



What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila
answer your growing concerns
Issue 101, July 7, 2010

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Left: See page 9 for what we love about prairie
dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) besides its
attraction to cheerful, bright goldfinches like this
one snacking on dock seeds in August.

Cranesbill with big root fills big role

Hello Janet & Steven,

Could you please **recommend a cranesbill** geranium that would fit in a cottage/country garden, getting west sun, or afternoon sun in a large area. I want 1 mass of a low growing perennial; someone suggested "Claridge Druce" cranesbill, do you have any suggestions? - M. J.-

'Claridge Druce' cranesbill (a variety of *Geranium x oxonianum*) is a good, compact plant. However, our favorite perennial geranium, hands down for 20+ years, has been *Geranium macrorrhizum*, the **bigroot perennial geranium**. It's low (generally under 15" tall), has fragrant foliage that's almost evergreen, is dense and spreading but not terribly aggressive, is dependable over years, and bears its pink-range flowers (seedlings can vary from near white to rose) just above its leaves so deadheading is optional (as opposed to taller geraniums with elevated flowers and stems that beg to be removed as they fade and flop).

We always **have to search a bit** for bigroot perennial geranium. Other cranesbills with big flowers on tall stems command more attention during the spring buying rush, so garden centers are more likely to stock them. When you find it, you might have a choice of 'Ingwersen's Variety' with pale pink flowers, white-blooming 'Album' and 'Bevan's Variety', which is described in catalogues as magenta but we think it's more of a raspberry sherbet.

One concern we have in this case is the amount of sun. All the perennial geraniums appreciate some shade, especially during the hot part of the day. Bigroot geranium has slightly furry leaves and so is better suited than some to manage in hot sun. Yet if your area is full sun (6 hours or more each day) and hot as well, you may want to look at an alternative, such as one of the lambs ear relatives called big betony (*Stachys micrantha* and *S. monieri* varieties including

'Hummelo'). It's another of our favorites of about the same size, habits and flower color range.

Bigroot perennial geranium (on the left) with Lenten rose, in a garden that's mostly shade and on the dry side.



Big betony (left and below, *Stachys monieri* 'Hummelo') does need deadheading to maintain its front row good looks, but it rewards you for the effort with a second bloom.



A pale bean can mean many things

The **leaves** on my green **beans** are a greenish **yellow**. Is this lack of a nutrient? - Rhonda -

Your beans **may need fertilizing** -- it's that time of year, when heavy feeders such as the varieties we've developed as food crops can use extra fertilizer. This is especially true in a year when there was lots of rain early on. So much water running through the soil can leach nutrients, flushing them down below root zones, when plants that are.

Use a balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20 or 5-5-5 unless you have done a soil nutrient test that gave you a specific prescription for your soil. If you have a soil test, fertilize to supplement deficiencies (some soils may need extra potassium or phosphorus to support great growth, so a product with a formula such as 10-10-20 or 10-20-10 is in order) or simply supply nitrogen to a soil rich in other nutrients, by using a product with a high first number, such as 20-0-0 or 5-3-2, etc.



There's pale and then there's pale. This type of pale is the run-up to hopperburn. We've just noted it: That the color seems to be draining in from the edges of the leaf on this ornamental bean relative, the fall blooming purple bush clover (*Lespedeza thunbergii*). We've learned this means potato leafhoppers have arrived in our area as they do each June, from States that are warmer in winter.

You should pay heed to the plant's **pattern of paleness**. Are the leaves pale evenly and all over the plant? Are leaves yellow throughout their blades or more on the ends and edges? Do they go brown after becoming pale?

When paler leaves occur **low on the plant**, it usually means the plant **needs nitrogen** and is stealing it from older leaves to supply new growth. Use a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Many lawn fertilizers such as Scotts Turf Builder 29-3-4 may fit the bill but do *not* use a "weed and feed" product. Corn gluten meal 9-0-0 or blood meal 12-0-0 are candidates, too.

