

# Upstate Gardeners' Journal

BUFFALO - ITHACA - ROCHESTER - SYRACUSE



Zucchini fritters  
Love your weeds  
Horticulture education

**FREE**

Volume Twenty-seven, Issue Five  
September-October 2021

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## Pockets of Plants

Oh, the plants that we have loved, amore amore...there are so many! The struggle then becomes the best way to blend and marry these many loves so that no good plant goes to waste. A wrong planting site or an unhappy combination can make you fall out of love pretty quickly. There should never be disappointment when a plant you love is suddenly in your grasp.

The key is knowing how and where to use them to their and your happiest advantage. We break our large garden spaces into what we call pocket gardens. We take larger areas and compartmentalize them into smaller bites. That way, finding homes and combinations for the aforementioned 'must-haves' can flourish and enhance the space, all while giving you those 'pockets of plants' you love. Sometimes the pocket is full of moisture-loving plants or a group of dry shade guys; how about a group that requires sharp drainage and hot sun? And you can dig deeper ... groups by color, groups by sizes, by season...keep going! Starting with the accessible and commonly known attributes can get you on the right track. It's a small step towards designing a garden that you love; just full of these delightful little pockets of plants not only chosen because you love them but for their shared needs, attributes, and their ease of relating to each other.

The best part is that we can help with that! Sometimes I will walk the nursery with a plant 'in hand' until I find the perfect partner for the next pocket! It's pretty fun, and we encourage you to do it! A key thing to remember is "the right plant for the right place"—putting round pegs in square holes pretty much proves futile.

Happy pocket planting this fall; it's the perfect time to add some new or rearrange the already planted. And since it's our Customer Appreciation Days, you can do it for a little bit less. Thank you!!!

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On the cover: Chrysanthemum (*Dendranthema grandiflora*)  
by Bonnie Guckin

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*From the publisher*



Dear friends,

We regret that we have had to change the date for our annual (well, it used to be annual) Odyssey to Ithaca yet again—it's now scheduled for June 4, 2022, and by then we will have gone two years without one! If you are interested in reserving a seat, please email [kim@upstategardenersjournal.com](mailto:kim@upstategardenersjournal.com). It's always such a blast! Unfortunately, we just learned that Bakers' Acres, which for years was our delicious lunch stop and a hugely popular place to buy all sorts of plants, especially hard-to-find perennials, is closing for good this October. We are hard at work coming up with alternate stops for our trip, and we wish Reenie and her staff the best of luck in whatever they do next!

One of the best parts of September and October is *Heptacodium miconoides*, or seven-son flower (pictured above). This tree begins flowering in August, attracting myriad friendly pollinators. When the flowers start to fall off in September, they leave behind rosy-colored bracts that make it look for all the world like a flowering fruit tree—not something you see too often in the fall. It's pest- and disease-free and a fast grower, but small, quickly attaining a height of about fifteen feet and then slowing down a bit and maxing out at about twenty-five feet. It does tend to send up a lot of suckers from the branches, but they are easily pruned out, and it's fun to shape the tree. The only problem? Not exactly easy to find. But if you have your heart set on one (and you will, if you see one), just ask your favorite local nursery person, and he or she should be able to track one down.

As always, thanks for reading!

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# Horticulture education: *Ruminations, confessions, and advice*

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton

**ABOVE:** Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) trunk.

I was twenty-five years old when I walked into a community college bookstore in Sterling, Virginia. I wanted to get a feel for the textbooks I'd need if I enrolled in the horticulture program there. I picked up the heavy chemistry text, opened to the middle, and ran my eyes over the facing pages—then promptly freaked out and left the bookstore, distraught.

I'd attended three semesters of college right out of high school but academically felt adrift, so I took what ended up being a five-year break to work various jobs and figure out what I wanted to do. Organic vegetable farming was my favorite of the types of work I tried out, but I needed a better paying way forward in horticulture. To even contemplate going back to school, I had to overcome many fears and a good helping of self-doubt: was my brain capable of revving back up enough to study full time? Did I have what it took to pursue a profession? With no family to help me, how would I afford my education?

In high school, chemistry and geometry were the courses I felt most disengaged from—yet here I was, my future horticulture education hinging on a foundation

of natural science and math courses. Eventually, I realized the mistake I'd made in the community college bookstore: I'd opened the textbook *in the middle*. Of course, everything I saw in the middle of the book seemed impossibly technical. In what became a guiding notion for the next six years of my education, I learned that whenever I was overwhelmed, I needed to remind myself to simply *start at the beginning*.

I figured out how to make best friends with the subjects I was most afraid of. I bought workbooks in chemistry and geometry and spent a good deal of time with them in the months before I went back to school. I remember so clearly the feeling of elation when I could, eventually, work through a geometry proof step by step, confidently and without anxiety.

—

I had a fantastic two-year education at community college, and then too at Virginia Tech, where I got my bachelor's degree in horticulture-crops. I discovered that the "crops" that interested me the most were actually ornamental plants, and I also became interested in public



garden management after taking a terrific hands-on Friday afternoon class in the Virginia Tech Hort Gardens. I decided to apply for the Longwood Graduate Program in public horticulture, hosted by Longwood Gardens and the University of Delaware.

Off I went to a four-day prospective student visit during which others shone with their extroverted natures and well-honed social skills but which for me felt like an excruciating four-day interview in which my every move was closely observed. If the experience was a microcosm of the social intensity of the program itself, it became clear to them and to me that I, introvert that I am, wasn't cut out for it. Even knowing that, it stung to be rejected by them—but they did me a favor. Fate had other plans for me, ones for which I was much better suited.

I'd also applied to the Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute to study urban forestry with Dr. Nina Bassuk. They not only accepted me, but also arranged for me to get a graduate assistantship in financial aid that would pay for my tuition and provide a small salary. Nina (as she prefers to be called) and I got along great, though I did struggle with impostor syndrome, especially when working with someone of her caliber, as she is arguably the foremost expert on street trees and urban forestry in the world. (The free student counseling service helped me with impostor syndrome, which is real for lots of folks—especially in a big pond where we small fish dart insecurely about the pond edges. Therapy rocks.)

