



The Newsletter LANDIS ARBORETUM

Esperance, New York

Fall 2000

Summer

Volume 19, No. 3

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Upcoming Events

(At the Arboretum unless otherwise noted.)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Astronomers Star Party, 8:30 pm
- 9-10 FALL PLANT SALE, 10-4
- 10 Family Workshop: Grandparents' Day Nature Hike, 2-3:30 pm
- 12, 19, 26 Horticulture Certificate Class:
& Oct. 3 Tree & Shrub Identification, 6:30-8:30. Pre-register please.
- 23 Family Workshop: Insect Investigations, 2-3:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 7 Family Workshop: Fall Foliage Tree Identification Hike, 2-3:30
- 11, 18, 25 Horticulture Certificate Class:
& Nov. 1 Introduction to Botany (at SUNY Cobleskill), 6:30-8:30. Pre-register please.
- 20 Astronomers Star Party, 7:30 pm
- 28 Family Workshop: Halloween Owl Prowl, 7-8:30 pm

NOVEMBER

- 17 Astronomers Star Party, 7:30 pm

Fall Plant Sale

- Herm Finkbeiner, Chair

Saturday and Sunday September 9-10, 10-4

The Fall Plant Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10, from 10-4 on both days. Although on a smaller scale than our spring sale, there will be a large variety of perennials, ornamental grasses, and deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, including dwarf conifers. The plant sales are a major source of income for the Arboretum so this is your chance both to acquire unusual plants and to help keep the Arboretum thriving.

PARKING

If you attended the spring sale, you may have gotten very wet but were probably surprised at how smoothly the parking worked! Please be assured that volunteers who kept traffic flowing smoothly in the spring will also be in place for the fall sale. **There will be no traffic jam at the fall sale!**

PLANT DONATIONS

The success of last fall's sale was due in part to generous donations of plants by members. Again, plants are being sought for the sale. As you divide perennials, consider the sale as a destination for unwanted divisions. We do need to have donated plants ready for the sale table; there simply isn't time to repot or groom. In order to have plants in standard-sized containers, we can supply pots for your use. Just call the office for information.

We are Grateful - Florence Grimm

Landis simply could not operate without our volunteers. We are grateful for your help...and we most sincerely thank the following people.

- Esperance Volunteer Fire Company for their help in reducing the size of our brush pile.
- Ron Needle for eliminating the brush pile...a big job well done.
- Carol Loucks, Vivian Gross, Natalia Buttner and Carol Willey for all of their labors in the Van Loveland perennial garden. It's one of the first things that visitors see.
- Sonja Javarone, Anne Jaster, Bob and Helen Ringlee for their able assistance during the NYS Releaf Conference.

From the Garden

- Helen Phillips, Executive Director

August 17, 2000

Wow! April seems so long ago! I can't believe I've been here four months already. Who would think that time flies so fast at such a peaceful spot as the Arboretum. I'll let you in on a little secret. Behind the scenes of this quiet paradise are dedicated people working very hard – don't let the easygoing atmosphere fool you!

The greatest example of this was the Spring Plant Sale. More than sixty volunteers worked to offer thousands of plants for sale to more than a thousand eager gardeners (that's you!). All in three days of some of the worst spring weather I can remember. It's a little daunting when it's your first plant sale and the seasoned pros are standing around saying, "Boy, this weather is awful!" and "I don't think I remember worse weather for a plant sale!" I think it took me the whole next week to thaw out. Despite the weather – the sale was a success. Thank you!

Some other examples of the work your staff and trustees have been undertaking this spring and summer:

- Staff Horticulturist Fred Breglia, along with Trustee Ken Carnes and Volunteer Mike Urban, planted 16 crabapples trees – in two days. Here at Landis we can't complain too much about all the rain we've had; we haven't had to haul a drop of water out to the crabapple collection.

- Fred and I spent a week in North Carolina at the AABGA conference at the end of June. OK, so that's not really work. Actually, we are lucky that the Trustees are dedicated to the continued professional development of your staff. It helps us do our jobs better and helps us fulfill the potential of the Arboretum.

