



George Landis Arboretum NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 • Number 3

Summer 1993

From the Greenhouse, with Love: **The Arboretum's Horticulturist**

Deborah Coyle loves plants. She is also very, very busy.

The Arboretum's Greenhouse Manager and Staff Horticulturist has an enormous amount of work in progress during the hectic Summer season—and it doesn't get much easier in the Winter, either.

Debbie's job is to investigate the requirements of plants, to keep plants healthy, and to propagate plants successfully. Stated dryly, it requires scientific knowledge, systematic experimentation and meticulous documentation. But Debbie never speaks dryly about plants. Horticulture she sees as an art, a wholeness, a fitting-together of the intense, complex *being* of a plant with diverse and often unpredictable elements of its environment. She also sees her job as a public service. She makes herself available to Arboretum visitors for information and advice: at one moment she may advise a perplexed gardener about plant diseases, the next moment finds her gently guiding a child's hands as he plants his first seedling.

Much time is being devoted to the Arboretum's plant propagation program. Cuttings and seed propagation are the major areas of concentration. Much of the plant material comes from the Arboretum's living collections. The material is used to reestablish old collections, for research and to provide plants for Arboretum sales. Other sources such as universities, other Arboreta, Botanical Gardens and an In-

ternational Seed Exchange provide a large selection of material. The Arboretum does research on plant varieties suitable for this area and this involves time, care, and meticulous records.

For seed propagation, seeds must be collected systematically and carefully. Part of the research involves determining exactly how they should be stored in order to ensure good germination. Much of this information must be determined by experimentation. Both seeds and cuttings have had some remarkable successes, and even the failures have provided vital information about many varieties of plants.

No matter how they are propagated, the Arboretum makes these plants available to the public at low cost so that gardeners can afford to try them out in their own gardens. Many happy gardeners take home both common and unusual plants from the Arboretum's greenhouse with the assurance of Debbie's care and research.

During the past year, one of Debbie's studies has involved the overwintering of plants. Plants have to be prepared for the ordeal of winter, and knowing just how each plant must be treated is one of her tasks. Plants must change their physiology: they must cut back growth and conserve moisture, for instance, so that the first frost finds them ready for the dormant season ahead.

Debbie says much work is involved in determining what you do for each plant: "Some are delicate, some are tough", she says. She is developing techniques and treatments to provide increased survival for many species.

In the "lazy" Winter season, work with plants goes on, along with a backlog of computer work. Not only must she "garden" with the computer records

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For the Future...

Your Endowment Gifts

by Cindy King

As a newcomer to the staff, I have found myself dealing with gifts and donations to the Arboretum. Financial gifts may be given to the General Operating Fund, to Memorials, Education, Annual Appeal or to the Endowment Fund. For a novice, this was confusing, so I asked Phyllis Rosenblum, the Arboretum Treasurer, to help me out.

"Undesignated gifts" explained Phyllis, "go into General Operating expenses for the current year. Memorials, and Education gifts are applied in the categories for which they are designated."

"Then what is the Endowment Fund?" I asked.

"The Endowment Fund prepares for the future," replied Phyllis, "while it provides stability for the present." She explained to me that a portion of all membership funds are invested in Endowment. Originally left by Fred Lape, the Endowment Funds have grown over the years by large and small gifts to a point where the income from it is used as the base for the Arboretum's annual budget. All Income from the Endowment goes back to support Arboretum general operations. As the Endowment's invested funds grow, the Arboretum is able to grow and expand accordingly.

As I walk through the Arboretum grounds on these beautiful Summer days, I would like to think that the Arboretum itself will continue to grow and increase over time the same way the trees it harbors grow and increase through the seasons.

Very Special Thanks to

**Fleet Bank of
New York**

for their support in our
1993 Membership Drive

At The Garden

Director's Report

Thank you! We have just finished our June Perennial Plant Sale at the Arboretum. The weather was wonderful and the support shown by members, friends and volunteers most gratifying. So much has happened since our last issue.

