

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Monday, April 17, 2000

Orleans History

...ing a new look.

✕ Twenty Years Ago

✕ Orleans County teens Pam West, Chip Walton, David

Culver and John Pawlik represent the county at a statewide 4-H training and recognition program held at Cornell University.

✕ Twenty-Five Years Ago

✕ Marilee Metcalf of Albion chosen to represent Orleans County at 4-H National Closing Revue.

✕ Thirty-Five Years Ago

Twenty-five Albion taxpayers appear at village budget hearing and voice disapproval of higher taxes.

✕ Mrs. Guy Dusett Jr. in Washington, D.C. attending forum on 4-H Club activities.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Orleans History

✕ Sixty Years Ago

Orleans 4-H Club plants 45,000 trees.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Orleans 4-Hers score high in regional competition

It was no joke on April Fool's Day when Orleans County 4-Hers took first, second and third place in the Junior Division of the Western District Regional Communication Contest in Batavia. The Communication Contest is a public speaking competition where youth are judged on organization, content, stage presence and delivery.

Carly Wells of Medina took first place with her presentation "Western Fashion Trends." This was Carly's sixth presentation in the 4-H program, making her a seasoned public speaker at the tender age of 11.

Audrey Rath of Medina took second place with her presentation "Parts of a

Horse." Lindsay Voak, also of Medina, took third place with her presentation "Do You Have Proof?"

All three are eligible to compete in the New York State Communication Contest, held in May at Cornell University. Unfortunately, Lindsay will be unable to attend.

Carly, Audrey and Lindsay are all members of the H. O. R. S. E. Club, a very active 4-H club in Orleans County. As a club, they participated in the Military Mailgram for Valentine's Day, creating 232 cards for United States Armed Service personnel. They are also providing an entire Easter dinner for a needy family.

For additional 4-H information, call 589-5561.

Orleans 4-Hers sweep regional competition

It was no joke on April Fool's Day when Orleans County 4-Hers took first, second and third place in the Junior Division of the Western District Regional Communication Contest held in Batavia.

The contest is a public speaking competition where the youth are judged on their organization, contest, stage presence and delivery.

Carly Wells of Medina took first place with her presentation entitled "Western Fashion Trends." This was her sixth presentation in the 4-H public presentations program making

her a seasoned public speaker at the tender age of 11.

Audrey Rath of Medina took second place with her presentation entitled "Parts of a Horse."

Lindsay Voak, also of Medina, took third place with her presentation entitled "Do You Have Proof?"

All three are eligible to attend the state Communication Contest in May at Cornell University.

All three are member so the H.O.R.S.E. Club, a very active 4-H club in Orleans County.

Elaine Wendt named agriculture program leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Orleans County.

Ten Years Ago

Orleans History

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Gardner's Column: Pruning fruit trees

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

If you haven't already done it, now is a good time to prune your fruit trees. Ideally, you should prune in the early spring before leaves appear. Young trees need to be pruned only for correct structural development. Once your trees are bearing fruit, however, they should be pruned lightly every year (or at least every other year) to avoid having to prune too heavily in any one year.

Apples - In bearing trees the top may need to be lowered, and the lower branches that hang down may need to be either removed or headed back to an upward growing branch. In trees more than 20 years old, weak wood may also need to be removed from the inner parts of the tree.

Peaches and Plums - Peaches and plums should be pruned during blossom time (late spring) to avoid perennial canker disease. Peaches bear their fruit on one-year-old

wood and need fairly vigorous pruning to encourage new growth. Most other stone fruits bear on spurs on wood that is two or more years old.

Cherries - Sweet cherry trees tend to produce branches that go straight up in the air. These should be cut back to a more horizontal branch about three-quarters inch diameter. Little other pruning is needed for sweet cherries. Sour cherry trees need little pruning other than removal of weak, broken or dead branches.

Pears - Like sweet cherries, pears also tend to produce vertical branches that need cutting back to lateral branches. Remove fruiting spurs that appear on the main trunk or on bases of the main branches, as blossoms here can give fireblight a way to enter the trunk.

Some general pruning hints:

■ Avoid leaving stubs - all cuts should be made close and parallel with the main branch so that there are no stubs left to decay and allow disease to enter. If the end of a branch is

being removed, the cut should be made just beyond a side branch.

■ Remove suckers and watersprouts - remove those vigorous upright growths from the trunk and main branches.

■ Remove weak wood - prune out slowly growing wood in the lower and inner portions of the tree to enhance light penetration and conserve tree energy.

■ Head back low hanging branches - heavy fruit loads on low-hanging branches often touch the ground. To avoid this, head them back to a side branch that is head upward and at least three-quarter inch diameter.

■ Remove overhanging branches - limbs that are directly over or on another

branch should be removed. Constant rubbing can cause injury and a site for disease to enter.

■ Shorten a tall tree - it is possible to make a tall tree shorter by heading back tall growing branches to horizontal side branches. If the trees are extremely overgrown it is often best to do this gradually over a period of several years.

Thanks to Elaine Wendt who provided information for this article.

Want to know which plant pests are out and about in Orleans County? Interested in practicing IPM in your garden and yard this season? Then order the GardenScout - Orleans County's only weekly newsletter for the Home gardener. Call 589-5561 for subscription information.

An Easter lily primer

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

The heady scent, the beautiful white bell shaped flowers — it can only be *Lilium longiflorum* a.k.a. the Easter Lily. For many people, Easter Lilies are an important part of spring. People have appreciated Easter Lilies for hundreds of years. The first known description of an Easter Lily was published in 1681. The first drawing of one took a while longer, first appearing in the oldest known Japanese gardening book in 1719. These heavenly flowers have been an important crop in many countries including Japan the Netherlands and Mexico.

While Easter Lily is still popular worldwide, current commercial bulb production mostly centers on the north-western part of California. Once the bulbs are of flowering size, they are shipped to flower producers who vernalize (chill) the bulbs to force them to break dormancy. The bulbs are subjected to at least 1000 hours of 40 degree temperatures, either in refrigerated storage or outdoors. Once this requirement has been met, the growers begin forcing the

Easter Lilies to grow in greenhouses set at 60F degrees. It takes about 115 days for an Easter Lily to mature and flower at that temperature. Because the date of Easter varies from year to year, commercial Easter Lily producers must adjust their schedules every year in order to have plants at the peak of their beauty for the holiday.

Knowing the history is nice, you're now saying to yourself, but now that I have one, how am I going to take care of it? It is easy to keep your lily in good health while it blooms. Simply keep it in bright light in a cool room and water when the soil feels dry. Reblooming, on the other hand, will take some work.

Don't feel too pressured to keep your Easter Lily once it is done blooming. Many people prefer to buy new plants every year. That is the only option if you want it to bloom in the spring. If, however, you would like to try to keep your Easter Lily around a while longer, here are some instructions.

Keep your lily in a bright, cool location. Water it whenever the soil is dry to the touch, but avoid having it sit

in water. Remove flowers as they fade. Once all the flowers are gone, reduce watering gradually, and once the stem is dry, cut it a few inches from the soil. The stem must be dry before you cut it, or the bulb will not mature properly.

Put the pot in a cool, dry place until all danger of frost is past. Then take the lily from the pot and place it in the garden, about six inches below the soil surface in a hole with a small handful of slow release, balanced fertilizer. If you are lucky, you'll have a beautiful garden plant that will live through a few winters and bloom for you in the summer. (Unfortunately, it won't bloom in time for Easter next year. Professional growers use the exacting techniques described above to force Easter Lilies into bloom for the holiday.)

Want to know which plant pests are out and about in Orleans County? Interested in practicing IPM in your garden and yard this season? Then order the GardenScout — Orleans County's only weekly newsletter for the home gardener. Call 589-5561 for subscription information.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Wednesday, April 19, 2000

Conservation Field Days slated

The 32nd annual Conservation Field Days will be held on May 9 and 10 at the Orleans County Fairgrounds in Knowlesville.

Conservation Field Days, sponsored by Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, provides the sixth grade students of Orleans County the opportunity to learn about environmental conservation.

Every year Orleans County's five school districts bring their sixth grade classes to participate in this program. A total of 20 different "stations" will be showcased by local professionals and volunteers involved in environmental/conservation science.

Each of the classes will attend nine "stations" participating in hands-on activities designed to teach students about an aspect of local environmental conservation issues.

This year's "stations" include Wildlife Rehabilitation, Rabies Alert, Control of Overabundant Deer in Suburban Areas, Fish Culture, Aquatic Biota of the Erie Canal, Trumpeter Swan Project, Conserving Energy at Home and many more.

For more information or to volunteer during the event, call Margo Bowerman at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 589-5561.

Bringing up babies

By Heidi C. Truschel
J-R Staff Writer

While homes across the country were giving eggs a bath this weekend to color them for Easter, Colleen Lewis was doing so for a different reason.

Lewis, a Carlton resident who is passionate about poultry, was sanitizing dozens of eggs for delivery to area schools Monday.

Each spring, she shares her farm's eggs, and the miracle of life, with area school children who hatch them in class.

"I think it teaches them respect for animals," Lewis said. "They always want to know what it's going to look like when it grows up."

A breeder of various chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons and other feathered friends, Lewis' respect and excitement for other country chicks keeps her motivated to share her birds and knowledge of their care with kids.

Monday's order included 29 dozen duck eggs, 49 dozen chicken eggs and 12 dozen goose eggs to the Victor School District and the pre-school program at Rochester Public Schools.

"It never ceases to amaze me," she said of hatching chicks. "It's a miracle, a mystery. It's ever joyous."

Continued on page 3



ABOVE: Poultry breeder Colleen Lewis is pictured checking on some Crested and Pekin duck eggs. The eggs on the upper two trays are on automatic rockers that rotate the eggs back and forth so the embryos don't stick to the egg shell. The eggs must stay in the incubator for about 28 days at a temperature of about 98.5 degrees.



LEFT: Lewis checks on her 3-day-old Ameri-cauna and Sultan chicks.

Bringing up babies

Continued from page 1

Lewis keeps several incubators in her home, along with the few hatchlings that need extra attention.

"No one in my house ever stops getting excited by hearing things pipping in shells," she said. "For me, personally, it's an affirmation of things that are tough to find or verbalize. The energy of life is amazing and mysterious, no matter how much you understand the science."

The science of artificially hatching poultry is something Lewis understands well. During the years, she has identified the nutrition and housing requirements to produce fertile eggs.

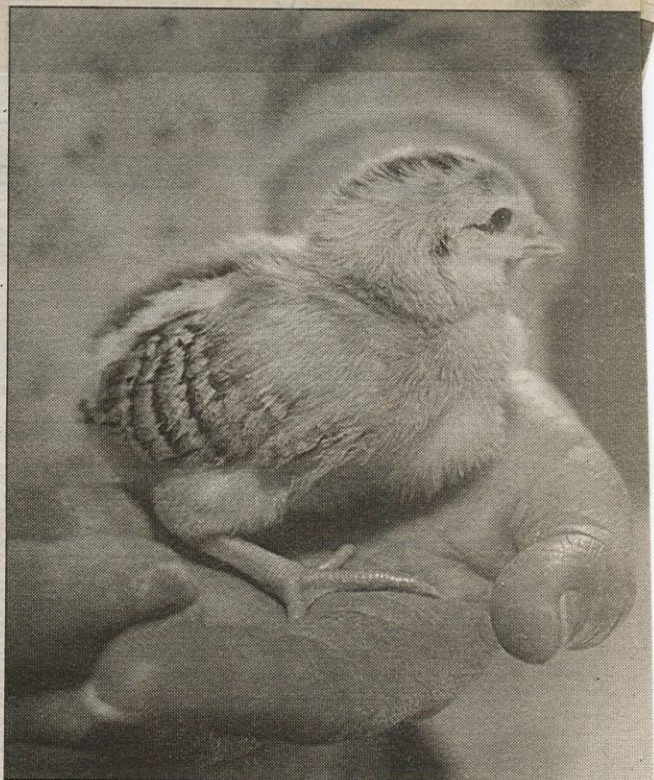
To successfully incubate eggs to hatch, classes must monitor temperature, humidity and sanitation, and turn the

eggs so the embryo does not fasten to the egg shell. If humidity is low, egg shells become brittle and chicks can not break through.

"If a classroom takes a dozen eggs, it's rare to get more than six or seven chicks back," Lewis said. "If a third of their eggs hatch, it's good. Last year, three-quarters of my orders were duck eggs. They're usually more successful hatching chickens than ducks."

Lewis said classroom hatching projects introduce the idea of unseen processes to children. She said a partial hatch demonstrates that many factors affect an outcome.

"I think it teaches them that you don't have total control of an experience," she said. "You have the happy and the sad right next to each other."



Pictured is a three-day old Ameri-cauna chick.

(J-R Photo by Dennis St

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Monday, April 24, 2000

Orleans History

Thirty Years Ago
Earth Day throughout
Orleans County results in gen-
eral cleanup of winter debris
by school children.

Big on bunnies



By Heidi C. Truschel
J-R Staff Writer

It seems the Easter Bunny likes Orleans County so much, he's moved his entire family here.

That's the impression when visiting the Gerling farm in Lyndonville, home to 150 adult rabbits and a multitude of their babies.

The Gerlings have been big on bunnies for four generations. According to 22-year-old David Gerling, one of the latest to take up rabbit raising, his great-grandfather bred rabbits for meat.

David's dad, Bill Gerling, who pays the bills at the bunny bunkhouse, successfully showed Dutch and palomino rabbits in 4-H as a child.

Now Bill's children each maintain a breeding program for their favorite rabbit types. Jim raises tans, a breed that can be chocolate brown. Sister Sue keeps mini lops, while her father breeds the smaller Holland lops.

While they currently maintain six breeds, the Gerlings have raised 30 of the 45 recognized rabbit breeds. They continue to win major awards at rabbit

Continued on page 3

The Gerlings are big on bunnies

Continued from page 1
shows, with Jim taking Best of Variety at the National Tan Show.

David has similar success with his chosen breeds, Rex and Rhinelanders. He is one of only five or six rabbit breeders working with Rhinelanders in the United States.

David is hoping his female, or doe, Rhinelander, Lilith, will be the mother of a rabbit nation.

"The Rhinelander breeders themselves said she was the best in the country," he said. Lilith is what makes David

like Lilith. When you see some real results rather than almost-good-enoughs."

David claims cuteness isn't a big attraction. His father sets it straight.

"Of course they're cute. Everybody has pet rabbits, even if you have 100 of them."

4-H rabbit club members, who recently visited the Gerling farm for advice on grooming and genetics, agreed that the creatures are cuddly.

"They're nice and soft," said 5-year-old Meg Logan. "Bunnies are more friendlier

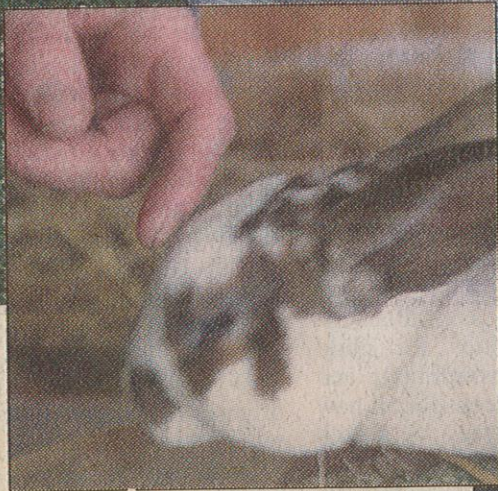
and like a grown-up farmer assessed their quality: "They pretty much look full-arched."

Besides gentle kisses and floppy ears, Bill said rabbits can teach children valuable lessons.

"One of the biggest things is learning a sense of responsibility as far as care of the animals," Bill said.

David has learned that lesson well.

"A lot of my friends walk away shaking their heads," he said. "They're wanting to go out and I'm telling them I got to get up at 3 a.m. for a rabbit



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moms deserve thanks every day

Editor:

Moms are special people. Often, they go above and beyond the "call of duty" to try and give their family as much as possible. They work hard and still manage to teach and be a friend to their children.

I am one of those who has been fortunate enough to have a wonderful mother — the type that sacrifices her own desires to support her children. That takes her children to extracurricular functions so that they can be happy and experience as much as they can. That welcomes all people into her house whenever they need a shoulder to cry on, a meal to eat, or just a safe place to go. That is willing to give up something just to talk out an inner problem or concern with her children. That gives strong morals to live by. That is a great example of what a good mother should be.

Many young girls today don't realize and understand what goes into being a "real mom" and sometimes make choices that seem to be made with rose-colored glasses.

Being a mother. It's a 24-7 job. Moms don't just pick and choose when they want to be moms. I think it is wonderful that our society has dedicated one day out of the year to thank mothers and give them gifts and special favors. But real moms deserve to be thanked as much as possible. Not just one day a year. Every day.

Carrie L. Baxter
Albion

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Monday, May 15, 2000

Orleans History

Thirty Years Ago

Nearly 1,000 Orleans youngsters participate in third annual Conservation and Education Field Day.

The Gardener's Column

Getting rid of stinging insects: Part 1: the social wasps, hornets and yellowjackets

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

I have now been an extension educator for six months in Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, and in that time I would say that about half of the phone calls I get from homeowners are about insects. This was, of course, somewhat skewed this year by the abundance of boxelder bugs in the region. Even discounting those calls, I would guess that insect management is very much on the minds of homeowners.

Luckily for us, the vast majority of insects are not harmful to people, and many are beneficial. Stinging insects fall into the mainly beneficial category. Bees make honey and are much needed for pollination of many of our food crops. Wasps eat other insects, including harmful caterpillars and flies.

Despite these benefits, stinging insects can often be a problem, ranging in severity from a bit annoying to life threatening for those who are allergic. Problems arise when bees or wasps build their nests too close to where we live or work. Usually, the only solution is to find and destroy the nests.

Identifying the wasp's nests:

Polistes or paper wasps are reddish-brown to dark brown, long legged insects with spindle shaped abdomens. These wasps construct circular gray paper nests that resemble a honeycomb from underneath. The nests are frequently found

under the eaves of houses, in little used buildings and in attics.

Hornets and yellowjackets are large black insects with white or yellow markings. They are built more heavily than Polistes. Their nests resemble a large gray, coarsely textured football and are constructed of a paper mache-like material. The nests are less common than Polistes nests and may be found under eaves and hidden in shrubbery or on tree branches.

The nests of Polistes and hornets are seasonal. If they are located in an accessible place and the insects do not present a real problem, the nest should be left alone. The colony will die in the fall after a few hard frosts and the nest will not be reused. Otherwise, many products such as pyrethrins and rotenone may be purchased in aerosol form for outdoor use and are often labeled as wasp and hornet killer. For outside nests, spray on a cool night directly into nest opening. You will likely need to repeat the treatment an hour later for hornets' nests; paper wasps' nests should take only one treatment. Throw the nest away in the next day or so if you no longer observe any activity around it.

Several important cautions:

1. Follow pesticide directions.
2. ALWAYS wear protective clothing when trying to destroy a nest; this means: long sleeves, pants tucked into

socks, gloves and a beekeeper's hat. If you can't find the hat, try draping mosquito netting draped over a wide brimmed hat and fastened securely to protect the face and neck from stings. I can tell you from experience that having multiple wasp sting your face is not a good time.

3. Ideally, all the insects will be in the nest when you spray; if they begin to emerge from the nest, simply walk away from the area and return later. It is better to be patient that to have a hive of angry wasps flying around you.

Obviously, those who are allergic to bee or wasp venom should not try to get rid of a wasp's nest. Even in those who are not allergic, wasp venom may cause general itching and swelling for several days in addition to the immediate pain. Persons with a history of allergies and those who develop severe reactions (i.e. dizziness, fainting, respiratory or stomach disorders) should consult a physician immediately if stung.

Thanks to Carolyn Klass for informational materials.

Want to know which plant pests are out and about in Orleans County? Interested in practicing IPM in your garden and yard this season? Then order the GardenScout - Orleans County's only weekly newsletter for the home gardener. Call Kim Hazel at 589-5561 for subscription information. Publication starts THIS WEEK so don't delay.

Orleans County 4-H horse program sets open house

The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Horse Program Development Committee cordially invites the general public to an Open House on May 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trolley Building at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds.

The purpose of this Open House is to inform the community of the many activities the Orleans County 4-H Horse Clubs are involved in. While many of the projects and activities focus on horse knowledge, the 4-H Horse

Clubs and individuals are also involved in various other activities, including community service and public speaking.

This Open House will be an excellent opportunity for anyone who is interested in or curious about the 4-H in general of the 4-H Horse Program in particular. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Margo Bowerman at Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 589-5561.

OUR TOWNS, NORTHWEST ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2000

Around the Towns

Albion

4-H club to host open house at fairgrounds

An open house on the Orleans County 4-H Horse Clubs program will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Trolley Building at the county 4-H fairgrounds.

The fairgrounds are located on Route 31, about six miles west of Albion.

People attending the open house will learn about the variety of projects and activities the 4-H horse clubs and members are involved in. They include community service and public speaking, as well as things that focus on horse knowledge.

The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Horse Program Development Committee is sponsoring the event. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact Margo Bowerman at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension office, 589-5561.

AGRICULTURE

Trio talks way to state horse skills competition

Medina girls qualify for Cornell U. Communication Contest

By Matt Surtel

Daily News Staff Writer

Knowledge, poise and stage presence helped three Medina girls qualify for the New York State Communication Contest on Saturday at Cornell University.

Carly Wells, Audrey Rath and Lindsay Voak swept the Junior Division of the 4-H Western District Regional Communication Contest on April 1 in Batavia. The competition tested the students' public speaking skills and knowledge of horse-related topics.

"You have to practice a lot, get as much information as you can and organize it," Voak said. "If you are too short you can get more information and stuff."

The girls were judged on introduction, organization, stage presence, and content and accuracy, said Donna Scharping, a 4-H educator and Wells' grandmother. Scores were also given on delivery, summarization and effect on the audience, she said.

Scharping said the contest gives students classroom skills and practical knowledge about horses. She said the lessons are useful for

introductions to their presentations on April 28 at Scharping's house. The competition is tougher than it looks, Scharping said.

"(The presentation) has to be nine to 22 minutes," she said. "That's a pretty long time for little people or anyone."

Carly, 11, won first place for her western fashion trends presentation. She researched clothing and made a model named "Shirley" out of cardboard boxes and dressed her in the latest riding fashions.

Shirley's clothes included silver earrings and a riding uniform with animal-print lapels. Riding clothing is expensive and it's good to know the fashions before buying, Carly said.

Audrey, 11, won second place for her presentation on the parts of a horse. She said she had to know unsoundness, or features that show disease or injuries.

"You have to memorize it and point out a body part," she said.

Lindsay, 10, won third place for her presentation called "Do You Have Proof?" She told how to tell a horse's age by looking at its teeth.

Teeth change as horses age,

"I like to horses so it's fun to learn about the different things," she said.

The girls said the contest has helped them with their schoolwork. They said they already know how to do research projects and presentations.

"If you have to do posters, you can set them up easier," Voak said.

Putting their presentations together for competition was the most fun, they said. The scariest part is worrying about doing poorly, Carly said.

"You never know how good the competition is until you get there," Carly said.

The girls said in unison that their favorite part — after all the research, hard work and competition — is "the end."

The contests are fun but challenging, they said. Edgy nerves can make contestants speak faster. Presentations that have been carefully timed and practiced suddenly become too short, they said.

Scharping said nervous family members try to signal contestants



The Gardener's Column

A few resources for garden information

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator
New online guide
to gardening resources
at Cornell

Ever wish you had a complete guide to the online gardening resources at Cornell? The Gardening Resources web page puts them right at your fingertips. Now you do - just point your browser to www.fvs.cornell.edu/gardening. You will find information on everything from the best-adapted varieties for New York to dealing with nuisance wildlife.

The site gathers in one place information from departments at Cornell and closely related institutions, including more than 250 fact sheets. The guide also includes links to composting resources, Cornell publications and much, much more.

Gardening Resources is intended to serve as an interim information source this season while a new comprehensive and interactive website for gardeners is being developed.

Remember, if you don't have a computer at home, you can use one at your local library where they'll be happy to show you how to navigate

cyberspace.

A resource for Orleans County gardeners

Next week marks the beginning of GardenScout, Orleans County's weekly newsletter for gardeners interested in practicing Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves using a variety of means to deal with pest problems. It does not necessarily eliminate the use of pesticides, but seeks to use them in the most efficient manner possible. If you want to learn more about IPM, as well as getting information about specific insects, weeds, and plant diseases, subscribe to GardenScout.

Reduce your plant stress for a healthier landscape

One of the simplest ways to reduce your use of lawn and garden pesticides this summer is to keep plant stress to a minimum. This way, you can prevent many problems before they happen. Buy only vigorous, healthy plants. Don't think you are the one to nurse that sad looking six-pack of impatiens back to health. It's better to leave it at the garden center.

Also, try and grow plants

with at least some resistance to common diseases and insect pests. Once you have the plants home, the best way to avoid undue plant stress is to learn about what they like. Books (online Cornell fact sheets) can help you learn this (or you can call your local extension office) but nothing can replace regular strolls in the garden with your eyes wide open. This, more formally known as scouting, can help you spot stressed plants before the insects and diseases can attack them. For example, if you force a shade-loving plant to live in full sun, it will constantly be under stress and much more likely to do poorly and even die. Similarly, if you keep trying to grow sunloving turf species in the shade, you'll likely have poor growth and disease problems.

Want to know which plant pests are our and about in Orleans County? Interested in practicing IPM in your garden and yard this season? Then order the GardenScout - Orleans County's only weekly newsletter for the Home gardener. Call Kim Hazel at 589-5561 for subscription information. Publication starts NEXT WEEK so don't delay.

Orleans History

10 Years Ago

Glenn McClure, Geneseo native, brought his "Great Garbage Concert" to the Conservation Field Days held at the county fairgrounds this week, urging local sixth graders to make music using normal household throwaways.

The Gardener's Column

May garden tasks, weed control

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

May us a wonderful month in the garden. The weather is warm enough to put in new seedlings and summer bulbs, many flowering trees and shrubs are in bloom, and all the plants have fresh, newly grown foliage. Enjoy your May, and celebrate the growing season by tending to your plants.

Garden tips for May

■ Now is a good time to get rid of the faded flowers from spring bulbs. Let the plants keep the foliage to make food for next season's bloom.

■ Spring-flowering shrubs should be fertilized once when they bloom and again six to eight weeks later. Wait until after blooming to prune these shrubs.

■ If your lilac looked a bit tired this year, get a better bloom next year by pruning out 1/3 of the shrub (oldest branches). If you do this every year, no wood on the plant will be more than 3 years old. This kind of annual pruning will keep your lilac vigorous.

■ Protect young transplants

with collars. This is the best way to ensure that cutworms don't eat your tender seedlings. Cutworms can decapitate young plants, leaving you with an empty garden. You can make collars by pressing a 6-inch tall paper collar into the ground an inch or two around each seedling. Recycled cans with the top and bottom cut off also work and can be used for many seasons.

■ The last average frost date for most of Orleans County (April 30 - May 10) has past, but Shelby, Barre and Ridgeway south of Route 104 have an average last frost date of May 10 May 20. You may want to chance putting out a few warm season plants but avoid putting in the majority of your tender annuals and vegetables until the last week in May.

Some words about weeds

As Shakespeare said in King Henry VI: *"Now tis the spring and weeds are shallow-rooted; Suffer them now and they'll o'ergrow the garden."*

The Bard knew what he was talking about. This time of year, the weeds are still at a

manageable size. Take advantage of their small size now and hoe new weed seedlings as they appear. Just scrape the surface so you don't unearth any new weed seeds. A few minutes spent doing this every morning or evening will pay off later in the summer when you don't have to try and yank mature pigweed out of the ground.

I am a big fan of using mulch in the garden for weed control. It also helps to retain soil moisture. I like both black plastic mulch and organic mulches such as bark. If you have perennial weeds with rhizomes (spreading underground roots), you may need to destroy them before you put on an organic mulch. a non-selective herbicide should take care of these stubborn weeds and prevent them from growing back. Using a black plastic mulch should prevent perennial weeds from ever seeing sunlight, and will be an option for organic gardeners.

Thanks to Elaine Wendt for information used in this article.

Youth fishing jamboree set

Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H programs from Finger Lakes counties and the state Department of Environmental Conservation will hold the ninth annual 4-H Sport-fishing and Aquatic Resources Education Program Youth Fishing Jamboree on June 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Region 8 DEC headquarters, East Avon-Lima Road on Routes 5 & 20 between Avon and Lima.

The fee is \$3 for youth with adults admitted free when accompanied by a child. The DEC will waive fishing

license requirements for adults supervising youth at the Jamboree.

Young people can meet Environmental Conservation officers and learn about their job and responsibility.

Organizers will provide bait for the afternoon fishing derby.

Lunch foods will be available for sale as a 4-H fundraiser and angling equipment will be available for loan.

To register or for more information contact your county Cooperative Extension office.

Raise the big top!

Five-ring circus set to perform starting June 13

By Virginia Kropf
Daily News Staff Writer

MEDINA — Medina Rotary will sponsor two performances of the Carson and Barnes Five-Ring Circus at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. June 13.

"This is no 'schlock' circus," promoter Burl Greer told members of Rotary during their weekly meeting Wednesday.

Billed as the world's largest tent circus, it features the only five-ring show on the road, Greer said, with 17 to 20 Asian and African elephants, almost 100 performers from around the world and 100 exotic and domestic animals. These include the only performing Friesian stallions in the United States (a work horse similar to a miniature Clydesdale), a giraffe, pygmy hippopotamus, camels, lions and tigers.

The circus will roll into the Orleans County Fairgrounds on Route 31 between 9 and 9:30 a.m. and the public is invited to come and watch the Big Top go up. With three elephants and 35 men, the tent (the size of two football fields) takes less than 30 minutes to set up, from the time the first pole is set, Greer said.

It takes 88 vehicles, including 22 semi trucks, to move all the animals, equipment and artists, he said.

"We are in a breeding program, helping to maintain the Asian elephant herd," Greer said.

"A 20-month-old elephant born in the program is the youngest performer known, and one of the smartest, according to its trainer."

Performances last about two hours and the public is urged to buy tickets in advance. Sponsoring organizations receive 40 percent of all advance ticket sales, compared to only 10 percent of tickets sold at the time of the performance, Greer said.

Rotary uses proceeds from its fundraisers to donate to community organizations, such as the Medina Hospital Foundation, 4-H fair, scholarships and Future Farmers of America.

The fair travels to a new community almost every day, Greer said. Occa-



Ring of fire

Kali, a Bengal tiger, leaps through a ring of fire during a performance by the Carson & Barnes Circus. The circus will arrive June 13.

sionally it will stay two days to accommodate a larger population, but generally it performs in a different town each and every day.

On June 14, the circus will perform at the Genesee County Fairgrounds in Batavia, sponsored by the Genesee County Agricultural Society.

Advance sale tickets are available in Medina at Tops, Jubilee, Medina Sav-

ings and Loan, Floristry by Trudy, Nixon Auto and Rose Jewelers; in Albion at Jubilee and Pawlak's Food; in Middleport at Middleport Family Health Center; in Lyndonville at Provisions Pharmacy; and in Gasport at Seaway Insurance.

Information on tickets for the Batavia performance is available by calling Glen Kruger at 344-1759.

Orleans History

✱Twenty-Five Years Ago
Three hundred applicants
signed up to participate in 4-H
annual Walk-a-Thon.

Orleans History

✱Fifteen Years Ago
About \$5,000 in pledges
were raised in the 17th Annual
4-H Walk-Bike-A-Thon.

The Gardener's Column ✱

By Cynthia Cowen
Extension Educator

The mere mention of bats often causes strong reactions in people. The interesting thing is that for every call I get from people trying to get rid of bats, I get a call from someone wanting to attract these small mammals. I am of the latter group. I think bats have an undeserved bad reputation. They certainly do a service for anyone who wants to cut down on the mosquito population. A single female bat will eat up to 600 mosquitoes and other insects each night.

First I'd like to dispel some myths about bats:

■ Bats are not blind. Although their vision is perfectly fine, they do use a sonar system to navigate and locate their prey.

■ Bats won't fly into your hair. Most of the calls I get

about bats ask me this. Bats will go out of their way to avoid running into you.

■ Bats don't bit unless you try to handle them. Most North American bats eat insects and have no desire to interact with people.

■ Bats will not chew their way into your attic, although they can squeeze through very small openings.

Eliminating bats from your home can be difficult if they have been living there for a while. Therefore, if you see a new colony setting up house-keeping in your attic, you should get rid of them immediately. Regardless of when they moved in, a way to get rid of bat colonies from your attic or eaves is to close all but one opening that they enter and leave through. Wait until about 1/2 hour after nightfall when most of the

bats are out for the night, and then seal the opening. There is also a "one-way" door available that lets bats fly out but not back in again. Be sure to wear protective clothing such as gloves and a dust mask when batproofing your home. You will need to remove any dead bats or droppings left behind. Again, make sure to wear proper clothing when doing this. If you would like to ensure the least number of bats killed, wait until August to move them out. By that time, the young bats will be weaned and able to fly.

Like any wild animal living in close proximity with people, bats need to be properly managed.

If you would like to attract bats to your property, the easiest way is to put up a bat house. You can purchase these from the Orleans County Soil

and Water Conservation District (589-5959). Plans are also available if you would like to build your own.

You will probably have the best luck if you site your box 10 to 20 feet off the ground in a spot sheltered from the wind. It is important that the bats have a clear path to the box entrance, so do not hang the box behind vegetation. Then be patient. It can take up to two years for bats to appreciate your efforts, and the most common time to have bats move in is in the spring when they first become active. One way to convince bats to move to a bat house is to put some bat droppings into it. I am sure any of your neighbors with bats will be glad to part with them. Don't forget to always wear a mask and gloves when moving the droppings.

“Millennium Magic” - 4-H holds annual Clothing Revue

“Millennium Magic” was the theme for the evening as the Orleans County 4-H clubs recently held their annual Clothing Revue to showcase their homemade garments.

Participants included Emily Culbertson, Alexandra Gudonis, Allison and Crystal Gerken and Kerrie Walker, all of the A.A.G. 4-H Club; Ashley Morrison, Rachel Pulaski and Shirley Armer of the Barre Bunch 4-H Club; Danielle and Nicole Bannister, Amie and Kelly Lin Collazo, Nicole Brown and Toya Torrance of Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath 4-H Club; Aimee and Deborah Shortridge of the Homeschool Co-op 4-Hers; Heather Carr, Rachel Preston, Michelle Sands and Amanda Vreeland of the Moonlight Dreamers 4-H Club; Kayleigh Ferra, Scott Marciszewski, Megan Sidari and Allyson Withey of New Kids on the Block 4-H Club; Julianne Watts of the Rabbit Raisers; Alina Larkin and Clarrisa Steier of Riches Corners Reveleers 4-H Club and Felicia Kenney and Elizabeth Van Houter of the Sunflowers 4-H Club.

Russell Shortridge and Chad Helsdon were escorts for the evening.

Julianne Watts and Michelle Sands were selected for State Fair, with Kerrie Walker and Toya Torrance as alternates.



State Fair selections are, from left, Kerrie Walker, Toya Torrance, Michelle Sance and Julianne Watts.

Selected for the Western District Clothing Revue were the State Fair selections and Allison and Crystal Gerken, Rachel Pulaski, Kelly Lin Collazo, Deborah Shortridge, Amanda Vreeland and Scott Marciszewski.

The Western District 4-H

Clothing Revue, which includes the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming, will be held July 12 in Albion. Call the Orleans Cooperative Extension 4-H at 589-5561 for information.

Gardner's Column

Attracting hummingbirds to your backyard

**By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator**

I got a book in the mail yesterday about hummingbirds. It is a topic that I had not previously thought much about. In my parents' garden, we always had an abundance of hummingbirds. I always assumed everybody's yard was like this. Not so, as it turns out. I recently talked to an Orleans County resident who has tried unsuccessfully for the past few years to attract more hummingbirds to his garden. He asked me for some advice on the topic, so I did some research.

Although there are hundreds of hummingbird species in the Americas, only one is located in the east, the ruby-throated hummingbird. They should already be here this year, as they usually arrive by early May. One nice thing about attracting these migrant birds is that once they have taken a liking to your garden, they will return year after year.

Plants that will attract hummingbirds are typically red and tubular, although I have found impatiens to be more popular than Salvia (scarlet sage) in my garden. Bee Balm (Monarda) and Morning Glory seem to appeal as well. Fuschias are a good bird

attracting plant for a patio and look beautiful in hanging baskets. An ideal hummingbird garden provides food from the time the birds arrive in April or May to the time they depart in September.

If you find you don't have enough room or time for many flowers, hummingbirds are more than gappy to drink from feeders. Inexpensive feeders work just as well as the fancy ones, although I must admit being partial to the beautiful glass feeders that resemble Christmas ornaments. That's more for me than the birds, however, as they are equally attracted to a \$10 feeder from the hardware store. Perhaps the most important quality of a feeder is how easy it is to clean, because it will need to be cleaned regularly. Which ever feeder you purchase, fill it with a sugar syrup made of four parts water to one part white granulated sugar. To ensure that the syrup is clean for the birds, boil the water you use to make the syrup, and stir in the sugar while the water is still hot. Cool the mixture, fill the feeder and refrigerate any syrup you don't use right away (It will keep about 2 weeks). Do not use any food coloring or the colored syrup available

commercially. It is safest for the birds to have only white sugar. The color of the feeder and/or feeding tip should be enough to attract the first birds, and they will visit faithfully once they know there is a ready source of food in your yard.

One of the responsibilities of having a feeder is cleaning it. I know that cleaning is a tiresome task, but your hummingbirds will thank you for it. Only fill your feeder with as much nectar as the birds will drink in less than a week. That way you won't waste any syrup when you clean the feeder. In really hot weather, the feeder may need to be cleaned every day or two to prevent the growth of bacteria. To clean the feeder, it should be thoroughly rinsed with hot water every time you fill the feeder. So not use soap. If you see black spots in the feeder, you have mold that you need to eliminate. In general, boiling the syrup will help to prevent mold. Even if no mold occurs, it's a good idea to soak your feeder for an hour in a weak bleach solution (about 1/4 cup bleach in one gallon water) once a month. Be sure to rinse before refilling.

People's Forum

Trails needed for dirt bikes

To The Editor:

There are many people in Genesee, Monroe, Niagara and Orleans counties that ride four-wheelers and dirt bikes. All of these counties could benefit if trail systems were made. By making trails it would give people the opportunity to ride further and be safer without breaking any laws. These trails could also bring tourism to the counties, and by charging those who use them it could offset the cost.

What is the money we pay for registrations being used for? Why does the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation acknowledge boats and snowmobiles but not dirt bikes and four-wheelers?

I would like to encourage other four-wheeler and dirt bike riders to contact your county and state legislatures to help persuade them to coordinate trail systems for more than just snowmobiles.

Sincerely,
Aaron Batt
Albion

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Tuesday, May 30, 2000

CARSON & BARNES

CIRCUS



Hey kids!
OPEN YOUR OWN AT

SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT

MEDINA SAVINGS

& LOAN

& RECEIVE A FREE

TICKET TO THE CIRCUS!

Tuesday,
June 13, 2000
Medina, New York

MEDINA SAVINGS

& LOAN

Your Town, Your Money, Your Bank.

Member FDIC



Equal Housing Lender

Location: Orleans County Fairgrounds
Sponsor: The Medina Rotary Club
Additional Tickets Available For:
\$10 Adult & \$5.00 CHILD (Ages 2-11)
(Applicable Tax Included)

Elba student reflects on her senior year activities

(The following is a Question & Answer interview with Elba Central School senior Angela Bezon.)

QUESTION: What are your plans after high school graduation?

ANSWER: Go to college and major in political science and minor in history.

QUESTION: What are your thoughts about being the first graduating class of the new century and having no stage for graduation?

ANSWER: I think being the millennium class makes us something special and memorable no matter where graduation is held.

QUESTION: What does school spirit mean to you?

ANSWER: I think by being active and participating or just attending events helps you have school spirit. Also, it helps whoever is doing the activity get excited about what they are doing.

QUESTION: What tradition

at ECS do you consider important or makes Elba unique?

ANSWER: I love how Elba is so small, it allows people to get into all sorts of activities. If we were larger, you would only be able to be in half of them.

QUESTION: What part of your academic education has benefitted you the most?

ANSWER: When I took the Holocaust class, it taught me so much about life and how I should appreciate it.

QUESTION: What contribution has organized sports made to your character development?

ANSWER: I feel my sports career has made me a team player.

QUESTION: As co-editor of the yearbook, what is the importance of that position to you?

ANSWER: I think it is one of the most important jobs I have taken on. Fifty years from now when people look at their yearbooks, I want them to be proud of what our class created.

QUESTION: Do you have

ELBA Q&A with Angela Bezon

Angela Bezon

is a senior at Elba Central School. She is active in Girls Athletic Association, the yearbook, softball, basketball, Student Council, Backstage Inc., Swine Club, Beef Club, Teen Leader, Envirothon, Future Teachers and National Honor Society. She is also a DILT student representative and class president.

In her spare time she enjoys playing sports, 4-H and reading. Angela has received such awards as the Xerox Humanities Award, BEST Community Service Award and Orleans County 1999 Grand Master Showman.



any more comments about your extracurricular activities?

PERSONAL FILE

Family: Mom, Dad, Joe, Jenny.

Favorite Food: Matty's Pizza.

Favorite Movie: *Gone With the Wind*.

Pastime: "Going out with friends."

Favorite Song: "Amazed."

Besides family or friends, dinner partner of choice: George Clooney.

People would be surprised if: "they knew I can be quiet and serious when needed."

Favorite Color: Navy blue.

If I could do it over again:

"Go to states in softball, just so I could get that awesome feeling all over again."

What I should give up: Junk food.

Dislike: "People who smoke."

What's good about your school: "Everyone is willing to

pitch in and help if you need to get something done."

Your school's best-kept secret: "How good our staff is."

ANSWER: I can't wait till this year's drama production.



Rocco Laurienzo/Daily News

Getting acquainted

Orleans County schools participated in the 2000 Conservation Field Days Tuesday and Wednesday at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Knowlesville. Above, Amber Mullins touches a Burmese python and Julianne Dunn reacts during a presentation about caring and breeding reptiles given by Michael Napolitano. At left, Amy Tenny of Kendall Elementary tries to feed a small fish to a Savannah monitor while Napolitano looks on. Various stations were set up around the fairgrounds on such subjects as bald eagles at the Iroquois Refuge, clones, erosion control, Caledonia Fish Hatchery, energy conservation, beekeeping, soil pH, rabies control and recycling.

But Michigan Lottery officials said they were contacted Wednesday by a "remarkably quite calm" man they believe holds one of the winning tickets.

The man didn't identify himself, but the validation numbers he recited from his ticket matched the winner, lottery spokeswoman Sarah Lapshan said. He didn't say where he was from or whether the ticket was his alone or bought for a group.

"I'm pretty confident this is the winning ticket," Lapshan said.

Illinois Lottery officials said they had not been contacted by anyone claiming to hold the other winning ticket, which was bought Tuesday.

The winning numbers drawn Tuesday were 1, 2, 12, 33, 37 and Big Money Ball 4. To win, a ticket had to match all six numbers. How much the winners will take home depends on state taxes in Michigan and Illinois. Lottery officials in both states estimated each ticket could be worth about \$7 million per year before taxes in 26 annual payments.

Microsoft asks court to dismiss Justice plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Firing the latest salvo in a protracted fight, Microsoft Corp. asked a federal judge to throw out the government's plan to split the company in two, suggesting it would need until December to prepare its arguments against any move to "dismember" the company.

In its response to the proposal submitted by the Justice Department and 17 states, Microsoft asked that the plan be dismissed immediately because there is no basis for such a severe punishment for the company's alleged anticompetitive behavior.

In return, the Microsoft offered its own remedies to correct what the judge ruled was monopolistic behavior in wide violation of antitrust law. The remedies would curb Microsoft's own conduct against competitors and clients dealing with rivals.

"Courts are not authorized in civil enforcement proceedings to punish antitrust defendants," the company said in its legal response filed Wednesday with U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson in Washington. "Instead, relief must extend no farther than is necessary to redress the conduct found to be unlawful."

Lockerbie trial adjourns

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands (AP) — A Scottish court trying two Libyans accused of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 was adjourned today to give prosecutors time to prepare. The trial will resume May 23.

The break followed an agreement by prosecution and defense attorneys to speed up the trial by identifying areas of uncontested evidence in the 1988 explosion over Lockerbie, Scotland. That is expected to allow the court to jump ahead to forensic and technical evidence, which had been expected only at the end of the second month of hearings.

Relatives of crash victims, who had

— From page 1

said the district was surprised by the projection from the state. "We expected to receive about \$250,000 more," he said.

The state unintentionally omitted funding for some of the district's programs, Fisher said. He said the aid figures should be closer to what he expected once the state corrects its mistakes.

"We're optimistic, but always guarded in that optimism," Fisher said.

The state projected that Alexander schools will receive 21.99 percent or \$1,355,401 more aid than last year with the building incentives. A increase of 8.12 percent or \$439,112 has been projected without building incentives.

Alexander schools business administrator Kathleen Schaefer said the district is undergoing a \$18 million building project. She said aid areas other than buildings have not increased drastically.

Elba schools have a projected increase of 43.03 percent or \$1,609,509 in state aid with the building incentives. The district's projected increase without building incentives is

3.87 percent or \$124,391.

Smith said the state will be for 95 percent of the district's \$1 million building project.

Byron-Bergen schools have projected increase of 5.17 percent or \$417,946 with building incentives. The district is projected to have a 4.12 percent or \$291,788 increase without building incentives.

Le Roy schools are projected an increase of 0.79 percent or \$1,111 with building incentives and a 3.32 percent or \$1,111 increase without building incentives.

Oakfield-Alabama schools projected increase in state aid of 1.12 percent or \$151,943 with building incentives and 3.23 percent or \$204,257 without the incentives.

Pavilion schools are projected to have a 16.98 percent or \$1,111 increase in state aid including building incentives. The district has a projected increase of 5.06 percent or \$1,111 without the incentives.

Pembroke schools are projected to have an increase of 5.31 percent or \$434,444 with the building incentives and a 5.45 percent or \$434,444 increase without the incentives.

Wyoming is the only school

Background

— From page 1

■ Approved sending a letter to the state Department of Transportation requesting a "traffic control device" at the intersection of routes 237 and 31A in Clarendon. Right now there are only stop signs for motorists on Route 31A.

Town officials requested the Legislature's support for traffic control at what Legislator George Bower (R-Holley) called one of the busiest and most dangerous

intersections in the

"It's an accident

■ Accepted a \$1,000 child seat installation set up check point to ensure seats properly. The cost is \$100 each.

■ Declared the day Medical Services Day. Bower presented a proclamation

Legislature

— From page 1

said, and collaboration among municipalities is the answer. "Time has come to put this plan into action."

Raymond SanFratello, president of the county Chamber of Commerce; Martin Culik, executive director of Genesee's Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, and James Vincent, chairman of the Water Resources Agency,

also urged adoption of the plan agreement.

"Stay the course," said SanFratello. "Do what you've got to do this year and keep talking to the other side."

All except Vincent spoke out at the council's Monday night meeting where council's nine members were authorized for rescinding a January agreement with the county as part of the wide project.

Showdown under way in

ATLANTA (AP) — Aggressively questioning both sides, three federal appeals judges asked today whether 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez is too young to apply for asylum and whether being from communist Cuba compromises his father's parental rights.

The judges said they would rule quickly, but indicat-

dren whose parents are in

It's not because of the reasons said, "but it seems to be with the needs of the child."

Gregory Craig, H

Conservation Days



ABOVE: Wise Middle School sixth-grader Christopher Roberts and fellow classmates look a little anxiously at a beehive held by bee keeper Charlie Augrom. The students visited Meadowgold Apiaries as part of the Orleans 4H Conservation Days.

LEFT: Peggy Grayson, a director of solid waste management, speaks with Lyndonville sixth-graders about recycling.

**J-R Photos by
Dan Cappellazzo**

Orleans County Fair talent applications due

KNOWLESVILLE — Participants in the Talent Show at the Orleans County 4-H Fair must return completed applications to the Cooperative Extension office no later than July 16.

The competition will be at 7 p.m. July 25. Applications and contest rules are available at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main St., Albion.

The fair begins July 24 and runs through July 29 at the fairgrounds on Route 31, near Knowlesville.

Orleans History

Sixty Years Ago

American Legion county convention to be held in Medina July 15.

Orleans County 4-H Club members attend congress in Ithaca.

The Gardener's Column

Understanding pesticide labels

By Cynthia Cowan,
Extension Educator

Possibly due to the unusually wet weather we are having this season, it seems that more pests than ever are out to get your plants.

While most of you are using some cultural controls to help slow insects and diseases down, ultimately many gardeners turn to pesticides to help them in the battle against unwanted garden intruders.

Pesticides, which include products that kill insects, diseases and weeds can be a useful part of a garden or lawn care system. It is very important, however, to read the labels on any pesticide you are using. The label is the best source of information about that pesticide.

Although pesticide manufacturers are required by law to include a number of different items on the label, some of them can be confusing:

Here's a guide to what you'll find on every pesticide label.

1. Product, brand or trade names: Each manufacturer has a different brand name for its product, even if they contain identical active ingredient to another manufacturer's product.

2. Type of pesticide: Usually tells you what pests the product will control.

3. Classification: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires each use of a pesticide to be registered as either a "general" or "restricted" use. Restricted use products are only for sale to certified pesticide applicators and must be used only by a certified applicator, or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.

4. Ingredient statement: This tells you what is in the product. Both active and inactive ingredients are listed, along with the percentage of each active ingredient. Read this part very carefully, as many chemicals have names that sound alike.

5. Signal words and symbols: The signal word lets you know how dangerous the product is to humans and appears in large letters on the front of the product. The words "DANGER -- POISON" with a skull and crossbones appears on the most toxic products. Moderately toxic products are labeled "WARNING" and slightly toxic to relatively non-toxic products are labeled "CAUTION." All pesticides carry

the phrase "Keep out of reach of children."

6. First aid statement of practical treatment: Exactly what it sounds like. This tells you what to do in case of accidental exposure.

7. Precautionary statements: These let you know several things including what personal protective equipment (PPE) you need to wear while applying the pesticide. Good PPE to have on hand includes goggles, chemical-resistant gloves and boots, coveralls, dust mask and respirator. You won't need all these all the time, but it is good to have them around. The precautionary statements also include the signal words and warnings about keeping children and pets away from treated areas.

8. Hazards: This is sometimes part of the precautionary statements. This lists any hazards the product may pose to humans, domestic animals and wildlife. Environmental, physical and chemical hazards are also listed. Some products may also indicate limitations of use in order to protect endangered species.

9. Re-entry statement: This is sometimes part of the classification statement. This

tells you how much time must pass before people can re-enter a treated area without appropriate PPE.

10. Directions for use: These specify where the product can be used (such as indoors or outdoors) and on which crops (for example, apples but not vegetables). This statement also tells you how much of the product to use.

11. Days to harvest: (Usually part of the directions for use) Agricultural pesticides all list the minimum number of days that must pass between the last pesticide application and crop harvest. These are set by the EPA.

12. Storage and disposal: General directions about how to store and dispose of the pesticide and its container.

13. Manufacturer: The name and address of the manufacturer.

14. EPA registration and establishment numbers: An EPA registration number appears on every pesticide label to ensure that the pesticide label has been reviewed and registered by the EPA. This number identifies the pesticide in case of problems.

