



The Newsletter LANDIS ARBORETUM

Esperance, New York

Winter 2001

Volume 20, No. 1

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Upcoming Events

(At the Arboretum unless otherwise noted.)

FEB. 6, 13	Horticulture Certificate Class:
20, 27	Soils & Lawn Care
	6:30-8:30 pm
27	Adult Workshops: Perennial Gardening With Extreme Themes, 6-9 pm, Colonic Community Center
MARCH 3	Adult Workshop: Basketmaking, 1-4 pm First Reformed Church, Schenectady
23	Astronomers: Star Party, 8 pm
21, 28,	Horticulture Certificate Class:
APRIL 4-11	Identifying Herbaceous Plants, 6:30-8:30 pm
18	Bus Trip: NY Botanic Garden
21	Spring Workfest Raindate: April 28
21	Astronomers: Star Party, 8:30
29	Spring Program: Spring Migration Hawk Watch, 9 am-5pm Hawk Identification, 2-3:30
MAY 1, 8, 15,	Botanical Drawing in
22, 29	the Garden, 4-7 pm

Bill Fairchild Enlarges the Arboretum by 68%

For things to grow at the Arboretum is everyone's expectation - but on December 18, 2000 the whole Arboretum grew by 68%.

The formal transfer of property was completed on that date, and through the generosity of Bill Fairchild, a longtime member, the Arboretum gained 66 acres of magnificent woods to the northeast. The gift will allow the Arboretum to add to its activities with extended trails and natural areas, provide a site for new and different types of collections and make the Arboretum an even more important factor in environmental preservation.

The entire membership and the Board of Trustees wishes to express sincere thanks to Mr. Fairchild for his contribution and for his continuing interest in the Arboretum and its mission.

Collections News

- Fred Breglia, Horticulturist

Winter solstice is past and the days are lengthening. Snow completely covers the grounds at the Arboretum. I love the pristine cool clean air and the delicate patterns of ice and snow that Mother Nature sculpts from frozen water. Winter is the season to enjoy another aspect of plants. One can appreciate the form and structure of woody plants at this time perhaps more than at any other. We can see the subtle browns, grays, reds, and yellows in twigs and bark that are masked by the lush green foliage in summer. In the Van Loveland perennial garden the seed heads and resting plants form a unique winterscape. This is a great time of year to visit the Arboretum; walking trails become great cross-country ski and snowshoe trails.

Now that a new year is beginning, it's a good time to look at the past year in retrospect. The year 2000 was a banner year here at Landis. The spring and summer were extremely wet, making mowing and weeding constant and challenging. There were sections of the Arboretum that we could not mow until late summer due to the soggy conditions. Weeds in the mulch beds and flower gardens grew with astounding vigor.

During this same time period the blooms in the flowering sections of the Arboretum were exuberant. The increased care to our plants, proper pruning, mulching, and fertilizer use helped to give us record bloom from our lilacs, rhododendrons and crabapples. However, the muddy trails made viewing slightly harder.

- Continued on page 4

From the Garden - Helen Phillips

January 18, 2001

OK - I said in my last column that I would be snow shoeing this winter for the first time. I've even had a few of you ask if I've gotten out there yet. Rest assured, I just did, and all I can say is Wow! What a great way to see the Arboretum in winter. Fred and I took a walk today (it's the third week of January) and winter at the Arboretum is spectacular. My favorite tree, the Contorted Beech, is a sight to behold. Thanks to the hard work done by the inmates and officers of the Summit Shock Camp, the views from the Arboretum over the Schoharie Valley are plentiful. And, if you enjoy seeing animal tracks, this is the place for you; deer, rabbit and turkey seen today. I encourage you all to come out and see for yourselves.

Who said that winter is a slow time for an arboretum? There may be many dormant plants but the people are all going strong. The Arboretum is a hive of activity with people working on the Spring Plant Sale, the Horticultural Certificate classes and planning for other activities. We are always in need of volunteers to help fulfill the potential of the Arboretum. There are tasks as varied as stuffing envelopes, serving on committees and coordinating programs. If you find yourself feeling housebound and in need of a reason to stretch beyond your usual routine give us a call. We would love to have you work with us!

