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Journal



A community gardens journey
Weather--resilient gardening
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Volume Twenty-six, Issue Four
July-August 2020

Celebrating

25
YEARS
1995-2020

Solace Through Plants

Last year we said “Weather is the King, Queen, and Tsar of all things in the garden”—so let’s add COVID-19 to that mix—together you get the biggest upheaval the growing and retail horticultural scene has ever encountered.

Certainly the biggest roller coaster we have ever had! We begin the early season and all of a sudden, plants growing in your greenhouse were going to be tossed since you could not open, but then we were ‘essential’ in our state (thank goodness) and we could open just like Lowe’s and Walmart. Then we’re wearing masks, cleaning carts, and trying to do the right thing for all in this current cyclone that continues to spin. Then we get 28 degrees on one of the biggest plant days of the year, nothing like getting your Mom Day plants in a snow storm!

But as we said last season, “the silver lining is that folks who love plants are pretty much the most resilient and patient people we know.” And like plants, people always find a way to muddle through these things and find a pathway to some form of compromise and success.

Again, it reminds us that planting for the soil, climate, and life scenario you have is always a good bet. We all want to experiment and push the boundaries, but the structure and bones of a garden should always start with the reliable and resilient; pick your places for highlight, experiment, and unexpected choices but depend on the truths in all places.

Stonewall Follies...well looks like COVID-19 has canceled this too. This may be the last nail in the coffin, as they say. Sometimes momentum rules the day and we may be at that impasse. We can not express enough the beauty, the presence, and the truly magical impact these few men have had on our garden, and on our many students over the years. We thank you, love you, and will always give homage to your skill, craft, and contribution to our vision.

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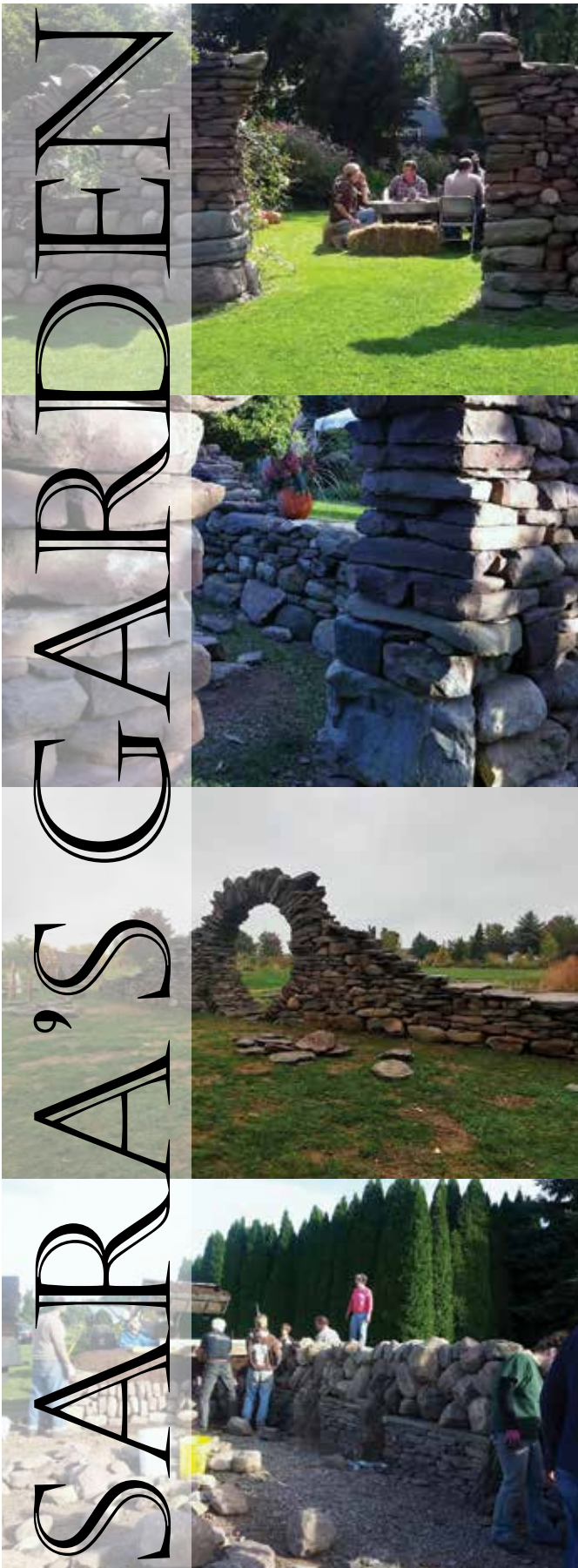
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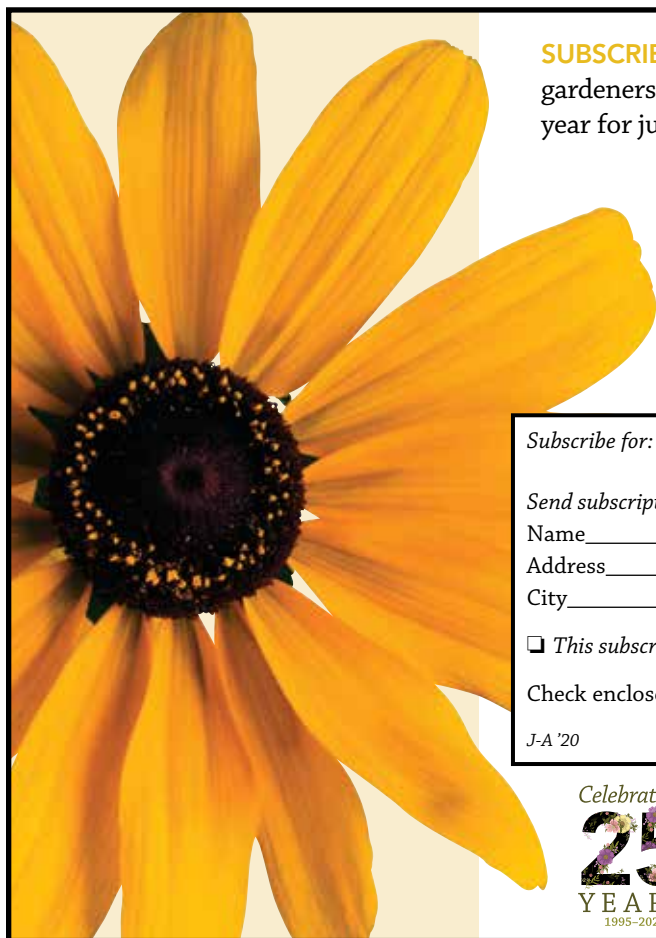
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On the cover: Globe thistle (*Echinops* spp.)
 in Buffalo, NY, by Bonnie Guckin



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What to do in the garden in July & August



It is the heart of summer gardening season. The Northeast sees its hottest weather in July but, August can bring hot, humid weather as well and can be unpredictable, with extended periods of rain and even cooler temperatures as garden stands begin to show pumpkins and fall mums. Below we provide you with some gardening tasks to help keep your gardens flourishing through the late summer.

JULY

Step back and look at your garden to see what is in bloom and where you lack floral color. It is the perfect time to take pictures and notes as to where you can improve next year.

Make sure tall plants and climbers are well supported in case of bad weather. Also, pruning wisteria at this time will encourage new growth and help keep it in balance with the trellis.

