

Upstate Gardeners'

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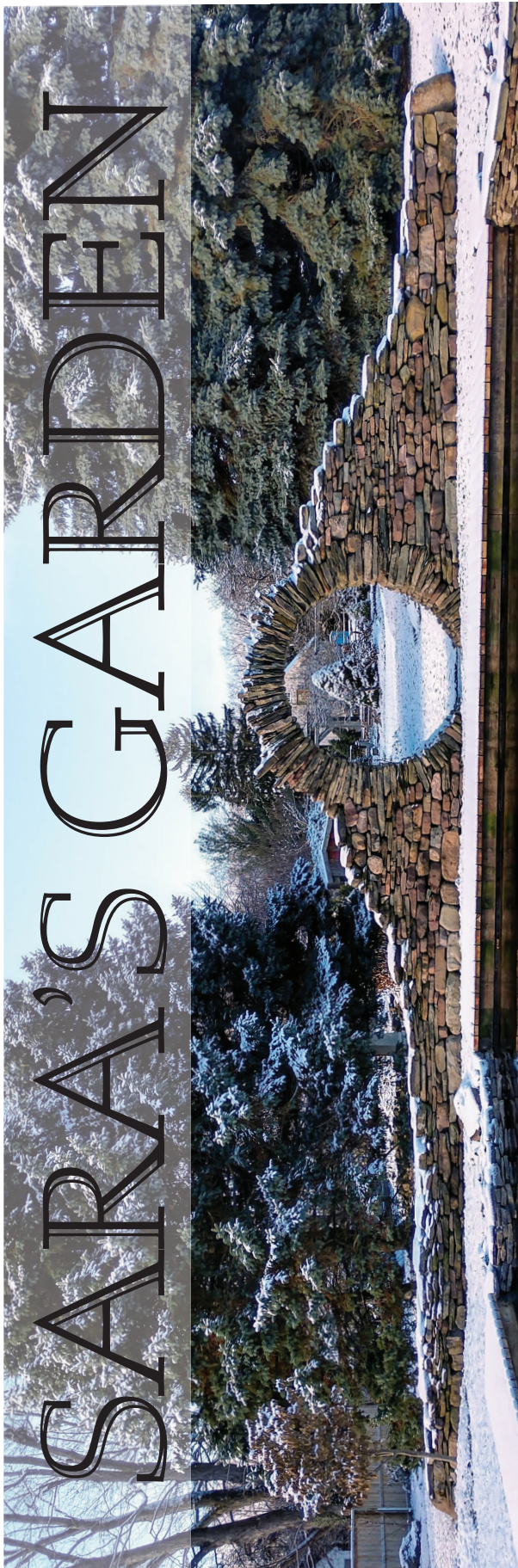
Journal



Celebrating NY ReLeaf
Winter photo contest winners
Make your own sauerkraut

FREE

Volume Twenty-nine, Issue Six
November-December 2023



Garden Finale

As the trees weep their last leaves, we are already reminiscing about the plants we genuinely appreciated this season. You should remember these, and we encourage you to seek them out for 2024. *Stewartia pseudocamelia*, 'Tuff Stuff Aha' hydrangea, nearly any variety of Itoh peony, 'Autumn Gold' rudbeckia, cercis 'Alley Cat', cornus 'Venus', Thuja 'Green Giant', symphocarpus of any kind, 'Burgundy Spice' calycanthus, *Aesculus parviflora*, 'Vulcan' hosta, 'Molly's White' hellebore, *Amsonia hubrechtii*, *Disanthus cercidifolius* . . .

You likely recognize many of the plants on this list; all have several great attributes. But their shared gift is one of the main reasons to consider them for your garden; it's their ability to perform and literally shine for the entire season . . . even despite the season! It's a crucial bit of criteria for successful garden performance. Thoughtful planting for your space and conditions does not mean giving up on what you love, it just means planning for success and reward. So know your garden, plants, soil conditions, positives and negatives . . . we're heading into the season of time and reflection. Go ahead and start the process, and come spring, you'll be ready, and we'll be here to help!

Christmas at Sara's

Our fresh and local trees arrive the weekend prior to Thanksgiving, we love this season so much . . . the trees, our hand-made wreaths, and our exclusive Garden Wreath is not to be missed!! All will be ready soon along with all the Christmas flowers, ornaments, and so much more. A garden stroll this time of year is really different; the view is lean of green but somehow, it makes the stones shine in a whole new light.

Our Christmas Open House is always the weekend following Turkey Day and with it will come our 20% off sale on all things needed to add the extras to the season. Ornaments, gifts, decor . . . all the "add-ons" will be on sale, even the ribbon . . . our custom bows are always the hit of the weekend, well, right after our home-made cookies :)

We're hoping you'll continue to remember all of our local garden centers again this holiday season. The wreaths, the plants, and much more of a garden center's stocklist are just a few of the many components that come from many small family operations. This is just one of the many opportunities this holiday to keep all WNY small businesses strong and growing all over our region.

We wish you all a safe and warm winter; assume your gardens are all tucked in, and we are already looking forward to seeing you this spring.

To ask us about weddings in the garden, photo sessions, or any other garden-related question, contact us at 585-637-4745 or kkepler@rochester.rr.com.

45 Year Mission!

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



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Ear to the ground



Hello, friends!

I joined a garden club a couple of years ago, and the one thing I have learned the most about is flower arranging, though I wouldn't say I'm any good at it, still. Last year the new members (of which I was one) joined the more experienced to create arrangements for the club's annual holiday luncheon (which also involved singing—yikes). Not surprisingly, the arrangements had lots of evergreens in them. We also dotted in some berries, pomegranates (on sticks!), and white roses. At the luncheon, the arrangements were auctioned off, and I won the one I'd made (I think) and brought it home.

After a week, the roses were droopy, so I took them out and bought some new ones. The next week, same thing. Then the next week. Then the next. I changed the water now and again, and around Easter decided to finally get rid of the whole thing, simply because it was

winter décor, not because it didn't still look lovely and smell fresh.

Instead of floral foam, we wove thin strips of tape in a crisscross pattern, as a frog of sorts, over a large, Revere-style bowl. Then we just added water, stuffed the grid with evergreens cut from members' gardens, and popped in our accents. The arrangements were easy, simple, and beautiful!

Give this fun project a try—you can probably collect most of what you need in your own yard or from unsuspecting friends' properties—and send us a photo! We'd love to share them on our social media outlets.

Have a wonderful fall and holiday season and thank you, as always, for reading—

Jane

FROM LEFT:
Jane Milliman, photo
by Reynolds Kelley

Arrangement on
December 16, 2022

Arrangement on
December 25, 2022

Arrangement on
January 21, 2023

Open garden

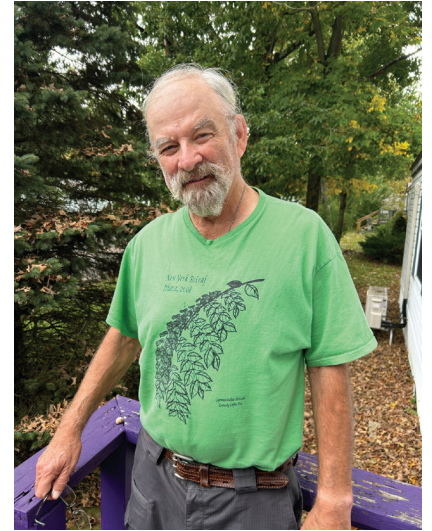
SURVEY TIME!

