

What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila answer your growing concerns
Issue 110, September 15, 2010

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Forsythia (above), *Rhododendron* and some other spring blooming shrubs are known for occasionally missing their cues and letting a few flowers bloom ahead of schedule, in fall. No harm done. Even if a couple dozen blossoms open, plenty remain for the real show.

Continue watering, vital to winter hardiness

Everything was **so dry** this summer. We just **couldn't keep up**. I hate to admit it but because it was so hot we just stopped trying! Now we're seeing that everything's crispy, even though it's not so hot any more. My heart's not in it to be in the garden when it's so sad looking. What if I just let the watering go, now? I'd let the fall rain take over. - E.C. -

If reliable fall rain's coming, okay. Otherwise, **keep your chin up** a bit longer. We know it's discouraging right now, but despite what you see in scorched tops and apparent dormancy most of your **plants are still growing and need water**. For many plants what they lost up top is just a short term loss. However, if you let your perennial plants -- that includes trees and shrubs -- go into winter dry and stressed, they may lose much more ground.



For plants, fall isn't an end but the beginning of another cycle. All year, starch has been forming in leaves, then flowing into the permanent parts of the plant -- the crown, wood and roots. The growth kicks into high gear as soil cools. Roots elongate and sprouts fatten on the crown or in covered buds on the branches. Janet just unearthed this *Camassia* bulb, which sat quiet and rootless all summer. Now it's producing roots. Inside the bulb, the shoot is developing. All this growth requires moisture and will go on right until the ground freezes. So don't let plants go dry in fall.

Plants don't need as much water in fall. They use less as light intensity falls and lose less through evaporation when the weather's cool and their canopies are cut back or thinned by leaf fall. You may not have to water as often in fall as in summer.

Many times when there's been a summer drought, by fall that bad time is all we can remember. Think back! If the drought was preceded by a spring that came early, went unbroken by hard frost and was blessed with ample rain, plants had several months' good growing time. For most, that constitutes a full growing season. So when subjected to drought, many of those plants simply go into defensive rest and bide their time.



By fall perennials are ready for a good drink to get ready for winter. This young, one-stem *Baptisia* is an example. It will be double this size next year, or larger, having produced four shoots from one -- arrows point to them. The two uppermost will almost certainly emerge above ground next year; the others may be held in reserve.

Below: In the nodes hanging from that *Baptisia*'s roots, beneficial, symbiotic bacteria of a type that attend pea family plants capture nitrogen the plant can't reach -- from air -- and share it with the roots. With its helper bacteria fat and happy even after a dry summer, the plant's just fine.

Fall fix for the dry-summer blues

You can improve your own outlook after a hard summer plus make the yard look better.

Put your clippers to work on **anything that's brown** but not woody. Just **cut it down**. Everything will look better when the brown-to-green ratio shifts. Your license-to-cut covers any perennial with scorched leaves plus those which went completely seedy while you were being smart and avoiding August's heat.

If you see only dead stems, and **wonder if that plant's dead**: Gently peel soil away from the base of the stems to **look for next year's buds just below the surface**. If you see pink or white nibs there, the plant's set for spring.

When it comes to shrubs, trees and sub-shrubs -- all those **woody plants** -- **don't cut** anything except leaves unless the next year's buds burned up, too. **Look close at the buds**, which are shoots that stopped elongating and sealed themselves over sometime after July 1. In most cases we **find them still alive and well**, waiting for spring to pop open and resume growing.

Then, turn the water on. Plants need water for fall growth (see photos on page 3) and to insure hardiness. A zone 5 plant that goes into winter dry can die in a normal zone 5 winter.



Right: The leaves and stems of this white boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*) were brown and withered. Janet cut them off before she lifted the plant to move it -- part of a garden renovation project. Despite its loss on top during a month of drought, look at all the growth that is going on below ground. This two stems were able to sock away enough starch that there will be ten stems next year.

Testing viability of woody buds requires a sacrifice. We'll use one of the buds from the lilac branch below to show you how. (The white mottling on the leaves is mildew; no worries, just a cosmetic problem.) Slice the bud in two longways (below, right). If it's moist and green inside, all systems are go. You may even see its bloom ready to go (we give that beautiful preview of spring a whole page, page 4).

So don't cut off branches just because the current year leaves are brown or were disfigured by pests -- that would set the plant back by all that wood and these prepped buds.





Excuse the gardener's rough fingertips and focus on the lilac shoot in the bud. See the flower, ready to go?

Ease up on weeds? Never in fall!

