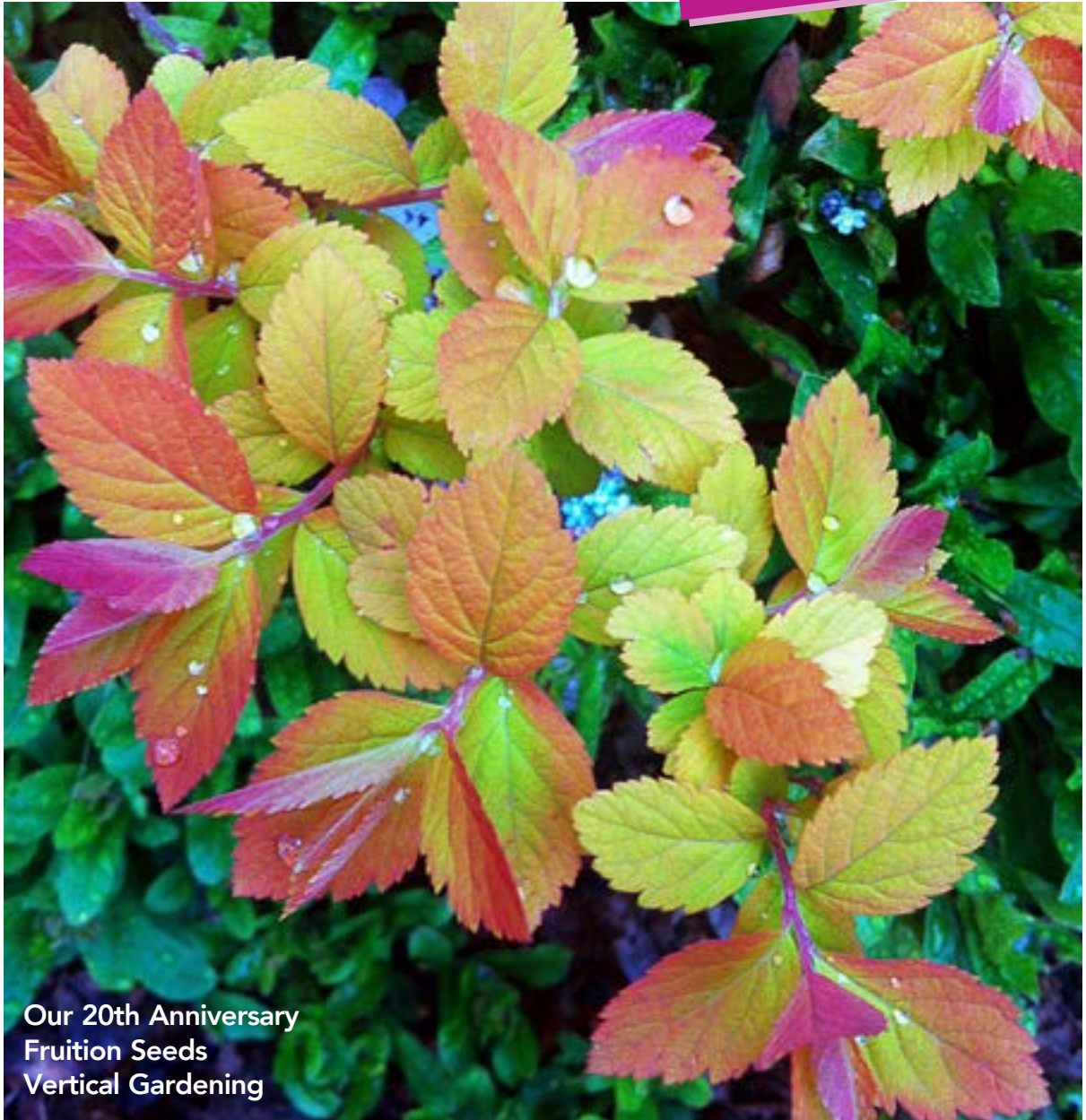


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Journal



Our 20th Anniversary
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Volume Twenty-one, Issue Two
March-April 2015

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Spring Things

Congratulations UGJ on your first 20: We just love UGJ and want to tell Jane and all the staff how much we appreciated everything they have done for the past 20 years to promote, educate and unify the gardening community in WNY. It has been our privilege to advertise and benefit from their outreach and service, and are looking forward to 20 more! Great job!

It's official: sarasgardencenter.com

Oh boy, well here it is! We are gardeners at heart so when given the task of envisioning the way to serve and connect to other gardeners by way of the WWW, it seemed pretty overwhelming... but it's done. Now we need you to take a look and give us feedback—lots of it. Step by step we can make it a useful and local tool that can benefit all of us. There is a 'contact us' page with lots of room for your thoughts and ideas; let us hear em', thank you!

Stone Wall Follies: We are offering our dry-laid stone wall class again with John Shaw-Rimmington and Norman Haddow. It will be hard to beat the excitement and momentum of 2014 but we are going to try! All it takes is 10 or 12 amazing people who feel the pull of working with stone. If you're out there, and we know you are, this is the weekend for you. Google these guys and get inspired. Visit us on Facebook to see some of the 2014 moments!

For details & reservations for the Stone Wall Follies, Veggie Gardens, events in our garden, or any other garden related topic, call or email...

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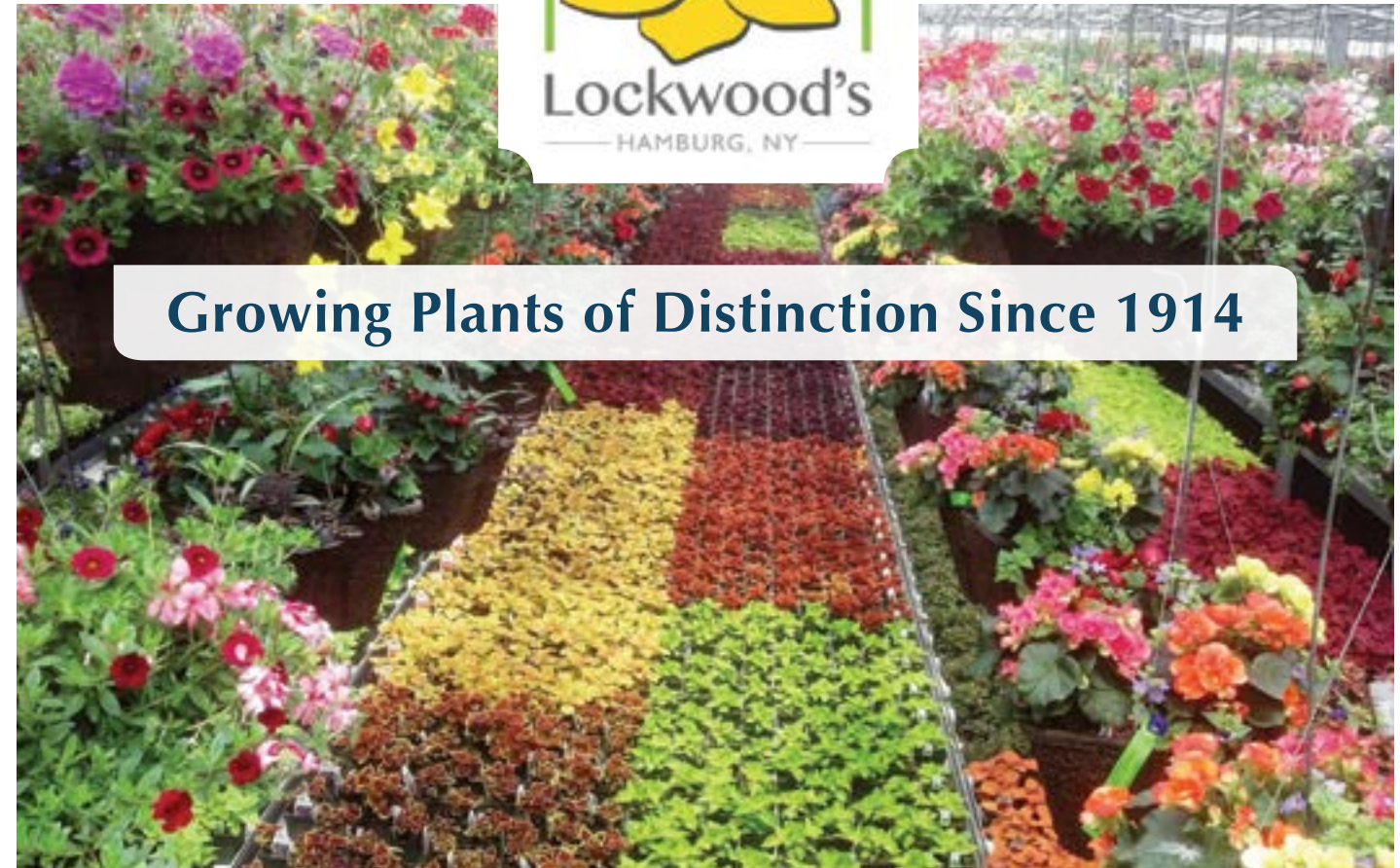
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What to do in the garden in March & April



Above: Hellebores, or Lenten roses

Spring gardening is perhaps more closely tied to local, even micro-climate and soil structure variation, than any other season. Cues are taken from Mother Nature rather than from a calendar. With that in mind, there are quite a few garden chores you can attend to (weather and soil conditions permitting) early on.

Late winter is the best time to rejuvenate most shrubs and hedges that are out of bounds. Don't forget to remove dead, crossing and storm-damaged tree limbs. Avoid pruning species prone to bleeding such as maple, birch and yellowwood.

Before bud-break is the best time to prune roses

and summer flowering shrubs such as *Buddleia*, *Cornus*, *Potentilla*, *Sorbaria*, and *Symphoricarpos spp.* Spring flowering plants should not be pruned until flowering is completed.

Think it is too early to grow some garden annuals? Spring is the best time to grow a variety of vegetables including the hottest vegetable *du jour*, kale. Depending on your micro-climate (for example: raised beds and sandy soils warm much more quickly than a north-facing garden bed or clay soil), try direct sowing some spinach or peas six weeks before your expected last frost (early April in zone 6). Have a space that doesn't fill in or get planted until early to mid-June? Plant some lettuce, kale, collards, and/or escarole seedlings in mid-April for a June harvest; they will thrive in the cool weather and can even survive a light frost.

—Sharon Rosenblum, Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County

Q & A



TOP LEFT: Perennial that provides texture for your garden.

TOP RIGHT: After yellow tipped flowers have formed seeds.



Stump the chump

Do you recognize this plant? Here's a description (and pictures) sent in by Ellen Folts, owner of Amanda's Garden in Springwater.

"It is an herbaceous perennial for the woodland garden. If you dug through all the snow you would see that it is evergreen although some leaves die back or brown at the tips. This plant has interesting yellow-tipped flowers in late spring and quickly forms seeds. If you want to grow it from seed, grab them before the birds eat them. It grows in shade in moist, rich soils and you will find it with the spring ephemerals. In your garden, it will provide texture after it finishes blooming. It grows 8 - 12 inches tall."

The first person to answer correctly, genus and species please, will win a \$10.00 gift certificate from Amanda's Garden. Please call **585/733-8979** or email **jane@upstategardenersjournal.com** to guess.

WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

It's Stump the Chump take two. The first person to identify our cover "model" will win a fabulous Upstate Gardeners' Journal mug! Please call **585/733-8979** or email **jane@upstategardenersjournal.com** to guess.



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Cheers to 20 twenty years



Welcome to our 20th anniversary edition! We are thrilled to have come this far and excited about the future.



To our readers, advertisers, friends, cheerleaders, and critics: Thank you. To my co-founder Dean, long-time and indispensable salesperson Maria, long-time and indispensable managing editor Debbie, long-time and indispensable graphic artist Cathy—ok, you all are

indispensable: Thank you. To my sainted mother, Sarah, who proofreads every word (just so you know who to blame), our technical editor Brian, our wonderful print rep Carol, all of the talented writers who have contributed over the years (especially Michelle Sutton), my partner in crime Megan, the guys who uncomplainingly (as far as I know) move the skids at Ted Collins Associates and used to at Gregson Clark: Thank you. To the late publishers Patricia Smith and Chip Goodman who showed me how it's done: Thank you. And to Ted Collins the person, my daily inspiration and biggest fan: Thank you. In fact, I think I'll dedicate this issue to you, sir. Cheers.

BOTANICAL GARDENS SEEKS INTERNS



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If you are pursuing a degree in horticulture or a related field, get in touch with your local and state nursery and landscape associations—there are scholarships available you might not know about. Visit plantwny.com, plantgflx.com, and nysnla.com for more information.

NEW NAMES FOR FAMILIAR ORGANIZATIONS

During last year's Plantasia show in Hamburg, what was formerly the Western New York Nursery and Landscape Association unveiled its new identity: PLANT WNY—the Professional Landscape and Nursery Trades of Western New York. Its sister organization in the Southern Tier quickly followed suit with PLANT STNY. Then late last year the Genesee-Finger Lakes Nursery and Landscape Association—the folks who brought you GardenScape, which is rumored to be making a comeback—voted to change its name, as well, to PLANT GFLX.