"Gardening" means different things to different people—what does it mean to you? We are looking for what you are interested in seeing and reading more about in the future pages of *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*. Some suggestions are listed below, but don't feel limited to those!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Perennials | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Saving | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Sowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Prep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Botanical Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Starting | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Gardens/Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Xeriscape/water-wise | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Propagation | <input type="checkbox"/> Composting | <input type="checkbox"/> Pruning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbalism/Medicinal | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticultural Therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees/Shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Roses, Irises, Peonies | <input type="checkbox"/> Container Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollinators | <input type="checkbox"/> Viticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fungi | <input type="checkbox"/> Botany/Horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Edibles | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Houseplants | <input type="checkbox"/> Recipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed Control | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant ID Quizzes | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Ornaments | |

Please send your suggestions to kim@upstategardenersjournal.com or *Upstate Gardeners' Journal*, attn: Kim, 1501 East Avenue, Suite 201, Rochester, NY 14610 by December 31, 2023. Thanks!

As a thank you, we will give three free subscriptions to randomly drawn survey respondents who give us their name and address along with their suggestions. Be sure to specify either (585) magazine or *Upstate Gardeners' Journal* as the subscription you would like if you are a winner!



People, places, trees, discoveries:

Celebrating NY ReLeaf and the New York State Urban Forestry Council

Story and photos by Michelle Sutton

ABOVE LEFT:
Longtime urban forestry advocate Pat Tobin is missed.

ABOVE CENTER:
Past President David Moore with his wife Leyla and their son, Shepard.

ABOVE RIGHT:
The author met her husband Dale at a ReLeaf conference.

INSET:
Author Michelle Sutton with Council Past President Karen Emmerich.

Last summer I wrapped up a great nine-year run working freelance for the New York State Urban Forestry Council as the writer and editor for their online publications. I want to share some highlights of my experience with Council people, the annual NY ReLeaf Conference, and the grants that the Council awards, in the hopes that interested *UGJ* readers will take advantage of these resources.

Council stalwarts and past presidents Nina Bassuk and Andy Hillman were mentors and friends to me long before I worked for the nonprofit, in the course of which I gained several more mentor-friends that I cherish, including Council past presidents Pat Tobin—who passed away in 2018—, David Moore, and Karen Emmerich.

As a graduate student in 1999, I attended my first ReLeaf Conference, at Buffalo State. I was quite nervous entering a new community of folks for the first time. Pat Tobin was staffing the check-in table and gave me the biggest, most welcoming smile—with that signature gleam in her eye. I'll always remember how she put me

at ease at that pivotal moment that I first interacted with the Council.

A more recent memory of Pat is of wandering around her good friend Dianne Bordoni's garden together when I was working on a story about Dianne's gardens for *UGJ*.

Pat, Dianne, and I got very silly for some reason that day and when I transcribed the interview later, I heard the three of us laughing the whole way through. Pat could be so much fun and never lost her playful and slightly mischievous sense of humor.

David Moore says of Pat, "She saw the good in all people and encouraged upcoming

professionals like myself to be all they can be. She was always a leader when it came to public policy and could be counted on to lead advocacy efforts in Albany, a role that took expertise and dedication that she possessed more than anyone."

In his early 30s, David Moore was the Council's youngest president to date. He worked as an urban forester for New York City Parks and by night was an electronic dance music composer and DJ—but then





somehow made time to lead the Council as well. David was so affirming of my work, truly a dream colleague. He works as an urban forester in California now, and we still check in on the phone from time to time. As I age, I especially value having younger friends like David who are in my field and gently push me to keep my mind open to new technologies and ways of thinking.

Karen Emmerich followed David as Council president, and I loved working with Karen! One of the most fun experiences I had with the Council was being Karen's passenger on a drive into NYC to an award ceremony for David (the Arbor Day Foundation Trailblazer Award for professionals under 35) on a rooftop overlooking Central Park. Karen was fully confident with driving in the city and I could just relax and gab with her about all sorts of things. It was a beautiful summer evening, and a blast all around.

— * —

The Council supports the work of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Urban and Community Forestry program, led by Gloria Van Duyne. DEC organizes the affordable, annual NY ReLeaf Conference, which rotates through various parts of the State. ReLeaf is always held in the latter half of July and is typically held at colleges where dorm room housing is cheap and puts participants in walking distance of the conference activities.

The NY ReLeaf Conference tends to rotate around Buffalo, New Paltz, Ithaca, Rochester, Saratoga Springs, Long Island, Queens, Utica, and Syracuse—with

some variation possible. For me, the most memorable conference had to be the one in Ithaca, even before I went to work for the Council, because I met my husband there!

The NY ReLeaf Conference is expertly organized and includes sessions of hands-on practice—like with pruning or tree planting—talks on the latest research, social functions, and superb tours. I loved meeting people, but just as memorable were the trees I got to see at each locale. Hofstra University campus on Long Island is one big, ambitious arboretum that even has a pinetum in one of the University's quads. The pinetum includes a beautiful monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), a tree native to regions of Chile and Argentina—and one you won't see many other places in the Northeast! There's also a stunning weeping blue atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula') in the pinetum, and a mature limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) with its bendy branch tips.

When the conference was in Saratoga Springs, we toured the seed processing and storage facility at the DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery. All those bottles and barrels of seeds . . . oh my goodness, that was cool. According to the nursery's website, it has "a complete seed processing plant, special chambers for germination testing, and a wide range of processes used to coax stubborn seeds to sprout. This capability has tremendous potential for restoration of endangered plants . . . for example, the nursery was able to grow seedlings of the rare purple milkweed that were used to restore the dwindling population at Stewart State Forest."

LEFT:
RIT Director of Sustainability Neha Sood gave a memorable tour for the 2018 NY ReLeaf Conference in Rochester.

RIGHT:
The monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) is just one of the unusual species featured on the Hofstra University campus, which historically hosts the NY ReLeaf Conference when it goes to Long Island.

As climate warms and tree canopy/shade becomes ever more important in the places people live and work, the value of urban and community forestry is increasing in the public consciousness. As part of the Biden Administration's Inflation Reduction Act funding, a historic \$1 billion is being awarded to 385 competitive grant-funded projects around the nation that build urban and community forest capacity, with a focus on tree planting and maintenance in neighborhoods that have previously been neglected. You can see the 2023 awards to New York State communities and other entities by searching "Urban and Community Forestry Grants - 2023 Grant Awards."



TOP:
The NYSUFC grants provide for new tree planting and Arbor Day celebrations.

BOTTOM:
The seed processing and storage facility was a highlight of the DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery tour at the 2016 NY ReLeaf Conference, with Skidmore College as the venue.