Finances, Growth and Prospects

- Herm Finkbeiner, Treasurer

For the Landis Arboretum, an organization devoted to long-growing trees, it is imperative to look into the future. The year 2000, which some believed to be the start of a new millennium, provided an opportunity to look far into the future.

Any organization's ability to look realistically to the future is determined by its financial stability. The Arboretum had mixed financial results in 2000. Our income was \$5,090 above expectations with a total income of \$133,240 for the year. Contributions from members and employers' matching contributions amounted to \$15,489, well above any previous amount. The Acorn Shop had an outstanding year with revenue of \$8,191, more than double the targeted amount. Another highlight was the Horticulture Certificate Program, which had an overflow enrollment and produced an income of \$7,788.

Unfortunately there were several areas that missed the hoped-for results. Miserable weather for the spring plant sale resulted in missing the projected income by a little more than \$5,000. Program underwriting, membership dues and new grant money also fell short of their targets.

On the expense side of the ledger, the total for the year was \$154,617, resulting in a budget over-run of \$21,377. The deficit was covered by withdrawals from our investment account, a practice which cannot be repeated without seriously jeopardizing the financial stability of the arboretum.

In part, the budget deficit in 2000 may be explained by two extraordinary expenses. As part of the long range planning process and the acquisition of the Fairchild land, a survey was done at a cost of \$9,000. And, another large expense covered necessary repairs to the farmhouse, costing approximately \$4,000.

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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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While a great deal has been accomplished in 2000, we cannot continue to use the investment account to cover budget deficits. Therefore the 2001 budget is a tight one with no room for anything other than absolutely necessary expenditures.

BUS TRIP

New York Botanic Gardens

- Nancy Boericke

On Wednesday, April 18, the Landis Arboretum is offering a bus tour to the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx to see the special exhibit, "The New Renaissance Garden," created by Gary Barnum, Director of Cooperstown Greenhouses. Gary has been responsible for extensive plantings in Cooperstown that were featured in *Garden Design*.

We will divide into small groups for a guided tour of the newly-renovated Haupt Conservatory and Greenhouse, where the exhibit is staged. After the guided tour, we will be on our own to tour the gardens and have lunch.

In bloom at this time, we should find native plants, the rock garden plants, daffodils, magnolias, orchids, plants in the terrarium area and the cherry trees. At their peak should be daffodils, magnolias, cherries, forsythia, hepatica, trillium, witch hazel, spicebush and minor bulbs.

The Malus collection alone contains 89 different trees ranging in age from 5 to 70 years. The lilac collection contains over 100 different varieties. Daffodil Hill is a collection containing thousands of naturalized daffodils and the Daffodil Walk adjacent to the Garden Cafe features over 186 different daffodil cultivars.

The trails at the NYBG are paved and easy to walk, with longer walks possible for the hearty. They meander through the Forest, beside the pond in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, next to the forest on Azalea Way.

The group will leave from the Wade Bus Terminal, 797 Burdeck Street, Rotterdam, where there is plenty of safe parking, at 6:15 am, arriving in the Bronx at 10:30.

A voucher for lunch in the Garden Cafe is included with your registration. Admission to all the special gardens, such as the Children's Garden and the Wildflower Garden, is also included with registration, as well as 10% off on purchases in the Garden Gift Shop.

The bus will depart from NYBG at 3:30 pm and arrive back at the Wade Terminal by 7:30 pm. There will be a rest/refreshment stop on the way down and on the way back.

The fee for this trip is \$65 per person. There is a members' discount of \$5 up until Wednesday, March 21, 12 noon. After that, members pay the same as non-members. Please call the Landis Arboretum at (518) 875-6935 for further information and mail your checks to: Landis Arboretum, PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: NOON, APRIL 11
Reservation form on page 7.



