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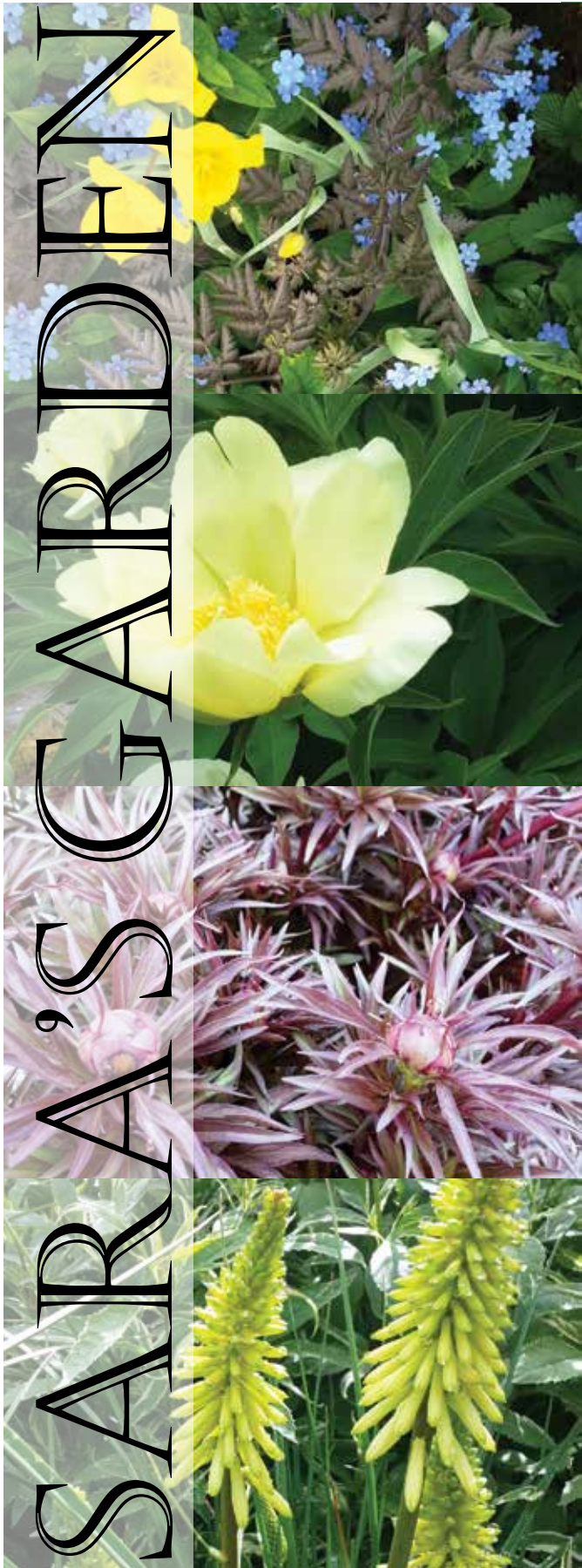
Plant the colors
Coldwater Pond Nursery
The Seed to Supper program

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Volume Twenty-six, Issue Three
May-June 2020

Celebrating

25
YEARS
1995-2020



Essential

We want to use this space first to give our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to the many front line folks who are dealing with the COVID-19 issues in a very near and close way. In our state and immediate communities, everywhere, there are very many hard-working people dedicated to ensuring difficult jobs are accomplished. We are also thankful that gardening has been deemed essential in our state; many garden centers in other places are not. We feel this allowance will make a world of difference to many and wish there was a way for all to have access to this opportunity.

For the next eight weeks (or more) of spring, we will wear our masks, wash our hands, sanitize everywhere, remind you of distancing, in short; we will do our best to keep your garden center visit safe, productive, and stress-free. We hope all our loyal gardeners will share the mindset that we are all in this together and that all need to be conscious and aware of space and place.

We have lots of fruiting plants and trees and our regular planting schedule of veggies. Hopefully enough for all who are feeling the urge to plant a little bit more this season.

Until 5/15 (under most recent conditions as of writing this), flowers and fluff are not considered essential, but we will have them. It is a hard road to navigate these days, and we are trying our best to be good stewards of the role we play.

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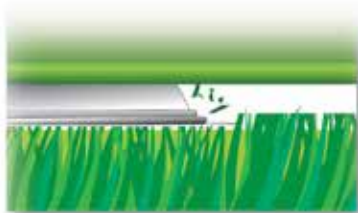
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On the cover: *Aesculus* x 'Homestead', Homestead Buckeye, Draves Arboretum in Darien, NY, by Bonnie Guckin

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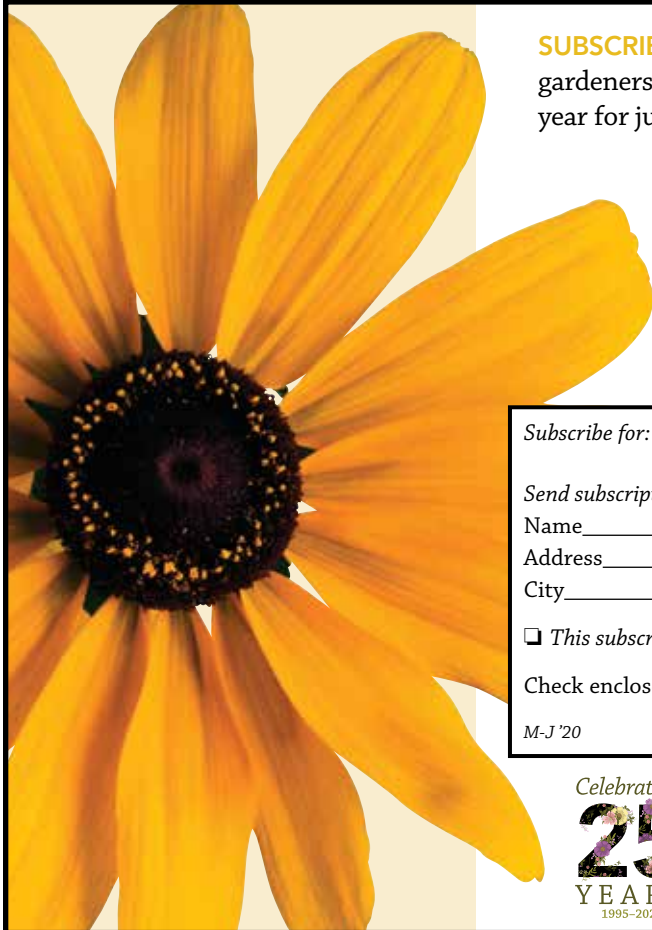
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Ear to the ground

Dear friends,

For the past month, I've been saying "Spring isn't canceled!" to anyone who will listen. Though I'm afraid that might have backfired slightly, as the weather in April was, for the most part, ghastly. And right when we wanted to get out into our gardens the *most*. (Maybe those April showers were exactly what everyone needed to stop us from planting too early.)

