

The Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Lape Road

Esperance, New York

Spring 1997

Vol. 16, No. 2

The Spring Plant Sale

The 1997 Tree, Shrub, and Perennial Extravaganza, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Landis Arboretum's rare plant sale, will be celebrated on May 16, 17 and 18 with festivities guaranteed to please each and every gardener.

Foremost, more than 6,000 trees, shrubs and perennials will be offered for sale.

And, for the first time, members are offered the opportunity to shop for plants at a **Pick of the Pots Preview Party and Sale** from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday evening, May 16. Admission to the Preview Party is \$5 for members; non-members may become members and be admitted for a total of \$30. Members may stroll among the trees, shrubs, and perennials for sale; they may choose and purchase plants; and they may pick up plants they have ordered in advance. A supper of hearty soups, crusty bread, salads, cheese and wine will be served and a storyteller will be on hand to entertain; there is no additional charge. (To make reservations for the Preview Party, call the arboretum at 875-6935 or use the form in this newsletter.)

On Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the **plant sale** will be open both to members and to the public. In a one-of-a-kind plant fair setting, **lectures and demonstrations** will be presented on Saturday. **Guest plant organizations**, the Northeastern New York Orchid Society and the Mohawk-Hudson Bonsai Society, will be represented with exhibits and plants for sale. And, the arboretum's **Acorn Shop** will be open with an expanded inventory.

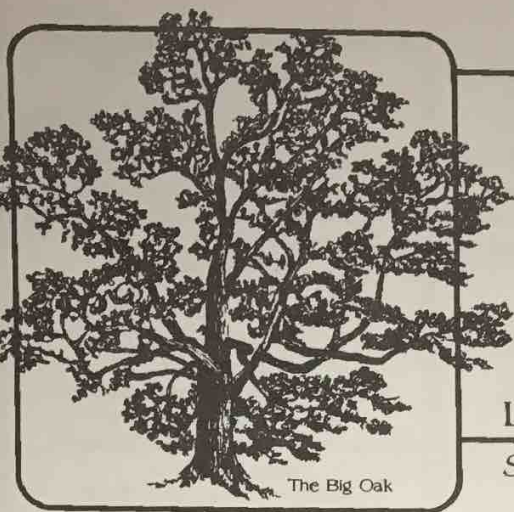
How It All Came About

Back in the 1940's - a time of rationing and blackouts - Fred Lape (*pictured at left, photo by Larry Hoehn, 1979*) sent letters all over the world in search of seeds for his fledgling arboretum. It was a passionate quest, and his early successes only fueled his determination to transform his family homestead in Esperance into a world class garden.

In the early 1970s, Fred - although not at all enthusiastic - was convinced by good friends Van Loveland and Dick Southwick to hold the Landis Arboretum's first plant sale. With Dick's help, Fred dug up suckers and propagated his own plants. Other plants were donated or acquired through the seed exchange. Pots of sale plants were set around the birch tree and in the terraced area, with no signs or explanations. When the day of the sale arrived, Fred, in his sandals and tattered hat, wandered around patiently answering questions - always a natural teacher.

Continued >

Twenty five years of collecting and sharing plants



The Big Oak



Spring Plant Sale - Continued from page 1

The Spring Plant Sale has always been referred to as a *rare* plant sale, patterned after those at the Arnold Arboretum. Due to the general unavailability of out-of-the-ordinary plants then, they were indeed *rare* plant sales - but not so much today. In the 1980s, the Friends of the arboretum, a group made up of volunteers and some trustees, organized the annual plant sales, properly labeled the plants, grouped them here and there on the lawn, but displayed little cultural information signage.

After Fred's death in 1985, Betty Corning became president of the arboretum trustees. Her wide-ranging interest in plants and gardens was a great asset to the Landis Arboretum. One of the plants consistently popular at the spring sale is the *Clematis* 'Betty Corning'. Betty first spotted the plant growing on Bertha Street in Albany. After asking permission from the owner, she took a cutting and grew one. She was told by the clematis society that it was a new variety and when asked to name it, she suggested *Clematis* 'Albany' but a 'Duchess of Albany' already existed. Instead, it was named *Clematis* 'Betty Corning'.

Attendance at the arboretum grew during the 1980s, and in the last ten years the number and variety of species available at the plant sales has increased greatly. Sale plants are properly labeled, appropriately grouped on tables and on the lawn, and expanded signage and volunteer consultants provide cultural information.

Over twenty-five years, the Rare Plant Sale has become a Tree, Shrub and Perennial Extravaganza.

Plants Available for the Sale

Our greenhouse is overflowing! Literally. Plant sale co-chair Peter Rumora first added benches and shelves to increase greenhouse capacity. This was not enough, so outside he added a temporary plastic lean-to extension all along the east side of the greenhouse, and then constructed two small hoop houses, shown here (*photo, Gloria Van Duyne*).



At this point, over 6,000 plants have been propagated, purchased, or donated for the spring plant sale. **Donations are still being made.** (See page 3.) So that you know what to expect, the following is a list of the major sale categories and a few highlights from some of them.

Perennials for sun - More than 2000 perennials in 50 genera will be available; ornamental grasses are included. You will find old favorites as well as new cultivars.

Perennials for shade - *Corydalis* 'Blue Panda', *Corydalis lutea*, three kinds of dicentra (Bleeding heart), two species of helleborus, several varieties of hosta, *Iris cristata*, four varieties of woodland phlox, two species of epimedium and a variegated polygonatum (Solomon's seal).

The Landis Arboretum

Newsletter

is published quarterly for its members. The arboretum's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through its programs and through its plant collection.

Editor

Fran Finkbeiner

Contributors

Mary D'Alessandro, Herm Finkbeiner,
Florence Grimm, Anne Jaster,
Claudia McLaughlin, Heather Thompson,
Gloria Van Duyne,
Lucinda Willemain, Carol Wock

Printer

infographics

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carol Wock, President
Frank Gilmore, Vice President
Claudia McLaughlin, Secretary
Nancy Boericke, Treasurer
Wanda Burch, Christian Cash,
Herman Finkbeiner, Carl Salmon,
Janet Tissiere, Mary Ann Tomlinson,
Earl Van Wormer III,
David Vincent, Lucinda Willemain

Emeriti

Merrill Bousman, Mabel Harkness,
Gilbert Harlow, Robert Raymond,
Richard Southwick, Will Roth

ARBORETUM STAFF

Gloria Van Duyne, Executive Director
Carolyn Edwards, Office Manager
Tamara Wilson, Office
Ron Neadle, Groundskeeper
George Steele, Science Educator

Address correspondence to:

Newsletter Editor

George Landis Arboretum

PO Box 186

Esperance, NY 12066

Phone: (518) 875-6935

Woodland wildflowers - Four species of trillium, two species of hepatica, *Mertensia virginica* (Bluebells), Jack-in-the-Pulpit, mayapple, bloodroot, Jeffersonia, and six different ferns.

Biennials - Hollyhocks, several kinds of foxglove.

