

The Great Oak

Inside

- 1 From the Garden
- Fall Plant Sale (photos)
- 2 Collections News
- 3 A Pine with Personality
- 4 New Members
- 4 Scientists Discover Tall Trees
- 5 Wish List
- Special Events & Classes
- 6 Thank You
- 6 A Special Message
- Garden
- 8 More photos
- Quilt Raffle

Signs for luring buyers to the appropriate area of the plant sales (top); Happy gardeners take possession of their newly purchased selections. Left to right (below): Jennifer and Colin Blessing from Clifton Park; Jane and Don Holmes from Duanesburg; an unidentified, but pleased customer.

Photos by Fran Finkbeiner



FROM THE Garden

Gloria Van Dyne, Executive Director

Some people imagine that because trees are dormant in our climate at this time of year, that activity slows at Landis. Just the contrary—we are very busy planning for next year. We're working on programs and events, additions to the collections, how to increase membership and membership support, and how to raise funds to care for and improve your (our) public garden. I invite you to send us your suggestions and comments about what



Photo by Fred Breglia

you've enjoyed at Landis—and where we could make improvements.

The most recent noticeable change has been the addition of Roberta Krause, (left) our

new office manager. We are both thrilled and fortunate that Roberta joined our team. She is enthusiastic, energetic, and great at getting the office running smoothly. For the first time in Landis history all of our staff positions—office manager, horticulturist and director—are full time.

Another major addition has been a 47-acre acquisition from neighbor, Sam Bass. (see photo, page 2) This property provides natural extensions to existing trails and offers visitors an example of a productive, managed woodlot.

The Acorn Shop will be closed until next May, and then will be open daily. While it is closed this winter, the Acorn Shop will receive a fresh coat of paint and many other improvements.



Photo by Gloria Van Dyne



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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Fall Workday: Fred Breglia, (left), Ken Carnes, (center) and Randy Proctor, add another tree to the Arboretum's collection.



Photo by Earl Van Wormer III

The Arboretum adds 47 acres at a very reasonable cost, due to the generosity of member Sam Bass. (left, above), with Executive Director Gloria Van Duyne (above, right).

COLLECTIONS News

Fred Breglia, Head of Horticulture and Operations

October has arrived and brought with it much needed rain. Dry soils around the Arboretum hungrily soaked up the water. The beautiful colors of changing leaves, bright sunny days, cool crisp nights, and earthy smells make fall one of my favorite seasons.

Many exciting changes have taken place at the Arboretum this summer. Among the most significant was the addition of 47 prime contiguous acres, formerly owned by Sam Bass (above), a resident of Esperance. The land borders the Arboretum property on the east and adds miles of hiking trails, a managed wood lot, and many more attractive features to our already magnificent place. There are several large oak trees, ranging in age from 150 to 250 years old. The Arboretum now numbers more than 200 acres.



Photo by Paul Blair

Fall is a time for planting. We planted fourteen new trees on October 19 with the help of Ken Carnes, Mike Urban, Paul Blair, and Randy Proctor. These trees were purchased with monies from the Deutsche Bank Grant that the Arboretum received in 2000. Our collection of trees for tough sites is growing in number each year; the tree varieties were selected from Dr. Nina Bassuk's publication, *Urban Trees*. Once complete, our urban tree collection will be the only one of its kind. We are only 24 trees away from having all of the trees listed in Nina's book.

The workday on October 20 was a great success. Volunteers worked diligently to complete most of the necessary fall chores, including winterizing the Van Loveland Perennial Garden, raking leaves around the farmhouse, spreading topsoil, seeding lawns, wrapping trees planted over the past few years, putting up deer fencing, and rebuilding some of the historic stone walls that help to give our Arboretum its unique character. (see photo, below)

We are continuing to improve the trails throughout the natural areas of the Arboretum. In fact, all the trails have just recently been widened. Trails have been color-coded to help visitors find their way. Improving signage on all trails, including adding clear trailhead markers is planned for the near future.

