



# LANDIS ARBORETUM

T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Esperance, New York

WINTER 2007

VOLUME 26, NO. 1

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## Highlights of 2006



### DINNER-AUCTION NETS FUN, FUNDS

by Thom O'Connor

The Landis Arboretum holiday dinner-auction drew close to 100 participants to the dining room of the Café at the Caverns on Tuesday, December 5. By the time the festive evening ended, 80 donated items from more than 60 Capital Region businesses and supporters of Landis—coupled with raffle drawings for a 2006 Harley-Davidson Softail® Deluxe motorcycle, a donated hand-sewn quilt, and a bidding war for the professional services of Chef Michael DeSalvatore—netted the Arboretum nearly \$15,000 in sorely needed operating funds.

The Tisch Family Trio provided musical accompaniment to the event. The students of SUNY Cobleskill's Culinary Arts Hospitality and Tourism

Department under the direction of Chef JoAnne Cloughly provided the creative energy and culinary flair behind the creative three-course dinner for this signature event for the

Arboretum. Cloughly heads the newly energized kitchen at Howe Caverns.



Photo by Gloria Van Dwyne

### EDUCATION IN REVIEW

by Susan Carver

2006 saw positive strides in education and outreach here at Landis—in large measure due to overall increased marketing efforts at the Arboretum. Our public programs grew from 296 people in 2005 to 444 people in 2006. Toddlers to octogenarians enjoyed a myriad of programs taught either by hired instructors or Landis staff and volunteers. Star parties, led by the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers (AAAA), continue to be very popular program series. I hope you get a chance to spend an evening observing the sky with the AAAA members. They have a great love of the night sky and incredible telescopes to view it with. The moons of Saturn await you!

Programs for schools and youth groups also expanded in 2006 from three in 2005 to eight in 2006, attracting 282 people to Landis. We provided programs for the Duaneburg Elementary School, Sharon Springs Central School, Woodlawn School (Schenectady), Schoharie 4-H, summer program in Jefferson, SUNY Cobleskill, Canajoharie Central School, and a Brownie Girl Scout troop from

**“Having the professional skills and quick humor of a professional auctioneer was invaluable in reminding us why we were all there...”—Bonnie Keller, event chair**

Continued on page 6

Continued on page 6

(below, left) Stan Hurban of Esperance, winner of the Harley and friend. (below, right) Landis's Hike Back in Time program in November drew a large group of intrepid hikers who viewed 400 year-old trees in the ancient forest at the Arboretum. Photos by Anne Donnelly



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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Susan Carver, Anne Donnelly, Sue Gutbezahl, Sonja Javarone, Nolan Marciniac, and Thom O'Connor

COPY EDITORS

Sonja Javarone and Nolan Marciniac

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Sue Gutbezahl

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Fred Breglia, Susan Carver, Anne Donnelly, Mike Gutbezahl, Sonja Javarone, Bonnie Keller, Erin McKenna, Nolan Marciniac, and Thom O'Connor.

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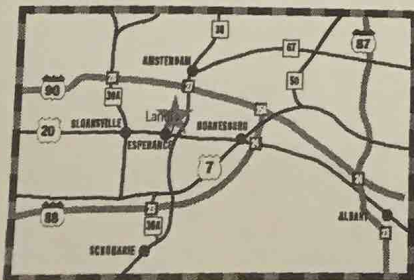
ARBORETUM STAFF

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Fred Breglia, *Director of Horticulture and Operations*

Susan Carver, *Education Director*  
Erin McKenna, *Gardener*  
Randy Proctor, *Grounds and Maintenance*  
Judy Puddester, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
Patty Redlin, *Administrative Assistant*  
George Steele, *Science Educator*

Address correspondence to:  
Newsletter Editor, Landis Arboretum  
P.O. Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.  
phone 518-875-6935  
fax 518-875-6394  
email landis@midtel.net  
http://www.LandisArboretum.org

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. Visit our website for more information and directions.



# AT LARGE...

by Thom O'Connor

This column's title reflects both my perception of my role as Executive Director at the Arboretum as well as my past experience as a communications ombudsman. There are so many facets and layers of Arboretum life that pass through the Farm House each day, and I expect most will find their way into this column over time.

For now, though, I want to bring your attention to two new staffers at Landis (see *Two New at Landis*, page 3), inform you about the excellent outcomes of our well-attended and festive holiday dinner-auction (*Dinner-Auction Nets Fun, Funds*, page 1), alert you to the upcoming and reenergized Horticulture Certification Program starting this month (see *Hort? for Cert* page 4), direct you to some well-deserved praise of our own Ed Miller (*Letters*, page 4), and assure you that your Board is seriously focused on carrying the excellent year end successes into the New Year.

