

What's Coming Up:



Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila
answer your growing concerns
Issue 97, June 9, 2010

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Don't be bullied by your plants. Starting now, if a flowering plant doesn't look good any more, cut it down. If it dies, all you lost was a distracting visual effect. If it does what I expect, it will produce fresh new foliage and be a sight better addition to the scene. Here's Dominic Howell, who's just learned he can simply snap off the plant as its flowers fade. He's pleased to be mastering the mighty poppy. See pages 9 - 10.

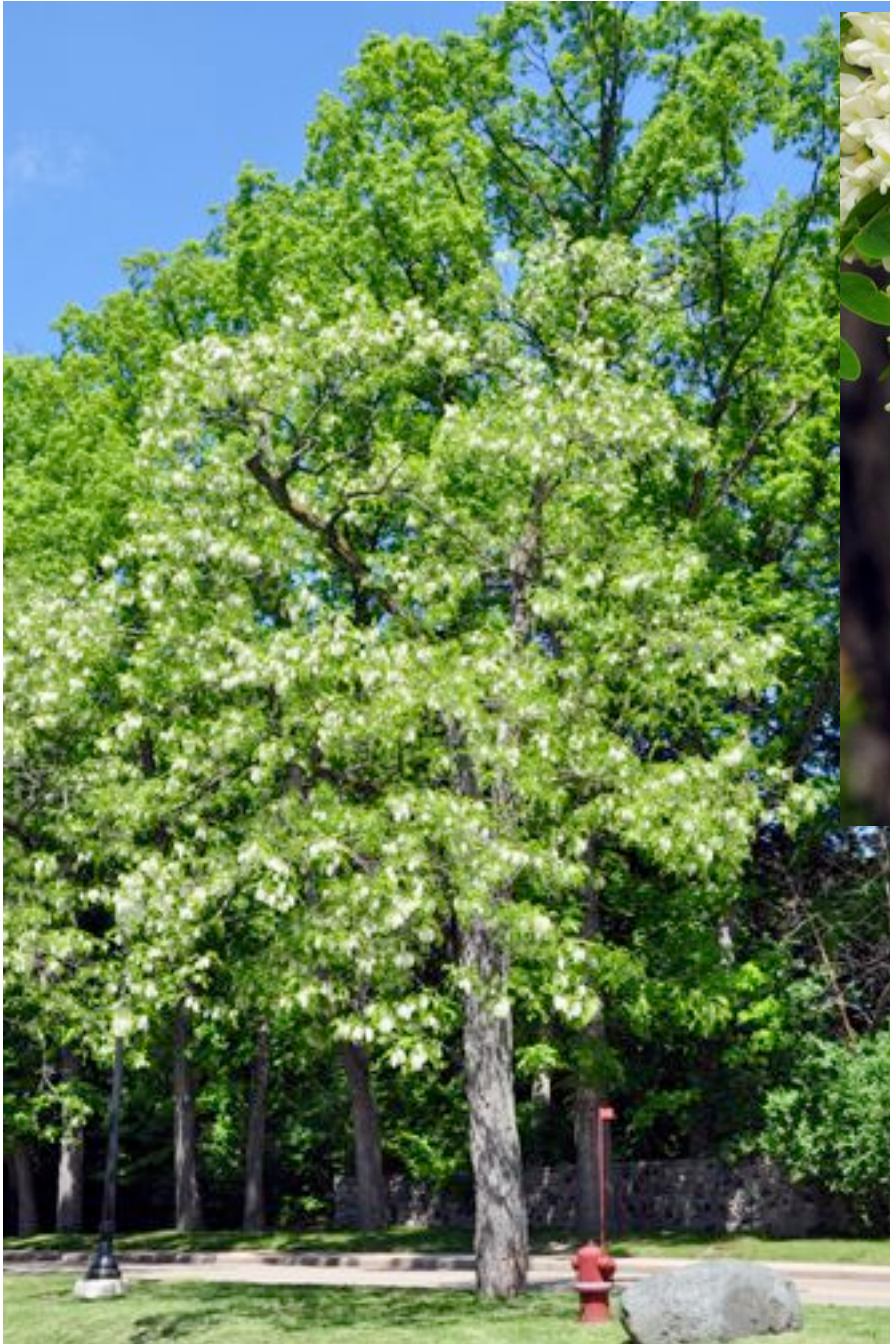
Locust: Unfortunate name for sweet smelling plant

We have some **trees** at the end of our block that **bloom in May** and **smell sweet**. A neighbor wants to know what they are so she can have one planted to replace a tree she lost. They have small leaves (photo attached). - A.H. -

One leaf of a black locust tree has many small leaflets arranged along a central rib. It's called a compound leaf because it has many leaflets.