The master planning process is still progressing with simultaneous work on both the physical and long-range strategic plan. The newly acquired acreage will be incorporated into the plan. Exciting times are with us—may the best of our past be the worst of our future.

John Jeffrey, a botanist from Scotland, discovered the Jeffrey pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*, in the Shasta Valley of California in 1852 and introduced the species to the United Kingdom in the same year. However, he thought it was a variety of ponderosa pine, *Pinus ponderosa*. Taxonomists, at a later date, determined it was a distinct species differing from ponderosa pine in the chemical composition of the bark and by larger cones with bent back prickles. One other characteristic of the Jeffrey pine resulted in dire consequences when turpentine distillers of hydrocarbons in ponderosa pine mistook Jeffrey pine logs for ponderosa pine. Jeffrey pine contains heptane, a very explosive hydrocarbon. (Heptane is used to determine the octane level of gasoline. Hence, one common name for the species is "gasoline tree.")

The two species are very similar and are treated as one in the lumber market. Natural hybrids with ponderosa pine and Coulter's pine, *Pinus coulteri*, occur where distributions overlap.

Jeffrey pine is a large tree, up to 60 meters or more, with a diameter of a meter or more. The largest in the western Sierra Nevada Mountains measures 2.28 meters in diameter and 53 meters in height. Another in the Stanislaus National Forest is 2.47 meters in diameter and 58.5 meters in height. A tree-ring study of a tree at Blue Banks, California yielded an age of 663 years. The cinnamon colored bark splits into large plates on the older trees. The rounded crown, with somewhat pendulous branches, is more open than that of ponderosa pine. The young shoots are blue-white, becoming gray-brown in the second year. The large buds are red-brown and non-resinous with distinct scales on the tips. The 18–22 centimeter needles are usually in threes and persist for two years. The large stalked cones, up to 20 centimeters long, have recurved, bent back, prickles. The odor of the bark and crushed stems seems to defy description. It has been likened to apple, pineapple, vanilla, lemon, and violets.

The native distribution of Jeffrey pine, on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, is often found in pure stands. On the western slopes, it is found at higher and drier sites than that occupied by ponderosa pine. Here it is associated with washoe pine, incense cedar, white fir, and western juniper. Isolated populations of the species extend from Oregon to Baja California.

plant and animal community. The yellow pine chipmunks collect the pine seeds and help in the distribution of the species. The Piute Indians collected small black caterpillars, pe-agge, by digging trenches around the pines and sweeping the critters into the trenches. The caterpillars were considered a delicacy.

The seeds of Jeffrey pine germinate readily and require no dormant period.

