

The Landis Arboretum Newsletter

Lape Road

Esperance, New York

Summer 1998

Vol. 17, No.3

The Fall Plant Sale - Carol Wook

The Fall Plant Sale will be held on September 12 and 13, from 10-4 each day. Although on a smaller scale than our spring sale, (early morning preparations shown right), there will be a large variety of perennials, ornamental grasses, and deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, including dwarf conifers. A new feature of the sale will be houseplants. The Greenhouse and Indoor Plant Association (GAIPA) will join us, bring information about their organization and uncommon houseplants for sale.

LILACS

We had advertised the availability of several varieties of lilacs for the spring sale, but on the day before the sale we received a fax from the supplier informing us they couldn't get them to us. We have since received the plants and expect to have the following choice cultivars available in September.

Syringa Vulgaris Hybrids

Mrs. W.E. Marshall - Single dark purple; the darkest purple lilac.
Primrose - Single butter yellow; the only yellow lilac. The color is more pronounced with age.
Vesper Song - Single deep purple. Introduced in 1979 by Fleming, but not widely grown; one for the collectors.
Nadezhda - Double blue with dark purple buds opening to a skyblue floret. A wonderful grower; a true Russian beauty.
Zanamy Lenina - Single red shades of cherry and purple in each flower. Of all the red lilacs, this one stands alone.
Mme. Lemoine - Double white. A salute to Mrs. Lemoine who did so much to help her husband Victor and his hybridizing. All the pluses - vigorous grower, pure white, and extremely fragrant.
President Lincoln - Single blue; tall and leafy. Fast growing and very showy.

Syringa Special Series

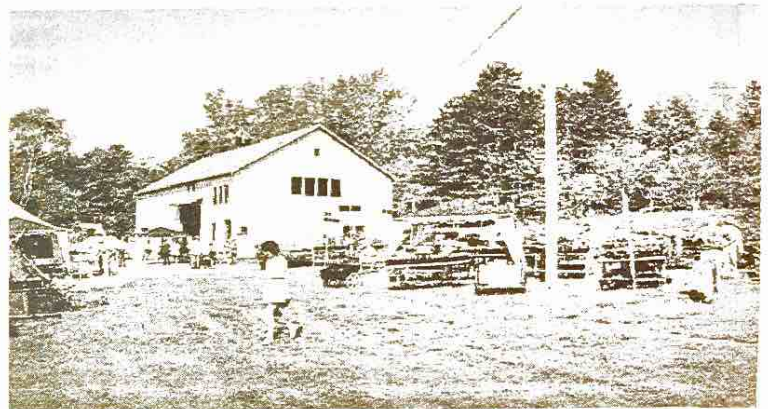
Laciniata - Single purple, known as lace leaf lilac. Uniquely suited for specimen gardens. Foliage resembles that of a potentilla (shape, not color or texture).

Syringa Prestoniae (late lilac)

Hiawatha - Single magenta. A profuse bloomer with a distinctive flower form.

Syringa hvacinthiflora (early blooming lilac)

Maiden's Blush - Single pink. Rose-colored buds open to pastel pink flowers; shows both pinks throughout flowering. A good grower with an upright habit.



All lilacs are available to members as an advance order. All are in two gallon pots; root systems are well-established but top growth varies in height. We don't want to have lilacs left to hold through the winter, so are selling these to members at \$9 each. An advance order form is on page 9.)

PLANT DONATIONS

The success of last fall's sale was due in part to generous member donations of plants. As you divide perennials this summer, consider the sale as a destination for unwanted divisions. In order to have plants in standard-sized pots, we are willing to furnish pots for your use. Just call the office for information.

PARKING

If you attended the spring sale on Saturday, you were probably caught in our infamous traffic jam. To say that we were unprepared for the crowds that came is an understatement! Please be assured that we are committed to solving the problem - **there will be no traffic jam at the fall sale.**

ADDITIONAL PLANTS AVAILABLE

(Material provided by the Schoharie County Master Gardeners)

Beauty-Bush or Beautyberry (*Callacarpa bodinieri*) - Beautyberry is a deciduous shrub grown more for its berries than for its flowers or foliage. The leaves are opposite and simple with blunt teeth. Small, tubular flowers can be various colors and are borne in rounded, dense clusters in early summer. Showy, berrylike fruit

Continued on page 3 >

From the Garden - Pat Rush, Executive Director

At the Arboretum's Annual Meeting in May a group of new Board of Trustees members was elected. We are extremely pleased to have attracted such a talented group to Board service at the Arboretum. In alphabetical order they are: **Kennoth Carnes**, Albany Cooperative Extension; **Sally Jennings**, community volunteer; **Catherine Lewis**, corporate finance, GE; and **Dr. Kenneth Wing**, President, SUNY-Cobleskill.

The Board elected a new slate of officers as well. **Nicholas Zabawsky** of Amsterdam is President; **Herm Finkbeiner**, Rexford, Vice President of Planning; **Claudia McLaughlin**, Scotia, Vice President of Programs; **Nancy Boericke**, Glenville, interim Vice President of Finance; **Susan Sagendorf**, Cobleskill, Secretary; and **Michael Durante**, CPA, Albany, Treasurer. Thank you to each new Board member, each officer, and each member of our hardworking Board of Trustees for your hard work and dedication to the Arboretum, especially during the hot and muggy weather we had for the Annual Meeting.

