

Upstate Gardeners'

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Journal



The Plantsmen's Dan Segal
Diplodia Tip Blight
Suet Cake

FREE

Volume Twenty, Issue Six
November-December 2014

The Whirlwind of 2014!

The season has absolutely just flown by! I feel like we just finished our Memorial Day rush and here we are putting perennials to bed, dividing stock and taking cuttings for 2015. They say the older we get the quicker time flies...I guess that it must be true... 25+ years in the nursery business has flown.

As we approach the season reserved for giving thanks and feeling blessed, I (and all of us at Sara's) are feeling both of these. It has been a whirlwind of a season; one event after another, beautiful plants fleeing as soon as they hit the tables, garden weddings, stones everywhere and amazing people who visit & shop...

We are very fortunate and very thankful.

As we embark on the coming season of Christmas trees & wreaths, poinsettias and all the trimmings, we are happy and content and ready to serve you!

Fresh wreaths made daily will fill your home with fragrance and grace your door, our trees are cut the week of Thanksgiving and will last well beyond the new year, and the chance to find a unique trinket or gift for someone special are all available as we come to the finale of 2014. Our season wraps up with smelling of evergreens as we end our workday and we invite you to come and share these last few precious weeks with us.

Bring in your copy of the *Upstate Gardener's Journal* and we will give you \$5.00 off any 'living material' purchase valued over \$20.00.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with a special thank you to all of our loyal customers.

—Kathy Kepler

(Special thanks to Dan Pearl of Natural Stone Works for the photo of our castle folly in winter.)

30+ 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.

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Dear Jane

Dear Jane:

I have long thought that you and your readers would benefit from a Letters to the Editor feature. I'll wager that it would be as well received as Stump the Chump. I'll also bet that a poll of your subscribers would confirm this belief.

Such an approach to reader feedback would soon allow you to gauge their sentiment on topics, authors, and even the UGJ's layout. (I recall being stirred by articles on invasive species and would have welcomed a chance to vent by writing you.) In addition, any mistakes could be addresses, controversies aired, and helpful suggestions considered.

Replies from the editor, if used, might be equally interesting and educational and demonstrate that you indeed value response and opinions. Perhaps most important is that your audience would probably love it and participate enthusiastically. I know I would.

Ted Collins
Lilac Hill Nursery

Dear Ted:

Since you came up with the hugely popular Stump the Chump feature, we are inclined to follow your advice on other editorial matters. As such, we present Letters to the Editor, yours first.

Jane

Dear Editor,

We were vigilant about protecting the Koi fish in the pond we landscaped into a bland back yard seven years ago. We took to placing plastic herons, territorial birds, to discourage other, air borne herons from swooping in and making breakfast, lunch and dinner out of our beautiful and much loved Koi. Endearing to us, many we had raised from sliver glints of metallic scales to gem sparkling 20 pounders.

Over the years we've scared off herons around the pond under the trees and as dawn broke, standing at water's edge. Along with them we had hawks on the tree branches licking their beaks and raccoons rubbing their little hand-paws. Eventually, out of fear for our fish, we just netted over the whole pond and took less worry.

We were unworried until Cheryl Micciche, paralegal at Rochester General Hospital, pond owner, took this picture of the heron waiting and watching from a neighbor's roof! Now we are back on Heron Watch again. Cheryl, often in

involved in reviewing liability at the hospital, is seriously wondering what the heron's strategy is now.

Very Best,
William Page

Dear William:

Thank you for the entertaining tale. We also would have liked a picture of the beak-leaking hawks. Maybe next time.

Jane

Jane:

I've enjoyed your magazine for quite a while now. Or maybe it's best if I say up until now. Yesterday I made four of the apple galettes using the recipe from the current issue. Each turned out tasting terrible although I used the ingredients as written. The end of a great meal for many friends was a huge flop. The problem was with the topping. It tasted doughy, lacked flavor and sweetness.

I just reread the recipe and figured out that there is an error in it. Please read #2 in the recipe for the filing. I only saw tonight that sugar is mentioned here although no sugar is listed for the filling ingredients. When I mixed together everything for the topping, I mixed together everything from the list of ingredients and added it atop the apples. No wonder the topping taste like buttery dirt! There's no sugar in it! Even if I had noticed the error as I was making the topping I would not know the quantity of sugar to use.

Please tell either the proof reader or whoever was responsible this that the error cost me money, wasted my time and that this was the first time that people spit food out of their mouths while dining at my house.

Thank you.
M.R.A.

Dear M.:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We are terribly sorry that the galettes were a failure and will run a correction on the recipe page, 17, in this issue.

Jane



ABOVE: The real heron

What to do in the garden in November and December



Depending on the weather, last minute gardening chores can be squeezed in during early November, leaving December a time to relax and enjoy looking through 2015 gardening catalogs as they arrive by mail or online.

Piles of fallen leaves should not just sit on top of a lawn all winter long. They can mat together, causing damage to the turf grass crowns. Leaves should be shredded using a mower, with the small pieces allowed to filter between the grass blades, or can be added back as a thin layer of mulch to garden beds, where they will break down and add natural nutrients. Some folks rake and bag their excess leaves, saving them to be shredded in the spring. Then they add them as a mulch and weed barrier around perennial flowers and/or vegetable plants.

If one has not had time to tend to roses after the hard frost in October, November can be a good month to winterize them while temperatures are still relatively mild. Soil should be mounded up around the base of the Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora and Floribunda plants 10 to 12 inches deep. The mounded soil will add winter protection. Prune back the rose canes that are taller than two feet or tie them to a stake so they don't get wind-whipped.

Loosen the canes of climbing roses from their structure and tie them together. Bend the canes arching them near the plant base to avoid breakage, and lay them at ground level, pinning them down with crossed stakes. Mound the

canes with soil and mark them so once spring comes you can carefully remove the soil and reattach the canes to their structure.

Ornamental grasses can be cut back or left for the winter months. Taller ornamental grasses may need some staking to prevent the blades from getting weighed down with snow. Grasses can add some winter interest in a landscape and offer a place for the birds to congregate.

Gardening tools and equipment should be cleaned and prepped for winter storage. Lawn mower blades can be sharpened, spark plugs changed, oil changed and gasoline drained. Some folks will instead add a fuel stabilizer to a full tank of gas before storing their mowers. Garden tools and planting containers can be cleaned and stored. Soak planting containers with a bleach and water based solution to disinfect them.