Plant Sale Preparation

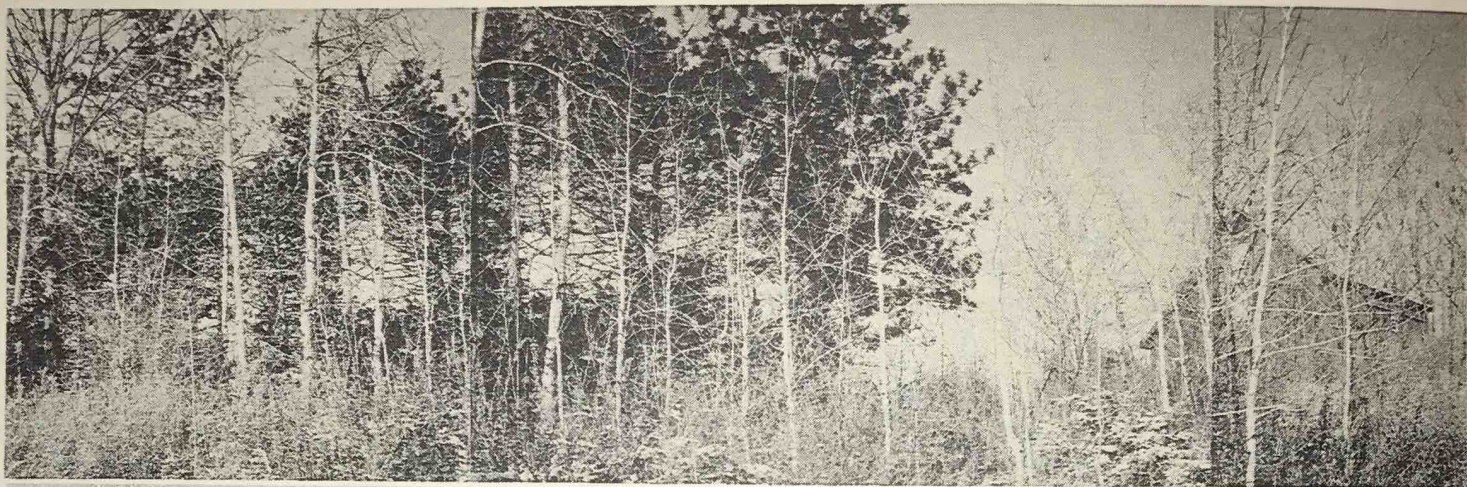
- Lawson Harris, Chair

Spring Plant Sale - May 18, 19, 20, 2001

Right through the best winter sports season in years, we have had expert gardeners pouring through plant lists and catalogs, selecting for us a group of about 200 species and varieties of interesting woody plants and perennials to enhance our gardens and plantings next spring. Those selected for their utility or their beauty of form, flowers, fruits, leaves or stems (and their availability) range in size from mature ground covers a few inches high to large specimen trees many feet in height and spread. Some have been specially assembled with short descriptions, citing recommendations and prices in our Spring Plant Sale 2001 Advance Order Catalog, which you should have received late in January. **Please return your order promptly.** We will try to match supply to demand, but some popular items may be in short supply. The requests will be filled in the order received as long as the supply lasts. If you did not receive an Advance Order Catalog, call the Arboretum and we'll mail you one.

We will soon start calling volunteers, without whom there could be no sale. Well over a hundred volunteers work together to make the sale possible. Many of you automatically put the sale week dates on your calendars and plan other activities around those dates. For this we are grateful.

If you are interested in joining our plant sale volunteer staff, please complete and return the Volunteer Sign-Up on the back of the order form in the Advance Order Catalog. Alternatively, you can phone (518-875-6935) or fax (518-875-6394) or e-mail (landis@midtel.net) the Arboretum office. Committee members need help with specific tasks in preparation for the sale: securing raffle items, organizing and making plant signs, record keeping, and mailings. More volunteers are always needed to set up for the sale, as well as to help out during the sale. Won't you join us? We work hard, but we have lots of fun. (*Lawson is shown above - having "lots of fun" at the soggy Spring Plant Sale 2000.*) Photo by Fran Finkbeiner



COLLECTIONS NEWS (Continued from page 1)

The weather gave us a little break in spring and let the grounds dry out just enough for us to plant more than half of the "new" resistant variety crabapples. The crabapples were only some of the new trees planted during this growing season. We received a number of new trees from Niagara Mohawk (NIMO) and the New York State Nursery Landscape Association (NYSNLA) as part of their 2000 trees for the year 2000 project. The Arboretum as a not-for-profit organization was qualified to receive six trees, a Cornelian cherry dogwood, Eastern redbud, Callery pear, river birch and Freeman maple. We also received a sugar maple that we designated as our millennium tree and planted in front of the farmhouse to replace the large sugar maple that was cut down a few years ago. Planting continued on through summer and fall. Abundant moisture saved a lot of work in watering new trees.