President Nick Zabawsky has been organizing the Board committees: The Long Range Planning Committee will be chaired by Trustee **Ken Wing**, Cobleskill, and the newly established Volunteer Committee will be chaired by Trustee **Linda Ohlerking**, Voorheesville. Linda is Volunteer Coordinator at the Albany County Nursing Home, so she brings a wealth of professional experience to her new committee at the Arboretum. Trustee **Mary Ann Tomlinson**, Amsterdam, will chair the Spring Auction.

News from the office is that **Carolyn Edwards**, until recently the office manager for the Arboretum, **had a baby girl**, Julia May Galasso, born June 13 and weighing five pounds, one ounce. **Shelley Weed**, our new office manager, was holding down the fort while **Fred Breglia**, Trustee **Chris Cash** and I attended American Arboretum and Botanical Garden Association's convention in Philadelphia. (Shelley told us that Carolyn was planning to volunteer for the Quercus Quartet concert on June 14, but called Shelley to say that she couldn't because she had the baby!)

Speaking of AABGA, it was fabulous. Philadelphia is the intellectual center of gardening activity in this country. We visited famous arboreta and botanical gardens, and paid special attention to discussions of master planning at various gardens and arboreta, such as the Morris Arboretum and Winterthur. The conference was a tremendous learning opportunity for all of us, learning that it is being translated into action here at the Landis Arboretum.

The summer has gone by much too quickly; as I write, the dog days of August lie heavy in the fields and forests of the Arboretum. Much hard work has been done here by **Fred Breglia and his crew**, especially the students from the Schoharie County Private Industry Council (P.I.C.). They wear their Landis Arboretum tee-shirts proudly. The clean-out of the rhododendron collection continues; pruning of the crab apples, badly needed and long over-due, is almost finished. Fresh mulch rings have appeared around many of the specimen trees. At last we have a list of Notable Trees (see page 5), and we are searching for a small grant to produce a brochure and to buy special interpretive signs for those Top Trees. Thanks to work by the Albany Master Gardeners, visitors say the Van Loveland perennial border has never looked better.

A busy time, a busy place. Some very, very special people make the Arboretum happen.

New Office Manager at Arboretum - Pat Rush

Shelley Weed has joined the Arboretum as the new office manager, replacing Carolyn Edwards who wants to be an at-home mom for a while. Shelley holds an Associate's degree in accounting from Hudson Valley Community College and is finishing her bachelor's degree in agricultural business at SUNY-Cobleskill. She is from the Delanson-Duanesburg area and grew up on a farm, so she says she's really happy coming up the dirt road to the Arboretum. She is mastering the new accounting and membership software and is already proficient in Windows 98. **Welcome to the Arboretum, Shelley!**



THE LANDIS ARBORETUM NEWSLETTER

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

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Fran Finkbeiner

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Nancy Boericke, Fred Breglia, Ron DeWitt, Herm Finkbeiner, Anne Jaster, Pat Rush, Schoharie County Master Gardeners, Tamara Wilson, Carol Wock

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Fall Plant Sale - Cont'd from page 1

will grow to 10 feet tall, but not as wide. It requires rich, moist, well-drained soil and prefers full sun. Plants bloom and fruit on new wood and should be pruned back in late winter. Planting several shrubs together will promote heavy fruiting. Beautyberry has no serious pests or diseases but top growth may winterkill in colder parts of Zone 5. By mulching heavily, it can be treated as a perennial in these areas.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) - Butterfly bush is a deciduous shrub with white, pink, red, purple, violet, or pale purple upright flowers in midsummer to early fall that are attractive to butterflies. It may be grown in Zones 5-9, but may die back to the ground in colder areas of its range; it can be grown in these areas as an herbaceous perennial by cutting it back to the ground in the fall and mulching heavily. Butterfly bush prefers deep, moist, well-drained soil and full sun. It has no serious pests or diseases.

Coral Berry (*Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii* 'Magic Berry') is a compact, graceful, deciduous plant with inconspicuous, bell-shaped flowers, grown mainly for its clusters of showy, long-lasting, vivid pinkish-purple fruit. The plant is hardy to Zone 3 and grows to a sturdy three to five feet tall in almost any soil. It prefers full sun but tolerates partial shade.

Available in very limited quantities: **Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggygria*)** and **Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)**.



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Spring Plant Sale Results - *Heav Finkbeiner*

First, it has now been established that rain is not necessary for the Arboretum to have a successful plant sale.

When the books were closed on the Spring Plant Sale in 1996 the sale had earned \$4,600. In 1997 we realized a record \$14,211 from the event. **This year, in 1998, the sale earned \$17,922 for the Arboretum, an increase of almost \$4,000 over the year before.** (Incidentally, the budgeted income for the sale was set last Fall at \$17,100 - so you can see how well the committee did its job!)

