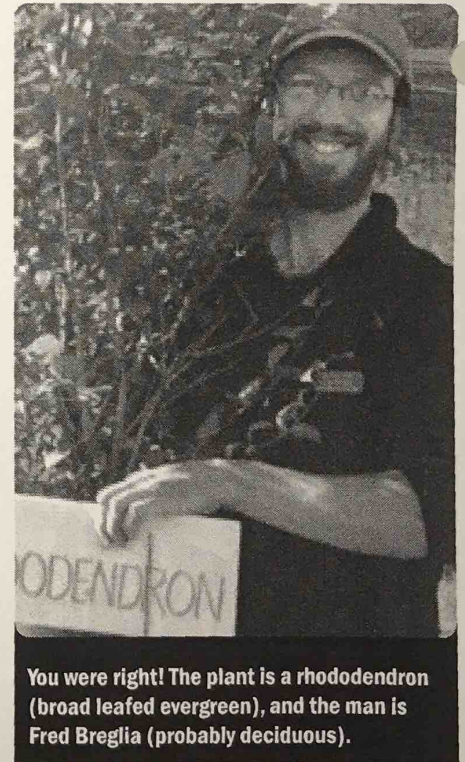
Answer: *Quercus insignis*, native to Mexico and Central America.

Question: How big is the acorn from this tree?

Answer: The size of a baseball.

WOW!

Photoquiz, from page 1.



You were right! The plant is a rhododendron (broad leafed evergreen), and the man is Fred Breglia (probably deciduous).

photo by Marian Horopp

WISH LIST

Equipment Wish List

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

- 10 pairs of snowshoes
- Projector for PowerPoint presentations (\$1000)
- Newish laptop computer (\$1000)
- Picnic tables and benches (\$250)
- DR brush mower (\$2500)
- Hardback rakes, shovels, loppers, and mulch fork (\$200)
- Trowels and other small gardening tools (\$200)
- Troy Built hand cart (\$200)

And always, the large tractor—

- 4wd, 30hp, with backhoe and loader (\$20,000)
- Snow blower (\$500)
- Used printer toner cartridges
- vacuum cleaner for indoor use.

Project Wish List

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

- Plumber for odds and ends
- Mechanic to work on our pickup trucks
- Stone walls around the greenhouse and walls around perennial garden need rebuilding. (\$800)
- Quilters for next year's raffle quilt

Donations

- \$1000 (ea.) for printing new and updated brochures

Education Wish List

- Animal skins in good condition
- Wildlife guides
- Insect collections
- Local rocks and fossils
- Tree identification books
- Leaf identification books
- White enamel pans
- Tall rubber boots
- Walkie-talkies
- Environmental science tools
- Compasses
- GPS for hikers
- Art supplies

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

by Nolan Marciniac

Barbara Hunt

"In England, everybody gardens," she said. And as an Englishwoman by birth, Barbara Hunt admitted that gardening is in her blood.

She remembers collecting pressed wildflowers in her schoolgirl days and being surrounded by Victory gardens. When she came to the States in 1958, she knew, "I had to have my little bit of a garden." Today, she cultivates both a herbaceous border and a vegetable garden at her Johnstown home. She calls herself a "generalist," her interests limited only by "things that catch my eye."

Having been introduced to the Arboretum by a friend, Barbara first volunteered her time at the Acorn Gift Shop, and then she managed the shop for the past nine years and computerized the shop's record keeping. She was also instrumental in Landis' inclusion in the Departure Shop at the Albany International Airport. In particular, she treasures the personal contacts—volunteers, suppliers, and visitors—that the shop has given her.

She wonders why more people don't know about Landis—and has literally taken some of them here for a visit. She says that the trail system and the marked specimens are now a selling point for first-time visitors. And she hopes for an infusion of "new blood"—volunteers who will enjoy the wonderful mixture of people and place that, for her, Landis has come to represent.

For Barbara Hunt, the Arboretum is synonymous with "peace." There is nothing, she asserted, that says more about peace than the view of the Schoharie Valley from the Meeting House in the fall. Like gardening, it gets into your blood.

Erin McKenna



Erin McKenna was hiking off the Woodland Trail and stopped to rest in a section of old-growth forest. A butterfly approached her, and when she extended her hand, it landed on it. That experience, she said, convinced her that Landis was a magical place.

