

Upstate Gardeners'

BUFFALO - ITHACA - ROCHESTER - SYRACUSE

Journal



Island Beds
GardenScape—It's Back!
Diana Bordoni's Dwarf Conifers

FREE

Volume Twenty-three, Issue Six
November-December 2017

What Time Really Offers...

Well, "Fabulous and 40" has been our slogan for the whole season. It feels like just yesterday that my partner in this game chose the phrase "Hey, do you like flowers?" for our first date...really? Who knew that we would be living that dream today. The autumn season is always a retrospective one for us but this year has us fondly reminiscing over the whole roller coaster that is 40.

A very special customer gave me a note with a quote printed from Michael Pollen's book *The Botany of Desire*. It describes the end of the gardening season; in a sweet and tight little nutshell it covers the feelings that all of us plant-loving weirdos experience. Get the book and read it... it will touch your flower-loving heart, the same way that everyone who has shared their garden with us for these past 40 years has touched us.

What time really offers is the gift to share and learn, recount and regale, all our experiences of gardening happiness together. We thank you for letting us be a part of that these past 40 years.

Christmas at Sara's

In the spirit of not letting the garden go just yet, we will offer our small piece of bringing the garden indoors for just a few more weeks: our fresh made "garden greens" wreath, real trees, and all the flowers that make the holiday a little brighter. An opportunity for one last visit of the season.

Stone Wall Follies 2017

For the ninth year in a row, we again are blown away at what 12 people with the same desire can make happen. This year's folly was just that, a whimsical weekend that became the marker for another step in the vision for the nursery and all because these 12 people love stone. We love people who love stone—**thank you!!**

2018 is our tenth anniversary for the follies and we are calling out now to any new and past student: save an October weekend so you can join us! We have big ideas and John has even bigger ones!

Please check out John's blog—an inspirational read:
thinking-stoneman.blogspot.com

Contact us for info on garden rental events,
Stone Wall Follies and pretty much anything:

kkepler@rochester.rr.com or (585)637-4745

40 Year Mission!

It is our greatest desire to provide our customers with top quality, well-grown plant material at a fair and honest price. We will strive to provide an unmatched selection of old favorites and underused, hard-to-find items, along with the newest varieties on the market. We will eagerly share our horticultural knowledge gained from years of education and experience. Lastly, we offer all this in a spirit of fun and lightheartedness.

Sara's Garden Center | 389 East Ave. | Brockport 14420 | 585-637-4745
sarasgardencenter.com | [facebook.com/sarasgardencenter](https://www.facebook.com/sarasgardencenter)



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Ear to the Ground



Happy holiday season, friends!

We're excited to bring this great issue to you. We have design tips, a profile of an exceptional CNY gardener, of course our extensive calendar listings, and, at long last, an idea about what to do with all of those leftover holiday pinecones. You don't just throw them out, right?

THE FLOWER CITY BLOOMS AGAIN

We announced in the last issue that yes, GardenScape IS coming back in 2018. The theme? "The Flower City Blooms Again," aptly.

The show will run March 8 through 11 at its old—but newly remodeled and very cool—home, the Dome in Henrietta. Wednesday night's opening gala, "A Taste of Spring," is presented by and benefits the Community Place of Greater Rochester (communityplace.org).

Gardenscape is again produced by PLANT GFLX, also known as the Gardenscape Professionals Association. As in years past, there will be inspiring landscaped gardens and a marketplace area for fun shopping. Find details at plantgflx.com and on Facebook.

CITYSCAPES INTO THE NIGHT

Western New York's landscape and garden show, Plantasia, has also announced its theme and dates. "Cityscapes into the Night" is March 22–25, with preview night on Wednesday, March 23. Plantasia is presented by PLANT WNY. Plantasia takes place at the Fairgrounds event center in Hamburg.

There are a few interesting changes this year, including the addition of even more landscaped areas and a more thoroughly curated vendor component. I am pretty excited about the theme—the Plantasia people have a ton of lighting talent in their midst, and I have a feeling this is going to be one cool, moody show. Find more at plantasiany.com and on Facebook.

AND BEYOND

In Ithaca, plans are underway for the 2018 Native Landscape Symposium—check our pages in January for dates, but it's generally in early March.

Now all we need is for CNY in Bloom to make a return!

Thanks, as always, for reading.

Jane

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Small Business Saturday
November 25th

Santa's Wheelbarrow!
we are collecting donations for
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Holiday Open House
Saturday Dec. 2nd
10:00-5:00

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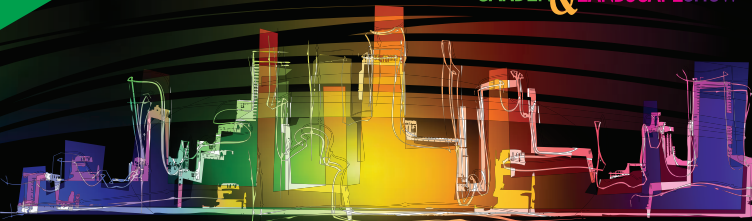
November 24 - January 7



January 27 - February 24

March 22-25
2018

Plantasia
GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SHOW



Cityscapes into the Night

BLOOMING GARDENS • GARDEN MARKET
CHILDREN'S GARDEN BY THE BUFFALO
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ENTERTAINMENT • EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

MARCH 22-24 • 10AM-9PM
MARCH 25 • 10AM-5PM

Location: The Fairgrounds Event Center
and Artisan Hall in Hamburg
5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075

Admission:

\$10.00 General Admission
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2017 Winter Photo Contest



2018 WINTER PHOTO CONTEST

The contest will run December 21, 2017 through March 20, 2018. Watch our Facebook page and upstategardenersjournal.com for details on how to enter.