- This fall we will be finalizing the paperwork necessary to accept a unique gift. Member Bill Fairchild of Scotia has donated about 50 acres of nearby property to Landis. Your Arboretum is growing in many ways.

- This fall there will be a lot of work done on the buildings at the Arboretum – if the weather cooperates. Expect to see the farm house painted, the meeting house stained, and a new roof on the library by next summer. All of this is made possible by a line item grant from New York State through the efforts of State Senator James Seward.

Finally, it's not too early to get ready for next spring. Planting perennials now will give you a head start on the growing season next spring. What better place to find perennials for fall planting than at the Landis Arboretum Fall Plant Sale on September 9 and 10. The purchases you make have a direct effect on your Arboretum by raising money to support operations. Hope to see you there – under SUNNY skies!

Schoharie County Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 14, 10-6

Rain or shine

NYS Power Authority Visitors Center

Route 20, North Blenheim

Enjoy fun for the entire family! There will be entertainment, crafts, food vendors representing Schoharie County establishments, and produce for sale from local farms.



THE LANDIS ARBORETUM

NEWSLETTER

is published quarterly for its members.

The Arboretum's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through its programs and through its plant collection.

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Fran Finkbeiner

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Anne Jaster, Sonja Javarone,
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Printer

Shipmates

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*Sixty years ago I knew everything;
now I know nothing; education is a
progressive discovery
of your own ignorance.*

- Will Durant

Planning Committee Update

- Kenneth E. Wing, Chair

The Long-Range Planning Committee continues to work on both the conceptual and physical master plans for the Landis Arboretum. As soon as each committee at Landis has submitted its goals, objectives, and strategies, a final draft of the conceptual master plan will be prepared for review and discussion. The conceptual master plan (what the Trustees want the Landis Arboretum to be and what they want it to accomplish) will be reflected in the physical master plan.

The physical master plan will help establish how the Trustees would like the Landis Arboretum to appear and function in 10 to 20 years. Accessibility and protection will be balanced appropriately, with roads, paths, and buildings planned to help carry out the mission of the Arboretum.

Another Trustee planning retreat will be held this Fall. It is our goal to complete the conceptual and physical master plans by Spring 2001. The conceptual master plan can be implemented in the near future. Implementation of the physical master plan will be implemented as funding and volunteer efforts allow.



Private Industry Crew

- Fred Breglia

We've been fortunate to have a PIC crew back again – for the third summer. Among the serious improvements on the grounds that the crew has been responsible for include clearing and cleaning up vegetation to uncover barely visible stone walls and rebuilding some of those walls. A new access path was cut from alongside Lape Road to the Lape Memorial area and all the new trails that were built last year are opened to provide excellent hiking/recreational opportunities and full access to more than 40 newly opened areas. Presently our collections are getting a fresh coat of mulch and invasive weeds are being eradicated.

The photo shows left to right, back row: Joe Surls, Summer Youth Employment Program Counselor, PIC; Randy Proctor, Crew Leader; and Fred Breglia, Landis Horticulturist. Front row, left to right: David Lockskin and Richard Harrinston. Randy is currently working on his two-year Landscape Development degree at SUNY Cobleskill. Missing from the photo but very much part of the crew are Jeff Killenberger and Adam Crommie.


October Workfest

October 21, 9-4 (raindate October 28)

Main job: Leaf removal

Other jobs (but just as important): Perennial bed cleanup and miscellaneous prepare-for-winter chores. **Call the arboretum if you plan to help so we may plan food for the workers. (875-693)**

