

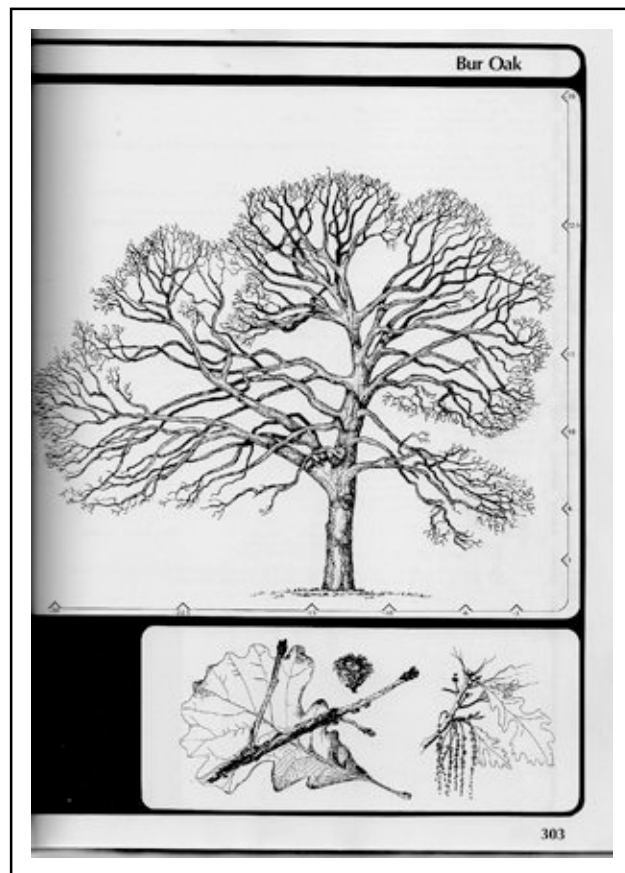
## What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila answer your growing concerns  
Issue #158, October 5, 2011

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Right: *Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Urban and Rural America* is an indispensable reference for the gardener looking to assemble a naturalized plant community. More on page 7.



### Cut short a weeping cherry's veil of tears

We have a **weeping cherry** and knew it would get pretty big so we gave it room to get 20 feet wide or more, and as tall. We'd like it to be natural and graceful, and don't like how these trees look when someone shears them over and over, cutting off the trailing branches at the same level. Probably you've seen what we mean, when the branch ends make a thick, plum-level hem and the whole tree looks like an inverted bowl.



However, we don't want our tree to weep to the ground. We want to be able to see the trunk. **How do we go about pruning it** for that look, without sacrificing flower? - G.C. -



For the shaggier look in the bottom right photo, prune your tree **each year within a few weeks after it flowers**. Reach up -- you may need a ladder; we certainly do -- to **shorten every one of the**



**longest, ground-sweeping branches** by two- or three years' growth. You might have to follow up in late summer or early fall to clip back additional, overly ambitious new shoots.

On each limb, **clip to just below a side branch** that's positioned to make a graceful new tip. Shorten any side branches that extend further/lower than this new tip. The branch now ends at the tip of your selected side branch. If that end is several feet higher above ground than before you started cutting, you're good for the year.

Vigorous new wood will grow from those tips and be ready to bloom after a year, trailing gracefully. While it's growing back to the bottom of the tree's "skirt" you'll have clipped other branches in their turn as they bloomed and reached for the ground.

Right: See the change in color between new honey-colored wood that formed this year, and older, gray wood?



Left: Once we look at the new wood, we see that this tree grows about 18 inches each year. So we'll cut this limb back to the small side branch (upper arrow, and pictured above), making it about three feet shorter (three feet higher above ground). That limb can grow for a couple of years until it's once again as long as it was. By that time what was a little side branch will be trailing down to where the branch was in its year to be cut (lower arrow). The whole branch will be full of "young adult" wood, the branches that tend to bear the most flowers and make a great show.



If you cut late any year -- after mid-July -- and remove most of the flower buds, the tree may not have time to replace them. So **a cut after midsummer may mean less bloom** the next spring.

It helps to **learn to distinguish between juvenile and mature branches**, especially if you prune after mid-July or clip out stragglers as on page 4 (*Enhance the flower show*). Mature wood (below, left) can develop flower buds by the next spring. Juvenile wood (below, right) produces only leaves. Knowing the difference, you'll be better able to see what flowers remain or are cut.