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The organizations' leadership believes the new branding will help the public better understand what these organizations are all about. We think the logos are very cute.



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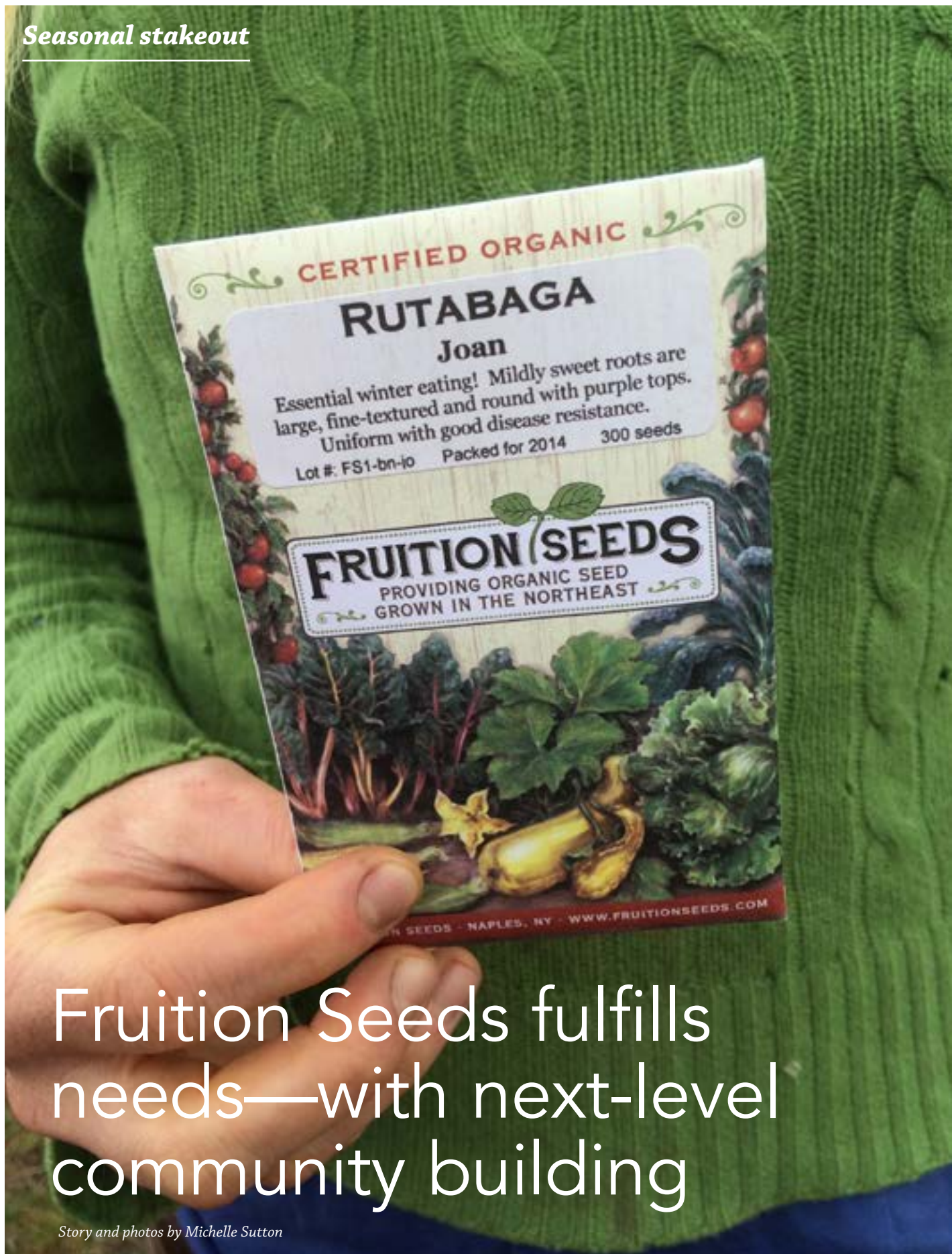


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Fruition Seeds fulfills needs—with next-level community building

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton



There is a significant number for Petra Page-Mann and Matthew Goldfarb of Fruition Seeds in Petra's home town of Naples. Fruition's major missions are three: to improve existing open-pollinated seed varieties (see sidebar), breed new ones, and "untangle" hybrids (more about that later). Three is also meaningful because their work is a three-way collaboration between plant breeders/researchers, farmers and gardeners, and themselves as the seed producers. And in 2014, they got access to a third piece of land to use for seed growing, a parcel of gloriously dark and spongy muckland.

THE FIRST COLLABORATION

Petra and Matthew met at a reggae dance in Ithaca in 2011, and the subject of seeds came up within the first 30 seconds. They fell in love and within a year, they founded Fruition Seeds.

With extensive experience working for other seed companies and market farmers under her belt, Petra had been moving toward starting her own seed company for several years.

Matthew, who also had been a market farmer but more recently had been working at Cornell in small farms research and extension, had been feeling that he wanted to get back to being a grower. A childhood friend had started Uprising Seeds in Washington State and repeatedly invited Matthew to become a partner. "So I'd been aware of small seed businesses, but I wasn't persuaded enough until I met Petra," he says, smiling.

They agreed that they wanted their seeds to be certified organic and regionally adapted, in addition to being open pollinated, and they wanted to serve small farmers and home gardeners.

They hold their organic certifier, NOFA (Northeast

Organic Farming Association), in high esteem. Petra says NOFA "[has] been really professional and helpful for us and [has] higher standards than the national certifiers."

THE IMPROVERS

Fruition engages in seed improvement—making crops more uniform, beautiful, tasty and regionally adapted—by several means. The first is simple selection: they grow crops from seed, observe the variation that results, cull out the low-performing plants then flag and save seed from the high-performing ones. They repeat this process

over as many seasons as necessary until they get the desired improvements in flavor, color, size, etc.

Because the process involves open pollination and careful selection, it is a given that the improved seed is also increasingly well adapted to the region's weather, soils, insect and disease pressure, and so on.

They realized they could employ this selection process for farmers when they had a pivotal winter-time conversation with Nathaniel

Thompson of Remembrance Farm in Trumansburg. Nathaniel, who grows 25 acres of salad greens on his 100-acre farm, mentioned that he had three acres of leftover kale, lettuces, and mustard greens still in the fields. He knew that a small percentage of the greens would overwinter and if the seed was saved from the better ones that survived, that alone would boost his seed stock quality. However, he was, like most farmers, too busy growing and marketing his produce to do this seed work.

This was when a very exciting light bulb went off for Petra and Matthew. "His need and our interest met," says Matthew. "We realized that he could focus on his strengths and resources on field prep, planting, cultiva-



LEFT: Every Fruition pack comes with specific growing and seed-saving instructions.

ABOVE: The 'Habandada' peppers developed by Michael Mazourek are now in Fruition's hands for ongoing seed improvement as well as seed and transplant growing and sales.

INSET: Matthew Goldfarb and Petra Page-Mann



LEFT: Matthew with the seed drying rack he built.

RIGHT: Much has been accomplished since Fruition was founded in 2012, including creating a new model for “Custom Collaboration” with regional market growers.



tion, and marketing. We could focus on the process of seed selection, germination, cleaning, etc—and provide the resources for that.” They coined the term Custom Collaboration for this model, one that to their knowledge was completely new in the seed growing world.

In the springtime, Petra and Matthew went to Remembrance Farm to rogue out thousands of those greens, then flagged the promising ones to come back and harvest seed from (kale is a biennial, so it produces seed in its second year). In the case of the Red Russian kale, one generation of seed improvement did wonders. When Nathaniel planted the freshly selected seed, Petra says, “You didn’t even have to be a gardener to see the night and day difference in the color, vigor, and uniformity.” Nathaniel had been looking for a more lofty frill in the kale and a deeper, richer purple stem—and he wanted proven cold hardiness. There they were.

Nathaniel says, “The first trial we did with Red Russian kale showed us the remarkable potential of this collaboration. We ended up with a superior selection as well as a season’s worth of seed for an important crop. We are now trying to duplicate the process with the other varieties of greens we grow, as well as some root crops. I had dreamed for years of integrating this kind of seed production into my growing system, but it had never been a realistic possibility as I had neither the time nor expertise to make it happen. I’m excited to see how the relationship with Fruition will grow and develop over the next few years.”

Petra and Matthew also work with Robin Ostfeld and Lou Johns of Blue Heron Farm in Lodi, certified organic farmers since 1986. Robin and Lou wanted a Ruby Red Swiss chard that would have thicker, brighter red stems, bright red leaf color, an upright habit, the right amount of ruffledness in the leaf (too much curling traps pests and diseases), and would resist the chard disease they were struggling with most, *Cercospora* leaf spot.

In the early fall, Petra and Matthew flagged 200 Ruby Red plants that seemed especially promising. Once it got

to be cold enough that Robin and Lou could no longer harvest from those plants and the roots would be in danger of frost kill, Petra and Matthew dug up the 200 superior plants, took them back to their farm, and put them in the cooler for the winter. This year they’ll plant the chards out on their own leased lands, and save seed from this biennial. That seed may produce the desired traits, or Fruition might need to do subsequent generations of improvement.

The improved seed is shared back with the farmer—they get all the seed they need for the next growing season. Fruition takes a percentage of seed and puts it in seed packets to sell. The farmer has a seed that’s customized to their soil, market preferences, production method, and microclimate, and Fruition has a means of supporting its mission.

This regionally tailored and farmer-specific Custom Collaboration model stands in lovely contrast to the way most seed is produced, where one company on the West Coast produces massive fields of one variety, and no one’s focusing on selection or quality control. It’s no surprise that the number of farmers wanting to participate in Custom Collaboration with Fruition is quickly growing.

THE PLANT BREEDERS

Petra and Matthew are working closely with Cornell Professor Michael Mazourek, one of the top organic plant breeders in the country. Matthew says, “Our relationship with Michael has transformed Fruition profoundly, because he’s opened up the world of breeding to us, which gets us really excited.”

In addition to selecting for better seed, with Michael’s guidance, Fruition is now doing crosses by selectively hand pollinating with intended traits in mind. For instance, if this individual watermelon plant produces exceptionally tasty fruit, but this other individual within the same species has a more pleasing texture, controlled cross-pollination could give both traits to the resulting seeds.

Michael provides Fruition with material that he’s been breeding that Petra and Matthew can help get to the mar-

ketplace. An example is the beautiful orange Habanada pepper Michael developed. It’s a habanero without any lingering heat but with a fruity sweetness and unnamable exotic habanero flavor that can be eaten fresh or pan fried. (The Habanada peppers are available for the first time as transplants in 2015 through Fruition’s website.)

Michael says that plant breeders/researchers often wish they could get their material and solutions out to the growers more quickly. “Fruition is that fast, direct route to deliver a solution that I’ve been waiting for,” he says. For instance, with the Habanada peppers, where Michael had once hoped they would be available to growers and gardeners within several years, “after one conversation with Petra and Matthew in my greenhouse, they made it a reality before me in less than a year. It is incredibly fulfilling.”

He continues, “Something that would seem so daunting to me—to try to organize these teams of researchers, seed growers, and farmers—they thrive at it, and at taking a true community-building approach through their work. I also appreciate their general spiritedness and optimism, the philosophical conversations we have, and how we challenge each other as partners to do our work better.”

THE UNTANGLERS

In addition to the seed selection and breeding work, Petra and Matthew are learning how to “untangle” hybrids. “Hybrids are great and they can happen naturally,” Matthew says, “but for market or home gardeners and chefs who become attached to a certain hybrid, it can be very disappointing when the seed company drops it, as is not unusual. That phenomenon affects regional food culture and cuisine negatively.” And saving hybrid seed won’t deliver plants that “come true” (see sidebar), so the farmer or gardener is truly at the seed company’s mercy when it comes to hybrids.

Thus emerged another of Fruition’s projects, in conjunction with Michael Mazourek: to grow out plants from hybrid seeds that are being discontinued, and to use breeding to create a new open-pollinated variety that is as close as possible in flavor, size, and color to the hybrid that is being lost. This “growing out” process, getting back to parentage in all its variability, is what’s meant by

OPEN POLLINATION VS. HYBRIDS

Excerpted from the Seed Savers Exchange website (www.seedsavers.org):

Open-pollination is when pollination occurs by insect, bird, wind, or other natural mechanisms. Because there are no restrictions on the flow of pollen between individuals, open-pollinated plants are more genetically diverse. This can cause a greater amount of variation within plant populations, which allows plants to slowly adapt to local growing conditions and climate year-to-year. As long as pollen is not shared between different varieties within the same species, then the seed produced will remain true-to-type year after year

Hybridization can occur naturally through random crosses, but commercially available hybridized seed, often labeled as F1, is deliberately created to breed a desired trait. The first generation of a hybridized plant cross also tends to grow better and produce higher yields than the parent varieties due to a phenomenon called ‘hybrid vigor’. However, any seed produced by F1 plants is genetically unstable and cannot be saved for use in following years. Not only will the plants not be true-to-type, but they will be considerably less vigorous. Gardeners and farmers who use hybrid plant varieties must purchase new seed every year. Hybrid seeds can be stabilized, or “detangled” producing open-pollinated varieties, by growing, selecting, and saving the seed over many years.



