

# Gardeners' <sup>Upstate</sup>

BUFFALO - ITHACA - ROCHESTER - SYRACUSE

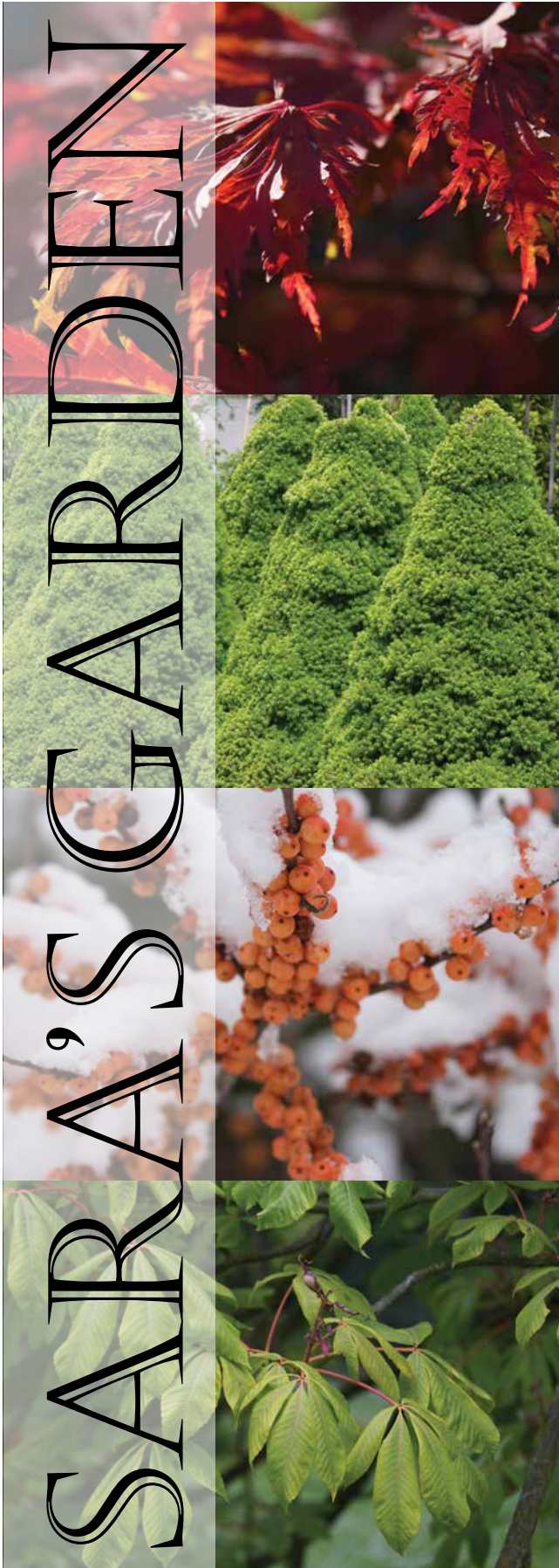
Journal



Gifts for Gardeners  
Winter Photo Contest  
Rawlings and Marcellus Nurseries

FREE

Volume Twenty-four, Issue Six  
November-December 2018



# Trees for Christmas

Trees are such a huge part of a home landscape. And as a gift chosen with thoughtfulness and care, they can enhance every aspect of your recipient's home for years to come. As the longest living thing you will ever gift (or plant), isn't it logical that you choose the best option you can get? This season we want all your tree choices be good ones...remember this adage: "Appreciate the trees you love but plant (or gift) the ones that you can grow!"

Check out our *Find Your Match* worksheet at [www.bowerandbranch.com/account/my-tree-match-profiles/collection/](http://www.bowerandbranch.com/account/my-tree-match-profiles/collection/)

Our goal is to help you discover the tree for your landscape that fulfills the vision you want to see every day. We want to help reveal and then *assist* with the things that may be making your garden a chore as opposed to a joy—your level of gardening and plant knowledge and the big one...your time for maintenance.

If your desire is for trees that have requirements your environment doesn't possess naturally, then let's see if we can create the environment instead of impulsively dropping it in on a whim. Or why not invest a little time learning about alternatives that will fill your visual goal *and* the cultural requirements too? Time and money are commodities we all should value because not many of us have those to spare, right tree /right place conserves both of those.

Consider the gift of a tree and all of these trimmings this Christmas, one of the longest lasting gifts that money can buy. And if you want to be a little bit impulsive, I guess we can help you with that too.

We are likely the smallest tree nursery in the area, but we offer a gardening relationship along with the most garden-worthy selections. You can also purchase tree via a gift certificate at our grower's site, **BowerandBranch.com**, or call us and we'll mail out a personalized certificate and card in time for the big day.

### Stone Wall Follies 2018

Do stones have personalities? Do they endear themselves to us...to each other? After this year's follies we say yes! Maybe it's just the good feeling that stones reveal in the people who have the need to move them around, place them in patterns, put them in stacks and rows...this could be a whole topic for one of John's slide shows. Norman regaled us with talk of the relationship between stones and animals this past year. Either way, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was as wonderful and romantic as it sounds. We love this evolution of the nursery/stone vision and with a bit of luck and perseverance maybe we can have an 11<sup>th</sup> year. Stay tuned to *UGJ* for the possibility, and if you are interested in becoming one the "Rock Stars" of the follies you should email me soon.

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

[kkepler@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kkepler@rochester.rr.com) or (585)637-4745

### 40+ Year Mission!

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



March 21-24  
2019

# Plantasia in Paradise



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**Admission:**

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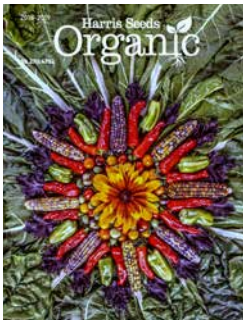
(585) 548-2552



## Ear to the Ground



Hello, dear readers, and welcome to a gardener's official down time. We have a great issue for you this time around, to pore over as you're cozy by the fire. And while you're in reading mode, do not miss the new Harris Seeds Organic catalog with its cover by upstate New York's very own Michael Tomb, profiled in these pages way back in July-August 2014. Michael creates amazing collages made of vegetables, fruit, flowers, and leaves, and we're more than a little in awe of his work.



Stuck for holiday gift ideas? We've got you covered (page 16). And don't forget the easiest and most obvious gift for any gardener—a subscription to this here magazine.

Don't miss our Winter Photo Contest winners, on the cover and page 7—we received more entries than ever in 2017-2018, and 2018-2019's contest begins December 21, so start snapping!