We like black locust for its sinuous, open form, light shade, fast growth and fragrant flowers in May.



Could be a **black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), A.H. Also known as white- or yellow locust, it's a medium to large (40 to 80 feet) tree that's native to the southern Appalachians (Pennsylvania to Alabama) and the Ozarks. However, people moved it around to use it where they needed toughness and adaptability -- it's hardy to zone 3 and was able to grow even where smog was thick in the early days of

industrialization. From where it was planted, it spread by seed and runner. It can now be found "wild" in all the continental U.S. and much of Canada.

Currently, it's not often planted as a street tree in the U.S. Most city foresters feel its advantages are outweighed by drawbacks (thorns; suckering; susceptibility to a life-shortening, wood-weakening borer; no significant fall color; "messy" seed pods and twig dropping). Yet it is fast growing and at its best is a pretty tree with sinuous branching that does smell wonderful for a week or two in spring. A black locust in our neighborhood is one of Janet's favorite-ever trees for its form and flower.

Another possibility is that it's a **reverted honeylocust** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). Honeylocust is native in the lower Midwest and down to the central Gulf States. It's similar in stature, leaf and flower to black locust, and as dependable in poor soils and city conditions. It's planted often, although most people who grow it probably have no clue that "honey" in its name refers to the smell of the flowers and its value to beekeepers. That's because we almost always plant the thornless variety (*G. triacanthos Inermis*), which does not bloom. One thornless, golden-leaf selection called 'Sunburst' is so common in cities it's almost invisible.

Sometimes a branch or two on a thornless honeylocust will revert to the species' norm (check out the thorny-trunk norm at right!) and produce some thorny limbs which also flower. Then its scent may draw attention to the tree, and some people may notice there are seed pods on some limbs in fall.

You probably won't find a flowering honeylocust to buy. Cultivars of black locust are available at specialty nurseries.

If you intend to plant a black locust as a street tree, check first with your city. Some prohibit the species.

Poisonous plant reports

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) appears on some lists of poisonous plants, but its story isn't cut and dried. University of Pennsylvania* warns that it's dangerous to let cattle or horses eat the seeds, leaves or bark, while the University of Kentucky** states the pods are often eaten by livestock and wildlife. Meanwhile, North Carolina extension bulletin lists it *** as toxic only if eaten in large quantities. Furthermore, it states the flowers are not only safe eating but delicious.

It all just goes to show you that we still have a lot to learn.

* For more, copy this URL to your browser cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=40 no fall color

** See uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/kytreewebsite/pdf/ROBINIAprint.pdf

*** More at ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/Robinps.htm

Native American "weed" tree invades China, charms Europe

Black locust is synonymous with "weed" to many North Americans and in China it escaped cultivation to become a native-smothering weed. Yet in Europe it's frequently planted, prized for its form and scent, and fine selections have been made such as golden foliage 'Frisia', a half-size model or hybrid called 'Purple Robe' with fragrant purple flowers, plus a thornless dwarf called 'Inermis'. Some of these have made their way back to North America. We say it's a case of an ordinary local kid going to European finishing school then coming home to acclaim.



Poisonous relativity: We love dogs, yet we use cocoa hulls

On the subject of maybe-toxic plants, we have this to say about the reports we receive each year from readers warning us to keep cocoa hulls out of the gardens as they will kill our dogs.

Please send us any *personal* experience or *firsthand* report of a dog becoming ill from cocoa hulls. Include the veterinarian's name. Given that, we will research and report. Please do not relay secondhand and reporter-unknown stories.