The significant increase in income is due to the concentrated effort of almost 100 people. **We are grateful to each of our hardworking volunteers. The Arboretum couldn't operate without you. Thank you!**

Beginning last August, work was already underway to put together all of the parts and pieces that are needed to make the sale a success. **Carol Wock** was immersed in wish lists, books, and catalogs of suppliers, doing one of the largest jobs - ordering the many unusual plants that the sale depends on for its reputation as a place to find the out-of-the-ordinary and sometimes rare. For several years Carol has been doing yeoman's duty in her role as purchasing agent, a job which has now become so time consuming that it is no longer reasonable to ask her to do the entire job herself. More about that later.

By autumn all 15 of the committee heads had begun to meet and plan every part of sale from budget to food. Commercial vendors selling fertilizer, garden tools, gardening books, mulch, landscape design, etc. have been invited to participate; this year, under the chairmanship of **Linda and Richard Ohlerking**, this aspect of the sale began to contribute to the success of the sale. Each year, the Acorn Shop, under the direction of **Barbara Hunt**, contributes more to the drawing power of the sale. For the second year a raffle gave attendees a chance to win a prize to enhance their own garden and, at the same time, help the Arboretum. As in 1997, the raffle was managed by **Nancy Boericke**. Of course, the principle money maker was the sale of plants with **Carol Wock** as chair, assisted by **Viktoria Serafin, John Manion, Paul Schneider, Florence Grimm, Lucinda Willemain, and Dick Southwick**.

Publicity, which brings the customers to the sale, was handled by the Arboretum Director **Pat Rush**. Laying out the sale area is a major task; it was directed by **Anne Jaster**. **Viktoria Serafin** organized displays by various plant societies, and **Lucinda Willemain** put together the lecture program. Again, **Carolyn Edwards** made sure there were cashiers to total and collect the money. Among her helpers were **Merv Prichard** and **Fran Finkbeiner** as well as many others who worked for hours at a time.

The Pick of the Pots Preview Party has become of particular interest to Arboretum members. First presented last year, the preview party was even more enthusiastically received this year. **Claudia McLaughlin**, along with **John Manion**, provided food and drink to make the event delightful. Many, many plants were sold during the evening.

One feature of the sale which will have the largest longterm effect on the Arboretum was the membership booth. Through **Susan Sagendorf's** efforts almost 100 new members were added to the Arboretum. **It is the members who provide a good measure of the financial support, much of the visibility, and all of the work that makes the Arboretum possible.**

And, where do all the plant sale workers come from? **Florence Grimm** spent many hours calling members to ask for help, matching their available times and interests with the tasks that needed doing, and scheduling everyone into an appropriate spot.

In addition to those names in bold print, the following people also ably assisted to make the sale happen. Please forgive us if we've missed anyone. **Diane Armstrong, Elizabeth**
Continued on page 4 >



Atherton, Winnie Balz, Clarence Bray, Warren Burton, Carolyn Byrne, Richard Clowe, Marion Clowe, Constance Compton, Jane Corby, Debbie Coyle, Robin Glen, Lisa Glen, Maria Greskovich, Bob Grimm, Robert Hennig, Dorothy Heyler, Dick Hunt, Diane Jankowski, Sonja Javarone, Bob Kanarkiewicz, Janice Kelly, Arlene Kien, Pieter Kien, Marklyn Lane, Judy Lott, Winsor Lott, Jean Mancuso, Jean Mastriani, Peg Meunier, Bob Meunier, Marcia Middleton, Jack Middleton, Ed Miller, Ed Mintiens, Jean Mooney, Bill Mooney, Joan Mullen, Ron Neadle, Gil O'Brien, Carol Rader, Elise Reimer, Ruth Repoff, Lisa Richter, Scott Richter, Linda Rosen, Peter Rumora, Rosemary Sibbern, Carsten Sibbern, Jane Smith, Joan Sondergaard, Carol Ann Surash, Betsy Swan, Betsy Swan, Janet Tissiere, Phil Tripp, Janet Vinyard, Wendy Lee Wagner, Bob Wagner, Judy Wertenbaker, Cindy Weyl, Cynthia Willis, Kenneth Wock, Arthur Young, Nick Zabawsky. Also Troop 332, Girl Scout Council 21, Leader: Mary Comley, and Key Club, Schoharie Central School. **WE THANK YOU ALL!**

All in all a most successful weekend in May!

What next?

The sale has now grown to the point where the tried-and-true advance planning crew involved in the past can no longer do the entire job. It is necessary for many more volunteers to step forward. It is literally true - many hands make light(er!) work. If you are able to be involved at any level - from helping to plan next year's sale to assisting in the take-down on the Sunday afternoon after the sale, call the Arboretum office and let us know. No one of us knows each of the Arboretum's more than 600 members and their particular talents and interests; we ask you to speak up. >>

New Members - Please note that the names listed here are new members that joined during the second quarter of 1998. **We wish you welcome!** A complete list of members and contributors will be provided once each year.

