



George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

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Volume 8 Number 4

October, November, December 1989

THE GREENHOUSE

You've heard about it many times- you've contributed towards it- you're curious, perhaps, about when it's getting built?

Well, folks, we have the foundation in the ground despite rain and other construction delays of the usual variety. The library's east wall now connects to the foundation for the work space and the greenhouse, and we're ready to organize the work crew to erect the greenhouse. Preliminary work can be done by "unskilled laborers" on any day of the week. Get a couple of friends together for a work party and call Pamela to pick a day when she can show you how to scrape and prepare wooden framing members. Actual construction of the greenhouse will probably be a weekend event: interested folks should let us know they'd like to help, and when the preparation is complete we'll pick our weekend and call you in for the fun!

Many members have responded to the appeal for funds to build the greenhouse. Those of you who have already sent checks have been very generous, and there's hope that we will be able to pay for this project!

Since we can't predict when the greenhouse will be finished, and since we'd like all of you to celebrate the event with us before the lousy weather arrives, we're planning a party. You'll be receiving an invitation soon, but do save October 22, 1-4 p.m., for our greenhouse dedication. See you at the party!

—Amy Lent

FAMILY FUN DAY

The weather couldn't have been nicer- sunny and warm- and the crowd of families enjoyed all the activities one after the other on the 2nd Family Day Saturday, June 24, 1989. It was warm enough so the cold drinks disappeared, and we stayed under the trees whenever possible. Despite the very wet time just previous (couldn't use the lower pond because it was flooded) the bugs did not seem bad.

Again this year, as special treats for our visitors were Mary Ann Finley, presiding over the upper pond, Anita Sanchez-Steele looking at insects in the upper meadow under the trees, and Chuck Weed doing bees.

Special thanks must go to Mary Ann, who came despite the flu and did her usual wonderful job in the sun! (Will someone plant a few shade trees near the upper pond?) If you have not joined her in this exploration, you have missed a chance to get acquainted with both a pond and Mary Ann.

Another expert at getting people to look more closely at nature is Anita, who had us all hunting for the interesting bugs (whoops! insects) to see close up. Everyone got their very own magnifiers to look at whatever came to hand.

New this Family Day was the very popular "See and Color" page done by Anne Jaster, which was a bee, butterfly, tree, and flower surrounding a wonderful frog. After seeing the real thing, the youngsters (continued page 7)

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Elizabeth Corning, Marcia
Middleton, Pamela Rowling.

DIRECTOR, PAM ROWLING says HOORAY!

We are delighted to report that Jack Middleton has completed a noxious project (which he undertook voluntarily!) that should benefit many. Jack spent many hours doing wonderful things to our computerized mailing list so that it will be more useful to us in reaching you.

We would like to ask you to check the label on this newsletter for accuracy: your name(s), address and especially the zip code. Some labels have a date on the top line. This is your membership expiration date. Note: if you sent your dues since September 1, 1989 the corrected expiration date will be on your next label.

Please call or write soon with corrections. If you leave information on the answering machine be sure to spell words out clearly.

As much as Amy and I love compliments, we have to confess that some of the most frequently complimented work at the Arboretum is that done by Beverly Waite and Richard Law. If you saw the second issue of State of the Arboretum, you've already heard us bragging about these extra-ordinary, hyper-dedicated volunteers. Their work has had a major impact on the appearance of the Arboretum this season and visitors regularly express their admiration. When asked "How do two staff manage to maintain all this?", our only answer is "Volunteers like Bev and Dick..."

Imagine, if you will, if these tasks had not been done this summer: regular weeding of perennial beds, holding bed, peony garden, Meeting House bed, cleaning the Meeting House, weed wacking along roadsides and stone walls, dead tree removals, repairs to tractors, rebuilding stone walls, rehab of the rock garden railings and on and on. They really "care" for the Arboretum, in both senses of the word. Without their personal touch and the hundreds of hours of work Bev and Dick gave us, "we" the Arboretum would not have been as presentable as we are. So, we thank you, Beverly and Dick, and your cohorts Margaret Law, Doris Gdula, Florence Grimm and John Abbuhl, and we hope you'll keep on workin'!!!