## Calendar of Events

You'll note that only the highlights of the traditional *Calendar of Events* appear in this issue of the newsletter. We have chosen to make the calendar a stand-alone offering which will be mailed separately to increase its readership and extend it

# All Aboard

by Thom O'Connor

The Arboretum Board of Directors welcomes four new trustees: William Danielsen, educator, author, photographer, and wildlife enthusiast, Altamont, NY; Jonathan DiCesare, real estate agent with both retail and landscape design expertise, Cobleskill; Maria Kuethe, retired psychologist and long-time Arboretum volunteer who has been active in the evolving Arboretum/ARCs partnership, Rotterdam, NY; and James Paley, Sr. VP with Janney Scott Montgomery LLC, Albany.

At the same meeting, Amsterdam resident Barbara Brabetz was re-elected President for 2007; Jeff Schworm, Delanson, was elected Vice

President; Gerald Peters, Cobleskill, was ratified as new Treasurer; Donna Vincent, Duaneburg, was elected Secretary; and Scott Trees, Richmondville, was designated Member-at-Large.

The Arboretum also has expanded its Education Committee under the leadership of trustee Anne Donnelly to include Jano Nightingale and "JJ" Schell of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and John McKeeby, Schoharie River Project (Burtonsville).

The addition of Maria Kuethe and Joanna Bateman (Joanna Bateman Graphic Design, Cobleskill, NY) expands the reach of the Landis Publications Committee.

"We're very pleased to welcome these exceptionally qualified individuals to the Arboretum," says Barbara Brabetz, Landis Board president and chair of the Natural Sciences Department at SUNY Cobleskill. "With these changes and new additions to our office staff (Judy Puddester, Cobleskill, and Patty Redlin, Esperance), we believe we currently have the expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to take the Arboretum to a new level of achievement in the months ahead."

End-of-term Trustees include Paul Blair (Niskayuna), John Brust (Central Bridge), Lawson Harris (Scotia), and Sonja Javarone (Gloversville). Ms. Javarone retired from the Board in August 2006.

## Alliance

Work is under way to add impact and interest to the Spring Plant Sale and to buttress an already strong alliance with the area ARCs. In fact, we hope to confirm plans for a kick-off concert with ARC band, the Fulton County-based FLAME! (Hear for yourself at [www.flamesoftrock.com](http://www.flamesoftrock.com).) Already eager to work at the Arboretum, two work parties of ARC volunteers showed up in October, although the program doesn't officially start until May!

## New Grant

Exciting news in the making: through the combined efforts of former Board president Sonja Javarone and Landis arborist Fred Breglia, the Arboretum is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for landscaping the hillside above the entry to the Arboretum from the parking lot. Expect to hear and read much more about this venture, as well as the reclamation of our Quarry Garden and the on-going software updates, which will put the Landis Arboretum in the forefront of the nation's public gardens. It's all happening right here at your Arboretum. Excelsior!

## CAPITAL DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW

Fred Breglia will be presenting two programs at the Capital District Flower Show on Saturday, March 24. At 11am Breglia will address "Promoting Plant Health through Proper Pruning," and, at 2 pm, "New and Unusual Ornamental



Photo of Fred by Sonja Javaronne



## COLLECTIONS NEWS

by Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

### Forest Stewardship Plan

Over the past few years, the Landis Arboretum has grown (no pun intended) from 97 acres to 548 acres.

The newly acquired land is contiguous with the original Arboretum holdings and stretches from Schoharie County into Montgomery County. A diverse range of plants and habitats is found on this new land, ranging from fields with many types of pioneer plants such as brambles, aspens, and birch, to forested lands that contain a large tract of old growth forest and a small waterfall.

Most recently, the Arboretum Horticulture Committee, spearheaded by Mike Urban, NYS DEC forester, has put together a comprehensive forest stewardship plan. The Arboretum's primary goal for its new acquisition is to identify and develop habitat that will provide for multiple uses such as education, recreation, wildlife, and forest production. This goal will be attained through the implementation of a stewardship plan that will maintain and promote healthy ecosystems. The plan will serve as a guide for the future management of these lands.

The plan is an analysis of all the Landis property and breaks down all the different types of ecosystems that exist. Each ecosystem type is classified and then measured in acres and broken out on maps as plots. These plots are then further classified according to descriptors such as tree size. A written description for each plot lists the major plant species contained in each section. The plan also evaluates the quality of the trees and suggests management recommendations for each section. In addition, the stewardship plan also provides Landis with detailed maps and aerial photos of its property, which will serve as a tool for future work, including routing new trails and developing more detailed and revised maps.

The suggested management recommendations are primarily based on biological criteria and have been prepared using the guidelines of the NYS DEC Forest Stewardship program. The plan serves as a guide for future management of the Landis Arboretum. Any areas that might undergo future work or development will have to be carefully studied in greater detail before decisions are made.

