

What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila
answer your growing concerns
Issue 116, October 27, 2010

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See page 11 for a *Ficus benghalensis* (banyan tree) that
gave a traveler pause and a gardener hope.



Midwesterners: Wrap up mophead *Hydrangea* if you wish for bloom!

Hi Janet. Wow! Wow! That's all I can say about my (mophead and lacecap, blue- and pink flowering) hydrangeas that we **surrounded in burlap and covered with leaves**! It worked even better this year! That one that had 12 (blooms) last year had about 24 this year, one that had about 2-3 last year had about 12-14. The lacecap that had only one before, now has about 6 flowers, and my 'Paris City Lights' may have five or more blooms (only one last year when I bought it)... I just have been watching (them) **grow flowers after flowers** in a display of exuberance. So I wholeheartedly recommend wrapping hydrangeas against the cold winter months... it's certainly worth it in the spring. - P. B. -

Thank you for the first hand report, P.B. As we discussed, back in June when you reported on this beautiful development, we're featuring this news in fall at garden wrap-up time. This way, others will know that **some extra protection before winter can make a difference** to the *Hydrangea* flower show next summer.

To clarify: This is in reference to the hydrangeas called mophead (snowball-like flower clusters) and lacecap. They are *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *H. serrata* and their hybrids. They bloom blue or pink. However, the **floral show can be negligible** or non-existent in non-coastal zone 5 areas.

To produce a flower, the branch tip that forms in late summer must remain alive over winter and resume growth the next spring. Unfortunately for many Midwestern gardeners, these plants often fail to realize that potential. They **produce nothing but leaves** after winter cold or spring frost has killed the branch tips.

To protect the plant to its critical tip-top, some gardeners create a chicken wire fence or burlap screen that **encloses all the canes** and is taller by at least a few inches. They stuff this enclosure **with dry leaves** after a killing frost or normal leaf fall has bared the hydrangea's branches. Heat rising from the ground below the frost line is trapped around the plant and over its tips, keeping it just a bit warmer than it would be otherwise. This can be enough to keep the tip buds from freeze drying.

The plant must be unwrapped once the weather begins to warm in early spring. Then, the opening buds need protection from late frosts.

Other gardeners do the Minnesota Tip to protect these hydrangeas. They uproot one side of the plant, tip it over and mound soil over the entire shrub. They uncover it and re-set it in early spring.



This scarcely-blooming shrub is giving the typical mophead hydrangea performance when grown in regions that are USDA zone 5 and not moderated by proximity to a big body of water. These kinds of *Hydrangeas* may do more if specially protected or very fortunately sited in a warm microclimate.

Did weather coincidence make the difference?

We've noticed something relevant since first discussing this with you, P.B. That is: We've seen in our region, and a fair number of gardeners here have reported, that *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* plants **bloomed better than usual** this summer. Others bloomed although they have not done so at all for some years. In most cases, the plants involved in these sudden success stories are hydrangeas that have been disappointing their caretakers, and which bloomed well although they *did not receive any special winter protection*.

This happens occasionally **when winter and/or spring is mild enough** to give the plants a break. So it could be that it was not only your extra care that produced the results you enjoyed. It may have been the result of wrapping *plus* the weather. In that case, you might wrap just as well next year and not see such a great return as a doubling of flowers.

We like making these kinds of connections. Let's keep tabs on lots of protected and non-protected mopheads and lacecaps over the years. Perhaps we will be able to determine wrapping's bottom line contribution!



Having seen how many flowers a mophead hydrangea can produce (here, a mophead hydrangea says "Yes!" to Cape Cod's ocean-moderated climate) we simply don't want to settle for less.

For the most part, we give these plants a pass in our part of the country. We feel that something which gives less than this show -- as on the previous page! -- is not worth the space it occupies. In addition, we haven't seen that winter protection is a sure bet toward improvement. Sometimes plants that were wrapped against winter's cold produce a half dozen blooms, which may satisfy their gardener, but isn't enough for us.

Our response to mildew includes, "Now cut that out!"