15. Net contents: Amount of product contained in the package.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Monday, June 26, 2000

Orleans History

Ten Years Ago

Orleans County fairgrounds to be expanded; public support to be sought through fund raiser.

The Daily News / Friday, June 30, 2000



Mark Gutman/Daily News

Getting their goat

Chris Flanisburg of ABC Farms in Barre Center, shows residents Chester Rowley and Teresa D'Agostino a goat by the name of Misty, during the Orleans Farm Day Thursday at the Orleans County Nursing Home.

The Daily News / Saturday, July 1, 2000

Medina girl earns full scholarship to Michigan State

By Susan J. Conrad

Daily News Staff Writer

Theresa L. Sands of Medina is one of 12 students across the nation awarded a full scholarship to Michigan State University this year.

Her scholarship, a 2000 Alumni Distinguished Scholarship, will amount to \$68,000 when she has completed her undergraduate degree.

Kristin Anderson of the university's division of university relations said the scholarship will pay for tuition, room and board, books, other academic expenses and an extra \$1,000.

"I wasn't expecting to win it," Sands said. She said, in order to get the scholarship, she had to travel to the university to take a test, wrote an essay and was interviewed over the telephone by university officials.



Sands

Sands said, during the telephone interview, she had to talk about books she has read and had to answer the question "what has made the biggest impact on the world in the last 100 years?"

The answer: transportation, Sands said. She spoke about different modes of transportation and how they have changed through the last 100 years.

More than 1,100 students competed for this year's scholarships, Anderson said. Only 120 semi-finalists remained after the exam.

Sands said her parents had mixed feelings when they were notified about the scholarship. She said her father was excited about the amount of money she received. However, she said, her mother does not want her to be so far away from home.

Sands, daughter of Calvin and Patricia Sands, plans to study crop and soil science at MSU. She will participate in programs of the Honors College in addition to academic work, Anderson said.

In high school, Sands earned a 4.0 grade point average and participated in Scholastic Bowl and was a member of the yearbook staff.

Talk with the animals



ABOVE: Armond Salvatore, a resident at the Orleans County Nursing Home, enjoys a visit with Ruth Miller and her goose "Tiki" Thursday at the home in Medina.

LEFT: Agatha Allport, also a resident at the home, makes friends with this rabbit who got so comfortable it fell to sleep occasionally.

**J-R Photo by
Dennis Stierer**

The Gardener's Column

Some Thoughts for July Gardens

**By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator
Give your houseplants
a summer vacation:**

Now is a great time to move your houseplants outside for the summer.

Most species of houseplants enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Just place the plants out in the shade for a day or two and then move into the sunlight.

Of course, plants such as ferns and African violets will be damaged by excessive sun, so you may want to leave these under a tree or an awning.

Also, your plants may be thirstier while outside due to the extra light and air circulation. Be sure to check them regularly, just as you would while they are indoors.

By the end of the summer,

they will have put on an amazing amount of new growth.

Mushrooms in your lawn

I have been getting lots of calls lately about mushroom growth in the lawn. Due to all the rainfall, this has certainly been a great year for fungi and mushrooms are no exception.

Mushrooms typically grow on decaying matter in the soil, such as a buried stump or root.

Most types of mushrooms that you find in your lawn do not harm the soil, and, in fact, can help to add organic matter.

They can be unsightly, however. If you would like to get rid of them simply break them up with a rake or mower.

Hollyhock Rust

Like many older plant

species, hollyhocks seem to be undergoing a renaissance. I for one am happy to see this.

Hollyhocks provide vertical interest in the garden, without being too formal.

Like any other plant, however, hollyhocks can have disease problems. This year the disease I am seeing most is hollyhock rust.

Rust is a fungal infection that causes rust colored spots or pustules to appear on the leaves and stems of the plant. Once the pustules have established themselves, they quickly manufacture spores that spread the disease to uninfected areas by splashing.

The rust caused problems for two reasons. First, the spots prevent light from getting to the leaves. Second, the rust fungus destroys the plant tissue. Some infections are so

severe that the entire plant can be covered with rust spots.

It is easier to prevent rust than to treat it. The fungal spores overwinter on infected leaf tissue, so it is important to cut any infected hollyhock parts out of the garden and dispose of them. Overcrowding plants will make them more susceptible to rust.

Also, do not work around the plants when they are wet so that you do not inadvertently spread the disease.

One other cultural control is to get rid of "common mallow" weed, which can also harbor hollyhock rust.

If you decide to use chemical controls, it is important to begin early in the season. Chlorothalonil, mancozeb and sulfur are all registered for use on hollyhock rust.

The Gardner's Column

A Natural Pesticide

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

What if I told that there is a pesticide that works only against the type of bug that you want to kill, and doesn't harm bees, birds, pets or children? This pesticide comes in several different types, one for mosquitoes, one for caterpillars and one for beetles. This pesticide can be used on certified organic crops, right up to the day of harvest. So, what is this miracle pesticide? It's called *Bacillus thuringiensis*, but is more commonly referred to as Bt.

Bt is a naturally occurring soil bacteria that works as a pesticide in certain types of insects. When eaten by the larvae of these insects, Bt spores pass into the gut where they multiply and produce a toxic crystalline substance that paralyzes the larval digestive system. Infected larvae stop feeding and drop to the ground, and decay harmlessly.

Bt is effective only in the larval stage of the insect's life cycle.

There are several strains of Bt. Some strains produce molecules toxic to caterpillars (e.g. gypsy moth, imported cabbageworm), beetles (e.g. larvae of Colorado potato beetle, some other leaf beetles) and some to mosquitoes.

Bt is generally applied as a spray on leaves or soil. The bacteria will not remain in the environment long, so multiple applications are sometimes called for. In general, Bt and its toxins are destroyed within three to five days by sunlight and microbes in the environment.

Bt products are available from your local garden center under several trade names, including Dipel, Thuricide and Attack. You will have to read the labels carefully because the Bt package looks just like that a conventional insecticide. Check the label for the

active ingredient. "*Bacillus thuringiensis*, var. *kurstaki*" works on caterpillars. If the variety is "*israelensis*" it will work in mosquitoes. Bt "*San Diego tenebrionis*" works on some beetle larvae. Make sure that the pest you want to kill is listed on the label of the product. Follow the label instructions carefully so you don't waste your time or money applying at the wrong time for the wrong insect.

Despite the benefits of Bt, there are some drawbacks as well. Because it will kill most butterfly or moth larvae, it is important to avoid putting it on sensitive areas that may serve as habitat for wanted or endangered moths or butterflies. Also although Bt is virtually nontoxic to humans, you should still use care when applying it. In rare cases, it is possible for individuals to develop an allergic reactions if Bt is inhaled or rubbed into the skin.

The Gardner's Column

Preserving the Harvest: Herbs

By Cynthia Cowan
Extension Educator

Although nothing beats the taste of food seasoned with fresh culinary herbs, sometimes the plants get a little ahead of you. Fortunately there are several ways to preserve your herbs to keep maximum flavor while gaining maximum storage time.

There are three basic methods for preserving herbs, some of which will work better than others on specific herbs. This article will cover the two major ways of preserving culinary herbs:

Drying

This is the method that most people think of when they consider preserving herbs. It is the oldest method of plant preservation, and still one of the easiest. If you would like to air dry your herbs, simply

wash your herbs and pat them dry, making sure to eliminate as much moisture as possible. This is not essential for the drying process, but will clean off any dirt. Then take a small bunch of herbs and attach a rubber band to the stems. Hang this bundle in a dark, dry, well-ventilated location. a coat hanger is a good place to hang several bunches at once. If flies or other insects are a concern, cover the bundle with cheesecloth.

You can also use an electric dehydrator to dry your herbs. These are sold in department or kitchen stores, and will quickly dry even the fleshiest-leaved herbs. Simply follow the directions for the machine you have.

My favorite method of drying herbs is the microwave, and it works especially well

with parsley, retaining the bright green color. For plants with large leaves, strip the leaves off the stem and lay them on a microwave safe platter or paper towel. Drying will take from 30 seconds to a few minutes, but check your herbs every thirty seconds and remove any that are crisp.

Whichever method you choose to dry your herbs, store the dried leaves whole in an opaque, sealed container. They will retain more of their flavor if you crumble them just before use. Your dried herbs should last you through the winter, although they will gradually lose flavor in long storage.

Freezing

Although it is a less common method of preserving culinary herbs, freezing is the best preservation method for

some herbs including dill, chives and mint. The easiest way is to fill each section of an ice cube tray with herbs and then fill with water. When they are frozen, put in a labeled freezer bag. When you want to use them, defrost in a strainer. The freezing process preserved the flavor very well, and it is convenient to be able to defrost a small amount at a time. Some herbs, however, such as dill, are easier to freeze while still on the stalk. Simply bunch in a freezer bag and pop in the freezer.

If you want to keep the best color in your frozen herbs, blanch them before freezing. Then cool the leaves to room temperature and freeze. You will lose a bit of flavor by blanching, so if an herb is to go in a stew or soup, you may want to choose best flavor over best color.

Orleans History

Ten Years Ago

Betty VanderLaan of Kendall and her mule Kentucky Smoke winners of national Versatility Hall of Fame Award from American Donkey and Mule Society.



SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS FAIRGROUNDS — James Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Phillips of Medina, recently donated his hand crafted benches to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County for use at their 4-H fairgrounds. The six benches were created and donated in fulfillment of Eagle Scout requirements for the Boy Scouts. Here Margo Bowerman, extension educator at Cooperative Extension, accepts the benches from Phillips.



Orleans participants in the district 4-H Clothing revue included, clockwise from top left are Toya Torrance, Kerrie Walker, Amanda Vreeland, Michelle Sands, Julianne Watts and Kelly Collazo.

Orleans hosts district 4-H clothing revue

4-Hers from around Western New York presented in a clothing revue held here in Orleans County on July 12.

The 4-Hers, plus parents and guests, were treated to a tour of the Cobblestone Museum complex by museum Director Bill Lattin.

The Revue itself was held in the Cobblestone Church and

provided 4-Hers with the opportunity to model their home-made and purchased garments in front of an audience of approximately 80 people. The Orleans County 4-H Fair will also hold a Clothing Revue at 7:30 p.m. on July 24 on center stage. There are 19 4-Hers scheduled to participate this year.

Orleans History

Five Years Ago

Annual Orleans 4-H fair opens Tuesday.

Twenty Years Ago

Twenty-seven acts scheduled for the talent show at

Orleans County Junior Fair.

Sands earns full scholarship to Michigan State

Theresa Sands, a June Medina High graduate, has received an Alumni Distinguished Scholarship to Michigan State University.

She is the daughter of Calvin and Patricia Sands.

Last February, Sands was one of more than 1,000 high school seniors from around the country to gather at Michigan State University for the 44th annual Alumni Distinguished Scholarship competition. All had earned an "A" or better record, ranked at or near the top of their class and earned superior scores on the ACT or SAT.

The culmination of the two-day ADS weekend was a three-hour examination, so difficult, that in the 44 year history of ADS no one has ever scored as high as 90% making it a much more selective measure among the more than 1,000 ADS competitors than the ACT or SAT.

The scores on the ADS exam were used to identify about 120 semifinalists. Each of them responded in writing to an open-ended questionnaire which, together with



Theresa Sands

their total high school record, was used by the Scholarship Committee to narrow the field to 60 finalists.

Each finalist was interviewed by the committee in-depth, after which the committee deliberated at length before selecting the 12 Alumni Distinguished Scholars, each of whom received full tuition, room and board, books and expenses, providing for a full four-year undergraduate education, currently valued at \$74,000 for non-Michigan residents.

The Gardner's Column

Chinch Bugs

**By Thomas R. Nally, Jr.
Executive Director
Orleans County
Cooperative Extension**

As the weather gets hot and dryer, if it ever does, be on the lookout for these small black insects. They are about 1/16 inch long at maturity with a white X on their backs.

They damage lawns by sucking the juices from the grass plant. Often their damage is most evident in sunny dry areas and in particular sandy soils where the injury first appears as a coppery colored area closely resembling drought or sunscald injury. A clue that gives the chinch bugs

away this time of year is that turf in sunny areas will seem to decline where the turf under trees will seem to be OK. Also you will see where the grass is killed and only clover and other non-grass weeds survive. This is because chinch bugs are not in large enough numbers yet to cause total decline of the turf however injured turf in sunny dry sites will show the damage.

The hairy chinch bug is our common species. The adults are black with white wings folded over the body about 1/5 inch in length. The chinch bug passes through five growth stages (instars). The

first and second instars are bright red with a white band across the first two abdominal segments, the third instar is orange, the fourth orange-brown and the fifth blackish. Chinch bugs over winter as adults in sheltered places, under shrubs or along foundation walls of homes. Females lay eggs in the early summer, and in Southeastern New York and on Long Island where there may be two generations (one occurs in upstate New York) egg laying occurs again in late July or early August.

Chinch bug injury may be distinguished from other pest damage by careful examination about the crowns of the

grass plants revealing the presence of the insects. The outer margin of the injured area is a good place to look to find the bugs. Other methods of detecting the presence of the bugs include (1) water small areas heavily and then cover them with a white cloth - within a short period of time, the bugs will crawl up the grass blades and cling to the under surface of the cloth where they can be easily seen by turning the cloth over; or (2) use a large can with both ends open, drive it into the soil a few inches and fill with water - adults and nymphs should float to the surface within 10 to 20 minutes.

The Gardner's Column

Dave Reville to start as interim General Agriculture Educator with Cooperative Extension

**Thomas R. Nally, Jr.
Cooperative Extension
Association Director**

Beginning August 14, Dave Reville the Consumer Horticulture Educator for Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be assisting us one day per week during our search for a new General Agriculture Educator here in Orleans.

Dave will be with us on Mondays each week until our position is filled. His duties will be to backstop office staff and Master Gardeners on gardening questions, work with our Master Gardeners on educational opportunities and produce both the Garden Scout news letter and this weekly Journal Register column.

Dave has been the Executive Director, Agriculture Program Leader and Consumer Horticulture Educator with Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension for almost 30 years and we are happy he

is willing to share his expertise with us as we fill our position.

Spots and blights affecting area trees and shrubs

We continue to get many calls about spots and leaf drop on area trees and shrubs. Keep in mind that these problems are favored by our warm humid weather so we can expect them to continue and even increase. Further, knowing that the fungicides we apply for control are mostly protectants, we should keep in mind that good coverage is the key to control. To maintain coverage be sure your application covers the entire plant and that it is applied according to the label.

Pachysandra Leaf Blight is an example of the many types of diseases we are finding on plants. It is caused by a fungus and is favored by the warm, humid conditions we are experiencing.

Initial infection begins on injured parts of leaves. Injury can be from winter injury, scale insect damage or bright sun. The disease starts as irregular tan to brown blotches, often with concentric lighter and darker zones with brown margins.

As it progresses it moves to the stems where it girdles the stem with cankers that start as greenish brown and water-soaked areas that eventually encircle the stem and cause wilting and death of the entire plant.

This disease spreads rapidly in a bead of pachysandra and within two weeks large areas of dead plants can be seen.

For control, rogue and destroy infected plants. Apply fungicides when you first notice the disease and continue applications according to label directions. Many common garden fungicides are registered for this use.

The Gardener's Column

Leaves dropping on your crabapple?

Thomas R. Nally, Jr.
Extension Educator

Apple scab is a common disease that attacks wild and cultivated apple, crabapple and apple related species. It can cause severe leaf drop of our ornamental crabs and hawthorns in wet humid weather like we are experiencing.

Symptoms

Dull, olive green areas visible on the undersides of leaves are the first evidence of the disease. As the lesions (infected areas) become older, they assume a definite outline as olive-green or brown circular spots on both sides of leaves.

When severe infections

occur, infections on the fruit stems can result in fruit drop. Fruit may become infected at any time in its development. Typical fruit lesions are distinct, almost circular, rough-surfaced, olive-green spots. Heavily infected fruits are usually misshapen and may crack and drop prematurely.

Disease Management

To reduce foliage loss or encourage new leaves to grow applying fungicides at regular intervals can reduce scab infections. The object is to provide a protective coating on leaves that will inactivate any spores landing on the fruit and foliage.

There are a number of materials registered for the control

of Apple Scab. Some are formulated in a general orchard spray with other materials. Consult the pesticide label for application instructions and frequency.

The proper selection of cultivars can help reduce the need to control this disease. Scab-resistant apple cultivars are available from most nurseries. These apple cultivars are not susceptible to apple scab; therefore no fungicide application is required to control apple scab.

Orchard sanitation is also important in the prevention and spread of this disease. Keeping the orchard floor free of leaf litter aids in disease control.

Orleans History

Forty Years Ago

Junior Fair 1960 opens at Old Fairgrounds in Albion with chicken barbecue.

Orleans History

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Monday, August 14, 2000

Fifty Years Ago

Home Bureau of county
serving meals at 4-H Fair.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Thursday, August 17, 2000

The Gardener's Column

**By Dace Reville,
Extension Educator**

Mid-August in the garden is a busy time of the year. Now is the time to decide on whether your lawn should be renovated or whether it needs to be completely reestablished. Lawns seeded at this time of year do far better than spring planted lawns since moisture and cooler temperatures prevail now. Contact the Cooperative Extension office for details on lawn establishment.

Begin to plant beans, peas, beets, spinach and endive for a fall crop, making sure your home vegetable garden continues to give a yield until frost. Remember to pick off tomato hornworms if a large population threatens your crop.

Houseplants that were

outside for the summer should be pinched so they will be well branched by the time you bring them indoors at the end of the month.

Perennials that have finished flowering should not be cut to the ground as the plants still need foliage to make their food until frost. Keep on dead heading the blooms on your perennials in order to keep them flowering and looking well. If there is evidence of powdery mildew due to the wet conditions we have been having fungicide application may be in order especially on phlox, zinnias, roses and lilacs. Varietal differences certainly come into play as well and you are encouraged to use disease resistant plants as often as possible. Check garden catalogs for flower varieties and the "Cornell List of

Vegetable Varieties for Home Garden Use in N.Y.S." for disease resistant varieties. Contact the Cooperative Extension office in Albion for a copy.

If an excessive amount of thatch has accumulated on your lawn, which makes fertilizer and water difficult to get to the root zone, use a power rake or thatcher to remove this layer. The lawn will benefit from this as the machine removes dead grass and thatch without injuring the good turf.

While we are on the topics of turf care, prevent "lawn mower disease" by sharpening your mower blades at this time especially if not done since April. A sharp mower blade cuts clean and does not shred the grass plants.

The Gardener's Column

Fight the bite

By Dave Reville
Extension Educator

The recent mass media alerts about the West Nile Virus should make us do all we can to reduce the mosquito populations around our home and community. Pesticides are a last resort at home due to their temporary nature. There are several things we need to do to reduce the mosquito buildup that revolve around preventing their breeding.

■ Dump out standing water from containers in the yard, especially old tires which should have holes drilled in them or fill them with sand.

■ Clean material from drainpipes and gutters so they flow clear. a large build up of mosquitos can live in standing water in gutters.

■ Keep kiddie wading pools emptied when not in use. Remember to backwash your swimming pools and to

chlorinate the water. Remember to remove standing water from pool covers.

■ Encourage natural predators and stock your ornamental pond with goldfish. A pond fountain will also reduce the mosquitos.

■ Change the water in bird baths daily, or maybe in this wet season, don't use one at all.

■ To protect yourself against a bite, cover up with long sleeved shirts and a hat. In the house, make sure the doors close properly and the screens are in tightly. Also, when using insect repellents, read the labels and make sure products are not used on the skin of small children.

■ One final note is to remember that electric bug zappers do not help prevent mosquito problems, they help monitor the buildup.

Favorite Cornell publication revised

Do you have questions about lawn care, plants or bugs and want answers?

More than 20 years ago a group of Cornell Cooperative Extension faculty wrote a publication for consumers telling them how to control pests in and around homes and apartments.

The latest edition of Pest Management Around the Home, Part I: Cultural Methods provides non-pesticidal suggestions to manage insects

and wildlife found indoors, as well as for insects and diseases that attack house plants and plants grown in gardens including tree-fruit, small-fruit and vegetables. It includes lawn care without pesticides, general weed management, wildlife management and more.

All of the methods are non-chemical.

Pest Management Around the Home, Part II: Pesticide Recommendations provides

specific information on management methods using chemical pesticides and complements the information in Part I. The price for either Part I (Cultural) or Part II (Pesticide) is \$12.00. The price for both is \$19.00. Prices include shipping and handling within the U.S. N.Y. residents, add 8% sales tax. Copies can be obtained from the Cornell University Resource Center, 7 Cornell BTP, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Cooperative Extension guidelines available

The agriculture industry in and around New York depend on current information based on research and experience. The Cornell Guidelines (formerly called Recommendations) have filled that need for more than 20 years.

These Cornell Cooperative Extension publications provide cultural and chemical control methods of diseases, weeds and insects. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) including how to scout, identification of pests, timing of controls and record keeping procedures are covered. Specific tips for safely laundering pesticide-contaminated clothing are included.

Titles in the series for 2000 are: Control of Wildlife (147RV, \$12.50), Tree Fruit (142RFT, \$15.00), Grapes (142RG, \$7.50), Trees and Shrubs (141RTS, \$16.50), Turfgrass (141RTG, \$5.25), Field Crops (125RFC, \$6.50), Commercial Vegetables (142RV, \$15.99), Greenhouse

Florist Crops (141RGFC2, \$18.50), Small Fruit (142RSF, \$10.00), Herbaceous Perennials (160PMRHP, \$7.35) and Pest Management Around the Home (139S74-1 and II, \$19.00 for the set; cultural and chemical).

Revised annually, these are useful to commercial growers, consultants, serious gardeners and others who want to develop efficient and effective practices on a farm or in a garden.

The publications are available from the Cornell University Resource Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. The prices include handling and shipping to points within the United States. New Yorkers must add 8% sales tax to provide exemption. Copies of these publications, other IPM manuals and videos may also be available at Cornell Cooperative Extension county association offices located throughout New York State.

The Gardener's Column

Fall Webworm

By Dave Reville
Extension Educator

During late summer and early fall, you often find that the Fall Webworm makes unsightly webs in the trees, often enclosing entire branches or groups of branches.

The larvae of the Fall Webworm feed on more than 100 species of fruit, shade and forest trees and are especially noticeable during late summer and early fall. The larvae spin conspicuous webs enclosing entire branches or groups of branches. The webs are more numerous in open locations such as along roadsides. Larvae feed inside the webs

stripping the leaves with just the mid-vein remaining.

Damage is usually not severe, as Fall Webworms are seldom numerous enough to cause total defoliation. When they are present in large numbers the damage is still not serious because these insects are late season feeders and by the time the leaves are consumed the leaves have already performed most of their function to the plant. The webbing, which may persist after leaf drop, however, is unsightly.

The larvae are quite hairy, and range in color from light buff green to near black. Both color forms may be present in a local area. The adults are one of our common tiger moths, white, sometimes with

dark spots on the wings.

There may be two broods of the Fall Webworm each year in some areas of New York State. The first brood occurs in May but is small and often goes unnoticed. The main brood occurs during July and August, and is larger than the first.

Eggs are laid in hair-covered masses on the undersides of leaves from May to August. The eggs hatch and the tiny larvae start building a web enclosing a few leaves. As they grow, they expand the web covering more foliage and thus encompassing more food. The larvae leave the web in the last instant, crawl down the tree trunk or spin down and pupate in a thin cocoon spun in the debris at soil

surface or just below soil surface.

Occasionally, an outbreak occurs on ornamental shade trees where the webs detract greatly from the aesthetic value of the tree. Fall Webworms are usually held in check by several different predators and parasites. Natural controls are usually behind the main surge of an insect population, but they catch up quickly and keep the insects in check.

Spraying is usually not needed as this pest occurs so late in the season. Pruning infested branches as long as it does not disfigure the trees or is extensive, can help. At all costs, do not attempt to burn off the webs as danger to you and the trees will be a result.

Trapper training courses set

A trapper training course is required for all persons seeking a first trapping license and in some cases for those people wishing to become a permitted nuisance wildlife agent.

In Orleans County, a Trapper Training Course is scheduled at the Log Cabin on the county fairgrounds, Rt. 31 Knowlesville from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 7. To pre-register call Don Durow at 798-0848.

Cornell anti-cancer findings to boost apple industry

New York apple sales are expected to increase during this fall's harvest due to the worldwide publicity of dramatic new research from Cornell University which proves apples can help fight cancer.

Cornell University food scientists in June discovered that substances called phytochemicals, found primarily in the skin of New York apples,

provide huge anti-oxidant and anti-cancer benefits. Harvest of New York apples begins in earnest this week.

Industry leaders expect the Cornell findings to provide the same sales boost to New York apples that blueberries received following a similar anti-cancer/anti-oxidant research for those foods last year.

The Gardener's Column

By Dave Reville

Cooperative Extension

always receives numerous questions at this time of year concerning grain beetles feeding on food stored flour and grain products like bulk flour and bulk, dry pet foods like birdseed.

The saw-toothed grain beetle is one of the most common insects infesting grain products in the home.

An infestation may begin at the time of manufacture or processing, in warehouses or food distributors, in transit or on the grocers' shelves or in the home. Most food processors and handlers make every effort to avoid insect infestations.

The adult beetles are small, about 1/10 inch long, slender, very flat brown beetles. Due to the flattened shape, these beetles are able to work their way into packages of food that are apparently tightly sealed. The young larvae are whitish, elongated grubs with brown heads. As they mature, the

Grain beetles

larvae are 1/8 inch in length.

Control

Control measures for saw toothed grain beetles are the same as for other stored grain pests. Reducing the infestation quickly can help reduce losses of quantities of foods stored on your kitchen shelf and in your pantry or garage.

Carefully examine all susceptible foods that may have been infested. Insects may even be found occasionally in paper wrapped products like cereals. If you find infested products, discard them immediately.

The contents from opened

packages should be transferred to tightly closed plastic or glass containers in order to prevent infestation. This would include cereals, popcorn and similar products like bulk flour and dry pet foods.

Remove all food containers and utensils from infested areas and clean thoroughly with vacuum and soapy water.

Special attention should be paid to cracks and corners in cupboards where bits of food could accumulate. The secret in control is to not store products for long periods of time.

While some insecticides can be used, it is advisable to not choose this method of control.

The Gardener's Column

Fall like a second spring for landscape planting

By Dave Reville
Extension Educator

Given normal weather, fall can be an ideal planting time for trees and shrubs. Adequate moisture and cool temperatures, combined with relatively warm soil, makes for good root growth, and that helps plants get established before winter. The sooner planting tasks are completed, the better it is for the plants.

Most landscape ornamentals can be planted in early fall. Matching the right plant with the planting site and local growing conditions is a first key step. Site characteristics to consider include drainage (some trees and shrubs will tolerate soggy soil; most won't), exposure to sun and prevailing wind, and soil (clay or sand, compacted or not, fertile or not, etc.) Plant traits to consider are mature size and shape since this determines proper spacing from structures and other plants. Other considerations include susceptibility to pests, diseases and other problems as well as ornamental characteristics, such as the presence of flowers, fruit and hardiness for this area. Hardiness is crucial to a plants' survival and marginal plants need extra care and maintenance to survive. When in doubt, check with a local nurseryman or the Cornell Cooperative Extension office at 589-5561.

At planting time, dig a hole twice as big as the plant's root ball. A hole barely big enough

for the root to sit in doesn't give roots much room to grow. A big hole, on the otherhand, backfilled with loose soil, makes for easy root penetration and quick establishment.

Planting depth is important for root health. Planting too deep may suffocate roots; roots too near the surface may dry out. The planting hole should have a depth equal to the root ball or root mass. Before filling the hole, make sure that plastic burlap, wire, plastic cord, Etc. are removed from the trunk and the rootball.

Fill the hole gently but firmly to eliminate air pockets around the roots, but don't tamp around the base of the plant as this can compact the soil and make it difficult for roots to grow. Settle the soil by watering, instead, and add more soil as needed until the tree is firmly anchored. Use extra soil to build a ridge of soil two inches high around the margin of the hole - outside the root area - to create a reservoir for watering. Before the ground freezes remove this ridge of soil.

Planting time is the best time to stake and guy trees, if necessary. Whether a tree needs one or two or three stakes, depends on its size - the bigger the tree, the more support it needs. to prevent damage to the tree trunk, use wide, soft strapping material or padded wire to fasten the tree to the stakes.

Mulching around the base of the tree helps conserve soil moisture and protects against alternate freezing and thawing of the soil. Mulch will also help keep weeds down next year.

When you mulch the root zone, do not pile wood chips, shredded bark or whatever up against the trunk. This makes a hiding place for mice, which can severely injure or kill young plants over the winter by gnawing on the bark.

Water regularly during dry weather to promote development of a sturdy root system. Soak the soil thoroughly once a week or so, but don't water so often that it remains waterlogged - roots need air as well as water and overwatering will kill them.

BRIEFLY

Orleans Genealogical Society meets

ALBION — Members of the Orleans County Genealogical Society met Oct. 8 at the Daughters of the American Revolution Home, with Joann Baxter as guest speaker.



Joann Baxter

An Albion resident for several years, Mrs. Baxter shared her knowledge from both education and actual research experience with the newly-formed chapter. She gave examples of primary and secondary sources of information, pointing out circumstances where people may have to allow for the unexpected. An example, she said, is people not actually being buried, having chosen cremation instead.

"Mother is in my living room. People looking for a tombstone aren't going to find one," Baxter said.

She also explained the assistance of funeral directors should not be overlooked, a place she said she obtained a great deal of information.

In addition to her interest in genealogy, Baxter is active in the community, serving in 4-H programs, hosting Foreign Exchange students and working at Family Hardware.

Although just formed this summer, Orleans County Genealogical Society has more than 80 members, and others are welcome. Online membership is also encouraged.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at the DAR Chapter House on North Main Street. For more information, call 682-3311 or visit their Website at <http://members.tripod.com/~ocgs/home.html>.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2000

50 CENTS

The Daily News

Extension move proposed

By Tom Rivers

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Cornell Cooperative Extension could better serve the agricultural community and 4-H youth if the Extension's headquarters are moved from Albion to the fairgrounds in Knowlesville, county legislators were told this week.

The Extension's current home at 20 South Main St. is 150 years old. The building is cramped, antiquated and energy inefficient, said Tom Nally, executive director of the Extension.

Nally said Extension leaders are seeking state and federal grants to help build a new education center and office complex for the Extension in

Knowlesville.

He said he hopes the new building will be open within five years.

"Our goal is to use that land for more than just the fair," said Greg Dale, president of the Extension's board of directors.

The week-long fair in July attracted 40,000 people to the fairgrounds, Dale told legislators Wednesday. However, few people use the property the other 51 weeks during the year. Moving the Extension's headquarters to the site will make sure the property receives more visitors, he said.

Construction crews this year installed public water lines at the fairgrounds, which makes the property more attractive for year-round use, Dale

said.

The Trolley Building at the fairgrounds has a satellite link and is used for occasional conferences for the agricultural community and other service organizations. The technology that already exists at the Trolley Building could be better utilized if an education center was developed, Nally said.

The center may be needed to ensure agriculture's future in the county, Nally said. The center would allow the Extension to bolster its youth programs, which may entice teen-agers to pursue farming as adults. Also, while the agricultural community currently struggles, particularly apple growers, and education center could provide them with knowledge during difficult economic times, he said.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2000



A few of the participants of the September So Sew Saturday include, from left, Samantha Kirby, Emily Dodson, Aimee Shortridge and Marlene Seielstad, instructor.

4-H So Sew Saturday deemed a success

The first So Sew Saturday was held Sept. 16. Several 4-H leaders and members were in attendance and a great time was had by all.

The participants completed a holiday ornament and learned several simple sewing techniques.

Sew So Saturdays are held regularly on the second Saturday of each month.

The next project, displayed in the photo, is a holiday wall hanging. The goal for each class is to start and finish a

project. Participants will be able to take the finished product home.

The next class is scheduled from 2-4 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Extension Center basement, 20 South Main St., Albion.

Everyone is invited to attend Sew So Saturday. There is no fee for the classes. Please bring \$2 to cover the cost of materials.

If you have any questions please call Marlene Seielstad, 4-H program assistant at 589-5561.

Head, heart, hands, health

'Learning by doing' takes 4-H into the new century

Its roots are in education, especially education for youngsters in rural areas. A century later, 4-H continues to enrich the lives of young people, taking the vast resources of land-grant universities like Cornell to communities everywhere.



This is National 4-H Week, a good time to salute a program that well serves many in Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans counties.

Statewide, 27,349 young people were members of 2,768 clubs, according to Cornell Cooperative Extension. Add in youngsters who participated in special interest, school enrichment and other programs and you find that 362,986 New York State youths in grades K-12 participated in what used to be thought of a club for farm kids.

In fact, however, most 4-H'ers live in towns and small cities up to 50,000 in population. Only about 7 percent live on farms.

The old farm-related programs are still there — a walk through the grounds at any county fair shows youngsters still enjoy raising cows and chickens and pigs. The projects are more

sophisticated, perhaps, involving nutrition, marketing, genetics and records management.

Likewise, the formerly simple projects in sewing, baking and gardening have evolved into projects that teach lessons about textiles, chemistry, conservation, meteorology, photography, human nutrition, child care and a wide range of other areas.

The story last week of Jackpot, the dog rescued from an animal shelter who progressed through 4-H dog training to a championship, is just one example of what 4-H'ers can do.

That the organization is well run is evident in the quality of the projects on display at fairs every year. The projects these youngsters do go far beyond arts and crafts. Even the youngest Clover Buds display impressive work.

The organization works through volunteer leaders, both youth and adult, with support from Cornell University. Its close ties to formal education make it unique among youth organizations, and have allowed it to expand to meet changing needs of young people. Its enthusiastic volunteers and youngsters have allowed it to be as much fun as it is educational.

The Gardener's Column

The Journal-Register

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2000

Evergreens lose their leaves, too

If you notice that old leaves or needles on your evergreens turn yellow and then brown, do not become alarmed. Evergreens remain green throughout the year because they do not lose all of their foliage at one time. Leaf time ranges from one to six years, depending on the species of plant.

New leaves or needles are produced each year and some of the old inside ones die and fall to the ground. Usually annual leaf or needle drop

goes unnoticed because new leaves or needles conceal old inside foliage that has turned yellow and brown.

It may be very noticeable, however, depending on the past and current growing seasons. During a rainy summer most plants put on a heavy growth of foliage. If the following summer is dry there will be light growth, which will not hide or camouflage old yellowing leaves.

Among evergreens that

drop one year old leaves or needles are laurel, holly, white pine and arborvitae. Trees that retain green needles from three to five years or more are spruce, fir, hemlock, yew (Taxus) and the pines, which have two or three needles in a cluster.

On the pines, in fact on most needle bearing conifers, old needles drop off in the fall of the year. But holly leaves drop off in the spring or early summer about the time new

foliage covers the ends of branches.

A year or two after evergreens are transplanted, effects of normal leaf or needle drop may be more striking. Those planted in wet or poorly drained soils will often show an abnormal amount of leaf yellowing on inside branches. If you do not water transplanted trees during a dry summer, leaf or needle drop may be earlier and more severe than normal.

CORNELL

The Journal-Register

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000

Cornell Cooperative Extension lists useful publications for fall

Several popular Cornell Cooperative Extension publications are especially useful in the fall season.

Venison: Boning, Freezing and Cooking (147s99, \$3.25), shows exactly how to prepare the meat for storage in a freezer. Bone removal improves the quality of the meat. Tips on preparing and cooking venison are included.

Reducing Deer Damage To Home Garden Plantings (147DD, \$3.75) provides information on practical proven deer damage management programs.

Resistance Of Woody Ornamental Plants to Deer Damage (147HGGFS800, \$2), lists which plants deer prefer to eat and which they avoid eating. You can plan landscaping

depending on your goal: more or less deer in your yard.

Wildlife Damage Management In Fruit Orchards (147IB236, \$5.50), reviews the problems and discusses methods of protecting plants. It also covers experimental techniques to control damage. This 28-page bulletin tells how to manage damage by deer, coles, woodchucks, rabbits and birds.

Pest Management Guide For Control Of Wildlife 2000 (147RV, \$11.50) gives specific methods for controlling damage by deer, birds, raccoons, rabbits, voles, woodchucks, rodents and bats.

Also available are videos on white-tailed deer that provide background and issue information on growing herds. Call

Audiovisual Librarian Rich Gray at 607-255-2090 for ordering information for 'Suburban Deer Management' and 'Whitetails At The Crossroads' as well as a new technical manual on white-tail deer.

These are available from the Cornell University Resources Center, 7 BTP, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Prices include shipping and handling within the U.S. New Yorkers, please add 8% sales tax or proof of exemption.

These titles may also be available at Cornell Cooperative Extension offices located throughout New York State and are on the website <<http://www.cce.Cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html>>

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000

ROCHESTER Orleans 4-H members at volunteer forum

"4-H Takes You Places" was the theme of the Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum 2000. The delegates attending the Forum returned with programs and information to enrich the lives of youth in our communities.

Representing Orleans County were Pauline Lanning, Jane Read, Linda Doherty, Laura Shortridge, Janice Giltner, Nancy Walker, Dottie DuSett and Joann Baxter. Margo A. Bowerman (Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development) joined the organization for the Banquet and wrap-up Oct. 7.

Training included Agriculture in the Classroom, Designing a Web Page, Sewing with Fleece, and 4-H as Toastmasters. The above were part of 50 subjects offered.

Jane Read, leader of Barrie Bunch 4-H Club, taught "Nature's Body Shop." Participants prepared natural based cosmetics, lip salve, hand lotion skin softeners and insect repellent wipes. Jane was assisted by Joann Baxter, and her daughter, Kathleen LaFarana; and granddaughter, Jessie LaFarana and Ashley Morrison.

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia sent 385 delegates. This year's Forum was hosted by New York State and conducted in Rochester. For information regarding the forum programs, call Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Orleans 4-H Clubs represented at forum

Several members from 4-H Clubs in Orleans County recently attended the Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum in Rochester.

More than 375 delegates from 13 states and the District of Columbia attended. Representing Orleans County were Pauline Lanning, Jane Read, Linda Doherty, Laura Shortridge, Janice Giltner, Nancy Walker, Dottie DuSett and Joann Baxter.

Training included "Agriculture in the Classroom," "Designing a Web Page," "Sewing with Fleece" and "4-H as Toastmasters." These were some of 50 subjects offered.

Jane Read, leader of the Barre Bunch 4-H Club, taught "Nature's Body Shop." Participants prepared natural based cosmetics, lip salve, hand lotion, skin softeners and insect repellent wipes. She was assisted by Joann Baxter and her daughter Kathleen LaFarann and granddaughters Jessie LaFaranna and Ashley Morrison.

Orleans County 4-H Fair Awarded

On October 7th & 8th Orleans County Fair Manager, Walter Batt and Assistant Fair Manager, Clarence Preston attended the annual New York State Fair Managers Convention. They attended many meetings to discuss fair operation and learn new innovation and ways to improve the great family events Orleans County 4-H Fair is so proud of. One of the events entered was the advertising competition. Of fourteen entries in the advertising competition we were awarded 4th place for our advertising insert from the Lake Country Pennysaver. This was the first time a County youth fair had entered in this competition and placed. The 4-H Fair Board looks forward to another great year in 2001 with many new ideas as well as our "old favorites" to entertain and enlighten all of our friends and families.

The Gardener's Column

Time to start a compost pile

By Dave Reville

For The Journal-Register

Fall is a perfect time to start a backyard-composting program because the raw material for compost is abundant.

Fallen leaves, grass clippings, weeds, spent vines, other semi-rotted garden refuse, including all of those green tomatoes, and all of the annual crops that are finished, provide the main component of compost. The other ingredients are soil, air and water.

For many people the compost pile is never finished because we keep adding kitchen scraps and other refuse as it accumulates in the

home environment. This is fine if the objective is to simply get rid of biodegradable garbage in an environmentally sound manner. If the objective is to produce some high quality finished compost for use in the garden and landscape, then the compost pile should be constructed in a slightly different fashion or multiple piles should be created.

The basic principle of composting is to combine six to eight inch layers of organic matter with one inch layers of soil in between, plus some sort of fertilizer such as manure or even a few handfuls of 5-10-5 every other layer or so. It is not necessary to be

precise. Essentially, all organic matter will eventually rot. The trick is to accelerate the process in order to provide finished compost in a reasonable amount of time.

The secret to quick composting is to shred the materials as finely as possible and keep the pile slightly wet and constantly aerated. Bulky or coarse residues such as corn or sunflower stalks may take years to compost if left intact, but the same cornstalks will break down in weeks if they are first shredded.

Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for sample compost bin fact sheets.

The Daily News • Friday, October 13, 2000

Lifestyles

Orleans Extension has sewing class

ALBION — The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension has scheduled a sewing class on Saturday.

The class, part of Extension's So Sew Saturday series, is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center basement, 20 South Main St.

Classes are scheduled the second Saturday of each month.

The goal for each class is to start and finish a project. Participants will be able to take the finished product home.

Saturday's project is a holiday wall hanging.

A \$2 fee is charged to cover the cost of materials.

For more information, call Marlene Seielstad, 4-H Program Assistant, at 589-5561.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000

ROCHESTER

Orleans 4-H members at volunteer forum

"4-H Takes You Places" was the theme of the Northeast Regional 4-H Volunteer Forum 2000. The delegates attending the Forum returned with programs and information to enrich the lives of youth in our communities.

Representing Orleans County were Pauline Lanning, Jane Read, Linda Doherety, Laura Shortridge, Janice Giltner, Nancy Walker, Dottie DuSett and Joann Baxter. Margo A. Bowerman (Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development) joined the organization for the Banquet and wrap-up Oct. 7.

Training included Agriculture in the Classroom, Designing a Web Page, Sewing with Fleece, and 4-H as Toastmasters. The above were part of 50 subjects offered.

Jane Read, leader of Barrie Bunch 4-H Club, taught "Nature's Body Shop." Participants prepared natural based cosmetics, lip salve, hand lotion skin softeners and insect repellent wipes. Jane was assisted by Joann Baxter; and her daughter, Kathleen LaFaranna; and granddaughters, Jessie LaFaranna and Ashley Morrison.

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia sent 385 delegates. This year's Forum was hosted by New York State and conducted in Rochester. For information regarding the forum programs, call Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2000

MEDINA

Batavia Daily

4-H club plans events

The 4-H H.O.R.S.E. Club met recently to discuss up-and-coming events such as Achievement Night, which will be at 6 p.m. Oct. 26.

Other projects and activities also were discussed.

The next meeting will be Oct. 22.

The Gardeners Column

Summer flowering bulbs need fall storage care

By Dave Reville
Extension Educator

Summer flowering bulbs offer a splendid assortment of colors and textures to any garden, but require special care at season's end. It is important that these bulbs be dug up and stored as follows.

Canna - Cut plant stems after the first light frost and dig up rhizome clumps. Allow them to dry and store them surrounded with soil in a damp cellar away from frost. Peat moss can also be used as a medium to store them in and will reduce dehydration damage.

Gloxinia - As leaves yellow this fall withhold water and allow bulbs to dry. Store the potted bulbs in a cool dry area at 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Repot the bulbs in fresh soil next spring to start the growing season.

Begonia - When leaves turn yellow dig tubers and store them with soil around them in a cool dry place away from frost. Potted tubers can

remain in pots during storage but should receive fresh soil next spring for optimum results.

Gladiolus - Gladiolus corms should be dug before a hard frost. Corms should be dug six to eight weeks after flowering to allow enough time for plants to store up nutrients and prepare for dormancy next year. Loosen the soil underneath the plant and gently pull up the plant by the tops. Break off the tops close to the corms. Remove all soil and roots, and place in a shallow tray with screen bottoms to provide air circulation. Glad corms can be cured by placing in bright sunlight for a few days. Then place in a warm, well-ventilated location for three weeks. This process helps to hasten curing and hinders the development of disease. After curing, break off and discard corms, keeping only the new ones. These new corms should be kept at 35-40 degrees Fahrenheit with proper air circulation until

next season.

Dahlia - Dahlias need to be handled gently during digging to protect the very delicate tubers. A few days after frost has destroyed the foliage, dig well enough away from the base of the plant so as not to disrupt the root system. This is best done when the soil is not too wet or too dry. Gently shake most of the soil from the tubers and leave them in the sun for several hours to dry. Store undivided or cut, packed carefully in flats, boxes or bushel baskets covered with vermiculite or sawdust to prevent shriveling during storage. Place in the coolest part of the cellar and maintain a 40 degree temperature. A covering of newspaper will help maintain temperature and prevent warm air from reaching the tubers.

Remember: It is important to never use or store diseased or infected plant materials. These should be discarded or destroyed immediately and not composted.

The Gardener's Column

Fall is not a good time to prune plants

By Dave Reville
Extension Educator

Now that the weather has cooled, most people think this is the best time to finish pruning tasks but fall is not the right time to prune in most cases. In the fall, plants are getting ready to go dormant. Less daylight and reduced heat encourages them to get ready for winter dormancy and they are less able to resist the stress of pruning.

When you prune a tree or shrub, you wound it. The tree or shrub heals the wound by sealing it off from the rest of

the plant. To do this, it must be able to quickly produce tissue. In the fall, plants produce new tissue more slowly than they so in early spring, which is the best time to prune.

Pruning in the fall makes plants susceptible to cold temperature damage. And if there is prolonged winter thaw, the plant may produce new growth that freezes off, again "wounding" the tree, especially if it was heavily pruned in the fall.

In the fall, gardeners can clean out broken branches, but they should resist the urge to

do a general pruning, and wait for spring when the best time to prune is in March when plants are dormant.

Exceptions to the rule are the early blooming spring shrubs that should be pruned after they flower.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2000

The Gardener's Column

Finalizing your season's chores

By Dave Reville

For The Journal-Register

Winter's frosty nights are ahead. Find an easy chair and relax for a while making a list of all chores which need to be done before winter sets in. Use this article to start with an add your own thoughts to it.

Bring houseplants back indoors from their summer vacation and cover tomato plants with tarps or blankets if you haven't already to protect from frost. Tomato vines can be hung in cellars to continue ripening or spread over a dry surface. Flowering annuals will continue blooming through fall if protected from frost.

As you fire up the wood burning stove this month keep in mind that heating your home also dries out your plants. Watch for desiccation and place planters on trays filled with gravel and water to maintain moisture.

Garden clean up should be one of your priorities for this month. Diseases, bacteria, fungi and insects will overwinter underneath and inside remaining plant debris causing problems next year. Woody stems of dead plants are favorite sites for overwintering eggs. Pull up roots of annuals, rake up and remove all unwanted plant debris and destroy compost.

Cut off peony tops and destroy leaves and stems to prevent Botrytis from overwintering and infesting new growth the following spring.

If you have run out of refrigerator or freezer space for storage items you might consider trying a conventional storage pit or cold cellar. Remember not to store fruits and vegetables in the same area or the ethylene released from the fruits will speed up the aging process and prematurely decompose your vegetables. This technique how-

ever can be helpful in ripening green tomatoes.

In addition to garden cleanup in your fruit planting you may want to place tree guards around your fruit trees to protect against rodent damage this winter. Hardware cloth at least two feet in height and set into the ground to avoid digging works well. Be sure to place guards with a wide enough diameter to allow for several years' worth of growth. If you had a problem with peach leaf curl this year, start your control program early by applying a commercially prepared dormant spray mix containing copper such as lime sulfur. The tree should be dormant before such a spray is applied.

Blueberries can be planted in the fall. Use mulch to minimize heaving of the soil over winter. Do some research on what varieties do best in our neck of the woods, not all types need very acid soil.

Strawberries can be covered with straw mulch as soon as three nights below 20 degrees F have passed.

There is still time to adjust pH if there is a need. Remember fall application will allow the sulfur or lime to adjust the soil chemistry in time for next year's growing season. Test kits for pH are available through the Cooperative Extension office.

Garlic is best when planted in the fall. Fertilize the area before planting.

Dig up summer flowering bulbs for winter storage before the ground freezes. Store dahlias upside down in a cool cellar. Cannas should be stored with soil protectively covering the roots. Make sure to label all roots for easy identification in the spring. There is still plenty of time to plant spring bulbs if you haven't yet.

Now is the time to set daffodil bulbs for forced blooming at Thanksgiving.

Marking Cooperative Extension Week ✕

For nearly a century, Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension has built partnerships with the people of Orleans County to apply trusted knowledge and expertise to the issues they face in their life, work and community.

Events like kids growing up, new people joining the community, changing jobs and new technology are ongoing. These shifts in everyday activities and events make Cornell Cooperative Extension important to the community. Cooperative Extension meets the changing needs of the residents of Orleans County - individuals, families, businesses and communities - through education, collaboration and partnerships, states Association Director Thomas Nally.

Cornell Cooperative Extension's mission is to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. That means that together people and staff determine which issues are of greatest concern and can be addressed through research-based knowledge and experience, he said.

"Cornell Cooperative Extension connects to the community in many ways. We connect with other Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations and Cornell University to deliver programming and outreach around five initiative areas," said Nally. "First, we empower individuals and enterprises in agriculture and food systems to thrive; develop the competence and character of youth and adults in families and communities; improve the quality and sustainability of

human environments and natural resources; improve the health, nutrition and safety of communities and individuals and strengthen the economic and social vitality of communities. Second we look ahead. Local communities including this one are exploring ways we can provide the quality of life and economic security each person desires. Third we connect learners with educational resources that may come from within our community or at a location halfway around the world. Fourth we provide resources via technology. The internet, satellite and video presentations are common occurrences. When an event happens within hours Cornell Cooperative Extension can respond. The most recent example is our timely response related to the West Nile Virus. With experts on the Cornell campus, we can share the latest research and engage people in determining what can be done locally. Lastly, we give people the tools they need to find their own solutions. Knowledge provides insight and offers direction. Individuals and groups engage in critical thinking to determine what is best for their situation. What works in one setting does not become a recipe for others. Rather, gathering 'best practices' informs decision-making."

"Become involved and look to Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension as we move into the next century," added Nally. "Sept. 30 - Oct. 7 is Cornell Cooperative Extension Week and National 4-H Week. We invite you to learn more about the organization and how you too can help us put experience and research knowledge to work."

Reviving history



Joel Dent, left, a painter with Panek Coatings, and Bill Logan, facilitation manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension, spruce up the historic office in Albion. (J-R Photo by James Neiss)

The Daily News • Tuesday, September 19, 2000



Winning ways

Sally Driesel of Lyndonville, left, and Dorothy Dresser of Millville show off ribbons they won at the New York State Fair in Syracuse for exhibiting sheep. Dorothy won the Novice Showmanship Reserve with her mature Cheviot ewe and finished third with her Cheviot junior ram lamb. Sally was eighth in Senior Showmanship and seventh in medium market weight class. She also participated in the Sheep Quiz Bowl and the Livestock Knowledge Contest.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER Medina, N.Y. Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Orleans History

Fifteen Years Ago

Supervisors being sought for
1985-86 4-H Livestock
Program.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2000

Brieflies

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Orleans County 4-H Holiday Faire

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 1 there will be exhibits accepted at the Trolley Building at the 4-H fairgrounds. Exhibits will be evaluated Saturday morning before the Holiday Faire.

Exhibitors may enter two articles per class.

Holiday Fair Classes are as follows:

Class 1 - Homemade gift, Class 2 - Holiday food, Class 3 - Centerpiece, Class 4 - Door decorations, Class 5 - Wall hanging, Class 6 - Toy, Class 7 - Tree ornament (w/hanger), Class 8 - Gift wrapped package, Class 9 - Holiday card, Class 10 - Fresh cut evergreens, Class 11 - Miscellaneous.

Dec. 2 is the Holiday Faire from 1-4 p.m. at the Trolley Building.

