



LANDIS ARBORETUM

THE NEWSLETTER

Esperance, New York

SUMMER 2006

VOLUME 25, NO. 3

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 10AM TO 4PM

WHAT'S Inside

- 2 . . . From the President
- . . . Letters & Thank You
- 3 . . . Collections News
- . . . Wish List
- 4 . . . Plant Sale Information
- . . . Acorn Gift Shop
- 5 . . . Focus on Education
- . . . Bluebird Box Report
- 6 . . . Plant Sale Thank You
- . . . Soirce Thank You
- 7 . . . New Media Stars
- . . . Landis Portraits
- 8 . . . Horticulturist's Corner
- 8 . . . Emeralds found!
- 9 . . . Joan Young Speaks
- 9 . . . Harley raffle
- 10 . . . Registration Forms
- . . . Native Plants
- . . . Another Thank You
- 11 . . . Calendar of Events



Fall Plant Sale

by Jeff Schworm

Fall is a great time to plant and handle plant materials, with cooler air temperatures and, usually, adequate moisture. The soil temperature is at its warmest and most stable, which stimulates new root growth.

We are planning an impressive lineup of new and unusual plants and trees for the Arboretum's Fall Plant Sale.

Since color always sells, we expect to have mums and asters, as well as 'Endless Summer' hydrangea and 'Compact' burning bush.

Two interesting selections for fall planting will be *Aronia melanocarpa* 'Brilliantissima' and the newer 'Autumn Magic.' *Aronia* is commonly called "chokeberry," which, for some of us in the Northeast, conjures up childhood fears of chokecherry, but there is no connection between the two plants and nothing to worry about. *Aronia melanocarpa* is wonderfully

effective when massed or when planted for wildlife. While fall color may be something less

than spectacular, the blue-black berries and the promise of loads of white flowers next May should be enough to coax sale patrons to take a few *Aronia* off the premises.



About the Sale

Plant Donations

If you are donating plants for the sale, make sure they are "sale ready" and clearly labeled; we will do the pricing. If you have plants you wish to donate, please call the office to make arrangements to drop them off.

Help wanted! 875-6935

It takes many hands to orchestrate the plant sale. An event of this size takes a major effort by staff and volunteers on a variety of activities: set-up, plant arranging and clerical, in the week preceding the sale and lots of clerical and informational help on the days of the plant & booksale. If you can help for a few hours or a day (or days), please contact our volunteer coordinator, Susan Carver at (518) 875-6935.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Snow Mountain,' *Viburnum dentata* 'Blue Muffin,' and *Physocarpus opulifolium* 'Summer Wine' are three newer shrub selections that should attract your attention, and we will have some nice specimens at the sale. 'Summer Wine' ninebark boasts burgundy foliage and white button flowers and the shorter (5-6') growth characteristics we had

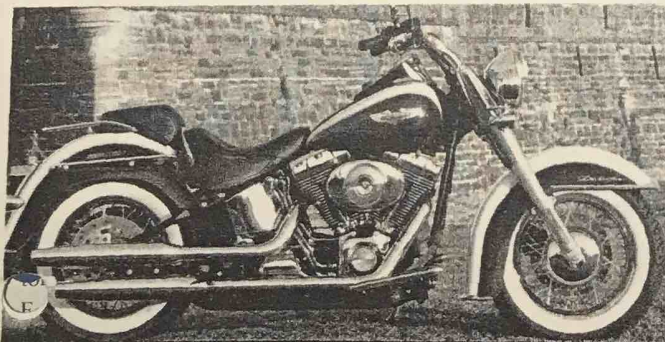
hoped for with 'Diabolo.' 'Summer Wine' possesses all the other great native ninebark features, including hardiness to Zone 3 and striking exfoliating bark. 'Mountain' hydrangea and 'Blue Muffin' viburnum are both improvements on the already improved upon. 'Snow Mountain,' a Peegee type hydrangea, is a very strong grower with a heavily flowering habit. 'Blue Muffin' has all the features of the native arrowwood viburnum, as well as beautiful bright blue berries which form in late summer.

The rose selections we offered in the spring were adversely affected by the cold and rainy weather in May. The roses that were not sold at the spring sale

have been cut back and will be in great shape by mid-September. The best news is that these roses are all "own root" roses, which translates as very hardy for you and your garden.

At the fall sale, we will also have some nice container-grown shade and ornamental trees, including *Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland Select.' This ornamental pear is an excellent street tree, with dense white flowering in early spring and purple fall coloring in some years. It has an attractive upright oval form and glossy green leaves. The 'Cleveland Select' pear attains a height of 30 feet and a width of 15 feet.

continued on page 4.



Win a chopper—that's not just for guys! \$100 takes it all! The ultimate right-sized bike and waiting for you. \$100 per chance available at the Fall Plant Sale! ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!. For more info, see page 9.

THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER is published quarterly for its members. The Arboretum's mission is to foster the appreciation of trees and other plants and their importance in our environment.

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Sue Gutbezah

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The Arboretum is located one and one-half miles north of Route 20 in Esperance. Follow the signs from the village to Lape Road. The Arboretum is one-quarter mile straight ahead. Visit our website for more information and directions.

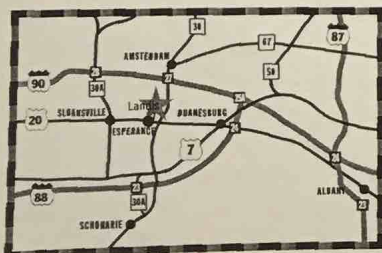


Photo of Sonja by Fred Breglia



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Sonja Javarone

Thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the Spring Plant Sale, the Summer Solstice Soiree, and the Meeting House luncheon, and who served as members of Pruning Swat Team or the Garden Weeders, and who helped with the Acorn Shop, publications, and office work and to anyone I might have overlooked. The Landis Arboretum reflects the devotion of the many volunteers who make this organization a very special one.

We now have 20,000 new membership brochures and 20,000 new "Notable Trees" brochures, thanks to Senator Seward and the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

The Arboretum is in special need of operating funds. If you have any suggestions about possible sources of funding, please speak with one of us. To maintain the current level of service to our members and visitors, we must have adequate financial support. I am asking members to consider increasing the level of their memberships when they renew. That would be greatly appreciated.