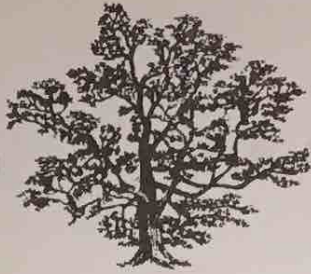
Unusual annuals - Featuring plants not commonly found commercially.

Shrubs - *Daphne cneorum*, Zone 4 azaleas and rhododendrons, several varieties of spirea, prunus, lilacs, viburnum, the Cary Award winners, and more.

Hardy roses - Rugosas and Canadian Explorer hybrids.

Clematis - Approximately 400 plants, including large-flowered hybrids, smaller flowering varieties, and several species clematis. We will have a large supply of 'Betty Corning'.

Continued >



Landis Arboretum

P.O. Box 186 ~ LAPE ROAD ~ ESPERANCE, NEW YORK 12066-0186
VOICE (518) 875-6935 ~ FAX (518) 875-6394

GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM 1997 SCHOOL PROGRAMS with Nature Educator George Steele

This year's programs include the following:

Forest Explore

An hour and a half walk through the native woodland learning about the ecology of the forest community. This hands on experience covers the concepts of energy flow through the ecosystem, cycles in nature, diversity of forest plants and the interrelationship of plants and animals in the forest.

Pond Exploration

The small pond at the Arboretum offers the chance to experience close at hand a fresh water ecosystem. Adaptations of life to the water environment is the main concept covered in this program. Students have the opportunity to capture, investigate and release a variety of water life.

Greenhouse Program

A tour of the greenhouse reveals the basic needs of plants including sun, soil, air and water. Students will have the opportunity to plant either seeds or tree seedlings (depending on availability) to bring back to the classroom for observation and to transplant at school or at home.

Special Topics

If you are studying a particular topic in biology or environmental science that you would like to have covered as part of a field trip visit let us know. We may be able to develop a special program to meet your needs.

Cost: \$75 per class (up to 30 students) for one program, \$125 for two programs in one day.

Reservations: Call the Arboretum at 875-6935 to make reservations. Space is limited so it is best to call as soon as possible to ensure booking.

THE GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM

IS VERY EXCITED TO PRESENT

"THIS IS MY COUNTRY"

A DESIGN PERFORMANCE
INTERPRETING AMERICA'S DIVERSITY

BY

MICHAEL POLYCHRONES

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FLORAL
DESIGNER

ALSO SEEN AT NEW YORK IN BLOOM '96 AND "SUMMER GARDEN PARTIES" '96

Stroll through the gardens and feast under tent on a tantalizing buffet luncheon created by Culinary Capers, then watch Michael's artistry as he interprets our country in flowers and foliage. There will be a silent auction of his magnificent arrangements.

JULY 19, 1997

12:30 p.m.

Tickets \$35

Reservations Preferred

Call or send payment to:

The George Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Lape Road
Esperance, NY 12066 (518) 452-0292

C. Michael Polychrones AAF, AIFD, PFCI

Michael's Flowers of Springfield

Mr. Polychrones has been an internationally recognized commentator, lecturer, designer, consultant, teacher and columnist in the floral industry for over 30 years. Educated at the Abbott School of Fine and Commercial Art in Washington, D.C., Mr. Polychrones has served on two advisory boards and as president of six floral community organizations. Additionally, he has been a designer and commentator for over 100 floral organizations throughout the country. He has held memberships in twelve floral, business and civic groups and is known for his extensive skills as an administrator and leader.

His professional excellence led to his participation in designing arrangements for various wiew services, most recently the Teleflora Floral Selection Guide and the Bridal Album. He has also contributed to Professional Floral Designer magazine, the new Design With Flowers magazine, and commercial calendar publications.

His talents captured international attention when he appeared as a principal designer at shows in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Panama and the United Kingdom. His already-renowned reputation was further enhanced by assisting in decorating the White House for Christmas during the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations as well as providing decorations for functions attended by visiting dignitaries.

Polychrones has appeared on numerous local and national television programs where he performed floral commentary. His flair for speaking puts him in great demand for appearances at garden clubs and women's groups throughout the country. His extraordinary ability to communicate has made him a natural teacher. He conducts six workshops in basic commercial floral design each year in his Springfield, Virginia classroom.

Although he has earned a great number of prestigious prizes, including the Sylvia Award of Design and various awards and ribbons in local and national competitions, one of his most cherished honors was being selected as a judge for the 1988 Tournament of Roses. In 1988 he received the Tommy Bright award for Commentary Excellence presented by the Society of American Florists and in 1987 the Distinguished Service Award to the Industry by the American Institute of Floral Designers.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____ x \$35 = \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

George Landis Arboretum

Programs for Families and Children
with nature educator George Steele

Free Family Workshops

All ages, no registration required
April 26 • Hawk Watch
May 11 • How Trees Grow
May 24 • Meet the Mammals
June 14 • Insects of the Night
June 28 • Summer Wildflowers
July 12 • A Mid-Summer's Evening
Walk
July 19 • Herpetology Hike
August 2 • Know Your Trees
August 18 • Full Moon Campfire
Sing-A-Long
September 13 • Pond Ponderings
September 27 • Bird Feeder Workshop
October 12 • Fall Foliage Walk
October 26 • Plant Art Workshop



For program details and
registration forms,
call 875-6935

Free Family Workshops

All ages, no registration required
April 26 • Hawk Watch
May 11 • How Trees Grow
May 24 • Meet the Mammals
June 14 • Insects of the Night
June 28 • Summer Wildflowers
July 12 • A Mid-Summer's Evening
Walk
July 19 • Herpetology Hike
August 2 • Know Your Trees
August 18 • Full Moon Campfire
Sing-A-Long
September 13 • Pond Ponderings
September 27 • Bird Feeder Workshop
October 12 • Fall Foliage Walk
October 26 • Plant Art Workshop



For program details and
registration forms,
call 875-6935

George Landis Arboretum

Programs for Families and Children
with nature educator George Steele

Free Family Workshops

All ages, no registration required
April 26 • Hawk Watch
May 11 • How Trees Grow
May 24 • Meet the Mammals
June 14 • Insects of the Night
June 28 • Summer Wildflowers
July 12 • A Mid-Summer's Evening
Walk
July 19 • Herpetology Hike
August 2 • Know Your Trees
August 18 • Full Moon Campfire
Sing-A-Long
September 13 • Pond Ponderings
September 27 • Bird Feeder Workshop
October 12 • Fall Foliage Walk
October 26 • Plant Art Workshop



For program details and
registration forms,
call 875-6935

George Landis Arboretum

Programs for Families and Children
with nature educator George Steele

Free Family Workshops

All ages, no registration required
April 26 • Hawk Watch
May 11 • How Trees Grow
May 24 • Meet the Mammals
June 14 • Insects of the Night
June 28 • Summer Wildflowers
July 12 • A Mid-Summer's Evening
Walk
July 19 • Herpetology Hike
August 2 • Know Your Trees
August 18 • Full Moon Campfire
Sing-A-Long
September 13 • Pond Ponderings
September 27 • Bird Feeder Workshop
October 12 • Fall Foliage Walk
October 26 • Plant Art Workshop



