



What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila answer your growing concerns
Issue 92, May 8, 2010

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Oh so pretty, and oh how *Wisteria* can fool you! See page 11.

This spring, help new plants toughen up

I purchased a *Mandevilla* hanging basket about 2 weeks ago. I put it in a sunny spot (when no frost warnings) where I've hung previous plants. On about 2 dozen leaves, I'm finding dry brown along the upper edges of the plant. I've watered it often, and wonder if the problem could be overwatering. Any thoughts on this? - S.G. -

Too bad we can't see the plant to read the pattern of damage. Crispy dead tissue along leaf edges usually indicates drought -- the part of the plant dies that's last in line for water from the veins. However, if it's happening to only some of the leaves, the location of the scorched foliage might be a clue to the specific cause.

Our guess is sunburn and/or windburn. There are a number of different species of *Mandevilla* (also known as *Dipladenia*) and



Baskets of flowers... it's so tempting to put them out without hardening off.

hybrids, but most in the trade are natives of the understory, appreciative of cool shade during the brightest, hottest part of the day. In addition, this plant was probably in a humid, windless greenhouse until you brought it home. If so, it wasn't primed for full exposure -- it wasn't hardened off. If the scorched foliage is on the top and perhaps the sunniest side, leaves in the shade of that outer layer are fine, and the damage seems to be done -- no new brown is appearing -- our bet would be lack of hardening off.

If other plants took to this place more readily, they may have been hardened in advance or might have been species better suited to life in the open. Petunias, for instance, have a protective fuzzy coating on their leaves. Water that escapes through the leaf's pores is trapped in that hairy layer for a time. It helps keep the leaf cool.

Hardening is a protective response to environment that plants make at the cellular level. The cell wall becomes tougher, chemicals that act like sunscreen accumulate, and water levels inside and between cells adjust. It takes a few days to harden a greenhouse-soft plant to withstand unfiltered sun, cold and wind. Try introducing your next *Mandevilla* to the great outdoors for a few hours in the morning on its first day, and pull it back to a shady place for



Just vine in the shade -- that makes sense!

Most vines are adapted to life under bigger plants. They may bloom best in sun but they germinate in and climb through the shade of the trees and shrubs that support them.

Since vines strive toward light, and most flower well only after they win through to sun, place vines in your garden so that the main viewer will see that best side. For instance, if you put a flowering vine on the north side of a fence, plan to admire it from the south, because chances are good it will head for the top and aim its flowers to the south.

the rest of that day. For a couple more days, let it have both morning and late afternoon out in the open. Or put it outside for the whole day right off, but let it spend its first week in the shade of a tree, which will also act as a windbreak and humidifier.

If the pattern of damage is different, take some photos and email them to us so we can take another shot at troubleshooting the situation.

When we buy plants in early spring (and it still is early spring until an area's average last frost date passes, which in our neck of the woods is May 15) we ask the seller if they have been hardened off. To answer this question, Nola Shepardson of Shepardson Gardens nursery in Phillipston Massachusetts said "You bet they've been out. We grow almost everything outdoors, in the ground, and pot them up for sale. My mother - she's 93 but out at the wholesaler right now -- did it that way and now my son and I do! And when we take our baskets out of the greenhouse, we hang them first for a few days from the apple trees, for the shade."

There is much to be learned from the pattern of damage. The burned needles on this yew hedge are almost certainly the result of deicing salt splash. Knowing it will happen is ammunition for defense --you would know to place a short screen in fall, or rinse the foliage well in late winter before the salt can dry and kill the needles and buds. The twigs die because they have no greenery to feed them.

Is there any greater pain than losing one plant in the middle of a hedge?! Maybe: How about if you find out that how you planted the hedge to begin with set it up to fail? Or that repeated shearing without thinning forced the branches into a minimal-foliage configuration that leaves the plant weak and susceptible to every pest and disease that comes along?

