



# George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Volume 9 • Number 3

July, August, September, 1990

A living museum, open free of charge for visitors from April to November, the Arboretum is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental and horticultural education.

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

## THE HERBARIUM

--by Amy Lent

Botanist Ted Baim of Schenectady has donated his 4,500 specimen herbarium and a large collection of his botanic paintings to the Arboretum. A reception was held at the Arboretum's Harkness Library on June 27th (Mr. Baim's 80th birthday!) to officially recognize the gift of his life work. Mrs. Corning remarked that this donation "addresses the Arboretum's commitment to educational and scientific endeavors and will provide students and researchers with valuable information."

An herbarium is a collection of dried plants, mounted on paper and stored carefully away from damp, dust and insects. The herbarium specimens are labelled in detail, noting the type of plant, the location collected at, and the name of the collector. This information in conjunction with the actual plant becomes a permanent record of great use to horticulturists, botanists and artists.

Mr. Baim began collecting plants in 1937 and continued throughout his years in the military and 24 years at GE Research and Development. The military assignments provided an exceptional opportunity for him to collect plants from locations in many states as well as New Guinea and the Philippines.

The herbarium collection is now housed in the library, where it will soon be joined by the specimens collected here at the Arboretum by Peter Kaskeski. The Arboretum collection, numbering approximately 2,000 specimens, has been stored at SUNY Cobleskill while waiting for our library to become an appropriate storage place. (continued on page 5)

## THE POND

-- by Mary Ann Finley

As you approach the upper pond, notice the healthy cattails. A valuable food plant for wildlife (and for humans as well), cattails are being crowded out of many wet lands by pampas grass and purple loosestrife. Look among the cattails for nests of the redwing blackbird. As you come nearer to the pond look in the mud for tracks of deer and other animals.

On the surface of the water you will probably see circular swarms of little black whirligig beetles. These insects have unusual eyes that are divided so they can look up and down at the same time. You may also find water boatmen, insects with one pair of legs shaped like oars and occasionally a water scorpion (harmless) that breathes through a long tube like a snorkel.

Look along the bottom of the pond for the nymphs of mayflies and dragonflies and look on the cattails for empty "shells" that dragonflies leave when they emerge.

Don't miss these dates:

6 pm Wednesday, July 25, 1990  
VOLUNTEERS PRESENT & FUTURE  
Barbecued Chicken & Yummies  
at the Arboretum Meeting House  
bring a friend or spouse but--  
BE SURE TO RSVP BY JULY 20TH  
so we'll know how much chicken to get

\* \* \*

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE  
11 am Saturday July 28th in the  
William Raymond Memorial Greenhouse

\* \* \*

COUNTRY DAY

10 am-4pm Saturday September 29 th



**GEORGE LANDIS  
ARBORETUM  
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Pamela Rowling.....Director  
Amy Lent.....Asst. Director

**FRIENDS OF THE  
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Interested persons contact  
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Amy Lent.....Copy Editor  
Anne Jaster.....Art Editor  
Shirley Redington.. Book Review  
Contributors: Merrill Bousman,  
Mary Ann Finley, Anne Jaster,  
Margaret Law, Beverly Waite

Do send write us about yur favorite  
topic: be it plant, tree, season, or  
how you started your garden. We  
would all like to hear from you.

Notices received by the 1st day of  
January, March, June, and  
September will be printed in that  
newsletter. Send all material to the  
ARBORETUM, P.O. Box 186, Lape  
Road, Esperance NY 12066.

**At the Garden**

- Pamela H. Rowling

Every season brings its joys and difficulties. Summer at the garden is a time when we are frantically trying to get ahead of the lawns. A number of "lawn" areas below the office library, west of the Meeting House and the field below the European beeches are being managed as wildflower meadows. Cut annually, just after frost, these fields are showing a greater diversity of native field wildflowers. Bird and insect advocates, artists, and native plant enthusiasts are all drawn to these areas.

A great boost to our staff has been the addition of four Summer Youth Employment persons. This program, sponsored by the Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie Private Industry Council, Inc., provides salary support for youths ages 17-18 for a 9 week period through the summer. We both benefit. The Arboretum receives much needed help both in the office (Celeste Kennedy) and in the field (Kim Polak, Carlos Rodriguez, Kim Smart).