4-H clubs will be demonstrating various crafts and foods (hands-on experience for youth to make holiday gifts).

Santa Claus will be there in his sleigh to accept wish lists and Carols will be sung throughout the afternoon.

ALBION

Cooperative Extension emphasizes the importance of snowmobiling responsibility

**By Margo Bowerman
Extension Educator**

As the snow season is upon us and people begin tuning up their snowmobiles, the National 4-H Off Highway Vehicle Vision Team reminds enthusiasts of their responsibilities to the sport and recreation of snowmobiling.

The miss of the Vision Team is to pursue the next generation of Off Highway Vehicle enthusiasts who are committed to our sport and take pride in it. They promote

the benefits and fun of the sport among youth within a context that emphasizes safety and environmental awareness.

Paul Ehlers writes all people who ride snowmobiles have a certain responsibility to keeping all of the nonriders friends with the riders. To do this, there are a few simple ethics to follow. In these ethics is a look at safety, courtesy and environmental practices to keep the whole population happy with snowmobiles."

Those ethics include:

- Be a good sports enthusiast. People judge all snowmobilers by their actions.
- Do not litter on trails, or in camping areas, and do not pollute streams or lakes.
- Do not damage living trees, shrubs or any other natural living features. Try to go out of your way to find sufficient snow so that you don't damage the land.
- Respect other people's property and rights.
- Help others when you can.

■ Make yourself and your vehicle available to search and rescue teams, if needed.

■ Do not interfere or harass others using the trails. They have a right to property.

■ Know and obey all federal, state and local laws and inform public officials when using public lands.

■ Do not harass wildlife and avoid posted areas for the protection of wildlife.

■ Stay on marked trails. Do not go where snowmobiles are prohibited.

A Visitor at the Bird Feeder

An interesting discovery happened last week! A friend from Kendall called to say there was an interesting bird in her yard that didn't appear in her bird book. Could we help her to identify it? She had watched it for several days and was able to give a detailed description of body, head, and beak size and shape, feather colors, and the unusual markings of red legs, a red ring around its eyes, and dark bars on the lower wings. This was a largish bird but not as big as a pheasant. She had also noted some of its flight and eating habits and commented that it looked 'rather exotic!'

The search was on! A confirmed identification ultimately resulted with a 'Chukar,' a pheasant family bird native to the mountains of the Northwestern United States. "Dan," as he is affectionately called, was identified. Now our friend had a better idea what feed to put out to keep him healthy. He should do fine since he is native to our type of environment.

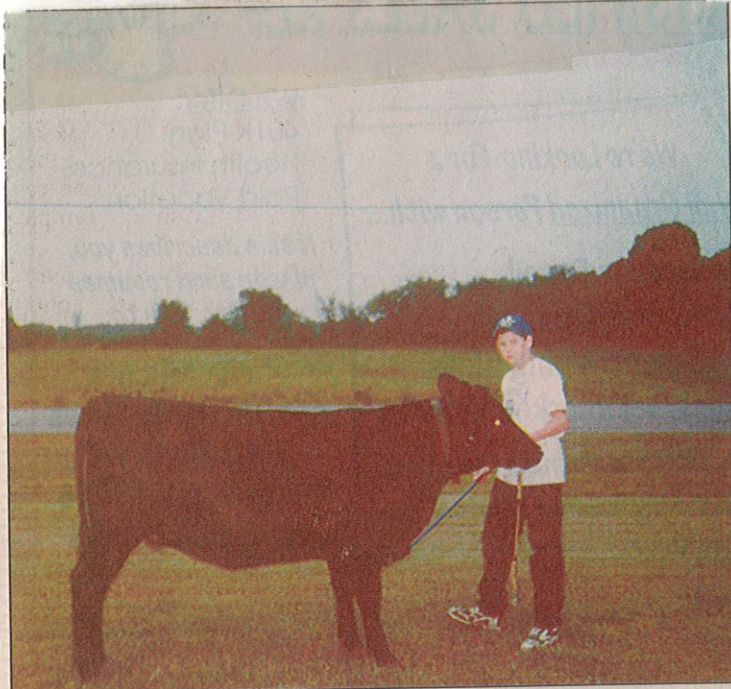
It's always fun to pull out the books and binoculars to watch the feeder on snowy days. We don't often run into such unusual species on which to practice the identification process! When trying to identify an unfamiliar bird note the size and shape of head, beak, and tail, body color patterns, and behavioral items like feeding and flight. Remember that many birds migrate into our area from northern climates during this time so some sightings may only be for winter visitors.

Monitoring a specific kind of feeder will allow you to narrow the scope of initial bird species to learn. Suet is the choice feeder supply if you are interested in drawing in woodpeckers, nuthatch, chickadee, and tufted titmouse. Several of these birds will feed in an upside down position so if you have had bird feeder problems with squirrels, starlings, or suet melt, hang the suet with a protective cover with the exposed portion facing down.

Both Downy and Hairy woodpeckers will come to a suet feeder and will also eat sunflower seeds, fruit, peanut butter, and sometimes cheese. Their main food is insects and can be seen in summer working up and down a damaged tree, looking under the bark edges for a meal. They look similar to each other in coloring but not size. The Hairy is a much larger bird averaging over seven inches long to the Downy's average five inches. Both male and female of each have white chests and strong black and white bar markings. The male of both has a red band across the nape of his neck but the male Hairy has a much broader red band than the Downy.

In future articles I'll describe other birds that you may see at your feeder and landscape plants that will draw some interesting bird visitors all year long. If you run into a plant or animal question or problem that you can't quite solve, please, take some notes and give the cooperative extension a call at 589-5561. We have some additional resources that can help you identify your visitors!

The Daily News • Tuesday, November 21, 2000



Here's the beef

Chris Driesel of Lyndonville shows off his junior yearling "Babe," which placed fourth in the breed class at the Beef Expo Oct. 21 and 22 in Syracuse. Chris also participated in a no-fit showmanship class, where he finished seventh. He was 11th in the fitting showmanship class, sixth in cattle judging and 10th in the practical test. He was also able to attend seminars on new ways to breed cattle and is looking forward to attending next fall's event.

*The Gardener's Column

Uncertainty Elsewhere

**By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator**

Uncertainty about information can affect people in different ways. Are you fascinated by the continuing evolution of the hand count in Florida or are you tired of hearing about it? This intense feeling of lack of resolution to this month's presidential election has different affects on different people, without regard to their personal choice for president.

I am fortunate in that I work in a general environment that can have a great deal of certainty associated with it, or at the least, a larger group to work with on the tough questions. The Cornell Cooperative Extension uses a large variety of resources to develop recommendations for agricultural, residential and commercial care of plants and animals. I regularly use these recommendations to identify or confirm an insect or disease problem in a plant. Other forms of 'The Recommends,' as they are often called, address controlling weeds, pest problems in greenhouses, fruit tree, vegetable or field crop issues. There is even a book dedicated to cultural practice - non pesticide - for care and control of a large variety of household pests and landscape problems! Each book has it's own specialty so if turf grass insects isn't the problem we don't have to wade through extra pages.

The two most reassuring points of using 'The Recommends' are (1) someone had already taken the time to really study the problem and check to see if these products work; and (2) 'The Recommends' is for New York State! the products are available here and really do what the book says!

Take 'apple scab' for example. This is a disease that effects the leaves and fruit of apples, crabapples and several other trees in the same family. The Recommends can give you cultural information about reducing the scab spores in the area by leaf and fruit removal; pruning information for timing to thin the trees and increase air circulation; and a list of resistant varieties to plant. It can also give you a list of products that are available over the counter for homeowner treatment of susceptible varieties. I have additional recommendations if you are a commercial treatment and care provider or if you are a production farmer! Each of these is custom tailored to fit your usage needs so you're receiving information that you can use. Each also comes with the certainty of Cornell University testing.

So, if you run into a plant or animal question or problem that you can't quite solve, please give the Cooperative Extension a call at 589-5561. I'll help you with an answer that has research behind it!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2000

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

KNOWLESVILLE

4-H holds Grown in N.Y. Contest

The 4-H Grown in New York Contest was held Oct. 21 at the Orleans County Fairgrounds.

Participants included Heather Carr, Chelsie Cliff, Mitchell Fannin and Rachel Preston in the Junior Division along with Amie Collazo, Kelly Collazo, Andrea Marciszewski, Scott Marciszewski, Michelle Sands, Amanda Vreeland and Kerrie Walker in the Senior Division.

Each of the contestants presented a silent food demonstration featuring a recipe with ingredients that were produced in New York State.

After being judged on demonstration skills, as well as, the taste and nutritional value of the finished product, the top three contestants in each division were presented monetary awards sponsored by the Orleans County 4-H Leader's Association.

Winners in the Junior Division were: 1st place - Rachel Preston, 2nd - Mitchell Fannin and 3rd - Chelsie Cliff.

Winners in the Senior Division were: 1st - Michelle Sands, 2nd - Scott Marciszewski and 3rd - Kerrie Walker.

Recipe books containing all of the recipes used are available through the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension for 50 cents or can be mailed to the public for \$1.10. Please contact the office at 589-5561 to order your copy.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

New 4-H club earns honors

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2000



The annual Orleans County 4-H Achievement Night was held recently. Attending the banquet were many 4-H clubs of Orleans County including the Barn Buddies, a new 4-H club last year. The Barn Buddies were proud to display their newly made club banner and to bring home the best new club award. Shown here with the banner are, from left, Hans Rosentreter, Liz Silkowski, Stephanie Boyle and Ashley Boyle.

The Gardener's Column

The grass can really be greener

**By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator**

This is another gorgeous November day, there is some sun and it is reasonably warm. Days like today make people want to get out into their yards, maybe do some clean up or even finish a loose end on a project or two.

Since the trees have turned and dropped most of their leaves and the gardens don't have any color, lawns become a topic of interest. At this time of year we receive many calls to the cooperative extension office specifically about lawns and what can still be done. The general answer to that usually starts with 'It depends!'

Mid to late November is an excellent time to do that last winterizer fertilizer. By now grass plants have really slowed leave blade growth but, are still developing root systems. In fact, if you choose to do only one thing to your lawn every year - apply late fall winterizer fertilizer. The development of root systems now and in early spring will generate healthier grass plants and increase blade density

throughout the lawn which can 'push out' weeds.

Since we have had some warm November days your lawn may be on the long side, maybe even over three inches tall. Now is a great time to give that lawn one last cut. If there is a fairly light leaf cover, it is OK to also mow right over the leaves. Heavy leaf cover can smother the grass plants. This is where you really only see leaves and not much lawn, so, removal of heavy leaf cover before mowing in late fall is recommended. Leaving your lawn long, over three inches tall, can provide the right conditions for several turf diseases that develop under snow cover. Two snow mold diseases prefer long, lush grass blades under snow cover in their development and will produce gray or pink-ish dead areas throughout the lawn.

Were you planning on spreading lime on your lawn? Wait and get a soil test first. Annual lime treatment was common practice in the last but, research has found that unnecessary liming can cause thin lawn density and increase

weeds. The Cooperative Extension will be holding soil test clinics this spring to test for pH. This will tell you if you need lime, sulfur or no adjustment at all.

Our oversight temperatures have been too cold to start new grass seed this November. Fall is usually an excellent time to start a new lawn because we typically have even soil moisture and the grasses can get established in the time allowed, but not the weeds. This fall we have had frequent frosty nights so, any areas that still need seedling should be covered with leaves to reduce soil compaction and erosion. Wait until spring to seed those areas.

A little, light fall care can give your lawn a jump-start for next season in health, density and color. You can have a greener lawn with less labor next season.

Call Rochelle, the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Horticulture and Agriculture Educator at 589-5561 if you have additional questions or have a club or group with a special interest.

Orleans 4-H'ers receive honors

More than 150 Orleans County 4-H'ers and their families gathered Oct. 26 at the 4-H Fairgrounds to celebrate their achievements in 4-H for the past year.

Presiding over the ceremony were the 2000 Fair King and Queen, Vincent Flow of Holley and Julianne Watts of Medina. Among the many accomplishments celebrated, project records were one of the prominent accomplishments.

Project records are used as a tool by 4-H to teach life skills such as responsibility, record keeping, observation and note-taking.

Project record champions for the past year were:

■ Food and Nutrition Records: Amie Collazo, Kelly Collazo, Toya Torrance and Julianne Watts

■ Clothing and Textile Records: Julianne Watts, Kerrie Walker, Toya Torrance and Amie Collazo.

■ Crafts Records: Amie Collazo, Kelly Collazo, Toya Torrance and Julianne Watts

■ Food/Breads Records: Julianne Watts

■ Woodworking Records: Kelly

Collazo, Amie Collazo and Toya Torrance

■ Photography Records: Julianne Watts

■ Child Care and Development Records: Kasandra Cliff, Kelly Collazo and Toya Torrance

■ Sheep Records: Sally Driesel

■ Dairy Goat Records: Aaron Batt

■ Leadership Records: Kerrie Walker, Kelly Collazo, Amie Collazo and Amie Collazo

■ Performing Arts Records: Toya Torrance, Vincent Flow, Kelly Collazo and Amie Collazo

■ Horticulture Records: Kasandra Cliff and Julianne Watts

■ Natural Resources Records: Vincent Flow

■ Dog Records: Kristen Ophardt and Jacklynn Gingerich and Joli Sucey

■ Cat Records: Vincent Flow, Kerrie

Walker, Scott Marciszewski and Julianne Watts

■ Llama Records: Aaron Batt

■ Parliamentary Procedures Records: Amie Collazo and Kelly Collazo

■ Home Improvement: Julianne Watts

Also celebrated was the 1999-2000 Super Club, an award given to a 4-H club which not only participates in many different events and community service activities, but also keeps track of their participation. This year's Super Club is the Orleans County Rabbit Raisers, led by Neil, Joanne and Sarah Johnson.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2000

The Gardener's Column

Autumn is a time to START

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

So many times we hear and say "autumn is an ending season" or other quieting and closing phrases that indicate completion. We relate shorter days, cooler temperatures, leaf drop and harvest with the completion of the plans, projects and goals of summer. This may be true in many ways but teachers, farmers, gardeners and even many plants would agree: autumn is a time to start.

School classes have started and are in full swing now as we enter the beginning of November The new seed catalogues are starting to appear in mailboxes and on kitchen tables for early planting Fall bulbs can still be planted with visions of brightly colored crocus and tulip pushing up through the last crusts of snow.... Lawn grasses, trees and shrubs are enjoying the still warm soils to develop and spread healthy root systems And, your new, Cooperative Extension Educator, Rochelle Smith, is planning classes, training,

plantings and programs to bring to any and all interested.

As the Horticulture and Agriculture Educator for the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, I will work with the Master Gardeners and office staff to answer your landscape and gardening questions, produce the Garden Scout newsletter and write this weekly Journal-Register column. In addition, I will offer classes through your local continuing education programs and at the extension. A variety of topics like landscaping, floral arrangement historic and/or organic gardening and specialty plants like hostas, daylilies, small ornamental trees and houseplants are on the presentation planning board.

Do you have a club or group with a special interest? Please call me at the Extension office, 589-5561, to discuss topics and set up a presentation. Our many thanks to Dave Reville, the Consumer Horticulture Educator for Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension, who has assisted in Orleans County since mid August.

Orleans County celebrates 4-H achievements

Over 150 Orleans County 4-Hers and their families gathered at the 4-H Fairgrounds Oct. 26 to celebrate their achievements in 4-H for the past year.

Presiding over the ceremony were the 2000 Fair King and Queen, Vincent Flow of Holley and Julianne Watts of Medina.

Among the many achievements celebrated, project records were one of the prominent accomplishments.

Project records are used as a tool by 4-H to teach life skills such as responsibility, record keeping, observation and note-taking. It is often a tedious and dreary process to young people and getting

them to participate takes a lot of encouragement and friendly prodding from their leaders.

The project record champions for the past year were:

Food and Nutrition Records - Amie Collazo, Kelly Collazo, Toya Torrance and Julianne Watts.

Clothing and Textiles Records - Julianne Watts, Kerrie Walker, Toya Torrance and Amie Collazo.

Crafts Records - Amie Collazo, Kelly Collazo, Toya Torrance and Julianne Watts.

Food - Breads Records - Julianne Watts.

Woodworking Records - Kelly Collazo, Amie Collazo and Toya Torrance.

Photography Records -

Julianne Watts.

Child Care and Development Records - Kassandra Cliff, Kelly Collazo and Toya Torrance.

Sheep Records - Sally Driesel.

Dairy Goat Records - Aaron Batt.

Leadership Records - Kerrie Walker, Kelly Collazo, Amie Collazo and Toya Torrance.

Performing Arts Records - Toya Torrance, Vincent Flow, Kelly Collazo and Amie Collazo.

Horticulture Records - Kassandra Cliff and Julianne Watts.

Natural Resources Records - Vincent Flow.

Dog Records - Kristen Ophardt, Jacklynn Gingerich

and Joli Sucy.

Cat Records - Vincent Flow, Kerrie Walker, Scott Marciszewski and Julianne Watts.

Llama Records - Aaron Batt.

Parliamentary Procedure Records - Amie Collazo and Kelly Collazo.

Home Improvement - Julianne Watts.

Also celebrated was the 1999-2000 Super Club, an award given to a 4-H club which not only participates in many different events and community service activities, but also keeps track of their participation. This year's Super Club is the Orleans County Rabbit Raisers, led by Neil, Joanne and Sarah Johnson.

Orleans may combine agricultural districts

By Tom Rivers
Daily News Staff Writer

CARLTON — Property owners who want to be included in an agricultural district in Kendall, Carlton and Yates have until next week to notify Orleans County officials.

The county will have a 7:30 p.m. public hearing Wednesday on the district at the Carlton Fire Department Recreation Hall on Route 98.

"This is their last chance to say whether they want to be in it," said James Bensley, the senior planner for

the county Department of Planning and Development.

The district consolidates four agricultural districts that stretched over the three towns, as well as small portions of Ridgeway and Gaines. Bensley said combining the districts will save the county administrative work in overseeing the districts.

The move does not reduce the protection the agricultural district gives farmers, said Tom Nally, the director of the Orleans County Cooperative Extension. Farmers will still be

shielded from "nuisance suits," where neighbors and municipalities sometimes try to curb farming practices, he said.

As long as farmers have their land in an agricultural district, they don't have to worry about being sued over normal farm practices, like noise from machines, mud on the road from tractors and strong smells from their farm operations, Bensley said.

There are 25,370 acres currently proposed for the consolidated district. That's about a 50 percent reduction

from the four districts. Bensley said it's difficult to pinpoint the exact loss because the consolidated district doesn't include the small portions of land in Gaines and Ridgeway.

It is clear, however, that large blocks of land haven't been proposed for the district. Nally said he's concerned about the loss.

He believes two factors are fueling the reduction: water lines and confusion.

See Orleans — page A-2

The Daily News • Friday, December 8, 2000

Orleans 4-H Clubs receive honors

KNOWESVILLE — The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension sponsored a 4-H Holiday Faire last Saturday at the Trolley building. The event featured more than 300 handmade items and a visit from Santa Claus.

Special recognition was given to the Sheep Club, Back to Basics, Almost Anything Goes, Barn Buddies, Goatherders, Barre Bunch, Riches Corners Revelers, Clarendon Rascals, Rabbit Raisers, Orleans County Heelers and the Senior Council.

More than 75 club members received recognition in the Court of Honor for their participation in making toys, tree ornaments, holiday cards, door decorations and various other handmade gifts.

Tennessee from 1910 to 1900 — as early as next month.

"This chair will fit in very, very nicely," said Edward Meyer, Ripley's vice president for publishing, who negotiated the acquisition.

A LOOK AHEAD

Look for the following item in Friday's editions:

• **SENIOR LIVING:** The Home Visitors Program started last fall with a handful of clients and a \$45,000 grant from the Muriel H. Marshall Fund. A year

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000

Christmas tree selection time is right around the corner

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

We have had quite a fall season! Now that we've already had our first snow and Advent is beginning it is time to think about getting a tree. Some people are first week tree people. As close to December first as possible they have their tree up and decorated. Others hold back until closer to the 25th due to tradition, concern for needle drop or just plain busy schedules. What ever the timing may be for live tree homes choosing the right tree can have dramatically differing opinions!

In my childhood, Norman Rockwell style memories of choosing a Christmas tree always had snow. A batch of Mom's famous chili sat on the stove simmering, waiting for our return while the whole family loaded into the station wagon to drive for hours to the tree farm. Selection of the specific tree had all the same issues experienced by any family with six opinions. Height, density, branch strength, areas to hide or display special ornaments, needle sharpness all were discussed with great emotions by the various family members. Upon selection and cutting - that too had its traditional comments - the youngest children were allowed to ride on the trunk while the older members and Dad dragged out prize back to the car. I learned knots at an early age too as we lived in fear of the loss of our Christmas centerpiece to the long ride home.

The set up sequence has additional memories since Dad would never invest in a tree stand. We would lash the tree to permanent nails in the wall using, as Mom annually described, a 'd_rope' and a

divided into two groups for those grown in New York State: short-needled spruces and firs and the long-needled pines. The ideal Christmas tree is more than needle length, however. It must also have good needle holding ability, attractive color, a full or bushy appearance, a conical shape, a pleasing fragrance, branches sturdy enough to hold ornaments and reasonable fire resistance. Hemlock, which is native to New York State is unsuitable as the needles start to drop as soon as the tree is cut.

Pines do the best in dry situations; they tend to hold their needles even when they have been cut and out of water for some time. Spruces do not do well in dry situations and will readily drop their needles as they dry out. The firs, pines and Colorado blue spruce are excellent at needle retention when kept moist.

Fragrance is a preference issue. I prefer the firs for their scent, especially concolor or white fir as the needles smell of citrus when broken. Often you can find sticky, resin blisters on the trunk of a fir tree. Pop them with your fingernail for additional scent. Unfortu-

nately, the firs tend to have softer branches so heavy ornaments don't work well. Austrian and Scots pine and Colorado blue spruce have the firmest branches.

Don't let Colorado blue spruce convince you that it's the best Christmas tree. The color is great but it scores low on fragrance and needles holding in dry situations. Also, it has the sharpest needles of all the Christmas trees.

While personal preference and family tradition have an active part in selection of the tree, it is fun to look at other options. Choose New York State grown trees whenever possible. Not only will you be helping your neighbors but since it hasn't had to travel across the country the tree will have more internal moisture. It will be 'fresher' and less likely to drop its needles. Giving the tree a fresh cut, keeping it in water and keeping the house temperature down around it will also delay needle drop. Tree water additives to preserve freshness have some merit but none will work better than daily monitoring and refilling the stand or bucket. Be careful to avoid spills as the pitch in the water can cause permanent carpet

stains.

Interested in more detail? Please give the Cooperative Extension a call at 589-5561 and ask for bulletin 48 - Selection and Care of Your Christmas Tree. Leave your name and address and we'll send it out to you so you can choose your tree.

Rochelle Smith is an educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension

The Gardener's Column

**By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator**

An interesting discovery happened last week! A friend from Kendall called to say there was an interesting bird in her yard that didn't appear in her bird book. Could we help her to identify it?

She had watched it for several days and was able to give a detailed description of body, head and beak size and shape, feather colors and the unusual markings of red legs, a red ring around its eyes and dark bars on the lower wings. This was a largish bird but not as big as a pheasant.

She had also noted some of its flight and eating habits and commented that it looked "rather exotic!"

The search was on! A confirmed identification ultimately resulted with a 'Chukar' a pheasant family

bird native to the mountains of the Northwestern United States. "Dan," as he is affectionately called, was identified. Now our friend had a better idea what feed to put out to keep him healthy. He should so fine since he is native to our type of environment.

It's always fun to pull out the books and binoculars to watch the feeder on snowy days. We don't often run into such unusual species on which to practice the identification process! When trying to identify an unfamiliar bird note the size and shape of head, beak and tail, body color patterns and behavioral items like feeding and flight. Remember that many birds migrate into our area from northern climates during this time so some sightings may only be for winter visitors.

Monitoring a specific kind of feeder will allow you to narrow the scope of initial bird species to learn. Suet is the choice feeder supply if you are interested in drawing woodpeckers, nuthatch, chickadee and tufted titmouse. Several of these birds will feed in an upside down position so if you have had bird feeder problems with squirrels, starlings or suet melt, hand the suet with a protective cover with the exposed portion facing down.

Both Downy and Hairy woodpeckers will come to a suet feeder and will also eat sunflower seeds, fruit, peanut butter and sometimes cheese. Their main food is insects and can be seen in summer working up and down a damaged tree, looking under the bark edges for a meal. They look similar to each other in

coloring but not size. The Hairy is a much larger bird averaging over seven inches long to the Downy's average five inches. Both male and female of each have white chests and strong black and white bar markings. The male of both has a red band across the nape of his neck but the male Hairy has a much broader red band than the Downy.

In future articles I'll describe other birds that you may see at your feeder and landscape plants that will draw some interesting bird visitors all year long.

If you run into a plant or animal question or problem that you can't quite solve, please take some notes and give the Cooperative Extension a call at 589-5561. We have some additional resources that can help you identify your visitors.

AGRICULTURE

Orleans farmers elected to state Farm Bureau

By Tom Rivers
Daily News Staff Writer

BUFFALO — Two Orleans County fruit growers, Bruce Krenning and Karen Watt, will help the state's largest agricultural advocacy group revive an industry that they say is in serious straits.

Krenning was elected vice president of the 30,000-member New York Farm Bureau last week during the organization's annual meeting.

Watt was elected to fill Krenning's position on the Farm Bureau board of directors, representing the counties of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Niagara, Monroe and Livingston.

"This district has unique concerns that need to be on the front burner," Watt said Saturday about Western New York agriculture. "We're

heavy on fruit and vegetable production."

The area also must contend with crops that pour into the country from Canada. Farmers told U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer last month that Canadian farmers sell their products in the U.S. for lower prices than American farmers can grow them.

Schumer, during a stop at Watt Fruit Farm in Gaines, said he's willing to fight to end any unfair trade practices by Canadians. However, he told farmers free trade likely will not be abolished any time soon.

The North American Free Trade Agreement and the opening of trade with China threaten American farmers, who must pay more in labor, chemical and equipment costs than their foreign competitors, farmers told Schumer.



Bruce Krenning

The influx of foreign food has pushed wholesale prices to 20-year lows for many products. Krenning, during an August interview, said the



Karen Watt

industry is "under siege from a variety of sources."

The lack of a dependable work force, a move to cut pesticide use, foul weather

and pressure to turn farmland into residential development also threaten the local agricultural industry, said Krenning, who was in Chicago over the weekend to attend an American Farm Bureau meeting on apples.

The Farm Bureau has made progress getting the ear of politicians, telling them how government policies are hurting farms, said Watt, who owns a 250-acre orchard in Gaines with her husband, Chris. She praised Schumer and U.S. Rep. John LaFalce for pushing agricultural issues in Congress.

Krenning and his wife, Diane, own a 350-acre fruit farm and hog operation in the town of Albion. Mrs. Krenning in October was elected Orleans County Farm Bureau president. She replaced Mrs. Watt, who didn't seek re-election.

Cooperative Extension sponsors 4-H Holiday Faire

The annual Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension sponsored 4-H Holiday Faire was conducted Dec. 2.

The Faire provided an opportunity to view some wonderful holiday decorating ideas and to see what some of the 4-H clubs in Orleans County are doing.

Special recognition goes to the Sheep Club, Back to Basics, Almost Anything Goes, Barn Buddies, Goat-herders, Barre Bunch, Riches Corners Revelers, Clarendon Rascals, Rabbit Raisers, Orleans County Heelers and the Senior Council for participating.

Santa Claus was also on hand and was taking requests from many young people. He even brought his sleigh and photos were available.

A total of 369 handmade exhibits were on display including items made by the following 4-Hers who received recognition in the court of honors.

Participating this year at the Cloverbud level were:

Handmade Gift: Mike McAllister, Dan Dodson, Sheena Coon, Kasandra Cliff, Joli Sucy, Shane Derry, Tim O'Hearn, Rachel Preston, Audrey Rath, Julianne Watts,

Bethany Coon.

Holiday Food: Kasandra Cliff, Tiffany Agugliaro, Amber Dodson.

Centerpiece: Kerrie Walker, Chad Kirby, Chelsea Cliff, Tiffany Agugliaro, Rachel Preston, Rhiannon Trolley.

Door Decorations: Rachel Preston, Jessica Arno, Amanda Vreeland, Ashley Morrison, Aimee Shortridge, Shirley Armer.

Wall Hanging: Kerrie Walker, Shirley Armer, Bethany Coon, Michele Sands, Stryker Ostafew, Sheena Coon.

Toy: Aimee Shortridge, Rachel Preston, Jacob Preston, Julianne Watts.

Tree Ornament: Kerrie Walker, Emily Jean Dodson, Toya Torrence, Ashton Watts, Jacob Dunaway, Mitch Fannin, Alina Larkin-Morales, Rhiannon Trolley, Shirley Armer, Joli Sucy, Bethany Coon.

Gift Wrapped Package: Michelle Conrow, Doug Flow, Kasandra Cliff, Kayla Sucy, Amanda Vreeland.

Holiday Card: Stryker Ostafew, Erica Callahan, Kasandra Cliff, Scott Marciszewski, Kelliann Grolling.

Fresh Cut Evergreens: Carly Wells.

Miscellaneous: Bethany

Coon, Kristina Kuellertz, Kristen Marciszewski, Rachel Penders, Alex Baleben, Katlynn Grimes, Kealy Hargraves, Courtney Hansler, Makaila Harmer, Steven Kimerly, Harlee Ziegler, Hanna Thiel, Nick Winkley, Meaghan White, Mike Bennett, Jenny McKenna, Nicholas Ostafew, Cody Arms.

Fair organizers meet here

BY STAFF WRITER

JAY TOKASZ

In the dead of winter, fair organizers from across New York state have gathered in Rochester to discuss how they'll improve upon a summer tradition.

The county fair — one of the state's few remaining links to its agrarian roots — is the topic of a four-day convention that began yesterday at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

The convention, expected to draw more than 1,000 participants from most of the state's 62 counties, is in its 113th year. The last six conventions have been held in Rochester.

One of the topics of discussion this year: how to attract more young people. While fair attendance is up nationwide, organizers must think of new ways to incorporate technology into the fair experience, as many farmers have already done on their farms, said Frances I. Tepper, executive director of the Monroe County Fair and Recreation Association Inc.

"That means changing. Fairs are very traditional and change is sometimes very difficult," Tepper said.

The Monroe County Fair, for example, has developed a space education center and a computer-generated game in which

kids have a chance to settle on a space colony.

At the same time, people still flock to fairs largely because they can't be exposed to agriculture anywhere else, organizers said.

"Without agriculture exhibits, we are no better than theme parks," said Jessica Gominiak, competitive exhibit and agricultural coordinator for the Erie County Fair.

Gominiak was one of several speakers leading workshops yesterday afternoon. Today's events include a trade show and a keynote talk by motivational speaker Dale Henry. The convention concludes Tuesday. □

Looking back and looking ahead

By Marcia Tuohy
For The Journal-Register

As the county ended its 175th year of existence, we can take pride in its fiscal stability, and the service and economic programs provided for the benefit of its citizens.

As we enter 2001, the legislature adopted a budget with a decrease in the tax levy of \$100,000 and the average property tax rate by 14 cents per thousand. While inflation has increased 24.4 percent over the last nine years, the

property tax levy has grown just 7.4 percent for the same period.

Our commitment to improving our county roads continued with the establishment of a \$600,000 infrastructure reserve account.

last year's major construction project, a fire training tower, provides a state-of-the-art facility for the fire service. Also, the new slate roof on the County Clerk's building was completed. Plans for the renovation and addition to this building and the Court House are nearly complete, and will be bid and construction commenced this year. Potential repairs to the jail were also identified in an engineering study.

Two of the three employee union contracts were successfully negotiated and amicably settled for three year terms.

Our County Marine Park usage was increased by the scheduling of concerts and special events by groups such as Veterans, Council of the Arts, and Office for the aging, attended by hundreds of individuals. This year we will continue the physical enhancement of this area with picnic pavilions and plan for a permanent band stand.

With County financial and in-kind support, together with local municipal and state cooperation, our Industrial Development Agency is helping business expand with the development of a business park in Holley in the town of Murray.

The Micro-Enterprise program assisting new and existing small businesses is successful and continuing.

Initiated last year with implementation this year is



the new GLOW Workforce Investment Program. Employers, together with representatives from education, service agencies and county governments will play a major role in the recruiting, training and employment of individuals at a one-stop site.

Through cooperation with outside agencies and grant funds, studies were approved and are commencing on county transportation needs and the feasibility of a county airport.

Realizing the importance of services provided by several outside agencies and their contribution to the overall welfare of the citizens of the county, funding was increased to the Soil and Water Agency for ditching and also to Mercy Flight, Cooperative Extension, the libraries, Council of the Arts and the Industrial Development Agency.

It is interesting to note, according to our election commissioners, the November elections in Orleans County were without any unusual problems or incidents.

We were pleased that department heads continued efforts to seek grants and additional funding to supplement the cost of new or existing programs, services or equipment; for example, an additional part-time assistant district attorney and investigator.

While county cost for Medicaid and handicapped education programs is growing, other areas have slightly decreased.

We were saddened by the sudden loss of Dick Clark, the Emergency Management Director, who will be remembered for his contribution to the construction of the Fire Training Tower.

Overall, it was a successful and satisfying year, and we look forward to the challenges of the new year.

The Gardener's Column

Seed catalogs: A mental vacation from the snow

**By Rochelle Smith
Education Educator**

For gardeners, reading time is one of the best parts about a long winter with lots of snow. The event of actually sitting down on a dark, snowy evening with no TV on and no garden work to do and really reading the seed and plant catalogs can give you the mental break of a warm, sunny day!

With a good catalog in hands my gardens are instantly in summer! No weeds; each plant is given the space it needs, properly tended, and in full bloom regardless of its bloom time. All of the vegetables really get planted and maintenance is a casual walk through the gardens with just a hand basket for the harvest. I love these little mental vacations!

As our mailman will confirm, I receive a lot of gardening catalogs. They start in very late summer with the Christmas gifts followed in fall - usually through the end of the year - with the seed catalogs. After the first of the year the plant catalogs hit the mailbox and by late spring I'm knee deep in fall bulb books. Of course the various magazine subscriptions continue monthly each with their list of "best of's" and "must have's." Late spring through mid summer is hardware and 'stuff.'

I admit, I have a hard time parting with the catalogs. I like to use them for price references, for gift ideas, for design ideas and color combinations, and some for entertainment and recipes! True, some of the catalogs I receive are for wholesale growers and accept only large orders. The small, homeowner order is not accepted. But those are actually the smaller

percentage of my catalogs; most are for retail orders! This is where those long, dark winter evenings move from relaxing mental vacations towards a more dangerous activity ... making lists and ordering.

Control is easily lost when reading gardening catalogs. It is so easy to forget your real soil type, hardiness zone and weather exposure, actual space available or the level of maintenance you are willing to tolerate when reading about new and exciting plant varieties. This is a common problem for both flower and vegetable growers! A high quality, dependable, multicolored, semi-bush type acorn squash has as high marks with some as a compact and bushy, fuchsia flowered, silver-green foliage, zone 5 tolerant butterfly bush has no others! Receiving a quality recommendation for the plant makes it even more desirable.

Which brings me to my point. How do you choose one plant over another when given so many to choose from? The answer: quality recommendations.

If the catalog you're using has a good, reliable guarantee. That's good for the health of the plants and the security of your order. But choosing the right plant, the right variety, means looking to a higher source. The main objective of the plant and seed catalogs is to sell lots of plants and seeds, not give objective reviews. Each season the magazines review and give recommendations for plants, that's a nice source and an enjoyable read. But, for real research go to the higher level.

Each year the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University provides a list of vegetable varieties for home

garden use in New York State. This list is revised annually from observations and research to test if the variety is well adapted for New York conditions, offers relatively high quality, is dependable, possesses disease and insect resistance when possible and has a relatively long harvest period. The 2001 listing is six pages long, starts with four varieties of asparagus and ends with seven varieties of watermelons. (The five zucchini varieties fall under the 'summer squash' heading.)

These plants aren't just the new varieties. You will find those listings to be much different. These are the recommended varieties in our state. Other sources exist for other types of plants. The American Rose Society, American Hosta Association, Perennial Plant Association and American Arborists Association are just a few that promote special lists. But, each of these is a national list. So, you're back to wondering: "How will that rose, hosta, perennial or tree do in Orleans County?"

That's where we come in. The Cooperative Extension can be a great resource for answers to these questions. We can help the large scale farmer, the hobby farmer, the small gardener or the homeowner with houseplants. Our job is to help you obtain the knowledge resources you need to make good decisions. So, as the snow continues to blow, night falls ever so early and the mailbox continues to provide interesting mental vacation material, choose your plants wisely and call the Cooperative Extension to request a specialty list of plants in the category you're looking for.

Seed Catalogs: A Mental Vacation from the Snow

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



For gardeners, reading time is one of the best parts about a long winter with lots of snow. The event of actually sitting down on a dark, snowy evening with no TV on and no garden work to do and really reading the seed and plant catalogs can give you the mental break of a warm, sunny day!

With a good catalog in hands my gardens are instantly in summer! No weeds, each plant given the space it needs, properly tended, and in full bloom regardless of its bloom time. All of the vegetables really get planted and maintenance is a casual walk through the gardens with just a hand basket for the harvest. I love these little vacations!

As our mailman will confirm, I receive a lot of gardening catalogs. They start in very late summer with the Christmas gifts followed in fall - usually starting before the end of the year - with the seed catalogs. After the first of the year the plant catalogs hit the mailbox and by late Spring I'm knee deep in fall bulb books. Of course the various magazine subscriptions continue monthly each with their list of "best of's" and "must have's." Late spring through mid summer is hardware and 'stuff.'

I admit, I have a hard time parting with the catalogs. I like to use them for price references, for gift ideas, for design ideas and color combinations, and some for entertainment and recipes! True, some of the catalogs I receive are for wholesale to growers and accept only large orders. The small, homeowner order is not accepted. But those are actually the smaller percentage of my catalogs; most are for retail orders! This is where those long, dark, winter evenings move from relaxing mental vacations towards a more dangerous activity...making lists and ordering.

Control is easily lost when reading gardening catalogs. It is so easy to forget your real soil type, hardiness zone and weather exposure, actual space available, or the level of maintenance you are willing to tolerate when reading about new and exciting plant varieties. This is a common problem for both flower and vegetable growers! A high quality, dependable, multi-colored, semi-bush type acorn squash has as high marks with some as a compact and bushy, fuchsia flowered, silver-green foliage, zone 5 tolerant butterfly bush has to others! Receiving a quality recommendation for the plant makes it even more desirable!

Which brings me to my point. How do you choose one plant over another when given so many to choose from? The answer: quality recommendations.

If the catalog you're using has a good, reliable guarantee. That's good for the health of the plants and the security of your order. But choosing the right plant, the right variety, means looking to a higher source. The plant & seed catalogs want to sell lots of plants and seeds! Each season the magazines review and give recommendations for plants, that's a nice source and an enjoyable read. But, for real research go to the higher level.

Each year the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University provides a list of vegetable varieties for home garden use in New York State. This list is revised annually from observations and research to test if the variety is well adapted for New York conditions, offers relatively high quality, is dependable, possesses disease and insect resistance when possible, and has a relatively long harvest period. The 2001 listing is six pages long, starts with four varieties of asparagus, and ends with seven varieties of watermelon. (The five zucchini varieties fall under the 'summer squash' heading.)

These plants aren't just the new varieties. You will find those listing to be much different. These are the recommended varieties for our state. Other sources exist for other types of plants. The American Rose society, American Hosta Association, Perennial Plant Association, and American Arborists Association are just a few that promote special lists. But, each of these is a national list. So, you're back to wondering: "How will that rose, hosta, perennial, or tree do in Orleans County?"

That's where we come in. The cooperative extension can be a great resource for answers to these questions. We can help the large scale farmer, the hobby farmer, the small gardener, and the homeowner with some house plants. Our job is to help you with the knowledge resources so you can make good decisions. So, as the snow continues to blow, night falls ever so early, and the mailbox continues to provide interesting mental vacation material, choose your plants wisely and call the cooperative extension to request a specialty list of plants in the category you're looking for!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2001

LOCAL & COUNTY

THE ALBION ADVERTISER, ALBION, N.Y.

4-H Fairgrounds to get municipal wa

By Michael Zwelling
For the Albion Advertiser

RIDGEWAY — Construction on Ridgeway Water District No. 4 recently began, and it will include the installation of a pipeline that will bring water to the Orleans County 4-H Junior Fairgrounds.

A work crew from Sergi Construction of West Falls worked last week near the intersection of Route 31 and the south side of Bates Road.

"We're going to be here for a while," said Frank Sergi, supervising the construction. "We have 63,000 feet of pipe so it won't be something that will happen quickly."

The construction is planned to be completed in scheduled increments.

"The canal crossing is to be completed by March 1 and the water along Route 31, from Bates Road to Wood Road, is scheduled to be ready by June 1," said Ridgeway Town Supervisor J.T. Gidley. "The rest of the water main project is scheduled to be done by Aug. 1."

Water District No. 4 will go

in on Telegraph Road from the village of Medina to Route 31, on Route 31 to Knowlesville Road and down Taylor Hill Road. An extension from Taylor Hill Road will supply water to the fairgrounds.

District No. 4 also includes Knowlesville Road, through the hamlet of Knowlesville, to Route 104 where it will tie into Water District No. 3.

To extend the water to the fairgrounds, a \$25,000 grant was obtained through the Community Enhancement Program, said State Sen. George D. Maziarz (R-61st Dist.) who spearheaded the effort.

All fairgrounds throughout the state have been under administrative orders from the New York State Department of Health to improve water supplies.

The fairgrounds have been serviced by three wells to provide water for toilets and hand washing, but due to the high sulfur content fair organizers have been forced to haul truckloads of municipal water for drinking, cooking and watering livestock.



Contractors working on Water District No. 4 are from left; Tom Rosenhahn, Joe Szafranski Jr., Frank Sergi. Joe Szafranski is operating the bulldozer dumping the fill.

Michael Zwelling/For the Albion Advertiser

The Gardener's Column

Perfect poinsettia practices

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

This is the time of the year when colorful plants can really revive the spirit.

This December the area has been surrounded by a sea of snow drifts that at first enhance the holiday mood nice and early only to become a source of worry with each additional snowfall. We need the bright cheerfulness of holiday greenery, plants and decorations to help put us into the mood.

Poinsettias are the number one purchased houseplant on the holiday decorating list. Their bright, contrasting colors liven up our snowy season with a variety of vibrant colors. This plant grows native in Central America and Mexico where it was 'discovered' in 1828 by J.R. Poinsett, an American minister. Legend has it that the first poinsettia appeared from a poor child's generosity. A little girl laid a humble bouquet of weeds at the feet of the Christ child. Suddenly, the bouquet burst into brilliant red blooms.

It is ironic that a plant with legendary child-centered origins is often seen as dangerous to children and pets. Research shows that this is not true, in fact, the Poisindex Information Service, an online research listing states that a 50-pound child could eat 500 poinsettia leaves and not demonstrate toxicity. The child would not be well due to all of the volume of roughage from those leaves, but would not be poisoned. Of course, poinsettias, like all ornamental

plants, aren't intended as food.

Available in reds, whites, pinks, marbled and now orange, burgundy and a crinkled pinwheel called "Winter Roses," poinsettias fit just about any decor. Choose plants with completely colored and expanded bracts - the colorful portion of a poinsettia. The true flowers are the small yellow centers. Watch for those true flowers to be tightly closed to know the freshest plants. Plants should be about two and a half times larger than their pot and their stems should be strong and stiff, not wilting.

Your local farm market or garden center is the best source to purchase a poinsettia for two reasons. First, you're buying directly from the grower so the plants are freshest and haven't had to withstand the stress of shipment. Second, greenhouse-grown poinsettias will adapt easily to homes heated for winter. Area greenhouse owners acclimate their plants as much as possible - decreasing fertilizer, lowering greenhouse temperatures - so the plants will survive without being babied. Your plant will probably be put into a paper or plastic sleeve for transporting but it should not be grown or left inside the sleeve. The wrapping will reduce airflow to the plant and provide good fungal habitat and result in sick plants.

Size doesn't matter when choosing the plant, only that it fits your space, needs and budget. Small, four-inch pots are nice party favors, great

gifts for shut-ins and look terrific nestled in a basket or container mixed with trailing ivy. Larger plants that burst with 30 to 40 blooms are glorious and can completely fill a corner or nook. Tree forms are poinsettias that have been pruned into a tree shape and have grown four to six feet tall. The poinsettia trees have a single stem and can take three or four months of care and pruning to develop their shape.

Poinsettias also work well in flower arrangements if the stems are properly conditioned. Place the fresh cut end of a stem (even a somewhat wilted stem) into boiling water and place the whole group, cup and stem, in a cool place overnight. Your cut poinsettia will last 10-14 days in an arrangement if it doesn't get too warm or dry out. Starting to wilt again? Repeat the process.

Keeping your poinsettia plant happy during its holiday stay isn't hard but there are a few things to remember. Poinsettias need indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day and do best in room temperatures between 68 and 70 degrees. Avoid chilly drafts and excessive heat. Water the plant thoroughly when the soil is dry to the touch, but don't let it sit in standing water. Fertilize with an all-purpose fertilizer after all the blooms have dropped. The newer varieties have greater longevity, and some will bloom until Easter, so be patient.

You have several options for your poinsettia following its flowering period. Poinset-

tias are great as foliage plants in annual beds once warm temperatures have returned. Or, if you want to attempt a poinsettia comeback, try the following: when the colored bracts begin to fall, cut the plant back, leaving four to six leaf buds. Place the plant near a sunny window, water and fertilize regularly. By the end of May you should see healthy new growth. Keep caring for your plants until autumn. Poinsettias set buds and produce flowers as the nights get longer. Starting Oct. 1, the plants will need 14 hours of total darkness. You can meet this requirement by placing a box over your plants at night. During the day give them six to eight hours of bright sunshine. Do this for eight to 10 weeks and your poinsettias should develop bright blooms just in time for the holidays. Your third option, stop by your local garden center or farm market for a fresh supply of holiday color next year.

So, as you are decorating your home or giving gifts this holiday season, remember to keep these handsome, bright plants on your list. My thanks to Sally Cunningham, extension educator in Erie County, American Nursery and Landscape Association and Bill Palmer of Harvest and Gardens, Maryland for sharing information on poinsettia. Happy holidays to you from the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Smith is an educator at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Gardener's Column

4-H H.O.R.S.E.
Club news

By Jessica Arno

For The Journal-Register

At our last meeting, held Dec. 17, 2000, the H.O.R.S.E. club talked about different breeds of horses, how horses communicate with people and other horses, parts of a saddle, parasites that live on horses and pieces of tack.

We are studying such things in our meetings because we are preparing for a 5 Star test March 10. We are also reviewing needed material for a presentation we must give in February.

Coming up Jan. 20, we will be having a mail-o-gram for U.S. servicemen.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 21.

By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator

It has snowed again and the bird feeders and bath in my yard have become a center of activity for the feathered bunch.

The suet feeder is a favorite of the woodpeckers and several other birds as I've mentioned in a previous article. I've made my own suet cakes in the past using bacon grease, peanut butter, mixed seeds and chunk beef fat. Melt is all down, pour it into plastic forms, refrigerate and warn the family not to eat it because 'it's for the birds!' It's not a hard process and only somewhat messy. And since homemaking uses up things that would otherwise find their way to the trash it's good for the environment. Prepackaged suet cakes are great too, the seed and feed stores stock a variety of brands and styles including some that 'won't melt in summer.' That's convenient when the feeder hangs close to the house.

The hardest part about hanging a suet feeder in my yard is: it gets stolen! Squirrels and raccoons will heft it off the tree branch and drag the holder and cake out to the woods, never to be seen again. I've tried lashing it to the branch, they cut the lashing. I've tried hanging it on an

gets left alone now. If you can't beat them, feed them. My squirrel feeder is a much larger cake of whole seeds with less fat between. It is easier for me to store buy this larger cake but it would also be quick and simple to make up. Use whole kernel corn, sunflower seeds, a mix of other seeds, peanut butter and bacon grease and a much bigger mold. The squirrels love it and will leave the other feeders alone.

The thistle feeder is for the finches - especially the gold finches. They are in their winter colors right now so the males don't display that dramatic yellow with a black cap that I so love. That will come back in the spring. In all honesty, there are two finch feeders The traditional one is a tube that they empty almost daily. I've placed a pre-formed dish on the bottom. The dish is supposed to catch the seed hulls as the birds crack them but instead I fill it with sunflower mix for the cardinals, jays, chickadees and sparrows. The second finch feeder is much more selective. The birds must hang upside down to reach the seed holes. Since finches seem quite comfortable with this arrangement I regularly have a long tube of purple, gold and house

A holiday that's for the birds

and juncos that prefer to eat from the ground, to an inverted soda bottle. With all of my mixed seed feeders I use a standardized bag mix seed with plenty of sunflower seeds, millet and thistle. I prefer the mixes that have very little cracked corn to limit the interest of grackles, cowbirds and starlings have in the feeders. That tends to reduce the mess those particular birds make. For these aggressive, noisy, messy birds I put out old bread and crumbs in an open area away from the house and seed feeders.

I have planted some small trees and shrubs in the area of my feeders to encourage the little birds to linger in the area. They have more protection from the weather, a place to cling in the wind and some screening from predators, including the cats. The viburnum there is the 'Korean spice bush' that is resistant to the viburnum leaf beetle, can tolerate some shade and has an excellent spring fragrance to its blooms. I have planted it relatively close to the house, a window and the birdbath. This makes a great viewing point, provides some cover for the birds and also screens the birdbath from heavy winds. The bath is heated with a little electric wand to give the birds

gets closed down for the winter. Only the birdbath stays open all year round.

Several years ago we purchased a fresh cut tree on Christmas Eve, we had waited until the last minute and had a very limited selection. When the tree was set up we found that it had an extremely bent trunk as it broke the tree stand into pieces. In frustration the tree went out the door onto the back patio which is very close to the bird feeders and bath. That winter was cold and snowy but I received more joy from that poor, damaged tree lying on the patio than I would have for the few weeks it would have been indoors. The little birds took it as a gift and spent the winter in it. I had a tree full of chirping colorful birds right outside of the door straight through 'til spring.

Winter gifts can come in many forms. The feeders, bath and evergreen screenings that have been placed in good vantage points for the birds to use are gifts for my family as well as the birds. If your live Christmas tree normally goes out to the trash following its holiday usefulness, you may want to consider leaving it for the birds. A little holiday

Orleans 4-H sends greetings overseas

Valentine's Day cards will be mailed to military personnel throughout world

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Valentine's Day is nearly a month away, but Orleans County 4-H members were up to their elbows in heart-themed cards Saturday as they busily prepared for their annual Mailgram program.

The members, aged 6 to 18, used their artistic skills to assemble, draw, color and decorate the cards at the Trolley Building on Route 31. Margo Bowerman, Cornell Cooperative Extension educator for Orleans County, was one of a dozen group leaders and supervisors that helped with the project.

Bowerman said the cards will be sent to military personnel throughout the world.

"It's a history lesson and community service," Bowerman said. "They (the members) get to learn what people do in the military."

Sisters Debi and Aimee Shortridge, up to their elbows in cut-outs, con-

struction paper and stickers, made 85 cards between them.

"It's pretty cool," Debi said, "I got to hear about them."

Debi received two cards back last year from people who had received one of her homemade cards. One reply came from a man serving in the Army and stationed in Asia, and another from a woman in the Navy who was on a ship near Africa.