***NEW* STUDENT CATEGORY IN 2018**—for those budding photographers in grades 5–12!

GRAND PRIZE (on cover)

“Persistence”
Rochester, NY
by Kate Caven

WINNER: PLANTS CATEGORY (Left)

“Yellow Tree”
Stockholm, NY
by Catherine LaPointe Vollmer

WINNER: SCENES CATEGORY (Top right)

“Winter Morning at the Beach”
Oneida Lake
by Amanda Ciarlei

WINNER: ENHANCED CATEGORY & ONLINE FAVORITE (Bottom right)

“Island North”
North Ponds Park in Webster
by James Burdett

Contest prizes will be announced mid-November on upstategardenersjournal.com and on Facebook.



It's the Small Things: Dianne Bordoni and Dwarf Conifers

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton

In September, I headed to Syracuse to do story interviews. Person after person said, "Dianne Bordoni! You must see her garden."

ABOVE: Which path shall we take next?

INSET: Dianne Bordoni

Dianne and Dan Bordoni live in Fayetteville, a suburb of Syracuse, on a flat, modest-sized lot they purchased in 1985. The gardens she has created and the plant collections she has assembled, with a focus on dwarf conifers, are world-class. When I visited in September, Dianne had recently come off of hosting 200 American Conifer Society (ACS) members who were in town for their summer conference. Conifer enthusiasts found so much to explore in her collection, and the labeling was so thorough, that they went away sated and happy, as did I.

Imagine you are touring the Bordoni gardens with us. First, meet Dianne, our guide. She grew up in Ithaca and spent summers with her family at their camp in the Adirondacks. Her father was a professor at Cornell's School

of Agriculture and Life Sciences who specialized in fisheries and the ill effects of acid rain. Dianne's dad encouraged her love of plants, both domesticated and wild. They gardened together and he paid her a penny for every dandelion she dug out by the roots, something she actually loved doing. For her sixteenth birthday, Dianne's father bought her an "Empire State" climbing rose, and they planted it together. "I loved to walk through the woods and I loved to grow



things,” she says. “I’d collect mosses and little pine seedlings to make terrariums. Even when I went back to college (Skidmore, geology major) each fall, I took all my plants, supplies, and grow lights with me.” Dianne thinks that her early interest in terrariums and tiny plants foreshadowed her eventual passion for dwarf conifers. What’s also true is that she can collect a maximum variety of plants on her property if she focuses mostly on dwarfs and miniatures.

We are joined by our mutual friend Pat Tobin, also from Fayetteville, who chairs the tree commission there and has been steadfastly involved with the New York State Urban Forestry Council for more than 20 years. She and Dianne know one another from the local garden club. Pat has brought a leaf from a volunteer vine in her garden for us to ID. We take a picture of the leaf, do a reverse Google image search, and determine it is Dutchman’s pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*). It must be courtesy of bird droppings.

Dianne points out the one lovely, very large limbed-up yew and the one juniper they didn’t pull out when they cleared the property back in the 1980s. At the time, the property was a mess, feral cats darting in and out of the enormous overgrown shrubs. The clearing was heavy work... many chainsaw blades broke.



“It’s important to know that dwarf conifers and other plants can vary greatly in their growth rate and ultimate size,” Dianne says. “Some max out at six feet, some at sixteen feet. ‘Dwarf’ is a relative thing. For instance, there are dwarf giant sequoia cultivars that range greatly in ultimate dimensions.” Miniature = stays small. Dwarf = grows slowly, but doesn’t necessarily stay small. Dwarf conifers are expensive because it takes so long to bring them to saleable size and because their availability in the trade can be limited.

“Just buy them very small,” Bordoni says. “Invest in watching their slow growth.” She points to a dwarf Japanese maple with orange-red summer foliage called ‘Beni Hime’. It’s about fourteen inches tall, and it’s darling. As we three coo over it, Dianne explains how it’s actually helpful to have lots of snow so that small plants like this are insulated both from (some) critters and from temperature fluctuations.

Speaking of those fluctuations, you’re not alone in your horticultural heartbreak. Dianne lost a dozen mature Japanese maples in the spring of 2016 after a fluke set of conditions. “Everything was warming freakishly early in March...the sap on the maples was rising early as it does,” she says. “Then we had a sudden change in temperature—this atrocious storm with bitter cold...the sap in the trunks froze in place, and the cells burst, killing the trees.” Smaller maples that were insulated by snow were ok, but the mature ones were zapped. There was nothing to prevent it.



“I still love Japanese maples, however,” she says. “They’re so varied and interesting, and they are relatively pest-free.”

In the winter, the dwarf conifers are the stars of the garden, along with winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata*), like the orange-fruited ‘Afterglow’ we are now admiring. “If you only have a green palette, you start noticing the many shades of green,” she says. “Also, many conifers fire up a more intense or different color in the winter.” No matter how much snow is on the ground, she will find her way out to the garden almost every day in the winter, to prune, take stock, and admire.