We've been cooped up and we've been anxious. But now we are really, truly in the beginning of the growing season—and it feels so good!

Of course, all of our local nurseries, garden centers, and purveyors of fine plants are doing the best they can to serve you safely during the COVID-19 PAUSE and beyond. They all have new procedures in place, and many have alternate hours, so if you are venturing out, please call ahead or check websites and social media accounts to make sure your trip is fruitful. And please do visit our advertisers—they have been working harder than ever to make sure their customers have great selection and quality this year, all while staying six feet apart from one another and probably wearing masks.

Didn't expect to get this issue in the mail? We decided to send the print edition to our *entire* mailing list, even

those whose subscription ran out years ago and subscribers to our sister publication, (585). Why? We owe it to our advertisers to get this magazine into as many hands as possible, and, with current restrictions, not everybody can pick up a free one at the local garden center. And we owe it to our loyal readers to make the print publication as accessible as we can. You can also read every issue free of charge on our website, upstategardenersjournal.com.

These are trying times, but the worst is behind us (or so I believe, as I am an optimist and also possibly a denialist). Have a safe and a happy spring.



Jane Milliman, Publisher



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What to do in the garden in May & June



ABOVE:
Rhododendron

THE GARDEN

We gardeners have been waiting for spring. However, during May, PATIENCE is the rule. A common problem is planting too soon. If the soil is too cold or wet seeds may rot and roots may stop growing.

Soil temperature should be above 50°F. If soil feels cold in your hand, it's too cold for plants! Try making a ball with a handful of soil. Does it crumble? Great. Does it form a ball? It's too wet.

Purchase compact, healthy plants with unopened buds

that are appropriate for your gardens. Read plant tags and note the final height and width. Are they appropriate for your space? Mix compost, or other organic materials into the soil before planting. Mulch lightly around the new plants.

Planting holes should be as deep as the root mass and twice as wide. Be sure to spread or "spider" the roots to encourage root growth into the soil instead of circling, self-strangling roots which can lead to disaster.

Leave bulb foliage intact until it yellows and wilts, but remove spent flowers to prevent seed formation. The foliage is required to give bulbs the food necessary to form next year's blooms. Spring bulbs can be moved or divided as soon as the foliage dies. Do the same for bearded irises so the energy goes into the rhizomes. Divide Virginia bluebells, bloodroot, trilliums, and other spring ephemerals when the leaves turn yellow and before they disappear from sight.

Weeding never ends. Mulching helps. Plant warm-season annuals by mid-June, before it gets too hot for them to establish good roots. These include cosmos, marigolds, begonias, torenias, petunias, ageratum, and cleome.

Check for signs of insects (chewed leaves, puncture wounds, sticky substances, trails in leaves) or disease (yellow leaves, stunted growth, signs of fungi). Be sure to look on both sides of the leaves before buying any plant. Don't forget to check for healthy roots. Slug control can start as soon as you can get into the garden. Take a look on top and under the leaves of tomato, potato, pepper, and eggplants for hornworm eggs (only one-tenth of an inch in diameter). Yellow trails in columbine leaves are caused by leaf miners, the larva of a genus of fly. This is more of an aesthetic problem ... you don't have to do anything OR you can remove the affected leaves.

Buy yourself at least one new plant! Consider some native plant species to help pollinators and to feed young birds. Keep newly planted trees, shrubs, vegetables, perennials, and flowers well-watered (about one inch per week.)

Try deer repellants or consider deer resistant plants. Check the Cornell website for a great deer resistant plant list.

Cut back spring-flowering perennials such as pulmonaria and perennial geraniums after they bloom to encourage reblooming and/or growth of new foliage. Deadhead perennials and annuals to prevent seed formation and to encourage new growth and more flowers.

At the end of June, cut back perennials such as phlox, beebalm, sedum, aster, and goldenrod by one-third to one-half to control height or delay flowering. This is known as the Chelsea Chop.

Place supports over taller flowering plants so the plants can grow up through them without damage to foliage and flowers later in the season.

Spring-blooming shrubs like weigela, forsythias, and spirea can be pruned back after blooming. Cut about one-third of the oldest stems to the ground for renovation.

If growing azaleas and/or rhododendrons in higher pH soil be sure to add acidifying agents. However, don't disturb the roots.

THE LAWN

Mow lawn at least three inches high. This encourages deeper, healthier root growth. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the soil.

The first application of lawn fertilizer, if needed, can be put down around Memorial Day. If fertilizer was applied in the fall a spring application is not necessary. A quarter to a half inch top dressing of compost adds nutrients, feeds soil microbes, and improves the water-holding capacity of the soil.

For optimal pre-emergent crabgrass control, do not apply until soil is close to 60 degrees. Crabgrass doesn't germinate until the soil temperature 2 inches deep is between 60 & 64 degrees. Applying when the ground is too cold is a waste of money and chemicals.

VEGETABLES

Check the Cornell recommended vegetable list for suggested and disease resistant varieties. vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu

Plant your brassicas now: broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and summer cabbage. Reseed bush beans every few weeks to increase production.

Plant your tomatoes, eggplant, squash, pumpkins, cucumbers, and peppers when the ground is warm to promote root growth. Usually this time comes closer to the end of May.

After direct-sowing seeds, be sure to thin the seedlings to prevent crowding and competition for light, water, and fertilizer. If plants were grown from seed be sure to harden them off before planting them in the garden.