Hi Janet! These are photos of my garden as it was 2 years ago. You can see the **mildew** in the close-ups. I **dug out all the *Monarda* & *Phlox*** last year, so it looked pretty sorry this year! Hopefully, the new plants will fill in quickly. Thanks for all your good advice and plant/flower news. - G.C. -



Arrows point to gray-white spots of powdery mildew on bee balm leaves



has very good resistance), allow space between plants and stems so briskly moving air will clear fungal spores from foliage, and keep the plants otherwise healthy so they have their own internal chemical defenses at work. If you opt to also coat leaves with infection-preventing fungicide, do that during periods when infection is first likely -- usually in late spring and early summer as nights become warm.

Photo ©2010 Gena Calkins

We know it's tough to throw plants away, G.C., and also that it requires patience to bring replacements up to size. So congratulations for taking steps to **thin out that garden** after we talked about its mildew issues.

Now, on to **another contributor** to the problem, which we spied in your photo of the overall scene (below).



Photo ©2010 Gena Calkins

When there are so **many young, low-branched trees** spaced so closely, even mildew *resistant* species and varieties can falter. Air simply doesn't move well in such a place, yet moving air is one of the chief guards against mildew.

Sometimes, we don't make the connection between **air blockers** such as nearby trees and mildew problems. It's especially likely to be overlooked if the trees grew up on our watch. When they were very small, they didn't

block air flow. Once they grow and fill in, what used to be a fungus-proof site can become a **mildew heaven**. The problem is that they change so gradually, we fail to recognize the transformation or its influence.

When we do recognize this kind of situation and we know the gardener wants to grow species prone to mildew, we take out our saws or seek an arborist's help to **remove and trim trees**. Our goal: To open up that solid cover of leaves, thin the whole stand by taking out some trees, and also elevate the canopy by removing lower limbs.

When spring is long and wet, foliage may develop more gradually than usual. Active spring growth can continue for longer than normal. Foliage is most susceptible to fungal infection when it's forming. So in such a year there are more opportunities for fungus to infect leaves as they form. Then, mildew may be prevalent even on plants normally free of this non-lethal but ugly fungus. For instance, many Norway maple trees' leaves were infected this spring, incubated the disease, and in August turned downright gray. Afterward, that foliage died and turned brown by early September. These plants usually return to their normal, mildew-resistant ways without any special attention.



When perennials run amuck: Reining in threadleaf *Coreopsis*

I'm a novice gardener trying to manage *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam.' We've had 'Moonbeam' in our garden since 2002 and, over the years, it **has spread** to areas that we don't want it in. I've read that it can be divided/transplanted, but don't understand what I'm seeing when I dig it up, much less **how to divide it**. (Rip it apart?) Can you explain? If possible, I'd also like to know why it gets brown/black in late September/early October - is that anything to worry about? I've looked for pictures of the roots, but all I find are pictures of the flowers. - F. A. -

We share your frustration when it comes to gardening pictures. So many books, magazines and **sites feature close-ups of flowers** but few of the whole plant. Yet we long for the wider view that would help us understand its shape, identify it when it is not in bloom, or deal with division. The gardener's love of flowers and marketing hold sway here -- flowers catch our eye and they sell plants! It's usually up to us over-the-back-fence learners to present the less showy,



more **practical photos**. (We hope you'll also find magazines such as *Fine Gardening*, *Michigan Gardener*, *The Garden* from the Royal Horticultural Society, and *American Gardener* from the American Horticultural Society. These often get down and dirty with the best of us.)

Here's *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' (far left in the group) in comparison to other kinds of perennial roots.

Threadleaf *Coreopsis* grows by **forming offsets**. This tactic is probably the most common growth habit in the perennial garden, and boils down to the stem developing a little horizontal shoot that

"toes" out to the side. The toe grows its own roots and stem for the next season. A clump of threadleaf coreopsis is a collection of perhaps a couple of hundred of these little offsets.