Dwarf conifers are relatively pest-free if given the Right Plant, Right Place treatment. Dianne shows me how she cleans out all the dead needles in the plant interior to

TOP: Starting our tour, with three very cute dogs watching silently from the sliding glass doors.

BOTTOM: *Acer palmatum* ‘Beni Hime’ grows to about two feet tall in central New York



TOP LEFT: View through the (60-plus-year-old) yew

TOP RIGHT: Foliage and cones of *Picea orientalis*

BOTTOM: The infamous rock extracted during clandestine pond dig

keep the branch junctions free of debris that could collect moisture and favor fungal diseases. You can shake or comb out your little specimens, or even use a high-power hose, she explains.

I ask the inevitable question about favorites. Dianne says, “A lot of the newer varieties haven’t been around long enough to see them mature and know the potential pitfalls, like whether they keep their shape or open up and become rangy, like Hinoki cypress does.” She points to a gorgeous oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis*) with its characteristic tight bundles of tiny needles. “Oriental spruces keep their shape as they grow and they always look good—they never brown out,” she says. I mention that they’re one of the top conifers for urban use because they are so tough and adaptable. “They’re so reliable, I’ll snatch up any new variety,” she says.

Oriental spruces are the group of conifers she likes

best, but her favorite single specimen on the property is a handsome, stout alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* ‘Compacta’) that maxed out at around ten feet tall. As we’re checking that out, I become aware of three doggies watching us from the sliding glass doors. They’ve been silent this whole time, until I turn to look at them. Dianne tells me that the doggie in the middle, a golden retriever, likes to retrieve plant tags out of the garden, which makes labeling an ongoing challenge. She is smiling as she tells me this. The dogs are fully accommodated—for instance, she set up the path system based on the run paths of the tail waggers.

Because they are more work, Dianne is gradually scaling back on perennials. The ones she’s keeping are more unusual, like orange and peach-blooming, fully winter-hardy, perennial Peruvian lilies (*Alstroemeria sp.*) in the “Inca” series. “I’ve had them for years and you talk about a workhorse—these bloom like there’s no tomorrow,” she says. And she has some striking dahlias that provide color and interest in September and October and into early November.

Everywhere you look is a harmonious vista. And within those vistas are plants with deep familial meaning: the golden-foliage Japanese maple she planted after her mother’s passing; trees planted to mark the birth of her grandkids; and plant tokens of friendship. Dianne and Dan (a lawyer who prefers the great indoors) have three kids—Daniel, Christopher, and Caitlin—and four grandchildren. Timothy, seven, and Annalin, nine, live nearby and are super into playing in the dirt at Grandma’s. Granddaughters Cari, five, and Paige, three, live in Virginia and are more into dolls and faeries.

The backyard pond has its own familial significance. “I always wanted a pond, but my husband said it was too much work. So while he was gone one weekend, I enlisted my youngest son, Christopher (then eight years old), to help me dig it,” Dianne says. “We dug and dug until we hit this big rock about four feet down on the bottom and when



we got the rock up, we knew we were finished.”

Peonies also have family associations. When oldest son Daniel was attending Hamilton College in Clinton (where the unusual Root Glen arboretum can be found), Dianne would visit him for his swim team meets. Hamilton Chemistry Professor A.P. Saunders was an accomplished peony hybridizer; Dianne got into collecting some of his introductions. When in bloom, they bring to mind Daniel and her visits. She recommends folks go to Hamilton College in late May or early June to see the collection of Saunders peonies on display. See Root Glen as well!

says, “I don’t do home-and-garden-type tours, where things are supposed to be perfect and where you’re expected to yield to certain fussy conventions, like around color combinations.” Instead, she opens the gardens to fellow plant collectors who like to talk plants and plant culture, who are understanding about the inevitable ravages of nature on the garden, and who like to admire specimens together.

Michelle Sutton (michellejudysutton.com) is a horticulturist, editor, and writer.

I’ve heard that hosting garden tours can be very stressful, so I ask Dianne about this. After all, she had 200 people come through in two shifts in one morning. She

TOP LEFT: *Acer koreana* ‘Ice Breaker’ was the American Conifer Society’s 2014 Conifer of the Year.

TOP RIGHT: *Anemone hupehensis* ‘Splendens’

BOTTOM LEFT: Perennial alstroemeria from the Inca Series

BOTTOM RIGHT: This *Pinus strobus* ‘Mini Twist’ grows in a perfect ball shape, no shearing required.

Calendar

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 promote daylilies. Open Gardens in July. 716/698-3454; Facebook; buffaloareadaylilysociety.com.

Buffalo Bonsai Society meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Buffalo Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave, Buffalo.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS – District 8. Marcia Becker, District Director. 716/681-3530; marshmelo601@yahoo.com; gardenclubsofwny.com.

Friends of Kenan Herb Club meets Monday evenings, Kenan Center for the Arts, 433 Locust Street, Lockport. Meeting dates, times and campus locations: kenancenter.org/affiliates.asp; 716/433-2617.

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

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

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

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. *November 14: Get Crafty with Your Garden, ideas for items you can make for, as well as from, your garden.* 716/833-8799.