As dog lovers and long time owners of generations of eat-anything black labs, we care about this. Yet we have seen and heard nothing to support the claim, despite gardening for literally hundreds of people for 25 years, probably half of them dog owners, and having had three veterinarians watching for nearly seven years for verification of the annual scare stories. Our vet friends did find one case of a cocoa-hull eating dachshund with an impacted bowel (a case in which foolish eating and poor digestion were the issue, not cocoa hulls' chemical make-up). One also learned of a cow sickened after eating a bale(!) of hulls.

We see no reason to stop using this excellent mulch.

Our current labs, Kolme and (Yippee)Kiyo.

We **check sources and facts** on stories before forwarding them, especially scary stories. We hope you do the same. You might start at **snopes.com**, the buster of urban-myths. You'll find there* a conclusion that cocoa hull/pet reports are **partially true but practically far less worrisome** than at first glance. Read carefully through the only verified report snopes' investigators found, and you may notice that although theobromine and cocoa hulls were present in a dog's body after a sudden unexpected death, no conclusion was drawn about its relation to the death. (Our vets comment: Dogs, like people, do die for unexplained reasons.)



* Copy this URL to your browser snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp,

Take care with manufactured chemicals, certainly. Your safety and long term health are more important than anything. Yet don't forget that if you grow plants, you are surrounded by chemistry. Even the most ordinary plants creates potent fungicides, insecticides, irritants, balms, hallucinogens, sedatives, nerve toxins, growth stimulants, lures, repellents... you name it. Treat all plants with respect!

- Janet -

Small trees to please the nose

I enjoy your newsletter. Since I am a new gardener, the newsletter has been very helpful.

We had a Dogwood that died and my husband and I were looking for a **replacement tree**. In the area it is to be planted, we need something **small, no higher than 12 feet**. It could be trimmed to that height, or could be smaller.

He heard about a honeysuckle tree but we can't find anything about it on-line, just the bush that appears to be invasive.

Is there such a TREE? He wanted it **for the smell**. Can it grow in our area? – S.B., Ann Arbor –

A spring-blooming shrub honeysuckle (left, below, at 10 feet tall) can be big enough to mimic a small tree, but lacks the clean lines of a multi-trunk tree and has no willingness to commit to just a few trunks with no low branches. In contrast, seven son shrub (right, below at 15' tall and blooming as mums open in September) has more of a tree's habit than a shrub's.



We're very glad you find our news useful, S.B. And impressed that a new gardener is already savvy enough to be checking on and steering clear of invasive plants. (The shrubby Eurasian

honeysuckles that have run amuck in North America, *Lonicera tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. maackii*, and *L. x bella* are not fragrant. The vine *L. japonica* aka *L. hallsiana*, is.)

There's no honeysuckle tree species that we know. Neither do we know of any manufactured honeysuckle trees. (With some work, most woody plants can be trained/pruned into tree form or a shrub can be grafted onto a related plant's trunk, but we haven't seen that done with honeysuckle.)



Here are some small woody plants that might fit the bill for size and scent.

Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) is a honeysuckle relative that flowers after crabapple bloom time, has a light, sweet scent and attracts butterflies. It's more bushy than tree form, but is so big (10-12 feet) that people often ask about it in this way: "There's this tree blooming on my street, it's pink, what could it be?"

Beautybush flowers (left) are deep tubes, fragrant and nectar-rich. In June, it's a 12-foot butterfly and hummingbird magnet.

Seven son shrub (*Heptacodium miconioides*) is another honeysuckle family member with a fragrance we love. It blooms at the end of summer -- early September. It's quite tree-like, and may even need pruning every few years to stop it at 12 feet. The fragrant flowers are white, showy and followed by attractive, pink seed pods. We also like its peeling white bark.

