

What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila answer your growing concerns
Issue #156, September 7, 2011

In this issue:

Rocky row, great plants, pages 1 - 4
It'll get *how big*?! Pages 5 - 11
Avoid overplanting, page 10
Pruning a young tree, pages 11 - 13
3 cuts to subtract one limb, page 12
Daylily from seed, pages 13 - 14
Great expectations, page 14
Patented plants, personal use, page 14
Who are Janet & Steven? Page 15
Where to see us, how to bring us to
your town, page 15
Books, magazines & CDs, pp. 16 - 17



Right, above: Here are two Lilliputians admiring a dwarf laceleaf maple, right? Nope, it's simply a tree just like that cute little thing you planted in a tiny space in your garden, allowed to grow to full size, being admired by two average adults. Not what you expected from the plant? You're not alone. See page 5.



Plants for a rocky row

In Issue #153, we asked for your favorite crevice **plants**, species that the volunteer gardeners can expect **to thrive between big stepping stone rocks** at Ottawa Park in Cheboygan, Michigan.

The spireas and daylily currently planted along the rocks are dwarf forms. Yet they are already hiding some of the vertical face of the stone and when fully grown may hide them completely. Or they'll be battered and unsightly from being stepped on and scraped in passing by those who will not be able to resist hopping on and walking down that line of flat rocks. (In this photo, notice the sneakered toe approaching!) By contrast, low-growing, crevice-loving rock plants will add lots of color without getting in the way of rock-walkers or suffering with every dismount.

Read on for that line-up of attractive species that will never be tall enough to hide these rocks and that will persist despite foot traffic. They'll be a colorful low border, snuggled into the safe space where rock meets ground.

Thank you to all who contributed to this list. Since this project called for hardiness zone 4 species, we did leave off a few of the more tender suggestions, but only a few. The majority of plants suitable for growing in rocky crevices are adapted to high elevations -- they like the cold.

Below: Many feet trod near this Dalmatian bellflower (*Campanula portenschlagiana*). Even if it loses stems, it persists, its crown safe in a crevice.



Dalmatian bellflower



candytuft



moss phlox

Best in sun:

Bellflowers, small species (*Campanula* species, such as *C. portenschlagiana*, *C. rotundifolia* and *C. carpatica*)

Violet or white flowers June or July. Hardy to zone 4, some to zone 2.

Birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) Bright yellow flowers beginning in midsummer; probably the best or only one on this list that does not need protection to put up with roadside salt, compaction, etc. Zone 3 to 9. (Disregard listings showing it hardy only to zone 5. It's naturalized throughout North America into zone 3.)

Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens* especially the dwarf form 'Little Gem') Brilliant white flowers in spring. Zone 3 to 9.

Carpet junipers (*Juniperus horizontalis*) Green, blue-green or gold evergreen foliage that hugs the ground like a living carpet... with potential to be very wide plants with thick woody stems. No significant flower. Zone 3 to 8.

Moss phlox/Creeping phlox (*P. subulata*) Evergreen. Blooms white, pink or violet in early spring. Zone 2 to 8.

Moss pinks (*Dianthus gratianopolitanus*, *D. alpinus* and other evergreen groundhuggers) Pink, red-violet or white flowers in late spring, grassy blue-green foliage. Zone 3 to 8.

Rupturewort (*Herniaria glabra*) Dependable, dense evergreen mat; insignificant flower. Zone 3 to 7. (It's often listed as hardy only to zone 5 or 6. However, the nicest green carpet of rupturewort we've seen was in zone 4 Minneapolis, and it is reported in States' and Provinces' records and the USDA plant database as a waif -- an occasional naturalizer -- right up into northern Ontario.)

Sedum, small creepers (*S. cauticola*, *S. dasyphyllum*, *S. spurium*, *S. rupestre*, *S. ternatum*. Many more, some quite tolerant of shade.) White, yellow or pink flowers, foliage in many colors and patterns. Zone 3 or 4 to 8.

Thyme species and varieties such as *Thymus serpyllum*, *T. nitens*, *T. pseudolanuginosus*. Pink or violet flowers in early summer, scented evergreen foliage. Zone 5 to 8, hardier with steady snow cover.