I had an ugly **trumpet vine** that never produced many flowers, only lots of leaves. I took it out and planted other things. I **keep getting stems coming up** in the area no matter how much I dig them up. The vines coming in all over my deck, too, which is adjacent to where the vine was. I am constantly pulling out the vines, but **how do I get rid of them?** - M.D. -

Trumpet vine is a very persistent plant. Lots of us have battled it. No one we know has any magic bullets for it. What we do is:

1) **Dig what you can** get to. We know that may be a tall order as the roots can travel a long way laterally. We've seen them go under a two-lane driveway and come up on the far side, and also hug a building foundation all down one side plus around the corner, a 75' spread.

2) Then, **keep pulling**, using a systemic weed killer or breaking off every shoot that comes up. Don't let any greenery remain in the light -- every day it's there, it ships starch to the roots, replacing what you may have dug out in your earlier attacks and fueling next year's growth.

3) Eventually, we **starve the root**. We remove what the plant used energy to create, before those shoots can repay the favor with sunlight-synthesized starch. As fewer shoots appear and the interval lengthens between pulling and seeing anything new to pull, we can step down

Fall: What happens to a weeder who relaxes in autumn

Have you been engaged in a war this year with thistle, quack grass, oxalis, bindweed or any other pernicious, perennial weed? Don't depart the battlefield during fall. It's a prime growing season, during which that plant you've ousted may creep back in under the radar and reclaim much or all of its former territory.

Lots of gardeners who underestimate fall as a growing season look in dismay to see weeds erupting in spring as if the previous year's war never occurred. They cry, "But we dug that out! We went over this whole area!" Most of the time, we discover that they quit the field in September or October, saying, "Good, there's nothing much there. I'm through until spring."

Through fall, continue weekly patrols to pull the weed. Look for shoots that appear at ground level but don't elongate. We bet you'll find them. Pull or dig them, and check that spot again the next week. Each of those shoots has as much photosynthetic power as a tall, leafy stem, because that's just what it is -- a whole, compressed shoot just sitting at the surface, safe from any frost, pouring starch into the roots until the ground freezes.

to bi-weekly checks, and then monthly. However, if we've been at war that year and leave the plant to do as it will in fall, we can lose the whole season's work.

This tiny bindweed shoot may look like a minor player but it's very effectively rebuilding the weed colony we've battled all year. We must keep removing them. Such a shoot can contribute as much to the weed's spring resurgence as a tall, leafy stem.

Weeding has none of the doubts and fears of transplanting.
Bertha Damon - *A Sense of Humus* -



Fix that poor lawn, don't just kill its killers

Oh our lawns look terrible! – A legion of readers –

It has been **a bad lawn year**, especially for turf already weakened by previous dry, weedy, and pesty periods.

Big brown spots have appeared where **weedy grasses** such as bent grass and annual bluegrass infiltrated and now have themselves succumbed to drought or disease.

There may be patches where the good grass died, unable to grow roots as fast as young **grubs** or chafers can chew.

Some areas fostered heavy populations of **sod webworm** this year. Those caterpillars ate the crowns of grass plants, then hatched into pale moths that were active on late summer evenings. Perhaps you saw them, flitting just inches above the grass tips in zig zag egg laying hops.

You might have the **weed killer** ready to apply. You may have read up on webworm, so are ready to check for the young larvae and spread **insecticide** where you find them. Or maybe you're opting to cheer on the rove beetles, lure in the starlings and rely on other caterpillar predators. Whatever you have planned for dealing with the lawn weeds or pests, don't make that your only move.



Cooking sage was cool as a cucumber during the drought. Not so the lawn beyond, failing despite regular irrigation. (For more drought tolerant plants, see page 12.)

Something made those spots poor sites for your blue grass to begin with, so it gave way to infiltrators, caught a fungus or was unable to grow ahead of insect damage. Improve the growing conditions there. Even if your lawn's dead spots are small, act to insure that each one will fill quickly with your chosen grass rather than whatever weed seeds exist there or drop in.

So **spread compost** as a topdressing. **Aerate**. **Sow grass seed** (but not along with weed killer; wait until the herbicide's effective period passes). **Apply slow release fertilizer** after new grass is a few inches high or after leaf fall. Start now; early fall is a far better time to seed in or overseed a lawn than spring.

Fall is fine for transplanting, but hold off cutting back that tree or bush

I have an **arrowwood viburnum** that **needs moving**. I'd say it is at least 7 feet tall. When I move it, **how much should I prune it** so that the (smaller) root ball can support the top growth? And when I do prune it, isn't it going to start branching where I've made the cuts? I guess there is no way to avoid that. - S.J. -

No need to prune the viburnum at all, not out of hand. Water it well two days in advance, then dig it with the largest root ball you can handle. Move it, get it settled in, water it regularly and let the plant tell you if it can't maintain the foliage it brought with it.

Right, Three of us managed this hemlock's root ball, but note that I bared many roots around the edge of the ball so we had less soil weight to move. Below, the plant was pale the next spring, back on track four years later.