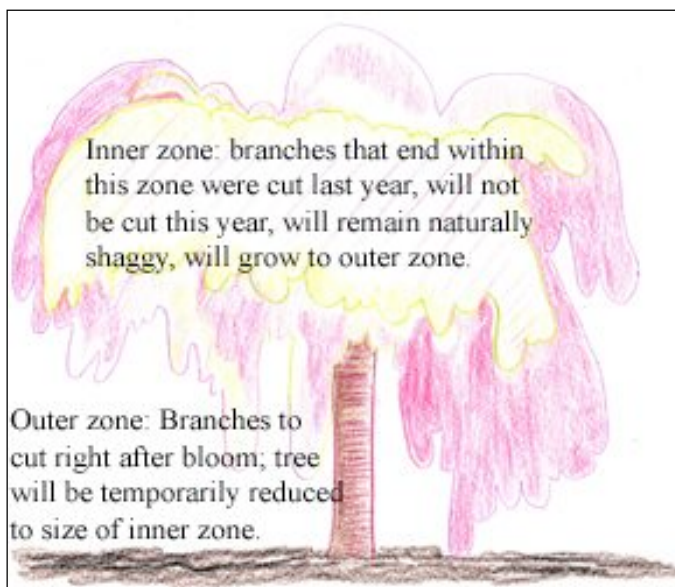
Above, left: Cherry branch. Its flower buds form in clusters on side "spurs."

Above, right: Single buds along an unbranched limb will produce only leaves the next spring. Left: Blossoms dangle from spurs in clusters.

Right: Janet's holding up what she's cut off of the end of just one of the lowest-trailing branches. We're aggressive in cutting fast growing species such as cherry, since an uncut cherry may have so much juvenile wood that it distracts from the floral show. (See page 4.)







## In summary: To prune that weeping cherry...



...on page 1 so it blooms well but remains naturally shaggy: Clip back the longest and tallest branches after bloom each year. That's everything in the outer zone

(shaded pink, far left). Make each cut to just below a side branch, allowing 2 years growth.

### Consequences: Shearing without thinning

Whether you're pruning a weeping tree or an upright shrub, if you cut along the same line every year without ever thinning (clipping some limbs further back as described on pages 2 and 3) the shrub's or tree's new wood will end up concentrated in the vicinity of the cuts.

That section becomes a dense clutter of twigs which will bloom less and less well as the wood ages and becomes more crowded.

On an upright plant such as this redbud dogwood, the cluttered layer also shades everything below, discouraging growth from the interior and creating this "hollow ball" appearance.



**Enhance the flower show** of cherry, Forsythia, Wisteria, quince and crabapple: First, learn to recognize blooming-stage wood. Then in late summer or late winter, cut off all or most of the branch ends that are *not* going to flower.

Limbs that remain will bloom to their tips and the flowers will not be obscured by non-blooming branches or leaves unfurling from juvenile wood.

Right: There are non-blooming juvenile branches outside this cherry's blooming canopy. They create a tracery of green lines beyond the blooming portion, like "wild hairs."







Look like cherries? They're crabapples!

## Common crabapple trick: Imitating a cherry

We have a small **weeping cherry tree** in front of our house. It has pretty red cherries on it in fall. Sometimes the **fruit stays there even in winter**. But it doesn't have those pretty dangling branches we see in other cherry trees. Can we do something to it to encourage the weeping? - D.R. -

Could be **a case of mistaken identity**.

Cherries shed their fruit by early fall. Most weeping cherries that bear fruit have black fruits, not red. Weeping cherry trees with double flowers are fruitless.

However, quite a few **crabapple** varieties have small, bright red fruit. A good number of those cultivars hold their fruit into winter: 'Sargent,' 'Molten Lava,' 'Red Swan,' 'Adams', etc.

**Check the bark.** Cherry bark is distinctive for parallel, horizontal lines, while crabapple and apple bark is patchy, broken up less regularly.



**Weeping crabapple trees have a stiffer form than weeping cherries**, no getting around that.

Far left: Cherry bark is distinctive for the horizontal lines called lenticels, and a lustrous surface that may be gray or a burnished red-brown.

Left: Crabapple bark is gray and develops both horizontal and vertical lines.



## Vain hope: That a girdling root will fix itself

I **planted a shrub** this year that I'm worrying about in retrospect, after seeing your issue #155 about the ten year old tree still handicapped **with girdling roots**. This *Viburnum* had roots like that. But it's been in the ground all summer, now. Is it better to leave it in, or must I dig it up and cut or straighten the roots? - J. H. -

**It won't fix itself** and will eventually un-do all the growing the shrub has done. Dig it up. Dig wide to lift any new roots with the original ball. However, be prepared to sacrifice some of those new roots as you manipulate the root ball to straighten or cut the roots that are circling.

Still, its time in-ground is not a total loss for the plant, even if you cut its roots. It photosynthesized and stocked up on starch, a good deal of which is stored in the twigs. It can grow new root during fall, better configured for a long healthy life.