ABOVE: Demonstrating an amazing variety of appearance, taste, and texture are these fruits of a watermelon breeding project Fruition has undertaken with Michael Mazourek.

“untangling.” The stable, open-pollinated, non-patentable hybrids are ones that gardeners and farmers can save seed from themselves and expect to “come true” year after year.

Petra says, “Local food starts with local seed. Whether or not we ever plant a seed, we all are integral in making our food systems function. Bringing everyone to the table—farmers, eaters, chefs, breeders, schools, food banks, grocers—has perhaps never been more important. These seeds bring resilience, hope, and every form of abundance.”

You can learn more about Fruition’s missions, seeds, and founders at fruitionseeds.com.

Michelle Sutton (michellejudysutton.com) is a horticulturist, writer, and editor living in New Paltz, NY.

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Unearthing your vertical garden

by Colleen O'Neill Nice

ABOVE: At Floriade 2012, pots mounted on a fence display a variety of foliage plants.

High-rise gardens are everywhere. Traveling in Spain last spring, I was inspired by the work of French botanist and father of the living wall, Patrick Blanc. At the CaixaForum Madrid (a modern art gallery), Blanc painted an exterior wall with 15,000 plants including more than 250 species. Sweeping brushstrokes of intense foliage colors and textures consume a canvas extending four stories high. The spring before, during a visit to Floriade, an international horticultural exhibition in the Netherlands, I saw several examples of elevated gardens. One simple yet engaging idea used a stockade fence to display single plant specimens mounted in pots. Although all the plants were green, the use of crisp, clear handwritten plant labels added a botanical look to the

display.

Closer to home, impressive, floor-to-ceiling green walls climb upward in the conservatory at Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia. Packed with ferns, spider plants, grape ivy, philodendron and moss, the fourteen-foot walls feature ethereal textures and shapes. In the Atlanta Botanical Garden, an herb wall complements an outdoor kitchen where the city's noted chefs provide cooking classes during the summer. At Chanticleer, a pleasure garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania, rusty chains spilling with succulents hang in the "ruin garden." "We salvaged this hardware from a church being demolished on North Broad Street in Philadelphia, 17 or 18 years ago. It actually pre-dates the ruin garden constructed in 2000. The chain and

cups were on a continuous loop bringing coal from the coal bins to feed the church furnace," says Fran DiMarco, administrative assistant at Chanticleer.

So gather inspiration from near or far to design your own vertical garden. Probe nurseries and online sources for uncommon vegetation. Use found items or engineered components. Have fun!

Start simple. Many retailers such as Pottery Barn, Williams-Sonoma and Lowes offer vertical gardening configurations. The galvanized, stacked pockets at Pottery Barn are great for stashing succulents. Try mounting two planters side-by-side for an easy-to-harvest herb garden. Each planter features ten pockets with plenty of room for all your culinary greenery. Williams-Sonoma stocks copper and reclaimed wood vertical wall planters, indoor/outdoor free standing vertical gardens, and an easy-to-label chalkboard wall planter surrounding ten planting cells. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, check out the garden projects at Lowes. The fence gutter garden, PVC-ring fence trellis or the PVC sleeve planters are creative ways to grow vertical. And if you have not tried the topsy-turvy tomato,

this hanging marvel is a real space saver. Plow & Hearth sells their version of the upside down tomato planter with three ports for herbs, allowing you to grow the perfect pairing – tomatoes and basil, if you so desire.

Buy local. Masterson's Nursery in East Aurora has the perfect answer for greening up a small patio or deck. The Gronomics Vertical Garden is handcrafted in the USA of western red cedar with a small footprint, just two square feet. It includes a drip irrigation system and provides 17 feet of linear growing space with no assembly required. Quick, easy and instant green! Patti Jablonski-Dopkin, general manager at Urban Roots Community Garden Center in Buffalo suggests, the Woolly Pocket recycled felt planters or the hard plastic living wall planter. Zehrs on the Lake Farm Market & Nursery sells Kinsmen products including hayrack planters, an alternative to traditional window boxes. The hayracks are a classic European design and include a coco-fiber liner.

Go vertical with trees. At Wayside Garden Center in Macedon, they grow columnar pear and peach trees, as well as dwarf apple trees – perfect to train as an espalier.

ABOVE: Succulents grow happily in salvaged ironware hanging in Chanticleer's ruin garden.



They also sell hanging moss globes, living wreath forms and hanging planting bags – great for growing potatoes, strawberries or flowering plants. Sara’s Garden and Nursery in Brockport offers unique decorative trellises that come in all shapes and sizes. Add a clematis or variegated morning glory and let the climbing begin.

Just recycle. Take an old Croc, line it with sphagnum moss and fill it with a soilless mix. Add a favorite plant or two, and hang it from the heel strap. Creative and easy, this vertical shoe-in will keep draping pineapple or chocolate mint from invading your garden beds. Spray paint your old tomato cages with bright colors. Flip the cages over and secure the bottom ring to the ground with garden staples. Pull the legs together and add a decorative finial. Tie bamboo canes together to create garden tepees to grow cucumbers, peas, squash or miniature pumpkins for a vertical space-saving vegetable garden.

My own vertical garden started a few years ago when I needed to soften a brick wall adjacent to my back porch. The first year I staggered three Kinsman wall baskets attaching them with brick clips. (Lee Valley offers three sizes of clips to fit the height of your brick). Baskets can then be removed easily for filling and repositioning. My living wall added an interesting backdrop for my outdoor dining space with activity from dragonflies and humming-

birds. As the seasons changed, so did the arrangements. Fall seed heads, panicles, evergreen cuttings and pansies all provided a year’s worth of variety.

Last year, I expanded my vertical garden with four more Kinsman wall planters. To create cohesion within the display, I used a mélange of ferns as my primary plant. The textures were glorious. The climbing maidenhair ferns (*Lygodium microphyllum*) cascaded down and climbed throughout the planters. The Japanese painted ferns (*Athyrium niponicum ‘Pictum’*) sparkled in soft shades of purple, grey and silver green. Begonias, caladium, coleus, fuschia, ivy, New Guinea impatiens, plectranthus, and sweet potato vines joined the party. Birds wedged nests between the foliage, while the bees enjoyed the flowers.

Plants, plants, plants. When selecting plants to use in full sun, drought tolerant sedums and succulents mean minimal watering and low maintenance. For vertical gardens with drip irrigation or self-watering tanks, try edibles like strawberries or leaf lettuce. Vegetables specifically designed for growing in pots are vertically friendly. Renee’s Garden features an impressive list of gourmet vegetable seeds suitable for container gardens (www.renees-garden.com). Herbs can be grouped together for easy access from the kitchen. Be sure to include oregano, thyme and mint, which provide a draping disposition. Create a

tropical living wall with orchids, hoyas, ivies, calla lilies and bromeliads. Use sun-loving annuals. Mix in cascading plants like trailing geranium, lantana, cascading petunia, calibrachoa, dichondra and verbena. Include mounding plants like annual grasses, salvia, gazania and angelonia. Add fragrance with heliotrope, stock, sweet alyssum, four o’clocks and sweet peas.

For a vertical shade garden, experiment with foliage favorites like dwarf caladium, needlepoint ivy, sweet potato vine and plectranthus. Add floridity with fuschia, New Guinea impatiens, begonia, torenia, browallia and viola. Mix in divisions from your perennial garden including miniature hosta, hardy geraniums and liriopse. Many perennials re-seed, so use the babies to fill in. Add ferns for texture. Remember to group plants together that require similar cultural conditions by considering exposure, water and fertilizing needs.

Vertical gardens take advantage of limited ground space while invigorating plentiful vertical space. Make use of elevation to deter rabbits that nibble on your strawberries or devour your blossoms. Create additional habitats for birds and insects. Smartly position plants near front entrances or on balconies to clean air of pollutants and offset your carbon footprint. Create a shield with plants that will help insulate buildings from noise, heat and air

pollution. Use tepees, arbors and pergolas to create micro-climates. Shade loving plants will thrive under the structure, while the sun lovers clamber over.

Vertical gardens are also ideal for growing food in urban settings or on patios. They can be more productive than horizontal gardens and practically weed free. Uniquely designed planters allow the garden to be brought up to the gardener, especially for those with bad knees and backs or anyone with limited bending abilities. They bring relaxation and peace, adding a living art form to your garden. Structures like pergolas, obelisks and arches create garden rooms, adding height and depth. Privacy screens of greenery disguise unwanted views of compost areas, sheds and air conditioners. Window boxes and hanging baskets add character, variety, structure and color, thus increasing curb appeal.

But most importantly, vertical gardens expand your garden space, giving you the opportunity to nurture even more plants. So if you are running out of real estate, consider creating a vertical green space and use inspiration from your travels to make it your own.

Colleen O’Neill Nice is a passionate gardener in Clarence, New York specializing in fern propagation.

LEFT: A birdcage chock-full of plants at Sarah’s Garden Center in Brockport, NY.

RIGHT TOP: Hayrack planters increase curb appeal by adding color and character at window height.

RIGHT BOTTOM: A series of wall planters, similar to this one, are filled with shade loving plants to create a living wall.

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Calendar

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REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet Gesneriad Society of WNY meets the third Tuesday of the month, March – November, at 7 pm, Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corp, 40 Embury Place, Lancaster. Contact: Judy O’Neil, judyoneil1945@gmail.com.

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

Amara Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January) at 11 am, Burchfield Nature & Art Center, 2001 Union Road, West Seneca. 716/633-9555.

Amherst Garden Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except December, March, July & August) at 10:00 am, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Main Street, Williamsville. New members and guests welcome. 716/836-5397.

Buffalo Area Daylily Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. *March 22: Souper Bowl Meeting, 1 pm.* 716/ 698-3454; info@buffaloareadaylilysociety.com.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS – District 8. Maryann Jumper, District Director. *March 18 – 22: Standard Flower Show at Plantasia. April 16: District Spring Meeting, luncheon and installation of officers.* 716/435-3412; mjump50@gmail.com; gardenclubsofwny.com.

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

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

Hamburg Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of every month at noon, summer garden tours, Hamburg Community Center, 107 Prospect Avenue, Hamburg. 716/648-0275; droman13@verizon.net.

Ken-Sheriton Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30 pm, St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 576 Delaware Road, Kenmore. Monthly programs, artistic design and horticulture displays. *March 10: A Garden Full of Flowers presented by Maria Gerbracht.* New members and guests welcome. 716/836-0567.

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. niagarafreierorchids.org.

Orchard Park Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 12 pm, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 4369 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park. *March 5: Question & Answer Forum regarding the club. April 2: Edible Plants, Flowers & Herbs, presented by Julie McIndoo.* President: Joan Sutton, 716/662-4777.

Silver Creek-Hanover Garden Club meets the second Saturday of the month at 2 pm, First Baptist Church, 32 Main Street, Silver Creek. Sue Duecker, 716/934-7608; duke.sue@roadrunner.com.

South Town Gardeners meets the second Friday of the month (except January) at 10:30 am, Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Art Center, 2001 Union Road, West Seneca. New members welcome.

Western New York Carnivorous Plant Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm, Menne Nursery, 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. wnycpclub@aol.com; facebook.com/wnycpclub.

Western New York Herb Study Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, 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. wnyhpa.org.

Western New York (WNY) Hosta Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. A group of hosta lovers who have come together to promote the genus hosta. 716/941-6167; h8staman@aol.com; wnyhosta.com.

Western New York Hosta Society Breakfast Meetings, a friendly get-together, first Saturday of the month at 10 am, Gardenview Restaurant, Union Road, West Seneca.

Western New York Iris Society meets the first Sunday of the month in members’ homes and gardens. Information about growing all types of irises and complementary perennials. Shows. Sale. Guests welcome. Pat Kluczynski: 716/633-9503; patrizia@roadrunner.com.

Western New York Rose Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. *March 18: The Art of Roses (photography). April 15: Pruning, Spraying, Fertilizing.* wnyrosesociety.net.

Wilson Garden Club generally meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm, Community Room, Wilson Free Library, 265 Young Street, Wilson. Meetings open to all, community floral planting, spring plant sale, local garden tours. 716/751-6334; wilsongardenclub@aol.com.

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

BECBG: Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218. 716/827-1584; buffalogardens.com.

COOP: Chicken Coop Originals, 13245 Clinton Street, Alden. 716/937-7837; chickencooporiginals.com; Facebook.

GGT: Great Garden Travel with Sally Cunningham. AAA/Horizon Club Tours, 100 International Drive, Buffalo, NY 14221. Pre-registration required; reservation deadlines apply. Call for information or to be added to email list: 800/242-4244. horizonclubtours.com/garden-travel.

LOCK: Lockwood’s Greenhouses, 4484 Clark Street, Hamburg, NY 14075, 716/649-4684; weknowplants.com.

MENNE: Menne Nursery, 3100 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228. 716/693-4444; mennenursery.com.