Nina was (and remains) my most important professional mentor; I count myself fortunate, indeed. She arranged an interesting applied research project for us to undertake in the city of Ithaca, where balled-and-burlapped and bare root trees of the same species were paired side by side in similar conditions in both spring and fall. (Look up key words "Bassuk" + "Buckstrup" if you'd like to see the findings.) I also became a Citizen Pruner in Ithaca and learned from a cigar-smoking pruning master, Eric Woodward, to whom I'll always be grateful.

Nina asked me what else I wanted out of my graduate education. I said, "I don't want to take a lot of classes, I want to become a better writer and public speaker in this field." Off she set, putting one opportunity after another in front of me, from teaching Master Gardener classes to coauthoring magazine articles and a [award-winning] publication about bare root tree planting to making space for me to volunteer-teach elementary school kids about landscape design. The flexibility I enjoyed was phenomenal, and the experiences I had with Nina put me on the course to the work I enjoy so much today, as a writer and editor in horticulture with a special emphasis on urban forestry.

Classes do have their place, of course. For me, the most valuable courses I took in my time at Virginia Tech and Cornell were: Writing for Magazines, Spanish, Field Botany, Woody Plants, Herbaceous Plants, Creating the Urban Eden (Urban Forestry), Soils, and Botanical Garden Management.

...



**ABOVE:** *Sassafras*  
(*Sassafras albidum*)  
fall color.

Here's where I humbly offer some advice for folks who are considering going to college for horticulture or investing in other equally valid forms of professional education.

\*Keep your expenses low. Horticulture is not, for most of us, a particularly lucrative profession, so you want to keep your student debt down, especially if you're still in the early "feeling it out" stage. Consider starting your education with hands-on volunteer experiences through which you will learn so much, like getting your Master Gardener certification, or participating in programs like CommuniTree Stewards (offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension in Erie and Onondaga counties) or joining the Citizen Pruners and Beautification Brigade in Ithaca.

\*Community college is truly a light in this tumultuous world. Smaller class sizes, less expensive, closer to home—all the things you've heard. Consider starting with one community college course that interests you and see where it leads. Getting back into being a student takes time and you must be patient with yourself (sometimes my brain felt like an unsustainably stretched out rubber band in those first few months.) Carve out plenty of time to spend on this, your first class, so you can enjoy it and build your confidence.

\*Whatever your demographic, seek out scholarships for folks like you. In addition to your own research (see 100+ items for horticulture on [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com), for instance), make an appointment with the financial aid office to find





**LEFT:** Osage orange  
(*Maclura pomifera*) fruits.



**RIGHT:** Jaunty young  
European beech  
(*Fagus sylvatica*).

out about possibilities—and be exceedingly nice to the staff. Their job is stressful. (I can attest; I was one of them. Polite people made a big difference in my day.)

\*Keep your course load low to moderate so you have time to seek out more “field” experiences. In terms of your focus within horticulture, stay open and flexible to perhaps ending up in something different than where you started.

\*Sometimes the best courses can be experienced outside of a degree program. In my case, I’d never taken landscape design in college, so I opted to take it later in community college with the great Marci Muller and apply those skills profitably to my business at the time.

\*You may enjoy getting an education so much that you want to go to graduate school. Just be sure you’ve researched whether and where your degree will be marketable. Generally, the higher the level of education, the more you are paid—but also the more that is expected of you in terms of time and workload. Do you want a career that is that consuming? I was not cut out for that. It’s an important consideration.

\*Remember that when you make your hobby your profession, the hobby may, over time and repetition, lose some of its spark for you.

\*Networking is key, but it’s not necessarily what you think it is. I used to think “networking” was going to parties and mixing and mingling, and that didn’t always seem like fun to me. However, I’ve found for me that the best “networking” is simply that if you’re attentive and invested in your course/activity, people take note. As with so much of life, your ability to be present is everything.

Michelle Sutton is a horticulturist, writer, and editor.





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Seasonal stakeout

# CRAZY DAISIES

Story by John Boccacino; photos provided by Crazy Daisies







It started out as a solitary greenhouse, but this former “work in progress” has bloomed into something special for Jennifer Cox, owner of Crazy Daisies: an innovative farm and garden café located at 4693 Kasson Road in Syracuse.

Cox shares a love of agriculture with her husband, Glenn, and their six children—five of whom currently work full- or part-time at the greenhouse and garden café—and she is pleasantly surprised by the success Crazy Daisies has enjoyed since launching fourteen years ago.

“Agriculture is extremely important to our family; that is why we work so closely with local farms to supplement what we produce as well. Our expansion was always just based on necessity and the desire to offer the best product that we possibly could. We decided to do something a little different and offer a wide variety of unusual and fun plants and that’s how it started,” says Cox.

From humble beginnings, the family-owned and -operated Crazy Daisies has expanded to feature five total greenhouses that produce a crop of more than 100,000 plants sold each year. The selection of plants for sale includes annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets, patio containers, and more.

For those looking for an original plant design for home or office, the custom potting option at Crazy Daisies allows guests to drop off their empty pots. A staffer will devise a unique plan and then plant, grow, and return the pots for the owner to enjoy.

Originally, Cox conceived of the greenhouse as a way to stay at home and raise the couple’s children—sons Ryeland, Harrison, Henry, and Wyatt and daughters Gwendolyn and Zinnia—while ensuring the business was self-sufficient.

“For me, the plants offer a soul feed to most people.

**LEFT:** Mother and son duo Jennifer and Henry at the entry of the original Crazy Daisies greenhouse

**RIGHT TOP:** Henry watering the color-organized greenhouse

**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Crazy Daisies hosts private garden parties for five to 25 guests





**LEFT:** The Grain Bin Bar, a new feature of the garden café

**RIGHT TOP:** Lavender Bees' Knees cocktail made with Lockhouse cherry blossom gin and homemade honey-lavender lemonade

**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Mimosa flight

Our trial spring season worked out well enough to give us optimism about our venture," says Cox, who previously worked running her in-laws' farm market.

