

Upstate Gardeners'

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Journal



Focus on herbs
Diana Smith's 750 maples
Plantasia seminar schedule

FREE

Volume Twenty-four, Issue Two
March-April 2018



SARA'S GARDEN

Springiness

Who doesn't need that right now? The happy, bouncy, joy mixed with that sweet scent of all things growing?!? And the most-asked question on this long winter track to springiness is, "What's new this season?" That's a hard question to answer—to us it all feels new each year. Any little seedling popping out of the soil, any first bloom on a basket...it's all new! Spring provides the good fortune for ALL to be new again.

But never fear, there are indeed new plants this spring. The newest may be plants you already recognize, but now they're improved: make that petunia branch better without pinching, million bells that resist disease, weigela with non-stop flowers, and more...sometimes you don't need to re-invent the wheel. This season, keep your eye out for stronger colors, improved habits, and a hundred other subtle ways your garden will be better.

The best plant breeding "go-to's" will be in the Nursery Yard for 2018—just follow the crowd! Our newest favorite is the **Hand Picked For You** line, which screens hundreds of trees, shrubs, and perennials. This means the ultimate in worthy plants for our neighborhood gardens. Annual flowers mean **Proven Winners**, they are the cutting edge for this group. We will have the **White Flower Farm** collection, the **American Beauties** for native plant needs, **David Austin Roses** (OMG, they're gorgeous!)...oh, and the **First Editions** are all about the latest and the greatest. There is so much more: **Bushel & Berry**, **AAS Select**, **Heritage Perennials**...we are tight on descriptive space here, so just plan a visit.

This year will be the tenth anniversary of the Stone Wall Follies! We want to mark this year with all the teachers and all the students. (Hey you from 2008??) The most unexpected ten years of stone work needs some celebration and recognition for all the students who have participated in that wee bit of magic they gave to the nursery. If you have worked and given to our lovely stone-filled corner of the world, or if you want to join in with us and our wee bit of magic, we need to HEAR from you soon. Lot's of "ducks have to be put in a row," as they say, so be proactive! Email me now.

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

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There's no doubt about it: this winter has been a slog. But the March-April issue is as sure a sign of spring as anything. With it comes the garden shows! GardenScape will be back this year in its usual location at the Dome in Henrietta, March 8–11. Rochesterflowershow.com

Of course, we are huge fans of Plantasia, the flower and landscape show at the fairgrounds in Hamburg that just keeps getting better. We are honored to again be the official program of the show, which runs March 22–25. For a full list of seminars, go to the last page in this book.

Plantasiany.com

With the Rochester Civic Garden Center's eminent dissolution there is no RCGC spring symposium this year. But the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County's Master Gardeners are moving *their* symposium, **Gathering of Gardeners**, from its usual spot in the fall to April 28 at the Doubletree on Jefferson Road. The theme is "Gardens that Rock!" and the featured speakers are Joseph Tychonievich, with "Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style" and "Cool, Non-Wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard Of," and Carol Southby, who will present "Combining Plants for Special Effects." A continental breakfast and plant sale add to the fun.

Gatheringofgardeners.com



TOP: Jane Milliman

CENTER: GardenScape poster artist Debbie Bonnewell

BOTTOM LEFT: Joseph Tychonievich

BOTTOM RIGHT: Carol Southby

The Maplewood Neighborhood Association in Rochester is seeking horticulture-related vendors to participate in the 28th annual **Maplewood Rose Festival**. This year's festival will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The festival draws thousands of participants that come to revel in the beauty of the Maplewood Rose Garden, partake in workshops and tours, and purchase plants for their own gardens. The vendor fee for the 2018 Maplewood Rose Festival is \$30. Registration deadline is May 25. To learn more or to register as a vendor contact Sara Scott at 585-820-8860 or sara.scott@cityofrochester.gov.

If you are a WNY resident interested in learning how to care for young trees, check out the **CommuniTREE Steward Project** being offered by the Cooperative Extension of Erie County, in five parts, beginning March 21. Buffalo Olmsted Parks will again host the classes at Parkside Lodge in Delaware Park and in return for the training, the stewards are asked to volunteer at least 10 hours annually caring for juvenile trees. reg.cce.cornell.edu/2018WNYCTSClasses_214 or 716-652-5400 x 150

We're trying something new this year, which is to give each issue a theme. This issue's theme is **herbs**, and the next is **emerging garden trends**. We are always looking for writers and ideas, so drop us a line if you have something in mind! You can reach managing editor Debbie Eckerson at deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.

Thanks, as always, for reading!

Jane Milliman, Publisher





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In the Land of 750 Japanese Maples, with Diana Smith

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton, except where noted; plant photo descriptions by Diana Smith

LEFT: *Acer shirasawanum* 'Microphyllum' is a very pretty understory tree with outstanding orange to red fall color. A strong tree that can reach 15 feet tall.

RIGHT: Diana Smith with her cat, Bully.

Not just 750 Japanese maple plants. More than 750 Japanese maple *varieties*. At least, that's what Diana Smith, proprietor of Topiary Gardens in the town of Marcellus in Onondaga County, estimates. After 700 varieties, she stopped counting. She was too busy propagating them.

Diana comes from a family of entrepreneurs with deep roots in Marcellus. Her father, Donald, started a stone and screened topsoil business in 1951 that her brothers Dave and Dan carry on. Her brother Duane helps her with her landscaping installations on weekends

when he has some free time. Her sprightly 88-year-old Mom, Betty, who is originally from Japan, does most of the display garden maintenance. Diana's sister in law helps out too. Her super-affectionate cat, Bully, chases away chipmunks and anything else that gets in his way. Her dog, Suki, provides entertainment (see photo on page 16).

Diana worked more than 20 years for a nearby nursery before eventually embarking full-time on her own businesses in landscape installation and maintenance and propagating and selling Japanese



LEFT: *Acer palmatum* 'Amagi Shigure' has some of the most intense brick red colors I've seen in a maple. The spring colors have been described as eye-popping fuchsia, shifting to deep brick red with dark greenish black veins. Leaves that are more shaded take on a pale whitish-pink tone with vibrant green reticulation. This stunner will grow to about 6 feet high and 3 feet wide in 10 years. Description and Photo Courtesy Topiary Gardens

RIGHT: *Acer japonicum* 'Otaki' is known for outstanding fall color: yellow, orange, red, and sometimes peach tones. In spring, the leaf comes out green with a silver pubescence and a red cast before becoming light green and slightly darker in the summer months. It's a nice small Japonicum type, reaching 10 feet, with a feathery appearance. 'Otaki' can grow in the sun or in partial to dappled shade.

maples and conifers. She started collecting Japanese maples in 1990, ordering from nurseries on the West Coast. At that time, a blight was devastating the southern nurseries' Japanese maple stock. It was an opportune time to start propagating and selling maples on the East Coast since it was getting extremely costly to purchase maples from the West Coast growers, whose stock was in such high demand.

At the same time she was teaching herself how to propagate woody plants, Diana began her own landscape installation business, specializing in water features.

She says, "I'd get my inspiration from walking up creeks around New York State, finding waterfalls, and taking note of how the plants, rocks, and water all relate. It gave me ideas about how to lay out gardens." The other big source of inspiration was seeing gardens in Japan on family trips there, especially to Kyoto.

Before long, Diana was selling maples via mail order, and in 2002 she started selling online when she was creating a large garden for a client who also designed websites. He created a site that Diana was very pleased with, and the online business took off fast. She says,



TOP LEFT: *Acer palmatum* 'Wilson's Pink Dwarf' is a slow-growing, upright tree that maxes out at 8 to 10 feet tall. The leaves emerge in spring like tiny shrimp on the ends of the branches before becoming a pink-green and then light green through the summer months. Fall color is yellow and orange with hints of crimson at times. It can grow in sun or partial to dappled shade.

TOP RIGHT: 'Spotty Dotty' mayapple (*Podophyllum*) pairs well with understory Japanese maples.

BOTTOM LEFT: This is *Acer palmatum* 'Kawahara no midori' in the fall. Midori means "green." It is pale green in the spring, becoming chartreuse green in the summer, and turning clear yellow in the fall. Another ornamental feature is the green new branches. It's an upright, vase shape, medium-sized tree that does best in the shade; it will burn in the hot afternoon sun.

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Acer palmatum* 'Lazy Leaf' is a chunky upright form that matures at 10 feet tall and can grow in sun or shade. The summer foliage is medium green, and the fall color is orange and yellow.

"Word got around that my trees grow slower than West Coast trees, but they 'caliper up' faster, meaning that they are a fuller specimen at a young age, which people like. They look more like miniature trees with a nice shape as opposed to just a stick with two branches on it, which is what you can get in warmer growing climates."



In some ways, Marcellus (Zone 5a) is an unlikely place to grow Japanese maples. The winter cold and winds can be pretty fierce. What does Diana advise people in climates like hers to do?

"First, avoid planting where you'll have southwest winds if you can," she says. "Water new plantings really well right to the point that the ground is persistently frozen, because the more hydrated the plant is going into winter, the better it can withstand the desiccating winds. Then, wrap the plant in burlap for at least the first two winters."

The generally significant snow cover in Marcellus is a good temperature-regulating "mulch" for the roots of Diana's Japanese maples. Unfortunately, however, winters with extreme freeze-thaw zigs and zags are hard on the trees no matter where they are sited or how well



hydrated or covered they are. Diana says that the best thing you can do to mitigate against the freeze-thaw challenge is to use big boulders, rocks, stone mulch—the stone will hold and absorb heat and can help keep the trunk warm, making it less susceptible to the freeze-thaw effect. “Even Christmas lights can help,” she says. “I tell clients to wrap lights around the trunk to help keep it warm, and/or put a spotlight on the tree at night or hang a light bulb in it. All of these things can bump your tree’s microclimate up—half a hardiness zone in the country, or a full zone in the city.”

On her family land, the soil is a sandy loam pretty much perfect for growing Japanese maples because in terms of pH, they prefer a neutral to slightly acidic soil. Soil fertility is a different matter; Diana says that soil fertility can greatly affect leaf color. “If you want a dark, deeper color foliage, give the tree a richer soil,” she says, “but if you want lighter, brighter foliage, use a less nutrient-rich soil. Japanese maples don’t mind being nutrient-stressed—they’ll adapt to whatever soil you put them in—so it’s really about what color foliage you want.” Diana never fertilizes her Japanese maples in the landscape.

