



# George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly by the Friends of the Arboretum

---

Volume 6, Number 2

April, May, June 1987

---

For those who haven't met her yet, let us introduce our new Horticulturist. We will let her speak for herself.

Hello! My name is Pamela H. Rowling and as you know I have been hired to serve in the capacity of horticulturist at the George Landis Arboretum. I bring with me a wide range of experience from botany to construction. Of utmost relevance to this position would be my past work and educational experience at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. After graduating in 1974 from the University with a degree in Botany/Horticulture, I served as manager of the Botanical Sciences Group Greenhouse facility until 1982. We acquired and maintained an extensive collection of tropical and temperate species for class work and research. The facility consisted of three greenhouses, coldframes, and two display/research gardens.

After leaving the University I traveled south to Florida and worked with a Landscape Contractor/Tree Company as a designer and garden consultant. I primarily designed gardens which with their strong backbone of native Floridian and Bahamian plants could survive the rigors of the environment with little aftercare.

In 1984, having had enough of the deep south I returned to Connecticut. I began working for general contractors in both Connecticut and the Albany areas. (I was using my managerial skills not botanical skills now). As a working Project Manager I was involved in industrial concrete construction and building rehabilitation. This field is admittedly fascinating but I missed growing plants. As fate would have it, I heard of a potential position at the Landis Arboretum, began making inquiries, and here I am.

This will be a season of recovery and hopefully rediscovery at the garden. I have been exploring, successfully, low or no cost labor resources for the arboretum. We will be stressing this year clearing out brush from plantings, labeling plant materials, and re-establishing and maintaining access to planted areas. Kathy Lippitt has been working very hard at the rockery with delightful results. Florence Grimm, Betty Bloom, and Ann Jaster have been hauling rocks, weeding gardens (come see the Peony beds!), and finding all manner of goodies that have been buried under overhanging weeds, etc. They've been a godsend. Shirley Bowdish and Phyllis Howell from the Bethlehem Garden Club have been making regular work treks and the

perennial beds show the fruits of their labors. An index, updated of course, is underway thanks to the herculean efforts of Betty Bloom and her magic computer. This should be available in part (or with luck, in entirety) by seasons end.

After establishing a ground or base point, i.e. figuring out what is still here, we shall aggressively pursue new acquisitions to experiment with and of course introduce to you, the members. I have many ideas and will begin as of this issue to make regular contributions to the newsletter to keep you informed of progress.

Feedback in the form of ideas, labor, contributions, etc. are all desired and will be appreciated.

Come and visit soon,

Pamela H. Rowling

\* \* \* \* \*

### Planning for Next Year

It's never too soon for us to plan for our next Rare Plant Sale. We had scarcely cleaned up the Meeting House from our last sale, which was a very successful event, when we started writing an order for next May. (The next sale is planned for May 7, 1988) We always urge our Arboretum members to give us an early list so that we can try to satisfy their wishes. We must always guess at varieties and numbers and are frequently quite wrong. For example, at the last sale, we could have sold many, many more *Viburnum Juddii*, the very fragrant improved hybrid of *Carlesi*. We will repeat ordering *Hamamelis Arnold's Promise* since word of mouth from delighted owners of this shrub has made it known and wanted. Its large fragrant flowers make it so much more interesting than its cousin, the native *Witchhazel* of our woodlands. *Corylus Avellana contorta*, Corkscrew Hazelnut, continues to be a sell out and is on our new list. We have had suggested to us *Amelanchier Robin Hill Pink* (Pink Shadblow) and *Wisteria floribunda rosea*, a wisteria with fragrant pink flowers, both of which sound intriguing. We have included some less unusual but very desirable plants, such as *Cornus Kousa* (Chinese dogwood) which flowers three or so weeks after our our native *Cornus florida* and escapes winter damage; *Ilex verticillata*, Winterberry, which is such a striking sight covered with red berries in the Fall; *Halesia Carolina*, Silverbell, a much admired plant at the Arboretum in Fall, for its interesting seed pods, as well as at Spring blooming time; and *Hibiscus syriacus*, the Rose of Sharon which bears huge, pure white flowers all summer long. These are only a few items in our preliminary order. We would like to hear from you about other plants. Would you be interested in an *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple) with its curious reddish-brown birch like bark? Do you know of *Zelkova Serrata*, Green Vase? It is a rapidly growing tree with Elm-like shape but not susceptible to the Dutch Elm disease. We can get this tree (only bare root) with a special order for anyone who wants it. Although we try to avoid bare root plants as often as we can, container grown trees of any height are prohibitively expensive. We will again hope to have a large collection of dwarf con-