As of August 15, 2006, I will not be a volunteer Executive Director or member of the Board of Trustees. Thom O'Connor, formerly our marketing consultant will become Executive Director. I have resigned with regret, but I will continue to be a volunteer and support the activities of the Arboretum.

LETTERS

Summer Solstice Soiree Success

While many Arboretum members were involved in making the Soiree a great success, much of the credit belongs to Paul Blair. It was Paul's vision and drive that made the event come alive and become the memorable evening that it was. When someone like Paul takes on a cause—like the preservation and enhancement of the Van Loveland Gardens—great things can and do happen.

It is our hope that members of the Arboretum will not only continue to support Paul and his team* in their work in the Van Loveland Gardens but will also help Paul with his other major effort, the rehabilitation of the Meeting House.

—Fran and Herm Finkbeiner



Soiree Committee

Paul Blair, Chair
Fred Breglia
Anne Donnelly
Dottie Gallo-Vojnar
Sue Gutbezah
Marian Hotopp
Erin McKenna

Laurie Meyer
Lisa Murphy
Thom O'Connor
Susan Sagendorf
Gerald Peters
Donna Vincent

THANK YOU

TO ALL WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED GIFTS AND MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF TIME.

Catskill Mountain Foundation, and Peter Finn, publisher and Sarah Taft, editor for 1,100 copies of the May issue of the *Catskill Mountain Region Guide* (May issue) that has a five page article about the Arboretum.

Schoharie County Soil and Water for the donation of 100 trees for our exhibit at the Earth Day Fair at Howe Caverns.

Cara Willey for the donation of rocks.

Barbara Brabetz for "Welcome to Landis" signs

Christina Galvine Small yard tractor

Ed Miller for Toro self-propelled lawn mower

Coopers Ark Farm, Schoharie for card racks and 20 pounds of bird seed.

Stewart's Shops, Route 20, Esperance for lunch for the volunteers on Friday before the Spring Plant Sale.

Joan Young for her talk here at Landis
Lawson Harris for his Thursdays doing financial work above the call of duty.

Sonja Javarone for grant-writing, organization and updating of the office files, and donating the quilt for the raffle.

Miller Printing of Amsterdam who meets our deadlines, no matter what!

THANK YOU

TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

- American Hotel, Doug Plummer & Garth Roberts
- Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady
- Glenbrook Farm, Viktoria Serafin
- Gardener's Workshop
- Keyserkill Studios, Inc., Tressa Vellozzi
- Plantscapes Country Gardens
- Temper Corp, John Rode
- Young Home Heating Fuels, Robert Young

WISH LIST

Equipment Wish List

- We are looking for the following items (or estimated dollar amount to purchase items).
- 20 sheets of 3/4 in. exterior grade plywood (\$??)
- 20 sturdy "carpenter's" sawhorses (\$??)
- 10 pairs of snowshoes
- Newish laptop computer
- Picnic tables and benches (\$250)
- DR brush mower (\$2500)
- Hardback rakes, shovels, loppers, and mulch fork (\$200)
- Trowels and other small gardening tools (\$200)
- Troy Built hand cart (\$200)
- And always, the large tractor—
- A John Deere 790 (or machine of equal quality) 4wd, 30hp, with backhoe and loader (\$20,000)
- Snow blower
- Used toner printer cartridges
- Vacuum cleaner for indoor use
- New picnic tables

Project Wish List

- We are looking for volunteers familiar with the following tasks (or equivalent dollar amount to complete these projects).
- Plumber for odds and ends (\$300)
- Mechanic to work on our pickup trucks
- Stone walls around the greenhouse and walls around perennial garden need rebuilding. (\$800)

Education Wish List

- Animal skins in good condition
- Wildlife guides
- Insect collections
- Compasses, trowels, pond ID books
- Bird seed (sunflower hearts, suet, or niger seed)
- Tree identification books
- Leaf identification books
- White enamel pans
- Tall rubber boots
- Walkie-talkies
- Environmental science tools
- GPS for hikers
- GPS for bluebird nest monitoring
- Art supplies

Donations

- \$3000 (ea.) for printing new and updated brochures (determined by quantity)



Photo of Fred by Sonja Janarone

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Reflections of summer: Long hot days. It's still light out at 9pm. Fireflies are floating on the breeze. The sounds of the spring peepers and the nuisance of black flies have given way to the overwhelming echoes of tree frogs and the buzz of deer flies. The trees and shrubs are lush, as are the perennial gardens. Crabapple, lilac, and peony flowers fade into the blooms of Kousa dogwood, bottlebrush buckeye, and daylily. The Great Oak still stands tall, as does Big Red (this is what I call the red oak next to the Great Oak). We have made it through the longest days of summer, and the two biggest events of the year, the Spring Plant Sale and Summer Garden Party, are behind us.

The spring plant sale was a success despite the cold wet weather. Many shoppers came out to buy plants and helped us gross over \$33,000 in sales. The Summer Garden Party was one of the most fun-filled events I have been a part of in the eight years I have been with the Landis Arboretum. Everyone who was there on the evening of June 17th really enjoyed the gardens, food, classical music, silent auction, featured speaker Larry Sombke, and, of course, the cash bar. Special thanks to trustee Paul Blair, the Garden Committee, and all the wonderful hard-working volunteers and staff who helped make this event the great accomplishment it proved to be. The monies raised at this event are being used to continue the ongoing maintenance that has made the Van Loveland Perennial Gardens look better than ever. Be sure to check out all the new photo-metal labels in the gardens.

This year the American Public Garden Association's national meeting was held in San Francisco from June 25 through July 2, and I am pleased both to have attended and to have participated in workshops about our North American Oak Collection, collections management software, plant health care, and collections development. The conference was an opportunity for me to look for possible funding sources for upcoming horticultural projects at Landis.

Upcoming Summer Projects

- Upcoming projects this summer include the renovation of the historic Quarry Garden during July and August. We expect to open the garden to the public in the fall.

The Private Industry crew will be with us again this summer to help with the renovation of the Quarry Garden and with the ongoing care of the collections by mulching, weeding, and rebuilding stone walls.