Planning activities for the perennial plant sale (July 28th) and for the Fall Country Day Celebration (September 29th) are underway. The perennial sale will feature the first products of our greenhouse. The Fall Country Day, being organized by Don Otterness and Margaret Law, will celebrate the harvest season and will focus on Wool Production. There will be a petting zoo for children.

Due to recent surge in the number of visitors volunteer tour guides are desperately needed. A training for school group guides is scheduled for August 22nd. Anita Sanchez, a professional environmental educator from Five Rivers, will instruct volunteers how to present a program entitled "The Wonderful World of Trees". In addition guides are needed for leading general tours of the garden for scheduled groups of adult visitors. Please call the office at (518) 875-6935 if you are interested in becoming involved in either of these perennial projects.

The Pre-School Ponders Program led by Mary Ann Finley was a great success with all sessions booked to overflowing. It is wonderful to see so many children enjoying the garden.

Success of the George Landis Arboretum depends on its continued positive growth. This growth relies heavily upon the dedication of our volunteers, members and supporters. We thank you all.





## DOUBLE OR NOTHING

- by Amy Lent

We have set the ambitious goal to double our membership this year. Besides a professional quality mailing to various appropriate lists we have acquired, we are asking you to help.

The reason is simple-- you probably have friends with whom you share some common interests, and some of these friends might well be interested in the Arboretum if only YOU would mention it.

It shouldn't be hard to "sell" Arboretum memberships, after all, you know the reason(s) you're a member. To make it more enjoyable for all, Pamela is offering a Japanese Umbrella Pine (in such demand at the Plant Sale!) to the person who brings in the most new members before the Spring of 1991 issue of the Newsletter.

Now, there are several ways you can go about this. One, just talk 'em into it- maybe even bring them out here and show them around. Two, tell them all about the Arb and then GIVE them a membership (only half a sales pitch needed.) Three, (only for the very shy,) send us their name and mailing address and we'll send them one of our lovely invitations to join, duly noted that they were referred to us by you, so they'll get credit if they join. The offer of this third (the shy person's) method is only good until we send the bulk mailing in late July, so, if you want to take advantage of it send your list in very soon.

We're making this seem like fun, but in actuality it is serious business. As a member of the Arboretum, you are a very valuable public relations asset. We need to greatly increase the number of people who know about and care for the Arboretum, and we need to be able to reach them regularly with news of events and programs. As more people become involved and informed, the burden of striving towards our goals as a public garden and educational center will be divided among many shoulders.

## MORE GIFTS, MORE GIVERS

Arboretum Friend Steve Evans has begun the process of qualifying the Arb to receive matching gifts from GE for every sum given by GE employees or retirees. This program, known as More Gifts, More Givers, has proven very beneficial to other non-profit organizations and we are excited that the Arb may benefit also from generous GE folk and their company.

To enroll in the program, we need to know how many of our members are now or have been GE employees. The only way we can get this statistic is for you to tell us. **STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!** Don't worry- this doesn't commit you, personally, to any particular gift. It will just open the way for the GE Foundation to match the gifts of any GE employee to the Arboretum. Please call Amy at the office (875-6935) right away so we can know soon if we have enough people to qualify.

P.S. For all you non-GE persons: we would be delighted to do the relevant paperwork for a matching funds program of any company you are affiliated with. Call your employer, find out if they offer anything like this, and then put us to work!

