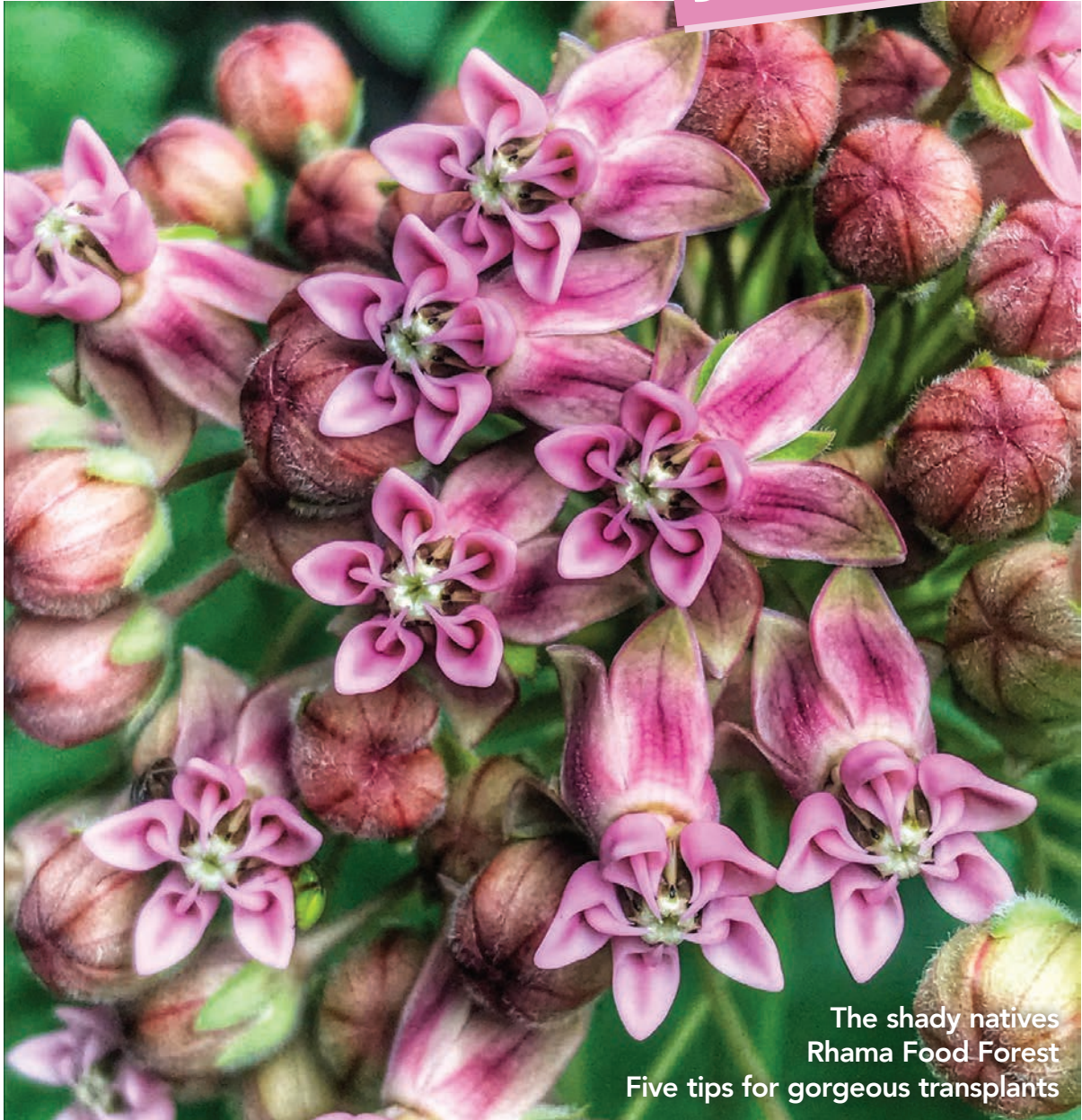


# Gardeners' <sup>Upstate</sup>

BUFFALO - ITHACA - ROCHESTER - SYRACUSE

Journal



The shady natives  
Rhama Food Forest  
Five tips for gorgeous transplants

FREE

Volume Twenty-eight, Issue Three  
May-June 2022



# SARA'S GARDEN & NURSERY



## Seasonal Optimism

How big is yours this year? You indeed recognize the feeling; no matter the outcomes of this past year's garden & planting, the arrival of each spring has the absolute power to persuade you to spend and plant with complete abandon. We're guilty; how can we not be after a year like 2021? We don't want to be reckless, and we want to help you do the same—plant with thoughtfulness and reason. You will be much happier come August.

In this season, we want all of your plant choices to be good ones. Plant the things you love but that you can grow! We aim to help you come to the place in your landscape that creates the vision you want to see every day. We want to help address and then assist with the things that may be making your garden a chore as opposed to what should be a joy; your level of garden knowledge, plant knowledge, and the big one ... your time for maintenance.

If your desire is for things that have requirements you don't possess naturally, then let's learn to create the environment instead of impulsively dropping it in on a whim. Or why not invest in alternatives that will fill the visual goal and the cultural one too. Time and money are commodities we all should value because not many of us have a lot of both to spare.

Visit the nursery this season and see what you can do! If you want to be a little bit impulsive, I guess we can help you with that too. ;)

Contact me, Kathy, for info on garden rental events, and pretty much anything garden related:

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ROSE OF  
THE YEAR





## Ear to the ground



Hello, friends—  
Thank you for picking up the *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*. From the gorgeous cover shot by Bonnie Guckin to the unbelievable chandelier-turned-planter created by our very own

Monrad, this issue is chock full of cool stuff!

And speaking of cool stuff, I am super excited about my new garden art, purchased at the Plantasia show in Hamburg in March and recently installed at my residence by Phil Colarusso of Luminated Landscapes. It's a blue, blown glass spire that catches the light beautifully. The spires are pictured here in an image I grabbed from the show's Instagram page—I haven't been able to get a good image *in situ*. Unfortunately I didn't have the budget to install dozens like in the picture, or I would have—believe me.

I love garden art! And the best place to see it on the planet is at the Chelsea Flower Show, which happens at the end of each May in London. I haven't been to the show in 15 years, but I am finally going back this spring! The only problem? There's no way to bring all of that cool garden art home. At least I'll have the pictures and the inspiration.

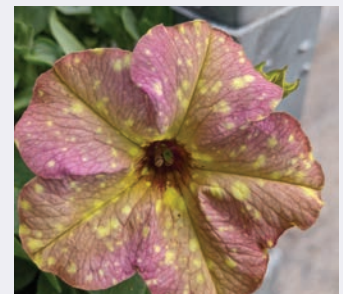
Thanks, as always, for reading—

*Jane*

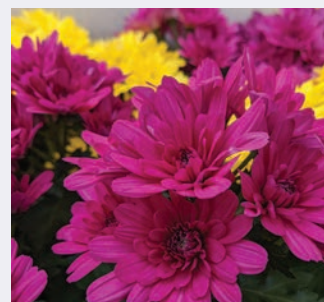


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# Rahma Food Forest:

## Permaculture in practice on Syracuse's South Side

*By Michelle Sutton; photos courtesy the Alchemical Nursery*

**LEFT:** College students volunteer in the Food Forest.

**RIGHT:** Fall workday in the Food Forest.

The Rahma Food Forest on Syracuse's South Side is a project of the Alchemical Nursery, co-founded by SUNY-ESF Forestry graduate, permaculture educator, and small business and co-operative advisor Frank Cetera. In 2010, Rahma Free Health Clinic provider and co-founder Magda Bayoumi began talking with Cetera about the possibility of a food forest on a one-fifth acre lot adjacent to and owned by the clinic.

Bayoumi envisioned a place where community members

could harvest nutritious produce for free in the South Salina Street neighborhood, which is one of many in Syracuse that are considered food deserts. Frank Cetera coined the phrase, "Bringing the health care mission of the clinic outside of its doors," to build on Bayoumi's vision. The Food Forest would also replace the maintenance headache that the vacant lot had become with an alternative, community-oriented kind of land use.

The lot is a former commercial site that was demolished



and backfilled with rubble and a mere two inches of usable soil on top. The first order of business was to test the soil to make sure that lead and heavy metals wouldn't preclude food growing. Soil tests came back within safe food growing parameters, but Cetera knew the soil would have to be built up significantly so that Food Forest plants would have adequate rooting volume to establish and thrive.

Using permaculture principles, Cetera and friends prepared the land and beds by first sheet-mulching the full one-fifth acre with two layers of cardboard and multiple inches of wood chips. (The cardboard boxes were collected from recycling bins outside of retail and service businesses. Before laying them out with overlapping edges, volunteers removed all plastic tape and staples from the boxes.) A dozen dump truck loads of wood chips from the City of Syracuse were amassed on the Food Forest site and with volunteer help, the chips were wheelbarrowed, shoveled, and raked into an even distribution over the cardboard.

Cetera and friends initially bought small amounts of compost from the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) to use as they planted. Since then, they have obtained free compost each spring as a member garden of the Syracuse Grows network. This compost has been used for both new plantings and topdressing existing plants and is also sourced from OCRRA.

The overstory was the first food forest layer to go in with trees like pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), plum (*Prunus domestica*), peach (*P. persica*), and apple (*Malus* sp.) filling this niche. Fortunately, the site already had two mature serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) trees at the southeast corner of the lot which were kept and stewarded within the growing forest layout. Volunteer trees were embraced—like honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) for its edible flowers and nitrogen-fixing properties, and mulberry (*Morus alba*) for its edible fruit.