- Continuing care of our existing collections has begun at full throttle with the de-seeding of the rhododendrons and lilacs and the mulching and pruning of many tree specimens. With the help of volunteers, we also mulched the entire dwarf conifer collection and the peony garden. Thanks to all the pruning volunteers who help me, in particular Art Coleman, Sue Gutbezahl, Nolan Marciniak, and Jed and Ben Fox.
- A tire clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 30 at 9am (rain date: October 7) made possible by the LEAF grant by the Iroquois Pipeline. This grant will also pay for the printing of four-color trail maps to guide visitors on all the trails at the Landis Arboretum.
- We also have a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust that paid for the printing of a new edition of the "Notable Trees" brochure. And thanks to a grant from New York State, we will post two large photo-metal maps of the entire Arboretum at the major entry points in order to orient visitors when they arrive. The native plant trail is looking better than ever and now features an almost complete collection of all New York State natives.

Volunteers are needed for all aspects of running the Arboretum. If you have time, come in and share your skills or learn new ones. Let us know what your interests are and we will match them with a job you will enjoy. For more information, contact Susan Carver at landisfun@midtel.net or 518-875-6935.

Shop for flowers on our website 24/7.

www.plantscapesflorists.com

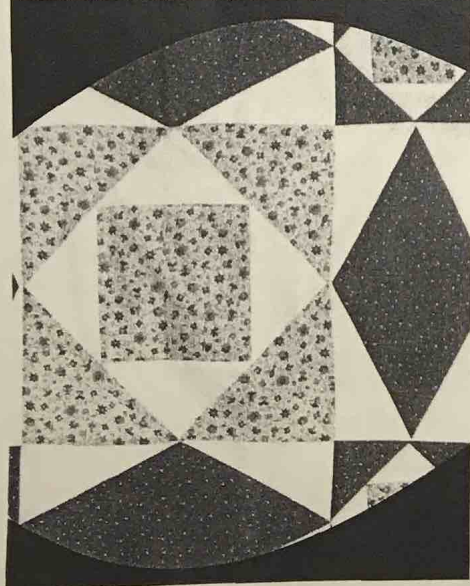
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SCHEDULE OF PLANT SALE EVENTS

- **Bake Sale** with unusual and extremely tasty home baked cookies, cakes, pies and breads. Donations of baked goods would be welcomed. Call **518-875-6935 for information**. Proceeds go toward Landis's perennial gardens.
- **Book Sale** (undercover in the Barn) with hundreds of used books of all topics including horticulture, nature & science, cooking, philosophy, self-help, sports, mystery, science fiction and more.
- **The Acorn Gift Shop.** Some new and popular items include quality pruning and garden tools, polo and sweatshirts with our logo, animal tracks, animal puppets, nature games, and books.
- **Our Sixth Annual Raffle Quilt** will be on display. Tickets for this year's raffle quilt are now on sale. This year, only 350 tickets have been printed at \$10 for one or \$15 for two. We plan to sell all tickets and raise \$2000 to \$3000, which will support operating costs for the Arboretum. The quilt was donated by Sonja Javarone (Mayfield) and machine quilted by Jan Ernst (Johnstown). It is a "Storm at Sea" pieced quilt in maroon, calico, and unbleached muslin. It measures 92" x 103" and is 100% cotton. The drawing will take place at the December holiday luncheon in 2006.
- **Food and beverages** will be for sale.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL RAFFLE QUILT
See the quilt in spectacular color at the Fall Plant Sale. It could be yours. Buy a raffle ticket!



LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

TO HELP YOU AND OUR VOLUNTEERS:

- **Our plant experts** will be available all weekend to answer your questions and to provide suggestions and advice on plant selection, site requirements, and proper planting and care techniques. We cannot take orders or set plants aside prior to the sale.
- **Restrooms and picnic tables** are available for your convenience.
- **Cars** should park in our upper parking area next to the Meeting House when lower parking lot is full.
- **Limited handicapped** parking and drop-off space is available. Please inform the parking attendants of your needs.
- **Starting times** and dates for the sale are firm—10am–4pm. Purchases may not be made prior to the sale.
- **Dogs** are not permitted at the Plant Sale. (Dogs should never be left in cars on warm days because temperatures rise quickly inside vehicles.)
- **Please have your sales slip** available to be hole-punched as you leave. Have your membership card handy for quicker checkout.
- **All purchased plants** must be removed by 4pm on Sunday. Landis does not make deliveries and is not responsible for items left beyond 4pm on Sunday.

(518) 439-8105

Sandra S. Walck
Garden Design

Installation & Maintenance with Ecological Emphasis

20 Dykeman Road
Delmar, NY 12054

Fall Plant Sale—continued from page 1

This tree has a branch structure that is able to withstand ice and wind damage better than 'Bradford' pear.

It is fruitless and has few pest problems; it tolerates both urban conditions and heavy clay soils. The 'Cleveland Select' pear is also known as 'Chanticleer' pear and is noted for the heaviest flowering of the ornamental pears.

Looking for conifers or perennials—or both? We'll have a noteworthy selection of both conifers and perennials from several sources.

Our plant procurement committee works very hard to make our seasonal sales exciting. We try to offer exactly those plants we think you may want for your home or garden. Are you looking for something special? Let us know—challenge us!

Please mark September 16–17 on your calendars. Come to the beautiful hills of the Schoharie Valley and celebrate the fall planting season.

Do your holiday shopping early!



The Acorn Gift Shop, located in the Arboretum's farmhouse, is the perfect place to pick up unusual gifts for your favorite gardener or anyone who likes nature.

During the Fall Plant Sale, the Gift Shop will be open from 10–4 on Saturday and Sunday. Regular hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Someone in the office will assist you.

Gift Items

We will have lots of new items for children and adults, including quality pruning tools, Arboretum tote bags and t-shirts, photographs and prints, mud gloves, finger puppets, specialty soaps, gardening books and children's books. Stop by, browse, buy, and say hello.

All proceeds from the gift shop help the Arboretum.