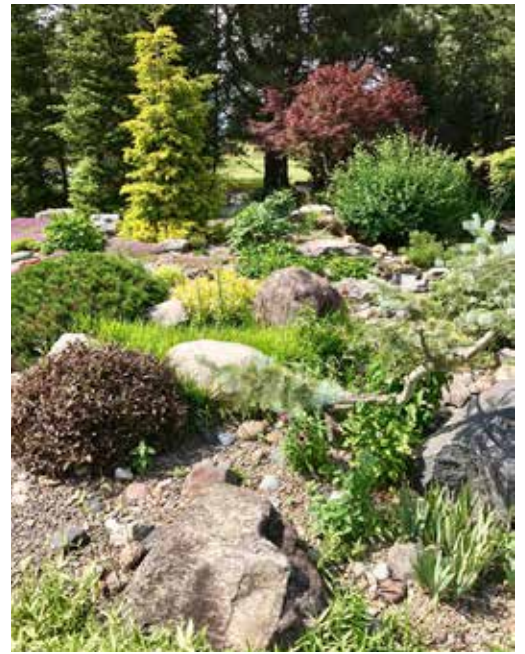
Japanese maple selections vary in their sun/shade preference. The

TOP LEFT: *Acer palmatum* ‘Enkan’ is a strap leaf, or linearilobum, type of Japanese maple. Its spring color is dark maroon changing to bronze-red in late summer. Fall color is orange to red. It’s a small tree with an open oval habit, reaching 6 to 8 feet tall and wide. Plant it in full sun to get the best maroon color.

TOP RIGHT: *Acer palmatum* ‘Mikawa yatsubusa’ is a dwarf maple with large, light green leaves overlaying each other on compressed stems. At 6 feet at maturity, this maple is great for rock gardens, bonsai, and patio plantings. Beautiful fall color—yellow, turning to orange. Can grow in sun or part shade in well-drained soil. Everyone’s favorite.

BOTTOM LEFT: Diana’s mother, Betty, feeding the fish. “My mom didn’t like flowers until I started getting more and more into them. Now she’s a worse plant addict than me! I’m glad she likes it—it keeps her outside and active.”

BOTTOM RIGHT: The bronze koi fish is a female—the alpha among all the koi—named “Piggie.”



LEFT: A handful of the more than 750 varieties Diana propagates.

TOP RIGHT: One of many display gardens at the nursery. Photo Courtesy Topiary Gardens

BOTTOM LEFT: Diana's beloved dog, Suki.

one truism is that yellow-leaf and variegated Japanese maples will have the best foliage color in the shade. What about critter protection? Diana's favorite repellent for both deer and smaller animals is Bobbex, to which she adds some peppermint oil. Pungent Bobbex has a good tackifier, so it won't wash off immediately, and the peppermint oil irritates the animals' noses or mouths. Her concoction repels animals for four to six weeks per application.



Because of the increasing demand for small, low-maintenance material for today's smaller gardens, Diana has been expanding into offering dwarf evergreens. "They're a good complimentary plant to Japanese maples," she says. "A lot of people with small properties are realizing now that all you need is a Japanese maple, an evergreen, and a few flowers and you're set." She says that some evergreens will need a little more care than Japanese maples because some do prefer a more acidic soil. If you're going to plant evergreens in clay, you'll want to amend the soil broadly and apply acidifier at regular intervals.

Diana is also moving into propagating unusual

perennials, like the spotted-leaf mayapple (*Podophyllum* 'Spotty Dotty'), the compact 'Queen Charlotte' Japanese anemone (*Anemone x hybrida*) with its three-inch soft pink flowers, the 'Margaret Wilson' geranium (*Geranium phaeum*) with deeply cut, creamy-variegated foliage, the strikingly variegated 'Lorraine Sunshine' ox-eye daisy (*Heliopsis*); *Astilboides tabularis*, a plant that has striking umbrella-like leaves, and the white flowering toad lily (*Tricyrtis* 'White Towers'). She wants to try grafting tree peonies, but without the fungicide typically involved, so she is studying a technique for that.

In five years, she sees herself doing less landscaping and more work propagating a diverse variety of plant material for one- and two-gallon containers. "As I get older, I can't dig up giant rocks and move big trees like I used to," she says. That's in spite of being very physically fit—Diana used to work as a personal trainer and group aerobics instructor, and, in addition to doing physical work, keeps in shape by aerobic kickboxing.

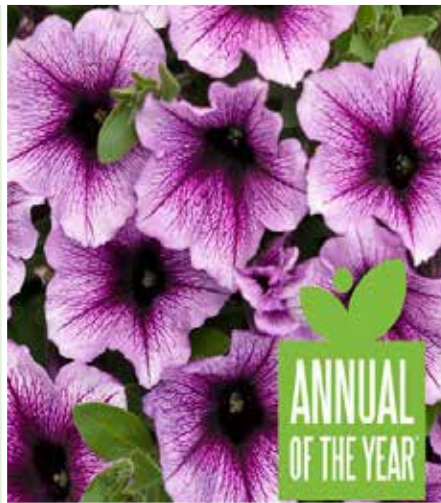
Topiary Gardens (topiary-gardens.com) is open by appointment.

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



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Adding Flowering Herbs to Your Garden

by Donna De Palma



Cultivating flowering herbs will become a pleasure all its own.



Creating borders of fragrant, flowering herbs or adding clusters of herbs to a flower garden is a delightful way to introduce scent. To select herbs that will complement existing elements in your garden, consider size, how quickly they reseed, blooming season, and most importantly, color and scent. Cultivating herbs to stand side-by-side with perennials is a tradition going back centuries. Informal, modern cottage gardens, especially, mix ornamental and edible plants freely.

Here are some herbs that do well in flower gardens with careful placement and proper care.

Lavender is a wonderful choice if you need a swath of color from a hardy plant that blooms in mid-summer and can tolerate heat. The most common types are English and French lavender. English lavender produces blue-violet flowers on tall, slender stalks with narrow, silver-green leaves. Hybrids come in pastel colors: pale pink, lavender, and white, with foliage that varies in shape and color. Pair it with roses for a classic cottage garden look, or plant along walkways and paths to heighten the scent or as an accent plant in a container garden. If you would like to plant more than those types, look for Spanish and Portuguese lavender. Your garden will be abloom with lavender all summer long in repeating subtle yet varied shades of violet as one variety fades and the next blooms.

Lavender is also a natural pest repellent. Consider planting it near outdoor seating to repel mosquitos and attract butterflies. A tough perennial, lavender will last for several years if conditions are right. Find a sunny place with dry soil to plant. Lavender is well suited to container gardens and will thrive indoors in winter if exposed to at least eight hours of sun a day.

Another delicate and aromatic herb that grows well in gardens is **anise hyssop**, a flowering perennial of the mint family well suited as an ornamental. The faint scent of anise from leaves and flowers wafts from these bushy clumps of upright stems topped with fuzzy spikes of blue violet flowers. It will flower from June to September and can grow up to four feet by mid-to-late summer and reseeds freely. If you'd rather it didn't spread, pinch off the flower heads before the small black seeds mature and drop. A location with full or partial sun works best. Anise hyssop prefers well-drained soil, attracts butterflies, and is a low-maintenance addition to any garden.

One of my favorite herbs for its delicate appearance is **marsh mallow**. Its pale white, hollyhock-like flowers with clustered lilac stamen and central anthers bloom nearly all summer long. With broad, grey-green leaves that are velvety soft, it's an upright perennial that can last into early fall. A tall perennial, it performs well in the back border, though sometimes needs to be staked. This herb grows up to three feet and prefers full to partial sun but is adaptable. True to its common name, the root was once used to make marshmallows.

Sage is an herb with a pine-like aroma, delicate flowers, and soft foliage. Sage can be a perennial or an annual and comes in both blooming and nonblooming varieties. Pineapple sage, a relatively exotic strain, is a tender perennial with stalks of tubular scarlet blooms and a subtle scent of pineapple that butterflies and hummingbirds love.

In the summer, common garden sage usually produces lavender or blue-violet flowers atop shapely leaves. The flowers are edible as decorations on cakes, in salads, or as a garnish. It's tastiest as a culinary herb when it gets loads of sunlight. Replace it every three to four years or keep it cut back hard, as it will lose its vigor and aroma, left to sprawl about.

Sage can grow almost anywhere. It's ideal for planting along walkways and in corners of flowerbeds, providing a soft backdrop for brighter colors. The hardy versions of these subshrubs are drought tolerant and enjoy full sun.

Purple coneflower, a flowering herb otherwise known as *Echinacea purpurea*, blooms as large, rosy-pink flowers with raised orange-brown centers on sturdy stems. A hardy, drought-resistant perennial in the sunflower family, its daisy-like flower heads have a cone in the center with petals angled backward away from it.

Bred in a wide range of colors, the flowers are primarily pink, purple and lavender. Most have oval leaves with a wide base. They grow, on average, to two to four feet and need at least five hours of sunlight each day. Coneflowers bloom from early- to mid-summer and will thrive until the first frost. They're rich in nectar, making them popular with bees and butterflies. Leave them standing in winter as food for birds.

At the first hint of spring growth, shear coneflower back for fuller foliage that will hold blooms longer. Coneflowers are prolific bloomers that will self-seed and spread. Large swathes of them can be placed next to ornamental grasses, black-eyed Susan, or culver's root for a carpet-like display.

Catmint, with its grey-green leaves and lavender blue flowers, can be used as edging or draped over stone borders. Easy to grow, these full, flowering stalks will hang over a terraced edge in a billowy tuft. Catmint is only slightly aromatic. Overhanging spikey flowers bloom in early summer and repeat their blooms throughout the summer and early fall. Pair with ornamental grasses, white lace flower, or lady's mantle.

A tough, deer-resistant perennial that's also drought-tolerant, catmint can grow from six inches to eight feet, and, in addition to bluish lavender, comes in a variety of soft colors, like pink, white and yellow. It pairs well with brightly colored perennials, surrounding them with a blanket of pastel. It can be sheared back after its initial flowering to encourage further blossoms.