**WISH GRANTED !!!  
WE GOT THEM!!!**

**TWO PICNIC TABLES  
donated by  
MIKE HAMMOND  
Mountain Woodshop  
Knox, NY**

**THE ARBORETUM  
"WISH LIST"**

**GROUNDS EQUIPMENT**  
A brush chipper  
Good hand mowers

**LIBRARY/OFFICE**  
Typewriter stand  
Work station for computer  
Vacuum cleaner  
**MEETING HOUSE**  
Locking cabinet for  
educational supplies

**CONSTRUCTION  
MATERIALS/LABOR**  
repairs to barn

**COLLECTIONS**  
Books to update the library  
(per list generated by  
horticultural librarian  
Shirley Redington: see  
Director)

**GREENHOUSE  
PARAPHERNALIA**  
(See Director)

**LIVING COLLECTIONS**  
Potted divisions of your named  
perennials for our first perennial  
sale July 29 !!  
(for other collections see  
Director)

**MEMORABILIA:** appropriate to  
historical Arboretum display

**AHA!!! WE BOUGHT THIS!!!**  
Folding chairs for the Meeting  
House

**LITERARY STAFF**  
Writers needed. Send us the  
neat stuff you have written OR  
ask us if there is something  
particular you could write for  
us. We would LOVE that.



## GREETING THE PUBLIC

--by Beverly Waite

The tots, asleep or awake in their strollers, couldn't care less. Ladies carrying shopping bags into which they scoop literature from each booth may not look at it again. Senior Citizens from Glens Falls by the bus load are polite but smilingly negative about supporting the Arboretum.

The average flower show patrons, however, the ones with a gardener's heart, are interested in the bristlecone pine display or appreciate the woodsy nook with the bright primroses tucked under the hemlock and spruce. To them -- "Come visit! It's like this with a view."

GLA duty oscillates at the Wildwood Flower Show, New Scotland Armory. One minute it is glassy-eyed frustration as the crowd sweeps by, friends gabbing. Then the floor suddenly empties as people take morning break at the cafe tables. A half an hour later the throat is dry from telling the story again and again and the pile of leaflets needs replenishing.

There are different styles. One lady has a question about what will grow in a damp, shady corner; her companion comments on the miniature evergreens. Another asks about a forthcoming lecture. Young couples with children are interested in the summer programs and rambles. City people respond to thoughts of a picnic. Others perk up at the mention of the Van Loveland beds, or the rock garden, or the wild flowers, or the pond studies.

Sometimes a known face floats by and the fixed smile deepens. Lunch hour feels like travel abroad as table and a chat are shared with a simpatico stranger also alone, because her husband has no patience for exhibits.

Always, the fresh flowers are inspiring. They are the excuse for a show fostering design and variation, biology in hand with commercialism. They provide a few hours' escape from March's cold winds in an atmosphere of beauty and fragrance.

Last summer it was gratifying to speak with one visitor at the Arboretum who said she was enjoying her first visit there. When asked how she had heard of GLA, her answer was "At the flower show."

\* \* \*

One by one, the friends of the Arboretum drifted into the Meetinghouse, eager to look over the rare plants benched and ready for sale on that rainy Saturday of the fifth of May. A lot of energy had gone into the preparation. I should have been forewarned by the above experience in March that all gardeners are HUNGRY.

The first fifteen minutes of action were blurred as our new kitchen crew went through its shakedown, then from my spot between the hotdogs and the urn it seemed as though a swirl of locusts hit. The focus of the occasion turned from plants to squeezing the mustard, watching the teakettle, passing the cups, identifying the coleslaws, opening the rolls, and dodging my colleagues as they dished up lunch.

A line of chilled customers stretched from our table to the far wall. One pretty lady, dark eyes and hair shining, steadied a potted tree almost as big as herself as she tried to reach out for coffee. The food melted away along with the plants in a buzz of inquiring or enthusiastic voices, confirming that the visitors were having as good a time as the workers.

\* \* \*

The phoebe did it. Sat there on the bush as sassy as you please, flicking her tail in typical phoebe behavior, then she slipped onto her nest under the eaves of the Information Shed as if to say "OK. I've said hello, and let you count me as the first bird of the day. Now let me get on with my work."

I shook hands with the two birders who had come for our early morning walk, though the flycatcher's greeting was official enough for me.





## *Buckleya distichophylla*

by Pamela Rowling

Sandalwood, aromatic and sweet smelling, is perhaps the best known member of the predominantly tropical plant family *Santalaceae*. Uncommon in temperate regions, this group is represented in the growing collections of the George Landis Arboretum by *Buckleya distichophylla*. *Buckleya* is named in honor S.B. Buckley, American botanist who lived 1809 --1884.