When the ReLeaf Conference was held in 2015 at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) in Syracuse, we got to tour the host building (the Gateway Center), a Platinum LEED certified structure. Beloved SUNY-ESF Professor Don Leopold gave tours of the campus green roof and trees, and of trees in the neighboring historic Oakwood Cemetery. At the Rochester Institute of Technology, we toured the campus with the Director of Sustainability Neha Sood, learning about geothermal under our feet, plants on the walls, plants on the roof, wind turbines, and all those cool bioswales. She gave a fantastic tour.



DEC facilitates the larger grants that come from the state and federal level. The Council has two of its own grants, with applications that are simple and straightforward. One is designed to be a "quick start" for communities to help them move towards becoming Tree City USA communities, and the other is meant to reward existing Tree City USA communities to help them stay committed to maintaining their status.

Quick Start Grants. Through U.S. Forest Service funding, the NYSUFC offers Quick Start competitive grants of up to \$1,000 each to small communities who want to pursue Tree City USA status, starting with an inaugural Arbor Day tree planting celebration in the spring.

Tree City USA Reward Grants. The intent of this grant is to encourage municipalities to sustain their community forestry program and maintain their status as a Tree City USA through a celebratory tree planting, in the fall, in which large specimen trees or a grove of trees are planted in a prominent location within the community. The grants are made possible by a combination of U.S. Forest Service grant funds and unrestricted NYSUFC funds. Applicants must have been a Tree City USA for at least the past five years.

For more information about grants and all things New York State Urban Forestry Council and NY ReLeaf, see nysufc.org.

Michelle Sutton is a horticulturist, writer, and editor.

Contest

2023 Winter Photo Contest

Congratulations to all of the 2023 contest winners! The **Grand Prize** and **Plants category winner**, seen on the cover, is **"Icy Tulip Tree Flower"** by **Noreen Riordan**, taken in Pittsford, NY.

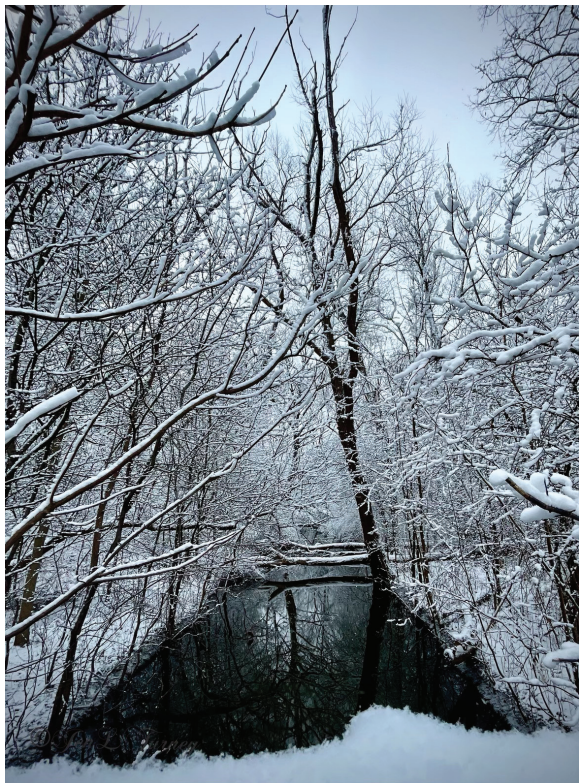
The 2024 contest will run December 21, 2023 through March 19, 2024. Watch our Facebook page and upstategardenersjournal.com for details on how to enter.



BEST SCENE: "Trees in Fog" by Randi Millman-Brown
Location: Ithaca, NY



BEST WILDLIFE: "Sleepy li'l Saw Whet Owl" by Janice Allen
Location: Owl Woods, Hilton NY



ONLINE FAVORITE: "Winter Reflection" by Jennifer Turney
Location: Sandra Frankel Nature Park, Brighton, NY



BEST ENHANCED: "Art as a Way to Peace" by Chris Clemens
Location: Penfield, NY

What to do in the garden in November and December



ABOVE: If pruned correctly, late-flowering mums can bloom well into November.

INDOORS

Check your houseplants for “critters.” You may be experiencing fungus gnat, spider mites, scale, whitefly, and/or mealybugs on your plants. Some may have been brought indoors with your summering houseplants. Others have been waiting for just the right conditions. What to do without introducing a pesticide product?

Fungus gnats: Develop with overwatering and poor drainage. Remove plant from soil. Repot in fresh soil. Allow top layer to dry between waterings and use sticky traps to catch the flies.

Spider mites: Use water to wash the leaves thoroughly and regularly especially the undersides.

Scale: Wipe down the entire plant. Use your fingernails to scrap off the scale.

Whitefly: Spray underside of leaves with Neem oil or soap spray.

Mealybugs: Spray leaves with insecticidal soap spray or Neem oil.

Many houseplants are going into a rest period until mid-March where little growth occurs thus the need for fertilization is reduced or unnecessary.

This is a good time to make more *Schlumbergera* spp. (Christmas, Thanksgiving, or Easter cactus). Take cuttings of one to four segments. Let them dry (cure) for about three days. Plant the cuttings in a loose medium mix about an inch deep. Keep moist and lightly

watered. Plant amaryllis (*Hippeastrum* spp.) now in containers with the top quarter of the bulb above the soil. Placing the pots on a heat source will induce earlier growth. Select poinsettias with healthy green leaves and colorful bracts. Keep in bright light away from drafts and direct heat. Remove foil or other wrapping from the pots so drainage can occur.

Didn't clean your garden tools? Do it now! Disinfect and sharpen your tools as well. You will be happy next spring!

OUTDOORS

The last lawn cutting should occur by early November. Winterize your lawn mower. Clean all surfaces. Have blades cleaned and sharpened.

Did you drain those hoses and turn off water spigots. Do it now!

Never move firewood from out of your area to curtail the spread of invasive insects such as Emerald Ash Borer.

Spring bulbs can still be planted until the ground freezes.

In perennial beds, “leave the leaves,” as they provide habitat for many beneficial insects, and they protect the crowns of many plants. Leave seed heads for the birds. You will have the pleasure of watching them later this winter! Make use of discarded evergreen boughs as mulch.

All trees and shrubs, especially those that are newly planted, benefit from adequate moisture. It is helpful if you have a soil thermometer. Roots absorb water until the earth reaches about 40°F. Give your shrubs winter protection from wind and critters. Burlap, shrub coats and plant “tents” are useful around cold-sensitive plants. Consider wooden tepees to protect foundation plants from breakage when snow and ice fall off the roof. Use soil from another area of the garden to mound around the base of roses. This protects them from a freeze-thaw cycle which can damage the crowns.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Buying a cut tree for Christmas? Check the needles. Bend them. If they snap the tree is already too dry. If possible, lift the tree. Put it back down on the stump. Outer needles should still be on the tree. Make a fresh

cut along the trunk base before placing the tree in a stand. This will ensure that the tree will be able to take up water. Add water immediately.

Live tree? Dig the outside hole *before* the ground freezes. Plant outside about a week after beginning to enjoy it indoors.