Alice Abney
Sally Ann Anderson
Will Anderson &
Heather MacGregor
June Barwick
Sandy Bigley
Martha Blackman
Raitri Blednick
Stephanie Bonefant
Linda & Steve Bonnell
Kathy C. Boomhower
Fred Breglia
David Burdick
Carol Crawford
Katharine & Berkley Davis
Martha, James & David DeBar
Jane DeCoste
Durwood N. DeGroff
Stephen DelPrete
Richard J. DeRosa
Richard Dexter
Anne M. Dollard
Carolyn A. Dollard
Mary E. Downey
Ed Duncan
Pilar & Don Eldridge
Mary Emminger
Anne English
Tim & Alyce Enright
Dolores Fleishut
Katheryn H. Frey
Greg Gardiner
Phyllis S. Gavitt

Liska Gibbons
Robin Glenn
Vivian Granato
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Pat Hoffmeister
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Betty Ann Hughes &
Steven McGrade
Susan & David Irvine
Mary & Tom Jenkins
Christine Kellett
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Tammy & Bill Krisher
Sandy Laird
Evelyn E. Laraway
Lausa Family
Caroline M. Lazzari
Helen T. Lewis
Little's Good Gloves
Norm Lizzul
Tammy Lubbe
Cindi & Scott Macomber
Janne Mathes
Gloria Mazure &
Corinne Williams
F. McCaffrey
Roni McGuigan
Heide Merecki
Peg Miller
Laura Moldoff

James Morton
Marilyn Mowry
Pat & Frank Neaton
Ann M. Nolet
Daniel O'Sullivan
Anthony Orlando
Yvonne Orsini
Jarelle Sperow Palma
Michael Pomodoro
Diane Pustolka
Dorothy Raymond
Joyce Reeve
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Deanna Siegel
Grace Smith
Robin Smith
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Terrill K. Staley
Jo Betty Swerdlow
Jennifer Tynan
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Garden Design
Tom Wemming
Kenneth Wing
Donna Wittig
Clementine K. Zawadzki

Along with our more-than-anticipated success in attracting people to the sale came the problem of parking - peak-time gridlock at this spring's sale. First on the Committee's planning agenda is consideration of several possible solutions for the parking problem. Making the meadow in front of the meeting house all-weather useable is under consideration, along with use of radio-equipped parking attendants. Shuttle buses to and from an off-site parking area has been mentioned.

Proceeds from the plant sales (spring and fall) provided 20% of the Arboretum's budget in 1997, more than any other single source. The plant sales furnish out-of-the-ordinary plants that we all want - the variety and the number of plants is limited only by the time and effort of our volunteers.

Gary DeLuke



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Notable Trees at the Landis Arboretum - Fred Breglia & Pat Rush

The Horticulture Committee has identified the following 30 trees as the Notable Trees of the Landis Arboretum. They are receiving special care this summer as we continue to showcase our collection of trees. Is your favorite tree on this list? Let us know.

Stewartia (*Stewartia koreana*): noted for its beautiful white summer blooms and its mottled bark.

Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*): a deciduous conifer with fern-like foliage; thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1948. It is the second oldest known species of tree.

Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*): star-like foliage and a furrowed bark, with a woody capsule for fruit.

Weeping Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula'): an upright conifer with numerous drooping branches and bluish-green flattened sprays.

Ernest Fir (*Abies ernesti*): the largest fir at the Arboretum; it can reach heights of 150 feet.

Golden Larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*): needles are yellow at first, turn dark green in summer, and then turn bright yellow in the fall. A deciduous conifer tolerant of wet sites.

Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*): attractive dark glossy green foliage gives this pine a prehistoric look. An extremely slow grower, at most five inches per year!

Contorted Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Tortuosa'): a cultivar of European Beech, this has a uniquely twisted trunk and branches. Sometimes called the "Parasol Beech" because of the way the foliage forms a round dome top.

Purple Leaf Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea'): deep black-red foliage and smooth gray bark which develops an elephant hide appearance on older trunks.

Japanese Red Pine (*Pinus densiflora*): needles are slightly twisted and appear tufted due to upright growth along the stems. The tree also has an orange, peeling bark and a spreading habit.

Corkscrew Willow (*Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa'): branches are distinctly gnarled and contorted.

Weeping Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* 'Pendula'): these conifers take on the shape of a green shaggy beast; trunk and branches grow with many twists and turns.

Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*): so named due to its peeling, reddish-brown papery bark.

Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*): a multi-stemmed shrub which can become very large, with many upright branches, and white flowers in June and July.

European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*): almost no diseases or insects threaten this great landscape tree; leaves are similar to a beech, with more serrated edges.

European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*): similar in habit to American Ash, with jet black buds.

Honey Locust (*Gliditsia triacanthos*): thorns everywhere on this tree, from branches to trunk. The trees have pinnately compound leaves and a furrowed bark.

Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*): seeds were used years ago in Kentucky to make a strong bitter beverage. Very late to leaf out, it has a unique scaly bark which curves outward.

Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*): needles in groups of five, which form bush-like tufts at the ends of branches.

Trailing Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Prostrata'): A form of Colorado Blue Spruce with a more pendulous foliage.

Fastigiated Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigiata'): extremely upright in habit, and a bright orange bark two-thirds of the way up the tree.