Paleness that's **primarily in the new growth** may mean the soil's deficient in other nutrients or micronutrients. We'd look for **a fertilizer that's "complete"** (no zeroes in its 3-part formula) and has trace elements, such as the powders **aimed to suit acid loving plants**.

Pale leaf edges and tips, all over the plant, (as shown above) may mean **leafhoppers** are beginning to feed on the leaves. They cause "hopperburn" which begins as paleness, develops into yellow V's at leaf tips and yellow leaf edges that become brown. The leafhopper species known as potato leafhopper in the North and bean jassid in the South, which has a close parallel in the western potato leafhopper in Western states, is just 1/8" in size but can seriously reduce

both healthy leaf surface and the size of your harvest. These insects also have broad tastes, often feeding early on plants in the bean/pea, rose/apple and maple family when these plants have a relatively high sugar content, and then moving on to potatoes, tomatoes, birch, dahlia and more.

Now, when all these kinds of paleness show up, notice the pattern to address the cause. Deficiencies can be addressed with fertilizer but insect problems call for other tactics, such as forcefully rinsing leaf undersides frequently to rinse away newly hatched 'hoppers, or coating those surfaces with insecticidal soap. **It's best to act early** against insects -- as early in the season as you notice the symptoms, and also early in the day -- to kill the non-flying nymphs before they mature. Otherwise they're hopping, flying adults in about three weeks which will infest more plants.



Leafhoppers suck on the foliage, or on soft young twigs of woody plants, injecting toxins as they feed. This interferes with cells' ability to transfer starch, so that areas furthest from leaf veins begin to fade, then go brown, and eventually dry and curl. Between the marginal fade you saw on the previous page and this photo, three generations of potato leafhoppers fed on this *Lespedeza* foliage. On woody plants infested early in the year, twigs may be damaged and new growth distorted, so that weakened tips die back over the next winter.

When we see first notice the pattern of paler edges and darker veins, we check the leaf underside for signs of leafhopper -- such as side-scuttling nymphs, spring-hopping adults or their tiny, shed skins. If it's not an insect problem such discoloration is chlorosis, symptom of nutrient deficiency. Then, fertilizer's in order, or a fix for any root problem that's reducing the plant's ability to use what the soil has to offer.

Fresh wood as mulch, less food from the veggie bed

I had an old oak fall during wind storms in December. My tree contractor had some of the tree milled at my home leaving a lot of saw dust.

The gentlemen from the lumber company told me that using it in a vegetable bed would be unwise, he had tried it and it stunted his plants. He blamed it on the acidity of the sawdust.

Can saw dust from an oak tree be used in a garden bed containing acid loving plants, holly and a dogwood tree? - S.S. -

You can use the oak sawdust and chips **as mulch**, but if you **also plant annuals** (most vegetables; or annuals flowers) you will almost certainly **see reduced growth**. When we tested this -- mulching one portion of an annual bed with wood, the rest with compost -- plants surrounded by sawdust were half the size of the others by August 1.

This isn't a function of acidity but of nutrient availability. Nutrients are diverted to the wood decomposition cycle and tied up there for that season. They'll be back as that cycle of decay wheels to a finish, which is fine for established perennials, especially woody plants. However, that eventual return of nitrogen does nothing for annuals as that season of deprivation was all they had to grow on.

The soil microorganisms that work to decompose organic matter demand nitrogen -- which is an essential element in strong plant growth, too. When the material to be decomposed is carbon dense (such as wood) then the amount of nitrogen needed to break it down is greater. With only just so much nitrogen in the soil and microorganisms being better able to grab it than plants, decomposition wins out and annual plants get the short end of the stick.

The effect can be more pronounced with finer-ground wood because there is less air in it. It's effectively denser than wood chunks. On the other hand, there may be less drain if the tree fell while in leaf so that wood, bark and foliage are mixed together.

