

POLLEN DUST

continued...

the music began (perfect timing!) on the downbeat of the student-conductor's baton. Long drafts of whole notes from oboes, bassoons, saxes and cellos; silences, then more combinations, some melodious, some in a cluster of discordant harmony reminiscent of a miniature rainstorm's tirade. All in the beautiful day's dappled sunshine exposing the sound makers surrounding and among us: the bassoonist under the Carolina Silverbell, tuba next to the trunk of the old black cherry (they didn't cut it down yet!), cellists and violinists near the hackberries, trumpeter at the base of the old Elm, clarinet in the shade of the hybrid sentinel oaks, flutist sitting with the juvenile Saghalia spruces, all the while the young conductor, giving cues standing on a crate near the old apple stump, holding forth, steering the improvisations of his colleagues as the composer sits attentively observing the music of his art unfold.

During the hour the piece lasted I walked about the entire circle of the openings, listening from the players' perches, then resting near the Grand Fir berm, face upwards in the late sun to absorb the concluding frothy skein of notes. it was kind of a dream come true, having music and art in the mixed natural amphitheatre of the Arboretum sans artifice of seats and excessive arrangements that would have detracted from the allure of such accidental magic brought to us by Mr. Morris, et al and who was hip enough to know this is a place waiting for his joyous work.

My aesthetic larder filled to the brim, I retreated as I entered the pathway out, pretty much last to leave, back to the barn to pour some honey, still astonished somewhat that this really cool world premier just happened in our little park.

Creativity should know no bounds.

— ARBORETUM EVENTS 2010 —

February 22nd	Tuesday	Drawing for "The Lion King" Tickets	
March 6 -March 13	Sunday - Sunday	Philadelphia Flower Show "Springtime in Paris"	Philadelphia, PA
March 17-20	Thursday - Sunday	GardenScape 2009 "Rock the Garden"	Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, Henrietta
March 15-20	Tuesday - Sunday	Canada Blooms at Direct Energy Centre	Toronto, Ontario Canada
April 25	Tuesday 7PM	ANNUAL MEETING including the Garden Clubs	Cafetorium at Parks & Rec All welcome to attend
April 30	Saturday 10AM	Arbor Day Ceremony (time to renew yearly \$25 membership)	At the Arboretum
April 30		DAY OF CARING (replaces workday)	At the Arboretum
May 7	Saturday 8AM-Noon	Annual Plant Sale Get your "T"ree-shirt!	At the Arboretum
May 22	Sunday 2-4PM	DEDICATION & AUCTION (Be there!)	At the Arboretum
The Whole Month of July		DAYLILY EXTRAVAGANZA (Not to be missed)	At the Arboretum
July 10	Sunday 8AM-Noon	Annual Daylily Sale	At the Arboretum

Visit our website at: www.websterarboretum.org

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

TO THOSE WHO WALK/
RUN THEIR DOGS AT THE ARBORETUM. PLEASE JUST TUCK A PLASTIC BAG IN YOUR POCKET AND CLEAN UP AFTER "BOWSER". THE BLUE BAG THAT ENCOMPASSES THE DAILY PAPER, IF YOU GET ONE, MAKES A HANDY RECEPTACLE. THIS THOUGHTFUL GESTURE MAKES WALKING MORE PLEASANT AND LESS HAZARDOUS FOR ALL THE NICE PEOPLE WHO COME TO ENJOY OUR LOVELY ARBORETUM, ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN WHO SOMETIMES DON'T WATCH WHERE THEY WALK.



WEBSTER ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

Present board members of the Webster Arboretum Association, Inc. are:

George Riehle, *Chairperson*

Rick Ashley, *Treasurer*

Anne Bardusch, *Vice Chairperson*

Mary Ellen Oakes, *Secretary*

Members: Carole Huther, Robert Kretzer, Stephanie Lux, Bud Saylor, Joann Sgroi

Donna Shayder, and Carla Watkins

Emeritus Member: Polly Ashley and Carroll Manning

The board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.

THE WEBSTER ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Co-editors: Carroll Manning and Jo Thomson.

Contributors: Beverly Gibson, Michael Kopicki, Robert Kretzer, Carroll Manning, Donna Shayder and Carla Watkins.

Photo acknowledgements: Beverly Gibson, Robert Kretzer and Carroll Manning.

Address: Newsletter Editor, Webster Arboretum, P.O. Box 782, Webster, NY 14580



THE WEBSTER SESQUICENTENNIAL ARBORETUM

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21 ♦ ISSUE 1 ♦ WINTER 2011

We're Ready for Spring!



Witch Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana

The arboretum is covered with snow as I write this but the Landscape Committee is busy planning for the springtime activities of planning, pruning, planting, soil sampling, and documenting the plant material that is currently thriving in the approximately 25 acres that we oversee.