Lancaster Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, St. John's Lutheran Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. No meetings January, July & August. *November 28: Club members will help children decorate holiday ornaments, Westwood Park (see calendar, below).* 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 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. President: Ruth Ann Nowak, 716/662-1017.

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

Smallwood Garden Club meets the third Monday of the month at 7pm, United Methodist Church, 5681 Main Street, Williamsville. New members welcome. Claudia, 716/833-2251.

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

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

Western New York Herb Study Group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 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. 716/941-6167; h8staman@aol.com; wnyhosta.com.

Western New York Hosta Society Breakfast Meetings, a friendly get-together, first Saturday of the month at 10am, Forestview Restaurant, Depew. wnyhosta.com.

Western New York Iris Society usually meets at members' homes and gardens. Information about growing all types of irises and complementary perennials. Guests welcome. Carolyn Schaffner, 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. *November 15: Garden Design with Peter BonSey.* wnyrosesociety.net.

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

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

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

BMAC: Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, 1610 Welch Road, North Java, NY 14113. 585/457-3228; 800/377-1520; buffaloaudubon.org.

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

November 9–12: Christmas Open House, 10am–5pm. Chicken Coop Originals, 13245 Clinton Street, Alden. 716/937-7837; chickencooporiginals.com.

November 11: Christmas Open House, 9am–3pm. Music, food, drawings, gift with purchase. Free. **LOCK**

November 16–19: Christmas Open House, 10am–5pm. Chicken Coop Originals, 13245 Clinton Street, Alden. 716/937-7837; chickencooporiginals.com.

November 19: Thanksgiving Centerpiece, 1:30pm. Create a centerpiece with gourds, flowers, dried accents and bow. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

November 21: Fresh Thanksgiving Arrangement Workshop, 2–4pm; or 6–8pm. Participants will create their own autumnal arrangement. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

November 24–January 7: Poinsettias, 10am–5pm. Included with admission. **BECBG**

• **November 24–January 7: Garden Railway Exhibit,** 10am–5pm. Presented by WNY Garden Railway Society. Included with admission. **BECBG**

November 25: Basic Evergreen Wreath, 10:30am. Create your own wreath with fir greens and a bow. \$30. Registration required. **LOCK**

November 27–December 18: Intermediate Watercolor, 4 Mondays, 8:45–10:45am. Taught by Joan Saba, professional artist and teacher. Participants should have previous watercolor experience. Series: \$60 members; \$66 non-members. Single session: \$17 members; \$18 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

• **November 28: Holiday Ornaments,** 1–3pm. Lancaster Garden Club members will help children decorate ornaments for their holiday tree. Westwood Park, 175 Pavement Road, Lancaster.

• **November 30: Make a Terrarium in a Mason Jar,** 1–2:30pm. Materials included, bring a small plant that will fit into a mason jar. \$10. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 2: Decorate a Boxwood Tree Workshop, 9–11am; or 1–3pm. Participants will create their own unique boxwood tree using ribbons and small holiday décor items. Materials included. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

• **December 2: Breakfast with Santa,** 9am–12pm. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and storytelling with Santa. \$7 adults; \$5 ages 4–12; under 3 free. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 2: Multi-Textured Wreath, 10:30am. Create your own wreath using mixed evergreens and cones. \$38. Registration required. **LOCK**

• **December 2: Decorative Birch Bark Ornaments,** 1:30–3:30pm. Learn to make birch bark canoe, star and owl ornaments. Program includes simple sewing techniques. Ages 12 and up. \$10. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 3: Fresh Conifer Wreath Workshop, 9–11am; or 1–3pm. Create a fresh 14" conifer wreath embellished with ribbons and small holiday décor items. Materials included. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

December 3: Outdoor Winter Arrangement, 1:30pm. Make an outdoor arrangement suitable for a porch using mixed greens, berry stems, decorative branches and bow. \$48. Registration required. **LOCK**

• **December 9: Santa's Workshop,** 10am–2pm. Visit with Santa. Photo prints with Santa available, \$5 each. Included with admission. **BECBG**

December 9: Boxwood Tree, 10:30am. Make your own 16"-tall arrangement using cut pieces of boxwood in oasis with the addition of bows and baubles. \$38. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 16: British Kissing Ball, 10:30am. Create an evergreen ball to hang outside. Couples welcome. \$38. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 17: Christmas Centerpiece, 1:30pm. Create an elegant arrangement using mixed greens, cones, berries and a candle. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 21: Fresh Holiday Arrangement Workshop, 2–4pm; or 6–8pm. Participants will create their own unique arrangement. Materials included. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

December 21: Woven Willow Wreath, 6:30–8:30pm. Participants will create a one-of-a-kind wreath suitable for hanging indoors or out. Materials included. \$15. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 28: Dollar Day, 10am–5pm. \$1 admission. **BECBG**

• **January 15: Kids' Day,** 10am–4pm. Hands-on stations with seasonal activities. Included with admission; age 12 and under free. **BECBG**

SAVE THE DATE...