For program details and
registration forms,
call 875-6935

George Landis Arboretum

Programs for Families and Children
with nature educator George Steele

Free Family Workshops

All ages, no registration required
April 26 • Hawk Watch
May 11 • How Trees Grow
May 24 • Meet the Mammals
June 14 • Insects of the Night
June 28 • Summer Wildflowers
July 12 • A Mid-Summer's Evening
Walk
July 19 • Herpetology Hike
August 2 • Know Your Trees
August 18 • Full Moon Campfire
Sing-A-Long
September 13 • Pond Ponderings
September 27 • Bird Feeder Workshop
October 12 • Fall Foliage Walk
October 26 • Plant Art Workshop



For program details and
registration forms,
call 875-6935

DICK SOLBERG

THE SUN MOUNTAIN FIDDLER

World traveler Dick Solberg has been playing the violin for more than thirty years. He got an early start in music from his mother and continued his studies through high school at the Manhattan School of Music, and later at Oberlin College in Ohio. In Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan he began to play on the streets and at the farmer's market, and started to explore the other world of fiddle music.

In 1976, during the summer of the bicentennial, Dick took the name "Sun Mountain Fiddler" (a translation of his Norwegian last name) and hit the road as an itinerant street musician. He toured the original thirteen states of the union in an old blue van, playing at arts and craft shows, bicentennial celebrations, and in New York City for the tall ships on July 4th.

In the years following, Dick has become a full-time professional entertainer, with experience in all aspects of the music business: stage to studio, songwriting to sound reinforcement, bookings to public relations. He fiddles, sings, and plays piano, guitar, and bass in clubs, colleges, and every other imaginable venue from Tahoe to Provincetown. He appears regularly in New York City, where he started the Sun Mountain Cafe (82 W. 3rd St.), tours the midwest every spring and headlines at Barnacle Bill's in St. Thomas every winter. He lives with his wife Dorine in an old wooden grange hall in the Mohawk River Valley of central New York State.

As for recordings, "The Fiddler" (as his fans often call him) has made four LP records, a 45, and most recently, a compact disk. The first record, made in 1979, features ten original songs from Dick and his partner Walt Atkison. The second record, a 1981 release entitled **Riding High**, has eight original songs as well as a bluegrass Beethoven version of "Orange Blossom Special." In 1983 came a third LP, **Turkey in the Straw**, which was co-produced by well-known Rounder Records producer John Nagy. The fourth album, **Ain't Like It Used To Be**, was released in 1986 and has ten original songs ranging in style from country and bluegrass to rock, blues, and new wave. The 45 was made in 1987 for release in the Caribbean, with an original calypso song and a bluegrass cover of Jimmy Cliff's reggae classic "Harder They Come." The new CD, from 1993, is called **The Fiddler's greatest hits**. All the recordings are on Dick's own label, Taishan Music.

Dick has a philosophy of playing with many different musicians rather than just one permanent band. He can play a quiet acoustic solo in a coffeehouse as easily as lead a hard-driving amplified six-piece band in a rowdy honky-tonk bar. He has found that constant change makes for more fun and excitement on stage, and that, for the Sun Mountain Fiddler, is what it's all about.

OTSQUAGO GRANGE
Fort Plain, NY 13339
(518) 993-4248



ANN-MARIE BARKER SCHWARTZ, is a member of the first violin section of the Albany Symphony and the Glimmerglass Opera orchestra. Ms. Schwartz has held the position of concertmaster of the former St. Cecilia Orchestra and violinist with the St. Cecilia Chamber Players and is a founding member of the Schuyler String Quartet formerly in residence at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY.

Ms. Schwartz received her Bachelor's of Music from Boston University where she studied with Roger Shermont and Joseph Silverstein. She has also worked with Virginia Loiselle, Andrew Zaplatynsky and Glenn Dicterow. She has performed in summer festivals in Saratoga Springs(NY), Cincinnati, Bedford (PA) and Graz, Austria.

In addition to her activities on violin, Barker has worked as a producer and announcer for classical radio station WMHT-FM in Albany, NY and created the International Shostakovich Festival in Albany. She is a producer for Dorian Recordings. She is a member of the adjunct faculty of the State University of New York at Albany where she teaches Music History and was recently appointed to the faculty of the Emma Willard School in Troy.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is a chamber music program formulated specifically for the Landis Arboreteum. The works selected all celebrate nature, some are a tribute to nature's beauty (*Il Tramonto* and the Schubert songs) others are meant to be humorous (*The Frog Quartet*). The program lasts about an hour without intermission. The program also celebrates the 200th birthday of Schubert, born in Vienna in 1797. The program, which will be performed outside weather permitting, is designed to end with Respighi's ravishing *Il Tramonto* for soprano and quartet just as the sun is setting at the Arboreteum.

Another special aspect of this program are the Schubert songs which are being arranged from the original piano and voice version just for this performance.

The featured performers are drawn from the Glimmerglass Opera orchestra, former St. Cecilia Orchestra and from the Longy School in Boston. Players are: Julie Signitzer Krajicek and Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violins; Elizabeth Moll, viola; Nat Parke, 'cello; and Kerry Ryer Parke, soprano. Please see the enclosed bios for more information.

Il Tramonto, by Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)
-- based on "The Sunset," by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)

- (A) There late was one within whose subtle being,
As light and wind within some delicate cloud
That fades amid the blue noon's burning sky,
(B) Genius and death contended. None may know
The sweetness of the joy which made his breath
Fail, like the trances of the summer air,
(B) When, with the lady of his love, who then
First knew the unreserve of mingled being,
He walked along the pathway of a field,
(C) Which to the east a hoar wood shadowed o'er,
But to the west was open to the sky.
(D) There now the sun had sunk; but lines of gold
Hung on the ashen clouds, and on the points
Of the far level grass and nodding flowers,
(E) And the old dandelion's hoary beard,
And, mingled with the shades of twilight, lay
On the brown massy woods; and in the east
The broad and burning moon lingeringly rose
Between the black trunks of the crowded trees,
(F) While the faint stars were gathering overhead.
"Is it not strange, Isabel," said the youth,
"I never saw the sunrise? We will walk here
Tomorrow; thou shalt look on it with me."
(G) That night the youth and lady mingled lay
(H) In love and sleep; but when the morning came
The lady found her lover dead and cold.
Let none believe that God in mercy gave
(I) That stroke. The lady died not, nor grew wild,
But year by year lived on; in truth I think
Her gentleness and patience and sad smiles,
And that she did not die, but lived to tend
Her aged father, were a kind of madness,
If madness 'tis to be unlike the world.
(L) For but to see her were to read the tale
Woven by some subtlest bard to make hard hearts
Dissolve away in wisdom-working grief.
Her eyes were black and lustreless and wan,
Her eyelashes were worn away with tears,
Her lips and cheeks were like things dead -- so pale;
(M) Her hands were thin, and through their wandering veins
And weak articulations might be seen
Day's ruddy light. The tomb of thy dead self
Which one vexed ghost inhabits, night and day,
Is all, lost child, that now remains of thee!
- (N) "Inheritor of more than earth can give,
Passionless calm and silence unreprieved --
Whether the dead find, oh, not sleep, but rest,
And are the uncomplaining things they seem,
(O) Or live, or drop in the deep sea of Love;
Oh, that, like thine, mine epitaph were -- Peace!"
(P) This was the only moan she made.