Deal with shrub's trouble before making hard cuts

I trimmed boxwood about two weeks ago, and there was complete yellowing of the leaves. A few of the shrubs have now apparently gotten worse. It seems that more of the shrub is completely yellow and the stems do not have any live tissue. I scraped the stem, it is the palest of green. I read your article in issue #40 and understand about the psyllid and saw in those pictures and on these plants the damage that the leaf miners do but I think the winter also killed (desiccation?) parts of the shrub(s). Can you tell what you think?



If a shrub is dead and an integral part of a hedge, will it be difficult to remove/replace it? I understand boxwood roots stay close to the surface and I've been told one needs to be careful working around them. Any tips you can give me regarding this would be helpful.

Finding the correct cultivar is another matter, all these shrubs were planted some time ago and there's no record of the variety. So we'll try to use a clipping to match up to one at the nursery, where so many look alike... - L.M. -

Any plant will decline if it suffers chronic infestation by insects like boxwood psyllid that suck sap and leaf miners that reduce a leaf's useful life -- in boxwood's case, miner damage means a leaf that should've served for three years lasts just one. One symptom of decline is loss of wood.



A branch becomes thin because it has too few leaves to supply it with starch. Weakened, it produces smaller and fewer leaves, so it becomes even thinner. Eventually, it dies.

Cut that plant back hard and it may respond with very poor new growth, or die without making any comeback at all. If we can, we wait, alleviate problems and give the plant some time to bulk up before we do any hard cutting.

The trouble may go back to planting time. It's done for immediate effect, one root ball butted right up to the next. Those plants don't grow roots into each others' root balls. They grow roots only into free space and end up with half-size root systems. Even insect or disease problems that register only as nuisances in other cases become major if they take hold here, because the plants are already stressed. Stressed plants are attractive to pests and also less able to produce natural defensive chemicals.

Left: Great hedges begin with plants spaced so each can develop a strong root system. Boxwood hedge planted with 4" pots, at planting and one year later.

Dead twigs signal starvation

Leaves make plant food: Sugar for the energy they need to live, starch to fuel the rest of the plant. A twig grows fat and becomes a strong branch by virtue of the leaves it produces. When pests or disease reduce the leaves' food-producing ability or repeated shearing without any thinning creates a topknot of small leaves to support an entire limb, a branch will stop thickening, have less ability to create new leaves, become brittle and eventually die.

If you cut a shrub back and see that it has dead wood in its interior, remove it. Then, more sun will reach the wood of stronger limbs and stimulate growth from dormant buds. New growth from the interior, stemming from the plant's fatter, better-fed wood, will be stronger.

What's tough about replacing a mid-hedge loss is finding a matching plant in a small size. That, and dealing with our own impatience. Follow your plan to use a branch from the hedge as a matchmaker at the garden center, start with a young plant, dig out all of the old plant's roots and renew that soil with compost. While the newcomer is settling in, help the rest of the hedge with aeration, fertilizer and intervention in its pest problems. New and old should knit in time.

*Cut weak wood hard.
Rely on strong wood
to come back hard.*

- Janet -

Should we add a dash of fungus to our garden shopping list?

I have a question about mycorrhizal fungi. I read in a shade gardening book that this fungi is beneficial to put with the roots of perennials. Have you ever used it? Is it worth-while to use? Also, I went on the internet trying to find it to buy and some places have specific fungi for each tree species. I am a little confused on what to use and if it is worth it. - M.B. -

A fungus spreads itself with thread-like extensions called hyphae. Many fungi that live in the soil are important not only for their role in breaking down organic matter but for the connections their hyphae make between soil particles. Air and water flow more readily there when the soil is knit together this way.

Some fungi connect to roots as well as soil, stealing a little of each root's starch but also increasing the roots' access to water and dissolved nutrients. This symbiotic relationship is called a mycorrhiza (plural mycorrhizae). Fungus species that can develop such partnerships are called mycorrhizal fungi.

Like you, we first learned about mycorrhizae as we studied woodland wildflower communities. We read about plants such as lady's slipper (*Cypripedium*) as 'very difficult to grow' since they 'need special fungi found only in the woods.' Since then, we've learned more and so have plant scientists. Where once we thought that plants reliant on mycorrhizae were exceptions, now we know that the great majority of plants have evolved to mix it up with fungi.