"They thanked me for the card, and told me what they do (in the service)," she said.

Aimee received a reply from a man serving in the Navy on a ship near Japan.

"He sent me pictures of where he was," she said.

Six-year-old Katlynn Grimes made more than 25 cards. She said she got involved in the 4-H project so she could "give cards to the Army," since her uncle is serving in the Army in Honduras.

By noon the cards were almost fin-



Joanne Beck/Daily News

HEARTS GOING OUT: Sisters Aimee, left, and Debi, create Valentine's Day cards Saturday as part of the 4-H Mailgram program that supplies holiday greetings to military personnel throughout the world.

ished, and Bowerman said they would be packed and shipped to a central location in North Carolina, before being sent worldwide to military personnel.

4-H Senior Council President Kerrie Walker said that her group pays for the

supplies and postage from a fund collected through various fund-raisers.

The kids and adults celebrated their efforts with cupcakes and chocolates, and many hope to get replies from the men and women who get a Valentine's card from Orleans County this year.

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2001

The winter takes its toll on landscape plants

**By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator**

Since November we have been under the full impact of winter weather in the form of snow, freezing rain, high winds and penetratingly cold temperatures. All of this can have a negative effect on human moods and well-being but it also has an impact on landscape plantings. To start with the good news Even with our January thaw we have good snow cover around the base of our woody plants and in many places snow still completely covers our herbaceous perennials. Snow is an excellent insulator, and depths of now, like this, will keep these plants from being damaged by low temperature extremes. While the air can be below zero and well below zero with wind chill, the soil beneath the snow may be a comparatively balmy +20

to +25 degrees. This is a big difference when cold hardness is a concern. When a plant dies from low temperature, it is usually because the root system has been damaged. Some flower bud and leaf bud damage may occur above the snow line due to extreme cold, but this is unlikely to be lethal to the species that are well adapted to our region.

Now the bad news Too much of a good thing is not good. Snow that has been wind driven, shoveled, plowed or fallen from a roof onto landscape plants can cause considerable damage. The weight of snow varies greatly. Light fluffy snow may weigh about seven pounds per cubic foot. More average snow may weight 15 pounds per cubic foot and drifted, wind compacted snow may

weigh 20 pounds or more. Ice buildup adds weight rapidly.

This January thaw can actually cause more damage to plants in areas that have heavy snow cover by forming a more dense and heavier snow cover.

Unfortunately, there is very little that can be done at this time. Be mentally prepared for some breakage and be physically prepared with pruning tools to give the plant a clean cut at a node near the breakage. This is a damage minimizing prune not a shaping or development prune.

Still more bad news There are many areas emerging with the thaw that are bare to the ground. These are areas where the wind blows the snow off and leaves a scant amount or no snow cover on the ground. These open areas are a good target for both severe drying and extreme

temperature damages if we don't have more light, fallen snow. In open ground areas, on the wind ward side of evergreens - both trees and shrubs - this can be most damaging. Evergreens will continue to transpire, draw water from the soil and move it through the plants to the leaves or needles, even in cold weather. These are the plants that will dry out, brown out, and sometimes die if we have a very cold, windy, open winter. This same danger pattern also applies for open areas. For evergreens in this situation the best way to protect them from drying is either mulching to insulate and/or watering in the winter (I know it sounds crazy!). Mulch will provide insulation like the snow cover would. Watering will provide the moisture for transpiration to occur

without damaging the plant. Snow falling from a roof is a large cause of damage to foundation plants. This can be addressed during the landscape design phase for new plants. That is, plan to plant a little bit out from the roofline to minimize snow falling damage. For existing plants the best defense is protection! A small "A-frame" structure from lattice or scrap lumber will deflect the falling snow

without da
painted th
house or
almost in

Our w
from ye
ered win
on driv
plain g
some cas
a warm,
slee

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2001

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

ORLEANS COUNTY

4-H leaders get training session

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension is holding a leader training and orientation for all new and existing 4-H leaders from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Extension office at 20 S. Main St. in Albion, Orleans County.

The meeting is also open to anyone interested in learning more about 4-H leadership or programs. For details, call 589-5561.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2001

4-H club news

For the past couple of months the Barn Buddies 4-H Club has been very busy. We recently donated \$100 to the Middleport United Methodist Church to help their fund for a new roof for the church. After that we started to prepare items to be judged at the annual 4-H Holiday Fair in December. We also made items sale the day of the event. In the near future we plan to hold more fund-raisers and so a couple of community service projects. Vice projects. Submitted by Maxine Boyle

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Farm and Garden

ALBION

Orleans County 4-H leader orientation slated

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension is holding a leader training and orientation for all new and

existing 4-H leaders from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Jan. 27 at the Extension Office, 20 South Main St.

This orientation is also open to community members interested in becoming a 4-H leader or just interested in

learning more about 4-H.

Topics to be covered include the history and philosophy behind 4-H as well as

information to help leaders organize successful 4-H clubs. Speakers include Orleans County 4-H staff as well as

experienced Orleans 4-H leaders. Interested persons asked to R.S.V.P. at

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2001

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

History in the garden

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

Just when everything seems to get quieter, the holidays are over, the kids are back to school, and we haven't had a stressful snowfall in weeks, we notice what an eventful time of year it is. January's are full of historical inauguration moments. With a new presidential inauguration just past, history and looking nostalgically back at the old days can be interesting and entertaining. History has its place in so many areas, not the least of which is the garden.

The development of the Cobblestone Museum Kitchen Garden in Childs is a great example of how historic gardening can be both interesting and entertaining. Last January, a small group of the then newly trained master gardener volunteers were researching the plants that would be appropriate in a late 1800's kitchen garden. They had already spent time the

previous summer in Mumford at the Genesee Country Village viewing period gardens, taking notes and pictures and asking questions. By March they were ready to start drawing up a plan.

There are a lot of things to think about when planning an historic garden. First is: What types of gardens were made during the time period? Foundation plantings are a modern gardening technique - developed to hide mass production masonry. Flowerbeds usually were only for the very rich as they had servants to tend them. So, many gardens, especially those in the rural landscape, fell into the kitchen garden category.

The second issue to consider is: What plants were needed? Historic gardening tended to follow the 'form follows function' rule. Herb gardens were grown for the medicinal effects of those herbs. Dying gardens, like that at the Amherst Museum, grew the plants needed to dye yarn.

A household kitchen garden would have had fruits and vegetables but may also have included specialty plants to fit the needs of that particular household.

The third issue is: What plants were available then and can we get them now? It is surprising to us now to learn how many plants were shipped, sold, traded or available from remote areas of the world back in the late 1800's. Western and Central New York State played an important role in horticulture during that time frame as there were several seed and plant growers located here. Now, there are modern catalog companies that provide historic seed sources and can help with time frame information and availability by geographic location.

By this past April, the master gardener volunteers were working on soliciting plants from local garden club members and searching their own gardens. And, as the spring

and later early summer progressed, they completed ground preparation, installed the plants and created paths with hand collected stones. Plant names placed on signs in the garden and drawing a plan for visitors to see give the garden additional information and educational elements. With these added pieces new visitors and others interested in late 1800's kitchen gardens have an additional resource to learn from.

As with all gardens, this is not the end of the volunteer's work. Regular maintenance will insure good establishment of their plantings as it will be another two years before the perennials are really settled in. But the historic research aspect is over with and now they can just garden and have the satisfaction of having provided a real resource to Orleans County.

Rochelle Smith is an educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Orchids - Not So Hard to Grow!

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



You have probably seen orchid plants somewhere looking colorful, frilly, and fragile. You may have even thought, "I wish I could grow those." And the fun part is, you can! Orchids have a bad reputation of being difficult to grow. They are thought of being fussy and unforgiving plants that need special care and conditions. You may think you need misting systems in a temperature-controlled greenhouse, maybe with piped in music and custom potting soil. Not so!

The orchid family is composed of an estimated 25,000 - 30,000 species worldwide. That is a huge group of plants. And as with all large groups there are different needs for different sub groups. So it is true that while the majority of orchids are tropical, this large family of plants has members that can be found growing from the Arctic Circle to an area about 1,000 miles from Antarctica. Don't let the word 'tropical' fool you, not all of the tropics are warm, humid environments! Environmental conditions will vary greatly due to elevation differences. So while some plants will require special treatment, others can be treated just like an African violet and placed on a windowsill.

In a nutshell, if you want to succeed with an orchid, be a smart shopper. Choose a plant that suits your growing conditions. Plants of the hybrid genus *Odontida* (*Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum*) are cool-growing as are both parents. The same is true for *Odontionia* (*Odontoglossum* x *Miltonia*) and *Vuystekeara* (*Miltonia* x *Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum*). There will be help for all of these Latin names later in the article.

The second factor in successful orchid growing is the actual growing. Orchids do best with neglect and regular monitoring - think of it as quality time with your plants. That means you can regularly look at the plants for signs of leaf-spotting or scale insects, yellowing, failure to flower, or gradual decline, but you don't always need to water and feed them! Most orchid novices love their plants to death by over watering.

Since light, temperature, watering, and humidity needs of these diverse plants varies choose your plant by the conditions you have in the area you plan to grow it. The species may have grown naturally in dim light like on the forest floor among the leaf litter or high up in the canopy of cloud forests. *Phalaenopsis* will accept low light situations such as windowsills or trays under fluorescent lights. Most orchids fall somewhere in the middle of light needs. In our Northern Hemisphere homes a southern or an eastern window with strong morning sun is best. Western gets too warm and northern is too dark. As for temperature, orchids are categorized as warm, intermediate, or cool-growing plants. This refers to the minimum night temperature. The intermediate range is most appropriate at 56° - 66°F. For plants to flower a differential of about 10° is needed. Watering is the most difficult aspect because there are so many factors involved. The relative humidity, type of potting medium, the type of pot, light intensity, temperature, and air circulation all play a part. In general, water only when the plants are in active growth, usually when new roots and shoots are starting. Regular misting with plain water or setting the plant in a gravel and water filled tray can address their humidity needs. When misting, never spray at night to avoid fungal growth. When using a tray, keep the water level below the stones so the plants don't get root rot.

Yes, this sounds like a lot, but a single article about all of the different types of lawn grasses would sound complicated too. Remember to choose a plant that fits your environment!

Where do you go to see lots of different orchids, talk to people who know all about them, and purchase one or two for your own? An orchid show! The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society will present an Orchid Display and Sale on Sunday, February 25 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. This is a fun show and a great group of people. In addition to information on and displays of orchids they will have plant sales and hourly plant raffles! For more information call me in the Orleans County Cooperative Extension Office at 589-5561 or Delores Galbo at 693-0376. You won't need to know all of those Latin names or which species does better in which lighting condition, all you need is an interest in orchids and a southern or eastern window to put them in. The people at the show will help you select the best orchid for your space and help you understand how to care for it! Please, take a picture and let me know how you do!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

4-H News THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Barn Buddies

This past month for the Barn Buddies 4-H Club has been busy.

The club has been practicing for the 5-Star Test in March. We are also holding a candy sale as a fund-raiser.

The big event that our club participated in January was the Military Mailgram. At the Military Mailgram many 4-H clubs from Orleans County made Valentine cards for the military members. In the year 2000, Orleans County 4-H clubs were first in the state and third in the nation for the amount of cards made. Our club has participated in this event for the past two years, ever since our club was organized. Military Mailgram is an event that our 4-H clubs look forward to every year. We plan to keep participating in this event for many years to come.

Submitted by
Stephanie Boyle

H.O.R.S.E. Club

Jan. 1 HORSE Club had a meeting on practicing for public presentations. When we practices, we had presentations on the parts of the saddle, foaling, horse treats, grooming utensils and the names of the horses moving abilities as in walking, trotting, cantering and galloping. Donna Scharping took notes and gave them to us, so that we would know whether we were going too fast, if we needed to speak up and/or if we left anything out.

On Jan. 20th we went to the Trolley Building between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. and made Valentine cards for the servicemen and women. Our club probably made well over 300 cards. Some of the 4-Hers will get responses from the service people. But even if we don't, you can be sure we put smiles on their faces.

Submitted by
Amber Dodson

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

"Wild Thing, You Make My Heart Sing"

**By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register**

"... You make everything groovy, Wild Thing!" With true apologies to 'The Troggs', I wasn't singing about the same 'wild thing.' My thoughts, and often songs, are directed most often toward those two, four, six and (sometimes) eight legged creatures that frequent my garden. These wild things are fleeting, beautiful and sometimes, a nuisance.

Wildlife tends to come in two categories for gardeners - those that are desirable like butterflies, songbirds, ladybugs, earthworms and honeybees. And, those that are less desirable - usually because of the damage they inflict on our hard work and investments - like squirrels, rabbits, moles, slugs, white grubs and deer. For any gardener the first are a joy to see in the garden. We strive to arrange the right combination of plants to give us a visual benefit to match the habitat or food benefits received by the wildlife. When it comes to the second group it becomes hard to remember that they have a place in the

garden too.

So what do you do? You spend time and money on books, classes and plants to draw in humming birds or butterflies and then two rabbits and a deer just level it. Here comes the hard part ... the space you so painstakingly designed and planted provide the same - maybe even better - wildlife habitat and food for the destroyers. Part of what the pretty books on butterflies don't tell you is that the deer will love this garden too. And if they don't the mice and moles will.

So, let's try and easy one. Slugs. This past spring was so wet that the slugs had a field day. We had multiple generations of slugs on single plants at the same time. And these were not your average, garden variety slugs. These were slugs that ranged from tiny, pinhead babies to mammoth slugs bigger than my thumb. Now, I have a group of gardening friends who have spent much time discussing the various methods for efficient slug disposal. This group, who I will refer to as my 'Soil Sisters' find that their

need for these various methods does not depend on the size or quantity of slugs but instead on their personal and individual preference for revenge. One of my Soil Sisters stalks the night garden armed with a flashlight and salt shaker - follow the slime trail and TAKE THAT! Another carries a bucket of soapy water (flammable liquids are NOT necessary) and gently shakes each creature into the suds. Still another raids her husband's beer supply to pour shallow bowls of brew to be set out in high slug population areas. And another collects them in a bucket and feeds them to the gold fish in the pond. All of these methods work and for each of my Sisters they provide a stress outlet, but they don't solve the problem.

The problem is: slugs love moist, dense foliage. Reduce that environment a little, open it up or intersperse more diversity in foliage by using plants with needles, narrow leaves, etc. and the slugs won't have that wonderful space to place in. Reducing the moisture level in the garden will

also reduce that environment but that is only possible if we aren't experiencing super spring rains. Don't water gardens in the evening or at night. A moist, nighttime garden will provide a great place for slugs and several other insects and diseases to thrive.

Please don't let these wildlife challenges discourage you from striving to plant gardens. Instead, take my class called 'Wildlife - The Good, The Bad & The Slimy.' It will be held in several libraries and schools around Orleans County this February, March and April. During the class I discuss the wildlife problems faced in garden management, review the tools and techniques that do and don't work, and introduce the resources used to find more information. We'll talk about slugs and the other undesirables but we'll also talk about the good wild things too. My goal is to help you make your garden make your heart sing.

Rochelle Smith is an Extension Educator with the Orleans County Cooperative Extension.

The Gardener's Column

Reducing salt damage to roadside plants

By Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator

The past few weeks have really started us on our winter snow tally. The meteorologists are predicting the possibility of a 'snowier than normal winter' and with that our driving surfaces could be exposed to 40 to 80 tons of road salt over the course of this winter season. This can really impact the plants that grow to those roads.

Salt injury occurs in plants two ways: build up in the soil in the plant root zone and spray onto stems, buds, and, in the case of evergreens, needles.

Salt in the soil will interfere with nutrient availability and uptake and branch tips and young plant tissues will dry out and die at high salt levels. The visual effect called 'witches broom' is common evidence of tissue damage to twigs of deciduous trees. A cluster of twigs will grow from the damaged branch end and form a broom-like appearance. Salt had killed the tissue in the tip of the original twig and the tree responded by promoting many new twigs to

grow. Ultimately, these new twigs are too close together and not well attached to the branch so poor growth and breakage will occur. Red and sugar maples are two trees that are highly sensitive to salt damage and will form witches broom branches.

Salt spray will sometimes only effect the roadside of a tree but, open branched plants and smaller shrubs can be totally engulfed. Damage is most severe within 60 feet of an at-grade road. It can extend much further away from elevated highways and overpasses. Brown needles in evergreens, lead margin scorch or complete defoliation can occur from salt spray. I have assisted homeowners with little leaf linden trees that were completely bare of leaves from eight feet to about 15 feet off the ground. The trees were planted next to an eight-foot tall stockade fence with a 45 mph road 15 feet beyond the fence. The salt spray from the road killed the branches above the fence up to 15 feet off of the ground. The trees were live and well leafed out above and below this dead

area but the screening effect was lost.

Often salt damage will not become immediately evident. During periods of hot, dry weather in the following summer symptoms can start to show. Abnormal foliage color, needle tip burn, reduction in leaf, flower and fruit size stunting, premature fall colorization and defoliation and a general decline in tree health can be from soil or spray salt damage. This is important to remember when diagnosing plant health problems or, in the terms of an average tree owner, "What's wrong with this tree?"

If you have observed these symptoms in your landscape there are several options available to you. You can minimize potential salt damage by protection, flushing and drainage.

Burlap barriers will block some of the salt spray and can help protect lower branches in the short term. If you have more space between the road and the tree, snow fencing will also slow down damage by both being a barrier and allowing more snow to cover

and insulate the lowest branches. Just as when you are wrapping for wind protection, don't let the burlap actually touch the plants, have it instead be free standing a few inches away from the branches. Flushing the soil with water in the spring will help to leach out residual salt. In weather like we had in spring 2000, that was done by nature. For drier springs a hose will be needed, remember to wash off the branches of evergreens as well as flush the soil. Adding organic matter, activated charcoal, or gypsum can help to reduce sodium in the soil. This can be expensive and time consuming but may be necessary for trees in parking lot tree pits that have limited root zones. Changing the slope, and therefore the drainage, of the soil surrounding a sensitive tree or shrub can go a long way in protection. Salty melt, rain or flush water will move farther away from the plant's root zone.

New plantings for high salt areas would best be done with tolerant species. Tolerance does not mean the plants

prefer salt, it means they won't die as quickly as sensitive plants. Plants that naturally occur in ocean salt spray settings are good examples of tolerant species. Rugosa rose bush, green ash tree, winterberry, some juniper shrubs, Douglas fir, Pine, burning brush shrubs and Norway maple trees all fall into the tolerant or very tolerant categories. Remember, however, not all of these plants are tolerant of the same soil, wind and water conditions so other factors can be at work. Practice good planting planning criteria when selecting any new plants. Also remember that new, young plants of even tolerant species will have limited root systems and will be sensitive until they are established.

Interested in more detail? Please give the Cooperative Extension a call at 589-5561 and ask for 'Plant Tolerance to De-Icing Salt Spray.' Or, watch for the Landscape Problem Solving course I will hold at various local continuing education classes this winter and spring.

Orleans Cooperative Extension executive director retires

By Tom Rivers

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — New York state seemed to play Santa Claus for Tom Nally when he was recently offered an early retirement.

Nally, 53, ended a 29-year career Friday with Cornell Cooperative Extension, including the past 18 months as executive director of the Extension's efforts in Orleans County. He credited a retirement incentive by the state for prodding him to end his career at least a year earlier than he expected.

Nally said he accepted the retirement offer mainly because he wanted to spend more time with his wife, Linda, and their two grown children. He said his job with the Extension often involved meetings in the evenings and on weekends.

"The ways things have been going I've had to schedule an appointment to have dinner with my wife," he said Friday during a telephone interview at his Albion office.

Nally, a resident of Chili in Monroe County, joined the Extension in Orleans after most recently working as an agricultural program leader for Monroe, Seneca, Ontario and Orleans counties. He also worked as a veg-

etable agent for Monroe, Genesee and Orleans counties. He started his career working for the Extension in Westchester County.

"It will be a challenge to find someone with his background and experience," said Bill Gerling, the general manager of Lake Ontario Fruit in Gaines, an apple storage and packing facility.

Gerling, a former Extension specialist, said Nally proved to be an advocate for Orleans farmers.

Nally was busy the past several weeks visited farmers in Kendall, Carlton and Yates, reminding them about an upcoming review for an agricultural district covering the three towns. Nally went to the farms personally because the county had not received many surveys from farmers indicating if they wanted to be in the agricultural district.

The district provides important protections for farmers from so-called nuisance suits, where some neighbors and municipalities try to reduce byproducts of farming, such as noise, odor and

mud on the road, Nally said.

Although he's retired, he said he will continue to be a proponent for farmland protection. He knows first hand about how fast prime farmland can disappear. He remembers leaving for college when nearby Greece was rural. When he visited his home after earning a master's degree from Cornell University, he didn't recognize his home town.

"I saw Greece grow up around me," he said ruefully.

"Some of the finest vegetable crop land in the world now has houses on it."

Orleans County is becoming more attractive to developers as suburbs spread and public waterlines are installed along rural roads, he said. Orleans towns and other municipalities need to identify farmland that should be retained and then work with farmers to devise farm protection laws, Nally said.

Despite a short stint in Orleans County, Nally made an impression, said Karen Watt, a Gaines fruit grower and past Orleans County Farm Bureau president.

"He will certainly be missed," she said. "He brought a lot of experience working with government entities."



Nally

Nally called a joint project to install waterlines to the fairgrounds in Knowlesville "one of the most exciting things in my career." The state, town of Ridgeway and federal government all are pooling resources to run waterlines to the hamlet of Knowlesville and the fairgrounds. The water should be in place by next year's fair, Nally said.

He hopes the fairgrounds will soon be home to the Extension's headquarters. Nally and Greg Dale, president of the Extension's board of directors, told county legislators in October the Extension is seeking grant funds to build a new office in Knowlesville.

Nally said the current 150-year-old setup at 20 South Main St. is cramped, antiquated and energy inefficient. He believes moving the center to Knowlesville will also make better year-round use of the fairgrounds.

"I wish I had more time," he said about his Orleans ambitions. "I've just got started here."

The Extension has formed a search committee and will likely pick Nally's successor in about three months, he said.

The agency will be in good hands, Nally said, because of an "excellent" staff of agricultural specialists and educational agents.



Photo contributed

Members of the 4-H Club of Orleans County make Valentines for service people.

4-H'ers send Valentines to soldiers

By Heather Beach

The Journal-Register

Members of the 4-H Club of Orleans County sent out a little love this Valentine's Day by making cards for soldiers away from home.

The 4-H, which consist of boys and girls, ages 8 to 18, started making the Valentine's Day cards for service men and women back in December, said Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Margo Bowerman.

The cards will be sent to members of the armed forces around the the United States and the world via Friends Of Our Troops, the

organization which will distribute the cards.

Approximately 40 leaders and 4-H'ers recently gathered at the Trolley building at 4-H Fairgrounds and got creative for the final day of card making.

Bowerman said everyone involved enjoyed the day and the cards were really original.

"The kids really got into it," she said.

The 4-H organization has been making cards for the past four years and the event grows in size every year, said 4-H leader and teen advisor Pauline Lanning.

Please see **CARDS** page 6A

Last year, Orleans County 4-H members shipped approximately 1,600 to the soldiers. This year, that number has increased to more than 2,000 cards, Lanning said.

Jane Read, leader of the Barre bunch of 4-H'ers, said her group made more than 540 cards this year. That's approximately 150 cards per person, she said.

This is the third year the Barre bunch has participated in the event and Read said the program is great for the kids because they get a chance to interact with people. Many of the soldiers who get cards write back to thank the 4-H'ers, she said.

"It cheers up both the military and the kids and they have a ball making them," Read said.

Because the recipients often write back to the 4-H'ers, they get a chance to learn about other places and cultures, Bowerman said.

"It helps them understand the force the United States has in the world and also helps them appreciate life in the United States," she said.

Read said the kids cut up pictures from old Christmas or Birthday cards for the Valentines and also used the old cards as examples. Anyone

wishing to contribute old cards for the event next year is asked to drop them off at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Albion.

Medina H.O.R.S.E. Club practices public speaking

MEDINA — The H.O.R.S.E. Club had a meeting on Jan. 1, practicing for public presentations. There were presentations on the parts of the saddle, foaling, horse treats, grooming utensils, and the names of the horses moving abilities as in walking, trotting, cantering, and galloping. Donna Scharping took notes on whether the riders were going too fast, if we needed to speak up, and/or if we left anything out.

On Jan. 20, the club went to the Trolley Building and made Valentine cards for service men and women. The club made well over 300 cards.

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Orchids - not so hard to grow

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

You have probably seen orchid plants somewhere looking colorful, frilly and fragile. You may have even thought, "I wish I could grow those." And the fun part is, you can.

Orchids have a bad reputation of being difficult to grow. They are thought of as being fussy and unforgiving plants that need special care and conditions. You may think you need misting systems in a temperature controlled greenhouse, maybe with piped in music and custom potting soil. Not so.

The orchid family is composed of an estimated 25,000 - 30,000 species worldwide. That is a huge group of plants. And as with all large groups there are different needs for different sub groups. So it is true that while the majority of orchids are tropical, this large family of plants has members that can be found growing from the Arctic Circle to an area about 1,000 miles from Antarctica. Don't let the word 'tropical' fool you, not all of the tropics are warm, humid environments. Environmental conditions will vary greatly due to elevation differences. So while some plants will require special treatment, others can be treated just like an African violet and placed on a

window sill.

In a nutshell, if you want to succeed with an orchid be a smart shopper. Choose a plant that suits your growing conditions. Plants of the hybrid genus *Odontida* (*Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum*) are cool growing as are both parents. The same is true for *Odon-tonia* (*Odontoglossum* x *Miltonia*) and *Vuykstearea* (*Miltonia* x *Cochlioda* x *Odontoglossum*). There will be help for all of these Latin names later in the article.

The second factor in successful orchid growing is the actual growing. Orchids do best with neglect and regular monitoring - think of it as quality time with your plants. That means you can regularly look at the plants for signs of leaf-spotting or scale insects, yellowing, failure to flower or gradual decline, but you don't always need to water and feed them. Most orchid novices love their plants to death by over watering.

Since light, temperature, watering and humidity needs of these diverse plants varies choose your plant by the condition you have in the area you plan to grow it. The species may have grown naturally in dim light like on the forest floor among the leaf litter or high up in the canopy of cloud forests. *Phalaenopsis* will accept low light

situations such as windowsills or trays under florescent lights.

Most orchids fall somewhere in the middle of light needs. In our Northern Hemisphere homes a southern or an eastern window with strong morning sun is best. Western gets too warm and northern is too dark.

As for temperature, orchids are categorized as warm, intermediate or cool growing plants. This refers to the minimum night temperature. The intermediate range is most appropriate at 56-66 degrees. For plants to flower a differential of about 10 degrees is needed.

Watering is the most difficult aspect because there are so many factors involved. The relative humidity, type of potting medium, the type of pot, light intensity, temperature and air circulation all play a part. In general, water only when the plants are in active growth, usually when new roots and shoots are starting. Regular misting with plain water or setting the plant in a gravel and water filled tray can address their humidity needs. When misting, never spray at night to avoid fungal growth. When using a tray, keep the water level below the stones so the plants don't get root rot.

Yes, this sounds like a lot,

but a single article about all of the different types of lawn grasses would sound complicated too. Remember to choose a plant that fits your environment.

Where do you go to see lots of different orchids, talk to people who know all about them and purchase one or two for your own? An orchid show. The Niagara Frontier Orchid Society will present an Orchid Display and Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens. This is a fun show and a great group of people. In addition to information on and displays of orchids they will have plant sales and hourly plant raffles.

For more information call me in the Orleans County Cooperative Extension office at 589-5561 or Delores Galbo at 693-0376.

You won't need to know all of those Latin names or which species does better in which lighting condition, all you need is an interest in orchids and a southern or eastern window to put them in. The people at the show will help you select the best orchid for your space and help you understand how to care for it. Please take a picture and let me know how you do.

Rochelle Smith is the Extension Educator with Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2001

Workshops and re-certification training

**By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register**

Have you ever noticed the differences between two sides of a coin? One side has an image of a person on it the other has something completely different. Sometimes the 'tails side' is a building or animal, often it relates to a state or specific time in history. In any case the two sides of any given coin rarely relate to each other aside from having the same denomination and type of metal. But you can not have just one side of a coin; you always have to have both.

In my observations I've noticed that people's attitudes about pest control are as different as two sides of a coin. Some people see that without careful monitoring and timely pesticide treatments their products are not as marketable. There are many customers that will not buy a blemished apple. There also those people on the other side of the coin who feel that we are already exposed to too many chemicals and additional spraying is just making things worse.

I do not propose to settle these differences. In Orleans County we have growers, markets and consumers who fall on both sides of the coin. Each of these groups has the option to choose the level of

treatment they prefer on their fruits and vegetables and grow, sell or buy accordingly.

It is important to remember that the farmer's goal is to produce a product that can go to market without costing him more than he can charge. It makes no sense to sell an apple for fifty cents if it costs the farmer sixty cents to produce it. How can it cost that much when the trees are already there, they give lots of fruit and Mother Nature does the watering?

Well, remember, not everything that looks free really is. It takes money and time to buy, grow, feed and prune the trees. It takes money and time to monitor the blossoms, leaves, and fruit for insects and diseases. Money and time figure heavily in the treatment of any insects or diseases that are found - using the recommended minimum amount of treatment to keep those costs down and still control the problem. Mother Nature may provide water but, like last spring, it's not always in the quantity or timing desired. And, of course, harvesting, storage and hauling also take money and time. We won't even talk about the taxes on the land.

The other thing to know is that agricultural pest treatment is a highly monitored

process. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation both actively participate in pesticide recommendations, labeling, treatments and applicator licensing.

These agencies authorize products for use in specific circumstances - the label on the pesticide. The rule is simple - the label is the law. If the label doesn't cover the plant, crop, situation (greenhouse or field), or pest, it can not be used.

Parts of these agencies also oversee certain aspects of applicator licensing. This has two effects, it insures the applicator is knowledgeable in the handling and application of the products for his, and his surrounding's safety. And, through re-certification, it insures the community that the applicator is learning about new techniques, products and tools to stay on top of developments in pest treatment.

At the Cooperative Extension we are educators, we teach people as much as possible about both sides of the coin while helping them to still meet their goals. To that end we will be providing pesticide core training and a re-certification workshop March 15 and 16.

The core training class is designed for new applicators - people who have worked under their supervisor's license and, with the new laws, need to get their own license in order to apply pesticides. This class is eight intense hours of basics: care, handling, safety, ground water and wildlife protection, equipment management and 'The Label.'

When this class is combined with reading the rather large core manual the applicant has a great resource under his belt. To become and applicator he must then pass a written test given by the DEC.

The 16th is a re-certification workshop. Here both private and commercial agricultural pesticide applicators will hear a variety of speakers present new information about pest treatment and control as well as potential ways to reduce pesticide usage and need. For these applicators their livelihood is on the pesticide treatment side of the coin. Understanding the best and newest methods for control and safety will give them more options for providing blemish free products to our markets.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Harrison tapped by Extension

By Tom Rivers

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Orleans County Cooperative Extension tapped its former board of directors chairman to lead the agency while officials seek a new full-time director.

Roger Harrison, a retired Yates farmer and agriculture teacher at Barker Central School, expects to coordinate the Extension's efforts in Orleans County for the next five or six months.

"Whatever time it takes, I can help them out," he said this week.

Harrison finished a six-year stint on the board a year ago. His familiarity with the Extension staff and operations will help him as interim director, Extension officials said.

"He knows how the Extension system works," said Mike Zelazny, the Extension's board treasurer. "He's very familiar with the administrative function and we thought he would fit in well."

Zelazny called Harrison "an enthusiastic Extension supporter."

Harrison, a 68-year-old town of Yates resident, will only work part-time until a full-time director is hired. Tom Nally retired in December after 18 months as Orleans director and 29 years with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

As director Harrison will oversee the Extension's 4-H Fairgrounds in Knowlesville, the Extension's budget



Harrison

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2001

es get connected

said one of
year 2000 was
bile computer
rs.
ow deputies to
partment of
n Albany and
nformation

during traffic stops.

The computers also allow deputies to contact each other and dispatchers without using radios, providing privacy and security, Maha said.

The computers were paid for from a U.S. Department of Justice

See Orleans — page A-2

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001

4-Hers give public presentations

The 2001 Orleans County 4-H Public Presentations were held Feb. 10 with the makeup being held Feb. 20.

Public Presentations provide 4-H'ers the opportunity to practice public speaking skills in a friendly environment. Although most of the 4-H'ers do not relish participating in the program, alumni of the program state that it was one of the most beneficial programs they had participated in.

This year 53 4-H'ers participated with a wide variety of topics, ranging from Terrific Trombones to Horse Grooming to Super Sonic Splits. All presenters were treated to an ice cream sundae following their presentation.

This year, a statewide Public Presentations competition will be held June 25 for senior 4-H members (13 years and older). Lyanne Fousse, Lisa Hansen, Michelle Sands, Kerrie Walker, Brittany Williams

and Amanda Vreeland participated in the qualifying event. Each county is eligible to send one representative for each type of Public Presentation (demonstration or illustrated talk, speech or public address and recitation). Sands was selected to represent Orleans County for her presentation "Caring for an infant in need". Vreeland was selected as an alternate for her presentation on "Fine dining" and Williams was selected as second alternate for her presentation on "Grooming a horse."

In the County Horse Communications event, eight 4-H'ers gave presentations meeting strict standards of criteria. Jessica Arno, Audrey Rath and Carly Wells are eligible to go to the Western District Regional Horse Communications event in Genesee County March 31.

This year Six Flags Darien Lake provided four complimentary all-day admission

tickets to distribute to 4-H'ers that participated in Public Presentations.

Orleans County 4-H'ers who participated in the Public Presentations, in addition to those already mentioned are Anne and Michael Halstead, Carly and Dustin Ferguson, Kelliann Grolling, Amber Dodson, Kelly Walsh, Hans Rosentreter, Stephanie Boyle, Mitchell and Alex VanLieshout, Dan Dodson, Emily Culbertson, Aimee, Russell and Deborah Shortridge, Mitchell and Leia Fannin, Robert, Heather and Scott Carr, Stryker Ostafew, Mitchell Hansler, Danielle Erway, Julia Southcott, Jesse Smith, Kasandra and Chelsie Cliff, Amie and Kelly Collazo, Danielle Bannister, Nicole Brown, Erica Callahan, Toya Torrance, Julia Hansen, Lauren Rogers, Brandi Kurzowski, Rachel and Jacob Preston, Andrew and Mark Logan, Tegan Leach and Kim Vocco.

The Gardener's Column

Duck into Spring

**By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register**

What is it that makes you feel like spring is nearly here? Is it the first robin? Maybe it's that smell of warm, damp earth on a sunny day? Some people tell me that the snowdrops, crocus and early daffodils put them in the spring spirit but by then it seems that spring has arrived already.

For me the robins seem to be staying all winter - wildlife planting has been working very well. We have had four in the hawthorn tree on and off all winter. So, it's not the robins for me. I truly love that smell of warm, damp earth and when I lived in a different area it really generated those first wonderful feelings of spring. But, now we live close to the river and with its small microclimate we don't warm up at the house as fast as inland. I don't get those same warming breezes early in spring, not until all of the ice melts. So, it's not the smell of the earth that makes we think spring is right around the corner.

For me, it is ducks. We, in western New York State have the benefit of living near open water that is used in the migratory paths. Once these ducks start to show up - small groups first then larger flocks - I know spring is getting real close.

The diving ducks were the first to catch my attention that late winter many years ago.

These ducks completely submerge to eat fish and small mollusks. Since I grew up watching mallards drift downstream with heads underwater and tails in the air I was surprised to see a duck completely submerge. The 'bufflehead' was the first diving duck on my identification list. With a large white patch on the side of its head, unusual head shape and low profile in the water it is easily identified. Buffleheads are a sea duck that winter in salt water on the coast and summer in Canadian wooded lakes and rivers. Later I noticed the 'Canvasback' ducks, with their long bills, red heads (male), long flattened head profile and that light, canvas colored back. These are bay ducks that swim under water and run along the water's surface to take off. They migrate from U.S. coastlines in the winter to northwestern Canadian lakes in the Rockies and high prairies.

Early one spring several years ago we had several Common Merganser ducks in the river. These are fresh water diving ducks that sit low in the water like a loon but have much sleeker bodies. The males have a dark green head like our familiar mallards but their white chest and under bellies, long thin bill and white back markings make it distinctly different. The females have rusty red heads often with a crest. The tests say that the Common Merganser will summer in our

area too but I have yet to see them other than in late winter or very early spring.

When on the water these ducks will flock together, sometimes in mixed species, often in flocks of the same species. When we have wind, like we have this past week, the flocks trail out over the water's surface like a splash of texture that is drifting on the current. If you have some time to spend looking at our waterways, you will see some of these migratory visitors. All you need is a book, your binoculars and some interest in identifying them but, before you knot it, spring will be here and they will be gone again for the season.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

4-H members to converge on capital

ALBION — Thousands of 4-H members from New York State will expand their knowledge of state government when they travel to Albany Monday and Tuesday for the 66th annual 4-H Capital Days event. The 120 teens represent 4-H members from every county in the state and borough in New York City.

During this year's event, 4-H members, leaders and staff will meet with elected officials, members of the court system and representatives from a variety of state agencies.

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little will discuss the legislative process. Assemblyman Paul Tonko will review how a bill becomes a law.

Delegates will learn about career opportunities in government as they tour state agencies, participate in discussion sessions and visit with their legislators.

Representing Orleans County will be Kelly Collazo of Albion and Scott Marciszewski of Medina. Kelly is a member of the Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath 4-H Club and Scott is a member of the New Kids on the Block 4-H Club.

The 4-H Capital Days program is sponsored by the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators. Local financial support for the trip is provided by the Orleans County 4-H Leaders' Association and the Orleans County 4-H Senior Council. For more information regarding 4-H, call Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 or write P.O. Box 150, Albion, N.Y. 14411.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Briefies

So Sew Saturday

continues

Sponsored by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, So Sew Saturdays are coordinated to teach simple sewing techniques to anyone.

These classes are well attended and are still open to anyone.

There is no fee for the instruction. To cover the cost of materials participants are asked to bring \$2. Items will be made during the class and individuals will be able to take the finished product home. If possible, participants are asked to bring their own scissors/shears but this is not necessary.

The next available class is from 2 to 4 p.m. March 10. It will be held in the Extension Center basement, 20 South Main St., Albion.

For more information please contact Marlene Seelstad at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 589-5561.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2001



Members of the Barn Buddies 4-H Club recently visited Kateland Miniature Farms in Holley.

4-H Club News

On Feb. 18, the Barn Buddies 4-H Club went to Kateland Miniature Farms in Holley.

Kateland Farms is owned and run by Ted and Joy Jenney.

This is the second year we have visited the farm. Each year, Mr. Jenney tacked up a mini to a buggy and we were allowed to drive it.

We also toured the foaling barn and the other different barns for the horses. We got to see a lot of the yearlings and four foals that were recently born. At the farm

there are about 70 miniatures and Mr. Jenney is expecting around 15 foals.

We also learned many new things about minis. One thing we learned is that the parents of the miniatures a long time ago were very small Shetland Ponies. When a miniature is going to have a foal it has to be supervised because complications occur in miniatures quite often during foaling. In the foaling barn there is a bedroom so when the owner is expecting a foal he will sleep in that room in the barn. He

also has a camera placed in the stalls which you can see in the room on the monitors.

Mr. Jenney also gave us a video which he made that shows the birthing and delivery of a miniature horse.

Ted and Joy Jenney have scheduled many events and shows at Kateland Farms and also compete in many events outside his farm.

Our club looks forward to going to Kateland Miniature Farm again next year.

Submitted by
Stephanie Boyle

The Gardener's Column

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Zone in on your garden

**By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register**

'Zones' come in all sorts of forms. There are specialized sports zones that are in our common language. Zones where the points are higher due to location in the field or court. We're all familiar with the twilight zone that seems to affect people at the oddest moments and when you travel you hear that 'the white zone is for loading and unloading only.' Gardeners have zones too, but our zones don't always have clear edges.

When gardeners travel the question they are most often asked is: what zone are you in? The correct answer should be a number or, in some cases, a number and a letter. So, what is this zone stuff, what is the correct answer for our area, and how useful is it?

'Hardiness zone' is the quick answer to the first part of that question. North America is broken into eleven geographical zones based on average annual minimum temperatures. For modern maps these temperatures were recorded for the years 1974 to 1986. In

older references you will find a wide range of sources and time frames as well as different zone numbers. If you are looking at a plant description that is from an older book try to find out what hardiness zone time frame and numbers were used as the references could be very misleading.

The correct hardiness zone answer for our area is ... "It depends." In general our area is a zone 6 due to the modification effects from Lakes Ontario and Erie. That means that, in general, our average minimum temperature is -10 to 0 F. Some texts will further divide that into 'a-b' sub categories where 'b' is warmer than 'a'. In that case we are both 6b near to the lake and 6a further inland. That is 'by the book.'

The important thing to notice from that information is "average minimum." We all know that once Lake Erie freezes over all bets are off for how cold it can get around here. We have had colder temperatures just this past season.

So, how useful is hardiness zone information? It is still a great guideline. Zone numbers are found accompanying plant descriptions in books and often at the garden centers. Knowing that a plant can tolerate average winter temperatures in zone 5 or colder pretty much insures survivability from a cold hardiness point of view. Our recommendation at the Cooperative Extension is: choose a plant that is zone 5 hardy for our area.

When you choose a plant that is listed for zone 6, our zone, you'll have to take into consideration other risk factors. Since these zone listings are averages, we can have much colder weather and zone 6 hardy plants may be damaged or killed in a 'normal winter.' Plants in sites exposed to winter wind and weather will experience much colder temperatures. On the other hand, plants in protected areas, out of the wind or near a warm sun reflecting brick wall, can see the opposite effect. I have seen zone 7 plants survive, even thrive, in

a protected area in Western New York. There are some trees in Lyndonville that are in a perfect microclimate, where they have flourished in a protected area.

A microclimate is where the weather is different in small areas due to a localized effect. That warm, brick wall can block the wind and hold the sun's heat longer into the day, that forms a microclimate. We experience a microclimate from the buffering effects of Lake Ontario. That, combined with the hills and elevation changes as you move south from the lake, forms other microclimates.

For your planting site, choose a plant that is right for the zone site conditions and that plant will have an easier time getting established and be less prone to insects or disease. So, just as in sports, know your zone and enjoy your gardening.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

ALBANY

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2001

Local 4-Hers take part in 2001 4-H Capital

Orleans County 4-H members Kelly Collazo of Albion and Scott Marciszewski of Medina are part of a delegation representing thousands of New York State 4-Hers who are expanding their knowledge of state government by participating in the 66th

annual 4-H Capital Days event in Albany this week.

Collazo is a member of the Hindsburg Hilltop and Towpath 4-H Club and Marciszewski a member of the New Kids on the Block 4-H Club.

During this year's even the participating 4-H members,

volunteer leaders and staff will meet with leaders in state government, members of the court system and officials from a variety of state agencies. In addition, they observed a working session of the state legislature and talked with their representatives.

Member of the Assembly Elizabeth Little will set the stage by discussing the legislative process and Assemblyman Paul Tonko will review how a bill becomes a law.

Delegates will learn about career opportunities in government as they tour state

agencies, participate in discussion sessions and visit with their legislators.

The 4-H Capital Days program is sponsored by the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators. Local financial support for the trip is

provide
County
tion an
4-H Ser

For
regardi
tive Ex
write 1
N.Y. 14

Family Folk Fair offers fun for all

By Karen Canning, Go Art!
For The Journal-Register

Looking for a reason to celebrate the coming of spring to Orleans County? Look no further than April 1 at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Route 31, Knowlesville. There you'll find the Family Folk Fair, an afternoon of music, dancing, storytelling, food and crafts for all to enjoy. Between 12:30 and 5 p.m. attendees can stop in to see and try a variety of our region's arts and traditions, including demonstrations of Mexican basket weaving, fly tying, wood carving and water witching. The admission is free, so bring family, friends, everyone.

The day's musical entertainment will kick off at 1 p.m. with Grupo Tikal, a quartet based in Orleans County. Playing a mix of traditional Mexican and familiar Latin musical styles, the group enjoys performing for local clubs and events and has played for the annual "bienvenida" celebration in Brockport, which welcomes migrant workers to the area every June.

Next on the bill at 2 p.m. is Brass Magic, offering Polish polka and standards sure to get you up on your feet (an area for dancing will be available).

At 3 p.m., Ted McGraw and Friends will bring the sounds of Irish jigs, reels and ballads to the stage, accompanied by a demonstration of Irish step dancing and "ceili" or group dancing.

Finally, the Geneseo Strong Band will round out the afternoon at 4 p.m. where audience members will enjoy old time fiddle music and have a chance to join in on a square dance or two.

Audience members will also

enjoy storytelling by student Hans Rosentreter of Medina, who will entertain between musical acts with well known fairy tales and other comic stories for all ages.

Concurrently with the musical entertainment, a number of local artisans and community members will hold demonstrations and workshops in traditional arts and crafts.

You can try your hand at creating lures or "flies" for Great Lakes fishing from a master fly tier, courtesy of Orleans Outdoor, Inc. of Albion.

Stop in at the Family Traditions Quilt table and create your own quilt square with art teacher Darlene Devine and students from Albion Elementary School.

Learn about the tradition of water witching from Clayton Marting and others who will demonstrate their techniques of locating water sources on the grounds.

Talk to wood carver Donald Rowe and see his work and brows through crocheted and knitted items crafted by Bosnian war refugees.

And at 1 p.m., artisan Augustina Salazar of Albion will offer a class in Mexican basket weaving. This workshop requires a couple of hours and proceeds in consecutive steps, so be sure to join in at the

beginning to learn this beautiful craft.

Interested in our local agriculture, natural resources and history? Come and see demonstrations by wildlife rehabilitation expert Gail Culver who will have help from her animal friend.

Check out Orleans County 4-H Shepherds Club and Goat Club, who will give sheep and wool demonstrations and offer goat mild cheese and fudge to sample.

Children will enjoy learning pioneer games led by the Helping Hands 4-H Club.

Mark's Pizza and the Medina Lions Club will also be on hand selling pizza, hamburgers, hots and drinks.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Genesee-Orleans Youth Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County and the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council (Go Art!). The organizations are grateful for partial funding of the Family Folk Fair from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and the New York State Council on the Arts Folk Arts Program.

For more information please call Go Art! at 343-9313 or 1-800-774-7372, the Genesee Orleans Youth Bureau at 344-3960 or 1-800-724-8388 or the Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Youth

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001

4-H Programs

So Sew Saturday continues on April 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Cooperative Extension Center's basement, 20 South Main St., Albion.

Sponsored by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, So Saturdays are coordinated to teach simple sewing techniques to anyone. These classes have been well attended and are still open to anyone.

There is no fee for the instruction. To cover the cost of materials, participants are asked to bring \$2.

Items will be made during the class and individuals will be able to take the finished product home. If possible, participants are asked to bring their own scissors/shears but this is not necessary.

Sponsored by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, the annual 4-H clothing revue will take place April 28. This year the theme is 2001 ... Fashion Odyssey.

Participants will be judged earlier in the day on the construction of the garment. The evening portion is a fashion show of the garments made and final selection of those who will represent Orleans County in the District and State 4-H clothing revues.

Marcia Tuohey, chairman of the Orleans County Legislature, will present briefly on the history and fashion of the hat.

The public is welcome to attend this event. Door prizes will be given away.

For more information please contact Marlene Seielstad at the Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561 or e-mail mis226@cornell.edu.

The Daily News • Tuesday, March 20, 2001

4-H Kids Forum Saturday

ALDEN — A total of 152 members from five counties will participate Saturday in the eighth annual 4-H Kids Forum.

The day of workshops will feature environmental projects, food classes and hands-on home environment activities. Volunteer instructors will share their knowledge with 4-H youth and other adult volunteers.

Educational workshops will include making a terrarium, a first aid kit, a sewing basket and learning about the life cycle of bees. Food classes will include making a pyramid of snacks, cooking around the world, and making herb vinegars and mustards.

The forum will include 4-H members from Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming, Erie and Niagara counties. For more information contact area Cornell Cooperative Extension offices.

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2001

A look at trees a decade later

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Where were you 10 years ago?

Do you remember what you were doing, or not doing, in early March 1991?

We had a storm then too. We didn't receive inch upon inch of snow during that storm - that storm was ice!

March 3, 1991 is a vivid memory in my life. They say that one person's problem is another person's opportunity. For the ice storm of 1991, I prefer to think that I was able to make lemonade out of a lot of lemons.

The ice had already begun to make roads slick and cause weak tree branches to fall when my husband and I drove home to Irondequoit, a northern suburb of Rochester, from a concert in Geneva. That itself is a hair-raising story. Arriving home, we found everything covered in a growing layer of glistening ice with more freezing rain falling.

We awoke with the morning sun to a splendid sight. Everything was covered in ice an inch thick! Homes, cars, lights, trees, the sun came up and the world glistened like a polished diamond.

Sure, we could hear the trees creaking around us and the TV told us that there were many without power and the city had put on a driving ban. But we had power ... until 8 a.m.

As the last of the big feeder lines bringing electricity to Rochester and the surrounding communities gave out under the weight of the ice, we fell into the same survival issues the rest of the area was in. Basics: shelter, warmth, food. We were pretty lucky, I

have friends that were without power for nearly three weeks, but we were only out for six days. A full pantry, lots of firewood and propane in the gas grill took care of the rest.

But, you see that was only the delivery of the lemons, I hadn't started to make lemonade yet.

Once people were safe and the streets were passable, the City of Rochester was able to assess the other damage that was inflicted during one night's coating of one inch of ice. Massive piles of brush lined most streets and many trees had been uprooted, split to their core or peeled back almost like a banana.

Then there were the hidden hazards - internal damage from excessive bending had caused the centers of branches, or, in some cases, trunks to rupture. When the ice melted these trees flexed back to a 'normal' position hiding the threat.

Woody plants don't heal in the sense that we think of. When a person breaks a bone that bone can be set and will 'knit' and be as strong as before. Trees don't do that. They define the edges of the damage, form a compartment of sorts and seal that area off. But the damage is still there and doesn't help the tree be strong.

That's why these hidden, internal damages were so threatening. The trees had no strength and no way to put on more wood to give them strength before the spring winds started to blow. A tree that is planted along a street has many vulnerable surroundings like people, homes, cars and wires so the city had to find these damaged trees, evaluate their condition and

remove those that were a hazard.

The city lost nearly 20% of its street trees with that storm and the following cleanup of hazardous trees. Some streets had light losses, some streets lost every tree.

Rochester had lost many of its trees because it had repeated its own mistakes. The city had lost thousands of street and park trees to Dutch Elm disease because, like many cities, they had planted the same tree over and over again forming a monoculture. The insect that carries the disease was able to move from elm tree to elm tree spreading the disease.

Rochester repeated this process when the elms were removed by again planting whole streets with the same tree. That is why some streets lost all of their trees - the trees were all the same species and, in many cases, the same ages so equally vulnerable to the ice.

This is where I come in.

Through a series of coincidences I was in the right place at the right time. I had been looking for a project or topic to finish my master's degree and Rochester needed someone to develop replanting guidelines to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding requirements and be able to replant the lost trees.

I spent the next four years working with the city. First, developing the guidelines for a city street tree master plan that fit the visual needs of the community while still meeting the maintenance needs of the city. Later, reviewing every block of every street developing and assigning pallets of street trees designed to fit the needs of that block.