Julie Signitzer Krajicek is music director of the Little Delaware Chamber Players. She holds a Master's degree in violin performance. She has been a member of the famed Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, Austria. As a New York City-based violinist, she has performed with dozens of orchestras and opera companies, including the New York City Opera orchestra and has toured and recorded with such pop performers as Frank Sinatra and Smokey Robinson. Julie is also violinist with the Catskill Klezmerim, and is an adjunct faculty member at Hartwick College.

Elizabeth Bonta Moll studied viola at the Eastman School of Music and Indiana University. She performed with the St. Cecilia Chamber Orchestra and currently performs with the Albany Symphony and the Berkshire Symphony. She is an active free-lancer in the Albany area and a sought-after chamber musician. She is one of the original members of the Little Delaware Chamber Players.

NATHANIEL PARKE

Mr. Parke holds a B. A. from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA., from which he graduated with two awards in chamber music, and a MFA in 'cello from Bennington College. Major teachers include George Neikrug, Maxine Neuman, and William Pleeth. Currently he is a member of the Boston Composers String Quartet and the faculty of the Longy School of Music, Bennington Cello Quartet, the Bennington String Quartet, and the St. Cecilia Orchestra. He is also a founding member and organizer for the St. Cecilia Consort. Mr. Parke has a private teaching studio in Bennington, Vermont and also teaches 'cello at the Buxton School and Williams College. He is a frequent player in the Albany area.

Soprano Kerry Ryer-Parke began singing professionally at the age of six with her twin sister and father, recording an album of traditional children's songs at age eleven. Equally at home singing oratorio and opera, early music and premieres of new compositions, she is also active as the Director of the Bennington Children's Chorus in Bennington, Vermont, and of the Children's Chorus at the New School of Music in Cambridge, MA. Both a director and performer in opera, her roles include Maurya in Vaughan Williams' *Riders to the Sea*, Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Mrs. Noah in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, and several operas for children.

Ms. Ryer-Parke has been on the faculty of the Sonatina School of Music and is currently teaching voice at the Bancroft School in Worcester, MA. Dividing her time between Boston and Vermont, she teaches voice privately at both locations. A soloist with many local choruses, she has sung with the Battenkill Chorale in Cambridge, NY, the Bennington County Choral Society, and is now singing with the Cantata Singers in Boston.

Spring Plant Sale - Continued

Bulbs - Lilies, dahlias, cannas.

Herbs - A collection of culinary herbs including six varieties of basil; also a collection of scented geraniums.

Dwarf conifers - A collection of pines, spruces, firs, and junipers in several sizes.

Trees - The Cary Award winners, *Cornus mas*, a birch with purple leaves, Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), larch, Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Korean Fir (*Abies Koreana*) which has striking violet-purple cones, and others.

House plants - The bonsai and orchid societies will have plants for sale.

Pick of the Pots

Several phone calls to the office have made us realize that previous information about this event may not have been clear. Here are some of the questions asked, along with the answers.

What is the purpose of the event? This event is meant to be a new benefit for members. You will have the opportunity to shop before the crowd arrives. And, you will have first chance to buy plants available in limited supply - the "pick of the pots."

How much does supper cost? Supper is free. The \$5 cost is for members' admission to the event.

May I bring a non-member friend? Yes! The non-member admission charge is \$30, which includes the cost of membership. If the event helps increase memberships, the arboretum benefits greatly.

May members use their 10% discount on purchases at the Preview Party? Yes, it will apply to all plants purchased and to gift shop purchases. The Acorn Shop will be open all evening.

May advance order plants be picked up at the Preview Party? Yes, it's an ideal time. All orders will have been received from nurseries and organized for pick-up.

When is the Preview Party? The registration form in the winter newsletter used an incorrect date. The party is Friday evening, May 16 from 5 until 9 p.m. Won't you join us?



Another Successful Benefit - Shown here at the arboretum's Spring Benefit at the Fort Orange Club in Albany are Director Van Duyne, Jack Aernecke of Channel 6, and Susan and John Sagendorf, the latter General Manager of Howe Caverns and President of the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Aernecke effectively and humorously conducted the live auction, the most exciting item a week's stay at a vacation home on Bald Head Island, off the coast of North Carolina. Worth \$1,500, the week's vacation went for \$925 - a tidy sum for the arboretum but a bargain for the bidder. The arboretum realized \$4,200 from this year's benefit; last year's brought \$4,300. We thank you all for your support in making yet another Spring Benefit a success. - Mary D'Alessandro

Lectures and Demonstrations

The following lectures will be presented on an hourly schedule on Saturday, May 17 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call the arboretum for exact times.

"Creating and Maintaining a Water Garden" by Ed Duncan, Jr., owner of the Water Garden Company, Latham.

"Lilacs, the Kings of Spring" by Joe Fortune, owner of Congdon and Weller Nurseries, North Collins, NY.

"Creating Bonsai" by Pauline Muth, member and past president of the Mohawk-Hudson Bonsai Society.

"The Joy of Lilies" by Janet Vinyard, arboretum member and volunteer.

Member Plant Donations

One of the elements of our spring plant sale will be the opportunity for members to share some of their surplus plants. In keeping with the high quality of the purchased plants, we want member donations to be substantial plants in one or two gallon nursery-type plastic pots. If you need some, call me. Shrubs and perennials are appropriate. Your common plants may be uncommon to someone else and something they want badly. Whatever you bring should be labeled with a permanent marking pen and please use both botanical and common names.

Tell me what you are planning to bring, and I'll tell you where and when to bring the plants. - Ed Miller, Donations Coordinator 371-8834.

From the Board of Trustees - Carol Wook

In the next newsletter, this column will be written by my successor. My two one-year terms as president of the Board come to an end at our annual meeting later this spring. In 1994 when the Board adopted term limits for trustees (two consecutive three-year terms), they also limited terms for officers (two consecutive one-year terms). I believe this is good; change in an institution always brings the opportunity for growth, although it doesn't guarantee it. I will remain on the Board and look forward to expressing my commitment to the arboretum in different ways.

I leave with gratitude to our membership for their support during the past two years. We faced a financial crisis in 1995 that necessitated maintaining the organization without director and office staff for nearly five months, but still faced a large deficit at the end of the year. When we hired a Director of Development in early 1996, the position was part-time; we existed without office help for several more months.

By the close of the year much had been accomplished. We ended the year without a deficit. The arboretum has become more visible in the Capital District. We have become active in the Schoharie County community. Visitation is up; this includes individual visitors and scheduled groups. The barn restoration project is underway with major funding from the state and a capital campaign in progress. The growth in our volunteer program is impressive; many old friends have returned and become active again. It has been a pleasure to play a small part in this progress.