The **nutrient drain affects perennials**, trees and shrubs, too, but is less pronounced since those plants "saved" nutrients last year for use this year.

Older wood -- chipped and left to break down offsite for a while -- will make less demand on available nitrogen when added to the garden. We usually put raw wood mulch on paths where its nutrient drain will discourage annual weeds and volunteer seedlings of garden plants that would try to come up in the path. After it has **broken down for a year or more**, then we scrape it up as needed to **mulch perennial flower beds or shrub borders**. We might then mix it with leafy stuff, such as chopped fall leaves.

Bark has a lower carbon content than wood. So bark mulch is better than wood. It's not as good as mulch made from leaves, hulls and seeds but it's better than wood in the total drain it makes on the soil's nitrogen reserves.



This chicken fungus (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), a slug and a myriad other organisms are decomposing this stump, all of them using nitrogen in the process. If the stump was ground up and spread around, the decay of its substance would proceed more quickly but the nitrogen drain would increase, too, all drawn from the soil the chips overlay. Photo ©2010 Colleen Egan

As a rule, we follow botanical gardens' lead and **don't mulch annual beds at all**. If we must mulch annual flowers or vegetables we use shredded paper, newspaper, leaves or clean straw.

As far as we can tell from our own experiments and reading from others who have done the same on an academic level, adding nitrogen does not counter the impact of wood on the soil. It may be that the microorganisms simply manage to commandeer all that's applied.

Quince: Quite a challenge to prune

We have a quince "bush" and I am not sure how to prune it. If we prune it hard, it seems to send out more suckers from the base. Is this true? Do you have any suggestions short from removing it...if that is even possible? - R.H. -

Quince (even "dwarf" *Chaenomeles japonica*) is **tough to keep small and also flower-ful**. We do it with two cuts a year.

Hard cuts in spring do stimulate suckers, which is one reason we **cut it twice, in early spring and again at mid-summer**. This makes the first cut less hard -- so the plant has less urge to sucker -- and gives us the chance to remove excess growth later in the season when the plant's suckering response has faded.

This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week I will:

Accept uncorrectable losses, such as **Japanese maple trees** that suffered trunk damage in winter from exposure to south-and west sun but lived with that while conditions were mild. Now, in heat and drought some are **dying back** -- the foliage wilts and never recovers. Other woodlanders such as *Hydrangeas* as well as species grown at the edge of their winter hardiness zone may follow suit.

It's a dilemma. I can water it more frequently, and give it mist and shade during the hottest hours to help it stay cooler, conserve moisture and have less strain on its weakened water-conducting system by. If I do that beginning *before* the leaves wilt and die, it might pull through this crisis. However, will I be able to keep doing that every summer until it grows around the damaged portions of its trunk? Can I, will I, also correct the winter exposure problem so this species evolved for the understory won't suffer additional damage?

I usually: **Admit the error**, let that plant go and **redesign** to create a lower care landscape.

This, from our issue #86 pruning guide:

Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*)

- kept smaller than its potential. (See notes) 3 + 3a + 4
- grown for full size and natural shape. (See notes) 3 + 3a

3 - Cut to remove or seriously shorten some older canes to keep the plant full of new and middle-aged wood. Remove dead and weak wood from other canes. Prune in spring, the earlier the better, because you're trying to stimulate new growth.

3a - Canes you remove might have flowered this year, so these cuts "cost you" some bloom. However, the price is right since this plant blooms better on newer wood than old.

4 - After the plant's flowers peak, before mid-July, clip it to your desired height and width. Also, shorten further or remove branches that bloomed most heavily; make such cuts to below the lowest bloom on the branch.

Plan to **improve the overall health of a new dogwood tree** (*Cornus florida*) stricken with mildew. It wasn't a big tree when planted last year but at six feet tall and 1-1/2 inches in trunk diameter, we knew it would need at least two years of good growing to produce enough roots to fully serve its canopy. Unfortunately, a triple whammy set it up for mildew, and that will cost it nearly 50% of its leaf surface and us a third year of pampering.



