



The Newsletter LANDIS ARBORETUM

Esperance, New York

Fall 2000

Volume 19, No. 4

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Upcoming Events

Nov. 17 Astronomers Star Party, 7:30 pm

The Acorn Shop is closed for the season. We thank our volunteers - and we thank YOU for supporting the shop. We will see you when we open again on the weekend of the Spring Plant Sale, May 19-20.

The Arboretum grounds are open every day of the year from dawn until dusk.

Please do sign in each time you visit. A count of the number of visitors at Landis is information helpful for each grant application. Do enjoy your visits!

New York State Grants Program: ZBGA Program Funding Increase

- Helen Phillips, Executive Director

The Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums program of New York State is a continuing source of funds for Landis Arboretum. The ZBGA program provides critical support to the zoos, botanical gardens, arboreta, aquariums and nature centers across the state for operations and collections care. Here at Landis ZBGA funds provide a significant part of our Horticulturist's salary, making this a truly indispensable grant for us.

This summer a group of representatives from ZBGA-funded organizations met with Senator Joseph L. Bruno to make him aware of the continuing need for support. As a result, \$1,000,000 was added to the ZBGA program, and we are very appreciative of Mr. Bruno's efforts. This increase in funding should allow us to continue improvements to our collection and expand our conservation programs. Special thanks go also to our local Senator James Seward, for his continued interest in and support of the Landis Arboretum.

If you would like to add your voice of thanks, write to: The Honorable Joseph L. Bruno, NYS Senate, Room 909, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 and/or The Honorable James Seward, NYS Senate, Room 307, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247.

Award Received from Deutsche Bank Americas

The Arboretum has received an award of \$5,000 from the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation under the bank's Environmental Sustainability Grant program. Although the information about the program was not received until Friday, October 20 and the deadline was Monday, October 23, quick work by two Landis Trustees and Arboretum member Keith Johnson (who recommended Landis for the grant) made it possible to submit the application by 2:00 PM on October 23.

The grant will be used to help complete the Arboretum's collection of trees that have been identified by the Urban Culture Institute of Cornell University as ideal trees for difficult environments. And it will help identify and preserve some of the best examples of those trees in towns and cities in the Capital District.

The Arboretum already has a substantial fraction of the trees identified as suitable for difficult sites and when our collection is complete, Landis will be one of the few places where it is possible to see an example of each of the trees on the list. (Cont'd on p. 2)

From the Garden

- Helen Phillips, Executive Director

Fall is an interesting time of year at Landis Arboretum. First, there are all the beautiful colors of the season...and warm sun, bright blue skies, and colorful foliage and fruit. If you come to the Arboretum soon, ask to see the sapphire berries – they are spectacular and truly live up to the name. Another interesting aspect of fall is that there are both “growth” and “rest” activities at the same time. Within days of each other, trees are planted and perennial beds are tucked away for winter.

If you have never been to Landis in winter, I encourage you to make time for a visit this year. I, for one, am looking forward to winter here. I'm looking forward to how the architecture of the trees, shrubs and landscape will be more evident without foliage cloaking them. The first snowfall (we've actually had flurries) will be beautiful.

Fred and I have already talked about how we will have to do our weekly tours of the Arboretum on snowshoes. Never having snow-shoed before, I'm really looking forward to undertaking a sport that is growing in popularity. What little I do know about it leads me to believe that the Arboretum will be a great place to snowshoe – a variety of terrain and great views!

Bored with cross-country skiing on the same old golf courses? Even at the height of summer, I've had my eye on possible cross-country ski runs that I look forward to taking with my kids. Have you thought of the great possibilities for winter recreation that the Arboretum offers? What a great way to work off some of the extra treats that always creep into the house during the holidays. Come out and join us for winter fun!

Deutsche Bank Americas Grant, *continued from page 1*

Landis is grateful to the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation for this award, and to member Keith Johnson who thought of the Arboretum as a worthy recipient.

Additional Very Welcome Donations

Two hundred shares of stock donated to Landis by Trustee Mervyn Prichard enriched the Arboretum's endowment fund by \$7,212 – and we are grateful.

A donation of \$400 by the M. Jeanne Place Charitable Foundation will be matched by the G.E. Foundation, and we do thank Ms. Place.