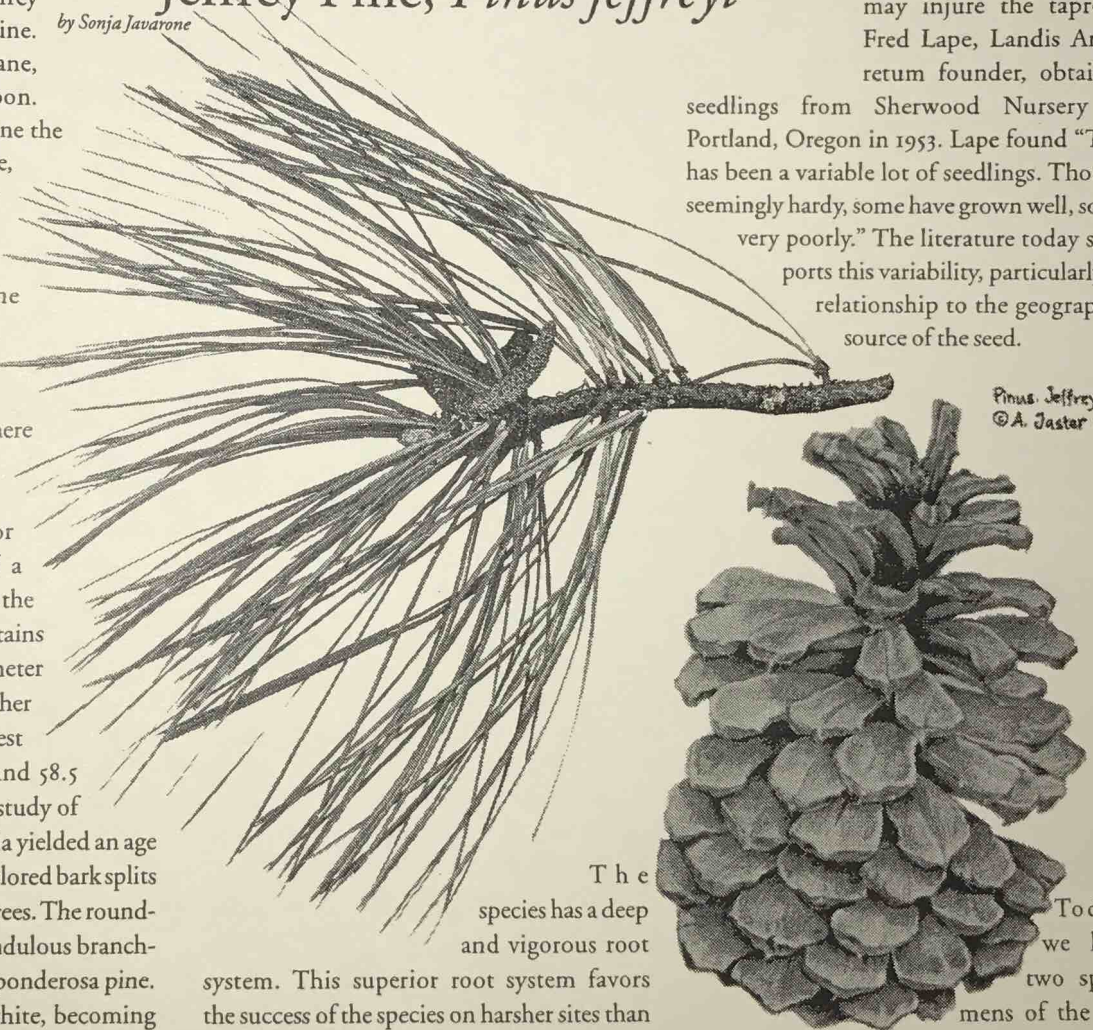
Planting in peat pots seems to be the preferred method. Transplanting of seedlings grown by other methods may injure the taproot. Fred Lape, Landis Arboretum founder, obtained

seedlings from Sherwood Nursery in Portland, Oregon in 1953. Lape found "This has been a variable lot of seedlings. Though seemingly hardy, some have grown well, some very poorly." The literature today supports this variability, particularly in relationship to the geographic source of the seed.

A Pine With Personality

Jeffrey Pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*

by Sonja Javarone



The species has a deep and vigorous root

system. This superior root system favors the success of the species on harsher sites than are suitable for ponderosa pine. The Jeffrey pine is found on dry high mountain slopes to 3100 meters. It is a characteristic species on nutrient-poor soils. A superior old-growth forest can be seen in the Sierra San Pedro Martir of Baja California Norte. The openness of the Jeffrey pine forests supports wild flowers and habitat for animals, especially birds. Bird watchers delight in visiting this

Today, we have two specimens of the 1953 plantings remaining on the slope near the Lape Memorial. USDA hardiness zones for the species are five through eight, although some sources list it as six.

This species can be a picture-postcard plant if grown in a favorable location. The long needles and huge cones are a delight. Wouldn't it also be a treat to visit this species in its native habitat?

Photo-illustration of pine branch, by Sue Gutbezahl

Illustration of pine cone by Anne Jaster

WELCOME New Members

Christine Belanger
Dorothy Crandell
Donna Davidson
Ray Davis
Karen Davis
Rose Elliott
John Fetscher
Charlotte Grattidge
Gene Greger
Ernst J. Hipp
Stanley A. Lee
Linda Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Miller
Sue Miller
Jonathan Miner
Sterling P. Newberry
MaryLou Newberry
John Novakowski
Sophie Novakowski
Beverly Pawlows
Sue Rucinski,
Dan Schmidt
Cindy Skala
Nancy Steubner
Phyllis Tanner
Dona Waszczak
Chris Wilber
Helen Weltin
Toine Wyckoff

Team of Scientists Discover Tallest Trees in the Northeast!