The damage from weeks of infection by mildew is apparent now in patches on this flowering dogwood's leaves (left) where the fungus has consumed all of the leaf's chlorophyll. Leaves longest infected are yellow, tan or brown and damaged edges have curled. The worst affected will probably drop early.

By the time you see mildew's powdery "bloom" (below), the fungus has been growing for some time. It's too late for fungicides, which at best might reduce infection but won't eliminate this trouble.

The best answer to mildew is a strong plant that has plenty of nutrient packed into every cell, plus free-moving air and cool springs that foster a tough, fungus-resistant cuticle on the leaf.



Those three strikes:

- 1) It was a newly planted tree and thus weak, with too few roots to take up enough nutrient and water for all its leaves.
- 2) It experienced an unusually warm, wet spring which promoted lush foliage and forestalled hardening of new growth. That prolonged the season of fungus infection.
- 3) A cool-down followed that early warm weather, giving all the fungus that gained a toehold periods of high relative humidity in which to spread.

We're determined to help this tree* make up for its leaf loss, **so it can set strong growth** for next spring and then leaf out with foliage of greater substance and **better disease resistance**. The prescription: Continued **careful watering**, an increase in **light and air via pruning** overhanging

trees, and **liquid fertilizer for acid-loving plants** such as Ironite plus a seaweed solution, mixed half strength and watered into the root zone once a week for the next several weeks.

*More images, and good advice about mildew on a dogwood:

http://www.ca.uky.edu/agcollege/plantpathology/ext_files/PPFShtml/PPFS-OR-W-13.pdf

Practice irrigation triage during the dog days of summer. That is, determine which plants are most in need, then mist, trickle or sprinkle those gently.

Keep in mind that the alternative -- watering a lot of ground quickly -- almost always involves high pressure sprinklers. That may be fine for covering a carpet of lawn but it's bad news for any taller living things in line with such a powerful stream. That's a water cannon, which can damage even thick barked tree trunks and blast leaves off of plants.

Lawn grass, forced into dormancy once soil temperatures rise above that species tolerance level, can be coaxed into renewed green growth if cooled by midday irrigation. However, commit to that routine and cool the awakened lawn on every hot day, or the energy it used to restock itself with chlorophyll may all be lost and its overall vigor may decline.

Take it easy, when the heat's on. Really, I do.

I hope you do, too. Whether it's your day off and you're determined to keep up with your own garden or you're a pro with maintenance

contracts to fulfill, every gardener in a region of hot summers should **memorize the symptoms of overheating:**

Dog days

Uncomfortably hot periods that are common in the Northern Hemisphere in July and August. So named by the Romans who figured that the Dog Star, Sirius, was bright enough to add more heat to the Earth when its rising and setting coincided annually with the sunrise and sunset (modern dates July 3 to August 11).

Heat exhaustion might cause:

- Heavier than normal sweating
- Paleness
- Muscle cramps
- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Fainting

Heat stroke might cause one or all of these:

- Rapid overheating
- Sweating stops
- Skin that's red, hot and dry
- Pulse that's rapid and strong
- Throbbing headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness

At the first symptom, stop, get out of the sun, go to a cool place, drink some cool water or juice (not alcohol), take a cool shower or bath.*

These **symptoms can be subtle**, don't necessarily happen a set order, happen at different times to different people and may come singly or in bunches. For instance, I've caught myself

thinking, "Ugh, I feel sick to my stomach," but was slow to make the connection because I felt okay otherwise -- then felt briefly faint when I next got up from a crouch. I don't mess around, when I think I'm too hot -- I sit down in the shade, turn on a hose and let it run it on my head.

Thus it's good to **garden with a buddy** so you can say to each other, "You've got to quit.". I've benefited, as recipient and in helping a fellow gardener who was both bright red and doggedly confused. We know people who learned the hard way that only minutes may separate the red face from the ambulance ride.

