

George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Volume 11 • Number 2

Spring 1992

Mrs. Corning Honored

At the 1992 Spring Benefit the Trustees of the Landis Arboretum honored Elizabeth Corning with presentation of a plaque "in recognition of her scientific, educational and horticultural endeavors".

Mrs. Corning has been President of the Board since founder/director Fred Lape died in 1985. Her leadership has seen the Arboretum through some difficult times, and she deserves a great deal of credit for the re-emergence of the Arboretum as an educational resource in horticulture and botany.

A noted horticulturist, Mrs. Corning actively serves on the boards of a number of gardens, including the New York Botanical Garden (NYC) and the Berry Botanic Garden (Or-



egon). She is the discoverer of a clematis which now bears her name. Clematis 'Betty Corning' received highest honors and the 1992 gold medal Styer award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Through her example and generosity Elizabeth Corning has inspired and sustained a new generation of gardeners, students, and supporters of the Arboretum. We offer her our deepest thanks.

Onteora Trip

Landis Arboretum members and guests have been invited by Dr. and Mrs. Edward Ahrens to tour their arboretum. Located in Tannersville, NY, the Onteora Arboretum is located on seven acres of the Ahrens' property. Groves of crabapples, beech, bald cypress and dawn redwood grace the arboretum's grounds. A special collection of trees with unusual bark (that provide winter landscape interest) includes maples, birch and cork trees, and a rock sculpture highlights a pond.

Our trip to Onteora will include lunch and visits to two other gardens. Following lunch at the Onteora Club we will visit a small walled garden with lots of color. Owned by Mimi Bowes, her garden reflects her use of color as a painter and her art studio is filled with paintings of flowers. The second garden will be that of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Wenzell, a country perennial garden with a stream and a magnificent view of the surrounding Catskills.

The trip to Onteora is planned for July 7, with July 8 as the raindate. Departure will be at 10:00 a.m. from the Wade Tours lot on Burdeck Road, Schenectady, and we'll be back by 5:30. The cost of \$27 per person includes lunch at the club. As space is limited you might want to send your reservation before the June 30 deadline.

1992 Rare Plant Sale

Please note, despite a misprint elsewhere to the contrary...

The Rare Plant Sale is on Saturday, May 2, and begins at 11:00 a.m. No one will be admitted before that time so that everyone will have equal opportunity to select items.

Members are encouraged to visit the "public" sale at the Meeting House BEFORE picking up their advance ordered plants at the barn. This will help cut down on confusion in the roadway as people are arriving for the sale. Your ordered plants will be grouped and held for you until 4:00 p.m., so you will have plenty of time to enjoy the plants and food at the Meeting House!

At the Garden

Director's Report

Spring is reluctant to awaken. The coldest March in many years is just ending and all of life is responding accordingly. Tantalized by a few fleeting warm days silver maple buds swelled, winter aconite and snowdrops began to bloom and daffodils poked their leaves above the ground. Then winter returned with snow and bitter cold. Nighttime temperatures dropped to the single digits and everything came to a standstill. The ground is quite fragile now. Ample surface moisture freezes at night and thaws 2-3 inches down during the day over still solidly frozen earth. The slightest slipped step or heavy

by Pamela H. Rowling

wheel will leave scars.

Spring out of doors may be stalled but it is practically the busiest season for staff and volunteers. By now all members have received our Spring schedule of Events, Classes and Tours which covers the period through June 31. This appetizing and ambitious calendar has been created and made possible by willing volunteers, instructors and staff. Special credit must go to Laura Lehtonen, staff science educator who headed up this effort. We have made a special effort this year to make use of Arboretum plant collections in our programs. I hope that everyone will take full advantage of this year's offerings.

Early spring tours of the garden are demonstrating the devastating effect of an open winter on newly planted material. This effect is exacerbated by our moisture retentive soil. Many plants which were set out past mid-summer have literally been popped out of the ground by freezing and thawing cycles. Northern gardeners really appreciate a thick insulating blanket of snow on their plantings. Many of these plants will be saved by mounding soil around them now and resetting as soon as the ground has thawed.

Many projects are nearing completion. The 1991 Annual Report, summarizing the activities of the year just past will be issued following this newsletter issue. The exceptional achievements made in 1991 provide an excellent jumping off point for 1992. Although we must always be cautious, we are entering 1992 in the best financial shape the Arboretum has experienced in my tenure as director.