ifers which were eagerly snapped up at our last sale. In forthcoming issues of this newsletter, we will attempt to list other plants from our order. For your advance orders, please call Margaret Law at 463-5256.

### Photo Contest

Once again we are seeking camera enthusiasts to enter our annual photo contest. As before, general subjects may be submitted, provided the photos have been taken at the Arboretum. Our first prize will be a fifty dollar gift certificate at State Photo. Second prize is a spring bulb collection, and third prize is an unusual bulb or plant. We had excellent photos last year and look forward to this year's entires. All photos in the contest must be received by Sept 1, 1987. Send them to Mrs. Erastus Corning II, P.O. Box 431, Albany, N.Y., 12201. They will become the property of the Arboretum. Winners will be announced and prizes distributed at our fall flower show, September 12th. See below.

### Flower Show

"September Serendipity" is the name chosen for our flower show on Saturday September 12. Save this date to come and see unusual flower arrangements. This is a non-competitive show by invitation only. Chairing the event will be Evelyn Sturdevan, well known as an arranger, teacher, and judge. She has worked for the Tulip Festival in Albany since its earliest days and is presently one of the arrangers at the New York State Museum. She is an avid gardener and volunteer. Since it is to be held in September at harvest time, visitors are asked to bring their prettiest flower or vegetable to add color to the exhibit. In addition, punch and cookies will be served.

### Other Activities

We have another date for you to save. On September 26th all G.L.A. members and their friends will be invited to a fund-raising barbecue at Indian Ladder Farm owned by Trustee Peter TenEyck. The fragrance of apples and the tang of cider makes the Farm a wonderful place to visit at this time of year. Cost of tickets and further details will be announced nearer the event.

Don't forget Thoreau's birthday party, July 12th. Come and help us celebrate the love of nature as well as the anniversary. We will even have a birthday cake.

### Other News

To avoid confusion we now designate all who pay dues to the G.L.A. as "members". The term "Friends" will be used for the volunteer working arm of the membership. All members of the Arboretum are welcome among the ranks of the "Friends" and are invited to meet with them at their usual first Thursday of the month dinner meeting. Through the summer they will meet at the Arboretum with potluck style dinners. For further information please call Nancy Rexford at 864-5812 or Kathie Lippitt at 394-4544.

## Larix - The Larch

Larix is a kind of anomaly in the tree world: one of the few deciduous conifers which sheds its leaves (needles) in the Fall, but bears cones like its evergreen relatives. It has a beautiful bright green color in Spring that changes gradually to a deeper shade. Its Fall display is spectacular: its needles turning golden yellow at the end of October when other hardwoods have completely lost their leaves. This glorious sight is like a final salute to the season.

Our native larch, *Larix laricina*, often called Tamarack, grows from the Arctic circle southward to Pennsylvania. It prefers moist soil conditions and is not very adaptable to cultivation. European larch, *Larix decidua*, is a beautiful specimen tree in large areas or parks. However, it is very vulnerable to the Larch canker, larch case bearer, and numerous other diseases and insects. Furthermore, its propagation is undependable either by seed sowing or cuttings. The Japanese larch, *Larix kaempferi* (*leptolepis*), when introduced to the western forester, proved much more reliable, healthy and able to grow in a variety of situations. The *Larix eurolepis* is a natural hybrid between the Japanese as the female parent and the European larch. This hybrid is called the Dunkeld larch, having been first used for reforestation at the Scottish estate of Dunkeld owned by the Duke of Atholl. Dunkeld larch seems better than either parent and it, or its later generation hybrids, are not only beautiful and healthy but fast growers and an important timber tree. Its open pyramidal pattern of growth makes it an interesting landscape specimen.