Crazy Daisies remains a family affair, as Harrison, Henry, and Gwendolyn work alongside their mother in a full-time capacity, while high schoolers Wyatt and Zinnia can often be found lending a helping hand, too.

"Everybody has a voice in our business decisions. Being self-employed has taught us a lot. We're all used to hard work. There are pros and cons of working with your family, but honestly, we are blessed to have our family working with us daily," Cox says.

Much like how the selection of available plants has grown since Crazy Daisies launched, so, too has the business evolved. Three years ago, Cox was seeking another way to support local agriculture, when the idea to add in food and drinks to the venture was born. This led to the creation of the garden café.

"It felt like a natural progression of the business. We

work with local farms as much as possible in addition to growing what we can as well. Being able to put you [the consumer] in touch with who grows your food is incredible, and the carbon footprint is much better, too. It's a big challenge, but it is worth it. I think real food is very important, and we've designed our menu around that as much as possible. We've tried our best to bring the garden into the café to continue the theme, says Cox.

Featuring ingredients sourced entirely within New York State, the garden café offers up a rotating menu of culinary creations like breakfast sandwiches, quiche, flatbread and oven-baked pizzas, cheese and charcuterie boards, seasonal salads, and house-made hummus.

As part of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Farm Brewery license, the garden café is only allowed to serve ciders, wines, and beers that come from New York State.

For those of legal drinking age, the garden café also boasts a wide variety of wines, spirits, and beers. The





cocktails range from vodka-infused strawberry-basil, blackberry-mint, and cucumber-blueberry lemonades to a lime or raspberry-mint mule.

If you're looking for something a little more colorful, consider the extremely popular mimosa flights, according to Cox. Patrons can choose from one of two colorful lines of sparkling wine topped with colorful, handmade juices and garnished with flowers freshly picked from the greenhouse.

The flavors of the mimosas, like many of the food options, change with the season.

"We love mimosas and just thought it would be fun!" exclaims Cox.

Combining the unique assortment of plants and flowers with its locally sourced food and drink options, Crazy Daisies also holds private garden parties, supplying all of the necessary gardening and plant needs, including pots, soil, plants, and instructions, while attendees enjoy food from the small plates menu and assorted café drinks.

The garden café has limited indoor seating but, thanks to an extended covered porch, patrons can sit outside and enjoy a bite to eat or a cocktail while taking in the gorgeous view of the horizon. Plus, during spring through the end of October, guests can enjoy a live concert or open mic performance while sitting among the flowers.

As the weather will turn toward snow and cold, the garden café has converted one of its greenhouses into a dining area where patrons can frequent the establishment until right before Christmas.

It's just another in a line of quirks that makes Crazy Daisies stand out.

For more information about Crazy Daisies, visit [crazydaiesflowers.com](http://crazydaiesflowers.com), follow on Facebook and/or Instagram, or give a call at (315) 498-5525.

John Boccacino, a Seneca Falls resident, works for Syracuse University as the communications coordinator in the office of alumni engagement.

**LEFT:** Tomato pie amid the coreopsis

**RIGHT:** Hummus platter with veronica and osteospermum



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## From the garden



### FRITTER INGREDIENTS

2 cups zucchini, shredded  
1 egg  
1–2 tsp onion powder  
1–2 tsp garlic powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp black pepper  
Olive oil cooking spray

### DIPPING SAUCE INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt  
Juice of half a lemon  
Chopped scallions

# Zucchini fritters

by Barbara Goshorn

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. In small bowl, mix dipping sauce ingredients together. Set aside.
2. Spoon shredded zucchini onto a piece of cheesecloth or a fine mesh strainer & squeeze out as much liquid as possible. The drier the better.
3. In a bowl, mix together zucchini, egg and spices. Strain again.
4. Divide zucchini mixture in half and form into balls. Flatten balls with a spatula.
5. On medium-high heat, lightly spritz a pan with cooking spray and add zucchini mixture. Cook until brown, a few minutes per side.
6. Serve with a dollop of Greek yogurt dipping sauce.

Barbara Goshorn is the director and lead clinician of the nutrition program at Goshorn Chiropractic and Wellness Center. Working with patients who suffer with food and environmental sensitivities, her goal is to educate her patients and the community so they will thrive—not just survive—in the 21st century.



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*Above: Mums, Pumpkins, + Perennials beneath a  
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*Left: Perennial garden design  
with Russian Sage and Coneflower*

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# Calendar



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

## BUFFALO

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Buffalo Bonsai Society** meets the second Saturday of the month, 1pm, ECC North Campus, STEM Building, Room 102. buffalobonsaisociety.com.

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

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

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

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

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

**Hamburg Garden Club** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 10am, VFW Post 1419, 2985 Lakeview Rd, Hamburg, NY. May plant sale. Summer garden tours. Guests are welcome. Contact lonabutler4@gmail.com.

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

**Ken-Sheriton Garden Club** meets the second Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Western NY Iris Society** usually meets 1–4pm the first Sunday of the month at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Public Library, 1030 Losson Road, South Cheektowaga, NY 14227. Guests are welcome. The Society will have a meeting in September and October—call Marilee at 716-668-1789 for details. Programs include information about acquiring and growing irises (bearded & non-bearded) and complementary perennials; our annual judged iris show, & a summer iris sale. During months when irises are blooming, there are garden visits. All events are temporarily on hold. Marilee Farry, 716-668-1789, faremare@aol.com.

**Western New York Rose Society** meets the third

Wednesday of each month at 7pm—In-person meetings have resumed. September 15: *Best Roses for cold weather* by Leon Ginenthal. See website for details. October 20: *Winterizing Your Roses & Preparing for Next Year*. St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. wnyrosesociety.net.

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

### FREQUENT HOSTS

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

**CCE/EC: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County,** 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora, NY 14052. 716-652-5400 x174, jah663@cornell.edu, erie.cce.cornell.edu.