Again this summer we had the help of the PIC (Private Industry Council) to help with collection maintenance. They mulched trees, pulled weeds, continued the cutting and clearing of invasive species. They also opened a new path to the Lape Memorial Stone.

The Arboretum has received a great gift from NYS Department of Correctional Services. For several months inmates and their supervising corrections officers have been working diligently on the Arboretum grounds. Over 1000 man-hours of labor have been performed at Landis this fall and winter by inmates of the Summit Shock Facility. On your next visit make sure you notice the fine

work that has been done. Large areas of brush have been cleared around the Great Oak, greenhouse, peony garden, Meeting House, and on the entry hillside above the parking lot. Note the before and after views of the Meeting House from the newly-cleared hillside just south and east of the building. This work has opened up fantastic views of the Arboretum as well as the Schoharie Valley. (The photos here are by Fred Breglia. They are composites of several photos.) We will now be able to maintain these newly-opened areas simply by mowing and brush-hogging. It has been a pleasure to work with them all, and we hope to maintain this productive working relationship for a long time.

Landis is home to a multitude of birds, both year-round and seasonally. As many of you know we installed several bluebird nest boxes around the grounds; again the boxes were used by the resident bluebirds. In fact we had 12 successful fledglings. Bluebirds and robins are both found here in winter; many fly to warmer climes to spend the cold months of the year - but some stay the winter here in the north. Robins are often seen just before dark, flocking together to roost in conifers. Even though temperatures may be unfriendly, winter is a wonderful time to watch and identify birds; some species are actually more common during the colder months.

We hope to see you all out enjoying this special wintery season, a season that marks the beginning of the 50th anniversary of the George Landis Arboretum.



A New Committee

- Florence Grimm

A Fund Raising Committee has been formed to add to the income of the Arboretum. At present, our plant sales are our only fundraisers. The Arboretum is growing so fast - and with growth comes more and more expenses to cover the programs, maintenance and improvements to buildings and grounds. A provision for improved salaries and more personnel is always a must when growth comes.

With this in mind, the committee has come up with the following:

Summer Garden Tour

Spring Benefit for 2002

Founder's Day 2001 (the

Arboretum's 50th Birthday),

August 19

Benefit golf tournament

We need chairpersons for the 2001 Spring Benefit and for the golf tournament.

Carol Wock and her committee are working on a queen-sized raffle quilt, the winner to be drawn in December 2001. Illustrative quilt blocks and photos will be available soon.

Fran Finkbeiner is finalizing a four-garden tour starting in June with a visit to Nick Zabawsky's garden in Amsterdam, to Henry and Joan Ferguson's garden in Loudonville, to Paul and Dot Schneider's garden in Cambridge, and another Capital District location to be announced. Each location will have a separate day, not all on one day, which makes it possible for attendees to visit each garden. The tour price is \$18 for members, \$20 for non-members, advance sales only. More information will come to you soon.

Another idea is being explored - Halloween at Howe Caverns, an event available to non-profits organizations for fund-raising.

Now - our appeal to you. All of these planned activities need help - your help - to be successful. Every little bit that you can do to make these a BIG success is needed and appreciated. The more people that work, the easier the event becomes. Any ideas or assistance that you can give us will be welcomed by Florence Grimm (842-7436) or Diane Spranger (673-5150). Members of the committee include: Nancy Boericke, Fran Finkbeiner, Helen Phillips, Rebecca Resnick, Susan Sagendorf, and Carol Wock.

The committee next meets on Monday, March 5, 1:00 pm at the Duaneburg Branch of Central National Bank. Please feel free to attend - we are extremely fond of walk-ins!