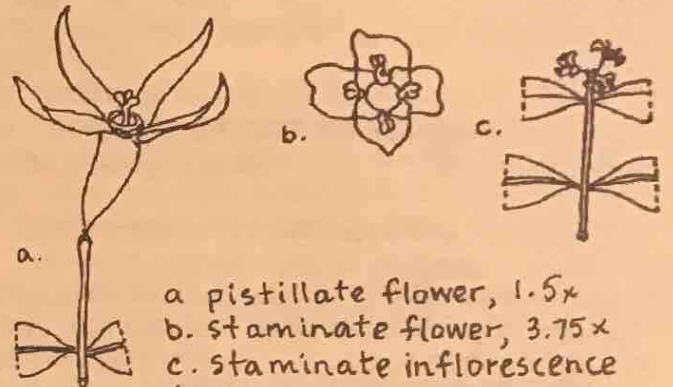
This genus encompasses five species. *B. distichophylla* is a native of North Carolina and Tennessee. The remaining four species are all native to eastern Asia.

*Buckleya distichophylla* is spring green, deciduous and bears its slender leaves opposite along slender arching stems. The plant is said to reach an eventual height of 12 feet, however old specimens at the garden have only attained 6--7 feet in height. Plants are dioecious; the flowers of both sexes are green and inconspicuous. Female blooms are solitary while the male flowers are smaller and borne in terminal umbels. (see illustration).

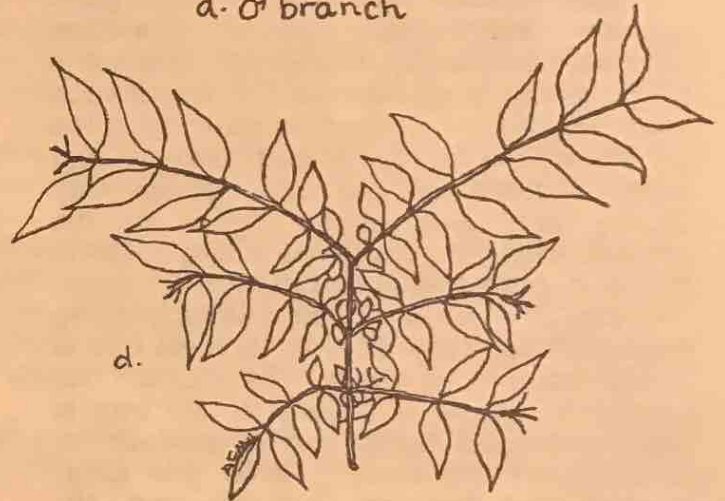
A fascinating characteristic of *Buckleya* is that it is a 'root only' parasite and must be grown in close proximity to its host plant *Tsuga*, (hemlock). The maturing ovary forms a green drupe, peculiar in its characteristic of allowing only one ovule to develop and that this resultant seed lacks a seed coat. *Buckleya* is propagated by seed which, as previously mentioned, must be grown near a hemlock. In our limited experience the association does not severely hamper the host plant.

Our specimens are found growing in the flat area just above the Quarry Rock Garden. A two foot specimen was recently spotted growing as a volunteer in the woodland area by the Meeting House. *Buckleya* is grown in collections primarily as a novelty, its light, open appearance and "Granny Smith apple green" leaf color make it quite appealing. Its ability to grow in relatively deep shade heightens the color contrast effect of its foliage.

Look for this plant on your next Arboretum visit.



a. pistillate flower, 1.5x  
b. staminate flower, 3.75x  
c. staminate inflorescence  
d. ♂ branch



*Buckleya distichophylla*

(HERBARIUM continued from page 1) Mr. Baim will serve as curator of the herbarium, and the collections will be available for study (by appointment only) as soon as indexing is complete.

The herbarium project, from concept to washing of shelves, was coordinated by Anne Jaster, longtime friend of Mr. Baim, member and newly elected Trustee of the Arboretum. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of both Mr. Baim and Mrs. Jaster to get the collection moved and installed, and are delighted that Mr. Baim trusts us to care for his collection.