Used to be, we were told to prune back the top to be in balance with the roots. That was before botanists learned what we now know about the chemical connections between growing points in a plant. One of those connections is between the apical meristems (tips with actively dividing cells) of branches and roots. **The branch tips'** meristems produce growth regulators -- hormones. These travel the plant's starch-transport pathways, reach the roots and **stimulate root growth**. Clip off the meristems and for a while, that chemical stream stops, until the branch tips muster their resources and develop some new meristems.

So the old way removed all the best root-growth initiators, just when they were most needed.



Cutting back the top also removes leaf surface, yet **the plant needs all the green it can carry** to make starch to make new roots.

We've also learned a lot more about how root damage translates to water loss in the top of the plant. Some plants seem to collect water and distribute it evenly, others have more direct pathways

between this root and that branch. So, although some of the top of a transplant may die back if the roots are sufficiently compromised, we don't know which parts will, or how far. In **cutting, we may be "costing" the plant more than it would have lost on its own.**

Moving that shrub now, when the air is relatively cool and you are going to keep it well watered, you may be surprised to see no dieback at all. We have seen it many times, even when we thought "Hoo boy, we sure couldn't move much root with that one!" Give it light, give it water, and it may hardly miss a beat.

So **only if the foliage wilts** and fails to come back, **should you consider pruning** out that branch/part of a branch. Make sure before you cut that the buds for next year have also died. It is not unusual for a plant that's stressed in fall to drop *this* year's leaves because it's had a good long run already, and has next year "in the bag."

Watering new plants and transplants: *Pour it on*

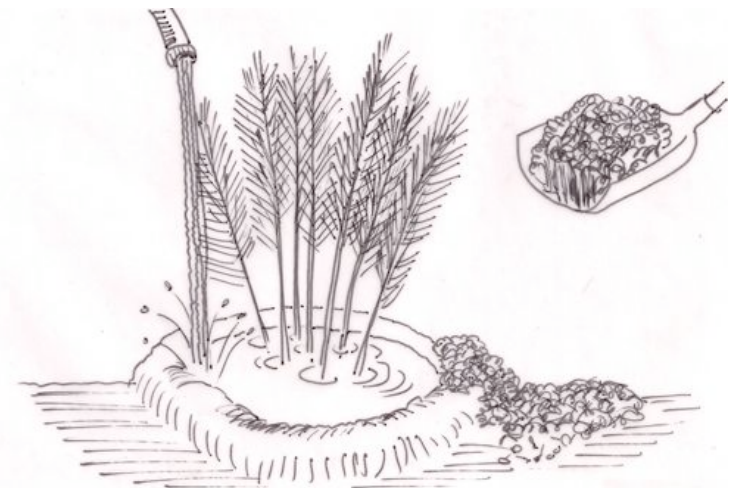
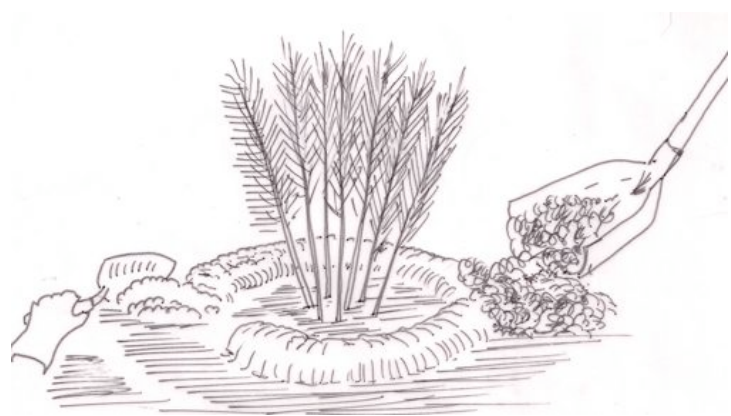
We've observed many people as they tend new plantings. Most do not water effectively. Yet **water and light are the two things a new plant or transplant most needs**, so check yourself.

If your approach is to attach a spray gun to the hose and spritz plantings en masse, or to set up a sprinkler to do something similar, you can do better, in less time plus do yourself a good turn in discouraging weeds. Here's how.

Build a watering ring around each new plant. Do it by scraping extra soil from outside the root zone and forming it into an earthen dam 1 - 2" high. Make it large enough to encircle the entire root system. This ring will hold water over the root zone, so that water you apply there will soak in there rather than spreading out and running away. If you're planting on a slope a watering ring is especially important but plants need only a half-circle watering ring, on the downhill side.

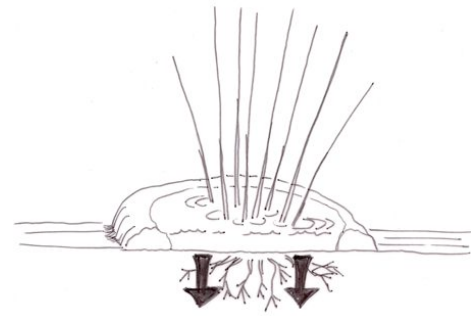
You can mulch up to and over the ring, for a smoother appearance. The ring will continue to work even under the mulch.