Volunteers Needed

The Acorn Gift Shop needs volunteers to help operate the shop on weekends. Weekday volunteers are also needed for the shop and to help in the office. Call **518-875-6935** for more information.



FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Susan Carver

We are delighted to announce that Nora van der Stricht CLAT has renewed the grant

to support the Education Director position here at Landis. The position has been expanded to include volunteer coordination. We thank the Nora van der Stricht CLAT for helping to continue the education and volunteer efforts at Landis.

The Tuesday Tickler pre-school program has become a favorite for some of our member families with preschool children. Each month we explore a different aspect of nature during the tickler programs with hands-on activities both inside the Meeting House and outside on the trail. These programs will continue through the winter months.

Earlier this summer, Landis education staff was busy creating and teaching programs for the Woodlawn School in Schenectady, Schoharie County 4-H, and Schoharie County Coordinated Children Services Initiative.

The *September 2006–February 2007 Coming Attractions* is nearing completion. Watch for it in your mail at the end of August.

Bluebird Boxes— Mid-Season Report

Trina Bassoff

As part from my whispered grumblings regarding the insect bites, steep hills and weather-related discomfort, monitoring the nest boxes at the Landis Arboretum has been rewarding enough for me to have signed on for my third season.

However, this was certainly not the case during the third and fourth weeks of May 2006. Each occupied nest box I opened had dead, wet nestlings atop drenched nesting material. Cold temperatures and wind-driven rains made me dread opening another occupied nest box.

Was this high mortality rate a function of the box style the Eastern bluebirds chose to use at the Arboretum? Initially, we attributed the deaths to the short overhanging roofs of the boxes they seemed to favor until other nest box monitors reported a similarly high number of dead Eastern bluebird chicks in different styles of nest boxes. This was not a local phenomenon: nesting Eastern bluebirds in Minnesota experienced a

The "Explorer Bag"

The "Explorer Bag" will provide a variety of learning activities for families who visit the Arboretum. The bags are chock-full of field guides, butterfly nets—and a whole lot more. A generous grant from Stewart's funded these bags. Families wishing to borrow an "Explorer Bag" will be asked to leave a small deposit at the Acorn Shop of the Arboretum's office. Call **875-6935** to reserve a bag for your next visit to Landis.

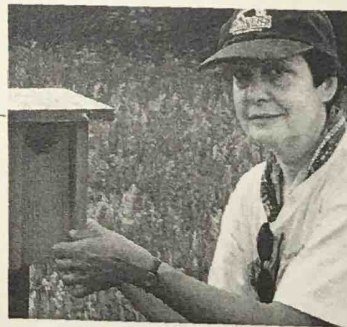
Early September Programs

September 8, 7–8:30 pm (Friday)
NATURE TUNES AND TALES CAMPFIRE
SING-A-LONG

Join us for a fun evening of nature songs and stories around a campfire. Be part of the ballet of the air, a rain storm, and frog chorus and spend a day in the life of a rabbit.

September 9, 10:30am–12pm (Saturday)
BONES, THEM BONES

Otego resident Sy Lloyd has been fascinated with animal bones since childhood. Come discover some of the bones in Sy's collection of the animals found in our backyards. For children in Grades 1–3.



similar fate. The high mortality rate was not directly caused by the rain and atypically cold temperatures for late May. Mortality was rather the direct result of a scarcity of insects, the birds' main source of food during the breeding season. One New York nest box monitor managed to save a clutch of Eastern bluebirds by feeding them massive quantities of meal worms.

In spite of this severe setback, a handful of bluebird nestlings did survive to fledge. By the second week of June, the weather warmed and almost all of our 40 nest boxes were occupied by bluebirds, tree swallows and house wrens. Six boxes were occupied by bluebirds with eggs or nestlings. And it is early enough in the nesting season for some bluebirds to initiate a second nesting.

September 9, 1–2:30 pm (Saturday)
ANIMAL SKELETON CSI

Learn the mysteries of an animal's life through an examination of its skeleton with bone enthusiast Sy Lloyd. For children in Grades 4–7.

Project Learning Tree Teacher Workshop

September 23 (Saturday) 9am–3pm

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an award-winning international education curriculum designed to help students and educators acquire an awareness and knowledge of the natural world. The Elementary school curriculum (pre-K–8) takes an interdisciplinary, hands-on approach to learning and contains more than 90 different lesson plans. In addition to teaching about science, trees, and forestry, PLT can be used to teach language arts, social studies, nutrition, mathematics, visual arts, and more. The PLT curriculum is correlated with the NYS Science Core Curriculum and NYS Social Studies Core Curriculum. Spanish translations of the Activity Guide are also available. Registration by September 15. \$10 members, \$13 non-members. Includes the activity guide, tree identification guide, and more.

Horticulture Certificate Courses

See left column on page 11 for required registration and payment information.

All classes are \$80

September 23, 30 (Saturdays) 10am–2:30 pm
Shade Gardening, Level I

Instructor: Viktoria Serafin

Location: Landis Arboretum, Esperance & Glenbrook Farm, Fultonville

Hosta expert Viktoria Serafin will discuss the soils, plants, and hardscaping that are useful in creating a shade garden. She will also address how to bring shade to your yard and the benefits of gardening in the shade. Weather permitting; the class will visit Glenbrook Farm in Fultonville on September 30.

October 23, 30–Nov. 6, 13 (Mondays) 6–8pm
Perennials of the Northeast, Level I

Instructor: Jano Nightingale, Horticulture Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie County

Location: Landis Arboretum, Esperance
Gardeners will learn how to identify a wide variety of perennials and design a garden with attention to color, texture, form and sequence of bloom. Propagation by division, seed and cuttings will also be discussed.