Now is also time to erect fencing. The trunks of young trees can be wrapped with trunk wraps or chicken wire to protect them from the nibbling of mice and rabbits and rubbing by deer. *Be sure the protection goes high enough so critters don't sit on top of the snow to browse or stand on their hind feet like deer!*

MISCELLANEOUS:

Give hints to family and friends so you receive gardening gifts. Or buy them for others *and yourself*. Purchase gifts locally if possible. The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens and local nurseries are great places to start! Give others gift memberships to botanical gardens, Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Xerces, Reinstein Woods, Audubon Societies, Land Conservancies and more.

Place seed orders now so you won't be disappointed later.

Catch up on your reading gardening books, magazines and catalogs. Buy yourself some plants and maybe share them with others.

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

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Carol Ann Harlos and Lyn Chimera for providing our wonderfully informative and educational Almanac articles in 2023!

CHANGES ARE COMING!

In 2024 we are changing up the *Upstate Gardeners' Journal* format. We will no longer be featuring an Almanac article in each issue. But never fear, dear readers! We are not dropping our Almanac, but changing how we are sharing that sage seasonal garden advice. Our January-February issue, which features a directory of clubs, businesses, and other garden related organizations, will soon be paired with a whole year of garden tips, advice, bloom times, and more. Look for it in your mailboxes, at your favorite stops, and online mid-January.

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Preparing for the cold months ahead



By Liz Magnanti

ABOVE: Purple coneflower seed head

Clearing away plant debris, raking and overall yard maintenance in the fall can be quite a chore. It's all a part of the usual cleanup as we go into the winter months. The good news is, usually the messier the garden, the better it is for wildlife!

If you are cleaning up sticks and branches from the yard, they can be saved and arranged to make a brush pile. Brush piles are a place for small mammals, birds, and amphibians to take refuge in. Hawks

commonly come into yards in the winter to search for an easy meal and having a brush pile will give their potential prey a place to escape to. You can add leaves and grasses to your brush pile to provide even more protection and places to hide.

Many plants can supply seeds to birds in the winter. Some common winter species like Goldfinches, Juncos, and Pine Siskins are voracious seed eaters. Black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers are great examples of plants with seed heads that should be left out all winter for birds to feed from. There is no need to deadhead or remove stalks of these plants now—it can wait until the spring. If you are cleaning out dead plant stalks in your garden, be on the lookout for the chrysalis of butterflies and the cocoons of moths. Many butterfly and moth species spend all winter in their chrysalis or as an egg. Swallowtails are one example of a butterfly that will spend all winter in their chrysalis. Other species like the Mourning Cloak butterfly will spend the winter as an adult and will hibernate in tree crevices or brush piles. On an unseasonably warm winter day you may even see some of these butterflies flying over your snow-covered garden.

Weeding out invasive plants that are popping up in the garden is a good idea in the fall so their root systems don't expand more than they already have. Black swallowwort is a plant that is creeping into gardens at an alarming rate. This plant can easily take over gardens in a small amount of time due to its excellent seed dispersal and subterranean rhizome system. It looks like a vine and can wrap itself around other plants and has narrow seed pods like that of our milkweed species. Another common species popping up in yards is Tree of Heaven, which is an important host plant for the notorious Spotted Lanternfly. Weeding out these and other unwanted plants will make spring cleanup easier.

Collecting seeds from plants you want to propagate is also a good thing to do this time of the year. Read up on the plant species because some, like milkweeds and cardinal flower, sprout better with cold stratification. This means they need to be exposed to cold temperatures before they will sprout. This can be accomplished by keeping the seeds in the refrigerator for two to three months.

There are also things you can add to your yard to make it more encouraging to wildlife. Putting up a

roosting house, or roosting pockets, is another way to give birds protection in the winter. A roosting house looks like a bird house, but it has perches along the inside of it. These perches allow for several birds to occupy the space at once. Multiple species, even birds that don't nest in houses, will use these roosting houses to stay out of the snow, rain, and wind. A roosting pocket looks like a small bird house. They are usually made of woven plant fibers or coconut shells. These small spaces are also used by birds to get out of the elements during bad weather. You can also leave your birdhouses out in the winter. Birds or even mice will use them for protection as the weather turns.

Once the temperature drops you may see more activity at your bird feeders. This time of year, it is important to make sure your feeders are clean and the seed you are feeding them is fresh. Birds are warm blooded and need to consume many calories to keep their body temperatures up.

Peanuts, sunflower, Nyjer, and suet are foods high in fat and are a great source of calories for birds in the winter. Peanuts tend to attract Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and Blue Jays. Sunflower and safflower seeds will attract Cardinals, Finches, Sparrows, and more!

Nyjer seed is a favorite of Finches, especially Goldfinches. Goldfinches are in the area all winter long, but they molt and will be a drab olive color. In the winter it is common to see Pine Siskins and sometimes Redpolls at nyjer feeders. These birds migrate south here for the winter. Suet cakes, which are blocks of fat, are especially attractive to woodpeckers.

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

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

Liz Magnanti is co-owner of the Bird House in Brighton.



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Calendar

BUFFALO

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Buffalo Bonsai Society meets every second Saturday at 1pm at ECC North Campus, STEM Bldg, 6205 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221. Two exceptions on the third Saturday: 4/15 and 9/16. buffalobonsaisociety.com. *November 11: ECC north Christine Wilkolaski topic Plant Physiology*

East Aurora Garden Club meets at noon on the 2nd Monday of each month, except January, at Nativity Lutheran Church, 970 E. Main Street, East Aurora, NY (just west of the 400 Expressway exit). The club's objective is to stimulate, create interest and promote education on horticulture, the art of gardening, flower arranging and environmental conservation; and to promote the beautification of surrounding areas. For more information about the club or membership call 716-912-1589.

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

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

Friends of Kenan Herb Club meets the third Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the Taylor Theater. New members are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

Lancaster Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January, July & August) at 7pm, St. John Lutheran Church, 55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster. All are welcome.

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

Tropical Fish Society of Erie County meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, Lake Erie Italian Club, 3200 South Park Ave, Lackawanna, NY 14218.

Niagara Frontier Botanical Society meets the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 7:30pm at the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst. Entrance is on the north side of the building. Meetings are open to the public. Please search "Niagara Frontier Botanical Society" for more information.

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

Orchard Park Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month except July and December at 11:30am at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4536 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park. Contact Diana Szczepanski at 716-674-8970 for membership information. Guests are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

Town and Country Garden Club of Williamsville generally meets the second Thursday of the month from 2–4pm at the Ransom Oaks Community Club House, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst. Some meetings are held offsite for garden tours and special events. The club maintains a garden at the Clearfield Library, 770 Hopkins Rd, and membership brochures with program information are available in the library. For information, contact LAnscombe@roadrunner.com.

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. The WNYHS was formed to encourage members to appreciate Hostas and to provide them with access to quality new varieties. They meet three times a year at The East Aurora Senior Center, 101 King Street, East Aurora NY 14052. wnyhosta.com.

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

Western NY Iris Society meets at the Julia B Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road, Cheektowaga, NY at 1:30 pm on the first Sunday of each month. *NYS Iris Society will take a winter recess and not back till February 2024.*

Western New York Rose Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. *Meetings on Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15.* St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 750 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville. Check the Facebook page or website for meeting content, wnyrosesociety.net.