January 26: Lumagination Launch Party, 6–9pm. Cocktails and appetizers. \$35 members; \$40 non-members; \$45 after January 19. **BECBG**

January 27–28; February 1–3; 7–11; 14–24: Lumagination, 6–9pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 6–10pm. See the Botanical gardens with special illumination. Included with admission. **BECBG**

January 27–March 17: Horticulture Certificate – III, 5 Saturdays, 11am–1pm. Horticulturist David Clark will cover: *Sustainable Landscaping Practices, Gardening with Native Plants, Shade Gardening, Small Space & Urban Gardening, Beneficial Insects & Pollinators.* Series: \$100 members; \$120 non-members. Single session: \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

February 1–2: Plant WNY Trade Show. Seminar speakers include Kerry Ann Mendez. CNLP & DEC credits available. Salvatore's Italian Gardens, Depew. 716/741-8047; plantwny.com.

• **March 22–25: Plantasia.** *Cityscapes into the Night.* Visitors will experience the sights and sounds of a city in fully landscaped display gardens. Educational seminars, Children's Garden and vendors offering plants, garden decor, grills, seeds, outdoor furniture, lighting, garden tools and more. plantasiany.com.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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.

FREQUENT HOST

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

November 12: Dip Into Gourds, 1–4pm. Terry Noxel and Graham Otoson will discuss the history and cultural significance of gourds. Participants will create a dipper from a dried gourd and learn some of the basics of gourd-crafting. \$40 members; \$45 non-members. Registration required. Cornell Botanic Gardens, Nevin Welcome Center, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca. 607/255-2400; cornellplantations.org.

November 16: Emerald Ash Borer Impacts, 6:30–8pm. Jeanne Grace, Ithaca City Forester, will teach participants how to identify ash trees, search for early signs of EAB infestation and various treatment options. **CCE/TOM**

December 3: Holiday Workshop at Bakers Acres, 1–3pm. Choose from three decorations to create your own: evergreen wreath, boxwood tree or evergreen center piece. Fee for materials. \$8 adults; \$4 children under 12. Registration required. Bakers Acres, 1104 Auburn Road, Groton. 607/533-4653.

December 9: Beginner Evergreen Wreath-Making, 9am–12pm. Class geared for those who have never made an evergreen wreath. Fresh-cut greens, ring, wires and ribbons supplied. Bring any special decorating materials desired to personalize your wreath. \$18. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

December 9: Advanced Evergreen Wreath-Making, 1–3pm. Class designed for those with wreath-making experience. Fresh-cut greens, ring, wires and ribbons supplied. Bring any special decorating materials desired to personalize your wreath. \$18. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

December 10: Make a Gardener's Herbal Salve, 2–4pm. Herbalist Amanda David will guide participants as they make an herbal salve from flowers and herbs that can be grown in the home garden or yard. \$5–\$10 sliding scale, plus \$8 materials fee. **CCE/TOM**

December 21: Winter Solstice Garden Tour, 12–1pm. Join plant science Professor Peter Davies in the Mullestein Family Winter Garden to learn how plants cope with winter's cold and enjoy some seasonal countryside folk tales. \$5 suggested donation. Registration not required. Cornell Botanic Gardens, Nevin Welcome Center, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca. 607/255-2400; cornellplantations.org.

ROCHESTER

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Rochester meets the first Wednesday of each month, September–June, at 7pm, St. John's Home, 150 Highland Avenue, Rochester. All are welcome.

December 6: Violet Bingo, play bingo to win plants and supplies. April 21: Violet Display & Plant Sale, 9am–4pm, Potting Clinic, 1pm, Maplewood Estates, 55 Ayrault Road, Fairport. 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 following months: 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 (except May, July & August) at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. New members and guests welcome. 585/657-4489; kjonrad@frontiernet.net.

Blue Belles & Beaus Garden Club (formerly Valentown Garden Club) meets the third Tuesday of each month. Victor. Contact Pat Bartholomew; 585/869-5062.

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; bonsaisocietyofupstatenyc.org.

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.

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

Garden Club of Brockport meets the second Wednesday of every month at 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.

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

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club meets the first Friday of the month at 6:30pm, Adams Street Recreation Center, 85 Adams Street, Rochester, except in summer when it tours local ponds. president.gvpkc@gmail.com; gvpkc.shutterfly.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. 585/467-1678; smag@rochester.rr.com; rochesterperennial.com.

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

Henrietta Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except May–August & December) at 6:30pm, Department of Public Works Building, 405 Calkins Road, Henrietta. *January 10: Q&A Panel with John Colagrosso, Master Gardener, George Miller & Jeanine Fyfe.* Guests welcome. 585/889-1547; henrietagardenclub@gmail.com; henrietagardenclub.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. dtoogood@rochester.rr.com.

Calendar

ROCHESTER cont.

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. *November 16: Demonstration in Ohara School of Ikebana, 10am–12pm; Tips for Photographing Asian Garden Scenes, 1pm.* 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.

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 at 11am, Pittsford Public Library, Fisher Meeting Room, 24 State Street, Pittsford, except in July & August when it visits members' gardens. 585/425-0766; BKRU888@aol.com; pittsfordgardenclub.wordpress.com.

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of the month at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester, except August & September. Visitors welcome. Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

Rochester Herb Society meets the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January, February & July) at 12pm, Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester. 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. Contact Bonnie Arnold: 585/342-8653; 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.

cones and boughs, grasses, seed pods, dried flowers and fruits. Participants will take home a completed centerpiece of their own design. First United Methodist Church, 79 Madison Street, Wellsville. \$20. Registration required. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Allegany County; 585/268-7644 x12; cc746@cornell.edu.