Last winter, many trees and shrubs were damaged from the sub-zero temperatures, winds and warm sun. Evergreens needles and leaves transpire moisture during the winter leading to desiccation, the drying out of needles. If an evergreen dries out too much dead brown areas may be seen come spring on the plant material. An autumn without much rainfall may increase the chances of this happening. To help reduce moisture lost during the winter months, give your evergreen trees and shrubs a deep soaking of water before the ground freezes.

Deciduous trees that have thin bark may show signs of splitting on the trunks caused by sunscald. This can happen when the air temperature on a sunny day warms the tree trunk, especially on the southwest side. After the sun goes down temperatures fall back causing cracking/splitting. To help reduce this cracking, the trunks can be wrapped with burlap strips or commercial tree wrap, or even shaded with a wooden board. All of these preventive methods reflect sunlight and will help reduce the buildup of heat during the day, thus reducing the temperature fluctuations that cause splitting. Once spring has arrived make sure all trunk wraps are removed, to prevent insect or moisture damage.

Rodent damage to trees can be prevented by making sure mulch is pulled away from the base of the trunks. Hardware cloth, galvanized screening or tree wrap can be used to protect young, thin-barked deciduous trees and shrubs from mice and rabbit damage.

— Holly Wise, Consumer Horticulture Extension Educator,
CCE Oneida County

ABOVE: Photo courtesy Marnie Soom

Ear to the ground

LOCKWOOD'S GARDEN CENTER CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

In 1914, Harry Lord Lockwood started farming and selling wholesale vegetables and flowers on 25 acres in Hamburg. Greenhouses were added, and a retail store, until Lockwood's Garden Center evolved into the family-run destination it is today. The official anniversary is November 1, but the celebration will continue until December 24, when the business closes for the season. For more: weknowplants.com; 716/649-4684.



NYS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION AWARDS TOP ANNUAL HONORS AT STATE FAIR

The New York State Nursery and Landscape Association (NYSNLA) presented its highest annual awards on August 21, opening day of the New York State Fair. The association named Kim Schichtel its Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (CNLP) of the Year, awarded the George L. Good Gold Medal of Horticulture to Steven Perry, and inducted Michael Grimm of Lafayette into the NSYNLA Hall of Fame.

Schichtel works for Murray Brothers in Orchard Park, Perry is assistant principal of Agriculture at John Bowne High School in Flushing, and Grimm owns Michael Grimm Services, a landscaping company serving Central New York.

MONROE COUNTY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION TO RELOCATE

On January 12, Monroe County's Cornell Cooperative Extension will vacate its Rochester digs and move to a renovated farm house in Seneca Park (at 2449 St Paul Boulevard) near the zoo. No one wants to see CCE leave 249 Highland Ave., but the truth is that the responsibilities of and the funding for Extension have been dwindling for years, and their current facility is underused and in need of expensive maintenance. Rumor has it that once the building is razed, the county hopes to erect a pavilion in its place to rent out for events, but neighbors aren't so sure about that—should be an interesting one to watch.

ABOVE: NYSNLA Honorees Grimm, Schichtel, and Perry

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Creating a true sense of place:

Dan Segal, The Plantsmen Nursery, and the Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium

by Michelle Sutton

Dan and Sarah Segal bought The Plantsmen Nursery (plantsmen.com) in Groton, just outside Ithaca, in 2006. They specialize in growing plants native to the Finger Lakes region, often from seed they or their head propagator, Kathy Vidovich, have collected. They also specialize in deer-resistant plants from North America and beyond.

With his nursery staff and the Ithaca-based landscape architect Rick Manning, Dan Segal organizes the Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium (ithacanativelandscape.com) each March. The 2015 Symposium will be held during the first week of March—check The Plantsmen Nursery website in coming weeks for exact dates. The nursery is closed for the winter but reopens in mid-April.



How did you get into plants and native plants particularly?

Dan Segal: It was after college, after getting my English Lit degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. I moved to California and a friend helped me get a job landscaping with native plants on a 5-acre estate on the shores of Lake Tahoe for the owner of a major ice cream brand. We had an unlimited budget—I thought that was normal, that every job would be like that! We would grow things like wild columbines, heucheras, and delphiniums (those native to the mountains of the West) and then I'd see these same plants growing abundantly in wet meadows when I was out hiking. I started making connections between plants growing wild in the region and those on the jobs I was doing.

ABOVE: *Gentiana andrewsii*, i bottle gentian

INSET: Dan Segal



Then I worked for a flower farm and a golf course. At this time I started doing a lot of field botany and seed collecting on my own time, for my own interest. I read field guides and taught myself but would have loved to have a teacher. I was really passionate about it and grew everything I could—mostly western natives, but really anything I was interested in. Sometimes, like with cannas, I'd collect seeds while walking down a city street, then plant the seeds and not know what they were until the seedlings started to mature.

I got a job with a small company, North Coast Native Nursery in Petaluma, beginning as a laborer then working my way up to propagating and installing environmental restoration projects all over the San Francisco Bay area. I got to do some cool seed collecting projects for them in natural areas around San Francisco.

How did you end up back East?

DS: I met my wife Sarah in CA and we both missed the East (I grew up on Long Island and spent college summers in Ithaca, and she'd grown up in Minnesota). I'd been in CA ten years and she for about seven. I wanted to come back to Ithaca but didn't have work prospects there,

so I finagled my way into working for a huge native plants nursery called Pinelands in New Jersey, the biggest one in the East. It was great for me because it was fast-paced and I learned a lot about environmental restoration work. I figured I'd work there for about five years then try

to move up to Ithaca, and that's what pretty much happened.

At Pinelands I was interviewing a guy for a job who used to work at The Plantsmen in Ithaca. He told me that the nursery seemed to be headed toward closing its doors, so I contacted Rick Hedrick and heard back from him right away. Over the course of two months, we negotiated the sale. Rick had put in place the infrastructure like greenhouses, layout, and parking lot, and he was a good guy to work with, so the transition went pretty smoothly.

The Plantsmen in its first incarnation had a strong personality and following. What was it like taking it over and making it your own?

DS: I liked what they were doing, and the kinds of plants they were growing, but I knew I wanted to do something completely different; I wanted to focus on native plants. I changed everything about the nursery—the plant material, the personality, the accessibility—except the name. I felt that keeping the name was a net positive, because it was so recognizable in the community.