Fill the ring with water, let it soak in, and fill again. Use a moderately running hose, a hose with a shower attachment or a watering bucket. With these you can place the water directly into the ring, and fill a circle 24 inches wide and two inches deep in 15 seconds. One inch of water wets soil three to four inches deep, and two



inches of water will soak the whole depth of a root zone or pot that's six inches deep.

We've compared this technique to spraying a planting from a hose with a spray gun attachment. Filling the same size watering ring takes 22 to 120 seconds -- 22 if you aim right at a watering ring, 120 if you use an oscillating sprinkler or wave the hose around as you water by hand to wet a number of plants at once. The universal coverage of a sprinkler and the wave motion are problematic, as they wet unplanted areas between plants, wasting water and encouraging weed seed germination there. They also fail to give you the advantage of water's weight. Falling onto the soil a drop at a time, water does not penetrate as well as when each drop has the weight of a whole pool above it.



Proliferating perennials: Points go to the ruthless gardener

F.H. asks Whether we **would like some of his extra Stella D'Oro daylilies...**

No, thanks, we'll pass.

Some perennials deserve recognition -- call it posting a warning -- as **the rabbits of the garden**. They multiply rapidly. They're cutest and most healthy during their first two or three years. Thus they need division about that often and anyone who grows them is forever foisting them on others.

They're **good for brand new gardeners**. Send Stella to them. They'll love her, because it's gratifying and a confidence builder to see things grow.

Most of the time, the **divisions we want** are the ones **we have to beg for**. It goes something like this: "Ooooo, if you ever divide *that*, we'd love a start!" The usual reply is, "Well, I already divided it about 8 years ago so maybe in a couple of years..."

When we divide, we **keep just 25% of a clump and feed 75% to the compost pile**, making sure that portion includes the old, crowded center. Sometimes we set a division or two at the end of the driveway next to a sign that says "Free Perennials."



We've washed this clump of daylily 'Black Friar' so you can see the eyes and roots. A cut along each blue line will net us that vigorous outer piece. the rest we'll compost.

Fertilizer in fall should feed the soil

Dear Janet & Steven,

I'm working on reviving some old lilacs. What kind of fertilizer do you recommend? My mother used to claim that lilacs liked manure (she claimed that about roses, too). - Elaine -

We choose a fertilizer to **compensate for soil deficiencies**, not for a particular plant type. Lacking a specific soil test, we **choose a complete, balanced fertilizer**. "Complete" means it provides some of each major nutrient -- the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium represented by the #-#-# on the ingredients label.

"Balanced" means its nutrients are close to a 1-1-1 ratio. That might be a 5-5-5, 7-7-7 or 10-10-10.

In fall and spring we **use slow release forms** of fertilizer such as Groganic poultry manure, Fertrell or one of Espoma company's "-tone" mixes. Although these products are not quite balanced, they're close (5-4-4, 3-2-3, etc.) so we can use them where we have no soil test to direct us. Also, we can easily buy something to increase one or another nutrient to match the soil test -- blood meal for more nitrogen, bone meal for phosphorus, green sand for potassium.

We prefer to use slow release organic fertilizers which provide carbon, building the soil.

Why to ignore old saws and fertilize in fall

Replay from Issue #63

Slow release organic fertilizers are wonderful for the garden **at any time of year** but **especially** productive toward next spring's growth when applied as soil cools **after local trees' leaf fall**. O Essential nutrients in organic forms (carbon-based rather than salt form) move into woody plants' roots, perennials crowns and even into tree trunks at rates and in amounts that are almost unbelievable for a season when we say plants are "dormant." In a University of Washington study using fish as a slow release fertilizer in October -- simulating the forest floor along streams where bear strew fish parts during salmon run -- nearly half the nitrogen in the fish parts had moved into plants' roots and crowns by December. **Close to 90% of that nitrogen was in the plants by April 1**, with a good portion of that already in trees' trunks

Making molehill mulch from mountains of leaves: A call for shredder stories

I would **like to get a leaf shredder** to cut my leaves in the fall before I put them back on my garden. I would prefer something small and low key. I want it powerful enough to shred leaves but not so powerful to take my arm off. Something simple that I can use myself. - M.D. -

We believe it takes a large, powerful machine to shred quickly and keep working even through the inevitable damp-leaves episodes and occasional sticks. But then, we haven't tried many machines because we most often use fall leaves whole, these days. We love the look of shredded leaves but when time presses, we settle for whole!

So, **we need help** to advise M.D. and others who are asking. Please tell us: **What shredder** do you use to process leaves before you use them as mulch or add them to the compost? Can you recommend it to others?