ART AND NATURE AT THE ARBORETUM

This summer we have had two successful programs, both taught by volunteers, and we are pleased to announce that both classes have survived the end of summer and will continue.

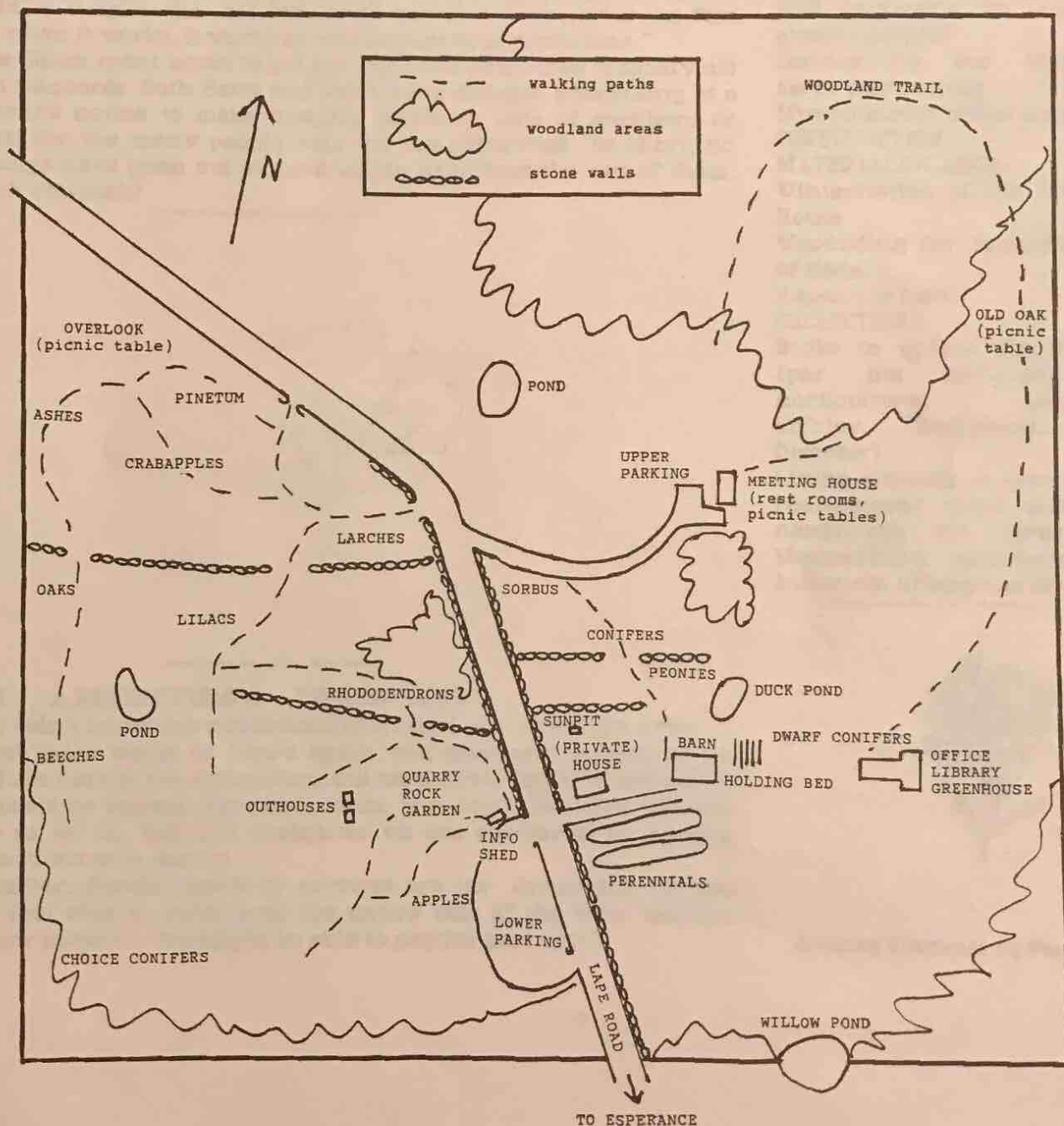
Anne Jaster's Tuesday artists had a productive season and will get to continue as Anne's other Tuesday commitment changed. When it gets too chilly to work in the Meeting House, the artists will tuck themselves into the soon-to-have-heat library.