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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Shipmates

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"We work with boards from these trees, to fulfill their yearning for a second life, to release their richness and beauty. From these planks we fashion objects useful to man, and if nature wills, things of beauty."

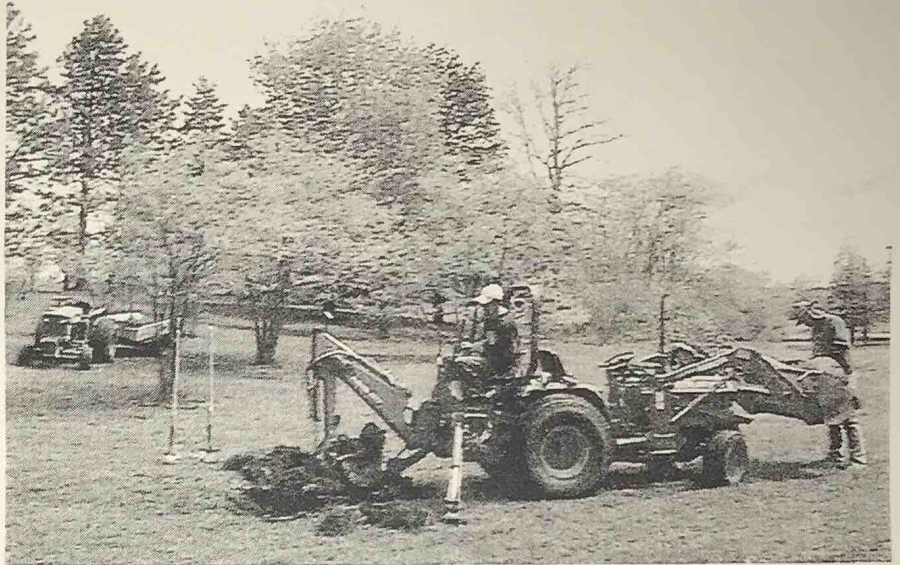
— George Nakashima, 1981

Wish List

Our wish list is active in every season! Please consider putting Landis on your Holiday gift list.

- The latest printing of *Hortus Third*; Rehder's *Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs*; and *The Certified Arborists Study Manual*, International Society of Arborists.
- volunteers – always
- hard-back rakes
- wheelbarrows
- garden carts
- chainsaw
- walkie talkies (one set)
- larger tractor We wish for a John Deere 790, or a machine of equal quality, 4-wheel drive, 30 HP, with backhoe and loader.

The photo opposite (with Fred Breglia and Ken Carnes) illustrates only one of the myriad of uses that a small Arboretum like ours with a one-person horticultural and operations staff would have for a larger tractor. The machine you see here was rented for this particular job. If you can give any assistance in our quest, please telephone or write the Arboretum.



ABOVE: Fred Breglia (on the machine) and Ken Carnes, Trustee. Photo by Terry Staley



How Does Our Garden Grow?



A HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTION

Is there a new homeowner on your list...one with a yard in need of trees, shrubs, perennials? Or perhaps another gardener?

Give them a gift membership in the Arboretum...and they will receive Spring Plant Sale information, the Advance Order Catalog...AND get a 10% discount at the plant sales!

New Members – Please note that the names listed here are new members that joined during the third quarter of 2000. The Arboretum membership is growing at a heart-warming rate - and **we welcome you!** Enjoy Landis in every season – Nature's seasonal menus are diverse.

Marilyn & Lou Baisch
James Bazzone
Glenda Crandall
Christopher Fallo
John Felscher
Deb Isabella
Dorlian & Charles Johnson
Barbara Landon
Kelly Martin
Carol McClenahan