And who is this Landscape Committee? It includes folks that you know and who have been devoting countless hours (over many years) to the arboretum, **Carroll Manning** and **George Riehle**. Also contributing to our goals is the man who is responsible for seeing that the plants are planted and the paths constructed, **Nathan Hansen**. One of the designers of the Master Plan, **Dennis Burns**, is continuing to contribute in several ways and joining us recently is our own 'Spice Girl', **Beverly Gibson**. We are very fortunate to have some special help with our special projects this year and you'll meet them in the paragraphs that follow.

First things first; the Master Plan has been updated recently to reflect our current thinking about encouraging multiple uses of the Arboretum. Six trees were purchased recently, to be delivered in the Spring, that will become parts of the Theme Gardens (formerly known as Rooms) as soon as Mother Nature allows it. Of course, more is better, so if you would like to make a donation of a memorial (*or would just like to help make the arboretum greener*), please contact anyone on the board and we'll be glad to work with you.

A major project to be started this Spring involves producing an inventory of the plants and features in the arboretum. We intend to accomplish this by making GPS readings of them with the help of **Dave LaRue** (*McMahon and LaRue Associates*). We'll need a **dependable** crew of about 5 people with some technical experience to get this project underway; if you fit that description; please let me know.

The GPS readings will be incorporated into a CAD Landscape program later but almost immediately into a database that is being designed by **Phil Marr** (*Red Planet Web Development*) and that will be a part of our website. Phil is the designer and webmaster of (www.websterny.com/arboretum/); soon, individual tree locations will be displayed over a map of the arboretum on the website.

Two other projects are on the list for this Spring. The major disruption caused by the installation of a new water intake pipeline will necessitate a survey of the affected area to see if there are trees in it that should be moved before construction starts. **Tom Peaslee** of the Monroe County Water Authority will be advising and helping us with this endeavor, we are pleased to have his help and hope that he'll continue with us after that.

The landscaping of the Curry Building will be done before the grand opening ceremony. The committee has inventoried plants already in hand and believes that they will be sufficient for replanting. The Board has approved the purchase of 70 yards of double-ground hardwood mulch that will be used to dress up the beds in the Arboretum before the opening of the renovated building.

We are looking for a few more members who have some botany or horticulture in their knowledge palette and would like to help make the Arboretum even better. Just call me at 265-1968.

Bob Kretzer,

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit."

— GREEK PROVERB



Stained glass window adorns the front of the new building

Visit our website at: www.websterarboretum.org

ARBORETUM POLLEN DUST

by Michael Kopicki

Mystic Sounds in the Arboretum, Something Else

I heard that Mr. Morris, Eastman Composer-professor, along with (17) members of the modern music ensemble "Ossia" were going to concertize again in a park-setting. Last time it was in the trail section of Webster Park, five or so years ago. "Playing Outside" was a fabulous musical circus; improvising musicians like mountebanke performers telling their stories simultaneously as you hike your way through the woodland circuit. Inventive sounds in an unusual context. I jumped out of my truck at five minutes before 4, just as two student ushers were heading over the creek bridge into the children's playground in Kent Park. They handed me a program which I read later that evening.

The composer's words, *"The experience of the music in the Arboretum is like watching sunsets, clouds passing, or sea changes. Sometime there are abrupt changes, like a sudden gust of wind or a startling animal sound. Musical attention is akin to noticing and enjoying the subtle differences among flowers, leaves, plant morphology, birds, animals and insects and the sounds they make."*

Just as we entered the area I call the "openings", leading to the trailhead, zigzagging through the north part of the Arboretum,

(continued on back page)

“SPICE GIRL” What’s in Those Herb Beds?

Well, over 100 different kinds of herbs for one thing. I thought that I would highlight some of the herbs and their uses in just one of the beds in The Harrison Herb Garden. The garden is dedicated to the memory of William Harrison by his family who generously help to support it. I’ll start with the Dye Herbs Bed, and a confession. It is not as originally designed because in 1998 I was unable to find a sufficient local supply of *Baptisia tinctoria* or wild indigo. I substituted *Anthemis tinctoria* or golden marguerite and have never regretted the change. That is why you see a great swath of bright yellow behind the deep purple of the Hidcote lavender every summer. Wild indigo yields a blue dye that is inferior to the dye made from true indigo, *Indigofera tinctoria*, a native of warmer climates. The flowers of the golden marguerite are used to make a yellow dye. Remember the Redcoats of the Revolutionary War? Their uniforms were made from material dyed with a red dye extracted from the roots of *Rubia tinctoria*, or Dyer’s Madder. This invasive trailing plant is difficult to keep in check since it spreads rapidly underground. It’s the one that tries to trip you as you walk towards the middle of the garden. If you are looking for showy flowers, forget this plant because it has unimpressive greenish yellow flowers and you will spend most of your time untwining it from your more colorful herbs. How about the movie “Braveheart”, depicting a blue-painted Sir William Wallace leading the charge for Scottish independence? The Scots used the herb *Isatis tinctoria* or Woad or Dyer’s Weed to coat their skin before battle to intimidate their enemies. Fermentation of the leaves of this plant produces indigotine, a blue dye that was used in Europe before the introduction of true indigo from Asia. The herb is a yellow-flowering biennial that self-seeds readily. Another stunning plant, *Alcea rosea* ‘Nigra’ or Hollyhock ‘Nigra’, has deep purple, almost black flowers. The hollyhocks stand tall in the middle of the bed. The flower petals are the source for the dye. These are just three of the 14 herbs that comprise the dye bed, some are perennials, some are biennials and some are annuals that we plant every year. It is one of my favorite beds for color in the garden. In summer, you can’t miss it!