Erin will graduate from SUNY Cobleskill this year with a degree in floriculture and is about to begin a 600-hour internship at Landis. In the spring, she'll be utilizing the greenhouse to start plants for the plant sale, some from seeds and cuttings that she has collected. Her major project will be to restore the Quarry Garden, which has been neglected for many years. Using old photos and records, she aims to restore that garden with historical accuracy. She'll also be creating labels and an informational pamphlet for the Van Loveland Perennial Garden, as well as working with other volunteers on the general maintenance of the beds.

Although she heard the Arboretum mentioned in one of her classes, it was only when she began to visit and to volunteer—she worked under the tutelage of Carol Loucks in the perennial garden last summer—that she realized that Landis was "the best thing that ever happened to me."

After graduation, Erin would like to pursue the study of herbology, integrating the lives of people and plants even more intimately.

She emphasizes that Landis is a garden that belongs to the public—a "backyard" for everyone. She would like her college peers to visit the grounds to picnic, to toss a Frisbee, to walk the grounds—to "get away" from the ordinary. Most of all, Erin would like to share with others her sense of wonder at the small miracles at the Arboretum, like those *Fritillaria meleagris* that bloom in the perennial garden in the spring.

THANK YOU TO

Tractor Supply Company of Cobleskill for bird seed.

Jeff Schworm, who was omitted from the volunteer list in the Winter issue of the *Newsletter*. He has contributed many hours and also donated "cool"* tree specimens to Landis.

*according to Fred

Ken Nichols, who has contributed many hours of ongoing consultation and technical support for the Arb's computers (and staff).

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SPRING/SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

For registration and information

Call 518-875-6935 or email landisfun@midtel.net.

All events take place at the Arboretum unless otherwise noted.

Pre-payment is required for all general classes and workshops. For your convenience, payment can be made via Visa or MasterCard. Please use the form on page 11 of this Newsletter.

Would you like to teach a program at Landis?

If so, please contact Susan Carver, Education Director, at 518-875-6935 or landisfun@midtel.net to discuss your program ideas.

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Sharing the Gift of Trees

April 28, 6 pm (Friday)

Join us for an evening of poetry and prose, art and music, to commemorate 134 years of Arbor Day. We'll start the evening off with a potluck dinner and tree planting, followed by a sharing of tree-focused art. Sing a song, share a craft, read a poem, or just enjoy this evening celebrating trees! Registration by April 25. Members only. Free.

NEW Hiking the North Country Trail: A Talk and Book Signing

May 3 (Wednesday) 7-8:30 pm

Joan Young who has hiked 2,893 miles on North Country National Scenic Trail will show slides of her trek and highlight the plants that she found along the way. During the presentation, you will enjoy her wit, humor, and trail tales. After the slide show, Joan will sign copies of her book, *North Country Cache: Adventures on a National Scenic Trail*. Her book will be available for \$24.95. We are fortunate to have her here at Landis.

\$7 for members, \$10 non-members

The North Country National Scenic Trail is one of the eight National Scenic Trails, commissioned in 1980. It is over 4,000 miles long. Its western terminus is Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota, and the eastern end is Crown Point Bridge on Lake Champlain, in New York

Tree Planting 101

May 13, 10-11 am (Saturday)

Get ready to plant all of the trees you are going to buy at the Spring Plant Sale with master gardener and forester Cindy King. Cindy will discuss mulching, planting depth, staking, and more during this program. Registration by May 9. Free.

Bus Trip To Quaker Hill Plant Garden

May 31, 6:30 am-6 pm (Wednesday)

"I have been to hundreds of gardens and there is nothing like it," said a Landis member after visiting the Quaker Hill Plant Garden in Pawling, Dutchess County. The tour leaves Wade Tours, 797 Burdeck Street, Rotterdam, at 6:30 am. We arrive at 9 am for a three-hour guided tour of the gardens. We will lunch at McKeever's Restaurant. Afterwards we hope to visit the Historical Society of Quaker Hill and Pawling. The bus departs Pawling at 3:30 pm and arrives back at Wade tours at 6 pm. Registration and payment deadline: May 17. \$60 members, \$65 non-members, includes buffet lunch. Space is limited.

Botanical Drawing*

July 8, 15, 22, 29, 9-11:30am (Saturdays)

Professional botanical illustrator Tressa Vellozzi teaches students the basics of botanical drawing using pencil, pen, ink and watercolors. Tressa enjoys sharing her techniques of observation and fondness for plants with artists of varying skill levels. Individual attention will be given to all students. Class size is limited. Registration by July 5. \$40 members, \$45 non-members.