## Two New at Landis

On your next trip to Landis, be sure to stop by the Farm House to welcome two additions to the Arboretum staff.



New Administrative Assistant **Patty Redlin** is a resident of Esperance, NY. She comes to the Arboretum from CBS 6 WRGB TV, Schenectady, where she coordinated TV station media sponsorships, wrote public-service announcements,

coordinated on-air talent appearances, and wrote, edited, and managed web-site content. She has worked in varying marketing and customer-centric positions, served as marketing coordinator and coordinated program and course offerings in business management for UC Berkeley. Patty has an MBA in International Management. You may recall Patty's husband Paul and their two sons Harley and Levi from among the tireless volunteers at this year's Tirefest.

Cobleskill resident **Judy Puddester** will serve as Volunteer Coordinator. Judy has a degree in landscape horticulture from the University of Idaho, as well as associates degrees in floriculture and secretarial sciences. She has developed

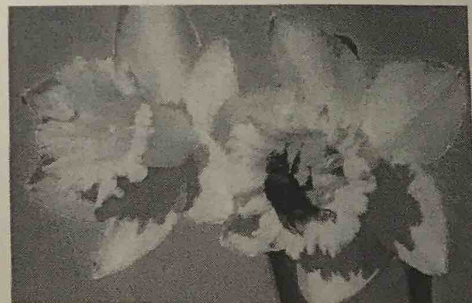


and managed a master gardener training program, supervised the activities of 15 master gardener volunteers, and conducted a garden clinic. She also has served as office manager at the Chemical Engineering Department at the

University of Massachusetts and supervised an office staff of four secretaries and interns. Judy and her husband Robert Rynk, PhD and faculty member at SUNY Cobleskill, are relatively new to the area and look forward to contributing to the Arboretum.

Both principals will cross train with the goal of backing-up one another over time as required by the needs of our business.

The Arboretum acknowledges the excellent work of Charlotteville resident **Rosanna DeRobertis** who has served us during a very difficult time of transition and recalibration. Proprietor of her own firm, The Administrative Assistant, Rosanna will remain on standby as needed to streamline the transition. We also look to the continued good will of intrepid office volunteer **Jane Kirstel**.



Photos of Patty and Judy by Anne Donnelly

# Talking Grapevines?

by Thom O'Connor

Long before Marvin's Gaye signature hit "Heard It through the Grapevine" embedded itself into the collective psyche of pop-culture 60s, pre-politically correct wisdom pointed to "telephone, telegraph, or tell a [person]" as the best way to spread the word about anything.

Today, marketers use the acronym WOM (word of mouth) to encapsulate one aspect of the sophisticated art and science of key message distribution. We hope to implement our own version of WOM at the Arboretum—and need your help to make it work.

Rising costs of postage and paper, for instance, coupled with the prohibitive tabs for paid advertising, are forcing us to reconsider options for alerting Arboretum supporters about upcoming events. Because of their power and impact, at the top of our options list are hand-delivered missives in the form of flyers, posters, and pamphlets. We have the skill sets and volunteer power to create the messages. The challenge is distributing them to places that produce the greatest return. From experience, we know that much of the literature produced goes undistributed until it is tossed out after an event.

## A modest proposal

As I see it, by using the skills of new Volunteer Coordinator Judy Puddester (see *Two New*, page 2), the Arboretum could establish a formal "grapevine distribution network" composed of volunteer teams from each zip code in our membership database. When a flyer is produced for an event such as the Plant Sale, a team's designated captain(s) would pickup or receive a supply of flyers, which each member of that Zip Code Network would then distribute to others in the same area (their sub-teams). Working in tandem, the Zip Code teams would visit highly trafficked area such as restaurants, libraries, schools, key businesses and ask to leave copies of the brochure or flyer to inform patrons of that business.

From experience, Arboretum volunteers realize that flyers left at various venues often disappear quickly—for a variety of reasons—and need to be replenished. It would be a point of pride for each Zip Code Team to check and replenish on a regular basis. When the Arboretum could afford posters and well as flyers, these same businesses could be asked to display them. Businesses that do so on a regular basis could be rewarded with a year long membership in exchange for their support. There

are affordable cardboard display boxes that could be produced with the Arboretum signature to reinforce our "brand" and to make displaying our literature as attractive as possible to the store or outlet.

Of course, this is all "in the making." As new Executive Director, I would enjoy hearing your thoughts—and working with anyone willing to participate or commandeer this initiative by heading and formulating a Zip Code Distribution Network or whatever it comes to be known as.