In recent years, the active learning season at the Arboretum commences with the Arbor Day Celebration. This event, held the last Saturday in April, is filled with family activities. It is also the day that awards are presented to students who have participated in the annual Arbor Day contest.

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.

Contributors to this issue:

Editor: Tressa Vellozzi

Artists: Anne Jaster, Joani Moberger, Tressa Vellozzi

Writers: Anne Best, Thomas Burbine, Florence Grimm, Cynthia King, Pamela Rowling, George Steele, Tressa Vellozzi, Pamela Yourno

Editorial Assistance: Natalie Dinsmore, Beverly Waite

Graphic Production:

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Director: Pamela H. Rowling
Horticulturist: Deborah Coyle
Science Educator: George Steele
Office Manager: Cynthia King
Address correspondence to:
Newsletter Editor

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

Pamela H. Rowling

Originally conceived by Margaret Law, this popular contest has grown tremendously. This year Arboretum educator George Steele has expanded the program to include both language and visual arts. Over 500 entries were received! There are a great number of children out there who give a great deal of thought to trees--lucky for us. This event provides a good opportunity for the Arboretum to reach out to schools and families of surrounding areas.

Many of our important fund raising events occur in the spring and early summer. This year in the last few days of April Trustees and volunteers joined forces for our first ever (surely to become an annual event) telephone membership drive. The Fleet Bank office on State Street in Schenectady donated the use of a bank of telephones for the event. Phone calls were made over a period of three evenings to people who had previously participated in Arboretum programs, visited the grounds or requested information from us in the past. The response was greater than we ever had anticipated with a total of 106 commitments to join made and many positive responses of membership intent. Without the resources provided by Fleet Bank and the labor supplied by our workers none of this would have been possible. Thank you all.

Many new members immediately enjoyed the opportunity to exercise their 10% off member's benefit at the Rare Plant Sale held in May and on purchases made in the Acorn Shop. The rain held off just long enough to make the day a success. Organizers John Abbuhl, Peter Rumora and Beverly Waite should be pleased with their efforts. A special thanks to all the other

folks who donated plants and food for this sale.

Our office staff has changed slightly. Tressa Vellozzi will continue to provide staff support through her art work, editorial work and computer services. The position of Office Manager is now filled by Cindy King. Her editorial and artistic expertise combined with a delightful disposition will be a great asset to the Arboretum.

Regina Pineiro is now managing the Acorn Shop. Hilda Townsend and Darby Nelson, owners of a successful area shop, "The Patent", referred Regina to us and have donated their valuable services as consultants to us in this fledgling endeavor. They deserve a great deal of credit--the shop is both inviting and intriguing for visitors and shoppers alike.

Once again we seem to have jumped directly from early Spring into mid Summer. Although many of the flowering trees and shrubs have passed their peak there are still many treasures to be found at the Landis in the Summer months. The late lilacs reach their peak in late June, their area becoming transformed into a riot of lavender and purple festooned with yellow swallowtail butterflies. Wildflowers, especially those of the fields and woodland edges, are maturing. The conifers of all types provide a show of their own and furnish a backdrop for display of many developing fruits. And the Van Loveland Perennial Garden marches through its seasonal changes carefully orchestrated by volunteers and garden designers Pamela Yourno, Andrea Modney and Carol Loucks and tended by various volunteers including Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County.

A summer visit to the Arboretum is a day away from it all. Come relax, enjoy the flowers and beautiful vistas and the cooling Summer breezes of this hillside garden.

Help support the Arboretum while you treat yourself or that special person to any one of the shop's unique gifts!