'Moonbeam' is a **fairly mannerly variety** of this species, by the way. Its offsets don't reach out so far each year as varieties such as 'Golden Showers' -- one of the types that is taller, with brassier

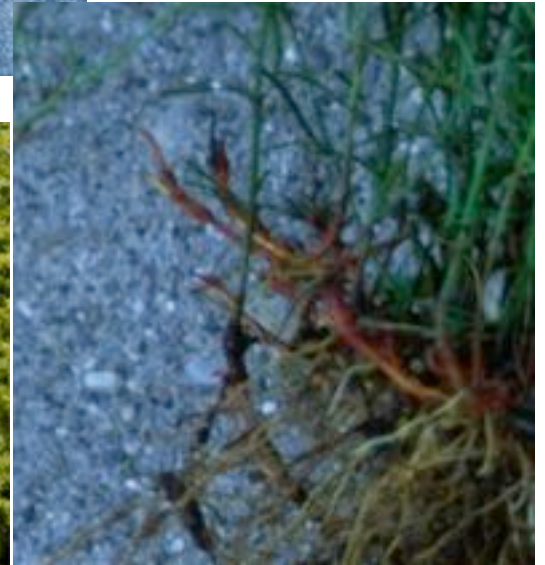
yellow flowers than the dwarf, pastel yellow 'Moonbeam.' We figure 'Golden Showers' has a greater ambition for world domination (see next page) than its shorter, paler counterpart.

No worries about threadleaf coreopsis plants going dark once their stems are killed back by cold or die back in fall. It's all healthy. Cut the old stems to the ground in fall or in spring, as all new growth comes from the basal offsets. Many gardeners let the plants stand over winter because they're firm, attractive, dark, wiry foils for winter-blond perennial grasses, as well as a seed source for songbirds.



Left: Rip it apart? Pretty much! To split the threadleaf *Coreopsis* clump shown on the previous page into two pieces is pretty much the same as cutting a section of lawn into sod squares.

Below: Here's one offset from the 'Moonbeam' bunch. (Please excuse the graininess. When we went to look for this shot in our photo library, it was missing. So we're using a cropped enlargement. Listen close and you'll hear Steven groaning in the background, but accepting that, "this time we'll have to just make the point rather than great art.")



Left: Now look at an offset from another perennial, blue globe thistle (*Echinops ritro*). We include it because its parts are larger yet have the same configuration as 'Moonbeam.' We hope that here you can see more clearly how each offset is a complete plant if broken away from the rest.

Compare the 'Moonbeam' offset (previous page) to this one (below) from a different, more aggressive variety of *Coreopsis verticillata*. What's significant are the much longer fingers reaching out from each offset. This is a plant determined to cover some ground!



To divide a perennial that grows by offsets, we throw out the oldest part -- the center of the clump, where offsets are weakest because root space is most cramped and crowded stems have been accumulating the germ of any problem the whole plant experiences. Then we re-plant about one quarter of the remainder, adding plenty of compost to the planting hole to replace the organic matter removed in digging up the original plant and to give the division a good start.

Every single offset can grow, and most people don't need such a big plant or so many divisions and

seedlings as can come from one mature clump. We call a plant a weed if it's growing where we don't want it. You can do the same and dispose of some of your *Coreopsis* "volunteers."

Alternatively, you could divide every bit into single-stem divisions, let them grow on and then and sell each one!



I have to tell you, when you said "We can do that in November," I thought, "I don't know, it's awfully cold in November." But now that we're out here, this is great weather for gardening, isn't it?! - Mary Topf -

Invasives vs. natives: No simple answers!

I didn't realize that **burning bush** is an **invasive plant** until reading about it in your newsletter. That's too bad, because my boyfriend just loves their color. He doesn't know many plants but he does know and comments all the time on burning bushes!

So **what does it mean** for you? Are you not using burning bush? And what happens if someone does plant them, if they're illegal?—S. N. —

We try to **avoid planting species** we've seen **spreading out of control** in the region where we're working. In our neck of the woods we haven't seen burning bush act as badly as it has elsewhere. Perhaps here there is some extra brake on seed set, viability or germination. Yet we have found them self-sown along disturbed edges of parks and natural areas. Thus it's been 15 years or more since any design we drew called for planting burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*).



Left: Burning bush seed.