No aromatic garden is complete without the delightfully pungent scent of **lemon verbena**, a bushy herb with a sweet, lemony scent and delicate pink or white flowers. Treat it as an annual in your summer garden, plant in a container garden, or take it indoors in winter—it's an herb that prefers warmth.

The scent is primarily in the leaves, although the small, edible flowers can be used for teas, oils and vinegars. Its pretty white flowers bloom from late summer to fall, and with regular shaping, these plants can grow six feet high.

Rosemary, a woody, evergreen-like perennial with creamy white, pale pink, violet, or brilliant blue flowers, blooms in early summer and is an aromatic, flowering herb that will provide contrast to other foliage in your garden with its deep green needles. Rosemary is a warm-

**OPPOSITE
TOP LEFT:** Lavender

TOP CENTER: Anise
hyssop courtesy Flickr:
Green Mountain Girls

TOP RIGHT: Marsh
mallow courtesy Flickr:
Amanda Slater

MIDDLE LEFT: Sage

MIDDLE RIGHT: Purple
coneflower

BOTTOM LEFT: Catmint
courtesy Flickr: Tanaka
Juuyoh

BOTTOM CENTER:
Lemon verbena courtesy
H. Zell

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Rosemary courtesy Flickr:
Tony Alter

Uncredited photos are
by Jane Milliman



Select herbs
that will
complement
existing
elements
in your
garden.

TOP LEFT: Ornamental oregano

TOP RIGHT: Bergamot

BOTTOM LEFT: Valerian

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lemon-scented thyme

weather herb and great choice for a container garden that can be moved indoors when the temperatures drop. This herb prefers a sunny spot with good drainage.

Both ornamental and edible, it's a summer hedge with a recognizably French aroma. 'Tuscan Blue' and 'Spice Island' are top choices in the kitchen.

Ornamental oregano is such a useful, deer-resistant, creeping perennial herb that it's surprising we don't see more of it in flower gardens. Beautiful in a rock garden as a trailer, its blue-green foliage and drooping, hop-like flowers of pink, violet, green, and cream also work well in a container garden, or as ground cover in an ornamental summer garden. Draped over a wall, terrace or edging, ornamental oregano prefers full sun and grows to a height of six to eight inches, spreading from 12 to 18 inches. It even grows well in stone walls. Rather than as a culinary herb, it is known for its unusual beauty. Flowers hold their bloom for up to four months.

Bergamot or bee balm is considered a tea herb with a spicy, citrusy flavor, but it works beautifully in an ornamental garden. Its narrow, tubular, blue-violet flowers bloom from July through September and blossoms can range from lavender to deep red and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and, especially, bees. Leaves can be used to flavor lemonade, teas, and essential oils. Bergamot forms dense clumps of erect stems that can grow to four feet tall, and looks a little like a chrysanthemum on a high stalk. It likes partial to full sun.

Valerian, with fragrant lilac, pink or (usually) white flowers on long stalks, is a charming addition to an

ornamental garden if you're looking for an early summer bloom and don't mind a tough competitor. Valerian can grow up to five feet and will get spindly, so it's best placed near a wall or toward the back of a perennial garden. Try it next to poppies to contrast brilliant splashes of red, orange, yellow-orange, and coral with valerian's pale flower. Watch out when digging up the roots, though—they don't have a pleasant scent.

No aromatic or ornamental garden is complete without **lemon-scented thyme**, with pale lavender and pink flowers that bloom in spring. Sporting hardy foliage, this thyme is a compact bushy herb that reaches about 12 inches high by 12 inches wide. A full sun aromatic, it can be picked as a culinary herb that goes a long way in the kitchen. Lemon-scented thyme is the perfect choice for a border in the perennial garden. Mix in this splash of yellow green with the blues of iris, bellflower, or brunnera, and you've created a stunning color palette that leaves a lasting impression.

Whether your garden flowers with dahlias, peonies, daylilies or primrose, fill in corners, edges and walkways with aromatic flowering herbs for a signature cottage garden look that is uniquely yours. You'll find that cultivating flowering herbs will become a pleasure all its own.

Donna De Palma is a freelance writer based in Rochester.

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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. *May 20–27: African Violet Societies Convention, joint convention with the African Violet Society of Canada (see calendar, below).* 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 promote daylilies. Open Gardens in July. *August 25: Hosta, Daylily & Iris Sale, see Calendar (below).* 716/ 698-3454; Facebook; buffaloareadaylilysociety.com.

Buffalo Bonsai Society meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Buffalo Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave., Buffalo. *March 21: Styling Classical Bonsai with William Valavanis. March 26: Walter Pall & Jennifer Price. April 18: Preparing Your Tree for Show. May 16: Shoin in the Count Matsudaira Style with Mark Arpag.* 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. *June 2: Herb & Plant Sale, see Calendar (below).* Meeting dates, times and campus locations: kenancenter.org/affiliates.asp; 716/433-2617.

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

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

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

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. *March 13: Constructing a Minimal Floral Arrangement, participants will take home their design. May 19: Plant Sale, see Calendar (below).* New members and guests welcome. 716/833-8799.

Lancaster Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, St. John's Lutheran Hall, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. No meetings January,

July & August. *April 11: Raising a Cutting Garden with Roxanne McCoy. May 9: Unusual and Late Blooming Perennials with Linda Blyth. May 19: Plant Sale.* All are welcome. 716/685-4881.

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

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

Orchard Park Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 12pm, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, 4369 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park. President: Ruth Ann Nowak, 716/662-1017.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western New York Hosta Society. East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora. Meetings with speakers, newsletter, sales. *August 25: Hosta, Daylily & Iris Sale, see Calendar (below).* 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. *June 2: Iris Show, 1–4pm, see Calendar (below). July 8: Garden Walk Featuring Beardless Irises, 1–4pm. August 25: Hosta, Daylily & Iris Sale, see Calendar (below).* 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. *March 21: Preparing Your Garden & Planting Your Roses with Steve Styn. April 18: Fertilizing & Spraying.* wnrosesociety.net.

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

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

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

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

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

URB: Urban Roots, 428 Rhode Island Street, Buffalo. 716/362-8982; info@urbanroots.org; urbanroots.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

March 17: A Sustainable Backyard: Creating Biodiversity in Your Landscape, 8:30am–3pm. Featuring two talks by Dr. Doug Tallamy: *Bringing Nature Home and Creating Living Landscapes.* Sally Cunningham will present *What Would Doug Do (in your yard)?*. Includes lunch, beverages and snacks. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County. Classics V Banquet Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. \$35 Erie County Master Gardeners; \$45 Master Gardeners from outside Erie County; \$55 General Public. Registration required. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County, 716/652-5400 x177; erie.cce.cornell.edu.

• **March 17–18: Maple Harvest Festival,** 9am–3pm. Samples, snacks, pancake breakfast, crafts, activities, raffle, syrup & maple products for sale. \$9 adults; \$7 ages 12 & under; ages 3 and under free. **BMAC**

March 20: Sunflower Serenade, 7–9pm. Official launch party for the *1000 Sunflower Project and 2018 Northwest Buffalo Tour of Gardens.* Open to all who want to know more and would like to sign up to participate. 1902 Niagara Street, Buffalo. bralliance.org.

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

March 22–25: Federated Garden Clubs Standard Flower Show at Plantasia, 10am–9pm; Sunday, 10am–5pm. Event Center, Hamburg Fairgrounds, 5820 South Park Avenue, Hamburg. Included with admission. gardenclubsofwny.com.

• **March 24 & 31: Visit a Working Sugar Shanty,** 10am–2pm. See how maple sap is turned into syrup. Free. **BMAC**

March 27: Easter Centerpiece Basket, 6pm. Create a fresh mixed-floral basket with your choice of bulb plants, primroses, mums and pansies. \$32. Registration required. **LOCK**

March 28: National Weed Appreciation Day, 1–2:30pm. Naturalist Mark Carra will help define what a weed is and explain their natural history. \$5. Registration required. **BMAC**

March 31: Seed Starting, 2pm. Instructor: Richard Price. Free. Registration required. **URB**

March 31: How to Grow Wildflowers for Your Summer Garden, 2–3pm. Naturalist Mark Carra will discuss indoor propagation of wildflowers for spring transplanting into the garden. Some native seeds will be supplied. \$5. Registration required. **BMAC**

• **April 4: Nature Display Boxes**, 1–3pm. Take a short hike with Naturalist Tom Kerr to look for interesting nature artifacts then take them back to the nature center to mount in clear plastic boxes. \$5. Registration required. **BMAC**

April 5: Looking for Signs of Spring Walk, 10–11:30am. Naturalist Mark Carra will lead this walk on the Backwoods Loop Trail to search for signs of spring including wild leeks and more. \$5. Registration required. **BMAC**

April 7: Pruning Seminar, 10am–12:15pm. Two sessions: *The Science of Pruning*, 10–11am; *Basic Pruning Practices*, 11:15am–12:15pm. \$10 one session; \$15 both sessions. Registration required. **LOCK**

April 7–June 16: Horticulture Certificate – IV, 5 Saturdays, 11am–1pm. Horticulturist David Clark will cover: *Gardening for Wildlife*, *Four Seasons Gardening*, *Creative Containers & Raised Beds*, *Herbs & Medicinal Plants*, *Backyard Ecology*. Series: \$100 members; \$120 non-members. Single session: \$22 members; \$27 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 10: Kokedama Hanging Garden, 6pm. Create your own hanging moss ball garden using a plant, mosses, packed soil mixture and string. \$45 members; \$50 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 14: Kokedama Ball, 10:30am. Learn how to make this hanging planter of a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. \$35. Registration required. **LOCK**

April 19 or 20: Beginning Bonsai Workshop, 6–9pm. Fashion a live bonsai tree while learning about the art, techniques and styles. Materials included. \$75 members; \$80 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

April 21: Intro to Permaculture, 10:30am. Learn how to implement small changes through observing bacteria and fungi in the natural world. \$10. Registration required. **LOCK**

April 24: Mushrooming, 2pm. Instructor: Richard Price. Free. Registration required. **URB**

April 27: Arbor Day Tree Tours, 12:30 & 2pm. Learn the basics of tree identification. Rain or shine. Free. **BECBG**