The shredders we've used and liked, and the one we once had, could grind sticks as well as leaves, and had a hopper that could be lowered to horizontal so we could rake leaves right in.



Rhodies wasting their spring bloom?

My two year old *Rhododendron* plants began to bloom yesterday. Probably 6 of 10 are doing it. Can you tell me why and is there anything I should do? Will I not have blooms next spring? - S.A. -

Lots of spring blooming plants occasionally open a few flowers ahead of schedule. The plant may simply misread environmental cues. For instance, its internal gauge of the seasons can be fooled by an early cold snap so that the flower buds figure the next warm weather is spring.

Some species are more likely to be fooled than others. We've become quite accustomed to seeing stray, premature flowers on *Forsythia*, lilac, azalea/*Rhododendron*, *Weigela* and *Viburnum*.

Sometimes nutrient deficiencies can contribute to premature bloom. Potassium, phosphorus and micronutrients essential to plant cell function are key ingredients in compounds that act as chemical fuses. If they're present in correct amounts, flowering initiators won't "go off" until time, temperature or other conditions break down the "fuses."

This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week:

Make lemonade from a lemon of a summer! Sure, it was rough and many plants look terrible but there were silver linings. For instance, we had a lot less weeding to do.

Also, we decided to **notice plants that thrived** despite everything. At the Detroit Zoo in our Garden By Janet session last weekend, I enlisted my helpers to list the perennials we recognized as winners. (See *Perennials undaunted by drought*, page 12.) Every one was gorgeous, even though there is no automatic irrigation there, we hand water only the annuals, and the soil is excessively drained, to boot. We used divisions from many of them to create a drought tolerant bed.

Sow seed.

As we cut down perennials that have gone to seed and are in areas designed for naturalizing or self-sowing, I choose some seed stalks from the best plants -- longest bloom, most sturdy, etc. I clear away enough mulch to lay those seedy stalks on the soil. I push a couple of stout twigs into the ground on either side and cross them over the stalks. That will hold them in place this winter and remind me, come spring, of the spots we should *not* mulch so the seeds can germinate.



J. asked if she should hang onto perennial seed she'd bought and not gotten around to sowing in the garden. Sow it, J.! No better time than fall for most perennials.

Begin black vine weevil battle #42

I know we'll never win, but we can't give up! It's time now for **enlisting beneficial nematodes**, ring worm relatives that prey on various insects, including beetle larvae -- such as weevils. I would have liked to add these predators weeks ago when the current weevil generation finished hatching, to stop the damage before it started. Alas, these predatory nematodes require moist soil! So we placed our order as soon as we saw rain coming. Steven's out landing the troops as I type.

Perennials undaunted in drought

In the sun

big betony (*Stachys micrantha*)
blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*)
blue mist spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)
butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
catmint (*Nepeta mussinii* 'Blue Wonder')
curly chives (*Allium senescens glaucum*)
daylily*
dwarf goldenrod (two types, *Solidago x* 'Little Lemon' and *S. x* 'Goldenmosa')
Helen's flower* (*Helenium angustifolium*)
Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
lambs ear (*Stachys lanata*)
lavender (*Lavandula*)
mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)
Musking sedge (*Carex muskingimensis*)
pink penstemon (*Penstemon x* 'Apple Blossom')
rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)
sage (*Salvia officinalis*)
sea kale (*Crambe maritima*)
sedum (tall *S. spectabile* and others)
zebra iris (*Iris pallida argenteo-variegata*)

In part shade

lamium (*Lamium*, a golden leaf form)
northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
peony (some, not all old fashioned types of *Paeonia lactiflora*)
plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)
threadleaf bluestar (*Amsonia ciliata*)

In shade

columbine (*Aquilegia*)
Tellima (*T. grandiflora*)

*Extra credit to the daylilies and Helen's flower, which not only looked good but grew back from nothing during all the heat. We had cut them back (daylilies) to erase their straggly looking foliage or (Helen's flower) cut down the bloomed-out stems. Keeping on in the heat is great. To summon the resources to make new shoots and keep those looking good, is stupendous.

Green thumbs up to just enjoying the growing and having less anguish in losing plants. Follow the lead of Dr. Tony Reznicek, director of the University of Michigan Herbarium and world class rock gardener.

I've killed quite a few of (these special plants) now,
some of them in some spectacular ways.

...The real trick with these tough plants is to get a picture of it before it dies.

- Tony Reznicek -

Green thumbs down to using a blower on drought-stressed plants. Think about it!

Gardening is the most ephemeral art. A garden is in constant flux,
season to season and moment to moment.