—Carol Ann Harlos and Lyn Chimera,
Master Gardeners, Erie County

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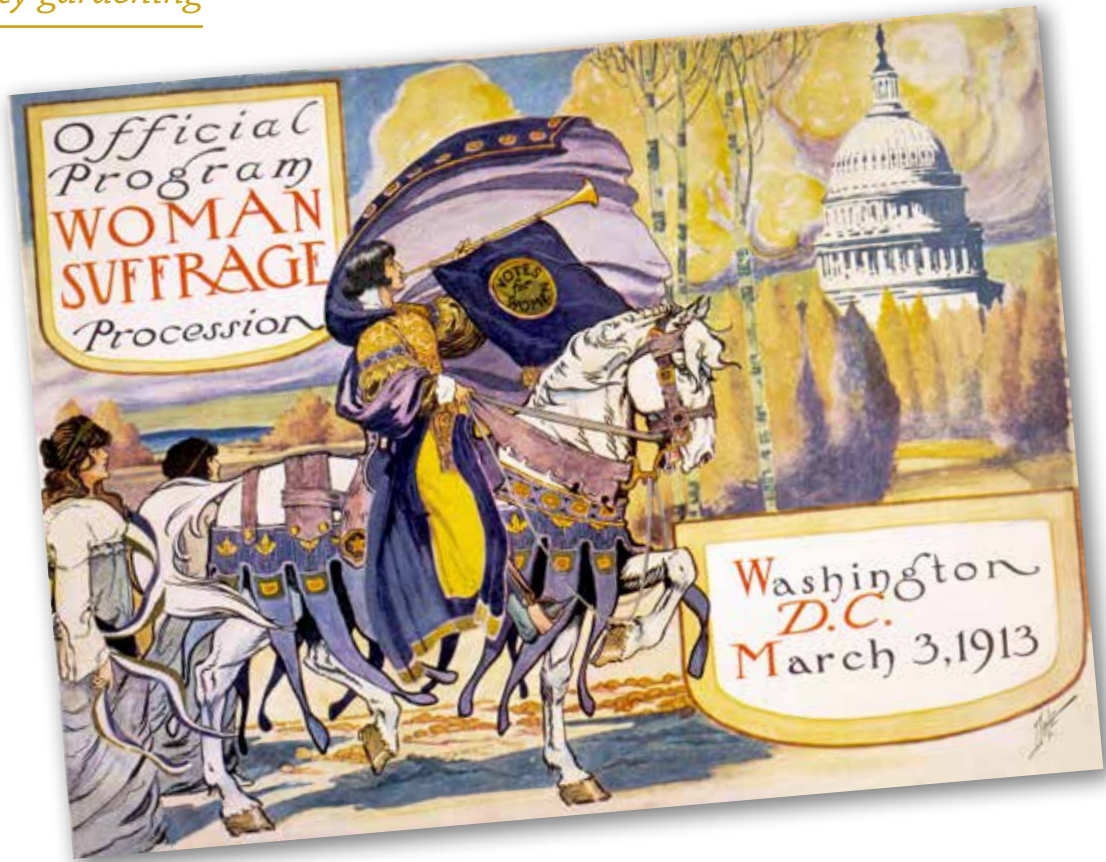
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Plant the colors!

by Carol Ritter Wright

ABOVE: Cover of official program for the National American Women's Suffrage Association procession, Washington, D.C. March 3, 1913. Courtesy United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. Original artwork by Benjamin Moran Dale; restoration by Adam Cuerden.

OPPOSITE: Castelmezzano container combination. Photo courtesy of Proven Winners.

Purple, white, and golden yellow. To the suffragists who marched and campaigned and picketed more than a century ago, those were the colors signifying their quest for laws granting women the vote.

This year is the centennial of passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that accomplished what those suffragists had fought to achieve. And 2020 is also the bicentennial of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, one of the principal figures in that long fight for suffrage.

Anthony and her close friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the organizers of the historic 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, spent years working together to gain the right to vote for women. But neither of them lived to see it actually happen.

We—all of us, women and men, anyone who cares about equality and democracy and fairness - owe a great deal to Anthony and Stanton and to the many others who dressed in white and carried suffrage banners and flags in the colors of their fight.

In this important centennial and bicentennial year, we

should recognize and demonstrate our respect for those rights pioneers.

How can we do that? Simple.

Let's plant the colors.

Most of us, even non-gardeners and apartment dwellers, usually manage each year to have at least a pot or two or a window box filled with flowering annuals at home during our all-too-brief summer.

Many plants we use in those displays are relatively inexpensive, need little care, and can be grown from seed or purchased everywhere from large nurseries and big-box home stores to supermarkets, drugstores, farm markets, and roadside stands.

Petunias, for instance, are available in many varieties with purple or purple-and-white flowers. There are lovely white geraniums. Marigolds bloom profusely in several shades of golden yellow and even in white. None of these plants requires more than minimal attention to produce abundant flowers from late spring to first frost. Experienced and adventurous gardeners can find many other species and varieties in the three colors.

Planting the three significant colors in one pot or individually in a group of pots can create a show of recognition and respect for the suffragists who made it possible for American women to cast votes in this and every election year and to hold public office.

In Seneca Falls, a variety of special events are planned by Seneca Falls 2020, the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the National Women's Hall of Fame, the town government, Seneca Falls Development Corporation, and other organizations and agencies.

All of this summer's municipal floral displays in that Seneca County town will be in the suffrage colors. Planters overflowing with mounds of flowers in purple, white, and golden yellow will decorate town parks and principal streets and historic sites.

There's a movement afoot to encourage residents of Seneca Falls to use those colors in plantings at home on porches, decks and balconies and in front yards to warmly welcome visitors and show pride in the community's suffrage history.

People in Rochester, Susan B. Anthony's home, should do the same. Residents of Canandaigua, where Anthony was tried in court and found guilty of voting, ought to follow suit. There are several other communities in central and western New York that have historical ties to the suffrage movement. Planting the colors would be one way to acknowledge those important bits of their histories.

It would be great if people arriving in the Finger Lakes were greeted by floral displays in purple, white, and golden yellow.

We can make this happen. Let's do it!

Carol Ritter Wright, originally from Seneca Falls, retired as a journalist at the Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle*.



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Rootstocks, scions, and a 200-year vision:

Coldwater Pond Nursery propagates plants to endure

Story by Michelle Sutton; photos courtesy of Coldwater Pond Nursery except where indicated



ABOVE: Ted Hildebrant and Elly Keyel of Coldwater Pond Nursery

When third-generation nurseryman and plant propagator Ted Hildebrant was ready to open his own nursery in the early 1990s, land in his native New Jersey was too expensive. A friend living in Wayne County encouraged him to have a look at the more affordable farmland for sale in the Finger Lakes.

“My goal at that point was to be a bare root tree grower,” Ted says, “so I spent hours upon hours walking the farms with my shovel, digging holes to evaluate the soil. In so many places, the ground was stony—not fit for field-grown trees.” At the last farm he visited on his third scouting trip to the Finger Lakes, Ted found his land-match in Phelps in

Ontario County. The property possessed an ideal, mostly stone-free sandy loam, a large pond for irrigation, and several barns in good shape.

This would be Coldwater Pond Nursery, with a twist: one of the buildings was an operating poultry barn, and Ted accepted the seller’s offer to include the poultry business in the transaction. This decision would prove personally fruitful for Ted. Fourteen years ago, he hired Elly Keyel to help with the poultry barn; after a year and a half, Ted and Elly became partners in business and life.