October 5, 12, 19, & 26 (Thursdays) 6–8pm

Advanced Arboriculture, Level II

Instructor: Fred Breglia

Location: Landis Arboretum, Esperance
Learn the what, where, and when of pruning trees and shrubs from Landis's pruning expert and Director of Horticulture Fred Breglia.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SPRING PLANT & BOOK SALE

Plant Sale Volunteers
 Bern Allanson
 John Beverley
 Ann Bevins
 Will Bevins
 Shawn Bevins
 Barbara Brabetz
 David Buddle
 Miriam Butzel
 Paul Blair
 Anne Brown
 Gail Browning
 Warren Burton
 Patrick Butler
 Cat Nap Bookstore
 Cody Castiglia
 Dick Clowe
 Marian Clowe
 Art Coleman
 David Conley
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NYS Wild Acres Habitat for Wildlife
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 Thom O'Connor
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 Sterling Insurance, Cobleskill

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 Scott & Christina Trees

Floral Arrangements

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 Bella Fluor, Altamont
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 The Country Florist, Burnt Hills
 Dom Gallo Florist, Schenectady
 Doral's Touch of Class, Amsterdam
 Felthousen's Florist, Schenectady
 Frank Gallo & Son Florist, Schenectady
 The Greenery, Amsterdam
 Hotaling Florist, Amsterdam

The Mill Farm, Middleburgh
 Patti's Greenhouses, Broadalbin
 Plantscapes Country Gardens, Duanesburg
 Randolph's Florist, Schenectady
 Speedling Florist, Cobleskill.

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 Selkirks Ace Hardware, Cobleskill
 The Shop at Noch Fiernan Farm, Duanesburg
 Sunshine Gardens, Amsterdam



Live music was provided at the Soiree by Barbara Huntly, harp, and Michael Vincent, guitar.

Photo by Marian Hotopp.

New Media Stars

Thom O'Connor

We arrived at WAMC with a full cooler of Schoharie gifts in hand: a freshly baked chocolate cake from the Tory Tavern for on-air munching, two dozen Schoharie fresh eggs from Coopers Ark Farm, sugar-sweet peas from Schoharie Valley Farms Carrot Barn, and two gallons of Island Ice Tea, a signature drink from Wellingtons Herbs and Spices. Vox Pop host Susan Arbetter and regular guest Larry Sombke were effusive about the Schoharie booty and plugged the county and the gifts at length three separate times during the hour show.

Fred Breglia, as expected, was an instant hit—with great on-air rapport with Susan and Larry. There were many mentions of Schoharie and the Arboretum and its programs. Between responding to callers, the talk came back to the Arboretum, the Garden Party, and the upcoming birthday fete for Fred Lape in August. By the time the hour was up, Susan had booked Fred for the show approximately every three-to-four weeks.

One caller asked about willows. Fred said he had several left over from the Plant Sale and gave an on-air price. By the time we arrived back at the Arboretum, Capital 9 News had called to meet and interview Fred, and listeners to the show had called the Arboretum and wanted trees too! As you read this article, Fred will have been a guest on WAMC two more times.

Barbara Brabetz, Landis Trustee and Chair of SUNY Cobleskill Natural Science Department, also was a recent guest on Vox Pop (Science Forum). A scientist with a knack of making things easy to understand and appealing, Barbara is no stranger to the WAMC listening audience. She appears often on the science segment. Future scheduling has her as a guest on about every other science forum, about once a month.

There was high interest by station personnel in the dragonfly study (see page 8), which included critical field work at the Arboretum. Another Landis Trustee, Anne Donnelly, is an active participant in the work underway. Be sure to tune in to 90.3 FM. Thursdays, 2–3 pm.

LANDIS PORTRAITS

A series about the people behind the plants at the Arboretum

by Nolan Marciniac

Jane Kirstel

Jane Kirstel acknowledged that twenty years ago, she didn't even know what an "arboretum" was when she chanced upon an article about the Landis Arboretum in the *Altamont Enterprise*. Since then, however, she's become a regular visitor to Landis and regular volunteer.

By her own admission, she knew "zero" about gardening until she and her husband purchased a farmhouse in rural Maryland. She confesses that she still doesn't enjoy the "messy" stuff of gardening, but she admits she fell in love with the colors and shapes and textures of plants. As an artist, she feels that gardens are more about design than individual plants, more visual than scientific, and that outlook is reflected in the gardens she maintains at her current home in Albany.

Jane honed her artist's instincts and talents at Brown University, and her career took her from working at a commercial art agency in New York, to free lancing, to teaching art, and, most recently, to providing art therapy at several Capital District hospitals.

After her retirement, she volunteered at Landis because she thought that the Arboretum was, quite simply, "a lovely place," and that it wouldn't have anything to do with people. But she found, "I never met a person I didn't like" at the Arboretum, adding, "I only wish there were more of them."

She would encourage first-time visitors to Landis to walk the grounds by themselves, or with a child, or even with a dog. She is certain that they will find some privileged place at the Arboretum. Her own list includes the hill of conifers, the lilacs in bloom, and the neglected rock garden.

In short, Jane hopes that more people discover for themselves, as she has, the real meaning of "arboretum."

Ken Nichols

His preference is the underworld of caving, but Ken Nichols does what cavers call "vertical" work too.

Spelunking has taken him to caves on three continents and was one reason why he settled in Schoharie County three years ago. The other reason was his engagement to Susan Carver, the Arboretum's Education Director.

His gardening experience began in Brooklyn, when he was surprised by his own success in growing vegetables and flowers on a small urban plot. It was what motivated him to study organic gardening with Elliot Coleman in Maine. He counts meeting Helen and Scott Nearing as one of the most memorable experiences of his life.

Ken's professional training was in architecture and information technology. For the last several years, he has served as a consultant in the computer field.

Although Ken has helped Susan with some of her educational programs and Fred Breglia with pruning—introducing the same rope system for climbing trees that he uses in caving—his volunteer time is in large part spent maintaining the Arboretum's computers. He says that he derives a sense of satisfaction knowing that solving computer problems will help the staff perform their work.

He sees a connection between Nature and the computer, claiming that "living things are the best machines." The human species, he says, is attracted to problem solving, as the development of the computer demonstrates. But we humans also have "an obligation to understand" the natural world and to "cherish that world and appreciate its beauty." Ken's work with computers has taught him that "it's all about learning to see"—and his experience at the Arboretum has taught him the same lesson, the primacy of seeing.

Ken finds himself drawn to the Great Oak, noting that it was an oak revered by the ancient Druids. They saw something spiritual about the tree. Perhaps, he speculated, we can learn to see it too.