Green thumb or brown sole?

Could mycorrhizal fungi be part of the reason some people have gardens that are so much more productive than others? Consider this:

- In a teaspoon of soil are billions of microorganisms, fungi chief among them.
- Many avid gardeners visit plants in lots of places. They go on garden tours, stop at public gardens while on vacation, walk in woods, prairies and other natural areas to learn about native plants, even linger over flower beds at highway rest stops. At these places, this gardener is more likely than most to lean in close, step off the path and up to the edge of the garden, touch the plants, even feel the soil.
- When this gardener returns home from traveling, it's likely she or he goes straight out to the garden to catch up on things, maybe even before going inside to change clothes. What flakes off that person's shoes and hands might be "fairy dust" for the garden!

The U.S. Forestry Service and lumber producers are among those at the forefront of research into the benefits of plant-fungi bonds. They're hard at work to identify and cultivate fungi amicable to trees being planted for reforestation or plantation lumber.

We've looked into some of the research* and think it's exciting and important. However, we also think it has less application in gardens than in large-scale operations and where fungi can be custom-fitted to the crop. (See "What's up with fungi for the big guys?" on page 6.) We see products such as fertilizer and potting mix tweaked -- and marked up! -- to include a mix of mycorrhizal fungi and think that's fostered by marketers looking to coax an extra dollar out of gardeners' wallets, rather than any sincere endorsement by plant scientists.

Is your garden is healthy? Does it have well drained soil? Do you supply it regularly with water and carbon-based organic fertilizer or compost? Have you spared it wanton applications of fungicide, and populated it with a gregarious mix of plants? Then chances are it's already teeming with beneficial fungi. If it did need something, if we could somehow figure which of the millions of fungi would serve and then chance to find that organism being cultured and sold, it would only have to be added once to such a fertile bed as it would virtually explode through that soil.

We've added mycorrhizal fungi, in a product called Myco-rise, to seeds sown in soilless potting mix, and think we saw benefits. There might be some advantage to introducing beneficial fungi to other situations where sterility prevails, such as in soil too long treated with pesticides and salt based fertilizer, or in soilless bark-peat mixes used to pot up houseplants. However, given the strong focus on trees among those doing the research and producing fungus for sale, it seems reasonable to ask before spending any money, "Is the fungus in this package only friendly with maple and linden trees or can it also form a bond with my peace lily?"

* To read more, copy some of these URLs to your browser: <http://cmuj.chiangmai.ac.th/full/2002/jan2002-3f.pdf>
<http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/02-0413> <http://www.springerlink.com/content/uq06x2g175537581/>

What's up with fungi for the big guys?

In our gardens, where a single flower can banish the stress of the day and we feel great doing weeks of work to reap a half dozen tomatoes, we're unlikely to need or even recognize improvements measured in percentage points. For the professional grower dealing in thousands of flowers, truckloads of fruit and acres of "garden", it's a different story.

For instance, a 1% increase in seedling growth rate might equate to several hundred thousand dollars for a lumber company planting several million trees at a time. If research showed that inoculating that type of tree with a particular fungi could net that 1% increase, then dipping the tree seedlings' roots into a pre-planting slurry laced with beneficial fungi would make sense.

As for ornamental plants, most produced in North American commercial growing operations spend at least part of their lives in soilless potting mix. Some are such big sellers that the revenue they generate and potential they represent can support specialized research, such as isolating and testing beneficial fungi to speed growth or fortify plants against disease.

Then there's large-scale agriculture. It involves some processes never seen in home gardens, such as fumigating soil before planting to eliminate pathogens -- an issue farmers once addressed by means of crop rotation. Fumigation costs are recouped when the crop is sold, when fewer losses to disease equates to higher profit. The returns can be even higher if the crop grows more quickly or produces more fruit. So agricultural concerns fund research aimed at improving the harvest, including seeking fungi beneficial to a given crop. Likewise, bio-tech companies have incentive to produce that fungi for that market.

(The garden) is one place where a person can make choices that will lead in a small way toward greater sanity in dealing with the natural order. - Allen Lacy -

Is new *Viburnum* too bored to fill in?