Two excellent examples of upcoming communications that would benefit greatly from such an approach are the new Horticulture Certification brochures produced by SUNY Cobleskill and the Arboretum and, of course, information critical to the success of the Spring Plant/Book/Bake sale.

Because our membership is growing and because many people really do not know what an Arboretum is, I would like to promote a first-rate poster designed by Sue Gutbezahl, a volunteer who continues to design this newsletter and other marketing/educational/informational literature for the Arboretum.

Comments? I'd enjoy hearing from you by March 12.

## HORT? for CERT!

Arboretum members should be on the lookout for the 2007 Horticulture Certification brochure produced in concert with SUNY Cobleskill.

The first issue of the new offerings appeared in the *Spring Continuing Education* catalog distributed through the *Times Journal* (Cobleskill).

By tradition, the courses are divided into levels (I and II) to more closely align to the needs and expectations of past and prospective attendees whose background ranges from those working in the garden industry and desiring further education, to homeowners and casual gardeners who wish to improve their skills, technique, and enjoyment of gardening. Content of the courses reflects informal feedback received over the past year and especially from those attending the Spring and Fall Plant Sales.

Developed for wide-ranging appeal, the Certificate in Horticulture curriculum incorporates eight new offerings from

## LETTERS

### In Praise of Ed Miller

Dear Mr. O'Connor:  
I wanted to write you a letter to tell you about a good experience my Master Gardener volunteer group and I had at the Landis Arboretum this summer.

We were taken on a tour this past August by Mr. Ed Miller of Albany to see some of the projects with which he has been involved. Ed showed us a small bog garden, built as a raised tank with wooden sides. We were all impressed with the diversity of plant life in the display and what a great teaching tool it could be for people who have never experienced bog plants.

Ed also showed us the collection of trees native to New York, planted by genus, which are being established along some of the trails. While there were many plants we were familiar with, we saw lots of new things too, and it was very informative to have closely related plants located close together.

These plant collections and displays, along with Ed's incredibly knowledgeable commentary, made for a most educational visit. Thanks to both the Landis Arboretum and Ed Miller for collaborating on such worthwhile projects!

—David Ch

Senior Extension Resource Educator  
Cornell University Cooperative Extension  
Rensselaer County

"Starting Your Own Horticulture Business," "Tree and Shrub Identification," "Plant Health Care—the Experts' Choice," and "Where the Wildflowers Grow" to "Low Risk/High Reward Perennial Gardens," "Goin' for the Green: Lawn Care for a Better Environment," and "Horticulture Therapy for the Professional Helper."

The new Arboretum catalogue also includes six non-certification courses: "Gardening 101," "Therapeutic Gardening: The Focus Is You!" along with "Introduction to Fairy Gardening," and "Home Schooling" (with separate sessions for teachers of grades K-3, 4-8, and 8-12).

Classes begin in February, run through October, and call on the insights and experience of established subject-matter experts. Classes will be held at the Arboretum as well as on the campus of SUNY Cobleskill. If you have not received information on these courses, please call the Arboretum at (518) 875-6935, or SUNY Cobleskill (518) 255-5528.

# American Hart's-Tongue Fern

Erlin McKenna



The American hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium americana*) was once abundant in Canada, Michigan, New York, Alabama and Tennessee. Today all but

Photo by Jim Comly



## Alan French

For Alan French, the night sky at Landis is its most valuable resource.

The first time he visited the Arboretum, more than fifteen years ago, he witnessed a most

impressive Orionid meteor shower. Because of the absence of "light pollution," he recognized that Landis would be an almost ideal site for sky watching. Since then, the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers has hosted a monthly sky party at the Arboretum. These events are free to the public, and people of all ages and of all levels of interest are welcome.

Alan remembered his father pointing out the northern lights, the Perseids, the Soviet satellite Sputnik—and bringing home a book on telescope making, which remains his special interest. He noted that observing the heavens is instinctive for "anyone who is interested in the world around them," but that children are particularly curious about the night sky. He remarked, "I can't tell you the number of adults who have looked through a telescope for the first time and said, 'I've always wanted to do this!'"

## Art Coleman

Clearly feeling at home, Art strapped on his harness and made his way up a huge white pine, pruning saw in hand.

Art Coleman grew up in southern Vermont, spending countless hours in the Green Mountain National Forest, hiking, fishing, and hunting. After his move to Upstate New York, Art, a chemist by training, ran a small manufacturing plant which produced chemicals for medical uses and university research facilities. He vowed that after his retirement, he would get back in touch with those activities he enjoyed in his youth.