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

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

### CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales.

**F September 11: The Great Reinstein Woods Treasure Hunt,** 10am. Embark on a nature play adventure with a self-guided treasure hunt. Follow your map to find your own hidden treasure and look for animals along the way! For children ages 5–10; registration required. **REIN**

**September 12: Music in Bloom with Buffalo Barn Katz,** 5–7:30pm. Enjoy a late summer concert in the beautiful landscape featuring Buffalo Barn Katz, an Americana-bluegrass band. Concert begins at 6pm. Live musical performance in the gardens, boxed dinner, self-guided tour of the Martin House, and more. \$60/person, \$55/members. Space is limited. Rain date of Tuesday, September 14. Darwin Martin House, 125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo 14214. 716-856-3858, education@darwinmartinhouse.org, darwinmartinhouse.org.

**September 14: Growing Succulents Indoors and Outdoors,** 6:30–8pm. Learn about special soil, watering, and sunlight exposure needs to care for these popular and unusual plants with Mackenzie Schuler, Lockwood's Garden Center. \$15/class, \$45/3 classes, \$40/3 classes for Master Gardeners. Held at CCE East Aurora. Register at website. **CCE/EC**

**S September 14–16: Gala at the Gardens.** Join us for the Gala at the Gardens Virtual Auction! 2021 will celebrate the Botanical Gardens' commitment to sprouting minds and inspiring curiosity through our educational programming. **BECBG**

**September 16–20: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Festival,** Kick off the fall season by spending time in the woods! Instead of their typical one-day event, they are holding multiple guided walks and programs this year. See website for event details and registration information. **REIN**

**September 18: Woods Walk: Nature Guide's Choice,** 11am. Join a guided nature walk through the woods. No registration required. **REIN**

**September 22: Sunset Equinox Stroll,** 7pm. Celebrate the fall equinox on this guided evening walk. Registration required. **REIN**



# Calendar



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

## BUFFALO cont.

**September 22: Caring for Trees and Shrubs, 6:30–8pm.**

Choose the right tree for your site and learn how to plant, fertilize, water and protect it from disease and invasive insects with Nate Morey, NYS DEC Forestry Region 9. \$15/class, \$45/3 classes, \$40/3 classes for Master Gardeners. Held at CCE East Aurora. Register at website. **CCE/EC**

**F September 25: Outdoor Skills, 10am.** In this program, you will build an emergency shelter from natural materials and practice navigation and fire building techniques. For adults and children ages 8 and older. Registration required. **REIN**

**September 25: Worm Composting, 10am–11:30am.** An alternative to traditional composting, worm composting recycles food scraps and other organic material into a nutrient rich soil amendment with Emere Nieves, Community Garden Trainer. \$15/class, \$45/3 classes, \$40/3 classes for Master Gardeners. Held at CCE East Aurora. Register at website. **CCE/EC**

**September 25: Dining at Dusk, 5–7pm.** Join them for dinner on the front lawn to celebrate the Botanical Gardens and one of Erie County's cultural jewels. Live music and boxed dinner. See website for details and to register. \$30/general, \$27/members. **BECBG**

**F September 25 & October 16: Garden in a Jar, 1pm.** Create your own tropical oasis with our new Garden Exclusive, Garden in a Jar! This special all-ages workshop will be held at the Botanical Gardens. See website for details and registration. All ages program. **BECBG**

**September 26: Wilson Tuscarora State Park Flora, 9:30am–3:30pm.** Wilson-Tuscarora State Park is located in a beautiful setting on the shore of Lake Ontario in Niagara County. A diverse flora grows in its open meadows, shoreline, and woodlands where you will spend a few hours in the morning looking at fall composites. Then the rest of the day will be spent exploring the woods on the south side of the park. Register at [nyflora.org](http://nyflora.org). NY Flora Association. [nyfa@nyflora.org](mailto:nyfa@nyflora.org)

**October 2: Promising Underutilized Trees for the Landscape, 10am–4pm.** Program by Tim Brotzman and Tim Richley. See website for registration. CDC guidelines followed. **DRAV**

**October 2: Forest Bathing and Yoga, 9am–Noon.** Friends of Reinstein Woods is partnering with Yogis in Service for this special event! Enjoy a forest bathing experience in Reinstein Woods, followed by a yoga session with a Yogi in Service instructor. Learn more and register on the Yogis in Service website at [yogisinservice.org](http://yogisinservice.org). **REIN**

**October 2: Woods Walk: Nature Guide's Choice, 11am.** Join a guided nature walk through the woods. No registration required. **REIN**

**October 9: Birding101, 9am.** Learn how to identify birds by hiking the trails at Reinstein Woods in search of our fall migrants. Bring binoculars if you have them. Registration required. **REIN**

**October 13: Tree Academy Workshop: Tree Planting, Pruning, Removal, and Pest Control.** Register at website. CDC guidelines followed. **DRAV**

**F October 13: Wild Wednesday, 4:30pm.** Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a fun hour-long outdoor activity. For children in grades K–5. No registration required. **REIN**

**October 13–15, 17, 19, 20–24, 27, 28, 31: Gardens After Dark: Autumn Twilight, 5:30–9pm.** Join them for their newest exhibit, Autumn Twilight. This incredible after-dark experience will fill you with warmth and joy as we welcome the chilly fall weather. Cozy up inside the beautiful glass conservatory filled

with thousands of plants and twinkling lights. See website for details and tickets. **BECBG**

**October 16: Autumn Colors, 10am.** Fall foliage is a blaze of color, from flaming oranges and reds to subtle yellows. Enjoy the beauty of autumn's trees on this guided walk. Registration required. **REIN**

**October 16: Woods Walk: Changing Seasons, 1pm.** How do you know the seasons are changing? Join a guided nature walk to find out. No registration required. **REIN**

**F October 17 & 24: BOOtanical Celebration, 10am–4pm.** Wegmans Family Days at the annual BOOtanical Celebration will be the most spooktacular indoor family event of the year. Explore the spooky scenery and fall activities that will be fall fun for all. See website for details and tickets. **BECBG**