As the nursery sales grew steadily over the years, Ted and Elly eventually let the poultry enterprise go. “It was nice to have the year-round cash-flow of that business to help build the nursery, and we liked working with the chicks, but it was very labor-intensive, and the margin of profit was slim,” Ted says.

The nursery’s business model has morphed in other ways over time. Today, Coldwater Pond Nursery is about 50 percent contract propagation—grafting scions onto rootstocks to sell to other growers—and about 50 percent producing rare and unusual plants for retail sale, mostly at farmer’s markets and garden show plant sales. (Ted and Elly travel to sell plants and give talks in Buffalo, Rochester, and Ithaca, as well as in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.)

“It’s still on my mind to explore bare root tree field production of trees we graft ourselves, for the municipal market especially,” Ted says. “In the East and even just in New York, there are so few growers offering bare root.” There are few woody plant propagators as well—most propagation happens on the West Coast, especially in Oregon, where growing conditions are ideal for plants. That’s a change that’s happened over time; it used to be that there were lots of people doing grafting east of the Mississippi. “There’s only a handful of us now,” Ted says.





Often folks mistakenly assume that nurserymen and women have quiet winter months. The grafting work that Ted does with Elly's assistance makes for busy winter and early spring months (ideally, most grafting in the Northeast is done when the scion is dormant, and the rootstock is just breaking dormancy). In reality, Ted and Elly have a few light weeks to rest in September and December, but the rest of the year's work is full-bore, dawn to dusk. Ted does the general business management and oversees the propagation side, while Elly assists with sales and general plant care like potting and pruning—and she does the critical scion preparation for Ted.

The latter involves removing needles or branches to get a clear area to do the graft. If it's a deciduous scion, Elly will ensure cleanliness by wiping down the stem with alcohol to sterilize it. After Ted does the graft (there are four major grafting techniques to employ) and secures the graft union with a rubber band, Elly coats the graft union with a mixture of beeswax and paraffin then labels the plants and carries trays to benches. Ted and Elly joke that "I just sit and graft and she does everything else," says Ted. After Elly, his preferred companion in the endeavor is classical music on WXXI out of Rochester.

Coldwater Pond Nursery sells custom grafted material to states from Georgia and Tennessee, east to Connecticut and west to Ohio and Indiana. They fulfill small wholesale orders for a wide variety of customers, but they are also doing grafting for major institutions like the U.S. National Arboretum and Longwood Gardens.

Most of the grafted cultivars are rare or unusual ones that customers can't readily find elsewhere; Ted and Elly are currently propagating close to 2000 different cultivars. They add to the diversity of the collection in various ways. "Nurseries and collectors generously grant us access to collect scion wood from their nursery stock and gardens," Ted says. "For instance, there's a fellow on Martha's

Vineyard who is always amazing us by coming up with cultivars we've never heard of, and he mails us the scion wood. I would say half of our new scion wood we go and collect, and the other half is sent to us. We've collected, with permission, from nearly every major arboretum on the East Coast." Coldwater Pond Nursery also maintains an extensive collection of parent plants in their own nursery from which scions and cuttings are collected.

Collecting trips aren't always glamorous. In February, Ted and Elly traveled to a collection in Connecticut where they had a day and a half to collect scion wood from sun up to sun down. It rained heavily the whole time. "We drove all that way, though, so we had to just deal with it," Ted says.

Their host later took them to a highly regarded wholesale nursery on the coast, where the group had a chance to talk plants and exchange numerous propagation pointers. "It was the most wonderful four hours of our winter," Ted says. That kind of camaraderie is important, because, as Ted says, "No matter how confident I get, or how much expertise I acquire, plant propagation is the hardest thing I've ever done. Much like with farming, there are so many things that can go wrong, so many variables that are beyond our control."



How might the business model for Coldwater Pond Nursery change yet again? "We've started to dabble in propagating pre-bonsai trees for the bonsai market," Ted says. "We'd like to do more of that, and we'd also like to do tree peony production using a special kind of grafting—but that's a ways down the road."

Regardless of the form the tree takes, its cultivar, or its means of propagation, Ted and Elly want their plants to be alive and thriving 200 years in the future. "That thought guides us in everything we do," says Ted. "We are conscious

LEFT: A striking dwarf hemlock cultivar, *Tsuga canadensis* 'Moon Frost', gets only 2 to 4 feet tall and wide.

CENTER: *Aesculus x carnea* 'O'Neill Red' is a round-headed, more compact form of horsechestnut, maturing to a maximum of 35 feet tall and 25 feet wide.

RIGHT: This shrubby St. John's wort cultivar (*Hypericum prolificum* 'Sunburst') produces a stunning flower attractive to bees and butterflies.



LEFT: This heavily variegated upright Japanese maple, *Acer sieboldianum* 'Kumoi Nishiki', has beautiful orange and red fall foliage.



RIGHT: Young grafted Japanese maples thriving in one of the nursery's greenhouses.

of making sure the root structure is the best, the trees are planted at proper depth, and the trees, shrubs, and perennials get the healthiest start to life we can give them.”

Recently, Ted and Elly had the opportunity to secure the genetic future of a mature, beloved community tree. Before the old copper beech tree near the Pittsford library had to come down in 2018, Ted and Elly collected 200 scion wood cuttings to ensure that they'd have well over the 100 clone trees the Village of Pittsford asked for. They ended up with 150 or so successfully grafted copper beech trees that are now 6 to 8 feet tall and will eventually be distributed around the Village.

Folks are welcome to visit the nursery by appointment; weekdays are generally best. Every year the plant propagation class from Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) comes to the nursery to get an introduction to grafting and tour the facilities—four heated greenhouses where propagation and liner production is done, and seven unheated cold frames for growing container stock. A video of Ted instructing FLCC students can be found on YouTube.

Michelle Sutton is a horticulturist, writer, and editor.



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 we will announce the new date as soon as details are confirmed.

Rescheduled: September 2020

Highlights of our itinerary on this day-long luxury motorcoach tour include:

Cornell Botanic Gardens, truly one of the most inspiring gardens in New York State
 Delicious Herbal Lunch and shopping at **Bakers' Acres**—they have an incredible, vast array of perennials
Cayuga Landscape, a large garden center with a wide selection of plants and garden art
 Wine tasting ... and a special surprise from Crafty Cathy!

Buffalo, Batavia, and Victor pick-up locations, departure and return times to be determined

ONLY \$85/person. Sign up today!

To register, go to UpstateGardenersJournal.com or complete and return the form below.
 Call 716/432-8688 or 585/591-2860 for more information or to pay by credit card.