Water at dusk to reduce evaporation; mulch garden beds to retain moisture around plants and help keep roots cool. Always practice effective watering by watering the soil around the base of the plants rather than the foliage. Control water and sprinkler use so as not to waste water by losing it to pavement, driveway, or any other unintended area.

Newly planted trees and shrubs (deciduous and evergreen) need extra watering in dry periods. Make sure they get a good, regular deep drink that will go down to their roots. Keep an eye on them for signs of wilting, a sign they are lacking water.

Do not mow too low in summer. Mow as high as possible—that will result in a healthier lawn with deeper roots that are more tolerant of the drought and stress of summer. Slightly higher turfgrass also helps shade out the weeds.

Regularly deadhead annual and perennials as well as roses to encourage new blooms. Cut back faded perennials to keep gardens neat. Some spring blooming perennials, such as lupine, can be sheared back hard to encourage a second flush of blooms later in the summer. Now is the time to cut back any remaining spring bulb foliage as well.

Check your containers. Cutting back growth in hanging

baskets (i.e., petunias) can encourage new flowers and foliage to revive the display; fertilize well after doing this. Make sure you are fertilizing your containers regularly throughout the hot months. When it comes to container plants, remember the soil dries out faster, so pay special attention to make sure these plants are receiving sufficient water. Terracotta pots will particularly dry out quicker, so dampen the pots to reduce evaporation and help keep the plants roots cool.

Consider dividing bearded iris now. If your plants did not bloom well, chances are they need to be divided. July through August is the best time to do this. Using a digging fork, carefully dig around the plant, being careful not to pierce the rhizome. Once lifted, shake off loose soil or rinse it off with a hose so that you can better inspect the rhizomes for any damage. Separate the individual rhizomes. Cut the foliage to about six inches. Cut sections of the rhizome so that you have pieces about three inches long with healthy roots growing from the cut, using a sharp knife to make clean cuts. Replant, being careful not to bury the rhizome with more than an inch of soil; these plants will not bloom well if planted too deeply.

Avoid transplanting roses when the temperatures are above eighty degrees. If you do transplant them in summer, prune heavily. Water the roses slow and deep. Add mulch to help suppress weeds.

Harvest vegetables and fruits regularly; July is a good month to harvest beets, peas, carrots, chard, lettuce, and some tomatoes. Routinely inspect your vegetable garden and prune any yellow foliage. Remove garden debris to cut down on insect or disease issues. Continue to remove suckers from tomato plants and check that they are adequately supported with stakes or cages. Water crops daily in hot weather to ensure they are consistently moist. Uneven watering may cause blossom end rot on tomatoes. Blueberries are especially sensitive to drought conditions. Feed crops with a general-purpose fertilizer. Weed regularly, since weeds can compete with your crops for nutrients and water.

In late July, consider a fall crop of snow peas, spinach, or lettuce. Other cool season crops do well in mid to late summer to give you a nice fall harvest.

Observe your garden daily. If you see a harmful pest consider integrated pest management practices: cultural, biological, and mechanical controls. Use chemical controls as the last resort. Handpick Japanese beetles using a pail of soapy water. Just hand pick or shake plants and the pests will just fall into the bucket and drown. Look at the

ABOVE:
Keep containers fresh.



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undersides of plant and crop foliage where insects such as aphids can hide. Keep an eye out for the scarlet-colored lily leaf beetles on your ornamental lilies. Check for sticky brown larvae on the undersides of lily foliage.

Protect bramble crops such as blackberries or raspberries from birds by installing netting around the plants.

Shrubs may require some pruning to give much needed shaping and to allow good air circulation at this time.

AUGUST

Look at your containers; if they are looking a bit shabby, consider a container rehab! You can use houseplants, individual plants from the garden bed, plants from other containers, or plants on sale to give your container a fresh look. Carefully pull out those that are past their peak and replace them with fresh plants. Be sure to fertilize after replanting.

After the month of August, cease fertilizing your roses—this will help to prepare them for fall and winter months ahead.

Think about which bulbs you might like to add to your garden for next spring. Now is the time to order them. In late August, you can plant fall-blooming bulbs such as colchicums or autumn crocus as soon as they are available.

Make notes on your garden's pros and cons. Take more photos of your garden. Do you want to make any changes or additions? Garden centers will be having sales and it could be a good time to add plants. It is a great time to plan for next year.

In a Zone 5 garden, August is the latest to consider growing edible crops for the fall such as lettuce, spinach, or broccoli. You may have to consider protecting them from the hot sun by using row covers or milk crates.

Keep mowing your lawn high. Late August into September is the perfect time to renovate a tired lawn or start a new one.

Harvest beans, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, etc. so that plants continue to produce. Peppers can stay on the plant longer to allow them to color.

Consider what to do with your herbs; it is a good time to freeze or preserve them in other ways for use over the winter months.

Take cuttings of your favorite annuals such as coleus, impatiens, or geraniums. You can grow them indoors later to save for next year. Many plants, such as coleus, will easily root in a glass of water.

Consider adding a perennial fruit or fruit tree to your garden. The upcoming fall is the perfect time to plant and stock may be available on sale and could be a good money saver.

Feel free to reach out to your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office's Master Gardener volunteers for answers to any questions you might have.

— Rosanne Loparco, John Slifka, and Ron Broughton,
Master Gardener volunteers at Cornell
Cooperative Extension, Oneida County



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Dear friends,

Summer is upon us, and New York is starting to open up—for now, anyway. (If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that we *really* can't predict the future.)

While the past few months have certainly been trying, at least most of us have had some extra time to garden. And interest in gardening has, unsurprisingly, spiked—especially gardening for food. The not-so-great part is that while new gardeners are being minted every day, most of the wonderful events we enjoy all summer are canceled. The tours, the lectures, the plant sales ... all gone. This is the smallest calendar we can remember publishing. Many of these happenings are now online, but it's just not the same. So far, no one has invented smell-o-vision.

So as we cross our fingers and hope that the “new normal” eventually resembles the old one, we want to be here for you, our readers, to answer questions, help

source plants ... whatever you need. You can email any time (jane@upstategardenersjournal.com), reach out on social media, or call the office at (585) 413-0040. If we can't help, we'll find someone who can, or try our hardest.

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My pathway through community gardens

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton

ABOVE: For about ten years, the author did garden design, installation, and maintenance in greater Rochester. Courtyard gardens were especially fun and rewarding.

I have a community garden to thank for getting me into horticulture in the first place. I was twenty and living in an egalitarian community (secular commune) of about 100 people in central Virginia. Tom was a rare visitor my age who'd come from Northern California for a three-week stay. He was super fired up about growing vegetables. The first crop we bonded over was spinach. Tom was very, very excited about spinach.

I was fired up about Tom, so I followed him into the fields, and as we spent time tending the rows and talking, his enthusiasm for the vegetables sparked something in me. I had hoped Tom would become a member of the

community and provide the romance my life there was missing. Devastatingly, he decided not to stay, but I nursed my broken heart by throwing myself deeper into vegetable cultivation.

The community's garden and grounds manager, the lovely Jake, was very kind to me during that time when I felt so raw. Jake, who grew up on a working farm, moved three times as fast as anyone else. He decided what to grow and he delegated tasks, but owing to his superior energy and efficiency, he also did the lion's share of the work. Because of his dominance of the gardening realm there, I could see that I was only going to advance so far

in my horticultural knowledge and opportunities. Also, I really needed to be around more people my age.