Here are three of the many essays submitted to Margaret Law in the Arboretum's annual contest for school children.

### 1st prize **MY FAVORITE TREE**

by *Kerry McGrath*

Sacandaga School

Whenever the weather turns warm, the first thing I head to is my favorite tree. No matter if it is raining or the sun is shining brightly, my favorite tree is always a wonderful place to be.

My favorite tree looks like a giant cylinder with long slender branches winding their way up to the sky. When it is a windy day you can see the leaves and branches of my favorite tree dancing in the breeze. In the fall the leaves turn red and yellow instead of the dark green they usually are, and gently flutter to the ground. In the spring birds make nests in the long branches and hatch their eggs. You can always see animals running along the branches of my tree. My favorite tree is in my back yard, a perfect location for getting to whenever I want to. My tree is near a wooden fence that is perfect for jumping off of, holding onto the long, braided rope hanging from my tree. My favorite tree is away from any big things so when I glide on the rope, I won't crash. The tree is near a small rock, convenient for using as a step to boost me up to the high branches. My favorite tree never seems to be directly in the sun, so it's never too hot even on the hottest days. I could never pick a better location for my favorite tree.

My favorite tree is ideal for climbing because of its long branches and massive trunk. If you climb high enough, you will reach a special spot where its branches wind together to form a place where only I can fit. I use that spot for thinking or when I'm feeling down. It is a long way to the top, but once you make it, it will definitely be worth it! I snuggle under my tree and read or write a story.

### Second prize **MY FAVORITE TREE**

by *Amy Vincent*

Duanesburg Elementary

Of all the many types of willow trees that grow, the weeping willow is my favorite kind of tree.

The weeping willow tree can grow up to be 50 feet or more in height. It has drooping twigs and branches. The leaves are long, and have sawlike edges. They keep their green color late into fall. The roots of the willow grow at a shallow depth below the ground. The branches of the tree should be trimmed because they can grow into the ground looking for water. Its crooked trunks and graceful branches decorate the sides of ponds and streams.

The year my grandparents built their house in Delanson, my papa planted a weeping willow tree in the backyard. Even as a little girl, I can remember playing hide-and-seek with my cousins, and hiding under the tree's long, low, bending branches. As I grew older, I loved to climb up in the middle of its split trunk and sit and think.

When I look at the tree in papa's yard, I feel peaceful, calm, and content. I love to watch the branches gently sway in a summer breeze. When I go under its branches, they seem to wrap around me like arms, and I feel safe.

The saddest time is when my papa has to trim the branches off the tree. I feel like he is trimming part of me.

### 3rd prize **MY FAVORITE TREE**

by *Jennie Schultz*

Stevens Elementary

The summer breeze blows through its long, flowing leaves. It hovers over you and cools you down. You can relax after a long day.

With the Weeping Willow trees' leaves you can pretend you have long, golden hair, or a gold woven cape. You can tell your deepest secrets to friends the tree will hear. It sounds like it's telling late at night. But never really tells.

You watch the pink sunset glowing through the leaves. Telling you that night is here, go to sleep.

At night, with the moon glowing over the Weeping Willow tree, it looks like rain pouring down a lion's mane. Tall, shaggy dogs or huge monsters. Climbing the low branches with wind in your hair. You can see the farthest mountain point. You are King or Queen of the tree standing on a branch in the sunset.



**BOOK REVIEW**

by Shirley Redington

*Herbaceous Perennial Plants; a treatise on their identification, culture and garden attributes.* by Allan Armitage. Varsity Press, inc. Athens, Georgia 1989.

A couple of issues ago, I wrote a subjective review praising Clausen and Ekstrom's *Perennials for American Gardens*. I could take the easy way out and plagiarize myself just substituting "Armitage" for "Clausen", but with a readership like this, I'd surely be caught. Even more tempting is a double book review in last fall's *Arnoldia* wherein a member of the staff of the Arnold Arboretum compared the two titles. I may "borrow" a little, but I won't plagiarize.

What I am grateful for is that after a conspicuous lack of authoritative and helpful references on perennials, all of a sudden we have two very careful and comprehensive resources-- both published in 1989 by eminent *American* authors.