*This program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the NYS Council on the Arts administered by the Schoharie Arts Council.

Pruning: The Basics and Beyond

July 9, 9am-noon (Saturday)

This popular hands-on workshop demystifies pruning. Professional arborist Fred Breglia explains when, why, and how to prune and then guides work in the Arboretum's collections. Bring your own pruning tools and gloves. Some equipment will be available or you may purchase quality pruning implements in the Acorn Gift Shop. Class size is limited and begins in the Meetinghouse. Registration and payment deadline is Wednesday, July 6. \$25 members, \$30 nonmembers.

Recycled Art Camp

July 24-28, 9am-1pm (Monday-Friday)

Children ages 8 through 12 will learn the fun of reusing and recycling objects to make functional and decorative elements for the home and garden. Each day, the children will work on a different art project. Registration deadline: July 6. \$50 members, \$55 non-members.

By Dawn's Early Light

July 31, 6-8am (Sunday)

As the morning sun slowly rises over the trees a wealth of animal activity begins. We'll take an early morning hike through the Arboretum and watch the natural world awaken. We'll have hot beverages and bagels waiting for us when we return.

Instructor: Susan Carver, nature educator.

Registration by Thursday July 28. Free.

Open Mic Night: Fred Lape's Birthday Bash

August 20, 4-? pm (Sunday)

Bring your music, poetry, prose, artwork, craft or more to share as we celebrate Fred Lape's 106th birthday. Fred Breglia and Friends will also perform. PA system available. Free.

Lunch is always a big part of the day for hungry plant sale volunteers. Photo by Marian Horopp



WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Workshop/Event	Date	Number of members attending @ \$ = \$ subtotal			Number of nonmembers attending @ \$ = \$ subtotal			\$Total

Payment Method: Check: Please make payable to Landis Arboretum Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____ Name on card _____

Signature _____

Total \$ _____

CALENDAR Upcoming Events

For registration and information call 518-875-6935 or landis@midtel.net, or use the registration form on page 11.

Enclose with payment and mail to:

Landis Arboretum, Lape Road, Box 186, Saratoga Springs, 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. 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 2006 Newsletter.

Programs that are starred (*) require advance registration.

APRIL

***25 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30am**

FAMILY

Tuesday Tickler—Trees

Registration by April 21. Materials fee: \$3 members, \$4 non-members.

28 (Friday) 6 pm

MEMBERS ONLY

Sharing the Gift of Trees

Free

MAY

3 (Wednesday) 7-8:30 pm

TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

Hiking the North Country Trail

\$7 members, \$10 non-members

6 (Saturday) 6-9 am

FAMILY

Early Morning Bird Walk

***9 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30 am**

FAMILY

Tuesday Ticker—Seeds

Registration by May 5. Materials fee:

\$3 members, \$4 non-members.

***13 (Saturday) 10-11 am**

Tree Planting 101 (adults only)

Registration by May 9. Free.

***19 (Friday) 5-8 pm**

PLANT SALE—MEMBERS ONLY

Members' Plant Preview Party

\$15. See page 4.

20-21 (Sat.-Sun.) 10 am-4 pm

PLANT SALE

Spring Plant and Book Sale

See page 1 and pp. 5-8

26 (Friday) 8-9:30 pm

FAMILY

Sounds of Spring Nature Walk

26 (Friday) 9:30 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Star Party

To check if a particular star party is

happening or not (cloudy skies), call

518-374-8460. Dress warmly and

bring a blanket. Free.

27 (Saturday) 9 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

A Walk Among the Spring Stars

Leader: Alan French

***31 (Wednesday) 6:30am-6pm**

BUS TRIP

Bus Trip to Quaker Hill Plant Garden

Registration and payment by May 17.

\$60 members, \$65 non-members.

JUNE

4 (Sunday) 2-3:30 pm

FAMILY

The Beaver and Other Furbearers

***6 (Tuesday) 10:3-11:30 am**

FAMILY

Tuesday Tickler—Wildflowers

Registration by June 2. Materials fee:

\$3 members, \$4 non-members.

17 (Saturday) 2-3:30 pm

FAMILY

Pond Ecology

***17 (Saturday) 7-10 pm**

SPECIAL EVENT

Garden Party (see page 4)

23 (Friday) 10 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Star Party

24 (Friday) 10 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Star Party

JULY

2 (Sunday) 2-3:30 pm

FAMILY

Herpetology Hike.