*More, if you copy this URL to your browser:
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/faq.asp>



Turn on some water, even a trickle or a bit of mist, somewhere in the garden on every really hot day. We aim it to a needy root zone but mean it as a boon **for the birds and toads.**

Those who maintain bird baths and fountain, do it as much for the birds as their own pleasure.
Photo ©2010 Mildred Jackson

Admire the rightness of prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) in one part of our garden. While other plants wilt **in the heat and drought**, this plant struts in the prevailing conditions -- full sun and well drained, lean soil that's seasonally and occasionally wet from the rain- and run-off water we've diverted there. Its tap roots draw from deep reserves and its leaves escape the worst of the solar scorching by virtue of a moisture-retentive covering and a vertical orientation. They point up to the sun rather than stretching out like toast perpendicular to a heating element, so they have no need to droop during the dog days. The flower stalks will continue upward to 10 or 12 feet before they bloom, bearing lots of flowers but no leaves -- no unnecessary surfaces there to give up water to a drying wind.

We didn't know when we planted its seed there that this native species would be so much better suited than others we chose to share that spot. Some of its companions, such as Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) and blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) are also native to intermittently wet areas in our region. We've seen that they tolerate rather than love the intervening dry, hot times and have lost ground to the better-suited dock. Thus **dock plants**, like other survivors of the neglect we deal to our own beds, **teach us a thing or two.**

The big leaves (below, on the left) belong to prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), standing tall through days of temperatures in the 90'sF after no rain for almost 2 weeks. It's quite a contrast next to the droopy Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*).

The vertical green lines (arrows) are the dock's flower stems, 5 to 6 feet tall today and on track to double that height by the time they bloom in three weeks.



We like prairie dock's independence and its flowers clustered at the top of naked stems 10-12 feet tall (below). We also love the entertainment it provides for weeks as gangs of goldfinches perch on these stems, making them sway like metronomes as they pluck the seeds.



*The garden is like a hospital:
All the plants are on intensive care.
Watering, mulching, fertilizing, maybe someone
chopping off their little dead heads. In a prairie
garden... the plants are fully capable of fending for
themselves. They require no fertilizers, watering, or
special care, as long as one has selected native plants
to match their soil and sunlight conditions.*
- Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery -

**Correction! To Issue #100, in:
It's a stumper: How a weed to some is an elusive ornamental to others**

We misremembered and attributed North American native status to viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*, also called blue weed and blue devil). Thank you, Elizabeth Littler for correcting our report. It's a Eurasian native introduced and even weedy in many parts of North America. Although the point of our story remains the same -- that what some people view as a weed may be seen as a desirable flower to others -- we've corrected that issue in our archives, in this way:

Some situations defy explanation. A case in point is the status of a Eurasian biennial that behaves like a wild thing in much of North America, **viper's bugloss** (*Echium vulgare*). Some situations defy explanation. A case in point is the status of a ~~Great Lakes native biennial~~ **called Eurasian biennial that behaves like a wild thing in much of North America, viper's bugloss** (*Echium vulgare*).

The 45mph garden: Topsy turvy trees in northwestern Massachusetts

You can put gardeners behind the wheel but you can't take the flowers out of our eyes. Probably you've been intrigued by the upside-down tomato that's in all the garden centers. Wouldn't you have gone out of your way to take a look, too, after hearing someone say, "We work in the building just past the upside-down trees"?



These maples (left) were normal, upright saplings (below) when first planted into these containers, turned upside down and suspended along the entrance walk to the

Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art ("Mass MoCA") in North Adams. The display, titled *Tree Logic*, is now in its 11th year and 3rd planting. It was created by an Australian born technoartist Natalie Jeremijenko to illustrate the commonly known but overlooked fact that plants grow toward the sun.***

Photo ©2010 Steven Nikkila

None of the 6 hanging trees has been in place for all 11 years. As the new growth turns up, the trees' shapes change and the visual impact diminishes -- visitors no longer recognize them immediately as trees turned upside down.