April 28: Spring Bulb Sale, 8am. Thousands of bulbs pulled from the Gardens. Bag provided, you fill. \$10 per bag, limit 3. **BECBG**

• **April 28: Fairy Garden Workshop**, 9:30–10:30am or 2–3pm. Ages 5–12 will make their own miniature garden using found and natural materials. Parents and guardians are encouraged to work with their children. Materials included. \$15 members; \$20 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

• **April 28: Fairy & Gnome Festival**, 10am–5pm. Fairy-themed crafts and activities, scavenger hunt, view & vote for fairy house contest entries. Included with admission. **BECBG**

April 28: Hypertufa & Draped Planter Workshop, 10:30am. Create your own hypertufa planter and learn about new draped concrete planters to make at home. \$28. Registration required. **LOCK**

April 29: Ramp it Up!, 1–3:30pm. Lead by Director of Education, Lauren Makeyenko. Participants will be allowed to harvest their own ramps to take home. Sample homemade ramp pizza and other offerings. \$10. Registration required. **BMAC**

April 29: Orchids & Air Plants, 1:30pm. David Clark will explain both types of plants. \$10. Registration required. **LOCK**

May 1: Square Foot Gardening, 6pm. Instructor: Caesandra Seawell. Free. Registration required. **URB**

May 12: Hypertufa Workshop, 9am or 1pm. Fashion your own unique planting container from a mix of peat moss, Portland cement and perlite. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Registration required. **BECBG**

May 15: Container Planter, 6pm. Create your own using a selection of annuals. \$42. Registration required. **LOCK**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 17–19: The Great Plant Sale. Orders due by April 9. **BECBG**

May 19: Lancaster Garden Club Plant Sale.

May 19: Ken-Sheriton Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am–2pm. Annuals, perennials, garden-related items, basket raffle. Club members & Master Gardeners will be present to answer questions and provide planting tips. Soil testing by Master Gardeners, \$2 per sample. Zion United Church, corner of Koenig Circle & Parker Blvd., Tonawanda.

May 20–27: African Violet Societies Convention. Displays, presentations, vendors. Joint convention of the National African Violet Society of America and African Violet Society of Canada. Adams Mark, Buffalo Hotel & Event Center, 120 Church Street, Buffalo. avsa.org.

May 25–26: Master Gardeners' Plant Sale, Friday, 8:30am–3pm; Saturday, 8:30am–2pm. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County. First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, One Symphony Circle, Buffalo. 716/652-5400 x177; erie.cce.cornell.edu.

June 2: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip. Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Highlights include a visit to Cornell Botanic Gardens; shopping at a variety of nurseries including Baker's Acres and Cayuga Landscape; wine tasting and more. Lunch included. \$77. Registration required. *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*, 1140 Ridge Crest Drive, Victor, NY 14564. 716/432-8688; 585/591-2860; upstategardenersjournal.com.

June 2: Herb & Plant Sale, 10am–3pm. Presented by Friends of Kenan Herb Club. Kenan Center, 433 Locust Street, Lockport.

June 2: Iris Show, 1–4pm. Presented by Western NY Iris Society. Eastern Hills Mall, 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville. 716/837-2285; drsnooks@twc.com.

June 2–3: Bonsai Show. Presented by Buffalo Bonsai Society. Included with admission. Buffalo Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Ave., Buffalo. buffalobonsaisociety.com.

June 16–17: Lewiston Garden Fest, 10am–5pm. Open gardens, speakers, demonstrations, vendors. Center Street, Lewiston. lewistongardenfest.com.

July 11–14: Children & Youth Garden Symposium. See description under *Ithaca Classes/Events*. Registration required. education@ahsgardening.org; ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening.

July 14–15: Hamburg Garden Walk, 10am–4pm. Self-guided. Maps: Memorial Park Bandstand, corner Lake & Union Streets. Vendors in the park. Rain or shine. Free. 716/648-7544; hamburggardenwalk.com.

July 28–29: Garden Walk Buffalo, 10am–4pm. Over 400 urban gardens. Self-guided. Five free shuttle buses. Free. gardensbuffaloniagara.com.

August 3–4: Northwest Buffalo Tour of Gardens. Tours, plant sale, garden art market. Self-guided walking tour, free. Guided bus tours, 2 hours, fee. In conjunction with *Starry Night Garden Tour* (see below). Headquarters: St. Mark's All Saints Church, 311 Ontario Street, Buffalo. bralliance.org.

August 3–4: Starry Night Garden Tour. Self-guided. In conjunction with *Northwest Buffalo Tour of Gardens* (see above). Headquarters: St. Mark's All Saints Church, 311 Ontario Street, Buffalo. bralliance.org.

August 25: Hosta, Daylily & Iris Sale, 9am–2pm. Presented by WNY Hosta Society, Buffalo Area Daylily Society & WNY Iris Society. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

FREQUENT HOST

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

March 10: Seed Starting 101, 2:30–4:30pm. Learn about techniques such as cold stratification and scarification, simple recipes for making potting and fertilizer mixes and tools such as grow lights, heat mats and soil blocks. Participants will leave with a few starts to take home. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 17: Seed to Supper Facilitator Training, 10am–3pm. Volunteers receive training to work in teams to provide free, hands-on gardening classes in their own communities. Curriculum and plant materials for class participants provided. Requirement: some knowledge of vegetable gardening and the ability to work in a team setting. Free. Application required. Chrys Gardener: cab69@cornell.edu; 607/272-2292. **CCE/TOM**

March 21: The Soil Microbiome, 6–8pm. Professor Peter Hobbs of Cornell University will explain the function of bacteria and fungi in creating fertile soil and will talk about practical techniques for facilitating a healthy microflora in your garden. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 24: Worm Composting, 10am–12pm. Hands-on workshop will teach participants how to create and care for their own bin. Includes starter bin and worms. \$10 per household. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 24: Wine & Design Workshop, 2–4pm. Three hands-on stations: *Herbal Dish Garden*, learn how to take cuttings, divide and plant seeds. Plant 3 herbs in a terra cotta bowl. Materials fee: \$7. *Herbal Tea Making*, make two unique blends using herbs & spices combined with Moringa tea leaves. Materials fee: \$5. *Succulent Dish Garden*, select those that will grow best in your home environment. Materials fee: \$7. BYO wine or soda, cheese & crackers provided. \$5. Registration required by March 21. Bakers Acres, 1104 Auburn Road, Groton. 607/533-4653.



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Shown: Siberian Iris and White Peony

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March 23-25, 2018

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Angel Oak on John's Island, SC

Calendar

ITHACA cont.

March 25: Community Seed Swap & Share, 11am–2pm. Learn about seed saving and take home some hard-to-find varieties. Hands-on demonstrations on starting seeds, saving, cleaning and more. \$5 suggested donation; free if you bring seeds to share. **CCE/TOM**

March 26: Beautification Brigade Volunteer Training, 6:30–8:30pm. Training session. Learn gardening techniques while helping to plant and maintain public flower plantings in Ithaca, including the Commons. Dinner provided. Free. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 28: Improving Your Garden Soil, 6–8pm. Learn techniques for improving soil fertility, tilth, microbial and fungal diversity through tools such as sheet mulching, compost and vermicompost, cover crops, compost teas and juices, biochar, broad forking, double digging and more. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

March 29: Beautification Brigade Volunteer Training, 6–8pm. See description under March 26. Free. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 4: Growing 'Gourdgeous' Gourds, 6:30–8:30pm. Otto and Graham Ottoson of Gourdlandia will discuss some of the tricks involved in producing a hearty, carvable crop of cucurbit containers. Seed sources, pest management, drying and a bit about crafting will be discussed. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 8: Growing Fruit Series – Pruning Fruit Trees, 1–3pm. Orchardist Steve Cummins will demonstrate pruning and training techniques for both young and mature trees including dwarf, semi-dwarf and standard trees. Species covered will include apple, peach and plum trees. Hands-on session at Indian Creek Farm, Route 96, Ithaca. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 10: Growing Medicinal Herbs for Home & Farms, 6–8pm. Andrea & Matthias Reisen will discuss the processes for planting, cultivating, harvesting, processing and marketing. Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green Street, Ithaca. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 11: Using Plants for Natural Dyes, 6:30–8:30pm. Presentation will include plants as well as common foods that can be used for dyes. Methods for dyeing with plants on fibers and fabrics will be provided and examples of plant-dyed fibers and fabrics will be shown. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 18: Propagating & Growing Culinary Herbs, 6–8pm. Karma Glos of Kingbird Farm will cover growing annual and perennial herbs from cuttings and seeds as well as how to process and dry them. Participants will practice rooting cuttings and will take one home. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 21: Make a Miniature Faerie Container Garden, 10am–12pm. Hands-on workshop. Includes container, potting soil, plants and \$15 worth of accessories. \$35. Registration required by April 18. Bakers Acres, 1104 Auburn Road, Groton. 607/533-4653.

April 24–29 & May 4–6: Wine & Herb Festival – Cayuga Wine Trail. Visit 14 wineries, savor herb-prepared cuisine, sample complimentary wines and collect recipes, potted herbs & veggies featured in all 14 food samples. \$45 single; \$65 couple. cayugawinetraill.com.

April 25: Growing Fruit Series – Tree Fruits, 6:30–8:30pm. Class will cover site selection, disease-resistant varieties for organic cultivation, soil and light requirements, planting, maintenance & pest and disease management for home orchardists. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

April 29: Compost Fair, 12–4pm. Tours of compost demonstration site, interactive displays, activities for kids, music & food. Master Composters will be on hand to answer questions. Free. **CCE/TOM**

May 2: Growing Fruit Series – Small Fruits, 6:30–8:30pm. Learn about site and cultivar selection, planting, maintenance & disease and pest control for strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and jostaberries. \$7–\$10, sliding scale. Registration required. **CCE/TOM**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 20: Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale, 9am–2pm. Vendors offering organically grown and heirloom vegetable transplants, annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, small flowering shrubs, hardy roses, fruit crops, evergreens and specialty perennials. Ithaca High School, 1401 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca. Free. **CCE/TOM**

May 20–27: African Violet Societies Convention. See description under *Buffalo Classes/Events*.