We had to overcome the perception by some people that The Plantsmen had gone out of business. Also, for the first year or so, we had a lot of customers complain that we didn't have certain things that used to be sold there, such as hot-house geraniums. I'd say, "I'm sorry, but can I show you this other stuff that's also really neat?" I could tell there were some people we were simply going to lose, but there

LEFT: *Aster divaricatus*, wood aster

RIGHT: *Pycnanthemum muticum*, mountain mint



LEFT: Mixed native perennials packs

RIGHT: Nursery plants grasses section

were others we were gaining. We switched the newsletter from paper to online and again, there was loss and gain of readership. We have about 2000 subscribers now, and the nursery has about seven times the gross revenue it had when we bought it. We do residential design/install all over the region. So over time, we've built up something strong of our own—which is not to say there weren't lean times, like after the economic downturn of 2008.

I imagine doing educational events in the community helped build a new image and following for the nursery.

DS: Yes, that has helped. I take a lot of photos and I started doing PowerPoint presentations when I worked at Pinelands, doing talks for native plant and environmental groups, municipalities, and schools. I still love doing it; it's a great way to zero in on a pleasurable part of what we do, which is admiring pretty plants. But the more important thing is to provide context for the plants, like whether they grow in dry shade, on shady creek banks, under walnuts, etc. I talk about how they can be useful in tough landscape situations and how we can learn their specific strengths from knowing where they're happy in the wild.

My friend Rick Manning and I started the Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium (INLS) six years ago partly because we wanted to do something earnest that would help build our own intellectual and horticultural presence in the community but also to pull everyone together at that time of year (early March) when most people are desperate for a plant-related event. Nothing like this was happening in central NY. The symposium draws a lot of landscape architects (LAs) and hort professionals—about 120 people come. All are welcome; we'd like to see more students and homeowners come. We have speakers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, so that they're speaking on the flora native to our region. A real nice feeling of community has developed after having done this for six years, with so many repeat attendees.

Can you talk about why using native plants is important?

DS: Just as with the local food movement, why wouldn't we want to cultivate and celebrate what's in our region? Like with local food, why not bring beautiful plants into cultivation from the least distance possible? You can look at it as a simplicity principle. Also, like with local food, there is value in knowing where your plants come from. For me, when I see a plant while I'm out hiking that I grow in the nursery, I feel an emotional connection to it, not just an intellectual one.

With the cultivar model that dominates horticulture today, the way most plants are cloned from cuttings/not grown from seed, we know nothing of their origins, and genetic variation is not encouraged. I like that with native plants, you know the provenance of that seed, and you get to choose. There's also the argument that a given genotype is adapted to its region and its environment, though one has to go one step further and make sure that your chosen native plant is suitably matched to the specific site where you want to use it. Another reason I like to use natives is the idea of truly creating a sense of place, not just talking about it abstractly and then using cultivars from who-knows-where, as so often happens.

A lot of gardeners will say, for ornamental landscapes, why does it matter? But if someone has a woodland they want to restore that's been damaged by deer browse—let's say now they have a perimeter fence—I can't help but look at that as a restoration project, and if we can, why wouldn't we capture some of the genetics that are in our region, of the plants that were destroyed by the deer?

That said, I'm not a fundamentalist. My obsession with natives has softened to a philosophy, rather than a religion, over time. I love beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*) and boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) and purple smokebush (*Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple'), in part because these are plants I know can stand up to the deer. Besides, if you are a fundamentalist and say "You should always use natives" and then they



don't work well, natives can seem to be the problem. Plant recommendations have to be more specific and nuanced.

The most interesting part of our work with natives is that it's something different; it's not being done by many people in the area. I think one of the great advantages with natives is you can observe them in the wild and the reason that's important is you learn so much about where they want to grow. So for instance, if you see *Monarda didyma* growing in wet shade, that tells you where this plant wants to be grown. Or as with *Rudbeckia laciniata*, one of my favorite native perennials, it is a wetland plant all over Tompkins County, growing in conditions a little drier than where you find cattails. That tells us about how to grow it in the nursery and where to plant it in the garden—in wet spots in lawns and in rain gardens.

When I was younger, I used to try really hard to convince everyone of the need to use native plants. I don't do that anymore; I just offer options for those who are interested. People sometimes have the misperception that native plants are weedy or ratty looking or harder to grow. These are prejudices, based on not knowing. Blue cardinal flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), our native spiraea (*Spiraea tomentosa*), and New England asters (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) are beautiful and easy to grow, for instance.

How can native plants and deer coexist?

DS: There are three ways to go about it: First, the homeowner can put up a complete perimeter deer fence, and more and more of our clients are requesting that. Deer fencing can be done more inexpensively than many people realize, with creatively cheaper posts, and taking fencing around existing trees. A second approach is to use native plants in a fenced area and a combination of nonnative and native deer resistant plants (there are 25 or 30 of the latter we can use) in the unprotected areas. The third option is that people can protect plants individually like with repellents, but I try to discourage people from that, because it is labor intensive and just one missed repellent application can open the door to mass destruction in just one night.

What are some things you're into outside of work?

DS: The thing that plants replaced in my life was sports. I'm still a fan, and I watch and play and coach my kids' soccer and baseball teams. That takes up a lot of time outside work, and it's tricky during the growing season, but I find it relaxing and therapeutic. My kids are Charlie, 9; Sofia, 11; and Aaron, 14.

I'm also a national board member of Wild Ones (wildones.org) based out of Wisconsin. Wild Ones is a national native plant organization. In New York, our Wild Ones chapter is called The Habitat Gardeners of Central NY and is based in Syracuse.

The Plantsmen is a proud sponsor of the Winter Village Bluegrass Festival that Rick Manning organizes, and we support dozens of charitable events and organizations.

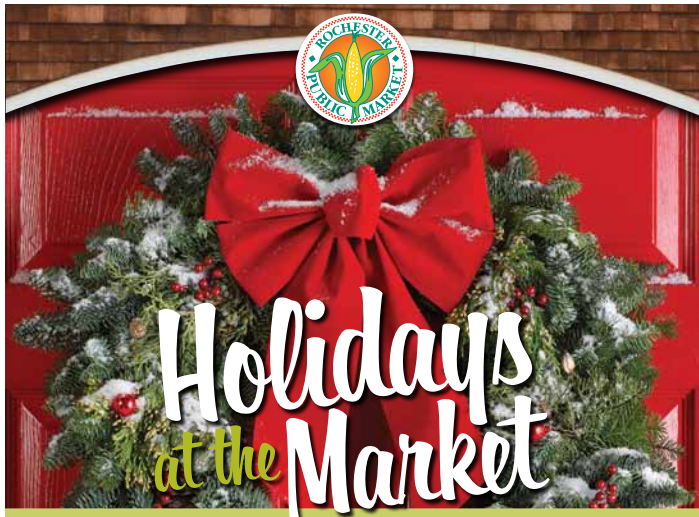
Michelle Sutton (michellejudysutton.com) is a horticulturist, writer, and editor living in New Paltz, NY.