In the summer of 1990, I got a position as a gardener at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck. We were given room, board, access to some workshops, and \$200/week. This seemed like a dream for twenty-year-old Michelle. A woman named Sue headed things up, and she and I and one other seasonal person divided the work.

I made compost with scraps from the institute's kitchen. I learned how to build a three-bin compost unit (fun side note: when my husband and I went to the Omega grounds to walk around more than twenty years later, the bin was still there). I tried not to fork snake eggs when I pitchforked leaf mulch into the first of the three bins. I gave tours of the garden to well-heeled and gracious New Agers from New York City. In late summer I loved to give them raw corn to shuck and taste, and sometimes there'd be a corn husk completely filled with the black spores and white goo of the corn smut fungus. That was reliably a graphic and fun gross-out for everyone involved. (I've since learned that corn smut is called *huitlacoche* in Mexico and is eaten as a delicacy there. Also, you gotta love how plant pathologists name things so forthrightly, a là nipple gall, butt rot, scabs, and cankers.)

Even though there were dozens and dozens of staff and several hundred participants coming through every week, I was lonely at Omega, too ... lonely in a sea of people. I was a member of a community, but I never felt like I belonged. That wasn't Omega's fault. There was actually so much going on all the time there that my introverted nervous system was overwhelmed. I remember a lot of therapeutic crying in the garden shed in the evenings, until my roommate left her internship early and then, praise heaven, I had my own rustic room to cry in.

In the fall I headed back to my home state of Virginia and got hired by an organic vegetable farm in metropolitan Washington, D.C. There, a community of mostly Bolivian workers had established themselves in affordable living arrangements and would remain year-round. Within a few minutes of being hired, as I was being given a tour of the operation, I saw this really handsome tall fellow stand up and look my direction. That was the sweet jack-of-all-trades Oscar, who loved babies and animals and Bolivian folk dancing. To my parents' shock, he and I got married after knowing each other for six weeks. I don't recommend that. Nonetheless, we continued to date for several years after the annulment,



and he was extremely kind and helpful to me and my family during some very stressful times.

Spanish filled the air in that farm community, and I delighted in that. Thanks to beloved early childhood neighbors who were from Ecuador and spoke Spanish while I played with their kids, I had a good ear for it and was able to join in conversations. However, on the occasions when

Oscar and his sister and brother-in-law didn't want me to understand what was being said, they would speak Quechua, their third language. Sneaky.

Oscar and I went to a lot of parties hosted by Bolivians where everyone danced—I mean everyone—there were no chairs around the room. That was fun, although I did have to learn the ways in which our cultures were different and stop centering my own. Arriving at one party, the host greeted me smilingly with, "Hello Michelle! You are fatter than before." I slinked off to the corner to cry, but Oscar

gently explained to me that in his culture, observations of fatness or thinness carried neutral weight. They weren't insults. (American culture would benefit greatly from getting on board with this.)

I joined my first official community garden—a grid of plots in a field—in Reston, Virginia.

My garden neighbor said, "I can tell you know what you're doing." The garden did start out swimmingly, with a pretty mandala-like design, but ironically, since I'd started going back to school to study horticulture, I stopped going to the community garden regularly. All of a sudden, the

ABOVE:

The author's most successful community garden plot year owed to a confluence of factors: going no-till (therefore, not churning up weed seeds), procuring the region's most lovingly produced seedlings, mulching beds and paths very heavily, staying on top of the few audacious weeds that poked through said mulch, abundant rainfall and moderate temps that summer, and not being on the board at the time.

INSET:

The author in 2019



LEFT: The author's favorite sunflowers ('Chocolate Cherry') from her erstwhile community garden plot

RIGHT: "Snaps" to these snaps! 'Rocket Red' (left side of the bouquet) is the author's favorite annual.



weeds were horror-movie tall.

Oscar helped me clean the plot out, and I came away with a miserable case of poison ivy. That's when I knew that there were limitations on my gardening freedom. I could/cannot afford to wade around in bleeping poison ivy. I am very careful about this. So imagine when my surprise when I got it a couple of years ago in January—JANUARY!—from snuggling with my friend's newly adopted husky. **SNUGGLING WITH AN ADORABLE DOG!** It's just so unfair.

My first long-term experience with community gardens was after moving to the Hudson Valley in 2010 to be with my then-new husband. We marveled at how at this community garden seemed to be deeply inhabited, with semi-permanent structures like pergolas, sculptures, elaborate fancy-rustic fences, and even a swing! We got a plot and found out that the reason people had settled so thoroughly into their plots was that unlike most community gardens where the entire area gets plowed every spring, in this one, folks could keep their same plot year after year.

That was cool, since it seemed to generate all this creativity, but it turned out to have a major downside: entitlement. The longer people had their plots, the more inflexible they became. Especially in cases of people like the board member who was an inveterate hoarder. His board member status served as a cover for his gradually filling plot after plot with junk.

He was a good-hearted person who truly liked to be helpful to other people—and I felt for him, because he seemed powerless over his illness—but the garbage accumulation was really hard to deal with. When the board finally started to present him with a timetable of "This plot has to be cleaned up by x date, and this other plot has to be cleaned by x date (repeat several times over) or you have to leave," I was ending my service on the board. Selfishly, I

was relieved, because I knew the situation that had come to a boil was going to scald people, and it did. I did very much admire the tenacity of the board president and the board in seeing things through ... as I jumped ship.

Being on the board, I learned about how many long-term squabbles neighboring gardeners were carrying on (if you weren't on the board, you'd be blissfully unaware.)

Based on observing those dramas, I can offer some specific advice on how to be a good community garden member:

- Keep your fence lines extra clean of weeds, as a courtesy to your neighbors.
- Research plants first so you don't plant something invasive that everyone has to deal with for years to come.
- If you can't keep up with your plot, ask the board for help rather than letting things get really overgrown.
- Don't build berms that are five feet high at their apex and provide a den for rats. If your garden neighbors say they are seeing rats, don't deny their reality.
- Don't leave the community hoses on when you leave, flooding your neighbors' gardens. One wouldn't think this would need to be said.
- Leave your adorable dog at home.
- Don't install an industrial metal fence that is so tall it makes your plot look like a mini penitentiary.
- Don't camp out or get drunk in your plot.
- Most importantly, never, never join the board.

Michelle Sutton is a horticulturist, writer, and editor.

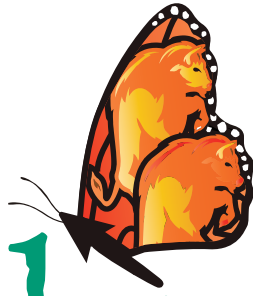
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Seven steps to a weather-resilient garden

by Judy Bigelow



Weather-resilient plants are those that can withstand extremes in weather and thrive long-term under these conditions. Whether you are planning a new garden or want to fortify an existing garden that is suffering from drought, flooding, unpredictable frosts, heat waves, or storm damage, the following guidelines should help improve the survival rate of your plants.

STEP ONE

Identify microclimates in your garden.

Microclimates are localized areas that have their own temperature range, moisture level, and air circulation. They are created by southern (warmer) versus northern (colder) exposure, location in full sun or shade, water drainage and soil type, terrain and slopes, and proximity to water bodies, trees, and man-made structures such as buildings. There can be a wide range of different microclimates within your backyard. For example, you may notice that certain plants growing next to a fence or at the bottom of a slope often get damaged by late spring frosts or an early fall frost. This is called a frost pocket and is caused by cold air sinking downward and being trapped by the fence, creating a natural bowl effect. You might also notice that next to your house, which absorbs heat during the day and radiates heat at night, you can grow more tender plants. Urban areas with clustered buildings and dark pavement can act as heat islands.