My recommendations called for diversity in tree species along a street. Because no two streets in Rochester are identical, each street, even each block, would need to be reviewed for the correct choice of trees. No one tree would be planted alone on a street in a monoculture. Instead, one tree would be selected as the primary tree to be planted in 40% of all the planting sites. There would be six additional trees for that street, or block, that would also be planted but none of them would exceed 10%. This would allow for a certain amount of individual tree selection in the future.

During initial FEMA funded replanting there wasn't enough time to allow for individual selection. Just finding enough trees in the right sizes and species was a huge task.

So, now it is 10 years later. The City Forestry Department worked hard to insure proper planting, watering and care of new trees. Ultimately they planted over 11,500 new street trees.

They also managed to start the city on a regular pruning program and prune every remaining street tree within the city.

When ever I go into Rochester, I look at the smaller trees, those new ones that I selected and said "you go here." I feel like I've touched the earth a little, left a good mark on it and given something long lasting to the residents of Rochester.

Happy Anniversary. Anyone want lemonade.

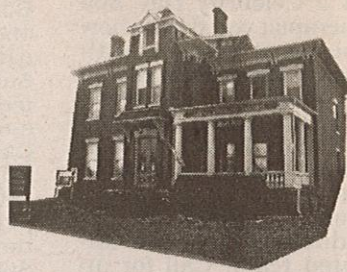
Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

HORSE Club meets

ALBION — The 4-H HORSE Club met Feb. 25 at Dona Scharping's house. Members talked about the 5-star test on March 10 and discussed some of the different questions and levels. We discussed the club's Public Presentations which were Feb. 10 at the Albion Cooperative Extension Building. Three club members are able to participate in Batavia for Regional Presentations. They are Jessica Arno on Delivery and Care of a Newborn Foal, Carly Wells on Umm Good (making horse treats) and Audrey Rath on Stepping Out, Gaits of a Horse.

"Good Night, Sleep Tight, Don't let the Bed Bugs Bite!"

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



My memories of childhood are full of little phrases. At the end of a trip we never just got back into town, we were always 'home again, home again, jiggity jig!'

The boy who cried wolf was a regular discussion topic and children who didn't behave always heard about 'there was a little girl, who had a little curl, right in the middle of her forehead,...' you know the rest. Unfinished meals would be accompanied by comments of starving children in selected far off countries and bed time kisses were followed by 'good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite!'



So many of our little children's phrases and tales have shreds of truth in them. The 'ring around the rosy, pocket full of posy,...' rhyme that children learn at an early age actually originated during the plague outbreaks of the middle ages. The pocket full of posies was to distract the wearer from the scent around him (I won't go into details.) While 'good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite' was a wish for an undisturbed rest. In the past, bed bugs were a frequent problem in straw mattresses and in situations where many people used the same bed. Today we see them mostly in situations where people are using old or recycled mattresses or have stopped regular mattress maintenance.

What is a bed bug? It is a small, reddish-brown insect about 3/8 inch long that has a round body and six legs. It has a small, sharp beak that it uses to pierce the skin of its host and, very much like a mosquito, drinks blood. These little creatures are flat when they haven't eaten in a while but will balloon up after a meal. They are nocturnal, that is, they feed at night, often biting people who are asleep but people aren't their only source of food. Bed bugs are also known to feed on bats, rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, and domestic fowl. A bite site is also like a mosquito's in that the skin will swell up and itch. These insects hide during the day and come out at night. The easiest way to minimize occurrences of bed bugs is regular maintenance of mattresses and bed linen. Vacuum the mattress regularly, once a month is good if you don't have an insect problem, weekly if you see signs of these bugs. Especially focus on the seams of the mattress and tufts where stitching is close, that is where they hide during the day. Thoroughly vacuum the surrounding area, crevices in the bed frame, baseboards, and floorboards as well. This will reduce any eggs that may also be in those areas. **THROW OUT THE BAG** when you are done vacuuming and before storing the machine! There is no need to help these insects move around the house. Bed linens only need regular laundering with normal, hot, soapy water and placement in a hot dryer for 20 minutes to kill bed bugs. Although there are chemicals that are labeled for use in the treatment and control of bed bugs do not treat bedding or mattresses with chemicals. These chemical treatments are for the bed frame and surrounding area baseboards, walls, and floors only.

What do you do if you find them in another place other than the bed? Used furniture can often be a source of bed bugs. Use the same vacuuming procedures for sofas, chairs, and hide-a-beds as you would for mattresses. Launder or replace slip covers. Do not use chemical treatments to the cushions or upholstery, as that would expose people to long term high levels of chemicals. It is OK to use labeled chemical treatments to the metal and functional working parts of a hide-a-bed. Follow the label directions when applying any chemical treatment.

Remember that these insects like to hide during the day so it is hard to get all of them in one cleaning or treatment. You may still see living bed bugs for a week to 10 days after treatment, that is normal. Start on a regular vacuuming program for signs. If bed bugs are seen after 2 weeks

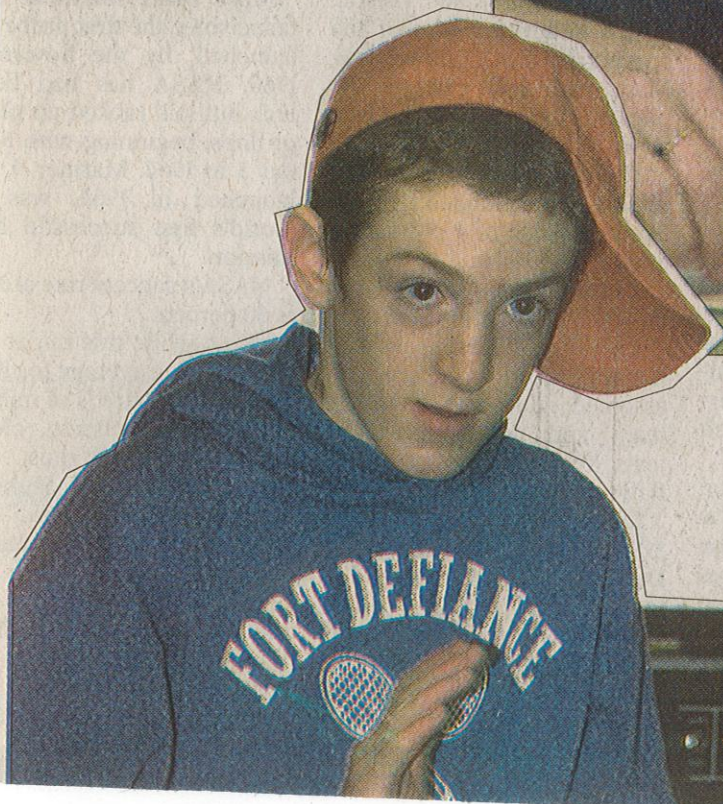
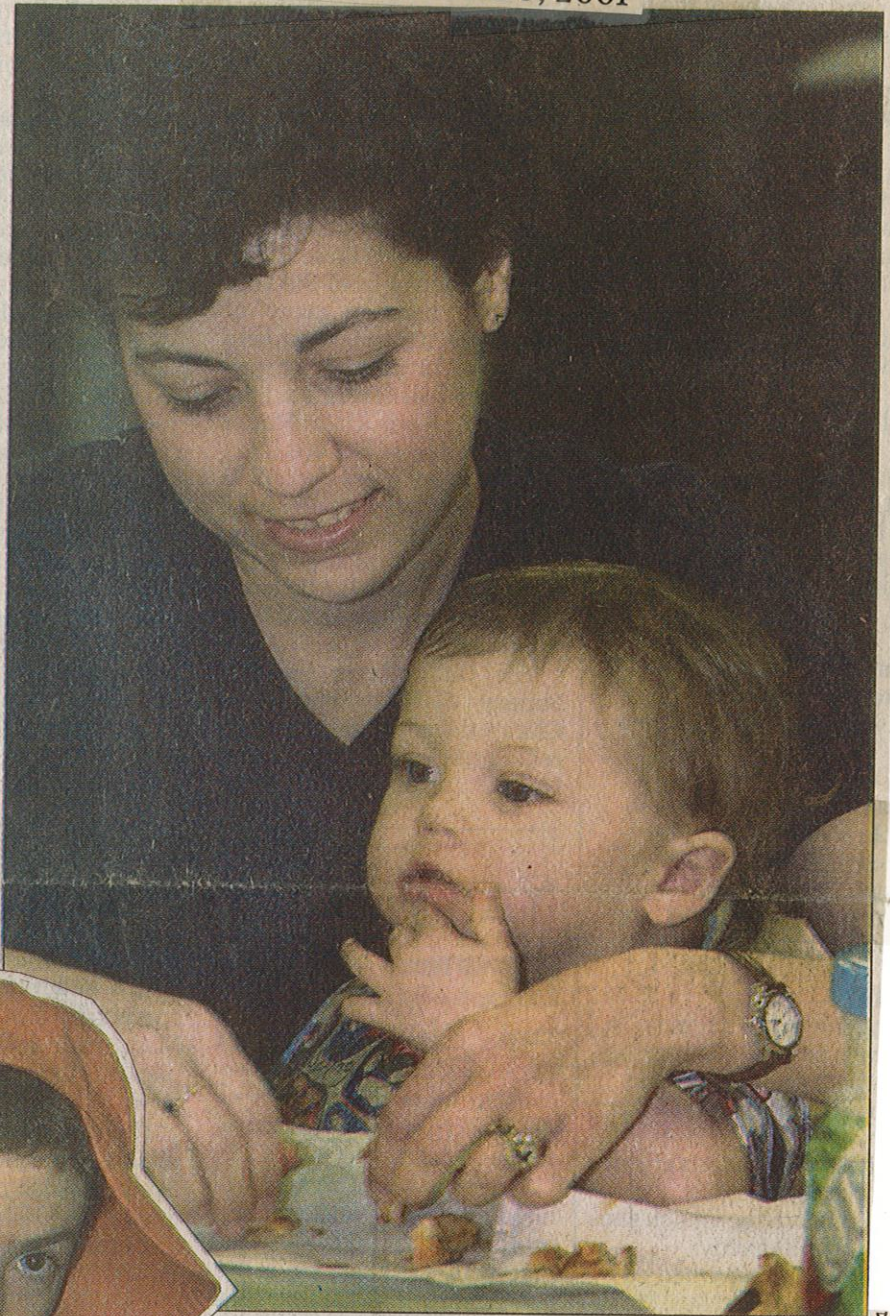
Fun at the 4-H Family Folk Fair

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER
- TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001

RIGHT: Nicole Bensley breaks up some pizza for her 1-year-old son, Jacob, at the 4-H Family Folk Fair at the fairgrounds in Knowlesville Sunday.

BELOW: Ian Sleetz plays the "djaamba" drum in the musical group Tikal at the Family Folk Fair.

BELOW RIGHT: Carla Woodworth sews on a quilt frame against a backdrop of a quilt created by students at the Albion Central School District called "Celebrating Family Traditions."



Dennis Stierer
The Journal-Register

The Gardener's Column

This grass doesn't need to be any greener

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

When I work with people who want to landscape an area of their home I often hear how they want to "get rid of all this grass" to make room for trees, shrubs and flowers. But, there are often cases, where special ornamental grasses can be a great addition to the garden.

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title of Perennial Plant of the Year 2001 to an ornamental grass, *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' is the botanical name for this versatile, attractive and low maintenance plant, but most garden centers will know what you mean if you just call it 'Karl Foerster.'

This is a cool season grass - just like our lawn grasses are - that develops deep green, shiny foliage in the early spring that lasts until early winter. The outstanding part is the feather reed flower and seed stems that appear in June. Initially these stems are a light pink or purplish color that become very narrow with a golden tan color as the seed heads mature. This lasts through the fall season.

The overall form of the plant is an upright and fairly narrow clump that has been often described as a perpetual motion grass. Each light breeze puts the plant in graceful motion. Since the grass blades grow to be about two to three feet tall and the flower stems can grow to five

feet in height; this can be quite a dramatic effect in the landscape. As a clumping plant it will grow to about 18 inches wide and stay fairly tight. Because of its clumping habit this is not a grass that will send runners to invade into your lawn and the rest of the garden.

When you are planning its use in the garden remember that it can provide a number of effects. It is an excellent specimen plant for drawing attention - even better if the sun shines from behind the plant toward the viewer as the seed stems will appear to glow. It is also very good for providing a vertical accent in an area where there are many low plants, or to step the viewers eye upward toward a taller item like a tree or decorative item in the garden or on the house. Because 'Karl Foerster' is a fast grower it is very useful as a screen in the summer months. It is hardy in zones 4-9 so it will survive well in most winters without protection both in the ground and in patio pot containers. Floral designers appreciate 'Karl Foerster' for its use in fresh or dried arrangements. Stems that are cut before the flowers mature will last for months in an arrangement while maintaining that golden tan color.

'Karl Foerster' is also fairly easy to add to a garden because it is not too fussy about the site requirements. This grass grows best in full sun to part shade - that means it still gets two to three hours

of direct sun - and in well drained fertile soil that stays somewhat moist but not wet. Most plants like this perfect kind of soil but this grass will also tolerate somewhat heavier clay soils and drier sites. You may find in these heavier or drier sites that it takes the plant a little longer to get settled in and reach it's full size. In low fertility soils your 'Karl Foerster' will be smaller and shorter but by adding organics to the soil or regular light fertilizing you can help it reach full height.

In general there are no insect or disease pest problems with 'Karl Foerster' but in wet summers with poor air circulation it can develop a little foliar rust on the leaves. The rust will not re-appear the next summer if the weather conditions are different so no treatment is needed. The only maintenance it requires is to be nipped to about six inches tall in very late winter or early spring. Divisions either in spring or fall for propagation. The seeds are sterile so there are no worries of it seeding throughout the garden or into natural areas.

All in all *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' is an excellent addition to almost any landscape planting. No wonder it has made plant of the year!

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator for the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Lake Country Pennysaver April 1, 2001

Vote for America's National Tree

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Have you ever wondered how the bald eagle became our national emblem, or the "Star Spangled Banner" our national anthem? In general, a long time ago our forefathers chose these symbols. For the first time, the American public has the opportunity to vote for a national symbol. The National Arbor Day Foundation is hosting a process that makes it possible for people to vote for America's National Tree.

We have a national emblem, the bald eagle, a national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner," a national motto, "In God We Trust," a national flower, the rose, even a national march, "Stars and Stripes Forever." But a national tree has not yet been designated.

There is, however, a ballot established with 21 broad types of tree names, or "genera." These trees were selected as potential representatives for our country because they not only incorporate all of the individual state trees but they also suggest the wealth of tree species found across the United States.

Some of the candidates have only one common variety baldcypress, douglasfir, or the Hawaiian tree, kukui. Other trees, like pine, oak, maple, and poplar have many, many common varieties. When you vote they're not asking for you to choose bur oak over amur maple but oak or maple or pine or baldcypress.

You can see descriptions of each tree or vote in several places. The fastest way is from internet access. If you don't have access we have list of tree names, the description of the trees as well as ballots at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. You can mail your vote directly to America's National Tree, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

For internet users you can see the list of tree names as well as descriptions of each and vote at the National Arbor Day Foundation's web site www.arborday.org.

But you have to hurry! Internet voting will take place only through midnight before National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, April 27, 2001. Mail in ballots must be sent by April 1st! There is another option for mail in voters. If you do not have internet access and have missed the April 1 deadline come into our offices at 20 South Main Street in Albion no later than Thursday, April 26 and fill out a ballot! We will send it for you via the internet!

Trees have long represented strength, beauty, honor, and the triumphant struggle to survive. Trees have stood over the meeting places where great moments in our country's history were shaped. Now you can help shape history by participation in this vote for America's National Tree.

Swan to host garden talks with Rochelle Smith

ALBION — Swan Library, 4 North Main St., will host three nights of Garden talks during April with Rochelle Smith, horticulture/agriculture educator for the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative

Extension. Topics will include "Seasonal Balance - Perennials, Trees and Shrubs" on April 11; "Organic Gardening" on April 18 and "Mostly Flowers - Gardening with annuals, Biennials

and Perennials" on April 25. Each session will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the library's meeting room. The programs are free and refreshments will be served. To reserve a space call 589-4246.

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2001

"Good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite!"

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

My memories of childhood are full of little phrases. At the end of a trip we never just got back into town, we were always 'home again, home again, jiggity, jig.' The boy who cried wolf was a regular discussion topic and children who didn't behave always heard about 'there was a little girl, who had a little curl, right in the middle of her forehead ...' you know the rest. Unfinished meals would be accompanied by comments of starving children in selected far off countries and bed time kisses were followed by 'good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite.'

So many of our little children's phrases and tales have shreds of truth in them. The 'ring around the rosy, pocket full of posy ...' rhyme that children learn at an early age actually originated during the plague outbreaks of the middle ages. The pocket full of posies was to distract the wearer from the scent around him (I won't go into details). While 'good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite' was a wish for an undisturbed rest. Bed bugs were a frequent

problem in the past. Straw mattresses and in situations where many people shared the same bed provided habitat for these insects. We see them mostly in situations today where people are using old or recycled mattresses or are not providing regular mattress maintenance.

What is a bed bug? It is a small, reddish-brown insect about 3/8 inch long that has a round body and six legs. It has a small sharp beak that it uses to pierce the skin of its host and very much like a mosquito, drinks blood. They are nocturnal, that is, they feed at night, often biting people who are asleep but people aren't their only source of food. Bed bugs are also known to feed on bats, rabbits, rats, guinea pigs and domestic fowl. When bitten by a bed bug the person's skin will swell up and itch at the bite site similar to a mosquito bite.

These insects hide during the day and come out at night. The easiest way to minimize occurrences of bed bugs is regular maintenance of mattresses and bed linen. Vacuum the mattress regularly, once a month is good if you don't have an insect problem, weekly if you see signs of these bugs. Especially focus

on the seams of the mattress and tufts where stitching is close, that is where they hide during the day. Thoroughly vacuum the surrounding area too, crevices in the bed frame, baseboards and floorboards are hiding sites. This will reduce any eggs that may also be in those areas. **THROW OUT THE BAG** when you are done vacuuming and before storing the machine. There is no need to help these insects move around the house.

Bed linens only need regular laundering with normal, hot, soapy water and placement in a hot dryer for 20 minutes to kill bed bugs. Although there are chemicals that are labeled for use in the treatment and control of bed bugs do not treat bedding or mattresses with chemicals. These chemical treatments are for the bed frame and surrounding area baseboards, walls and floors only.

What do you do if you find them in another place other than the bed? Used furniture can often be a source of bed bugs. Use the same vacuuming procedures for sofas, chairs and hide-a-beds as you would for mattresses. Launder or replace slip covers. Do not use chemical treatments to the cushions or upholstery, as that

would expose people to long term high levels of chemicals. It is OK to use labeled chemical treatments to the metal and functional working parts of a hide-a-bed. Follow the label directions when applying any chemical treatment.

Remember that these insects like to hide during the day so it is hard to get all of them in one cleaning or treatment. It is normal to still see a few living bed bugs for a week to 10 days after treatment. Start on a regular vacuuming process and monitor for signs. If bed bugs are seen after two weeks it is recommended to follow the label instructions for retreatment.

Don't let them make you squeamish. Bed bugs are a lot like mosquitos, if you see one or get bit by one that means it is time to change your maintenance process. In the mean time, sleep tight.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

This Grass Doesn't Need to be Any Greener

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



When I work with people who want to landscape an area of their home I often hear how they want to "get rid of all this grass" to make room for trees, shrubs, and flowers. But, there are often cases, where special, ornamental grasses can be a great addition to the garden. The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title of Perennial Plant of the Year 2001 to an ornamental grass. *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' is the botanical name for this versatile, attractive, and low maintenance plant, but most garden centers will know what you mean if you just call it 'Karl Foerster.'

This is a cool season grass – just like our lawn grasses are – that develops deep green, shiny foliage in the early spring that lasts until early winter. The outstanding part is the feathery seed flower and seed stems that appear in June. Initially these stems are a light pink or purplish color that become very narrow with a golden tan color as the seed heads mature. This lasts through the fall season.

The overall form of the plant is an upright and fairly narrow clump that has been often described as a perpetual motion grass. Each light breeze puts the plant in graceful motion. Since the grass blades grow to be about 2-3 feet tall and the flower stems can grow to 5 feet in height; this can be quite dramatic effect in the landscape! As a clumping plant it will grow to about 18-inches wide and stay fairly tight. Because of its clumping habit this is not a grass that will send runners to invade into your lawn and the rest of the garden.

When you are planning its use in the garden remember that it can provide a number of effects. It is an excellent specimen plant for drawing attention – even better if the sun shines from behind the plant toward the viewer as the seed stems will appear to glow! It is also very good for providing a vertical accent in an area where there are many low plants, or to step the viewers eye upward toward a taller item like a tree or decorative item in the garden or on the house. Because 'Karl Foerster' is a fast grower it is very useful as a screen in the summer months. It is hardy in zones 4-9 so it will survive well in most winters without protection both in the ground and in patio pot containers. Floral designers appreciate 'Karl Foerster' for its use in fresh or dried arrangements. Stems that are cut before the flowers mature will last for months in an arrangement while maintaining that golden tan color.

'Karl Foerster' is also fairly easy to add to a garden because it is not too fussy about the site requirements. This grass grows best in full sun to part shade – that means it still gets 2-3 hours of direct sun – and in well drained fertile soil that stays somewhat moist but not wet. Most plants like this perfect kind of soil but this grass will also tolerate somewhat heavier clay soils and drier sites. You may find in these heavier or drier sites that it takes the plant a little longer to get settled in and reach its full size. In low fertility soils your 'Karl Foerster' will be smaller and shorter but by adding organics to the soil or regular, light fertilizing you can help it reach full height.

In general there are no insect or disease pest problems with 'Karl Foerster' but in wet summers with poor air circulation it can develop a little foliar rust on the leaves. The rust will not re-appear the next summer if the weather conditions are different so no treatment is needed. The only maintenance it requires is to be-nipped to about 6 inches tall in very late winter or early spring. Divisions either in spring or fall for propagation. The seeds are sterile so there are no worries of it seeding throughout the garden or into natural areas.

All in all *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' is an excellent addition to almost any landscape planting! No wonder it has made plant of the year!

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2001

The Family of JOSEPH F. ALBONE

wish to thank all who were so considerate, compassionate and supportive of us during this difficult time. The MMHCS staffs in the ER and 2nd Floor, Dr. Bath & Office Staff, Jim and Kevin at Bates-Tuttle, Father Paul and Pastor Elliott for being there when we needed them. The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their service at the cemetery. The Vets Club, Carol's Family for the luncheon, friends, neighbors, relatives and all of you who sent cards, memorials, flowers, food, made calls and have kept us in your thoughts and prayers. There is no way we can begin to show our appreciation to all. Joe would have been honored and pleased. God bless you all.

Carol, Pat, Linda, Sandy, Doug A., Bruce, Diana,
Doug T., Deb, Donna, Dan and All Their Families

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001 — THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Video conference slated on deer in rural woodlands

Do deer affect your rural woodlands? Are there too many or too few deer in woodlots? How can hunters, landowners and land managers work cooperatively to reduce the impacts that deer have on forests?

From 9 a.m. to noon April 21 at the Trolley Building on the 4-H Fairgrounds, Knowlesville, Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and its partners will present solutions to these issues

through a regional satellite videoconference.

Regional and national experts will guide private forest landowners, hunters and land managers towards the variety of tools available to help resolve deer problems in rural wooded landscapes. Indeed, many people often recognize the problems associated with overly abundant deer populations, but don't know what management options exist, who they should

work with or how to coordinate their efforts with others in their community.

Deer have long been a part of rural and wooded landscapes. The videoconference will provide introductory presentations documenting the role that deer have played historically and their impacts, both positive and negative, to forests and communities. Because of the complexity of deer - woodlot issues, landowners and researchers have

developed a suite of approaches to resolving problems. These approaches will be covered in presentations on silviculture and forest management, building relationships between landowners and hunters and a need to understand the relationship among all stakeholders especially the changing demographics of hunters and their role in the solution.

This conference is open to all persons that own or

manage woodlots or wooded areas, hunters, nursery owners and managers and park or golf course managers. Live questions to the on-air presenters via telephone or fax will be invited.

Entry fee is \$2 and a continental breakfast will be provided. Telephone pre-registration is requested by calling the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension offices at 589-5561.

The Gardener's Column

Vote for America's National Tree

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Have you ever wondered how the bald eagle became our national emblem, or the Star Spangled Banner our national anthem? In general, a long time ago our forefathers chose these symbols. For the first time, the American public has the opportunity to vote for a national symbol. The National Arbor Day Foundation is hosting a process that makes it possible for people to vote for America's National Tree.

We have a national emblem, the bald eagle, a national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, a national motto, "In God We Trust", a national flower, the rose, even a national march, Stars And Stripes Forever. But a national tree has not yet been designated.

There is, however, a ballot established with 21 broad types of tree names, or "genera." These trees were selected as potential represen-

tatives for our country because they not only incorporate all of the individual state trees but they also suggest the wealth of tree species found across the United States.

Some of the candidates have only one common variety baldcypress, douglas fir or the Hawaiian tree, kukui. Other trees, like pine, oak, maple and poplar have many, many common varieties. When you vote they're not asking for you to choose bur oak over amur oak or maple or pine or baldcypress.

You can see descriptions of each tree or vote in several places. The fastest way is from internet access. If you don't have access we have a list of tree names, the description of the trees as well as ballots at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. You can mail your vote directly to America's National Tree, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, Ne. 68410.

For internet users you can see the list of tree names as well as descriptions of each

and vote at the National Arbor Day Foundation's website www.arborday.org.

But you have to hurry. Internet voting will take place only through midnight before National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, April 27. Mail in ballots had to be sent by April 1. There is another option for mail in voters. If you do not have internet access and have missed the April 1 deadline come to our offices at 20 South Main St. in Albion no later than Thursday, April 26 and fill out a ballot. We will send it for you via the internet.

Trees have long represented strength, beauty, honor and the triumphant struggle to survive. Trees have stood over the meeting places where great moments in our country's history were shaped. Now you can help shape history by participation in this vote for America's National Tree.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION



May 12, 2001 — Batavia, NY
Genesee County

May 19, 2001 — Rock Glen, NY
Wyoming County

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Acceptable Materials

- Oil base paint & stain
- Vehicle fluids & lead acid batteries
- Household cleaning products
- Resins & adhesives, Polishes & Waxes
- Pool chemicals
- Driveway sealer
- Pesticides/insecticides
- 1# propane cylinders
- Tires accepted for small fee

Open to residents in Genesee, Livingston, Orleans & Wyoming Counties

Pre-Registration is Required.
First come, first serve.

Call (800) 836-1154 or (716) 344-4035 for local callers.

Sponsored by the
GLOW Region Solid Waste Management Committee



4-H News

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2001

Barn Buddies

March was a very busy month for our horse club.

Stephanie, Ashley, Jeanna, Laura and Nick all participated in the 5 Star Test program and did wonderfully.

The 5 Star is a program which helps the kids learn all about horse knowledge. Each year they take a different level test and by their fifth year in 4-H they will have become very knowledgeable in all parts of

horse knowledge.

We had our monthly business meeting and also held two float meetings in which we are preparing a float to enter in a few of the area parades this summer.

April will also be a busy month for our club. We will be having a joint horseback riding clinic with another club, the H.O.R.S.E. Club, and will go bowling as our group fun activity for the month.

Getting to Know
Clematis

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



I am always amazed at the size of certain plant families and the genus "clematis" is no exception!

This is a huge group of plants! What makes them most interesting is that they are not all the same, they differ in many of their physical attributes like flower color and size, bloom time, and leaf type. They also differ greatly in the soil and conditions they like and the care they need!

Clematis are climbing vines that use their stem and the "petiole" (pronounced pet'-ee-ol) - the thin part of the leaf that connects to the stem - to cling to trellises, fences, rock walls or any other structure. They grow in a wide variety of flower color and sizes so you can pretty much choose the plant you want by the color and size of the flowers. In general, most clematis follow the warm top - cool bottom rule. That is, they do best with their leaves in 4-6 hours of direct sun while their roots are shaded by something like another plant. Also, in general, it is best to avoid direct sun during the hottest part of the day 3pm-5pm. *Clematis paniculata*, the Sweetautumn Clematis can take quite a bit of shade, we'll cover that later in this article.

Choosing between the different clematis is a matter of personal choice. Look for the flower color, timing, and shape that fits the needs of the garden you are planning. For a larger, bold flowering effect look toward *Clematis x jackmanii* and its hybrids. Jackmanii 'Alba' is a large 4-5" diameter single white flower with a bluish tinge. Jackmanii 'Rubra' is deep red and is sometimes a double flower on old wood. 'Nelly Moser' is a large pale mauve-pink with a deep pink bar in the center. There are many more! These plants will flower on new and old growth so a selective pruning in the early spring to remove some of the oldest wood to the ground but still leave a percentage of the younger stems 2-4' tall will significantly extend the flowering season. In some cases you will receive the added bonus of doubles from some of the older stems.

The *Clematis viticella* group is a summer flowering group that can be pruned back hard in the spring for the best bloom. Their flowers differ from plant to plant, some larger, some smaller and in a wide variety of colors. 'Ascotiensis' is a heavy bloomer with bright blue pointed petals. 'Margot Koster' has abundant small, rosy pink flowers.

For ground covers the *Clematis integrifolia* group is excellent. These non-climbing, herbaceous plants will die to the ground and should be pruned hard in early spring. The group generally has 1-inch, solitary, bell-shaped flowers from mid-June to August and will grow easily on any moist, average-fertility soil. The cultivar 'Hendersonii' is lavender-blue with a somewhat longer flowering period. For best flower viewing some staking or training the plant to climb over another plant will lift it from ground level.

Clematis recta is another ground clematis that forms sprays of stary, 1-inch, fragrant florets on the tips of branches. Like *Clematis integrifolia* it will ramble on the ground and will show its flowers best if lifted a bit. For care and placement it is again very similar to *Clematis integrifolia*.

And for that somewhat shady spot that only gets 1-3 hours of direct sun or lots and lots of dappled sun/shade there is *Clematis paniculata* the Sweetautumn Clematis. This is named appropriately in that it flowers quite heavily late in the year - August through September or October - and has a light, sweet scent. This is an aggressive growth plant so give it its own trellis or fence to climb. Since it flowers on new growth only you don't have to look at those dead branches, they can be pruned off hard in early spring. This is probably the easiest clematis to grow and an excellent screening plant to hide a fence or create a privacy screen because it grows so quickly. This is not an invasive or destructive plant like wisteria! Since the flowers will point towards the sun, you won't be able to see much of them on an arbor unless you can look down on the top!

Remember that any plant you choose for your garden needs to like your soil and environmental conditions and has to be tolerant of zone 5 or colder. All of the rest is up to you! Landscape design can be a lot of fun!

The Gardener's Column

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Have you seen them? Those new and improved eggs on the grocer's shelf? How about the new and improved milk? Have you seen that? Not just in new colors and flavors, but carbonated too.

I had heard about the new milk promotions. The "Got Milk" promotions didn't motivate purchases to the level the marketing people - and dairy producers - had hoped for and they were looking for a new approach. The actual milk production in New York State was down 1% in 2000 and from the 1999 statistics according to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service. So the marketing people were looking for new ways to increase sales.

They're trying everything. New packing with snazzy cartons and curvy shaped pints. New flavors are on the market that go way beyond chocolate or strawberry like coffee, mocha, banana and chai (pronounced ch-i) that is a spiced tea flavor. New vending machine formats - not so new, since I can remember walking down to the corner to buy a quart from a vending machine - that are placed next to soda vending machines. They're even trying to place these new style milk vending machines in new locations, like high school lunchrooms. And the latest thing? E-Moo. This is a carbonated milk beverage that has been developed by food science researchers at Cornell University. E-Moo is a tasty and nutritious alternative to

New and improved

the sports drinks and carbonated soft drinks.

Not to stop at just carbonation, e-Moo will be available in three initial flavors: Orange Cremecicle, Cookies and Cream and Fudge Brownie. This product contains all the nutrition of non-fat milk with added calcium and only half the sodium found in other flavored milks. The marketing people hope that the internet sounding name, fun flavors and carbonation will get kids to drink more milk and less soft drinks. Good for the kids, good for the dairy industry.

The eggs are another matter. I first saw them about April 1 this year. They were packages of a half dozen, already colored, hard-boiled eggs. Now what's this? Well, here's the scoop. Less people are picking up an extra dozen to make colored eggs at Easter time so, the marketing people said "let's do the boiling and coloring for them!" This is purely a convenience thing. New York Agricultural Statistics Service has reported that egg production is up in New York State from last year - 5% from February 2000 to February 2001. That's pretty good for our farmers. If the marketing people can help busy people, or those whose household is smaller so they don't really need to hard boil and color a dozen, to have a festive holiday by providing pre-boiled and colored eggs, that's good.

But all of this specialized marketing can have a local effect and the underlying story is one of survival. Our county and the surrounding areas of Western New York are primarily agricultural communities. It doesn't matter whether your line of work is

education or journalism, auto or real estate sales, grocery or restauranting, mechanical or office work, government or law, DBA or corporation. Our farmers are our base for participants, customers, sales and the ever present taxes.

But everyone can help. By choosing products that were grown in New York State over other locations - how our local markets can even carry Washington State apples baffles me! The New York State counties that make up the Lake Plains Fruit Growers are the second largest producers (Washington State is No. 1) of apples in the free world. It makes me angry to see such heavy promotion of 'foreign' products - like Washington apples and Idaho potatoes - when we ask our farmers, our neighbors, to support our programs, businesses and communities.

The marketing people are right - we need to drink more milk, eat more eggs, apples, potatoes and cabbages. But, we also need to be smart consumers and not let the marketing people influence us to make un-wise decisions. When the demonstration in the store is for our-of-state produce that we grow right here, we should not just walk by. We should stop and tell them "No thank you, my friends and neighbors are farmers!" Read the stickers and labels; see where that produce comes from. Help to support our communities by purchasing products grown in our state, local region and county.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Orleans Team: A mission to serve agricultural needs

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

With a mission to serve the agricultural needs of Orleans County, Rochelle Smith and Kim Hazel work to educate by either providing answers or giving direction on where answers may be found.

"We may not know the answer, but we can use the university to help someone find the help they're looking for," said Hazel, a seven year veteran of the extension. "We really are an arm of the university."

In an effort to reach as many people with as much information as possible, the two-page agriculture publication *Garden Scout* was replaced by *The New Orleans Gardener*.

The first 16-page issue was released in February, with 10 issues per year planned for distribution.

"There's more to it and it's the same price," Smith said. "It will cover Master Gardner volunteer and local horticulture events as well as other programs to inform the community."

The two-person department also provides newsletters, workshops and presentations at libraries throughout the county.

Part 1 of a 5-part series

"Some people want to put chemicals in small private ponds, golf courses or campgrounds, but they still must be licensed," Hazel said. "To help, we offer two-day pesticide workshops for small commercial and private use."

One aspect

According to Smith, a large part of their horticulture work is with ornamental groups.

"We work with the person or group that's working on growing for their own use, or on a small parcel of land," she said. "We also train the Master Gardeners."

The Master Gardner's are people interested in farming and gardening who work as volunteers to help others, Smith said.

Both Smith and Hazel said helping is what their job at the extension is all about.

"We help people gain the knowledge they need and provide the different information available to help everyone make better decisions," Hazel said.

Part 2 will appear April 26 and will focus on the 4-H program of Orleans County



Photographer's name/The Journal-Register
Horticulture/Agriculture Educator Rochelle Smith, left, and Agricultural Secretary Kim Hazel, both head the Agriculture Team at Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

New and Improved!

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Have you seen them? Those new and improved eggs on the grocer's shelf? How about the new and improved milk? Have you seen that? Not just in new colors and flavors, but carbonated too!

I had heard about the new milk promotions. The "Got Milk" promotions didn't motivate purchases to the level the marketing people - and dairy producers - had hoped for and they were looking for a new approach. The annual milk production in New York State was down 1% in 2000 from the 1999 statistics according to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service. So the marketing people were looking for new ways to increase sales.

They're trying everything. New packing with snazzy cartons and curvy shaped pints. New flavors are on the market that go way beyond chocolate or strawberry like coffee, mocha, banana, and chai (pronounced ch-i) that is a spiced tea flavor. New vending machine formats - not so new, since I can remember walking down to the corner to buy a quart from a vending machine - that are placed next to soda vending machines. They're even trying to place these new style milk vending machines in new locations, like high school lunchrooms! And the latest thing? E-Moo. This is a carbonated milk beverage that has been developed by food science researchers at Cornell University. E-Moo is a tasty and nutritious alternative to the sports drinks and carbonated soft drinks.

Not to stop at just carbonation, e-Moo will be available in three initial flavors: Orange Cremecicle, Cookies and Cream and Fudge Brownie. This product contains all the nutrition of non-fat milk with added calcium and only half the sodium found in other flavored milks. The marketing people hope that the internet sounding name, fun flavors and carbonation will get kids to drink more milk and less soft drinks. Good for the kids, good for the dairy industry!

The eggs are another matter. I first saw them about April 1st this year. They were packages of a half dozen, already colored, hard-boiled eggs! Now what's this? We'll, here's the scoop. Less people are picking up an extra dozen to make colored eggs at Easter time so, the marketing people said "lets do the boiling and coloring for them!" This is purely a convenience thing. New York Agricultural Statistics Service has reported that egg production is up in New York State from last year - 5% from February 2000 to February 2001! That's pretty good for our farmers! If the marketing people can help busy people, or those whose household is smaller so they don't really need to hard boil and color a dozen, to have a festive holiday by providing pre boiled and colored eggs, that's good!

But all of this specialized marketing can have a local effect and the underlying story is one of survival. Our county and the surrounding areas of Western New York are primarily agricultural communities. It doesn't matter whether your line of work is education or journalism, auto or real estate sales, grocery or restauranting, mechanical or office work, government or law, DBA or corporation. Our farmers are our base for participants, customers, sales, and the ever-present taxes.

But every one can help! By choosing products that were grown in New York State over other locations - how our local markets can even carry Washington State apples baffles me! The NYS counties that make up the Lake-Plains Fruit Growers are the second largest producers (Washington State is 1st) of apples in the free world! It makes me angry to see such heavy promotion of 'foreign' products - like Washington apples and Idaho potatoes - when we ask our farmers, our neighbors, to support our programs, businesses, and communities.

The marketing people are right - we need to drink more milk, eat more eggs, apples, potatoes, and cabbages. But, we also need to be smart consumers and not let the marketing people influence us to make un-wise decisions! When the demonstration in the store is for out-of-state produce that we grow right here, we should not just walk by. We should stop and tell them "No thank you, my friends and neighbors are farmers!" Read the stickers and labels; see where that produce comes from. Help to support our communities by purchasing products grown in our state, local region, and county.

Horticulture expert can handle prickly subjects

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Plastic flowers.

That's what local horticulture expert Rochelle Smith once suggested to someone requesting a "no maintenance" garden.

"You've got to know what you're willing to do," Smith said recently from her Orleans County Cooperative Extension office on South Main Street. "There is no such thing as a no maintenance garden, plants need some type of maintenance," she said.

Smith has been horticulture and agriculture director at Cooperative Extension since October, and her schedule is, as they say, in full bloom.

Smith conducts gardening related seminars at Swan Library and at Albion Central School, and receives numerous phone calls from people wondering about things like soil quality, sunlight versus shade, or if a Colorado Blue Spruce is a good choice to plant in Western New York.

"There's a reason they're called the Colorado Blue Spruce," Smith said, slowly enunciating Colorado.

Smith also oversees the brand new Master Gardener program, which offers gardening enthusiasts 80 hours of training to become a certified Master Gardener.

Smith said a gardening library is gradually being filled in the new Master Gardener office housed in the Cooperative Extension building. The program features seven newly-trained master gardeners who will help area homeowners and organizations to beautify their surroundings with horticulture.

"A Master Gardener is someone who has a love of horticulture and is willing to volunteer," Smith said.

Starting Monday, a Master Gardener will be available one day each week to respond to any gardening questions and crises, from mid-April to mid-September.

"People can call and leave a message, and the Master Gardener will call them back with an answer," Smith said. "They may have ants, want to grow an apple tree or try to grow



Joanne Beck/Daily News

IT'S PRUNING TIME: Rochelle Smith, horticulture and agriculture educator at the Orleans County Cooperative Extension, has plenty of tips and suggestions for getting your garden in shape.

mums ... the Master Gardener will respond."

"They are not to be worker bees, but arms of extension, to go out and educate, to help inform and help people be better gardeners in their own right," Smith said.

So what should a gardener be concerned about right now?

"From a woody point of view, you want to make sure that things are healthy," Smith said.

Woody point of view?

"Pruning trees and shrubs, primarily," she said. "This is the perfect time to get in there and clean up the winter damage."

Smith said another thing to think about now is to place your orders for flowers, trees and shrubs. She suggests trying the bigger farm markets, any of the many nurseries within Orleans, Genesee, Monroe and Niagara counties, or ordering plant materials from a mail order company.

Why does gardening seem so popu-

lar now?

"We're seeing more home and gardening programs, there's even a TV channel dedicated just to gardening," Smith said. "I look at it that a lot of people have two things: a little more time and more disposable income."

But Smith also said many people get into "FUD," which is her acronym for fear, uncertainty and doubt.

"Don't get into FUD ... do the diagnostic end, to find out why something didn't grow," she said, adding that local libraries have a good selection of gardening resource materials.

"The best way (to diagnose your garden) is to do a pH (percent Hydrogen) test. We can do that for them," Smith said. "In different soil pHs, different nutrients are available at different levels, and because of that, certain plants that need lots of acid do better in a more acidic soil."

Smith said that one type of soil isn't necessarily better than another.

"Just so long as you know ... is what

I buy going to live here?"

Fully equipped with a master's degree in landscape architecture from Syracuse University, Smith said she has discovered her gift at diagnosing horticultural diseases, pests and proper treatments for them.

"I discovered that I had an aptitude for this stuff, I could remember those things," she said, recalling an early childhood memory of climbing up a tree and finding a bug's skeleton. Her first inclination was to shriek and go back down.

"But then I climbed back up and studied it," she said with a smile.

Cooperative Extension can test soil in two ways: a cup full of soil can be tested free of charge for pH levels, which determine if the soil is acid or basic, or for \$12 one can get a soil test kit that is sent directly to the Cornell Nutrient Analysis Laboratories at Cornell University for a more thorough soil review.

Ready to start planting? Smith said you really need two crucial elements for having the garden of your dreams, concept and design.

The concept is what you're really looking for in your garden, and Smith suggested the following questions to ask yourself: What colors and what shapes do I like? Do I want shrubs and trees, or just flowers? Are there overhead power lines where I want that tree? What is it about a picture that I really like? That bridge over a small pond?

"Makes notes of what you like, the color combinations, heights and sizes of the plants and trees," Smith said, suggesting horticulture magazines and calendars as good resources to look at.

"Then, once you know everything you want, you need to design the concept," Smith said. "To actually implement your ideas."

Smith offers gardening talks at Swan Library for the next two Wednesdays. She and two Master Gardeners will each be teaching a gardening related course in May.

For more information about Cooperative Extension's programs, or to ask gardening questions, call 589-5561.

A Look at Trees a Decade Later

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County Cornell
Cooperative Extension



Where were you ten years ago? Do you remember what you were doing, or not doing, in early March 1991? We had a storm then, too. We didn't receive inch upon inch of snow during that storm - that storm was ice! March 3, 1991 is a vivid memory in my life. They say that one person's problem is another person's opportunity. For the ice storm of 1991, I prefer to think that I was able to make lemonade out of a lot of lemons.

The ice had already begun to make roads slick and cause weak tree branches to fall when my husband and I drove home to Irondequoit, a northern suburb of Rochester, from a concert in Geneva. That in itself is a hair-raising story! Arriving home, we found everything covered in a growing layer of glistening ice with more freezing rain falling.

We awoke with the morning sun to a splendid sight. Everything was covered in ice an inch thick! Homes, cars, lights, trees, the sun came up and the world glistened like a polished diamond. Sure, we could hear the trees creaking around us and the TV told us that there were many without power and the city had put on a driving ban. But we had power... until 8:00am. As the last of the big feeder lines bringing electricity to Rochester and the surrounding communities gave out under the weight of the ice, we fell into the same survival issues the rest of the area was in. Basics: shelter, warmth, food. We were pretty lucky, I have friends that were without power for nearly 3 weeks, but we were only out for six days. A full pantry, lots of firewood, and propane in the gas grill took care of the rest.

But, you see that was only the delivery of the lemons, I hadn't started to make lemonade yet.

Once people were safe and the streets were passable the City of Rochester was able to assess the other damage that was inflicted during one night's coating of one inch of ice. Massive piles of brush lined most streets and many trees had been up-rooted, split to their core, or peeled back almost like a banana. Then there were the hidden hazards - where internal damage from excessive bending had caused the centers of branches or, in some cases, trunks to rupture. When the ice melted these trees flexed back to a 'normal' position hiding the threat.

Woody plants don't heal in the sense that we think of. When a person breaks a bone that bone can be set and will 'knit' and be as strong as before. Trees don't do that. They define the edges of the damage, form a compartment of sorts, and seal that area off. But the damage is still there and doesn't help the tree be strong. That's why these hidden, internal damages were so threatening. The trees had no strength and no way to put on more wood to give them more strength before the spring winds started to blow. A tree that is planted along a street has many vulnerable surroundings like people, homes, cars, and wires so the City had to find these damaged trees, evaluate their condition, and remove those that were a hazard. The City lost nearly 20% of its street trees with that storm and the following clean up of hazardous trees. Some streets had light losses; some streets lost every tree.

Rochester had lost many of its trees because it had repeated its own mistakes. The City had lost thousands of street and park trees to Dutch Elm Disease because, like many cities, they had planted the same tree over and over again forming a monoculture. The insect that carries the disease was able to move from tree to tree spreading the disease. Rochester repeated this process when the elms were removed by again planting whole streets with the same tree. That is why some streets lost all of their trees - the trees were all the same species and, in many cases, the same ages so equally vulnerable to the ice.

This is where I come in. Through a series of coincidences I was in the right place at the right time. I had been looking for a project or topic to finish my master's degree and Rochester needed someone to develop replanting guidelines to meet FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding requirements and be able to replant the lost trees. I spent the next four years working with the City. First, developing the guidelines for a city street tree master plan that fit the visual needs of the community while still meeting the maintenance needs of the city. Later, reviewing every block of every street developing and assigning pallets of street trees designed to fit the needs of that block.

My recommendations called for diversity in tree species along a street. Because no two streets in Rochester are identical, each street, even each block, would need to be reviewed for the correct choice of trees. No one tree would be planted alone on a street in a monoculture. Instead, one tree would be selected as the primary tree to be planted in 40% of all the planting sites. There would be six additional trees for that street, or block, that would also be planted but none of them would exceed 10%. This would allow for a certain amount of individual tree selection in the future. During initial FEMA funded replanting there wasn't time to allow for individual selection. Just finding enough trees in the right sizes and species was a huge task!

So, now it is ten years later. The City Forestry Department worked hard to insure proper planting, watering, and care of new trees. Ultimately they planted over 11,500 new street trees. They also managed to start the city on a regular pruning program and prune every remaining street tree within the city. Whenever I go into Rochester, I look at the smaller trees, those new ones that I selected and said, "you go here." I feel like I've touched the earth a little, left a good mark on it, and given something long lasting to the residents of Rochester. Happy Anniversary. Anyone want lemonade?

Outdoors is classroom for Conservation Field Days

By Joanne Beck
Daily News Staff Writer

KNOWLESVILLE — Bees were buzzing, fish were flying and a barn owl was flapping its wings as the 33rd annual Conservation Field Days continued its two-day event Wednesday at the 4-H fairgrounds.

Two groups of 350 sixth-graders from Albion, Medina, Lyndonville, Kendall and Holley each visited the Orleans County Cooperative Extension event on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Students visited each of the 20 stations that involved everything from aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes to beekeeping to captive care and breeding of reptiles.

A group of Lyndonville students started their day-long journey in the livestock barn at station 15: Wildlife Rehabilitation. Gail Spann, from Tri-county Wildlife, gave information to the students before bringing out the main attraction.

"This is a barn owl, someone just left it for me to take care of," Spann said.

Spann talked about her work and the goals of wildlife rehab.

"We want to get the animals back where they belong," she said. "And this is a volunteer position, you don't get paid for doing this."

Brittany Schumer, 11, said she liked the presentation.

"I wish I could raise a barn owl," she said.

Meanwhile, Ginny Klick's sixth-grade Kendall students listened to volunteer Jack Seedorf talk about hunting and trapping as tools of wildlife management at station 18.

"People think Mother Nature is a kindly old woman in the kitchen bak-



Joanne Beck/Daily News

WHAT A CATCH: Lyndonville sixth-grader Aimee Holland, reels in a big one at Station 14, Lake Ecosystems and Fly Fishing, during Orleans County Cooperative Extension's Conservation Field Days Wednesday. To Aimee's right are Christian Johnson and Amy Schutt.

ing pies," Seedorf said.

"But she's not ... she's tough as nails," he said, explaining how human management techniques to thin out wildlife benefit both animals and humans.

Students listened and watched Seedorf from behind a rope that stood between them and several stuffed wildlife animals, including a deer whose head rotated back and forth.

But Lyndonville students Katie Abt, Aimee Holland and Kayla Kent weren't involved in the harshness of Mother Nature, as they were busy at station 14 learning about lake ecosystems and fly fishing. Or more accurately, they were working hard to snag a neon-colored plastic fish with their

fishing poles and a hook.

"Be careful, look behind you before you cast your line," said George Devolos of Sportfishing and Aquatic Resources Education Program.

"That was fun," Holland said, admiring her bright orange catch of the day.

Abt went so far as to say it was astounding.

"Because they teach us how to fish," she said.

Teacher Lisa Tower said the station was interesting and very creative.

"I learned that you use a bright lure on bright sunny days, and a darker lure on dark days," Tower said.

Each student received a booklet that included descriptions of the 20 stations, and one or more words to

increase their vocabulary skills. For example, Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District representative Nichelle Billhardt talked about porosity and agronomy at station 16, Soil filtration.

Sarah Leach, a 4-H member and junior at Holley High School, was one of the 15 volunteer guides who helped shuttle the sixth-graders around the fairgrounds.

"You learn a lot here," Leach said. "It's a great day being outside."

Volunteer and 4-H member Mike Morris, a senior at Holley High School, said he first came to the event when he was in sixth grade.

"It's fun, you do learn things here ... I can still remember some of it."

LOCAL

4-H clothing revue features pajamas and evening gowns

By Joanne Beck

Daily News Staff Writer

MEDINA — It was Saturday night, so perhaps wearing pajamas or an evening gown shouldn't have seemed all that unique. But for the 30 participants in the annual 4-H Fashion Odyssey clothing revue, each finished product was unique indeed.

One by one, the clothing makers from one of eight 4-H groups modeled and strolled down the lit runway. Master of Ceremonies Barry Flansburg read detailed descriptions of each ensemble as the models turned and displayed special features of their outfits at the Trolley Building.

Pajamas, complete with teddy bear accessories and slippers, were a popular clothing choice, as were floor-length gowns for an upcoming prom.

"They really pushed the envelope this year," 4-H Program Associate Marlene Seielstad said after the show.

Seielstad said one example of "pushing" was to create improvements to the clothing patterns, such as adding a liner to dresses with uncomfortable material, or using extra material for a matching drawstring purse, hair bow and potholders.

After the 40-minute revue, County legislator Marcia Tuohey entertained the crowd with her hats — not all of her estimated 100 casual, dinner, party, and meeting hats, but some of her favorite selections.