- **November 26: Holidays at the Market**, 9am–3pm. Vendors sell art, crafts, decorations, holiday foods, gifts, stocking stuffers and a wide selection of holiday trees, wreaths, fresh garlands, and more. Horse-drawn carriage ride with Santa, 10am–2pm, free. **RPM**
- **December 3: Holidays at the Market**, 9am–3pm. See description under November 26. **RPM**
- **December 10: Holidays at the Market**, 9am–3pm. See description under November 26. **RPM**

SAVE THE DATE...

February 1–2: Plant WNY Trade Show. Seminar speakers include Kerry Ann Mendez. CNLP & DEC credits available. Salvatore's Italian Gardens, Depew. 716/741-8047; plantwny.com.

March 8–11: Gardescape. *The Flower City Blooms Again*. Display gardens created by local landscape companies. Garden Market Place. Dome Center, 2695 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

April 28: Gathering of Gardeners. *Gardens that Rock!* Featuring Joseph Tychonievich and Carol Southby. Parking lot plant sale, auction items & silent auction. Presented by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County. DoubleTree (by Hilton), 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester. gatheringofgardeners.com.

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

Bonsai Club of CNY (BCCNY) usually meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315/436-0135; inewell1@gmail.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.

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; ViLaDeeDa@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 Club of 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; for-wild.org. Meetings are free and open to the public. *November 26: Caring for Our Piece of the Earth.* 315/487-5742; hgcny.org.

Home Garden Club of Syracuse usually meets the first Tuesday morning of the month. Members are

active in educating the community about gardening, horticulture & floral design and involved with several civic projects in the Syracuse area. New members welcome. homegardenclubofsyracuse@gmail.com; homegardenclubofsyracuse.org.

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

Syracuse Rose Society meets the second Thursday of every 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.

FREQUENT HOST

CWG: Carol Watson Greenhouse, 2980 Sentinel Heights Road, LaFayette, NY 13084. 315/677-0286; carolwatsongreenhouse.com.

CLASSES / EVENTS

- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

November 8: Succulents as Centerpieces, 1:30–2:30pm. Class will explore an assortment of succulents in varying sizes, shapes and colors. Add a piece of driftwood or stones. Includes instruction in planting, care and how to propagate. \$7.50 plus materials. Registration required. **CWG**

November 18: Turn an Empty Wine Bottle Into a Succulent Garden, 1:30–2:30pm. Choose from an assortment of succulents. Planting and care instructions provided. \$7.50 plus cost of bottle: \$20 small; \$25 large. Registration required. **CWG**

November 19: Turn an Empty Wine Bottle Into a Succulent Garden, 10–11am. See description under November 18. \$7.50 plus cost of bottle: \$20 small; \$25 large. Registration required. **CWG**

& BEYOND

SAVE THE DATE...

March 3–11: Philadelphia Flower Show. *Wonders of Water* will celebrate the beauty and life-sustaining interplay of horticulture and water. See tropical jungles, temperate forests, native woodlands and arid landscapes showcasing the plants that thrive in each environment. Seminars, events & vendors. Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Streets, Philadelphia, PA. theflowershow.com.

March 23–25: Capital District Garden & Flower Show. Display gardens, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, floral competitions, vendors. Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenberg Avenue (Route 4), Troy, NY. gardenandflowershow.com.

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (January–February 2018) is Friday, December 22, 2017. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.

FREQUENT HOST

RPM: Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union Street, Rochester, NY. 585/428-6907; cityofrochester.gov/holidaysatmarket.

CLASSES / EVENTS

- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

November 9: Natural Centerpieces for the Holidays, 6–8pm. Master Gardeners will share tips, ideas and instruction on creating centerpieces using natural materials such as fall berries, teasel, ferns, evergreen

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Left: Autumn Blaze Maples at our Bundy Farm.

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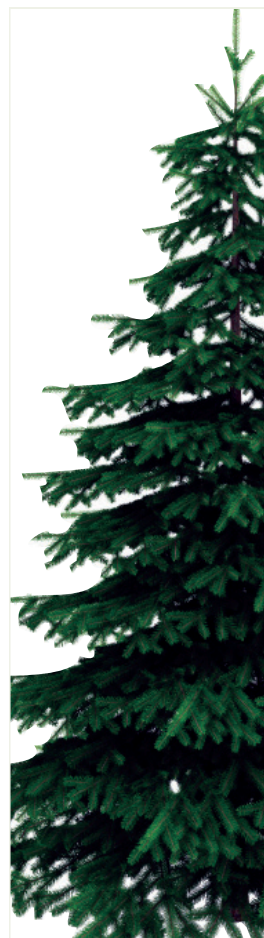
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Island Plantings

by Roger L. VanNostrand

Attractive, low-maintenance island plantings set in front and back lawn areas are becoming very popular in both new and older home landscapes.

Historically, massive plantings were installed to hide unattractive high foundations built to accommodate full basements. Many homes now either are built on concrete slabs, over crawl spaces with low foundations, or over full basements with attractive siding or stone facings that really don't need plantings to hide them.

Plantings off corners of the house can help to soften the vertical lines, hide down spouts, meters, air conditioners, and generators, but otherwise there is little need to make expensive, high maintenance plantings that can grow to hide windows, rub against siding, and spread over walkways. In many cases such plantings are seen from indoors only by pressing one's nose against a window.