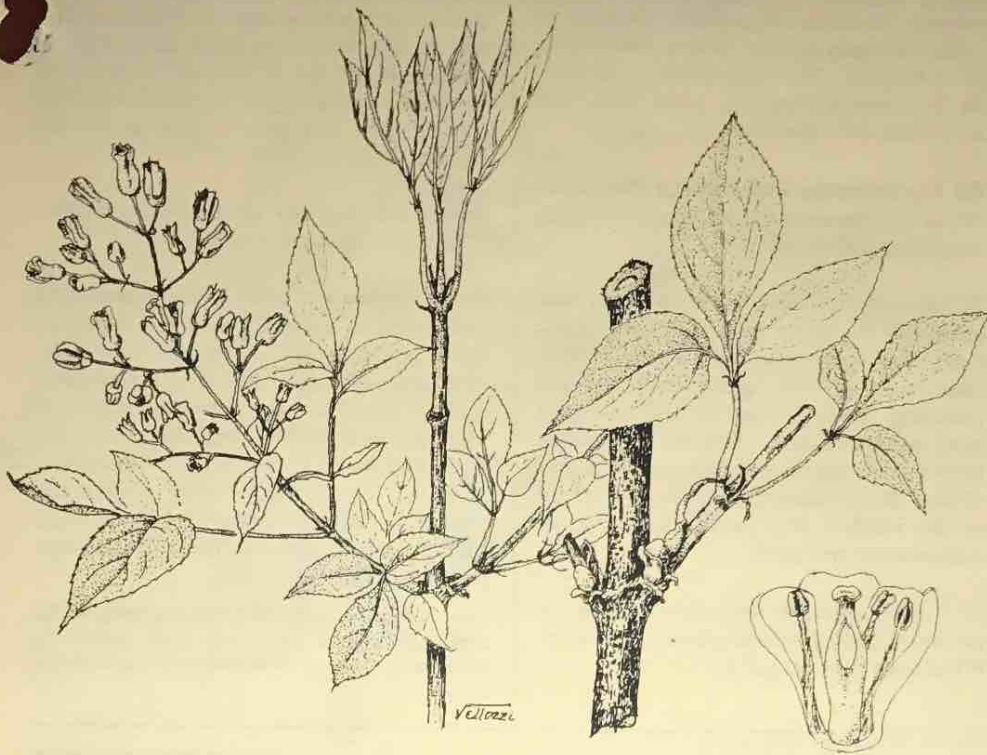
Come see our Summer Specials!

Books ~ Nature Gifts ~ Decorative & Practical Gifts for Home & Garden ~ Delights for Adults and Children

Now Available: Plants from the Greenhouse



Open Daily 10-5



Drawing by Tressa Vellozzi

The "Bladder-Nuts" derive their somewhat inglorious name from the curious inflated two or three celled papery bladders which enclose the seeds of plants of this genus. The genus *Staphylea* is a rather small group of about 10 species of mostly hardy, deciduous small trees or shrubs which occur scattered throughout the Northern Hemisphere. The leaves are opposite, toothed and most generally trifoliate although some species have leaves bearing from five to seven leaflets.

Currently, three species of *Staphylea* are being tried at the Arboretum. *Staphylea trifoliata* (native to Eastern North America), *S. colchica* (native to the southern Caucasus) and *S. bumalda* (Japan, Korea and China). The two most recent additions to our collections are *S. colchica* and *S. bumalda*. We received these plants as rooted cuttings through our participation in a U.S.D.A. Plant Introduction program in 1991. Both have survived two winters outside in Esperance. Of the two, *S. colchica* seems to have shown slightly more winter dieback than *S. bumalda*.

Staphylea bumalda bloomed for the first time for us this past spring. Although the individual flowers were

not showy, the large number of these racemose panicles gave a garden-worthy effect. Leaves are a deep green of medium texture and show promise as a foliage component of the border. In the fall this species retains its leaves quite late and develops attractive reddish tints.