"I get kidded about my hats all the



Joanne Beck/Daily News

AND THE WINNERS ARE... From left, Jamie Kurtz, who won Western District and State Clothing Revue; Michelle Sands, who won district and state; Kasandra Cliff, district and state; Amanda Vreeland, district and state; Chelsie Cliff, state; Toya Torrance, state; Scott Marciszewski, state and district alternate; Kerrie Walker, state and district alternate.

time," Tuohey said.

She raised a large brimmed black hat and said "This is my election hat," adding that she's worn it since first elected to the county legislature in 1979.

"People ask me when I'll stop running for legislator, and I tell them, 'I'll stop running when the hat wears out,'" she said.

Tuohey ended by showing her most important hat, a red and white baseball cap displaying her legislator status.

"The county legislature is the most important hat I wear now ... it's fun and I enjoy doing it," she said.

The program ended with the judges' selections for Western District Clothing Revue and State Clothing Revue.

The district winners will participate

in a larger event in Cuba, N.Y., and the state winners will compete at this year's New York State Fair in Syracuse.

Western District winners from Almost Anything Goes were:

■ Kasandra Cliff, wearing a black bustier and patterned long skirt and jacket

■ Chelsie Cliff, wearing flared jeans and a jacket top

From Hindsburg Hilltop & Towpath:

■ Toya Torrance, wearing a capped sleeve top with dual-patterned flared pants

From Moonlight Dreamers:

■ Amanda Vreeland, wearing a long old-time gown that she is donating to the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford.

■ Michelle Sands, wearing a floor-length sparkled pink gown with shoulder wrap.

From Senior Council:

■ Jaime Kurtz, wearing a long blue patterned gown with a blue wrap, and long white gloves.

State winners were:

■ Kasandra Cliff

■ Amanda Vreeland

■ Michelle Sands

■ Jaime Kurtz

■ Alternates Kerrie Walker, wearing a two-piece floor-length navy blue gown, and Scott Marciszewski, wearing khaki pocketed shorts and coordinating short-sleeve buttoned shirt.

NEWS BRIEFS

Field Days get under way today

KNOWLESVILLE — The 33rd annual Conservation Field Days are today and Wednesday at the Orleans County Fairgrounds on Route 31.

The Field Days, coordinated by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, provides sixth-grade students of Orleans County the opportunity to learn about environmental conservation outside the classroom.

Every year, Orleans County's five school districts bring their sixth-grade classes to participate in this program. A total of 20 different "stations" will be showcased by local professionals and volunteers involved in environmental/conservation science.

Each of the classes will attend nine "stations," participating in hands-on activities designed to teach students about an aspect of local environmental/conservation issues.

This year's stations include Wildlife Rehabilitation, Rabies Alert, The Otter Project, Wetland Wildlife, Nuisance Aquatic Species of the Great Lakes, Trumpeter Swan Project, Conserving Energy at Home and many more.

Boxelder Bugs Bugging You?

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



What is black and red and a real nuisance in any numbers in the house? Boxelder bugs!

When they invade homes this half-inch black with red stripes pest will congregate on floors, walls, in doorways and on windowsills in astounding quantities. These large masses of bugs are unpleasant and unsightly, although the cause no harm to the house or household.

The boxelder bug spends the winter in larger groups as adults in dry sheltered places and often chooses buildings or houses to overwinter. In homes they are frequently found hibernating between the walls or in attics. As the weather warms up in the spring the bugs leave their hibernation places to fly to boxelder trees where they deposit their eggs. The eggs are laid in bark crevices and hatch in 11 to 14 days. The nymphs feed by inserting their beaks into the leaves and soft seeds and sucking the plant juices. This feeding continues throughout the summer and the nymphs gradually mature becoming adults as cold weather approaches in fall. In some areas there may be two broods of this insect, one reaching maturity in mid-summer and the second one in early fall. As the days get shorter and the nights get colder the adults again seek out dry, sheltered places to hibernate and the circle continues.

If your home is invaded by boxelder bugs there are several things you can do. First, close the entry routes into your home and eliminate the hibernation sites inside. Caulking, screening, and closing the entries at door, windows, roof soffits, and vent or pipe cuts through the walls can accomplish this. In addition, adding insulation to walls and attics will reduce available hibernation spaces making your home unwelcome for the bugs.

When you are experiencing spring or fall invasions of boxelder bug inside your living space your best control is vacuuming up the bugs and discarding the contents of the vacuum bag when you're finished. If the bugs are left inside the vacuum they may crawl out into the storage space. There is no spray labeled for use in homes against boxelder bug.

Outside you can take away the boxelder bug's preferred food and habitat by removing boxelder trees. Although it is a member of the maple family the leaves look quite different. The boxelder trees are invasive, weak wooded, messy trees that are prone to several damaging insects and diseases. They are not recommended for planting as ornamentals or screening trees. Outdoor insecticides have been used effectively on the trees to control the nymphs while they are actively feeding. The insecticide carbaryl (sevin) is currently labeled in New York State for homeowner use on boxelder bug nymphs on boxelder trees. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS LABEL DIRECTIONS ACCURATELY WHEN USING ANY PESTICIDE.** Large trees and large groups of trees are difficult for the homeowner to spray safely. It is recommended that a certified pesticide applicator be hired in this situation.

Quite often the bugs will cling to the outside of homes. This is most likely in light or bright colored homes. In early spring they are just emerging and warming up for flight to the boxelder trees to lay eggs. In late fall they are looking for entrance for a dry, sheltered place to hibernate. In either case this is a good time to wash them off with a hose and crush or shovel them up and discard them. Do not spray the outside of your home with pesticides.

So, if you are invaded by boxelder bugs, don't let it get you down! Remember that they are there because you have a warm, dry house that they can get into, then get your vacuum out!

The Gardener's Column

Getting to know Clematis

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

I am always amazed at the size of certain plant families and the genus "clematis" is no exception. This is a huge group of plants. What makes them most interesting is that they are not all the same, they differ in many of their physical attributes like flower color and size, bloom time and leaf type. They also differ greatly in the soil conditions they like and the care they need.

Clematis are climbing vines that use their stem and the "petiole" (pronounced pet-ee-ol) - the thin part of the leaf that connects to the stem - to cling to trellises, fences, rock walls or any other structure. They grow in a wide variety of flower color and sizes so you can pretty much choose the plant you want by the color and size of the flowers. In general, most clematis follow the warm top - cool bottom rule. That is, they do best with their leaves in 4-6 hours of direct sun while their roots are shaded by something like another plant. Also, in general, it is best to avoid direct sun during the hottest part of the day 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. *Clematis paniculata*, the Sweetautumn Clematis can take quite a bit of shade, I'll cover that later in this article.

Choosing between the different clematis is a matter of personal choice. Look for the flower color, shape and timing that fits the needs of the garden you are planning. For a larger, bold flowering effect

look toward *Clematis x jackmanii* and its hybrids. Jackmanii 'Alba' is a large 4-5 inch diameter single white flower with a bluish tinge. Jackmanii 'Rubra' is deep red and is sometimes a double flower on old wood. 'Nelly Moser' will flower on new or old growth so a selective pruning in the early spring to remove some of the oldest wood to the ground but still leave a percentage of the younger stems 2-4' tall will significantly extend the flowering season. In some cases you will receive the added bonus of doubles from some of the older stems.

The *Clematis viticella* group is a summer flowering group that can be pruned back hard in the spring for the best bloom. Their flowers differ from plant to plant, some larger, some smaller and in a wide variety of colors. 'Ascotiensis' is a heavy bloomer with bright blue pointed petals. 'Margot Koster' has abundant small, rosy pink flowers.

For ground covers the *Clematis integrifolia* group is excellent. These non-climbing, herbaceous plants will die to the ground and should be pruned hard in early spring. The group generally has one inch, solitary bell-shaped flowers from mid June to August and will grow easily on any moist, average fertility soil. The cultivar 'Hendersonii' is lavender blue with a somewhat longer flowering period. For best flower viewing some staking or training the plant to climb over another plant will lift it from ground level.

Clematis recta is another

ground clematis that forms sprays of starry, one inch fragrant florets on the tips of branches. Like *Clematis integrifolia* it will ramble on the ground and will show its flowers best if lifted a bit. For care and placement it is again very similar to *Clematis integrifolia*.

And for that somewhat shady spot that only gets one to three hours of direct sun or lots and lots of dappled sun/shade there is *Clematis paniculata* the Sweetautumn Clematis. This is named appropriately in that it flowers quite heavily late in the year - August through September or October - and has a light, sweet scent. This is an aggressive growth plant so give it its own trellis or fence to climb. Since it flowers on new growth only you don't have to look at those dead branches, they can be pruned off hard in early spring. This is probably the easiest clematis to grow and an excellent screening plant to hide a fence or create a privacy screen because it grows so quickly. This is not an invasive or destructive plant like wisteria.

Remember that any plant you choose for your garden needs to like your soil and environmental conditions and has to be tolerant of zone 5 or colder. All of the rest is up to you. Landscape design can be a lot of fun.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2001

KNOWLESVILLE

**x 4-H to have
clothing revue**

Orleans County 4-h'ers have been busy constructing garments to be judged in the annual 4-H clothing revue.

The event is sponsored by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The annual 4-H clothing revue will be conducted Saturday.

This year, the theme is "2001: Fashion Odyssey."

Participants will be judged earlier in the day on the construction of the garment. The evening portion will consist of a fashion show of the garments made and final selection of those who will represent Orleans County in the district and state 4-H clothing revues.

Chairperson of the Orleans County Legislature, Marcia Tuohey, will present briefly on the history and fashion of the hat.

The public is welcome to attend. Door prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact Marlene Seielstad at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Ext., at 589-5561 or email at mjs226@cornell.edu.

Fair is the showcase for Orleans County

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

With spring finally sprung, the center-piece activity for the 4-H club is on its way to Orleans County.

"The county fair is our chance to show off what we do," said Marlene Seielstad, 4-H Family and Consumer Science director.

The FCS is one of two departments within the 4-H, an organization which allows children from 8- to 19-years-old to learn rural life skills.

"We teach them how to sew, cook, show livestock and rocketry," she said of FCS.

Seielstad — who said she was a previous 4-H member

Part 2 of a 5-part series

and now a 4-H mom — said there have been a number of changes over the years, with the most noticeable, technology.

"When I was in 4-H we didn't have microwave ovens and the sewing machines, for example, didn't have all of the options of today's models," Seielstad said.

Because of technological advances, students learn more and they learn more quickly, she said.

Please see 4-H FAIR page 3A



James Neiss/The Journal-Register

4-H staff members explain the significance of the symbol.

Another difference is the hazing of gender lines when taking part in activities.

"It use to be that only girls would be in the FCS classes," she said. "Now we have boys in our programs and girls in the agricultural section."

According to Agriculture and Natural Resources Director Margo Bowerman, she has noticed the same trend and the ANR program offers activities for all skill levels as well.

"We have a back to basics club that deals with a wide range of animals and then we have some very strong animal clubs," she said. "We have both boy's and girls participating."

According to both Seielstad and Bowerman, a by-product of teaching children of various ages is the development of leadership skills as participants move through the program.

"All of the children interact

and some of the older kids take on junior-leadership roles," Seielstad said.

"Joining 4-H is an opportunity to interact with peers and kids of different ages," Bowerman said.

According to Seielstad, children can take part in 4-H style programs between 5- and 8-years-old as Clover Buds.

Part 3 will appear May 3 in The Journal-Register and will focus on multi-county teams.

Teams work to help agriculture in Orleans County

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

While Cornell Cooperative Extension programs such as 4-H and the agricultural team work to improve farm life and agricultural knowledge in Orleans County, the Area Extension Specialists assist people throughout six Western New York counties.

"We travel around the Western New York area and see what problems there are," said Fruit and Pest Management Specialist Deborah Breth from her Albion office.

Breth is a member of the WNY Fruit Industry Program Pest Management Team, one of three teams in the region. The other teams include the Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team based in Niagara County and the Lake Plains Vegetable Program Team based in Monroe County.

Breth said the division is both useful and necessary.

"Agriculture is becoming so technical and there is so much science involved with it today, that no one county agent can know enough to serve the entire agricultural

Part 3 of a 5-part series

community," she said. "But it's important to know that while my office is in Orleans County, I have the same responsibilities throughout the Western New York area."

The challenges faced by the three teams include inspections and getting information to farmers.

Because of their duties, team members are on the road regularly during peak agricultural seasons.

"I was on my way back in from setting some insect traps in Niagara County and stopped to check things here," she said, while stopping at Robert's Farm Market on Route 31 in Shelby.

Breth said she was prepared for the hours that her job would require, having studied as a pre-medical student.

"I absolutely enjoy it," she said of her work. "When you deal with bio systems you can't say you'll work 9 a.m. to 5 p.m."



Michael Zwelling/The Journal-Register

Debbie Breth, fruit and pest management specialist for Cornell Cooperative Extension, inspects a fruit tree at Robert's Farm Market, in the town of Shelby.

Orleans County 4-H Fair has new web address

KNOWLESVILLE

4-H Fair has new web address

The Orleans County 4-H Fair has a new web address.

Visitors to the site at www.orleans4-hfair.com will find judging and event schedules, fair history, volunteer opportunities and 4-H program related information such as finding a club, projects and community service.

The site is intended to showcase the variety of events that will take place during the week-long fair to

be conducted July 23-28.

The site also offers detailed information for businesses and individuals who may be interested in setting up a

commercial exhibit, donating to the fair auction, sponsorship or contacts.

The site includes photographs from past fairs, an

alumni registry and fair trivia.

Kids will find links where they can learn more about agriculture-related topics like composting.

The Results are In!

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



I'm happy to report that the people have selected the oak as their choice for

America's National Tree in the nationwide vote hosted by The National Arbor Day Foundation on its Web site, arborday.org. From the first day of voting, oak was the popular choice of the American people. Another magnificent American tree, the redwood, was the second place finisher.

Over 444,600 votes were placed. The oak received over 101,000 and the redwood over 80,800. The rest of the top five were dogwood, maple, and pine. You have a lot of choices if you would like to place an oak tree in your yard to commemorate this event. Because of the modifying weather we receive due to our closeness to Lake Ontario, nine oaks are native to the area and significantly more that will grow well here!

Quercus alba is the white oak. This tree's large (80-100ft.) form and wide, spreading branch structure makes it a majestic sight in all seasons. Its leaves have rounded tips and deep lobes or cuts and its acorns are 1/2 to 1 inch long with the top quarter in a little cup cap. This is a slow growing tree that is best planted when small (1-inch caliper or less) that tolerates a wide range of soil conditions but dislikes having its roots disturbed.

Quercus bicolor is the swamp white oak and, as its name implies, prefers a bottomland or wet site. Once established this can be a very drought resistant tree but does not do well in high pH soils (basic or alkaline soils.) As with all white oaks, the leaves have rounded tips but the swamp white's do not have the deep cuts and form 'teardrop' shaped leaves that are wider at the end than the stem. The acorns are a little larger - in the 1-inch range - and the cap covers almost 1/3 of the end. A good identifier is the long stalk left on the acorn cap.

Quercus macrocarpa is the bur or mossycup oak. Another large (70-80 ft.) tree, this forms a broadly round crown of stout branches. This tree's natural habitat is dry ridges to upland depressions. The leaves have the traditional oak shape with rounded tips, some cuts, and the teardrop shape, the end is wider than the stem and is mostly solid with shallow cuts. A distinctive part of this tree are the acorns. Rounded, and growing up to 2-inches in overall size the top 1/2 to 3/4 is enclosed in a deep, hairy, cup that looks like a tiny bird's nest!

Quercus muehlenbergii is the chinkapin or chestnut oak. This is another large (70-80 ft.) tree that prefers dry slopes. The leaves are somewhat different from the previous trees in that they are a shiny dark green with mostly rounded edges, they are wider in the middle than at the ends and at the end of each lobe is a tiny 'tooth'! The acorns are under 1-inch and oval with a cap that covers the top 1/3 of the fruit.

Quercus palustris is the pin or swamp oak. This is a medium (60-80 ft.) sized tree that is native to wet clay soils and does not like high pH (basic or alkaline) soils. The leaves are unusual in that they have very deep and wide cuts and the acorns are very small, less than 1/2 inch, with a saucer cap. This tree's most distinctive element is its overall branch structure. The branches 'fan' away from the trunk - the lower branches point down and out, the middle branches are almost horizontal, and the upper branches point up and out making it easy to identify from a distance!

Quercus prinus is the chestnut or rock oak. This is also a medium (50-70 ft.) size, rounded shaped tree that likes dry, rocky slopes. Its leaves are a shiny yellow-green wider in the middle than at the ends with wavy, rounded, sawtooth edges. The acorns are 1-1 1/2 inches and oval with almost 1/2 covered by a deep cap.

Quercus rubra is the northern red oak. This is a medium (60-70 ft.) sized, pointed leafed oak that forms a rounded, symmetrical crown. The leaves also have medium sized cuts that accent the points on the tips. The acorns are under 1 1/2 inches and are barrel shaped while the caps are saucers that easily pop from the top. This tree prefers moist, upland soils and makes an excellent shade tree on most average sites.

Quercus velutina is the black oak. Another medium (50-60 ft.) sized tree that forms a roughly oval crown. It gets its name from the bark that is black with deep furrows that forms blocky ridges. The leaves are again lobed and have bristle tips, but the center lobes are thicker and wider than the rest. The acorns are small - under 3/4 inch - with the top 1/3 capped. Although slow to establish this oak will tolerate the driest sites.

All oaks have high wildlife value due to the availability of acorns on fairly young trees. There are additional, ornamental trees that can also be planted in our area but these nine are the oaks that are native to our area and are worth maintaining where they naturally occur! For more information on these and other oaks contact the cooperative extension and see the June New Orleans Gardener newsletter.

John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation issued an e-mail note to thank everyone that voted or encouraged others to take part in this historic process. This project marked the first time that the entire American public had been able to state their pick for a national emblem.

The Gardener's Column

Are boxelder bugs bugging you?

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

What is black and red and a real nuisance in any numbers in the house? Boxelder bugs!

When they invade homes this half-inch black with red stripes pest will congregate on floors, walls, in doorways and on windowsills in astounding quantities. These large masses of bugs are unpleasant and unsightly, although they cause no harm to the house or household.

The boxelder bug spends the winter in larger groups as adults in dry sheltered places and often chooses buildings or houses to overwinter. In homes they are frequently found hibernating between the walls or in attics. As the weather warms up in the spring the bugs leave their hibernation places to fly to boxelder trees where they deposit their eggs. The eggs are laid in bark crevices and hatch in 11 to 14 days. The nymphs feed by inserting their beaks into the leaves and soft seeds and sucking the plant juices. The feeding continues throughout the summer and the nymphs gradually mature becoming adults as cold weather approaches in fall. In some areas there may be two broods of this insect, one reaching maturity in mid-summer and the second one in early fall. As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, the adults again seek our dry, sheltered places to hibernate and the cycle continues.

If your home is invaded by boxelder bugs there are several things you can do. First, close the entry routes into your home and eliminate the

carding the contents of the vacuum bag when you're finished. If the bugs are left inside the vacuum they may crawl out into the storage space. There is no spray labeled for use in homes against boxelder bugs.

Outside you can take away the boxelder bug's preferred food and habitat by removing boxelder trees. Although it is a member of the maple family the leaves look quite different. The boxelder trees are invasive, weak wooded, messy trees that are prone to several damaging insects and diseases. They are not recommended for planting as ornamentals or screening trees. Outdoor insecticides have been used effectively on the trees to control the nymphs while they are actively feeding. The insecticide carbaryl (sevin) is currently labeled in New York State for homeowner use on boxelder bug nymphs on boxelder trees. Be sure to follow the manufacturers label directions accurately when using any pesticide.

Large trees and large groups of trees are difficult for the homeowner to spray safely. It is recommended that a certified pesticide applicator be hired in this situation.

Quite often the bugs will cling to the outside of homes. This is most likely in light or bright colored homes. In early spring they are just emerging and warming up for flight to the boxelder trees to lay eggs. In late fall they are looking for entrance for a dry, sheltered place to hibernate. In either case this is a good time to wash them off with a hose and crush or shovel them up and discard them. Do not spray the outside of your home with pesticides.

So, if you are invaded by boxelder bugs, don't let them get you down. Remember that they are there because you have a warm, dry house that they can get into, then get your vacuum out.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Managing the Purple Pest

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



There is a super villain among us. This terror is aggressive and pushes out desirable visitors to our yards and gardens; it can convert our chosen participants to its evil ways; and, it hides itself in beauty. Purple Loosestrife is this menace and we all need to work together to rid this pest from our midst.

Lythrum salicaria, purple loosestrife, looks innocent enough. It produces pretty purple flowers in the summer and early fall on upright stems that look a lot like purple candles. It grows in ditches, pond edges, damp meadows, and wetland margins where we find it hard to mow or plant other things. But, don't let those pretty purple flowers fool you, they are purple loosestrife's only redeeming element.

This is an aggressive perennial, it will grow again from the same root mass season after season. In addition it is a heavy self-seeder, each mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds every year! These seeds are easily spread by water, wind, wildlife, and humans and although they may germinate the following growing season, they can also lay dormant for several years before sprouting. Which means that if you have had purple loosestrife before, you will have it again. It won't just go away, it will have to be removed!

This plant is so aggressive that it truly will push out the desirable plants in our yards, gardens, fields, ponds, meadows, and wetlands. The way it can do this is two-fold. First, purple loosestrife will out compete many more desirable plants due to its perennial and prolific self seeding features. And second, it has no predators; no wildlife eats any part. So where some form of wildlife uses every part of the cattails, the purple loosestrife doesn't have to worry. Even to the extent of forming habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young, the purple loosestrife can quickly choke out most, if not all, beneficial plants. An estimated 190,000 hectares of wetlands, marshes, pastures and riparian meadows are affected in North America each year, with an economic impact of millions of dollars.

If you have had purple loosestrife before the best way to get rid of it depends on the number of plants you have to deal with. For a relatively low density of plants, less than 25% coverage, digging them out or cutting them down (especially the flower stalks to avoid new seed sources!) are your best options. As the density increases up to 75% coverage, digging is really only an option for smaller spaces and cutting is your next best option even for up to 4 acres. Chemical controls are available but are limited to dry upland areas that are on your own property only. Selective hand spraying of an approved herbicide to individual plants can significantly reduce the plant population. Broadcast spraying will kill all broad-leaved plants and leave the area open to further invasion from nearby sources of purple loosestrife. You can not spray purple loosestrife near to or in the water without a pesticide applicator's license for ponds and waterways, even on your own property!

A biological control has been developed and is being used in areas of severe purple loosestrife infestation where manual and chemical control efforts are ineffective. This biological control is a beetle from Europe that eats purple loosestrife and has no negative impacts on native North American plants. The beetle has been studied since the mid 1908's and used in wildlife refuges in NYS where the purple loosestrife infestations is high over a large area and imposes a severe threat to desired wildlife habitat.

There are several garden varieties of loosestrife which were once thought to be sterile and have been proven to cross pollinate with wild purple loosestrife and produce viable seed. Gardeners can help to control the spread of this plant and protect our environment by not planting purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, or any of its cultivars.

To achieve a similar look there are several other options to choose for your garden. Look for the following plants. 'Gay feather' in the *Liatris* family for several species of flowers with spikes, several are native to North America. *Delpinium* will give you that upright spike (up to 6') in full sun and grows in a variety of colors including nearly true blue, be cautious in windy areas as the stems can break! *Astilbe* are shade lovers and range in color and flower form, the late summer blooming *Astilbe chinensis* will produce a purple upright candle of blooms over a groundcover of foliage. Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is a 3'-4' tall group of perennials that grow in a variety of colors. Lupine also has a large color range of flowers that grow on 2' spikes and prefer full sun. *Lobelia cardinalis* is a wildflower of wetlands and has scarlet-red flower spikes in summer. *Salvia* is a hardy, drought resistant perennial that is some-

735-9172

735-3022

The Gardener's Column

The results are in!

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

I'm happy to report that the people have selected the oak as their choice for America's National Tree in the nationwide vote hosted by The National Arbor Day Foundation on its website, arbor day.org. For the first day of voting, oak was the popular choice of the American people. Another magnificent American tree, the redwood, was the second place finisher.

Over 444,600 votes were placed. The oak received over 101,000 and the redwood over 80,800. The rest of the top five were dogwood, maple and pine. You have a lot of choices if you would like to place an oak tree in your yard to commemorate this event. Because of the modifying weather we receive due to our closeness to Lake Ontario, nine oaks are native to the area and significantly more that will grow well here.

Quercus alba is the white oak. This tree's large (80-100 foot) forma a wide, spreading branch structure makes it a majestic sight in all seasons. Its leaves have rounded tips and deep lobes or cuts and its acorns are 1/2-1 inch long with the top quarter in a little cup cap. This is a slow growing tree that is best planted when small (1-inch caliper or less) that tolerates a wide range of soil conditions but dislikes having its roots disturbed.

Quercus bicolor is the swamp white oak and, as its name implies, prefers a bottomland or wet site. Once established this can be a very drought resistant tree but does not do well in high pH soils (basic or alkaline soils.) As with all white oaks, the leaves have rounded tips but

on the acorn cap.

Quercus macrocarpa is the bur or mossycup oak. Another large (70-80 foot) tree, this forms a broadly round crown of stout branches. This trees natural habitat is dry ridges to upland depressions. The leaves have the traditional oak shape with rounded tips, some cuts and the teardrop shape, the end is wider than the stem and is mostly solid with shallow cuts. A distinctive part of this tree are the acorns.

Rounded, and growing up to two inches in overall size the top one-half to three-quarter is enclosed in a deep, hairy cup that looks like a tiny bird's nest.

Quercus muehlenbergii is the chinkapin or chestnut oak. This is another large (70-80 foot) tree that prefers dry slopes. The leaves are somewhat different from the previous trees in that they are a shiny dark green with mostly rounded edges. They are wider in the middle than at the ends and at the end of each lobe is a tiny 'tooth'. The acorns are under one inch and oval with a cap that covers the top one-third of the fruit.

Quercus palustris is the pin or swamp oak. This is a medium (60-80 foot) sized tree that is native to wet clay soils and does not like high pH (basic or alkaline) soils. The leaves are unusual in that they have very deep and wide cuts and the acorns are very small, less than one-half inch, with a saucer cap. This tree's most distinctive element is its overall branch structure. The branches 'fan' away from the trunk - the lower branches point down and out, the middle branches are almost horizontal, and the upper branches point up and out making it easy to identify from a distance.

are 1-1/2 inches and oval with almost one-half covered by a deep cap.

Quercus rubra is the northern red oak. This is a medium (60-70 foot) sized pointed leafed oak that forms a rounded symmetrical crown. The leaves also have medium sized cuts that accent the points on the tips. The acorns are under 1/2 inches and are barrel shaped while the caps are saucers that easily pop from the top. This tree prefers moist, upland soils and makes and excellent shade tree on most average sites.

Quercus velutina is the black oak. Another medium (50-60 foot) sized tree that forms a roughly oval crown. It gets its name from the bark that is black with deep furrows that forms blocky ridges. The leaves are again lobed and have bristle tips, but the center lobes are thicker and wider than the rest. The acorns are small - under three-quarter inch - with the top one-third capped. Although slow to establish this oak will tolerate the driest sites.

All oaks have high wildlife value due to the availability of acorns on fairly young trees. There are additional ornamental trees that can also be planted in our area but these nine are the oaks that are native to our area and are worth maintaining where they naturally occur. For more information on these and other oaks contact the Cooperative Extension and see the June New Orleans Gardener newsletter.

John Rosenow, president of the National Arbor Day Foundation issued an e-mail note to than everyone that voted or encouraged others to take part in this historic process. This project marked the first



Dennis Stierer/The Journal-Register

David Lonnen, an Albion Middle School sixth-grader, watches a demonstration of groundwater flow.

Students learn about nature

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

Approximately 600 sixth-grade students from Orleans County schools spent a day outside in the spring time sun to take part in the 2001 Conservation Field Days recently at the 4-H County Fairgrounds in Knowlesville.

"It gives kids a chance to get out and exposes them to different careers and shows them how they are performed at a local level," said Margo Bowerman of the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Among the areas covered are diagnosing tree and shrub problems, conserving energy at home, beekeeping and aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes.

"We give them an introduction to nuisance species in and around the Great Lakes and explain what kind of damage they can do," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fishery Biologist Michael Weimer.

A display gave the school kids a chance to see the creatures being



Michael Zwelling/The Journal-Register

Charles A. Augrom, of Batavia, shows students honey bees.

presented.

Students also had a chance to have a taste of honey while sitting through a lesson on beekeeping.

"Everybody has something they advocate," said Charles Augrom, of Batavia. "Mine is bees."

Augrom said beekeeping is a hobby he began about 27 years ago, and that it's not as dangerous as some may believe.

"Bees only sting when they feel

threatened," he said. "I move slowly and don't threaten them."

He also said the pain from a bee sting is mostly mental.

"It only hurts for a couple of minutes, then it goes away," he said.

The 33rd Annual Conservation Field Days were conducted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension with donations and assistance from various local companies and organizations.

Cooperative Extension support team back county efforts

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

With different departments within the Cornell Cooperative Extension working throughout the county, a support team is behind the scenes helping to keep everything running.

"We take care of the basic needs of the organization," said Finance Administrator Nancy Thering.

Included among the duties of the support team are directing clients of the extension to the right departments, managing the finances and maintenance and improvements of extension properties, including the 4-H Fairgrounds.

"We set up the fairgrounds for the fair, weddings, graduations and different shows throughout the year," said Facilities Manager Bill Logan.

While the three-member support team — which includes Logan, Thering and a receptionist, Tammy Chilcote — work in different fields, cooperation is necessary, Logan said.

"Although our jobs are very different within the

Part 4 of a 5-part series

framework of the support staff, there are times when all of us work together on one project," Logan said.

One type of project the three must work together on is renting the fairgrounds to users, Thering said.

While Chilcote's title is receptionist, she does more than answer phones and direct extension users, said Director Roger Harrison.

"She really helps us support the educators and other teams by doing whatever is necessary to help them out," Harrison said. "Since we are a small extension compared to the size of our county, it's necessary she cross-trains to be able to do other jobs, and she's really been positive about it."

According to Harrison, the support team may not be visible, but the results of their labor is.

The conclusion of the series will run May 17 and will focus on an overview of Cornell Cooperative Extension



James Neiss/The Journal-Register

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension support staff includes, from left, Receptionist Tammy Chilcote, Facilities Manager Bill Logan and Finance Administrator Nancy Thering.

Hey, Kids! Do You Know What Time it Is?

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



For some of you the answer may be "It's Howdy Doody Time!" Others may respond "Does anyone really know what time it is, does anyone really care?" Some others may still wonder "Standard or Daylight Savings Time?" Although all of those answers are correct in certain circumstances, my thought is "It's time to start GARDENING!" Here is a list of outside and inside gardening projects for April!

Clean up - Yard and garden clean up starts with raking to remove old plant material, leaves, and broken branches. If left in the garden they can be a source for diseases to develop or, in the case of apple scab on fruit or ornamental trees, can hold the spores of the disease in the area of its preferred tree. Use caution around bulbs that are starting to come up and watch for snowdrops and helebore that will already be in bloom if you planted them last year! Don't rake out the old organic mulch, it's OK to leave that in the garden and just add a new layer later this year. Raking out the lawn will remove old grass blades from last season - this is not thatch at this point but can become thatch if left on the lawn. Use a widely spaced leaf rake for both lawn and garden.

Repairs - Check both the garden and woody plants like trees and shrubs for damage. Watch for plants that may have heaved out of the ground over the winter in the garden. They will need gentle replanting and light mulching. Woody plants will need light pruning to remove torn branches from winter damage. Cut them cleanly at a branch node - where another branch attaches. There are many plants that can be pruned at this time for shaping and health. Check with your texts or come in and check with the Master Gardeners for confirmation if your plants can be pruned at this time.

Planting - There are things you can plant! Peas are traditionally planted in early April and can be poked one inch into the soil as soon as the ground is unfrozen. Raised beds will provide the best drainage. Place a trellis over the seeds for climbing peas. Lettuce and spinach, in fact, most leafy salad greens like cool weather. They can be seeded outside later this month or in early May. You can try sowing them thickly for a "cut-and-come-again" style harvest. Onions "sets" can be plant outside a month before last frost (usually the end of May.) Plant onion sets about one inch deep, 3-4 inches apart!

Start measuring GDD - Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to know when insect pests are emerging and the best time to control. They are measured by checking the average temperature for the day. If the average is over 50° F, add the amount over 50° to the tally. For instance, if our low is 40° and our high is 64° (don't you just wish?) the average would be 52, that is 2° over 50 so add two to the tally. There are several references that tie GDD to insect control. This is so you can use cultural, mechanical, biological, or chemical controls with the best control for the least cost in time or money! Call into the Master Gardeners for help with your plants and GDD!

Don't's - Don't till the soil yet - it is too cold and too wet, you'll probably just make bricks. Don't put tender plants out yet, it is too cold at night. (Unless you use a cold frame - that is another whole article!) Don't fertilize your lawn with nitrogen (the first number of the 3 on the bag.) It is OK to put down crabgrass control but avoid nitrogen fertilizers. The nitrogen will cause the grass to put up lots of new blades but this will be at the expense of root development which is what grass naturally does at this time of the year! You'll end up with a green but weak lawn.

Inside - Start flower and vegetable seeds! We are less than eight weeks away from Memorial Day planting! If you like to do a few plants on a window sill or have a light system in the basement growing from seed is a fun project. If starting doesn't interest you, make your lists and place your orders with growers here in the county or the 4-H'ers.

Easter & Christmas Plants - keep those Easter potted plants watered and in the bright light until Memorial Day when they can be planted outside. For amaryllis and poinsettia, don't stop watering! Keep both evenly moist and well lit. The amaryllis will grow leaves to put life and vitality back into the bulb for next winter. When the leaves start to brown (August or so), cut them off, let the bulb go dormant. You can restart in October. Poinsettia makes a great leafy plant in the summer garden. They can be forced indoors again in the fall but it will take effort. Check with the Master Gardeners for the information sheet on poinsettia.

Ask the Master Gardeners - The Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension has established a special office for the Master Gardeners. Although it is not yet staffed every day, the Master Gardener Volunteers will be in on a regular basis. This is an opportunity for you to call in with questions or leave samples for analysis. Your answer will be mailed out! (To get fully staffed we will need more Master Gardener Volunteers, but that is also another article!)

So, it doesn't matter whether your clock is a dial or digits, either way April is the time to garden!

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001

4-H Club News

The H.O.R.S.E. had their monthly meeting on March 18. It started promptly at 3 p.m. as we had a busy meeting planned.

First we worked with craft clay making Easter pins. After finishing our craft we discussed the results of the 5 Star test that the 4-H members had taken early this month.

We also had some exciting news to share about the mailagram. Two of our members received a response from a gentleman stationed by the Army in Bosnia.

Next we shared information about upcoming events, for example in April the 4-H members will start taking orders for the fruit, vegetable and flower plants sale. On May 12 is the 4-H Prom.

We concluded our meeting with a homemade snack and juice.

Submitted by
Kelliann and Sue Grolling

Lake Country Pennysaver April 8, 2001

GARDEN TALKS WITH ROCHELLE

at **SWAN LIBRARY**
4 North Main Street, Albion
Call 589-4246 to register

APRIL 11th - Seasonal Balance
Perennials, Trees & Shrubs

APRIL 18th - Organic Gardening

APRIL 25TH - Mostly Flowers -
Gardening with Annuals, Biennials
& Perennials



6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*** FREE PROGRAM**

The Gardener's Column

Minimizing a risk

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

Everything in our lives involves some amount of risk. Some are easy to see and plan for like the risks you can encounter when crossing the street or planning an outdoor activity. With obvious risks like these we can make our decisions about traffic or weather with a little observation and common sense.

Then there are those risks we know about but they tend to be far away, not here near us, and they tend to happen to other people, not our friends, neighbors and relatives. So, why worry? Why make changes that may not really be necessary after all? West Nile Virus is a risk like that. But, just because we don't have large numbers of cases or birds falling from the sky doesn't mean we as individuals should skip some simple opportunities to minimize our risk.

West Nile is a virus that causes encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. It has been found in various places around the world and in the counties in and around New York City. The virus is transmitted by mosquitos that acquire it from infected birds. The virus may infect both humans and horses, but there is no documentation that infected horses can spread the virus to uninfected horses or other animals. Migrating birds may play a role in spreading the disease.

According to the USDA Veterinary Services, because mosquitos transmit this virus, it has the potential to affect livestock and poultry. As of April 2000, 25 New York State

encephalitis caused by West Nile Virus, all were in the New York City area. Clinical signs of West Nile virus infection in the New York horses included listlessness, stumbling and lack of coordination, weakness of limbs, ataxia and partial paralysis. Fever was not generally observed.

The role of commercial poultry in maintaining or transmitting the virus is not thoroughly understood. According to scientific literature, chickens can develop a short-lived infection, but clinical signs are not seen.

Since we cannot stop bird migrations, the best way we can protect against a spread into our area is to reduce local sources of mosquito breeding. Of the 65 different species of mosquito found in New York State the common house mosquito, *Culex pipiens*, is the one most commonly associated with West Nile Virus. There are persistent biters. They feed at dusk, night and dawn. They prefer birds as hosts, but because they are frequently found in homes, they bite humans and can transmit the virus. These mosquitos breed in small pools of stagnant water that contains organic debris and they don't move far from breeding sites. This distance from home flight range usually does not extend more than 300 feet.

In general, if you can reduce or eliminate breeding sites for about 300 feet from around your home you can significantly reduce the risk of West Nile Virus in your area. Dump out standing water. A bottle cap is enough water for eggs to be laid. All those mosquitos need is seven days to reach maturity. Bird baths and pet water dishes are prime locations for breeding as are pūd-

dles and ponds. If the slope into your pond is very gradual, the fish cannot get into the shallows to eat the larva so changing the initial edge to have a 6-8 inch depth that then gradually slope off will help. Clean, filter and treat swimming pools. Empty children's pools and turn them over when they are not in use. Remember to keep your pool cover clean by propping it up to drain rainwater.

Old tires are used for a variety of reasons on the farm but these are prime sources of mosquito breeding since you can't really get out to dump every one following each rain. Rubberworks, Inc. of Quarry Road in Niagara Falls has offered to supply farmers with sliced tires free of charge. Sliced tires will not hold water but will still hold down a tarp or cover. If you are using tires to cover your silo bunks or for any other reason, this is a great opportunity for reducing the work involved in controlling mosquitos. There is a delivery fee or the farmer can pick them up at their yard at no charge. For more information about Rubberworks, Inc. please call the Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Minimizing a risk like West Nile Virus has additional benefits, less mosquitos means less mosquito bites. Look at the area around your home and workplace. Were there places where the water stood for several days after the recent rains. Remember flowing and running water is not a problem, just those stagnant puddles. By working together we can all make a difference.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Deadline approaches for 4-H Fair horse registration

As May is drawing to a close, so too is the opportunity for youth to participate in the Horse Show of the Orleans County 4-H Fair. All pre-registration papers, including the 4-H Horse Certificate and Horse Entry Form are due by the close of business June 1.

Copies of a current (2000-2001) Coggins test (Equine Infectious anemia test) must

also be submitted with the registration papers. Proof of a rabies vaccination being administered no later than June 30 must also be provided before the horse will be allowed on the fairgrounds.

According to Extension Educator Margo Bowerman, there is a misconception among some residents that to participate in the 4-H Fair youth must be in 4-H.

However, the 4-H Fair is open to all youth, as long as they are not participating in as youth fair in another county. In some cases, the age of the youth affects what they can and cannot participate in.

There are, however, advantages to being officially enrolled as a 4-H member. For example, youth who are enrolled in 4-H receive a monthly Orleans County 4-H

News which provides information regarding workshops, projects and other educational opportunities, as well as information relevant to the fair.

Families enrolled in 4-H receive one Fairbook free of charge. Non-enrolled families, or families that would like more than one Fairbook must pay \$2 to help defray the costs of the Fairbook.

Youth who are enrolled in a

4-H club also have opportunities to develop assets, character-building traits and life skills that are not readily available in other venues.

For more information regarding Orleans County 4-H or the Orleans County 4-H Fair contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main St., Albion at 589-5561.

The Gardener's Column

Sunflowers are happy plants

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

Picture yourself driving over a hill and seeing before you a field of nodding, sunny, bright yellow sunflower heads. They all point in the same direction and look like a pleasant, cager crowd of faces that stretch back to the ends of the field. I saw just that in Europe several years ago and have planted a few sunflowers every year since. They just seem like such a happy plant.

Sunflower plants make a great plant whether you farm or garden. For farmers their oil has become the world's second most important vegetable oil and a mainstay of the birdseed industry. They tolerate conditions similar to that of corn but don't have the same high fertility requirements. They have only one real disease to be concerned about (sclerotinia head blight - the same fungus as white mold in beans), can be harvested with existing equipment that only needs to be somewhat modified from corn harvesting and the stems can be chopped for a reasonable silage. Although there are no oil processors for sunflower in New York, the seed is shippable to other locations, Bird seed production is primarily for local use.

For gardeners there are the seed varieties that the farmer will grow and a multitude of ornamental options for cutting and arrangements or resale. If you are growing a small crop (less than an acre or two) for seed remember that they need a fairly long growing season. A few varieties for seed are Mammoth,

Mennonite, Advance and Commander.

Seeds can be planted now with our dry spring this year and should all be in the ground by or before June 15 as they will take 80-90 days to mature. Keep the squirrels and birds away as you reach harvest time and check the sunflower florets to determine when they are ready. If the center of the head is shriveled, the back of the head is turning yellow and the entire head has developed it is time to cut the head from the stalk. Hang the heads in a warm, dry, well-ventilated place where the seeds will ripen fully and dry. A paper bag with ventilation holes in it, cheese cloth or nylon net can be used over the drying heads to catch the seeds as they fall. Heads can be left on the stalk to dry but the squirrels and the birds will race you to them.

The seeds make a good, nutritious snack when roasted and contain vitamin B, calcium and protein. To dry roast spread the seeds in a single layer on a cookie sheet or other shallow tray and place in a preheated 350 degree oven for 10-15 minutes. When the seeds begin to swell and the seedcoats crack, they are ready to eat.

To do salted roasted seeds immerse four cups of sunflower seeds in one gallon of warm water that has had one-quarter cup of salt stirred in. Soak overnight, drain and spread to dry. For each two cups of seed, coat a baking sheet with two tablespoons of salad oil, add the seeds and sprinkle with two teaspoons of salt. Bake in a preheated oven at 400 degrees for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove from the oven and spread on paper towels to drain the excess oil. Dry overnight and store in airtight containers.

Your options for ornamental sunflowers are huge. One catalog lists 26 different varieties. They range from a traditional yellow, six footer, with a broad head ('Full Sun') to a dainty, branching variety that grows to two and a half feet and puts out multiple bouquet sized heads in a variety of colors ranging from dark bronzed to clear golden yellow ('Music Box Mixed').

As you are planning ornamental sunflower harvests remember that not all develop at the same rate so your harvest will be staggered over the season. 'Sunrays' is among the earliest and will bloom in full sun in about 42 days with a good cut flower length stem. Many of the branching types will continue to bloom on upper branches after you have started cutting the lower branches which can also extend your harvest.

As an annual plant in the garden the branching types of sunflowers make excellent additions. They have a fairly long bloom period (late July through September) and come in a variety of heights and colors. Place the taller plants toward the back of the bed. Take into consideration that they will turn towards the sun so plan accordingly if you view them from the North, you don't really want to see the backs of their heads.

Happy planting with some happy plants.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Medina 4-H'er is top finisher in state communications contest

Carly Wells, a member of the H.O.R.S.E. Club, an Orleans County 4-H Club, was among the top junior finishers in the New York State 4-H Horse Communications contest held at Cornell University on May 12.

Her placement qualifies her to participate in the New York State Fair 4-H Horse Communications Invitational on August 27.

The Horse Communications contest is a special division of the 4-H Public Presentations program. This program provides youth with an opportunity to learn and improve public speaking skills in a friendly environment.

Participants in the Horse Communications division present topics related to horses and are judged on much stricter criteria than Public Presentations.

Wells' presentation, entitled "Umm Good," discussed horse "treats." A seventh grader in Medina, she is already a seasoned public speaker. To get to the state contest, she first had to qualify in Orleans County and then at a District contest. Last year she also qualified for District and State Horse Communications events.

According to Margo Bowerman, extension educator for Orleans County Cornell

Cooperative Extension, participants in Horse Communication events have substantial time requirements that necessitate the youth to practice

their speech extensively. Youth are also judged on their organization, stage presence, delivery, content and accuracy.

Sunflowers are Happy Plants

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Picture yourself driving over a hill and seeing before you a field of nodding, sunny, bright yellow sunflower heads. They all point in the same direction and look like a pleasant, eager crowd of faces that stretch back to the ends of the field. I saw just that in Europe several years ago and have planted a few sunflowers every year since. They just seem like such a happy plant!

Sunflower plants make a great plant whether you farm or garden. For farmers their oil has become the world's second most important vegetable oil and a mainstay of the birdseed industry. They tolerate conditions similar to that of corn but don't have the same high fertility requirements. They have only one real disease to be concerned about (sclerotinia head blight - the same fungus as white mold in beans), can be harvested with existing equipment that only needs to be somewhat modified from corn harvesting, and the stems can be chopped for a reasonable silage. Although there are no oil processors for sunflower in New York, the seed is shippable to other locations. Bird seed production is primarily for local use.

For gardeners there are the seed varieties that the farmer will grow and a multitude of ornamental options for cutting and arrangements or resale. If you are growing a small crop (less than an acre or two) for seed remember that they need a fairly long growing season. A few varieties for seed are Mammoth, Mennonite, Advance and Commander. Seeds can be planted now with our dry spring this year and should all be in the ground by or before June 15 as they will take 80-90 days to mature. Keep the squirrels and birds away as you reach harvest time and check the sunflower florets to determine when they are ready. If the center of the head is shriveled, the back of the head is turning yellow and the entire head has developed it is time to cut the head from the stalk. Hang the heads in a warm, dry, well-ventilated place where the seeds will ripen fully and dry. A paper bag with ventilation holes in it, cheese cloth or nylon net can be used over the drying heads to catch the seeds as they fall. Heads can be left on the stalk to dry but the squirrels and the birds will race you to them.

The seeds make a good, nutritious snack when roasted and contain vitamin B, calcium and protein. To dry roast spread the seeds in a single layer on a cookie sheet or other shallow tray and place in a preheated 350° oven for 10-15 minutes. When the seeds begin to swell and the seedcoats crack, they are ready to eat. To do salted roasted seeds immerse 4 cups of sunflower seeds in one gallon of warm water that has had 1/4 cup of salt stirred in. Soak overnight, drain, and spread to dry. For each 2 cups of seed, coat a baking sheet with 2 tablespoons of salad oil, add the seeds and sprinkle with 2 teaspoons of salt. Bake in a preheated oven at 400° for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from the oven and spread on paper towels to drain the excess oil. Dry overnight and store in airtight containers.

Your options for ornamental sunflowers are huge! One catalog lists 26 different varieties. They range from a traditional yellow, 6 footer, with a broad head ('Full Sun') to a dainty, branching variety that grows to 2 1/2 feet and puts out multiple bouquet sized heads in a variety of colors ranging from dark bronze-red to clear golden yellow ('Music Box Mixed'.) As you are planning ornamental sunflower harvests remember that not all develop at the same rate so your harvest will be staggered over the season. 'Sunrays' is among the earliest and will bloom in full sun in about 42 days with a good, cut flower length stem. Many of the branching types will continue to bloom on upper branches after you have started cutting the lower branches which can also extend your harvest.

As an annual plant in the garden the branching types of sunflowers make excellent additions. They have a fairly long bloom period (late July through September) and come in a variety of heights and colors. Place the taller plants toward the back of the bed. Take into consideration that they will turn towards the sun so plan accordingly if you view them from the North, you don't really want to see the backs of their heads! Happy planting with some happy plants!

• The Daily News • Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Committee seeking items for 4-H Benefit Auction

ALBION — Quality items are needed for the 2001 4-H Fair Benefit Auction. The 4-H auction committee, headed by Pete Toenniessen of Albion, is seeking donations of items such as new animal equipment, a free round of golf, restaurant or service gift certificates, sports memorabilia and handmade items. The auction supports 4-H youth programs.

Free pick up service is available. Individuals with large items, such as furniture or appliances in good condition, are encouraged to store the items until after July 1.

The auction will be 7:30 p.m. July 26 during the Orleans County Fair. Kip Garris of Kip Garris Auction Service of Middleport will be the auctioneer.

All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. Call 589-9504 for more information or to arrange a pick up (preferably after 6 p.m.), or call the 4-H office at 589-5561.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2001

Strawberry Dessert Contest slated

ALBION — The second annual Strawberry Dessert Contest is being offered again this year as part of the Strawberry Festival.

The contest is open to anyone and features four categories of entries: Pies, Shortcakes, Toppings and Miscellaneous.

New to this year's contest is the creation of youth (up to and including age 19) and adult divisions.

The contest will be judged by Orleans County 4-H Senior Council members based on the following criteria: a complete and easy to follow recipe, the appearance of finished product, the taste and flavor and the consistency and/or texture.

Pre-registration is required and forms can be picked up at Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orleans County Chamber of

Commerce, Brown's Berry Patch, Partykh Farm Market, Roberts Farm Market, Smith's Family Farm Market, Watt Farms Country Market and Yates Community Library. This year entries are limited to one per person.

For more information contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main St. in Albion (589-5561).

The Gardener's Column

Managing the Purple Pest

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

There is a super villain among us. This terror is aggressive and pushes out desirable visitors to our yards and gardens; it can convert our chosen participants to its evil ways; and it hides itself in beauty. Purple Loosestrife is this menace and we all need to work together to rid this pest from our midst.

Lutheran psalteria, purple loosestrife, looks innocent enough. It produces pretty purple flowers in the summer and early fall on upright stems that look a lot like purple candles. It grows in ditches, pond edges, damp meadows and wetland margins where we find it hard to mow or plant other things. But, don't let those pretty purple flowers fool you, they are purple loosestrife's only redeeming element.

This is an aggressive perennial, it will grow again from the same root mass season after season. In addition it is a heavy self-seeder, each mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds every year! These seeds are easily spread by water, wind, wildlife and humans and although they may germinate the following growing season, they can also lay dormant for several years before sprouting. Which means that if you have had purple loosestrife before, you will have it again. It won't just go away, it will have to be removed.

This plant is so aggressive that it truly will push out the desirable plants in our yards, garden, fields, ponds, meadows and wetlands. The way it can do this is two-fold. First, purple loosestrife will out compete many more desirable plants due to its perennial and prolific self seeding features.

And second, it has no predators; no wildlife eats any part. So where some form of wildlife uses every part of the cat-

doesn't have to worry. Even to the extent of forming habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young, the purple loosestrife can quickly choke out most, if not all, beneficial plants. An estimated 190,000 hectares of wetlands, marshes, pastures and riparian meadows are affected in North America each year, with an economic impact of millions of dollars.

If you have had purple loosestrife before the best way to get rid of it depends on the number of plants you have to deal with. For a relatively low density of plants, less than 25% coverage, digging them out or cutting them down (especially the flower stalks to avoid new seed sources) are your best options.