Some of the displayed trees were transplanted -- right side down -- to the grounds of The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Museum in neighboring Williamstown. There they continue to prove the point that Nature will have her way, albeit less dramatically. As new growth at the branch tips responded to "up," limbs that had taken on a root-ward curve during the trees' display years grew along a new trajectory. Overall, those branches now sketch broad, twisted horizontal "S" forms.

***Plant growth does orient itself toward the strongest light source --such as the sun in an outdoor setting. However, the tendency of a tree to grow up in an orderly fashion is as much a response to gravity as to light. The highest growing point on the plant, and on an individual limb, develops "apical dominance" and exerts hormonal control over those below. It suppresses lower buds' growth to grow more and faster than the rest.



Photo ©1999 Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art

What's Up #101 Page 11

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Green thumbs up to taking your camera and going on a garden walk to capture ideas. It's fun to see others' gardens and imagine yourself in them. That much better to go on a walk when your own garden's struggling in midsummer heat, so you can see how others solve weather problems or manage their summertime jumble to nudge out fading spring flowers but leave room for fall bloom.



At the Galli garden in 2009's Belleville Garden Walk, we were tempted to sit, stay, and imagine the cool breeze off the lake could be ours. Belleville's hosting another walk on July 18, 2010 -- call 734-699-3291 for ticket information. I'll be at the Belleville library the following week (see page 13) to help you use in your garden what you gathered on such tours.

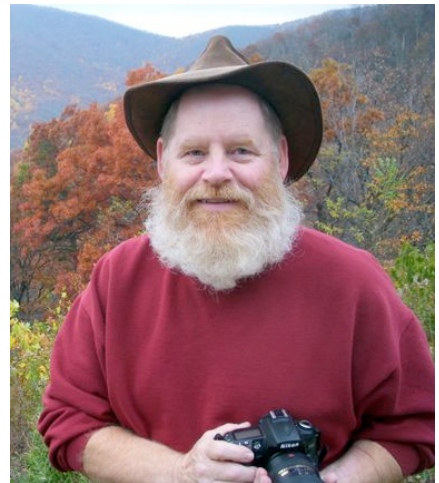
Green thumbs down to viewing garden walks as competitions. Every garden is beautiful, each one another correct answer to the timeless question, "How can we best enjoy this yard?" Check your local newspaper, library or calendars in publications such as

Michigan Gardener or Chicagoland Gardening magazine for local garden tours. Go gather some solutions.

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 client's 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.

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 also clean up well!

They began producing conferences in the early '90s and ran a gardening school from 1995 through 2008, featuring experts who know their stuff in the garden as well as how to get their messages across in front of an audience.

Janet and Steven are glad to help you themselves for presentations but also pleased to connect you to experts they know or send you their list of people, topics and contact information.

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 and Steven in-person:

Thursday, July 22 , 7:00 p.m., Janet's at the Belleville District Library, 167 Fourth Street in **Bellville, Michigan** (that's south of Detroit and east of Ann Arbor) to give you suggestions and encouragement for your own garden plans in "**Design Ideas: Before-After**". Free, no registration required.

Saturday, July 24, 8:00 a.m. - noon., *Garden by Janet - Bring your gloves and tools.* At the **Detroit Zoo**, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance for hands-on instruction in garden **deadheading, cutting back, weeding** and **problem diagnosis**. You'll also be helping the Detroit Zoo maintain its place as a great garden destination. (For more, see "About attending *Garden By Janet* sessions" on page 15.) To reserve a place in this limited-space session at the zoo, email JMaxGarden@aol.com by July 21 with the subject line "Help at the zoo."