About twelve years in, the overstory is serving its functions (fruit, shade, soil stabilization, etc.), and the volunteers have since focused on a shrub layer and culinary and medicinal herbaceous plants that can double as weed-suppressing groundcovers. Polycultures prevail in each bed or zone of the garden. A Monarch waystation garden provides *Verbena bonariensis*, liatris (*Liatris ligulistylis*), and other plants with nectar for butterflies. There is even a small ornamental perennial bed on the corner of the lot to help signify to passersby that this project—one that looks rowdier than your average garden—is indeed a food forest/garden.

An ongoing challenge for the Rahma Food Forest is the upkeep. Regular volunteer workdays help greatly but haven't been enough to keep up with the likes of bindweed (*Convolvulus* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), sumac (*Rhus typhina*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*). Rahma Food Forest is currently fundraising to hire a part-time gardener to help with maintenance. This would mean that the extensive investment volunteers have made thus far is preserved and can be built on so that Rahma Food Forest reaches its potential to best serve the community.



Cetera wants to be sure to acknowledge Robbie Colville, a fellow SUNY-ESF grad who was a Rahma Food Forest Board Member and project steward for five years before he moved away from Syracuse. “He was a right-hand partner for so much of the work during those years,” Cetera says. “We continue to collaborate, though—the two of us just recently submitted an abstract to the World Agroforestry Conference in Quebec City this July, and we are excited that they have invited us to present a poster about the Rahma Food Forest at the conference.”

He also asked us to mention Rahma’s Annual Spring Plant Sale. Orders will open in April, with pickup generally the Saturday before Mother’s Day in May.

**TOP:** Prepping the land in 2012.

**MIDDLE:** A family volunteers in the Rahma Food Forest.

**BOTTOM:** A previous spring in the Rahma Food Forest. Help is needed to bring the Forest back to this level of maintenance.





**LEFT:** Peaches starting to ripen.



**RIGHT:** Sea kale, a tasty, edible, perennial groundcover.

**A Selection of the Permaculture-Friendly Plants of Rahma Food Forest, with Frank Cetera’s commentary**

**4-in-1 Apple (*Malus*) trees:** There are two of these compact, self-pollinating trees in the garden, each are bud-grafted with four varieties of apple on one tree. One 4-in-1 is grafted with modern apple cultivars, the other is grafted with heirloom varieties. Each can provide up to five months of fruit and they are fast-growing and extremely cold hardy.

**Apple mint (*Mentha suaveolens*):** We planted this groundcover in a partly to full shade area, which keeps it from spreading aggressively. Sometimes I wish it had spread more, earlier, because that would’ve helped us keep at bay the field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) and/or hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Bindweed is our biggest maintenance challenge in the garden. It found its footing in the southeast corner of the lot, in full sun and in raised beds that had open soil for a time. Then it moved around lightning fast. This year we’re going to make a line in the sand, botanically speaking, across one section of the garden, stocking the “line” densely with apple mint and other groundcovers to try to hold back the bindweed.

**Aronia/chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*):** This plant produces small dark purple drupes—and tons of them. My wife Ursula and I, our heritage is Polish to a high degree. We are familiar with how aronia is really popular as a tonic and as a juice in Eastern European countries. It’s one of those plants whose fruits you don’t eat right off the plant,

but you can make drinking vinegars with it. Ursula and I make aronia-infused brandy. The last time we traveled to Poland we brought home a bottle of aronia wine that we are looking forward to tasting on a special occasion.

**Asian pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)** is ripe when the fruits, which are the size and shape of apples, are past the pure green stage and start to appear mottled. They will continue to ripen off the vine. The texture is crisp, juicy, and grainy relative to European pears. There are a number of Asian pear cultivars available in the fruit tree nursery trade.

**Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)** has a deep taproot which can pull up nutrients from deep within the soil and store them in its leaves and stems. The N-P-K analysis of comfrey leaves is on a par with farmyard manure, and you can “chop and drop” the above ground parts several times a season, providing a nutrient-rich mulch for other plants or to kick-start the compost pile. It’s also a great pollinator species and the bees love it.

**Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*)** is often mistaken for black currant due to the similarly colored fruits. The Golden moniker comes from the very bright yellow flowers of the plant. Golden have less of a musky taste than black currants and are more palatable directly from the branch.

**Jostaberry (*Ribes* × *nidigrolaria*)** is a cross between currant and gooseberry, and the fruit is pleasant in that it’s slightly tart and slightly sweet. The fruit is edible right off the plant, and you can use it in cooking too. The shrubs get to be 4–5 feet tall, a couple of feet wide, and



*A place where community members could harvest nutritious produce for free in the South Salina Street neighborhood, which is one of many in Syracuse that are considered food deserts.*



produce a ton of fruit. Everyone who tries them loves them.

We grow a showy lilac bush (*Syringa vulgaris*) because the flowers are edible, but also to signal to the community that this is a garden, just one with a food forest model that's unfamiliar to many people. You can't go wrong with lilac for boosting the aesthetics of the site.

**Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*)** fruit is ripe and ready to eat after bletting (softening by frost), when the fruit under the skin is the consistency of applesauce. These fruits can be snacked on well into winter.

**Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)** is a curiously lesser known native fruit tree to this region with fruit that has the creamy consistency and flavor of a tropical fruit.

**Plantain (*Plantago* sp.)**, along with other “weedy” greens, can be used to make “backyard” kimchi. Use plantain leaf with dandelion greens, dock leaf, and any other edible greens in place of cabbage in your favorite fermented kimchi preparation.

**Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*)** was added within the past two years as an understory anchor. This perennial vegetable is extremely resilient and in the right spot covers ground quickly, suppressing unwanted weedy species. We would like it to spread more and have plans to move divisions of it into sunnier beds where it should be more vigorous.

**Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)** is a highly nutritious perennial green used in many recipes such as soups, lasagnas, casseroles, and teas. The sting of skin contact

with nettles lasts only a few minutes to a couple hours and doesn't create any lasting effects.

**Sunchoke a.k.a. Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)** tubers are grown at Rahma—one red and two white varieties. Tubers can be harvested into early winter and cooked like any other root vegetable.

Michelle Sutton is a horticulturist, writer, and editor.

**LEFT:** Fruit of mulberry, a welcome volunteer tree.

**RIGHT:** Frank Cetera makes kimchi with wild greens, including stinging nettles.

#### ABOUT PERMACULTURE

At its most essential, **permaculture** aims to mimic the structure of natural ecosystems to maximize productivity and sustainability. **Food forests** are a form of permaculture in which a woodland ecosystem is created with edible plants at every layer—trees, shrubs, climbing plants, perennials, and annuals.

#### ABOUT THE ALCHEMICAL NURSERY

The Alchemical Nursery embodies two ideas in sustainable development: Alchemy, the transformation of one substance into another, and nursery, a place for nurturing. “*Permaculture integrates food production with the ethics of people care, earth care, and fair share,*” says Frank Cetera. Read more at [alchemicalnursery.org](http://alchemicalnursery.org).

#### LEARN MORE ABOUT/SUPPORT RAHMA FOOD FOREST

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# Five tips for gorgeous transplants



Story and photos by Petra Page-Mann

**H**appy spring, friends! We're transplanting cold-hardy broccoli and soon, our summer-loving tomatoes. Whether you're planting vegetables in raised beds, a large garden, or in a container on your deck, here are five tips to boost their health and, as a result, the beauty and abundance surrounding you this season.

First, know this: healthy, young, and unstressed transplants grow the greatest abundance. More stout than tall, deep green, and not root-bound—it's deceptively simple to grow remarkably resilient seedlings. If we can, you can. Don't be shy and without further ado:

## 1. Hardening off

Transplants, whether you grow them or buy them, are rather sensitive beings. Grown indoors with seed-starting soil mix and a roof over their heads, transplants live their lives in conditions very different from those in our gardens. They've never experienced gusting winds, falling rain, fluctuating temperatures, or real soil much less rocks. Acclimating them, or 'hardening them off,' is essential.

To harden plants off, bring them outside five to seven days before transplanting them into your garden. Their soft stems become stronger with each passing breeze. They grow accustomed to direct sunlight, to the sensation of raindrops, to the shifting temperatures of day and night. What if it freezes? When is too early? Read on.

## 2. Timing is everything

Here in the Northeast, we can transplant hardened off, cold-hardy kale, broccoli, chard, spinach, and onion six weeks before, and sometimes more, Memorial Day. The list is much longer, but some of my other favorite cold-hardy crops you can transplant early include kohlrabi, arugula, spinach, cold-tolerant lettuces ('Winter Density' is exceptional), and scallions.

For such cold-hardy transplants, experiencing freezing temperatures is essential. If you plan on using row cover in the field, use the row cover at night. Otherwise,

know you're acclimating them to the conditions they'll experience in the field and any sugar-coating may result in less abundant harvests. Tough love is applicable for your cold-hardy seedlings! Once they're large enough (three-plus true leaves), they can be hardened off and transplanted six to eight weeks before your final frost. For early plantings, a full week of hardening off will help your seedlings acclimate better and produce more. (Here in the Finger Lakes, Zone 5, Memorial Day is a consistent final frost date, though it can be significantly earlier or later.)

For frost-sensitive transplants like tomato, basil, and zinnia, it's essential to transplant *after* your final frost. Keep in mind that soil takes longer to warm than air, so resist transplanting until nights are consistently above 50° F for optimum plant growth. Bring them out to harden off before Memorial Day, by all means. But be sure to bring in your tropical vegetables (tomato, pepper, eggplant, tomatillo, ground cherry) if night temperatures fall below 50° F. Pepper and eggplant are especially prone to "pouting" if they experience such cool weather, even briefly. Less sensitive plants like cosmos and parsley won't mind if they're out in a night less than 50, if it's above freezing.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but earlier planting and transplanting doesn't guarantee an earlier or more abundant harvest. Err on the side of younger, less stressed plants—every time. I don't always take my own advice and then I remember why.