Name(s) in party: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Calendar



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

SPONSORED EVENT

BUFFALO

May 30 & June 6: Arboretum Tour, 10am–4pm. *Spotlight on Japan*. Self-guided. Walk the arboretum at your own pace. Map and Exploration Guide highlighting trees and shrubs with Japanese native origin provided. \$12 individual; \$25 family. Register and pay online. Draves Arboretum, 1815 Sharrick Road, Darien Center. dravesarboretum.org.

BUFFALO

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Buffalo Bonsai Society meets the second Saturday of the month, 1pm, ECC North Campus, STEM Building, Room 102. *Subject to change: June 6–7: Bonsai Show, Buffalo Botanical Gardens. June 13: Bill Valavanis. July 11: Alan Adair.* buffalobonsaisociety.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kenmore Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) at 10:00am, Kenmore United Methodist Church, 32 Landers Road, Kenmore. Activities include guest speakers, floral designs and community service. *May 22–23: Plant Sale, see Calendar (below)*. 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. 716/685-4881.

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

Niagara Frontier Orchid Society (NFOS) meets the first Tuesday following the first Sunday (dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.), September–June, Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo. niagarafrontierorchids.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. *June 6: Plant Sale, see Calendar (below)*.

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 usually meets the first Sunday of the month (when Iris are not in bloom), 1–4pm, at the Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway,

Lancaster. Information about acquiring and growing irises (bearded & non-bearded) and complimentary perennials, annual flower show & summer iris sale. Guests welcome 716/837-2285; drsnooks@twc.com.

Western New York Rose Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. *Tentative, please check website to confirm: May 20: Exhibiting Rose Arrangements by Jane Knoeck. June 10: Exhibiting Roses by Steve Styn. June 13: Rose Show, see Calendar (below). July 15: Companion planting presented by Sandee Burton.* wnyrosesociety.net.

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

FREQUENT HOST

AAA/HCT: Great Garden Travel with Sally Cunningham & AAA/HorizonClubTours. 1-800-242-4244; horizonclubtours.com/garden-travel.

CLASSES / EVENTS

F- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

S- Indicates plant sales.

T- Indicates garden tours.

May 15–18: Spring Open House. Chicken Coop Originals, 13245 Clinton Street, Alden. 716/937-7837; Facebook; chickencooporiginals.com.

S- May 22–23: Master Gardener Plant Sale, Friday, 8:30am–3pm; Saturday, 8:30am–2pm. Presented by Erie County Master Gardeners. Location: First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, One Symphony Circle, Buffalo. 716/652-5400 x174; jah663@cornell.edu; erie.cce.cornell.edu.

S- May 22–23: Kenmore Garden Club Plant Sale, Friday, 9am–7pm; Saturday, 9am–2pm. Unusual annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables & hanging baskets. Cash or check only. Location: 939 Delaware Road, Tonawanda. songbird@aol.com.

S- May 23: Smallwood Garden Club Plant & Garden Art Sale, 9am–3pm. Perennials, annuals, vegetable plants, baskets, planters, garden-related art & bric-a-brack. Master gardeners, rosarians & landscape advice will be available. Faith United Church of Christ, corner Maple & Hopkins Roads, Williamsville.

S- May 23: East Aurora Garden Club Perennial Sale. Grey Street Plaza, East Aurora.

May 24: Gardening for Pollinators, 1:30–2:30pm. Tentative, please call ahead. Presented by Sally Cunningham. \$29. Registration required. Masterson's Garden Center, 725 Olean Road, East Aurora. 716/655 0133; mastersons.net.

S- May 28–30: The Great Plant Sale, Friday, 10am–8pm; Saturday, 9am–4pm. Dates subject to change. Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo. 716/827-1584; buffalogardens.com.

S- May 30: Friends of Kenan Herb Plant Sale, 10am–3pm. Rain or shine. Kenan House, 433 Locust Street, Lockport.

F- May 30 & June 6: Arboretum Tour, 10am–4pm. *Spotlight on Japan*. Self-guided. Walk the arboretum at your own pace. Map and Exploration Guide highlighting trees and shrubs with Japanese native origin provided. \$12 individual; \$25 family. Register and pay online. Draves Arboretum, 1815 Sharrick Road, Darien Center. dravesarboretum.org.

S- June 6: South Towns Gardeners Plant Sale, 10am–3pm. Annuals, perennials, garden shed treasures & gifts, baked goods sale and raffle. Location: Charles

E. Burchfield Nature & Arts Center, 2001 Union Road, West Seneca.

June 7: Easy Perennial Gardening, 1:30–2:30pm. Tentative, please call ahead. Presented by Sally Cunningham. \$29. Registration required. Masterson's Garden Center, 725 Olean Road, East Aurora. 716/655 0133; mastersons.net.

June 13: Rose Show, 1–5pm. Presented by Western New York Rose Society. Galleria Mall, Buffalo. wnyrosesociety.net.

June 22–26: Tour Quebec's Eastern Townships & Montreal Botanical Garden. Travel with Sally Cunningham. AAA/HCT

July 7: Surprises in the Southtowns – Gardens of East Aurora & Holland. Tour with Sally Cunningham. AAA/HCT

T. July 11: Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk, 10am–4pm. See 60-70 private gardens and public spaces showcasing the neighborhoods surrounding the UB South Campus. ourheights.org/gardenwalk.

T. July 11: Capen by Night, 8–10pm. See the gardens at night. Part of *Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk* (above). ourheights.org/gardenwalk.

T. July 11–12: Lockport in Bloom, 10am–4pm. Self-guided. Maps: Kenan Center, 623 Locust Street, Lockport. Free. lockportinbloom.com.

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

July 14: Garden Walk Buffalo Sampler Tour. With Sally Cunningham. AAA/HCT

SAVE THE DATE...

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

T. July 17–18: Ken-Ton Garden Tour – Night Lights, 8:30–11pm. See the gardens illuminated at night. Self-guided. Free. kentongardentour.com.

T. July 18: East Side Garden Walk, 10am–3pm. See gardens ranging from urban farms to simple lots cared for by neighbors. Free. Maps available in July at 9 downtown Buffalo Public Libraries. gardensbuffaloniagara.com.

T. July 18–19: Ken-Ton Garden Tour – Day Tour, 10am–4pm. Visit gardens in the Village of Kenmore & Town of Tonawanda. Self-guided. Free. kentongardentour.com.