Right: We dug out this holly and rinsed all the soil off its roots so you can see what girdling looks like after ten years. That's how long this holly was in the ground. It was potbound when it went in and its roots remain in that dead-end configuration. It didn't die but it also didn't thrive. Eventually as the roots in that coil become even thicker, the trunk will be squeezed out, unable to grow any more. The plant will die.

Below: The only place the shrub could produce new roots was from one point where all its pot-whirled root tips ended in a clot.



Silver lining: Even this late in its predicament, it can be lifted and its roots can be cut. That will give it a second chance.

*If discovered in time, it may be possible to disrupt the circling roots and replant the tree or shrub...*

Gary Watson & E.B. Himelick in *Principles and Practice of Planting Trees and Shrubs*

## Looking for what's oak-kay to grow under a particular tree

We have big oak trees in the yard. Are there plants that are better companions for an oak, or plants that *don't* like to grow under oaks? How do we find that out? - A.O. -

There are **plant species that tend to occur together in the wild**. A gardener interested in taking cues from Nature can use such communities to identify "species associates" or "companions." These groups are not closed to outsiders, however. Species that do not normally occur together but which have common cultural needs can be grown in harmony -- we call that a garden!

For natural plant community information, look up the plant or the site in a resource such as:

### Michigan Natural Features Inventory

<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/communities/index.cfm>

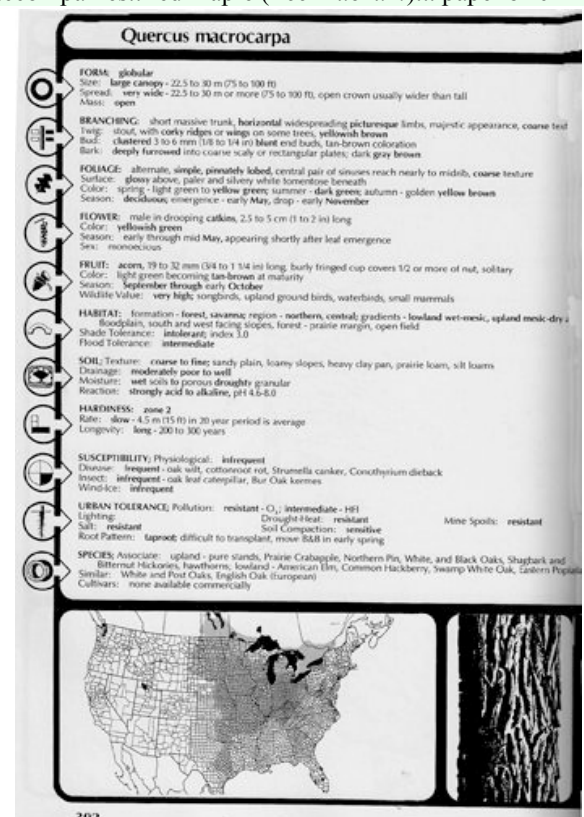
Select the site that matches your conditions, or search for the naturally-occurring plant around which you'll assemble a community. (Has application outside Michigan, in the Great Lakes region. Other States or provinces may have the same kinds of databases available but we have not yet found them.)

For instance, we looked for oaks and in "dry northern forest" found pin oak. If that site description matches conditions on your property and pin oak has chosen to grow there, you might do well adding some of these other trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials:

...dry northern forest... northern pin oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) usually accompanies.. red maple (*Acer rubrum*)... paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) ...balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*)... Low sweet blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), and sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*)... Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)... spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*), bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*), poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), rattlesnake weed (*Hieracium venosum*), cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*), rice grass (*Oryzopsis pungens*), sand cherry (*Prunus pumila*), northern dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), starflower (*Trientalis borealis*), and velvetleaf blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*).

**Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Urban and Rural America: A Planting Design Manual for Environmental Designers**, a masterful book by Gary Hightshoe. We show you its two pages on bur oak (at right and on page 1). This book is out of print but worth nabbing off used booksellers' shelves or sites. (We check [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com) where a large number of used book sellers post their inventories.)

In it, look at a tree, shrub or vine's page under "species associate" to learn, for instance, that bur oaks are accompanied by prairie crabapple, northern pin oak, hawthorns...





*Perennials and their garden habitats*, a book (right) by Richard Hansen and Friedrich Stahl. In it you can look for a site under chapter listings such as woodland/deciduous trees, woodland/mature conifers, open ground/moist to damp, or water's edge/acidic. Does not restrict itself to natural companions but lists garden perennials for each site.

Alternatively, you can use a given perennial as a telltale. Take the name of a species which thrives on your site. Look for it in the index. Backtrack it to its site, and read about other suitable species.