Another aspect of timing—go for any time you can plant just before a light rain, letting the rain gently soak in around the roots and surrounding soil, that is the dream.

## 3. Pack your transplants a snack!

It's important to water your seedlings before transplanting them, encouraging their roots and accompanying soil to stay intact through the transplanting process. This also ensures that their roots will grow quickly, exploring new soil and accessing new nutrients. And yes, any water will do.

### ABOVE:

It's important to water your seedlings before transplanting them.



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- Greens: all greens (except spinach, it's now too warm, so try asian spinach!) & focus on heat-tolerant lettuces
  - Herbs: cilantro, dill
- Flowers: calendula, cosmos, sunflower, dahlias

**HARDEN OFF & TRANSPLANT:**

- Cold-hardy plants with at least 2 sets of true leaves
- cold-sensitive plants not exposed to temps below 45 F

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And . . . we always water our seedlings, just before transplanting, with diluted fish emulsion, compost tea, or worm castings tea. It's a boost of immediately available macro- and micro-nutrients to inspire optimal, balanced growth. Don't you take snacks with you on a hike? Send your transplants on their journey with plenty of nutrients!

#### 4. Break up the root-bound

The key here is to avoid root-bound seedlings in every way you can. Prevention is the best cure! Root-bound seedlings are stressed seedlings—stressed plants are less abundant and less delicious. The best ways to avoid root-bound seedlings are:

- a) Don't start seeds too early.
- b) Sow seeds with abundant nutrient-rich soil in optimal containers. (Egg cartons are waaaaay too small.)
- c) Sow seeds in soil blocks or cow/peat pots so they naturally air-prune rather than become root-bound.
- d) Transplant your seedlings when they're young, before they're root bound.

Try as we might, we always seem to leave some seedlings in their cells a little too long and they become root bound. As we transplant those, we gently break up their roots, ever so slightly, encouraging them to explore the world outside their little box of roots once they're planted.

#### 5. Great root-to-soil contact

This final step is so vital. Once you've gone through all this work to grow your gorgeous seedlings, the icing on the cake is ensuring great root-to-soil contact. This helps them access more nutrients more quickly, encouraging quick, healthy growth and thus increasing your abundance. As you bury the roots of your seedling, take care to not bury



any of the stem, which will rot if exposed to too much direct soil contact. (Tomatoes are the only exception!) The final step is to place your hands, palms down, one on each side of the plant and gently tamp the soil down around your freshly transplanted seedling. Pretend you're kneading bread, for just three seconds! This helps reduce air pockets around the roots, increasing root to soil contact. With more nutrients more accessible, your seedling will thrive right away. Great root-to-soil contact increases nutrient access and quick, healthy growth.

Petra Page-Mann is co-owner of Fruition Seeds in Naples. You can find many more gardening tips at [fruitionseeds.com](http://fruitionseeds.com).

**LEFT:** Access an entire season of Plant Now! charts at [fruitionseeds.com](http://fruitionseeds.com) in Fruition's Growing Library.

**RIGHT TOP:** Floating row cover hoops.

**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Avoid root-bound seedlings.





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Garden design



# The shady natives

by Colleen O'Neill Nice

## FROM LEFT:

The heart-shaped foliage of *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger) creates a dense mat in a woodland setting.

The red berries of *Actaea rubra* (red baneberry) are offset by the glossy foliage of *Pinellia tripartita* 'Atropurpurea' (green dragon).

Delicate, fragrant flowers of *Sanguinaria canadensis* (blood-root) are early spring bloomers.

*Trillium grandiflorum* towers over hostas while standing strong against the delicate fronds of *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (ostrich ferns).

Several years ago, as hungry deer became the nightly norm at my garden buffet, I decided to slowly remove all the plants that were attracting them. My beloved hedge of hydrangeas was the first to go. I successfully replanted my Annabelles in large pots which have continued to beautify our walled patio—out of reach of the ravenous deer. Then, systematically, I removed the yews, hollies, rhododendron, andromeda, and more—slowly replacing the deer food with critter resistant plants. As I contemplated ideas for downsizing my hosta collection, a dear friend signed me up for a series of online native plant lectures.

After just a few classes, it was obvious to me that I needed to shift my thinking and “bring nature home” by slowly replacing my hostas with native plants. My overall plan was to attract a diversity of insects and birds with a natural habitat thus contributing to the dynamics of the food web. After some research, I discovered that many of my established shade-friendly plants just happened to be natives! In addition, the list of shade-loving natives is extensive, which makes selecting just a few somewhat difficult. Here are a handful of my favorite, easy to grow natives plus a couple from my wish list.

*Actaea pachypoda* (white baneberry) and *Actaea rubra* (red baneberry) are real showstoppers in the shade! Both have lacy, astilbe-like foliage and creamy white flowers in late May, then form berries in July and August. *Actaea pachypoda* displays white berries with a tiny black dot in the center, commonly named “China doll eyes.” *Actaea rubra* adds drama with clusters of shiny red berries arching over the dark green foliage. The berries are poisonous and should never be eaten by humans. During wet springs, my plants have grown to over four feet tall, so give these beauties enough room to spread out. The pollen of the baneberry attracts small beetles and native bees. The

American robin, gray catbird, and wood thrush readily eat the fruit. Baneberry is also a caterpillar host plant for four species of butterflies and moths.

*Asarum canadense* is the perfect ground cover for woodland shade. Often called wild ginger, its pubescent, heart-shaped foliage spreads by rhizomes to create a dense mat. In May, burgundy-brownish flowers bloom at the base of the plant, well below the foliage. In early spring, pollinators include gnats and flies that are attracted to both the color and scent of the flower. Wild ginger is also a caterpillar host plant for moths.

*Arisaema triphyllum* is easy to grow, requires minimal care, and thrives under a variety of conditions. Jack-in-the-pulpit, its common name, displays a very unusual flower with two parts, “Jack,” being the spadix of the flower covered by the colored spathe or “pulpit.” This three-season plant offers long-lasting flowers in spring, green berries in summer, and bright red berries in fall, persisting long after the foliage dies back. Wood thrushes are hungry for the berries and moth caterpillars eat the foliage. Jack-in-the-pulpit is pollinated by fungus gnats, which are lured into the hooded spathes by a modest fungal odor. The gnats then lay their eggs on what they are tricked into believing is a fungus.

*Sanguinaria canadensis* earned the common name “bloodroot” because its roots and stalk contain a bitter red-orange juice. Its showy, fragrant white flowers bloom from late March through April. Bloodroot has large, round, deeply lobed leaves that are unique and intriguing. The bloodroot flower only opens on sunny days and does not contain any nectar but attracts insects with its colorful petals and anthers. The flowers entice native solitary bees for cross pollination. Since these bees are most active in temperatures of 55 degrees or greater, many species of fly act as secondary pollinators. Metallic green sweat bees





also visit the flowers using the pollen to feed their young. After bees finish with bloodroot, ants march in. Through a symbiotic relationship called “myrmecochory,” a few species of ants plant and harvest bloodroot seeds. Tiny bumps on the seeds are filled with oils and sweets that attract ants. The ants then carry the seeds to their nests, where they eat the sweets but abandon the viable seed. In the spring, new bloodroot plants pop up here and there, compliments of the hardworking ants. This native plant is present in all upstate New York counties except Orleans, Wyoming, Steuben, Schuyler, Tioga and Cortland.

For a unique ground cover with large umbrella-like leaves opt for *Podophyllum peltatum*. Commonly known as the “may apple,” it displays waxy, apple-blossom-like flowers that bloom in May. It spreads by underground stems to form a dense mat and although it prefers moist soil, it will tolerate drought and dryish conditions. In late August, the sweet-smelling green “apple” develops and then ripens to a golden hue. The nodding fruit is large and fleshy, shaped like a lemon. It is edible and used in preserves and jellies. The may apple provides food and shelter for birds, squirrels, and other small animals. The flowers are fragrant and visited by bumblebees and other long-tongued bees. Seven species of butterflies and moths use this as a caterpillar host plant. Occasionally my colony of may apple does get munched on by deer despite the leaves and roots being poisonous.

Although ferns do not produce flowers for pollinators, they support wildlife by providing shelter for toads and lizards. Birds also use the delicate fronds as nesting material. An attractive, non-invasive native fern, *Adiantum pedatum* is fascinating and easy to grow. Commonly called the “maidenhair fern,” this beauty starts out a bit slow to grow, but be patient. Once it gets established, it forms a large clump with finely textured fronds and curved, wiry blackish stems. It prefers to grow in part shade to full shade in well-drained, moist, humus-rich soil. But do keep this in mind—after giving my daughter a couple small pots of maidenhairs, her plants grew four times the size of mine. She planted them in part sun, with rain being their only irrigation in humus-lean soil. Last fall, after a couple years of growth, I divided her clumps into 28 gallon-sized pots. My suggestion—do not coddle them!

Fall-blooming native plants supply pollinators with oodles of food sources as they begin to prepare for winter. Hummingbirds and butterflies need a great deal to eat before heading south. Honeybees and native bees create winter food stockpiles by gathering as much pollen and nectar as possible.

*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, also known as the “blue wood aster,” tolerates shade conditions well. Arched stems rise two to five feet tall topped by panicles of small, blue, daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. The blue wood aster is a pollinator magnet. The flowers attract bumblebees, moths, and butterflies. Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds. Several specialized bees are frequent visitors as well. An evolutionary modification makes the efforts of both the plant and the pollinator very efficient. When in bud and ready to open, the disk flowers are pale yellow. As they age, the disks change to pink or magenta. Pollinators who visit the receptive yellow disk flowers will be rewarded with nectar, while the pink flowers detour the pollinators away from blossoms that have been successfully pollinated and offer no nectar. Isn’t nature amazing?