LEFT: Exceptionally informative signage

RIGHT: Excellent display labeling

FROM LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT RICK MANNING

"I'm a designer who likes native plants and knows a good deal about them, but I benefit from Dan's extensive knowledge. His writing skills are evident in the excellent signage at the nursery. I like spending time there; the staff is great and very knowledgeable ... I always learn a lot. We make a good team because we approach the Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium from different angles. We each bring different kinds of people into the event. We also spend a lot of time talking about music ... Dan's quite a good songwriter and I play bluegrass and organize bluegrass festivals. Hopefully he and I can collaborate someday on music as well as the Symposium."



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REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of WNY meets the third Tuesday of each month, September - June, at 7:30 pm, LVAC Building, 40 Embury Place, Lancaster. avgswny@verizon.net; gesneriadsociety.org/chapters/wny.

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

Amama Garden Club of West Seneca meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January) at 11:00 am, Burchfield Nature and Art Center, 2001 Union Road, West Seneca. For more information contact Ardys Lerch 716/633-9555.

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

Buffalo Area Daylily Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. *December 7: Holiday Meeting & Cookie Exchange, 1 pm.* 716/ 698-3454; info@buffaloareadaylilysociety.com.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS - District 8. Maryann Jumper, District Director. 716/435-3412; mjump50@gmail.com; gardenclubsofwny.com.

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

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

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

Ken-Sheriton Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30 pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 576 Delaware Road, Kenmore. Monthly programs, artistic design and horticulture displays. *November 11: Christmas Naturally, Dorothy Julius will discuss decorating for the holidays using natural materials.* New members and guests welcome. 716/836-0567.

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

Orchard Park Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 12 pm, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 4369 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park. President: Joan Sutton, 716/662-4777.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western New York Rose Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. wnyrosesociety.net.

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

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

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

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

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

DMH: Darwin Martin House, 125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14214. 716/856-3858; education@darwinmartinhouse.org; darwinmartinhouse.org.

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

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

• **November 1 - 15: Kids' Art Classes,** 3 Saturdays, 9-10:30 am. A different piece of art will be completed at each class. Ages 5-15. \$35 series; \$13 single class. Registration required. **BECBG**

November 8: Walk at Beaver Meadow, 10 - 11 am. Matt Candeais, Master's student at Buffalo State College, will focus on seed strategies, dormancy and his experiments testing recruitment theory on three rare prairie remnant plants in WNY. Matt is assessing what limitations on germination these plants face that may be keeping them at low numbers in the landscape. Donations. Registration required. **BMAC**
November 13 - 16: Holiday Open House, 10 am - 5 pm. **COOP**

November 15: Holiday Open House, 9 am - 3 pm. Refreshments, gifts, raffles, inspiration. **LOCK**

November 20: Make-and-Take - Fresh Fall Centerpiece, 6 pm. Create a fall centerpiece to embellish your holiday table. Includes container, fresh flowers and greens. \$35. Registration required. **MENNE**

November 20 - 23: Holiday Open House, 10 am - 5 pm. **COOP**

November 22: Harvest Centerpiece, 10:30 am. Create a pumpkin centerpiece topped with dried flowers and natural accents of nuts, cones and bittersweet. Instructor: Becky Watts. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

November 22: Visit the Snow Queen, 3 - 5 pm.

Children can join the Snow Queen from Fairytales Delivered as she holds court in the World of Christmas. There will be Story Time and opportunities to talk with the princess. Each child will receive an autographed picture. Cameras welcome. **MENNE**

November 22: Miniature Dish Garden, 7:30 - 9 pm. Sara of Sylvatica Shop, Inc. will focus on miniature plants and diorama-style tabletop gardens. Materials included. \$40; \$35 bring your own container. Registration required. Project 308 Gallery, 308 Oliver Street, North Tonawanda. sylvaticashop@gmail.com; sylvaticashop.com.

November 23: Thanksgiving Arrangement Class, 2 - 3:30 pm. Learn the basics of floral arrangements using fresh and dried and foraged materials for a natural, rustic look. Conducted by Sara Johnson, Sylvatica Shop, Buffalo. \$30. Registration required. **BMAC**

November 25: Fresh Thanksgiving Arrangement, 6:15 pm. Make your own fresh floral arrangement. Materials included. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

November 28 - January 4: Poinsettia Display, daily, 10 am - 5 pm. Included with admission. **BECBG**

• **November 28 - January 4: Garden Railway Exhibit,** daily, 10 am - 5 pm. Two exhibits: Thomas the Train & a traditional set-up. Hosted by Western New York Garden Railway Society. Included with admission. **BECBG**

November 29: Handmade Evergreen Wreath, 10:30 am. Learn to make your own using freshly cut fir boughs. Bow included. Instructor: Sally Cunningham. \$30. Registration required. **LOCK**

November 29: Artisanal Wreath Workshop, 2 - 4 pm. Nellie Gardner, Martin House Horticulturist, will show participants how to build their own 18" wreath from flowers, herbs and other natural materials. Materials provided. \$40 members; \$50 non-members. Registration required. **DMH**

November 29 - 30: Visit with Santa, 1 - 4 pm. Santa will pose for pictures with children and adults of all ages. **MENNE**

December 3: Make-and-Take - Holiday Containers for Porch & Patio, 6 pm. Learn how to combine fresh greens and winter accents to make a welcoming display. Includes container and soil; additional greens, plant materials, ribbon and accents extra. \$10. Registration required. **MENNE**

December 3 - 6: Christmas Arrangement. Call for a time slot with a group of 4 or more. **COOP**

December 4: Make-and-Take - Decorate a Christmas Wreath, 6 pm. Learn creative ideas for decorating a holiday wreath. Includes wreath and bow; additional greens, materials and accents extra. \$15. Registration required. **MENNE**

December 5 - 7: Holiday Open House, 10 am - 4 pm. Fresh holiday trees, wreaths, décor, refreshments, door prizes and more. Berried Treasures, 1415 Broadway, Route 20, Darien Center.