Wish List

Our wish list is ever-active! The following items could certainly be used here.

- Snow blower
- Snowshoes
- Boot scraper for use at the kitchen door
- Picnic tables & benches
- Small chain saw
- Small hand mower
- Large commercial mower
- Rakes, shovels, loppers
- Services to install a 50 gallon gas tank
- Color printer
- Books: *Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs*, Rehder; *The Certified Arborists Study Manual*, International Society of Arborists
- And, always, that large tractor. A John Deere 790, or machine of equal quality, 4-wheel drive, 30 HP, with backhoe and loader.

Perennial Gardening With Extreme Themes

- Nancy Boericke

On Tuesday, February 27, 2001 the Landis Arboretum and Cornell Cooperative Extension will co-sponsor an evening seminar entitled "Perennial Gardening with Extreme Themes." The seminar will be held from 8 to 9 pm at the Colonie Community Center at 1653 Central Avenue, Colonie (just west of the Northway.)

• Melanie Mason of North Country Daylily Farm will present "Daylilies, Daylilies, Daylilies...and More," 6-7 pm.

• Kerry Mendez of Perennially Yours will present "Seasonal Extremes: Early Spring/Late Fall/Winter," 7-8 pm

• Kenneth Carnes, Agriculture Agent from Albany County Cooperative Extension, will present "Color Theme Gardens as Applied to Feng Shui," 8-9 pm.

Simple refreshments will be available. The fee for this seminar is \$25 per person. For further information or to register, phone Landis Arboretum (518) 875-6935 or FAX 518-875-6394. Make your checks to Landis Arboretum and mail to PO Box 186, Esperance, NY 12066.

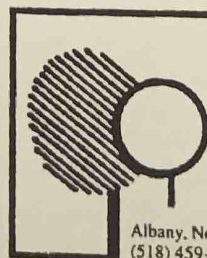
Please Note!

Some of you maybe confused by incorrect dates on page 6 in the Advance Order Catalog. **The Spring Plant Sale is on Saturday and Sunday May 19 and 20.** The editor is sometimes confused...my apologies.
- Fran

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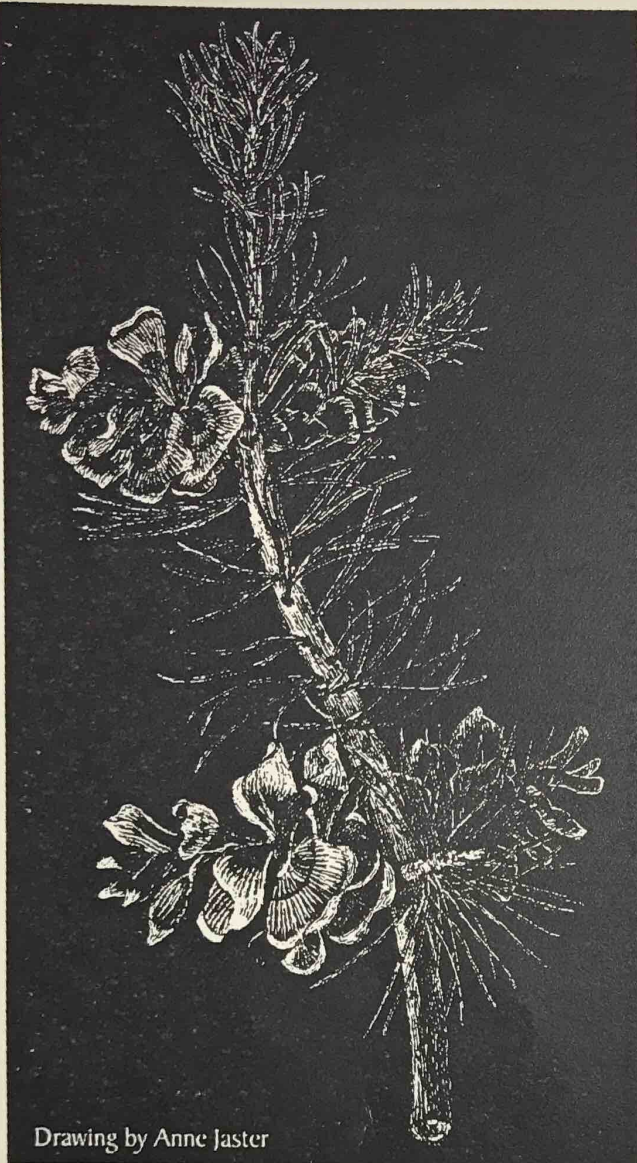
- Sonja Javarone