Thursday, August 5, 10:00 a.m., Janet's at the Waterford Garden Club meeting at the Parks and Rec Center in **Waterford, Michigan** with *Tips for Late Summer Color*. Free. Email tealmustng@aol.com or check upcoming issues for more details.

Saturday, August 14, 8:00 a.m. - noon., *Garden by Janet - Bring your gloves and tools.* At the **Detroit Zoo**, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance for hands-on instruction in garden **deadheading, cutting back,** and **color cures for "August Blahs"**. You'll also be helping the Detroit Zoo maintain its place as a great garden destination. (For more, see "About attending *Garden By Janet* sessions" on page 15.) To reserve a place in this limited-space session at the zoo, email JMaxGarden@aol.com by August 11 with the subject line "Help at the zoo."

Saturday, August 28, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., *Cutting back the rambunctious garden: Pruning trees and shrubs.* Learn from Janet, a pruning expert, how to tame overgrown trees and shrubs or keep currently-civil plants from going wild. This class includes a lecture, pruning demonstration, and hands-on participation. (Bring your pruners.) Sponsored by the Detroit Garden Center at the **Belle Isle Nature Zoo** auditorium in **Detroit, Michigan's Belle Isle Park** this session also goes outdoors on the nature zoo grounds. Come prepared for pruning outdoors. \$25 for a Detroit Garden Center member or Master Gardener, \$30 for a non-member. For more information or to print out a mail-in registration form, go to www.detroitgardencenter.org and click on "Tree and Shrub Pruning Workshop" in the right margin. Or register by calling the Detroit Garden Center at 313-259-6363.

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

Saturday and Sunday, **October 2 and 3, *Natural Gardening and the Wooded Lot***

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday,
at Hadley Hill Farm, 1344 South Hadley road in **Ortonville, Michigan** (between Detroit and Flint).

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

Native Trees and Shrubs of Great Lakes woodlands

Working with Your Woods: Assessing, modifying and designing wooded spaces

Woodland Wildflowers

(More about this workshop on next page)



Designer Celia Ryker, here with Steven Nikkila to lead the *Wooded Lot* workshop is one of the expert instructors Steven and Janet help you bring to your community. See page 13.

(Continued from previous page) Register for the full two-day workshop or a single day. Every participant will be provided with a workbook which is both a collection of important facts from the workshop and a step by step guide for applying that information to a specific wooded lot. Those who participate in both days of the workshop may also register to submit their workbook plan to the instructors for written review and suggestions.

Two-day Natural Gardening and the Wooded Lot workshop \$195.00

Two-day workshop plus workbook review \$245.00*

Saturday only (basics and woody plants) \$115.00

Sunday only (design steps and wildflowers) \$115.00

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

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

About attending *Garden by Janet* sessions:

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

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

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

Thank you for doing what you do, including being accessible. It is a pleasure to be your student.
- Shelley Welch -

We want you to continue your wonderful service to your public for a long time to come... - Pat Sarver -

Where we go to *Garden by Janet*

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

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

I am wintering in Florida and sure wish I could find someone like you down there to help me learn about all new plants I've never met before.
Sincerely, Lois Tate

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, type of scene or hue you can imagine. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and nearly as many natural images.



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

Above: Transparent blue of *Iris* along the wildflower trails at the National Arboretum.

Below: Robin's egg blue in an elderberry bush; dubbed the Blue Belayer since the parents raised two broods here, causing a bird-loving gardener to twice put off pruning.

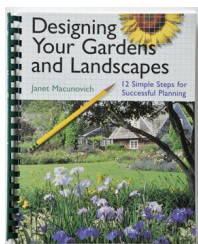


There is so much clear detail in these images that they are as clear at 8' x 12' as 8" x 12". Prices depend on your choices in format and size. For example:

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



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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.

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Caring for Perennials

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

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



Asking About Asters CD.

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

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



Potting Up Perennials CD. New for 2010

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

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

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Janet's complete digital library New for 2010

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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