The nominating committee, with board members Claudia McLaughlin, Herman Finkbeiner, and Carl Salmon, will soon present us with a list of new board members and a slate of officers for the next year. They will be formally nominated and elected at the annual meeting. The meeting is preceded by a potluck dinner; the membership is invited to attend with advance reservations necessary for dinner. (Call the arboretum for date and reservation.)

Since the last newsletter, Director of Development, Gloria VanDuyne, has been named Executive Director of the Landis Arboretum by the board. Her position remains part-time.

Trustees Herman Finkbeiner, Claudia McLaughlin, Nancy Boericke, Lucinda Willemain and I have met monthly to plan the Spring Plant Sale. The Finance Committee met recently with a Fleet Bank representative to review the investment of the Lape Trust. The committee is also working on an investment strategy for other endowment funds. The Development Committee recently presented a plan for reorganizing the structure of the board of directors to more evenly distribute the work of the board.

How Does Our Garden Grow?



New Members - Please note that the names listed here are new members only. A complete list of members and contributors will be included with the Annual Report. **We wish you Welcome!**

Kathleen Burns
Tony Carbone & Margaret Woods
Elizabeth DeSorbo
Mrs. Charlotte Hunt
John & Virginia Mauhs
Bob & Peggi Meunier

Clayton D. Peavey
Kathryn Provencher & Gregory Giorgio
Stan Rosenberg
Mary Santa Maria
Meldon and Patricia Wolfgang

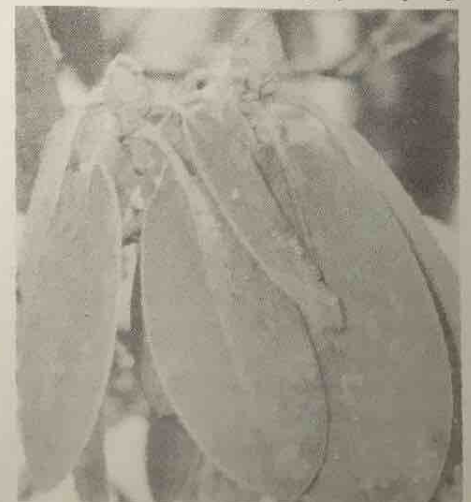
News from the Garden - Gloria Van Duyne

The arboretum began to bloom during the last few days of February this year with blossoms on the Chinese witch-hazel and then catkins on black willow. Early spring bulbs - winter aconite, snowdrops, leucojum, scilla and crocus - color the perennial gardens, and renewed bulbs and perennials continue to push their way up toward the sun. One of the willows alongside of the pond came down in an early March windstorm; luckily it fell away from the pond which made cleanup easier. The heavy, wet snows of March and April - one on April 19 - caused a few branches to give way, and the grounds will need additional maintenance.

Arboretum Awarded Grant - The arboretum has been awarded a \$9657 grant from Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums, a program administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant will be used to hire a part-time, temporary horticulturist. The focus of the position will be the care and maintenance of the collections, including the development of a maintenance plan.

This year's Arbor Day Contest, open to fourth and fifth graders in area schools, added poetry to the essay and poster categories. Winners receive savings bonds and each school receives a live tree for planting.

Below: We just couldn't resist showing you - the fencing installed last fall around the rhododendron area kept deer from grazing on the many healthy buds and we look forward to an exceptional rhododendron display this spring.



George Landis Arboretum Events Calendar

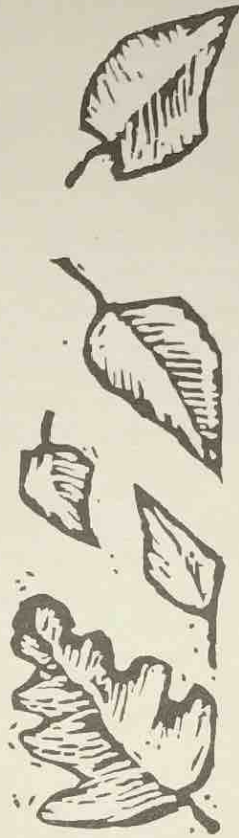
Events marked with * require pre-registration; events marked with** require pre-registration and pre-payment.

May

- 11 *How Trees Grow Family Workshop*, 2 - 3:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 16 *Members' Only Preview for Rare Plant Sale***, 5 - 9 pm; Farmhouse & Meeting House.
- 17 *Rare Plant Sale*, 10 am to 4 pm; Farmhouse.
- 18 *Rare Plant Sale*, 10 am to 4 pm; Farmhouse.
- 24 *Meet the Mammals Family Workshop*, 2 - 3:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 31 *Guided Bird Walk*, 7:30 am; Lower parking lot. (Co-sponsored by Hudson Mohawk Bird Club.)

June

- 7 *Flowering Shrubs Tour*, 10 am; Lower Parking Lot.
- 13 *Star Party-Moon/Mars party*, 9:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 14 *Insects of the Night Family Workshop*, 8 - 9:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 21 *Concert; The Quercus Quartet*, 7 pm; Meeting House (admission charged).
- 28 *Summer Wildflowers Family Workshop*, 2 - 3:30 pm; Meeting House.



July

- 5 *Perennial Garden Tour*, 10 am; Lower Parking Lot.
- 9 *Arboretum Adventures for Kids, Mammals***, 10 am - 1:30 pm; Meeting House
- 12 *Herb Lecture & Luncheon***, 10 am - 1 pm; Meeting House.
Concert: The Sun Mountain Fiddler 6:30 pm; Meeting House (admission charged).
A Midsummer Evening's Walk Family Workshop, 8 - 9:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 13 *Star Party-Sun/Moon Picnic*, 4:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 16 *Arboretum Adventures for Kids, Reptiles & Amphibians***, 10 am - 1:30 pm; Meeting House.
*Garden Tour**, 9:30 am; Lower Parking Lot.
- 19 *Summer Garden Party with Michael Polychrones***, 12:30 pm; Farmhouse.
Herpetology Hike Family Workshop, 2 - 3:30 pm; Meeting House
- 23 *Arboretum Adventures for Kids, Backyard Bugs***, 10 am - 1:30 pm; Meeting House.
- 30 *Arboretum Adventures for Kids, Pond & Field Habitats***, 10 am - 1:30 pm; Meeting House.

Quercus Quartet Concert

A very special concert will be held at the Arboretum on Saturday, June 21 beginning at 7 pm. A chamber music program has been designed specifically for the Landis Arboretum, with works which all celebrate nature, including some which are a tribute to nature's beauty, and some which are meant to be humorous. The concert will also provide a celebration of the 200th birth anniversary of Franz Schubert, including Schubert songs which are being arranged from the original piano and voice version just for this performance. Performers are drawn from the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra, the former St. Cecilia's Orchestra, and from the Longy School in Boston. Players include Julie Signitzer Krajicck and Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, violin; Elizabeth Moll, viola; Nat Parke, 'cello; and Kerry Ryer Parke, soprano. Barker-Schwartz has a special connection to the Landis Arboretum from the time during the '80's, when she worked the midnight to 6 am shift at WMHT, and Fred Lape would often call in to request particular classical pieces.