T. July 25–26: Garden Walk Buffalo. Over 400 urban gardens. Free. gardensbuffaloniagara.com.

July 31: Cherries, Garlic, Butterflies & Permaculture. Tour of Singer Farms and Ancestral Acres with Sally Cunningham. AAA/HCT

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

September 13–17: Tour – Hudson Valley Estates & Gardens. With Sally Cunningham. AAA/HCT

September 30: The Case for Trees, 6pm. With Sally Cunningham. Nannan Arboretum, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville. 716-699-5046; enchantedmountains.com.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society (ACNARGS) meets the third Saturday of the month (except in summer) at 1pm, Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca. Meetings are open to all. *June 18–20: Annual General Meeting*, see *Calendar* (below). 607/269-7070; acnargs.org; Facebook.com/acnargs.

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

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

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

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

June 18–20: North American Rock Garden Society Annual General Meeting. International speakers, garden tours, plant sale, book sales/signings and more. Hosted by Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society. Ithaca. acnargs.org; nargs.org.

T. July 11: Southern Cayuga Garden Club Tour, 11am–4pm. *Marvelous Mid-Summer Gardens & More*. Tickets available day of, 10:30am: Smith's General Store Museum, State Route 90, Genoa. \$15.

SAVE THE DATE...

September 6: Garden Tour, 1–5pm. See 3 local gardens. Hosted by Bedlam Gardens. Fundraiser for local food pantry & Camp Gregory. \$5 per garden. 315/224-0187; bedlamgardens@gmail.com.

ROCHESTER

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

Bloomfield Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. *May 16: Plant Sale*, see *Calendar* (below). Marlene Moran, 585/924-8035. Facebook.

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

Country Gardeners of Webster meets the second Monday of the month (except February, July & August) at 7pm at 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 at 9:15am (except July & August), Penfield United Methodist Church, 1795 Baird Road, Penfield. Visitors welcome. Call 585/385-2065 if interested in attending a meeting. *June 5–6: Plant Sale*, see *Calendar* (below).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) meets Sundays at 2pm, dates vary, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls. Public welcome. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

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

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



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

ROCHESTER cont.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pittsford Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of the month (except January & February) at 10:30am, Spiegel Community Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford. Guest speakers and off-site tours. *May 16: Plant Sale, see Calendar (below).* New members welcome. kwultz@gmail.com.

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of the month (except August & September) at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester. Visitors welcome. See website or Facebook for up to date information concerning 2020 Sales & Events. 585/865-2291; Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

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

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

Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visit to local garden-related site. Members receive a monthly newsletter. New members welcome. Pat: 585/342-5477; Kathy: 585/266-7791.; Bonnie: 585/230-5356; bonniearnold@frontiernet.net.

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

Victor Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 6:30/6:45pm. New members welcome. Meeting and location details: victorgardenclubny2.com; 585/721-5457.

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

FREQUENT HOST

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

F- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

S- Indicates plant sales.

T- Indicates garden tours.

Ongoing: Plant Vendors at Rochester Public Market, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6am–1pm; Saturdays, 5am–3pm. In lieu of *Flower City Days* on Sundays for Spring 2020, horticultural vendors will be at the Public Market on regular Market days. Shop for grocery and garden essentials in one location. Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union Street, Rochester. 585/428-6907; cityofrochester.gov/publicmarket.

S- May 16: Genesee Land Trust Native Plant Sale, 9am–2pm. Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be available for purchase. Location: Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton. Genesee Land Trust, 585/256-2130; geneseeandtrust.org.

S- May 16: Bloomfield Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am–3pm. Annuals, perennials, herbs & hanging baskets. Bloomfield Historical Academy Bldg., 8 South Avenue, Bloomfield. 585/406-3457.

S- May 16: Pittsford Garden Club Plant Sale. Parking lot, Pittsford Community Library, 24 State Street, Pittsford.

S- May 18: Town of Ontario Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am–1pm. Casey Park Lodge, 6551 Knickerbocker Road, Ontario.

June 4: Garden Talk – Spotted Lantern Fly, 12:15–12:45pm. Will be held via Zoom if unable to be held in person; see web site for status. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Genesee County, 420 East Main Street, Batavia. 585/343-3040; genesee.cce.cornell.edu.

S- June 5–6: Creative Gardeners of Penfield Plant Sale, Friday, 9am–4pm; Saturday, 9am–12pm. Location: 107 Huntington Meadow, Penfield. Cancellation information will be posted to Facebook. 585/385-2065; 585/415-9920; Facebook.

June 7: Roses & Rosés Garden Party, 5–8pm. Enjoy early summer blooms along with food and wine tastings. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Registration required. **SG**

T- June 17: Great Gardens of Wayne County Tour, 4–8pm. *Welcome to Summer.* See gardens in Williamson. More information: 315/331-8415; mgwayne@cornell.edu. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Wayne County, 1581 Route 88 North, Newark. 315/331-8415; ccewayne.org

June 26–August 7: Moonlight Stroll Concert Series, Fridays, 8–10pm; gates open 7:30pm. No concert July 3. Live music and lit garden paths. The only opportunity to see the gardens after dark. \$8

members; \$10 non-members; \$5 ages 6-17; age 5 and under free. **SG**

F- July 4: Sonnenberg Special Admission Day, 9:30am–5:30pm. \$1 admission for all New York State residents. **SG**

July 5: Daylily Garden Open House, 2–6pm. Garden can be viewed from your car if visitor restrictions need to be followed due to Covid-19. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

T- July 12: ABC Streets Neighborhood Garden Walk, 12–4pm. See city front, side & back yard spaces, shade gardens, porches, patios & decks, gardened tree-lawns, found objects, water features. Live acoustic music, Greater Rochester Plain Air Painters & Michael Hannen's Rare & Different Plants. Check-in & information: Calumet Street triangle at Harvard Street. Free. 585/721-8684; abc.streets@gmail.com; abcstreets.org.

July 12: Daylily Garden Open House, 2–6pm. See description under July 5. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

SAVE THE DATE...

T- July 18: Backyard Habitat Tour, 9am–3pm. Self-paced tour of 6 unique gardens in Rochester, Penfield & Macedon. Includes booklet with directions, garden photos and stories. \$15 members; \$20 non-members. Genesee Land Trust, geneseeandtrust.org.

July 19: Daylily Garden Open House, 2–6pm. See description under July 5. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

F- July 26: Family Fun Day at Sonnenberg, 10am–4pm. Hands-on family fun for all ages through the 50 acre estate and 9 historic gardens. Half price admission. **SG**

July 26: Daylily Garden Open House, 2–6pm. See description under July 5. Cobbs Hill Daylily Garden (a National Display Garden), Charlie and Judy Zettek, 1 Hillside Avenue, Rochester. 585/461-3317.