STEP TWO

Keep a garden journal. Record your observations about the microclimates in your backyard and which areas seem most vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. At the same time, do a site assessment in which you determine how much sun the garden beds receive, what type of soil you have (sandy, loam, or clay) and its drainage, and the physical terrain. A sunny site will be warmer and dry out more quickly than a shaded one. Clay soil holds more moisture than sandy but has poorer drainage. Low-lying areas are usually wetter and have less air circulation than the top of a hill. Look for other factors,

such as runoff of storm water from gutters and paved or hardscaped surfaces than can cause periodic flooding. Coastal areas may be more prone to damage caused by salt water and high winds.

For an existing garden, be sure to also record which plants have performed the best over several years and which ones have not done well or have died. What are potential threats and current problems? Are the right plants in the right sites? Is a soil test needed?

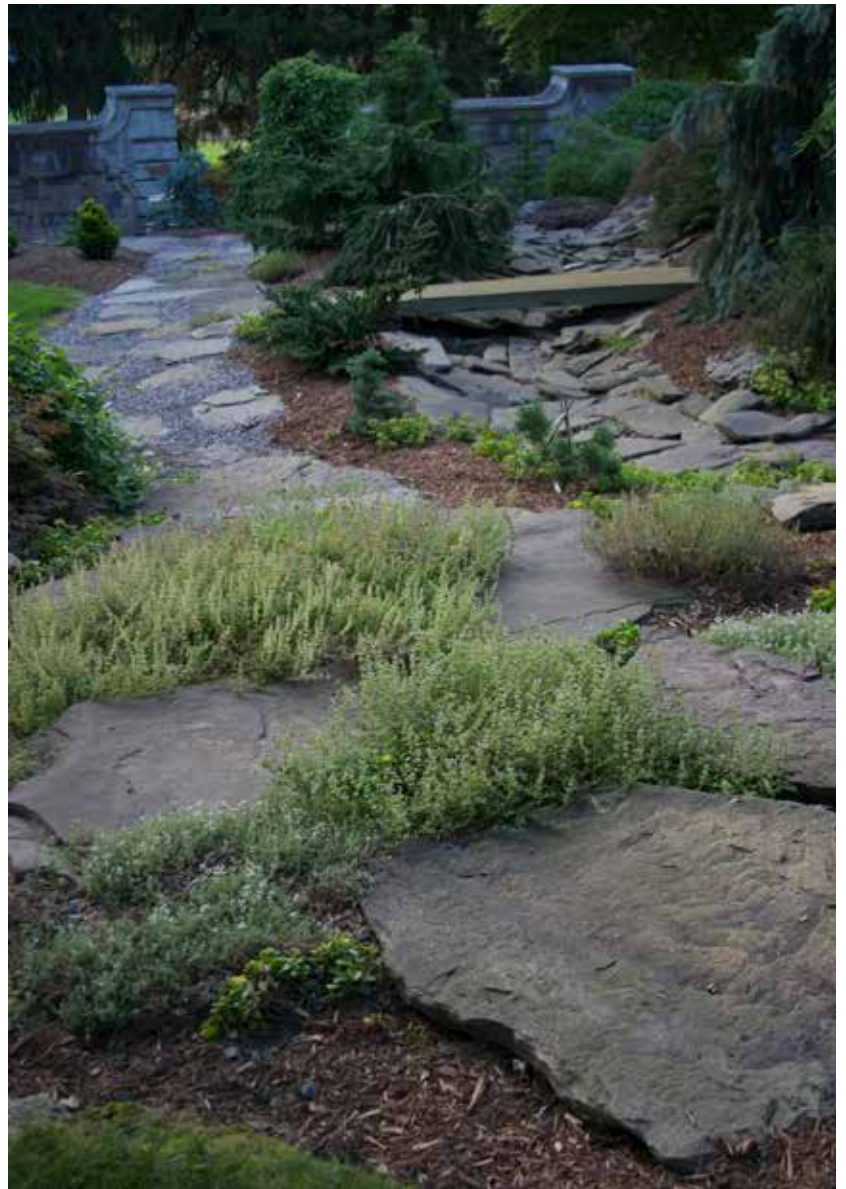
STEP THREE

Make a plan. For a new garden, it's a good idea to draw a sketch of the overall design with approximate dimensions and notations of any issues you've discovered during your site assessment. Do contact utility companies before you dig to avoid hitting underground lines. Plant selections should be appropriate not only for your USDA climate zone, but also for the microclimate and conditions of the site. To further ensure durability, plants should be low maintenance, reliable, and disease resistant. Many native plants possess these qualities and attract native species of pollinators and other beneficials. Biodiversity of plants, which means a wide variety of plant species, will increase the chance of success of the garden because of reduced risk of disease and pests and less competition for the same nutrients. Locally grown plants are generally best suited to your USDA climate zone and their transportation uses less fossil fuel. Before you buy a plant, find out if it's aggressive and might take over the garden and examine it to make sure it's healthy.

To make improvements in an existing garden, decide what issues need to be addressed. If intermittent flooding is a problem, a simple fix might be to redirect downspouts. On steep slopes, a swale or ditch could be dug to channel water away. Chronically wet sites might benefit from the installation of French drains or conversion into rain gardens. Dry sites, whether sunny or heavily canopied by trees, require drought-tolerant plant selection and good mulching. Windy sites may need a windbreak and plants that are flexible and resist storm damage. Frost pockets often have temperatures lower than the regional USDA climate zone and should have cold-hardy plantings. Beds suffering from excessive summer heat can be partially shaded by plantings of trees and shrubs nearby.

STEP FOUR

Prepare the site. For a new garden, the least labor-intensive method of dealing with turf is not to remove it, but to incorporate it into a soil building process. In the no-till or "lasagna" method, sheets of newspaper or cardboard are laid down over the lawn with successive layers of compost and biodegradable, undyed mulch. This method is most economical in not requiring the purchase of soil amendments because the topsoil is preserved and the grass gets converted into nutrients. Although sustainable, this method will take several months to fully break down the turf. Meanwhile, holes can be punched through the sheet layer and plants dug into place. For details, see the Oregon State University Extension Service website on sheet



mulching.

In amending the conditions of an existing garden, regardless of the problems or soil type, compost is always a good solution. It improves soil structure and aeration, drainage of wet, clay soils, retention of moisture in dry, sandy soil, and moderation of soil temperature. In addition, compost enriches the soil with nutrients and microbes that produce a healthy growing medium for plants. When turning compost into the soil, minimize disturbance of soil layers and take care not to injure roots of established plants.

STEP FIVE

Planting and mulching. Do your homework on the plants you have selected as to their mature size and tendency to spread. Allow sufficient space between them for growth and proper air circulation. Be aware of the path of the sun and how taller plants might shade shorter plants and the soil throughout the day. Once plants are arranged and in the ground, water well and then spread mulch over the entire bed, keeping it a few inches from the stems and

ABOVE:
Proper mulching helps to suppress __weeds.

OPPOSITE:
Take advantage of microclimates. This rosemary isn't hardy in our area, but it survived last winter tucked into a protective nook.



TOP: Soaker hoses help with water management.