As the density increases up to 75% coverage, digging is really only an option for smaller spaces and cutting is your next best option even for up to four acres. Chemical controls are available but are limited to dry upland areas that are on your own property only. Selective hand spraying of an approved herbicide to individual plants can significantly reduce the plant population. Broadcast spraying will kill all broad-leaved plants and leave the area open to further invasion from nearby sources of purple loosestrife. You can not spray purple loosestrife near to or in the water without a pesticide applicator's license for ponds and waterways, even on your own property!

A biological control has been developed and is being used in areas of severe purple loosestrife infestation where manual and chemical control efforts are ineffective. This biological control is a beetle from Europe that eats purple loosestrife and has no negative impacts on native North American plants. The beetle has been studied since the mid 1980's and used in wildlife refuges in New York State where the purple loosestrife infesta-

and imposes a severe threat to desired wildlife habitat.

There are several garden varieties of loosestrife which were once thought to be sterile and have been proven to cross pollinate with wild purple loosestrife and produce viable seed. Gardeners can help to control the spread of this plant and protect our environment by not planting purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, or any of its cultivars.

To achieve a similar look there are several other options to choose for your garden. Look for the following plants. 'Gay feather' in the *Li-atris* family for several species of flowers with spikes, several are native to North America. *Delpinium* will give you that upright spike (up to six foot) in full sun and grows in a variety of colors including nearly true blue. Be cautious in windy areas as the stems can break. *Astilbe* are shade lovers and range in color and flower form, the late summer blooming *Astilbe chinensis* will produce a purple upright candle of blooms over a groundcover of foliage. Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is a three to four foot tall group of perennials that grow in a variety of colors. *Lupine* also has a large color range of flowers that grow on two foot spikes and prefer full sun. *Lobelia cardinalis* is a wildflower of wetlands and has scarlet-red flower spikes in summer. *Salvia* is a hardy, drought resistant perennial that is somewhat bug-proof. It has blue to violet flowers June - August on two foot tall spikes. Speedwell, *Veronica spicata*, is an excellent edging perennial in full sun when you are looking for blue or pink flowers in dense spikes of color.

Don't help this menace take over our wetlands and wildlife habitats! Stamp out purple loosestrife where ever it grows on your property.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative

Director: There always will be a need for Cooperative Extension

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

With the economy of Orleans County based on agriculture, the Cornell Cooperative Extension always will have a role within the county.

"We'll always have some level of agriculture," said Roger Harrison, Extension executive director. "The unfortunate part is we're going through an agriculture recession now with often low prices. What that does is it creates an awful price squeeze that puts farmers at a terrible disadvantage. Even though agriculture may be cut back some, it will always be a big industry."

According to Harrison, a retired agricultural teacher of 33 years with the Barker Central School District, Extensions throughout the state offer various programs, including adult nutrition and financial planning. The Orleans County Extension, however, concentrates on two areas.

"The Extension has evolved

Conclusion of a 5-part series

into a lot of different areas, but were a relatively small county in terms of population," he said. "The two areas we emphasize [in Orleans County] are agriculture and youth development through 4-H."

Harrison said the Extension staff continues to focus its attention on helping the people of Orleans County, but the community itself helps to make it all come together.

"The great thing is the number of people who volunteer," he said. "Margo Bowerman [4-H agriculture and natural resources director] told me the other day that she has 250 families involved in our 4-H educational program. Isn't that wonderful? Two-hundred fifty families helping kids. Isn't that what life is all about, helping kids? Because they're the next generation and it's just a wonderful situation."

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2001



James Neiss/The Journal-Register

Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Roger Harrison poses in front of his headquarters shortly after he took the position in February.

Holly students win in ag contest

HOLLEY — Several students were among the winners of this year's "Be Aware of NY Agriculture" contest, an awards program designed to highlight the importance of agriculture in New York State.

Students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade drew pictures or wrote poems, slogans and essays that focus on New York agriculture.

Winning entries are displayed at the Department of Education at Cornell University, the New York State Fair and may appear in NY Agriculture in the Classroom publications, presentations and Web site.

Orleans County entries were submitted by the Children's Home Workshop. Winners were: first place, second grade, Zackary Laffin, My Favorite Food and Where It Comes From; first place, sixth grade, Tabitha Sugar, Products of New York Agriculture; second place, sixth grade, Brittany Ramos, Products of New York Agriculture; third place, third grade, Ian LaCroix, New York Agriculture; and honorable mention, third grade, Emily Villam, New York Agriculture.

Strawberry Festival set this weekend

By William J. Pettine

For The Journal-Register

Tearing May off of the calendar means one thing for Albion, it's time for the Strawberry Festival.

The 15th Annual Albion Strawberry Festival kicks off at 11 a.m. Friday and runs until 5 p.m. Saturday.

This year brings back some familiar performers and events and welcomes some new ones. It will offer plenty to eat and some exercise too.

"The theme this year is 'Mardi Gras,'" said Shelia Foote, special events planner for the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce, which coordinates the event.

In keeping with the theme, LeeRon Zydeco & the Hot Tamales will perform Mardi Gras style music at the festival Saturday.

Other musical acts include Chad Slayton, Bart Dentino and Kevin Huber, Bar Room Buzards and Jonesie and the Cruisers. They all will perform Friday in either the food court on East Bank Street or on the Courthouse steps, Foote said.

Saturday music acts include Nightengael, in front of the Legislature building and The Boomers on the courthouse steps.

Other performers will offer family entertainment, Foote said. These include "Just Fooling Around," who juggle, and the Boomerang Club, who provide interactive children's

entertainment, she said.

Arts and crafts booths will be set up around the courthouse starting at 11 a.m. Friday. A strawberry dessert contest will be conducted at the Cornell Cooperative Extension front porch beginning at 5 p.m. Friday.

The Ecumenical Group at the Presbyterian Church will sponsor a strawberry social at the church from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. They will be serving ice cream and strawberries, and strawberry shortcake, Foote said.

Saturday will begin with the Strawberry Festival/Phoenix Fitness 5k/8k Run-Walk at 8 a.m. Registration will be from 7 to 8 a.m. at the courthouse steps.

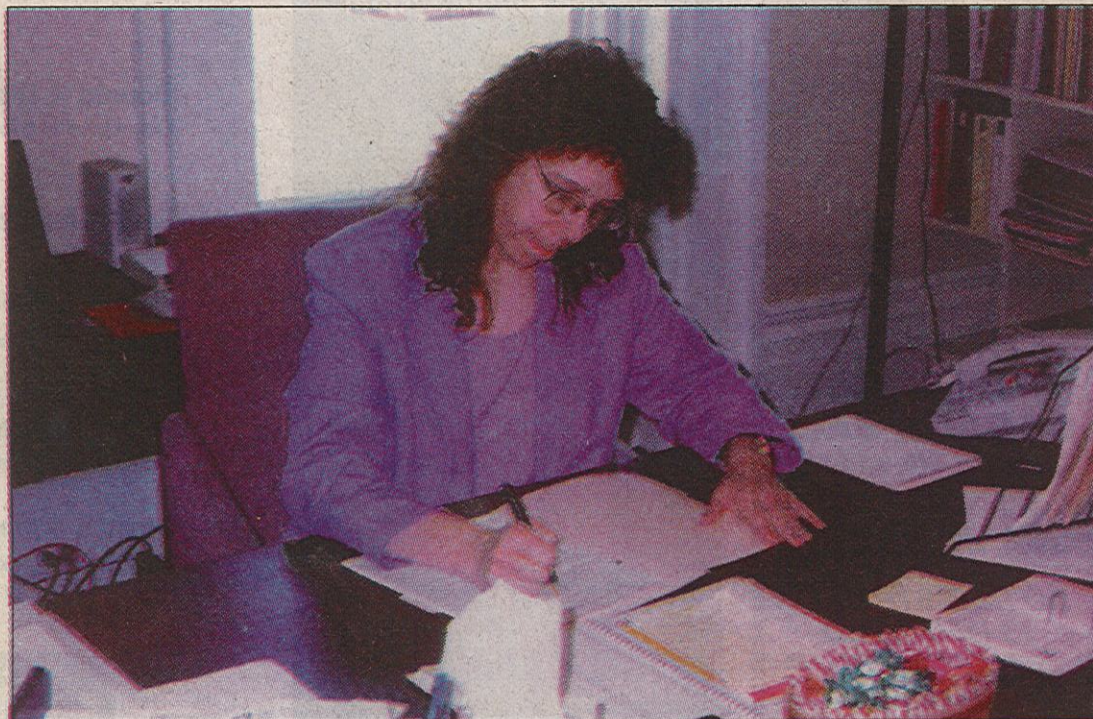
The Giant Festival Parade begins at 10 a.m. from the Ames Plaza and proceeds east on Route 31 to Route 98 and north to East Bank Street, Foote said.

"The parade will feature 10 bands, one from as far away as Toronto," she said.

Later in the day Saturday, a "3-on-3" basketball tournament will be played in the village parking lot at the south end of Platt Street, Foote said. It will start at 1 p.m. and is sponsored by the Albion Rotary Club.

An Antique and Classic Car show will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. around Courthouse Square. Pre-registration can be done at the Chamber office in Albion until the end of business Wednesday or on the day of the event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Foote said.

Roberts begins as new director of Cornell Extension



Michael Zwelling/The Journal-Register

Deb Roberts recently began duties as executive director of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

By Michael Zwelling
The Journal-Register

Deb Roberts, of Medina, is finishing her first week on the job as the new executive director of the Orleans County chapter of the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

"I'm really pleased she accepted the position," said Roger Harrison, interim executive director of the extension. "Deb will really be a big plus for our extension."

Harrison served on an interim basis since Feb. 1, while the extension searched for a full-time replacement following the retirement of Thomas Nally.

Roberts said she's excited about her new position, but there are adjustments to be made.

"I'm getting to know the staff right now and trying to connect with the community," she said. "It will be a major

adjustment for my entire family, but they have all been very supportive."

Roberts assumed the job June 1, following a two-month interview process, and said she's looking forward to the new challenges of re-entering the full-time work place.

"I'm at a point in my life where I'm ready for a full-time career again," said the mother of four.

She has, however, raised three sons and a daughter while working at the family business, Roberts Farm Market. Her background also includes three years as a member of the Medina Central School System Board of Education, approximately three years of management experience and six years as an owner of her own business, Discovery Toys.

Please see **ROBERTS** page 6A

continued from page 1A

"I think I'll benefit most from my experience on the school board and family management experience," she said.

School district Superintendent Judith Staples said she

will miss Roberts' presence on the school board.

"We'll certainly miss her," Staples said. "I'm very excited and sure she'll do a wonderful job, agriculture is very much a part of her."

Roberts said she will meet

with the board of directors for goal setting meetings. One priority on the top of the list will be making people aware of the extension and encouraging participation.

"I think we're in good hands," Harrison said.

The Gardener's Column

Try Pinching Your Petunias

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

As you sit on your patio during hot, humid summer afternoons, have you ever looked at a bed of petunias 16 inches tall with a few flowers perched atop "leggy" almost leafless stems? What happened to those beautiful, compact, leafy plants you bought in the spring?

The petunia is one of the most popular bedding plants; just walk any street and you'll find it planted in a variety of ways. But few enjoy a lush, full flowerbed all summer long. Most gardeners buy their petunias in early spring, plant them and enjoy a flowering garden until mid-summer when the plants become very leggy, fall over and remain an unattractive spectacle until frost.

A few simple tips can turn that brown thumb green and your garden into a flowering delight all summer. Petunias are "thermophotoperiodic." That is, their growth habit responds according to the temperature and the amount of daylight. At 62 degrees, the plant will always be branched, bushy, compact and multi-flowered. From 62 to 75 degrees, the growth habit will

vary depending on day length. Under short days (fewer than 12 hours of daylight) the plant will grow single-stemmed with only one flower. At temperatures above 75 degrees, whether under short or long days, the plant will always be tall and leggy with a single flower. This is why hot weather takes its toll on petunias, and now is the perfect time to pinch.

There are ways to combat the effect of long, hot, humid days will have on petunias. Many gardeners plant petunias when it's cool and pinch (cut off) all the flowers so that new growth efforts will be directed into branching and vegetative growth.

Planting before the temperatures get too warm will encourage the petunia to branch naturally and get the plant off to a healthy start.

If you must plant when the temperatures are in the 70's, the flower stem will tend to shoot straight up and should be pinched frequently.

By the second week in July they are ready to be pinched (again) whether or not the plants were pinched at planting. Snip each stem about three to four inches above ground level. And don't mourn those lost blooms in about two weeks you will

have a much fuller, more beautiful display to enjoy. With the petunias pinched back, this also is a good time to weed the beds, fertilize and clean up dead or dying leaves.

The third pinch should be made late in the season, with the fourth at the end of September if a heavy frost has not yet occurred. Since petunias like cooler temperatures, you can have a massive bed of flowers until the first killing frost. Pinching forces the plant to branch, and when it re-flowers, each branch will produce a bud.

It is important to remember that petunias don't like water on their flowers. Note that, after a rain, petunias close up and appear to be wilted. So, when you water, use a watering wand or soaker to hose so the plants are watered well at ground level. Once water has touched the flower, it will take several days before it is fully open again.

Proper pinching and watering are green thumb tips to successful petunia beds. Those gardeners willing to spend a little time will reap the beauty of massive flowering beds all season long.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Gardener's Column

What's going on with the Arborvitae?

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Do you have arborvitae in your landscape plantings? Do they look green and lush or are you able to see right through their dry, brown needles? Here are the clues to look for to identify the problem with your arborvitae plantings.

The American or Eastern Arborvitae and White Cedar are all the same plant, *Thuja occidentalis*. In its native, species form it is an evergreen 'shrub' that grows as an upright, narrow column approximately 10-15 feet wide by 40-60 feet tall! Most commonly we see one of the many cultivars available at the nursery and planted in our landscapes. These cultivars have a huge range of colors, sizes, and shapes that include columns, pyramids, globes, and irregular forms. The column and pyramid shaped plants are often used as hedges and screening and these are the plants that are having the most noticeable problems.

The plants look brown and dead in their middle section, sometimes nearly to the top. Often the very tops of the plants are still green and look like "pom-poms." There are two problems that will cause arborvitae plants to develop this look. One is deer damage, the other is arborvitae leafminer.

Deer damage is easy to rule out. Go and look at the plants in question. Are the branches nipped off with little to no needles left on them? If your answer is "Yes" then you have had hungry deer in your neighborhood and you now the lucky owner of "topiary," exotic pruned shrubs. There is no way to grow those dead branches back.

If your plants instead have branches with live and dead needles on them, and the dead needles start at the tips and work their way back into the center of the shrub, then

arborvitae leafminer is quite likely. There are four species of arborvitae leafminer in the northeast, although one, *Argyresthia thuella*, is the most common in New York State. Its major food plant is arborvitae, *Thuja*, all varieties and cultivars. The adults are tiny white or gray moths with 3/8-inch wingspans. They are active from late May through early June. The larvae are 1/8-inch long caterpillars with a light green body and a shiny black head. It is unlikely you will see the caterpillars as they mine, or excavate, between the leaf surfaces. Mines start near the end of a branchlet in the arborvitae's scale-like leaves and extend down the branch and into other branchlets. Injury begins in the summer and reaches a climax, in the fall. Death of mined branchlets often occurs which give the plant a brown, sickly appearance.

Individual arborvitae can show signs of this damage but the greatest injury occurs to hedge rows and ornamental group plantings. This is because so many of the same plants are available for the insect, a habitat has been formed. Just as the elm bark beetle was able to pass Dutch Elm Disease from tree to tree along almost any street in the Northeast back in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, arborvitae leafminer will fly to a group of plants and feast.

There are a few options available to you to rid your plants of this pest. First, you need to help them be the healthiest they can. We have had three poor growing years the past three summers, two of drought followed by one of drowning. Your arborvitae will need fertilization, preferably with a fertilizer that has 10-15 as it's first number, for nitrogen. This will help the plants put out new leaves on any vital branchlets.

Second, regular water will make a big difference. If we go

into a dry period in the summer, your plants will need to be watered every 7-10 days with about inch of water to the root zone.

Third, you will need to check the arborvitae regularly for signs of new infestation. It is much easier to get rid of a problem when it is on one or two branchlets of one or two plants! A quick walk around with the flippers and a garbage bag, pruning off the dead tips and getting rid of them will save you time and money later.

For those much larger problems there are treatment solutions for ridding this pest from a group of plant. Call or stop by the Cooperative Extension office for our free fact sheet with all of the chemical names and spray timing. You will want to spray in late May or early June to get the adults, once the larva start mining they are inside the needles and are much harder to remove.

Don't let this stop you from using arborvitae in you plantings! The world is dynamic, everything eats something, but spread out your planting and make them more diverse with different species. For a screen planting, use the arborvitae in the narrow spaces but choose other evergreen shrubs, or even deciduous plants for color and texture in other areas. Create a diverse habitat of many plants that can not be easily damaged by one insect.

If you're arborvitae doesn't look like either of these descriptions, there are several other possibilities your plants are not healthy. Give me a call at 589-5561 or stop into the Cooperative Extension offices and we can work on identifying your arborvitae problems. Don't let a sick plant get you down, we can help you fix your landscape!

Rochelle Smith is an extension coordinator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Try Pinching Your Petunias

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



As you sat on your patio during hot, humid summer afternoons, have you ever looked at a bed of petunias 16 inches tall with a few flowers perched atop "leggy" almost leafless stems? What happened to those beautiful, compact, leafy plants you bought in the spring?

The petunia is one of the most popular bedding plants; just walk any street and you'll find it planted in a variety of ways. But few enjoy a lush, full flowerbed all summer long. Most gardeners buy their petunias in early spring, plant them, and enjoy a flowering garden until mid-summer when the plants become very leggy, fall over, and remain an unattractive spectacle until frost.

A few simple tips can turn that brown thumb green and your garden into a flowering delight all summer. Petunias are "thermoperiodic." That is, their growth habit responds according to the temperature and the amount of daylight. At 62°F, the plant will always be branched, bushy, compact and multi-flowered.

From 62°F to 75°F, the growth habit will vary depending on day length. Under short days (fewer than 12 hours of daylight), the plant will grow single-stemmed with only one flower. At temperatures above 75°F, whether under short or long days, the plant will always be tall and leggy with a single flower. This is why hot weather takes its toll on petunias, and now is the perfect time to pinch.

There are ways to combat the effect long, hot, humid days will have on petunias. Many gardeners plant petunias when it's cool, and pinch (cut off) all the flowers so that new growth efforts will be directed into branching and vegetative growth.

Planting before the temperatures get too warm will encourage the petunia to branch naturally and get the plant off to a healthy start. If you must plant when the temperatures are in the 70's, the flower stem will tend to shoot straight up and should be pinched frequently.

By the second week in July they are ready to be pinched (again) whether or not the plants were pinched at planting. Snip each stem about three to four inches above ground level. And don't mourn those lost blooms... in about two weeks you will have a much fuller, more beautiful display to enjoy. With the petunias pinched back, this also is a good time to weed the beds, fertilize, and clean up dead or dying leaves.

The third pinch should be made late in the season, with the fourth at the end of September if a heavy frost has not yet occurred. Since petunias like cooler temperatures, you can have a massive bed of flowers until the first killing frost. Pinching forces the plant to branch, and when it re-flowers, each branch will produce a bud.

It is important to remember that petunias don't like water on their flowers. Note that, after a rain, petunias close up and appear to be wilted. So, when you water, use a watering wand or soaker hose so the plants are watered well at ground level. Once water has touched the flower, it will take several days before it is fully open again.

Proper pinching and watering are green thumb tips to successful petunia beds. Those gardeners willing to spend a little time will reap the beauty of massive flowering beds all season long!



Strawberry Festival draws hundreds

By Heather Beach
The Journal-Register

For the past 15 years, summer in Albion has been kicked-off with the Strawberry Festival.

This year was no exception and with good tunes, good food and good weather, Friday and Saturdays festival was indeed a success.

According to festival Co-Coordinator Sheila Foote, attendance to the festival on both days was very high.

"Friday was definitely higher than in past years as was Saturdays," Foote said. "There's been a lot of people and we couldn't have asked for better weather."

The two-day festival was coordinated through the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce.

East Bank Street was designated the food court area, where visitors could find everything from strawberry shortcake to fried pickles.

* Ella and Jim Criswell said they came from Point Breeze to enjoy the festival.

When asked what they had enjoyed the most, both said the chicken barbecue, which was conducted at the First Presbyterian church was delicious.

"We've been coming for about the last 10 years or so," Ella Criswell said. "It's always very nice."

The festival also brought many crafters, whose booths were set up around court house square.

Jewelry maker Patty Puffer, of Rochester said this was her first year at Albion festival and that business had been a little slow, but was steady.

"I do all the festivals," she said. "This is certainly a beautiful setting."

➤ Some of the booths offered crafts for kids like the Cornell Cooperative Extension/4-H booth, who helped kids "roll their name in grass."

Marlene Seielstad said the 4-H has been providing information about the organization and area agriculture at the festival for the past four years.

The 4-H also sold strawberry smoothies and were so busy they ran out of strawberries Friday night before the festival ended, she said.

Entertainment was provided by various bands and musical groups who played throughout both days in the food court and in front of the court house.

Special events included a strawberry dessert contest, a strawberry social, a fitness 5K/8K run/walk, the festival parade, a classic car show and more.

Visitors also could treat themselves to a carriage ride down Main Street or watch the Hospice duck race on the canal.

Jean Shervin, of the Catholic Daughters of Albion said the weather cooperated to make the festival a success.

Shervin said the Catholic Daughters have manned the information booth at the festival every year for the past five years.

"There's a good crowd, a variety of entertainment and delicious food," she said.

"The festival went very smoothly and we felt it was a huge success," Foote said.



Michael Zwelling/The Journal-Register

TOP: From left: Norman Anderson, Alan Miller and David Kelly, of the Barre Recreation Hall marinate some chicken. CENTER: Jocelyn Yockel, of Carlton, left, gives a free blood pressure check to Cathy Massaro, of Medina. ABOVE: Apryl Fox, of Kent, picnics with daughter Carly Fox, 2, on the Courthouse lawn during the festival.

Barn Buddies have been busy

By Stephanie Boyle

Barn Buddies 4-H Club

During the past few months our club has been very busy. We recently participated in the Memorial Day parade. We had a blast with our float, decorating it and throwing candy to the crowd. We plan to do more parades, like the Strawberry Festival on June 9, and the July 4 parade. Our

members who participated in the Share the Fun had a blast. In the future we hope to go to the Buffalo Zoo.

We also look forward to having a fun time at the horse shows that we are going to attend during the summer. We can't wait for fair time to come at the end of July. We are all anxious for school to get out in the next few weeks.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001

H.O.R.S.E. Club wraps up year

By Jessica Arno

H.O.R.S.E. 4-H Club

The H.O.R.S.E. club's last 4-H meeting was May 20. At this meeting, the club was notified one of its members, Carley Wells, won third place at the state competition for public speaking and demonstrations.

The activity at this meeting was to clean up a flower bed on the fairgrounds. We weeded the flower bed and mixed the soil so new flowers can be planted and grown for the upcoming fair in July.

On May 21 there was a "clean up" event at the fairgrounds, when the preparations were made for the Leaders' horse show, which will be conducted on June 10. We also had a very successful plant sale this year.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2001

Card Of Thanks

BREITSMAN

The Family of Robert W. Breitsman would like to extend our deep gratitude and thanks to Dr. Stahl, Dr. Misiti for all their care. Second floor nurses and LPN's at Medina Memorial Health Care who did such a great job caring for Bob. Tim Cooper for his exceptional help at a time when it was greatly needed. Rev. James Maxwell for his service at Cooper Funeral Home and Cemetery. American Legion & Veterans of Foreign Wars for their wonderful tribute at Boxwood. All the neighbors and friends and those at McDonald's for cards, flowers, food and memorials.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001

Brieflies

Orleans County 4-H Fair

We are "Sewing the Seeds of Excellence" and educating the public on "Agriculture in the New Millennium" at this year's county fair.

The Orleans County 4-H Fair is an annual event sponsored by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. The fair is planned and executed by several very talented and dedicated volunteers each year.

Daily entertainment is free and several exciting things are being planned. The event is a chance to see all of the exciting things that our county's 4-H members have been working on throughout the year.

For more information about the 4-H program or the fair, call Marlene Seielstad at 589-5561.

E
Nice

The Gardener's Column

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

Lions and Tigers and ...

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

Yes, we have a bear in our midst! A fairly young, male black bear has been sighted along the wooded edges of southern Orleans County. The conservation officer for our area has recommended keeping your distance, being smart, and especially, don't feed the bear.

So what do you need to know about black bears? First, they are not all black. While they were named for their color, they can also be brown, cinnamon and black with white patches on their chest. In eastern North America, most black bears are, in fact, black, such is not the case as one moves westward across the continent.

The American black bear is the most widespread and numerous bear in North America. It is estimated that there are somewhere between 400,000 and 750,000 black bears throughout North America. Its range extends from the northern tree limit of the Arctic far to the south through most of Canada and the United States. It is found as far south as the range of the Sierra Madre Mountains which are located in northwestern Mazaca.

The American black bear is one of eight species of bears found throughout the world. Bears are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The other seven species of bears are: the spec-

tacled bear, the Asiatic black bear, the brown bear (including grizzlies), the polar bear, the sun bear, the sloth bear and the giant panda. Koalas are sometimes referred to as 'koala bears,' but they are marsupials, not bears.

The polar bear is the largest of the bears and sometimes weighs over 2,000 pounds. The smallest species is the sun bear, which often weighs less than 100 pounds. The black bear is the smallest bear in North America, the average adult weighs 300-400 pounds. The largest known black bear weighed 802.5 pounds. The oldest known black bear was 30 years old.

Black bears move around in a home range. The size of the home range of an individual black bear will vary with the concentration of high energy food sources in that area. The more concentrated the food sources, the smaller the range necessary to maintain an animal. In general, females will have a home range which is 2½ to 10 square miles while males will normally have a home range which is four times larger at 10 to 40 square miles. The range of every adult bear is composed of an individual territory part of which constitutes its exclusive domain while the rest it co-habits with other bears. The home range of a mature male bear will often overlap the home range of several female bears.

Characteristically, a home range does not constitute one

large area but rather is composed of several smaller food source areas connected by travel lanes. Open areas are usually avoided by black bears as they prefer wooded cover. Stream and creek beds are often used as travel lanes because of the thick undergrowth and a barrier-free escape route. This is particularly true in areas where there is heavy urban build-up.

What do you do if you run into a black bear? Don't run, don't lay down, and don't climb a tree. Black bears can run as fast as 25 miles per hour while they chase prey so you'll never outrun it. They are skillful tree climbers and start out as cubs hiding up in the branches while mom searches for food, so you'll never outclimb it. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you "DO NOT PLAY DEAD WITH A BLACK BEAR. It is curious, and will rip you open just to see 'what's inside!'"

Avoidance is your best option when living and walking in areas that have black bears. First and foremost don't feed the bear. Containerize and cover your trash and don't leave pet foods out overnight. Black bears will eat virtually anything edible. It was been determined that more than 75% of their diet consists of vegetable matter including berries, flowers, grasses and sedges, herbs, tubers and roots and nuts of all kinds. For the remaining portion of their diet, animal matter such as decaying animal carcasses,

fish, small marine animals, ants and other insects, honey, deer, elk and moose calves and a variety of other small mammals (e.g. ground squirrels, marmots, etc.) are consumed. Black bears like to feed in the cool of the evening or in the early morning. During the heat of the day, they will often seek shade in the dense underbrush.

If you want to completely avoid black bears when you are walking, talk continuously or make loud, unnatural noise ('Bear Bells' are small bells tied to your shoe laces). This will scare off most black bears. If a black bear DOES come uncomfortably close, or if it starts approaching you, back away SLOWLY, always watching the bear. The article author from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you "speak in a LOUD, DEEP voice" (It doesn't matter what you say. He uses GO AWAY BEAR" as it also serves to inform others around him of his situation).

Since the sighted bear is a young male, he is probably just out looking for love. Once he discovers that he's pretty much alone it is predicted that he will move further south. In the mean time it is nice to know that our forests and habitats are large and healthy enough to support diverse wildlife.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

AGRICULTURE

Local county fairs taking steps to keep foot-and-mouth away

By Matt Surtel

Daily News Staff Writer

A series of common-sense precautions will be enacted at county fairs this year following the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom.

No outbreak of the disease has occurred in the United States since 1929. But the United Kingdom's problems have highlighted the importance of taking precautionary steps in this country as well, officials said.

"I believe we'll probably have the same number of animals we've had in the past," said Deb Roberts of the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. "We've met with our barn superintendents to see what precautions we would be taking."

The precautions are not just intended for foot-and-mouth disease, according to a release issued by the Extension. They can also help prevent exposure to contagious mastitis, respiratory diseases, and other problems.

Most fairs are talking to 4-H clubs about the importance of biosecurity, said Extension Educator Margo Bowerman. Precautions such as not sharing equipment can be a difficult concept for youngsters who like to pitch in and help out, she said.

The measures offer a teaching opportunity, she said. Biosecurity is becoming more of an issue with the developing global economy, whose effects can reach even rural

Some recommendations for preventing animal diseases

ITHACA — The Cornell Cooperative Extension has offered information to prevent animal diseases before, during and after county fairs.

Recommendations include:

■ Advice before the fair includes vaccinating animals, and not bringing visibly sick examples for show. People should test complete health tests for bovine viral diarrhea and contagious mastitis.

A clean, dry and comfortable environment should be provided for animals, along with plenty of water and the same feed used at the fair. Animals should be transported to the fair in clean trailers, and commercial trailers should be avoided.

■ Adequate bedding and fans should keep animals comfortable during the fair. Younger and older animals should be separated, and nose-to-nose contact with animals from other farms or species should be avoided.

People should not share equipment which might get contaminated with blood, manure, saliva or urine. People should not allow others to use their milking unit, and present a good image to the public through proper personal hygiene.

■ When taking animals home, people should have a designated area to unload them away from the home herd. Show animals should be kept in a separate facility for three to four weeks after returning.

Separate equipment should be used for returning animals. Those creatures should also be monitored for signs of disease such as fever, diarrhea, skin abnormalities, mastitis or abortions.

areas.

Bowerman said Orleans County Fair officials are probably going to provide disinfecting solutions such as soap and water for people showing animals. Other recommended precautions will be taken, she said.

Wyoming County Extension officials have given information sheets to families of 4-H members, said program director Angela Waligora.

The information details steps to take before, during and after the fair.

"The biggest thing is trying to educate young people for ways they can protect themselves so families can make up their minds," Waligora said. "I would imagine that we'll be talking about this and thinking about it a lot more now and then."

Waligora said biosecurity is mostly common-sense mat-

ters such as keeping clean. The situation presents a "teachable moment" — a really big opportunity to teach youngsters.

People will probably see a lot more biosecurity at county fairs in general, said Dr. Cricket Johnson-Seward, one of 11 state veterinarians serving as a foreign animal disease diagnostician.

Many fairs have a protocol in case disease is detected, she said.

"This has been a good thing for them because they have all looked at their plans," she said.

"That has been a good thing because it's probably something that needs to be looked at, and all of them have done that."

Many of the precautions are meant to make the public more aware of common sense issues, Johnson-Seward said. Typical advice includes not letting animals suck a person's fingers — especially if they're eating cotton candy or other snack foods.

Youths who have grown up around livestock have a greater deal of immunity to the bacteria that live around animals, she said.

That is not the case for the public which is more removed from agriculture in general.

Waligora said the farm and public health issues tie together nicely.

"It's a great opportunity not only to educate our 4-Hers about safety issues but for the public to keep themselves safe," she said.

• The Daily News • Tuesday, June 19, 2001

EFS

4-H Club cleans up fairgrounds

KNOWLESVILLE — The HORSE 4-H Club's last meeting was May 20, when members were notified Carley Wells had won third place at the state competition for public speaking and demonstrations.

Also, during the meeting, the club cleaned up a flower bed on the fairgrounds, weeding and tilling the soil so new flowers could be planted for the upcoming fair in July.

On May 21, a cleanup event took place at the fairgrounds, where preparations were made for the leaders' horse show June 10.

Lions and Tigers and ...

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Yes, we have a bear in our midst! A fairly young, male black bear has been sighted along the woods edges of southern Orleans County. The conservation officer for our area has recommended keeping your distance, being smart, and, especially, don't feed the bear!

So what do you need to know about black bears? First, they are not all black! While they were named for their color, they can also be brown, cinnamon, and black with white patches on their chest. In eastern North America, most black bears are, in fact, black, such is not the case as one moves westward across the continent.

The American black bear is the most widespread and numerous bear in North America. It is estimated that there are somewhere between 400,000 and 750,000 black bears throughout North America. Its range extends from the northern tree limit of the Arctic far to the south through most of Canada and the United States. It is found as far south as the range of the Sierra Madre Mountains which are located in north-western Mexico. The American black bear is one of eight species of bears found throughout the world. Bears are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The other seven species of bears are: the spectacled bear, the Asiatic black bear, the brown bear (including grizzlies), the polar bear, the sun bear, the sloth bear, and the giant panda. Koalas are sometimes referred to as 'koala bears', but they are marsupials, not bears.

The polar bear is the largest of the bears and sometimes weighs over 2,000 pounds. The smallest species is the sun bear, which often weighs less than 100 pounds. The black bear is the smallest bear in North America, the average adult weighs 300-400 pounds. The largest known black bear weighed 802.5 pounds. The oldest known black bear was 30 years old.

Black bears move around in a home range. The size of the home range of an individual black bear will vary with the concentration of high energy food sources in that area. The more concentrated the food sources, the smaller the range necessary to maintain an animal. In general, females will have a home range which is 2 1/2 to 10 square miles while males will normally have a home range which is four times larger at 10 to 40 square miles. The range of every adult bear is composed of an individual territory part of which constitutes its exclusive domain while the rest it co-habits with other bears. The home range of a mature male bear will often overlap the home range of several female bears.

Characteristically, a home range does not constitute one large area but rather is composed of several smaller food source areas connected by travel lanes. Open areas are usually avoided by black bears as they prefer wooded cover. Stream and creek beds are often used as travel lanes because of the thick undergrowth and a barrier-free escape route. This is particularly true in areas where there is heavy urban build-up.

What do you do if you run into a black bear? Don't run, don't lay down, and don't climb a tree! Black bears can run as fast as 25 miles per hour while they chase prey so you'll never outrun it. They are skillful tree climbers and start out as cubs hiding up in the branches while mom searches for food, so you'll never out climb it. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you "DO NOT PLAY DEAD WITH A BLACK BEAR. It is curious, and will rip you open just to see "what's inside!"

Avoidance is your best option when living and walking in areas that have black bears. First and foremost, don't feed the bear! Containerize and cover your trash and don't leave pet foods out overnight. Black bears will eat virtually anything edible, it has been determined that more than 75% of their diet consists of vegetable matter including, berries, flowers, grasses and sedges, herbs, tubers and roots, and nuts of all kinds. For the remaining portion of their diet, animal matter such as decaying animal carcasses, fish, small marine animals, ants and other insects, honey, deer, elk and moose calves and a variety of other small mammals (e.g., ground squirrels, marmots, etc.) are consumed. Black bears like to feed in the cool of the evening or in the early morning. During the heat of the day, they will often seek shade in the dense underbrush.

If you want to completely avoid black bears when you are walking, talk continuously or make loud, unnatural noise ('Bear Bells' are small bells tied to your shoe laces). This will scare off most black bears. If a black bear DOES come uncomfortably close, or if it starts approaching you, back away SLOWLY, always watching the bear. The article author from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you "speak in a LOUD, DEEP voice" (It doesn't matter what you say. He uses "GO AWAY BEAR" as it also serves to inform others around him of his situation).

Since the sighted bear is a young male, he's probably just out looking for love. Once he discovers that he's pretty much alone it is predicted that he will mosey further south. In the mean time it is nice to know that our forests and habitats are large and healthy enough to support diverse wildlife!

Do you Know Hosta?

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Just the word 'hosta' brings up so many different visions in my mind's eye! The

earliest is my great grandmother's driveway edges with tall green nameless corrugated leaves that felt like soft plant corduroy and put up entertaining 'sticks' that held purple balloons of flowers perfect for popping if you found them at the right time! This was a mass planting along what seems now as an incredibly narrow driveway in the Black Rock neighborhood of Buffalo. Great Grandmother is gone, but I drove past last summer and the hosta are still there.

One of my favorite hosta memories is the edging plants my mother tended along a hot driveway edge. These were the variegated, wavy leaves that are known as 'Hosta undulata, Variegata' (you may notice how appropriate that name is!) and these were hosta planted with a purpose. They looked great as an edging plant. The first had been a gift of a few plants and since they easily spread and divided up into more plants they could be used along the length of the garden. They hid the dying leaves of the daffodils planted in the same location for spring bloom. And they protected Mom's rose garden from casual kid trauma since the driveway was an important play area for neighbor kids and us! Because they were in full sun they needed to be watered more frequently than the same hosta that were eventually spread to the front side of the house, but I think that gave Mom a reason to spend a few quiet minutes in the garden...

Since those early days I have become a passionate hosta gardener myself. I find that I love the variety of the leaves, the textures they add to the garden, and the way they are so easily divided into more plants!

Hosta are a long-lived perennial that are hardy to zone 3 and prefer partial to deep shade and moist, rich soil with added organic matter. Hosta do not like to dry out! That is where similarities end and this group of plants begins to show its diversity!

When not in flower plant size will range from dainty 3-inch tall plants to 4-foot tall masses. The flowers are held above the leaves and can be an additional 3 feet over the leaves for larger varieties.

Leaf color is as varied as plant size. Blue, green, gold, creamy white, and many variegations of the above colors make for a huge palette of planting options. You have another dimension when leaf textures are added with color. From smooth, to glossy, dull, seersucker, puckered, twisted, and leathery. Whole garden designs have been made using hosta alone!

Flowers become a matter of choice. For many, the arching spires (scapes) of lilac, purple, or white flowers that rise above the foliage help to make a statement. For others they look untidy. Prune or keep to your pleasure. I tend to leave my hosta flowers. First because of the wonderful scent some of them have (aside from "Fragrant Bouquet" I can not remember which they are.) And second, the hummingbirds will frequent the hosta flowers! So I leave them all up. As the flowers fade I remove the scapes to below the leaf line.

Do you have some shady areas of your yard? Don't try to grow grass...plant hosta instead! There are over 400 hybrids, cultivars, and species from which to choose. Then - no more mowing, just hosta enjoyment.

The Gardener's Column

Do you know hosta?

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Just the word 'hosta' brings up so many different visions in my mind's eye! The earliest is my great grandmother's driveway edges with tall green nameless corrugated leaves that felt like soft plant corduroy and put up entertaining 'sticks' that held purple balloons of flowers perfect for popping if you found them at the right time. This was a mass planting along what seems now as an incredibly narrow driveway in the Black Rock neighborhood of Buffalo. Great grandmother is gone, but I drove past last summer and the hosta are still there.

One of my favorite hosta memories is the edging plants my mother tended along a hot driveway edge. These were the variegated, wavy leaves that are known as 'Hosta undulanta, Variegata' (you may notice how appropriate that name is) and these were hosta planted with a purpose. They looked great as an edging plant. The first had been a gift of a few plants and since they easily spread and divided up into more plants they could be used along the length of the garden. They hid the dying leaves of the daffodils planted in the same location

for spring bloom. And they protected Mom's rose garden from casual kid trauma since the driveway was an important play area for neighborhood kids and us. Because they were in full sun they needed to be watered more frequently than the same hosta that were eventually spread to the front side of the house, but I think that gave Mom a reason to spend a few quiet minutes in the garden ...

Since those early days I have become a passionate hosta gardener myself. I find that I love the variety of the leaves, the textures they add to the garden, and the way they are so easily divided into more plants.

Hosta are a long-lived perennial that are hardy to zone 3 and prefer partial to deep shade and moist rich soil with added organic matter. Hosta do not like to dry out. That is where similarities end and this group of plants begins to show its diversity.

When not in flower plant size will range from dainty 3-inch tall plants to 4-foot tall masses. The flowers are held above the leaves and can be an additional three feet over the leaves for larger varieties.

Leaf color is as varied as plant size. Blue, green, gold, creamy white and many variegations of the above colors

make for a huge palette of planting options. You have another dimension when leaf textures are added with color. From smooth to glossy, dull, seersucker, puckered, twisted and leathery. Whole garden designs have been made using hosta alone.

Flowers become a matter of choice. For many, the arching spires (scapes) of lilac, purple or white flowers that rise above the foliage help make a statement. For others they look untidy. Prune or keep to your pleasure. I tend to leave my hosta flowers. First because of the wonderful scent some of them have (aside from "Fragrant Bouquet" I can not remember which they are.) And second, the hummingbirds will frequent the hosta flowers. So I leave them all up. As the flowers fade I remove the scapes to below the leaf line.

Do you have some shady areas of your yard? Don't try to grow grass ... plant hosta instead. There are over 400 hybrids, cultivars and species from which to choose. Then - no more mowing, just hosta enjoyment.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.



Members of the Barn Buddies 4-H Club on their float at the recent Albion Strawberry Festival parade. In front is Nicki Maryjanowski. In the second row are Kelly Ashton, Liz Silkowski, Stephanie Boyle, Katelynn Grimes, Tiffany Vanille, Gabriella Vanille and Ashley Boyle. In the back row is Brandy McDonald and Jeanna Vanille with the club mascot "Sparky".

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2001

4-H Club News

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Barn Buddies

Recently the Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club participated in the annual Strawberry Festival parade in Albion.

at the parade all the floats were judged. Barn Buddies came in second place for the best float. All of our members would like to congratulate the first and third place finishers and everyone else who participated in the parade.

We are also busy fundraising for our Heifer Project. The Heifer Project is where we raise enough money to buy an animal and the animal will get sent to a poor family who lives overseas. Our club is saving to buy a Water Buffalo which will get sent to a family in Nepal, Cambodia or the Philippines. The family will use it to plow the fields and sell it's milk for a profit.

Our club is proud to be

holding such a fundraiser. To help us reach our goal of \$250 we will be collecting Tops receipts at the Orleans County Fair from July 23-28. Please put your receipts in this box if you wish to help us reach our goal. Imagine how happy our family will be when they receive their Water Buffalo and how you helped to change a poor family's life.

Submitted by
Stephanie Boyle

Extension director returns to the field

A month on the job,
Deb Roberts ready for
Orleans County fair

By Virginia Kropf

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — Orleans County Cooperative Extension's new executive director is little more than a month on the job, and finding it much to her liking.

Deb Roberts, 42, of Medina assumed duties June 1, just in time to jump in with both feet in preparations for the 2001 Orleans County 4-H Fair, which begins Monday.

"I'm grateful I had the month of June to get oriented," said Roberts, the mother of four and wife of Todd Roberts. "I grew up in 4-H and Todd has been on the State Program Committee for Cornell Cooperative Extension. We have participated in test plots for research for Cornell, so I had an overview of what it was all about. Now, I'm learning the nitty, gritty details."

As executive director, Roberts is responsible for overseeing all programming and management for Cooperative Extension, acts as a liaison with the legislature and community and is agricultural program leader. She also serves on the Farm Protection Agency.

"This is a multi-faceted job, which keeps it very interesting," Roberts said.

Roberts decided to apply for the position after her three-year term on the Medina School Board ended.

"I had been working on and off at volunteer positions for the last few years, and when my term on the board was finished, it was time to look at



Virginia Kropf/Daily News

ENJOYING HER JOB: Going to work is reason to smile for Deb Roberts of Medina, the new executive director of Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Albion. She assumed duties June 1, just in time to be part of preparations for the Orleans County 4-H Fair.

other options," she said. "I didn't want to travel any distance to work, and this job at Cooperative Extension came up at my back door. They wanted someone with a master's degree and I have my master's in agricultural economics."

The last director, Tom Nally, left Dec. 31, 2000, and Roger Harrison of Lyndonville had been serving as interim director.

Roberts grew up in Ohio, and although she lived in the suburbs, she was looking at a career as a veterinarian when a friend of her father con-

vinced her an agriculture course at Ohio State was the best choice.

"Ag economics seemed the best way to go — you've always got to eat," Roberts said.

She graduated in 1980 and came to work in Agway's management training program in Knowlesville.

"Todd had graduated from Cornell and was home working on the farm, when he came into Agway, where I was weighing anhydrous ammonia tanks," Roberts said. "That's how we met."

Both later went to Ohio State for

graduate school, but not together.

Roberts next took an internship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

"That was my dream job, and had I stayed I'd be in China now," she said.

But she and Todd had become engaged and married in 1984.

"He was working in South Dakota for Continental Grain Company and we chose to follow his career," Roberts said. "When he decided to come home to the family farm in 1986, we moved back to Medina."

In the midst of raising four children — Adam, now 15, Lizbeth, 13, Derek, 10, and Mason, 6 — Roberts worked part time at Kennedy Brothers, then was an adjunct professor at Brockport State College for seven years.

"But we had bought an old house to remodel and with four kids, I decided to stay home," Roberts said.

She sold Discovery Toys for almost five years and helped found the Parent-Teacher-Student Association in Medina about 10 years ago. A member of the First Presbyterian Church in Medina, she taught Sunday School, led a book study group, belonged to the Christian Education Committee and has been involved in the Presbyterian Women's Organization. She was also a coach for the American Youth Soccer Association for several years and was fund-raising chairwoman for Boy Scout Troop 28, she said. She now helps with the bookkeeping for the family farm.

Roberts said she has a very committed staff at Cooperative Extension, which has been very helpful as she learns the ropes.

"They have all been very cooperative," she said.

Lake Country Pennysaver July 22, 2001

Something's Cookin' at the Fair!

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



Ahh, fair time! You know it, the sights, sounds, events, and food! This is a summer time event to go out, see your friends and neighbors, see the projects the 4-Hers have been working on and see what's new! Well, this year you're in for an additional treat!

As you enter the fair parking each car will be given a flier with a list of 20 questions and a map of the fairgrounds. The answers to these questions can be found at the fair! Some may be along the 'Agri-mile' others may be in the Kids Ag Tent where there are interactive activities. Each animal area will also have a display. There will be youth exhibits in sewing, baking, canning, photography, creative arts & crafts, and horticulture for you to look for these answers.

The purpose is two-fold. First, this is a fun way to see many areas of the fair, maybe even some you hadn't seen before! And second, this year the Orleans County 4-Hers are participating in a statewide program called "Ag Awareness." The program is designed to help educate the public about the agriculture in the community. Instead of just doing a display our 4-Hers, leaders, and fair board wanted you to have some fun in the process. The theme for this year is "Agriculture in the New Millennium" and the displays and questions will focus on the innovations in agriculture.

We are in a rather unique position here in Orleans County in that our fair is a youth fair. New York State has 56 counties and also 5 boroughs in New York City metro. For this year there are 53 county fairs scheduled for 2001 plus the state fair in Syracuse (some counties, like Albany and Schenectady, do joint fairs.) Even New York City metro does a fair event. Of all of those fairs only 9 are 'Youth Fairs' where kids do the exhibits through their projects, 4-H clubs and organizations. Orleans County 4-H fair is among the nine. This is the opportunity to show not only the traditional things that they have learned and worked on over the season but to also show some of the new research and innovations that the kids are learning about.

Sure, there will still be commercial exhibits and demonstrations like the controlled atmosphere apple storage, re-use of waste wood products and animal nutrition. The rides and food will be there too! But don't miss the incubation display to possibly see a chick hatch or the hydroponics display where plants grow without any soil, or the worms composting garbage and pick up a gummy worm! This year's 4-H fair will give you a chance to check out fun and new items and learn new information too!

So when you go to the fair this year you can do all of the fun things you remember about a traditional county fair plus have some fun looking for 20 answers! When you complete your questions, submit your entry form in the Trolley Building. Not only will you see these new things but there will be prizes given out daily during the course of the fair! See you there!

Barn Buddies horse club hoping to help a family

By Virginia Kropf
Daily News Staff Writer

KNOWLESVILLE — The Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club is asking fairgoers to help them with a new project to help a needy family in an impoverished country.

The club is collecting Tops Friendly Markets' register tapes in hopes of raising \$250 to buy a water buffalo for a poor Indian or Filipino family, said club leader Maxine Boyle of Medina.

The project is part of Heifer Project International, a mission which has helped more than 4 million families in need since 1944, according to Boyle. The Heifer Project provides more than 20 types of food and income-producing animals and intensive training in animal management, environmentally sound farming and community development in more than 125 countries.

Since adopting the project, the Barn Buddies have raised \$110 toward their goal, mostly by collecting the register tapes. For every \$600 in tapes, Tops gives the club \$1.

"We hope everyone will bring us their tapes," said Boyle's daughter, Stephanie, 14. "We hope to have enough by the end of the fair to buy the buffalo."

The Barn Buddies first got the idea for the project from the grandmother of one of the club members.

The water buffalo can lead a hungry family out of poverty by providing milk, draft power for planting rice and potatoes and manure for fertilizer and fuel. It will also haul heavy loads to the market, where sales of extra produce bring in income for clothing, medicine and schooling.

The water buffalo's first calf is then passed to another family, helping them to fight hunger and poverty.

Anyone with Tops receipts can bring them to the Orleans County Fair and deposit them in a box which will be near the horse barn by the Barn Buddies display. Anyone who cannot attend the fair, but would like to contribute to the project, can send their tapes to the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office, 20 South Main St., Albion, marked for the Barn Buddies.

While helping others is a major focus of the 4-H club, they also learn about horsemanship and plan fun events for themselves.

"We march in parades, go bowling and roller skating," said Stephanie's sister, Ashley, 10.



Virginia Kropf/Daily News

4-H PROJECT: Stephanie Boyle, 14, and her sister, Ashley, 10, pose in the Barn Buddies 4-H Club booth at the Orleans County Fair, where they are collecting Tops Friendly Markets' register tapes to buy a water buffalo for Heifer Project International.

There are now 13 members of the Barn Buddies 4-H Horse Club, who meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Trolley Building on the fairgrounds.

Mrs. Boyle started the horse club two years ago, as her daughters' inter-

est in horses grew. Both girls are participating in horse events this year. Ashley won Grand Championship Monday in the Western Walk/Trot Pleasure Class, and Stephanie had third-, fourth- and fifth-place finishes in her events.

The Gardener's Column

They're Baaaack!

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

No, not the scary ghosts from an old movie, the problem we have is much worse! The adult viburnum leaf beetles have hatched and are hungry and laying eggs. We had a fairly easy spring with only a light infestation of the larva in mid to late May but, because the adults can fly, that doesn't mean we're home free.

The viburnum leaf beetle is a fairly new pest. It is native to Europe and was first found in the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, Canada in 1947. It was not found in New York State until 1996 when it was discovered in Fair Haven State Park in Cayuga County. This is a small bug with a big appetite for all viburnum species. It is only about one-quarter inch long and is generally brownish in color. If you walk past or throw a shadow over the plant they are eating they will roll and drop to the ground where they are almost impossible to find. So look for both the insect and signs of the damage.

Almost any viburnum shrubs are vulnerable to attack but their favorite is cranberrybush viburnum (*V. opulus*). A small group of insects can eat all of the leaves on a good size shrub in a day or two. All that will remain will be some dry, brown skeletons of leaves. At that point spraying won't work. The adults will be gone and only the eggs for next year's larva will remain. If that is your situation, prune the plant, fertilize and water deeply and regularly. The eggs are laid inside the outer branches usually in this year's growth. By pruning off the outside branches, especially those with a row of small bumps on the bottom edge, and then burning or throwing away the pruning pieces you can significantly reduce the population of next season's larva. Don't compost the

branches, the insects will live to eat again in the spring.