REIN: Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Drive, Depew, NY 14043. 716/683-5959; dec.ny.gov.

URB: Urban Roots, 428 Rhode Island Street, Buffalo. 716/362-8982; info@urbanroots.org; urbanroots.org.

ZTL: Zittel’s Country Market, 4415 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075. 716/649-3010; zittels.com.

CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

March: Register for Spring Trips with Great Garden Travel. Tour *Charleston, Raleigh and Williamsburg* (see April 11-20); or *London Gardens & the Chelsea Flower Show* (see May 19-26). Registration for each closing soon. **GGT**

March 7: Enhancing the Backyard Landscape, 10 am. Slide presentation & discussion, for those starting from scratch as well as those blending new elements with an existing landscape. Registration required. **MENNE**

March 7: Children’s Workshop – Indoor Fairy Garden, 11 am. Ages 6-10 will make a miniature indoor garden to take home. Materials included. \$10. Registration required. **MENNE**

March 7: Gardening with Native Plants, 11 am – 1 pm. Part of *Horticulture III Certificate Program.* \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

March 7: Make-and-Take: Windowsill Herb Garden, 2 pm. Learn how to create and maintain an indoor herb garden that can then be transitioned to the outdoors for the summer growing season. Materials included. \$20. Registration required. **MENNE**

March 14: After the Storm, 10:30 am – 12 pm. What to do about winter damage, plant losses and landscape problems. Sally Cunningham, certified nursery and landscape professional, will address what can be salvaged and when, what is best replaced and appropriate options. Questions & landscape photos welcome. Free. Registration required. **LOCK**

March 14: Seed Starting, 2 pm. Hands-on workshop will cover soil mixes, lighting and heat requirements, potting-up, equipment and supplies, seedling care and more. Materials included. Instructor: Richard Price. Registration required. **URB**

• **March 14 – 28: Kids’ Art Classes,** 3 Saturdays, 9 – 10:30 am. Ages 5-15. \$35 series; \$13 single class. Registration required. **BECBG**

March 16 – 20: Grow Jamestown Garden Week. Activities will include basic gardening workshops, food science documentaries, children’s activities, canning classes, and general composting in urban spaces. 716/664-2477 x226; jamestownrenaissance.org.

March 18: Plantasia Preview Night, 5:30 – 8:30 pm. *Every Garden Tells a Story.* Get a sneak peek at the gardens. Refreshments & vendors. Fairgrounds Event Center and Artisan Hall, 5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg. plantasiany.com.

March 18 – 22: Standard Flower Show. Presented by District VIII Judges Council, Federated Garden Clubs NYS. Plantasia, Fairgrounds Event Center and Artisan Hall, 5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg. gardenclubsofwny.com.

• **March 19 – 22: Plantasia. Every Garden Tells a Story.** Theme gardens, seminars, vendors, special events, children’s discovery garden. \$9; \$7 seniors (age 60+); children 12 & under free. Fairgrounds Event Center and Artisan Hall, 5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg. plantasiany.com.

March 20: Taste of Paradise, 6 – 9 pm. Cocktail samples, refreshments, entertainment. \$30 members; \$35 non-members; \$40 after March 9. **BECBG**

March 21: Garden Fair. Exhibits, vendors and workshops dedicated to gardening. In conjunction with *Grow Jamestown Garden Week* (see March 16-20, above). Free. The Renaissance Center, 119-121 W. Third Street, Jamestown. 716/664-2477 x226; jamestownrenaissance.org; jamestownupclose.com.

March 21: Repotting Houseplants, 2 pm. Demonstration followed by hands-on session. Bring a houseplant that needs repotting and a container or purchase one before class. Soil provided. Registration required by March 17. **MENNE**

March 21 – April 12: Spring Flowers, daily, 10 am – 5 pm. **BECBG**

March 23 – April 13: Adult Watercolor Classes, 4 Mondays, 8:45 – 10:45 am. Instructor: Joan Saba. Series: \$60 members; \$66 non-members. Single Class: \$17 members; \$18 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

March 25 – April 15: Adult Drawing Classes, 4 Wednesdays, 8:45 – 10:45 am. Instructor: Joan Saba. Series: \$60 members; \$66 non-members. Single Class: \$17 members; \$18 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

March 28: Pruning Seminar, 9:30 am – 12 pm. Focus will be on corrective and maintenance pruning of shrubs and small trees, including assessing and correcting storm and winter damage on specific woody plants. CNLP and professional arborist educators. \$15. Registration required. **LOCK**

March 28: Native Plants, 10 am. Instructor: Beaufort Wilbern. Registration required. **URB**

March 28: Starting Seeds, 10 am. Natalie Twining will discuss materials needed to get started, when to start seeds and transplant seedlings. Registration required. **MENNE**

March 28: Shade Gardening, 11 am – 1 pm. Part of *Horticulture III Certificate Program.* \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

March 28: Unusual Flowers & Vegetables for Your Garden, 2 pm. Presentation will introduce some unusual vegetables and flowers, from heirloom varieties to new and recent introductions. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 4: Spring Cleanup of Your Landscape & Lawn, 2 – 4 pm. Landscape staff members will demonstrate how to cultivate, fertilize and edge beds, discuss getting a lawn in shape after winter and will cover proper planting and pruning of trees and shrubs. Outdoor session, rain or shine. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 11: Communities in Bloom, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. *Annuals & Perennials, Weed & Disease Control (Integrated Pest Management), Soil Preparation, Compost & Mulch, Seed Starting & Vegetables, Pruning.* Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Master Gardeners. Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. \$20. Registration required. CCE Erie County: 716/652-5400; cce.cornell.edu/erie.

April 11: Children’s Workshop – Planting Seeds, 10 am. Ages 6-10 will plant seeds to take home and nurture to plant the seedlings outside when weather allows. \$7. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 11: Summer Bulbs, 10 am. Ben LangeVeld of Netherland Bulb Company will discuss summer bulbs and how to successfully plant them in the ground or containers for summer-long blooms. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 11: How to Make a Terrarium, 10 – 11 am. Class will provide information on how to successfully plant your own glass-encased miniature garden. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

April 11: Creative Containers & Raised Beds, 11 am – 1 pm. Part of *Horticulture IV Certificate Program.* \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 11: Gardening for Health and Beauty, 2 pm. Discover uses for lavender, rose petals and other plants from the garden. Adults only. Registration required. **REIN**

April 11: Unusual Combinations for Sun & Shade: Annuals & Perennials, 2 pm. Natalie Twining will discuss mixing annuals and perennials in unusual combinations to reflect personal style on the patio or in the garden. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 11 – 20: Southern Gardens. Travel with Sally Cunningham. Motor coach tour of Williamsburg, Raleigh, North Carolina, and the House & Garden Tour of Charleston, South Carolina. Pre-registration required. **GGT**

April 18: Communities in Bloom, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. See description under April 11. Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County, 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora. \$20. Registration required. CCE Erie County: 716/652-5400; cce.cornell.edu/erie.

April 18: Hypertufa Container Workshop, 9 am or 1 pm. Fashion your own unique planting container from peat moss, Portland cement and perlite. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 18: Starting Seeds, 10 am. See description under March 28. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 18: Houseplant How-to, 10 – 11 am. Demonstration will cover lighting and watering requirements, planting techniques, fertilization and pest troubleshooting. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

April 18: Gardening by the Moon, 10:30 am. Learn what and when to plant by following the moon’s cycle. Adults only. Registration required. **REIN**

April 18: Pruning Fruit Trees, 11 am. Demonstration and discussion of properly pruning fruit trees for the best possible results. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 18: Small Space and Urban Gardening, 11 am – 1 pm. Part of *Horticulture III Certificate Program.* \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 18: Unusual Flowers & Vegetables for Your Garden, 12 pm. See description under March 28. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 18: Beginning Bonsai Basics, 2 pm. Peter Martin will cover the basics of Bonsai care and which plants can best be used for Bonsai. He will demonstrate pruning and repotting techniques and share information on basic care including growing media, watering and fertilizing. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 19: Growing a Vegetable Garden, 1 pm. Topics covered will include: choosing the right location, preparing the soil, selecting varieties, determining quantities and space needed for your plants. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 19: Vegetable Gardens in Containers, 3 pm. Natalie Twining will share information on how to choose a container, provide the right soil and select the right varieties. Location, lighting, proper watering and attending to nutritional needs will also be discussed. Registration required. **MENNE**

April 20 – May 11: Adult Watercolor Classes, 4 Mondays, 8:45 – 10:45 am. Instructor: Joan Saba. Series: \$60 members; \$66 non-members. Single Class: \$17 members; \$18 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 22 – May 20: Adult Drawing Classes, 4 Wednesdays, 8:45 – 10:45 am. Instructor: Joan Saba. Series: \$60 members; \$66 non-members. Single Class: \$17 members; \$18 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 24: Spent Spring Bulb Sale, 9 am. Bag provided, you fill. Limit 3 bags per person. \$10 per bag. **BECBG**

April 24: Beginning Bonsai Workshop, 6 – 8:30 pm. Fashion a juniper bonsai tree while learning about the art of bonsai, techniques and styles. Materials included. \$45 members; \$50 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 25: Arbor Day Weekend Tree Tour, 9:30 – 11 am. Guided walk led by Kristy Blakely, Director of Education. Rain or shine. \$5. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 25: Rose Care Seminar, 10 – 11:30 am. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

April 25: Flower Folklore, 10:30 am. Guided walk in search of blooming spring wildflowers such as amber bells and spring beauties. Registration required. **REIN**

April 25: Cool Season Flowering Planter, 10:30 am. Design your own cold-hardy flowering basket. Choose from a variety of annuals, herbs and perennials. Instructor: Margie Vogel. \$30. Registration required. **LOCK**

April 25: Herbs and Medicinal Plants, 11 am – 1 pm. Part of *Horticulture IV Certificate Program.* \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 25: Unusual Combinations for Sun & Shade: Annuals & Perennials, 2 pm. See description under April 11. Registration required. **MENNE**

May 2: Gardening in Containers, 10 – 11 am. Learn the basics of container gardening as well as how to choose and arrange the plants. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

May 2: Vegetable Gardening, 10 am – 12 pm. Sally Cunningham will cover garden layout, spacing, planting, seeds vs. seedlings, watering, choices of raised beds or in-ground planting. Fee TBA. Registration required. **LOCK**

• **May 2: Earth Day in May,** 10 am – 1 pm. Volunteer to help clear debris from trails and plant native wildflowers. Families, scout groups and students needing service hours welcome. Registration required. **REIN**

• **May 2: Spring Fling Open House,** 10 am – 4 pm. Classes, flowers, food, garden art, kids’ activities. **ZTL**

May 2: Fairy Gardens & Miniature Gardens, 1– 2:30 pm. Learn how to build a successful mini garden, either in a container or the back yard. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

May 2 – 3: African Violet Show, 12 – 4 pm. Hosted by the African Violet/Gesneriad Society of WNY. Walden Galleria, Buffalo.

• **May 2 – 30: Kids’ Art Classes,** 3 Saturdays, 9 – 10:30 am. A piece of art will be completed at each class. Ages 5-15. Materials included. \$35 series; \$13 single class. Registration required. **BECBG**

Ongoing May 5 – 26: Summer Containers, Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. Create your own container using a mix of annuals & perennials. Details TBA. Registration required. **LOCK**

May 7 – 10: Spring Open House. **COOP**

May 8: National Public Gardens Day, 10 am – 5 pm. \$1 non-members; free members and children under 2. **BECBG**

May 8, 9, 10 or 16: Fairy Garden Workshop. Call for details. Registration required. **COOP**

• **May 9: Spring Fairy Garden,** 9 am or 3 pm. Kids will make their own miniature garden using found and natural materials – acorn dishes, leaf fences, seed mailboxes. Includes container, soil & plants. Pre-made twig furniture, \$5 per two pieces. Ages 4-12. \$15 members; \$20 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

May 9: Mothers’ Day Make it for Mom, 10 am – 2 pm. Choose your container and plants from a preselected assortment. Guidance in the assembly process provided. Fee for plants and pots; all other materials included. Registration not required. **ZTL**

• **May 9: Fairy and Gnome Festival,** 10 am – 3 pm. Activities, scavenger hunt, fairy house building, story time, nature walks. Included with admission. **BECBG**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 16: Orchard Park Garden Club Plant Sale, 8 am – 2 pm. Annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, accent plants, hanging baskets. Orchard Park Railroad Depot, behind OP Library.

May 16: Demonstration – Creating Container Gardens, 9 am or 11 am. Step-by-step demonstration on how to create container gardens including which containers work best, choosing soil mixes to ensure success and maintenance tips. Registration required. **MENNE**

May 16: Vegetable Gardening, 3 pm. Instructor: David Clark. Registration required. **URB**

May 16 – 17: The Great Plant Sale, 9 am – 4 pm. Hanging baskets, ornamental trees & shrubs, Japanese maples, rare and unusual plants, unusual ornamentals, native plants, tropical plants, annuals, perennials and more. **BECBG**

May 19 – 26: Chelsea Flower Show & Great Gardens of London. Travel to England with Sally Cunningham. Eight days, seven nights. Pre-registration required. **GGT**

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Calendar

BUFFALO cont.