BOTTOM: Native plants, like this mildweed, are often sturdy and resilient.

trunks. Mulching not only inhibits weeds, but also reduces moisture loss from the soil. Dry sites are best covered with undyed wood mulch (black mulch absorbs heat and can increase local temperature), chopped leaf mulch, or other natural, sustainable mulches. Extra mulch, such as seedless straw, applied before winter can insulate the ground and help prevent freeze-thaw cycles in the soil that cause upheaval of shallow-rooted plants. In spring, remember to thin out the mulch so emerging plants aren't smothered, and the soil can warm up.

All of the above applies to an existing garden bed that is undergoing renovation or reorganization. When moving plants to a more suitable location, try to time this when they are near dormancy, in early spring or fall. This will lessen the stress, especially if they are already struggling.

STEP SIX

Maintenance and protection. Water management is essential, especially for new plants. To help them establish a robust root system, provide a minimum of one inch of water per week. Use a rain gauge, moisture sensor, or the "finger test" to determine when watering needs to be done. To decrease evaporation losses, water early in the morning and at ground level to thoroughly soak the soil surrounding the roots. This efficacious practice, as opposed to overhead sprinkling, conserves water and lowers your water bill. Rain barrels can collect excess rainwater runoff from gutters helping to prevent erosion and flooding in borders next to the house. On a dry day, this stored rain barrel water can be distributed via perforated soaker hoses laid around the garden.

To enhance the resilience of the garden to extreme weather, additional measures may be taken. Row cover, made of a lightweight white material, can protect plants from either frost or excessive heat. It also has the feature of shielding vegetables from pests, such as flea beetles. Other strategies to prevent frost damage include cold frames, newspaper cones (around roses), and overturned pots to cover individual plants that are removed the next morning once the air has warmed. Shrubs that are susceptible to cold winter wind damage can be protected with burlap wraps, piles of conifer boughs (recycle your Christmas tree), or temporary windbreak barriers. Trees that are at risk of storm damage and breakage, particularly if they are close to a residence, should be correctly pruned.

STEP SEVEN:

Monitoring and evaluation. Throughout all four seasons of the year, continue to monitor the garden beds and make notes in your journal. Keep track of the conditions of the microclimates, as well as precipitation and extreme weather events, to see how the garden is holding up. Then make an evaluation. Are the plants vigorous and attractive in appearance? Is the garden flourishing and do some plants need to be divided? Were there any unexpected weather events and how did the plants fare? What other issues, such as weeds, pests, diseases, or poor soil, need to be attended in an ongoing manner? Have new problems arisen or does an old problem require a more proactive approach?

Gardening is always a work in progress and is further challenged by a changing climate. Keen observations of variable weather patterns and how they affect your garden microclimates will help you to modify your landscape or to adapt as necessary. Choosing sturdy, resilient plants over the finicky, short-lived exotics will save you money and frustration and is a key to success. By following these seven steps, you will be on your way to becoming a resilient gardener.

Judy Bigelow is a Master Gardener, CCE Monroe County.



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Grilled peaches three ways

by Cathy Monrad

Summer is here and along with it, the height of grilling season. Grilled peaches can be used as an ingredient in any course from appetizer to dessert.

PERFECTLY GRILL A PEACH

1. Set grill to medium-high heat, 350°F–450°F.
2. Oil grate thoroughly.
3. Place peach halves or wedges on grill. Close lid.
4. Allow peaches to sear for about 3 minutes. Flip peaches over to sear remaining side.
5. Remove from grill and enjoy.



APPETIZER (TOP)

Toast baguette slices.
Smear slices with mascarpone, then drizzle with honey.
Add grilled peach wedge on top and drizzle with balsamic vinegar.

SALAD (BOTTOM LEFT)

Add grilled peaches, blueberries, and feta or goat cheese to mixed greens.
Add grilled chicken for a main course.
Top with your favorite dressing.

DESSERT (BOTTOM RIGHT)

Top grilled peach halves with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Sprinkle cinnamon or nutmeg on top.

Cathy Monrad is the graphic designer for *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*.

Calendar



Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we strongly recommend you confirm with the host whether an event is still taking place as listed.

BUFFALO

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet & Gesneriad Society of WNY meets the third Tuesday of the month, March–December, at 7pm, Greenfield Health & Rehab Facility, 5949 Broadway, Lancaster. judyoneil1945@gmail.com.

Alden Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except July & August) at 7pm, Alden Community Center, West Main Street, Alden. New members and guests welcome. Plant sale each May. 716/937-7924.

Amama Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January) at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main Street, West Seneca. Visitors welcome. 716/844-8543; singtoo@aol.com.

Amherst Garden Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except December, March, July & August) at 10am, St. John's Lutheran Church, Main Street, Williamsville. New members and guests welcome. 716/836-5397.

Bowmansville Garden Club meets the first Monday of the month (except June, July, August & December) at 7pm, Bowmansville Fire Hall, 36 Main Street, Bowmansville. New members and guests welcome. For more information 716/361-8325.

Buffalo Area Daylily Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. Friendly group who get together to enjoy daylilies. Plant Sales, May & August. Open Gardens, June–August. Facebook.

Buffalo Bonsai Society meets the second Saturday of the month, 1pm, ECC North Campus, STEM Building, Room 102. buffalobonsaisociety.com.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS – District 8. Nancy Kalieta, Director, nancyk212@aol.com. gardenclubsofwny.com.

Forest Stream Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month (September–May) at 7pm, Presbyterian Village, 214 Village Park Drive, Williamsville and other locations. Summer garden teas & tours. Ongoing projects include beautification of the Williamsville Meeting House, garden therapy at a local nursing home, youth gardening & Victorian Christmas decorating. eileen.s@markzon.com

Friends of Kenan Herb Club meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6pm (January–March), 5:30pm (April–November), Kenan Center for the Arts, 433 Locust Street, Lockport. Meeting dates, times and campus locations: kenancenter.org/affiliates.asp; 716/433-2617.

Garden Club of the Tonawandas meets the third Thursday of the month at 7pm, Tonawanda City Hall, Community Room.

Garden Friends of Clarence meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, September–June, Town Park Clubhouse, 10405 Main Street, Clarence. gardenfriendsofclarence@hotmail.com.

Hamburg Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at noon, Hamburg Community Center, 107 Prospect Avenue, Hamburg. Summer garden tours. 716/649-6789; lonabutler4@gmail.com.

Kenmore Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) at 10:00am, Kenmore United Methodist Church, 32 Landers Road, Kenmore. Activities include guest speakers, floral designs and community service. New members and guests welcome. songnbird@aol.com.

Ken-Sheriton Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 576 Delaware Road, Kenmore. Monthly programs, artistic design and horticulture displays. New members and guests welcome. 716/833-8799; dstierheim@gmail.com.

Lancaster Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January, July & August) at 7pm, St. John Lutheran Church, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. All are welcome. *Meetings are currently on hold.* 716/685-4881.

Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club meets the second Friday of the month at 7pm, Zion United Church, 15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda.

Niagara Frontier Orchid Society (NFOS) meets the first Tuesday following the first Sunday (dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.), September–June, Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo. niagarafreerorchids.org.

Orchard Park Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 12pm, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 4369 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park. Contact: Sandra Patrick, 716/662-2608.

Ransomville Garden Club meets the third Wednesday or Saturday of the month at 5:45pm, Ransomville Community Library, 3733 Ransomville Road, Ransomville. Meetings are open to all. Community gardening projects, educational presentations, June plant sale. bbonnie2313@gmail.com.