Thank you, as always, for reading—

*Jane*

2019



**TRADE SHOW  
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CONFERENCE**



## Advance your knowledge

at the

**PLANT WNY Trade Show & Education Conference 2019**

Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional Day – **Thursday, January 31**

Horticulture 101 – **Thursday, January 31**

Trade Show and Education Conference – **Friday, February 1**

Salvatore's Italian Gardens, Depew, NY

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Dedicated Hardscape Room

**For more information:**

Visit [plantwny.com](http://plantwny.com)

Or

Contact 716 741 8047



**Friday, February 1:**  
keynote speaker **Maria Zampini**. Maria is a freelance writer for both green industry trade journals and consumer gardening magazines. In 2015 she released her first book with co-author Pam Bennett titled *Garden-pedia: An A-Z Guide to Gardening Terms*. This ASHS award winning book has gone in to its second printing and is now available in a digital edition. Maria has pushed the glass greenhouse ceiling becoming the first female president of the Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association and International Ornamental Crabapple Society. Maria is a fourth-generation nurseryman and proud of it!





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# The Artful Gardener

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**Santa's Wheelbarrow:**  
We are collecting donated items for Joyful Rescues again this year! Leashes, collars, bath towels, blankets, Cleaning supplies etc...visit our facebook page or [www.joyfulrescues.org](http://www.joyfulrescues.org) for a complete wish list.






### Annual Open House Holiday Party and Sale Sat. Dec. 1st, 10 - 5





Artwork of Jen Born

Small Business Saturday  
November 24th

**Open Year-Round:**  
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• **Tropical Gardens of Miami and  
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• **Gardens of Coastal New England**  
**JUNE 20-25, 2019**

Put on your rose-colored glasses for a look at New England's history through the fascinating world of gardens, art and architecture.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**VISIT:** [www.greatgardentravel.com](http://www.greatgardentravel.com)

**CALL:** 800.242.4244



Contest

# 2018 Winter Photo Contest

Congratulations to all of the 2018 contest winners! The Grand Prize winner, seen on the cover, is “Fungus Forest” by Laurel Haller, taken at the Salmon Reservoir in Altmar, NY.

The 2019 contest will run December 21, 2018 through March 20, 2019. Watch our Facebook page and [upstategardenersjournal.com](http://upstategardenersjournal.com) for details on how to enter.



**STUDENT (5-12):** “Untitled”  
by Carter Lopuchowycz | Phelps, NY



**ONLINE FAVORITE:** “Harsh Beauty”  
by Emily Werner | Honeoye Falls, NY



**ONLINE FAVORITE:** “RED”  
by Mike Sargent | Farmington, NY



**ENHANCED:** “Ice Bubble”  
by Lynne Newhouse | Hamburg, NY



**PLANTS:** “Hanging onto Fall”  
by Laurel Haller | Highland Forest, NY



**SCENES:** “Defrosting Beef”  
by Sandra Lehning | Honeoye Falls, NY

# A Tale of Two Nurseries



Story and photos by Michelle Sutton unless noted

## Rawlings Nursery: Hostas & Display Gardens in the North Country

### PLANT FAMILY

Generally hardy to Zone 3a, hostas are at home in Zone 4b in Ellisburg, New York, an hour north of Syracuse and just east of Lake Ontario. There, on the former family dairy farm, Kevin Rawlings has grown over a thousand cultivars of hostas and generally offers 200-plus cultivars for sale. The farm's soil is a desirable pocket of clay loam in a sea of sandy soils created by glacier retreat. The winds off Lake Ontario howl across the farm year round, but the hostas stand up to it well.

Many of Rawlings' family members were school teachers, including his parents, who ran the dairy farm as a back-up source of income until they retired around 1979. At that point, the family put up a greenhouse and started growing annuals, creating sumptuous display gardens that served as outdoor event grounds for weddings and the like. "At peak we had 12,000 annual plants on display," Rawlings says. "In one bed alone (140 x 60 feet), we planted 8,000 annuals. It took five of us the whole of Memorial Day Weekend to plant," he says.

Eventually the family had to change gears once again,

because sales of annuals by big box stores were driving prices down. Kevin Rawlings had a passion for unusual trees—and has planted quite a few that are maturing on the farm—but he found that hostas were more profitable.

"I thought they were fantastic and they had the commercial advantages of transporting well and looking good in a pot," he says. He sold hostas with his children at the Syracuse Farmers market for 25 years, and says "we meet some wonderful people and made dear friends," but now he sells only by appointment from the farm in Ellisburg. Some longtime customers make the trek once a year from Rochester and points west to see the latest cultivars.

For many years, hosta cultivars were propagated only by division. When hostas began to be propagated by tissue culture (the accelerated growth of plant cells in an artificial medium in a sterile lab environment), there was an explosion in both quantity of plants produced and in cultivar range. Tissue culture has been a boon for hosta collectors but has been a little less kind to hosta growers, because increased supply has put downward pressure on selling price.



**ABOVE LEFT:**  
Hosta display garden  
at Rawlings Nursery.

**ABOVE RIGHT:**  
Spring in the hosta  
house. Photo courtesy  
Rawlings Nursery

**INSET:**  
Kevin Rawlings



## HOSTA FACT V. FICTION

“Do they flower?” is a question Rawlings hears surprisingly often. He responds, “The only way hostas are not going to flower is if they are growing in too dark a spot. All hosta cultivars possess floral meristems (groups of cells that give rise to flowers) inside the terminal bud, but if the plant doesn’t get enough sun, it won’t advance through its seasonal growth to the point of flowering.”

Some folks ask for the white hostas they’ve seen pictures of. “There are several cultivars that come out of the ground white, but they don’t stay white throughout the season, Rawlings says. “They turn green out of necessity so they can perform photosynthesis. Increasing temperatures cue the conversion.” A few customers have asked for a red hosta ... which doesn’t exist but in pictures.

People who are newer to growing hostas may ask for “the blue one.” But the “blue” is not immutable; it’s the effect of white wax on green leaves. “I rub the underside of the leaf and show them how the wax comes right off,” Rawlings says. “It’s the base color of the green leaf and the thickness of the white wax that determines how blue or gray the leaves look,” he says.

Yellow hostas aren’t immutably yellow either, Rawlings explains. “They do one of two things, depending on cultivar,” he says. “They can come out of the ground brightly colored and then become chartreuse or dull green afterwards; they green up to protect themselves. Or, they do the opposite and come out green, then fade to chartreuse, then convert to bright yellow as the season progresses.”