Fred Breglia, Head of Horticulture and Operations

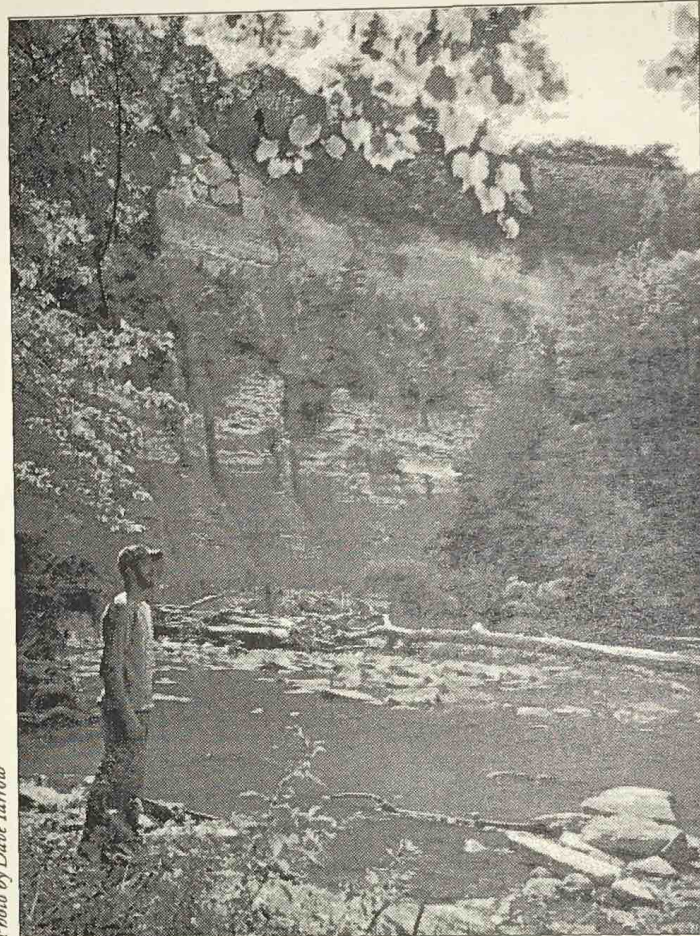


Photo by Dave Yarrow

"It was like traveling back in time"—Fred Breglia (above) at the Zoar Valley gorge.

On Saturday, September 22, Fred Breglia, horticulturist for the Landis Arboretum, and David Yarrow, director of the New York Champion Tree Project, joined Robert Leverett and Bruce Kershner, national experts on old growth forests, and members of the Western New York Old Growth Forest Survey team, visited two ancient forests southwest of Buffalo, New York. Accompanying them were several news reporters. The first hike was through Leolynn Woods, in the town of Lilydale. Later the group toured the Zoar Valley gorge on the upper reaches of Cattaraugus Creek.

Our team trekked several miles down into New York's second deepest canyon on a primitive trail, fording the knee-deep creek three times, to visit the "Gallery of Giants." Seventeen tree species inhabit this forest, among them black walnut, red oak, poplar, hemlock, black cherry, sycamore, ashes, and sugar and red maples. These trees avoided loggers' chainsaws because of the remote location in a deep canyon.

It's now official: Zoar Valley gorge, which separates Cattaraugus and Erie counties, contains some of the tallest trees in the Northeast. Tall, old growth trees were documented in the wildest, most remote areas of Zoar Valley, which flanks Cattaraugus Creek between Springville and Gowanda. Some trees are 150 feet tall and between 300 and 350 years old.

The tallest tree documented that day was a 151-foot sycamore—tallest in the Northeast, and second tallest north of the Smoky Mountains, according to big tree expert Robert Leverett. Other giants included a 116-foot black walnut worth over \$8000 (as lumber), a 140.2-foot tulip tree, and a 130.8-foot red oak—tallest measured in the Northeast—and a 131-foot black cherry—second tallest in the Northeast.