Silver Creek-Hanover Garden Club meets the second Saturday of the month at 11am, Silver Creek Senior Center, 1823 Lake Road (Rte. 5), Silver Creek. edlorrie@yahoo.com; Facebook.

South Towns Gardeners meets the second Friday of the month (except January) at 9:30am, West Seneca Senior Center. New members welcome.

Town and Country Garden Club of LeRoy meets the second Wednesday of the month (except February) at 6:30pm, First Presbyterian Church, 7 Clay Street, LeRoy. New members and guests are welcome. 585/768-2712; ritawallace005@gmail.com; Facebook.

Western New York Herb Study Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo.

Western New York Honey Producers, Inc. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora. wnyhp.org.

Western New York Hosta Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. Meetings with speakers, newsletter, sales. Hosta teas first Saturday of July, August, September. h8staman@aol.com; wnyhosta.com.

Western New York Hosta Society Breakfast Meetings, a friendly get-together, first Saturday (winter months only) at 10am, Forestview Restaurant, Depew. wnyhosta.com.

Western NY Iris Society usually meets the first Sunday of the month (when Iris are not in bloom), 1–4pm, at the Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway, Lancaster. Information about acquiring and growing irises (bearded & non-bearded) and complimentary perennials, annual flower show & summer iris sale. Guests welcome 716/837-2285; drsnooks@twc.com.

Western New York Rose Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. *July 15: Zoom meeting, topic TBD. August 19: Tour Delaware Park Rose Garden, 6pm, face mask required.* wnyrosesociety.net.

Youngstown Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm, First Presbyterian Church, 100 Church Street, Youngstown.

CLASSES / EVENTS

Ongoing July 1–31: Gardens in Plain View. The virtual version of *Garden Walk Buffalo* for 2020, all events will take place online except Sundays. Sundays: Self-guided neighborhood garden strolls; participants must view gardens from street or sidewalk and ensure physical distancing. Mondays: Gardeners' Eye View, Buffalo gardens and their gardeners. Tuesdays: Garden Pro Interviews. Wednesdays: Garden Stories. Thursdays: Gardens Buffalo Niagara. Fridays: Live interviews with gardeners. Saturdays: Points of View, interviews with partners and volunteers. Information, schedule & to subscribe: gardensbuffaloniagara.com.

Ongoing through July: Open Gardens Buffalo, Thursdays & Fridays. Over 70 gardens available to visit. Facemasks and physical distancing protocols must be followed. Tour booklet or app containing maps, hours & descriptions, see website. gardensbuffaloniagara.com/open-gardens-buffalo.

Ongoing through Summer: Hamburg Garden Walk – Virtual Tours. Enjoy virtual tours of village gardens. Facebook; hamburggardenwalk.com.

July 11: Draves Arboretum Tour, 1:30–3:30pm. Guided tour led by curator Thomas Draves. Learn about the arboretum's history and collections plus a bit of tree species identification. Be prepared for hills and uneven terrain. \$12. Pre-registration required. Draves Arboretum, 1815 Sharrick Road, Darien Center. dravesarboretum.org.

July 16: Gardening for Butterflies, 7–8pm. Participants will learn how to identify different butterfly species and their caterpillars seen in Western New York. The program will also explore plants that will attract butterflies and how to incorporate them into home gardens. Class will be held online via Zoom. \$10 members; \$12 non-members. Registration required. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens. 716/827-1584; buffalogardens.com.

July 17–18: Northwest Buffalo Tour of Gardens. Pending options: Traditional in-person garden visits or virtual on-line tours (launch July 17) TBD. BRRAlliance, 716/202-9070; brralliance.org.

September 12: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip. Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Highlights include a visit to Cornell Botanic Gardens; shopping at a variety of nurseries including Baker's Acres and Cayuga Landscape; wine tasting and more. Lunch included. \$85. Registration required. Please call to reserve your seat: 716/432-8688; 585-591-2860. Upstate Gardeners' Journal, 390 Hillside Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610. upstategardenersjournal.com.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society (ACNARGS) meets the third Saturday of the month (except in summer) at 1pm, Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca. Meetings are open to all. 607/269-7070; acnargs.org; Facebook.com/acnargs.

Aurora Herbarists, an herb study group, usually meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon, Cornell Botanic Gardens, Ithaca. Brownbag lunch at noon followed by the program and herb of the month. Field trips during the growing season. All are welcome. Contact: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu.

Elmira Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month, April–December, at 6pm, 426 Fulton Street, Elmira. Annual plant sale, workshops, monthly meetings, local garden tours and community gardening services. Karen Coletta, 607/731-8320; Facebook.



ITHACA cont.

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Unitarian Church annex, corner of Buffalo & Aurora, Ithaca. Enter side door on Buffalo Street & up the stairs. 607/257-4853.

Windsor NY Garden Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10am, members' homes or Windsor Community House, 107 Main Street, Windsor. windsorgardengroup.suerambo.com.

ROCHESTER

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

7th District Federated Garden Clubs New York State, Inc. meets the first Wednesday of the month. 7thdistrictfgcnys.org.

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Rochester meets the first Wednesday of the month (except in summer), 7-9pm, Messiah Church, 4301 Mount Read Blvd., Rochester. All are welcome. Stacey Davis, 585/426-5665; stacey.davis@rit.edu; avgsr.org.

Big Springs Garden Club of Caledonia-Mumford meets the second Monday evening of the month, September-November, January-May. New members and guests welcome. 585/314-6292; mdolan3@rochester.rr.com; Facebook.

Bloomfield Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. Marlene Moran, 585/924-8035. Facebook.

Bonsai Society of Upstate New York meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Brighton Town Park Lodge, Buckland Park, 1341 Westfall Road, Rochester. 585/334-2595; Facebook; bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

Conesus Lake Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month (April-December) at 7pm, Watershed Education Center, Vitale Park, Lakeville. Welcoming new members. Contact Rosemary Fisher, 716/983-8630.

Country Gardeners of Webster meets the second Monday of the month (except February, July & August) at 7pm, various locations. All aspects of gardening covered, outside speakers, projects, visits to local gardens, community gardening involvement. Includes coffee and social time. Guests welcome. 585/265-4762.

Creative Gardeners of Penfield meets the second Monday of the month (except July & August) at 9:15am, Penfield United Methodist Church, 1795 Baird Road, Penfield. Visitors welcome. Call 585/385-2065 if interested in attending a meeting.

Fairport Garden Club meets the third Thursday evening of each month (except August & January). Accepting new members. fairportgc@gmail.com; fairportgardenclub.com.

Garden Club of Brockport meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm, Jubilee Church, 3565 Lake Road, Brockport. Speakers, hands-on sessions. Georgie: 585/964-7754; georgietoates@yahoo.com.

Garden Club of Mendon meets the third Tuesday of the month, 10am-1pm, Mendon Community Center, 167 North Main Street, Honeoye Falls. Work on community gardens and gather new ideas in a casual, social environment. 585/624-8182; joanheaney70@gmail.com.

Garden Path of Penfield meets the third Wednesday of the month, September-May at 7pm, Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield. Members enjoy all aspects of gardening; new members welcome. gardenpathofpenfield@gmail.com.

Gates Garden Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July & August) at 6:30pm, Gates Town Annex, 1605 Buffalo Road, Rochester. New members and guests welcome. 585/429-5996; may@gmail.com.

Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month (September-December; February-May), Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester. GROS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS) and Orchid Digest Corporation. Facebook.com/geneseeorchid; geneseeorchid.org.