Even large-leaved varieties have small leaves when they are young plants. It can take 5, 6, even 7 years for a large-leaved hosta like ‘Sum and Substance’ to come into its full leaf size. Therefore, it can be easy to see a dwarf plant and think that it’s going to mature as a medium or large hosta when in actuality, it’s going to stay small.

## MORE ABOUT RAWLINGS

### Kevin’s Favorite Hosta

*(Out of 5400 Registered Varieties)*

According to the description in the Rawlings Nursery online catalog, ‘Sagae’ (pron. SAH-GAH-ay) grows 32 inches high and 60 inches wide. It forms a vase-shaped mound of large, thick frosty green leaves with gold margins. It’s consistently number one or two on the American Hosta Society popularity list, and it was the 2000 American Hosta Growers Hosta of the Year selection.



### Contact Rawlings Nursery

WEBSITE: [rawlingsnursery.com](http://rawlingsnursery.com)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/RawlingsNursery](https://facebook.com/RawlingsNursery)

EMAIL: [hostaguy@gmail.com](mailto:hostaguy@gmail.com)

PHONE: (315) 396-9763

ADDRESS\*: 12061 Monitor Mill Rd  
Ellisburg, NY 13636

*\*Nursery open by appointment*

## Marcellus Nursery: 56 Years of Growing in Onondaga County

When I interviewed Ted and Nan Stetler, they were just back from an Alaskan cruise. I assumed they’d be loath to return to work, but Nan says Ted was “bored out of his gourd” on vacation. That can happen when you’ve been working as hard as he and Nan have for so many years, running Marcellus Nursery: it can be

challenging to be away from your own business.

Ted, who earned an agriculture degree from SUNY Farmingdale (then known as Long Island Agriculture & Technical Institute) in 1961, started Marcellus Nursery in 1962 with the purchase of 44 acres in the Town of Marcellus, southwest of Syracuse. When the nursery’s garden center moved 12 miles to the Town of Onondaga in 1970, the Stetlers chose to retain the name Marcellus Nursery for name recognition and branding reasons.

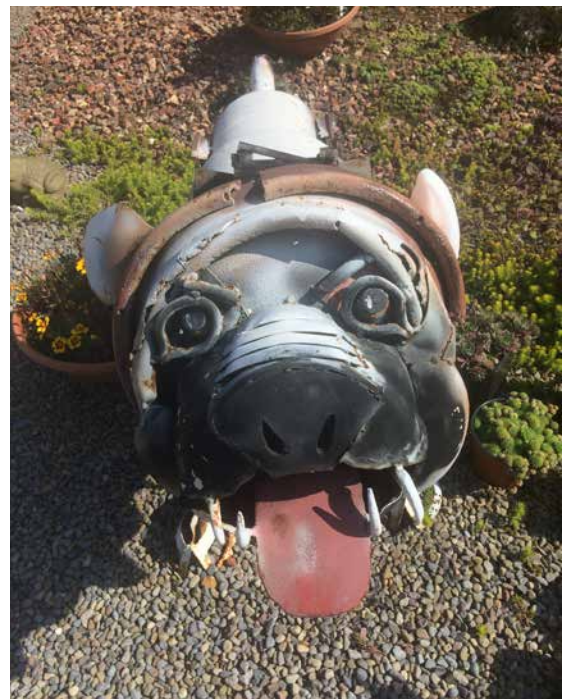
Ted and Nan met in 1966, got married in 1967, and started their family in 1975. They have two daughters, Beth and Jill. Nan has been integral to the nursery’s success, as has Rachel Reynolds, the garden center manager of more than 20 years. Nan says, “She’s like a daughter to us.”

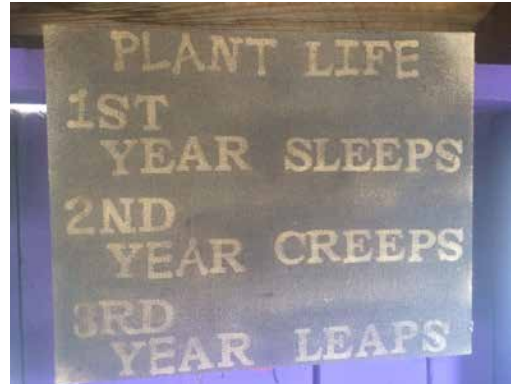
Marcellus Nursery runs on multiple tracks, with only five full-time folks, Ted included. There’s the 85,000 field-grown trees and shrubs, the landscaping business, the

**ABOVE IN BOX:**  
Kevin’s favorite hosta cultivar is ‘Sagae’.  
Photo Courtesy  
MOBOT Plant Finder

**BOTTOM:**  
Ted and Nan Stetler







**Contact Marcellus Nursery**

WEBSITE: [marcellusnursery.com](http://marcellusnursery.com)

EMAIL: [contact@marcellusnursery.com](mailto:contact@marcellusnursery.com)

PHONE: (315) 488-2632

potting-up work of the largest selection of perennials in the area, and the retail garden center. There's the plant propagation work, which Ted does as a means of unwinding at the end of a busy day during the growing season. There are beautiful display gardens for customers to explore, at the center of which is a 53-year-old weeping European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula').

Field-growing so much material means that the plants on offer at Marcellus Nursery are acclimated to the often harsh upstate NY winters. Furthermore, most of the field crops are not irrigated. "If they survive and adapt to those conditions, they are going to perform well for local customers," Nan says. Mercifully and surprisingly, deer have not been a problem in the tree and shrub nursery fields. However, they have been an issue in the production areas of the garden center site, so the Stetlers are upgrading their 5-foot perimeter fence to 8 foot tall.

In addition to growing bread-and-butter plants, Ted likes to try out some "fantasy plants," as he calls them, each year. "I'll buy ten of this and ten of that of unusual plants and try them out," he says. He is trying to interest folks in weeping dwarf spruce and dwarf pines, but he gave up field-growing Japanese maples after several devastating winters wiped out whole rows of trees.

During the growing season, a typical day for Ted goes like this. Paperwork at his desk from 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. Then at 8 a.m. he joins his staff and works alongside them

until 4:30 p.m. when he goes home to regroup for an hour before going out on client consultations in the evening. Home by 8 or 8:30 p.m., he does plant propagation work to unwind, and he and Nan have dinner at about 10 p.m. It's a pretty grueling schedule, so Ted is looking for efficiencies everywhere he can— for instance, by using a motorized wheelbarrow on landscaping jobs.