Sue and Scott Miller
Susan Murray
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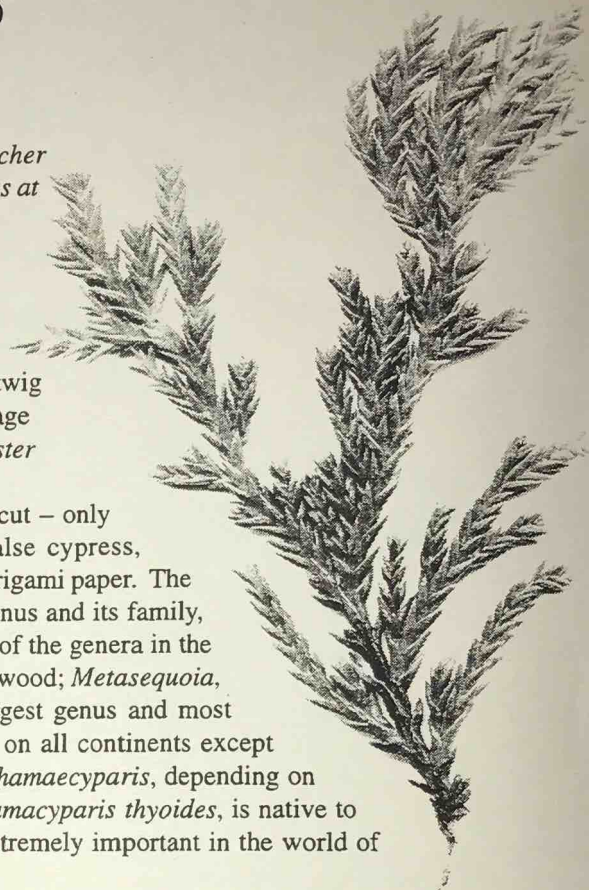
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One of the sacred trees of Kiso'

- Sonja Javarone

Sonja Javarone, long-time volunteer at the Arboretum, is a retired biology teacher from Mayfield, NY. She provided last month's article in this series of Notable Trees at the Landis Arboretum that appears in each issue of this newsletter.

Chamaecyparis obtusa twig
x2 scanned image
- Heinz Jaster



Out of respect for the spirit of the tree that gave it life, origami paper is never cut – only folded. The Shinto religion of Japan has five sacred trees. The Hinoki false cypress, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, is one of the sacred trees and, most likely, one source of origami paper. The species is native to Japan and Taiwan. Other members of the *Chamaecyparis* genus and its family, Cupressaceae, cypress family, are revered by various cultures worldwide. Some of the genera in the family include *Juniperus*, junipers; *Thuja*, arborvitae or white cedar; *Sequoia*, redwood; *Metasequoia*, dawn redwood; and *Taxodium*, bald cypress. Of these, the junipers are the largest genus and most prevalent in the Northern Hemisphere. Other more localized genera are found on all continents except Antarctica. Many are rare and endangered. Five to eight species of the genus *Chamaecyparis*, depending on which taxonomist you consult, are found in Asia and North America. One, *Chamaecyparis thyoides*, is native to eastern North America. False cypress and other genera within the family are extremely important in the world of horticulture.

Hinoki means “fire tree.” The practice of making fire by friction is still used at Shinto shrines. Often, origami folded art is left at the shrines by visitors. *Chamaecyparis* is derived from Greek (chamai = on the ground, and kyparissos = cypress). *Obtusa* is derived from Latin (obtusus = rounded or blunt-ended referring to the foliage).

The Hinoki False Cypress is an extremely variable species. To develop a new cultivar, all one has to do is plant some seeds. Most are trees to 40 meters (130') high and three meters (10') in diameter, but some forms are nearly prostrate dwarfs. The trees are of a pyramidal habit with reddish-brown fibrous fissured bark. The slender branchlets are closely arranged in one plane. The seedling leaves are awl-shaped, while mature foliage is scale-like with overlapping leaves (needles) like shingles on a roof. The white marks, like little Xs and Ys, on the lower surfaces of the leaves help distinguish this species from the similar foliage on arborvitae. The small, 8-12 mm, globose cones have smoothly rounded scales. The seeds are narrowly winged, 3mm long by 4mm in diameter.

Hardiness also varies greatly, so caution is required when planting in our area. Cultivars can vary from Zone 4, -30 - -20 degrees F. through Zone 8, 10 to 20 degrees F. The Zone 8 form is native to Taiwan. The Hinoki False Cypress is a coastal species in warm humid temperate regions. Keeping hardiness and native habitat in mind should be a guide to choosing a suitable cultivar and planting site.