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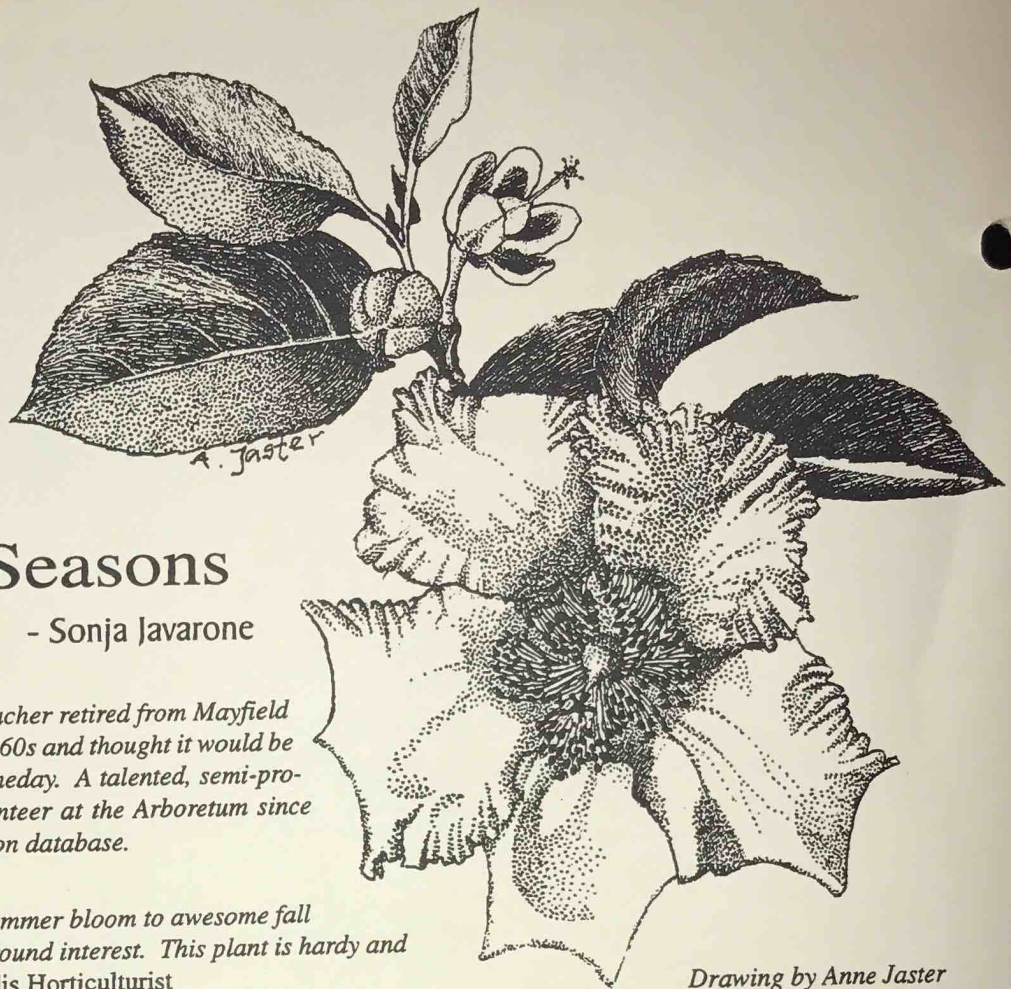
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A Plant for All Seasons

- Sonja Javarone

Sonja Javarone, Mayfield, NY is a biology teacher retired from Mayfield High School. She first visited Landis in the 1960s and thought it would be nice place to volunteer when she retired...someday. A talented, semi-professional photographer, she has been a volunteer at the Arboretum since 1991, most recently working with the collection database.

"This tree has everything from spectacular summer bloom to awesome fall leaf color and bark that truly provides year 'round interest. This plant is hardy and underused in this area." - Fred Breglia, Landis Horticulturist

Drawing by Anne Jaster

Anyone who visits the Landis Arboretum in July cannot help but notice the rippled-edged, three-inch white camellia-like flowers on the small tree/shrub at the edge of the lower parking lot. According to Fred Lape's records, during the spring of 1970 this specimen *Stewartia koreana* came, as a small plant, from the Arnold Arboretum where it was introduced in 1917. Another larger *S. koreana* is located on the far side of the lilacs; it was obtained from the Tingle Nursery, Pittsville, Maryland in the fall of 1953.