Best given some shade, at least during the hottest part of the day:



false rock cress

Ajuga reptans, small leaf types such as 'Chocolate Chip' or 'Pink Elf'. Blue-violet flowers in May. Zone 3 to 9. (Photo, next page)

Creeping Jenny/Moneywort/Golden Coins (in its yellow leaf form). (*Lysimachia nummularia*) Yellow flowers in spring. Zone 3 to 9.

Creeping veronica (*V. alpina* and *V. prostrata*) Blue or violet flowers in spring. Deep green glossy leaves, or gold leaf form. Zone 3 or 4 to 8.

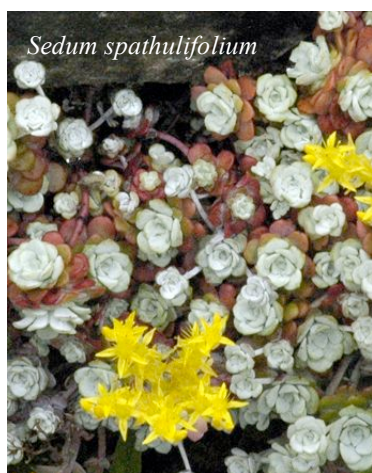
False rock cress (*Aubrieta deltoidea*) Pink or purple flowers in early spring. Gray-green foliage. Zone 4 to 7.

Lamium/Deadnettle (*L. maculatum* varieties) Pink, violet or white flowers worthy of note but the real attraction is the white- or yellow-marked foliage. Zone 3 to 8.

Sandwort (*Arenaria montana*) White flowers in spring, from mossy evergreen foliage. Zone 4 to 7.

Why no full-shade plants?

Most plants that evolved to grow between bare rocks are strangers to shade. They are native to exposed hilltops and mountain meadows.



Sedum spathulifolium

Many species that prefer full sun may be suitable for part shade. Much depends on your expectations: *Sedum spathulifolium* (left) may grow in less than full sun but those conditions may not bring out the ruddy color in each stem's older leaves. *S. kamschaticum* (right) will grow in part shade but not bloom as fully as in sun.

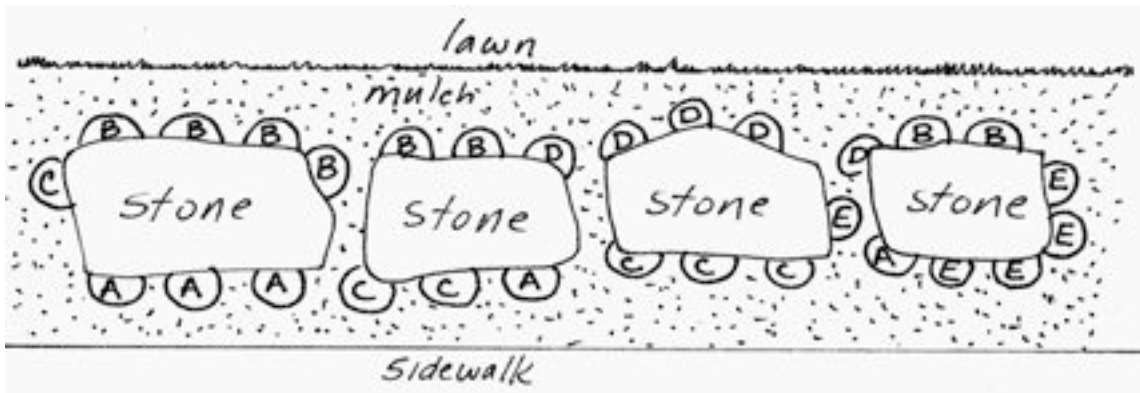


Sedum kamschaticum

The genus *Sedum* is very large, with around 600 species and hundreds more varieties. As a group they are without peer in rock gardens but the various species should not be lumped together when it comes to growing conditions.

When designing for crevice plants along a line of stones, keep it simple. Choose four or five species -- perhaps something to bloom each month, May to September. Plant one or two rocks at a time, grouping two or more plants of one shade-loving species along the north or east side and two or three of a sun-loving type along the south or west. Add one plant of a third kind here or there, something that pleases you for having different texture or foliage color than the others. For example, the bronze-leaf *Ajuga* in the photo below makes a nice contrast with the fine gold foliage of *Sedum* 'Angelina.'