Still, even where this species' sale is banned, **established plants are plentiful and legal**, well-loved, and long-lived. People ask about them and we deal with them all the time -- pruning, diagnosing trouble, transplanting, etc. We expect this to continue for our lifetime, unless some difference in the overall local spread develops or laws change.

Writing about the landscape for such a wide audience as we address does mean we will sometimes discuss the care of problematic species in established landscapes. So, we developed and will post the "Invasiveness alert" box (right), including alternative suggestions, as appropriate.

Invasiveness alert: Burning bush

In some environments, including Massachusetts, *Euonymus alatus* (**burning bush**) is able to naturalize and expand into wild areas to the detriment of native plants. If your garden is situated so that seeds of this plant can move into or be carried by animals into natural areas, please think twice about planting it.

Alternative species

Euonymus alatus (burning bush) does have fine qualities such as good form and fall color. To have those features without the invasiveness, look into our native North American wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*).

Besides the fun of having a "wahoo" in your garden, you'd have great purple-red fall color and nice form -- it's actually a small tree, 15 to 25', but amenable to being kept pruned as a shrub. You'd also have beautiful red seed pods in late fall (left).

It's native from the Atlantic coast north to Ontario and west to the Dakotas and Texas. Hardy to zones 3 - 7. Wahoo's available to home gardeners from places such as Forestfarm (www.forestfarm.com) and to garden centers from wholesalers such as Klyn nursery.

Additional alternative species

Reader N.C. responded to our last use of this alert to say that the native chokeberry bushes, (*Aronia arbutifolia* and *A melanocarpa*) can replace *Euonymus alatus* (burning bush) in terms of size and fall color.

Thanks, N.C. However, we'll keep our *Invasiveness Alert* texts to a minimum. We'll move outside the box when we talk about larger issues such as yours and others' reports about plants for great fall color, fruit for wildlife and so on.



Quick, while the fall color season is still on, show this photo of *Aronia* to your friend, or go see a chokeberry at a botanical garden or arboretum.

Left: *Aronia* berries for the birds, flaming leaf for us.

Below: Chokeberry usually stays shorter than 8', but it does sucker.

Regarding legality of burning bush: We don't turn to the law to decide which plants to use. Ethics and good stewardship are the best guide. The way law is used in the U.S. regarding invasive species doesn't even make much sense to us. The sale of a species is banned only after the harm has been done -- when the plants have already escaped and established thickly in natural areas. Although such a ban may stop new plantings it doesn't halt the spread and makes no provision to reduce or eliminate the species in cultivation or in the wild. Further, the law isn't part of a concerted effort against invasive species. In Michigan in 1997, for instance, the sale of one herbaceous perennial was outlawed: purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Since then we have continued to ignore -- legally speaking -- the use of plants such as Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) which may be even more destructive of woodlands than loosestrife is of wetlands.

As things are, we think the crux lies in each gardener's familiarity with invasive plant problems, and the individual's decisions. We wrote about this in the *Michigan Gardener* magazine (October, 2002 issue), including an "Invasive Risk Test" to help you identify plants that might be a problem and decide what to do. We'll send that to you and anyone who asks.



Invasiveness alert: Norway maple

In many environments in North America, *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple) is able to naturalize and expand into wild areas to the detriment of native plants. If your garden is situated so that seeds of this plant can move into or be carried by wind and animals into natural areas, please think twice about planting it.

Alternative species

Acer platanoides (Norway maple) does have fine qualities such as tolerance of many tough growing conditions. If you want those features without the invasiveness, look into a similarly sized, less aggressive shade tree such as a basswood (*Tilia americana* or *T. cordata*).

Where there's smoke... there's another alternative!

Replying to your *What's Coming Up* #115 main question about the screen for the dogrun -- I'm recommending *Onondaga Viburnum* (*V. sargentii* 'Onondaga'). It has great form, the right height, and its fall purple leaves and red berries are similar to the smokebush color. - R.R. -

Excellent idea, R.R. We like that plant, too!

Right: *Viburnum sargentii* 'Onondaga' is 6-8' tall and wide. It's hardy to zone 3. Leaves have a purple tinge as they emerge in spring and show that color again during autumn leaf fall. Flower buds are pink, flowers are white and seed pods are carmine -- every stage is attractive.