Cutleaf Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides* 'Dissectum'): finely-cut leaves with crinkled margins, it forms a small bushy specimen tree.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*): the Arboretum's most famous tree, estimated to be 400 to 500 years old.

Dwarf Conifer Collection: too many to list, these conifers are grafts of standard species which create unique growing habits.

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*): the oldest known species of tree, they have fan-like foliage, and are relatively pest and disease free.

Hinoki Cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Minima Glauca'): a conifer with soft scaly foliage. It forms a tall slender pyramid, with reddish bark that sheds in long strips.

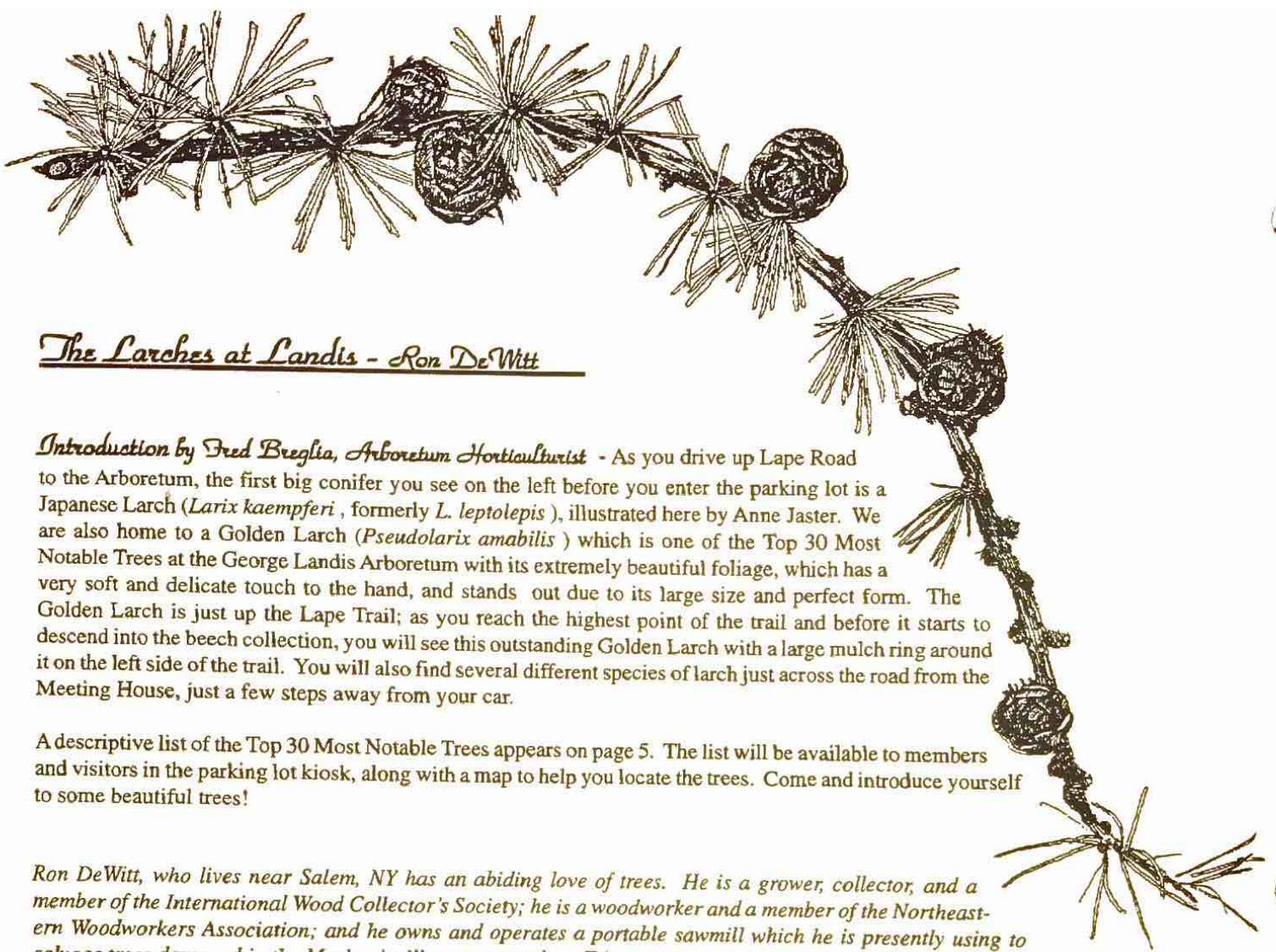
Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*): large, heart-shaped leaves, beautiful white flowers and long slender pods reaching 20 inches in length are distinguishing characteristics of this tree.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*): the bark is cinnamon brown, peels freely on young trees and turns more greyish brown and furrowed on older trees. Likes wet conditions part of the year.

Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*): leaves are 10 to 15 inches long and are made up of many leaflets. Most noted for its ridged and furrowed bark which has a cork-like pattern.

Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*): a tropical-looking tree with purple flowers in May, and fruits that taste like bananas. No serious diseases or pests attack this native tree; it likes deep moist soils along stream banks.