Mary Ann Finley had an ever-changing assortment of students for her children's nature study on Thursdays. Although the Thursday group has ended for the school year, another class has evolved from it: a group of home-schoolers will be keeping Mary Ann busy and we'll enjoy having kids around!

THE GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM
Esperance, New York

The Arboretum property is about 100 acres. At this time approximately one-third is planted with trees and shrubs from temperate areas around the world. These plantings, dating from the 1950's, are in the process of being restored. Restoration of these areas includes identification and re-labelling of plants, replacing dead plants, clearing brush, digging surface drainage ditches, etc. Of the remaining acreage, 20 acres are maintained as a native woodland. Future plantings, in what now are meadows, will be grouped according to geographic origin. As you walk through the Arboretum today, keep in mind that this is a "growing" concern! We sincerely appreciate suggestions, advice and offers of assistance. We hope you will visit us again soon!

MAP OF PLANTED AREAS

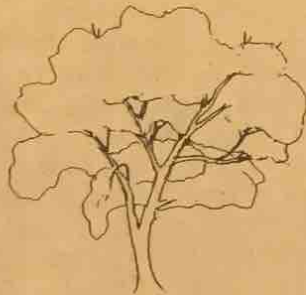


THE UNMASKING

The dynamic duo for some years past of the Arboretum Newsletter has been its anonymous editor computer printout experts going silently about their jobs. On her next to last issue Betty Bloom finally let her name be printed as co-editor. She had a good working relationship with Margaret Law, who brought or mailed her the copy then Betty put it into the computer, giving it the last editing. She was the computer editor, the last editor to touch the material before it went to press. Betty Bloom also kept track of all the membership of the arboretum and of all the plants new and old of the arboretum, having put them all on computer initially-- a huge job.

Steve Bloom has been anonymous computer printer disciplinarian. If you don't know about this job, it's only because you haven't had to use computers and printers to do "something you almost think would be simpler the old fashioned way if it weren't for the fact that when it works, it works so well and saves so much time."

Steve Bloom spent hours to get his computer print-outs to satisfy his high standards. Both Betty and Steve have dropped everything at a moment's notice to make mailing labels or lists of members or plants for the many people who aid the arboretum. In short, no mailings have gone out without major help from the two of them. Thank you both!



THE ARBORETUM'S "WISH LIST"

"Oh, I didn't know you needed one of those! I just threw one away..." Let not those words be heard again: you may have something we could use here at the Arboretum, but we'll never know unless we let our needs be known. Herewith, then, is a "wish list". The list will grow as we do, but will shrink as we are successful in making connections with donors.

Remember, donated goods or services are tax deductible. (If you don't feel able to contribute the entire cost of the item, ask the Director about it-- we might be able to pay for part of it.)

"WISH LIST"

GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

A brush chipper
Good hand mowers
Golf carts for elderly and handicapped visitors

FURNITURE

Folding chairs for the Meeting House
Bookshelves, carpet, lighting for the library
Pots and pans for the Meeting House Kitchen

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

IBM compatible computer and quality printer
Service for our (donated) Xerox photocopier
Miscellaneous office supplies

CONSTRUCTION

MATERIALS/LABOR

Winterization of the Meeting House
Woodsiding for beautification of library

Repairs to barn

COLLECTIONS

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

Living collections (per list of replacement plant materials needed: see the Director.