An attractive, practical, low cost, low maintenance alternative for any style home is the island bed—planted where it can be enjoyed out the front, side, or back windows, and especially by visitors to your door.

By making the beds narrow, four to six feet wide, such plantings can feature dwarf shrubs or evergreens and a wonderful variety of colorful annuals and perennials. The tasteful addition of an interesting boulder or statuary, a birdhouse or feeder, or a water feature can bring such plantings to life all year 'round. An advantage of a narrow bed is the ease of plantings maintenance. Since the plantings are surrounded by lawn grass, all plantings are within easy reach even after rainfalls and watering. The plants selected must be compact and limited to those that can be easily managed without severe pruning. Dwarf shrubs, alpines, rock garden plants, small edger plants and many succulents fit well in such gardens. "Compact" burning bushes, privets, hydrangeas, viburnums, yews, and most junipers and rhododendrons soon outgrow and crowd each other in narrow island beds.

By carefully selecting dwarf or slow growing compact plants, such gardens can be easily managed for many years. Start out with well-spaced perennials, some annuals in between, and two or three dwarf shrubs or evergreens. As your perennials become larger you may find that you will



need fewer annuals, especially when you can divide your perennials and use them to fill in.

Use a garden hose to outline your island bed shape with gentle curves that can be easily followed with your mower. Locate dwarf shrubs or trees at either end where you can enlarge the bed to allow space for low growing edger plants. Experiment with various shapes, viewing them from indoors, the driveway, the street, and sidewalks until the size and shape seem appropriate. You might also place empty flowerpots inside the bed to get an idea of plant numbers and spacing.

After removing the lawn grasses (via digging or the lasagna method) and edging, incorporate generous amounts of screened topsoil and/or compost. This will elevate the bed for better drainage, make setting plants easy, and will display your plantings for full benefit.

By installing a modestly sized, well-designed island bed you will be able to enjoy your plants from indoors and out and provide an attractive welcome for visitors and passersby.

Roger VanNostrand is a former Cornell Cooperative Extension agent in Steuben and Chautauqua Counties and currently volunteers as an Extension Master Gardener in Ontario County. He is always happy to advise home gardeners and can be reached at (315) 462-2143.

ABOVE: An island bed in full bloom



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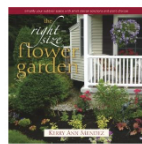
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Friday, February 2: keynote speaker Kerry Ann Mendez. As an award-winning garden designer, author and lecturer, Kerry Ann Mendez focuses on time-saving gardening techniques, workhorse plants and sustainable practices. She is a featured speaker for trade shows, such as New England Grows, nursery and landscape associations, garden centers as well as landscaping schools. Her most recent, *The Right-Size Flower Garden* focuses on exceptional plants and design solutions for busy and aging gardeners.

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What To Do in the Garden in November & December

INDOORS

Reduce the fertilization of most indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants under grow lights.

To avoid fungus gnats on your houseplants keep them on the dry side as the gnat larva live in moist soil at the top inch or so. Watering from the bottom also helps.

Start cuttings of your favorite Christmas cactus (Easter and Thanksgiving cacti too!). Make a cutting with four or five joints. Insert the basal end into a pot of moistened vermiculite. Place in a brightly lit area. Rooting should occur in three to four weeks.

Plant amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus bulbs now.

Select poinsettias with green leaves and colorful bracts. Keep in bright light away from pets, children, drafts, and direct heat. Be sure to remove foil or other wrapping from around the pots of plants you may receive as gifts so proper drainage can occur.

If you didn't clean your garden tools, do it now. Don't forget to disinfect and sharpen your tools too. Sharpened pruners, hoes and shovels make work much easier.

OUTDOORS

After mowing your lawn for the last time, winterize your lawn mower. Have blades cleaned and sharpened for a head start on spring.

Drain and store garden hoses and turn off outside water spigots.

You can still plant spring-flowering bulbs until the ground freezes.

Finish any garden cleanup you still haven't completed. Be sure to remove and discard any plant material that was diseased.

Newly planted trees and shrubs need adequate moisture even at this time of year. Water deeply anytime there is less than 1 inch or rain per week, until the ground reaches 40 degrees F.

Once the soil is frozen put protective mulch over tender perennials and shrubs. Discarded pine boughs and shredded leaves are good mulches.

Erect wooden teepees to protect foundation plants from breakage if snow and ice are expected to slip off the roof.

Use burlap or shrub coats to protect susceptible shrubs from winter wind and deer damage. Or consider using "plant tents" around cold sensitive plants such as some hydrangeas.

To reduce the amount of water that broad-leaved evergreens like rhododendrons lose during the winter, you can spray the foliage with a wax-forming anti-desiccant or erect barriers against the wind to prevent "windburn," a form of desiccation.

Mound five to six inches of soil around the bases of roses to protect them from freeze-thaw cycles, which are harmful. Use soil from another part of the garden so you don't damage the roots of your roses.

If you have critter problems, now is the time to erect fencing and other barriers. The trunks of young trees can be wrapped with chicken wire or hardware cloth to protect them from the nibbling of mice and rabbits and rubbing by deer. Be sure the protection goes high enough so critters don't sit on top of the snow to browse.

Check stored firewood for insect infestations. Remember not to use or move firewood from out of your area to help prevent the spread of invasive insects like the Emerald Ash Borer.