A cranberrybush *Viburnum* I planted a couple of years ago isn't doing well. It was about four feet tall to start with, hasn't gained any height, has dead branches on the main trunks, and had small-ish, pale leaves last year. I planted it right next to one we already had, so I'm thinking maybe there's something wrong with the soil there. Any ideas? - C.E. -

The symptoms you describe might be from girdling. If you're confident the shrub was planted well -- not set in too deep, and any wrap-around roots and twine removed -- check the base of the canes for borer holes. Could be your shrub came in with a *Viburnum* borer or its condition as a weak newbie called one in from the neighborhood. It's an insect that chews its way through weak points in the bark as a tiny larva, feeds for a year on the cambium between bark and wood, and creates a neat round hole to emerge as a winged adult. A few of those working on various parts of a trunk can girdle it.

Cut out damaged canes and suckers can come up to renew the plant. Borers are attracted to weak plants -- skimpy bark affords easier access. They need trunks big enough to offer good eating -- usually more than an inch in diameter. So some of the most effective borer prevention involves doing what it takes to keep the plant healthy and pruning regularly to remove old wood and stimulate new.

Viburnum borer larvae chiseled the grooves in the base of this trunk, like we might scrape a watermelon's rind as we spoon out the fruit. The bark was still intact then, sheltering the insect beneath. The circles are the exit holes made by the insects chewing their way out as winged adults.

Will borers spread to my other bushes?

The majority of insects have specific tastes: *Viburnum* borer adults lay their eggs only on *Viburnum*, elderberry borer on *Sambucus*, birch borer targets birch, *Rhododendron* borers will stray as far as azaleas, lilac borer will go for both lilac and its relatives such as ash trees, etc. So if you should find borer damage in one plant, there's no need to worry about unrelated plants nearby.



What most borers do share is a taste for weak plants, trunks big enough to support their appetite and weak bark that just-hatched larvae can easily chew through. There are pesticides that can kill borers -- most must be applied to susceptible trunk bases and lower crotches at the time that insect is laying eggs, so the young will ingest the poison and die before causing trouble. Yet the best defense is a strong plant, pruned regularly if it's a shrub to stimulate vigorous new growth. The plant growing in optimal light with good drainage and fertility doesn't give off the stress signals that attract borers, and has nearly chew-proof bark loaded with insect-deterring compounds.

Whenever we've seen several kinds of borers in one garden, we look for whole-garden deficiencies and misunderstandings that led to multiple plant-site mismatches.

This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week I will:

Move our winter-guest houseplants back to their outdoor summer homes. We begin the transition by moving them to hardening-off places on the covered porch, where they're close enough to pull back in if a later frost threatens.

How roomy the house seems, suddenly!

Which reminds me that some of ours have gotten too big and spring is an excellent time for cut-backs...

We love our rosemary tree but it's been two years since we cut it back. Its overwhelming bulk in our living room this winter almost negated its fragrant contribution to the atmosphere. so here we go, back to nubs.

The foliage goes into a paper bag inside a plastic bag in the fridge. It will last for weeks while we find people to foist it upon.

Replace the soilless potting mix in pots and containers. New, it provides better drainage and promotes better root growth in a pot than soil can. Yet when its structure collapses as the bark breaks down, drainage and aeration quickly go south. We rarely let it go a second year.

Use the discarded mix as mulch -- it's seed-free organic matter!



In pots and planters where we grow perennials, shrubs and trees, we replace some of the mix every year. It's a perfect time to do that as we divide or swap out perennials. In a woody plant's container we simply excavate between roots -- sometimes pruning what's become too tight -- and backfill with new mix.

Make some new shrubs from cuttings. I intend to nab a few clips from an extremely fragrant, ever-so-early honeysuckle. (Don't you just have to have a plant called *Lonicera fragrantissima*?!). I'll also make a few give-away rosemary plants.