Stewartia koreana, is the hardiest of members of this genus (USDA Zone 5B through 7) and, as the name indicates, is native to Korea where it is an understory tree in mixed conifer and hardwood forests. It is named after John Stuart, an 18th century amateur botanist from Scotland. (According to some authors, the spelling should be changed to "*Stuartia*," but apparently it has not been proven to be the spelling intended by Linnaeus. Also, the plant is identified as *Stewartia pseudocamillia* var. *koreana*, in Krussman's *Cultivated Broad-Leaved Trees and Shrubs*, and it is noted to be "closely related" to *pseudocamillia* by other authors. Dirr in his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* says of *S. koreana*, "In my mind this species is fairly similar to *S. pseudocamellia* and the differences are, at best, slight." In this article we continue to use *Stewartia koreana* because that is what Fred Lape called it when he planted it here. The rules of botanic nomenclature are often unclear to the layman, most assuredly to this editor.)

A slow-growing member of the Theaceae, or Tea Family, *S. koreana* is one of nine species, three of which are native to the southeastern US, the remainder to eastern Asia. (*Camellia sinensis*, the plant from which tea is derived, is another member of Theaceae. - Ed.) The Korean *stewartia* will do well in sunny or semi-shaded sites with moist, well-drained, loamy, lime-free soil (pH 4.5 to 5.5). They dislike wind, extreme wet or dry conditions and are intolerant of environmental stress. At maturity they may be 25 feet tall and 12 feet wide.

The attractive dark green alternate-leaved foliage is a plus in summer, but especially in the fall when it turns a pleasing mixture of reds, purple, orange, yellow and green. Each five- or six-petal white camellia-like flower lasts only about 24 hours, but the display continues from four to six weeks during a time when few other woody plants flower. The oval, woody fruit/capsules are inconspicuous, but do attract birds. The reddish-tinged, zig-zag twigs have large, tomentose, silvery winter buds, and the sycamore-like exfoliating bark is especially ornamental, a mottled combination of brown, gray, creamy-yellow, and orange.

S. koreana has no significant disease or insect problems, but it is intolerant of alkaline soils and hot summer sun - which may result in leaf scorch, stunting and die-back. Established plants are highly intolerant of disturbance, and should be planted in a pre-planned, permanent site.

Continued >>

Softwood cuttings may be taken in summer or semi-ripe cuttings in late summer. Root in a sandy mix and allow rooted cuttings to become dormant in a pot in the fall. Then grow on, or plant in a permanent location in the spring. Seeds sown outdoors in the fall may not germinate until the second spring. Propagation by either method is difficult.

Rarely used for purposes other than landscaping, the durable *Stewartia koreana* was used by monks in ancient Korea to make wooden bowls for their meals and other wooden wares for various purposes such as wine bottles, tea trays, large containers, spiritual tablet frames and ritual wine bowls. The craft exists today in some areas of Korea.

The Korean *stewartia* is a marvelous specimen plant for near the patio or deck, as a focus in a bed of evergreens, or as a woodland edge feature. It rarely needs pruning except, perhaps, to remove dead growth around the shaded base of the plant. It maintains a tight pyramidal growth, often with multi-trunks. It is a long-lived highly ornamental specimen that needs little or no maintenance. For possible sources of *Stewartia koreana* in this area contact Fred Breglia at the arboretum.

Wish List

Our Wish List is ever-active!

We received new editions of the Dirr's *Manual of Landscape Plants* and Wyman's *Gardening Encyclopedia* from Elaine Bailey, and we thank you so much! These are among our most-consulted volumes.

• We still need the latest printings of *Hortus Third*; Rehder's *Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs*; and *The Certified Arborists Study Manual*, International Society of Arborists.

- volunteers (always)
- hard-back rakes
- picnic tables
- wheelbarrows
- garden carts
- chainsaw
- walkie talkies (we borrow for plant sale use)
- folding chairs
- folding tables
- weed whacker (heavy duty)
- larger tractor We wish for a John Deere 790, or a machine of equal quality, 4-wheel drive, 30 HP, with backhoe and loader. If you can give any assistance in our quest, please telephone.