Memorabilia: appropriate to historical Arboretum display



drawing Knapweed by Peg Brown



Euonymus oxyphylla

EUONYMUS

The *Celastraceae* or Staff Tree family encompasses the genera *Euonymus*, *Pachystima* and *Celastrus* three genera of horticultural importance in temperate regions of the world. Flowers in this group are typically small, greenish and borne in cymose inflorescences. The fruits are generally showy, frequently highly colored on the outside opening to reveal the seed which is enveloped by a highly colored pulpy aril.

Strawberry bush, burning bush, wahoo and spindle tree are some of the many common names used to refer to plants in the genus *Euonymus*. This genus consists of approximately 120 species of shrubs and small trees growing either upright or creeping or climbing by means of rootlets. Evergreen species are useful year-round as a textural element in the garden while many of the deciduous species ie. *Euonymus alata* and *E. hamiltonianus* var. *yedoensis* boast both spectacular fall colors of pink and red and if anything are often surpassed by their brightly colored (usually pink) capsular fruits. These fruits split open to expose a bright orange fleshy aril covering the seed. Some of the deciduous species are useful in winter for their unusual bark characteristics. One of the most unusual barks is that of the *Euonymus alata* or Winged Euonymus group which have a corky ridge up to 1/2 inch in width at each of the four corners of the stems.

A significant number of the species of *Euonymus* are natives of temperate regions of Asia. Three United States natives are useful for filtered shade

applications in the garden: *E. americana*, *E. obovata* and *E. atropurpurea*. In general the American species tend to be more lax and sparsely branched, while the Asiatic species tend to be more formal in appearance, denser in both leaves and number of branches.

Culturally, *Euonymus* are rather undemanding. A great number of species are hardy in our area (zone 5). Evergreen members benefit from high or filtered shade to prevent burning in the summer and desiccation in the winter. A loamy well-drained soil is preferred although they grow well in our Arboretum clay soil.

Euonymus is bothered by few insects and diseases. At the Arboretum we have a yearly problem with the larvae of the lesser ermine moth in the spring. These pests can rapidly defoliate even a good sized plant. They can be kept in check by spraying (which we prefer not to do) but adequate control can be achieved by manually removing their nests (which look like tent caterpillar nests). These nests are only present during a few weeks and so this chore is minimal. After three years our infestation is showing quite a decline. Scale insects can also be problematic on evergreen species and those bearing corky wings. Scales are controlled by spraying with an appropriate dormant oil after removing the most seriously affected branches.

The easily propagated deciduous species can be reproduced by seed sown in the spring with gentle bottom heat. Vegetatively, layers and cuttings struck in sand at this time will also root. Evergreen species are said to root at any time of the year with relative ease but do benefit from bottom heat.

Species which can be viewed on the grounds of the Landis Arboretum include the following: *Euonymus Fortunei* (from China), *Euonymus hamiltoniana yedoensis* (from China and Japan), *Euonymus kiautschovica* (eastern and central China) *Euonymus oxyphylla* (Japan), *Euonymus europea* (Europe to West Asia) and *Euonymus atropurpurea* (N.Y. to Fla).

Come and inspect the plants growing at our garden—they will be sure to inspire you to try some on your home grounds. Many more species exist which would be suitable for testing at our garden once our greenhouse/propagation facility is completed.

I can't wait!

— Pamela Rowling

Clematis x viticella 'Betty Corning'

One of the most charming garden clematis is *Clematis x viticella* 'Betty Corning'. The plant is named in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth P. Corning, noted horticulturist and President of the Arboretum Board of Trustees. More than 50 years ago, Mrs. Corning noticed this plant growing on a small house in Albany. Being an astute gardener, she noticed its unusual color and form and successfully rooted a number of cuttings. The plant was determined to be a hybrid origin with *C. viticella* as one of the parents. The plant was subsequently registered as *Clematis x viticella* 'Betty Corning' at the International Center for Woody Plants, Arnold Arboretum in Boston.