May 23 or 30: Hypertufa Workshop. Call for details. Registration required. **COOP**

May 29 – 30: Erie County Master Gardener Plant Sale, Friday, 9 am – 4 pm; Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm. Perennials, natives, herbs, annuals, shrubs and vines from Master Gardeners' gardens. Central Park Methodist Church, 216 Beard Avenue, Buffalo.

May 30: Odyssey to Ithaca. Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region, including Cornell Plantations, with opportunities to shop at a variety of nurseries. Registration required. Upstate Gardeners' Journal, 1140 Ridge Crest Drive, Victor, NY 14564. 585/538-4980; 716/432-8688; upstategardenersjournal.com.

May 30: Ken-Sheriton Garden Club Plant Sale. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 576 Delaware Road, Kenmore.

May 30: Garbage Can Composting, 10:30 am. Learn how to use a plastic garbage can for outdoor composting. Adults only. Registration required. **REIN**

June 6: Garden to Table, 10 – 11 am. Class will discuss the easiest vegetables to grow in a home garden, explore varieties and cover garden basics. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

June 9 – 11: Great Gardens of Niagara & Ontario. Travel with Sally Cunningham. Motor coach tour to seven private gardens and the Royal Botanical Garden. Two hotel nights, dinner, speaker/author Dan Cooper. Registration required. **GGT**

June 13: Gardening in the Shade, 10 – 11 am. Learn to select the right plant for a variety of shade conditions: dry, wet, partial. Free. Registration required. **ZTL**

June 20: Rose Show. Presented by Western New York Rose Society.

July 2 – 9: Paris to London – Great Gardens. Travel with Sally Cunningham. Tour the Monet Garden at Giverny, Hampton Court Flower Show, Sissinghurst Castle, Great Dixter and Open Gardens of London. Registration required. **GGT**

July 10 – 12: Hosta Tailgate. Presented by WNY Hosta Society. Hamburg Fairgrounds. wnyhosta.com.

July 11: Twilight in the Garden, 6:30- 9 pm. Self-guided. In conjunction with *Lockport in Bloom* (below). Free. lockportinbloom.com.

July 11 – 12: Lockport in Bloom, 10 am – 4 pm. Over 40 gardens. Self-guided. Free. lockportinbloom.com.

July 11 – 12: Hamburg Garden Walk, 10 am – 4 pm. Self-guided. Maps: Memorial Park Bandstand, corner Lake & Union Streets. Rain or shine. hamburggardenwalk.com.

July 17 – 18: Ken-Ton Garden Tour – Night Lights, 8:30 – 11 pm. See the gardens at night. Self-guided. Map & descriptions available end of June. Free. kentongardentour.com.

July 18 – 19: Ken-Ton Garden Tour, 10 am – 4 pm. Self-guided. Map & descriptions available end of June. Free. kentongardentour.com.

August 1: Black Rock & Riverside Tour of Gardens, 10 am – 4 pm. Self-guided, features more than 60 gardens. Free. 716/851-5116; brrtourofgardens.com.

August 1: Starry Night Garden Tour, 8 – 10 pm. Self-guided, features 20 gardens. Part of *Black Rock & Riverside Tour of Gardens* (above). Free. 716/851-5116; brrtourofgardens.com.

August 17 – 22: Great Gardens of the Brandywine Valley. Travel with Sally Cunningham. Philadelphia region tour including Winterthur, Longwood, Chanticleer & Hagley Museum. Registration required. **GGT**

August 22: Hosta Sale. Presented by WNY Hosta Society. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo. wnyhosta.com.

August 22: Buffalo Area Daylily Society Plant Sale. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo.

September 12 – 13: Fall Garden Fair. Vendors, speakers, food, entertainment. **LOCK**

September 19: Fall Hosta Forum. Four speakers, auction, vendors. Presented by WNY Hosta Society. wnyhosta.com.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society (ACNARGS) meets the third Saturday of the month (except December & January), Whetzel Room, fourth floor, Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca. *March 21: Tim & Lisa Ballantyne will discuss John Bartram, early American plant explorer, 1 pm. April 18: Stonecrop, the history of the alpine collection with Emily Detrick, 1 pm.* Free and open to the public. 607/269-7070; acnargs.org.

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

BAK: Bakers' Acres, 1104 Auburn Road (Route 34), Groton, NY. 607/533-4653; bakersacres.net.

CCE/TOM: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850. 607/272-2292; tompkins@cornell.edu; ccetompkins.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

• **Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.**

March 6 – 7: Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium. Offers alternative ideas, knowledge and perspective presented by experts and professionals from the region and beyond with focus on the idea that native plants should remain an integral part of sustainable landscapes. \$115 Friday; \$95 Saturday; \$195 Both Days. Registration required. Cinemapolis, Ithaca's Art Theatre on the Commons, 120 East Green Street, Ithaca. ithacanativelandscape.com.

March 7: Worm Composting, 10 am – 12 pm. Hands-on workshop will teach participants how to set up and care for a Vermicomposting bin. Includes starter bin and worms. \$10 per household. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 14: Community Supported Agriculture Fair, 12 – 3 pm. Learn about this partnership between consumers and farmers; meet and talk with 20+ area CSA farmers. Free. Boynton Middle School, 1601 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca. 607/ 272-2292. **CCE/TOM**

March 17: Deer-Resistant Ornamental Plants for the Garden, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Tompkins County Master Gardeners have provided feedback to compile this list of easy-to-grow deer-resistant plants including flowers, shrubs and trees. Fencing and repellents will also be discussed. \$5-\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 20 – 21: Motor Coach Tour to Plantasia Landscape & Garden Show in Buffalo. Includes dinner at Roycroft Inn, overnight at Hyatt and admission to Plantasia, *Every Garden Tells a Story.* Pickups from Rochester and Syracuse. Pre-registration required. **GGT (see Buffalo Frequent Contributors)**

March 21: Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting, 11 am – 1 pm. Hands-on demonstration at a working orchard. \$5-\$10 sliding scale, plus \$5 for grafting materials. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 21: Washi Paper Gourd Vase, 11 am – 3 pm. Decoupage a variety of colorful Washi papers on a fully prepared gourd and finish the vase with Asian-inspired embellishments such as beads, rattail cord and imitation Chinese coins. \$54 members; \$60 non-members. Registration required. Nevin Welcome Center, Cornell Plantations, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca. 607/255-2400; cornellplantations.org.

March 23: Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Beginning vegetable gardeners will learn about garden siting, soil preparation, seed starting, transplanting, mulching, container gardening and easy veggies to try first. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 26: Rain Barrels & Rain Gardens, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn ways to capture rain and keep it safely on your property. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 27 – 29: Open House Weekend, 9 am – 5 pm. Stroll through the greenhouses for a preview of spring. Specials. **BAK**

March 28: Spring into Gardening, 9 am – 5 pm. Eleven different gardening workshops offered throughout the day. Topics will include vegetables, flowers, native plants, permaculture, herbs, composting, freezing and dehydrating garden produce, and more. \$8 per workshop; \$25 for 4 workshops. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 1: Know Your Soil, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn to assess texture, color, drainage, fertility, pH and type as well as how to read soil analysis results. Bring one or more soil samples to class. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 9: Landscape Design – Part 1, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn site assessment techniques as well as design concepts like garden rooms, themes, hardscaping as 'bones', wild-life friendly and adding fall and winter interest. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 16: Landscape Design – Part 2, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Start with simple bubble diagrams to note existing and desired uses of the property, then move on to creating detailed plans for specific gardens incorporating landscape design concepts learned in Part One (see April 9). \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 23: Gardening for Butterflies and Bees, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn how to diversify your plantings to encourage pollinators to stay instead of being transient visitors. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 24 – 26: Arbor Day Weekend, 9 am – 5 pm. Specials on fruit trees and fruit shrubs. **BAK**

April 30: Small Fruits for the Home Gardener, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Find out about cold hardiness, pollination, soil preparation, varieties to try and more for raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

• **May 2: May Day Festival,** 11 am – 4 pm. Dance around the May Pole, games for kids, hayrides. **BAK**

May 2: Faerie Garden Container, 1 – 3 pm. Create your own. **BAK**

May 5: Easy Flowers to Grow, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Explore low-care perennials flowers and shrubs and lower maintenance gardening techniques. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

May 14: Staple Crops for the Home Gardener, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn how to grow staple crops such as pinto and black beans, soup peas and flint corn. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 16: Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale, 9 am – 2 pm. A variety of vendors offering organically grown and heirloom vegetable transplants, annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, small flowering shrubs, hardy roses, fruit crops, evergreens and specialty perennials. Master Gardeners will be available to test soil pH and answer gardening questions. Free. Ithaca High School, Cayuga Street, Ithaca. **CCE/TOM**

May 20: Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn some creative ways to grow vegetables in small spaces such as using containers and vertical space. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

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 each month, September – May, at 7 pm, St. John's Home, 150 Highland Avenue, Rochester. All are welcome. Bob or Linda Springer: 585/413-0606; blossoms002@yahoo.com.

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

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; bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

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

Garden Club of Brockport meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7 pm, Clarkson Schoolhouse, Ridge Road, east of Route 19. Speakers, hands-on sessions. Kathy Dixon: 585/431-0509; kadixon@excite.com.

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

Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets every month from September through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester, on the first Monday following the first Sunday of each month (dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.). GROS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS) and Orchid Digest Corporation. 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; sebuckner@frontiernet.net; geneseevalleyhosta.com.

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club meets the first Friday of the month at 6:30 pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, except in summer when it tours local ponds. bobwheeler58@gmail.com.

Gesneriad Society meets the first Wednesday of each month, September – May, at 6:30 pm, St. John's

Home, 150 Highland Avenue, Rochester. All are welcome. Bob or Linda Springer: 585/413-0606; blossoms002@yahoo.com.

Greater Rochester Iris Society meets Sundays at 2 pm, dates vary, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls. *March 8: Louisiana Iris with MJ Urist of Louisiana Iris Gardens, Tully, NY. April 12: Iris in the Perennial Border with Laurie Burtner.* Public welcome. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm, Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1200 South Winton Road, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. 585/467-1678; smag@rochester.rr.com; rochesterperennial.com.

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

Henrietta Garden Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except May-Aug & December) at 6:30 pm, Main Meeting Room, Henrietta Town Hall, 475 Calkins Road, Henrietta. *March 12: Poisonous Plants in the Ornamental Garden with John Nelson, Master Gardener. April 9: Identification and Care of Common Trees with Bob St. James, Certified Arborist.* Guests welcome. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub@gmail.com; henriettagardenclub.org.

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

Ikebana International Rochester Chapter 53 meets the third Thursday of each month (except December and February) at 10 am, First Baptist Church, Hubbell Hall, 175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester. 585/872-0678; 585/586-0794.

Kendall Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, Kendall Town Hall. 585/659-8289; justadesignabove@hotmail.com.

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

Pittsford Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of the month, 11 am, at the Pittsford Public Library, Fisher Meeting Room, 24 State Street, Pittsford, except in July & August when it visits members' gardens. 585/425-0766; BKRU888@aol.com.

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester, except July – September. Visitors welcome. 585/865-2291; gwebster@rochester.rr.com; Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

Rochester Herb Society meets the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January & February) at 12 pm, Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester. June-August garden tours. New members welcome.

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 each month, except January, in East Irondequoit. Some meetings feature speakers and some are visits to local gardens or special events. All are welcome. President, Pat Plunkett: 585/342-5477; grandmapat294@yahoo.com.

Valentown Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month; time alternates between noon and 7 pm. Victor. Kathleen Houser, president: 585/301-6107.

FREQUENT HOSTS

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

GLT: Genesee Land Trust, 46 Prince Street, Suite LL005, Rochester, NY 14607. 585/256-2130; info@geneseeandtrust.org; geneseeandtrust.org.

LIN: Linwood Gardens, 1912 York Road, Linwood, NY 14486. 585/584-3913; linwoodgardens.org.

RCGC: Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester, NY 14620. 585/473-5130; rcgc.org.

RPM: Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union Street, Rochester, NY. cityofrochester.gov; pmarket@cityofrochester.gov.

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

• **Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.**

Ongoing: Garden Talk Series, first Tuesday of the month, 12:15 – 12:45 pm. Various garden-related topics, taught by Master Gardeners. Participants are welcome to bring their lunch. Free. Registration not required. **CCE/GC**

• **March 6 – 8: Orchid Show,** 10 am – 5 pm. Displays, educational seminars, vendors, children's activities. \$5. **SG**

March 7: Spring Symposium, 9 am – 3 pm. Roy Diblik will base two talks on his 2014 book, *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden: Perennial Plant Communities – The Know Maintenance Approach*, learn Roy's method for creating nature-inspired gardens by using communities of plants carefully chosen to grow well together. *Combining the Plants – Highlighting the Individuals*, specific plants in detail, including the reasons for using them and how they relate to each other and your site. In *How to Prune and Renovate the Overgrown Garden* Cass Turnbull will clearly and entertainingly explain the basics of pruning ornamental trees and shrubs as well as creative pruning solutions for restoring overgrown or over-planted gardens. \$48 members; \$58 non-members. Registration required. Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Avenue, Rochester. **RCGC**

March 7: Indoor Herb Garden, 11 am. Plant a kitchen counter herb garden choosing from a variety of plants. Class will also cover pruning and try some recipes using herbs. Includes container, 3 plants and recipes. \$25. Registration required. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor Pittsford Road, Victor. 585/924-2274; customerservice@bristolsgardencenter.com; bristolsgardencenter.com & Facebook.