December 6: Walk at Knox Farm State Park - Winter Wonderland, 9 am. Take a leisurely hike along the trails to see what winter has to offer in the park. Donations. Registration required. Knox Farm State Park, 437 Buffalo Road, East Aurora. **BMAC**

December 6: Breakfast with Santa, 9 am - 12 pm. \$7 adults; \$5 children ages 4-12; 3 and under free. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 6: Make-and-Take - Decorate a Christmas Wreath, 10 am. See description under December 4. \$15. Registration required. **MENNE**

December 6: Mixed Greens & Berries Wreath, 10:30 am. Design a fresh wreath using fragrant cedar, pine, fir, juniper and hollies with berry twigs. Instructor: Sally Cunningham. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 6: Make-and-Take – Holiday Containers for Porch & Patio, 1 pm. See description under December 3. \$10. Registration required. **MENNE**

December 6: Outdoor Holiday Basket, 1:30 pm. Create your own decoration using twigs, greens, cones, berries and a bow. Instructor: Mary Gurtler. \$45. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 6: Holiday in the Park, 4 – 7 pm. Shop fresh & dried arrangements, wreaths, etc. Children's Christmas tree decorating competition. Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus. Presented by Orchard Park Garden Club. OP Railroad Depot, behind OP Library, Orchard Park.

December 6 – 7: Holiday Open House, Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 1 pm. Holiday wreaths, plants and gift ideas. Refreshments. Elaine's Flower Shoppe, 2365 George Urban Boulevard, Depew. 716/681-4688.

December 6 – 7: Visit with Santa, 1 – 4 pm. See description under November 29 – 30. **MENNE**

• **December 6, 13 & 22: Kids' Art Classes**, 9 – 10:30 am. A different piece of art will be completed at each class. Ages 5-15. \$35 series; \$13 single class. Registration required. **BECEB**

December 7: Boxwood Tabletop Tree, 1:30 pm. Make a 16-inch boxwood tree for holiday decoration. Ornaments also available. Instructor: David Clark. \$35. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 9: Make-and-Take – Christmas Fairy Garden, 6 pm. Learn how to create an indoor fairy garden. Includes container, soil, rocks and stones; plants and accessories extra. \$10. Registration required. **MENNE**

• **December 13: Family Holiday Festival**, 10 am – 12 pm. Learn to create 19th century crafts, including citrus pomanders, gilded walnuts and orange slice ornaments. Victorian era refreshments. \$10 children; \$5 adults. Registration required. **DMH**

December 13: Kissing Ball Workshop, 10:30 am. Make a British-style entryway ornament from greens, baubles, cones & bows. Instructor: Sally Cunningham. \$38. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 13: Make-and-Take – Christmas Fairy Garden, 1 pm. See description under December 9. \$10. Registration required. **MENNE**

December 13: Design & Decorate Holiday Tea, 2 – 3:30 pm. Enjoy an afternoon tea while Nellie Gardner shares design tips and demonstrates simple yet elegant ideas for holiday table trimmings and floral décor. Many of the featured arrangements will take inspiration from the Martin House seasonal displays and will be available for purchase. \$28 members; \$35 non-members. Registration required. **DMH**

December 13 – 14: Visit with Santa, 1 – 4 pm. See description under November 29 – 30. **MENNE**

December 14: Christmas Centerpiece, 1:30 pm. Design your centerpiece for table or sideboard using mixed greens and natural materials. Instructor: David Clark. \$45. Registration required. **LOCK**

December 14: Fresh Winter Wreath, 2 – 3:30 pm. Learn the basics of hand-tied wreaths in this hands-on workshop. Each participant will make one fresh conifer and mixed foliage wreath. All materials included. Conducted by Sara Johnson, Sylvatica Shop, Buffalo. \$25. Registration required. **BMAC**

December 15 – 16: Orchard Park Holiday Door Competition. Held by Orchard Park Garden Club, open to all OP residents. Only fresh and/or treated dried plant material may be used; ribbons, wire, accessories, ornaments permitted. Submit photos to: OPGC, 21 Henning Drive, Orchard Park, 14127; johnmonica@verizon.net. Include name, address of the door, phone number & email if available. Entries must be submitted December 1 – 12.

December 20: Walk at Knox Farm State Park – Tree Tales, 9 am. Explore the bare trees to learn the

language of bark, buds, twigs and scars. Donations. Registration required. Knox Farm State Park, 437 Buffalo Road, East Aurora. **BMAC**

December 26: Old Growth Forest Hike, 10 am – 12 pm. Naturalist Mark Carra will lead this hike through some of the old woods at the preserve. Donations. Registration required. **BMAC**

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society (ACNARGS). Meets in the Whetzel Room, Room 404, Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca. Free and open to all. acnargs.blogspot.com; facebook.com/acnargs.

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

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

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

CP: Cornell Plantations, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Inquire ahead for meeting locations. 607/255-2400; cornellplantations.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

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

November 10 – 22: Leaf Swap. Drop off clean, bagged leaves during 12-day period. November 22: Gardeners and composters may take leaves; free screened compost, bring own container, up to 5 gallons. Free. **CCE/TOM**

November 12: Fall Lecture Series, 7:30 – 8:30 pm. William N. Valavanis, Bonsai Master, *An Introduction to Classical Bonsai Art*. Statler Hall Auditorium, Cornell University. **CP**

November 15: Gourd Basket, 1 – 5 pm. Start with a whole gourd and cut, clean and finish it into a basket. Materials included. \$45 members & Cornell students; \$50 non-members. Registration required. **CP**

Ongoing in Early December: Holiday Workshop for Private Groups. See *Holiday Workshop* description under December 6. For groups of 10 or more. \$5 per person; materials extra. Reservation required. **BAK**

December 5: Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop – Advanced, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Oriented toward those who have participated before. Make an evergreen wreath using fresh-cut greens, ring, wires and ribbons. Participants may bring special decorating materials to personalize their wreath. \$18. Advance registration required. **CCE/TOM**

December 6: Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop – Beginner, 10 am – 12 pm. Oriented toward those who have not participated before. See description under December 5. \$18. Advance registration required. **CCE/TOM**

• **December 6: Holiday Workshop**, 10 am – 12 pm. Make your own holiday decoration, choose from: evergreen wreath, boxwood tree, evergreen center piece, evergreen/boxwood kissing ball, fairy garden centerpiece. \$8 adults; \$4 children under 12; materials extra. Registration required. **BAK**

December 6: Winter Garden Tour, 1 pm. Enjoy a guided walk through the Mullestein Family Winter Garden, designed as a showcase for plants with intriguing winter characteristics such as evergreen foliage, colorful bark, persistent fruit and unusual growth habits. \$5; free for members, volunteers and Cornell students. **CP**

• **December 7: Holiday Workshop**, 1 – 3 pm. See description under December 6. \$8 adults; \$4 children under 12; materials extra. Registration required. **BAK**

ROCHESTER

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Rochester meets the first Wednesday of each month, September – May, at 7 pm, St. John's Home, 150 Highland Avenue, Rochester. All are welcome. Bob or Linda Springer: 585/413-0606; blossoms002@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Genesee Valley Hosta Society meets the second Thursday of the month, April – October, at Monroe County's Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester. 585/538-2280; sebackner@frontiernet.net.