**October 23: Full Moon Walk, 7:30pm.** Discover Reinstein Woods by moonlight on this guided evening walk. Registration required. **REIN**

**October 23: Educator Learning Tree: Project Learning Tree, 9am–3:30pm.** Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program featuring an interdisciplinary, hands-on curriculum that uses the forest as a window on the world. All activities are correlated to Common Core math and ELA standards. Six CTE hours provided. For formal and non-formal educators of students in grades Pre K–8. Registration required. **REIN**

**F October 30: Halloween Stories in the Woods by Woven Yarns, 10:30am.** This unique combination of a singer-songwriter and a storyteller will create a nature-themed, family-friendly Halloween event by blending original songs with traditional folktales. Registration required. **REIN**

**November 6: Woods Walk: Nature Guide's Choice, 1pm.** Join a guided nature walk through the woods. No registration required. **REIN**

**F November 10: Wild Wednesday, 4:30pm.** Together, kids and their parents or caregivers can enjoy a fun hour-long outdoor activity. For children in grades K–5. No registration required. **REIN**

**F November 13: Owl Prowl, 7pm.** Learn about the owls that live at Reinstein Woods during a nocturnal adventure in search of them. For adults and children ages 8 and older. Registration required. **REIN**

**November 13–14: Orchid Show, 10am–4pm Saturday, 10am–3pm Sunday.** Celebrate the American Orchid Society's 100th Anniversary! Along with the Niagara Frontier Orchid Society, the Botanical Gardens will host this popular annual orchid showcase with dozens of hand-picked and award-winning orchid exhibits. See website for details and tickets. **BECBG**

## SAVE THE DATE ...

**November 13: Honey Tasting.** Your taste buds will "bee" delighted as you sample the flavors of local honey and get the buzz from a local beekeeper about our important flying friends. Check website for details and registration. **REIN**

**November 20–January 2: Poinsettia & Railway Exhibit, 10am–4pm.** Be filled with the wonders of the holidays with fun twists of different colors and varieties of poinsettias. Be amazed by deep reds, magentas, pinks, yellows, oranges and apricots with pockets of traditional color accented throughout by silver and white foliage! As you walk through the beautiful poinsettias, you will also be able to enjoy a festive model train exhibit. The Garden Railway display, that is made possible by the Western New York Garden Railway Society, complements the surrounding poinsettias. See website for details and tickets. **BECBG**

## 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](http://acnargs.org), [Facebook.com/acnargs](https://www.facebook.com/acnargs).

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

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

**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](http://windsorgardengroup.suerambo.com).

### CLASSES / EVENTS

**S** Indicates plant sales.

**S September 10: Master Gardener Volunteer Bulb Sale.** Master Gardeners have curated a list of around 40 of their favorite bulbs to span the bulb flowering season, different growing conditions (including deer pressure), and flower colors and sizes that will grow well in Tompkins County. Sale runs Aug. 16–Sept. 10. Order via the website. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-272-2292 x146, [jrc10@cornell.edu](mailto:jrc10@cornell.edu), [cctetompkins.org](http://cctetompkins.org).

## ROCHESTER

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

**7th District Federated Garden Clubs New York State, Inc.** meets the first Wednesday of the month. [7thdistrictfcny.org](http://7thdistrictfcny.org).

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

**Big Springs Garden Club of Caledonia-Mumford** meets the second Monday evening of the month, September–November, January–May. New members and guests welcome. 585-314-6292, [mdolan3@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdolan3@rochester.rr.com), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com).

**Bloomfield Garden Club** meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. Marlene Moran, 585-924-8035, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.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, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [bonsaisocietyofupstatenyc.org](http://bonsaisocietyofupstatenyc.org).



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

**Country Gardeners of Webster** meets the second Monday of the month (except February, July & August) at 7pm, various locations. All aspects of gardening covered, outside speakers, projects, visits to local gardens, community gardening involvement. Includes coffee and social time. Guests welcome. 585-265-4762.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS)** meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month (September–May). Due to Covid, all meetings are virtual, see website for information. 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. 585-889-7678, seubuckner@frontiernet.net, geneseevalleyhosta.com.

**Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)** meets Sundays at 2pm, dates vary. September 12: Iris Society meeting, 2 PM, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave. Honeoye Falls, NY. Public welcome. October 10, "All About Hummingbirds" with Diane Henderson, 2pm at St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 12 Episcopal Ave, Honeoye Falls. 585-266-0302, thehutchings@mac.com.

**Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS)** meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, Twelve

Corners Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1200 South Winton Road, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. Lectures & garden tours on pause; see website or Facebook for updates. cap704@frontiernet.net, Facebook, rochesterperennial.com.

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

**Henrietta Garden Club** The Henrietta Garden Club meets the 2nd Wednesday, except May–Aug and Dec at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the Henrietta Town Hall, 475 Calkins Rd. Guests are welcome for a free visit. Handicap accessible. Meeting Guests: September 8, David Weiss of the Genesee Regional Orchid Society with "Everything you Ever Wanted to Know About Orchids." October 13, Michael Warren Thomas with "Poisonous Plants." November 10, Master Gardener Cindy Cali "What Every Homeowner Should Know about Gardening." 585-747-6780, 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. dtogood@rochester.rr.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club** meets the fourth

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

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

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

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

## FREQUENT HOSTS

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

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

## CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**S** Indicates plant sales.

**S** **Ongoing: Rochester Public Market**, Tuesdays & Thursdays 6am–1pm and Saturdays 5am–3pm. Harvest season features nature's bounty at the market! Shoppers will discover vendors with fresh cut flowers and plants, fresh produce, handcrafted items, breads and cheeses, baked goods and spices, meats and cheeses and more! **RPM**

**Starting September 12: Fall Sky Ride**, Saturdays & Sundays 12–4pm. Enjoy the beautiful autumn colors of the Finger Lakes from the Comet Express chairlift to the summit of Bristol Mountain. See website for details and ticket prices. Bristol Mountain, 5662 Route 64, Canandaigua, NY 14424. 585-374-6000

**September 14: Therapeutic Horticulture: Preserving the Harvest**, 5:30–7:30pm. Learn the basics of food preservation! This workshop covers an overview of farm food safety and a variety of preservation methods. Each participant will get to make and bring home herb sachets, pickled veggies, berry jam, and fresh produce to continue practicing preservation methods at home. EquiCenter, 3247 Rush-Mendon Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. 585-624-7772 or equicenterny.salsalabs.org/fall2021thworkshops/index.html

**September 16: Therapeutic Horticulture: Preserving the Harvest**, 2–4pm. See September 14 session for details.

**September 18: The Rochester Dahlia Society Show**, 1–5pm. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 NY Rte. 96, Victor, NY.