Trail improvement has begun with the creation of a loop called the Garden Trail which will guide visitors through the heart of the plant collections. On this trail we will be experimenting with various types of signs and markers. We are trying to

find the clearest and least obtrusive method of helping visitors find their way about. Planting improvements will be concentrated on areas adjacent to this loop trail. Particular areas of attention in 1992 will be the lower parking area, Van Loveland Perennial Garden Area, Rhododendron and Lilac Area and upper entry to the Meeting House.

The propagation/classroom area of the Wm. Thomas Raymond Memorial Greenhouse will be in full operation this year. The concrete floor in this area has been poured and will provide a suitable surface for many activities.

Our two recent fundraising events (1991 Annual Fund Campaign and 1992 Spring Benefit) have both been successful. Members responded to our appeal at the close of 1991 by generously contributing \$8,652.00 in support of the Arboretum. Our 1992 Spring Benefit held March 21 was enjoyed by 125 people. Noted horticulturist Marco Polo Stufano's lecture called "Bones of the Garden" provided an insightful view of the underlying elements of good garden design. Arboretum Trustees Peter Rumora and Richard Mitchell did a stellar job as auctioneers of choice plants. Trustee Ernie Walk served as Master of Ceremonies tying the event together. Preliminary figures indicate that we will be able to contribute just under \$4,000.00 to our budget. The generosity of Arboretum supporters in these uncertain economic times is both gratifying and very appreciated.

Our exhibit at the 1992 Capital District Flower and Garden Show was well received. In this exhibit we examined tree roots and the beneficial effects of mulching. Most importantly we made many new friends.

One of our greatest successes was our bus trip to Longwood Gardens and the Philadelphia Flower Show. The day at Longwood was exceptionally cold and snowing. This just made the conservatory displays more appealing. The special early admis-

Continued on page 10

The George Landis Arboretum Newsletter

is published quarterly for members of the Arboretum. The GLA's mission is to provide natural history and horticultural education through programs and through its plant collections.

Production Staff

Editor - Amy Lent

Contributors to this issue - Anne Best, Jim Best, Ann B'Rells, Florence Grimm, Amy Lent, Laura Lehtonen, Pamela Rowling

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Assistant Director - Amy Lent
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Address correspondence to :
Newsletter Editor

George Landis Arboretum
P.O. Box 186
Esperance, NY 12066
(518) 875-6935

This Native Plant

Amelanchier species - Shadbush

by Anne Best

The *Amelanchiers* are very hardy trees and shrubs, members of the family *Rosaceae*, natives mostly of North America and North Asia. Several species grow in New York State, mostly as tall shrubs.

Several names were given to this plant; earlier books called it Alpine mespilus, savoy, shrubby medlar, grape pear, and bloody chokeberry. The more common names used today are serviceberry, juneberry, shadbush, servicetree or Sarvis tree. The name shadblow has been given them, in New England at least, because they are usually in bloom at the time when the shad (fish) were known to run up the rivers of New England to their spring spawning grounds.

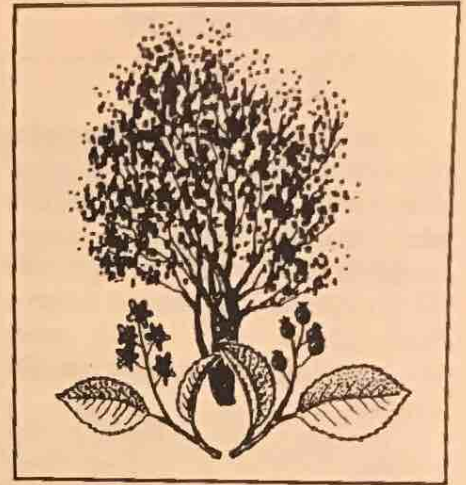
The genus *Amelanchier* contains about 25 species. About eight of this group are offered by American nurserymen. They are at their best in early spring before the leaves appear. Several hundred flowers may bloom on a single tree. The flowers are about an inch across with five white petals. In warm weather these flowers may fade and fall in a short three-day period. Shadbush is the first bright flash of spring in our woods, signaling the opening of buds of all trees in the re-

gion. The Bartram serviceberry, a shrub found at or near the summits in the Adirondacks, is later to flower as can be expected at higher elevations.