***8, 15, 22, 29 (Saturday) 9-11:30 am**

ADULT

Botanical Drawing

Instructor: Tressa Vellozzi

Registration and payment by July 5.

\$40 members, \$45 non-members.

***15 (Saturday) 9 am-1 pm**

Pruning: The Basics and Beyond

Instructor: Fred Breglia

Registration and payment by Wednesday,

July 6. \$25 members, \$30 non-

members.

16 (Sunday) 2-3:30 pm

FAMILY

How Trees Grow

***18 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30 am**

FAMILY

Tuesday Tickler—Insects

Registration by July 14. Materials fee:

\$3 members, \$4 non-members.

21 (Friday) 10 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Star Party

22 (Saturday) 10 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Walk Among the Summer Stars

***24-28 (Monday-Friday) 9 am-1 pm**

FAMILY (children 8-12)

Recycled Art Camp

Registration and payment: July 6.

\$50 members, \$55 non-members.

26 (Saturday) 6-8am

GENERAL CLASS (adults only)

By Dawn's Early Light

Free.

***30 (Sunday) 1-3 pm**

FAMILY (children 6 and above)

Summer Sun Festival

Leader: Susan Carver

Registration by Wednesday, July 26.

Free.

AUGUST

4 (Friday) 8-9:30pm

FAMILY

Finding Your Way in The Woods

***15 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30am**

FAMILY

Tuesday Tickler—Ponds

Registration by August 11. Materials fee:

\$3 members, \$4 non-members.

15 (Tuesday) 7:30 pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS

Club Meeting and Star Party

20 (Sunday) 4 pm

FAMILY

Bring your music, poetry, prose, art-

work, craft or more to share as we

celebrate Fred Lape's 106th birthday.

26 (Saturday) 2-3:30 pm

FAMILY

Nature Art

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BECOME A MEMBER of the Landis Arboretum. You'll support an important community resource and enjoy all the benefits of membership.

- Quarterly Arboretum Newsletter filled with articles about our collections and activities
- Advance notice of classes, tours and many other special events
- Discounts at the Plant Sale, in the Acorn Shop and on fee-based programs
- The satisfaction of helping to sustain a valuable natural resource
- Invitations to Members Only events: "Pick of the Pots" Plant Sale Preview Party (Friday evening May 19 from 5-8 pm), guided tours of the new trails and grounds, and parties

MEMBERSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT part of the Arboretum's financial support. Contact the Arboretum at 518-875-6935 or landis@midtel.net.

Did you know...facts about Landis

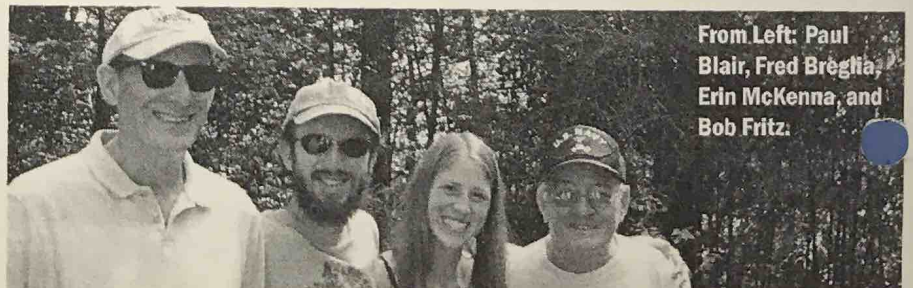
The numbers—

- No admission charge. (\$5 donation suggested)
- 548 acres in Schoharie and Montgomery Counties
- 6 miles of trails.
- 40 acres of plantings from around the world.
- 2 old growth forest groves with trees over 300 years old and 275-year old grapevine!

The news—

- Landis is the only arboretum (public garden of trees and shrubs) in the region.

- Open daily dawn until dusk.
- The place for hiking, native tree and shrub research, picnicking, bird watching—and more.
- Landis offers botanical drawing, programs for pre-school children, and star gazing. Many of the programs we offer are free.
- The Summer and Fall Calendar of Events will be out in late August, early September.
- Landis has the best-looking trustees, staff, interns and volunteers (below)—come see for yourself!



From Left: Paul Blair, Fred Breglia, Erin McKenna, and Bob Fritz.

Photo by an unknown good samaritan.