His wife had heard about the Landis Arboretum, he said, but somehow they never got around to visiting. However, after Fred Breglia, Landis arborist, gave a talk on old growth forests to the New York Forest Owners Association, he came to the Arboretum "for selfish reasons" because, as a collector of wood samples, he was interested in the unique species of trees and shrubs—and the possibility of obtaining samples from pruned wood.

by Nolan Marciniac

## LANDIS PORTRAITS

### A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

At least a dozen telescopes are set up during a sky party, and participants are encouraged to view and to ask questions. The astronomers also provide a general constellation tour and an orientation to celestial objects able to be seen with the naked eye.

Alan's wife Sue, who directed the planetarium at the Schenectady Museum and with whom he coordinates the sky watching programs, is also an avid amateur astronomer. A collection of her essays, *A Celestial Sampler*, has recently been published.

While he admits to having only a "casual" interest in gardening, Alan has been a frequent volunteer at Landis, pitching in at plant sales and the tire clean-up. "The Arboretum has always welcomed us. It gives me a chance to pay back the hospitality in some small way," he said.

Landis has become a popular location for the Albany astronomers, whose presence on at least one occasion discouraged roving after-dark beer parties on the grounds. Once, several teens joined the astronomers at the telescopes before moving on to another kind of party.

Most visitors to Landis fix their attention earthward. Alan would direct our eyes upward. The infinite beauty of the night sky is, he said, "available to everyone."

On his first visit, he trekked on snowshoes to give Fred a hand with the early spring pruning. The temperature, he recalled, was "a little extreme," but the experience only whetted his appetite to return. He's been back nearly every week since then—usually in more temperate weather.

He says he loves the company and the "energy" of his fellow volunteers. Every visit leads him to recognize just how much is done by the volunteers. "There's always plenty of work to do," he said, "but I'm amazed at how much has been accomplished. The place keeps looking better and better."

Art also manages a woodlot on which he has planted thousands of trees and is active in Trout Unlimited's conservation efforts. Even if the Schoharie Valley is quite a distance from the Green Mountains, there is no question that, for Art Coleman, the Arboretum feels "like home."

one of these populations has drastically declined due mainly to habitat alteration or in other words, commercial development and timber/quarry removal. The fern has specific habitat requirements, which include cool temperatures, full/part shade, high humidity and a dolomitic limestone soil surrounded by a hardwood forest that includes maples and beeches. It is one of the only ferns that doesn't prefer acidic soil and generally grows between tight crevices of rock. All of these precise requirements make it difficult to reestablish in areas it once grew. It was placed on the federally endangered species list in 1989 and also became a registered protected plant in New York at this time.

The fern has a short life of 3 years. The first year, it produces several glossy green leaves from a growing point. It over-winters and the next summer undergoes fructification. The following spring it will die. It seems that since habitats of past populations are still existent, reestab-



lishment of the fern there should be occurring naturally. The reason this theory is incorrect is because several of the ferns have stopped developing spores altogether. Several botanists and horticulturalists have tried to reestablish the fern but have had short-lived success. Propagation by spore is simple but time consuming and the real challenge is successful transplanting at the site.

You can find two of the American hart's-tongue fern growing here at Landis in the upper area of the newly renovated Quarry Garden. By walking up into the original Fred Lape quarry site, you will see the fern growing out of the remaining rock walls, just under the mass of cotoneaster and amongst the common polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*).

### *Dinner-Auction, continued from page 1*

"The excitement of the evening started to build from the moment guests arrived for an optional, discounted tour of the Caverns and review of auction items on display in the Cavern's restaurant, which general manager John Sagendorf offered us free of charge for the evening," says event chair, **Bonnie Keller**, vice president of NBT Bank, Duaneburg, and Landis Board member. She credits much of the evening's success to the hard work of the events Committee: **Barbara Brabetz, Anne Donnelly, Dottie Gallo-Vojnar, Laurie Meyers, Lisa Murphy, Thom O'Connor, Jerry Peters, and Donna Vincent**.

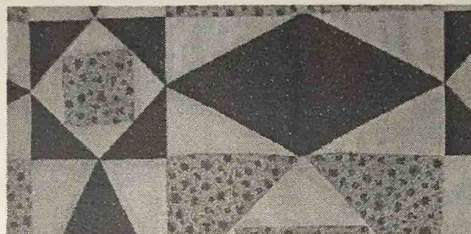
"Having the professional skills and quick humor of a professional auctioneer was invaluable in reminding us why we were all there and in coaxing each of us to dig even deeper as the evening progressed," Keller remarked. She refers to popular area auctioneer **Randy Passonno**, Collar City Auctions Realty & Management, Inc. (Delanson), who presided over the event as a donation to the Arboretum. Passonno is a Licensed & Bonded Auctioneer/Realtor/and Certified Appraiser.