Botanical Drawing Course Offered

Anne Jaster, whose splendid drawings appear regularly in this newsletter (see the previous page) is offering a botanical drawing course this fall.

Using specimens from the Arboretum's collections and gardens, beginning to advanced artists will heighten their powers of observation, their practical drawing skills, and will learn techniques leading to a fine piece of botanical art. Media will include pencil, pen and ink, colored pencil, and watercolor. Bring a sketch book, pencil, and eraser to the first class. A more complete materials list will be provided then.

Classes will be held in the Arboretum's library from 6-9 for five Thursday evenings, September 21, 28, October 5, 12 and 19. Registration is limited to the first ten to sign up; the cost is \$75 per member, \$85 for non-members. Telephone the Arboretum (518-875-6935) by September 15 to register.

Acorn Shop

-Helen Hunt

Hours: Saturday 12-5
Sunday 1-5

We will feature several new Christmas ornaments during the Fall Plant Sale. The Acorn Shop will close the last weekend in October, so if you need gardening gifts for friends at Christmas, stop in to see what we have. As usual, we will have several items on sale this fall.



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A Special Thank You to Carol Wock

Recently a luncheon was held at the Brookside restaurant in Schoharie County to honor Carol Wock whose term on the Arboretum's Board of Trustees has just ended. Carol's service on the Board began in mid-1994, and during her tenure she served on every standing committee and as President of the Board during 1996 and 1997. She has acted in several capacities on the spring and fall plant sale committees, including chairperson. Carol remains a member of both the finance committee and the fall and spring plant sales committees.

Carol's involvement in the Arboretum has brought about many positive changes, and the Arboretum deeply appreciates her dedication, patience, generosity, and extensive hard labor. Salute!

Shown in the photo above are, left to right around the table: Helen Phillips, Florence Grimm, Anne Jaster, Ken Wing, Cathy Lewis, Fred Breglia, Diane Spranger, Nick Zabawsky, Lawson Harris, Paul Blair, Merv Prichard, Fran Finkbeiner, Carol Wock, Ken Carnes and Rick Ohlerking. And out of range of the camera are Susan Sagendorf, Chris Cash, Barbara Piszczatowski, and the photographer, Herm Finkbeiner.

Collections News

- Fred Breglia

MORE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE ARBORETUM

Yet another summer is upon us. Our collections are looking better than ever now that vertical mulching and increased care has had time to work. The addition of *mycorrhizal* fungi has dramatically increased nutrient and water uptake, and the vertical mulching process (see Newsletter Vol. 17, No. 4), has created more pore space in our compact soil which is leading to better plant health.

The rhododendron collection had a record bloom this spring. The cleanup of the lilac collection a few years ago combined with a solid fertilizer program, proper pruning and consistent care also produced increased bloom. Our crabapple collection has almost doubled with the planting of more than 16 new resistant varieties. Many other species have been planted - in fact more trees have been successfully planted this year than any year since Fred Lape's death. More will be planted this fall as well when we officially complete the Cornell Recommended Crabapple Collection. Consistent care will assure the new plantings are around for the next generation. It has been proven that if proper care is given newly planted trees during the first five years of life, that the tree will be healthy and require less maintenance.

FIELD DIAGNOSIS OF PESTS AND DISEASES

The NYS Arborists, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Chapter, and Cornell University cooperated to present a summer course on field identification of tree and shrub insects and diseases. The course was comprised of a series of walks around parks, campuses, and arboreta grounds including Landis. Course instructors Professor George Hudler, head of Cornell's Plant Pathology Department and Greg Hoover, head of Penn State's Entomology Department, and participants from around the state spent several days here becoming acquainted with our collections and with many of the pests and diseases we deal with. They were amazed that we were able to control pests as well as we have given our small staff and considerable required maintenance. It was encouraging to hear that opinion from men who are leaders in their fields.