Staphylea colchica is a stronger growing shrub reaching a possible twelve to fifteen feet in height. By comparison, *S. bumalda* is typically three to six feet high. *S. colchica*'s leaves are a shining medium green and the flowers are clear white and are borne in conspicuous panicles. They are suitable for forcing for indoor use. The plants of *S. colchica* at the Arboretum have not yet bloomed, but plants in the Albany area have been said to perform well and put on a spectacular show. Blooming time for both species is mid-May through mid-June in our area.

Of easy culture, any good loamy moist soil and a fairly sunny spot will suit their needs adequately. The plants may be propagated by occasional suckers, cuttings and by seeds.

This genus offers a number of possibilities for the smaller garden and for lovers of the exotic and unusual.

Pamela Rowling

Debbie in the Greenhouse

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for the Arboretum's Collection lists, write up research and plan the next year's plantings, but she also works on the comprehensive mapping project. Winter is field mapping season when she assists in field surveying, mapping and logging the locations of plants. Planting histories must be researched and compiled, and much of the enormous amount of documentation written.

Debbie came to horticulture as an avid gardener and has had a lifelong love for watching plants grow. This led her to pursue the subject academically, and to obtain a Bachelor of Technology degree in Plant Science at SUNY Cobleskill. Her association with the Arboretum began with an internship as part of her curriculum. She values the solid grounding this gave her in pure science as well as the applied horticultural sciences such as plant nutrition, diseases and propagation.

When asked what part of her academic studies she finds most valuable in her work, she replies with characteristic enthusiasm: "Everything. I mean I loved ALL of it!" She views this formal curriculum as a stepping stone to further knowledge, to "knowing where to go for resources, knowing where to start looking for the solution to a problem. It has given me increased sensitivity to the life of plants."

When asked if she has a favorite sort of plant, and does she intend to concentrate in a particular branch of horticulture, Debbie pauses very thoughtfully. She says slowly: "I love *all* plants. All aspects of horticulture are fascinating, even you might say--therapeutic. I don't know how many plants I've seen germinating..."

At this point she starts to grin: "...but for the millionth time, when I see that root start to form, it's, well, it's...THRILLING!"

Well, Busy Lady! That's Love!

Debbie's Wish List

- Volunteers to help regularly for a few hours a week on a definite schedule
- Plant trays
- CLEAN (use Clorox!) pots

Garden Forum

by Tom Burbine

Q: When can I plant peonies? Are tree peonies the same as "regular" peonies? Is there any special treatment for them?

A: The best time to plant peonies is in the Fall—preferably early September. Set them out so that the crowns are no more than about 2" below ground. The recommended distance is about 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart. Tree peonies should be planted in well-drained soil and they should be protected from wind. Make sure they're in a good sun location, and by that I touch on a topic of great importance for many plants. Choose your location carefully, because the amount of sun they receive in the early bud stage may make them or break them. If your peonies are on a slope facing East, they will get far too much sun during the day and get much too cool during the night in early spring. You want to delay bud opening until the danger of frosts is minimal. Make sure you plant them on a slope where this isn't likely to happen.

Q: When do I cut back my lilacs?

A: I would do it in Spring, just after flowering. It isn't really necessary to remove the seed heads, although you might want to do it for aesthetic reasons.

Q: When should I cut back my clematis? I have several varieties, I think they are 'Ernest Markham', 'Nelly Mosher', 'Montana', and 'Jackmani'

A: There are so many varieties of clematis, and all of them have different requirements. This is a good example of when a gardener should consult the literature. You would have to know the exact varieties you have, and then keep up with the latest horticultural practice on your specific plants, and this literature is being constantly updated. In general, though, you prune according to when the particular clematis flowers. Some flower early, some late, and some during the entire season. Your 'Jackmani', for example, should be thinned out in early spring when you start to see live shoots, but such treatment may not be appropriate for the others. Again, be aware that you should read before you cut!

Q: My soil definitely needs lime, according to the soil test. When is the best time to add lime?