An **elderberry** (European *Sambucus nigra* or North American *S. canadensis*) can be grown as a small (10') tree. The scent is sweet. It's also intense -- bring the flowers indoors and they may become overpowering, as hyacinth does in close quarters. *S. nigra* is in bloom now in my area. *S. canadensis* blooms later, sometime in July. You will have to remove low branches if you want to make the trunks clear and tree-like. If you do go for a tree form, figure to counter the influence of a borer which attacks older elderberry canes. When you prune, always leave one straight, new sucker coming at the base. This "on deck" cane is the replacement for any cane you remove. Cut out each trunk after it serves for four or five years, and let the sucker begin its time as a main cane.

Sargent crabapple is a small (8-10') tree with sweetly fragrant blooms (left) pink in bud, white when open.



Sargent crabapples have a naturally low, wide habit. Left to its own devices (below, left, a group of three just beginning to bud out in spring) one tree may be 15' wide and 8' tall. The one on the right, below (in its pretty respectable fall color) we prune annually to keep it about 8' wide and 5' tall.



A tree is a woody plant, usually more than 20' tall, which can live its whole life on one trunk. A shrub is a woody plant, usually less than 20' tall, which often has multiple trunks and replaces those main trunks from time to time throughout its life.

All of these small trees/large shrubs bloom and grow best in full sun. That's at least 6 hours of cast-a-sharp-shadow sun each day of the growing season Elderberry, beautybush, seven son shrub and summersweet will remain healthy and manage to produce respectable bloom even in half sun -- 4 to 6 hours of sun per day.

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) is a shrub with spicy-sweet spike flowers in July -- white or somewhat pink. This is a 10' plant (avoid the half-size "dwarf" 'Hummingbird') which can be pruned to look like a little tree.

Burkwood- and Judd viburnums (*V. x burkwoodii* and *V. x juddii*) work as 10-foot trees, give or take a couple of feet. Burkwoods are evergreen in mild winters.

Both plants have a spicy clove scent in early spring from showy hemispherical clusters of white flowers.



Zone report: S.B., you can grow all these tree-shrubs since you're in southern Michigan in USDA hardiness zone 5.* The *What's Coming Up* network covers more ground, however. So:

- Zone 4 (northern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, parts of Ontario, Iowa, Illinois and New England, etc.), you might not be able to grow seven son shrub or Burkwood viburnum.
- Zone 3 (Upper Peninsular and highland Michigan, northern Minnesota, northern Ontario) choice drops to one, and that's elderberry. Check out common-, pekin- and meyer lilacs pruned as trees and deciduous 'Lights' series azaleas bred for the north in Minnesota.
- Zone 8 gardeners (the Carolinas, Florida, Tennessee, California, etc.) should pass over the crabapple, as it requires a longer cold period than you can muster, to flower well
- Zone 9 (Florida, California, southern tip Texas), go with summersweet. (Chuck, Sandy, Debbie, you'll like this plant!) Drop us a line if you're looking for more options. We *love* looking into those luscious plants you can grow, that we can't!

*Copy this URL to your browser to check your zone on an interactive map: usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html.

By flashlight and flashback: Earwigs

It won't be long now before my parsley seedlings are grown up and I'll be ready to harvest bouquets for garnishes and cooking. Last year I had the same hopes but was disappointed to see that every parsley tuft had gray spots and blemishes.

I went out with a flashlight the next night and was creeped out by the sight of hundreds of wriggling earwig bodies on the parsley.

Can I eliminate these vandals on my food? They make the trimmings and garnishes look bad. – Carolyn –

FLASHBACK to 2007: Earwigs as creepy good guys

Some of you in this network have been with us long enough to have your own archive of our work. You may recall this from our August 11, 2007 issue:

To respect an earwig

Earwigs move fast but not so fast that their rear-end pincers escape notice. They hide from the light, often inside the folds of spent flowers or under pots. Then, they startle us by scurrying out when we disturb their hidey hole. No wonder we recoil from them and grab for the insect killer. Yet as predators of other insects they may be doing more good than harm in your garden.

Several types of earwig stalk North American gardens, European immigrants as well as native species. Most do us at least some favor by their presence. If the earwig's formidable rear end pincers scare you, just imagine the effect on the earwig's tiny prey -- aphids, mites, other insects, and slugs.