NY RELEAF 2000 CONFERENCE

ReLeaf New York is a coalition of groups promoting urban and community forestry to increase public awareness of the value of stewardship of trees. More than 25 professionals from around the state came to Landis on Saturday, July 15, 2000 for a full day's worth of classes about the care

Continued >

(Continued from page 6)

of trees. Among the subjects covered were: Urban Tolerant Trees by Dr. Nina Bassuk (program leader of the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell); a presentation about selecting quality nursery stock by Chris Cash (Nursery Specialist at SUNY Cobleskill and Landis trustee); and a pruning demonstration along with techniques of tree climbing by Pete Donzelli (a certified arborist) and myself. The classes were well received.



How Does Our Garden Grow?

New Members - Please note that the names listed here are new members that joined during the second quarter of 2000. The Arboretum membership grows with great vigor at plant sale time! It seems to be a combination of spring enthusiasm for gardening, seeing the annual awakening at Landis - and that 10% discount! **We wish you welcome!**

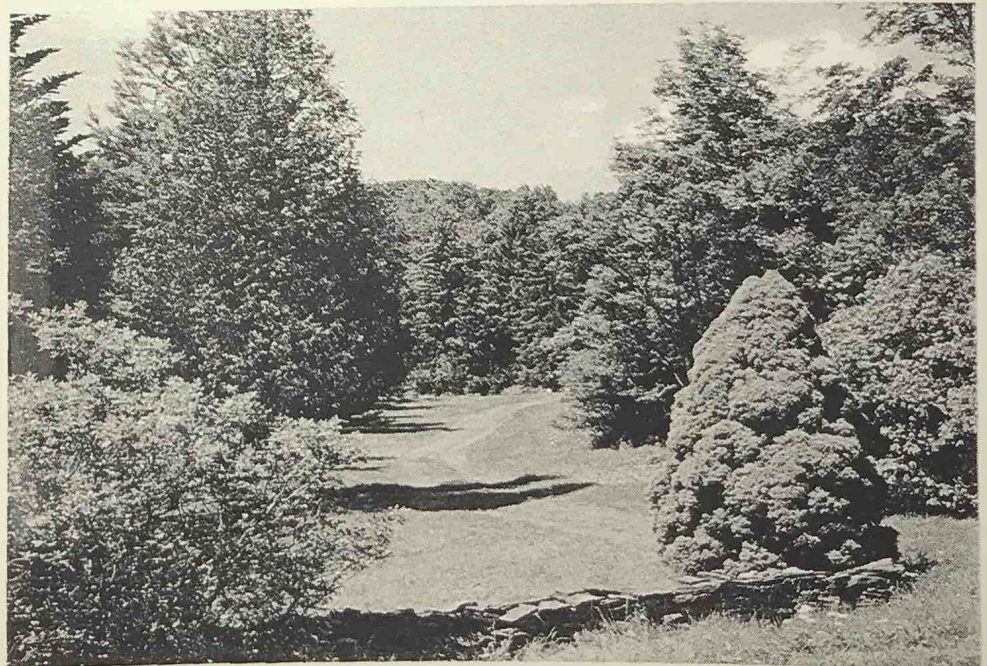
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Elizabeth Warnock
Mr/Mrs Bill Whittler

Out and About in Your Arboretum

*The inviting walk to the newly planted crabapples - and to the Lape Memorial area - begins here at the break in the stone wall alongside Lape Road just opposite the road into the Meeting House. On your way along, on top the hill to the north, you'll see the tall, long-needled Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) that produces the largest cones of any conifer at Landis.*





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Fall Plant Sale, September 9 and 10, 2000



Midsummer Pause

There is a moment in midsummer when the earth
Pauses between flower and fruit; the hay is cut,
The oats ripen, on pasture knolls pearly everlasting
Lifts its small fountains of silver and gold.

The skies are blue, the hills rest all day
Like men at noon under a shady tree.
The leaves have turned dark green, they hoard
their strength, no strong wind harms them.
Boys swim under the big elm by the crick.
Locusts drone in the trees; the swallows
Gather on wires, and starlings in flocks
Wheel over the meadows like curving hands.

- Barnyard Year, Fred Lape