Pinus parviflora, Japanese White Pine

The pine with the little flowers (cones), *Pinus parviflora* (Japanese white pine) is found high, above 5000 feet, along the misty windswept coastal mountains of Japan. Under harsh conditions this salt-tolerant species develops a natural bonsai habit. In more temperate locations it becomes a slow-growing tree to 50 feet. At the Landis Arboretum, two specimens are thriving.

This five-needle-to-a-cluster pine has slender, curved, and graceful foliage in tufts at the end of the branches. The cones are solitary or in clusters, ovoid, and about two inches long. The young bark is thin and smooth, becoming scaly on older trees. The growth habit is conical when young, becoming wide-spreading and picturesque with age. The wood is straight-grained but limited in length by the short trunk. It is used for general carpentry in areas near the native stands in Japan. It is much sought after for bonsai and much admired as a small specimen tree for horticultural purposes, especially in Europe. As with most pines, this species likes full sun, average moisture, and good drainage.

Now for the history of our Landis specimens. In 1951 George Landis planted a specimen received from the Tingle Nursery, Pittsville, Maryland, at his home in Troy. In the spring of 1952, it was transplanted below the lilacs and above the rhododendrons at our Landis Arboretum. The specimen was perfectly hardy and doing just fine. Fred Lape noted in 1962 that it fruited young and every year, and was certainly one of the most interesting conifers in the Arboretum. Then came the ice storm of 1964 and our specimen lost its top. In 1976 it lost its top again in a snowstorm. In 1994, this specimen was nowhere to be found. All was not lost, however, because Lape had grafted a scion of this tree on a *Pinus strobus* stock (our native white pine) in 1952 and planted it among the rhododendrons. Grafting



Drawing by Anne Jaster

scar and all, this clone of the original specimen has grown into a handsome tree and is thriving today. Our other specimen was a seedling planted behind the Lape Memorial in the spring of 1969. It is smaller than the specimen in the rhododendron section, but is equally thriving among the other pines.

It is interesting to note that Fred Lape took the initiative to experiment with grafting on our native white pine, also a five-needle pine. The literature makes it known that this species is often grafted for bonsai work and horticultural use, using other pines as rootstock. If grafted on *Pinus thunbergii*, Japanese black pine, it will grow very slowly. If starting from seed, Dirr recommends that "Seed should be stratified for 90 days at 33 to 41 degrees F. in a moist medium." USDA hardiness zones for this species are 4B to 7A. One source listed it as hardy to 24 degrees below zero F. This species has a plethora of uses and deserves consideration from plant lovers worldwide.

Like many other Japanese species, this species has a rich cultural history. It has been used for bonsai culture for centuries. The bonsai center and major source for Japanese pines for the past 200 years is in Kagawa, Japan. The Japanese name for this species is Goyo-matsu. "Go" is the Japanese word for five, "yo" is the word for needle or leaf, and "matsu" is the term for pine tree. In one village, Miyakoji Town, a Goyo-matsu has been designed as a natural monument and November its festival, a sacred dance and music featuring three lions, is performed. In Motomiya Town, a huge Goyo-matsu, estimated to be 200 years old, is designated a natural monument. In Otama Village, the village charter has listed Goyo-matsu as a symbol of the village, a village near Mt. Adatara, a native habitat for the species. Other sources say the Japanese have adored this species as a tree of happiness. One artist, Hashiguchi Goyo (1880-1921), assumed the name "Goyo" because of his love for the tree growing in his father's garden. (His family name was Kiyoshi.)

Goyo-matsu, the Japanese white pine with the little cones, gives us pause for thought. How do we all relate to the trees that share our environment?