Clip a few sprigs to just a few inches long with woody ends, strip the leaves from the bases, and stick them into sandy soilless mix. Insert some skewers for support. (Kitchens are such a wealth of garden-worthy stuff!). Then, with a plastic baggie as cover the cuttings are in a terrarium. Sitting on the porch next to "mom," they'll take care of themselves and be rooted cuttings in just a few weeks.



**On heliotrope:
"the smell rewards the care."**

Thomas Jefferson, in instructions accompanying a gift of seeds to a grandson

Pest control via timing: Hold amaryllis indoors until bulb fly's flown

Some crop pests are prevented from becoming huge problems by farmers who delay planting until that pest has emerged for the year and found other hosts. Those who grow amaryllis might follow this lead to spare their bulbs the destructive attention of narcissus bulb fly -- an insect that lays its eggs at the base of the foliage of daffodils and their relatives. the maggots hatch, follow the foliage to the bulb, chew in and destroy it. Egg laying is pretty much done by mid-summer.

Help some clients develop tactics that stay more on-target than herbicide sprays and granules. Every year in spring as lawn crews begin to apply broadleaf weedkiller and frustrated gardeners to spritz emerging thistle, we see the yellowed, curled or dead collateral damage. Sprays drift on all but the calmest day and we don't even see it until the symptoms show up in our good plants -- always more susceptible to herbicide than the weeds! Granular herbicides scatter and bounce further than intended, especially when the person behind the spreader is moving fast. Even granules supposed to work only on seedlings can float in irrigation water or during a storm, move and accumulate in killing concentrations. We see lines of yellow and dying foliage in groundcover beds downhill from gardens all the time, in ripple patterns like we see on a beach at the far reach of a wave.

What may be most annoying about overspray/over-throw damage is that it *creates* weeds along bed edges. The herbicide meant to kill weeds in the lawn creates open spots in the groundcover or perennial edging plants. Grass and weeds move in by runner or seed and flourish there.



After a while, you don't even wonder anymore, what happened to that plant at the edge of the bed near the lawn. But just to confirm what you think you know, you look at the dandelions in the lawn and see they, too, are shriveling. So you know the lawn crew has been here and the broadleaf weedkiller went a bit wide. Just when we had gotten the invading grass *out* of that *ajuga*, now there is a space just begging to be re-colonized!

The 45mph garden: Purple-blooming spruce?

You can put a gardener behind the wheel but you can't take the flowers out of his eyes. Look at what's catching driver's eyes and raising questions this week: Runaway *Wisteria* making a spruce appear to bloom.

Does a vine hurt the tree it's climbing on? Sure can, especially when it's as big as *Wisteria*, trumpet vine (*Campsis*), silver fleece vine (*Polygonum aubertii*), kudzu, grape, etc. A vine can also girdle branches or a tree's trunk if it, like *Wisteria* or bittersweet (*Celastrus*) is a species that twines and then thickens those loops into wooden crushing machines..

Green thumbs up to frost protection that's not plastic. Cloth and paper provide some insulation in their fibers but plastic does not -- whatever touches the inside of the plastic feels every degree of cold on the outside. If you must use plastic sheets to cover plants when cold threatens, use supports so the covering does not touch the foliage but holds ground-warmed air around the plant. If you use hot caps made from plastic jugs, as shown in issue #90, remove or replace them as the plants become large enough to touch the sides.

Green thumbs down to potting mixes including fertilizer. Seedlings don't need fertilizer until their first true leaves develop, which means what's been added has weeks beforehand to dissolve and leach away -- useless pollutant. In addition, the price per pound of fertilizer in such mixes is astronomical. Buy water soluble fertilizer and mix it as needed.



Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

Nikkila's a guy who sees not a beautiful plant but exactly where a gardener fits into a picture. Steven Nikkila's a horticultural photographer who's also planted hundreds of gardens in dozens of different situations in running a gardening business with his wife, Janet Macunovich. That work's paired him with people whose gardening experience levels have ranged from just sprouting to heavily branched. Steven's history of showing so many people "how to" plus his own broad knowledge of what has been or needs to be done in a



garden adds to his photos. His alterations in composition, angle or light have caused thousands of gardeners to say "Oh, I see!"