As owners of Sycamore Hill Gardens ([sycamorehillgardens.com](http://sycamorehillgardens.com)) in Marcellus, George and Karen Hanford have a long association with Ted and Nan Stetler and Marcellus Nursery. George says, "Ted is the father of our gardens. Ted and Nan took us under their wing and introduced us to the world of plant propagation and the joys of designing, maintaining, and sharing a large plant collection. Without their guidance and friendship there would be no Sycamore Hill Gardens, no annual fundraisers for local charities, no national American Conifer Society meeting or local New York State Nursery and Landscape meetings held here in our gardens. We can't thank Ted and Nan enough for their help and kindness."

Michelle Sutton ([michellejudysutton.com](http://michellejudysutton.com)) is a horticulturist, editor, and writer.

**OPPOSITE TOP:** Green roof planted with sedums keeps the checkout building cool.

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT:** 'Lemony Lace' elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*).

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT:** Fabulous sculptures abound.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Customers are invited to wander display gardens.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Good advice at the garden center checkout.

## 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. Open Gardens in July. 716/698-3454; Facebook.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Kenmore Garden Club** meets the second Tuesday of the month (except March, July, August & December) at 10:00am, Kenmore United Methodist Church, 32 Landers Road, Kenmore. New members and guests welcome. gengjf3@gmail.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. *November 13: Build Your Own Porch Pot, ideas & tips to make a winter display, bring your own container, materials provided. \$5, registration requested.* New members and guests welcome. 716/833-8799; dstierheim@gmail.com.

**Lancaster Garden Club** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, St. John's Lutheran Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. No meetings January, July & August. *November 14: Hosta Love Story, a movie by Mike & Kathy Shadrack.* All are welcome. 716/685-4881.

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

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

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

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

**Town and Country Garden Club.** All are welcome.

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

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

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

**Western New York Hosta Society.** East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. Meetings with speakers, newsletter, sales. 716/941-6167; h8staman@aol.com; wnyhosta.com.

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

**Western NY Iris Society** usually meets the first Sunday of the month (when Iris are not in bloom), 1–4pm, at the Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway, Lancaster. Information about acquiring and growing irises (bearded & non-bearded) and complimentary perennials, annual flower show & summer iris sale. Guests welcome. 716/837-2285; drsnooks@twc.com.

**Western New York Rose Society** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm, St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. *November 14: Historical Gardening with Pati Aine Guszynski.* wnyrosesociety.net.

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

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

### FREQUENT HOSTS

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

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

**COOP: Chicken Coop Originals,** 13245 Clinton Street, Alden, NY 14004. 716/937-7837; chickencooporiginals.com; Facebook.

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

### CLASSES / EVENTS

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

**November 9–11: Christmas Open House,** 10am–5pm. **COOP**

**November 10: Christmas Open House,** 9am–3pm. Gifts, décor, gift basket raffle, refreshments, cider and more. **LOCK**

• **November 15: Autumn Grapevine Wreath,** 3–5pm. Participants will weave a simple grapevine wreath and decorate it with items found in nature plus other embellishments. Ages 8 & up. Materials included. \$7. Registration required. **BMAC**

**November 15–18: Christmas Open House,** 10am–5pm. **COOP**

**November 17: Woods Walk,** 11am. Guided nature walk through the woods. Free. Registration required. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Drive, Depew. 716/683-5959; dec.ny.gov.

**November 19 or 20: Fresh Thanksgiving Arrangement,** 6–8pm. Participants will create their own autumnal arrangement. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

**November 21: Senior Stroll,** 10am. Leisurely guided walk through the woods. Free. Registration required. Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, 93 Honorine Drive, Depew. 716/683-5959; dec.ny.gov.

**November 23–January 6: Poinsettia & Railway Exhibit,** 10am–5pm. Thousands of poinsettias on display. Model railway presented by WNY Garden Railway Society. Included with admission. **BECBG**

**November 24: Basic Evergreen Wreath,** 10:30am. Make your own classic wreath from fresh fir boughs. Bow included. \$30. Registration required. **LOCK**

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

• **December 1: Breakfast with Santa,** 9am–12pm. Enjoy a homemade breakfast with Santa plus crafts and storytelling. \$7 adults; \$5 ages 4–12; ages 3 & under free. Registration required. **BMAC**

**December 1: Multi-Textured Evergreen Wreath,** 10:30am. Create your own wreath using a variety of fresh evergreens and cones. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

• **December 1: Nature's Art Box – Gift Tags,** 1–3pm. Create your own gift tags using items found in nature. Low temp hot glue guns will be used. Ages 6 & up. \$7. Registration required. **BMAC**

**December 1–2: Deck the Halls Workshop.** Create your own arrangement or boxwood tree using fresh greens, pinecones, rosehips and other everlastings. \$40; \$50 includes lunch. Registration required. **COOP**

**December 2: Fresh Conifer Wreath,** 9–11am or 1–3pm. Participants will create a fresh and fragrant 14-inch conifer wreath to take home. Materials, ribbons & small holiday décor items included. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

**December 2: Outdoor Winter Arrangement,** 1:30pm. Design an outdoor arrangement using fresh mixed evergreens, berries, branches and bow. \$50. Registration required. **LOCK**

• **December 8: Santa's Workshop,** 10am–4pm. Activity stations, ages 5–12. Photos with Santa, \$5 each. Included with admission. **BECBG**

**December 8: Boxwood Tree Arrangement,** 10:30am. Create your own 16-inch arrangement using boxwood cuttings arranged in oasis. Bows and baubles included. \$38. Registration required. **LOCK**

**December 8: British Kissing Ball**, 1:30pm. Use a variety of fresh fir cuttings to arrange in a ball of oasis for hanging outside. Bow included. \$40. Registration required. **LOCK**

**December 8–9: Deck the Halls Workshop**. See description under December 1–2. \$40; \$50 includes lunch. Registration required. **COOP**

**December 16: Evergreen Centerpiece for Small Spaces**, 1pm. Arrange mixed fresh evergreens and pine cones in an old-world style tin to create a unique decoration. Bow included. \$22. Registration required. **LOCK**

**December 16: Christmas Evergreen Centerpiece**, 2:30pm. Create a centerpiece using mixed fresh evergreens, cones, berries and white taper candle. \$42. Registration required. **LOCK**

**December 19 or 20: Fresh Holiday Arrangement**, 6–8pm. Design your own using live materials. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

**December 27: Dollar Day**, 10am–5pm. \$1 admission. **BECBG**

**January 12–February 16: Horticulture Certificate Series**, 5 Saturdays, 11am–1pm. For beginners or gardeners and landscapers wishing to brush up on their skills. Instructor: David Clark. *Houseplant Care & Cultivation; Rain Gardens; All About Roses; Hostas & Hydrangeas; Vegetable & Organic Gardening*. Series: \$100 members; \$125 non-members. Single session: \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

## SAVE THE DATE...

**January 25: Lumagination Launch Party**, 6–9pm. Cocktails, appetizers, raffle and more. \$40 members; \$45 non-members; \$50 after January 20. **BECBG**

**January 26–27; January 30–February 2; February 6–10 & 13–23: Lumagination**, 6–9pm; Fridays & Saturdays, 6–10pm. **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; Facebook.com/acnargs.