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HORTICULTURIST'S CORNER

ATTACK OF THE CATERPILLARS

by Fred Breglia, Director of Horticulture and Operations

Photos:
R. Childs.
UMassgreeninfo.org
/fact_sheet/
defoliators/

This is the second year in a row for major outbreaks of caterpillars attacking plants throughout the state as well as here at the Arboretum. I'm sure many of you have had to deal with these pests in your own yards this year. I have received many calls regarding caterpillars defoliating trees. Based on these phone conversations, most people seem to think that the Eastern tent caterpillar or the gypsy moth caterpillar is causing the damage, which is not the case. The Eastern tent caterpillar feeds primarily on trees of apple (*Malus*) and cherry and plum (*Prunus*), and does not attack larger trees such as oaks and maples. Gypsy moth caterpillars, however, do attack oaks and maples, but their numbers are relatively low. Right now, the pest plaguing our trees is the forest tent caterpillar. These pests typically attack heavily for three years in a row every 10 years. In some areas, trees are completely stripped of leaves and entire forests defoliated.



Forest Tent Caterpillars

Forest tent caterpillars, although similar in appearance to Eastern tent caterpillars in the larval stage, do not make a noticeable web. Forest tent caterpillars have white "keyhole" or "footprint" markings down the length of their backs, not the white stripe of Eastern tent caterpillars. The larvae tend to climb higher in the host trees and are more dispersed throughout the host. In large populations, they can cause serious defoliation to the host plant. Usually, their numbers are moderate to low, and the injury done by their feeding generally goes unnoticed, but during outbreak years large numbers of this pest cause significant damage to host plants. The larvae can sometimes be seen clustered in a large group on the trunk of the host.

Host Plants: Many different deciduous hosts including oak (*Quercus*), maple (*Acer*), poplars (*Populus*), birch (*Betula*), ash (*Fraxinus*), elm (*Ulmus*), and others.

Management Strategies: Insecticidal soaps can be used on young larvae, but proper coverage may be difficult on larger trees. B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) should be applied when the larvae are still young. A natural control is to pull off the egg masses and destroy them, which can put a serious dent in the caterpillar population. In most cases, if nothing is done and the caterpillars are allowed to feed, the trees will re-foliate and continue to live, with the exception of stressed out trees or young trees that do not have the stored energy to leaf out again.

References

Insects that feed on Trees and Shrubs, Warren T. Johnson and Howard H. Lyon. (1991)
Comstock Publishing/Cornell University Press
Branching Out (newsletter), Cornell University
Department of Plant Pathology.

Emeralds Found at Landis Arboretum!

by Anne Donnelly

Dragons and Damsels Focus of NYS Wildlife Biodiversity Initiative

Flying emeralds! And along with American emeralds were chalk-fronted corporals, spot-tailed whitefaces, twelve-spotted skimmers, amber-winged spreadwings, common white-tails, Eastern forktails.... In all, nineteen species of *Odonata* were identified in one hot, sunny morning at Landis Arboretum.

What are *Odonata*? The dragonflies and damselflies.

On Sunday, June 18, the richly biodiverse wetlands of the Landis Arboretum were the site of field work to provide information for a benchmark study of dragonflies and damselflies.

The initiative to determine the extent and distribution of all *Odonata* species in New York State—with a special emphasis on rare species—represents a joint effort between the New York Natural Heritage Program and the State University of New York at Cobleskill. Landis is particularly interesting to the research team because of the variety of its habitats and because part of its land lies within Montgomery County, one of New York State's least surveyed counties.



Photo by Anne Donnelly

Tom Somerville, tech assistant at SUNY Cobleskill, and new dragonfly friend.

Paul Novak, a wildlife biologist with the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP), is the principal investigator in the "New York Dragonfly and Damselfly Survey." The NYNHP is a partnership between the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Nature Conservancy. According to Mr. Novak, the survey can be regarded as a biodiversity initiative in New York State and will be used to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy.

Dr. Michael P. Losito, Professor of Wildlife Management, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, SUNY Cobleskill, is spearheading the study in concert with the NYNHP. Under Dr. Losito's guidance, SUNY

Cobleskill hosted one of several statewide workshops designed to train "serious" volunteers who are committed to collecting official data for the duration of the study.

Anne Donnelly, retired Professor of Biology, SUNY Cobleskill and a Landis trustee, is participating in the study on behalf of Landis. Since the odonates are short-lived and have varied flight seasons, periodic observation and frequent sampling are most valuable for the research, and the accessibility of the Arboretum's habitats will be an asset in collecting data.

The Farmhouse Pond is considered one of the best instructional ponds in the state for programs on native aquatic pond life, and indeed it was the site where the greatest numbers of *Odonata* were found.

"We're pleased to have access to Landis' wetlands," says Dr. Losito. "The natural splendor and rich biodiversity they represent is something that I believe more people will want to take advantage of."

So if you see a smiling Anne Donnelly netting dragonflies around the ponds and meadows, join in. It's great fun and can contribute to a valuable study.

Joan Young Speaks at Landis

She Walks the Walk by Nolan Marciniac

"I love the journey," Joan Young told an audience at the Landis Arboretum on the evening of May 3, speaking about her experiences on the North Country Trail.

And Young's journey is very much a work in progress. To date, she has hiked 2,893 miles of the projected 4,600-mile trail, which, when completed, will join seven Northern states from Crown Point, NY, to Lake Sakakawea, ND—twice the length of the Appalachian Trail.

Growing up in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, Young always loved the outdoors. It was her childhood dream to hike the Appalachian Trail, but college, marriage and family, and work caused her to postpone her dream. When she heard of the North Country Trail in 1995, the time was right: she vowed to hike that trail instead. She contacted a friend from her Girl Scout days who was living in Kingston, NY, and agreed to join her. Young's husband doesn't hike, but he supplies the encouragement, she said—and she began to pursue her passion.

Since then, she admits to having no regrets about her undertaking. "I'm one of those crazy people," she said.

She has recorded her experiences in her book, *North Country Cache: Adventures on a National Scenic Trail*.