August 15–16: Arts at the Gardens, 10am–5pm. Fine art & craft show. Includes admission to the gardens, greenhouses and mansion. \$10. **SG**

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

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

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

Bonsai Club of CNY (BCCNY) usually meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315/436-0135; lnewell1@gmail.com; cnybonsai.com.

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

Fairmount Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month (March–November) at 6:30pm, Camillus Senior Center, 25 First Street, Camillus. Speakers & community projects. All are welcome. *Pending per facility re-opening: May 21: Microgreens. June 18: Hostas with Kevin Rawlings.* tooley.susan@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

Habitat Gardening in CNY (HGCNY) meets the last Sunday of most months at 2pm, Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. HGCNY is

a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes; wildones.org. Free and open to the public. 315/487-5742; info@hgcnyc.org; hgcnyc.org.

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

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

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

Southern Hills Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, February–November, LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette. Some meetings are off site. *May 19: Container Planting, 6pm at Plumpton Farms. June 6: Plant Sale, see Calendar (below). June 16: Hypertufa Pots at Carol Watson's Greenhouse, 6pm.* Cathy Nagel, 315/677-9342; cen42085@aol.com.

Syracuse Rose Society meets the second Thursday of the month (except December) at 7pm, Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Avenue, Syracuse.

Enter from Melrose Avenue. Club members maintain the E. M. Mills Memorial Rose Garden, Thornden Park, Syracuse. Public welcome. syracuserosesociety.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

F- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

S- Indicates plant sales.

T- Indicates garden tours.

S- June 6: Southern Hills Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am. LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Oneida County. Annual *Herb & Flower Festival* postponed. Check website for events & classes throughout the growing season. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Oneida County. Oneida County Farm & Home Center, 121 Second Street, Oriskany. 315/736-3394; cceoneida.com.

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (July–August, 2020) is Friday, June 12, 2020. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.



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Monroe County CCE's Seed to Supper program

Rochester residents engage in gardening education to combat food insecurity



photos provided by St. Mark's & St. John's Episcopal Church

The Seed to Supper (S2S) gardening curriculum is a comprehensive beginning gardening experience that gives novice gardeners the tools they need to connect with others in the community, grow in confidence, and successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget. The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener program and 4-H Youth

Development Program have each been awarded this S2S grant by Cornell Garden-Based Learning.

CCE's Master Gardeners will form a partnership with St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church (SMSJ), located in the Beechwood neighborhood of Rochester where more than 50 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty. SMSJ has been an integral part of the community



for years, with seven urban vegetable gardens currently in place that provide three days of emergency food supply to between 34 and 45 families.

Adults on limited incomes living in the Beechwood neighborhood who are interested in developing food gardening skills will engage in a six-week course using the Seed to Supper curriculum. Classes will be taught by Master Gardeners who have been trained by CCE to serve as garden educators or facilitators.

Additionally, SMSJ has garden bed captains at each garden site who will be offered garden facilitator training. Training sessions will be in the community room of SMSJ and the existing raised bed gardens on the property will be available for hands-on instructional activities.

The youth portion of the grant, S2S Youth Corps, will engage diverse youth in underserved audiences. 4-H educators will meet youth where they are located by forming partnerships with existing food assistance and youth development programs doing similar work.

4-H educators will introduce existing garden-based learning curricula into these communities and train teens to teach it to younger youth. This peer educator model is based on the published and research-based Choose Health Action Teens (CHAT) curriculum, which engages youth to promote healthy living in their local communities. The model further increases teen leadership and youth voice in our community.

Trained teen garden educators can then facilitate after-school programming, supplement summer learning, and

teach children of adults participating in S2S workshops. Teen garden educators could earn community service hours or a small stipend for their work.

Starting the Seed to Supper program in Monroe County will allow CCE to further engage the community and build partnerships that increase food security in Rochester. Those involved will learn skills they can share with their neighbors and create a sustainable cycle of community improvement and development.

The Master Gardener program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to provide services to Monroe County residents. Master Gardeners give advice on garden planting, plant selection, maintenance, and pest management. Many volunteers staff the phone support helpline, speak to local groups, and support community improvement projects. Guidance is focused on non-biased, research-based information provided by Cornell University.

The Monroe County 4-H program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth aged 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or “experiential” learning about things that interest them.

Learn more at monroe.cce.cornell.edu.

OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: Community urban vegetable gardens at St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

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Native plants and pollinators

by Lisa Ballantyne

LEFT: Pussy willow.
Photo courtesy
Flickr: Bambe1964

CENTER: Spice-
bush swallowtail
on wild bergamot.
Photo courtesy
Flickr: Candy &
Kasey

RIGHT: New Eng-
land aster. Photo by
Jane Milliman

INSET: Monarch
caterpillar on
swamp milkweed.
Photo courtesy Liz
Ballantyne

Native plants are indigenous to a region. They have existed there for a very long time—have adapted perfectly to its conditions and support the local ecosystem, including important pollinators.

Since the plants, animals and insects have co-existed for many, many years there is often a symbiotic nature. Certain plants attract certain insects. For instance, swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, is a primary host plant for Monarch butterflies. Highbush blueberry is an excellent food source for mining bees, mason bees, and long-tongued bumble bees.

Interest in returning to having native plants in our yards and gardens has certainly been surging. Gardeners are looking for native trees, shrubs and perennials. Fortunately, the availability of these plants is beginning to grow with more and more choices available every year.

As is well known, many of our native pollinators have been struggling to survive. Some believe that a lack of native plants plays a role. Much land has been cleared for housing, farming and other development. To counter this habitat loss, we are beginning to see farmers leaving wider hedgerows as an increase in pollinators means higher yields. We as homeowners and consumers can do our part by planting more native plants to support pollinators. Reducing or even eliminating lawn areas and replacing with natives can go a long way in providing food and habitat that

has long been lacking.

It is important for our native pollinators to have a food source from early spring to late fall. When adding new plants to your garden or yard try to be conscious of the need for early-, mid- and late-season flowering plants.

Early blooming native plants include wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), and raspberry (*Rubus spp.*). Mid-season natives would be plants such as wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and American basswood (*Tilia americana*). Late season flowering native plants might be cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*).

There is no question that the natural world is a complicated balance of plants, animals, insects and environmental factors such as weather. When one goes out of balance, so do the others. Often, we humans can unwittingly have a hand in throwing off that balance. Planting more native plants, can be our way of starting to put things right.

Lisa Ballantyne is co-owner of Ballantyne Gardens in Liverpool, NY. She and husband Tim have a nursery and landscaping business that promotes organic gardening, gardening for wildlife, and native plantings.