If you are not in the woods in May to see the shad in flower you may have a hard time locating trees to examine since the leaves are not especially eye-catching. They are of an ordinary egg shape or oblong in outline, finely toothed, about 2-3 inches long and that in width. It is the bark, though, that you should look for when searching out a tree. It looks quite a bit like a young beech tree; smooth and slate gray. The buds also look like beech, though much smaller and with fewer scales.

The fruits of the serviceberries are edible and some have excellent quality (especially *A. alnifolia* or Saskatoon serviceberry) and were used by the settlers for puddings, pies and muffins.

Shadbush will quickly die out when shaded. They require sun or semi-open situations. You'll find it at the edge of woods, at roadsides, near ponds and streambanks, and it blends nicely into shrub borders and fence rows. They also occur on hillsides and mountain slopes where con-



Drawing by Jim Best

ditions are drier.

And now for a brief discussion of some of the native species you are most likely to encounter in the wild and in the nursery trade:

Amelanchier arborea, the downy serviceberry, is very common in the wild. Its fruit is somewhat black and slightly sweet. Birds love the fruit which ripens in June (hence the name Juneberry.) The leaves are quite hairy earlier in the season.

A. canadensis is often confused with *A. arborea* and, in fact, the two are used interchangeably in the nursery trade. *A. canadensis*, as now understood, is a shrub with erect stems, spreading by means of sucker growths from the base, 6 to 20 feet tall, occurring in bogs and swamps from Maine to South Carolina along the coast.

A. laevis, the Allegheny serviceberry, is closely allied to *A. arborea*, but differs by reason of the bronzy purple color of the unfolding leaves and their lack of pubescence. The fruit is black and sweet and preferred by the American Indians. Many birds and animals are also extremely fond of them. Native from Newfoundland to Georgia and Alabama, west to Michigan and Kansas.

A. alnifolia, the Saskatoon serviceberry, is the best serviceberry for the fruit (even better than blueberries!) Closely allied with *A. florida* (Pacific serviceberry), the Saskatoon serviceberry has smaller flowers (to 4/5" across), rounder and thicker leaves, and dwarfer habit (mature size is 18'). Native from Saskatchewan to Colorado and Utah, it is available in local nurseries and well worth the buy. The fruit is very tasty and one of my personal favorites.

Garden Forum

Fred and the Rabbit

by Ann B'Rells

It was near the end of a long late summer's day, and Fred Lape was warming us with tales from a long-distant past while we sat cozily content at the table. Lulled by the gentle nature of tales about growing things, Fred's soft voice, and the lovely view down the experimental garden in full production, it was easy to think of Fred as a sweet old man. Right. Suddenly, mid-word, Fred jumped up and grabbed his shotgun. A movement all the way down the garden had caught his eye. In a flash he was at the door aiming for something we still couldn't see. It was his rabbit. All summer long it had been nibbling at the edges

of the huge garden. Now, with fall threatening, it was gobbling whole asparagus plants and entire squashes, if Fred could be believed. Soon, he claimed, there would be nothing left in the garden but the hot peppers. He explained all this while sighting down the barrel of his gun, steady as a rock and cold as ice. Finally the rabbit made its move and Fred made his, but the shot fell short. Muttering about poor eyesight and poorer light, Fred came back in to await another chance. How long that rabbit had been there, and how long Fred had been after it! Surely in a lifetime, he has learned the range of his gun from his front door. We like to think about that day, and remember the importance in life of cultivating a good enemy.

Miniature Gardens

Are you ready for another type of garden? How about a miniature one, perfect for those tiny Alpine plants that tend to get lost in larger landscapes? This little "trough" can fill a niche in your garden or be a focal point on your deck or patio, and best of all you can make it easily yourself.

The original trough gardens were chiseled from stone, making them cumbersome and beyond the abilities of most folk to deal with, but a new process called hypertufa has changed all that. Using several new materials in combination with peat and cement, hypertufa makes troughs that your average person can readily handle but that still look like stone.

A daylong workshop on making trough gardens will be held on May 9. Instructor Joyce Fingerut (Delaware Valley Chapter, American Rock Garden Society) has honed the process over a period of years and has taught many people how to make them. Participants will each make a trough of their own (don't dress up for this class!) and learn about appropriate soil mixes and plants for their new containers.

Cost for this class is \$30 (members) and includes all materials for making a trough. Appropriate Alpine plants for planting in your trough will be available for purchase. Register early - enrollment is limited to ensure each person's successful completion of the project!