Bob Leverett believes the trees of Zoar soar to such heights because they grow in moist, mineral-rich alluvial soils of the canyon bottom floodplain, sheltered from wind and ice by the 450-foot deep gorge. In this unique isolated low stress environment, trees rapidly shoot upwards to attain great height, remaining sturdy and healthy to advanced ages. The canopy of this ancient forest is easily 50 feet up, and stretches up to well over 100 feet, forming a picture-perfect forest.

Ancient old growth forests are very rare today. Only .025 percent of the virgin forests that covered the east 500 years ago are still left. This forest remnant met the team's definition of virgin woodland. "It seemed like nature at its purest, which has been there, like that, for thousands of years," said Kershner, leader of the Western NY survey team.

To read news articles, and see photos of this expedition, and to learn more about ancient forests, including a directory of old growth forests in New York, visit the old growth web page of the Champion Tree Project:
www.championtrees.org/oldgrowth.htm

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WISH LIST

We are looking for the following items (or estimated dollar amount to purchase items).

Books

The Ortho Problem Solver, edited by Michael Smith (\$200)
Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants, Steven M. Still. (\$55)

Equipment

- Boot scraper for use at the kitchen door. (\$25)
 - Picnic tables and benches. (\$250)
 - Small chainsaw (\$150)
 - Small hand mower (\$150)
 - Large commercial mower (\$4000)
 - D.R. brush mower (\$2500)
 - Hardback rakes, shovels, loppers, and mulch fork (\$200)
 - Four-wheel drive pickup in good shape
 - Troy Built hand cart
- And always, the large tractor—
- A John Deere 790 (or machine of equal quality) 4wd, 30hp, with backhoe and loader. (\$20,000)

Project Wish List

We are looking for volunteers familiar with the following tasks (or equivalent dollar amount to complete these projects).

- Stone walkways to and from the farmhouse need rebuilding. (\$1000)
- Stone walls around the greenhouse and walls around perennial garden need rebuilding. (\$800)
- Machinery maintenance volunteer to do oil changes, tune-ups, etc., on our equipment. (\$500)

A glorious display of grasses and sedum graces the fall garden of Dot and Paul Schneider in Cambridge. The Schneider's garden was the last of the four gardens included on this past summer's garden tour.

SPECIAL EVENTS & Classes

Horticulture Certificate Program Presents Spring Schedule

Nancy Boericke

Wednesday evenings in April will be exciting times to be at the Arboretum. On these evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, staff members of The Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown will present material on "Heritage Gardening and Landscapes: Gardening in the 1840s"—a mixture of herbs and hops. Craig Haney, Supervisor of Agricultural Interpretation at the Farmers' Museum, will be joined by Gwen Miner, Supervisor of Domestic Arts, and Patrick MacGregor, Supervisor of Pharmacy, to teach this, the second course in Level II of the Certificate Program in Horticulture. The final class will be a visit to the museum in Cooperstown.

This is only one of the four courses being offered this spring as part of the ongoing Certificate Program in Horticulture. The Landis Arboretum and SUNY Cobleskill's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources are cooperating to present these educational opportunities to horticultural professionals and homeowners alike who want informed, professional instruction in various

aspects of the horticultural sciences. The Level II courses are designed to present a more specific focus than the Level I courses begun two years ago, in this case, "Heritage Gardening." In March, Jason Stone will teach a second Level II course, "Container Gardens for Public and Private Places." Mr. Stone is staff horticulturist for the Clark Foundation. From their renowned greenhouses, the foundation provides all of the beautiful potted plants that enhance the streets of Cooperstown during the summer season. Also in March, Fred Breglia will teach a Level I course, "Trees and Shrubs: Healthcare," and Sandra Walck will teach a course "First Steps in Landscape Design" on Tuesday evenings in April.