- Will & Ariel Durant -

Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

A gardener who got carried away. Janet Macunovich has been known to two generations of neighborhood children as "the lady at the flower house, the one with no lawn." Her lifelong interest in plants grew to a passion after she spent the summer of 1973 working in England, where she had the privilege of apprenticing to tenth-generation gardeners in a 300 year old garden. By 1981 the last of the lawn disappeared from her yard just as her hobby -- helping others in their gardens -- grew beyond its bounds into a gardening business. Eventually her talent as a writer and speaker crossed with her experience in the garden to grow on as books (such as "Designing Your Gardens and Landscape" and "Caring for Perennials"), a weekly newspaper column, a radio talk show and a gardening school.

A garden- and nature photographer who likes his job so much that a waterproof camera case hangs right alongside his fishing tackle box and waders. Of this arrangement he says, "I used to think that if I somehow knew a day was going to be my last day on Earth, I would simply take my pole and waders and go fishing, preferably up Schlottz Creek where Dad and Poppa and I fished. Now, I know I'd have to have my camera, too!" His love of the natural landscape shows in some of the plantings he and his wife do for clients of their gardening business. There, he might customize a rocky channel made to lead water away from downspouts to add "eddies" of small stone and an occasional larger rock "where a big trout could lurk." In the rain garden that receives that runoff water he favors plants he's admired along the edges of "his" fishing streams: turtlehead, cardinal flower, Joe Pye and marsh marigold.



Email questions to Janet or Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850.

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

Monday, September 20, 7:00 p.m., *Local Color*. At the Birmingham Community House Garden Club meeting, Janet paints a picture to help you see the possibilities and then use color in ways that are more effective and regionally distinctive. Guests are always welcome to the club's meetings, at the Birmingham Community House, 380 South Bates Street in **Birmingham, Michigan**.

Monday, September 20, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., *Photography in the Garden, a 3-part workshop*

Part 2: Saturday, September 25, 8:00 a.m. to noon

Part 3: Monday, September 27, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This is a triple attraction from Steven Nikkila:

In **session 1**: A professional horticultural photographer's simple steps for capturing your own garden in pictures, presented in an enchanting photo tour of beautiful gardens plus a critical look at what works in a garden from a design perspective..

In **session 2**: On-site photography. Use the tips and tricks from session 1 to capture the beauty of Tollgate gardens. Framing your shot, setting up "before and after" shots, planning a dramatic sequence to show seasonal or year to year differences, using light and shadow to your advantage, and correcting for less-than-perfect light or subject matter are all discussed for both manual and automatic cameras

In **session 3**: You chance to show off your photos from session 2, see those taken by others and receive helpful, specific suggestions from Steven.

All at **MSU Tollgate Farm Education Center**, on Meadowbrook Road just north of 12 Mile Road in **Novi, Michigan**. This class is supported by Michigan State University Extension. \$15 per session. Cash or check payable to Steven Nikkila. No advance registration required. Satisfaction guaranteed: Pay as you leave each session!

Tuesday, September 21, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., *The Gardener's Eye: Wildlife in your Garden*. Steven shows you what to plant and how to tend it to provide food and shelter for wildlife. He also shows you in beautiful images why encouraging beneficial wildlife is simpler for those who have learned to recognize important patterns related to birds, butterflies and small animals. At Four Seasons Garden Center in **Oak Park, Michigan**, 14471 West Eleven Mile Road, between Greenfield Road and Coolidge Road. \$20. Cash or check payable to Steven Nikkila. No advance registration required. Satisfaction guaranteed: Pay as you leave!

Sold Out! **Saturday, September 25**, Janet's speaking about ***Four-Season Landscape Design*** but she's just part of an all-day extravaganza hosted by the Alpine Master Gardener Association and the Michigan State University Extension. At Marsh Ridge Resort and conference center, **Gaylord, Michigan**. Other speakers that day will teach about daylilies, edible landscapes, and pruning.

Gardening a Wooded Lot

October 2 and 3 in Ortonville, Michigan at Hadley Hill Farm, a two-day intensive workshop where Janet, Steven and designer Celia Ryker help you who are *Gardening a Wooded Lot*.

Saturday and Sunday, **October 2 and 3, *Natural Gardening and the Wooded Lot***
(More on page 15.)

Gardening a Wooded Lot

(Continued from page 14.)

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday,
at Hadley Hill Farm, 1344 South Hadley Road
in Ortonville, Michigan (between Detroit and Flint).

In this two-day intensive workshop Janet Macunovich, Steven Nikkila and designer Celia Ryker who specializes in natural landscapes and wildlife help you develop a wooded lot in ways that edit Nature without upsetting its balance. In the classroom as well as out on a wooded site you'll learn about native trees, shrubs, vines, and perennial wildflowers, their advantages and how best to use them in your own spaces. You'll consider legal, ethical and practical aspects of turning spaces below trees into garden.