The trail's strength is its incredible diversity, she explained. She attributes her enthusiasm for the North Country Trail to the astonish-



ing variety of its hiking experiences: scenic and historical sites, geological and botanical interest, and terrain ranging from mountain to prairie and from designated wilderness to small villages and large cities. Young's slides amply illustrated that diversity to her Arboretum audience. Authorized by Congress in 1980, the trail is the most recent of eight national scenic trails—national treasures, Young called them. In addition, Young pointed out that the trail is in an area of the country which makes it accessible to literally millions of Americans.

Young said that until she began hiking the North Country Trail, she had never thought much about how trails were created. Since then,

however, she's given a lot of her time to training in the science of trail building and to volunteering to establish and maintain the trail system.

When she's on the trail, her 45-pound backpack includes her journal and her camera. Sometimes, Young recollected, she thinks about how hot—or cold—she is, and sometimes she thinks about her sore feet. Sometimes she thinks about her sore feet. Sometimes she thinks about her sore feet. Sometimes she just breaks out in song. Whenever her hike is nearly over, she always thinks, "I never want it to end."

After her talk at the Arboretum, Young embarked on a 60-mile segment of the trail southeast of Syracuse.

After that, there are only 1,700 miles to go.

For more information about Joan Young:
www.booksleavingfootprints.com; **for more information about the North Country Trail:**
www.northcountrytrail.org or **North Country Trail Association, 299 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 or 866-HIKE-NCT.**

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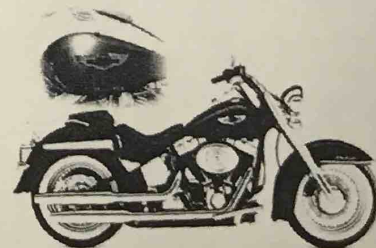
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Buy tickets today at NBT Bank (Duaneburg) and the Landis Arboretum. (Self-addressed, stamped envelope with check/money order for \$100 per ticket payable to Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066. Indicate "Softail Tickets".)

Harley-Davidson, the Harley-Davidson logo and Softail are used with permission, the responsibility of the writer. Landis Arboretum is pleased to announce this promotion in cooperation with Spirit of Middleburgh Catering, 1000 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12204-4367. Proceeds to benefit the Landis Arboretum.

WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL EVENT REGISTRATION

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CITY _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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Card number _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Total \$ _____

Native Plant Committee Reports Success

by Nolan Marciniac

Ed Miller, chairperson of the Native Plant Committee, reports that Landis is close to having it all—all of New York's native woody plants, that is.

About 200 species of native trees and woody shrubs have been planted in the Bog Garden or along the Willow Trail. As a rule, the committee has provided several specimens of each species.

Miller said that, according to the 1997 NYS plant checklist, Landis is only about 50 to 60 species short of meeting its goal of a complete collection of native plants. Miller noted that a complete collection excluded alpine, summit, and coastal species, as well as those endangered, noxious (poison sumac and prickly ash, for example), or said to harbor disease, such as the wild currant.

The committee is working to close the gap. Several species such as deerberry, bearberry, and wintergreen are so adapted to acidic soil that every specimen planted so far has failed to survive, but the committee will replant. Some species thrive in well-drained sites, so the committee has built a mound of Pine Bush sand along 600 feet of the Willow Trail. New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) seems to be at home there now, and hopefully blueberry and huckleberry will be too.

Many of the plants on the missing list are not available from nurseries. In several cases, the committee has not received permission to transplant specimens from sites where they have been identified. Some plants have been successfully grown from cuttings, and Miller hopes that this will be the route to the committee's goal of a comprehensive collection.

Until then, the Bog Garden and the Willow Trail will provide visitors with an opportunity to see unique plants they might have only read about in their field guides.



YET ANOTHER THANK YOU

The Bookie Volunteers

On behalf of Landis Arboretum we would like to extend a hearty THANK YOU! to all the wonderful people who donated our many books—and all the equally wonderful people who then bought those same books at our recent annual Spring Sale!

Among those donors we count Cat Nap Book Store and we want them to know that we appreciate it! Most donors are anonymous and we appreciate them equally!

Though the rain and cold are not particularly welcome to the actual "plant" sale, they have quite the opposite affect on book sales, driving people into the barn for temporary respite from the wind and cold and creating new customers there.

Come back again in the fall—donors and buyers!! All proceeds are well used around the grounds!

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

For registration and information
 518-875-6935 or landis-
 fun@midtel.net; or use the regis-
 tration form on page 100. Enclose
 with payment and mail to: Susan A.

Carver, Education Director,
 Landis Arboretum, Lape Road, Box
 186, Esperance, NY 12066-0186
 All events take place at the
 Arboretum unless noted.

Family programs with nature educator
 George Steele begin at the Arboretum
 Meeting House. Programs are free and
 no registration is necessary. Donations
 are greatly appreciated. Programs are
 held rain or shine.

Advance payment and registration
 is required for all general classes and
 workshops, trips and Horticulture
 Certificate classes. For your conven-
 ience, payment can be made via Visa or
 MasterCard.

Horticulture Certificate Courses

Landis Arboretum and SUNY Cobleskill
 offer courses of interest to professionals
 and the gardener—they can be taken for
 credit or non-credit. Unless specified,
 classes are held at Landis. To register,
 please call 518-255-5528 (Office of
 Community Outreach, SUNY
 Cobleskill). You may register by check
 or credit card. Registration and payment
 is due two weeks before each course
 begins.

Albany Astronomers Star Parties.

To check if a particular Star Party is hap-
 pening or not (cloudy skies), call 518-
 374-8460. Dress warmly and bring a
 blanket. Free.

For a more complete description
 of course contents, see "Coming
 Attractions (September–February)."

Programs that are starred (*)
 require advance registration.

SEPTEMBER

8 (Friday) 7-8:30 pm
 FAMILY PROGRAM

Nature Tunes and Tales Campfire
 Sing-Along

Join us for a fun evening of nature
 songs and stories around a camp-
 fire. Be part of the ballet of the air,
 rain storm, and frog chorus and
 end a day in the life of a rabbit.

9 (Saturday) 10:30am-12pm

FAMILY PROGRAM
 Bones, Them Bones

Otego resident Sy Lloyd has been
 fascinated with animal bones since
 childhood. Come discover some of
 the bones in Sy's collection of the
 animals found in our backyards. For
 children in Grades 1-3.