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

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

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

### FREQUENT HOSTS

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

**W&B: Wine & Blooms**, 3284 Myers Road, Genoa, NY 13071. 607/216-6058; info@poplarpointstudio.com; wineandblooms.com.

## CLASSES / EVENTS

**November 16: Rustic Fall Wreath**, 6:30 pm. Create a one-of-a-kind seasonal wreath using faux pumpkin, succulents, soil etc. Location: The Apple Station, 5279 Cross Road, Cayuga. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**November 17: Bokashi Composting Workshop**, 10am–12pm. Learn about this Japanese composting technique that involves natural fermentation. \$10 per household. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

**November 26: Rustic Fall Wreath**, 6:30 pm. See description under November 16. Location: Crossroads Bar & Grille, 3120 N. Triphammer Road, Lansing. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**November 27: Holiday Wreath Decorating**, 6pm. Decorate a fresh evergreen wreath with winter-inspired additions. Location: The Apple Station, 5279 Cross Road, Cayuga. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**November 29: Getting Started with Nut Trees**, 6–8pm. Brian Caldwell & Akiva Silver will discuss the best types of nuts for growing in NY plus harvesting and processing methods. Samples will be provided. \$7–\$10 sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

**November 30: Holiday Wreath Decorating**, 6pm. See description under November 27. Location: Grisamore Cider Works, 4069 Goose Street, Locke. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**December 4: Holiday Table Centerpiece**, 6pm. Create your own centerpiece using fresh evergreen stems, berries and pine cones with added shiny décor items. Location: Liquid State Brewing Company, 620 W. Green Street, Ithaca. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**December 5: Holiday Table Centerpiece**, 6pm. See description under December 4. Location: Crossroads Bar & Grille, 3120 N. Triphammer Road, Lansing. Materials included. \$35. Registration required. **W&B**

**December 7: Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop**, 5–7pm. Fresh-cut greens, ring, wires & ribbons supplied. \$18. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

**December 8: Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop**, 10am–12pm. See description under December 7. \$18. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

**December 21: Winter Solstice Garden Tour**, 12–1:30pm. Learn how plants cope with winter's cold and hear some seasonal plant folklore. After the tour, enjoy hot wassail in the warmth of the Nevin Welcome Center. \$5 suggested donation. Registration requested. Cornell Botanic Gardens, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca. 607/255-2400; cornellbotanicgardens.org.

## SAVE THE DATE...

**February 7–May 2: Master Composter Training**, 10 Thursdays, 6:30–8:30pm. In-depth classes & volunteer activities. \$60 deposit, returned in full when volunteer hours completed. Application deadline: January 28. acm1@cornell.edu; 607-272-2292. **CCE/TOM**

## ROCHESTER

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

**African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Rochester** meets the first Wednesday of the month (except in summer), 7–9pm, Messiah Church, 4301 Mount Read Blvd., Rochester. *November 7: Creating Designs with African Violets. December 5: Growing African Violets & Gesneriads from Seed. January 9: Happy New*

*Year Party, appetizers & desserts, note: meet second Wednesday, this month only.* All are welcome. Stacey Davis, 585/426-5665; stacey.davis@rit.edu; avgrs.org.

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

**Bloomfield Garden Club** meets the third Thursday of the month (except May, July & August) at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. New members and guests welcome. 585/657-4489; kjonrad@frontiernet.net.

**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.

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

**Creative Gardeners of Penfield** meets the second Monday of the month at 9:15am (except July & August), Penfield United Methodist Church, 1795 Baird Road, Penfield. *November 12: The Genesee River from Pennsylvania Basin to Lake Ontario with George Thomas, Executive Director, Genesee River Watch.* Visitors welcome. Call 585/385-2065 if interested in attending a meeting.

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

**Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS)** meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month (September–December; February–May), Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester. GROS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS) and Orchid Digest Corporation. *March 29–31, 2019: Orchid Show & Sale, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center.* facebook.com/geneseeorchid; geneseeorchid.org.

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

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

**Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS)** meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1200 South Winton Road, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. 585/467-1678; smag@rochester.rr.com; rochesterperennial.com.

# Calendar

## ROCHESTER cont.

**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** meets the second Wednesday of the month (except May–August & December) at 6:30pm, Department of Public Works Building, 405 Calkins Road, Henrietta. *November 14: Low Maintenance Gardening with Cindy Cali. January 9: Permaculture with Patty Love.* Guests welcome. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub@gmail.com; henriettagardenclub.org.

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

**Hubbard Springs Garden Club of Chili** meets the third Monday of the month at 7pm, Chili Senior Center, 3235 Chili Avenue, Rochester. dtoogood@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. *November 15: Festive Seasonal Arrangements & Modern Holiday Origami. November 15: Learn the Japanese Art of Flower Arranging, 7–9pm, see Calendar (below).* 585/301-6727; 585/402-1772; rochesterikebana@gmail.com; ikebanarochester.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visit to local garden-related site. Members receive a monthly newsletter. New members welcome. Contact Bonnie Arnold: 585/342-8653; bonniearnold@frontiernet.net.

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

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

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

## FREQUENT HOST

**GAL: Gallea's Florist & Greenhouse**, 2832 Clover Street (corner of Clover & Jefferson Road), Pittsford, NY 14534. 585/586-3017; galleas.com.

## CLASSES / EVENTS

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

• **November 12: Children's Flower Arranging**, 11am–12pm. Each child will make a simple design with fresh flowers to take home. \$20. Registration required. **GAL**

**November 13: Autumn Centerpiece**, 6:30–8pm. Participants will use fresh flowers & greens to create a centerpiece that will last into January. Materials included. \$50. Registration required. **GAL**

**November 14: Grand Landscapes of the Berkshires**, 7pm. In this slide show Christine Froehlich will discuss the landscapes and owners of Naumkeag, designed by Fletcher Steele, and The Mount, designed by Edith Wharton. Presented by Flower City Garden Network. Irondequoit Public Library, 1290 Titus Avenue, Rochester. Registration requested. 585/336-6060; flowercitygardennetwork@gmail.com.

**November 15: Learn the Japanese Art of Flower Arranging**, 7–9pm. Presented by Rochester Chapter of Ikebana International. First Baptist Church Hubbell Hall, 175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester. \$15. Registration required. rochesterikebana@gmail.com; ikebanarochester.org.