The 'Betty Corning' clematis is a thin stemmed, climbing vine reaching an eventual height of 8--12 feet. The four sepaled, sky blue flowers hang bell-like from slender stalks. They are borne in great profusion from June through September. This plant bears its sweetly fragrant flowers on current year's growth..

The cultivation of this plant is fairly straightforward provided a few indulgences are met. Any good, friable organic loam with a near neutral pH will suit this clematis (I suppose around here that is not always quite so easy). If your soil requires modification, amend with ample supplies of organic matter such as humus, peat moss or well rotted manure and work in a sprinkling of bone meal and lime. Clematis prefer ample moisture, particularly in the spring, but require good drainage (to prevent the various crown rot diseases). Basically, the roots love to be kept cool and moist at all times and the tops need light and air circulation. These two requirements can be easily met by planting where the roots can get under a stone wall or a nearby shrub or by mulching with an organic material i.e. peat moss or bark chips etc.

As is typical of the climbing clematis, 'Betty Corning' is a weak climber and requires support. It can use neighboring shrubs, brushwood supports, wood or wire trellising or can be trained over stone or wood walls by first affixing chicken wire to them. Climbing is achieved by the petioles of the leaves wrapping around any given support.

Due to the fact that this plant blooms on current year's growth, the stems can be cut back to within one foot of the ground going into winter. This keeps

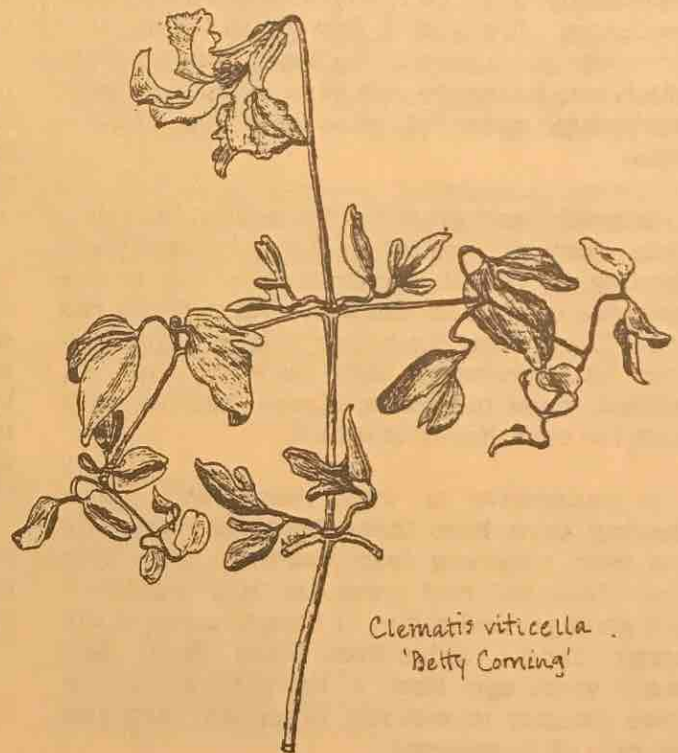
the plant tidy and also prevents the buildup of any foliar disease or insect problems. The stems can be pruned to the ground in spring before growth commences and fertilizer (5-10-5) applied. Water is very important to the success of this plant, irrigation is a must in droughty periods.

The easiest and surest way for most amateurs to propagate this clematis is by layering in the spring. Cuttings taken at this time have also shown success however some folks have trouble with the rooted cuttings being reluctant to break bud and grow after rooting. Seed propagation is not practical due to the hybrid nature of the plant.

The coveted *Clematis* 'Betty Corning' is an outstanding performer worthy of a place of honor in your garden.