### **Harley Raffle Winners**

The evening crescendoed with the anticipated drawing of the winning ticket for the Harley-Davidson® Softail Deluxe. Only 242 of the 300 tickets printed were sold at \$100 each. Ticket number 039 belonging to Stan Hurban of Esperance was pulled, and the recipient was called on speakerphone from the floor of the dining room at the Caverns. A collective moan arose from the audience as his answering machine picked up—but just as quickly, the attendees shouted "Congratulations, Stan!" from their seats. When Hurban was reached at 6:45 the following morning, he had not heard the message and shouted an expletive of excitement in response to the news. He had been out after work celebrating his 43rd birthday the night of the drawing. The following morning, he met with Arboretum Board "biker babes" **Bonnie Keller and Donna Vincent** at NBT where the bike has been on display. Other winners in a Harley raffle are: **Frank Nardini Jr. (#015)**, Glenville, second prize winner, \$200; and **Helena Dreyer (#245)**, Esperance, third-prize winner, \$150.

### **Storm at Sea, Chef on Block**

WAMC radio host **Susan Arbetter** won the "Storm at Sea" quilt offered in another raffle at the event. The patterned offering is a

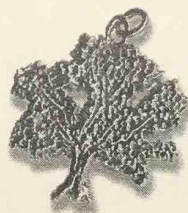


pieced quilt in maroon, calico, and unbleached muslin and measures 92"x 103". Only 350 tickets had been printed.

This special evening at Howe Caverns offered both silent and LIVE auctions that included bidding for the professional services of personal chef **Michael DeSalvatore** (Amsterdam) to prepare a gourmet meal in the winning bidder's home/office. Mr. DeSalvatore is currently a student at SUNY Cobleskill and sous chef at Howe Caverns. "Having the opportunity to work with the winning bidder to create a menu, shop for it, then cook and serve a specially planned dinner will be awesome. Simply awesome!" said Mr. DeSalvatore. **Lisa Murphy**, Duaneburg, placed the winning bid.

### **Shimmering Memento**

For the dinner-auction event, Esperance jeweler **Judy Helfrich** created a sparkling sterling silver interpretation of the



Great Oak, iconic symbol of the Capital Region's Arboretum. Approximately one inch by one inch, the pin appears as textured/filigreed silver to create the leafy impact of the Arboretum symbol, signed by Helfrich and imprinted Landis Arboretum on the back. The offering remains available as a pin and as a necklace/charm via a jump-ring attachment. The pendant/pin is offered in a green satin pouch perfect for gift-giving—even to oneself! This wearable work of art may be ordered through the Arboretum as well as from the Departures Shop at Albany International Airport.

**THANK YOU** TO ALL WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED GIFTS AND MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF TIME TO EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

**YWCA Adirondack Foothills** in Gloversville for office, craft, and cleaning supplies.

**Kelly's Farm and Garden** in Cobleskill for the donation of 40 lbs. of bird seed.

**Dean M. Graham Foundation** for a \$500 grant for education.

**Ken Hotopp** for teaching the Managing the Family Forest program.

**David Hubble** for natural history books.

*Education... continued from page 1*  
**Duanesburg**. We hope to expand our program offerings to school and youth groups in 2007.

Outreach efforts were extended to include more events in Albany and Montgomery Counties, which doubled 2005 efforts from 5 in 2005 to 11 in 2006. Landis participated in such new events as Kids Expo in Albany, a talk about Landis at the Elwood Nature Club in Amsterdam, SUNY Cobleskill Wildlife Festival, "Birds, Bees and Butterflies" at Indian Ladder Farm in Altamont, Canal Days in Amsterdam, and the Saving Home Family Fair in Albany.

Landis educational programs were awarded three grants in 2006: one from the **Stewarts Holiday Match** program to create Explorer Bags for families to use during visits to Landis, one from the **Nora van der Stricht Charitable Lead Annuity Trust (CLAT)** for funding of the Education Director and Volunteer Coordinator positions and outreach materials, and one from **NYSCA** for the Botanical Drawing class. We appreciated the generosity of these organizations. Thanks also to **Barbara Brabetz, Anne Donnelly, Sonja Javarone and Nolan Marciniac** for assisting with the grant writing endeavors.

### **Looking Forward**

As I look out my window, a light snow is falling, and I am hoping for even more for our 2007 snowshoe programs. Programs offerings continue to grow here at Landis: our new horticulture program even includes courses with children in mind (crafted by a team that included Board member **Anne Donnelly**, Executive Director **Thom O'Connor**, and **Linda Karker and Shirley Lawyer**, both of SUNY Cobleskill's Office of Community Outreach, which co-produces both the Horticulture Certification and non-certification programs). We hope to see you at one of the programs!

**Donna and Bob Vincent** for teaching the Make a Holiday Wreath class.

**Deborah Moran** from Cornell Cooperative Extension Schenectady County for teaching the winter tree identification class.