We invite you to consult the map in the parking lot kiosk - and visit our notable trees!



The Larches at Landis - Ron DeWitt

Introduction by Fred Breglia, Arboretum Horticulturist - As you drive up Lape Road to the Arboretum, the first big conifer you see on the left before you enter the parking lot is a Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi*, formerly *L. leptolepis*), illustrated here by Anne Jaster. We are also home to a Golden Larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*) which is one of the Top 30 Most Notable Trees at the George Landis Arboretum with its extremely beautiful foliage, which has a very soft and delicate touch to the hand, and stands out due to its large size and perfect form. The Golden Larch is just up the Lape Trail; as you reach the highest point of the trail and before it starts to descend into the beech collection, you will see this outstanding Golden Larch with a large mulch ring around it on the left side of the trail. You will also find several different species of larch just across the road from the Meeting House, just a few steps away from your car.

A descriptive list of the Top 30 Most Notable Trees appears on page 5. The list will be available to members and visitors in the parking lot kiosk, along with a map to help you locate the trees. Come and introduce yourself to some beautiful trees!

Ron DeWitt, who lives near Salem, NY has an abiding love of trees. He is a grower, collector, and a member of the International Wood Collector's Society; he is a woodworker and a member of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association; and he owns and operates a portable sawmill which he is presently using to salvage trees damaged in the Mechanicville area tornado. - Ed.

The Landis Arboretum is home to an excellent collection of larches including the following species.

European Larch (*L. decidua*), from the Alps, is a tall, fast-growing tree with a thick stem, furrowed bark, pinkish-stemmed branchlets, heavy foliage and one and one-half inch cones. It is successfully planted from seedlings in the Northeast as an ornamental and more extensively for timber. It can grow to 90 feet.

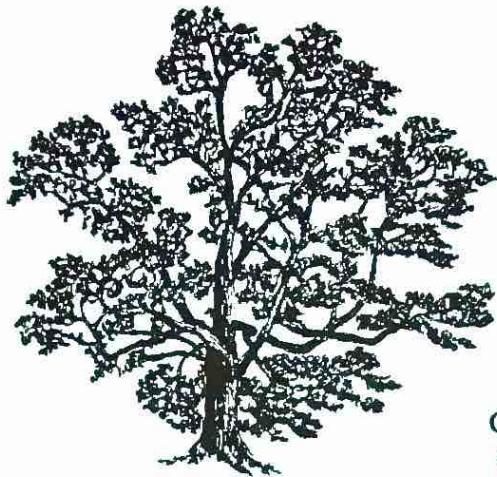
Dahurian Larch (*L. gmelinii*), from Siberia, is a low, slow-growing tree with spreading branches wispy foliage and small cones. It has been grown, with care, successfully in botanical gardens in Ontario, New York, Ohio and Minnesota in bright, sheltered locations.

Tamarack (*L. laricina*) is the native and most common larch of the Northeast. It is a fast-growing tree with a narrow, conical shape, thin branches and small (one inch) rose-like cones. It prefers bright, cool hillsides and moist bogs where it may grow to 70 feet. Tamarack is easily grown in this area.

Japanese Larch (*L. kaempferi* formerly *L. leptolepis*), from Japan, has a broad conical shape. (See the illustration by Anne Jaster.) The branchlets are dark orange to purple; leaves are wide with conspicuous stripes of stomata on the undersides. The cones are compressed with downward curled scales. It is popular and does well as a landscape tree in this area.

Siberian Larch (*L. sibirica*), also from Siberia, is much like the European larch but has softer, "hairy" leaves and cone scales. It is a rare tree and very difficult to grow.

Golden Larch (*Pseudolarix kaempferi*, *P. amabilis*) is a False larch, a stigma it must bear because its cone scales are pointed rather than blunt. Although somewhat difficult to grow, this tree, from China, is the most colorful and probably the most desirable of the larches for garden use. The tree, as wide as it is tall, grows slowly so that it is easily worked into residential plantings. The leaves are larger and wider than the larches, male flowers are bunched and the attractive two inch cones, which look like little globe artichokes, are green



THE ARBORETUM HAS A NEW VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Chaired by Trustee Linda Ohlerking, the Volunteer Committee's mission is to recruit, retain and thank all of the wonderful people who volunteer at the Landis Arboretum.

We Need You!

Will you volunteer a few hours of your time each month to help out with:

Mailings Perennial borders The Acorn Shop
 Guided tours Plant Sales Spring auction

Send Linda your name, address, and phone number. Fill out this form, fold and stamp it, and mail.
Thank you so very much!

YES! I want to be a volunteer at the Landis Arboretum. Please call me.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Best time to call: Day _____

Evening _____

> Continued from the previous page

through the summer before turning brown in the fall. The leaves have a yellow hue when they first emerge, then turn bright green before becoming brilliant yellow-orange in autumn. The Golden Larch requires light, moist, acid, deep, well-drained soil, full sun and some protection from the wind. It has no serious diseases or insect enemies.