We have placed an order with our propagator and will have a good supply of 'Betty Corning' Clematis at our 1990 Annual Arboretum Plant Sale.

—Pamela Rowling



Clematis viticella
'Betty Corning'

Drawings of *Euonymus oxyphylla* and
Clematis x viticella 'Betty Corning'

BEARBERRY

KINNICKINNICK

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Because I grew up in Colorado, I have always called this plant kinnickinnick, its Indian name. It grows in large masses, a minimum of a yard on each side. The Arboretum Quarry Rock Garden has a healthy specimen at the top of the hill, where it grows into epimedium marching toward it on one side, pachistima barging into it on the other side, but it is strong and will not be overcome by anything. So, the plants really are at ease one with the other because they are all three evenly matched.

In spring, should we be in the mountains so early (spring in Colorado mountains is May to July depending on how high, what slope), we could see the little pink or white bells. More familiar were the green berries, gradually turning red over summer, but really not keeping up with the red of a western virus on the leaves. How glad I was to find that this virus was not a part of the eastern bearberry, which was probably the reason I didn't really think they were the same plant for quite a while.

In Colorado they grow mostly in sun, but here, while they will grow in sun- I have them growing in sun in sandy loam at my home- they also do well in shade but have fewer red fruit. They want lime-free soil, a little peat moss will probably take care of that. In addition, have the soil analyzed then you will know for sure. Hardy to zone 2.

It is imperative to water them well when planting, then keep them damp the rest of the first year, watering deeply as they get a little older. They will root around as they wander- a very good ground cover. I bought mine at the George Landis Arboretum Rare Plant Sale twenty years ago. Now, I leave them for the entire summer unwatered, untended; they can take care of themselves.

Everything seeds itself, Right? Bearberry is sparse on seedlings, though moderate on berries. The seed coat is thick, hard, difficult

for a root to penetrate. I have had a very few germinate after exceedingly complicated pre-germination soaking in acid which I wouldn't recommend to anyone. None of the usual methods of stratification work with them.

If you would still like new plants of bearberry, they can be rooted by cuttings in October- yes, this time of year is perfect and I will offer you my cuttings if you'll come over and get them. Take horizontal tip cuttings, low down, that do not have fruit on them. These should be cut off clean a few inches from the end. After this is done, take the cuttings into the work room and carefully cut through the bark parallel to the length of the stem, shallow, but 1/2 inch long, from the end of the stem upward. If you have liquid rooting hormone, terrific! but if you don't you can try dipping the cut end in powder to above the entire cut. Put them all together in a pot of sphagnum moss and sand. Put the whole thing in a plastic bag out of the direct sun. Check on it periodically, remove anything that is obviously dead- that happens, too. Leave the rest under plastic and wait. It may take until spring or even longer, but you may be surprised to find that you have rooted *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. Good luck!

If you would like to buy your plants already rooted, inquire at a rhododendron nursery which is apt to have them, even though they may not be mentioned in their catalog. Probably your local nurseryman could order them for you, or, if you will just wait a couple years, the George Landis Arboretum will have them, fresh from its new greenhouse bench.

Particularly if you have sandy or poor soil try bearberry as a ground cover in either sun or half shade. It is a lovely native plant.

—Kathie Lippitt

(cont. from page 1) asked for extra copies to take home for more careful coloring. Adults were also seen coloring!

John Abbuhl took one group on a walk through the pines, teaching as he went. Pamela Rowling took the rest through the woodlot.

After the walkers returned, Chuck Weed gave a talk on bee-keeping (without the bees), and showed a video on the life of bees.

Many of the families had never been to the Arboretum before but had heard about Family Day from the media. Many thanks are due to Pam Rowling and Marcia Middleton for the publicity. Thanks also to Don Rexford and Wayne B'Rells who were helpful in so many many ways.