Add our archives to your digital library. See pages 18 and 19

If the earwigs are bad again this year, earwig traps can help, Carolyn. Create dark places where they can hide by day, such as tubes, large bamboo sections or pieces of PVC pipe laid on their side near the target plants. Pick up the trap each day, tip and empty its contents into soapy water or onto a hard surface where you can do the earwig stomp.

Insecticides containing Sevin and cyfluthrin can be used, too.*

Earwigs are nasty-looking**, with their hind-end pincers, scuttling and dark-time habits. On the bright side: They do eat small insects and slugs*** (see Flashback to August, 2007). In fact, they prefer a high protein diet of insects but can eat a plant's soft parts. The European species, introduced in North America, is more apt to do this than common American native earwigs.

Overpopulation can push earwigs to dine on plants. To preserve the good they do but get them off plants, aim at reducing their numbers.

Somewhere nearby there must be ground that's moist and shaded, where they are making their homes. Earwigs dig little cave-tunnels and each female rears and guards a brood there. This place has to be always moist but not sopping and the ground has to be loose. If you can find that place, dig it over and dry it out, that can really cut the numbers of earwigs.

*For more, copy this URL to your browser: cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1206e/eb1206e.pdf

**www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/hilites/a3640.pdf

*** cecalaveras.ucdavis.edu/ear.htm

This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week I will:

Cut back spring bloomers without mercy. Perennial bachelor button (*Centaurea montana*), columbine (*Aquilegia*), ornamental *Salvias* and perennial *Geraniums* all fell before me this week.

If they aren't already growing new leaves from their base, they will do so soon, and look much better as fresh leafy clumps than spent, lanky heaps.



To deadhead, I remove the entire flowering stalk when it has more seed pods forming than flower buds open or ready to open. I cut where the scissors indicate on this ornamental perennial sage. After that stalk's remaining side branches bloom I'll cut it at ground level. I've deadheaded the right-side clump of white salvia (below, right), but not yet clipped the middle clump of white salvia or the purple form on the left. If I leave this group "as is", the deadheaded individual will continue creating flowers while the other two develop seed. In two weeks, the left side of the mass will be brown and splayed out, the right side back in bloom.



Below, and on next page: Blue cranesbill (*Geranium himalayense*) is done blooming. Removing its flowering stems means clipping those thick stems at ground-level. (Scissors' location.) New foliage is already coming from the plant's base. So the clump may look bare after its cut but that's very temporary. I'd show you, but if I wait three weeks for this clump to fill out, it will be too late to convince you to cut *now*.

Free the peonies. Deadhead them (those old petals are hotbeds of the *Botrytis* fungus that begin on dead tissue and then move to stems and into roots) and remove any visible stakes and cages. Without the heavy blooms, the stems will stand just fine on their own.

The cranesbill from previous page, after its cut.



Treat roses for rose slugs -- for me, that doesn't mean spraying but finding and squishing the little devils. The damage they do leads me to them.

Does it take time? Sure, but roses prosper when given time. Looking close always reveals something you would have missed which would mar the next bloom. This week, communing with roses as I hunted for their leaf-chewing pests, I was alerted to their need for fertilizer ahead of our normal schedule (see photo on next page).



Above. This groundcover rose looked good in passing. But (right) a closer look revealed leaves scraped of tissue, much like the rind of a watermelon after we eat the fruit. At the center of the photo and on the next page, look for this damage, the work of rose slugs.

Left: Rose slugs and damage.

Bottom: The new foliage on this plant is not just pale but chlorotic -- with darker veins. Nutrients needed!

Fertilize what's pale with a quick release, water soluble fertilizer, preferably one that's balanced or nearly so ("tomato food" 18-18-21 versus the badly named "bloom builders" such as 20-40-20). Where the soil's alkaline, a 20-20-20 or 7-7-7 that also contains micronutrients is my choice.

Usually they come later in June, these signs that heavy feeders like roses, *Clematis*, *Hydrangea* and *Delphinium* need nutrients. This year my area's extra-heavy rains have probably leached nutrient from the soil.

Too many times, I see gardeners parsing out nearly inconsequential amounts of fertilizer. Then, I can almost hear the plants saying "Hey, come back here with that!" Certainly, too much fertilizer is not good but too little doesn't net anything except wasted time.