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

FREQUENT HOST

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

CLASSES / EVENTS

F- Indicates activities especially appropriate for children and families.

October 18–December 29: Textile Curiosities. Exhibit by Aleah Ford in the Arcangel Gallery. Included with admission. **BECBG**

November 11: Fall Workshop Series: Wintering, 10am–12pm. Join The Massachusetts Avenue Project, Grassroots Gardens of WNY and Urban Roots for the third and final class in their Fall Workshop Series where you will: prepare your mind and spirit for the winter, make potpourri, and make herb butter. Grassroots Gardens, 387 Broadway, Buffalo, NY 14204. Call 405-473-4209 or events@grassrootsgardens.org.

November 11: Christmas Open House, 9am–3pm. Lockwood's Garden Center, 4484 Clark Street, Hamburg, NY 14075. 716-649-4684, weknowplants.com.

S November 11–12: Niagara Frontier Orchid Society Orchid Show, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday 10am–3pm. Orchid Vendors and supplies available. Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218.

November 18: Woods Walk: Thankfulness Walk, 1pm. It's the season of thanks—did you remember to give nature a high five to show your appreciation? Do it during a walk at Reinstein Woods. **REIN**

November 18–January 1: Poinsettia Exhibit Dimensions, 10am–4pm. Included with admission. **BECBG**

November 24, 25, December 1, 2, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26–30: Poinsettias After Dark: Dimensions, 5–9pm. The sparkling lights of the holidays are bringing a whole new dimension to this year's Poinsettia Exhibit. **BECBG**

December 2: Conifer Wreath Workshop, session at 9:30am and at 1:30pm. Create a fresh, fragrant

conifer wreath to add some seasonal greenery to your home. Wire wreath form, paddle wire and fresh materials are provided. **BECBG**

December 7: Craft Class: Handmade Holiday Wreath, 6–7:30pm. You'll learn the basics of wreath-making, from how to select and prepare the greenery to decorating tips and tricks. Masterson's Garden Center, 725 Olean Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. 716-655-0133, mastersons.net.

F December 9: Plants Around the Plant, 10am–3pm. Journey around the globe and see exotic plants from different continents! Learn all about rainforests, deserts, and even some of Western New York's interesting plants. Included with admission. **BECBG**

December 9: Holiday Houseplants, 10:30–11:30am. 'Tis the season for holiday plants! Learn how to best care for your poinsettias, holiday cacti, cyclamen, amaryllis, paperwhites and more in this fun new seasonal class. **BECBG**

December 14 & 21: Thurs-Date Nights, 6–9pm. Romantic evenings during Thurs-Date Nights under the dome. Grab that special someone and head down to the Botanical Gardens for a winter night out! Must be 21+. **BECBG**

December 21: Winter Floral Arrangement, 6–7pm. Bring the scents and colors of the winter season home with this floral design workshop. **BECBG**

January 27: Beekeeping 101, 10am–3pm. Thinking of becoming a beekeeper in 2024? This is the place to start! They will cover all of the basics you need to know before deciding to get your first hive, plus everything you'll want to know before you bring your bees home. Masterson's Garden Center, 725 Olean Road, East Aurora, NY 14052. 716-655-0133, mastersons.net.

ITHACA

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society (ACNARGS) Meetings are open to all. Check the current newsletter on the website for meeting location: acnargs.org or Facebook.com/acnargs.

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

Elmira Garden Club meets the first Thursday of the month, April–December, at 6pm, 426 Fulton Street, Elmira. Annual plant sale, workshops, monthly meetings, local garden tours and community gardening services. Karen Coletta, 607-731-8320, Facebook.

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society meetings are usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month Sept–May. flnps.org, info@flnps.org. Nov. 28: *Topic TBD*. Zoom available. Dec. 18: *Annual Solstice Gathering*. Join them in-person for native plants foods, a seed swap, and a fun plant quiz. All are welcome. More details at www.flnps.org.

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

CBG: Cornell Botanic Gardens, 1 Plantations Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Inquire ahead for meeting locations. 607-254-7430; km274@cornell.edu; cornellbotanicgardens.org

CLASSES / EVENTS

November 7: Saffron Production Lecture, 5:30–6:30pm. Kaitlin Aasen will give a presentation about the basics of Saffron production, including purchasing, cultivation, and plant physiology. Hands on workshop on November 11. Register at conta.cc/3tfVvsm. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-272-2292 x146, ccetompkins.org.

November 9: Fall Composting Class Series, 5:30–7pm. Beginners and experienced home composters alike can "dig deeper" into outdoor and indoor composting practices in this two-class, outdoor series. Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-272-2292 x146, ccetompkins.org.

November 14: Verdant Views: Cultivating a Sustainable Future: Cornell Botanic Gardens' Native Lawn, 1–2pm. This webinar will explore the journey behind Cornell Botanic Gardens' native lawn, from its inception to the multitude of benefits it brings, and the invaluable lessons it teaches. **CBG**

December 2: Wreaths and Winter Greens, 1–2pm. Join them for a tour of the Mullestein Winter Garden and make an evergreen wreath to take home in this special holiday program. **CBG**

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 Thursday of the month September–November and March–May, 7–9pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 4301 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester, NY 14616. December and June meetings are social events TBD location. Contacts: Douglas Burdick, 585-313-8674, dburdick@msn.com. Barb Festenstein, 585-461-1673, barbfestenstein@aol.com. 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 at 11:45am, Veterans Park, 6910 Routes 5 & 20, Bloomfield. Visitors and prospective new members welcome. Marlene Moran, 585-924-8035, Facebook.

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

Canandaigua Botanical Society meets for in-person botanical events. See website for event schedule. canandaiguabotanicalsociety.blogspot.com

Conesus Lake Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month (April–December) at 7pm, Chip Holt Nature Center, Vitale Park, Lakeville. Welcoming new members. Contact Dottie Connelly, 585-703-1748.

Country Gardeners of Webster Do you like to dig in the dirt, smell the roses, learn about the birds and bees, take a walk in the park, eat, drink, and be merry, or live in Webster? Then the Country Gardeners of Webster would love to have you join them! They meet the second Monday of the month. Contact Elaine at 585-350-8270 to try this fun-loving club out.

Creative Gardeners of Penfield meets the second

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

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

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

Friends of Ellwanger Garden meets all season long on Tuesday mornings. To volunteer at the garden, please contact Cindy Boyer at 585-546-7029, x12 or cboyer@landmarksociety.org.

Garden Club of Brockport meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm, Jubilee Church, 3565 Lake Road, Brockport. Learn gardening tips from knowledgeable speakers, make garden ornaments through our hands-on classes and explore beautiful local gardens. For more info call or email Kathy, 585-431-0509 or katyd5950@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Genesee Region Orchid Society (GROS) meets the first Monday following the first Sunday of the month. Meetings in December, January, and February will be virtual. It is likely that meetings from March–May will be in person at the JCC. Please see the website for information, geneseeorchid.org.