Above: Although *Viburnum* 'Onondaga' is a shrub it has branching as clean as a small tree. So it will also have pleasing lines when it's leafless in winter.

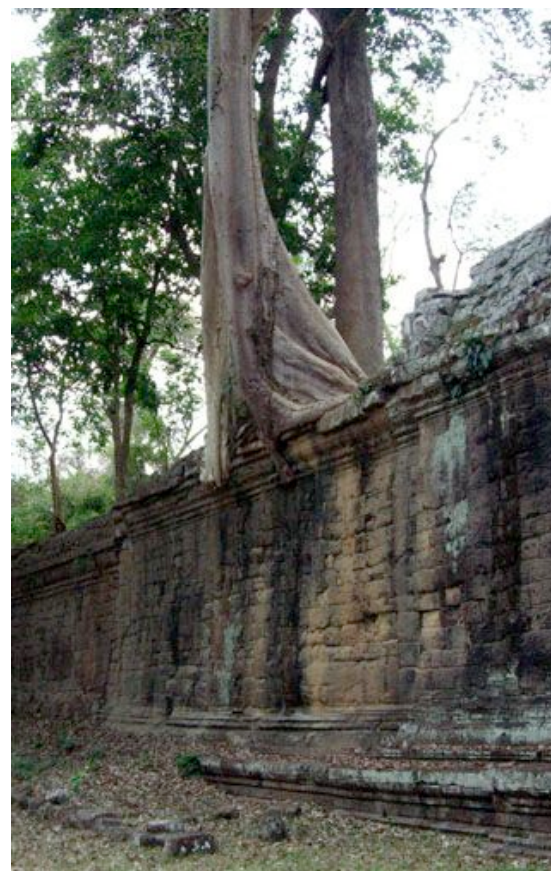
Left: The lines are not so clean on a cut-back, wildly suckered smoke bush (at the corner, against the house wall). R.R.'s suggestion of *Viburnum* 'Onondaga' is as an alternative to such a smoke bush, discussed in issue #115.

Gardener Afield: In the Cambodian jungle

The world is full of great gardens and even the widest ranging traveler can't see them all. Here's a chance to **peek at a place** outside the standard garden tours.

Hello Janet & Steven,

You asked for reports about unusual gardens and what's growing in far places. How about a jungle's reclamation of ancient ruins?



These are banyan trees growing on and over walls of temples at Angkor Wat, in Cambodia. It was

an awesome place and the trees were as impressive as the 800 year old ruins. Makes me think that gardeners, or their leavings at any rate, might have the last laugh over builders.

Cheers!
Cameron Fryer

Cameron Fryer is the owner of various fine plants, including an heirloom cactus, and although he has been surrounded by avid gardeners all his life is still able to see both forest *and* trees.



This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week:

Edge the beds to exclude plants that run underground. Lawn is the plant we most often seek to control in this way.

As the soil cools, root growth will slow but it won't stop until the ground freezes and will resume many weeks before we return to the garden. It's not unusual for lawn grass to infiltrate 18 inches into a bed if left unchecked from September to April. Woody plants' roots also grow like gangbusters while the gardener's on winter break. So there are places where as we edge we are acting as referee between a garden and an aggressive tree or shrub species -- birch, Norway maple, privet and arborvitae are four of the worst.

Top right: We cut back river birch roots about 5 weeks ago as we worked in a bed to remove thistle. Note how much new tree root growth (light/white portion of roots) we found there this week.

Center: A root that wasn't clipped has extended itself 6 inches.

Bottom: A more substantial root that was cut back may seem to have grown less but it matched its thinner counterpart's pace by creating *three* new tips, each 1-1/2 inches long.