The Landis Arboretum Hinoki false cypress is to the right of the kiosk near the lower parking lot. It is a densely foliated small tree of the typical pyramidal habit, but it is only about 15 feet tall. However, the species in general is slow-growing and specimens may not reach 25 feet in 20 years; consequently, the eventual height of our specimen is still in doubt. The Landis tree differs from the norm in that it has very small scale-like leaves on fine wavy-edged sprays. The foliage is very dense, so much so that one can barely see the multi-trunk beneath. Fred Lape called our cultivar '*minima glauca*'. No current reference to this name is to be found in the literature. Our specimen was transplanted in 1951 from the home of George Landis in Troy, New York. The nursery origin was unknown. Other cultivars, descriptive term invented by this particular nursery than an official cultivar name. As happens, this name may be more of a kiosk in the spring of 1959. This is a superior tree and part of our notable tree collection.

Another smaller Landis Hinoki false cypress is located in the choice conifers along the Fred Lape Trail. The foliage on this specimen is more typical of the species, although it appears to be a dwarf. It was obtained from the Swan River Nursery, Patchogue, Long Island in 1954.

Hinoki False Cypress, (Cont'd from p. 4)

The Hinoki false cypress is part of the natural forest of the species near Nagano, Japan. It is now extensively planted. The Japanese have been conducting breeding programs since the 1950s aimed at developing superior trees reproduced by using cuttings and other methods of vegetative propagation. Eventually the Japanese forestry experts hope to perfect an efficient tissue culture technique. Native areas formally occupied by what is called the Laurel Forest ecosystem are now being developed into plantations of *Cryptomeria japonica*, Japanese cedar; *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, Hinoki false cypress; and *Pinus densiflora*, Japanese red pine. This is similar to the NYS program for reforestation involving *Pinus resinosa*, red pine; *Picea glauca*, white spruce; and *Thuja occidentalis*, arborvitae or white cedar.

By the way, Hinoki false cypress is the most valued of coffin wood in all of Japan and is most desirable for landscaping and bonsai. It is often planted near shrines, is an important commercial timber tree for general construction and furniture, and is a base for lacquer ware.

According to Michael Dirr, there is "considerable variation in cutting rootability among different cultivars of this species...cuttings may be treated with 50 to 100 IBA/18 to 24 hours or soak or 8000ppm IBA-talc...cutting wood was collected from current season's growth al-

though 2 and 3 year old wood also rooted...untreated cuttings rooted equally well when taken from September through January."

This species is a unique landscape specimen requiring full sun, moist well-drained neutral to slightly acid soil, and a somewhat protected area with no hot dry winds. Fred Lape noted that, of the forms he attempted to grow, the tree forms seemed to be hardier in this area than were the dwarfs. As noted earlier, the choice of cultivar is crucial to success. The following are recommended for Zone 5: 'Crippsii', 'Gracilis', 'Nana Gracilis', 'Filicoides', and 'Nana'.

Perhaps our modern society has lost sight of the rich history originating in cultures that had - and have - a closer relationship with the living natural environment. Planting a Hinoki false cypress as a reminder of our relationship with all living things may be the thing to do. Maybe we will catch the "spirit of the tree."

Fall Plant Sale Results

- Herm Finkbeiner

The plant sale seems to bring out the worst of the Weather Makers! Despite of another rainy day, the Fall Plant Sale was a success. As always the Arboretum members who volunteered to help with the sale were not deterred by a little (a lot) rain. Almost fifty members helped with set-up during the week and during the sale on Saturday and Sunday.

Even with the rainy weekend, the sales were almost identical to last year and financially, the sale earned the Arboretum \$5,492, more than any previous Fall sale. The increase in earnings for the Arboretum was almost entirely due to the many fine plants that members donated. Very gratifying indeed was the fact that the donated plants were eagerly sought by the buyers, and there were very few left on Sunday evening.


As has been demonstrated many times, a good, hard-working group can produce amazing results! We thank all of you who helped make the sale a success.

Volunteers Wanted

- Helen Phillips, Executive Director

The Arboretum has so many diverse activities and we want the membership and the community to know all about them. We are looking for volunteers to help us publicize each event. This would involve sending press releases - stuffing envelopes, labeling and mailing. The job would entail about three or four hours for each event. We have an easy-to-follow publicity manual, complete with names, addresses and phone numbers.