The term "**plant communities**" is a key in this research. Using it as a search term, on-line and in libraries, we've found many helpful sources. One is the website of a non-profit conservation organization called **NatureServe.org**, along with Plant Communities of the Midwest.  
<http://www.natureserve.org>

This site has Michigan-, Ohio-, Wisconsin- and other subsets. The information below is from its "Indiana subset" for "mixed Hardwood Forest":  
<http://www.natureserve.org/library/indianasubset.pdf>

160 Woodland edge 2.1. Plants confined to edge		
<b>2.1.8. Perennials for an open woodland edge on dry to moist, sandy, silica-rich soils in sun and bright shade</b>		
The following, mostly calcifuge, perennials tolerate poor, acid soils and will seed themselves in an open grove under pines and birches. Ling ( <i>Calluna</i> ) and the various fine-leaved grasses (particularly <i>Festuca</i> ) are key species that should always be included in a planting of this type. A well-conceived planting is attractive and requires very little maintenance.		
Many gardens only allow space for a small planting of woodland edge perennials. Where this is so the shorter growing species will need a certain amount of attention to prevent them getting squeezed out. The same applies to the perennials listed separately for garden-type maintenance.		
<b>Dwarf shrubs</b>		
Ling, Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> Eur., W Sib.	0.30 lilac	IX, densely branched evergreen; often brown in winter; cut back to a hand's breadth every two or three years in spring; will not grow in the drip zone under trees. Cultivars, see list 3.2.3.
Hairy greenweed <i>Genista pilosa</i> Eur.	0.25 yellow	V-VI, slender, green, slightly prostrate branches; forms extensive carpets. 'Procumbens', flat, spreading habit.
Winged greenweed <i>Genista sagittalis</i> Eur.	0.02/0.10 yellow	VI, prostrate, creeping, winged and partly woody stems; flowers in short, terminal racemes; rare in the trade.
Dyer's greenweed <i>Genista tinctoria</i> Eur., Cauc.	0.80 yellow	V-VI, upright habit; flowers in terminal racemes. 'Plena', common, double-flowered form. <i>G. germanica</i> (0.40), V-VI, yellow; thorny shoots with grass-green leaves; hardly available in the trade.
<b>Herbaceous perennials</b>		
<i>Agrostis pyramidalis</i> Eur., Cauc.	0.05/0.20 pale blue	VI-VII, leaves in rosettes with dense spikes of flowers; does not spread; moist or damp soils near to trees. <i>A. reptans</i> × <i>A. pyramidalis</i> 'Rosa Kerze', pink. List 3.2.4
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>		List 3.2.4
<i>Briza media</i>		List 3.2.4
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>		List 3.2.4
<i>Festuca ovina</i>		List 3.2.4; especially <i>F. tenuifolia</i>
Orange hawkweed <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> Eur., W Asia	0.40 orange-yellow	VI-VIII, 2-6 composite flowers on long, leafless, glandular-hairy stems; spreads rapidly at the roots and will colonise areas of grass; to be used with caution. List 3.2.4
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>		List 3.2.4
Creeping soft-grass <i>Holcus mollis</i> 'Variegata' Eur.	0.20/0.40	Dainty, light green leaves with white stripes; spreading roots; for poor, sandy soils in sun or shade; evergreen, very attractive in winter. List 1.2.3
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>		List 1.2.3

<a href="http://www.natureserve.org/library/indianasubset.pdf">http://www.natureserve.org/library/indianasubset.pdf</a>	
<a href="http://www.natureserve.org/library/indianasubset.pdf">http://www.natureserve.org/library/indianasubset.pdf</a>	
Communit...edit Union rareplantsMI Google weatherWtfd Apple▼	
<b>Wooded Swamps and Floodplains: Southeastern Coastal Plain Riverfront and Levee Bottomland Forests</b>	
<b>Betula nigra - Platanus occidentalis Forest</b>	
River Birch - Sycamore Forest	
River Birch - Sycamore Forest	CEGL002086
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b> <i>Betula nigra</i> and <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> are the typical dominants in this type. They are fast-growing (especially young trees), relatively short-lived, and do not tolerate excessive shade at any stage of growth. <i>Betula nigra</i> prefers acid soils and is often the dominant tree found along streams affected by acid mine drainage. A wide range of canopy species are present because, along with common bottomland species (e.g., <i>Ulmus americana</i> , <i>Acer rubrum</i> , <i>Acer negundo</i> , <i>Quercus</i> spp., and <i>Celtis laevigata</i> ), mesophytic species from nearby uplands and terraces may be found, including <i>Juglans nigra</i> , <i>Prunus serotina</i> , and <i>Fraxinus americana</i> . A variety of swamp species may be found on more poorly drained sites. Stands are subjected to frequent, fast, short-duration flooding, which contributes to a thin understory. Commonly encountered herbaceous species include <i>Saururus cernuus</i> , <i>Arisaema dracontium</i> , <i>Impatiens capensis</i> , <i>Symphytotrichum ontarionis</i> (= <i>Aster ontarionis</i> ), and <i>Pilea pumila</i> . This forest harbors a number of ubiquitous species and tends to extend into and mix with adjacent communities, resulting in numerous transitional	



## Alone in the Garden? Never! Our mentors will always be with us:

Most of us had a **parent, neighbor or other veteran gardener** to guide us through our first attempts to grow. The **gardening advice they gave us** may include facts that took many years to develop and generations to confirm and tweak.