Genesee Valley Hosta Society meets the second Thursday of the month, April–October, at Eli Fagan American Legion Post, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta. 585-889-7678, seubckner@frontiernet.net, geneseevalleyhosta.com.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) an affiliate of the American Iris Society, meets on a Sunday during the months of March, April, September and October at 2 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, 11 Episcopal Ave. Honeoye Falls, NY. Public welcome. Plant Sales, Guest Speakers or Location Visits, Volunteer Opportunities. Honeoye Falls, NY. 585-266-0302, thehutchings@mac.com.

Greater Rochester Perennial Society (GRPS) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1200 South Winton Road, Rochester, except in summer when it tours members' gardens. Lectures being held virtually and garden tours are being scheduled. See website or Facebook for updates. cap704@frontiernet.net, Facebook, rochesterperennial.com.

Calendar

ROCHESTER cont.

- Greater Rochester Rose Society** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm on Zoom Jan., Feb., and Mar. Email j.chorder@gmail.com for meeting link. Questions: 585-694-8430. Facebook: Greater Rochester Rose Society.
- Henrietta Garden Club** meets the 2nd Wed, except May-August and Dec. at 6:30pm. Guests and non-residents are welcome. Handicap accessible. Call 585-781-0278. Lower level of the Henrietta Town Hall, 475 Calkins Rd, Henrietta. sites.google.com/site/henriettagardenclub. A presenter will speak on gardening related subject at 7pm.
- 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 6:30pm at the Chili Community Center, 3237 Chili Ave., Rochester. dtogood@rochester.rr.com.
- Ikebana International Rochester Chapter 53** meets the third Thursday of each month (except December and February) at 10am, First Baptist Church, Hubbell Hall, 175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester. 585-301-6727, 585-402-1772, rochesterikebana@gmail.com, ikebanarochester.org.
- Kendall Garden Club** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Kendall Town Hall. 585-370-8964.
- Klemwood Garden Club of Webster** meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm (except January & February) in members' homes or local libraries. Accepting new members. 585-671-1961.
- Lakeview Garden Club** (Greece) meets the second Wednesday of the month (except January & February) at 7pm, meeting location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visits to local garden-related sites. New members always welcome. Contact, Darlene Markham, dmarkham@rochester.rr.com.
- Newark Garden Club** meets the first Friday of the month at 1pm, Park Presbyterian Church, Newark. Guests are welcome.
- Pittsford Garden Club** Pittsford Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30am at the Spiegel Center on Lincoln Avenue in the Village of Pittsford. The club usually meets in Room 18, but ask at the desk. Masks are required at all times in the building unless requirements change. New members are always welcomed. May 21 plant sale, location TBD. Look for signs in the village.
- Rochester Dahlia Society** meets the second Saturday of the month (except August & September) at 12:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, 909 Landing Road North, Rochester. Visitors welcome. See website for up-to-date information concerning meetings & shows. 585-865-2291, Facebook, rochesterdahlias.org.
- Rochester Herb Society** meets the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January, February & July) at Noon, Pittsford Community Center, 35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY. Summer garden tours and day trips. New members welcome. rocherbsociety.com
- Rochester Permaculture Center** meets monthly to discuss topics such as edible landscapes, gardening, farming, renewable energy, green building, rainwater harvesting, composting, local food, forest gardening, herbalism, green living, etc. Meeting location and details: meetup.com/rochesterpermaculture.
- Seabreeze Bloomers Garden Club** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7pm, location varies depending on activity. Meetings may include a speaker, project or visit to local garden-

related site. Monthly newsletter. New members welcome. Meetings are currently cancelled; contact Bonnie Arnold with any questions. Bonnie Arnold, 585-230-5356, bonniearnold@frontiernet.net.

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

Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG) meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. UAWG is a collection of gardeners, community gardens, and individuals who garden/farm in the city or support such activities. UAWG offers a Spring Conference each year and sponsors the Urban Gardens ROC garden crawl in the fall. In addition, the group advocates for City policies that make urban gardening more accessible for people who want to grow fresh vegetables for themselves or their neighbors. If you are interested in getting on the email list, contact Mallory Hohl, mdh286@cornell.edu. You do not have to live in the city to participate.

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

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

FREQUENT HOSTS

CCE/MON: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County, 2449 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, NY 14617. 585-753-2550; monroe.cce.cornell.edu.

CCE/GC: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Genesee County, 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020. 585-343-3040, ext. 132; genesee.cce.cornell.edu.

GLT: Genesee Land Trust, 46 Prince Street, Suite LL005, Rochester, NY 14607. 585-256-2130; info@geneseeandtrust.org; geneseeandtrust.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

O- Online event.

November 2: Garden Talk: Winter Seed Sowing, 12-1pm. If you would like more plants for less money, grow your own from seed. Learn the easy way plants can be grown without heating pads or grow lights. You will be surprised how many plants can be started outside during the winter months. Free. Register to attend in-person at 585-343-3040 x101 or register for your Zoom link at genesee.cce.cornell.edu/events. **CCE/GC**

November 2: Do Cultivars Count as Native Plants? Talk by Ellen Folts, 7pm. Exploring the relationships between native plants and pollinators. A look at native plants vs cultivars and the differences that make the plant unlikely or impossible to be used by the pollinators. Do cultivars count as native plants? People need to make choices that are right for themselves and the pollinators they hope to attract. Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Winton Rd., Rochester.

November 7: Garden Talk: Garden Planning & Organization, 12-1pm. It may seem overwhelming planning your herb, flower, and vegetable garden beds. Discuss getting ready for the new growing

season from planning your beds to ordering seeds and staying organized through the process. Free. Register to attend in-person at 585-343-3040 x101 or register for your Zoom link at genesee.cce.cornell.edu/events. **CCE/GC**

November 9: Organic Composting!, 5:30-6:30pm. Composting may be one of the most misunderstood secrets to successful gardening. Join us to see how a few simple, organic principles can boost the health of your garden soil tremendously. **CCE/MON**

November 11: To Bee or Not to Bee Keep, 9-11:30pm. Join Master Gardener and Beekeeper, Barb Cummings and learn the basics of beekeeping and what it involves. CCE Wayne County, 1581 Rte. 88 N., Newark, NY 14513. ccewayne.org/events, 315-331-8415.

November 14: House Plant Care, 5:30-6:30pm. As the weather cools, you'll be spending a lot more time indoors. Keep some green in your life with healthy, beautiful houseplants. We'll show you how simple it is to keep your plants thriving! **CCE/MON**

November 24: Opt Outside Storybook Trail, 7am-5pm. On "Black Friday" consider going outside to explore one of the beautiful places protected by Genesee Land Trust. Cornwall Preserve 3975, Lake Road, Williamson, NY, 14589. **GLT**

December 2: Holiday Greens Workshop, 9am-12pm. During the three-hour session, participants make a fresh wreath, an evergreen swag, and a tabletop centerpiece to take home and enjoy through the holiday season. Please bring small pruners & gloves. CCE Wayne County, 1581 Rte. 88 N., Newark, NY 14513. ccewayne.org/events, 315-331-8415.