With a plethora of native plants eager to thrive in shade, I eagerly began my transition from hostas to the humming of wildlife-savoring endemic goodies. So long slugs; adios deer! Anyone in need of some gently used hostas?

Colleen O’Neill Nice is an avid gardener in Clarence.

**FROM LEFT:**

Thin and wispy, *Carex pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania Sedge) add softness to any dry, shady garden.

The “China Doll Eyes” of *Actaea pachypoda* (white baneberry).

*Podophyllum peltatum* (may apple) creates a skirt of large leaves at the foot my *Rhodotypos scandens* (jet bead) shrub.

The finely textured fronds of *Adiantum pedatum* (maidenhair fern) glow amongst hydrangea, candelabra primrose seed heads and a towering clematis.

**RESOURCES**

For a list of plant nurseries by state that offer 100% native plants visit Choose Natives, Plant For Life at: [choosenatives.org/location/native-nurseries/](http://choosenatives.org/location/native-nurseries/)

For a list of more than 90 plants native to Western New York and six different planting plans visit Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers at: [bnwaterkeeper.org/projects/nativeplantguide/](http://bnwaterkeeper.org/projects/nativeplantguide/)

For a native plant list by zip code visit the Native Plant Finder. Here plants are ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species that use the plants as hosts for their caterpillars (see butterfly symbol and number on right side of each plant photo) at: [nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants](http://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants)





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# Calendar



We strongly recommend you confirm with the host whether an event is still taking place as listed.

## BUFFALO

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Buffalo Bonsai Society** meets the second Saturday of the month at The Critchen, 3377 Clinton St. West Seneca, NY 14224 at 1pm except for the March and April meetings. buffalobonsaisociety.com.

**East Aurora Garden Club** meets at noon on the second Monday of the month, except January, at Nativity Lutheran Church, 970 E. Main Street, East Aurora, NY (just west of the 400 Expressway exit). The club's objective is to stimulate, create interest and promote education on horticulture, the art of gardening, flower arranging and environmental conservation plus to promote the beautification of surrounding areas. For more information, 716-912-1589.

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

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

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

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

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

**Hamburg Garden Club** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 10am, VFW Post 1419, 2985 Lakeview Rd, Hamburg, NY. June plant sale. Summer garden tours. July 9–10 the *Hamburg Garden Club* will be one of many participants at the Memorial Park, Corner of Union and Lake Sts., Hamburg. Learn about becoming a member of the Garden Club. Look for the RED TENT. Guests are welcome. Contact lonabutler4@gmail.com.

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

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

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

**Lewiston Garden Club** meets the fourth Monday of the month. See website for meeting information, lewistongardenfest.com/garden-club.html or contact at PO Box 32, Lewiston, NY 14092.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

wnyhosta.com.

**Western NY Iris Society** meets the first Sunday of the month at the Julia B. Reinstein Public Library, 1030 Losson Road, South Cheektowaga, NY 14227. May 1, 1:30pm: *What to do in the Spring Garden and Preparing Iris for the Show Bench.* June 4, 1–4pm: *Annual Iris Show.* See many prize irises grown by our members. Open to the public and free admission. Anyone may enter the show. Iris must have its original name. Members will help you set-up, make entry tags, and get bottles for the show. Arrive with Irises at 9am. Show at Julia B. Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga, NY. For info, contact Vel Szczesny, 716-741-2912.

**Western New York Rose Society** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. WNYRS has gone back to Zoom meetings. Check the website or Facebook page for updates. May 18, Kane Knoeck presents on *creating Rose Arrangements.* June 15, Steve Styn presents on *preparing roses for a show.* June 18, *annual June Rose Show* at Galleria Mall. St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. wnyrosesociety.net.

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

### FREQUENT HOSTS

**AUDBUFF:** Buffalo Audubon Society, 1610 Welch Road, N Java 14113; 585-457-3228; info@buffaloaudubon.org; buffaloaudubon.org.

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

**DRAV: Draves Arboretum,** 1815 Sharrick Road, Darien, NY 14040. 585-547-3341.

**GBN: Gardens Buffalo Niagara,** 371 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. 716-247-5004, info@gardensbuffaloniagara.com. gardensbuffaloniagara.com.

**REIN: Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve,** 93 Honorine Drive, Depew, NY 14043. 716-683-5959; reinsteinwoods.org.

### CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales/swaps.

**T** Indicates garden tours.

**O** Online event.

**May 13–14: The Great Plant Sale 2022,** 11am–8pm Friday, 9am–3pm Saturday. BECBG

**May 14: Basic Tree Identification,** 10am–12pm. \$25/person. DRAV

**F May 15: Fairy Festival,** 10am–4pm. Fairies have taken over the Botanical Gardens and visitors will be able to walk into the secret world of fairies. Skip through the Botanical Gardens with your favorite set of wings on a magical scavenger hunt for a prize at the end. Entry included with admission. BECBG

**May 15: Shinrin-Yoku (forest bathing) with Debra Denome,** 1–4pm. \$35/person. DRAV

**May 17: Evening Birding Hike–Delaware Park,** 6–8pm. Spring Migration is underway and the birds are returning to their summer nesting grounds. AUBUFF

**T July 16–17: East Aurora Garden Walk,** 10am–3pm.



gardensbuffaloniagara.com/events/east-aurora-garden-walk

**T July 16–17: Village of Williamsville Garden Walk.** facebook.com/gardenwalkwilliamsville.

**May 21: Early Morning Birding Hike—Rose Acres,** 8–10am. Join us for a morning birding hike at Rose Acres Audubon Preserve. Spring Migration is underway and we'll be looking for the many species that are arriving for the summer or just passing through on their way north. \$12/General, \$8/Members. **AUDBUFF**

**May 21: Beginner Birding—North Tonawanda Audubon Preserve,** 1–2:30pm. Join Buffalo Audubon and Western New York Land Conservancy for a beginner birding hike in the Klydell Wetlands and the North Tonawanda Audubon Preserve. **AUDBUFF**

**May 21: All About Roses,** 11am–1pm. This popular class delves into the details about rose care, which is actually a bit more approachable than it seems. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**May 21: Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk Spring Plant and Seed Exchange,** 10am–2pm. Free exchange of perennials, vegetables, herbs, tropicals and some annuals as well as seeds packaged by ARTseeds. We also accept garden pots, ornaments, and other garden paraphernalia for resale to fund the Christine Brooks Garden Grant. University Presbyterian Church, 3330 Main Street, corner of Niagara Falls Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14214. Capengardenwalk@gmail.com, ourheights.org/gardenwalk.

**S May 22: Lessons from Nature's Annual Perennial and Native Plant Sale,** 9am–2pm. Amanda's Gardens and Lessons from Nature will offer the largest selection of natives in WNY. There will be perennials and natives for sun to shade. Come check out Lyn's great garden too. 170 Pine St. E Aurora, New York. Rain or shine.

**May 22: Draves Arboretum Pancake Breakfast,** 9am–1pm. **DRAV**

**May 24: Evening Birding Hike—Beaver Island East Marsh,** 6–8pm. Spring Migration is underway and the birds are returning to their summer nesting grounds. **AUDBUFF**

**May 26: Inspiration in the Gardens,** 1–4pm. The Botanical Gardens is full of inspiration to create watercolor paintings. Find inspiration in the outdoor Peace Garden in this three-hour plein air workshop. \$40/general, \$36/members. **BECBG**

**S May 27–28: CCE Erie Master Gardener Plant Sale,** 8:30am–3pm Friday and 8:30am–2pm Saturday. Huge selection of quality plants from the gardens of Master Gardeners. Perennials for sun and shade. Native and pollinator plants. Herbs, vegetables, and shrubs. Hypertufa pots, garden treasures, and hanging baskets. Soil pH testing available for \$2 per sample. All required NYS and CDC health and safety guidelines will be observed. First Presbyterian Church, One Symphony Circle, Buffalo, 14201. For more information contact, 716-652-5400 (x 176). **Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County,** 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora, NY 14052. 716-652-5400 x174; erie.cce.cornell.edu.

**S May 28: East Aurora Garden Club Annual Perennial Sale,** 8am–12pm. There will be shade and sun perennials and they are all provided by the club members from their home gardens. Event held at the Grey Street Plaza near TJ Maxx. Proceeds from the sale fund an annual scholarship, provide plants and maintenance for the lovely gardens at the East Aurora Traffic Circle, the Pocket Park and the Millard Fillmore House Museum gardens.

**May 28: Early Morning Birding Hike—Beaver Meadow,** 8–10am. Join Audubon Naturalist Tom Kerr for an early morning hike at Beaver Meadow. \$12/general,

\$8/members. **AUDBUFF**

**May 28: Beginner Birding—Margery Gallogly Nature Center,** 1–2:30pm. Join Buffalo Audubon and Western New York Land Conservancy for a beginner birding hike in the Margery Gallogly Nature Center. **AUDBUFF**

**June 4–5: Buffalo Bonsai Society Annual Bonsai Tree Show,** 9am–5pm. Trees will be shown along with demos and bonsai-related vendors. Busy Beaver Garden Center, 4415 Southwestern Blvd, Hamburg, NY 14075.

**June 4: Hostas & Hydrangeas,** 11am-1pm. Learn more about hostas and hydrangeas. Care needs, tips, and more. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**T June 4: Plant Hunting in Rochester,** 8am–5pm. Gardens Buffalo Niagara is excited to announce a day trip to three excellent nurseries in the Rochester NY area. \$45/person. **GBN**

**S June 4: South Towns Gardeners Annual Plant Sale,** 10am–2pm. Annuals, perennials, and themed basket raffle plus "garden shed gifts & treasures" sale. Charles E. Burchfield Nature & Arts Center, 2001 Union Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224.