A: Lime can be added just about any time, as long as it's mixed thoroughly into the soil. You want to avoid concentrations of lime around your plants, however, so I think it's best to add it in early spring, before you plant, or in the fall. That way it has a chance to be distributed by rain and soil moisture circulation.

Q: My lavender looks awful this year! What can be causing it? I haven't done anything different.

A: Lavender starts to look awful for two common reasons: leaf spots and root rot. Leaf spots may be treated with a combination of spraying and selective pruning. Root rot can be the result of poor environment: lavender needs a very well drained, sandy loam and lots of sun. It also requires some sheltering in the winter, and perhaps a dose of compost or manure.

Q: I have a yucca: (Adam's Needle, or Desert Candle) which refuses to flower. What can I do about it?

A: Don't think that it's the climate, since yuccas do bloom and do very well in the Northeast, even in parts of New England. It does best in this area if you avoid cold, heavy soil. The ideal soil is sandy and has very good drainage. It needs lots of sun and does not tolerate too much crowding or competition. You might consider planting it in raised beds.

Q: I just dug up all my tulip bulbs. What do I do with them?

A: I assume you want to keep them! All you need is a cool, dry place to store them, and they should harden up nicely. Any storage spot with no moisture should do. Plant them in September or October in a sunny, well-drained spot. You may want to add a little bone meal or lime. Speaking of sun, unlike the peonies of our first question, tulips are an example of plants which should face in a southerly direction.

Tom Burbine, Montgomery County Cooperative Extension agent, welcomes your gardening questions. Call in or mail them to the Newsletter editor.

Volunteer Snapshots



Ryan Madugno, Jim Bates, Manette Nezezon, Scott Gray, Bob Sutherland, Billy Patane and mascot "Rebel". Busy elsewhere were Jeff Corcoran, Chris Rein & Fred Hyatt. Photo by Debbie Coyle

"Day Off" for Arboriculturists

Led by Jim Bates, Associate Professor of Plant Science and Technical Assistant Bob Sutherland, the Arboriculture class at SUNY Cobleskill decided to take a "day off" and volunteered their services at the Arboretum.

They concentrated on pruning flowering crabapples and the trees around

the homestead, while enjoying our "absolutely spectacular" views. Jim Bates said the students, who are planning careers in horticulture and landscape development, loved putting their skills to work, especially in community service.

They also felt that the Arboretum is a "wonderful place to study and appreciate plants." Our thanks to them all!

This Native Plant

Liriodendron tulipifera: Tulip Tree



Drawing by Anne Jaster

One of the tallest native hardwoods in eastern North America is the tulip tree. *Liriodendron's* ease of recognition, wide distribution and the multitude of practical uses for its wood are the reasons responsible for the dauntingly long list of common names used to refer to this tree. Tulip tree, tulip magnolia, tulip poplar, yellow poplar and whitewood are a few of the most familiar appellations. *Liriodendron* is a member of the Magnolia family and it shares a number of features in common with Magnolias. First of all, it has a strikingly individual leaf shape. There is no other leaf with quite this configuration. They are large (3" to 8" across) and squared off at both the apex and base. Short pointed lateral lobes occur on either side of the leaf. Overall texture is coarse and unique. Foliage color is an even fresh medium green throughout the summer. In Autumn it becomes exceptional, turning a clear yellow to a golden yellow hue. Flowers of *Liriodendron*, like *Magnolia*, are quite large (3" to 4" across) and consist of 6 greenish yellow petals in two rows. The interior of the corolla is a soft clear orange and the stamens and stigmas are in a dense cluster in the center of the flower.

By the time tulip trees are ready

to bloom (6 to 10 years) they frequently have reached considerable height and so the striking blooms (borne upright on the branches) may be missed. If it is at all possible to site this plant so that it may be viewed from above, the flowers would be more fully appreciated.

The fruit consists of a cone-like aggregate of 2" to 3" long samaras which remain on the tree throughout the Winter. They provide a good diagnostic feature for identification at this time of the year.