People used to spend a lifetime growing large quantities of one or two crops -- 30, 40, or 50 chances to watch those plants and judge which did better and worse and what variables influenced them. Even so, several human generations might pass before a given cause and effect might be repeated and also noticed.

Today in a garden we grow so many different plants and change the mix so frequently that we miss many cause-effect connections. Also, we may never be driven to learn in the way people were when what they grew was vital for seeing the family through winter.

So, thank goodness the old farmers and grannies kept diaries, paid heed to what their elders passed along, and passed it on to us.

Grama Frances, Aunt Mel or Mom coached Janet:

*Now, just put those apples in this bucket of ice water -- be careful not to bump them! -- and let them float for the day. Then we'll dry them, wrap each one in paper and put it gently in this barrel in the nice cool root cellar under the house.*



They knew their stuff. Today this science figures heavily in every commercial endeavor:

*Cool apples quickly... The sooner the core cools, the longer the apple will keep. The core of a fruit picked at 80°F may take several days to cool to 35°F, even in a refrigerator. ...every day the apple spends at 70°F, it loses a week to ten days of its potential 2- to 6 month storage life (at 30-40°F and 90% humidity).*

*The (newspaper garden writer) recommends cutting back the foliage of hostas... I've had Hostas, in abundance, for years and have never cut them back!! The foliage dies, dries out and serves as a mulch. In the spring, when little green things start to appear, I gently rake the dead foliage off and dispose of it in an ecological manner. ...However, I have seen various birds gathering that wispy stuff for nesting material. You go, birds!*

*- Frank Harney, the poet gardener: 92, still playing in the dirt, and still sending ideas and plant samples to us (right)!*

Is there pass-along gardening wisdom in your hands now? Want to pay homage to all those generations of effort? Tell others about it, and send it to us. We'll also pass along all we can.

## Aiming for Answers: We get a "miss" for discarding divisions

There are no sure bets in dealing with living things, but every situation we face helps us learn more possibilities -- especially when we share with each other what we've observed. So we're always glad to hear whether you used our suggestions, and what happened next.

...In issue #140 you showed a photo of a **hosta** with a weak center and wrote that you would **divide it** and "send all of the oldest portion to a hot compost, and get rid of 3/4 of the outer edge, too. A single strong division with 6 or 7 eyes is plenty to repopulate this space."

Now wait a minute, how can you do that? You **offer these divisions to friends** or set them by the curb or take them to your church or club. We just did this with *Miscanthus* at church, there are always gardeners happy to take a freebie.

- M.M. -



Even a small wedge from the lively outer edge of this fine blue hosta is probably bigger than the average potted garden center plant.

**You're right.** We should have pointed out that a gardener might find numerous takers for a fine blue hosta like that. Even a small part of the lively outer edge is probably bigger than what can be purchased at a garden center.

For us, "get rid of" does include sharing divisions with others as we can, even to the point of foisting them on gardeners when we know the plant in question is a fine and rare thing.

However, we don't go overboard. We always do toss some plants. Our rationale:

- **Nature aims to over-populate.** In the wild, plants have setbacks and are eaten so there's attrition. In a garden we intervene between plants and their predators, and also provide unnaturally fine growing conditions. So **there will always be excess** for the compost.
- **There are only so many hours in a day.** For anyone who divides a great many plants in many places, **playing matchmaker can be very time-consuming.** Just look at how many divisions can come every year or two from one grow-happy daylily. Think what simply holding and labeling them entails! What time would be left to tend the garden?
- **Compost piles can double as holding areas.** If we happen to run into someone who might need a given plant we divided within the past few weeks, it's recoverable from the pile/
- **Setting up a curbside adoption system takes time and a certain extroversion** not everyone has. Once people in a neighborhood have been conditioned to recognize worthy plants and adopt them even when they appear to be hunks of soil, it can work well.



- **Some plants are more curse than blessing.** Those we divide as a control measure -- including many prolific hostas, sedums and grasses -- are not necessarily nice to give away. Honest disclosure is essential. It may work to say, "This spreads quickly and probably should be planted only where you want a big mass of groundcover." Still, some people would not hear or grasp the import, and be unhappy once they realize the "gift" has become a thug in their garden.