July 7: Tompkins County Open Day Garden Tours, 10am–4pm. Includes four private gardens featuring stone work, sculpture, water features, perennial gardens, woodland walks and an artist's studio. \$7 person per garden. **CCE/TOM**

July 11–14: Children & Youth Garden Symposium. A national professional development event to cultivate tomorrow's gardeners by energizing, inspiring and training today's garden educators. Presented by the American Horticultural Society; hosted by Cornell University's Garden-Based Learning & Cooperative Extension, Ithaca. Registration required. education@ahsgardening.org; ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening.

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, 7–9pm, Messiah Church, 4301 Mount Read Blvd., Rochester. All are welcome. *April 7: Soil Making Party. May 2: Plant Auction. April 21: African Violet Display & Sale*, see *Calendar (below)*. Stacey Davis, 585/426-5665; stacey.davis@rit.edu; avgsr.org.

Big Springs Garden Club of Caledonia-Mumford meets the second Monday evening of the month, September–November, January–May. New members and guests welcome. 585/314-6292; mdolan3@rochester.rr.com; Facebook. **Bloomfield Garden Club** meets the third Thursday of the month (except May, July & August) at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. New members and guests welcome. 585/657-4489; kjmonrad@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. *May 19–20: Upstate New York Bonsai Exhibition & Sale, 10am–5pm*, see *Calendar (below)*. 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. 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 (dates sometimes vary due to holidays, etc.), September–May, Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Avenue, Rochester. GROS is an affiliate of the American Orchid Society (AOS) and Orchid Digest Corporation. *March 23–25: Orchid Show & Sale*, see *Calendar (below)*. 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; suebckner@frontiernet.net; geneseevalleyhosta.com.

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club meets the first Friday of the month at 6:30pm, Adams Street Recreation Center, 85 Adams Street, Rochester, except in summer when it tours local ponds. president.gvpkc@gmail.com; gvpkc.shutterstock.com.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) meets Sundays at 2pm, dates vary, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls. *April 22: A Critical Look at American Iris Society Presentations with Neil Houghton. June 3: Iris Show, Marketplace Mall*. Public welcome. 585/266-0302; thetutchings@mac.com.

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

Greater Rochester Rose Society meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm, First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, Room 110, Rochester. July meeting is a garden tour. *May 5: Hands-On Pruning Workshop, 10am–12pm, Maplewood Rose Garden. June 30: Rose Show & Exhibition*. 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. *April 11: Rock Gardens with Jerry Kral. May 19: Plant Sale*, see *Calendar (below)*. 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. *March 23–25: Exhibits at Orchid Show & Sale, see Calendar (below).* *April 19: Demonstrations & Workshops – Hijiri Ikenobo with Jerome Cushman & Making Fresh Flower Jewelry with Fauzia Jamshed, bring lunch, \$5 guests; \$3 audit.* *May 17: Demonstrations & Workshops – Hijiri Ikenobo with Yasuko Spence & Fun with Herbs with Luba Morsch, bring lunch, \$5 guests; \$3 audit.* 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. *March 20: Book Review, Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older.* *April 17: The Buggy Truth about Your Closest Neighbors with Jack Kowiak.*

May 15: Poisonous Plants for the Ornamental Garden. *May 19: Plant Sale.* 585/425-0766; BKRU888@aol.com; pittsfordgardenclub.wordpress.com.

Rochester Dahlia Society meets the second Saturday of the month at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester, except August & September. Visitors welcome. *May 12: Plant Sale, 8am–12pm, Webster Arboretum.* *May 13 & 20: Plant Sale, 7am–1pm, Rochester Public Market.* Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

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

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

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

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

Victor Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 6:30/6:45pm. *May 5: Plant Sale, 9–11am, see Calendar (below).* 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; growthewilliamsongardenclub.blogspot.com.

FREQUENT HOSTS

BGC: Broccolo Garden Center, 2755 Penfield Road, Fairport 14450. 585/424-4476; broccolotreeandlawn.com.

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

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

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

• Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

March 17: Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Day, 8:30am–3pm. See description under *Buffalo Classes/Events*. \$35 Erie County Master Gardeners; \$45 Master Gardeners from outside Erie County; \$55 General Public. Registration required. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County. 716/652-5400 x177; erie.cce.cornell.edu.

March 19: Starting Seeds for Spring, 6:30–8pm. Pat McCullough will demonstrate how to get seeds off to a good start to produce strong flower & vegetable plants. \$27. Registration required. **GAL**

March 19–April 23: Introductory Bonsai Course, 5 Mondays, 7–10pm. William N. Valavanis will cover the theory and techniques of bonsai design, pruning, wiring and potting. Each three-hour lesson will consist of a Powerpoint program followed by demonstration and workshop. Students will learn the background and skills to create, develop and maintain their own bonsai. \$90. Registration required. International Bonsai Arboretum, Rochester. 585/334-2595.

March 20: Indoor Herbs, 6:30–8pm. Participants will report herbs into a container and learn how to care for them indoors. Materials included. \$54. Registration required. **GAL**

March 23–25: Orchid Show & Sale, Friday, 2–5pm; Saturday, 10am–5pm; Sunday, 10am–4pm. Displays, seminars, vendors. Presented by Genesee Region Orchid Society. \$7; children under 12 free. Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center. geneseeorchid.org.

March 23–25: Ikebana – Japanese Flower Arrangements, Friday, 2–5pm; Saturday, 10am–5pm; Sunday, 10am–4pm. Arrangements with orchids will showcase the styles of various schools of Ikebana. Presented by Ikebana International Rochester Chapter in conjunction with *Orchid Show & Sale* (see above). \$7; children under 12 free. Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center. geneseeorchid.org.

March 26: Orchid Workshop, 6:30–8pm. Joe Gallea will guide participants in selecting and transplanting an orchid plant. He will discuss when and how to separate them, fertilizing, preventing disease & insects and easy-care tips. Materials included. \$70.20. Registration required. **GAL**

March 27: Houseplants 101, 6:30–8pm. Pat McCullough will discuss repotting, fertilizing, trimming, soils, fertilizers, insect controls and tips to promote growth. Participants will repot a plant to take home. Materials included. \$27. Registration required. **GAL**

March 28: Companion Plants for Bearded Iris, 6–8pm. Learn when to plant or divide, soil preparation and

sun requirements. Class will also use photos to explore colorful combinations of both contrasting and complementary color schemes with shrubs and perennials. \$10. Registration required by March 21. **CCE/GC**

March 28–May 2: Introductory Bonsai Course, 5 Wednesdays, 7–10pm. See description under March 19. \$90. Registration required. International Bonsai Arboretum, Rochester. 585/334-2595.

April 2: Bonsai Basics, 6:30–8pm. Joe Gallea will guide participants in transplanting and trimming a starter plant and will discuss how to care for them. \$70.20. Registration required. **GAL**

April 3: Lunchtime Garden Talk – How to Make a Corsage, 12:15–12:45pm. Demonstration. Bring your lunch. Free. **CCE/GC**

April 5: Dahlias 101, 6–8pm. Class will cover how to plant, grow and over-winter the tubers and will touch on the many colors, shapes and sizes. \$10. Registration required by March 29. **CCE/GC**

• **April 9: Fairy Garden**, 6:30–8pm. Joe Gallea will guide participants in creating an indoor garden for any age that can be added to and changed over time. \$37.20; children free with registered adult. Registration required. **GAL**

April 10: Kokedama String Garden, 6:30–8pm. Participants will create their own hanging gardens of plants encased in a ball of moss. Two per person. Materials included. \$54. Registration required. **GAL**

April 11: Volunteer Open House, 6:30–8pm. An introduction to Sonnenberg and the various volunteer opportunities available. **SG**

April 14: Volunteer Open House, 10am. See description under April 11. **SG**

April 16: Make a Terrarium, 6:30–8pm. Joe Gallea will explain which plants work best, how to layer the soil, maintenance, lighting, fertilizing and tips on landscaping a terrarium. Bring a glass container or purchase on site. Materials include 3 plants, soil & decorative stone. \$37.80. Registration required. **GAL**

April 17: 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. \$64. Registration required. **GAL**

April 18: Permaculture 2.0, 6–8pm. Building on previously covered topics of Zones, Sectors, Guilds and Edges, class will cover considerations for successful guild design and a reasonable timeline when developing a permaculture site. \$10. Registration required by April 13. **CCE/GC**

April 20–22: Spring Wildflower & Orchid Show, 10am–5pm. Stroll the gardens and greenhouses. Guided tours, family activities, educational talks and more. \$10; \$5 ages 4–16; ages 3 and under free. **SG**

April 21: African Violet Display & Sale, 10am–4pm. Potting Clinic, 1pm. Presented by African Violet and Gesneriad Society of Rochester. Solstice Senior Living, 55 Ayrault Road, Fairport. 585/426-5665; stacey.davis@rit.edu; avgrs.org.

April 24: Living Wreath, 6:30–8pm. Choose from an assortment of succulents, flowering and foliage plants to fill your wreath, which can be used outdoors through the summer and then brought inside. Materials included. \$59.40. Registration required. **GAL**

April 24–29 & May 4–6: Wine & Herb Festival – Cayuga Wine Trail. Visit 14 wineries, savor herb-prepared cuisine, sample complimentary wines and collect recipes, potted herbs & veggies featured in all 14 food samples. \$45 single; \$65 couple. cayugawinetrail.com.

April 25: Dividing Perennials, 6–8pm. Class will discuss

CLASSES / EVENTS



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Calendar

ROCHESTER cont.

reasons plants need to be divided and timing along with a demonstration of the steps for dividing a variety of perennials. \$10. Registration required by April 20. **CCE/GC**

April 28: Opening Day. Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Park opens for the season. **SG**

April 28: Gathering of Gardeners, 8am–4pm. *Gardens that Rock!* Joseph Tychonievich will give two talks: *Rock Gardening: Re-imagining a Classic Style* and *Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard Of*. Carol Southby will cover *Combining Plants for Special Effects*. Parking lot plant sale, auction items & silent auction. DoubleTree (by Hilton), 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester. Presented by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County. \$50. gatheringofgardeners.com.