9 (Saturday)

1-2:30 pm FAMILY PROGRAM
 Animal Skeleton CSI

Learn the mysteries of an animal's
 life through an examination of its
 skeleton with bone enthusiast Sy
 Lloyd. For children in Grades 4-7.

***12 (Tuesday) 10:30-11:30am**
 FAMILY PROGRAM

Tuesday Ticklers—Soils

The Landis education staff will lead
 a program exploring nature with
 children 4 and 5 years old. These
 programs are designed to tickle a
 child's curiosity about the natural
 world with hands-on activities.

Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after
 the program. Registration required
 by September 8. \$4 per member
 child; \$5 per non-member child.

16-17 (Sat.-Sun.) 10am-4pm
 PLANT SALE

Fall Plant and Book Sale
 (See articles on page 1 and page 4)

22 (Friday) 8:30pm

23 (Saturday) 8:30pm
 ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS
 Star Party

For information, call 518-374-
 8460.

***23 & 30 (Saturdays) 10am-
 2:30 pm**

HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE
 COURSE. Level I \$80.

Shade Gardening
 See page 5 for complete
 description.

Instructor: Viktoria Serafin

Location: Landis Arboretum,
 Esperance & Glenbrook Farm,
 Fultonville

***23 (Saturday) 9am-3pm**
 WORKSHOP

Project Learning Tree Teacher
 Workshop

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an
 award-winning international educa-
 tion curriculum designed to help
 students and educators acquire an
 awareness and knowledge of the
 natural world. The Elementary

school curriculum (pre-K-8) takes
 an interdisciplinary, hands-on
 approach to learning and contains
 more than 90 different lesson plans.
 In addition to teaching about sci-
 ence, trees, and forestry, PLT can be
 used to teach language arts, social
 studies, nutrition, mathematics,
 visual arts, and more. The PLT cur-
 riculum is correlated with the NYS
 Science Core Curriculum and NYS
 Social Studies Core Curriculum.
 Includes the *Activity Guide*, tree
 identification guide, and more.
 Spanish translations of the *Activity
 Guide* are also available.

Registration by September 15. \$10
 members, \$13 non-members.

**30 (Saturday) 9am (rain date:
 October 7)**

WORKFEST

Tire cleanup of our Old Growth
 property. All are welcome. For more
 information, see the September-
 February Calendar of Events to be
 in the mail shortly.

OCTOBER

***14 (Saturday) 8:30am-12:30 pm**
 WORKSHOP

Managing the Family Forest

Presented by Ken Hotopp, Forestry
 Consultant. This workshop will pro-
 vide basic knowledge and experi-
 ence to enable you to manage a
 small acreage forest for timber,
 wildlife, and recreation. This will be
 a classroom and outdoor program,
 please come dressed for the weath-
 er. Registration by October 5. \$10
 members, \$12 non-member.

15 (Friday)-8 pm
 SPECIAL EVENT

Volunteer Supper

Landis would be lost without our
 talented volunteers. The Board of
 Directors would like to thank all
 you volunteers by serving you
 dinner at the home of trustee
 Barbara Brabetz in Amsterdam.

***22 (Sunday) 1-4 pm**
 WORKSHOP

Helping Wildlife in Winter

Join Landis bluebird expert Trina
 Bassoff in a program discussing how
 to help resident wildlife populations
 survive the up-coming winter days.
 The program will be an indoor and
 outdoor program. \$10 members;
 \$13 non-members. Presented by
 NYS Habitat for Wildlife.

***23, 30-Nov. 6, 13 (Mondays)
 6-8pm**

Horticulture Certificate
 Course. Level I \$80

Perennials of the Northeast.
 See page 5 for complete descrip-
 tion.

Instructor: Jano Nightingale,
 Horticulture Educator, Cornell
 Cooperative Extension of Schoharie
 County

Location: Landis Arboretum,
 Esperance

***5, 12, 19, & 26 (Thursdays.)
 6-8pm**

HORTICULTURE CERTIFICATE
 COURSE. Level II \$80

Advanced Arboriculture

Location: Landis Arboretum,
 Esperance

Instructor: Fred Breglia, pruning
 expert and Director of Horticulture

14 (Saturday) 8pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS
 A Walk Among the Autumn Stars

20 (Friday) 8pm

21 (Saturday) 8pm
 ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS
 Star Party

28 (Saturday) 9am-3pm

FALL WORKFEST

Help us get the grounds ready for
 winter. Meet other volunteers.
 Lunch will be provided. Tools pro-
 vided, or bring your own gloves and
 pruners. Quality tools and gloves
 also available in the Acorn Gift
 Shop.

28 (Friday) 7-8:30pm

FAMILY PROGRAM
 Halloween Owl Prowl

Join us as we prowl the Arboretum's
 woods listening for owls. We'll start
 with a talk about owls and their
 behavior—then it's into the woods
 to listen for owls.

NOVEMBER

5 (Sunday) 1-3:30 pm
 WORKSHOP

Hike Back in Time

Landis education staff will lead a
 free hike into to visit remnant of an
 ancient forest. During the hike there
 will also be a discussion on tree
 identification. Hot beverages and
 homemade goodies will be served
 after the hike. Free

17 (Friday) 8pm

ALBANY AREA ASTRONOMERS
 Star Party

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Did you know...facts about Landis

The numbers—

- No admission charge. (\$5 donation suggested)
- 548 acres in Schoharie and Montgomery Counties
- 6 miles of trails.
- 40 acres of plantings from around the world.
- 2 old growth forest groves with trees over 300 years old and 275-year old grapevine!

The news—

- Landis is the only arboretum (public garden of trees and shrubs) in the region.

- Open daily dawn until dusk.
- *The* place for hiking, native tree and shrub research, picnicking, bird watching—and more.
- Landis offers botanical drawing, programs for pre-school children, and star gazing. Many of the programs we offer are free.
- The Summer and Fall Calendar of Events will be out in late August, early September.
- Landis has the best-looking trustees, staff, interns and volunteers—the perennial gardens, vistas, special collections and trails aren't bad either!

Come see for yourself!