• **November 25–December 16: Holidays at the Market**, Sundays, 9am–3pm. Shop holiday trees, wreaths & fresh garlands, crafts, decorations, foods, gifts and more. Horse-drawn carriage ride with Santa, free. Rochester Public Market, 280 North Union Street, Rochester. cityofrochester.gov/holidaysatmarket.

**November 28: Everlasting Wreath**, 6:30–8pm. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets will guide participants in creating an everlasting wreath using a base of salal (lemon leaf) and baby's breath (depending on availability) to embellish with dried, fresh and/or silk floral materials. Materials included. \$60. Registration required. **GAL**

• **December 1–2: Visit Santa at Bristol's**, 11am–3pm. Shop holiday trees, wreaths, greens and decorations plus poinsettias, Christmas cactus, amaryllis, cyclamen and more. Kids can visit Santa. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor-Pittsford Road, Victor. 585/924-2274; bristolsgardencenter.com.

**December 4: Outdoor Holiday Welcome Arrangement**, 6:30–8pm. Create a custom arrangement using fresh greens and decorative materials in a holiday pot that will last outside through the winter season. Materials included. \$60. Registration required. **GAL**

• **December 8–9: Visit Santa at Bristol's**, 11am–3pm. See description under December 1–2. Bristol's Garden Center, 7454 Victor-Pittsford Road, Victor. 585/924-2274; bristolsgardencenter.com.

## SAVE THE DATE...

**January 26: Seed Swap**, 9am–1pm. Talks, seed swap, refreshments. Nancy Marrer will demonstrate seed-starting, making paper pots and methods for creating your own seed tapes and pre-seeded papers. Christine Froehlich will present a slide-talk on winter forcing of flowering branches. Presented by Flower City Garden Network & Penfield Community Victory Garden. Free. Registration requested. Community

Room, Penfield Recreation Center, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield. flowercitygardennetwork@gmail.com.

**April 27: Gathering of Gardeners.** *Millennial Gardens: Savor, Sizzle and Shrub.* gatheringofgardeners.com.

## SYRACUSE

### REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

*Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (January–February 2019) is Friday, December 21, 2018. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.*

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# Holiday Gift Ideas

## Items Inspired by the Garden

For our sponsors, the gardening season is alive year-round. We asked them for some great gift ideas, and here's what they came up with.



The most sought after (and greenest) gift of the season is the one that says love and joy, gratitude and thanks...it's the gift that expresses the true joy of the season—a living wreath. The staff at **Sara's Garden Center** in Brockport makes hand-gathered garden wreaths daily throughout the season. We gather pine and fir boughs along with cedar, boxwood, berries and more, like a winter garden for the front door. Their wreaths express the true abundance the season has to offer and it's all possible with a simple circle that hangs on a door. Bring this page in from the *UGJ* and receive **\$5.00 off any garden wreaths valued at \$25 or more**. 585-637-4745; sarasgardencenter.com *See ad on inside front cover.*

Live poinsettia plants add a festive touch to Holiday décor and make great gifts to fit any budget. **Rudolph Galley & Sons Greenhouses**, 2722 Clinton Street, West Seneca, grows thousands of fresh, premium poinsettias. Whether you enjoy traditional colors or are looking for newer varieties or even something already decorated, you're covered. Add your own personal touches such as hand-tied bows and novelty picks. Plants are wrapped in foil, free, in the color of your choice. 716-822-9298 *See ad on page 15.*



**Mischler's Florist & Greenhouses** also carries quality poinsettias, plus flower arrangements, gorgeous holiday centerpieces, and much more. 716-632-1290; mishchlersflorist.com *See ad on page 6.*



There aren't many places more pleasant to be in the blustery winter months than under glass. **Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens** is offering a **25% discount on personal and family memberships**. Extend your current membership, join for the first time or purchase a gift membership for a loved one. Go online to [www.buffalgardens.com](http://www.buffalgardens.com) and use Coupon Code: UPSTATE18 to order today! New memberships are valid one year from join date. Offer expires December 14, 2018. 716-827-1584. *See ad on page 20.*





What's on the *Upstate Gardeners' Journal* team gift wish lists?

**Jane Milliman:** Plants, plants, plants! Despite the fact that I have piles (literally) of unplanted plants, I can always do with more. Divisions, seedlings, stuff you don't want (but not Japanese knotweed or houlttuynia, thanks so much). Also, I am a sucker for gargoyles and statuettes of woodland creatures.

**Deb Eckerson:** A few of my favorite gardening items that I would not hesitate to give as gifts:

- Japanese garden knife (also called a *hori-hori*)—I LOVE this tool and use it all the time (works especially well for hand weeding and planting)
- Bellingham nitrile touch gloves—my fingers crack & bleed so I have to wear gloves, these provide excellent protection without removing sense of touch or dexterity
- Any quality high-density foam pad for kneeling!



**Crafty Cathy:** Any thing handmade with love! Two of the projects featured in the *Upstate Gardeners' Journal* over the past year would make great gifts—the hand scrub and the wine glass charms in this issue are two of my favorites.



# Bee in the Garden

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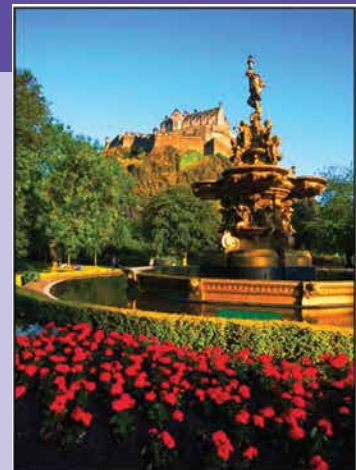
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# What To Do in the Garden in November & December



**TOP:** Multiflora rose

**BOTTOM:** Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)

The deciduous trees have lost their leaves, gardens are being put to bed, and winter is not far behind.

Adding a few inches of shredded leaves or compost to your garden beds before the ground freezes will aid in your garden's health providing better soil structure and more nutrients. Incorporate the organic matter into the vegetable garden now or wait until spring to work it into the beds.

Reduce the possibility of pest problems this winter by raking fallen leaves away from the foundation of the house, making it less desirable for mice to take up residence there or find their way inside your home through small openings.

Now that the outdoor garden chores are done, keep garden tools at peak performance. Clean, oil, repair broken handles and sharpen blades. After sharpening or removing rust be sure to wipe tools with mineral oil to keep it at bay.