Buy a real tree for Christmas. When selecting a Christmas tree:

- Check the needles. You should be able to bend them. If they snap the tree is too dry.
- Try lifting the tree a few inches and bringing it down on the stump. Some inside needles may fall but outer needles should not drop off.
- Make a fresh cut across the base of the trunk so the tree will be ready to take up plenty of water.
- Immediately place in water.
- If you plan to have a live tree for the holidays dig the hole for the tree now before the ground is frozen. It's best to only keep a live tree inside for just one week then plant it outside.



ABOVE: Frost on crabapple, Caledonia, November 2009

MISCELLANEOUS

Give gardening hints to family and friends so they buy our gardening gifts (or buy them for both friends and yourself). Ideas: books, clippers, butterfly kits, masonbee homes, terrariums, orchids, perhaps apiary equipment to become a beekeeper.

Purchase gifts at local nurseries and botanical gardens.

Give others as well as yourself memberships to outdoor organizations such as botanical gardens, the Nature Conservancy, Xerces, and local nature preserves.

Use your extra time studying garden books, magazines, and seed catalogs—start with your back issues of *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*.

Place orders for seeds soon after the catalogs arrive so you won't be disappointed later. By ordering early, you will be certain of getting the varieties you want.

Buy yourself a plant for the holidays.

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

Seneca Greenhouse

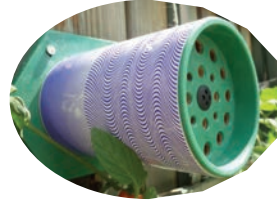
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Remember *Cheers*? The show and bar where “everybody knows your name?”

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Our recipe this month is from Glen Edith’s new location on Rochester’s Railroad Street, Boxcar Donuts and Fried Chicken. Boxcar sells unabashedly gourmet doughnuts alongside a menu of Southern-style

dishes such as fried chicken and grits.

Glen Edith roasts all their coffee in-house at its Somerton Street location. The pictured cappuccino includes their in-house Ethiopian, which is both fruity and light, and the steamed milk is Pittsford Dairy whole milk.

Boxcar’s pumpkin spice doughnut is a wonderfully light offering for the fall season—warm and spicy and perfect for coffee dipping.

Eatatboxcar.com; glenedithcoffee.com

Boxcar Donut Pumpkin Fry Cake

Pair with Glen Edith’s Ethiopia–Yirgacheffe Natural Coffee

Yield: 13 donuts

SPICE ICING

2/3 cup milk
1 bag (2 lbs) powdered sugar
Pumpkin spice to taste

DOUGHNUTS

1 lb. (16 oz) pumpkin cake mix
.4 lbs. and .8 oz of cold water
Vegetable oil

- 1 Whisk together spice icing ingredients until smooth. Set aside.
- 2 Measure cake mix and water out by weight.
- 3 Pre-heat vegetable oil in pot to 375° F.
- 4 Pour water, then cake mix into mixer bowl. Mix at medium speed until combined.
- 5 Turn mixer up to high and beat until combined ingredients look like cake batter.
- 6 Using 1.5 oz. of batter at a time, fry each side in pot of oil for 1 minute.
- 7 Frost and enjoy!



ABOVE: Pumpkin frycake
photo courtesy Clayton
Panipinto

Pinecone Fire Starters

by Cathy Monrad

Every December for the past ten years, a family friend has given us a lovely evergreen wreath for our front door. When February rolls around and the wreath has seen better days, I recycle the greens and stash away the pinecone decorations for crafting. Online, I found an easy and inexpensive project idea using these salvaged adornments: pinecone fire starters.

MATERIALS

Dried pinecones
Paraffin wax or broken candles
1–2 crayons in desired color (optional)
Epson salts (optional)
Wick or twine cut to 4-inch lengths

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Cooktop
Double boiler made from tin can and pot filled with water
Wooden skewer
Large cookie sheet lined with waxed paper

1. Tie wick or twine to top of pinecone with a knot.
2. Melt paraffin wax or candle pieces and crayon, if desired, in tin can double boiler. Stir with skewer until mixed.

3. Remove double boiler from heat and place next to cookie sheet. Let wax cool for about five minutes until it thickens slightly.
4. Grasp wick between fingers and carefully submerge pinecone completely into melted wax.
5. Hold dipped pinecone over tin can for a few seconds until dripping stops, then place on cookie sheet. Let pinecone dry for 30–60 seconds.
6. Repeat steps five and six about five to ten times until pinecone is nicely coated. If the melted wax starts to solidify too much, place double boiler back on heat until wax thins a bit.
7. If desired, sprinkle Epsom salts on the last coat of wax immediately after placing on cookie sheet.
8. Let dry completely for 24 hours.
9. To use the fire starter, nestle it between logs in your fireplace. Light the wick and enjoy!

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

PROJECT NOTES

- The pinecones must be completely dry and bug-free. The Internet has instructions for drying pinecones in an oven. Cinnamon scented pinecones purchased from a craft store would work as well.
- I purchased tapered candles from a discount store, then removed and used the wicks for step one. I melted six candles to make 12 fire starters.
- Using paraffin wax will result in a transparent look; add a white crayon to make opaque wax.
- One crayon is sufficient to color the wax.
- Epson salts add a little “frost” to the fire starter and will create a white flame when burned.

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