Can you help? Please call the office if you have questions or to volunteer. Thank you!



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Collections News

- Fred Breglia, Horticulturist

As I write this, I look outside and see the browns and purples of the oak trees that populate and border the arboretum. The peak of autumn color is past, but this time of year provides its own kind of subtle tones that color the landscapes around our homes.

This has been a very busy fall for us. The fields located on the northern and eastern sides of the Arboretum have been mowed and look better than ever. They provide many acres of hiking and walking in Nature's beauty.

Tree Planting Workshop for Municipal Workers – The workshop was presented by Capital Region ReLeaf members jointly with Landis and with the assistance of Mike Urban, DEC, Ken Carnes, Albany County Cooperative Extension, and myself. As part of the workshop another seven crabapple trees were planted (below).

Millenium Tree Planting – On Tuesday, November 7 at 5 p.m., we will be planting the Arboretum's Millenium Tree. The tree planting is part of a program entitled 2000 Trees for the Year 2000 sponsored by Niagara Mohawk, to promote the planting

of trees in the new century. Our Millenium Tree is a sugar maple to be planted near the farmhouse that was the homestead of our founder, Fred Lape. The maple tree was provided by the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association.

Award from Federated Garden Clubs – The Third District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. have presented a citation to Landis for excellence in landscaping and maintenance. The Arboretum was selected by members of the Schoharie Valley Garden Club and evaluated by the NYS Landscape Design Consultants to receive the award.

We are pleased to be recognized for our hard work and we thank the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS for doing so.

Autumn Workfest, October 21 – Ten members of Scout Pack #46 of Central Bridge helped a half-dozen Arboretum members rake leaves, clean the perennial beds, and stow the picnic tables in the barn. Lunch was donated and served by Cindi Mickle, Susan Sagendorf and Florence Grimm.

SPECIAL THANKS!

We would like to say a special thank you to the following volunteers:

To Chris Cash who donated two pairs of pruners, 100 plastic labels and a red maple which is planted near the barn - and to Chris and the SUNY Nursery Program for plants for the Fall Sale.

And we thank Peter Rumora who spent time spraying to eliminate weeds around the grounds.

We thank Terry Staley for his various labors around the Arboretum and for the photos he adds to our records.

We thank Sonja Javarone for her continued help with BG-base.

And we thank Durward Degroff for reinforcing the barn doors to withstand the wind and for repairing the kitchen door.

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

BELOW: (Left to right) Fred Breglia, Ken Carnes, and Jessica Conti planting one of the last seven crabapples for this year.



BELOW: A spring view of just a few of the crabapple trees in the Landis collection. Be sure to visit the collection in spring 2001!



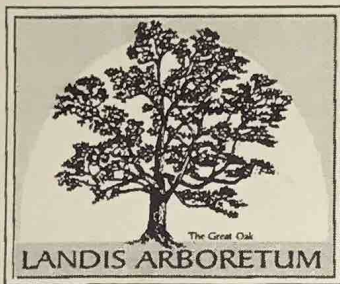
Out and About at Your Arboretum



Counter-clockwise from top right: A newly-mown field below the Meeting House; Jessica Conti and Ken Carnes "plant" an identifying sign while Fred Breglia supervises; Ken Staley prunes dead branches from the Great Oak; Fred up a tree - again - tidying the Great Oak; and, finally, the Landis Arboretum's signature Great Oak with a convenient and comfortable bench to rest upon, and enjoy that magnificent Schoharie Valley view.

Have you visited the Great Oak? No?! Please do.





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The Landis Arboretum, a far view, from across the valley.
Photo by Fran Finkbeiner

Frosty Morning

Now still and quiet, like a world created
But not yet given life, the valley lies.
Each tree is a shining feather of frost;
Each grass blade of the meadow is dusted over
With diamond ash; fence posts and wires,
Even the dull clods of the rutted road
Have broken like waves in crystal spray.

See how all shimmers in the rising sun.
How dare I put any foot upon this earth
(O for some power to transform me and my kind)
for touching I will leave dark tracks behind
and sully, as often other ways, the space
I walk upon.