April 28: Pressed Flower Art, 10–11:30am. Learn how to layer natural dried cuttings to make an 8x10" glass framed piece of art. Instructor: Jeanine Fyfe. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

April 30: Vegetable Garden Intro, 6:30–8pm. Pat McCullough will discuss soil basics, site selection, fertilizing, watering, which vegetables to select & pest and weed control. \$27. Registration required. **GAL**

May 1: Lunchtime Garden Talk – Tips on Growing Great Cannas, 12:15–12:45pm. Bring your lunch. Free. **CCE/GC**

May 1: Hypertufa Workshop, 6:30–8pm. Pat McCullough will guide participants in creating their own unique planter in this hands-on class. Materials included. \$70.20. Registration required. **GAL**

May 3: Dividing & Propagating Plants, 6–7:30pm. Michael Hannen will use freshly dug and divided perennial plants and potted samples to show some of the different ways to divide. He will also provide cuttings of various perennials, woody shrubs and rooted samples. Attendees will go home with divisions of new plants. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

May 5: Victor Garden Club Plant Sale, 9–11am. Perennials, ground covers, herbs, seeds and other landscape plants donated by community members. Victor Farmington Library, 15 W Main Street, Victor. victorgardenclubny2.com.

May 5: Spring into Action – Five Steps to Maintenance Free Gardens, 10–11:30am. Instructor KC Fahy Harvick will share easy steps to prepare your garden for the season as well as how to use less water and chemicals. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

May 6–June 3: Flower City Days at The Market, Sundays, 8am–2pm. Shop over 100 local nurseries and growers. Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union Street, Rochester. 585/428-6907; cityofrochester.gov.

May 7: Container Garden of Flowers & Herbs, 6:30–8pm. Choose from a wide selection of plants to create an edible, fragrant and decorative container. Materials included. \$54. Registration required. **GAL**

May 8: Basic Perennial Gardening, 6:30–8pm. Learn how to choose the best perennials for your location, plan for a succession of bloom and season-long color & the basics of care including soil, pest control, light and water requirements. \$27. Registration required. **GAL**

May 12: Webster Arboretum Plant Sale, 8am–12pm. Perennials from standard to uncommon, annuals, dwarf conifers, geraniums, dahlias, various garden club offerings and more. Webster Arboretum, 1700 Schlegel Road, Webster. websterarboretum.org.

May 12: Dahlia Plant Sale, 8am–12pm. Rochester Dahlia

Society will be selling dahlia tubers and started plants. Webster Arboretum, 1700 Schlegel Road, Webster. rochesterdahlias.org.

May 12: Learn How to Make Hypertufa Pots, 10–11:30am. Kevin Galleli and Jeanine Fyfe will guide participants in creating their own long-lasting container. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

• **May 13: Mother's Day Admission Special, 9:30am–4:30pm.** \$1 for Mothers. **SG**

May 13 & 20: Dahlia Plant Sale, 7am–1pm. Rochester Dahlia Society will be selling dahlia tubers and started plants. Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union Street, Rochester. Facebook; rochesterdahlias.org.

May 15: Intro to Healing Herbs, 6:30–8pm. Board certified Chinese medicine practitioner Tennille Richards will discuss common botanical western 'cousins' to well-known Chinese herbs. Learn optimal care and growing conditions of these plants plus their usefulness according to Chinese medicine. Class will also cover teas used as medical decoctions. \$43.20. Registration required. **GAL**

SAVE THE DATE...

May 19: Pittsford Garden Club Plant Sale. pittsfordgardenclub.wordpress.com.

May 19: Native Plant Sale, 9am–2pm. Featuring native trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Presented by Genesee Land Trust. Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester. 585/256-2130; info@geneseeandtrust.org; geneseeandtrust.org.

May 19: Henrietta Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am–4pm. Member grown perennials, annuals and vegetable plants. 585/889-1547; henriettagardenclub.org.

May 19: Designing Gardens, Starting Small, 10–11:30am. Using slides and hands-on instruction, Michael Hannen will explain how to approach creating a landscape one section at a time. He will have a small selection of inexpensive plants available to purchase as starter plants for a new garden. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

May 19: Spring Garden Gala, 10am–1pm. Plant sale featuring indoor and outdoor plants, most grown by Master Gardeners, geranium sale, garden art, chance & silent auctions, free soil pH testing. **CCE/GC**

May 19–20: Upstate New York Bonsai Exhibition & Sale, 10am–5pm. Displays, including Ikebana, demonstrations, vendors. \$5; \$3 seniors; children under 12 free. Monroe Community Hospital, 435 East Henrietta Road, Rochester. bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org.

May 19–20, 26–27 & June 2–3: Linwood Tree Peony Festival. Linwood Gardens, 1912 York Road, Linwood. 585/584-3913; Facebook; linwoodgardens.org.

May 20–27: African Violet Societies Convention. See description under *Buffalo Classes/Events*.

May 25–28: Flower City Days at The Market, daily, 8am–2pm. Shop over 100 local nurseries and growers. Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union Street, Rochester. 585/428-6907; cityofrochester.gov.

May 26: The 3 C's of Containers, 10–11:30am. Designer Jeanine Fyfe will discuss color, contrast and container choice. \$15. Registration required. **BGC**

June 2: Odyssey to Ithaca Day Trip. Join UGJ staff as we travel by motor coach to tour the Ithaca region. Highlights include a visit to Cornell Botanic Gardens; shopping at a variety of nurseries including Baker's Acres and Cayuga Landscape; wine tasting and more. Lunch included. \$77. Registration required. *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*, 1140 Ridge Crest Drive, Victor, NY 14564. 716/432-8688; 585/591-2860; upstategardenersjournal.com.

June 3: Iris Show. Presented by Greater Rochester Iris Society, Marketplace Mall, 1 Miracle Mile Drive, Rochester. 585/266-0302; thehutchings@mac.com.

June 30: Rose Show & Exhibition. Presented by Greater Rochester Rose Society. 585/694-8430; rochrosesociety@gmail.com; Facebook.

July 11–14: Children & Youth Garden Symposium. See description under *Ithaca Classes/Events*. Registration required. education@ahsgardening.org; ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening.

July 21: Backyard Habitat Tour. Genesee Land Trust, 585/256-2130; info@geneseeandtrust.org; geneseeandtrust.org.

September 8–9: US National Bonsai Exhibition, 9am–5pm, Saturday; 9am–4pm Sunday. Displays, demonstrations, vendors. \$20. Total Sports Experience, 435 West Commercial Street, East Rochester. 585/334-2595.

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; Inewell1@gmail.com.

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

Gardening Friends Club meets the third Tuesday of the month, March–December, at 6:30pm, Wesleyan Church, 4591 US Route 11, Pulaski. 315/298-1276; Facebook: Gardening Friends of Pulaski, NY; 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. *March 25: How to Produce a Blight Resistant American Chestnut Tree with SUNY-ESF professor William Powell. April 29: Selecting Native Trees and Shrubs that Support Pollinators, Skype presentation with Heather Holm. May 5: Eco Seminar, see Calendar (below).* 315/487-5742; hgcnycny.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. homegardenclubofsyrcuse@gmail.com; homegardenclubofsyrcuse.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. *April 28: Landscape for Your Lifestyle, see Calendar (below).* 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.

CLASSES / EVENTS

April 24–29 & May 4–6: Wine & Herb Festival – Cayuga Wine Trail. Visit 14 wineries, savor herb-prepared cuisine, sample complimentary wines and collect recipes, potted herbs & veggies featured in all 14 food samples. \$45 single; \$65 couple. cayugawinetrail.com.

April 28: Landscape for Your Lifestyle, 9am–12pm. Ornamental Horticulture Specialist Carol Reese will give two talks: *Take a Walk on the Wild Side* will feature plants that support important pollinators

and don't need pesticides to survive; in *Just Do It!* Carol will encourage listeners to simply design their landscape to suit their own particular lifestyle. Presented by the Men and Women's Garden Club of Syracuse. Includes breakfast. Justin's Tuscan Grill, East Syracuse. \$40 members; \$45 non-members. Send payment: MWGCS, PO Box 23, Syracuse, 13209. 315/428-8256.

May 5: Eco Seminar, 8:30am–12:30pm. Environmental Horticulturist Kim Eierman will give two talks: *Boosting the Ecosystem in Your Own Yard* and *Dealing with Climate Change in Your Landscape*. There will be an opportunity for questions. Refreshments provided. Co-sponsored by Baltimore Woods Nature Center & Habitat Gardening in CNY. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. 315/487-5742; hgcn.org.

SAVE THE DATE...

May 20–27: African Violet Societies Convention. See description under *Buffalo Classes/Events*.

June 16: Herb & Flower Festival, 9am–2:30pm. Shop vendors offering organically grown and heirloom vegetable plants, annuals, herbs, hanging baskets, small flowering shrubs, hardy roses, fruit crops, evergreens and specialty perennials. Gardening advice available. Cornell Cooperative Extension,

Oneida County, 121 Second Street, Oriskany. 315/736-3394 x125; cceoneida.com.

July 11–14: Children & Youth Garden Symposium. See description under *Ithaca Classes/Events*. Registration required. education@ahsgardening.org; ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/youth-gardening.

& BEYOND

CLASSES / EVENTS

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

Deadline for Calendar Listings for the next issue (May–June 2018) is Friday, April 13, 2018. Please send your submissions to deb@upstategardenersjournal.com.

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Preserving Herbs

by Pam Jones

You have probably thought of preserving the fruits and vegetables that you have grown; making jams, jellies and freezing or canning the vegetables such as tomatoes, zucchini, corn, garlic and onions to name a few, but have you thought of preserving your herbs? There are several different ways to do this.

DRYING

My grandmother used to hang herbs in the attic where it was dry and dark. I do not have an attic but I have an

upstairs hall without windows and I set up a clothes drying rack with a sheet underneath to catch any fragments that drop. Mid-morning is the best time to pick your herbs - the dew has had a chance to evaporate and if you wait until later the heat of the day has sapped the plant. You can wash and gently dry them, I usually do not as I grow my herbs organically, but you can. Place the stems in small bundles leaving plenty of room for air circulation. I use a rubber band placed under the bundle and bring the loops up with one loop going into the other and hang them on the rack

using either an opened paper clip or a clothes pin. What about string you ask, I used to do this, but as the stems dry and shrink, the string remains the same size leaving partially dried plant material on the floor! You will need to check the herbs every few days to see how they are drying. Herbs with thick leaves like rosemary will take longer than something like cilantro. If you do not have a dark place (this keeps the color bright) you can take a brown paper lunch bag, cut some slits in it for air circulation and place the herbs inside and use the rubber band around the neck of the bag.