- More and more plants are **patent protected. We're not supposed to give them away.** What started relatively slowly in the 1970's took off in the 1990's so that now about 1,000 new plant patents are granted each year in the U.S. A person may not agree with plant patenting, but it is the law. The patent owner bore the expense of developing and registering the plant, and is entitled to payment when it's divided and distributed. We'll steer clear of advocating illegal distribution of plants marked "PPAF" (plant patent applied for) or with a trademark or copyright symbol on their name tags.

### Another "miss" for overlooking oak pruning bans

...issue #156, regarding pruning, you forgot to mention  
**NOT TO PRUNE OAKS DURING THE GROWING SEASON.**  
- J.G. -

So right! We shall carve that warning into a colorful box and try to remember to post it every time we mention tree pruning.

**Do not prune oaks during the growing season** when insects are flying. Insects carry oak wilt fungus, which can enter a pruning wound and kill even a very large oak very quickly.

**If you must,** perhaps because of storm damage, then immediately cover every cut with white wood glue to seal in the smell that attracts insects.



### This week in our garden

#### Grow with us! This week:

Time to **salvage the green tomatoes.** Even if we ripen them off the vine they'll taste better than store bought.

#### Options:

**Cut the whole vine** and hang it upside down in a garage or cool basement. Pick fruits as they ripen.

**Pick the individual tomatoes. Encourage ripening** by wrapping each tomato in paper. Pack them gently in a box with a lid. Keep it in a warm room. The enclosure helps to concentrate ethylene gas the tomato naturally produces as its seeds ripen. The gas causes the flesh to redden and soften. The process may take several weeks. (We once ate picked-green tomatoes at Thanksgiving.)

**Very green tomatoes** can be closed into a paper bag with a rich source of ethylene such as a ripe apple, banana or strawberry.

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**Quit pruning** woody plants for the duration of leaf fall. Pruning wounds don't heal well when made now.

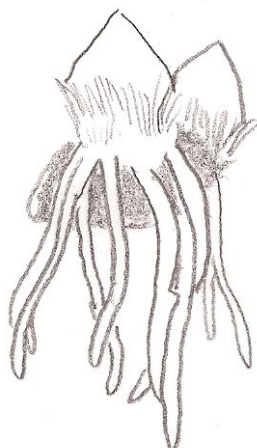
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**Prepare for action by digging a few graves.**

It will soon be time to bury the fig, the top-grafted rose tree, and other woody plants plus some tubers such as *Dahlia* and *Canna* that can't make it through a zone 5 winter. They can make it when insulated under 18 inches of soil, or more. Stay tuned, we'll record this year's burials as we conduct them!

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**Give bare root newcomers and divisions the best start** by spreading roots wide and covering every part of the plant that is *not green*. The absence of green in roots, and the whiteness- or pinkness of buds means they were growing below ground. Put them "back under!"



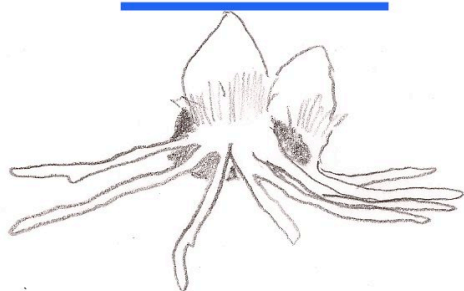
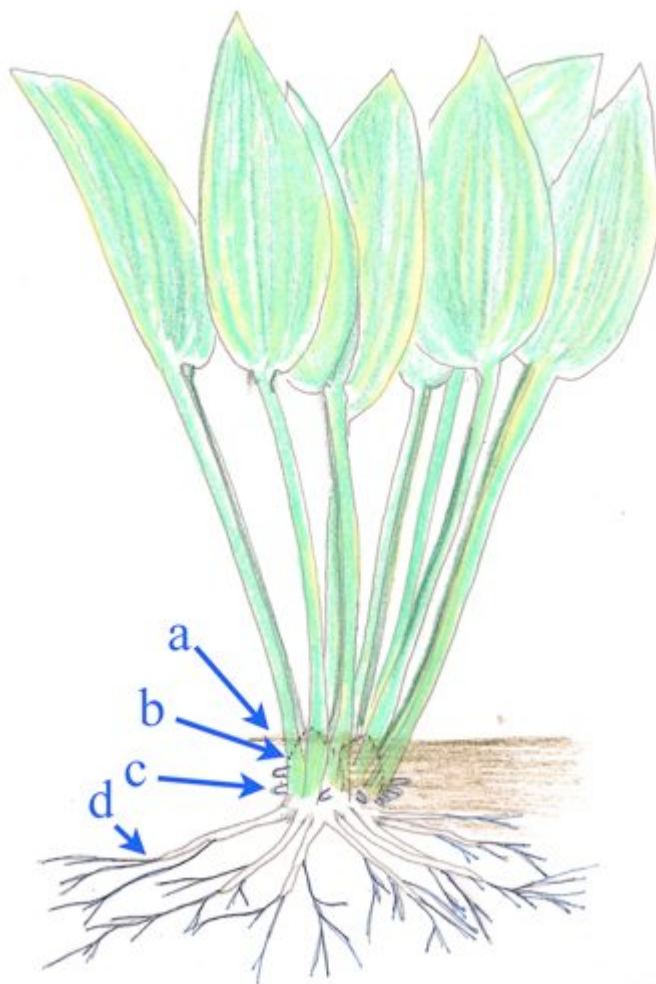
Left: A bare root, mail order hosta may come as a thumb-sized, rooted "eye" or perhaps as a two- or three eye division. That's a two-eye division, at left. It may arrive with the roots aligned vertically, as you see them there, but that's just a bit of packaging neatness.