— Beverly Gibson
“Spice Girl”

“Dye Bed” at
Harrison Herb Garden



More Reasons to Visit Our Website & The Arboretum!

Each season, the Arboretum offers beauty and wonder to everyone who visits. Found in the spectacular colors of a single blossom, the pose of the red-winged blackbird along the edge of the pond, or the sparkle in the snow covering the conifers, the opportunities for nature-based photographs are endless. To promote photography in the park, the Arboretum Association is proud to announce a monthly digital photo contest, soon to be found online at www.websterarboretum.org.

The rules and regulations are simple: All submitted photographs must have been taken on the ground of the Webster Arboretum. Winning photographs are determined by popular vote on a monthly basis. The winning image will be featured online during the following month and the photographer’s name entered into an end-of-year raffle. Prize(s) will be determined yearly and distributed during the Arboretum’s annual fund raising event. Please see the website for the complete rules and regulations.

— by Carla Watkins



At left: Our faithful crew working hard to button up the new building while the weather was beautiful.

Above: Nathan Hansen waving.

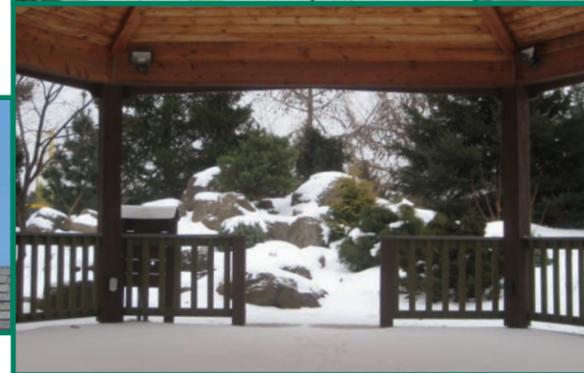
Below: A curving walkway leads to the entrance of the of our nearly finished, much improved, Curry Building.



Upper left: The fruit on the Cherry tree shines in the sun

Upper right: A piper practices in the gazebo.

At left: A snow covered view of the Strolling Garden through the gazebo.



At left: The dolphin sculpture donated by Mr. Polchoski, is almost totally encased in an icy blanket, while directly below you see the water spurting happily on a warmer day.

Below, left to right, top row: Carroll Manning (aka, Rose), Joyce Petz, Sally Jamison, Carol Ryan, JoAnn Mooney, Margie Cress and Patsy Moran. Front row: Abby, the dog, Carol Caton, Maureen Marr and Vicky Gilbert. Country Gardeners Garden Club.



“RAMBLIN’ ROSE”



Heigh Ho – have you had enough snow?! Today I skied in at the Arboretum. It was too warm and sticky, but is still a good way to get some exercise and fresh air I guess!

My dog, Abby, had snowballs up all fours plus on her tummy, and she didn’t appreciate getting rid of them in the laundry tub! Anyway, there are signs of spring ahead. The Japanese somethings (tag is gone) that are on the way out to the daylily garden, have big pussywills on them. The witch hazel, out by the Marra gazebo, is getting ready to bloom. There are geese flying back and forth (confused?) and the seven resident ducks are in and out of the water (brrrrr). Some of the shrubs have miniscule buds on them.

The Curry Building expansion is coming along so nicely, despite roadblocks that get in the way! The wall board is up and the guys are filling in nail holes and sanding, in preparation for paint. If you drive by at night, there are lights across the front that shine up and down – very handsome. The beautiful stained glass window stands out so nicely. I wish I knew who created that window. The design looks much like “cart bed”, so named by Liberty Hyde Bailey. Bailey was a famous horticulturist – known for his wit and knowledge. My husband, Rob Manning and I heard/saw him our freshman year at Cornell, 1950. He died in NYC that next winter, a man in his 90s.

Daily walks at the Arboretum are a treat for both Abby and me. I find so much to enjoy there. Lots of footprints from fellow walkers let me know I am not the only one. I have taken pictures of many of the activities that go on there, but don’t have a bride and groom picture as yet.

I just attended the second Landscape meeting ably chaired by board member Bob Kretzer. Watch for changes – more tree labels. A project started so well by George Riehle and Carla Watkins. Plans are for more paths, especially out by the daylily garden and forementioned Marra Gazebo and orchard. More trees are to be purchased from the list, made up a few years ago by Marci Muller and Dennis Burns. (If you want to donate a tree, it has to come from that list.)

Just a heads-up – Arbor Day is normally the last Friday in April. We will celebrate the next day, this year on the 30th of April. At this point in time, we only have a lilac bush to dedicate!

So Happy Spring and don’t miss the daffodil show in April. It’s always good for the soul!

— by Carroll Manning, as “Rose”