March 7 – 8: Bus Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show & Longwood Gardens. Travel by motor coach with Michael Warren Thomas to see the Philadelphia Flower Show, 2015 theme: *Lights, Camera, BLOOM!*, and Longwood Gardens. All expenses included except dinner at Flower Show & lunch at Longwood. \$395 double; \$450 single. 585/703-9237; savorlife.com.

March 10: Starting from Seed, 6 – 8:30 pm. Megan Meyer will cover techniques for sowing annual, perennial and vegetable seeds; the merits of buying seed versus collecting your own; timing for indoor and outdoor plantings; indoor seed-starting setups. Gain hands-on experience preparing and planting seeds. Component of *Plant Propagation Certificate Program*, may be taken separately if space allows. \$25 members; \$35 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**



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2015 MOTORCOACH TOURS

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- **March 25: The Heart Of Robin Hood** - Toronto, Ontario
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- **June 9-11: Niagara & Ontario Gardens** - Canada
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2015 INTERNATIONAL GARDEN TOURS

- **May 19-26: London Gardens & Chelsea Flower Show**
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*Top: Coralburst Crabapple
with Winter Gem
Boxwood Hedge*

Left: Celestial Dogwood

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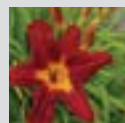
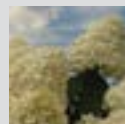
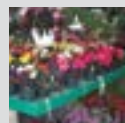
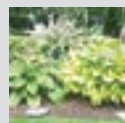
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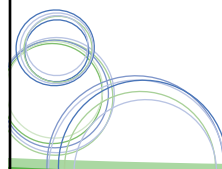
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Calendar

ROCHESTER cont.

March 10: Hypertufa Workshop, 6:30 – 8 pm. Pat McCullough and Dee Marsh will guide participants in creating a hypertufa planter in this hands-on class. Materials included. \$45. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 10: Habitat Protection in Your Backyard and Beyond, 7 – 8:30 pm. Laurie Broccoli will share her knowledge and passion for wildlife preservation. Free. Registration required: 585/340-8720. Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield. **GLT**

March 12: Herbaceous Perennials, 6 – 8:30 pm. Marcella Klein will focus on perennials that provide a long season of color while requiring minimal upkeep plus those that flourish under difficult conditions like poor soil, steep slopes, deep shade and deer. Includes slide presentation of recommended perennials, discussion of planting and maintenance techniques, handouts and bibliography. Component of *Rochester Civic Gardener's Certificate Program* (see above), may be taken separately if space allows. \$30 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 14 – 15: Orchid Show & Sale. Displays, seminars, vendors. Presented by Genesee Region Orchid Society. Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester. geneseeorchid.org.

March 14 – 15: Ikebana Display, Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. Japanese flower arrangements in various schools such as Ichiyo, Hijiri Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu. In collaboration with the Genesee Region Orchid Society's Show & Sale (see above). \$7; children under 12 free. Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester.

March 18: Top Native Shrubs and How to Use Them in Your Landscape, 7 – 8:30 pm. Jim Engel will discuss the aesthetic features of different native shrubs, their suitability for difficult sites and value to wildlife plus several ways native plants can be incorporated into a residential landscape to enhance the overall habitat value of the property. \$18 members; \$25 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 19: Woody Ornamentals, 6 – 9 pm. Christine Froehlich will share her method of categorizing woodies according to shape, structure, growth habit, color and scale to help simplify selection and create more effective designs. She will also discuss the landscape values of many, including a number of useful favorites, and how to buy and plant them. \$36 members; \$46 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 20 – 21: Motor Coach Tour to Plantasia Landscape & Garden Show in Buffalo. Includes dinner at Roycroft Inn, overnight at Hyatt and admission to Plantasia, *Every Garden Tells a Story*. Pickups from Rochester and Syracuse. Pre-registration required. **GGT (see Buffalo Frequent Contributors)**

March 21: Yates County Yard 'n Garden Day, 9 am – 12:30 pm. Topics include: *Invasive Ornamentals and Their Native Alternatives*, *Growing & Arranging Cut Flowers*, *Container Vegetable Gardening*. Free seeds, refreshments, door prizes. \$15. Registration required. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County. Yates County Auditorium, 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan. 315/536-5123; counties.cce.cornell.edu/yates.

March 21: Terrarium Workshop, 11 am. Design your own miniature garden in a glass container. Includes 3 plants, moss, rocks, soil, top dressing. \$30. Registration required. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor Pittsford Road, Victor. 585/924-2274; bristolsgardencenter.com & Facebook.

March 21 – June 13: Pruning Certificate Program, three Saturdays, 9 am – 12 pm. Mike Tanzini will cover the principles and techniques of pruning shrubs and small trees in the home landscape. *March 21: Pruning, the Basics*. *April 18: Dormant-Season Pruning*. *June 13: Summer Pruning*. \$94 members; \$130 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 23: Create a Fairy Garden, 6:30 – 8 pm. Sue Lang and Joe Gallea will guide participants in creating their own indoor garden. Includes container, soil, 2 plants and 1 accessory. Additional embellishments available for purchase. Children may attend if accompanying a registered adult. \$35. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 24: Herbaceous and Softwood Cuttings, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Carolyn VanNess will discuss propagating annuals, perennials, houseplants and shrubs using softwood cuttings. She will cover proper tools and growing medium, use of rooting hormones and proper timing. \$22 members; \$28 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 25: Late Blight in the Home Garden, 6 – 7:30 pm. Learn about late blight, a disease that attacks potatoes and tomatoes, and how to effectively manage it. \$10. Registration required by March 20. **CCE/GC**

March 25: Orchid Workshop, 6:30 – 8 pm. Joe Gallea will guide participants in choosing an orchid and transplanting it using a special orchid pot and soil. He will discuss dividing orchids, fertilizing, preventing diseases and insects, and share tips for care and maintenance. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 26: Rain Gardens – A How-to for Homeowners, 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Stormwater consultant Caroline Myers Kilmer will cover where to locate a rain garden, how to properly size it and what types of plants to use. Free. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 26: Cakes and Buttercream Roses, 7 – 9 pm. Learn to make buttercream roses and use them to decorate a cake to take home. Instructor Alana Miller will discuss decorating all sorts of pastries with floral buttercream embellishments and demonstrate creating and decorating sugar eggs. \$40 members; \$48 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 27: Dinner Lecture with Kerry Ann Mendez – The Right-Size Flower Garden, 5:45 - 8:30 pm. Author and speaker Kerry Ann Mendez will offer time-saving, easy-to-follow design tips and plants for achieving balance between love of gardening and time and ability to do so. Drought-tolerant plants, perennials and annuals that don't need deadheading, no-prune shrubs, naturalizing bulbs, creating the illusion of more plants and sustainable practices are some of the topics covered. Based on her 2015 book. Includes dinner. \$25. Registration required by March 24. **RCGC**

March 28: Spring into Education Day, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. Presented by Master Gardeners of Orleans County. Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Fairgrounds, Route 31, Albion. 585/798-4265; krh5@cornell.edu.

March 28: Natural Easter Egg-Dyeing Workshop, 10:30 am – 12 pm. Charles Lytle will share how to dye eggs using red onion skins for color and assorted foliage for patterns to create botanical-themed eggs. Participants will take home their handiwork. \$20 members; \$25 non-members; children free, must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required. **RCGC**

March 31: Creating Meadows Large and Small Using Native Prairie Grasses and Wildflowers, 7 – 8:30 pm. Jim Engel, will discuss how to establish a meadow using seed or plugs, the great diversity of species that can be used and how to maintain a meadow over time. \$18 members; \$25 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 1 – 29: Residential Landscape Design Certificate, 5 Wednesdays, 6 – 8:30 pm. Learn to create a master landscape plan for the home property in this hands-on studio course with landscape designer Mike Tanzini. Topics covered include analyzing the site, plant palette, principles of landscape design and renovation, hardscaping, and techniques for drawing a plan. \$210 members; \$260 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 2: Winter Tree/Twig ID & Highland Park Tour, 9 am – 12 pm. Hands-on workshop geared for professional arborists, landscapers, municipal staff, foresters and tree enthusiasts. Walking tour of Highland Park including tree and shrub ID facts and characteristics and an inside portion covering twig ID using a key. Winter twig ID key book included. Led by Tom Draves, certified arborist and nursery tree professional, and Jim Atwater, local tree enthusiast and 'arborophile'. \$15. Registration required: smkellog@gw.dec.state.ny.us. Olmstead Lodge, 171 Reservoir Avenue, Highland Park, Rochester.

April 2: Botanical Drawing, 8 Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Deb Ver Hulst-Norris will teach participants how to draw plants and flowers in accurate detail using graphite pencils with colored pencil added to give depth and definition. No previous experience needed. \$99 members; \$120 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 3: Botanical Drawing, 6 Fridays, 9 am – 12 pm. See description under April 2. \$99 members; \$120 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 4: Seed Exchange & Giveaway, 10 am – 12 pm. Bring your vegetable or flower seeds to exchange with others. Learn more about the upcoming growing season or try something new in your garden this year. Free starter packs for children and beginner gardeners. Free. Victor Free Library, 15 West Main Street, Victor.

April 6: Bonsai Workshop, 6:30 – 8 pm. Participants will learn the basics of owning and caring for a bonsai. Select a starter plant and pot, be guided in transplanting and trimming it and learn how to artistically landscape the bonsai. Class geared for beginners. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 6 – 22: Basic Professional Floral Design Certificate, 6 sessions, Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9 pm. Professional floral designer Alana Miller will guide students through the basic principles and techniques of floral design. Each intensive class will consist of lecture and hands-on workshop. Styles discussed will include round, triangular, vase, symmetrical, elongated, corsages and more. Students will create one or two arrangements to take home at each class. Materials included. \$395 members; \$495 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 8: Bring on the Butterflies!, 6 – 8 pm. Learn about the characteristics and life cycles of butterflies and which plants to grow to keep them coming back year after year. \$10. Registration required by April 3. **CCE/GC**

April 11 – 12: Home & Garden Show, 10 am – 6 pm, Saturday; 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday. Presented by Orleans County Chamber of Commerce. Vendors, food, demos and more. Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 12690 State Route 31, Albion. 585/589-7727.

April 14: Rain Gardens – A How-to for Homeowners, 7 – 8 pm. See description under March 26. Free. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 15: Plant a Cutting Garden, 6 – 8 pm. Learn the basics to planning, growing, cutting and conditioning fresh flowers for bouquets as well as which plants and flowers to grow for dried arrangements. \$10. Registration required by April 10. **CCE/GC**

April 17 – 18: African Violet Show & Sale, Friday, 2 – 6 pm; Saturday, 11 am – 4 pm. *Violet Fairy Tales*. Meadowwoods Estates, 55 Ayrault Road, Fairport.

April 21: Make an Everlasting Wreath, 6 – 7:30 pm. Create an everlasting wreath using a base of salal (lemon leaf) and baby's breath (depending on availability) and embellish it with dried, fresh and/or silk floral materials. Materials included. \$55. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 21: Succulent Terrarium Workshop, 7 – 8:30 pm. Learn how to plant and care for a terrarium and create your own succulent garden to take home. Materials included. \$28 members; \$32 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 22: Spring Bulb Spectacular, 5:30 – 7 pm. Enjoy a casual gathering with fellow gardeners at a private residence in Penfield. The homeowners have designed gardens that feature stonework, beds of shrubs and perennials and 7000 daffodil and tulip bulbs. Refreshments. \$12. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 25: Twig Trellis Workshop, 10 am – 12 pm. Alana Miller will share techniques for constructing sturdy, rustic twig garden structures and guide participants in making their own to take home. Rain or shine. \$35 members; \$45 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

April 28: Webster Arboretum Annual Meeting, 6 pm. Guest speaker, Jerry Kral. Webster Arboretum, 1700 Schlegel Road, Webster. websterarboretum.org.

April 29: Gardening for Pollinators & Native Bees, 6 – 8 pm. Learn which native bees may be living and working in your back yard and simple steps to create a pollinator-friendly landscape to attract butterflies, bees and other fauna. \$10. Registration required by April 24. **CCE/GC**

May 2: Victor Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 – 11 am. Perennials, ground covers, herbs, seeds and other landscape plantings donated by community members. Victor Free Library, 15 West Main Street, Victor.