Microwave: Drying can also be accomplished in the microwave. Be sure the herbs are dry and place them between two layers of toweling. Set the microwave on medium for 30 second intervals and check to see if the herbs are dry. This will not take very long and if you do not check carefully you can burn the herbs very easily. So, what kind of toweling should you use? I use cloth dishtowel pieces or cotton handkerchiefs. I tried this with paper towels and had a memorable experience. After one round of microwave drying, the paper towel burst into flames. Attention getting! Apparently some brands have some metal fibers in them, which is also why you should not clean your glasses with paper towels. Rather than research which brands of towels were safe, I just do not use them.

Solar: Another way of drying is solar drying. Temperatures need to be warm with low humidity for this method, about 90F degree and less than 60% humidity. Spread the herbs out on a screen not in direct sunlight or the color will fade. The screens make it simple to bring them in at night. You can also dry herbs on screens under the windshield or back window of your car on a hot day.

You can also use the **refrigerator** for drying. Just put the unwrapped herbs in the fridge and leave them alone. They will retain color and texture this way. Check daily to determine if they are dry. One problem with this method is that unless you have a commercial refrigerator, you will not be able to dry many herbs at a time with this method. If you do have a commercial refrigerator, you are probably using it for other things. Sometimes the refrigerator is too moist and the herbs mold instead of drying.

Oven: The oven can also be used for drying herbs. Unfortunately this is not very cost effective or energy efficient. Oven temperatures should be about 100 degrees for this and most ovens cannot be set that low. Drying herbs also need air circulation so if the oven does not have vents, there will be little circulation available. If you want to try this method, get an oven thermometer to see how low the temperature will go. You can also prop the door open with a stick or wooden spoon to allow some air circulation. You will need to check the herbs frequently to prevent burning. I have never tried this method as I do not turn the oven on in the summer—too hot!

Dehydrators: Don't forget you can purchase a dehydrator. This is especially useful if you are drying a lot of herbs. You can dry large quantities of herbs in a short time, 24 hours or less on some herbs and 2 or more days with herbs that are moister and/or thicker skinned. Each dehydrator will have instructions on temperatures that are best for herbs, fruits, meats, etc. Herbs are usually dried in a dehydrator at 95 – 105 degrees Fahrenheit. There are relatively inexpensive dehydrators for the beginner (below \$100.00), but if you are going to get serious and you like buying American made products you might want to look at the Excalibur that has wonderful options and can dry your herbs very quickly and with great results.

FREEZING

Herbs can be chopped and frozen in a small amount of water in an ice cube tray. When solid, remove the cubes and store in a freezer bag. Don't forget to label the bags with the herb name and date of freezing. These cubes can be added to soups or stews, no defrosting necessary but you will have the fresh taste of herbs in the winter without the cost of store bought ones. A friend of mine freezes the stems of parsley separately and uses them to make stock, removing the stems when finished.

Another method is to add the chopped herbs of your choice to softened butter. You can form the herb butter into a roll using parchment and freeze it slicing off just the amount you want to use on steaks or chops, just like in the fancy restaurants. You can also place the butter/herb mixture into ice cube trays and freeze as above. When you are sautéing something, just put the frozen cube or slice into the skillet, allow a few extra minutes for it to melt, and then proceed with sautéing.

HERB SALT

For those of you who attended last summer's Herb presentation in Alfred, Mary Harris provided this recipe to participants that everyone loved. From Allrecipes.com

Ingredients:

- ½ cup coarse sea salt
- another cup of sea salt
- ¼ cup packed each lemon thyme leaves and rosemary leaves (any herbs of your choice can be substituted).

Place ½ cup salt and herbs in the food processor. Pulse until the herbs are ground to a fine consistency. Add the remaining cup of salt and pulse to combine. Spread mixture on a baking sheet and allow to air dry for at least 2 hours. Package salt in glass bottles. This makes a delicious gift.

Pam Jones is a Master Gardener volunteer, with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County.

OPPOSITE: Drying Herbs from the Garden. Photo courtesy Flickr: Home for the Harvest.

Upstate Pairing

The Lucas Vineyards story begins in 1974 when Ruth Lucas and her family moved from the Bronx of New York City to a 60 acre farm in Interlaken, New York. Rooted in the family was a common dream of creating a successful family business through grape growing in the Finger Lakes region that was just starting to thrive.

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Pasta and Bean Salad with Lemon, Sage, and Walnut Dressing

Pair with Lucas Butterfly white wine

Yield: 6 servings



1 tbsp. parsley, chopped
 ½ cup red onion, diced
 1 orange or yellow pepper, diced
 1 (15 oz.) can of cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
 8 oz. Ditalini pasta (½ box)

LEMON, SAGE, AND WALNUT DRESSING

¾ cup walnuts
 Juice of 1 lemon
 1 clove garlic, minced
 4 tbsp. fresh sage (approx. 20 leaves)
 ½ cup water
 ⅓ cup olive oil
 ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 1 tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. cracked black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Arrange walnuts in single layer on a baking sheet. Toast in oven for 8 minutes. Allow to cool. Rough chop.
2. Bring large pot of water to boil and cook pasta until *al dente*. Drain, rinse and cool.
3. In large bowl, combine pasta, red onion, beans, pepper and parsley.
4. In food processor combine dressing ingredients. Pulse until well combined and sage and walnuts are finely chopped, about 30 seconds.
5. Just before serving, combine dressing into pasta mixture.

Note: If mixed too far in advance, the salad will absorb too much dressing and some browning will occur to the sage.)

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What To Do in the Garden in March & April



ABOVE: Cherry blossoms by Jane Milliman

The following are some general ideas for early spring. Take weather conditions into account.

WINTER DAMAGE

Remove leaves and winter debris (frequently loaded with phosphorus) from paved surfaces and sewer drainage openings. This helps to increase soil drainage and improve water quality by reducing the potential for algae growth later in the season.

Thoroughly soak areas near roads, sidewalks, and driveways to flush out de-icing salt that may have been deposited over the winter.

Prune out branches damaged by the snow, wind, and ice.

Replant plants that have heaved from the freeze-thaw cycle as soon as possible to prevent further damage to the roots.

PRUNING

Prune summer-flowering shrubs if they need restructuring or have been damaged.

Prune dormant Bradford pear, wisteria, butterfly bush, potentilla, honeysuckle, and flowering plums.

Don't prune ash, oak, elm, azalea, crabapple trees, forsythia, big leaf hydrangeas, lilac, mock orange, rhododendrons, or weigela.

Never top a tree! Cutting off the top portion produces an ugly, weak tree!

Prune fruit trees and grapevines before bud break. Prune out any branches with cankers or black knot. Clean your pruners in between cuts so you don't spread disease.

Prune brambles (raspberries, blackberries) in March to remove dead, diseased, or damaged canes and to increase air circulation.

When pruning trees be careful not to cut flush to the trunk. Cut outside the branch collar. Wound dressing is not recommended. (For more information contact your local CCE or go to cce.cornell.edu.)

Prune roses when forsythias bloom. Cut back dead canes to the crown. Cut back crossing canes to about one-quarter inch above an outward-facing bud.

Cut pussy willows back drastically after they bloom to encourage stronger plants and more blooms next year.

Cut back lavender into green wood late in April.

PERENNIALS

Cut back grasses and perennials that remained as winter interest before new growth is more than a few inches tall, and place plant material that has not harbored disease into the compost pile.

Move mulch away from emerging spring bulbs.

Hand pull emerging weeds so you don't disturb the roots of perennials and bulbs.

Wait until the soil is workable before digging up and dividing perennials such as hostas, liriopse, daylilies, Shasta daisies, dicentra, and coral bells.

Scatter annual poppy seeds in the garden for bloom in June and early July.



VEGETABLES

Plan your vegetable garden now. Be sure to rotate families at least every three years.

Direct-seed cool season vegetables and flowers.

Read seed packages so you know when to start seeds, where to start seeds (indoors or out), and the time needed for setting young plants outdoors. Make sure you can provide seedlings with adequate light.

HOUSEPLANTS

Resume feeding of houseplants following directions for dilution and application.

Check houseplants for disease and insects. Check roots to see if the plants need division or repotting. If you want a plant to continue to grow just repot in a container about one-inch greater in diameter but the same depth. If you want the plant to grow in the same container but its roots are taking up the space, root prune, and repot.

Prune any dead or yellowing leaves and branches.

Make cuttings of appropriate plants for gifts, garden sales, or for yourself.

GENERAL

Apply horticultural oil to trees and shrubs that have had past problems with piercing and sucking insects such as mites, aphids, scale, whitefly, and adelgids. Follow the application directions for temperature and weather conditions.

If you didn't clean, sharpen, and check your garden tools in autumn do it now!

If your mower doesn't start easily move it out into the warmth of the sun. It may make starting easier!

Place new birdhouses outdoors and/or clean out older ones.

Make cuttings to force branches indoors. Examples include forsythia, weigela, and pussy willows.

Turn the compost pile.

Scrub and sterilize reusable pots and seed starter trays by washing in a dilute solution of bleach and warm water.

OTHER

Inspect stored summer tubers and rhizomes. Discard ones that have decayed.

If you overwintered zonal geraniums make cuttings now.

Start seeds of slow growers now: celery, leeks, onions, and pansies.

Replace fluorescent bulbs in grow lights that have been in use over two years.