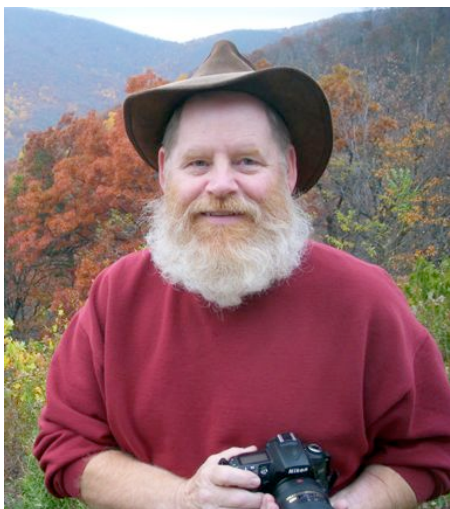
The main topics are:

- Native Trees & Shrubs of Great Lakes Woods
- Working with Your Woods: Assessing, modifying and designing wooded spaces
- Woodland Wildflowers

Register for the full two-day workshop or a single day. Every participant will be provided with a workbook which is both a collection of



Janet, Steven and designer Celia Ryker guide participants through the *Wooded Lot* workshop.



important facts from the workshop and a step by step guide for applying that information to a specific wooded lot. Those who participate in both days of the workshop may also register to submit their workbook plan to the instructors for written review and suggestions.

Two-day Gardening a Wooded Lot workshop

\$195.00

Two-day workshop plus workbook review

\$245.00*

Saturday only (basics and woody plants)

\$115.00

Sunday only (design steps and wildflowers)

\$115.00

*Register by September 15 to have time to receive and complete a pre-class assignment important to your plan development.

For questions, to register or for a detailed brochure about this class and its schedule, contact Janet (248-681-7850, JMaxGarden@aol.com) or Celia (248-627-2356, HadleyHillFarm@aol.com)

More coming in October and November. Save these dates and watch here for details:
Monday, October 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Janet's perspective on *Transplanting the Picture Perfect Garden*. At MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center in Novi, Michigan.

Tuesday, October 5, Steven explains and illustrates how to improve your *Photography in the Garden*. At Four Seasons Garden Center, Oak Park, Michigan.

Thursday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. Janet steps you through the *Art of Fall Garden Clean-up*, at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin.

Tuesdays, October 12, October 26 and November 2, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Janet's three-part *How to of Basic Landscape Design*. At Four Seasons Garden Center in Oak Park, Michigan.

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. Janet talks about *Art in the Garden* at the Milford Garden Club meeting, Milford, Michigan.

Monday, October 25, 6:00 p.m. Steven helps you achieve more *Winter Interest in the Garden*. At MSU Tollgate Farm



Deb Hall, Steven Nikkila and Celia Ryker all garden professionally and, as instructors, have been collaborating on educational events for over 10 years. Janet and Steven teamed up with Hall and Ryker as kindred spirits who know their stuff in the garden and also have very effective ways to convey how-to.

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

Janet and Steven have been gardening professionally since 1984, but love sharing how-to almost as much as planting and designing. They started producing educational events in 1991, ran a gardening school from 1995 through 2008 and have always taught where invited. This has taken them all over the country and then some over the past 20 years.

This dynamic pair address many topics, drawing from a list of **100+ talks**. They also continue **to meet groups' needs** and expand their horizons by developing new material or "hybridizing" between existing presentations:

- **How-to lessons for a garden club**
- **Multi-part classes** for small groups, and
- **Hands-on workshops** at your site,
- Entertaining, information packed **talks**.

Janet and Steven can also connect you to one or a whole line-up of other experts who know how to explain how-to. So give them a **call or send an email** to make a date, request a list of classes and talks or get a referral. **JMaxGarden@aol.com or 248-681-7850**. Their calendars fill about a year in advance for spring weekends, and six months ahead for most other weekends and evenings. Just give them some lead time, then they can meet you in *your* garden.

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. Email for a list of topics and speakers.

Email **JMaxGarden@aol.com** or call **248-681-7850**

About attending *Garden by Janet* sessions:

We gardeners are 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@gmail.com with the subject line of your email "Help at zoo." and Education Center, Novi, Michigan.

Where we go to *Garden by Janet*

Sometimes we are asked "Can you come do one of your workshops in my garden?" Maybe! At these sessions:

- Someone pays for Janet's time, or she's on a site where she volunteers regularly. Although we love to share what we know, we need to eat and pay our bills.
- Our client knows our work well enough to allow us free rein, even to experiment.
- Our client allows strangers on site and trusts our supervision if they pitch in.
- We know the site and plant history enough to explain how that affects the work's "what" and "why."
- We've determined that the plants and site will serve as clear examples.
- We know from questions we've received that the work is of common interest.
- With rare exception, the site's visible from a public way so students can drive by to keep track of "what happens next."

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 that capture garden beauty and stories you love, framed or on canvas.