**June 4: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip.** Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Lunch included. \$85. Registration required. Please call to reserve your seat: 716/432-8688; 585-591-2860. *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*, 1501 East Avenue, STE 201, Rochester, NY 14610. [upstategardenersjournal.com](http://upstategardenersjournal.com).

**June 11: Get Outdoors & Get Together Day,** 10am–2pm. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Friends of Reinstein Woods, in partnership with the Towns of Cheektowaga and Amherst, invite participants to explore outdoor recreation and even learn a new outdoor skill. **REIN**

**June 11: Orchids & Air Plants,** 11am-1pm. This class will cover basics and go into detail as well on the care and keeping of both orchids, and air plants. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**S June 11: Ransomville Garden Club Annual Plant Sale,** 9am–sold out. [bbonnie2313@gmail.com](mailto:bbonnie2313@gmail.com).

**S June 11: Hamburg Garden Club 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Perennial Plant Sale,** 7:30am–1pm. Perennials are from members gardens. A sale of previously loved gardening items will be available for sale. Proceeds go to several Civic Organizations and World Gardening. Located at the Hamburg Farmers Market, Hamburg Moose Lodge 523, 45 Church St. Hamburg, NY.

**June 16: Carnivorous Curiosities,** 6:30pm. Meet carnivores that feed on live flesh, and thrive in conditions that other plants fail to survive. David Clark, CNLP will highlight these intriguing plants using his own carnivorous collection. Learn about potting, growing outdoors, creating mini-bogs, winter care, feeding/fertilizing, and more. \$30/general, \$27/members. **BECBG**

**June 18–19: Lewiston GardenFest,** 10am–5pm. Vendors, open gardens, container garden contest, and demonstrations. Located on historic Center St. Free. [Lewistongardenfest.com](http://Lewistongardenfest.com).

**June 18: Summer Flowering Bulbs,** 11am-1pm. The program will look at many amazing summer flowering plants that grow from bulbs. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**June 19: Allenberg Bog Excursion,** 9am–3:30pm. Join Daemen College Professor of Biology Brenda Young to experience the wonders of a northern peat bog with a quaking mat and open bog pond. \$20/general, \$15/members. **AUDBUFF**

**T July 22–23: Ken-Ton Garden Tour—Night Lights,** 8:30–11pm. See the gardens illuminated Friday and Saturday night. Free self-guided tour in the Village of Kenmore and Town of Tonawanda. [kentongardentour.com](http://kentongardentour.com).

**T July 23–24: Ken-Ton Garden Tour—Day Tour,** 10am–4pm. Free self-guided tour Saturday and Sunday in the Village of Kenmore and Town of Tonawanda. [kentongardentour.com](http://kentongardentour.com).

**June 23: Framing Done Right,** 1–4pm. In this three-hour lecture and demonstration, participants will get a detailed overview of the framing process, beginning to end. \$40/general, \$36/members. **BECBG**

**June 25: Evening Blooms,** 11am-1pm. Discover night flowering plants and moon gardens, find out how lighting can go a long way, and get inspired to get out into the night in this class. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**S June 25–26: Buffalo Style Garden Art Sale,** 10am–4pm. No garden is complete without art. Need something unique and/or handmade to complete your garden? Visit more than 50 vendors of nature-themed items or works that can be displayed in a garden setting. **GBN**

**T July 7–August 26: Open Gardens on Thursday & Fridays,** 10am–8pm. Nearly 100 exceptional gardens to visit throughout Buffalo Niagara on Thursdays and Fridays, for select hours, in July. NOTE: No gardens will be open on Friday, July 1. See website for details. **GBN**

**T July 8: Lockport in Bloom Evening Tour,** 8:30–11pm. Free City-wide walking/driving tour of gardens and public parks throughout the City of Lockport, NY. [facebook.com/LockportInBloom](http://facebook.com/LockportInBloom)

**T July 9: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Tour,** 1:30–3:30pm. \$12/person. **DRAV**

**July 9: Flowering Vines,** 11am-1pm. Discover how to better viber with your vines. In exploring the botanical nature of many of these fascinating plants, learn how to work with them in order to best support their needs. \$25/general, \$22.50/members. **BECBG**

**T July 9–10: The Amherst Garden Walk,** 10am–4pm. The Town of Amherst Garden Walk is a free event of resident gardens and is open for public viewing. [facebook.com/BloomingAmherst](http://facebook.com/BloomingAmherst)

**T July 9–10: Hamburg Garden Walk,** 10am–4pm. Walk or bike the village's gardens. The walk is held regardless of the weather, rain, or shine. Wear appropriate clothing, apply sunscreen, and bring water. You can pick up maps at the bandstand in Memorial Park for a free self-guided walk of the Village of Hamburg's gardens. Garden vendors in Memorial Park. [hamburggardenwalk.com](http://hamburggardenwalk.com).

**T July 9–10: North Tonawanda Garden Walk,** 10am–3pm. Visit North Tonawanda and enjoy gardens throughout the city. [ntgardenwalk.com](http://ntgardenwalk.com).

**T July 10: Open Gardens at Lasting Dreams Daylilies,** 12–5pm. Enjoy the start of "Peak Bloom Season" with a stroll among over 2000 varieties of AHS Registered Cultivars, featured in easy to navigate walkways, with long flowing beds of daylilies in bloom. See website for more details, [LastingDreamsDaylilies.com](http://LastingDreamsDaylilies.com). [LastingDreams@verizon.net](mailto:LastingDreams@verizon.net), 716-648-4920.

**July 14: Colorful Landings,** 1–4pm. Inspiration comes from many places and this is your chance to let your watercolor painting become looser from using a combination of wet in wet as well as wet in dry techniques. \$40/general, \$36/members. **BECBG**

**T July 15–17: Lancaster Garden Walk,** July 15, 8:45–11pm and July 16–17, 10am–4:30pm. For details see [lancastervillage.org](http://lancastervillage.org).





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# Calendar

## ITHACA

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

**Finger Lakes Native Plant Society** meetings are usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Sept–May. flnps.org, info@flnps.org.

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

### FREQUENT HOSTS

**CCE/TOM: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County**, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-272-2292 x146; jrc10@cornell.edu; ccetompkins.org.

**FLNPS: Finger Lakes Native Plant Society**, 532 Cayuga Heights Rd., Ithaca NY 14850. info@flnps.org, flnps.org.

### CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales/swaps.

**T** Indicates garden tours.

**O** Online event.

**S May 13: 2022 Spring Plant Sale**, 12–6pm. Ithaca Farmers' Market. Free admission. **CCE/TOM**

**T May 15: Mertensia and More**, 1:30pm. Walk at Bement-Billings Homestead with Robert Wesley, Botanist at Cornell Botanical Gardens. Walk near the town of Newark Valley. **FLNPS**

**O May 17: Limestone Pavement Barrens**, 7pm. Online program with Robert Wesley, botanist with Cornell Botanical Gardens. **FLNPS**

**May 17: Limestone Pavement Barrens**, 7pm. Talk with Robert Wesley, Botanist, Cornell Botanical Gardens (may be in person in Ithaca, will try to Zoom simultaneously). **FLNPS**

**O May 31: From Lawn to Habitat**, 6–7:30pm. Traditional lawn care including watering, pesticides, herbicides, and use of fossil fueled machines for maintenance turn a lovely green into an environmental problem. In this class, learn how to analyze your property to right-size your lawn, use sustainable practices to care for your lawn, and convert more of your lawn into habitat. **CCE/TOM**

**June 10–June 12: Early Season Grasses of NY Workshop**. This workshop will focus on the

identification and ecology of grasses that occur in New York with a focus on early season species. \$165/ members & students, \$205/general. New York Flora Association, PO Box 122, Albany, NY 12201. nyfa@nyflora.org, nyflora.org, 518-250-6244.

**June 12–14: Botanizing in the Adirondacks**. The tour will focus on the native flora of the Adirondack region and includes guided hikes to see alpine vegetation on Whiteface Mountain (one of the "High Peaks" of the Adirondacks) and two bogs in the western Adirondacks. The tour will also visit the Chaumont Barrens alvar and the Adirondack Experience Museum that highlights the history and culture of the region. The tour will use a professionally driven bus and will be limited to 25 participants. Contact tours@nargs.org.

**June 24: Ecology Based Design: In the Field**, 8am. On-site in Skaneateles. Part of a series: Landscape Design for Heavy Rains, Beauty and Butterflies. This is an ecology-based educational series for landscape professionals and homeowners in the Skaneateles Lake watershed. Co-sponsored by FLNPS. **FLNPS**

**T June 25: Dryden Open Gate Garden and Art Tour**, 9am–2pm. Tour four gardens for just \$5. Enjoy the beautiful gardens, original art on display and local musicians at each garden. Starting point: Municipal Parking Lot, George St., Dryden. Tickets and Maps available the day of the tour. drydenopengategardenandarttour.weebly.com.

**July 13: Filter Your Pollution Through a Beautiful Rain Garden & Series Wrap Up and Reception**, 6:30pm. Part of a series: Landscape Design for Heavy Rains, Beauty and Butterflies, an ecology-based educational series for landscape professionals and homeowners in the Skaneateles Lake watershed. **FLNPS**

## ROCHESTER

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

**Canandaigua Botanical Society** meets for in-person botanical events. See website for event schedule. canandaigubotanicalsociety.blogspot.com

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

**Country Gardeners of Webster** meets the second Monday of the month (except February, July & August) at 7pm, various locations. All aspects of

gardening covered, outside speakers, projects, visits to local gardens, community gardening involvement. Includes coffee and social time. Guests welcome. 585-265-4762.