Speaking of soil temperature: My pond water has now reached 50 degrees -- time to stop feeding the fish. That temperature's MUCH easier to measure!
- Kay Nef -

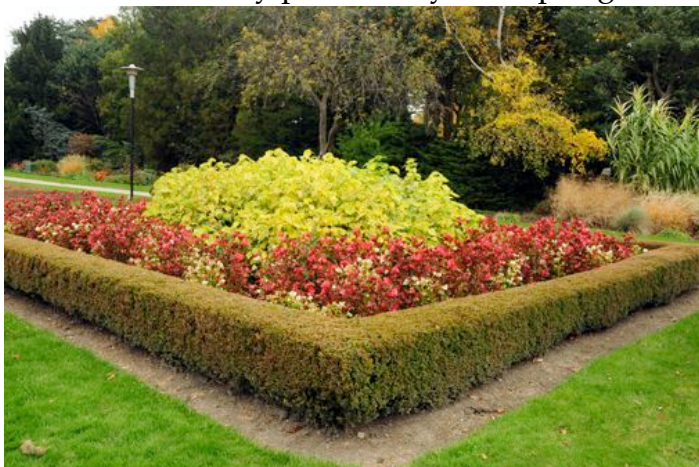
Remember to say aloud what we're thinking, to those we garden with. When a thing is not done quite as we like, it's so easy to just re-do it ourselves. However, that's not productive in the long run, and certainly unfair to those who wish to learn or at least to please and help us!

Perennial cut-downs to control pests are a case in point. Insects or disease problems can almost always be kept in check by removing the plant's aerial parts to the hot compost. We clip infected or infested parts promptly whenever we see signs of the problem, and raze the plant at year's end.

That means cutting the plant to the ground, not halfway or even 90%. So we grit our teeth when we see **herbaceous peonies** that have been cut back only part way, leaving several inches of stubble. This species is **so prone to Botrytis infection, it must be cut completely**.

We try not to grumble but to say directly, "Cut these off flush. As you cut, hope for clean, solid, *white* inside the stems, which means you've cut back far enough to be ahead of the fungus that was working its way down within the stem to infect the root and next year's bud."

Recognize some legitimate **reasons for perennial stubble**! In a windy site, two or three inches of healthy plants' stubble can give fall leaves and other light mulch an anchor. It can also help us locate and identify plants early next spring when we come out to resume weeding and dividing.



We visit others' garden not only to see their glory of bloom but for the story of their care. This week in the Queen Elizabeth II gardens in Windsor, Ontario's Jackson Park (right across the river from Detroit and contemporary with Detroit's Belle Isle Park gardens) the annual beds are undergoing their yearly change to become bulb beds for 6 months.



Still in Jackson Park: Cut down has been ongoing throughout the fall in perennial beds, clipping back what was done blooming and no longer adding interest. Now when all but the evergreen plants have finished and been cut, the weeding is done and all the bare ground is covered with slow release fertilizer and compost.



Plan and/or execute "**those-darned-animals**" changes. We thought purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) would be fine in one new garden, for instance. Although there are rabbits, deer and groundhogs around, the owner planned to include the new bed in her repellent routine. However, after just weeks in place, every leaf of the *Echinacea* plants have been eaten.

Just a reminder that even if we think less about the garden as the days shorten, or figure its care is not so urgent now, the animals follow the timetable of the stomach, with an urgency that never diminishes!

Now, what to use instead of coneflower? It must be a plant less palatable but with the same bloom season and color... perhaps candy lily (*xPardanthopsis norrissii*).

*...did you know that
snapping turtles like to eat
Swan River Daisies from
plant pots, while ignoring
petunias in the same pots?
I saw it with my own eyes!
- Susan Page -*

Make **one last weed patrol** before we mulch. This will be a final strike on each weed hot spot -- each place **where a persistent perennial weed was a problem**. Even if there are no shoots showing above ground, we know that sprouts have developed from weed parts we left the last time around -- bits of the crown, sections of running root, or snapped-off tap roots. We can loosen that spot with a garden fork, bouncing the tines underground to reveal what's just below the surface, then remove the rascals.

Oh, how well we know these weeds, to recognize even bits of root!

Green thumbs up to the fluffiest mulch if you cover perennials' crowns as you mulch in fall. Use crumbly compost or leaves that don't mat. (You can use mat-prone stuff such as Norway maple leaves by mixing them with another type.)