Genesee Valley Hosta Society meets the second Thursday of the month, April-October, at Eli Fagan American Legion Post, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta. 585/538-2280; sebackner@frontiernet.net; geneseevalleyhosta.com.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) meets Sundays at 2pm, dates vary, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls. Public welcome. August 8-9: *Rhizome Sale*, see *Calendar* (below). September 13: *Bulbous Iris*. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1200 South Winton Road, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. *Lectures & garden tours on pause*; see *website* or *Facebook* for updates. cap704@frontiernet.net; Facebook; rochesterperennial.com.

Greater Rochester Rose Society meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm, First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, Room 110, Rochester. July meeting is a garden tour. 585/694-8430; rochrosesociety@gmail.com; Facebook.

Henrietta Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except May-August & December) at 6:30pm, Department of Public Works Building, 405 Calkins Road, Henrietta. Guests welcome. Handicap accessible. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub.org.

Holley Garden Club meets the second Thursday of the month at 7pm, Holley Presbyterian Church. 585/638-6973.

Hubbard Springs Garden Club of Chili meets the third Monday of the month at 7pm, Chili Senior Center, 3235 Chili Avenue, Rochester. dtogood@rochester.rr.com.

Ikebana International Rochester Chapter 53 meets the third Thursday of each month (except December and February) at 10am, First Baptist Church, Hubbell Hall, 175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester. 585/301-6727; 585/402-1772; rochesterikebana@gmail.com; ikebanarochester.org.

Kendall Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Kendall Town Hall. 585/370-8964.

Klemwood Garden Club of Webster meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm (except January & February) in members' homes or local libraries. Accepting new members. 585/671-1961.

Lakeview Garden Club (Greece) meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 7pm, meeting location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visits to local garden-related sites. New members always welcome. Joanne Ristuccia; rista1234@gmail.com.

Newark Garden Club meets the first Friday of the month at 1pm, Park Presbyterian Church, Newark. Guests are welcome.

Pittsford Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of the month (except January & February) at 10:30am, Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford. Guest speakers and off-site tours. New members welcome. kwholtz@gmail.com.

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of the month (except August & September) at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road

North, Rochester. Visitors welcome. See *website* for up-to-date information concerning 2020 meetings & September Show. 585/865-2291; Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

Rochester Herb Society meets the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January, February & July) at 12pm, Potter Memorial Building, 53 West Church Street, Fairport. Summer garden tours. New members welcome. rochesterherbsociety.com.

Rochester Permaculture Center meets monthly to discuss topics such as edible landscapes, gardening, farming, renewable energy, green building, rainwater harvesting, composting, local food, forest gardening, herbalism, green living, etc. Meeting location and details: meetup.com/rochesterpermaculture.

Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visit to local garden-related site. Monthly newsletter. New members welcome. *Meetings for July, August & September 2020 are subject to change, please call to confirm.* Bonnie Arnold, 585/230-5356; bonniearnold@frontiernet.net.

Stafford Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month (except December & January) at 7pm, Stafford Town Hall, 8903 Morganville Road (Route 237), Stafford. Plant auction in May. All are welcome. 585/343-4494.

Victor Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 6:30/6:45pm. New members welcome. Meeting and location details: victorgardenclubny2.com; 585/330-3240.

Williamson Garden Club. On-going community projects; free monthly lectures to educate the community about gardening. Open to all. 315/524-4204; grow14589@gmail.com; grow-thewilliamsongardenclub.blogspot.com.

FREQUENT HOSTS

CCE/GC: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Genesee County, 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020. 585/343-3040 x101; genesee.cce.cornell.edu.

SG: Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park, 151 Charlotte Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424. 585/394-4922; sonnenberg.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

Ongoing: Plant Vendors at Rochester Public Market, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6am-1pm; Saturdays, 5am-3pm. Plants, flowers, succulents, herbs and more. Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union Street, Rochester. cityofrochester.gov/publicmarket.

July 19: Daylily Garden Open House, 2-6pm. Garden can be viewed from your car if visitor restrictions need to be followed due to COVID-19. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

July 26: Daylily Garden Open House, 2-6pm. See description under July 19. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

August 2: Roses & Rosés, 5:30-8:30pm. Stroll the historic gardens and sample wine & food from Finger Lakes region wineries and restaurants. Silent auction. Rain or shine. Ages 21 & over. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Registration required. **SG**

August 6: Garden Talk - Colchicums for the Fall Garden, 12-12:30pm. Program offered via Zoom. Free. Registration link on website. **CCE/GC**

August 8–9: Iris Rhizome Sale, 9am–4pm. Presented by Greater Rochester Iris Society. Members will be available to answer questions. Location: Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor-Pittsford Road, Victor. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

August 15–16: Arts at the Gardens, 10am–5pm. Fine art & craft show. Included with admission. \$10. **SG**

September 3: Garden Talk – Pet Friendly Plants. Will be offered via Zoom if unable to be held in person. Free. See website for status. **CCE/GC**

September 12: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip. Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Highlights include a visit to Cornell Botanic Gardens; shopping at a variety of nurseries including Baker's Acres and Cayuga Landscape; wine tasting and more. Lunch included. \$85. Registration required. Please call to reserve your seat: 716/432-8688; 585-591-2860. Upstate Gardeners' Journal, 390 Hillside Avenue, Rochester, NY 14610. upstategardenersjournal.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Garden Gala. Dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions. See website for updates. **CCE/GC**

October 3: Fall Gardening Symposium, 10am–5pm. Donald A. Rakow, School of Integrative Plant Science, at Cornell University. \$35 members; \$40 non-members; \$25 students. Registration required. **SG**

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Syracuse meets

the second Thursday of the month, September–May, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315/492-2562; kgarb@twcny.rr.com; avsofsyracuse.org.

Bonsai Club of CNY (BCCNY) usually meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315/436-0135; Inewell1@gmail.com; cnybonsai.com.

Central New York Orchid Society meets the first Sunday of the month, September–May, St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Road, Baldwinsville. Dates may vary due to holidays. 315/633-2437; cnyos.org.

Fairmount Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month (March–November) at 6:30pm, Camillus Senior Center, 25 First Street, Camillus. Speakers & community projects. All are welcome. tooley.susan@yahoo.com.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS – District 6. 315/481-4005; dist6fss@gmail.com.

Gardening Friends Club meets the third Tuesday of the month, March–December, at 6:30pm, Wesleyan Church, 4591 US Route 11, Pulaski. 315/298-1276; Facebook: Gardening Friends of Pulaski, NY; VicLaDeeDa@frontiernet.net.

Gardeners of Syracuse meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Avenue, Syracuse. Enter from Melrose Avenue. 315/464-0051.

Gardeners in Thyme (a women's herb club) meets the second Thursday of the month at 7pm, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville. 315/635-6481; hbaker@twcny.rr.com.

Habitat Gardening in CNY (HGCNY) meets the last Sunday of most months at 2pm. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. HGCNY is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural

Landscapes; wildones.org. Free and open to the public. 315/487-5742; info@hgcny.org; hgcny.org.

Home Garden Club of Syracuse usually meets the first Tuesday morning of the month. Members are active in educating the community about gardening, horticulture & floral design and involved with several civic projects in the Syracuse area. New members welcome. homegardenclubofsyracuse@gmail.com; homegardenclubofsyracuse.org.