Arboretum Wish List

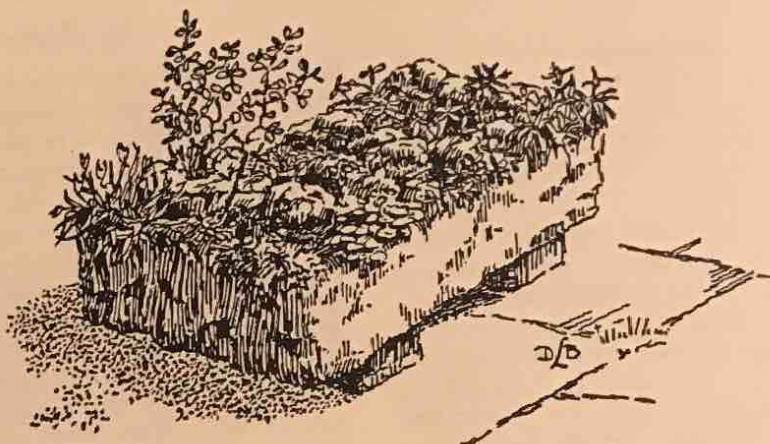
Office: Laser printer, computer work station.

Thank you...

Dave Vermilyea, for Nikormat camera.

Corinne Rasmussen, "The Conglomerate", for curtain fabric.

Bruno Hoffman, Interknitting, for curtain fabric.



In Celebration of Trees — Arbor Day 1992

by Anne Best

"Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come." Chinese proverb

Arbor Day is the result of a dream by a dedicated person, J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska. Born in upper New York State in 1832 and educated in Michigan, Morton settled in Nebraska in 1854.

Arbor Day grew out of conditions peculiar to the Great Plains. This is a place practically treeless over much of its area, but in the mid-1800's there was a flourishing agriculture as well as a soil and climate able to nourish good tree growth.

Arbor Day originated and was first observed in Nebraska in 1872. The plan was conceived by Mr. Morton, then a member of the State Board of Agriculture and later U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. More than a million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. The Arbor Day idea quickly spread to

neighboring states. Within 20 years practically all the states celebrated the day by planting trees with appropriate ceremonies.

As we all know, trees are a vital and necessary part of our world. They provide shade, act as wind buffers, absorb noise, trap pollutants as they filter the air, manufacture oxygen as part of photosynthesis, control soil run-off, and provide shelter and food for wildlife. Further, they provide aesthetic pleasure, break the monotony of stone and concrete structures, and provide city people with a link to the natural world.

Garden clubs, schools, service clubs and other community organizations throughout the country will observe Arbor Day within the next few weeks. Whether they plant one tree or one thousand, they will be demonstrating their confidence in the future and will be doing their bit to help keep the world clean and green.

Volunteer Recognition Barbecue

The Arboretum's annual Volunteer Recognition Barbecue will be held on Wednesday, July 15, to honor our volunteers who have contributed 10 hours or more.

In the Shade of the Oak

Welcome to the new, expanded, kids' section of the newsletter! You can cut it out and have your own newsletter or pass it on to a friend.

LOGO Contest!

A logo is a drawing or symbol that will tell kids these two pages are meant for them. The Arboretum is looking for drawings from young adults (ages 0 - 12) who would like to design a logo for this section of the newsletter. The Arboretum's logo is the old oak tree (you can see it on the front of the newsletter). Combine that with the name of the kids' section and see what you can do! Drawings should be in pencil or pen and ink. Send your ideas to KID SECTION LOGO SEARCH, Landis Arboretum, P.O. Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.



Elementary Students Write over 500 Essays

Yes, you read right. Over 500 fourth and fifth grade students sent "My Favorite Tree" essays in to the contest. Boy, was that a lot of reading. Our three favorites are here for you to enjoy, too.

First Prize went to Erin Goldberg, of Mrs. Ucci's class, Lynnwood Elementary School. Jennifer Pinder, Mrs. Gaida's class, Aker School was Second and Brian Ellwood, Mrs. Lucia's class, Guilderland Elementary came in Third.

My Maple Tree by Erin Goldberg

It all started about five years ago when my family moved into our new house in Guilderland.

I always enjoyed nature, (which was plentiful there) and I guess that huge Maple tree towering over my front lawn attracted me like no other piece of nature had.