Below: Spread those roots wide and put the eye just below ground (blue line).

Right: Just look what that two eye

division will do next May, benefitting from having been settled in with

(a) the buds' noses just at or below soil level;  
(b) each bud giving rise to a cluster of sturdy leaves;  
(c) new roots for the *next* year already forming; and  
(d) lots of new roots grown out from the tips you splayed wide, great anchors for the plant and able to deliver lots of water. All because each root tip had its own area for growing.





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**Upset spring bulbs** as we dig and divide. A certain amount of this is unavoidable. No worries! We just **put them back in**. After all, it's good bulb-planting time.

Sometimes when a spot is very thick with a given bulb, we **remove some** so the remainder can grow larger. It's like fish in a tank -- the fewer there are, the larger each can grow.

Where we dig into a great many bulbs, it's often because the bulbs aren't deep enough. Those bulbs, we **set in deeper**. Tulips and daffodils and Dutch hyacinth should have 8 inches of soil on top of them, deeper if the bed's well drained and sandy. That would normally be below perennial-planting depth and out of harms' way.

Deep bulbs will emerge and bloom in spring, don't worry. They'll come up a bit later than shallow-planted bulbs -- which is a good way to escape freezes that ruin the foliage of earlier risers.

Janet once left a straw bale sitting on top of a tulip bed. Those bulbs came up through 11 inches of soil *and* the straw, and bloomed there at the top of the bale. - Steven -

**Green thumbs up** to **irrigation companies willing to work with us**. We know they have a schedule to keep in order to blow out and shut down all those systems for winter, but we have some gardens that will need irrigation for several more weeks, for the sake of new plantings.

**Green thumbs down** to **aggravating factors** that come in flocks. Bad enough to work on a slope digging out entrenched pokeweed and trumpet vine. Couldn't it have been something other than junipers the trumpet vine roots dove under? Was it absolutely necessary to include old skunk warrens and their stink in that uneven, scratchy, weedy place?

### Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

**The gardener's trainer.** For over twenty years Janet Macunovich has been helping gardeners grow through her classes, books and other publications. She shares what she learns in attending classes herself at educational institutions all over the country, reading, participating in professional symposia, and applying it all in her own and clients' gardens.

**The gardener's eye.** Steven Nikkila is a professional gardener and horticultural photographer who finds dimensions and makes connections others miss. "Maybe it comes from having to sit so still and wait for just the right shot," he says, "but I see the greatest things happen out there. I love to show and tell others about them." One of his favorite instances is the changed outlook people have after seeing his images of a butterfly successfully defending its flowers against a hungry hummingbird. His photos have solved mysteries, too, such as when he noted and captured water droplets from a sprinkler glistening prettily on a plant, but obviously on only one side of



it. He solved that plant's "unknown ailment" by putting a riser on the sprinkler head to carry its water over the top to wet the entire root zone.

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

### Where to catch Janet and Steven in-person:

**Chances to *Garden by Janet and Steven*** -- observe or try your hand to learn about fall garden clean up at any of the places below. These sessions are free but require registration. See page 15 for more about the why and how of such sessions.

**Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. - noon, *Garden by Janet & Steven*** at the **Detroit Zoo**, Huntington Woods, MI, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for Janet's & Steven's hands-on instruction in *fall bed preparation, weeding, mulching and protecting tender plants*. For instructions how to join us, call or email Janet & Steven. Provide a telephone number in your email or when you call. JMaxGarden@aol.com, 248-681-7850.