Here, plants A, C and E must be sun-lovers and because they are near the public sidewalk, must be able to tolerate de-icing salt. B and D should be types that prefer some shade, since they will grow in the shadow of their stone.



Once planted, let the plants mix it up. They'll cover for each other, knit themselves together, and venture out where they find safe spots.

Below: In any quilt of plant species, occasional referee-ing is needed. If you mix *Sedum* 'Angelina' with *Ajuga* you will need to peel 'Angelina' back from time to time so her gold fingers don't smother the *Ajuga* as they lengthen.



Advice for those who plant in rocks

I was in England in May and questioned a gardener there about how to get crevice plants started. He suggested placing the plants in small peat pots that had been soaked until malleable. This allows one to shape the pot to fit into a small crevice and allows the roots

to develop without the soil washing away. He said he had tried many options and that this had the best success rate. He also cautioned that there would still be failures. Perhaps you should warn folk not to expect 100% success in crevice planting. - S.J. -

Another thing that is difficult with crevice plantings is the watering. I found that putting ice cubes around the new plants as they establish helps with the difficulty of watering. - G.M. -

Size surprise syndrome: Does anyone really know how big it will be?

For eight years we've been planting our landscape. At first we were so happy with things that grew but now we're hoping some of them will stop. Almost **everything we planted is bigger than what we were told it would be.** We've told people at the garden center, "It's gotten to be taller than the garage!" and they say, "Oh yeah, it gets that big." These are the same people who told us it was a good foundation plant! What is the deal? - E.N. -



Right: We've seen it before: "Little" plants such as red leaf Japanese maple become bigger than expected.

Many upright Japanese maples grow to 25', or more. How big is that? This 25' 'Bloodgood' dwarfs a full sized pick-up.

Overgrown landscapes are no joke. See **page 10 for how to avoid overplanting.**

For our take on the **how these misfit situations come about, read on right here.**

Silent assumptions come into play. For instance, a seller may feel sure that everyone keeps foundation shrubs clipped, but it goes unsaid. You never know to say, "I hate to prune." Another seller may figure, "everyone moves every ten years and doesn't like to wait for things to grow." If that idea doesn't come out in the open, you might also not think to say that you just moved into a forever-home and like to watch things grow. These and many other ideas are in unstated operation as plant information is written up, as you talk to a garden center staffer or read a plant's pot tag, an on-line catalog, or a plant encyclopedia.



The salesperson at a garden center may figure that everyone will prune redtwig dogwood (*Cornus alba*) -- cut some or all of its stems to the ground each spring so the shrub is always full of new canes that show the best winter color. So it may not occur to him/her to tell you that it will be as shown at left -- 8 feet tall and twice as wide --if it is *not* cut back regularly.

Another monkey wrench: **Species variability and the limited perspective of any one person.** Measure 100 individuals in any plant species and you'll find significant variation in height and width. Given a lifetime and an inexhaustible travel fund, one person might be able to see enough examples of a particular plant in all regions and situations to see how genetics, climate and growing conditions affect its size. Combine data from 1,000 such studies and a useful plant list develops, providing a *range* of sizes for each plant.

We can describe the average plant but there will always be some which will outgrow and outlive the average. Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) is usually a 20 to 30' tree. These at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania are 30' tall and 40' wide. (Steven included a person in the photo so their size could be appreciated.) Yet the kousa in our front yard is 20 years old and barely 10' tall. We appreciate knowing that there is potential for such difference, and so we rely on references such as *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* by Michael Dirr. There we find realistic descriptions such as: "About 20 to 30' in height with an equal spread; can be smaller or larger depending on the area of the country."