May 2: Wake Up Your Garden for Spring, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Christine Froelich will discuss assessment and repair of winter damage, pruning, early staking, planting, division and more. Class will take place outside, in the Warner Castle gardens. \$22 members; \$32 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 3 – 24: Durand Eastman Park Arboretum Tour, Sundays, 2 – 4 pm. Guided tours conducted by Community Forester Volunteers, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County. Traverse moderate hills and wooded trails. Meet: kiosk, Zoo Road, next to the park offices lot. Donations appreciated. 585/261-1665; bob.bea@gmail.com.

May 4 – 5: Hypertufa Garden Troughs, Monday, 7 – 9 pm; Tuesday, 7 – 8 pm. On the first day, Alana Miller will guide participants as they mix and mold the hypertufa. The second day the group will un mold their containers, discuss curing and wintering over and see how Alana uses these planters in the landscape. \$65 members; \$75 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 6: Wake Up Your Garden for Spring, 2 – 4 pm. See description under May 2. \$22 members; \$32 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 6: Floral Workshop – Landscape-Style Arrangement, 7 – 9 pm. Floral designer Alana Miller will explain using a zoning technique to organize everlasting spring florals into a landscape-style arrangement which features planned groupings and graduated heights. \$35 members; \$45 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 7: Gardening in the Shade, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn how to assess different levels of shade and how this influences appropriate plant choices. Carol Southby will show images of some of the many plants that thrive in shade, spring flowers and interesting foliage through the seasons, and discuss combining plants for maximum impact. Members \$22, non-members \$32. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 8 – 17: Lilac Festival, 10:30 am – 8:30 pm. Highland Park, Rochester. rochestererevents.com.

May 9: Warblers & Wildflowers Walk, 8 – 10:30 am. Guided tour of Alasa Farms in Sodus led by retired naturalist Bob Cooper. Registration requested. **GLT**

May 9: Webster Arboretum Plant Sale. Perennials from standard to uncommon, annuals, dwarf conifers, geraniums, dahlias, various garden club offerings and more. 1700 Schlegel Road, Webster. websterarboretum.org.

May 9: Rochester Dahlia Society Plant Sale, 8 am – 12 pm. Dahlia plants and tubers. *Webster Arboretum Plant Sale* (above), Kent Park, 1700 Schlegel Road, Webster. rochesterdahlias.org.

May 9: Intermediate Professional Floral Design Certificate – Bouquets, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. Styles covered in this intermediate program with Alana Miller will include vegetative, landscape, botanical, Biedermeier and bouquets. Students will take home all arrangements created during class. Prerequisite: *Basic Professional Floral Design Certificate* (see April 6-22) or floral shop experience. \$150 members; \$225 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 9 – 10: Visit Ellwanger Garden. Historic landscape originally planted in 1867 by nurseryman George Ellwanger. Few blocks from Lilac festivities. Donation. Ellwanger Garden, 625 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester. 585/546-7029; landmarkociety.org.

May 10: Flower City Days at the Market, 8 am – 2 pm. Over 250 local nurseries & growers. Annuals, perennials, shrubs, ornamentation, hard to find specialty items, garden accessories. **RPM**

May 10 & 24: Rochester Dahlia Society Plant Sale, 7 am – 1 pm. Dahlia plants and tubers. *Flower City Days at the Market* (above), Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union Street, Rochester. rochesterdahlias.org.

May 11 – 20: Master Gardener Plant Sale, 10 am – 8 pm. During Lilac Festival. Locally grown annuals and perennials, organic vegetable plants, herbs, shrubs trees, selected lilacs. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension Monroe County Master Gardeners. 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester. 585/753-2550.

May 13: Spring Blooms Stroll, 6 – 7:30 pm. Michael Hannen will lead a tour of his gardens in the Upper Monroe neighborhood where he grows 800 varieties of plants at his home-based nursery. Arrive early to shop or preview the gardens. \$10 members; \$15 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 16: Pittsford Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am – 12 pm. Parking lot behind Pittsford Public Library, 24 State Street, Pittsford.

May 16: Spring Garden Gala, 10 am – 1 pm. Plant sale featuring indoor and outdoor plants, geraniums, chance auction, free soil pH testing. **CCE/GC**

May 16: Special Event with Amy Stewart, 12 pm. Amy Stewart, author of *The Drunken Botanist*. \$20. Registration required. Broccoli Garden Center, 2755 Penfield Road, Fairport. broccolotreedandlawn.com/giftsandtickets.

May 16 – 17: Henrietta Garden Club Spring Plant Sale, 9 am – 4 pm. Member grown plants at inexpensive prices. Gro-Moore Farms, 2811 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub.org.

May 16 – 17: Tree Peony Festival, 9 am – 4 pm. Suggested contribution \$8; Guided Tours \$12. **LIN**

May 16 – 17: Visit Ellwanger Garden. See description under May 9-10. Donation. Ellwanger Garden, 625 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester. 585/546-7029; landmarkociety.org.

May 17: Flower City Days at the Market, 8 am – 2 pm. See description under May 10. **RPM**

May 20: Create a Fairy Garden, 6 pm. Create your own unique container garden. Bring a container, no bigger than 14 inches across. Potting soil, decorative stones & plants provided. \$25, one container. Registration required by May 13. **CCE/GC**

May 22 – 23: Bloomfield Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am – 5 pm, Friday; 9 am – 3 pm, Saturday. Annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, raffle items, home-grown perennials.

Historical Academy Building, 8 South Avenue, Bloomfield. 585/978-2687.

May 22 – 25: Flower City Days at the Market, 8 am – 2 pm. 8 am – 2 pm. See description under May 10. **RPM**

May 23: Proud Market Plant Sale, 8 am. Vendors include garden clubs and small independent plant specialists. **RCGC**

May 23: Rochester Dahlia Society Plant Sale, 8 am. Dahlia plants and tubers. *Proud Market Plant Sale* (above), Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester. rochesterdahlias.org.

May 23: Native Plant Sale, 8:30 am – 2 pm. Over 12 nurseries and Genesee Land Trust volunteers donate native plants, shrubs and trees. Rain or shine. Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton. **GLT**

May 23 – 24: Tree Peony Festival, 9 am – 4 pm. Suggested contribution \$8; Guided Tours \$12. **LIN**

May 30: Odyssey to Ithaca. Enjoy a day of touring the Ithaca region and plant shopping at a variety of nurseries. Travel by motor coach with ample room to transport purchases. Lunch included. Registration required. **RCGC**

May 30 – 31: Tree Peony Festival, 9 am – 4 pm. Suggested contribution \$8; Guided Tours \$12. **LIN**

May 31: Flower City Days at the Market, 8 am – 2 pm. See description under May 10. **RPM**

May 31: Iris Show. Presented by Greater Rochester Iris Society. Marketplace Mall, Miracle Mile Drive, Rochester.

June 6 – 7: Landmark Society House & Garden Tour. Landmark Society of Western NY, 585/546-7029; landmarkociety.org.

June 7: Flower City Days at the Market, 8 am – 2 pm. See description under May 10. **RPM**

June 8: Roses & Rosés. Kick off the start of *Rose Week*. **SG**

June 13: Greece Performing Arts Society – Notable Garden Tour, 10 am – 4 pm. *Gardens Large and Small*. Tour 8 gardens in Greece. Light refreshments, live music, visual artists. Rain or shine. \$17 advance; \$22 day of. Tickets available at several Garden Centers in Greece by May 10. Greece Performing Arts Society, 585/234-5636.

June 13 – 14: Peony & Rose Weekend. Ellwanger Garden, 625 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester. 585/546-7029; landmarkociety.org.

June 20: Backyard Habitat Tour, 9 am – 4 pm. Tour gardens in Brighton, Penfield, Fairport and Webster, right on the lake. Tickets available in May. **GLT**

July – August 7: Moonlight Stroll Concert Series, Friday evenings. **SG**

July 11: Summer Garden Tour, 10 am – 4 pm. **RCGC**

July 12: ABC Streets Garden Walk, 12 – 4 pm. Stroll or bike the ABC Streets neighborhood to see a variety of creative approaches for city front, side and back yard spaces, porches, patios & decks, shade gardens, grassless yards & tree-lawns, found objects, water features. *Garden Talk* with Sara Scott, City of Rochester Coordinator of Horticultural Programming, 1 pm, East Avenue Dentistry. Maps: Morrison Park, Culver Road & Harvard Street; East Avenue Dentistry, 1641 East Avenue. Free. Rain or shine. abcstreets.org.

August 8: Finger Lakes Daylily Society Plant Sale. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Route 96, Victor.

August 15 – 16: Arts at the Gardens. **SG**

September 12: Gathering of Gardeners, 8 am – 4 pm. Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue, Rochester. gatheringofgardeners.com.

Oct 10: Fall Gardening Symposium. **SG**

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Calendar

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet 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.

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.

Gardeners of Syracuse meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, 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 7 pm, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville. 315/635-6481; hbaker@twcny.rr.com.

Habitat Gardening Club of CNY (HGCNY) meets the last Sunday of most months at 2 pm, Liverpool Public Library. HGCNY is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes; for-wild.org. **March 29: Introduction to Land Trusts. April 25: Make Sure Your Landscape is Well-Grounded.** Meetings are free and open to the public. 315/487-5742; hgcnyc.org.

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

Syracuse Rose Society meets the second Thursday of every month (except December) at 7 pm. Public welcome. 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. **May 16: Rose Fair, Liverpool Public Library.** syracuserosesociety.org.

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.

CLASSES / EVENTS

Ongoing through April: Winter Farmers Market, second Saturday each month, 10 am – 1 pm. A diverse mix of local farm and artisanal food products from top regional producers including Meadowood Farms, Kriemhild Dairy, Flour City Pasta, Lune Chocolat, Creekside Meadows Farm, Keeley's Cheese Co., Zimmer's Bakes, Groovy Granola, Cedarvale Maple Syrup, Simple Roast Coffee, and others. Baltimore Woods, 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus. 315/673-1350; baltimorewoods.org.

March 20 – 21: Motor Coach Tour to Plantasia Landscape & Garden Show in Buffalo. Includes dinner at Roycroft Inn, overnight at Hyatt and admission to Plantasia, *Every Garden Tells a Story*. Pickups from Rochester and Syracuse. Pre-registration required. **GGT (see Buffalo Frequent Contributors)**

May 6: Grow Your Best Tomato Ever, 6 – 8 pm. Presented by Master Gardener volunteers. \$10. Registration required. Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County, 121 Second Street, Oriskany. 315/736-3394; cceoneida.com.

SAVE THE DATE...

May 16: Rose Fair. Presented by Syracuse Rose Society. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. syracuserosesociety.org.

June 20: Herb & Flower Festival, 9 am – 3:30 pm. Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County, Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens, 121 Second Street, Oriskany. 315/736-3394; cceoneida.com.

June 27: Garden Tour – Village Cottage Gardens, 10 am – 4 pm. Self-guided walking tour of five village gardens. Presented by Skaneateles Garden Club. Rain or shine. \$13 advance; \$15 day of. Skaneateles Garden Club, Facebook.

July 11 – 12: Finger Lakes Lavender Festival, 9 am – 5 pm. Market, local artisans, speakers, presentations, culinary items, stroll lavender fields, harvest a bouquet of fresh lavender. Free. Rain or shine. Lockwood Lavender Farm, 1682 West Lake Road, Skaneateles. 315/685-5369; fingerlakeslavenderfestival.blogspot.com.

& BEYOND

CLASSES / EVENTS

March 27 – 29: Capital District Garden & Flower Show. Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, NY. gardenandflowershow.com.

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (May-June 2015) is Friday, April 10, 2015. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.

NOW APPEARING:

“Back to Your Roots” Fredi Stangland, Columnist

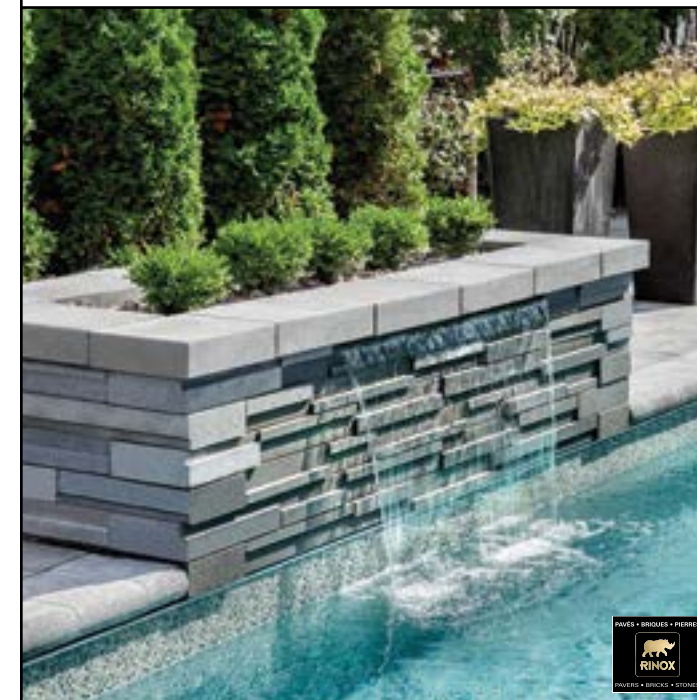
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Natural selections



LEFT: Crocus



Chasing the winter blues away

To cure the winter blues, I take care to include in my garden some really early bloomers—in a warm year some may bloom in late February, but for sure they'll be out in Mid-March.