Liriodendron is both fast-growing and adaptable. Its native range is eastern North America roughly from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. In the Appalachians it reaches its greatest stature and may grow more than 200' high with a trunk diameter of 8' to 10'. The overall outline of the tree is pyramidal in youth, opening up with age.

Although they are adaptable, like their magnolia relatives tulip trees are best moved when small. The root system is fleshy and vulnerable, the tap-root rather easily damaged. Deep moist, well-drained soil suits it best. If sited properly, it will form a magnificent specimen or striking grouping. This is a tree for the large property. The species is not suited for smaller yards or streetside planting. A number of culti-

vars are available commercially which expand the uses and foliar interest of the plant. 'Arnold' or 'Fastigiatum' is a narrow columnar growing form, 'Compactum' is a form with a reduced rate of growth, in 'Aureo-marginatum' the leaves are bordered with yellow, while in 'Medio-pictum' the yellow coloration occurs as a blotch in the middle of the leaf, the margins remaining green. 'Integrifolium' is a foliar variant in which the lower lateral lobes are missing, resulting in a curious rectangular leaf shape.

Liriodendron is easily propagated by seed exposed to a cold, moist stratification period (40 °F) for a period of from 60 to 90 days, then planted. Cuttings taken in July (considered to be the optimum time) have met with limited success. Cultivars such as those listed above are generally grafted onto seedling understock.

This tree is ideal for the large property or park setting. It imparts a grandeur and scale admired by tree lovers worldwide.

Pamela Rowling

Garden Reading

by Pamela Yourho

The Garden in Autumn by Allen Lacy

I know that high Summer is here, but it won't be long before Autumn, when it occurs to me that I must, alas, put my garden to sleep.

Autumn is the time to rake off the leaves and cut down the remaining perennial stems and leaves, pull out the dead annuals, etc...Then what do you do? You can sit back and wait around for Spring again, of course, but this book invites you to stop and step back and reconsider this very special time of the year. Teacher, gardener and author Lacy says: "Autumn can be the very best season...a time of sweet disorder and permissible procrastination." He suggests over 400 varieties of plants, from perennials to ornamental grasses to woody shrubs and trees, that can give verve and tranquility to our Autumn garden.

This neglected season can come alive for you when you see it from Lacy's point of view. Try this book when you sense a hint of Autumn in the air--you might just change your mind about how you feel about Fall.

(229 pages packed full of 130 pristine color photographs.)

How Does Our Garden Grow?

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through May 1993

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Memorial Planting

The GLA is dedicating its new entryway crabapple planting to the memory of:
Dr. Edwin Rosenblum
 Friends are invited to send contributions which will be used to create and maintain this planting.
 Send to the GLA under "Rosenblum Memorial"

Many thanks to...

Richard Downs for the plant bench, among other carpentry essentials
Peter Rumora for the sprinkler timer
John Abbuhl, Walter Osinsky, Kathie Lippitt and others for the plants for the Sales
Sandra Baptie for drafting equipment
Elizabeth Corning for clematis plants
Elaine Graham for the slides
Clients of The Bridge for workday efforts
Bob Kwalek for the bluebird houses

Arboretum Wish List

Audiovisual Equipment: Screens, projectors, etc.
Garden Tools in GOOD condition
New Office Computer: preferably 386 or 486

Preview: August Sizzler !

End of Season Plant Sale

Details in Late Summer Calendar

Volunteers

Volunteer Notes

by Florence Grimm

It has been a very full and active spring for the volunteers. Let me list some of the activities in which the Arboretum volunteers have given so freely of their valuable time:

- Spring Benefit
- Membership drive
- Arbor Day Program
- Rare Plant Sale
- Arboretum Tour Guides
- The weeders
- The transplanters
- Weekday volunteers
- Educational programs
- Perennial Plant Sale
- Bus trip to Smith College and Stanley Park
- Opening & staffing the Acorn Shop
- Work Day volunteers
- Volunteer Fair at Colonial Center
- Surveyors and mappers

To these volunteers and the others I have missed: THANK YOU.