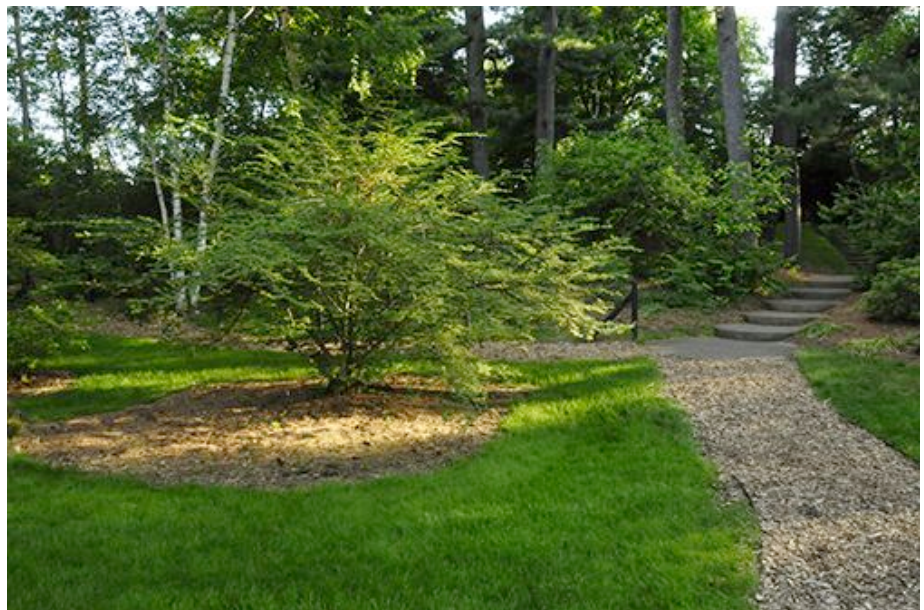


Don't we wish we could predict which plants will hit their species average, which will be held back, and which ones will excel! Also at Longwood Gardens, this 24' coral bark maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku') is right on the average, 20-25' tall.



Above: Surprise! "Dwarf" burning bush (foreground, *Euonymus alata* 'Compacta') is not the size of Sleepy, Doc and Grumpy. It's 8-10' tall. (A serviceberry tree, *Amelanchier canadensis*, is in the background.)

Right: That burning bush may be smaller and less dense when grown in shade.



Reality is more limiting. An authority aware of plant variability, widely traveled, diligent in note-taking, and connected to many others can do a good job describing hundreds or thousands of plants to create a plant encyclopedia. Yet **even a "best book" is not perfect.**

Every work is **influenced by** editors, publishers and marketers. The editor may or may not have the connections and budget to enlist a proofreader qualified to question height and spread. The writer may not control photo selection, which is driven by publishers and marketers who know that **images, not words, create sales.** So a book may depict a cute young crabapple rather than the same plant at full size.



Left, and below: Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is an excellent small tree for a landscape. This beautiful specimen at Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan is 25' tall, average in size for this species described by Michael Dirr: "20 to 30' in height by 25 to 35' in spread, national champion is 39' by 40' in Jackson, MO." Yet a publisher may shy away from using this photo to illustrate a chapter on small trees, because the reality of 25' may be overwhelming.

Pictures do speak louder than words, so they **lead to size-surprise syndrome** even in a book that gives realistic measurements. You may read that a juniper may reach eight feet in height, yet what sticks in your mind is the image of a feathery 36-inch mound.



Below: Replace any mental image of 'cute little mounded dwarf juniper' with this more realistic one. It's *Juniperus chinensis*, one of the 'Pfitzeriana' variety. It has not defied its description -- it is only 36" tall, but nearly four times as wide. And it's not yet done growing.



There are also **a lot of plants so new to cultivation** in the landscape that **we can only guess** what size they'll be. A grower who imports the seed of an attractive plant to add it to his or her sales inventory may have seen it three feet tall in its native region. She/He might guess it will be a bit smaller when people rather than Nature pick its growing place, so describe it in the catalog as "two to three feet." However, the grower may be basing that guess on an atypical natural stand of the plant, or the species may grow larger in a new land, free of its native pests.

As for **new plants from seedlings and cuttings** of interesting oddities, if it has market potential, a grower doesn't wait and grow it for 20 years to see what it will do, but makes **guesses about its final size**. Given cuttings from a pine with golden needles, a look at their growth rate so far and a comparison to others in its species, the grower may predict the plants will reach five feet in height. After 20 years that may be revised

to ten feet. However, no one corrects all those books and catalogs printed with the first guess, so the understatement lives on for many years.



Left: Birdsnest spruces (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis') are excellent foundation plants where evergreens are in order but we want something slower growing than most yews and junipers.

Below: A birdsnest spruce doesn't get too tall, but does grow wider and wider.