There's nothing like bringing in the outdoors for the holidays. Now's the time to gather grape vine, pine cones, wild rose hips, seedpods, twigs, winterberries, dried flower heads, and more. You can use them *au naturel* or spray paint seedpods, flower heads, pine cones, etc., to add color and glitz to your arrangements and wreaths.

Some annuals are happy overwintering in pots. Great choices are geraniums, gerbera daisies and Coleus, to name a few. Place in a sunny window or under artificial lighting and water when dry. You may need to pinch back growth if they get leggy and do remove any yellowing leaves. Fertilize lightly with a liquid fertilizer once a month. The flowering plants will brighten up your winter with colorful blooms.

Enjoy using fresh culinary herbs (such as basil, thyme, parsley, oregano, rosemary, etc.) in your cooking during the holiday and winter season. Transplant from the outside into 4- to 6- inch pots or purchase from a garden center. Place on a sunny windowsill or under grow lights.

Add blooming fragrance to a home and/or office this winter with paperwhites. You can find them in local garden centers or purchase them through catalogs. They look nice nestled among decorative stones in a shallow container. Place bulbs with their points facing up and make sure to keep them watered. Plant in early November to have blooms 6 weeks later.

Cutting pine, fir and spruce boughs to decorate your home for the holidays adds fragrance and color to mantels and centerpieces. Keep in mind that not all evergreens are created equal. Consider using white pine, Fraser fir, cedar, or juniper, to name a few. Remember that cut boughs mean running sap that can damage clothes and furniture, so be aware. Homes that burn wood or have fireplaces will tend

to dry fresh greens more quickly, so keep them away from heat sources.

In New York State, Christmas trees are divided into two main groups: the short-needled spruces and firs and the long-needled pines. The ideal Christmas tree has good needle-holding ability, attractive color, a full or bushy appearance, a conical symmetrical shape, a pleasing fragrance, and branches sturdy enough to hold ornaments and gifts. Make sure to purchase a fresh tree and keep it watered. Spruces tend to drop their needles readily when they eventually dry out, while firs and pines often hold onto their needles.

Poinsettias add color and freshness to your holiday décor. Unfortunately, these plants have gotten a bad rap about being poisonous if eaten. The truth is they are non-toxic and will only cause an upset stomach if eaten but it is still a good idea to keep them away from chewing pets and toddlers. If you have cats that love to chew your plants, then you may want to skip the poinsettias altogether.

Wow your holiday guests with simple but elegant table displays. Fill sparkling glass containers one-third of the way with water, float fresh cranberries, and add sprigs of winter berries, wild rose hips, pine, spruce, boxwood, juniper or any evergreen available. Consider larger, lower containers to add a large burning candle to the center.

Spruce up your holiday banquet table by adding depth and natural decor. Use rocks with a flat surface, small slabs of cut wood, or anything you can use on top or under your table covering to add depth. Add a variety of evergreen sprigs, berries, seed pods, and dried flower heads to give your buffet an alfresco air. Use elevated sections to hold hot or cold dishes, add string of twinkle lights intertwined and *voilà!*

Consider adding warmth and freshness indoors with a terrarium of succulents. Using a large glass container, layer the bottom with colorful stones for a drainage area, add a nice layer of soil and then a variety of succulents now readily available at your local stores and garden centers.

It's best not to add a lid as succulents tend to enjoy it a bit drier—think more desert-like, where they depend on moisture from the soil, not the air. Add interest by robbing your fairy garden stash of gnomes and other tiny garden figures.

—Holly Wise, horticulturalist, and Linda Wimmer, Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County

# Prepping for Winter

by Liz Magnanti

**F**all cleanup is an inevitable part of preparing for the winter months ahead. Raking, cleaning out the gutters, and cleaning up plant debris can be tedious. The good news is, sometimes the messier the garden the better it is for wildlife!

Many plants will offer seeds to birds like goldfinches, juncos, and pine siskins in the winter. Black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower are great examples that can be left all winter for birds to feed from. There is no need to deadhead or remove stalks of these plants now—it can wait until the spring. If you are cleaning out dead plant stalks in your garden, be on the lookout for the chrysalis of butterflies and the cocoons of moths. Swallowtails are one example of a butterfly that will spend all winter in their chrysalis. Other species like the Mourning Cloak butterfly will spend the winter as an adult and will hibernate in tree crevices or brush piles. On an unseasonably warm winter day you may even see some of these butterflies flying over your snow-covered garden.

Weeding out perennial invasives that are popping up in the garden is a good idea in the fall so their root system doesn't expand more than it already has. Black swallowwort is a plant that is creeping into gardens at an alarming rate. It can easily take over gardens in a small amount of time due to its excellent seed dispersal and subterranean rhizome system. It looks like a vine, can wrap itself around other plants, and has slender seed pods similar to other milkweed species. Digging out this and other unwanted plants will make spring gardening easier. Also known as "dog strangling vine," this beast is harmful to our Monarch population.

Now is a good time to collect seeds from plants you want to propagate. Read up on the plant species because some, like milkweeds and cardinal flower, sprout better with cold stratification—this means they need to be left out in the cold in order to sprout. This can also be accomplished by keeping the seeds in the refrigerator for two to three months.

Sticks and branches cleaned up from the yard can be saved and arranged to make a brush pile. Brush piles are places for small mammals, birds and amphibians to take refuge. Hawks commonly come into yards in the winter to search for an easy meal and having a brush pile will give their potential prey a place to escape. You can add leaves and grasses to your brush pile to provide even more protection and places to hide.

Putting up a roosting house, or roosting pockets, is another way to give birds protection in the winter. A

roosting house looks like a bird house but it has perches along the inside of it. These perches allow for several birds to occupy the space at once. Multiple species, even birds that don't nest in houses, will use these roosting houses to stay out of the snow, rain, and wind. They are usually made of woven plant fibers or coconut shells. Birdhouses can also be left out in the winter. Birds or even mice will use them for protection as the weather turns.

Once the temperature drops you may see more activity at your bird feeders. This time of year it is important to make sure your feeders are clean and the seed you are feeding them is fresh. Birds are warm blooded and need to consume many calories in order to keep their body temperature up. Peanuts, sunflower, nyjer, and safflower seeds are high in fat and are a great source of food for birds in the winter. Peanuts tend to attract chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers and blue jays. Sunflower and safflower seeds will attract cardinals, finches, sparrows, and more. Nyjer seed is a favorite of finches, especially goldfinches. Goldfinches are in the area all winter long, but they molt their feathers and will be a drab olive color. In the winter it is common to see pine siskins and sometimes redpolls at nyjer feeders. These birds migrate here from Northern Canada for the winter. Suet cakes, which are blocks of fat, are especially attractive to woodpeckers.