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

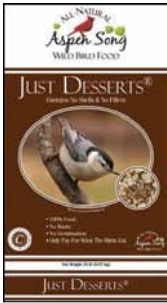
Gesneriad Society meets the first Wednesday of each month, September – May, at 6:30 pm, St. John's Home, 150 Highland Avenue, Rochester. All are welcome. Bob or Linda Springer: 585/413-0606; blossoms002@yahoo.com.

Greater Rochester Iris Society meets Sundays at 2 pm, dates vary, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester. Public welcome. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

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For the birds

Suet Recipe favored by woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and Carolina wrens.

- 2 cups quick oats
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup peanut butter

Optional - Add with dry ingredients:
1/4 - 1/3 cup unsalted sunflower seeds

1. Line 9x13 pan with plastic wrap.
2. Mix dry ingredients in large bowl.
3. Melt shortening in microwave & add peanut butter, stirring until blended. Pour into dry ingredients & mix well.
4. Pat into pan and refrigerate a few hours.
5. Lift out & slice into pieces that fit into a suet feeder. Wrap & refrigerate unused pieces.

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

Correction: In the last issue's recipe for Apple Galette, 1/4 cup of sugar should be added to the filling's ingredient list. We apologize for the oversight.



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Calendar

ROCHESTER cont.

Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm, Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. *December 4: Gardens around the World, Laurie Burtner and Jerry Kral will present photo tours of their recent travels.* 585/467-1678; smag@rochester.rr.com; rochesterperennial.com.

Greater Rochester Rose Society meets the first Tuesday of the month, April through November, at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester. July & August meetings in members' gardens, December meeting at a member's home. 585/377-0892; 585/621-1115; info@rocrose.org; rocrose.org.

Henrietta Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month (except May-August & December) at 6:45 pm, Riparian Lecture Hall at Rivers Run, 50 Fairwood Drive, Rochester. *November 19: Perennials: New Ones, Improved Old Ones and Some You Would not Think of Using, presented by Jerry Kral.* Open to all. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub@gmail.com; henriettagardenclub.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of most months at 1 pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester, except in the summer, when it tours members' gardens. Visitors welcome. 585/249-0624; 585/865-2291; gwebster@rochester.rr.com; Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

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

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

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

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

FREQUENT HOSTS

BRI: Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor Pittsford Road, Victor, NY. 585/924-2274; customerservice@bristolsgardencenter.com; bristolsgardencenter.com & Facebook.

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

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

November 9: Durand Eastman Park Arboretum

Tour, 2 – 4 pm. Conducted by Community Forester Volunteers. Be prepared to traverse moderate hills and wooded trails. Meet: kiosk, Zoo Road, next to park offices lot. Donations. 585/261-1665; bob.bea@gmail.com.

November 9 – 10: Holiday Sale

9 am – 5 pm. Shop holiday decorations including fully decorated and lit trees from tabletop to 6.5', wreaths, swags, centerpieces and more. In addition, the work of local artists will be available: handmade purses, notecards, Rochester photography, etc. Free. **RCGC**

November 12: Plant an Indoor Winter Herb Garden

6:30 – 8 pm. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets will guide participants in creating an indoor herb garden. Dick Minoia will demonstrate some creative ways to use herbs in cooking. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

November 15: Candlelight Holiday Tour

11 am – 4 pm. Featuring 6 Pittsford-area homes. Presented by Seventh District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State. \$20, available at: Bristol Garden Center, The Garden Factory, Genrich's Garden Center, Gro-Moore Farms, Kittleberger Florist & Gifts, Pittsford Florist, Powers Farm Market, Van Putte Gardens, Wayside Garden Center, Wisteria Flowers & Gifts. 585/248-2563; 7thdistrictfgcnys.org.

November 15: Forever Green Auction

6:30 pm. Music, food & auction items. All proceeds benefit Genesee Land Trust. Jack's Place at Durand Eastman Park, 1200 Kings Highway North, Rochester. Genesee Land Trust, 585/256-2130; info@geneseeandtrust.org; geneseeandtrust.org.

November 16: Advanced Certificate – Sympathy

Arrangements, 9:30 am – 3 pm. Instructor Alana Miller will focus on free-standing easel sprays, large one-sided arrangements for visitation and altar, religious and theme wreaths. Students take home all arrangements created during class. Prerequisite: *Intermediate Professional Floral Design* program or floral shop experience. \$150 members; \$225 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

November 16: Durand Eastman Park Arboretum

Tour, 2 – 4 pm. See description under November 9. Donations. 585/261-1665; bob.bea@gmail.com.

November 20: Create an Autumn Centerpiece

6:30 – 8 pm. Using fresh greens and flowers, Sue Lang & Sheryl Roets will guide participants as they create an autumn centerpiece that will last through the holiday season. Materials included. \$50. Registration required. **RCGC**

November 20: Landscaping with a Purpose –

Plantings that Earn Their Keep, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Learn how to use plants to make your entrance welcoming and safe, enhance security, reduce heating and cooling bills, improve privacy and livability of outdoor spaces and make lawn maintenance easier through landscape designer Marcella Klein's slideshow of photos, diagrams and plant recommendations. \$22 members; \$32 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

November 22: Thanksgiving Centerpiece

11 am. Use evergreens and fall accessories to create a Thanksgiving-themed centerpiece. Materials included. \$20. Registration required. **BRI**

November 23: Durand Eastman Park Arboretum

Tour, 2 – 4 pm. See description under November 9.

Donations. 585/261-1665; bob.bea@gmail.com.