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Birds and butterflies: Making your yard a sanctuary

by Liz Magnanti



ABOVE: Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly Moth on purple coneflower. Photo courtesy Flickr: C Watts

The past couple of months have been a stressful new challenge for all of us. Navigating the new social norms while keeping ourselves and others safe has been at the forefront of most of our lives. While we all navigate through the new normalcy of life, spring is sneaking up on us! Even though life as we knew it for most of us is on pause, nature is showing us that life goes on! Plants are springing up, birds are singing, insects are beginning to fly. One thing is for sure. Spring is here and thriving!

I think it's fair to say that this year is unlike any we have ever experienced. We are facing sobering news stories, job losses, working from home, separation from our friends and family, and so much more. At the same time, we are seeing some beautiful acts of kindness that people are showing one another. This new lifestyle has created a different type of busy, but at the same time has slowed life down. I, personally, have found I have more time to take walks in my neighborhood, and enjoy my little patch of land. Each day, I've been able to see the little changes that are happening as spring descends. With that has come a renewed appreciation for the diversity of wildlife that I've been able to attract to my yard. Making your yard wildlife-friendly doesn't have

to take a lot of effort. With all of us spending more time in our personal patches of nature, now is a great time to take an overall look at the different types of wildlife that can be attracted, and how to do so.

Let's start with pollinating and beneficial insects. Butterflies, bees, ladybugs, lacewings ... there are so many! To attract butterflies, nothing beats planting a butterfly garden. Keep in mind butterflies require nectar-producing plants for their adult stage, but they also need plants for their caterpillar stage to eat and grow. Blooming flowers like beebalm, joe pye weed, phlox, and goldenrod are great for adult, flying, butterflies. Planting a diversity of plants that bloom early spring through late fall are key. Caterpillar plants are a crucial and often overlooked way to attract butterflies. These are the plants that adult butterflies will lay their eggs on. The eggs hatch, and the caterpillars will eat them in order to grow and reach their adult stage. Each butterfly species has different requirements, but a great start is planting milkweed for monarchs, dill and parsley for black swallowtails, and keeping things like nettle and plantain in the garden; those are larval plants for Angle Wing and Sulphur butterflies. Butterfly feeders provide nectar and rotting fruit that can help attract more of them as well. Butterfly puddlers are the best addition besides plants that you can add to your landscape to attract butterflies. These are reservoirs that provide a place to add some mud, sand, pebbles and water. Butterflies will siphon off the water that contains minerals from these elements. Mason bee houses are a super easy way to attract non-stinging, native pollinators to your garden. They are simple houses constructed of small bamboo, wood or paper tunnels. Female bees will lay their eggs inside these tunnels, fill them with nectar and pollen, and then cap them off. The eggs inside will hatch, the larvae will eat the nectar and pollen packets, and then pupate. The pupa stay in the house all winter and then hatch out in early spring to pollinate your garden. Many mason bee habitats are included in "beneficial insect houses" which also contain pinecones for lacewings to lay their eggs and hollowed out holes for ladybugs to hibernate in.

A variety of birds are easy to attract to your yard. They need the same things every other animal needs to thrive, food, water, shelter and a space to raise their young. Birds are probably the most diverse form of life you can attract to your yard, especially during spring migration. Food can

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be provided with berry- and seed-producing plants or bird feeders. Putting out a bird feeder that holds sunflower seed, or a mix containing sunflower seed, will give you the best diversity of birds per any seed type. If you expand your food offerings to seed blends that provide peanuts, safflower, or shelled sunflower, you will get even more diversity. Nyjer feeders will attract birds like goldfinches and suet feeders will attract woodpeckers. Birds like orioles eat jelly and hummingbirds drink nectar. Water in the form of a birdbath or moving water feature is key. The sight and sound of moving water brings in more birds. If you have a birdbath, consider adding a solar fountain insert. The birds will love it! Bird houses, shrubs, and trees provide a place for shelter and a space they can raise their young. When selecting a bird house, keep in mind most birds like a house that is secure and doesn't move around. Attaching a bird house to a pole is your best bet to get birds to inhabit a house.

Bats, despite their recent bad press, are animals that are not only beneficial but also struggling and should be considered when making your yard wildlife friendly. Bats are a great way to safely control insects, especially mosquitoes, without using pesticides. One bat alone can eat 200 insects every hour! When putting up a bat house make sure that they are mounted high, 10 or 15 feet up, and without any obstructions underneath. In our climate its best to paint the bat house black. That will absorb heat, which the bats prefer in a roosting site. Once occupied, the bat house will be a place for bats to spend the spring and summer and will provide entertainment at dusk when they begin to chatter and leave the house to hunt insects. Bats do not carry rabies any more than other wildlife, and they do not get caught up in people's hair. Those are two misconceptions that often make people wary about encouraging them to a yard, so fear not!

Throughout the next few weeks, or possibly even months, I'm taking it upon myself to take a step back and enjoy the things I sometimes take for granted or don't always have the time to appreciate. The lovely songs and sights of spring are rolling in fast and furious. I'll be looking around my yard and considering how I can make it more wildlife-friendly. Not only will the wildlife appreciate it, but it comes with a sense of joy and entertainment that can't be taught or bought. Wildlife, as well as the rest of us, will prevail. Instead of thinking of the things or opportunities I have lost during this time, I've decided to keep track of all the experiences in which I've grown and gained. This is an opportunity to get out, enjoy spring, nature and my garden. It's chicken soup for the soul.

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


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Garden tool belt

by Cathy Monrad

Before you throw out that old pair of holey jeans, check this clever tool apron inspired by Jessi at practicallyfunctional.com. This project can be made with minimal sewing, or you can choose to enhance it by adding ribbon or bias tape border.

MATERIALS

Jeans
Heavy duty thread in desired color
Bias tape with matching color thread (optional)

TOOLS

Scissors
Seam ripper or embroidery scissors
Straight pins
Needle
Sewing machine with heavy duty needle (optional)

1. Cut the legs off jeans as shown in Figure 1.
2. Remove the belt loops from waist band with seam ripper or embroidery scissors.
3. Cut off the front of the jeans along the side seams and waistband as shown in Figure 2.
4. Position belt loops horizontally on apron in desired locations as shown in Figure 3. Pin loops in place.

5. Sew loop ends onto apron by hand or with sewing machine.

6. Don your apron, attach tools, and get gardening!

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



Figure 1



Figure 2

Optional: To add some flair, pin bias tape around raw edges and sew in place. Check out my dolled up version on upstategardenersjournal.com.



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Figure 3

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CEO/Founder Sirius Change LLC, CEO/Co-Founder Hinge Neighbors Inc. pictured with husband, pediatrician Sandy Mayer



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