The larches number ten widely distributed species throughout the world, all in the Northern Hemisphere. Three species have extensive lowland ranges, collectively ringing the northern polar plains. Seven "relict" species survive in small areas in mountains more to the south. One of the lowland species, Eastern Larch or Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and two relict species, Western Larch (*L. occidentalis*) and the Subalpine Larch (*L. lyalli*), are native to North America. Rarely does any species grow south of a geographic line from northern New Jersey across Minnesota to Oregon, but most will grow to the northern-most tree line.

As a group the larches are pioneer trees, the first to seed into open land. They are conifers, trees bearing woody cones, but are also deciduous, shedding their leaves annually - characteristics shared with only a few species, notably the baldcypresses (*taxodium* spp.) and some redwoods (*sequoia* spp.).

In general character, the larches are tall conical trees with central stems that run straight up like masts with layer after layer of whorled, pendulous, thin branches. The elongated terminal branchlets are studded with buds and short, thick spur-like lateral branchlets marked with ring-like leaf scars. The thin soft leaves (needles) are triangular in cross-section with the "keel" on the bottom. A row of prominent grey stomata (beathing pores) runs each side of the keel. The beautiful green leaves, pale in spring but vivid in summer, grow singularly, spiraling sparsely around the branch ends, or on second year's growth, in crowded fascicles (lacy whorls or tufts), similar to the leaves of the true cedars (*cedrus* spp).

The blood-red buds produce either leaves or flowers. Small round flowers of both sexes appear on the same tree. The bright rose-red color of the female flower is a distinguishing characteristic of the larches. Small erect cones, rugged and tight to the branches mature in their first season, dropping their winged seeds that winter. The cones usually fall the next year, often with a foot or so of branch and a half dozen other cones. The bark is thin, smooth and cinnamon-brown on young trees, growing rougher and separating into small round scales as the trees mature.

Larches grow best in cold bogs and silted swamps or on well-drained, loamy hillsides in neutral or slightly acid soil. They do best in full sunlight and are not shade tolerant. Growth is rapid but slows considerably as they crowd themselves - successful plantings require regular thinning to keep the crowns in the sun.

Larch leaves turn brilliant lemon-yellow before dropping in autumn, leaving the trees looking bare and emaciated. A grove of them is a rather dismal sight from early winter to late spring. Their dark graceful shapes clearly suggest that they are evergreens but the barren branches give the appearance of a woods destroyed by fire!

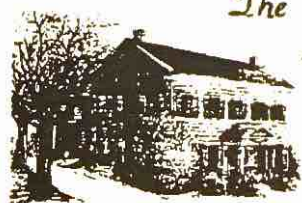
The texture of the larches makes the wood a little difficult to work for woodworkers - the uneven grain tends to leave rough surfaces, and fasteners may cause some splitting. Abundant resin in the wood requires careful sealing or priming. The wood is not good for bending applications but is quite durable when exposed to soil or the weather. Dermatitis and asthma have been reported by those working with larch.

American Indians used the long, tough, slender and pliant tamarack roots to lace their birch bark canoes. Early American boat builders also used tamarack roots. They used root knees for structural support members - "ship's knees" - between deck and hull frames. (The 170 foot "Friendship" recently constructed in Albany, used tamarack knees from Maine.) These root knees develop when roots, growing in shallow mud, are deflected at a sharp angle by deeper hardpan or rock.

Larch made good utility poles before creosote became a standard treatment. It is now used for plywood, veneer, railroad crosssties, fence posts and mine timbers. Lumber is used for construction framing, wet tank construction, windows, some cabinet work, lawn furniture, boxes and crates. Tamarack is also used for boat framing, keels, spars and hull and deck planking.

The resin from tamarack has long been known for its curative benefits - to heal wounds, draw infection and relieve soreness. The benefit comes from abundant quantities, especially in the butt log, of a water-soluble gum, *arabinogalactan*, which is easily extracted for use in medication, food, paint and ink, and is oxidized into mucic acid, used in making baking soda.

For those interested in adding a larch (or a pseudo-larch) to your own collection, consider the following sources: New York State Tree Nursery, Saratoga; Musser Forests, Indiana, Pennsylvania. Or watch for them at the Arboretum's plant sales.