**S** **September 18: Fall Garden Gala**, 10am–1pm. Join the Genesee County Master Gardeners for their annual Fall Garden Gala. Plant sale featuring indoor and outdoor plants (most grown by MGs), mum sale, basket chance Auction and free soil pH testing. Plant sale starts promptly at 10am. Chance Auction drawing starts at 12:30pm. **CCE/GC**



# Calendar



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

## ROCHESTER cont.

**September 19: Artist Row**, 10am-4pm. RPM's annual juried art show features over 200 up-and-coming artist selling their work, plus free, live performances by local musicians, community organizations and food by Rochester food trucks! **RPM**

**September 25-26: Flowers & Foliage**, 9am-3pm. Visit our annual fall sale to get a jumpstart on planting for next year and explore our gardens at the peak of autumn color! Amanda's Native Garden, 8030 Story Road, Dansville, NY 14437. 585-750-6288

**September 28: Therapeutic Horticulture: Seed Saving**, 5:30-7pm. Learn all about seed saving. Seed saving is a great way to use what's already growing around you to prepare and share seeds for future growing seasons. Each participant will be able to collect seeds from EquiCenter Farm to take home! EquiCenter, 3247 Rush-Mendon Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. 585-624-7772 or [equicenterny.salsalabs.org/fall2021thworkshops/index.html](http://equicenterny.salsalabs.org/fall2021thworkshops/index.html)

**September 30: Therapeutic Horticulture: Seed Saving**, 2-3:30pm. See September 28 session for details.

**October 7: Garden Talk: Winter Bird Feeding 101**, 12pm. Winter bird feeding can be entertaining for you and beneficial for the birds. Join them for tips on "setting the table" for your neighborhood feathered friends. Free event. Register for the Zoom link at website. **CCE/GC**

**October 12: Therapeutic Horticulture: Garlic & Spring-Blooming Bulb Planting**, 3-5pm. Plant garlic & early season flower bulbs in fall for springtime abundance. Get your hands dirty with the EC farmers as they guide you through preparing & planting the

garlic beds and how to select the best seed. Each participant will get to bring home some EC's German White Hard Neck garlic seed stock and spring flower bulbs. EquiCenter, 3247 Rush-Mendon Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. 585-624-7772 or [equicenterny.salsalabs.org/fall2021thworkshops/index.html](http://equicenterny.salsalabs.org/fall2021thworkshops/index.html)

**October 14: Therapeutic Horticulture: Garlic & Spring-Blooming Bulb Planting**, 2-4pm. See October 12 session for details.

**October 24: Halloween at the Market**, 4:30-7pm. RPM is pleased to offer a seasonal, trick-or-treating celebration at the market. Trick-or-treaters will find dozens of community organizations and non-profits set up at the vendor sheds in the market for treats, information, and activities. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costume! **RPM**

**November 4: Garden Talk: Harvest of Squash**, 12pm. Do you know what to do with that winter squash that found its way into your home? Their Master Food Preserver will explain the different types of squash, how to prepare them for use, store them for later, and share a few recipes for that bountiful harvest. Free event. Register for the Zoom link at website. **CCE/GC**

## SYRACUSE

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

**Bonsai Club of CNY (BCCNY)** usually meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. 315-436-0135, [lnwell1@gmail.com](mailto:lnwell1@gmail.com), [cnybonsai.com](http://cnybonsai.com).

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

**Fairmount Garden Club** meets the third Thursday of the month (March-November) at 6:30pm, Camillus Senior Center, 25 First Street, Camillus. Speakers & community projects. All are welcome. [tooley.susan@yahoo.com](mailto:tooley.susan@yahoo.com).

**Federated Garden Clubs NYS - District 6**. 315-481-4005, [dist6fs@gmail.com](mailto:dist6fs@gmail.com).

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

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



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

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

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

**Southern Hills Garden Club** meets the third Tuesday of each month February through November at the LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084. Some meetings are off site. Guests are welcome and membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For information, contact Cathy Nagel at 315-677-9342, CEN42085@aol.com.

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

## CLASSES / EVENTS

**September 21: Hostas**, 7pm. Dr. Steven Chamberlain, hosta breeder will present "Hostas." Southern Hills Garden Club event. LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084.

**October 19: Fall Back to Spring Ahead with the Ballantynes of Ballantyne Gardens**, 7pm. The program will be held at the LaFayette Community Center, 2508 US Route 11, LaFayette NY 13084. For information, contact Cathy Nagel at 315-677-9342, CEN42085@aol.com.

## AND BEYOND

### FREQUENT HOST

**LONG:** Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348, longwoodgardens.org, 610-388-1000, educationoffice@longwoodgardens.org.