November 30: Holidays at the Market

9 am – 3 pm. Holiday trees, wreaths, fresh garlands, art, crafts, decorations, holiday foods, gift items and stocking stuffers. Visit Santa; horse-drawn sleigh rides. **RPM**

December 3: Outdoor Holiday Welcome

Arrangement, 6:30 – 8 pm. Design a custom arrangement for your front entrance using fresh greens and decorative materials in a holiday container in this class with Sue Lang & Sheryl Roets. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 4: Make an Everlasting Wreath

6:30 – 8 pm. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets will guide participants in creating a large everlasting wreath using a base of salal (lemon leaf) and baby's breath (depending on availability) embellished with dried, fresh and silk floral materials. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 4: Holiday Arrangement Workshop

7 – 9 pm. Floral designer Charles Lytle will guide participants as they create an arrangement using mixed greens embellished with dried and fresh flowers, pinecones, candles and holiday ribbon. Materials included. \$35 members; \$45 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 5: Make a Knock-out Holiday Wreath that Lasts All Winter

6 – 8 pm. Horticulturist Nellie Gardner will guide participants as they create their own stylish wreath using an assortment of mixed greens embellished with natural materials including herbs, chili peppers, rose hips, pods, dried flowers and cones. \$38 members; \$48 non-members. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 6: Holiday Greens Workshop

9 am – 12 pm. \$35. Registration required. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, 1581 Route 88 North, Newark. 315/331-8415.

December 6: Holiday Centerpiece

11 am. Create a centerpiece in oasis using fresh greens, winter berries, twigs etc. Materials included. \$20. Registration required. **BRI**

December 6: Holiday Wreath

1 pm. Make your own personalized wreath using a range of accessories and ribbons. Materials included. \$25. Registration required. **BRI**

December 7: Holidays at the Market

9 am – 3 pm. See description under November 30. **RPM**

December 10: Boxwood Topiary

6:30 – 8 pm. Together with Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets participants will make a topiary using fresh boxwood greens embellished with fresh, dried and silk floral material. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 11: Create a Fairy Garden

6:30 – 8 pm. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets will guide participants in planting an indoor fairy garden for any age to share for many years to come. Materials included. \$65. Registration required. **RCGC**

December 13: Holiday Centerpiece

11 am. See description under December 6. Materials included. \$20. Registration required. **BRI**

December 13: Holiday Wreath

1 pm. See description under December 6. Materials included. \$25. Registration required. **BRI**

December 14: Holidays at the Market

9 am – 3 pm. See description under November 30. **RPM**

December 14: Bedecked for the Holidays

3 – 5 pm. See the home of Carolyn and Bob McKee in Avon decorated for the holidays. There are several trees and every room in the lower floors is decorated, each with its own theme: Victorian, Adirondack, natural & garden, birds & birdhouses, snowflakes, royal blue, orchids, old-time chrome and tinsel car-themed décor and more. Refreshments. \$12. Registration required. **RCGC**

January 12: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe

County Re-Opening. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County is relocating to Seneca Park. The first day of business at the new location will be January 12. CCE will continue to provide Agriculture, Horticulture, Youth and Nutrition programming to Monroe County. 2449 St. Paul Blvd., Irondequoit. 585/461-1000; counties.cce.cornell.edu/monroe.

SAVE THE DATE...

February 21: Heirloom Gardening Seminar, 8:30 am – 4 pm. Includes sessions on growing and using heirloom herbs, cooking with heirloom vegetables, seed saving, a look at the heirloom seed catalog collection at Cornell University, tastings, raffle. Lunch included. \$50 members; \$55 non-members. Registration required. Genesee Country Village & Museum, 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumfords. 585/538-6822; events@gcv.org; gcv.org.

March 7: RCGC Spring Symposium. Two talks by Roy Diblik based on his 2014 book, *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden*. Cass Turnbull will demystify the topic of pruning covering everything from the correct way to renovate to creative problem solving. **RCGC**

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

Habitat Gardening Club of CNY (HGCNY) meets the last Sunday of most months at 2 pm, Liverpool Public Library. HGCNY is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes; for-wild.org. Meetings are free and open to the public. 315/487-5742; hgcny.org.

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

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

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

FREQUENT HOST

BWNC: Baltimore Woods Nature Center, 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus, NY. 315/673-1350; Facebook; baltimorewoods.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.
- **November 11: Adventure Day Camp – Gnomes, Trolls & Fairies**, 9 am – 4 pm. Celebrate the “forest folk” looking for fairy rings, hunting for trolls, building gnome thrones and fairy houses. Grades K-8. Before and after care available. \$50. Registration required. **BWNC**
- **November 11: Nature's Little Explorers Adventure Camp – Forest Fairies**, 10 am – 12 pm. Children ages 4-5 will use their imaginations searching for forest fairies, building fairy houses and gnome huts. \$20. Registration required. **BWNC**
- **November 11 – January 3: Drawing on Talent Art Exhibit**. Nature-inspired art created by members of Baltimore Woods Nature Center. Free. **BWNC**
- **November 13: Reception – Drawing on Talent Art Exhibit**, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Nature-inspired art. Free. **BWNC**
- **November 22: Nature Cards**, 10:30 – 11:30 am. Create your own set of nature-inspired cards to share this holiday season. \$7 members; \$10 non-members. Registration required. **BWNC**
- **November 30: The Value of Having Native Plants in Our Yards**, 2 pm. Video presentation by Doug Tallamy of the keynote address given at 2014 Wild Ones conference. Hosted by Habitat Gardening Club of CNY. Free. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. hgcny.org; ourhabitatgarden.org.

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (January-February 2015) is Friday, December 19, 2014. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.



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The decline of Austrian pines

by Rob Barrett

Many years ago, *Pinus nigra*, or Austrian pine, became a staple in upstate New York landscapes. It was thought to be a perfect specimen, with deep green needles and symmetrical growth. It adapted to many different growing conditions and was salt-tolerant. It seemed to be relatively insect- and disease-resistant. We planted it everywhere: lining our yards, commercial properties, hedgerows, and housing complexes, very often in large clumps and too close together considering its mature size.

Traveling through our community today, you will see these trees in many stages of health. Some still look perfect, but not many. Others are almost completely bare with a few green needles at the top and a thick layer of brown

needles on the ground below. Mostly, you will see mature trees with very thin foliage 50% to 75% up the tree with some green and brown above.

What happened to our perfect tree? The same thing that usually happens. We find something new and different. We over-plant without diversification. Everything is grand. Then we realize we have made a mistake.