**Selkirk's Ace Hardware** for bird seed.

**Miller Printing**, of Amsterdam which meets our ridiculous deadlines, no matter what!

# WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

NAME _____		PHONE _____	
ADDRESS _____		CITY _____	
		ZIP _____	
Workshop/Event	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			<b>Total \$</b>
Card number _____		Exp. Date _____	
Signature _____			

## CALENDAR Upcoming Events

For registration and information call 518-875-6935 or e-mail landisfun@middel.net. Or use the registration form above, enclose payment, and mail to: Susan A. Carver, Location Director, 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.

**The Albany Area Amateur Astronomers** (AAAA) visit www.timesunion.com/communities/astronomy. For more information about AAAA visit www.timesunion.com/communities/astronomy. Free. All are welcome.

**\*Advance payment and registration** is required for all general classes and workshops, and trips. For your convenience, payment can be made with Visa or MasterCard.

**\*Horticulture Certificate and Non-certificate classes.** Registration with payment is due one week before the first class. To register, call Shirley Lawyer, Office of Community Outreach at 518-875-5528. For a complete description of the classes, see the brochures, *Horticulture Certificate Program in Horticulture and Non-certificate Program in Horticulture*, available at the Landis Arboretum. Call 518-875-6935 to request copies.

### FEBRUARY

**21 (Wednesday) 11-1pm**  
**Animal Tracks: Tracking by Snowshoe**  
Bring your own snowshoes or borrow a pair from Landis. (Call 518-875-6935 to reserve your pair). We'll take a hike if there is not enough snow. Free.

### MARCH

**\*3, 10, 17, 24, (Saturdays) 10am-noon**  
HORTICULTURE NON-CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Introduction to Fairie Gardening**  
Location: Landis Arboretum  
Registration and payment, February 24.  
\$65 (One child admitted free with each adult registration)

**\*3, 10, 17, 24, (Saturdays) 1-3pm**  
HORTICULTURE NON-CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Home Schooling Horticulture, Grades K-3**  
Location: Landis Arboretum  
Registration and payment, February 24.  
Non-members \$65; Members & students, 10% discount. (One child admitted free with each adult registration)

**11 (Sunday) 1-3pm**  
**Second Sunday Snowshoe**  
Explore the Arboretum on snowshoes. Afterwards, we'll enjoy hot beverages and homemade cookies. We'll take a hike if there is not enough snow. Suggested donation: \$5 per person

**\*20 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30am**  
**Tuesday Tickler: Signs of Spring**  
Tickle your child's curiosity about the natural world. Dress for outdoor weather. Register by March 16. For children 4-5 years old. \$5 members, \$10, non-members

**\*20, 27, April 3, 10 (Tuesdays) 7-8:30pm**  
HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Goin' for the Green: Lawn Care for a Better Environment, Level I**  
Location: SUNY Cobleskill Old Gym 101  
Registration and payment by March 13  
Non-members \$110; Members & students, 10% discount.

**\*24, 31 (Saturdays) 10am-noon**  
HORTICULTURE NON-CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**\*Gardening 101**  
SUNY Cobleskill Greenhouses  
Registration and payment, March 17.  
Non-members, \$50; Members and students, 10% discount.

**\*26 (Monday) 6:30-7:30pm**  
**Time-tested Tips for an Ever-blooming Perennial Garden**  
Location: Crossings of Colonie Discover some prize-worthy perennials that work overtime to create a three-season masterpiece \$20 Landis members, \$35 non-members.

**\*28 (Wednesday) 7-9am**  
**Full spectrum Soil Fertility**  
Learn about natural materials and methods to create optimum soil fertility and a thriving, alive soil wood web. Registration by March 23. \$10 members, \$25 non-members

**APRIL**  
**4 (Wednesday) 4-6pm**  
**\*Create an Easter Centerpiece**  
Arrange your own Easter centerpiece. Materials provided. Bring a pair of pruners. Registration by March 28. \$25 members, \$35 non-members.

**6 (Friday) 9pm**  
STAR PARTY  
Albany Area Amateur Astronomers meet regularly at the Landis Arboretum Meetinghouse since it offers a dark sky

and good horizons. Visitors are welcome to join the club's activities. To check if a particular star party is happening or cancelled due to cloudy skies, call 518-374-8460. All programs are free.

**7, 14, 21, 28 (Saturdays) 10am-noon**  
HORTICULTURE NON-CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Home Schooling Horticulture, Grades 4-8**  
See information on March 3 class.

**7, 14, 21, 28 (Saturdays) 1-3pm**  
HORTICULTURE NON-CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Home Schooling Horticulture, Grades 8-12**  
See information on March 3 class.