**Creative Gardeners of Penfield** meets the second Monday of the month (except July & August) at 9:15am, Penfield United Methodist Church, 1795 Baird Road, Penfield. Visitors welcome. Call 585-385-2065 or email 09green17@gmail.com if interested in attending a meeting.

**Fairport Garden Club** Member club of Federated Garden Clubs of NY State. Meets 3rd Thursday evening of the month (except January & August), members' homes. Educational topics through speakers, workshops or local tours. Accepting new members. fairportgc@gmail.com, fairportgardenclub.com.

**Finger Lakes Daylily Society** members garden in west-central NY, covering an area from Batavia to Syracuse and the Southern Tier. Meetings are held in Rochester or the Canandaigua area. There are generally four regular Saturday meetings held in February, March, May, and September. Visitors and prospective new members are welcome to attend. Contact Deb Lawrence for information, binxers1@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

**Gates Garden Club** meets the second Thursday of the month (except July & August) at 6:30pm, Gates Town Annex, 1605 Buffalo Road, Rochester. New members and guests welcome. 585 247-1248, scece6@yahoo.com.

**Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS)** meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month. The meeting on November 8 will be an in-person orchid auction at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Brighton. Meetings in December, January, and February will be virtual. It is likely that meetings from March–May will be in person at the JCC. Please see the website for information, 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. 585-889-7678, sebuckner@frontiernet.net, geneseevalleyhosta.com.

**Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)** meets Sundays at 2pm, dates vary. September 12: Iris Society meeting, 2 PM, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave. Honeoye Falls, NY. Public welcome. 585-266-0302, thehutthings@mac.com.

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

**Greater Rochester Rose Society** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm, Penfield Community Center, 1985 Baird Rd., Penfield, NY 14526. Summer



meetings may be garden tours Meetings are March–December. Contact [j.chorder@gmail.com](mailto:j.chorder@gmail.com) or 585-694-8430 for information. Facebook: Greater Rochester Rose Society.

**Henrietta Garden Club** meets the 2nd Wednesday, except May–Aug and Dec at 6:30pm in the lower level of the Henrietta Town Hall, 475 Calkins Rd. Guests are welcome for a free visit. Handicap accessible. [sites.google.com/site/henriettagardenclub/](https://sites.google.com/site/henriettagardenclub/) or call 585-747-6780.

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

**Hubbard Springs Garden Club of Chili** meets the third Monday of the month at 7pm, Chili Senior Center, 3235 Chili Avenue, Rochester. [dtogood@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dtogood@rochester.rr.com).

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

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

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

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

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

**Pittsford Garden Club** Pittsford Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30am at the Spiegel Center on Lincoln Avenue in the Village of Pittsford. The club usually meets in Room 18, but ask at the desk. Masks are required at all times in the building unless requirements change. New members are always welcomed. May 21 plant sale, location TBD. Look for signs in the village.

**Rochester Dahlia Society** meets the second Saturday of the month (except August & September) at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester. Visitors welcome. Meetings currently on hold. See website for up-to-date information concerning meetings & shows. 585-865-2291, Facebook, [rochesterdahlias.org](http://rochesterdahlias.org).

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

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

**Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visit to local garden-related site. Monthly newsletter. New members welcome. Meetings are currently cancelled; contact Bonnie Arnold with any questions. Bonnie Arnold, 585-230-5356, [bonniearnold@frontiernet.net](mailto:bonniearnold@frontiernet.net).

**Stafford Garden Club** meets the third Wednesday of the month (except December & January) at 7pm,

Stafford Town Hall, 8903 Morganville Road (Route 237), Stafford. Plant auction in May. All are welcome. 585-343-4494.

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

**Williamson Garden Club.** On-going community projects and free monthly lectures to educate the community about gardening. Open to all. 315-524-4204, [grow14589@gmail.com](mailto:grow14589@gmail.com), [growthewilliamsongardenclub.blogspot.com](http://growthewilliamsongardenclub.blogspot.com).

## FREQUENT HOSTS

**CBS: Canandaigua Botanical Society,** See website for event schedule and details. [canandaiguabotanicalsociety.blogspot.com](http://canandaiguabotanicalsociety.blogspot.com)

**CCE/MON: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County,** 2449 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, NY 14617. 585-753-2550; [monroe.cce.cornell.edu](mailto:monroe.cce.cornell.edu).

**HPC: Highland Park Conservancy** 180 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620. 585-753-7275, [markquinn@monroecounty.gov](mailto:markquinn@monroecounty.gov), [highlandparkconservancy.org](http://highlandparkconservancy.org).

**LDMK: Landmark Society of Western NY,** 585-546-7029; [landmarksociety.org](http://landmarksociety.org).

## CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales/swaps.

**T** Indicates garden tours.

**O** Online event.

**April 23–May 31: Spring at the Gallery.** The spring exhibit showcases the artist's interpretation of the excitement of the colors and promise of spring with original work that celebrates our spectacular regional scenery, as well as inspired reflections, abstractions, and imagery. Also Sunflower Silent Auction for Ukraine, April 23–May 31. Pat Rini Rohrer Gallery, 71 South Main Street, Canandaigua, NY. 585-394-0030, [prgallery.com](http://prgallery.com).

**May 14: Attracting Pollinators to the Garden,** 10–11am. Pollinators play an important role in native ecosystems, home gardens, and global food production. This presentation will discuss the wide range of pollinators active in our gardens and what gardeners can do to make their yard more attractive to pollinators. We will discuss a variety of native plants and provide a plant list handout. Free. **CCE/MON**

**S May 14: Bloomfield Garden Club's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale,** 9am–1pm. The sale features annuals, hanging baskets and our homegrown perennials. Proceeds support many charitable and garden projects. The public is invited and sale at the Bloomfield Historical Academy Bldg, 8 South Ave, Bloomfield 14469. For more information, call Laurie O'Mara 585-406-3457.

**T May 14–15 & 21–22: Ellwanger Garden Open,** 12–3pm. Come visit this historic perennial garden, designed among a framework of boxwood and pear trees, with an extensive collection of peonies, roses, iris and dozens of other species of perennials and specimen trees. A \$5 donation per visitor helps maintain this historic landscape. Signs will direct you to nearby parking. 625 Mt. Hope Ave, Rochester NY 14620 **LDMK**

**S May 15–21, 22–27, 28: Rochester Dahlia Society Plant Sales.** Upcoming RDS dahlia plant and tuber sales—\$7/plant, \$3/tuber, \$25/10 tubers. May 15–21, 9am–5pm, Honor System Sale, 553 Klem Rd., Webster. Ginger and Jeff Davis. 585-402-3267. May 22–27, Honor System Sale, 754 Pinnacle Rd, Pittsford. Patti and Mat Pirtz. 585-359-0368. May 28, 8am–1pm, Market in the Park, Warner Castle, Highland Park, 5 Castle Park, Rochester. Carol DeCann. 585-319-7832. [rochesterdahlias.org](http://rochesterdahlias.org).

**S May 19: CCE Monroe Master Gardener Lilac Sale.** Weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup>. A variety of lilac shrubs in 1 and 3 gallon sizes. At the Lilac Festival. **CCE/MON**

**T May 21: Huckleberry Bog Hike,** 10 am. 5 mile hike at Huckleberry Bog/Finger Lakes Trail. Bean Station Road, Urbana State Forest. Register via email [canadaiguabotanical@gmail.com](mailto:canadaiguabotanical@gmail.com). **CBS**

**S May 21: Annual Henrietta Garden Club Plant Sale,** 9am. Sale at Tinker Nature Park, 1525 Calkins Rd, Pittsford, NY. Huge number of member-grown perennials, annuals, shrubs, succulents, herbs and various other finds, all at very reasonable prices. Arrive early for best selection. [sites.google.com/site/henriettagardenclub/](https://sites.google.com/site/henriettagardenclub/) or call 585-747-6780.

**T May 21–22, 28–29, June 4–5: Tree Peony Festival.** Reservations required. See website for details. Linwood Gardens, 1912 York Road West, Linwood, NY 14486. [linwoodgardens.org](http://linwoodgardens.org).

**S May 22: Genesee Land Trust Native Plant Sale,** 9am–1pm. Join Genesee Land Trust, Amanda's Garden, and other local nurseries for our annual Native Plant Sale, at Brighton Town Hall. Kick off your garden while supporting a great cause. This event is an important annual fundraiser for Genesee Land Trust as it educates the community on the benefits of incorporating native plants in their gardens while helping to support local land conservation. Free. For more info, [llalka@geneseeandtrust.org](mailto:llalka@geneseeandtrust.org), 585-256-2130, [facebook.com/events/517343503070741](https://facebook.com/events/517343503070741) **GLT**

**May 26: Vegetable Gardening,** 6:30–7:30pm. This seminar covers the key factors that contribute to a successful vegetable garden, the top ten vegetables in a home garden and a variety of gardening concepts such as succession planting, crop rotation, composting and extending the growing season. Free. **CCE/MON**

**May 28: Market in the Park,** 8am–1pm. Vendors on site to offer a variety of unique plants and garden art. Enjoy tours of the Warner Castle Gardens. Listen to mini talks on garden topics. Visit the Ask a Master Gardener booth with your questions. Warner Castle, 5 Castle Park, Rochester, NY. **CCE/MON**

**June 2: Garden Talk "Playing in the Dirt: Risks and Benefits,"** 12–12:45pm. Gardening offers many health and life benefits to the gardener, but it also has its risks. Bring your lunch to the Genesee CCE office (420 E. Main St, Batavia). Register to attend in-person at 585-343-3040 x101, OR register for your Zoom link at [genesee.cce.cornell.edu/events](http://genesee.cce.cornell.edu/events). Free. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Genesee County, 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020. 585/343-3040; [genesee.cce.cornell.edu](http://genesee.cce.cornell.edu).