This one-hour, outdoor concert is designed to come to a spectacular end, just as the sun is setting, with Respighi's *IL Tramonto* for soprano and quartet. Tickets for this memorable event are \$5 for Arboretum members, and \$8 for non-members, with children under age 12 free of charge.



Free Tours

This year, the first Saturday of each month from May through October will feature a free tour of part of the Arboretum's collection, with emphasis on areas of special seasonal interest. The tour on June 7 will highlight the Arboretum's flowering shrubs, while on July 5, the perennial garden will be featured. Coming on August 2 is a tour looking at the late-blooming shrubs and perennials.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need YOU! Volunteers are an indispensable part of the Arboretum staff, whether they work on a regular basis or help out occasionally. *Volunteer Work Days* are scheduled every Wednesday and Thursday, and the third Saturday of every month, except December and January. A variety of tasks will be available, with staff and Board members directing and helping out. Bring a friend and spend an hour or a day enjoying the Arboretum and each other's company while tackling some of the essential outdoor and indoor tasks.

Herb Lecture and Luncheon

One of the Arboretum's most popular summer offerings is the *Herb Lecture and Luncheon*. This year's event will be held on Saturday, July 12, from 10 am to 1 pm. From 10 to 11 am, a lecture on an herbal topic will be presented. Following the presentation, participants may stroll the Arboretum's gardens while the luncheon is being set up by Arboretum volunteers. From 11:45 am to 1 pm, a luncheon of herbal dishes, including soup, salads, entrée, bread, and dessert, will be offered to those attending the lecture program. This year's program will also feature a silent auction of specialty herb and herb product baskets. Cost is \$12 for Arboretum members, and \$16 for non-members.

The Sun Mountain Fiddler



DICK SOLBERG
The Sun Mountain Fiddler

Dick Solberg, *The Sun Mountain Fiddler*, provided an evening filled with music and fun for both adults and children last summer. He will again be performing at the Arboretum on Saturday, July 12 at 6:30 pm. Solberg has been playing the violin for more than 30 years, including a period of time touring as an itinerant street musician. He has since become a full-time professional entertainer; he fiddles, sings, plays piano, guitar and bass in every imaginable venue. His lively concert last year had the children in the audience dancing, and the adults tapping their toes and clapping their hands. This is a wonderful chance to come to the Arboretum for a real family outing. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy, as you look out on the beautiful view of the Schoharie Valley from the Arboretum's hillside, then enjoy a concert of Dick's engaging music, and if you wish, finish the evening by attending the *Free Family Workshop - A Midsummer Evening's Walk*, with Nature Educator George Steele, from 8 - 9 pm that evening. Adult concert tickets are \$5 for Arboretum members, \$8 for non-members, with children under age 12 free. Call the Arboretum office for more details.

Garden Party with Michael Polychrones

This Is My Country is the theme for the design performance by Michael Polychrones at this year's *Summer Garden Party*. Polychrones is an internationally known floral designer, having been principal designer at shows in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Panama and Great Britain. In addition, he has assisted in floral design and decoration at the White House, and has been seen locally at *New York in Bloom 1996*, and the Arboretum's *Summer Garden Party 1996*. He will be featured at this year's *Summer Garden Party* which will begin at 12:30 pm on Saturday, July 19. Participants may stroll through the Arboretum's gardens, enjoy a buffet luncheon provided by *Culinary Capers*, then watch Polychrones' performance. Interpreting America's diversity through floral creations, he will carry out the performance theme using flowers and foliage, creating magnificent arrangements, which will be available afterwards to the highest bidders in a silent auction. Tickets for this event are \$35 each, and reservations are strongly recommended. For further information, call the Arboretum office at 875-6935; for reservations send a check to Landis Arboretum, Lape Road, Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.



Summer Garden Tour

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Leave the Arboretum at 9:30 a.m. to visit the gardens of Janet Vinyard

Name _____ Members @ \$10 ea. = \$ _____
Address _____ Non-Members @ \$15 ea. = \$ _____
_____ TOTAL: \$ _____

Daytime phone _____ (Lunch at area restaurant not included)

List name, address and phone number of non-member guests on back or attach additional sheet.

Make check payable to *Landis Arboretum* and mail to:
George Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066

Registration Deadline – Tuesday, July 1, 1997

“Pick Of The Pots” Preview Party

Friday, May 16, 1997 – 5 p.m. to dusk

Includes dinner and storytelling by Lois Hodges

Name _____ Members @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
Address _____ Non-Members @ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
_____ (Includes individual membership)
_____ TOTAL: \$ _____

Daytime phone _____

List name, address and phone number of non-member guests on back or attach additional sheet.

Make check payable to *Landis Arboretum*.
Mail to: George Landis Arboretum
PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066

Michael Polychrones – “This is My Country”

A Design Performance Interpreting America’s Diversity

Saturday, July 19, 1997 ❖ 12:30 p.m.

Name _____ Attending @ \$35 each = \$ _____
Address _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

Daytime Phone _____

(Includes buffet luncheon catered by Culinary Capers)

List name, address and phone number of non-member guests on back or attach additional sheet.

Make checks payable to *Landis Arboretum* and mail to:
Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066

Registration deadline – July 10, 1997

George Landis Arboretum

PO Box 186 ~ Lape Road ~ Esperance, NY 12066
518-875-6935



We would like to extend our thanks to the following businesses who help support the Arboretum by advertising in our newsletter.

Noch Fiernan Farm



*After the Arboretum...
stop at Noch Fiernan Farm
for a large selection
of field grown
and potted perennials*



Noch Fiernan Farm
1635 Western Turnpike
Route 20, 3 miles east of Duaneburg
Duaneburg, New York 12056
355-4099

Wholesale Growers of Quality
Landscape-Size Perennials



Behn's Best Perennials, Inc.



Excellent containerized perennial plants ready for resale and landscape use. 380 hardy varieties, 40,000+ plants on hand. Wide selection, wholesale only, weekly delivery for retail garden centers and landscape gardening professionals. Sales only to the trade.

1997 plant list available, call (518) 766-9820. Open March 3, M-F, 8-5.

Joseph and Caren Behn, Malden Bridge, NY 12115

Village Ice Cream Parlor Esperance, N.Y.

- featuring -

- Old fashioned ice cream treats
- Bake Shoppe



- Cappuccino
- Espresso
- Gourmet coffee

Hours: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Lunch served 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Monday

**WANT TO SEE YOUR
BUSINESS LISTED IN
OUR DIRECTORY?**

Advertise With Us!

Your ad will be seen by Arboretum members in our quarterly newsletter. Various sizes and prices are available.