Last May while I was shopping for alpine and other perennials at Oliver's Nursery in Connecticut, the saleswoman was looking up my requests in a worn-out blackish looking book. I said: "Oh, you're using Clausen; have you seen Armitage?" She said: "This is Armitage; Clausen doesn't have as many species that we want to look up." (Both books look "black" at first glance.)

Even the best experts are entitled to one mistake. Armitage calls navel seed "*Omphaloides*" instead of "*Omphalodes*". Or perhaps he knows something that *Hortus III* and Thomas Everett and Donald Wyman and Ruth Clausen don't.

His treatise on the questionable origin of the lovely new *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple' is sheer fun to read. (It may even be 'Powis Purple' after a castle in Wales.)

Though presently at the University of Georgia, Armitage has gardened throughout the Northeast. He is especially attentive to "hot" hardiness as well as cold hardiness in his discussions of plants. He seems to be more conservative in his designation of hardiness zones than Clausen.

Clausen claims coverage of over four hundred genera; several thousand species, cultivars and hybrids. Armitage treats approximately 260 genera, nearly 1500 species and is extremely generous with cultivars and hybrids.

He includes a bibliographic reference after an entry in many cases but not all: "Additional Reading:" Many of them are out-of-print and/or hard-to-find. After the subject "*Allium*", he cites a 1976 article by Pamela Harper in *HORTICULTURE*, but does not mention a thorough article on Alliums by Fred McGourty in that same magazine in the 1980's.

If I could buy only one, I absolutely cannot say which I would choose. There is so much duplication of information that it might seem extravagant to own both, but I think not. Many gaps in Clausen are covered by Armitage and vice versa. Perhaps I lean slightly towards Armitage because I enjoy his style and occasional historical treatment. Clausen is all business and short on style.

I have an idea: You buy Armitage for yourself and get your husband to give you Clausen for your birthday. That's what I did.

Friend	\$15-25
Sponsor	\$25-50
Supporting	\$50-100
Patron	\$100+

## GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ work\weekend \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal     New Member    Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM Lape Road, P.O.Box 186, Esperance, N.Y. 12066 telephone 518-875-6935  
 A living museum, open free of charge for visitors from April to November, the Arboretum is a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental and horticultural education.



## FIRST TRIP TO THE ARBORETUM

by Merrill Bousman, Trustee Emeritus

In the daily paper one morning in Scotia I saw a notice that Fred Lape in Esperance was planning to open his large acreage to the public as the George Landis Arboretum.

My friend next door, Betty Crowther, was also a lover of trees and shrubs. We had both been watching our properties grow, our small trees growing to be larger trees. So, we decided to visit this new arboretum at once and see what it was like. There were four of us, all young women, who drove to Esperance that day. Our children were in school. We parked near a small yellow cottage and several barns and walked in. Nobody was around so we explored and soon found Fred Lape sitting on the steps of the barn shearing one of a small flock of sheep.

We told him we had read his notice in the paper and as lovers of trees and shrubs had come to visit. The tall slender gentleman said he was glad of our interest and told us where to go to see his trees, mostly across the road, but he said to be careful in passing through fields of tall grass where we might tear our clothes.

So, we went on our first trip to an Arboretum and the beginning of seeing trees and shrubs entirely new to us, from other countries, now beginning growth in Esperance.

We went back often-- there was so much to see and learn. As years passed and the war was over more people found "our" Arboretum. Mr. Lape asked young students from the college in Cobleskill to help him answer questions from people who were eager to be taught. Dick Southwick and James Bates, both teachers at the college, could answer questions from their field of knowledge in planned afternoon sessions.

So, more people came, all interested in the exchange of knowledge. As more specialists joined the teaching groups, we learned about planting of flowering plants-- iris, roses, lilies, as well as new shrubs from Japan and China.

I had the book Fred wrote about the Arboretum, but someone borrowed it! But now we have his book *APPLES!* And lots of memories of working with the tall thin man in the big hat.



**George Landis Arboretum**  
**Lape Road**  
**Esperance, NY 12066**

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