Green thumbs down to the shortness of pumpkin carving season. Oh how we love pumpkin art, from how it looks to the thought that in doing it we continue an ancient rite of putting out a lantern to scare off spooks or welcome one's ancestors for a visit. (You can take your pick among various cultural traditions during this season when spirits are said to roam the world.)



We light the way along our front path for the children on Halloween. Oh, if only the season lasted longer!

Did you know:

That **woodland ephemerals** such as *Trillium* **are already up and growing** in fall for the next year? They began making roots in late summer or early fall. Then, as the soil began to cool they developed the shoots that will be next year's leaf and bloom.

In many cases, those shoots have grown to just millimeters below the soil surface, are now receiving light that filters between the loose grains of loamy soil and are photosynthesizing. Thus can such a plant virtually leap out of the ground during its window of opportunity before the trees leaf out.

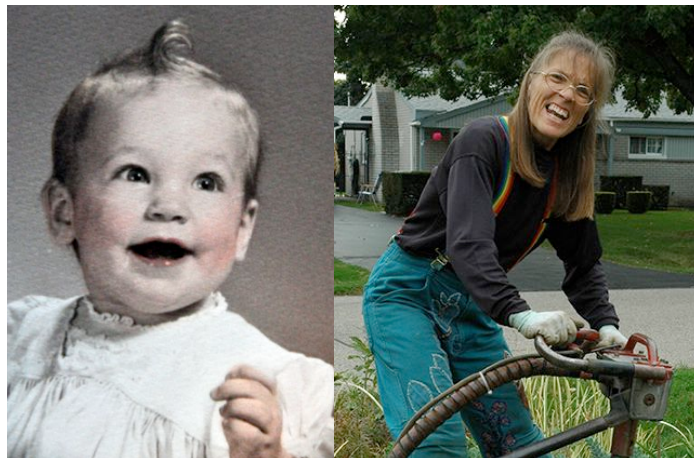
So a fluffy, light mulch is especially important for woodland species. Were you ever covered in a leaf pile as a child? If so, you know how warm and *light* it is there! Meanwhile, dense evergreen groundcovers can set them back.

Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

The toddler who asked "Why?" grown up and out in the garden. One day when her daughter was two and peppering her with "why," Janet Macunovich's parents laughed and said, "So now it's *your* turn! You used to drive us crazy with 'why' when you were little!"

"Used to?" said Janet's husband. "She's still doing it!"

Janet's been gardening professionally for over 25 years and loves to pose and solve garden puzzles. She's studied at colleges, botanical gardens, professionals' workshops, in her own garden and extensive library but finds the most answers in talking to people with questions. "I'm glad to be able to help others garden better at the same time as I indulge my own need to know 'why'."



That quiet garden guy who spreads calm like a comfy blanket. Steven Nikkila, horticultural photographer and joint chief of a professional gardening service, is a safe port in the midst of energy that can spawn headaches in those less well grounded. He rarely loses the clear vision that lets him frame the shot or cut to the chase, even when his wife or family are so charged up with new ideas that the work of the day is in jeopardy. With a steady hand that once "put the magic touch" on his own infant children and ran a house full of his own and others' kids, he directs, does and also captures garden work and play of all kinds. His photos lend beautiful grace to many books, magazines and catalog pages.



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

Where to catch Janet and Steven in-person:

Tuesday, November 2, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Janet presents *Basic Landscape Design: Making it real.* Dig into the nitty gritty of doing groundwork and planting so a landscape looks great now and also ten years from now. At Four Seasons Garden Center in **Oak Park, Michigan**, 14471 West Eleven Mile Road, between Greenfield Road and Coolidge Road. No registration required. Satisfaction guaranteed: Pay as you leave! \$20. Cash or check payable to Janet Macunovich.

Thursday, November 4, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The Grand Valley Daylily Society hosts Janet as she describes great *Landscape Ideas: 50 Favorite Before-After's.* At the Boy Scouts of America building, 3213 Walker Ave., **Grand Rapids** Free. No registration required. More at <http://grandvalleydaylily.org/mainpage.html>

Saturday, November 6, 9:00 a.m. to noon, *Garden By Janet* at the **Detroit Zoo**, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for Janet's hands-on instruction in cutting back for winter, garden redesign, bulbs, and fertilizing. Free. To join Janet at the zoo, email mstgarden@gmail.com with the subject line "I'll garden at the Zoo with Janet."