Koi and Water Garden Society of Central New York usually meets the third Monday of each month at 7pm. See website for meeting locations. 315/458-3199; cnykoi.com.

Men and Women's Garden Club of Syracuse meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm, Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Avenue, Syracuse. Meetings feature guest speakers on a variety of gardening and related topics. Members maintain gardens at Rosemond Gifford Zoo & Ronald McDonald House. Annual spring & fall flower shows. 315/699-7942; Facebook.

Southern Hills Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, February–November, LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette. Some meetings are off site. Guests are welcome. Cathy Nagel, 315/677-9342; cen42085@aol.com.

Syracuse Rose Society meets the second Thursday of the month (except December) at 7pm, Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Avenue, Syracuse. Enter from Melrose Avenue. Club members maintain the E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden, Thornden Park, Syracuse. Public welcome. syracuserosesociety.org.

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (September–October, 2020) is Friday, August 14, 2020. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.



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August is "Tree Check" month

The New York Invasive Species Council calls August "Tree Check" month and asks people to keep an eye out for harmful bugs.

TOP LEFT: Emerald ash borer.



EMERALD ASH BORER

TOP RIGHT: Asian Longhorned beetle. Photo courtesy NYS IPM



ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

BOTTOM LEFT: Gypsy Moth. Photo courtesy NYS IPM



GYPSY MOTH

BOTTOM RIGHT: Spotted Lanternfly. Photo courtesy USDA



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Emerald ash borer: a half-inch long, metallic green beetle. Adults emerge from ash trees in June and fly through August.

Asian Longhorned beetle: a large, shiny black beetle with white spots and long antennae. Adults emerge from trees in August, leaving exit holes about the size of a dime.

Gypsy Moth: The female moths are white with small brown markings and begin laying hundreds of eggs in August.

Spotted Lanternfly: Adults are one inch long, gray with black spotted wings and black legs and head. The abdomen is yellow. Abundant in August. It's in parts of Pennsylvania right now. Keep an eye out for its appearance in NY.



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Attracting birds 101

by Liz Magnanti

C OVID-19 has had a huge impact on people across the globe and locally. People are spending more time at home, and in turn, have developed new home- and yard-based hobbies. This year more than ever, people are working in their gardens and starting backyard birding. The birding trend has really taken off, and in turn, there are a lot of beginners out there! This is the perfect time to review the different things you can do in your yard to attract more birds. Birds, like most other animals, have basic needs to survive and thrive: a source of water, food, shelter, and a place to raise young. By providing a mix of these you'll be quite surprised at the diversity of birds you are able to attract!

Water is one of the simplest things you can put out to attract more birds. This can be in the form of a birdbath, pond, or moving water feature. Moving water brings in more birds than standing water. They are attracted to the sound and movement it causes. It also helps keep mosquitoes out! If you have a birdbath, I highly suggest adding a solar fountain to it. When the sun hits the solar panel, the water begins spraying upwards, creating a small fountain. Birds will drink from water features and hummingbirds may even fly through the mist that the moving water creates. Birds need water to drink from as well as to clean their feathers. Not all birds will come to a bird feeder or birdhouse, but they all need a source of water. Robins, for example, do not nest in a house and typically do not come to feeders, but they will spend the better part of a day enjoying a dip in a birdbath. Water is also a great way to attract migrating birds like warblers and scarlet tanagers.

Food is another common way to bring more birds into your yard. Birdfeeders and native berry-producing shrubs are a great way to do just that. If you are adding a birdfeeder to your yard make sure you have at least one that provides black oil sunflower or a black oil sunflower mix. Black oil seed will get you the most diversity of any one type of seed, and the more diversity of foods you add the better. Cardinals, chickadees, finches, grosbeaks, and nuthatches are just some of the birds that will eat sunflower seed. Nyjer, or thistle seed, is great for the bright yellow goldfinches. Adding peanuts to the mix will help to attract blue jays, nuthatches and titmice. Suet cakes are blocks of fat that go in a square cage feeder. Suet will attract woodpeckers like the downy, hairy, red-bellied, and, if you're lucky a pileated! Oranges and grape jelly are favorites that will attract orioles in the spring, and homemade nectar will bring in hummingbirds. If you are feeling adventurous, mealworms can attract bluebirds and other songbirds, especially once their young have hatched. There are many differ-



ent species of birds that feeders will bring to the yard!

Birdhouses are a source of shelter and a place to raise young. They come in all shapes and sizes. The size of the bird house and especially its hole will dictate what kind of birds can use it. The smaller the size of the opening, the more it limits what birds can fit inside. Not all birds will nest in houses, but many do. Bluebirds, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, wrens, swallows, and even screech owls will nest in houses. Other common backyard birds like cardinals, goldfinches, blue jays, mourning doves, and robins will not nest in houses. Offering nesting material like natural cotton, pet fur, and sewing scraps can sometimes entice them to nest in yards. Stay away from dryer lint, however, as the dust and perfumes may be harmful to birds. As winter approaches you can put up habitats called roosting boxes and roosting pouches to give birds a place to stay out the snow, wind and cold.

The more you learn about backyard birding the more you realize how much more there is to learn! There are many tips and tricks you will pick up along the way. The different species of birds coming in and out of backyards varies with the season, which is another exciting part of backyard birding. It is a fun and rewarding hobby to participate in all year long.

Liz Magnanti is the manager of the Bird House in Pittsford.

ABOVE: Bath time.
Photo courtesy Flickr:
Judith Klein

Toad house



by Cathy Monrad



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

A toad can eat massive amounts of insects in a single summer—up to 10,000, according to gardeningknowhow.com. Toads help naturally keep garden pest population under control; this voracious amphibian's diet includes beetles, snails, slugs, spiders, flies, grubs, crickets, etc.

A source of water and shelter will attract toads. A toad house can be as simple as placing a flowerpot upside down over a semi-circle of rocks, or by partially burying a pot horizontally in the dirt.

This "abode" made from items found around the house will make a cute addition to a shady spot in your garden—prime real estate any toad would love to call home.

MATERIALS

- Large empty yogurt container or plastic flower pot
- River rocks in various sizes
- Tongue depressor or large popsicle stick (optional)
- Spray paint for use on plastic in desired color (optional)
- Pre-mixed tile grout (optional)
- Twigs or bark (optional)

TOOLS

- Thin marker
- Utility knife
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Sponge and water (optional)

1. With marker, draw a "door" on the plastic container as in Figure 1.
2. Use utility knife to cut out door shape. Optional: If you do not wish to use grout to fill in spaces between the rocks, paint the container at this time. Let dry completely.
3. Using hot glue, attach rocks around door as seen in Figure 2. Leave a bit of space between the rocks.
4. Cover entire container with rocks. *Note:* you can choose to glue rocks on top of container, or create a roof with sticks or bark in Step 6.
5. *Optional:* To grout the gaps, use your finger to press pre-mixed grout between stones as shown in Figure 3. After all gaps are filled, use damp sponge to wipe excess grout off rocks. You will need to rinse sponge multiple times until rocks are clean.
6. *Optional:* To create a thatch-style roof, affix a larger rock in the center of the top with hot glue. Break twigs or bark to span from center rock to just past edge of container as shown in Figure 4. Glue roof pieces in a circular pattern until roof is covered.
7. *Optional:* Create a sign to hang above the door. Write message on popsicle stick with marker. Cut sign to desired length with utility knife. Attach above door with hot glue.

Cathy Monrad is the graphic designer and garden crafter for *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*.

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