O December 4: Succulents, 12:30-1:30pm. Learn all about succulents and how to properly care for them. Zoom. **CCE/MON**

December 21: Winter Solstice Walk at Wild Hill Farm, 7-9am. On the shortest day of the year, walk the rolling hills and resting fields. Wild Hill Farm, 2176 Elton Road, Bloomfield, NY, 14469. **GLT**

January 1: 2024 First Day Hike, 10am-12pm. Start the New Year off with a walk/roll on the Genesee Greenway Trail. Brookdale Preserve, 66 Brook Road, Rochester, NY, 14623. **GLT**

January 2: Landscape Technicians Training Program Registration Opens. Classes run from March 4-April 12, 2024. Classes will be held in the lower level of Olmstead Lodge in Highland Park, from 9am-2pm. Class topics range from Soil, Plant Structure, How to Read a Blueprint, and Proper Pruning. Daily contact with employers and individuals who work in the field offer opportunities for networking and job listings. For more information, please contact Mike Kincaid. mgk72@cornell.edu or 585-753-2574.

SYRACUSE

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS

African Violet & Gesneriad Society of Syracuse meets the second Thursday of the month, September-December and March-May. Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Baily Rd., North Syracuse. 315-492-2562. jimviolets@verizon.net

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

Bonsai Club of CNY (BCCNY) meets the first Saturday of the month 10am–12pm, Pitcher Hill Community Church, 605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse. Contact, Dave Taylor, daveturfl@yahoo.com. cnybonsai.com, Bonsai Club of CNY on Facebook.

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.

Fairmount Garden Club meets the third Thursday of the month (March–November) at 6:30pm, Camillus Senior Center, 25 First Street, Camillus. Speakers & community projects. *Nov. 16: Holiday Dried Flower Arrangement w/ Susan Poppenger from "Pods and Poppies," 6:30pm. Dec. 10: Christmas Luncheon, 1pm, Bellevue Country Club.* All are welcome. tooley.susan@yahoo.com.

Federated Garden Clubs NYS–District 6. 315-481-4005, dist6fss@gmail.com.

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

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@tcwnyrr.com.

Habitat Gardening in CNY (HGCNY) meets the last Sunday of most months at 2pm. Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip Street, Liverpool. HGCNY is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes; wildones.org. Free and open to the public. hgcnyc.org and ourhabitatgarden.org. Subscribe to the free e-newsletter by emailing info@hgcnyc.org.

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

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

The Men and Women's Garden Club of Syracuse meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Reformed Church of Syracuse, 1228 Teall Avenue, Syracuse, NY. Meetings feature activities and/or guest speakers on gardening-related topics. The club also plans tours for its members. Members

maintain gardens at Rosamond Gifford Zoo and Ronald McDonald House plus host annual flower shows. Regular club meetings at the church will take place in the months of March, April, May, August, September, and November. *Nov. 16: Guest speaker Pat Jokajts from Cornell Cooperative Extension with "Vegetable Gardening 101."* More information at facebook.com/MWGardenClubOfSyracuse and mwgardenclubofsyracuse@gmail.com.

Southern Hills Garden Club meets the third Tuesday of each month, February through November. Meetings are held @ the LaFayette Firehouse, 2444 US Route 11, LaFayette, NY 13084 and begin at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. Occasional off-site meetings typically take place at an earlier time. Guests are welcome and membership is open to anyone interested in gardening. For information, please contact Cathy Nagel 315-677-9342 or CEN42085@aol.com

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

FREQUENT HOST

BWNC: Baltimore Woods Nature Center, 4007 Bishop Hill Road, Marcellus, NY 13108. 315/673-1350; Facebook; baltimorewoods.org.

CLASSES / EVENTS

November 11: Soil Basics, 10am. The soil in Central New York is unique, and it varies throughout our region. Catch this overview to learn how to test your soil and what amendments you need to achieve just the right balance for whatever you're growing. Baldwinsville County Max, 2964 State Route 31, Lysander, NY 13027. 315-303-0656, countrymax.com/Baldwinsville-CountryMax

November 17: Identifying Winter Weeds, 10am–12pm. Winter plant ID is one part knowledge, one part forensics, and one part imagination, but with these skills, you can impress your friends by identifying plants and plant remains even under deep snow. **BWNC**

F November 18: Campfire Pumpkins, 1–4pm. Cooking over a fire connects us with our ancestors in a very tasty way! Using traditional campfire cooking methods like roasting, coal stacking, and cast iron you'll cook up some pumpkins just like people would have done 250 years ago. **BWNC**

December 2: Forest Therapy Walk, 1–3pm. Experience nature in a unique way on a guided Forest Therapy Walk throughout Baltimore Woods. Forest Therapy, also known as "forest bathing," stems from a Japanese practice known as Shinrin Yoku. **BWNC**

December 2: Tales of the North w/ Ken Kaufman, 7–9pm. Spend an evening with the stories of Robert Service, as told by seasoned storyteller Ken Kaufman! Tales of adventure in the great outdoors and a special night hike combine for a memorable evening in the winter woods. **BWNC**

December 8: Sketching Nature Series: Discovering Winter Weeds, 10–11:30am. Central New York becomes a world of grays and browns during the winter, but we can still appreciate the beauty of winter weeds long after their greenery has faded. Join them for a walk around the meadows to find and identify winter weeds. Learn about how they provide food and shelter for wildlife. Bring some clippings back to the nature center where you can sketch them and study them further. **BWNC**

December 9: Caroling in the Woods, 7–8:30pm. Pick up a lantern and song sheet and enjoy a beloved tradition at Baltimore Woods. This event is free for all, and as always, donations are appreciated. Lanterns will be provided. Bring a small flashlight if you prefer. **BWNC**

December 16: DIY Eco-Friendly Ornaments, 10am–12pm. Tired of plastic snowflakes and glitter? Decorate your tree with ornaments that you and your family made from things you can find in nature. Learn how to make natural ornaments using natural winter-plant based dyes to paint them. You will be using conifer cones, tree cookies, and rose hips to make mini wreaths, and baked salt dough that will be a great canvas for our natural dyes. All materials will be provided. **BWNC**

December 21: Winter Solstice Hike, 7–8:30pm. Come for a tranquil lantern-lit walk to discover and celebrate the promise of longer days ahead. **BWNC**

Get your club or event listed here for free! Send your submissions to kim@upstategardenersjournal.com. Deadline for Calendar listings for the next issue (Jan-Feb 2024) is December 31, 2023.



ATTENTION CLUBS, BUSINESSES, AND OTHERS

We will be sending out emails shortly looking for your updated directory listing for our 2024 Directory issue (Jan-Feb '24). We need to hear from you whether you need to update your listing or not as we are looking to refresh our club and directory listings. To make sure your organization is listed, answer the email back—or you can submit your information now:

upstategardenersjournal.com/directory-form-2/

If you are a club, business, or other garden-related organization and you are NOT already in our directory, use the above link to submit your directory information now. Thanks!

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Make your own sauerkraut

Story and photos by Petra Page-Mann



Sauerkraut is easy to make, fabulously versatile and soooooo delicious! Though we often call this probiotics-filled ferment by its German name, the first accounts of such phenomena were written over two thousand years ago in China. Which is all to say, when we make sauerkraut we join an immense lineage of people committed to life, nourishment, deliciousness, and transformation.