Water can be hard to come by for wildlife in winter. Many species of birds and small mammals depend on a shallow, unfrozen sources of water to drink and bathe in. You can provide this in your yard by using a heated birdbath or by putting a heater in an existing birdbath. These heaters operate on a thermostat and don't make the water warm, but they keep it unfrozen.

Providing wildlife with food, water, and shelter from the elements and predators is important all year if you want to have a wildlife-friendly yard. You may find, however, when you provide these elements in the winter the amount of animals you see goes up significantly. When we have long periods of cold and snow cover, it can be hard for wildlife to find a meal, a drink, or safety. Now is the perfect time to prep your yard for the cold months ahead. The animals will appreciate the additional help, and you will appreciate their wonderful presence in your yard all winter long.

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



**ABOVE:** *Vincetoxicum rossicum*, pale swallowwort (dog-strangling vine) at the Skaneateles Conservation Area, Onondaga County, New York. Photo by R. A. Nonenmacher



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# Cold Weather Garden Fun

**T**here's nothing like the blue sky of an autumn day. Now it's time to bring in the garden statues, take notes on your garden successes and failures, and prepare your garden for winter. Acorns, pumpkins, and beautiful leaves invite children outside for one last romp before the snow comes. The gardening fun doesn't have to completely end, though! Here are some activities to keep your li'l green thumbs engaged throughout the cold months ahead.

**Snow Poppies**—Now is a good time to grab a packet of poppy seeds and spy out a prime poppy area in your garden or yard. Tuck the seed packet in the fridge and wait until a good snowy day. Then, pull on the snow boots, hike out to your spot, and scatter your poppy seeds in the snow! With the melting snow the tiny seeds are drawn into the soil. Come spring, look out for the slightly spiky looking leaves, followed by intriguing fuzzy stems with big flower buds. Poppies are cheerful and fun, and kids will like planting in the snow! Remember, though, that poppy plants will spread. If your kids are older, they might enjoy learning about the historical nature of this beautiful flower.

**Ice Gazing Balls**—Easy and very fun to make, you can stick these anywhere in your yard, and enjoy them as long as the temperatures stay cold. Simply fill balloons with water and several drops of food coloring. Stick them in your freezer or outside. When they're solid, run them quickly beneath hot water and peel off the balloons. You'll have made beautiful round ice balls that will reflect the pale winter sunshine. If you want to stick them to a railing or other object outside, you can use water to "glue" them in place. We made a series of them and stuck them on the arm of our mailbox—the kids thought they were amazing, and they looked very pretty for several days!

**Sachets**—If you've been collecting flowers or drying herbs from your garden, a simple sewing craft that many kids enjoy is making scented sachets, or scented hot pads. They also make great presents for the holidays. Using felt and a larger needle can make the project easier for small children. Old flannel shirts or other clothing with nice

fabric can be a reusable resource, or hit the store and enjoy all of the beautiful fabric designs.

Homemade potpourri is another fragrant way to enjoy plants indoors. A simple recipe we use is as follows: The peel of one orange, a stick of cinnamon (or a teaspoon of powdered), and either powdered or whole cloves. Put the ingredients into a pot with two cups of water. Cook on medium until the scent starts wafting, then turn the heat down to low. (Also, of note, don't use clementine peels. Though the fruit is yummy to eat, the rinds don't smell good at all.)

There are other great recipes at: [dailydiylife.com/make-home-smell-like-fall-homemade-potpourri-recipes](http://dailydiylife.com/make-home-smell-like-fall-homemade-potpourri-recipes)

**Dream, Gardener, Dream**—One surefire antidote to the February blahs is the arrival of seed catalogs. Now is a good time to sign up for all the catalog joy. Try some new nurseries, and don't forget to let your kids look through them too. Our little gardeners love putting their initials next to veggies they want to eat and flowers they want to plant. Some fun nurseries that might be new to you are Baker Creek ([rareseeds.com](http://rareseeds.com)), the Cook's Garden, Fedco Seeds, Pinetree Garden Seeds, and Thompson & Morgan.

**And lastly, don't forget houseplants**—Geraniums come in many fun scents, like pineapple and rose, and are easy to grow in a sunny window. Head out to a nursery and you'll be sure to find childhood favorites—pink polka dot plants, strange carnivores, and easy-to-care-for succulents. Many of the herbs you love outside can come in too. Just watch out for any insect hitchhikers when bringing in garden plants. (A brief quarantine is never a bad idea.)

Remember, spring is only a few months away! Happy holidays to you all.

Valerie Shaw is a homeschool mom, YMCA youth coach, and gardener with a yard that rather ran away with her this year. She lives with her husband and two kids in West Monroe, NY, and is excitedly awaiting spring, and the new batch of little goat kids that are due in March.

**ABOVE:** Ice balls.  
Photo courtesy Flickr:  
Robbie Sproule.

# Wood Slice Wine Charms



Keeping track of one's glass of wine at holiday parties is always a challenge. These adorable wine charms will help your fellow oenophiles distinguish which glass belongs to them.

## MATERIALS FOR EACH CHARM

- 1 wood slice, approximately 1 inch in diameter and ½ inch thick
- 1 screw eye, 4 x 15 mm
- 1 stemware loop, 25 mm
- Embellishment such as a small sticker
- Acrylic sealer

## TOOLS

- Sandpaper
- Hammer
- Small nail or wire brad
- Pliers
- Paintbrush

1. Sand both faces of wood slices until smooth.
2. Use hammer to tap the nail into the edge of the wood slice to make a starter hole for screw eye.
3. Use pliers to remove nail. Start twisting screw eye into hole by hand. Once started, clasp screw eye with pliers and twist wood slice by hand until tight and the screw eye is perpendicular to wood slice as shown in figure 1.
4. Embellish one side of wood slice as desired. I used bird stickers, but if you have an artistic gene, you could hand draw a different design on each with markers.
5. Use paint brush to coat charm with acrylic sealer on both sides and around the edges.
6. Slip stemware loop through screw eye and affix to wine glass stem.



## PROJECT NOTES

– Not feeling artsy? Use chalkboard paint. Simply bypass step 4 and go on to step 5. After the acrylic sealer has dried completely, paint one wood slice face with 2 or 3 coats of chalkboard paint and let dry completely. With a piece of chalk, write a guest's name or initials on each charm.

– Not into wine? Use a larger diameter wood slice to create an ornament, then use any technique you desire to create a unique holiday keepsake. Instead of a stemware loop, use ribbon or twine to create a hanger.

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

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