Some dwarf selections have been grown from branches of birdsnest that were even slower and denser in growth than the norm. It's assumed those plants will be smaller than the "parent" but until the original cuttings have grown for 20 years or so, we don't know that for sure.

One last factor in the mix: **Many of us aren't able to visualize from numbers.** We might smile as we plant what we're told, "will be about 10 feet tall and maybe a bit wider." We might shun that same item if someone explained that's, "as tall and wide as a school bus."



Left: Think twice about size. This "tree" that is hiding a two story home is a yew *shrub*, growing unchecked. Yews are trees and even the dwarf forms we use for foundation plantings (such as *Taxus x media* 'Densi', 'Wardii' and 'Hicksii') have the potential to be 20' tall or wide.

We can develop some pretty firm wrong notions about plant size. If you think laceleaf Japanese maples are just a few feet tall and wide, when you see this one behind a protective fence (construction was underway nearby) you may think, "That's a little fence." Add people to the scene (two average adults, below, right) and you may still see a tiny tree, now with "Two little kids."



Finding the right size plant

We're sorry that there's no short explanation for why plant size surprise happens. There is, however, a fairly short recipe for avoiding it:

When you are deciding what to plant:

- 1) **Check at least two respected authors'** reports for height *and* width.
- 2) **Go see the plant at a botanical garden.** Inquire at the information center if that species and variety is in the collection. Ask how to determine its age from its plant tag or other source.
- 3) **Check with gardeners in you area,** to see what's growing, how large, in local conditions. Use the plant's scientific name as you research and buy. There can be great differences between a plant and its cultivated varieties, and between unrelated plants that share common names.

Anyone starting to garden... would be wise to look around carefully and see what grows well in other people's yards. - Thalasso Cruso, in *Making Things Grow Outdoors* -



You can judge plant size right in your own neighborhood. If you stop at the neighbor's driveway and look under this 25' wide evergreen's skirt, you'll see there is just one cluster of trunks. That's the way to know the potential of a single "dwarf" (short) Pfizer juniper. Certainly you can keep it pruned, but forewarned is fore-armed: start clipping before it becomes so large it can't be cut back.

Juniperus chinensis 'Pfizeriana'... The granddaddy of juniper cultivars; ...usually listed as growing about 5' high and 10' wide, actually can grow larger...

- Michael Dirr -

Raising the question of elevating a young tree

There are 3 Tulip trees in my north side yard. My uncle calls them "whitewood".

These are "grandtrees" of Michigan's Champion Tulip that once stood in Russ Forest near Decatur. My grandfather and Fred Russ, of Michigan State fame, became friends and worked together on planting the seeds from that champion.

I got mine from my uncle when we moved here. He, too has since passed. Anyway, suffice it to say I want these trees to survive!

My husband feels we should trim the bottom branches off. I'm kinda scared to do it.



Tulip tree or tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is a fast growing, straight-trunked North American (zone 4) tree that may reach 90 feet. It has a distinctive leaf shape, an interesting but hard-to-see flower (they occur 'way high up!) and great, late, yellow fall color.

Photo ©2011 J. Root; inset photos ©2011 Steven Nikkila

Is it all right to trim these little trees' bottom branches when it gets colder?
- J.R. -

It is okay. Prune right now, or wait until after all the leaves have fallen -- preferably, wait until a February thaw.

In a woods, tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) **naturally shed lower limbs** as they shade each other. As you mimic Nature you can go her one better, "inflicting" clean cuts which will be much more quickly grown over than the stubs of limbs that atrophied, dried and eventually snapped away.

Removing the lower limbs is also **insurance against damage**. In a mowed area, low limbs are at risk of being yanked and torn by passing equipment, which would not be good. (We also recommend a big mulched circle around each tree, rather than lawn as close as it appears to be in your photo. We know you're being careful as you mow around them but all it would take is one hard bump with a mower to damage and permanently weaken the trunk.)

We think you will be pleasantly shocked, too, at how they **take off in upward growth** after you elevate them.

We just pruned two tulip trees, last month -- took off all the lower limbs, so the trunk is "clear" up to about 9 feet. The trees lost a bit more than 1/3 their total leaf surface. We know there will be so **much new growth next year** we will look and say "Didn't we prune those two?" We may have to walk under them, experiencing the headroom, to convince ourselves that we did prune.