*For more information on
how to place an ad in this
newsletter, call the
Arboretum office at
518-875-6935.*

infographics

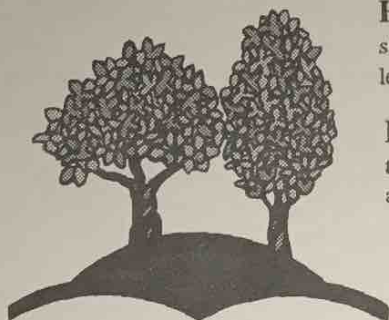
671 Marlaville Road, Schenectady, New York 12306

Printing ❖ Graphics ❖ Advertising

(518) 355-7593 ❖ FAX (518) 355-7724

Free Family Workshops

This very popular series with nature educator George Steele begins in April and runs through the end of October. This is the perfect chance for your family to take a detour off the information superhighway and *experience* nature. There is no charge for the programs, but non-member families are requested to make a donation to the Arboretum to help cover the program costs. All programs in this series begin at the Arboretum Meeting House, and are held rain or shine, so participants should dress for the weather. No registration needed.



How Trees Grow. Sunday, May 11, 2 - 3:30 pm. Look at a tree from the roots to the terminal shoots and learn how a tree grows. We'll transplant a seedling for you to take home so that you can keep on learning about how trees grow in your own back yard.

Meet the Mammals. Saturday, May 24, 2 - 3:30 pm. They have fur, give live birth and feed their young milk. We're one of them and they're all around us, but we don't always see them. Learn more about mammals through the signs they leave behind, including tracks, scat, bones and homes.

Insects of the Night. Saturday, June 14, 8 - 9:30 pm. Fireflies, crickets, moths, and more. Join us in a search for these nocturnal arthropods as we learn how and where they live.

Summer Wildflowers. Saturday, June 28, 2 - 3:30 pm. The fields turn bright with colors as the flowers of summer begin to bloom. We'll explore the Arboretum looking for, identifying, and learning the lore of these flowers.

A Mid-Summer Evening's Walk. Saturday, July 12, 8 - 9:30 pm. We'll be looking for bats, night insects, and anything else that's moving about the Arboretum at dusk. Learn about the role they play in nature during the part of each day when people are usually sleeping.

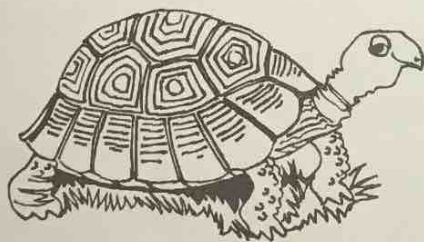
Herpetology Hike. Saturday, July 19, 2 - 3:30 pm. The Arboretum is a great place to explore for amphibians and reptiles. We'll be looking for and learning about salamanders, newts, frogs, snakes, and turtles.

Know Your Trees. Saturday, August 2, 2 - 3:30 pm. Learn how to identify the common native trees found in the Arboretum's woodlands. We'll explore the different guide books and keys that are available to help learn more about what trees grow around our homes.



Arboretum Adventures for Kids

New last summer, this series proved to be a big hit! Programs will be held on Wednesdays, beginning July 9, and ending August 13. For children ages 7 - 11, each session will run from 10 am to 1:30 pm, and will include participatory learning sessions in the morning, lunch (brought from home) and crafts, games and other activities related to the program topic in the afternoon. Cost is \$10 per session for the first child in a family, \$8 per session for additional children in the same family, and any child attending the first five sessions may come to the sixth at half price (\$5 and \$4). Pre-registration and prepayment are required by one week before each class date; registration forms are available from the Arboretum office.



July 9 • Mammals

July 16 • Reptiles & Amphibians

July 23 • Backyard Bugs

July 30 • Pond & Field Habitats

August 6 • Look Up to the Trees

August 13 • Birds



Star Parties

The Albany Area Amateur Astronomers meet regularly at the George Landis Arboretum for its dark skies and good horizons for stargazing. These free programs feature telescopic viewing (telescopes provided by the club), an introductory program, and sky tour. Star Parties meet at the Arboretum Meeting House, but are cancelled when skies are mostly cloudy. Participants should bring a blanket to sit or lie on, (and bug repellent in warm weather). These events begin in April and continue through December; see calendar listing for dates and times.



Volunteer News - Florence Grimm and Gloria Van Duyne

Volunteers are *always* needed - everywhere. If you like to weed, great! If you don't, how about trail work, building or machine maintenance? We would greatly appreciate help with heavy lifting, with painting, indoors and outdoors. In early May, Willie Janeway, Director of the Albany Pine Bush Commission, will give us recommendations how to repair eroded trails; we need volunteers to do just that. We need volunteers to help in the Acorn Shop on weekends and to help set up and clean up at concerts and other special events.

Volunteer Work Days are pre-set for Wednesdays, Thursdays, and the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Depending on what's happening, volunteers are needed other days as well, for mailings, before/during/after plant sales and for special events.

Our last two Saturday Work Days were weather-hindered. April 19 was a photographer's paradise (above, photo by G. VanDuyne), but not a good day for work on the grounds. The electric power was off but two volunteers, Ron Neadle and Bob Grimm, took advantage of the cool weather (and no black flies!) to clean up the willow tree felled during a March storm. After five hours, most of what was left was a huge pile of wood chips - tough work that is now history. We sincerely thank those two gentlemen.

Many volunteers deserve recognition. Thanks to Dianne Armstrong, Warren Bur-

ton, Richard Clowe, Gerald Faylo, Carolyn Edwards, Robin Glenn, John Howland, Dick Hunt, Sonja Javarone, Florence McKie, Bob and Peggi Meunier, Joan Sondergaard, Janet Vinyard, Cynthia Willis and Carol Wock for helping in the office with mailings, special events and other activities. Thanks to Warren Burton, Gerald Faylo, Bob and Florence Grimm, Sue Gutbezahl, Russell and Joanne Maher, Ron Neadle and Peter Rumora for helping on the grounds. Thanks to Barbara Hunt and Judith Lott for agreeing to co-manage the Acorn Shop this year. (They need volunteers to help set up before May 16 and to staff the shop on weekends.) Thanks to Sonja Javarone for help with our surveying, mapping and labeling project. Her experience on the computerized plants database has been invaluable.



Two volunteers deserve special mention.

Ron Neadle, the arboretum's part-time groundskeeper, mows the lawn, cuts down dead trees and chips the brush, attends to building and machine maintenance, and provided the brains and brawn to install the rhododendron fencing last fall. He also gives time to building accessories for the tractor, helping with the drain around the barn, stabilizing a barn sill ready to give way, and to renovating stone walkways, just to name a few. His extensive and varied knowledge benefits many areas of the arboretum - and it is appreciated.

Peter Rumora has played a crucial role in the preparation for this year's plant sale. He began preparing for the sale by dividing crowded perennials and collecting seeds last summer. He has potted, watered and watched over thousands of pots in the greenhouse three days a week through the fall and since early this spring. In addition to finding ways to add extra growing and holding space, he built a flagstone floor in the greenhouse and has been responsible for many other improvements in our propagation facilities. He also helps with slide shows, fairs, tours of the grounds and maintenance of the collections. And, Peter has an uncanny ability to turn junk into "just what we needed."

We do thank you all.