Sunday, November 7, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., *Garden By Janet: Garden Party Planning*, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Your chance to sit in on a design session aimed at making the most effective changes to a yard this fall and next spring for that important party next summer. Free. To join Janet in this limited-space session, email JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850 for details. Include your phone number in your email or message. (More about *Garden By Janet* sessions on page 18.)"

Thursday evening, November 11, 6:30 p.m. Steven is in Milford, Michigan, courtesy of the Milford Garden Club. He'll discuss ways to improve the landscape in *Landscape Ideas: 50 Favorite Before-After's.* At the Milford Presbyterian Church, 238 North Main Street in **Milford, Michigan**. Free. No advance registration required.

Saturday, November 13, Janet helps you put more *Winter Interest in the Garden*, at **Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin**. For more information, contact the gardens' office at 608-246-4550 or copy this URL to your browser bar to read about classes and download a registration form: www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm#workshops

To attend *Garden by Janet* sessions:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Invite us out - we clean up well!

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

From anonymous critiques of a recent class:

An energizing class. Very pertinent and delivered in a very enjoyable manner.

...wished I could go right home and get out in the garden!

Great photos, really illustrated points well. Loved the humor.

Where we go to Garden by Janet

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

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

Time to garden your walls...

Steven's decorated many walls with great garden and Nature images. He can help you do the same with photos that capture the garden beauty you love, framed or on canvas to your specifications.

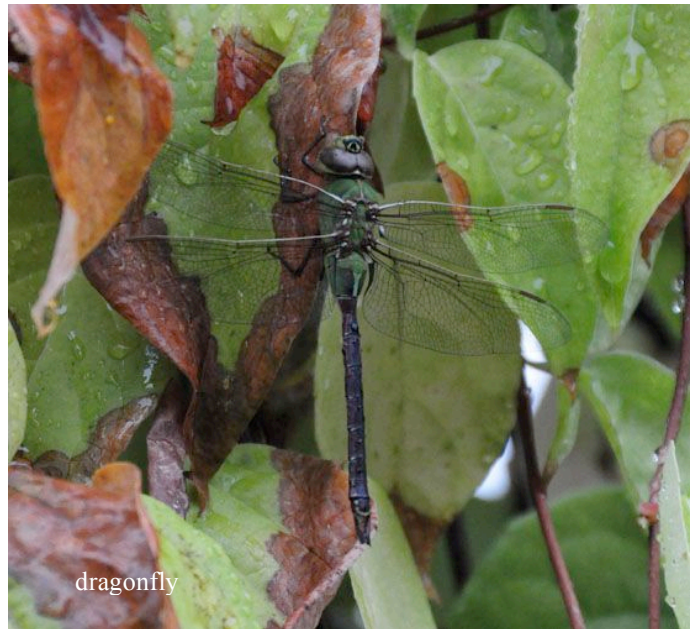
You can own any of Steven's images from *What's Coming Up*.^{*} Or if you have a flower, type of scene or hue in mind you can request your dream. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and natural images, so Steven can assemble a customized photo sampler for you. Email us at JMaxGarden@aol.com for details, to request a sampler or to place an order.

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

Matted, framed, overall 11 x 15", \$48

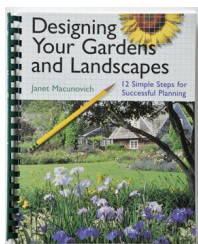
36 x 48' no-fade **cloth tapestry**, \$215

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



^{*}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.* Order now for December 2010 shipping**

A digital collection of 2009 & 2010's *What's Coming Up*: 104 issues, over 1,200 pages with more than 300 articles, 1,500 images and 250 quick-look lists and reports. Includes a comprehensive index so you search all the *What's Coming Up* newsletters at once to find help on any topic quickly. Index includes our previously-released digital library, *Asking About Asters*, so you can search both CDs from one index.

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

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

Janet & Steven'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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