So what defies the cold, the grey and the snow?

Heath, *Erica carnea*, leads the parade. Members of the heath family are evergreen and acid-loving and grow well in sandy, well-drained soil. Heath likes the sun but hates winter winds—it only grows about a foot high to keep out of them, but slowly spreads. The rosy-pink spikes bloom all through March into April, and need shearing by late May.

Hellebores, Lenten roses, like dappled shade in woody soil and a neutral pH. These are slow growers, about 12 inches high and eventually 2 feet wide. They, too, are evergreen, and hybridizers have gone nuts over them in the last decade. Most bear nodding blooms of cream through pink, rose, and purple. Blooming modestly in the late snows of April, they are charmers.

We all know of snowdrops, those woodland bulbs from Europe, which push through the snows of March to defiantly open their hanging white bells tipped in green. They grow in full sun to partial shade. Most are in the humus soil of my woodland garden.

Where would we be without the early blooming crocus? Most hail from the Mediterranean or Steppes of Anatolia and Central Asia where summers are dry, therefore some of them can be short-lived here. Give them good drainage and full sun. Finally, in late March, comes a sunny day in the 40s or 50s and there they are, their cheerful faces lifted to the sun, welcoming the honey bees. Two early blooming crocus species that do well in our moist summers are *C. chrysanthus* (white, yellow, purple) and *C. tommasinianus* (all lavenders), which spread well in a more humus-y soil.


All these early bloomers are a treasure. Look to their cultural needs and enjoy the flowers of late winter for years to come.

—Mary Lu Wells, Master Gardener,
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany and
Cattaraugus Counties

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Meehania cordata

By Barry Glick



TOP: Meehania cordata

BOTTOM: Variegated meehania

Photo courtesy Terra Nova Nurseries

When Thomas Meehan, a Philadelphia botanist, died in 1901, I'm sure he went to the big forest in the sky feeling proud that Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859- 1934) named a genus of plants in his honor. I'd also bet that he didn't now how wonderful his namesake plant is.

In fact, most people don't know how wonderful *Meehania cordata* is.

Charles and Martha Oliver are proprietors of the Primrose Path Nursery in Scottsdale, PA, and are dear friends of mine. I'd noticed *Meehania cordata* listed in

their catalog. After reading their description and hearing them extol the virtues of this charming little plant, I asked them to please bring me one on their upcoming visit. I'd requested one the year before, but it always seemed they were sold out. So I was emphatic that I must have one, and intimated should they not bring me one, they might end up sleeping in my barn that chilly autumn night.

IN MY OWN BACKYARD

Tiarella, heuchera, and heucherella are the main focus of the Olivers' breeding work, so we had planned a day of Tiarella-hunting in Wolfpen Hollow, a hauntingly mysterious woodland area near my farm. We'd just descended a summit into the foggy creek bottom when I heard Charles laughing hysterically behind me on the trail. I turned to see what he found so amusing and saw him pointing to the ground. There, all around him, the ground was covered with "Meehan's Mint."

Talk about getting caught not practicing what you preach. In all of my lectures on native plants I make a point of telling people to "look in your own backyard!" Well, after I recovered from my initial embarrassment, we looked further and found the entire West facing slope of the hill down to the creek bed was a veritable carpet of dark, glossy green, cordate (heart-shaped, hence the specific epithet *cordata*) leaves, vining over rocks and decaying tree limbs, basking in the deep shade of the hemlock and oak woods above the water.

STARTING FROM CUTTINGS

I took some cuttings, not knowing whether they would root so late in the season, but I had a gut feeling of optimism. Sure enough, they rooted in a matter of weeks.

The following spring, I checked in on the population and found that the new growth was thick and lovely. In June, I went back to observe the flowers and found a sea of lilac, pink, and lavender trumpet like blooms at the tips of the stems. They reminded me very much of *Scutellaria* spp., another member of the mint family and close relative of meehania.

Now, having many plants from the rooted cuttings that I overwintered under a dark bench, I proceeded to plant them under a small grove of lilacs and viburnums. They responded to the rich humus that had accumulated under these older shrubs and almost immediately started to wind their way around on the ground.

MINT BY RELATION ONLY

Taxonomically speaking, *Meehania cordata* is a member of the Lamiaceae (Mint) family. In North America, it is a monotypic (single) species in the genus.

Its reported range is from southwest Pennsylvania to North Carolina and Tennessee. Its heart-shaped leaves are on the diminutive side, averaging 1-1½" wide at the petiole and are about 1" long. I suspect that it's hardy to zone 4, maybe even 3. I know of at least one other meehania species in cultivation, that being *M. urticifolia*, *M. cordata*'s Asian cousin. It can be found growing through the woods of the mountain forests in the Honshu area of Japan. The specific epithet refers to the nettle like foliage.

Unlike other members of the mint family, *Meehania cordata* could NEVER be considered invasive or even aggressive. It's also very easy to propagate from stem cuttings and by division. It is one of the best plants I can think of for those dark and foreboding corners of the garden where there isn't enough light for most other plants. Even if it didn't have the added benefit of those brilliant, colorful flowers, I would recommend it as a very useful groundcover.

Barry Glick, the self-proclaimed "King of Helleborus," grew up in Philadelphia in the '60s, a Mecca of horticulture. Barry cut high school classes and hitchhiked to Longwood Gardens before he was old enough to drive. In 1972, he realized there was just not enough room for him and his plants in the big-city environment, so he bought 60 acres of a mountaintop in Greenbrier County, WV, where he gave birth to Sunshine Farm & Gardens (www.sunfarm.com), a mail-order plant nursery. Barry grows more than 10,000 different plants and specializes in native plants and hellebores. He can be reached at 304.497.2208 or barry@sunfarm.com.



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- 2 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- salt to taste
- ½ cup flour
- 2 T. butter

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Whisk eggs in medium bowl. Add milk and salt and then add flour. Whisk until smooth. Set aside.
3. Spray a 9" glass pie plate with vegetable oil or lightly grease with oil.
4. Place 2 T. butter in pie plate and melt in oven. When melted, pour batter into pie plate and bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown.
5. Remove from oven. Carefully place pancake on platter and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve with warm maple syrup.

Recipe courtesy Marion Morse, Allyn's Creek Garden Club.

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Wax, wax, baby

by Christina Le Beau

A while ago, my daughter came home from school talking about Babybel cheese. All the kids have it. It's so cool. Could she get some, *pretty-please-please-please?*

On the scale of foods I worry about, Babybel cheese doesn't even rank. Weird texture, yeah. Wrapped in dyed paraffin wax, yeah. But the ingredients are fine, and she's not eating the wax. So of course I said yes. I say yes to a lot worse things on a one-time basis because I know that whenever my daughter wants to taste something because it's popular, she usually ends up not liking it anyway. But I can't tell her that. She has to figure it out for herself.

Here's what happened the first time I sent a Babybel in her lunch (she had more than this to eat — don't worry!).



See that raspberry on top?
Not a raspberry.

And that's when I realized why all the kids like Babybels so much.

To explain, let me quote from one of our favorite chapter book series, "Ivy & Bean," by Annie Barrows. In this installment, "No News is Good News" (which we read after the Babybel fascination started), the heroines scheme how to make money so they can buy the coveted "Belldeloon cheese":

"While Bean watched, Vanessa opened her lunchbox and took out a small red ball. It was a ball of cheese, but nobody cared about the cheese. The cheese was totally unimportant. The important thing was the coating around the cheese. It was wax.

"The wax was red. It was smooth. If you pulled on the secret string inside it, the wax split into two halves. You unfolded them and took the cheese out. Sometimes you took a bite of cheese. Mostly, you didn't. You rolled the wax between your hands until it was warm. Once it was warm, you could squish it. You could squish it and squish it. You could make it into a shape. You could put it on your face. You could hold it for the rest of the day, and it would get dirtier and dirtier, until finally it was a small brown lump. Then you could stick it in the middle of your table and say it was a booger."

Sometimes food is more about fun than food. And that's OK.

Christina Le Beau lives in Rochester. She writes about raising food-literate kids at www.spoonfedblog.net. This essay originally appeared in *New York Organic News*.

Make your mark

by Cathy Monrad

Transferring photos onto wood with gel medium is the latest rage in crafting. I decided to try my hand at this process while making some useful garden "art." The project was quick and easy, and would be fun for kids.

Materials & Supplies

- Wood plant markers, approximately 2" x 3", pre-painted if desired
- Small grit sandpaper
- Laser printed graphics on regular paper*
- Gel medium
- Small paintbrush
- Old credit card to smooth image
- Sponge and water
- Outdoor sealant

1. Lightly sand the plant marker.
2. Using a paintbrush, apply an even coat of gel medium to one side of the plant marker.
3. Place your image print side down on the medium, then smooth out any wrinkles and bubbles with the credit card.
4. Let it dry overnight.
5. Completely wet down the paper with the sponge.

Using your fingers, gently rub the paper off to reveal the image. Care should be taken here; rubbing too much or with too much pressure will remove the image.

6. Let it dry for a few hours, and then apply sealant to protect your work.

*I chose to use seed packet graphics available in the public domain; these can be found online. Scanning your own packets is also an option. If your images have wording, you will need print the "reverse" for readability.

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



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Plantasia "Every Garden Tells a Story" Seminar Schedule

March 19 – 22, the Fairgrounds Event Center in Hamburg



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

- 11 am: Re-Treeing of Forest Lawn** – Sandy Starks, Interpretive Program Director of Forest Lawn Cemetery
- Noon: Late Blight: What You Should Know** – Carol Ann Harlos, Master Gardener; Garden Writer; Speaker
- 1 pm: Think Green, It's Spring** – Dorothy Julius, Floral Designer, Along Gardens Path
- 2 pm: Open Gardens from Western NY** – Margaret Raupp, Open Gardens Coordinator
- 3 pm: Container Gardening – 10 Easy Steps for Success** – Joe Manuel, Speaker; Master Gardener
- 4 pm: Horticulture Mistakes, We All Make Them** – Dan Robillard, Horticulture Teacher, McKinley High School

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

- 11 am: (small conference room) Bulbs, Tubers and Corms, Oh My** – Carol Ann Harlos, Master Gardener; Garden Writer; Speaker
- 11 am: Open Gardens in Western NY** – Margaret Raupp, Open Gardens Coordinator
- Noon: Useful Plants in the Landscape** – Nellie Gardner, Flower Fields; Darwin Martin House
- 1 pm: Tree and Shrubs – Plant Health** – Glenn Gentzke, Tree Services of Western New York
- 2 pm: Soil is the Key – Understanding Soil** – Lynn Chimera, Lessons from Nature
- 3 pm: Tour of the Buffalo Garden Walk Gardens** – Jim Charlier, JCharlier Communication Design
- 4 pm: Saving Your Landscaping: What to Do about Damaged Trees and Shrubs** – Sally Cunningham, CNLP; Author; Lockwood's Greenhouse
- 5 pm: Manipulate Your Landscape to Attract Wildlife** – Russ Lis, Aquatic Ecology Teacher, McKinley High School

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015

- 11am: Get Crafty in Your Garden** – Connie Oswald Stofko, Publisher of Buffalo-Niagara Gardening.com
- Noon: (small conference room) Better Roses With This 12 Step Program** – Joe Manuel; Master Gardener
- Noon: Green Roofs and Green Walls** – Kathy O'Donnell, Botanicus Interior Landscaping Inc.
- 1 pm: Weeds – Identification and Control** – Tom Mitchell, Horticulture Instructor NCCC; Mitchell Landscaping Inc.
- 2 pm: Organic Garden Techniques for Success** – Dave Clark, Horticulture Speaker; Instructor at Buffalo Erie County Botanical Gardens
- 3 pm: Great Plants for WNY Gardens – Flowers And Flowering Shrubs** – Sally Cunningham CNLP; Author; Lockwoods Greenhouse
- 4 pm: Pollinator's and Their Importance** – Mike Masterson, Masterson's Garden Center
- 5 pm: Horticulture Projects for Children** – Ron Callea, Horticulture Teacher, McKinley High School

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015

- 11 am: Herbs, Herbalism and Medicinal Gardening** – Dave Clark, Speaker; Instructor at the Buffalo Erie County Botanical Gardens
- Noon: Indoor Plant Care** – Kathy O'Donnell, Speaker; Botanicus Interior Landscaping Inc.
- 1 pm: Sustainable Gardening for the Home Owner** – Lynn Chimera, Lessons from Nature
- 1 pm: (small conference room) Invasive Insects and Diseases in Western New York** – PRISM Committee and Cornell Cooperative Extension
- 2 pm: Landscape Design – Tips and Tricks** – Carolyn Stanko, CNLP, Horticulture Instructor, Niagara County Community College
- 3 pm: Veggies** – Ken Brown, Field of Dreams



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