**September 15–November 11: Landscape Design I**, Wednesdays 4-6:30pm. This course is an in-depth approach to design processes, traditional landscape graphics, and topics related to sustainable landscapes. Online class, \$249/person and \$225/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 4–18: Sketching for Floral Designers**, Mondays 4–5:30pm. Whether you are a budding floral designer or an established professional, knowing how to graphically represent your ideas and concepts to your client is imperative to your success. Online class, \$129/person and \$116/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 6: Floral Spotlight: In Season Fall Foraging**, 4-5:30pm. Fall is the perfect time for foraging! Whether it is finding intriguing fruits and vegetables from your own backyard or a local farm, Valerie McLaughlin, AIFD, will show you how to create a beautiful arrangement using your unusual fall finds. Online class, \$29/person and \$26/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 14: A Touch of Hollywood: Show-Stopping Floral Design**, 9am–2:30pm. Bring show-stopping floral design right to your doorstep, courtesy of two stars of the floral world. Join Full Bloom (HBO Max) finalist Ace Berry AIFD, TMF—known for his bold color choices and playful approach—and Kelly Shore of Petals by the Shore of Washington, DC—known for her passion for California-grown flowers—in this online, full-day, expert-level floral-design experience that will leave you star-struck. Online class, \$259/person and \$233/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 15: Perennial Plant Virtual Conference**, 9:45am–3:30pm. The Perennial Plant Conference was started in 1983 to bring together locally, nationally, and internationally recognized experts on perennials for a day-long conference with an educational focus. Online class, \$49/person. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 18, November 10 & 22: Introduction to Floral Design I: Certificate Workshop**, three sessions 4-5pm. Whether you are beginning your

journey toward a Certificate of Merit in Floral Design, or just want to learn techniques for arranging flowers, this course provides the foundational skills and the hands-on practice you need to spark your floral design creativity. Online class, \$499/person and \$449/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 25–December 6: Understanding Plants**, self-paced with live-stream sessions on November 15 & 29. Ever wonder what a phrase such as "dentate margin" means? Improve your plant identification skills through a study of leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits. Look in detail at the methods (morphology) and terminology (nomenclature) used to describe plants throughout the seasons. Online class, \$179/person and \$161/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**October 28–November 14: Asian-Inspired Garden Design**, Thursdays 4–6pm. Learn about components of traditional and interpretive Asian gardens and adapt those components in innovative ways. Online class, \$129/person and \$116/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

**November 17: Floral Spotlight: Contemporary Harvest**, 6-7:30pm. The last colors of the fall harvest deserve just as much attention as the peak of the summer bounty. Join Jerome Boodoo online as he weaves sticks, branches, rocks, vegetables, and more materials into bold, contemporary floral designs that will re-shape your take on autumnal flower arranging. Online class, \$29/person and \$26/members. See website for details and registration. **LONG**

*Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (November-December, 2021) is Monday, October 4, 2021. Please send your submissions to kim@upstategardenersjournal.com.*



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# Clean feeders for feathered friends

By Liz Magnati

**T**his time of the year provides us with the delight of hard-to-identify fall warblers, awkward juvenile birds, and those last glimpses of orioles and hummingbirds visiting the feeders in the yard.

This summer there have been a lot of articles about a mystery illness that has been deadly to birds in the Mid-Atlantic. The illness was affecting mostly American Robins, European Starlings, Common Grackles, and Blue Jays. The symptoms of the illness are crusty eyes, tremors, partial paralysis, and disorientation. The cause is still not known but thankfully, scientists are on the case ... The illness was first discovered just outside of Washington DC, and has also been reported in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Indiana, Tennessee, Florida, and Ohio. There appears to be a direct overlap of the illness happening where the seventeen-year periodical cicadas emerged. It is not yet known if or how the cicada emergence may have had a hand in this illness.

Another good piece of news: the illness appears to be on the decline and has not been reported in the state of New York. Because the cause of the illness is unknown, it is not known if it can spread from bird to bird. If it does, it is important to minimize the contact birds have with each other. Bird feeders and bird baths are places where birds congregate closer, and in more numbers than they tend to out in nature. Therefore, the states reporting the illness had recommended taking down feeders and bird baths.

It is always important to make sure bird feeders and baths are clean for the birds, and now more so than ever. Keeping birdfeeders and baths clean may sound like a lot of work, but it doesn't have to be! Letting the feeder or bath soak in hot water with dish soap will do most of the work for you. Take your bird feeder apart as much as you can to allow the soap to get into all the nooks and crannies. Make sure to scrub the feeder well using a bottle brush or scrubbing sponge.



Next, dip the feeder or bath in a solution of one part bleach to ten parts water. That will kill off any remaining bacteria. Rinse well, and let the feeder dry completely before putting it back together and filling it with seed.

Although we haven't had any reports of this bird illness locally, it is always important that you take down your feeders if you see a sick bird in your yard. There are other illnesses we have locally, like Finch eye disease, that are known to spread at feeders.

**ABOVE:** Happy nut-hatch. Photo courtesy Flickr: John Brighenti.

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



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# Love your weeds



By Kimberly Burkard

**LEFT:** Purslane  
(*Portulaca oleracea*)

**RIGHT:** Broadleaf plantain  
(*Plantago major*)

As every gardener knows, weeds are inevitable. But smart gardeners with a little foraging spirit can see the possibility and promise in the lowest of lawn and garden weeds, for they are the proverbial “diamonds in the rough.” The following is an introduction to some very common yet useful plants that may be weeds no longer. Look for other useful weed segments in future issues and contact the editor if there is a weed that you would like to see featured.

*Before continuing, a note or two of safety is needed. Never ingest in any botanical material that has been contaminated. Chemical contamination is one of the most common and includes pesticides and herbicides. Likewise, avoid picking from plants that may have contacted pet waste or bird droppings as well as possibly contaminated road edges or areas with sewage seepage/manure.*

*Even though common plants are featured in this article, any usage requires a 100 percent certain identification of the plant—when in doubt, throw it out. And while some traditional uses are included here, be safe and refer to a health provider for further safety and usage.*

## **PURSLANE** (*Portulaca oleracea*)

This leafy green annual can be washed and added as is for a nutritious addition to your salad bowl. Not only is it high in Omega-3 fatty acids, it also has vitamins A and C plus magnesium, manganese, iron, and calcium with small amounts of other vitamins and minerals. Like other

“super foods,” purslane also has more than its fair share of antioxidants.

This plant needs for little and can even grow in sidewalk cracks but in I find it most often creeping along the ground in mats, loving the shade of bigger plants in my vegetable garden.