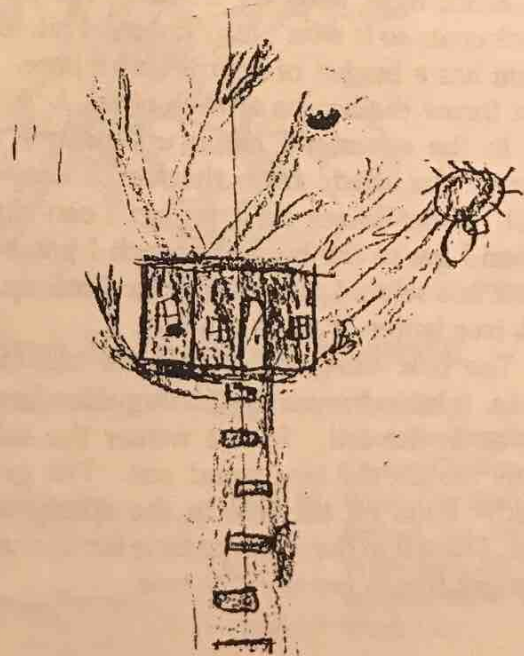
So ever since then, that tree acted like my best friend especially when nobody else would.

I would talk to it, hug it and do normal things that five-eight year olds do when they are excited with a new play-mate. My Maple tree was even chosen to bear the yellow ribbon during the Persian Gulf War.

Now at the age of 10 1/2 I realize that my Maple tree has watched me and my family grow up.

I mean hey, not every tree gets to hold one of my favorite summer toys, a tire swing, nor does every tree act a a second base for every kickball and baseball game.

Of course, I don't hug it anymore, but I love knowing the fact that if I have anything to do with it, that tree will continue to watch me grow for a long time.



In the Shade of the Oak

Amazing Plants

How many trees should you plant or care for in order to store the carbon you'll produce in your lifetime? According to the USDA, Forest Service, each American produces over 4600 pounds of carbon each year, so the sooner you begin planting trees, the better!

Your age	Seedlings	10 year old trees
1	45	30
10	60	35
20	80	40
30	120	50
40	210	70

My Favorite Tree

Jennifer Pinder

My favorite tree is my family's oak tree growing in the backyard. By it are pine trees and under it are two flower bushes.

I have many uses for it. I like to pick up the acorns from the oak tree and put them in a bucket. Then I climb up to the biggest branch and shake off more acorns. Sometimes I have an acorn fight with my friends. We put on thick coats so it won't hurt if we get hit. Each team has a bucket of acorns and a base. We just throw the acorns at each other.

In the summer I climb up the tree and relax. The shade from the leaves keep me cool. I like to see how far up I can climb. When I get to the biggest branch I jump off. Once in a while I get a ladder to climb up the oak tree better. I think it's fun.

The best thing about the oak tree is its looks. It looks beautiful with its golden brown leaves in the fall. In the winter the white snow makes the tree stand out. The green yellow buds on the tree in the spring look nice. I love it in the summer time for its shade. The oak tree is my favorite tree.

My Favorite Tree

Brian Ellwood

My favorite place would be a tree,
For on top there would be a clubhouse
for you and me.

On top, there is a beautiful sight,
lots of space and plenty of light.

So, if you want to climb my tree,
come over any day and play with me.

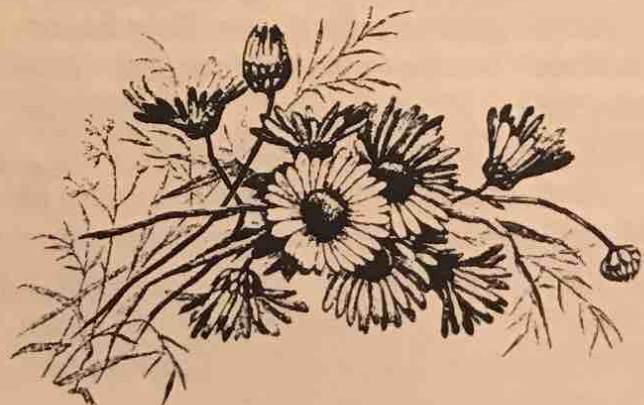
Hey kids!

Here's a neat way for you and your parents to enjoy some time together at the Arboretum.