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Esperance, NY 12066-0186

Horticulture Certificate Program - Nancy Boericke

Landis Arboretum's Certificate Program in Horticulture, in cooperation with SUNY Cobleskill's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, continues this year with courses in the Spring and Fall. Each of the four courses offered in 2000 was fully subscribed (20 enrollees) and we look forward to our first group of graduates in April 2001. We have been fortunate to have excellent instructors for these courses and look forward to having many of them return as we continue this program.

On Tuesday evenings, at the Arboretum, February 6-27, SUNY Professor Bob Emmons will teach *Soils and Lawn Care*. Soil is the first thing to consider when looking at landscaping an area and basic knowledge of soil types and how they can be modified will help professional and homeowner alike. The class will learn how to maintain a lawn through the freezing winters and dry summers in the Northeast.

On Wednesday evenings, March 21 through April 11, at the Arboretum, Patricia Thorpe, horticultural writer and teacher from Cooperstown, will take us beyond basic botany to identify types of herbaceous plants. As part of this course, the group will visit Cooperstown to look at bulbs.

In the Fall of 2001 we are offering a course by Professor George Crosby, SUNY Cobleskill, in *Hardscaping in the Landscape*, a look at the walls, ponds and windbreaks that add beauty and climate control to your landscape. This will be followed by *Annuals and*

Perennials of the Northeast taught by Betty McNeal of- Betty's Floral Arts and Crafts, Cobleskill. We'll learn all about the most useful of the plants in the Northeast, their cultural requirements and their maintenance needs.

All of these courses qualify for continuing education credits from the New York State Certified Nursery Professional program and our tree courses qualify for a continuing education credits from the International Society of Arboriculture.

We will also begin offering Level II courses in Landscape Design and Plant Care as students complete the Level I series. Our new brochure gives details.

Each course costs \$80. Awarding the Certificate of Completion requires attendance, at a minimum, of three of the four classes and a student evaluation by the teacher. Upon completion of six of the eight Level I courses offered, the student will receive a Certificate in Horticulture from Landis Arboretum and SUNY Cobleskill.

Advance registration is through the SUNY offices: T(518) 255-5323 for more information or to register with a credit card. Mail checks, made out to the Landis Arboretum to: Office of the Dean, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, SUNY Cobleskill, Cobleskill, NY 12043. Class size is limited.

1929

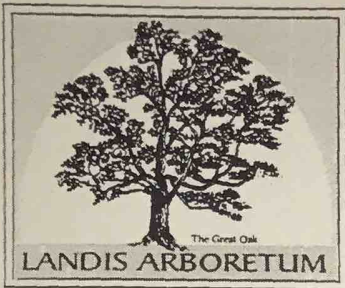
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How Does Our Garden Grow?

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 your arboretum! - you'll be surprised at some of the changes that have taken place throughout this winter.

Franzen Clough
Mr & Mrs. Donald Csaposs

Larry Felper
Susan Murray

Charles J. Pemberton
Claudia K. St John

Mr. & Mrs. John VanVoriss
Ellen Ullman


Endowment Fund Growth - Herm Finkbeiner

Through the generosity of several good friends of the Arboretum the endowment fund has made very significant progress during the past two years. At the end of 1998 our endowment stood at \$75,000 and by December 31, 2000 the total was \$247,371.15.

This tremendous change came about largely through contributions made by individuals with a fervent belief in the mission and the future of the Arboretum. Among the donors is an anonymous contributor that feels so strongly about the need for a full time horticulturist that a special division of the endowment fund was created to provide continuing support for the horticulturist. That fund now stands \$98,000.

Dr. Mervyn Prichard has been another supporter of the Arboretum and has made three stock donations to the endowment fund. Fran and Herm Finkbeiner also made a stock donation during 2000. A magnificent bequest from Helen Beale of over \$63,000 contributed to major change in the fund.

Overall, when matching funds from employers are added to the total next year, benefactors have contributed just over \$175,000 to make the Arboretum increasingly financially secure, clearly a trend that bodes well for the Arboretum.



(518) 439-8105

Sandra S. Walck
Garden Design
Installation & Maintenance
with Ecological Emphasis

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