A professional gardener and educator since 1984, Janet Macunovich has been operating for twice that many years as "**Practical Patty**," a title bestowed by her Aunt Melrose. She's helped a great many people improve their gardens and their lives by sharing her experience and knowledge in understandable terms and practical tactics. When not writing this newsletter she's designing, planting and tending gardens through her business, Perennial Favorites. Email questions to Janet or Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850.

Where to catch Janet, Steven and friends* in-person:

*See May 22 and "Invite Janet or Steven" on page 13.

Monday, **May 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**, ***Garden by Janet - Bring your gloves and tools!***. Spring work in this garden in **Wakefield, Massachusetts**, 30 minutes north of Boston, includes training a young wisteria and recalcitrant climbing hydrangea, dividing ornamental grasses, and continuing the development of an alternative lawn. Want to come watch and learn, or learn by doing? Email or call Janet (JMaxGarden@aol.com or 248-681-7850) to reserve a spot and learn the location. Include your phone number in any message so we can stay in close touch in case of weather-related changes. This is a limited-space workshop.

Friday, **May 14, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**, ***Garden by Janet - Bring your gloves and tools.*** At the **Detroit Zoo**, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for hands-on instruction in garden design, planning and problem diagnosis. To reserve a place in this limited-space session and learn how to join Janet at the zoo, email JMaxGarden@aol.com by May 10 with the subject line "Help at the zoo."

Saturday, **May 15, 8:00 a.m. - noon**, ***Garden by Janet - Featuring Steven! Bring your gloves and tools.*** At the **Detroit Zoo**, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for Steven's hands-on instruction in planting, mulching and trouble-shooting. Steven always makes time to shoot some photos, too. To reserve a place in this limited-space session and learn how to join Steven at the zoo, email mstgarden@yahoo.com by May 11 with the subject line "Help at the zoo."

Saturday, **May 15, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**, in **Northville, Michigan**, Janet helps **Gardenviews** store celebrate its new "digs." Those are a new address (117 E. Main Street) *plus* new offerings -- the unique, forged spades and forks that Janet's been using for decades and never before been able to buy locally. Janet's topic for the day is ***Design Ideas: Favorite Before-After***. This is a walk through time as well as beautiful spaces to give you ideas, laughs, hopes and consolation in your own gardening efforts Free, but call Gardenviews to reserve a seat, 248-380-8881.

Saturday, **May 22, 11:00 a.m. to noon**: Janet's in **Oak Park, Michigan** at Four Seasons Garden Center to suggest ***Great Plants and Combinations***. Here are specific trees, shrubs and perennials that work well together, and how to develop your own winning combinations. Settle in after this presentation for ***Herbs in the Garden*** by Janet and Steven's friend, designer and educator Pamela Palechek (more about Pamela on page 13). \$5 donation (goes to forgotten Harvest); walk-ins welcome but seating is limited so call 248-543-4400 to reserve a seat.

Other dates and events coming up:

May 19: Janet's in **Detroit, MI** at the Indian Village Men's Garden Club meeting..

May 29: Steven's in **Oak Park, MI** at Four Seasons Garden Center

June 1: Janet's in **Bloomfield Hills, MI** for a *Garden By Janet* wetland native plant workshop

June 2: Janet's in **Birmingham, MI** for a *Garden By Janet* renovated-landscape workshop

June 5: Janet's at the **Detroit Zoo, MI** for a *Garden by Janet* workshop

June 26: Janet & Steven at **Marquette, MI**'s annual Beautification Extravaganza

And more, during summer. Details will be posted here. For more, email JMaxGarden@aol.com.

Invite Janet or Steven or their expert friends to your club or community.

We go where we're invited! That's taken us all over the country and then some over the past 20 years. We address many topics, drawing from our list of **100+ talks**. We also continue **to meet groups' needs** and expand our horizons by developing new material or "hybridizing" from what we already have.

So, whether it's...

- a **how-to lesson for a garden club**
 - a **hands-on workshop** at your site, or
 - a **multi-part class** for a small group,
- ...we're game!

We can also connect you to one or a whole line-up of other experts who know how to explain how-to. So give us a **call or send an email** to make a date, request our list of classes and talks or get a referral.