Like to try something other than a salad bowl addition? Here is a quick-pickled side to accompany any meal.

## **BROADLEAF PLANTAIN** (*Plantago major*)

Plantain can be found in your lawns and tended gardens as well as alongside your driveway and sidewalks. I fondly remember seeing this resilient plant growing lush and green in a crack in a city sidewalk along the side of a brick building. There are few harsher places to grow than that—but plantain does it joyfully. Plantain is a perennial, but I find it on the short-lived side. It produces a copious amount of seed, so collect and sow if you want to plant a few more plants.

All of the herbalists I have studied with swear by this plant as one that will bring relief for minor skin irritations, especially insect bites. They usually advise picking, chewing fresh leaves, and then applying the chewed mass to the bite for relief. I just mash the leaves and apply as I dislike dirt in my teeth. Even better is to keep a little plantain salve on hand for these occurrences or for the dry skin of winter.

Kimberly Burkard is a life-long gardener, herbalist, and general “plant nerd.”



## Sweet Vinegared Purslane

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup seasoned rice vinegar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2-3 tablespoons sugar (adjust to your own preference)  
1-2 dashes of red pepper flakes (to taste)  
2 1/2 cups washed, torn fresh purslane  
1 cup matchstick shredded carrot

### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all ingredients and refrigerate for four hours or overnight and serve with your favorite dishes or as a bento side.

**Variation:** This recipe can be used for another common weed—burdock. Dig and wash burdock roots. Peel and chop into bite-sized strips. Parboil strips in plain water for about 5 minutes and add to brine hot. Refrigerate overnight for best flavor.



## Plantain salve (folk method)

### INGREDIENTS

Clean quart canning jar with lid  
Olive oil (organic is best to use)  
Beeswax  
Dried plantain leaves  
Essential lavender oil (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pick and dry plantain leaves. As the leaves dry very easily, you need to do nothing more than spread the leaves in a single layer on paper towels or clean kitchen towels. The leaves will be dry in a couple of days. They should be crunchy and break when crushed if completely dry. Store dry leaves until you have enough to fill the quart jar. This can be a project spanning across the growing season if you wish.

2. Fill jar with leaves. Add olive oil until full. Secure lid. Store in a warm location for four to six weeks. Make it a location you regularly pass by as you will need to gently shake the jar once per day. Warming the oil and leaves mixture in a crockpot can significantly shortcut this process but I enjoy the attention and intention the daily shake engenders. At the end of the infusion process, strain the mixture through cheesecloth and reserve the oil. Warm the oil in a pot. Add beeswax slowly. Tip: If you like salve making, have a pot you use for this and nothing else as the oil and beeswax are hard to clean out of the pot.
3. Add beeswax until you get the consistency you like. It is generally about one ounce of beeswax to four ounces of infused oil. To test consistency, put a drop of the warm oil-beeswax mixture on a cold glass plate. That will give you an indication of how hard the salve will be when cool. Always add the wax slowly because if it is too soft for your liking when it cools, you can always rewarm and add more wax.
4. Pour into clean jars or tins and cap. If you like, you can add a couple of drops of lavender essential oil to the container before adding the hot mixture you if you want a scented salve.
5. Use on scrapes, bug bites, dry skin, and other minor skin irritations. Keeps one year.

**Note:** The lance leaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) can be used for this salve as well.

This folk method of making salve is very friendly to beginners, and you may make smaller amounts if desired. A quart-sized jar of dried leaves will make enough salve for your household for the year plus some to give away as gifts.





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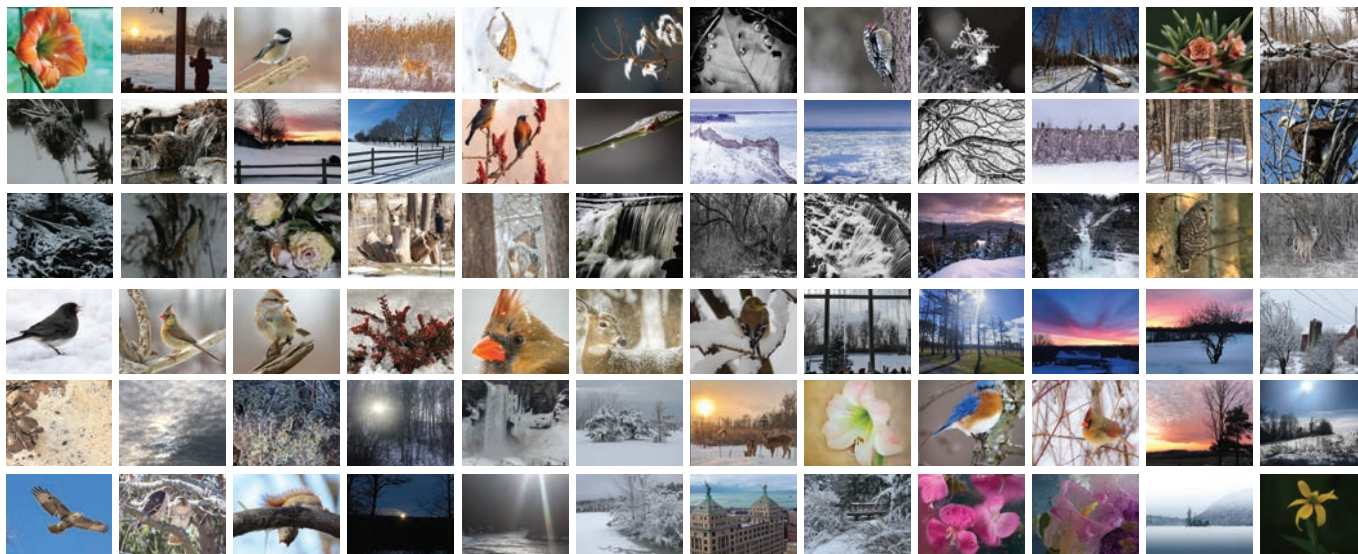
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