The bark of *Larix* is scaly on young trees, but becomes deeply grooved as it grows old. The cones are interesting. The European larch has small oval shape cones while cones from the Dunkeld vary from small burs, like their Japanese parent, to long two and one half inch cones that look unlike any other Larch cones. A Dunkeld larch can grow to 75' with a 16" diameter in only thirty years. There is a British saying that the Larch will buy the horse before the oak will buy the saddle.

There are quite a few larches on the Arboretum grounds. *Larix kaempferi*, *Larix decidua*, *Larix siberica*, *Larix czekanowskii*, *Larix gmelini*, *Larix gmelini japonica*, and *Larix laricina* are the varieties listed in the files. At this point, however, cross pollination has produced seedlings that are probably mixtures of all the types mentioned. Nevertheless, they are quite a sight in the fall.

\* \* \* \* \*

### "Dirty Trees"

What is a dirty tree? This was debated among a non-arboretum group recently. My answer was a tree that hasn't washed recently. The group members had several less frivolous suggestions for the "dirtiest" tree: the female ginkgo because of its malodorous fruit; the Catalpa with its littering of spent flowers and long dry beans; the Cottonwood which piles drifts of white fluff in swimming pools and every odd corner; the mulberry that stains sneakers, slacks, chairs, and even dogs purple during the fruiting season, or the locust which drops its brittle thorny branches in every wind. What is your choice? It would be interesting to hear from you concerning your ideas.

We are pleased to welcome back Dale Morgan, a former trustee, and to announce with pleasure two new trustees, Don Otterness and Peter Rumora. These three join the existing Board of Trustees: John Abbuhl; Paul Blair, Treasurer; Merrill Bousman; Betty Corning, President; Sally Gage; Floyd Guernsey; Mabel Harkness; Gil Harlow; Margaret Law, Vice President; Anne Logan; Lou Moravec. Corresponding Secretary; Bob Raymond; Will Roth, Recording Secretary, Peter TenEyck; Ernie Tetrault; and Charles Weed, Chairman of Friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

The absence of labels has been a disappointment to all who visit the Arboretum and now we are close to a solution to this problem. Betty Bloom and Pam Rowling have completed putting all the Arboretum files on a computerized data management file. Don Rexford has found a source that can do laser printing from these computer files. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter, Don will have obtained the first trial run of approximately 110 labels. Underwriting much of this expense is G.A.I.P.A. whom we thank sincerely.

Although we now have our computerized list of all the Arboretum files (over 1000 different species or varieties), this work is just in the beginning stages. Pam Rowling is attempting to take the list and find out which plants from the original files still exist. Since many have died, suckered, or simply can't be located, the records are badly out of date. Name changes and inaccurate identification complicate this task. If anyone is knowledgeable in a particular species and would like to help, please contact Pam.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the process of clearing out brush on the hillside next to the Peony bed, Pam found a number of shrubs that had not even been entered in the files. Spireas, Weigelas, and other flowering shrubs have been lost in that overgrown area. Take a look for them when you next visit the arboretum.

----- CUT -----

Please support the extensive work of the arboretum

GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM Membership Application

Member	\$10-25	Name	_____
Sponsor	\$25-50	Address	_____
Supporting	\$50-100	Zip	_____
Patron	\$100+	Phone	_____
		Amount	_____
		Enclosed	_____
		Renewal	[ ]
		New	
		Member	[ ]

THANK YOU

Members receive a quarterly newsletter and early admission to the annual rare plant sale.

Make checks payable and mail to: George Landis Arboretum  
 Tax deductible Esperance, N.Y. 12066

Appropriate Lines from ORCHARD BLESSING

by John G. Whittier

O painter of the fruits and flowers!  
We thank thee for thy wise design,  
Whereby these human hands of ours  
In Nature's garden work with thine.

Give fools their gold and knaves their power;  
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;  
Who sows a seed or trains a flower,  
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

For he who blesses most is blest;  
and God and man shall own his worth  
Who toils to leave as his bequest  
an added beauty to the earth.



GEORGE LANDIS ARBORETUM  
Lape Road  
Esperance, N.Y. 12066

---

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Esperance, N.Y.  
Permit No. 6

---