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

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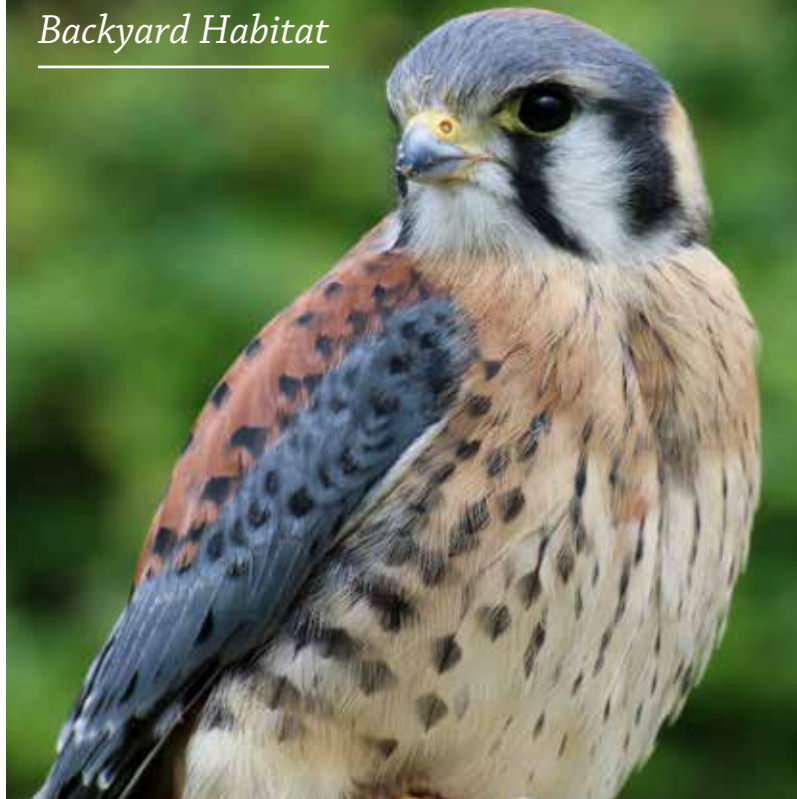
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Angel Oak on John's Island, SC



Birds of Prey

by Liz Magnanti

Stealthy and deadly, birds of prey can be an unwelcome sight to other birds, small mammals, and even homeowners who fear the songbirds at their feeders may soon be dinner. In fact, the word raptor comes from an old word meaning “to seize and carry away.” Birds of prey, however, are a good sign. They are not only interesting to watch, but they are a sign that your landscape is diverse enough to sustain multiple levels of the food web. Often, birds of prey are at the top of their food webs, with other birds of prey being their only potential predators.

The American kestrel is the smallest and most colorful falcon we have in the area. With a maximum length of eleven inches, they can often be misidentified as a songbird or dove. Male kestrels have beautiful blue-grayish head and chestnut orange back. They are easily identified by the two sets of vertical lines they have running down their face. Kestrels can often be seen perched on telephone wires overlooking open fields where they have a great view of their prey, which includes insects, small rodents and birds, and reptiles. Birds can easily find small mammals in large fields due to their ability to see in UV light. The urine from voles, a common prey animal, glows yellow in UV light, making them easier to find.

Sharp-shinned hawks are notorious for hunting songbirds at feeders. Usually a woodland bird, they often come to back yards and are easily spotted in the winter when there are no leaves on the trees for cover. Sharp-

shinned hawks are the smallest hawk in the U.S., being about the same size as a blue jay or mourning dove. They can be identified by their bluish-gray back, rusty barring on their breast, and a long, squared-off, striped tail. Sharp-shinned hawks are acrobatic flyers, making it simple for them to catch birds in mid-air.

Cooper’s hawks look like the sharp-shinned hawks’ older brother. They have very similar color patterns and are only slightly larger. Cooper’s hawks have a rounded tail, which is the factor most often used to differentiate them from the sharp-shinned hawk. Cooper’s hawks are also very common in backyards, where they will hunt songbirds. Cooper’s hawks are skillful flyers and can reach high speeds flying through woodlands in pursuit of prey. They were once known as the “chicken hawk” due to their repeated raids on poultry.

The red-tailed hawk is the most common hawk in the area. They are often seen along highways on posts and light poles, perched in search of prey. Red-tails are a large hawk, measuring up to 25 inches in length. They have a distinctive chestnut-reddish tail that is especially visible while in flight. Red-tailed hawks can be found in many habitats and eat a wide variety of foods. Fields, forests, backyards, and cities are all areas they are commonly found. They are known to eat reptiles, small to medium sized mammals, birds, fish, bats, and more! Red-tails have a very distinct call—a long, high-pitched scream that is often used on TV and in movies as the sound effect for any bird of prey.

Arguably our most recognizable bird of prey, the bald eagle is one of the largest birds you will find here. Bald eagles can be found by water, where they actively hunt for fish. They are also known to hunt for mammals and other birds, mainly waterfowl. Bald eagles have a distinct white head and tail, but they do not get this coloration until they are four to six years old. Bald eagles have a spectacular mating ritual, where the male and female will lock talons with each other mid-air, and spiral downwards toward the ground, breaking away before hitting the ground. They are known for their huge nests, which they enlarge each year. Sometimes the nest of a bald eagle can reach up to 1,000 pounds!

During the DDT pesticide years (1940s-1972), many birds of prey were in huge declines and in risk of extinction due to eggshell thinning. Once the pesticide was banned, populations of raptors began to increase. One of the success stories belongs to the bald eagle, which is becoming common to see once again along many waterways. Still, some raptors such as the American kestrel and sharp-shinned hawks are still in decline. Some of this due to direct environmental factors such as loss of habitat, but other reasons remain a mystery. One thing is for sure—birds of prey are magnificent hunters that make a great addition to any landscape.

Liz Magnanti is manager of The Bird House in Brighton.

ABOVE: American kestrel. Photo courtesy Flickr: Chris Parker



Herbal Hand Scrubs

by Cathy Monrad

After a long day of gardening, these homemade scrubs will exfoliate and pamper your hands like an expensive brand, at a fraction of the cost.

ROSEMARY LEMON SALT SCRUB

1 ½ cups of Epsom salt
 ½ cup olive oil
 2 Rosemary springs, finely chopped
 2-3 drops Lemon Essential Oil
 2 tbsp. lemon zest

LAVENDER MINT SUGAR SCRUB

1 ½ cups coarse sugar
 ½ cup coconut oil, melted and cooled slightly
 2 tbsp. dried lavender
 2 tbsp. dried mint
 15-20 drops Lavender Essential Oil

To Make Each Scrub

Using a wooden spoon, mix ingredients together in a large bowl. Scoop into an airtight pint-size jar. Scrub will last 1-2 months.

Using Your Scrub

Wet your hands. Scoop out a small amount of the scrub. Rub it all over your hands. Rinse and pat dry. Scrub may also be used on elbows, knees, and feet, which are prone to dryness. These scrubs are not recommended for use in the tub.

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

"Cityscapes into the Night" Seminar Schedule

March 22–March 25, the Fairgrounds Event Center in Hamburg



The letters CNLP after a speaker's name indicate that he or she is a Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional

THURSDAY MARCH 22, 2018

11 am: Beautiful, Easy to Grow Medicinal Plants – Sarah Sorci, Community Herbalist, Sweet Flag Herbs Company

Noon: The Fantastic World of Mosses – Kristy Schmitt, CNLP, Erie County Botanical Garden

1 pm: How and When to Prune – Steve Sypniewski, CNLP, Buffalo State College

2 pm: Encouraging the 'Good Bugs' to Your Garden – Karen Hall, Technical Representative, IPM Laboratories, Inc.

3 pm: New Plants for Your Garden – Tim Zimmerman, CNLP - Robert Baker Company & Medford Nursery

4 pm: Soil and Compost in the City? – Dave Majewski, SRG Buffalo

5 pm: Introduction to Bonsai – Scott Russo, Bonsai Society

6 pm: Make your Landscape Pop in the City – Dan Robillard, McKinley High School Horticulture Department

FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018

11 am: Medicinal Plants for the Home Garden – Sarah Sorci, Community Herbalist, Sweet Flag Herbs Company

Noon: What's Eating Your Plants – Carol Ann Harlos, Master Gardener

1 pm: How About Getting Kids Gardening – Jackie Albarella, Albarella Media, Channel 2

2 pm: Gardening for Butterflies – Kristy Schmitt, CNLP, Erie County Botanical Garden

3 pm: Invasive Insects, Diseases & Weeds – Tom Mitchell – Niagara County Community College

4 pm: Small Fruit – Vicky Jancef, Niagara County Community College

5 pm: Night Visions: Creating Moon Gardens – Dave Clark, CNLP, Erie County Botanical Garden

SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2018

11 am: Floral Designs for Your Home – Dorothy Julius, Along Gardens Path

11 am: Kids Workshop - Starting Seed – Julie Hughes and McKinley High School students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

Noon: A Wander Through English Gardens – Kathy & Mike Shadrack

Noon: Kids Workshop – House Plant Propagation – Julie Hughes and McKinley High School students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

1 pm: Minimizing Critter Damage – Lyn Chimera, Lessons from Nature

1 pm: Family Hands-on Workshop – Microgreens – NCCC Horticulture students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

2 pm: Home Landscaping Made Easier – Sally Cunningham, CNLP, author; Lockwood's Greenhouses

2 pm: Family Hands-on Workshop – Grocery Store Growing – NCCC Horticulture students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

3 pm: Pruning – Nellie Gardener, Flower Fields; Darwin Martin House

4 pm: Using Native Plants in Western New York Gardens – Ken Parker, CNLP, PUSH Blue

5 pm: Understanding the Insects We Love to Hate: How Can We Possibly Live in Harmony?! – Sharon Webber, CNLP, Earth Lines

SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018

11 am: Weeds, Weeds and More Weeds – Tom Mitchell, Niagara County Community College

Noon: What's the Buzz About: Gardening for Bees – Dave Clark, CNLP, Erie County Botanical Garden

1 pm: Sustainable Gardening for the Home Gardener – Lyn Chimera, Lessons from Nature

1 pm: Family Hands-on Workshop – Microgreens – NCCC Horticulture Students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

2 pm: What Makes a Garden Special (Add Excitement to Yours) – Sally Cunningham, CNLP, author; Lockwood's Greenhouses

2 pm: Family Hands-on Workshop – Grocery Store Growing – NCCC Horticulture students (30 minutes long workshop – small conference room)

3 pm: Garden Myth Busting – How to Weed Through the Internet – Carolyn Stanko, CNLP, Niagara County Community College

All seminars to take place in the large seminar room unless otherwise noted.

Large seminar room is located to the left of the concession stand

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