Take a look at the enclosed brochure for more information and registration about the instructors and the courses. This is an exceptional opportunity, and we hope you will take advantage of one or more of these courses. It is not necessary to register for certification—take a single course of your choice or take several.

2001 Garden Tour Series a Success!

Photo by Fran Finkbeiner



MANY THANKS

to the following people
for their generous gifts
and continuing support.

In no particular order...

Terry Staley and Sonja Javarone—
ongoing contributions of
beautiful photos of Landis
flora, fauna, events, and
buildings

Paul Blair

Herm and Fran Finkbeiner

Richard Ohlerking—for a six-foot
table and dirt and grading
around the barn

Dick Clowe—phone line to the barn

Robert Grimm, Mervyn Prichard,
and **Richard Ohlerking**—
the barn floor in eastbay

Carol Loucks and Vivian Gross—
their help in the gardens

Barbara Hunt, Judith Lott
and **everyone** who
volunteered in Acorn Shop

Jane Kirstel and Nan Ferry—
their help in the office

Special thanks to

Lucy T. Comly— donation of a Troy
Built rototiller and several
bushel baskets

And

All the folks who volunteered
to create Howe Caverns'
extraordinarily successful
Halloween party.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Gloria Van Duyn, Executive Director

The time of year that we refer to as "the holidays" is approaching surprisingly quickly, as it seems to every year. Many of us are already planning trips to visit family. We give and receive home baked cookies. We decorate our homes and offices. And we give gifts to family, friends and colleagues.

Every year I receive a gift from a family member in North Carolina. We have different personal tastes, and I have found it difficult to pick out something that she would be sure to like. I prefer to give and receive a gift that is useful rather than something impractical. A few years ago, Betty made a donation in my name to one of my favorite charities. Her gift "fit" perfectly with my val-

*Instead of paying
for expensive holiday cards,
many companies are making
contributions to non-profits.*

*They send a note to each person
on their mailing list explaining
how they spent the would-be
holiday card money.*

ues—giving to not-for-profit organizations work I support. I was touched by her thoughtfulness in doing something that meant a lot to me. We no longer wonder what to buy each other and the money is always well spent.


If you don't know what to get someone for a holiday or birthday gift, consider what they might do if they had extra time or money. Give a financial contribution or volunteer for an organization they support. It's meaningful and thoughtful (and practical). You might even enjoy it.

Garden Volunteers Committee Holds Organizational Meeting.

The Landis Garden Volunteers Committee held its first meeting to outline its goals and discuss strategy for recruiting a core of volunteer membership. The mission of the committee is to form a core group of volunteers to assist the staff of the Arboretum in upgrading existing gardens and grounds, and to research, plan, create, and maintain new gardens for the education and enjoyment of visitors to the Arboretum.

Paul Blair, chair of the committee, distributed informational folders and worksheets. Plans are to prepare a database of volunteers, information sharing among volunteers and staff, and develop a schedule of meetings, classes and work days.

For more information contact Paul Blair at 452-7355, or velthemia@cs.com



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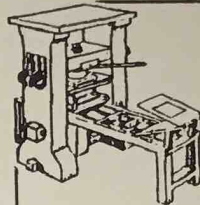
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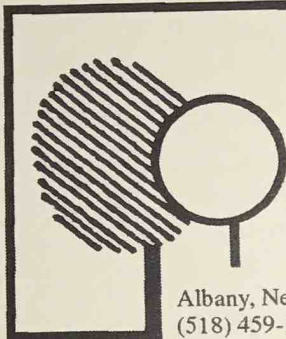
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Photo by Fran Finkbeiner
At the spring plant sale, Gloria Van Duyne (right) and Herm Finkbeiner discuss the raffle for the quilt. (photo, below, left)

And the winner is...

Jeanne Avile of Schenectady. The drawing for the quilt raffle was held on November 5 at the Arboretum. Gloria Van Duyne, Fred Breglia and Roberta Krause were present at the drawing

It really is possible to keep one's tools in order and incidentally, looking good. The proof is seen in the photo (right) at the garden shed at Dot and Paul Schneider in Cambridge.

Photo by Fran Finkbeiner