**\*15 (Saturday) 1-2:30pm**  
**A Dyers Garden**  
Learn the growing requirements and the uses for many herbs and flowers useful in the dye process for fibers. Registration by April 10. \$10 members, \$20 non-members.

**\*17 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30am**  
**\*Tickler: Trees and Arbor Day.**  
Registration by April 13. \$5 members, \$10, non-members

**\*14, 21, 28, May 5 (Saturdays) 10am-noon**  
\*HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE  
**Starting Your Own Horticulture Business, Level II**  
Location: SUNY Cobleskill Greenhouses  
Registration and payment by April 7  
Non-members \$110; Members & students, 10% discount.

**\*19 (Thursday) 1-3pm**  
**Trees Are Terrific**  
Get a sapling to bring home, and learn how to measure the heights of trees. Register by April 13. For children in Grades 3-6. Dress for the weather. \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

—continued on page 8

# Landis Arboretum

... A living museum for the entire family

Collections of labeled plants for enjoyment, display, and critical examination and scientific study—all within the 548-acre site that straddles Schoharie and Montgomery counties.

**Arboreta...** Grow and keep labeled collections of woody plants which grow in a given locality.

**Experience** the sweeping Schoharie Valley countryside as never before.

**One of only three arboreta in eastern North America with old-growth forests.**

**Introduce plants into cultivation from the wild by selecting superior forms or by importing and selecting plants from other climatically similar regions around the world.**

**Maintain accurate records of plant collections through herbarium samples, plant records, and maps of plantings.**

**Perform scientific investigations such as plants breeding of relevant literature; and disseminate information to the public through educational programs, workshops, and publications.**

**Miles of hiking/walking trails.** Outstanding calendar of educational programs—especially for children!

**The beautiful Van Loveland Perennial Gardens.** Designated site on NYS Route 20 Bluebird Trail.

**Newly reclaimed historic Quarry Garden.** Acorn Gift Shop.

**Open all year.** Admission by donation. Mors? 518.875.5935, landis@midtel.net or www.landisarboretum.org.

The Arboretum's beauty will leave you breathless—whatever the time of year!!

## APRIL *continued from page 7*

**21 (Saturday) 9am-3pm**  
**Spring Workfest**  
 Bring your friends and your work gloves to Landis to get the grounds ready for the up-coming growing season. Come for part of the day or the full day. Light lunch provided. Bring a dessert to share.

**22 (Sunday) 2-2:30**  
**EarthDay Vernal Pool Exploration**  
 Fairy shrimp, caddis fly larvae, salamander eggs, and tadpoles!  
 Free

**28 (Saturday) 10am-4pm**  
**Spring Migration Hawk Watch. At 2pm: Hawk Identification Workshop**  
 Join us for a day on the look-out for migrating hawks. Stay as long as you like. Free.

## MAY

**4 (Friday) 8-9:30pm**  
**Woodcock Walk**  
 We'll try to sneak up on this unique bird showing off for females, while we learn about its behavior and ecology. Free

**11 (Friday) 9:30 pm**  
**STAR PARTY**  
 Albany Area Amateur Astronomers  
 See Star Party listing for April 6.

**\*12, June 19, July, 14, Sept. 8 (Saturdays) 9am-noon**  
**HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE COURSE**  
**Where the Wildflowers Grow...** Levels 1 & 2  
 Location: Landis Arboretum and TBA.  
 Registration and payment by March 13  
 Non-members \$110; Members & students, 10% discount.

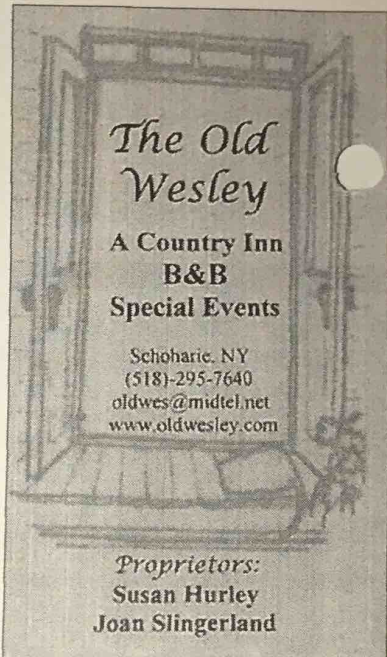


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This photo of bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) was taken locally in early April.

Bloodroot, a native plant, is also known as Puccoon or Red Puccoon, Indian Paint, Redroot, Pauson and Tetterwort. The white flowers seem to glow in the shade—and are a welcome sight in very early spring.

Photo by Michael Gutbezahl

Find out more at <http://2bnthewild.com/plants/H261.htm>.

Photo credit: page 5  
 Stephen M. Young

American hart's-tongue fern  
*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americanum* New York Natural Heritage Program. 2006.