—Anne B'Rells

FIELD WILDFLOWERS PROGRAM DRAWS CROWD

On July 15, 1989, three weeks after FAMILY DAY, Anita Sanchez-Steele gave a summer wildflower exploration and talk to a mob of over 60 people. The cars kept coming and the numbers kept growing. Counts of attendees differed as more people arrived and parked at both upper and lower lots. The walk started with a brief talk inside the meetinghouse where due to the unexpectedly large showing, there weren't enough seats!

Anita had their full attention as she led them Pied Piper-like through the upper field of wildflowers, fascinating them with her talk as they went.

—Anne B'Rells

MAN AND WOMAN POWER

Hundreds of hours of labor have been performed at the Arboretum this summer by inmates of Summit Shock Incarceration Facility. On your next visit, be sure to notice the fine work that is being done. Large areas have been cleared of brush (a first step towards further planting), and lots of ditches have been dug.

Summit Superintendant Rosetta Burke visited here earlier in the season with a representative from EnCon to see what work we needed done, and assess what the inmates could do for us. Since late August we have had crews daily, either one or two teams, sometimes females, sometimes males.

The area along Lape Road above the larches was cleared first leaving only a few locust trees. We then progressed to digging drainage ditches. Pamela requested broad shallow ditches which we will sow with grass seed, and be able to maintain simply with mowing.

All in all the Arboretum has received a great gift from NYS Department of Correctional Services, Superintendant Burke, the officers, and of course the inmates who worked so dilligently. It has been a pleasure working with all of them, and we hope to maintain this productive working relationship for a long, long time.

—Amy Lent

Friend \$15-25
Sponsor \$25-5 Membership Application

Supporting \$50-100
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Esperance, NY 12066

Please support the extensive work of the arboretum and make a tax deductible contribution.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Zip _____

Renewal New Member

Amount Enclosed _____

THANKYOU

FINLEY FUN with Mary Ann Finley : This puzzle contains the hidden common names of thirty wildflowers that bloom in late summer or fall. The names may run in any direction, but do not bend. Give yourself two points for each word you find, two more for its genera.

List of common names

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aster | <input type="checkbox"/> Ironweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basil | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe-Pye-Weed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bergamot | <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boneset | <input type="checkbox"/> Ling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burdock | <input type="checkbox"/> Lions foot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beechdrops | <input type="checkbox"/> Mint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butter and eggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Mullein |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Pigweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catnip | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coneflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dandelion | <input type="checkbox"/> Smartweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everlasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feverfew | <input type="checkbox"/> Tansy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gentiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Turtlehead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goldenrod | <input type="checkbox"/> Yarrow |

B E R A G M O T B U R D O C K D
 U B E E C H D R O P S E E F C E
 T M G T U R T L E H E A D E A V
 T L I G D A N D E L I O N V R E
 E D K N A P W E E D I O R E D R
 R E R B T R E D E E W N O R I L
 A E E A A S T E R O W T G F N A
 N W W S A B T I R C D G E E A S
 D E O I F E G R C H Y J I W L T
 E Y L L S K A L S K N I P P F I
 G P F E T Y T O O F S N O I L N
 G E N T I A N D O R N E D L O G
 S O U M U L L E I N M X P R W S
 B J S T U W C O N E F L O W E R
 C A T N I P L N D E E W G A R P
 V A S M A R T W E E D Y S N A T

For more fun, match the common names with their Latin generic names. Note that there will be more than one member of some genera. 1. Achillea 2. Amaranthus 3. Ambrosia 4. Anaphalis 5. Arctium 6. Aster 7. Calluna 8. Centaurea 9. Chelone 10. Dianthus 11. Epifagus 12. Eupatorium 13. Gentiana 14. Helianthus 15. Linaria 16. Lobelia 17. Mentha 18. Monarda 20. Parthenium 21. Prenanthes 22. Polygonum 23. Rudbeckia 24. Satureja 25. Solidago 26. Tanacetum 27. Taraxacum 28. Verbasecum 29. Vernonia



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