Making your own kraut is far from the *Great British Baking Show*, with its exact proportions and precise processes. Sauerkraut is adaptable and evolving—often being a challenge to make in the exact same way twice. Part red and part green cabbage? Fabulous! Add garlic cloves or garlic scapes? Amazing! Add grated carrot and watermelon radish? Incredible! Add caraway seeds, juniper berries, curry, or paprika? The choice is yours, you can't go wrong. And this is part of the joy, part of the nourishment, and one of the many, many gifts of making our own kraut.

We are what we eat, so let's make it alive, delectably diverse, and with endless possibilities.

Here is our base recipe adapted from Sandor Katz and his generous invitation to play with his book *Wild Fermentation*. Let's begin . . .

TIME

30 to 60 minutes prep; three days to three-plus weeks to ferment

TOOLS

Vessel: a wide-mouth mason jar or crock is ideal for fermenting

Large bowl: to pound/massage your kraut, if you're using a jar

Blunt tool: to pound your kraut in a crock, though simply massaging with your hands is also an option

Tea towel: or other covering of your ferment vessel

INGREDIENTS

Veggies: anticipate fermenting about two pounds of vegetables per quart and think outside the cabbage. We often ferment beets (our all time favorite), radish, turnip, carrots, kohlrabi, and jerusalem artichokes. If it's fresh cabbage, we often chop and ferment the core of the cabbage because though it may be fibrous for a coleslaw, it's fabulously crunchy as kraut.

Salt: One tablespoon per quart of vegetables

Seasoning: as desired, add to taste anything you love!

We love to add, individually or in combination: garlic, juniper berries, caraway seeds, dill, chili peppers, ginger, turmeric, and curry powder. Imagination is the limit!

PREPARE, PROCESS & PACK

The veggies: Chop or grate veggies into large and/or small pieces, uniform or not. Smaller pieces allow quicker brine release. If you're fermenting in a mason jar, toss these veggies into a large bowl. If you're fermenting in a crock, toss right in the crock.

Salt & season: Toss the salt and seasonings into your chopped veggies. It's easier to add salt than remove it, but when in doubt, add more salt than less: it's the salty environment that allows the lactobacillus bacteria, responsible for the transformation of cabbage into crunchy and luscious kraut, to thrive.

Pound: With a blunt tool (we often use quart jars full of water), pound your veggies to break cell walls and release the brine. It's true—any water surrounding sauerkraut was released from the cabbage itself, not by adding water! As you gently pound your salted veggies, cell walls are broken and the salt gradient pulls water from inside the cell to the outside,

creating its own brine. If you need to add water to fully submerge your kraut, be sure it's a salt brine with one tablespoon of salt per quart of water.

Pack the jar or crock: Once your veggies have released brine that is pooling at the bottom of the bowl/jar/crock, press the veggies down into your fermentation vessel so no air pockets are left, allowing the brine to rise over the kraut-to-be. Leave a couple inches of airspace at the top and expect a little expansion as the fermentation begins. Remember, your kraut is alive!

Weight & cover the kraut: Veggies often float to the top of the brine, and anaerobic fermentation is crucial for delectable kraut. (Anaerobic simply means "without oxygen" and this is achieved by keeping the fermenting kraut below the brine.) To keep kraut submerged in the brine, lay a clean outer leaf of cabbage (or non-reactive plate, in the case of a crock) so it fits within the jar or crock. Weight it well; we often use a clean mason jar filled with water. Often crocks come with their own ceramic "stones" that perfectly fit the diameter of the crock. However you weight your jar or crock, lay a clean tea towel over the vessel to prevent dust, fruit flies, phones, and other delights from entering your kraut. We often place our fermenting jars on plates in case the first few days of burgeoning life bubbles over the side.

Patience: Your veggies may take one week to more than three to turn to delectable kraut, depending largely on temperature. In the heat of summer, cabbage becomes kraut very quickly. Every few days we lift the cover to taste. The flavor becomes more acid and the texture becomes more soft with time. We tend to taste our ferments every day or so after the first week, so we can tuck them in the fridge just as they reach delectability. No one can tell you more than your taste buds when your kraut is most delicious! Put your covered kraut in the fridge to effectively stabilize texture and flavor while maintaining the teeming probiotics.

Surface Growth: A "bloom" often forms at the top of kraut in its initial fermentation, a combination of harmless yeast and mold that won't affect the deliciousness of your kraut underneath. Once you see it, remove and send it to the compost. Above all, don't worry! If you need to add more water to submerge your transforming kraut, do early and often.

Storage: Once you're pleased with the flavor and texture, remove the tea towel, cover the kraut tightly and send it to the fridge where the fermentation slows significantly and stores for months. If you're fermenting in a jar, simply screw on the top. Plastic mason jar tops are often ideal for ferments, since salt can corrode metal over time.

Enjoy: To preserve the beneficial bacteria, resist heating your kraut above 105 F. We reach for kraut anytime we crave pickles and olives. Adventure with sushi,

curries, salads (green, potato, tuna, egg, coleslaw, and beyond), sandwiches (ruebens, grilled cheese, avocado toast, breakfast burritos, and bagel & lox), tacos, in deviled eggs, under pierogies, and on top of leek & potato soup. Once the kraut is gone, enjoy the brine in dressings and dilute for a digestive tonic!

YOU GOT THIS!

If we can ferment veggies, you can, too! Like riding a bicycle, there's only so much you can learn from YouTube or reading. And not being daunted or discouraged is so crucial—and finding friends to share the process is what life is all about!

Each year we host a free gathering on our farm called Transform, where we harvest cabbage and make sauerkraut together. Everyone brings their own freshly made kraut home and I hope you'll join us! Take a peek at our many events throughout the seasons at fruitionseeds.com.

I've been fermenting kraut my whole life and each time it's a little different. Most of the time it's divine and sometimes . . . it's not! Like everything in our gardens and in our lives, making our own sauerkraut is an invitation to compost our failures (hello, learning opportunities) and reach out to our fellow fermenting and gardening friends—we're so not alone and ferments culture us more than we culture them, just like our gardens grow us more than we grow them.

Raised in the Finger Lakes, Petra Page-Mann co-founded Fruition Seeds in 2012, sharing organic seeds, knowledge, and inspiration to surround us all with beauty and abundance for generations to come. Find seeds and resources at 7921 Hickory Bottom Road in Naples.

***Note from the Editor:** I had the opportunity to attend Fruition's Transform event this fall. I had much fun at the full-day event, which included making fire cider and sauerkraut, mushroom inoculation of logs, and fruit tasting. While my sister started making sauerkraut last year, I had yet to try. At the event I harvested my own cabbage and made up the kraut. While considering what to include for a recipe this issue—and munching on my tasty kraut—I couldn't resist reaching out to Petra for an article on fermenting your own veggies as there is enough time to make up some fermented veggies for your Thanksgiving Day feasts. I'm looking forward to making up some fermented carrots or beets for mine. Let us know how your fermentation projects turn out!*

–Kimberly Burkard, Managing Editor

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