You can own any of Steven's images from *What's Coming Up**, or request your dream flower, type of scene or hue. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and natural images.

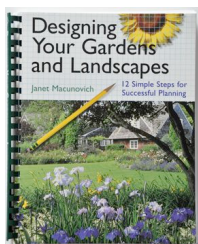
Describe your dream image or color to Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com. He'll send you a photo sampler and price list.

Pictured here*: Ullapool, Scotland under a summer solstice rainbow.

*Images in our newsletter are low- resolution to facilitate e-mail. Originals are much higher resolution with so much clear detail they are sharp even when printed on wall-size cloth banners.



You asked for our advice "on paper". We wrote and sell these books plus CDs:



Designing Your Gardens and Landscape

First published in 1990 as *Easy Garden Design*, a 150-page step-by-step recipe that's become a design classic. Janet developed, uses and has trained thousands of others to use this process. People say: "This is exactly the simple, clear approach I need!" This design process is applicable world-wide.

Soft cover, spiral bound. B&W illustrations by Janet. \$19.00

Caring for Perennials

Janet's unique approach to perennial care how-to, the real-time story of one bed from early spring to season's end. The 180 engaging and fact-filled pages make you part of all Janet does and you might ever need to do in each task's appropriate season and sequence. Includes a chart of what to do, when for 70 top perennials. Advice in this book is applicable in all of temperate U.S. and Canada. The perennial chart includes a key to adapt its timing for far southern or northern edges of that range.

Soft cover book. Color illustrations by Steven Nikkila. \$20.00



Asking About Asters CD.

A digital library of six years of Janet's work: weekly columns, newsletters and over 200 extra Q&A letters to individual gardeners. 1,681 questions answered about soil preparation, fertilizing, pruning, design, choosing plants, foiling bugs and much more. No repeated topics. Fully indexed; the entire collection can be searched from this one file.

1 CD in jewel case, Windows- and Mac compatible. \$20.00



Potting Up Perennials CD.

A digital collection of 2009's *What's Coming Up*: 52 issues, over 750 pages with more than 150 articles, 500 images and 250 quick-look lists and reports. Includes a comprehensive index of this collection plus Janet's previously-released digital library, *Asking About Asters*. If you own both *Potting Up Perennials* and *Asking about Asters* you can search all the *What's Coming Up* newsletters plus six years of *Growing Concerns* columns and books from this new index.

Bonus on this CD: Steven Nikkila's Daydream Screen Saver, 74 of his most vivid works from gardens and nature.

1 CD in jewel case, Windows- and Mac compatible. \$15.00

Janet's complete digital library New for 2010

Set of two CDs: *Asking About Asters* and *Potting Up Perennials*. \$30.00



Janet and Steven give you: Trees. New for 2010*

A choice collection of Janet and Steven's advice for tree selection, planting and care. Each article made its debut in *Michigan Gardener* magazine and has been on hold since, awaiting completion of its fellows until this comprehensive compilation became possible. Topics include: Selecting trees; fall color; what's happening to ash trees; replacing a big tree; descriptions, lists and photos of great trees; why starting small is a good idea when planting; planting how-to, why's and why not's; staking, watering and fertilizing; mulching; rescuing a tree from the lawn; preventing construction damage; pruning to keep trees and shrubs small; removing suckers; detecting girdling roots; and dealing with maple tar spot and lecanium scale.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

New for 2010* Janet and Steven give you: Landscape Ideas.

Janet and Steven's favorite articles on landscape design and renovation: Designing with foliage color; covering up after the bulb season; doubling up perennials for 3-season color; shady solutions; using usual plants in unusual ways; designing hypo-allergenic gardens; Murphy's Laws applied to gardens; renovation how-to; fragrant plants and designs; attracting wildlife; rockwork; invasive plants; discovering a site's hidden assets; using herbs in a landscape; and how to cheat to improve a garden quickly. These articles appeared first in *Michigan Gardener* magazine individually between 1999 and 2010. Now they're collected in this set for your design library.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00



Janet and Steven give you: Garden Care. New for 2010*

Vital how-to for tending a garden, from Janet and Steven's favorite articles on: bed preparation; soil testing; making a weed-free bed; spring start-up; improving hard-packed soil; fertilizing; watering; cutting back and deadheading; repairing irrigation; drought-tolerant plants; sharpening tools; tweaking in summer; staking; and the art of fall garden clean up. Items in this collection were selected from among Janet and Steven's ten years of *Michigan Gardener* articles. Each made its debut in that magazine, waited for its companion pieces and now they all join your library in this more durable and comprehensive form.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

Janet and Steven give you: Trees, Landscape Ideas and Garden Care New for 2010*

Set of three 10" x 13" magazines, 48 pages each. \$30.00

***For a look inside, email JMaxGarden@aol.com with the subject line "Magazine peek."**



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