Bring your mom to the Arboretum on May 10 to make a Mother's Day Basket. You bring the basket, we provide the plants to make either a fragrance, edible or culinary basket. If you and your mom like plants and flowers, this is the day for you. Come visit when everything's blooming!

Or, try A Day for Dad: you and your dad can make a window box together and fill it with plants before you leave. This project will entertain you for the rest of the summer.

Please note, there is a charge for the Mother's Day Basket and A Day for Dad programs, and you need to register to reserve your place. Check your calendar for details. Call soon!



Garden Exotica

Fagus sylvatica, the European Beech

by Pamela H. Rowling

"Few trees are more pleasing than a well grown beech, either in the wide spreading form it takes when growing in an isolated position, or when, in close association with others of its kind, and drawn up by them it forms a tall, smooth, column-like trunk." (W.J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles)

Three major genera are found in this family, *Fagaceae*, which derives its name from the genus *Fagus*, commonly called Beech. Encompassing *Fagus* (Beeches), *Castanea* (Chestnuts) and *Quercus* (Oaks) the *Fagaceae* is truly the royal family of the broadleaves.

Fagus sylvatica, the European Beech, is a native of central and southern Europe. Its typical form is that of a large tree reaching 90 feet in height with smooth medium gray bark, an outstanding feature in the winter garden. In the wild European Beech forms pure forests and a dense canopy of glossy green foliage. Fall color ranges from yellow to bronze depending on the variety. Grown in the open as a specimen it will assume a massive broadly pyramidal shape with low spreading branches. The dense canopy combined with low-branching and shallow root systems make the growing of companion plants under this tree almost impossible. We have always considered this characteristic a plus because weeds have a similar difficulty becoming established here. A very accommodating tree, hardy to zone 4, the European Beech adapts well to North American gardens.

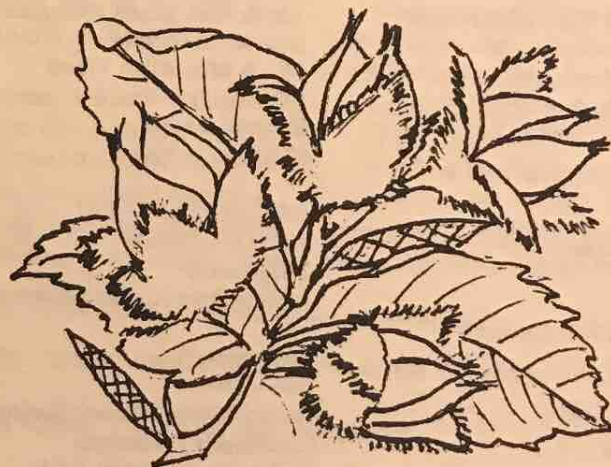
The flowers of European beech are both inconspicuous and unisexual. The male flowers are crowded and numerous and borne in slender globose heads. Female flowers are borne in smaller clusters of 2-3 flowers. The fruit of beech is distinctive: The base of the female flower grows to form a spiny 4-valved husk or bur around a pair of triangular nuts.

In addition to the aesthetic considerations afforded Beech the tight-grained nature of its wood has made it a useful wood for lumber and for fabricating leakproof kitchen utensils. The nuts or mast provide a valuable food for wildlife as well as a nutritious oil for cooking and for illumination.

In the United States the primary use of *Fagus Sylvatica* is as a specimen in the landscape. Ease of culture combined with availability of over 70 named clones give the gardener a palette of almost unlimited variety. Some of the types of growth variation and their cultivar names are listed below. Cut leaf: 'Asplenifolia', fernleaf beech; 'Laciniata', cutleaf beech. Other leaf shapes: 'Quercifolia', oakleaf beech; 'Rotundifolia', roundleaf B. Fastigate: 'Dawyckii', Dawick B.; 'Fastigiata', fastigate B. Varied leaf

color: 'Cuprea', copper B.; 'Autropunicea', purple B. Weeping: 'Pendula', Weeping B.; 'Torulosa', Contorted B. For a more extensive description of varieties please refer to Michael Dirr, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants and W.J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol.II.

If you have ample space in your planting scheme a number of these varieties are available through nurseries found in our Gardener's Resource Directory listing. Although European Beech grows easily from seed (stratified 3-5 months at 41 degrees or stored outdoors in fall) one should expect to pay more for named clones. These plants are pot grafted and hence are more expensive. A very choice plant, if you are able to include it in your garden you will be rewarded for many years to come with beauty in all seasons.