JMaxGarden@aol.com or **248-681-7850**. Our calendars fill about a year in advance for spring weekends, and six months ahead for most other weekends and evenings. So give us some lead time. Then we can meet you in *your* garden.



Steven Nikkila (more on page 11) and Janet

Macunovich have been digging, shooting and teaching how-to as a team for 22 years. They began producing conferences in the early '90s and ran a gardening school from 1995 through 2008, featuring experts who know their stuff in the garden as well as how to get their messages across in front of an audience. Janet and Steven are glad to help you themselves for presentations but also pleased to connect you to experts they know or send you their list of people, topics and contact information. Designer Pamela Palechek (left, and above, with Janet collecting ideas at Ball Seed's display gardens), is an expert friend who has been a key player in Janet and Steven's educational efforts for 20 years. Palechek designs landscapes and gardens through her business, Petal Pushers. She's a gifted communicator who helped develop the curriculum for Janet and Steven's school, then served as one of its senior instructors, teaching all aspects of gardening from soil preparation to bringing the flavor of French Riviera to gardens in the Midwest U.S. Hear from Palechek on May 22 in Oak Park, MI. (See page 12.) Email JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850 for a speaker/topic list or to set up a talk, workshop or class.



About attending *Garden by Janet* sessions:

We're let-me-see, hands-on people. That's how we learn best. From time to time there are *Garden by Janet* sessions listed here to afford you that kind of chance to grow. You visit us where we're working to either watch or work with Janet. Generally, there is no charge and we're in one of two kinds of locations:

1) At the **gardens we tend through our business, Perennial Favorites:** Our clients understand our enthusiasm for teaching. Some open their gardens to small groups who want to see and practice "how to." When the work we're scheduled to do may be of interest to you, we invite you in.

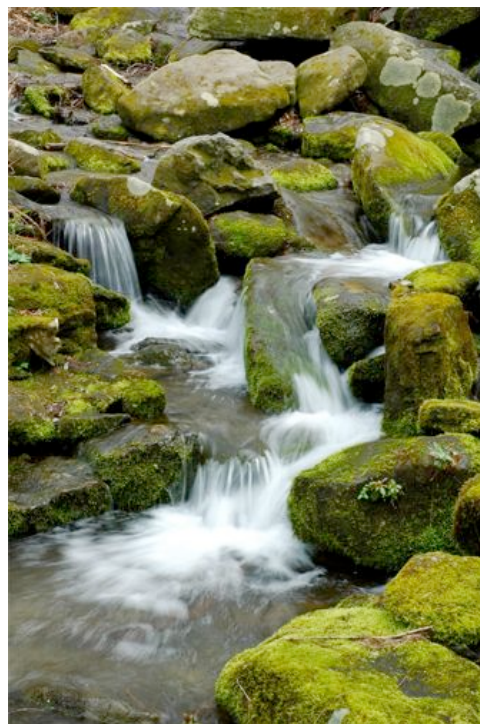
2) In the **Detroit Zoo, Adopt-A-Garden** program where we're 22-year veterans. Many people have worked with us there, some for a day and others for years. We have fun, we learn, we accomplish much. You can check out this program by coming in as my student on a temporary pass. **To join Janet at the Zoo**, email mstgarden@yahoo.com with the subject line of your email "Help at zoo."

Time to garden your walls...

Steven's decorated many walls with great garden and Nature images. He can help you do the same with photos in frames or on canvas that capture garden beauty and stories you love.

You can own any of Steven's images you've seen in *What's Coming Up*, or request almost any flower or type of scene you can imagine. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and nearly as many natural images, including this Smokey Mountain waterfall and a show down in which an otter pack made a seagull re-think stealing a young otter's fish.

If you have an image in mind, describe it to Steven. He'll assemble a customized photo sampler for you. Email us at JMaxGarden@aol.com for details.



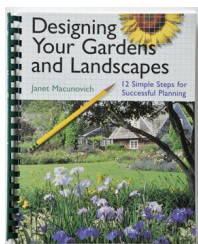
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