When it's time to fertilize, I don't waste time by doing too little. This week, I applied liquid fertilizer at the rate of ½ pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, pouring it on needy plants. That's about 1/8 the annual need for a dahlia or tomato. This week's "side dressing" amounted to a 1-1/2 pound box of Miracle Grow powder 18-18-21 for 500 square feet of garden. ($1\text{-}1/2 \text{ pounds} \times 18\% = 0.27 \text{ pounds of nitrogen.}$)



Alternatively, I might have used 3-1/2 pounds (about ½ gallon) of liquid Ironite 7-7-7 or 3 quarts of 5-1-1 fish emulsion to accomplish the same thing.

I use liquid fertilizers at this time of year because I've already done all I could to supply slow release nutrients but the needs of big, hybrid flowers and super-size vegetable varieties require more.

I apply the fertilizer by mixing it in a bucket and pouring a quart to a gallon around each plant, small or large. I aim it at the plant's drip line -- why waste it splashing it where only weeds could benefit, between plants?

Sound like a huge job? It took just 45 minutes to fertilize 500 square feet -- that was a city lot with narrow beds down each side of the back yard, a deeper bed along the back, and a wide foundation planting in front.

Cut back shrubs -- more of those I didn't get to in April.

In April, Trudy and I were busy doing other things and missed cutting back this burning bush. No worry. I did it this week. that's a seven son shrub at left in the photo, with a clematis trained to grow up its main trunk.)



Apologize to the plants I sunburned by moving them into the sunlight too abruptly. I've seen the signs in others' plants as well as my own -- Canna, hosta, parsley, and many others with dead brown patches on older leaves, or whole leaves bleached right out, but new, sun-ready foliage looking just fine.



Left: This calla lily burned on its first day out in the full sun, ill-equipped by its time in a cool, shady store to handle heat and light. Below: Likewise, too-sudden sun turned some of this chervil's leaves to white. Neither case was a mystery, just a "Doh!" mistake. See the new foliage coming in clean and strong? That's your assurance that this isn't an ongoing disease.



Get personal with hollies of unknown sex now, while they're blooming. Both male and female shrubs bloom but only females bear the fruit... if they have a male nearby. Sometimes when I see a group of hollies lacking berries in winter I wonder if they might be all males, or a bunch of females lacking a male pollen source.

Same goes for bittersweet and kiwi vines.

I look at the flowers to see if they have pollen. Those are male flowers.

The 45mph garden

You can put a gardener behind the wheel but you can't entirely disengage us from the garden. So of course this would catch our eye:

Are we too comfortable with herbicide/weedkiller? Is collateral damage becoming more common? This sighting is why we say "yes" to both with a "no wonder!" to the second question.



Notice that this man has bare legs and arms. If we showed his face you'd see eyes, nose and mouth exposed, too. (We don't show his face because we see people doing this every day and thus use this man to represent many.)

In addition to exposing his skin to absorb drifting chemicals, he's exposing the desirable plants, too. It happened to be a breezy day. In the U.S. Weather Service's terms, that means winds were between 15 - 25 mph. Yet even if it had been calm, just a few feet from this man 45 mph rush hour traffic was creating a mean crosswind. The daylilies in this bed almost certainly received a dose of plant killer, so that someone will wonder in a week "What's wrong with these plants?"

When using a pesticide (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide, etc.) remember that it is a controlled substance and the label is, very literally, the law regarding its use.

From the label on Roundup weedkiller:

...Applicators and other handlers must wear: long-sleeved shirt and long pants, shoes plus socks, and protective eyewear...

... Do not apply this product in a way that will contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift...

The following drift management requirements must be followed to avoid off-target drift movement from aerial applications to agricultural field crops.

Drift potential is lowest between wind speeds of 2 to 10 miles per hour...

... When applications are made with a crosswind, the swath will be displaced downwind.

Therefore, on the up and downwind edges of the field, the applicator must compensate for this displacement...

The odd thing about common sense is that it isn't very common.