The members, non-members, visitors, trustees and staff at the Arboretum recognize and appreciate the value of your performance. You make a difference. Without your help, our limited staff would find mailings, membership lists and recordings, filing, and all of the above just about impossible, if not impossible to keep up with. You have made it possible to expand and go forward. No matter how small or large

the job, it is important to the Arboretum.

Our June 5 work day got shortened by Mother Nature. By 12:30 PM most of us had gotten wet and headed home. This is the first time in three years that this has happened. Our thanks go to Pam Yourho for her very informative talk on perennials. We learned some tricks on dividing and also how to get rid of the iris borer.

A number of outstanding volunteers and the volunteer corps as a unit were nominated to receive the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award. This award is presented annually to groups and individuals who have performed outstanding service in their local communities. Although none of our nominations were awarded, all received special recognition for their dedicated work.

On July 10, the next volunteer work day, Tom Burbine will do a workshop for the volunteers from 9-10 AM covering lilac pruning. We will concentrate our efforts mainly in the lilac area on this day. The lilacs will need weeding and mulching. Barbara Russell will be the leader for the day.

Mark your Calendar!!!

August 7: Work Day

Mike Riley, leader

September 11: Work Day

Janet Vineyard, leader. This is a special work day including a potluck supper and a chance to meet other volunteers.

October 2: Work Day

Barbara Russell, leader.

Suggestions for the 1994 Work Days,

Workshops and other volunteer activities are welcome. Give the office a call with your ideas! (518) 875-6935

At this time I will announce that as of October 1, 1993, I will no longer be Volunteer Coordinator. I feel that after three years it is time to move over and allow someone else to enjoy the many pleasures I have had working in this capacity. It has been one of the most rewarding and exciting activities I have ever done. Meeting so many new people and channeling their enthusiasm into correct spots, whether it be indoor work, greenhouse, outdoor work, etc. has been very rewarding. This has been a pleasurable experience and I thank every one of you for making it so.

I do hope that there is some one or several people interested in this title. I strongly feel that this area of volunteering can be greatly expanded. It has been a privilege to work with you. If anyone wishes information on being a volunteer coordinator, please feel free to call Florence Grimm at (518) 842-7436.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Acorn Shop Help
- Bloom Listers
- Greenhouse Assistants
- Educational Assistants
- Gardeners
- Plant Labelers
- Tour Guides
- Curatorial Assistants
- Host/Hostess for events
- Office Assistants

Membership Form

George Landis Arboretum

Yes I would like to become a member:

- New Member
- Renewal
- Senior/Student \$15
- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Contributor \$50
- Supporter \$75
- Patron \$125+

- Organizations and Businesses:
- Group \$35
- Contributor \$50
- Supporter \$75
- Patron \$125+

Please mail to:

Director
George Landis Arboretum
P.O. Box 186
Esperance, NY 12066

Name _____

Address _____

Make check payable to Landis Arboretum. The Arboretum is a non-profit organization. Membership fees above \$15 and donations are tax deductible.

Donation to the Arboretum Endowment Fund:

In addition to membership, I would like to contribute to the endowment fund.

I don't want to join at this time but would like to contribute to the endowment fund.

- \$5 \$50
- \$10 \$100
- \$20 Other \$ _____

I would like to volunteer. My daytime phone number is: _____
(Please circle type of work you are interested in, or write in your suggestions.)