Austrian pines have succumbed to a variety of diseases, compounded with harsh and highly variable weather conditions. Fungal pathogens that manifest themselves as tip and needle blights seem to be our biggest threat. There is a laundry list of these pathogens; we tend to suspect *Dothistroma* and *Diplodia*. As with most of fungal plant

diseases, they thrive in wet weather, via splashing and dripping. You can see how these diseases might spread like wildfire, considering the trees are planted atop one another and our weather is conducive to optimal disease production.

What can we do? For trees that are already severely infected, removal is the best option.

However, if you're up for the commitment there are a variety of treatments including spraying with registered fungicides at regular intervals in the spring. Timing, weather, pesticide regulation all hinder this approach. Another option is trunk injections with labeled products. Although these treatments provide some disease suppression, it should also be stated that they are by no means a cure and usually need to be repeated yearly.

Where practical prune out dead branches and rake up and destroy infected needles that have dropped. Water and lightly fertilize trees as needed. Trees 15 years or older are much more susceptible to these issues. As trees mature, reduce any other stresses including insect damage and water management. These added issues often compound the problem and accelerate decline.

Horticultural changes may be our best option. Preemptively remove trees that are unhealthy or thin out those that were planted too close together. Note that when looking at a group of Austrian pines you'll see differences in their appearances because they're raised from seed and this

means there's natural variation in resistance from plant to plant which can work to your advantage. When thinning out a stand of trees remove the worst and keep the best.

In a short time this tree has gone from the most-planted list to the do-not plant list. This may be a bit severe; there is a place for Austrian pine in the landscape. The answer lies in diversification. Plant a variety of trees. There are many other choices if you desire evergreens, but they all have their issues. Some good options are Norway spruce, white pine, and even some of the newer long needled pines that are showing some promise. Check with your nursery or consult an arborist for other varieties and planting recommendations.

Trees are an investment. Choose wisely and you will receive a strong return.

Rob Barrett is the manager of Plant Health Care at Ted Collins Tree and Landscape in Victor, NY.

LEFT: Diplodia on Austrian pine, photo courtesy Ward Upham, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org.



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A warm welcome

by Cathy Monrad

Nothing says, "Welcome! Please come in!" like seasonal décor on the front door. This project will produce a warm sentiment through the whole of winter, long after the rest of your festive holiday ornaments are stored away.

Mittens

2 yards of 1 1/2" wide ribbon

8 safety pins

Assortment of colorful twigs, holly, and small pine boughs

1. Cut ribbon in half to make two equal lengths.
2. Attach the end of each ribbon to each mitten using four safety pins equally spaced.
3. Tie the ribbons together with a knot and a loose about 12" from the top of the mittens.
4. Hang the mittens on a door by looping the knot over a wreath hanger. Insert the branches as desired.

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

Did you make a unique decoration for your front door? Upload an image to Pinterest and tag *JaneMilliman* and/or *CathyMonrad*—we'd love to see what our readers are creating!



TOP: Completed project

BOTTOM: Ribbon attached to mittens with safety pins



Taste test

by Christina Le Beau

At farmers' markets every summer, my daughter fills her basket with sweet orange, yellow and red cherry tomatoes. Usually only half the tomatoes make it home. And those don't even make it into a salad. They're just too good straight-up.

But by late September, our cravings wane. Astute veggie gardeners and locavores will note this corresponds conveniently with the end of the local tomato season. And of course this is the way our forbearers ate, before every food was available everywhere in every season.

Yet it wasn't until we joined our first CSA that I began to appreciate that timetable, and not only in a sustainable, eco-political, support-a-local-farmer kind of way. It was all about taste.

When you spend years buying whatever the supermarket has to offer – which, if you shop at the supermarket I do, is *everything* – you acquire habits. Like the autopilot reach for those bright-red cocktail tomatoes on a vine, the ones that look so luscious you just assume they'll taste luscious, too. Then you throw them in a salad or toss them with pasta, and they don't taste bad, so you keep buying them.

But they don't exactly taste good, either. In fact they don't taste like much of anything. Except I didn't know that until we got our first CSA shares of bite-sized tomatoes with names like 'Isis', 'Sun Gold' and 'Black Cherry'. What were these wondrous things that burst like candy on my tongue and made me elbow fellow shareholders for the

choicest quart?

In short order, I became a tomato snob. I wouldn't buy them in the grocery store unless they were local and in-season. And if a restaurant salad included those mealy wedges of tomato wannabes, I shoved them conspicuously off to the side.

In the years since, I've upped my game, buying bulk boxes of organic heirlooms and preserving the bounty. The first year, I ordered 30 pounds. Within a week, having variously roasted, canned, pureed and frozen all of that, I ordered 20 pounds more. My tomato-preserving enthusiasm waxes and wanes from year to year, but one thing does not change: fresh tomatoes get eaten in season, or not at all.

My daughter, she of the loaded market baskets, will eat the shiny grape tomatoes that are now restaurant salad staples. (Hurrah for the apparent demise of the mealy wedge!) And as last winter dragged on interminably, she started asking for the trucked-in plastic clamshells of tomatoes in the stores, even though she knows I make bug-eyes at the thought. I bought some anyway, and she ate them. She did not ask for them again.

Christina Le Beau lives in Rochester. She writes about raising food-literate kids at www.spoonfedblog.net. A version of this essay originally appeared on Spoonfed and in *New York Organic News*.

ABOVE: Photo courtesy Flickr: Gnowme

2014 Winter Photo Contest



GRAND PRIZE (on cover)
Linear Park, Rochester
by Julie Rubel

WINNER: WILDLIFE CATEGORY (bottom left)
Mendon Ponds Park, Mendon
By Mike Sargent

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

WINNER: PLANTS CATEGORY (top left)
Photographer's garden, Rochester
By J Alasimi

WINNER: ENHANCED CATEGORY (bottom middle)
"Snowy apple tree in neon"
Photographer's garden, Ithaca
By Cynthia Lamb

2015 WINTER PHOTO CONTEST

The contest will run December 21, 2013 through March 19, 2015. Watch our facebook page and upstategardenersjournal.com for details on how to enter.

WINNER: SCENES CATEGORY (top right)
Hay Wagon
Farm on Benson Road, Victor
By Marnie Soom

WINNER: FACEBOOK'S MOST POPULAR
(bottom right)
Cornus mas flower buds encased in ice
Williamsville
By Barbara Evans



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