Upcoming Volunteer Events

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| May 2 | Rare Plant Sale | August 1 | Work Day, deadwooding in the |
| June 6 | Perennial Sale | | Choice Conifers |
| July 11 | Work Day, deadwooding in the | Sept. 12 | Work Day and Potluck Supper |
| | Pinetum | October 3 | Work Day, fall clean up, putting on cages |
| July 15 | Volunteer Recognition Barbecue | Nov. 7 | Work Day |

How Does Our Garden Grow?

New Members (*) and Renewals December 1991-February 1992

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Mrs. Kearney Jones
Andrea & James Modney
Walter A. Osinski, M.D.*

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Mrs. William Bucknall
Robert Klappmeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Prindle*
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Edna H. Young
Kathleen E. Young

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Supporters
Albany Area Amateur Astronomers, Inc.*

Sponsors

Bob's Trees
Dana Natural History Society
Gardener's Workshop
Guilderland Garden Club
Men's Garden Club of Albany
Panhellenic Garden Club
Schenectady Arrangers Club
Sherwood Forest Garden Club
West Hill Garden Club

Members

Indian Hills Garden Club
Nickerson Park Campground

1991 Annual Fund Raising Campaign

Gifts since last newsletter:
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clark
William W. Fairchild

C.W. Huntley
Elizabeth R. Plauth
Garden Club of East Schodack
Hillandale Garden Club
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Krauter
Lou Moravec
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Raymond
Phyllis Rosenblum
Judy Wertebaker

Calendar in Brief

Our early spring programs have been remarkably popular. So that you won't be disappointed we suggest you register right away for classes you wish to take. For details on these programs, see your full length calendar.

APRIL

30 Keys to Learning Spring Wildflowers

MAY

2 Rare Plant Sale
5 Beginning Birding
6 Plant Peepers: Trick A Bee
9 Trough Workshop
9 Spring Wildflower Walk
9 Birdwalk
10 Mother's Day Baskets
13 Plant Peepers: Ants in Your Plants
14 Birdwalk
16 Botany for Gardeners: Roots to Leaves
16 Eating Botany
16 Annual Birdwalk
16 Rhododendron Garden Walk
20 Plant Peepers: Hummingbird Bushes
29,30 Star Parties
30 The Versatile Perennial
30 Garden Photography

JUNE

6 Meet the Liliium
6 Perennial Sale
6 Volunteer Workday
13 Botany for Gardeners: Flowers to Fruit
13 A Day for Dad
13 Garden Photography
13 Basic Tree Identification
20 Japanese Flower Arranging
27 Plant Propagation: Cuttings
28 Family Day

Volunteers

Volunteer Notes

by Florence Grimm

Volunteers, you are appreciated. Any amount of time given to the Arboretum in the many and varied ways is very important to the continued success of the Arboretum. Now that we have accurate volunteer records we can proudly report that in 1991 you contributed 3,142 hours of work, the equivalent of 1 1/2 employees. As most of these hours were field work the results are visible for all to see!

Since January the repairs and new decor for the gift shop (and the bathroom) have been completed, thanks to the plumbing, carpentry and electrical skills of Chuck Huppert. The very hardy Gurdon Huntington and Dave Vermilyea have worked all winter and cleared acres of brush and weed trees, putting the new chipper to good use and improving tremendously the vista from the library. Another frequent worker this winter has been Natalie Dinsmore, always engaged in the never-ending process of maintaining mail lists and producing a multitude of labels through the mystery of programming!

The warm and more stable weather (we hope) will bring the busy

season. The April workday will see the cages taken off the tender plants that deer enjoy, as well as other spring cleaning in the garden.

In May all our energies on the first Saturday will be focused on the Rare Plant Sale. Volunteers are needed on Thursday and Friday (April 30, May 1) for pre-sale activities like price tagging plants for the public sale and organizing both the plants for sale and those for member pick-up. On May 2, many people are needed for tasks ranging from traffic control to cashier and helping to load plants into cars. Please call the office in you can help. (Working at the sale won't prevent you from shopping - at a special time set aside for volunteers. Ask for details.)

The above work all needs to be repeated on June 6 for the Perennial Sale, albeit on a slightly smaller scale. Other events we are very much need assistance with are Arbor Day (April 25) and Family Day (June 28). If you think you might like to try one of these, give us a call and we'll tell you all about it.