Field work: mowing, weeding, pruning, etc. Acorn Shop: Weekdays/Weekends
Office Work/Projects: word processing, writing (newsletter, etc.), fund-raising, herbarium/library, mailings
Events/Programs: Tour guide, adult education, youth education, plant sales, special events
Committees: Nominating, Buildings & Grounds, Development, Education, Horticulture

Gardener's Workshop

Gardening in Cool and Shady Spots

by Anne Best

A woodland garden is always a popular spot on a hot Summer day. The mixture of colors and textures in the understory provides a lush carpet of greenery with season-long interest. In your search for the "perfect" area for a perennial planting you may be tempted to look at sites with full sun and well drained soil. Don't overlook the many charms of a moist, shady spot and all the wonderful and diverse plants that can thrive in just such an area.

Most plants in a shady or a woodland garden require moist, humus-rich soil. A well-prepared bed will ensure success, but you should also avoid doing too much damage to the tree roots when you plant. Planting under trees can be stressful for both you and your trees. Don't be tempted to start a garden by dumping a thick layer of fresh topsoil on the area. While it makes planting easier, the soil layer can smother the fragile surface feeder roots and interfere with proper root function, which may stunt the growth of trees and make them more prone to insect and disease problems. Create "planting pockets" close to the tree trunk, where there are fewer feeder roots to damage. Loosening up and amending the soil in these pockets will both save you from trying to dig up the whole area and reduce the damage to the tree roots. Annual topdressing with an organic mulch of composted manure and chopped leaves will help to keep the soil loose and fertile.

One important aspect of most shaded gardens is the plant's light requirements. Many of the wildflowers in a woodland garden bloom in early spring and start their dormant period as the overhanging deciduous trees begin to leaf out. For the rest of the season, the remaining plants prefer light, dappled shade. Not too much will survive in a dark, dingy corner. If your spot is too shady, consider thinning the lower branches of the trees to let in more light.

To grow plants successfully in the shade, you must choose varieties appropriate to the type of shade you have. Most plants need at least a few hours of direct sun, and filtered light for the rest of the day. There is a long list of perennials that will grow in places which get little or no direct sunshine, but have an abundance of filtered light. Only a few plants can survive in the darkness of an evergreen forest, although pachysandra, English ivy, myrtle and Canadian mayflower are worth a try in slightly open areas where small amounts of light filter through to ground level.

In light shade it is possible to have continuous bloom beginning with a carpet of Spring bulbs such as snowdrops, scilla, muscari and daffodils, and continuing into the Spring with lily-of-the-valley, violets and similar species. Plants such as *Dicentra eximia* (Fernleaf Bleeding Heart) that blossom throughout the growing season, and different varieties of hosta and daylilies will provide bloom for a long period. Shade loving, continuous blooming annuals such as impatiens and begonias add color when the perennial blossoms are scarce. Ferns are especially useful plants for shady areas, not only because they thrive there, but because they are so beautiful.

If the area is large, design pathways through it. Light colored bricks or stones will contrast nicely with plant greenery, but a less formal, well-worn path of bare dirt is more natural-looking. I feel that a path through a woodland should look like little more than a deer track. The path should meander so that you can not see the whole area at once. If you are lucky enough to have a major rock in your woodland area, make sure the path goes right by it so that you can plant ferns and primroses or other woodland natives where they will be seen against the gray stone. Next, you will want to plant shrubs to block the view straight through the woods and to provide color and texture that contrasts with the trunks and leaves of the trees. Rhododendrons and azaleas are classic subjects for the woodland garden because they will flower in the shade. If all the shrubs are deciduous, the woodland will look much more open in Winter than in Summer and maybe that is the way you want it. But don't forget to provide some dense shrubbery in which wildlife can hide in the Winter.

The colors of a shaded garden may in actuality appear quite different from those you had carefully planned on paper since our perception of color differs according to the quality of light that falls on it. In general, white and pastel blooms provide a bright, glowing quality in the shade. More vivid colors may appear dim or in certain shade situations, shine brilliantly and clash. In a shady planting, as in a rock garden, running water, old stumps, stones and pools add greatly to the atmosphere. If there are no natural features in the area, you may be able to design substitutes and add such welcoming features as benches or other garden furniture.

George Landis Arboretum
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