Hope that assures you. What a great legacy you have in those trees!



- Undercut large branch first (1)
- Remove weighty end (2)
- Then finish cut (3) to collar (4)

Cut a limb in 3 steps

Take the weighty part of the limb off, first, so you can make a clean final cut to remove all but the branch collar.



1) Undercut the limb. Saw from the bottom up, halfway through -- until the branch's weight shifts and begins to pinch the saw.



2) Move out an inch or two toward the branch tip and cut down from above. The branch will crack and drop away without ripping. Here you see the upper cut has cracked back to the undercut.



3) Remove the stub; take care not to cut into the branch's "collar."

Mantra for those who prune a young tree

- Use a sharp, clean saw.
- Avoid pruning when leaves are forming or falling. Good times to prune are late summer and during a late winter thaw.
- Leave the branch bark collar intact. (At right, the collar is the thickened ridge above and "seam" that extends down and back into the trunk.)
- Cut a little ways out on a limb first, to take the weight off. Then you can cut just outside the branch collar without having the full branch drop down and rip through the collar. (See *Cut a limb in 3 steps*, on page 12.)
- Don't paint.
- Be brave. You can remove up to a third of the tree's leaf surface without worry.
- In figuring how much you've cut and when to stop, count leaves or leaf buds, not wood. The leaves are what "feed" sugar to their own branches and then give their excess to the rest of the tree's wood and roots. A low branch that must stretch 8 feet before it is out of the shade and in enough light to support leaves, is much less productive than upper limbs with fewer feet of leafless wood.



Daylilies from seed

I have come upon some **daylily seeds** that I would like to start in my house this winter. What should I do to prepare the seeds and **how should I plant them?** Will the plants flower the first year if they are started early? - D.D. -

Remove the seeds from the pod, **let them air-dry** for a few days and then **store them** in a cool place until it's time to plant. They can be stored in a refrigerator but also keep well at 70 degrees. Storage temperature does not significantly affect germination time or rate.

Sow the seed on moist soilless potting medium -- one of the sterile mixtures of peat, bark and perlite or vermiculite sold at garden centers. **Cover them** with a layer of the mixture that is about as thick as the seeds are. The seed should sprout in 2 to 3 weeks, and then need plenty of light. So make your sowing at a time when you will be able to move the seedlings outdoors or under lights after sprouting.

Daylily seedlings usually don't bloom until their third year, although some growers do get bloom in the second year by greatly extending the growing season.

Seedling daylilies rarely match the seed-parent exactly -- even seeds from the same pod may produce plants that vary in height, bloom time or color. If you want a precise duplicate of a particular daylily, separate some root from the clump and grow that division. Such clones will also bloom sooner than seedlings.

Here's our young friend Beatrix (helping her Mum plant bulbs last fall) to wrap up this issue-which-threatens-to-keep-growing:

Think of her when you wonder how big a plant may become. That is, she may be bigger or smaller than either of her parents, yet her height will fall within the normal human range. Will you love her, or your new plant, less if that size is either side of average?

Likewise, when you think about what will come of planting seed you collect, keep Bea in mind. She's no clone but her own person, a hybrid of two parents' genes. She'll probably look and act something like both parents, but in which ways...? That's the mystery and the fun of seed.

Want to naturalize bulbs? Give them to a child to scatter. Plant them where she drops them, even if there are 6 together here, one by itself there.



Planting seed or making divisions? Don't trample plant patent rights!

Regarding patented plants:

If the label on the plant you purchased includes P.P. (#), or PPAF (plant patent applied for) or Plant Patent No. (#), it should be treated as a patented plant.

Your purchase price nets you one plant of the patented type, for personal use. The patent holder has the right to collect a fee for each plant propagated for sale or profit. If you divide your plant, or renew it from cuttings to keep it healthy, that's fine. However, if you divide, take cuttings or otherwise propagate the plant for sale or for others, check first with a patent attorney.

Where's the rest of the newsletter -- In Our Garden, Green Thumbs Up...?

Shifted to issue #157, so we could wrap this one up *now*! We'll have them to you in a few days!