In recognition of the great work volunteers give the Arboretum, the Arboretum is now offering you something in return. On a space available basis active volunteers can now now take any class or trip at "cost". We

encourage you to sign up early; when registration for your chosen class closes we'll call you and let you know you're in. Just our way of saying thank you, for all you're doing for the Arboretum.

A Reminder... Keeping record of your volunteer hours is now doubly important. Whether you work on weekdays or weekends, at the Arboretum or at home on a project, your time counts! As always, the documentation is important for grant proposals, but now your time will also earn you reduced-cost classes!

Volunteer Opportunities

Receptionist This part-time position needs a person who can work on a regular schedule, but you can choose the hours/days. Duties would include telephone coverage, clerical and light secretarial work. You would be responsible for handling memberships, program registrations and various mailings.

Coordinator of Hospitality Volunteers Schedule volunteers to introduce Saturday lecturers, most phone calls can be done in the evening.

Tour Coordinator Plan bus trips to gardens and shows, make travel arrangements, handle reservations. Needs to be planned far in advance, but most work can be done at home.

Yes, I would like to become a member of the George Landis Arboretum in the following category;

- \$15 Member \$25 Sponsor or Garden Club \$50 Supporter \$100+ Patron

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ Made payable to The George Landis Arboretum.

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to volunteer. (Please circle the type of work you are interested in, or write in your suggestion.)

Field Work: mowing, pruning, etc.

Office Work / Projects: writing, (newsletter, other publications), fund-raising, herbarium/library, mailings

Events / Programs: adult education, youth education (e.g. field trip guide), slide show presenter, Saturday Lecture Series (Host or Lecturer), plant sales, special events

Please mail to: Director, George Landis Arboretum, P.O. Box 186, Esperance, New York 12066

Gardener's Workshop

Tree Care and Planting

by Anne Best

Planting your tree Site selection Select a suitable site that allows enough space for a growing tree (taking into consideration its eventual mature size) and that fits into the existing landscape design. A good site will have soil conditions appropriate to the type of tree you've chosen, protection from cars or delivery trucks and minimal slope.

Planting Transplanting produces a shock to a tree's growth system. It must be done in a way that creates as little stress as possible. Especially critical is the danger of water loss.

Dig the hole as deep as the rootball and twice as wide. Loosen several inches of soil at the bottom of the hole to help with drainage.

Do not take the burlap off the rootball unless it is nylon or plastic burlap. There is less shock to the plant if the burlap is left on; real burlap will biodegrade quickly. The "fake" burlap must be removed or it will stop the growth of the tree.

Be sure the plant sits at a slightly higher level than before it was moved. This level is indicated by a dark stain on the trunk which marks the difference between root and trunk

bark. It is very important not to plant too deep.

Backfill with organic soil amendments such as peat moss, good quality top soil, dehydrated cow manure, green sand, soft rock phosphate, or bone meal.

Water thoroughly! If you are in a windy area secure the tree with stakes using a broad, soft strapping material to avoid injuring the bark.

Caring for the tree The tree will benefit from mulch around its base. This will conserve moisture, keep down weed growth, and keep the lawn mower and weed wacker away from the trunk. Do not layer the mulch too deeply as ammonia will build up and cause damage to the tree. If using fine mulch like grass clippings use a hardware cloth or similar barrier to keep the mulch away from the trunk (to prevent rodent damage.)

Newly planted trees must be watered diligently throughout their first year, especially during the summer months.

Pruning should be done at the time of planting. This will help the tree recover from shock. Pruning also

preserves appearance and form and improves air circulation which helps discourage many diseases.

Anne Best is owner of Greenspace Environmental Design, Delmar.



Director's Report (cont. from p. 2) sion tours of the flower show, everyone will now agree, is the only way to see a flower show. Our group broke into smaller groups of 12 and were each given a 2 hour viewing of the exhibits prior to the flood of public visitors. It was a great group and I had the good fortune to be among their number.

Classes, fundraising, groundswork and innumerable other projects that are happen each year would not be possible without the generosity, caring and hard work of all of the friends of the George Landis Arboretum too numerous to mention here. I hope that you all realize the importance of your contributions.

And, take heart, spring will come!

George Landis Arboretum
Lape Road, P.O. Box 186
Esperance, New York 12066

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