**S June 3–4: Creative Gardeners of Penfield Annual Plant Sale/Garage Sale/Raffle,** 9am–4pm Saturday, 9am–12pm. 107 Huntington Meadow, Rochester NY (Between Panorama Trail and Clark Roads). For info, 585-385-2065.

**June 4: Manchester Gateway Trail 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,** 10am–4pm. CBS booth and walks. **CBS**

**June 4: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip.** Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Lunch included. \$85. Registration required. Please call to reserve your seat: 716-432-8688; 585-591-2860. Upstate Gardeners' Journal, 1501 East Avenue, STE 201, Rochester, NY 14610. [upstategardenersjournal.com](http://upstategardenersjournal.com).



# Calendar

## ROCHESTER cont.

**S June 11: Master Gardener Plant Sale 2022,** 9am–2pm. This annual plant sale is the CCE's largest community event and fundraiser each year. The plant sale will be held at the CCE-Monroe office and will have many varieties of plants for your garden. All sale proceeds go directly toward CCE-Monroe programming. The sale includes a variety of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, trees and shrubs. A selection of houseplants is also available. **CCE/MON**

**June 11: Genesee Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club,** 9:30am–3:30pm. Annual Expo at Mendon Ponds Park beach area, 95 Douglas Rd Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. The Outdoor Expo offers a day of learning opportunities to enhance your enjoyment for outdoor recreation on both land and water. Participate in workshops for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, camping, bicycling and many other related outdoor skills. **adk-gvc.org**

**T June 11: Early Summer Tree Tour,** 9–10:30am. Join Susan Maney, Monroe County Parks Dept. Horticulturist, for an early summer tree tour in Highland Park. Tour will focus on the later blooming trees and shrubs, venturing into lesser known areas of the park. Be prepared for hilly, off-trail walking. Registration required. **HPC**

**T June 11–12: Peony & Rose Weekend at Ellwanger Garden,** 12–3pm. 625 Mt. Hope Ave, Rochester NY 14620 **LDMK**

**June 16: Attracting Pollinators to the Garden,** 6:30pm–7:30pm. See May 14 event for details. **CCE/MON**

**T June 17: Solstice Tour,** 7:30–9pm. Join Cornell horticulture educator and researcher Brian Eshenaur for a Summer Solstice Twilight Tour in the Park. As we approach the longest day of the year, we'll take advantage of the extra daylight and explore Highland Park in the evening. Registration required. **HPC**

**June 18: Canandaigua Botanical Society Annual Picnic,** 10 am. Mary Frances Bluebird Haven, 235 County Rd 9, Victor, NY 14564. **CBS**

**T June 25: Tour Around Lagoon Park,** 10 am. Tour with Jim Engel, special note of restoration efforts. Lakeshore Drive, Canandaigua. **CBS**

**S June 26: Master Gardener Summer Sale,** 9am–1pm. browse through gently used gardening, lawn care, and outdoor-related items. **CCE/MON**

**T July 7, 17, 26, and August 7: Daylily Garden Open House—Cobb's Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden),** July 7 & 26: 4–7pm. July 17 & August 7: 2–6pm. Visitors may safely walk through the garden or view the garden from the road. Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester 14610. Please call 585-461-3317 ahead of time if you have any questions.

**T July 10: ABC Garden Walk 2022,** 12–4pm. Stroll or bike the ABC Streets neighborhood and experience the variety of creative approaches for city front, side, and back yard spaces. The ABC Streets neighborhood is bounded by Culver Road, Park Avenue and Harvard Street. Info at [abc.streets@gmail.com](mailto:abc.streets@gmail.com); [585-721-8684](tel:585-721-8684).

### SAVE THE DATE ...

**T July 16: Tour the Warner Castle Gardens,** 10–11:30am. Enjoy a garden tour and historic overview of the Warner Castle grounds led by Milli Piccione, HPC board member. Registration required. **HPC**

**T July 16: Canandaigua Garden Tour.** Hosted by the Ontario County Historical Society. [ochs.org](http://ochs.org).

**T July 16: NY Flora Association, "Learn 10 Mosses,"** 10am–2pm. Join us to discuss common, charismatic bryophytes that occur in most of our local habitats. To start off the day, a PowerPoint presentation will be

provided to discuss the morphology, life history, and adaptive strategies of mosses while also including an overview of common genre and species that can be found locally in our region. After lunch, we will take a leisurely 2-mile walk through Ganondagan's woodlands where we will observe and practice various field techniques that are necessary for proper moss identification. New York Flora Association, PO Box 122, Albany, NY 12201. [nyfa@nyflora.org](mailto:nyfa@nyflora.org), [nyflora.org](http://nyflora.org), 518-250-6244.

**T July 23: Daylilies in the Finger Lakes—Region 4 Summer Meeting of the American Daylily Society Garden Tours,** 9am–3pm. The Finger Lakes Daylily Society (FieLDS) is hosting the summer meeting for Region 4 of the American Daylily Society (ADS). Region 4 includes ADS members from New England, New York and eastern Canada. As a major part of the event, FieLDS members open up their gardens for visitors as tour gardens. Everyone interested in daylilies is invited to visit any or all of the three tour gardens that will be open to the public. These tour gardens are: the FieLDS Daylily Garden at the Webster Arboretum, Fox Gardens in Pittsford, and QB Daylily Garden in Caledonia. Each of these gardens is a National Daylily Display Garden. Free admission.

**T July 24: Maplewood Garden Walk,** 10–4pm. The event will include: 21 private gardens, 4 public gardens, Maplewood Rose Garden, Maplewood Park, and Seneca Parkway. Free. See website for self-guided map, [Maplewood.org](http://Maplewood.org). Hosted by the Maplewood Neighborhood Association of Rochester.

## SYRACUSE

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

**African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Syracuse** meets the second Thursday of the month, September–May, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315-492-2562, [kgarb@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kgarb@twcny.rr.com), [avsofsyracuse.org](http://avsofsyracuse.org).

**Baldwinsville Women's Garden Club** meets the first Thursday of each month except January at St Marks' Lutheran Church in Baldwinsville at 7pm. The club plants the village flower barrels, raises money for the village flower hanging baskets, maintains the Pointe Garden, donates Arbor Day trees to schools, and gets involved in village improvement projects. Perennial sale yearly on Memorial Saturday morning in the village. See more information at Facebook, Women's Garden Club of Baldwinsville.

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

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

**Fairmount Garden Club** meets the third Thursday of the month (March–November) at 6:30pm, Camillus Senior Center, 25 First Street, Camillus. Speakers & community projects. *May 19, Six Hours to Serenity Gardens – Alan Napier presentation, 6:30pm at Camillus Sr. Ctr. June 9, Wallflowers & Cards – Lisa Davis, 2pm at 43 Emery Rd, Fulton, NY 13069.* All are welcome. [tooley.susan@yahoo.com](mailto:tooley.susan@yahoo.com).

**Federated Garden Clubs NYS—District 6.** 315-481-4005, [dist6fss@gmail.com](mailto:dist6fss@gmail.com).

**Gardening Friends Club** meets the third Tuesday of the month, March–December, at 6:30pm, Wesleyan Church, 4591 US Route 11, Pulaski. 315-298-1276, Facebook: Gardening Friends of Pulaski, NY, [VicLaDeeDa@frontiernet.net](https://www.facebook.com/VicLaDeeDa@frontiernet.net).

**Gardeners in Thyme** (a women's herb club) meets the second Thursday of the month at 7pm, Beaver Lake

Nature Center, Baldwinsville. 315-635-6481, [hbaker@twcny.rr.com](mailto:hbaker@twcny.rr.com).

**Habitat Gardening in CNY (HGCNY)** meets the last Sunday of most months at 2pm. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. HGCNY is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes; [wildones.org](http://wildones.org). Free and open to the public. 315-487-5742, [info@hgcnycny.org](mailto:info@hgcnycny.org), [hgcnycny.org](http://hgcnycny.org).

**Home Garden Club of Syracuse** usually meets the first Tuesday morning of the month. Members are active in educating the community about gardening, horticulture & floral design and involved with several civic projects in the Syracuse area. New members welcome. [homegardenclubofsyacuse@gmail.com](mailto:homegardenclubofsyacuse@gmail.com), [homegardenclubofsyacuse.org](http://homegardenclubofsyacuse.org).

**Koi and Water Garden Society of Central New York** usually meets the third Monday of each month at 7pm. See website for meeting locations. 315-458-3199, [cnykoi.com](http://cnykoi.com).

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

**Southern Hills Garden Club** meets the third Tuesday of each month, February–November at the LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084. Meetings typically take place 7pm. Some meetings are off site and generally have an earlier start time. Guests are welcome and membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For information regarding meetings or membership, please contact Cathy Nagel 315-677-9342, [CEN42085@aol.com](mailto:CEN42085@aol.com).

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

### CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales/swaps.

**T** Indicates garden tours.

**O** Online event.

**May 17: Herbs in Colonial Time w/ Doreen Todorov,** 7pm. Southern Hills Garden Club. LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084.

**T June 21: Tour of Michael Brennan's Gardens,** 6:30pm. Southern Hills Garden Club, meeting is off site. Please contact Cathy Nagel, 315-677-9342 or Email [CEN42085@aol.com](mailto:CEN42085@aol.com).

**June 18: CCE Oneida County Herb & Flower Festival,** 9am–2:30pm. Garden related vendors, herbal bake sale, ice cream sandwiches and gardening classes throughout the day. Keynote speaker Natalie Carmolli, PR & Advertising Specialist from Spring Meadow Nursery speaking on flowering shrubs, roses, and the Proven Winners line. \$5/person at the Extension's Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens, 121 Second Street, Oriskany, NY 13424. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Oneida County, 121 Second Street, Oriskany. 315/736-3394 x125; [cceoneida.com](http://cceoneida.com).

*Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (July–August, 2022) is, June 15, 2022. Please send your submissions to [kim@upstategardenersjournal.com](mailto:kim@upstategardenersjournal.com).*



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# What to do in the garden in May & June



**ABOVE:** Plant warm season vegetables like tomatoes mid to late May. Photo by Kimberly Burkard

Wow, it's already May with so much to do! Don't despair, but you may need to set some gardening priorities as you move through these two months.

If you need some how-to information, check out [GoodGardeningVideos.org](http://GoodGardeningVideos.org). It is an excellent resource for many gardening topics and all videos have been reviewed for accuracy and conciseness. On your initial visit to this site, you may want to use a full-screen computer to see the options and organization, including the search box. Your local Cornell Cooperative Extension will also be happy to answer any specific questions.

If you plan to grow vegetables, getting your garden ready might be where to start in early May. Some people rototill then plant immediately. Tilling in weeds with seedheads from the previous season will guarantee a good weed crop, so it's better to remove all weeds in season, before they set seeds, as well as remaining roots in fall. In the spring, simply loosen the soil with a garden claw or fork. In my garden, the soil is enriched with shredded fall leaves smothering the surface for winter, moved aside in April, and then put back on the garden in July, where they complete decomposition. I add slow-release nitrogen at planting time and again in July.

Late April–early May is the time to put in cool weather plants including frost-tolerant flowers like pansies, leafy greens, and root vegetables, as well as cabbage and broccoli. Warm weather plants need to wait until the risk of frost has passed and most seeds need soil temperatures of at least 50° to germinate.

Planting in straw bales is another option that eliminates the need for soil preparation. The downside of this option is that your bales will need to be watered frequently and daily in hot weather. Including a soaker hose will make this easier. There is a straw bale video available at [GoodGardeningVideos.org](http://GoodGardeningVideos.org).

Now is the optimal window for dividing many perennials. Not only are they primed for growing, but you will also be able to decide how many and where the new divisions should go. Garden clubs may be accepting donations for their plant sales, though concerns around spreading jumping worms have reduced this option in some areas.

You might also decide to cut the volume of some spreading plants. This will make space for new plants or remove plants that aren't thriving or are choking out other plants in your garden.

I often read about plants I would like to acquire before heading out to the garden centers because plant tags and catalogs don't offer enough information. The Plant Finder search tool on the website of Missouri Botanical Garden is a great way to find plants suited to specific spots in your

gardens. Its database includes nearly 8000 plants and its zone 6 climate is similar to ours. Gardeners can enter search criteria: site conditions, type of plant, deer resistance, etc. More criteria selected means fewer results. The Plants of Merit recognition identifies the best plants and varieties based on set criteria: easy to grow and maintain, not invasive, disease resistance, outstanding ornamental value, and reasonably available for purchase. This garden serves as the horticulture resource of Missouri Cooperative Extension.

Annuals and warm season vegetables all need to wait for planting until mid to late May. Planting practices for vegetables can vary. While some instructions may be included on the seed packet, far more information can be found on the Cornell Home Gardening website—the Vegetable Growing Guides and the Flower Growing Guides. This website also includes a section called Vegetable Varieties for home gardeners, where readers can find the variety preferences of other home gardeners. Seeds can be planted a week or two earlier than plants.

Annual flowers can be grown from seeds or plants, but many gardeners prefer the instant gratification of plants. Seeds offer many more choices and can be started indoors for earlier blooms, but they take more time and knowledge. The more recent plant introductions may only be available as plants. Seeds planted outdoors need consistent moisture to germinate. Attractive vegetables like Swiss chard are more often being incorporated in annual plantings.

Cornell Home Gardening also offers an excellent overview of essential planting information for annuals and perennials in the document *Flower Garden Design Basics*.

Annuals are best planted in early June. While each year varies, typical warming temperatures with reduced rainfall make it more difficult for plants to establish successfully later June.

What other tasks can wait until June? Certainly, mulching can wait. Mulching 3–4" is the recommended depth, no deeper. Mulch should not touch tree trunks, branches of shrubs, or plant stems. Bulb foliage can be flattened to the ground when it is no longer attractive, then covered with mulch when it begins to yellow. Small mulch pieces decompose more readily than large ones, needing replenishment mid-season. Shredded mulch compacts easily, so it should be loosened with a hand cultivator every month or two. Mulch will help the soil retain moisture, reduce weeds, and improve the soil.

—Julie Brocklehurst-Woods, Master Gardener,  
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Livingston County



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# Water, jelly, hoppers

*How to attract more birds to your yard this spring*

by Liz Magnanti



**ABOVE:**  
Yellow-rumped warbler.  
Photo by Frank  
Schilenburg /  
Wikimedia Commons /  
CC BY-SA 3.0

**A**s we get into the spring months, it is exciting to see migratory birds like hummingbirds and orioles return to backyards. These birds will readily come to feeders when provided with the right foods of nectar and jelly. If you look closely, there are other birds you may see already flowing into your backyard this spring.

One way to attract a larger diversity of birds to your backyard this season is to provide water. Not all birds will come to a backyard feeder or birdhouse, but they all need some type of water source to survive.

Many birders find that adding a source of water, especially moving water, will attract new and interesting birds. Warblers and tanagers, for example, will use birdbaths—especially ones with a fountain. Solar birdbath fountain kits are a simple way to turn a birdbath into a moving water feature. When the sun hits the solar panel on the top of the unit, it activates a pump that moves the water. Moving water also makes it impossible for mosquitoes to develop in birdbaths. The fountain will break up the surface tension of the water that the mosquito larvae need to survive. Scarlet tanagers—a bright red bird with black wings—will make appearances in birdbaths in early spring. Yellow-rumped warbler, a small migrant also known as a “Butter Butt,” can sometimes be seen drinking from birdbaths and bouncing in backyard trees this time of the year. Another warbler, the yellow warbler, is a prolific songster that will perch in the treetops and sing its hearts out.

If you are in or near a new development, you may be greeted by the sight or sound of a Killdeer. Killdeer are a type of shorebird that are commonly found in suburbs and even strip malls. They get their name from their call, which is a high pitch “kill-deer, kill-deer, kill-deer.” They

build nests on the ground and sometimes even in busy parking lots.

There are also a lot of new birds you may see at your feeders. In late April in to May when orioles come back to the area, you may be surprised to see some other visitors coming to their jelly feeders. Gray catbirds, for example, may stop by for a visit. They are in the same family as the mockingbird and will mimic the calls of other birds. At the end of their repertoire of songs, they will make a cat-like meow, thus giving them their name. You may see a mockingbird come to your oriole feeder as well.

If you attract cardinals on a regular basis, you should also be on the lookout for rose-breasted grosbeaks. They are in the same family as the cardinal and will visit the same type of feeders. Be sure you have something that has a lot of perching room, like a tray or hopper feeder. Grosbeaks are fairly large and need plenty of perching room in order to fit and feed from a bird feeder. They love black oil sunflower as well as safflower seed. Indigo buntings will also stop by feeders in the spring. They are a brilliant blue in color and tend to prefer smaller seeds like nyjer and sunflower hearts.

Ever see a tree that looks like it has a small piece of bark moving along its trunk? It is probably a brown creeper. Brown creepers are small brown striped birds that blend in very well with the trunk of a tree. They get their name from their “creeping” behavior as they slink up the trunk of a tree in search of insects or larvae wedged in its crevices.

This time of the year birds are very vocal. If you are hearing bird calls and want to know what they are, there is now a simple way to do so. The Merlin app, made by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, can now identify bird songs. The app is completely free and can also help identify pictures of birds you may have. The new sound ID feature, which came out last summer, is a game changer for the birding world and a fantastic way to get a better idea of the bird life around you. During these spring months when migration is high, you never know what birds may pop up, even in your own backyard. These are just a few examples of the amazing diversity of bird life we have in the area.

Liz Magnanti is the co-owner of the Bird House in Brighton.



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# Chandelier planter

By Cathy Monrad

I am not one to give up on broken things. Reuse, repurpose, and recycle is a daily mission for me, so when I happened to stumble upon a broken brass and crystal chandelier someone had tossed by the side of the road, it was a no-brainer for me to grab it and take it home.

There isn't a set of instructions I can give you for this project, since each light fixture and personal style preference is different. I will share with you some tips, and also my mistakes—so you can avoid them.

## CONSIDERATIONS:

Where will this be hung? What size pots should be used? How much will this weigh once the potted plants are added? What should be planted?

## TIPS:

1. Decide whether you really need to take the light fixture apart to create the planter. You may be able to clean it thoroughly, paint if desired, and add potted plants.

2. If you decide to dismantle the fixture, take pictures of every step so you can put it back together. You will need a variety of tools to dismantle the fixture including screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, and wire cutters.

3. I soaked all the crystals in a solution of vinegar and

dish soap for a couple of days, rinsed thoroughly, then laid on dish towels to dry. The results were amazing—clean and shiny with almost no work involved.

4. Use a heavy-duty hook and chain to hang the planter up. If a chain was with the fixture, it most likely won't be strong enough to use with the added weight of the pots, soil, and plants. I used a chain and hook rated to hold 40lbs.

5. Use plastic pot inserts so you can remove plants to water and drain easily.

## MISTAKES TO AVOID:

1. I forgot to take pictures of the fixture until after I took off the crystals. I had no idea where each strand was supposed to go, so there are leftovers.

2. Carefully plan where to hang your planter and know what is inside a wall before drilling.

Cathy Monrad is the Graphic Designer for *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*.



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