- Voltaire -

Green thumbs up to scents and sights that make a calendar unnecessary for someone who's gardened for years in a given area. We know it's June when we catch the spicy sweet smell of a mock orange (*Philadelphus coronaries*), or notice northern *Catalpa*'s big white, upstanding flower clusters. *Catalpa* flowers are fragrant, too, but so far above our heads that most people don't connect that scent and sight.

Green thumbs down to the storm that always comes to batter the biggest flowers. Always cut a few peonies, iris and poppies as they open and enjoy them indoors, before the storm gods send their erasing forces. Be sure to singe the cut end of the poppy stem in a flame before plunging it into a vase, to sear the milky sap that would otherwise plug the stem, preventing water's entry and causing the flower to wilt.



Ah, peony, oh iris, was it just a week ago we enjoyed your beauty, for a moment?

Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

An eternal student of gardening, Janet Macunovich has embraced the perspectives of Thomas Jefferson (who said he was 'an old man but a young gardener') and philosopher-garden writer Allen Lacy (who can 'spend an entire lifetime in one corner of one garden and still not know all that's going on there'). She aims to keep studying gardening all her life, at universities' and botanical gardens' courses, in books and at lectures, in hers and others' gardens. "It's such a privilege to work in other peoples' gardens," says Macunovich, "where the same plants I grow in my yard show me all the aspects they can take in different situations. Some years I work in 100 gardens and don't see the same thing twice. To observe, question, research and experiment in gardens, to talk with, learn from

and explain what I've learned to others, that's better than gold."

An instructor who finds ways to reach every student. Horticultural photographer Steven Nikkila earned his degree in Landscape Technology from Oakland Community College in 1989. Since then he's helped thousands of people learn about photography, plants and gardens at

gardening conferences, professional plant societies' symposia, community education organizations and botanical gardens. He also served as a senior instructor for The Michigan School of Gardening from 1996 to 2008. "I think one of the most important things about both teaching and photography is the angle you take. Everything has to make sense and be useful to the particular audience. When a Boy Scout troop asked me to help them with tree I.D. and photography, I used essentially the same materials I'd put together for the Master Gardener program and an Extension Educators' workshop. But it was a whole different class once I tailored it for the Scouts' perspective."

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

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 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 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. That line-up includes people like professional gardener Deb Hall (left, with Steven) who's dug many a planting hole with Janet and Steven as well as impressing us with unmatched ingenuity, creativity and humor. (She's also responsible for the (in)famous photo of Janet dubbed "Dances with firs", above, taken while that pair pruned in a Massachusetts 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 JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850 for a speaker/topic list or to set up a talk, workshop or class.

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

Saturday, June 26: Janet & Steven are in **Marquette, Michigan** at the Marquette Beautification & Restoration Committee's 3rd Annual Garden Extravaganza. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Northern Michigan University. Fifteen seminars are offered and lunch is included. Janet & Steven's part is to explain how to enjoy *Eight Months of Color* in your garden. For more information and to register, contact Judy Place, jplace@nmu.edu or 906-226-9904.

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Crocker House Garden Walk, Mount Clemens, Michigan Learn and tour in Mount Clemens area gardens, beginning with a 9:30 breakfast of scones, fresh fruit and tea at a talk about *Green Gardening* by pro gardener Deb Hall (more about Deb on page 15). The Crocker House is at 15 Union Street in Mount Clemens. For information, call Kim or Marcia at 586-465-2488 or go to crockerhousemuseum.com/Garden-Walk2010.html.

More, throughout the summer. Details will be posted here. For more, email JMaxGarden@aol.com.

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 almost any flower or type of scene you can imagine. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and nearly as many natural images. Above: *Forest Seduction* from the Scottish Highlands. Right: A snowy egret strolls down a southeast Michigan road. Or how about *Are we there yet?* (on page 4.)

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

There is so much clear detail in these images that they are as clear at 8' x 12' as 8" x 12". Prices depend on your choices in format and size. For example:

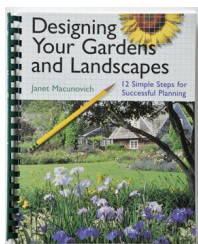
Matted, in 11" x 14.5" frame \$48.00

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