Below: Bob Grimm cuts up a willow that fell in an early March storm. - Photo by Gloria Van Duyne

Uncommon Common

Viburnums - Lucinda Willemain

Early colonial settlers who brought Wayfaring Tree to this country would have found its cousin Arrowwood waiting for them in the forest. Although the common names of viburnums don't always give a clue to their close relationship, they do give some idea of their variety: Wayfaring Tree, Black Haw, Hobblebush, Guelder Rose, Highbush Cranberry, Arrowwood, Nannyberry, Witherod, Chinese Snowball, Fragrant Snowball, Japanese Snowball (not the same plant), and of course, many whose names include the word viburnum: Doublefile, Siebold, Leatherleaf and Linden Viburnums; Burkewood, Fragrant, Korean Spice, and Tea Virburums - just to name a few of the 120-some species and numerous cultivars.

Viburnums are shrubs or small trees ranging in height from three to 30 feet. All have opposite leaves and branching. The leaves vary in shape and size depending on the species. Spring flowers offer the easiest means of identification connecting these many species and cultivars to the genus Viburnum. Cream-colored to white (or, rarely, pink) flowers appear in flat clusters like Queen Anne's Lace or a popcorn-ball-like hydrangea. Some are strongly fragrant. Clusters of fruit in the late summer and fall make viburnums the very picture of abundance. The fruits are usually edible, providing birds and other wildlife with winter food and knowledgeable human hikers with a snack. Our native deciduous viburnums and many of the imports turn lovely colors in the fall.

Viburnum in the garden include American, European and Asian forms with many excellent qualities: striking branch structure, early bloom, fragrance, pink flowers, spectacular fruit of fall colors. Viburnums can be found which tolerate a wide range of conditions: full sun to shade, wet to dry, and acid soil to sweet. In fall the leaves turn orange-red. The fruits are black. At least 20 different viburnums can be seen on the grounds of the arboretum.

The Spring Plant Sale will be offering two outstanding viburnum varieties. Both have been developed and introduced by Dr. Donald Egolf at the U.S. National Arboretum Agricultural Research Station and both

are recent winners of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal. 'Erie' is a selection of *Viburnum dilatatum*, Linden Viburnum, a native of Japan. After flowering profusely in mid-May, it bears brilliant red fruit clusters which turn a coral-pink color after the first frost and persist into winter. The leaves turn yellow, orange and red in autumn. The shrub has a rounded form and may grow to 6 1/2 feet tall and 11 feet wide. 'Mohawk' is a hybrid of *Viburnum x burkwoodii* and *V. carlesii*, parents known for their fragrant flowers. The scent has been described as a strong, spicy clove fragrance. The open flowers are preceded by handsome dark-red buds which last for several weeks. The dark-green foliage is resistant to leaf-spot and powdery mildew, which were sometimes found to be problems for its parent *Viburnum carlesii*. In fall the leaves turn orange-red. The fruits are black. 'Mohawk' reaches a height of 8 feet and a width of 10 feet at maturity.

Wish List

- a tractor
- new or good used garden tools
- strong volunteers to help with lifting and other demanding tasks
- a volunteer to co-lead the May 31 bird watch walk
- the services of a mechanic
- the services of a plumber



BARN RENOVATION/RESTORATION FUND

The Landis Arboretum

Lape Road, PO Box 186, Esperance, New York 12066

Member Pledge Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Amount pledged _____ Amount enclosed _____ Amount due _____

Does the company you work for, or retired from, have a gift matching program? _____

What is the company? _____

Do you want the matching amount to be added to the Barn Restoration Fund? _____

Mail this pledge form and your check to:

Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066-6935

Capital Fund Drive Report -

Herm Finkbeiner

Significant progress has been made on the wintertime objectives for barn restoration. The perimeter drain, which was completed in February, is working well and the area around the barn is much drier than in previous years. Donated timbers are on site for use in stabilizing and rebuilding the structure.

At this time 47 member contributions have been made to the restoration fund for a total of \$7410. Contribution amounts range from \$10 to \$2000, confirming that a broad range of membership sees restoration of the barn as an important goal for the arboretum.

The next step is to select contractors to do the footings and foundation. Actual work must wait until the area stabilizes, but we hope to have signed contracts in hand before conditions allow work to commence.

Along with the grant, contributed materials, contributed labor and member donations, \$31,400 has been accumulated toward the overall goal of \$83,400. The first three months of our drive have produced 36.7% of the amount needed - an excellent beginning. However, your help is needed. There are more than 600 arboretum members; contributions received thus far are from 7.5% of the membership. Please fill out the form below and make your contribution today. Every contribution helps us reach our goal, and helps to convince outside donors that the arboretum membership is committed to making the restoration a reality.



The Landis Arboretum - Lape Road - PO Box 186 - Esperance, New York 12066



A Summer Garden Visit

Arboretum member and volunteer Janet Vinyard has invited members to tour her garden near Johnstown on July 19. At our plant sales you may have purchased lilies or English delphiniums that Janet has grown, or perhaps you have attended one of her lectures. Her lilies and delphiniums should be in full bloom in mid-July and, in addition to seeing the garden, you may be able to select and mark lilies you may wish to buy at the Fall sale. It's also a wonderful opportunity for garden photography.

After our morning garden visit, we will have lunch at the Johnstown's historic Union Hall, built in 1762 by Sir William Johnson. Arboretum board member Wanda Burch is director of Johnson Hall.

Members who register for this trip will meet at the arboretum at 9:30 a.m., and we will carpool to Janet's and to the two stops in Johnstown. The trip is limited to 25 people. Please see the registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Unusual Perennials for Sale

Carol Wock

Two truly unusual perennials will be available at the spring plant sale. One was discovered in China a little more than ten years ago; the other is a native plant endangered in New York but more familiar in the Midwest.

Corydalis 'Blue Panda' - In 1986 a plant explorer from Vancouver found a beautiful *corydalis* in the Panda Reserve in the Chinese Province of Sichuan. The plant was striking for the tubular blossoms of clear blue - the true blue so loved by gardeners. The plants collected not only survived the trip back to Vancouver, but grew extremely well in their new environment. The plants were propagated and distributed, but were in such short supply for the first five or six years that plant collectors went to great lengths (and expense) to obtain *C.* 'Blue Panda'. Now the plants are being reproduced by tissue culture and are becoming more readily available to gardeners.

C. 'Blue Panda' seems to prefer moist, lightly shaded sites. If you grow *C. lutea*, you can be successful with this one. A long, hot summer may bring summer dormancy, but cutting back and watering may prolong bloom. Hardy to Zone 4.

Geum triflorum (Prairie Smoke) - Once said to be common in meadows of New York State, one native stand now exists in the state. It is not endangered in the Midwest, and has been available for several years from nurseries there that propagate prairie plants. This is the first year I have seen it offered in a catalog from a large commercial nursery in the Northeast.

Prairie Smoke is grown for the beautiful, feathery seed heads of silvery-pink. The seed heads are long-lasting, and are effective in dried arrangements. The plant is low-growing, with attractive deeply cut leaves. Grow it at the front of a sunny border. It tolerates dry soil. I have grown this plant successfully for several years in amended clay.

Gift Matching

If the company you work for - or retired from - matches contributions that you make to a particular organization, please remember to notify your company's gift matching center.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit drawing by Heather Thompson; the Garden Gate by Anne Jaster