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 Schlotz 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 and Steven in-person:

Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. *Fall Gardening Extravaganza*, presented by the Michigan State University Alpine Master Gardeners in **Gaylord, Michigan**. Janet and Steven guide you through ***Visualizing Changes to a Garden or Landscape***, and then provide you with ideas for your own landscape makeover in ***Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces, Favorite Plants and Combinations, and Fabulous Foliage***. At the Otsego Club Resort and Conference Center. Early bird registration until September 16 is just \$45; includes a sit-down lunch. For more information call Dee Burau 989-732-2527 or obtain a registration packet at [http://www.otsego.org/amg/Trifold_idea_1d.1\[1\].pdf](http://www.otsego.org/amg/Trifold_idea_1d.1[1].pdf)

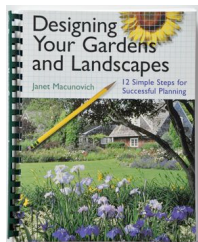
Invite Janet or Steven to your club or community.

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 with new material and "hybrids" from our basic 100.

We're game for **how-to lessons for a garden club** meeting, **hands-on workshops** at a site of your choosing or a **multi-part class** for a small group!

So give us a **call or send an email** to make a date, or request our list of classes and talks.
JMaxGarden@aol.com or 248-681-7850

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. Text by Janet Macunovich. 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 one index.

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



Potting Up Perennials CD. New for 2011

Practical, beautiful answers about perennials and all kinds of flowers, trees, shrubs, design, pruning and much more is in this collection of 2009 & 2011's *What's Coming Up*. Includes 101 issues with over 1,700 pages, 1,600 articles and 2,400 images. Has a comprehensive index with how-to guide so you can search for any topic or detail in any of the 101 issues. 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. \$20.00

Janet & Steven's complete digital library New for 2011

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



Janet and Steven give you: Trees*

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

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 2011. Now they're collected in this set for your design library.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pp. Color Ill.'s. \$12.00



Janet and Steven give you: Garden Care*

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 *

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."

Please print, complete and mail this order form with your check to purchase any of our CDs, journals, books or discount sets:

Your name: _____

Mailing address _____

Email or phone where we may reach you if there are questions: _____

Special instructions (re: autograph you would like or delivery to different locations): _____

CDs

Asking About Asters Special Edition 6-book CDqty. _____ @ \$20.00 ea.=\$ _____

Potting Up Perennials CD, all of *What's Coming Up*

from 2009-2011, with Daydream screen saverqty. _____ @ \$20.00 ea.=\$ _____

Books

Designing Your Gardens and Landscapesqty. _____ @ \$19.00 each=\$ _____

Caring for Perennialsqty. _____ @ \$20.00 each=\$ _____

Magazines: 48-pages of our articles on one topic; full color, oversized pages, soft cover

Janet and Steven give you: Treesqty. _____ @ \$12.00 each=\$ _____

Janet and Steven give you: Landscape Ideasqty. _____ @ \$12.00 each=\$ _____

Janet and Steven give you: Garden Careqty. _____ @ \$12.00 each=\$ _____

Special discount sets: (save up to \$6 over individual prices)

Trees, Landscape Ideas and Garden Careqty. _____ set @ \$30.00= _____

Asking About Asters CD and *Potting Up Perennials* CDqty. _____ set @ \$30.00= _____

Still FREE:

Our *What's Coming Up* e-newsletter.

Pages and pages of timely garden how-to every week!

Email JMaxGarden@aol.com to join the mailing list.



Total your order

A. Total of items ordered above\$ _____

B. **Michigan residents must add 6% sales tax**\$ _____

C. Shipping and handling (See below)\$ _____

D. Grand total A+B+C **Total enclosed \$** _____

Make foreign checks "payable in U.S. funds"

Make checks payable to Janet Macunovich.

Mail to 120 Lorberta, Waterford, MI 48328-3041

Shipping and handling

1-3 CDs\$4

1-3 Magazines or 1 set of 3\$6

Each book\$4

Larger orders: Inquire via email to JMaxGarden@aol.com

Outside U.S.: Compute shipping as above, then multiply x 1.5

Satisfaction guaranteed: If you are not thoroughly delighted, you may return your order within thirty days of receipt for a full refund of your purchase price minus any shipping and handling.

We accept orders by mail with check or money order, and in-person orders any time you come to one of our educational events or hands-on gardening session.