**Wednesday, October 19, 10:30 a.m. - noon, *Garden by Janet & Steven*** in **Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan**, to learn about *gradual fall garden clean up*, from cutting back and weeding to edging and mulching. Come to observe or to pitch in with any work and learn by hands-on. This is a free, limited-size workshop. Call or email Janet & Steven to register, and to learn the address. Provide a telephone number in your email or when you call. JMaxGarden@aol.com, 248-681-7850.

**Monday, October 24, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., *Garden by Janet & Steven*** in **West Bloomfield, Michigan**, to learn about *pruning and fall garden clean up*. Come to observe or to pitch in with any work and learn by hands-on. This is a free, limited-size workshop. Call or email Janet & Steven to register, and to learn the address. Provide a telephone number in your email or when you call. JMaxGarden@aol.com, 248-681-7850.

**Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. - noon, *Garden by Janet & Steven*** at the **Detroit Zoo**, Huntington Woods, MI, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for Janet's & Steven's hands-on instruction in *bulb planting and fall garden clean up*. For instructions how to join us, call or email Janet & Steven. Provide a telephone number in your email or when you call. JMaxGarden@aol.com, 248-681-7850.

**Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13**, Janet and Steven present *Kaleidoscope: Gardens through rose-colored glasses* and *Gardeners: 21st Century Shamans* in Charleston, West Virginia. These presentations about getting and giving more from your gardening are part of the four-day International Master Gardener Conference. For more information or to register for the conference, <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>



Oh yes, once in a while we do dress up and go out on the town! Although we won't go so formal as this for our presentations at the International Master Gardener Conference, the gathered energy of hundreds of gardeners will make it feel this special.



**Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m., *Four Season Landscape Begin in Fall!***, a how-to design presentation by Janet at the Washtenaw County Michigan State University Extension Master Gardeners' meeting in **Ann Arbor, Michigan**. In the MSU Extension classroom in the basement of the Washtenaw County Water Resource Commission building at 705 N. Zeeb Road -- just northwest of the I-94 Zeeb Road exit #169. Guests are welcome; a \$5 fee is payable at the door.



### **The Garden by Janet & Steven series:**

You and we are let-me-see, hands-on people. That's how we learn best. So from time to time we schedule *Garden by Janet & Steven* sessions and list them in this newsletter to afford you that kind of chance to grow. You visit us in a garden to either watch or work with us. 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 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 come help us for a day, and stay on if you like, too.

Above: What *are* those people doing out there in the rain, staring at that tree? It's a Garden by Janet & Steven session taking place in a front yard on a rainy evening. (Give up a chance to garden because of a light rain? No way!) This dedicated crew watched, learned and pitched in to work out a way to save a tree from its own girdling root.

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

So, we're game for...

- a **how-to lesson for a garden club** meeting,
- a **hands-on workshop** at a site of your choosing or
- a **multi-part class** for a small group!

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 times.



\*Steven Nikkila and Janet Macunovich have been digging, shooting and teaching how-to for 22 years. They began producing conferences in the '90s and ran a gardening school for 12 years, featuring expert instructors who knew their stuff in a garden as well as knowing how to get their messages across in front of a group.

## You're true blue... and so is our coneflower!

The yellow coneflower we used as a donation telltale is all-blue. Thank you! We've paid the design and programming bills and are now learning to operate all the component parts of the site. We're itching to launch but determined to have everything usable *and* useful first. We'll keep you advised of progress right here.



## Donations always welcome

You helped us pay for the expert help we needed to insure that our website will be clean, easy to use and secure. Now the project's back to us, and we do a bit more as we can -- a process that's slowed a bit for the past few weeks, and a few weeks still to come as we close client's gardens. We hope to meet you there in November.

We're keeping our site ad-free, so we will always accept donations. **Send donations,** check payable to Janet Macunovich, to 120 Lorberta, Waterford, MI 48328.

## 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 the garden beauty you love, framed or on canvas to your specifications.



You can purchase hard copies or high-resolution versions of any of Steven's images you see in *What's Coming Up*.<sup>\*</sup> Or name a flower, type of scene or hue in mind you can request that dream. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and natural images.

Prices for **Steven's garden art** vary with your wishes in format and size. Examples:

- **Matted, framed,** overall 11 x 15", \$48
- **No-fade cloth tapestry,** 36 x 48', \$215

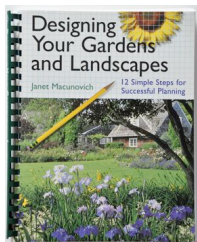


Describe your dream image, theme or color scheme to Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com. He'll send you a photo sampler and price list.

<sup>\*</sup>Images in our newsletter are depicted in low- resolution to facilitate e-mail transmission. Steven's originals and art created from them are full resolution, with so much clear detail they are sharp even as 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. 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](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com) with the subject line "Magazine peek."**

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### 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.



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