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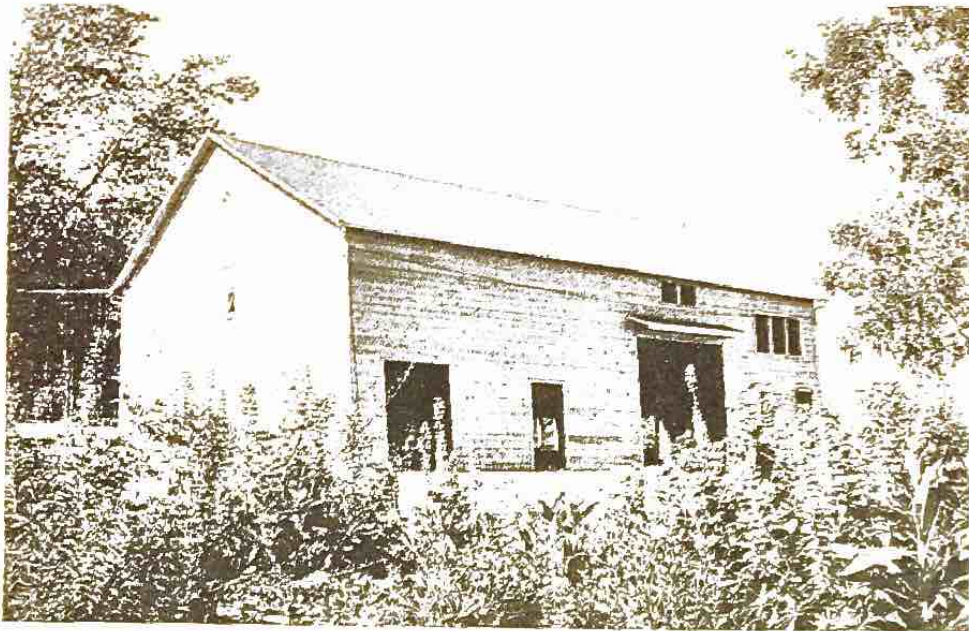
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Doug Plummer
Garth Roberts



Left: The Arboretum's newly renovated English-style barn. It will be stained in early September and awaits sufficient funds to add doors and windows.

A Bit of Barn Lore - Nancy Boericke

The English barn on the Lape farm has been through several transformations, reflecting the vagaries of Fred's financial circumstances. No part of this old structure is more revealing of Fred Lape's character than the studio which was located at the eastern end. In the 1940's, when he was forced to return to subsistence farming, to return his barn, within the span of one summer, to its original purpose of storing hay and sheltering animals for the winter, Fred could not bear to tear out his beloved studio. "(Its) construction pleased me too much to give up." (From The Year Everything Changed by F. Lape. Unpublished.)

In the early 1930's, flush with the success of getting some poems and novels published, looking forward to a bright future, and joined by fellow artists, Fred first transformed his barn. They tore down a wagon house at the southwest corner of the building and used the lumber to modify the eastern half of the barn which held a stable on the ground floor and hayloft above. As Fred described their efforts, "Our plans were elaborate."

They built a solid wooden floor at ground level and a second solid floor, accessed by a stairway along the eastern wall, creating a low-ceilinged first floor room with a large balcony, and behind it, on a semi-third story, a bedroom. "Under the short series of steps leading to the inner balcony we constructed a writing desk with drawers beneath. Both rooms were paneled with hemlock paneling, the old siding of the wagon house turned over, planed, sandpapered, and treated with linseed oil."

"Not satisfied with a balcony on the inside (which faced the windows on the eastern wall - Ed.) we ran a narrow balcony all along the east side of the barn outside, where one could set in the afternoons and enjoy the view across the wide curve of the Schoharie Valley." This balcony was accessed by a small porch on the south side.

Those of us fortunate enough to have seen this construction before the recent rehabilitation of the barn's structure necessitated its removal can easily imagine the young poets and painters filling Fred's studio with the deep silence of artistic labors or vivid discussions of techniques, fashions and politics. These were young, well-educated, optimistic members of the Roaring Twenties generation and the effects of the Depression had not yet reached Esperance, New York.

By the winter of 1942 Fred Lape had lost his job at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and was forced to return the barn to more practical purposes. "I needed stables, haymows, chicken house and hopen, for it seemed obvious that I would need more

than sheep to keep myself solvent." But he left the studio area intact. "All my constructions were hasty and sleazy, roofed with galvanized iron when I could afford it and with tar paper when I couldn't. Lack of money and lack of time hounded me." We can understand that his heart was not in the work.

By the 1960's the balcony and small porch supports had rotted and were torn down but the inside rooms remained (indeed they remained until 1998!) and were once again used as meeting rooms for the recently incorporated George Landis Arboretum. Programs on growing bonsai or plant propagation and poetry readings were offered to the Capital District community.



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Order Form, Fall Plant Sale, 1998

To order lilacs described in Carol Wock's article on page. 1, fill out the form, and enclose your check made payable to Landis Arboretum and mail to: Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Lape Road, Esperance, NY 12066. Orders must be received no later than Monday, August 31.

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Upcoming Events

August

- 19 Arboretum Adventures for Kids, *Birds*, 10-1:30
- 23 Family Workshop, *Family Wildflower Walk*, 2-3:30 pm

September

- 5 Arboretum Tour, Fruits, Berries and Collectable Seeds, 10 am
- 12 Family Workshop, *Plant Art*, 2-3:30 pm
- 12-13 Fall Plant Sale, 10-4
- 26 Family Workshop, *Fall Foliage Walk*, 2-3:30

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Eupatorium purpureum

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Joe-Pye Weed

Where the brook meanders to the river
joe-pye weed makes a thicket of the banks.
Midsummer its flowers like a rose coverlet
over a green bed stand shoulder high.
At its feet in dark water the shiners
rest in shade or dart through pools of sunlight.
Like the flash of youth the flicker of light
on their sides, from dark into light
and swiftly again into dark, and high
over their small world joe-pye weed
spreads its blossoms in the greater light.

- Fred Lape
A Bunch of Flowers