If, instead of a leafless shrub, you find the beetle eating away and making lace shapes with your plant leaves, you have time to treat. There are several sprays that are being tried for viburnum leaf beetle but because it is so new we don't have too many options labeled for homeowner use in New York State. Call the Cooperative Extension office at 589-5561 and we can go over options that are available to you.

As I said before, almost all viburnum shrubs are vulnerable, that includes the natives as well. This leaf beetle only feeds on species of viburnum but it has strong preferences within that family. Arrowwood viburnums (*V. dentatum*) and Cranberrybush viburnums are among their favorites. They tend to prefer the smooth leaved viburnums over those with fuzzy leaves so Koreanspice (*V. carlesii*) and Burkwood viburnums (*V. burkwood*) are more resistant. At home my leatherleaf viburnum (*V. rhtidiophyllum*) will get a few holes here and here but by doublefile snowball (*V. plicatum* var. *tomentosum*) is usually a first indicator of the presence of leaf beetles. Its leaves will be gone in a day if I don't watch carefully during the season.

So, please take a walk through your garden or woods, and look for this small hungry insect that can cause so much damage. Remember that even if you didn't have larva damage this spring, the adults are back and hungry. Maybe this is more like a scary ghost story, at least it is for the shrubs.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Summer Lawn Blues

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



It has been a dry summer. Just ask anyone with a crop, garden, or lawn. Unless you are actively water-

ing on a regular basis your plants are turning a questionable brown color. But is that so bad if you're looking at the lawn? In general, the answer is no, that's not really so bad!

Your vision for your lawn may be that lush emerald green golf course look that has trees popping out of a perfectly trimmed turf. If you have access to unlimited free water you may have the ability to reach that vision. If you pay for your water (does that include sewer too?) or you are on a well that has to supply the home needs too, the vision of a lush green lawn may be quite far down the priority list. That's OK too because our lawns were actually meant to dry out and turn brown in the summer.

The grasses that are typically used for our northern cool-humid region must be perennial, winter hardy, able to withstand frequent mowing, and be relatively disease free. These will include mixes of Kentucky bluegrass, fine leaf fescue, perennial ryegrass, and/or tall fescue depending on the soil, water, and sunlight conditions coupled with the traffic on the lawn. There are many variations on the seed mixes that can be used. The seeds best for your lawn depends on all of these factors! In any case all of these grasses are considered cool-season grasses. Cool-season grasses show their most active grow at temperatures between 60 and 75°F with the peak growth periods in the spring and fall. They show greatly reduced growth during the summer and winter months.

In the summer months most cool-season grasses go into a dormant stage to reduce water loss which will help maintain a healthy crown. When the cooler fall weather arrives with additional rainfall, these grasses naturally respond by putting out new growth. That translates to: the lawn brown's out in the summer and green's up in the fall! You actually help your lawn maintain it's natural pattern by not watering during the heat of the summer. If you lightly water you can hurt the lawn by giving it the signal to green up when the weather is still hot and dry! Even lightly watering daily is very bad because that tells the grass plants that the only water available is near the surface, so the deep roots die and new root grow close to ground level. This will make the grass plants very vulnerable to heat stress or a missed watering should you go away and the potential for crown loss, or death of the grass plants, is much higher!

If you can water you are best to water once every five to nine days and to put down an inch of water at that time. This type of watering schedule will soak down deeply into the soil and will encourage deep roots to develop. This will give you healthier grass plants and a more lush lawn. My yard is mostly clay and I find a once a week, one inch watering runs off before it can soak in. So, I spilt the watering over 2 mornings back-to-back, each is 1/2 inch of water.

I'm often asked how long to water to achieve one inch of watering... the answer depends on a lot of factors like what type of sprinkler are you using? What is your water pressure? Is it constant? And, what time of day are you watering? Instead of responding and analyzing these answers I have an easy way to measure. Place an empty tuna or cat food can (about one inch tall with straight sides) in the area of your sprinkler. Water the lawn at the time you would normally sprinkle (the best time is very early morning to reduce fungal growth and evaporation waste.) Time how long it takes to fill the can. There's your answer! The time will be longer on windy days since less water will get to the lawn or the can. Once you know how long to run the water you don't need to leave the can out.

There are several things that are normally done to lawns that make it harder for the grass plants to survive summer dormancy. Incorrect watering is one but rolling the lawn and mowing short are two others that will cause grass plant death.

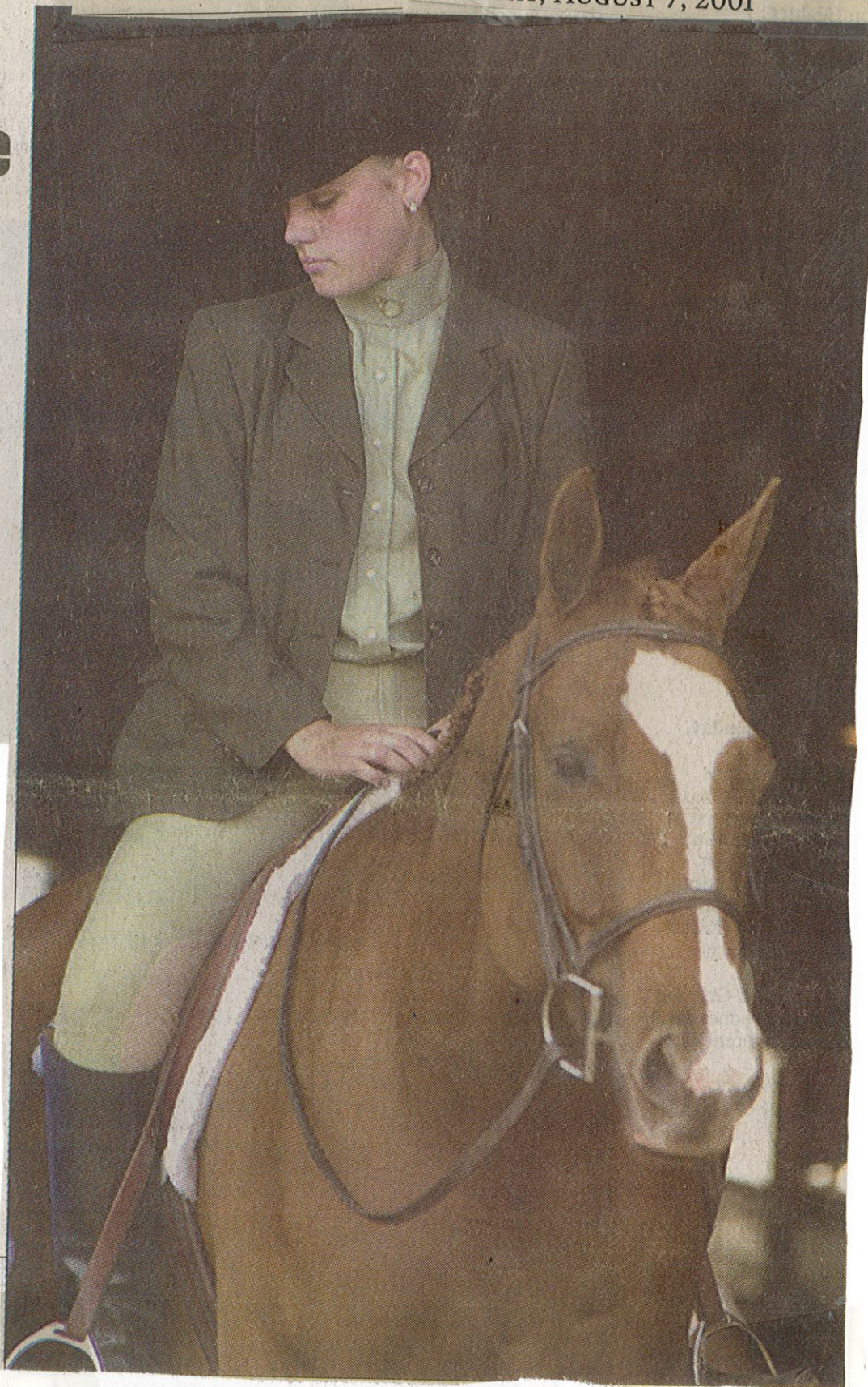
Rolling the lawn is the concept of placing a heavy drum over the lawn to push out the lumps. Unfortunately, most of those lumps are there because your lawn is trying to communicate with you to STOP ROLLING THE LAWN! Lumps are formed for a variety of reasons, frost heave of rocks, tree roots growing and swelling, old digging sites that have compacted and settled, and animal or insect damage. The perfect lawn soil would be 50% mineral and organic matter and 50% open space for air and water infiltration and it would be soft to walk on. Every time you walk on the soft lawn or roll it you push out the open space for air and water, this makes it harder for the grass plants to grow, be dense and survive through the summer dormant period. In addition you make the soil much more appealing to a variety of weeds that prefer compacted soil but that is another article at another time!

Mowing height is a difficult subject. Many people will look at a lawn that is 3 inches tall and declare that "It's time to mow!" when in fact that is the desired finished mowing height! It is a simple rule, short grass, short roots, long grass, long roots. If you set your mower to 3 inches finished height you will achieve several things. First, you will have a healthier lawn because the grass will be able to support a bigger root structure. Second, you will have fewer weeds because the grass will be denser and the taller grass blades will shade the soil and reduce the germination sites for weed seeds. Third, you will need to water less often again because the grass blades will shade the soil and reduce evaporation. Fourth, you will have to mow less often. Grass that is cut very short will first go into shock for a day then grow at almost twice its normal rate in order to put on blades for photosynthesis! By cutting the lawn short you actually increase the growth rate of your lawn!

So, it's August, the grass is brown and dormant, you don't need to pull out the mower or a hose. It's OK. Use that time to enjoy family, friends, a good book, fishing, anything else but don't worry about the lawn, it will come back later!

Equine etiquette

RIGHT: Jennalinn Teel, 16, of Barneveld, N.Y., waits in the doorway of the "warm-up" barn atop "Best Lil' Horse in Texas" at the Orleans County Fairgrounds before heading into the main ring for the quarterhorse show this weekend.



The Gardener's Column

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

The Summer Lawn Blues

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

It has been a dry summer. Just ask anyone with a crop, garden or lawn. Unless you are actively watering on a regular basis your plants are turning a questionable brown color. But is that so bad if you're looking at the lawn? In general, the answer is no, that's not really so bad.

Your vision for your lawn may be that lush emerald green golf course look that has trees popping out of a perfectly trimmed turf. If you have access to unlimited free water you may have the ability to reach that vision. If you pay for your water (does that include sewer too?) or you are on a well that has to supply the home needs too, the vision of a lush green lawn may be quite far down the priority list. That's OK too because our lawns were actually meant to dry out and turn brown in the summer.

The grasses that are typically used for our northern cool-humid region must be perennial, winter hardy, able to withstand frequent mowing and be relatively disease free. These will include mixes of Kentucky bluegrass, fine leaf fescue, perennial ryegrass and/or tall fescue depending on the soil, water and sunlight conditions coupled with the traffic on the lawn. There are many variations on the seed mixes that can be used. The seeds best for your lawn depends on all of these factors. In any case all of these grasses are considered cool-season grasses. Cool-season grasses show their most active growth at temperatures between 60 and 75F with the peak growth periods in the spring and fall. They show greatly reduced growth during the summer and winter months.

In the summer months most cool-season grasses go into a dormant stage to reduce water loss which will help maintain a healthy crown. When the cooler fall weather arrives with additional rainfall, these grasses naturally respond by putting out new growth. That translates to: the lawn brown's out in the summer and green's up in the fall. You actually help your lawn maintain it's natural pattern by not watering during the heat of the summer. If you lightly water you can hurt the lawn by giving it the signal to green up when the weather is still hot and dry. Even lightly watering daily is very bad because that tells the grass plants that the only water available is near the surface, so the deep roots die and new roots grow close to ground level. This will make the grass plants very vulnerable to heat stress or a missed watering should you go away and the potential for crown loss, or death of the grass plants is much higher.

If you can water you are best to water once every five to nine days and to put down an inch of water at a time. This type of watering schedule will soak down deeply into the soil and will encourage deep roots to develop. This will give you healthier grass plants and a more lush lawn. My yard is mostly clay and I find a once a week, one inch watering runs off before it can soak in. So, I split the watering over two mornings back-to-back, each is 1/2 inch of water.

I'm often asked how long to water to achieve one inch of watering ... the answer depends on a lot of factors like what type of sprinkler are

you using? What is your water pressure? Is it constant? And, what time of day are you watering? Instead of responding and analyzing these answers I have an easy way to measure. Place an empty tuna or cat food can (about one inch tall with straight sides) in the area of your sprinkler. Water the lawn at the time you would normally sprinkle (the best time is very early morning to reduce fungal growth and evaporation waste). Time how long it takes to fill the can. There's your answer. The time will be longer on windy days since less water will get to the lawn or the can. Once you know how long to run the water you don't need to leave the can out.

There are several things that are normally done to lawns that make it harder for the grass plants to survive summer dormancy. Incorrect watering is one but rolling the lawn and mowing short are two others that will cause grass plant death.

Rolling the lawn is the concept of placing a heavy drum over the lawn to push out the lumps. Unfortunately, most of those lumps are there because your lawn is trying to communicate with you to STOP ROLLING THE LAWN! Lumps are formed for a variety of reasons, frost heave of rocks, tree roots growing and swelling, old digging sites that have compacted and settled and animal or insect damage. The perfect lawn soil would be 50% mineral and organic matter and 50% open space for air and water infiltration and it would be soft to walk on. Everytime you walk on the soft lawn or roll it you push out the open space for air and water and makes it harder for the grass plants to grow, be dense and survive through the summer dormant period. In addition you make the soil much more appealing to a variety of weeds that prefer compacted soil but that is another article at another time.

Mowing height is a difficult subject. Many people will look at a lawn that is three inches tall and declare that "It's time to mow!" when in fact that is the desired finished mowing height. It is a simple rule, short grass, short roots, long grass, long roots. If you set your mower to three inches finished height you will achieve several things. First, you will have a healthier lawn because the grass will be able to support a bigger root structure. Second, you will have fewer weeds because the grass will be denser and the taller grass blades will shade the soil and reduce the germination sites for weed seeds. Third, you will need to water less often again because the grass blades will shade the soil and reduce evaporation. Fourth, you will have to mow less often. Grass that is cut very short will first go into shock for a day then grow at almost twice its normal rate in order to put on blades for photosynthesis. By cutting the lawn short you actually increase the growth rate of your lawn.

So, it's August, the grass is brown and dormant, you don't need to pull out the mower or a hose. It's OK. Use that time to enjoy family, friends, a good book, fishing, anything else but don't worry about the lawn, it will come back later.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Fairgrounds will feature weekend horse show



Rachel Naber/The Journal-Register

Kathy Miller and her horse "Boo."

By Brian M. Bannister
The Journal-Register

The Western New York Quarter Horse Association will sponsor the American Quarter Horse Association Candy Apple Classic Horse Show at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday.

More than 200 horses will compete, as riders and horses try to accumulate points to qualify for the national championships.

"Some people come just to up the value of their horses," said Medina resident Linda Logan. "The more points a horse accumulates, theoretically, the more it's worth."

Barn superintendent Lynn Hill has prepared 129 stalls, but was asked for 14 more. He said space simply wasn't available. He estimated 50 to 70 horses

would "trailer-in" each day.

"You should see the rigs some of these people have," Hill said. "The saddles go from \$2,500 to \$10,000."

The events are divided into 96 classes. Some require English style riding and others Western style riding.

The English events will take place indoors, the attire will be formal and in some classes the horses will be required to jump. The Western events will be conducted in the outdoor ring.

Hill said he was glad to see the fair grounds so busy.

"We really only use the property to its full extent once a year," Hill said.

Rental revenue for the event is paid to the Orleans Cornell Cooperative Extension, which eventually funnels back to the Orleans County 4-H Club.



**The
Journal-Register**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2001

**Dan Cappellazzo
The Journal-
Register**

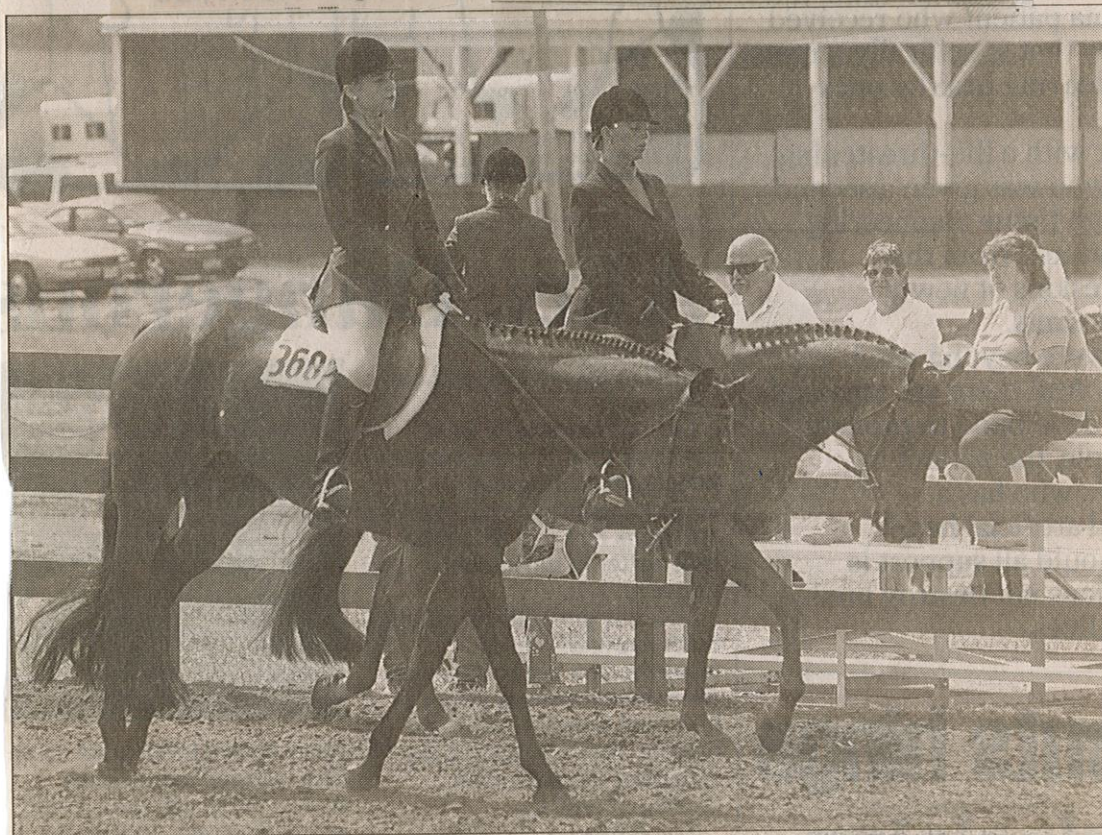
: Horse trainer
Bonnie Dvoronak, of
Leroy, works out "Play
Miss Chip" in the barn
for the competition. For
more photos of the
horse show, please

Equine etiquette



The
Journal-Register

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2001



Dan Cappellazzo/The Journal-Register

TOP: Horse handler Peggy Miller, of Clarence, washes "Major" at the Orleans County Fairgrounds quarter-horse show this weekend. "Major" is owned by Lynette Nisbet. ABOVE: Whitney Kimble, left, of Birmingham, Ala., rides "Lots of Chocolate" as Lindsay Dirnberger, of Tonawanda, rides "Dexter Bee Cash" in the 14 to 18 hunter under saddle division of the show.

The Gardener's Column

Time To Think Of Fall Garden Classes

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

This heat has been hard on everything. People talk about it, the animals rest in the shade, lawns have browned out and plants are drooping. If you garden and are the type of person that likes to find new solutions to reoccurring problems, than maybe fall garden classes are for you.

Nurseries, garden centers and farm markets host a variety of programs.

Kirby's Farm Market will host an Apple Festival the weekend of Aug. 25 and 26. This will include talks, presentations, demonstrations and food (716-637-2600).

Amy Machamer, co-owner of Hurd's Orchards, will be featured at a celebration of heirloom gardens and historic foodways called "From Plate to Palate" at Genesee Country Village and Museum, Mumfordsburg, Aug. 26 (716-538-6822).

Continuing education programs at the schools will have their listings out in the mail soon. The local libraries will be hosting a variety of classes this fall. The three that I will be teaching at Swan Library in Albion are Sept. 12, 19 and 26.

The Sept. 12 class is "Seasonal Balance - Layering and Bulbs." This is a fun class that covers using the same piece of earth for multiple seasons of color.

The Sept. 19 class is "Try It." In this class we will cover new and different plants to think about for your garden.

The Sept. 26 class is "Wildlife - The Good, the Bad and the Slimy." This class looks at both the desirable wildlife like birds and butterflies as well as those less desirable visitors like slugs and deer. We will talk about the elements that draw wildlife into your garden and how to control these elements to meet your needs.

For those of you who are interested in extended training, Master Gardener basic core training will start in Orleans County on Sept. 11. The classes will consist of 18 three-hour lectures by a number of different speakers and will cover a large variety of topics including Soils, Fertilizers and Ground Water; Garden Botany; Entomology (insects) and Pathology

(diseases); Organic Gardening and Composting; Basic Landscape Planning; Woody Plant materials, Annuals and Bedding Plants; Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, Herbs and Bulbs; Vegetables; Ecological Lawn Care and much more. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings September-November and January-March.

The Master Gardener Volunteer basic core training covered in the 18 classes is an introduction to the Master Gardener Experience where the focus is on volunteering on behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Consumer and Community Gardening program.

This program opens many channels for the gardener's interests and provides them with many new gardening insights. The Master Gardener Volunteer shares these interests and insights with the community through projects that are developed by the Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Coordinator.

Master Gardeners all over the U.S. and Canada carry out a range of similar projects. In New York State there are about 1,800 Master Gardener Volunteers in about 49 counties.

Each county's Master Gardener Coordinator/Program Leader selects the projects where educated volunteers are most needed. Projects must have an educational component and reflect the values of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Those projects done by Master Gardeners in New York State represent Cornell University and must promote Cornell-approved (science-based) teachings.

There are many fall class options available for you if you are interested in learning more about gardening. Attending a class or workshop may fit your needs and lifestyle better, or you may want to become a Master Gardener Volunteer. Either way you will learn about new innovations and products that are available today.

For more information about the Master Gardener program - either taking the training or participating in a program - contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension at 589-5561.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2001

County 4-H Board seeks members

The Orleans County Fair Board is looking for a couple of good, hard-working people. There are two openings available that must be filled for the upcoming year.

Anyone interested in a position may submit an application to become a member of the fair board.

To apply, send resume to the Orleans County Cornell

Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main St. P.O. Box 150, Albion, N.Y. 14411, c/o Gene Smith no later than Sept. 1. All resumes will be considered and reviewed.

They're Baaaack!

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator,
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



No, not the scary ghosts from an old movie, the problem we have is much worse!

The adult viburnum leaf beetles have hatched and are hungry and laying eggs. We had a fairly easy spring with only a light infestation of the larva in mid- to late-May but, because the adults can fly that doesn't mean we're home free.

The viburnum leaf beetle is a fairly new pest. It is native to Europe and was first found in the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, Canada in 1947. It was not found in New York State until 1996 when it was discovered in Fair Haven State Park in Cayuga County. This is a small bug with a big appetite for all viburnum species. It is only about 1/4 inch long and is generally brownish in color. If you walk past or throw a shadow over the plant they are eating they will roll and drop to the ground where they are almost impossible to find. So look for both the insect and signs of the damage.

Almost any viburnum shrubs are vulnerable to attack but their favorite is cranberrybush viburnum (*V. opulus*.) A small group of insects can eat all of the leaves on a good size shrub in a day or two! All that will remain will be some dry, brown skeletons of leaves. At that point spraying won't work. The adults will be gone and only the eggs for next year's larva will remain. If that is your situation, prune the plant, fertilize, and water deeply and regularly. The eggs are laid inside the outer branches usually in this year's growth. By pruning off the outside branches, especially those with a row of small bumps on the bottom edge, and then burning or throwing away the pruning pieces you can significantly reduce the population of next season's larva! Don't compost the branches, the insects will live to eat again in the spring!

If, instead of a leafless shrub, you find the beetle eating away and making lace shapes with your plant leaves, you have time to treat. There are several sprays that are being tried for viburnum leaf beetle but because it is so new we don't have too many options labeled for homeowner use in New York State. Call the Cooperative Extension office at 589-5561 and we can go over options that are available to you.

As I said before, almost all viburnum shrubs are vulnerable, that includes the natives as well. This leaf beetle only feeds on species of viburnum but it has strong preferences within that family. Arrowwood viburnums (*V. dentatum*), and Cranberrybush viburnums are among their favorites. They tend to prefer the smooth leaved viburnums over those with fuzzy leaves so Koreanspice (*V. carlesii*) and Burkwood viburnums (*V. burkwoodii*) are more resistant. At home my leatherleaf viburnum (*V. rhtidiophyllum*) will get a few holes here and there but my doublefile snowball (*V. plicatum* var. *tomentosum*) is usually a first indicator of the presence of leaf beetles. Its leaves will be gone in a day if I don't watch carefully during the season.

So, please take a walk through your garden or woods, and look for this small, hungry insect that can cause so much damage. Remember that even if you didn't have larva damage this spring, the adults are back and hungry. Maybe this is more like a scary ghost story, at least it is for the shrubs!

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

Farm and Garden

Area Cooperative Extension specialist begins work

Christy Hoepting has filled a vacancy for the Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Plains Vegetable Program in the area of muck vegetable production and post-harvest storage. With her office located at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans

County in Albion, she completes a three-person team that addresses vegetable production in Orleans, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Erie and Chautauqua counties.

While much (organic soils) vegetables are primarily grown in the Elba and Elma

areas of Western New York, Hoepting will work with growers of storage cabbage, onions, potatoes and other vegetables throughout the region and cooperate in carrying out team responsibilities.

Hoepting recently completed her Master's of Science

degree in plant pathology and applied entomology at the University of Guelph, Ontario, where she also obtained her undergraduate degree in environmental toxicology.

Hoepting's experience in the industry includes working as an agricultural research

and development assistant for herbicide studies in field corn and soybeans at DuPont in Canada and as a summer student at the Muck Crop Research Station in the Holland Marsh located in Ontario. She also served as a teaching assistant in plant pathology

and weed science.

Hoepting welcomes requests that will familiarize her with WNY agriculture and looks forward to receiving questions regarding vegetable production. She can be reached at 589-5561 or e-mail at cah59@cornell.edu.

The Gardener's Column

Japanese beetles, the colorful pest

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Sometimes I find it amazing to see the amount of damage that one one-half inch beetle can do. These are the times when I find leaves turned into lace, only the veins remain, and can only find one pest. I don't wait too long to stop the destruction that this shiny, metallic green bug has caused while he had had his fill on my plants.

I vividly remember my first Japanese beetle sighting. I was seven and playing in our yard near a Niagara grapevine that had been planted on a chain link fence. It was the lacy leaves and the brightness of the big that caught my eye. Being naturally inquisitive and not squeamish about bugs I got closer to look. In my memory it was huge. Bigger than my thumb, very colorful and quite aggressive as it lifted its legs to appear even bigger. The gentleman that lived next door was an accomplished gardener and happened to be home. He identified it as a Japanese beetle and a pest. Then we squished it.

As its name implies, the Japanese beetle is native to Japan, where natural enemies keep its population in check. This insect is not a serious plant pest in Japan. It was first found in the United States in a nursery in southern New Jersey nearly 80 years ago. The beetle entered the United States without its natural enemies and found a favorable climate and an abundant food supply. Beetle infestations had been reported in 22 states east of the Mississippi River and also in Iowa and Missouri by 1972. The pest has continued to disperse south and west since then.

Japanese beetles are destructive plant pests both as adults and as grubs (the larval stage). Adults feed on the foliage and fruits of several hundred species of fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, vines and field and vegetable crops. The grubs develop in the soil, feeding on the roots of various plants and grasses and often destroying turf in lawns, parks, golf courses and pastures.

Today, the Japanese beetle is the most widespread turf-grass pest in the United States. Efforts to control the larval and adult stages are estimated to cost more than \$460 million a year. Losses attributable to the larval stage alone have been estimated at \$234 million per year - \$78 million for control costs and an additional \$156 million for replacement of damaged turf.

The feeding period for adult Japanese beetles is usually late spring or early summer. During this time the females will leave plants, burrow about three inches into the ground - usually into turf - and lay a few eggs then go back to feeding. This cycle is repeated until the female lays 40 to 60 eggs. The eggs will hatch by midsummer and the young grubs will begin to feed. Each grub is about an inch long when fully grown and lies in a curled position. In late autumn, the grubs burrow four to eight inches into the soil and remain inactive all winter. This insect spends about 10 months of the year in the ground in the larval stage. The grubs return to the turf root zone in early spring and continue to feed on roots until late spring, when they change into pupae. After about two weeks the pupae become adult beetles and emerge from the ground. The Japanese beetle

only has one life cycle per year.

Getting rid of Japanese beetles depends on a few factors. Are you having problems with larva or adults? How large is the population or the area of damage? What kinds of plants are getting damaged?

Right now the adults are causing the damage. For reasonably small sized populations and smaller sized plants like grape vines, roses and crabapple trees the best method is handpicking the bugs or knocking them into a bucket of warm sudsy water (regular dish soap is OK). Squishing is OK too if you're not squeamish. If you have a larger population or cannot reach up into a tree to knock them down there are several chemicals registered in New York State that are labeled for Japanese beetles. They include carbaryl and methoxychlor. Always follow label directions when handling and applying chemicals.

"Beetle bag" traps were developed to tell the farmers when the adults had emerged so they could accurately treat. Millions of beetles are captured annually in "beetle bag" traps. This method is an easy and inexpensive way to reduce beetle populations and curtail egg laying. Unfortunately, even under favorable conditions, a trap will capture only about 75 percent of the beetles that approach it. And the rest will be in or near to your yard. Traps are not recommended for small yards. Put traps at the borders of your property, away from plants the beetles may damage. The traps are most effective when many of them are spread over an entire community so working with your neighbors to hang traps is good. The inexpensive traps only capture male beetles so, if you are going to set traps purchase the more expensive male and female pheromone traps and remember you will get about 75 percent.

The top ten plants that adult Japanese beetles prefer to eat are: American linden, crabapple, apple, Japanese maple, Norway maple, rose, crape myrtle, pin oak, birch and the prunus trees like apricot, cherry, plum and peach (grapes come in at number 13). The top ten that they avoid are: magnolia, redbud, dogwood, red maple, northern red oak, burning bush, holly, boxwood, hemlock and ash.

Later in the summer the grubs will hatch and begin feeding. Before starting treatment, ask the following questions. Is the damage definitely caused by grubs? Many other turf problems look similar to grub damage. Are the grubs still present? If they are gone treatment time, money and product will be wasted. Is this the best time to treat for grubs? You'll get the best control when the grubs are young and actively feeding close to the soil surface. Generally that is mid August to late September in our area. Are there enough grubs to need treatment? A good rule of thumb: you should treat if there are more than eight grubs per square foot. Lastly, are there alternatives to synthetic soil insecticides available? Parasitic nematodes and milky spore are two bio-controls available for white grubs.

Watch for adults on your plants now and larva in the lawn later in the summer. The adults are a colorful pest than can cause a great deal of damage.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Gardener's Column

Something's cookin' at the fair

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

Ahh, fair time! You know it, the sights, sounds, events, and food!

This is a summer time event to go out, see your friends and neighbors, see the projects the 4-H'ers have been working on and see what's new! Well, this year you're in for an additional treat!

As you enter the fair parking, each car will be given a flier with a list of 20 questions and a map of the fairgrounds. The answers to these questions can be found at the fair! Some may be along the "Agri-mile." Others may be in the Kids Ag Tent, where there are interactive activities.

Each animal area will also have a display. There will be youth exhibits in sewing, baking, canning, photography, creative arts and crafts, and horticulture for you to look for these answers.

The purpose is two-fold. First, this is a fun way to see many areas of the fair, maybe even some you hadn't seen before! And second, this year the Orleans County 4-H'ers are participating in a state-wide program called 'Ag

Awareness."

The program is designed to help educate the public about the agriculture in the community. Instead of just doing a display, our 4-H'ers, leaders, and fair board wanted you to have some fun in the process. The theme for this year is "Agriculture in the New Millennium" and the displays and questions will focus on the innovations in agriculture.

We are in a rather unique position here in Orleans County in that our fair is a youth fair. New York state has 56 counties and also five boroughs in New York City metro. For this year, there are 53 county fairs scheduled for 2001 plus the state fair in Syracuse. Some counties, like Albany and Schenectady, do joint fairs.

Even New York City metro does a fair event. Of all of those fairs, only nine are "Youth Fairs" where kids do the exhibits through their projects, 4-H clubs and organizations.

Orleans County 4-H fair is among the nine. This is the opportunity to show not only the traditional things that they have learned and worked on over the season, but to also

show some of the new research and innovations that the kids are learning about.

Sure, there will still be commercial exhibits and demonstrations like the controlled atmosphere apple storage, reuse of waste wood products and animal nutrition. The rides and food will be there too!

But don't miss the incubation display to possibly see a chick hatch or the hydroponics display where plants grow without any soil, or the worms composting garbage and pick up a gummy worm!

This year's 4-H fair will give you a chance to cheek out fun and new items and learn new information tool. So when you go to the fair this year you can do all of the fun things you remember about a traditional county fair, plus have some fun looking for 20 answers!

When you complete your questions, submit your entry form in the Trolley Building. Not only will you see these new things, but there will be prizes given out daily during the course of the fair! See you there!

Smith is an educator at the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

AC

AGRICULTURE BRIEFS



Gold Award winner

Sally Driesel, 16, of Lyndonville, seen above, organized a kindergarten "Animal Fun Day" for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Sally transported her Tunis ewe and lamb, her brothers' Black Angus beef heifer and a borrowed dairy Holstein calf from the Lavarne Eick and Sons dairy farm to the event at Lyndonville Central School. Sally talked to the kindergarten classes about the animals and also made a coloring book to give each child to take home and a puzzle for each classroom to keep. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award given in Girl Scouts. Sally is a junior at Lyndonville Central School, president of the Orleans County 4-H Sheep Club and an active member of Girl Scout Troop 2094. She plans to continue her studies in college to be a veterinary technician.

Medina 4-H'er takes part in public speaking event

By Karen Sampson

For The Journal-Register

When a small child is choking, many people become frightened because they don't know what to do.

Michelle Sands, of Medina, does know and she presented that knowledge before a panel of public speaking evaluators recently.

Sands was one of 42 participants from 25 counties in the third annual 4-H State Public Presentations Event June 25.

Of a possible 180 points for her presentation, she received 159 points.

She has been part of the Public Presentation program for seven years and was selected to represent Orleans County at the event.

"It's to help individuals become public speakers and have more confidence when they're speaking in public," Sands said. "Anybody can participate at the county level."

While junior members of 4-H are encouraged to present at the county level, the state level is open to selected senior members, Sands said.

Sands' speech was in the "Demonstration/Illustrated

"I've had training in rescue breathing and CPR in Girl Scouts," she said. "I had just recently gone for CPR training. I thought I'd teach CPR and rescue breathing, but I'd specialize it for infants."

The experience of presenting before members of the Cornell University community was an exciting one, Sands said.

"It was fun," she said. "There's a room of 12 presenters and I was the last one."

Sands said she heard about four hours' worth of presentations from other 4-H'ers before it was her turn.

"It was interesting," she said. "I think it's a very good experience. You meet people and realize other people around the state do it, too. It's a great learning experience."

Sands belongs to the Moonlight Dreamers 4-H Club, led by Marje Davis.

Her projects in 4-H have included arts and crafts, foods and nutrition and clothing and textiles. She has been one of the Orleans County representatives for an eight-county district Clothing Revue.

Sands said Davis has helped



Karen Sampson/For The Journal-Register

Never Ask a Gardener this Question

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



My husband asked 'the question.' It wasn't his fault; he wasn't a gardener and wouldn't know.

We had been standing on the neighbor's lawn, looking at the freshly mulched garden bed that backs up to the small retaining wall we installed years ago on the property line. Our black & white cat, Tuxedo, had draped his long, sleek form across a top row of timbers in a small sunny spot that squeezed through between the new magnolia and white flowering lilac. The magnolia had been the focus of attention that day, it was a replacement for a similar tree that had been new to the garden one season before a traditional Buffalo, New York winter. The little tree had not survived and the design had not felt right without that particular tree. So, several seasons later, a new tree had been planted.

This particular garden has been a true study in evolution. There is a change in elevation between the houses. The previous owners of our home had left it in grass but that proved to be a level of maintenance that was higher than we wanted. It was too steep for our rider lawnmower - necessary for the remaining three-quarters acre of lawn when we first moved into the house. The space was a multi hour job with a string trimmer and a physics class with the push mower. We had considered a long narrow meadow but felt good neighbor relations were a higher priority. Goats were discussed...briefly. So, a retaining wall was designed one snowy winter day and installed in the summer.

Since the land slopes both toward the street and toward the neighbor's yard we were able to build a stepping timber wall where the faces of only three timbers are exposed at any one time. Poor sighting of the first section angled the wall off of the property line so a smaller offset garden area was built to bring it back in line. We liked that look so much that we repeated the effect for the next sections and an angled set of steps leads from one yard to the other and joins the sections. The steps were not only for good neighbor relations but would help to avoid a lawsuit as we live in an area where the meter reader still walks from house to house.

The original neighborhood had been woods and many of the neighbor's trees had been removed during the building process. We prefer a more wooded setting so planned the plantings accordingly. This would accent the sense of enclosure and increase the number of trees. By working with a general master plan and planting 3-5 new trees each year we have been able to cut down the winter wind and snow drift, channel breezes, and keep some sun spaces in the areas we want. That particular wall was planted with a mix of trees and shrubs - both deciduous and evergreen - perennials, and, for shrubs of color, some annuals. I think my husband's need to know if it was 'done' comes from the process for placing the trees... There were things to hide and views to keep along this edge. So, before any holes were dug the final location would be chosen by one of us standing in the garden holding a 10-foot pole! That would help the other move through the house checking for screening and views. (You can guess who got the outside job!)

The development of a garden can be quick or slow depending on the size of the project, time you have available, and amount you want to spend on it! Most of my gardens tend to 'evolve.' I know what I want them to look like, at least in general terms of screening, big or small plants, and areas of color but that doesn't mean that they're done in one season! So, for longer timed projects part of it sometimes includes managing the expectations of the other people who live there, look at it and are asked to invest time or money into it.

My husband's question "Is it done now?" is a far question from a development point of view but no garden worth its salt is ever really done! As the plants grow and fill in it will require less labor, less audience participation, and less financial input, but it is never done! I truly look forward to future seasons of light mulching and weeding, occasional dead heading and pruning, and happily shared divisions of perennials to friends, neighbors, and visitors. I think my husband is just beginning to understand the concept of 'done'...

The Gardener's Column

Never ask a gardener this question

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

My husband asked 'the question.' It wasn't his fault; he wasn't a gardener and wouldn't know. We had been standing on the neighbor's lawn, looking at the freshly mulched garden bed that backs up to the small retaining wall we installed years ago on the property line. Our black and white cat, Tuxedo, had draped his long, sleek form across a top row of timbers in a small sunny spot that squeezed through between the new magnolia and white flowering lilac. The magnolia had been the focus of attention that day, it was a replacement for a similar tree that had been new to the garden one season before a traditional Buffalo, New York winter. The little tree had not survived and the design had not felt right without that particular tree. So, several seasons later, a new tree had been planted.

This particular garden has been a true study in evolution. There is a change in elevation between the houses. The previous owners of our home had left it in grass but that proved to be a level of maintenance that was higher than we wanted. It was too steep for our rider lawnmower - necessary for the remaining three-quarters acre of lawn when we first moved into the house. The space was a multi hour job with a string trimmer and a physics class with a push mower. We had considered a long narrow meadow but felt good neighbor relations were a higher priority. Goats were discussed ... briefly. So, a retaining wall was designed one snowy winter day and installed in the summer.

Since the land slopes both toward the street and toward the neighbor's yard we were able to build a stepping timber wall where the faces of only three timbers are exposed at any one time. Poor sighting of the first section angled the wall off of the property line so a smaller offset garden area was built to bring it back in line. We liked that look so much that we repeated the effect for the next sections and an angled set of steps leads from one yard to the other and joins the sections. The steps were not only for good neighbor relations but would help to avoid a lawsuit as we live in an area where the meter reader still walks from house to house.

The original neighborhood had been woods and many of the neighbor's trees had been removed during the building process. We prefer a more wooded setting so planned the plantings accordingly. This would accent the sense of enclosure and increase the number of trees. By working with a general master plan and planting 3-5 new trees each year we have been able to cut down the winter wind and snow drift, channel breezes and keep some sun spaces in the areas we want. That particular wall was planted with a mix of trees and shrubs - both deciduous and evergreen - perennials, and, for splashes of color, some annuals. I think my husband's need to know if it was 'done' comes from the process for placing the trees ... There were things to hide and views to keep along with edge. So, before any holes were dug the final location would be chosen by one of us standing in the garden holding a 10-foot pole. That would help the other move through the house checking for screening and views (You can guess who got the outside job!)

The development of a garden can be quick or slow depending on the size of the project, time you have available and amount you want to spend on it. Most of my gardens tend to 'evolve.' I know what I want them to look like, at least in general terms of screening, big or small plants and areas of color but that doesn't mean that they're done in one season. So, for longer timed projects part of it sometimes includes managing the expectations of the other people who live there, look at it and are asked to invest time or money into it.

My husband's question "Is it done now?" is a fair question from a development point of view but no garden worth its salt is ever really done. As the plants grow and fill in it will require less labor, less audience participation and less financial input, but it is never done. I truly look forward to future seasons of light mulching and weeding, occasional dead heading and pruning and happily shared divisions of perennials to friends, neighbors and visitors. I think my husband is just beginning to understand the concept of 'done'...

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Time to Think of Fall Garden Classes

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



This heat has been hard on everything. People talk about it, the animals rest in the shade, lawns have browned out and plants are drooping. If you garden and are the type of person that likes to find new solutions to reoccurring problems, than maybe fall garden classes are for you!

Nurseries, garden centers and farm markets host a variety of programs. Kirby's Farm Market will host an Apple Festival the weekend of August 25 & 26. This will include talks, presentations, demonstrations, and food! (716)637-2600. Amy Machamer, co-owner of Hurd's Orchards, will be featured at a celebration of heirloom gardens and historic foodways called "From Plate to Palate" at Genesee Country Village & Museum, Mumford, Sunday, August 26 (716)538-6822. Continuing education programs at the schools will have their listings out in the mail soon. The local libraries will be hosting a variety of classes this fall. The three that I will be teaching at Swan Library in Albion are September 12, 19, and 26.

The September 12 class is "Seasonal Balance - Layering & Bulbs." This is a fun class that covers using the same piece of earth for multiple seasons of color. The September 19 class is "Try It!" In this class we will cover new and different plants to think about for your garden. The September 26 class is "Wildlife - The Good, the Bad, & the Slimy." This class looks at both the desirable wildlife like birds and butterflies as well as those less desirable visitors like slugs and deer. We will talk about the elements that draw wildlife into your garden and how to control these elements to meet your needs!

For those of you who are interested in extended training, Master Gardener basic core training will start in Orleans County on September 11. The classes will consist of 18 three-hour lectures by a number of different speakers and will cover a large variety of topics to including Soils, Fertilizers, & Ground Water; Garden Botany; Entomology (insects) & Pathology (diseases); Organic Gardening & Composting; Basic Landscape Planning; Woody Plant materials, Annuals & Bedding Plants; Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, Herbs & Bulbs; Vegetables; Ecological Lawn Care; and much more! Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings September - November and January - March.

The Master Gardener Volunteer basic core training covered in the 18 classes is an introduction to the Master Gardener Experience where the focus is on volunteering on behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Consumer and Community Gardening program. This program opens many channels for the gardener's interests and provides them with many new gardening insights. The Master Gardener Volunteer shares these interests and insights with the community through projects that are developed by the Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Coordinator.

Master Gardeners all over the U.S. and Canada carry out a range of similar projects. In New York State there are about 1,800 Master Gardener Volunteers in about 49 counties. Each county's Master Gardener Coordinator / Program Leader selects the projects where educated volunteers are most needed. Projects must have an educational component and reflect the values of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Those projects done by Master Gardeners in New York State represent Cornell University and must promote Cornell-approved (science-based) teachings.

There are many fall class options available for you if you are interested in learning more about gardening. Attending a class or workshop may fit your needs and lifestyle better, or you may want to become a Master Gardener Volunteer. Either way you will learn about new innovations and products that are available today! For more information about the Master Gardener program - either taking the training or participating in a program - contact the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Ex-

The Gardener's Column

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2001

THE JOURNAL-REGISTER

105 different ways to eat tomatoes

By Rochelle Smith
For The Journal-Register

Tomatoes. What do you see in your mind's eye when you hear that word? Do ripe, red, juicy fruits ready for slicing and dicing linger in your imagination? Do you dream of sauces, sandwiches and salads? Maybe you're a canner and your nose can smell warm skins slipping off robust round and oval jewels. Or perhaps you're a gardener, watching and waiting for the first hints of color from plants heavy with fruit, stealing a green one now and then because you just can't wait. I met an Orleans County man who is all of these and more. He is growing one hundred and five different varieties of tomatoes in his garden - two or three plants of each - just for the fun and experience.

The tomato plant is now the most widely grown "vegetable" (it's really a fruit) in the United States. It originated in South America and was domesticated by the Incas. They bred the tomato so it had many ruffles and ridges. Spanish monks cultivated the tomato, although it was not widely accepted by Europeans as an edible fruit. During the nineteenth century, the tomato was affectionately called the love apple, or in French, *le pomme d'amour*. At the turn of the century, a gardener decided that he didn't like the ridges and ruffles of the Incan tomato. He spent twenty years breeding them out and produced the *Paragon*, the first formal variety of the tomato.

There are myriad varieties of tomato, and not all of them are red when ripe. Tomatoes run from yellow to deep purple in color. For example, the *Lemon Boy* variety is yellow, and the *Cherokee Purple* is, well, purple. Although the original tomatoes were vine plants, today's tomatoes grow in both vine and bush types. These are technically called indeterminate (vine) and determinate (bush). Determinate tomatoes tend to have compact plants and the fruit ripens more closely together. Indeterminate plants continue to grow and the fruits keep setting until frost.

Beefsteaks are the very biggest tomatoes. Their pulp cavity is generally relatively small, and always compressed and distorted by the extensive wall, giving the 'marbled' appearance of a steak. Because of the compressed pulp cavity and networking of the fruit wall, beefsteaks hold together well when sliced, and together with their large size, make them the ideal for sandwiches. They also cook down well for sauces. There is a lot of variation between varieties in the density of the flesh, its juiciness (i.e. firm or very soft when ripe), and in the size and softness of the central 'core.' Flavor can also vary from tomato to tomato. This is usually due to the ratio of sugars to acids, and changes according to the relative amount of sugar or acid present in the fruit.

Plum tomatoes often have fine thick flesh and reduced amounts of pulp. This makes them good for holding shape when canned, and it means they also slice quite well. Because they have less pulp they cook down for sauces

faster than some. A good tasting cultivar may be the only tomato you need.

The seed pulp tends to fall out of salad tomatoes if they are sliced but that is what makes them great for salads. Abundant seed pulp makes them a slow reducer if they are being used for sauces. But their smaller size makes them ideal for cutting in half or in quarters to toss with fresh greens or slice with mozzarella cheese and fresh basil.

Cherry tomatoes are tiny tomatoes for putting whole in salads or snacking. These tomatoes vary from pea sized up to where they tip over into small 'salad' type. They are usually very prolific, and some have been bred for high sugars as a snacking 'fruit.' They are very colorful as a whole tomato in a salad, and their size makes them ideally suited to this purpose.

At this time of the year we are starting to see one predominant problem in tomatoes in the Master Gardener Diagnostic Lab. Blossom-End Rot (BER) is characterized by a large, leathery brown or black spot on the bottom of the fruit. BER is caused by a lack of calcium in the fruit which caused the fruit to die back creating the characteristic spot. What can you do to prevent it? Have your soil tested to make sure calcium is present in adequate amounts. Chances are the calcium level will be fine but if it is not, add limestone (for acid soils with a pH below 6), or gypsum when the soil pH is in the 6 to 7 range. If calcium levels are okay, the next most important control is to maintain optimum soil moisture. When tomatoes experience the slightest bit of drought, BER may result. Using mulches will usually significantly decrease BER as excessive evaporation from soil is reduced. Varieties will vary in their susceptibility so if you have a problem with a particular variety, choose a new one next year.

So, you may be asking about the man with 105 different tomatoes. Many are heirloom varieties chosen because of their fruit or foliage character. Heirlooms are old varieties that have been maintained either because they have appealing attributes like extra large size, unusual coloring, special connoisseur qualities or because of family sentimental reasons. Because heirloom tomatoes haven't been 'worked on' by plant breeders, they don't usually have much disease resistance. Our Orleans County grower has addressed this problem by mulching well to avoid moisture loss and to prevent disease spores in the soil splashing up and infecting the young plants. He has collected his seeds from all over the world and says "tomatoes grow everywhere except Antarctica!" I hope he will be able to give future talks about his experience both with the tomatoes, finding diverse seed sources and growing a huge trial. Watch the paper for gardening talks and eat locally grown tomatoes. The one you choose may not be an Inca Indian heirloom but it will be super fresh and tasty!

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Basil - A Great Companion in the Garden & On the Table

Rochelle Smith
Extension Educator
Orleans County
Cornell Cooperative
Extension



I have a bunch of basil stems and leaves on my desk; the scent is fabulous! This bunch was a gift from a fellow basil admirer; she had more than she could use so shared this spicy scented bunch with me. It won't go to waste... basil is one on my most favorite of all herbs because it's such a great companion to both the garden and the table!

The basil that we know best, *Ocimum basilicum*, is one of about 65 species of highly aromatic annuals and evergreen perennials and shrubs. The leaves hold both the flavor and scent and are best when added to hot dishes at the end of the cooking period since the flavor is volatile and will "boil off." It is considered an herb because the leaves are used, not the seeds (using the seeds would make it a spice!)

In the garden basil has many uses. It is quite acceptable to use food plants in your ornamental garden. Since basil has such a variety of colors and textures available in addition to scent it is a natural! The traditional green leafed, sweet basil is a great edger especially if you pinch it back regularly to keep a bushy habit. *O. basilicum* 'Red Rubin' is an upright, bushy, well-branched annual that holds scented, oval purple-black leaves with a crinkled edge. How better to add color to the garden than with colored leaves? When placed near the garden path where it will be brushed against this plant will add scent to your garden as well as color. *O. basilicum* 'Cinnamon' has bright green leaves in the traditional shape but the cinnamon-clove scent of the leaves is a nice change. In addition, it has rose-pink flowers. But, since we don't like to let our basil flower (it tends to get quite leggy once it starts to flower) you may not see these. *O. basilicum* 'Green Ruffles' lives up to its name with bright, almost lime-green ruffled leaves. 'Dark Opal' is another deep red. This is a strongly scented plant that is almost pepper tasting for those who like it spicy! For small spaces look toward *O. basilicum* 'Spicy Globe.' This is a rounded, dense, compact annual with small, bright green leaves, great for containers or edging.

In any case grow your basil in light, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic to slightly alkaline in a warm, sheltered site in full sun. Keep it well-watered during dry spells in summer, and pinch out the growing tips as plants reach about 6-inches to promote a bushy habit. Removing the flower spikes as they appear will prolong leaf production. Basil will grow indoors and in greenhouses as well but, a temperature of 50-59°F is required for good growth.

Another great place to plant basil is in the vegetable bed. Destructive insects often locate their food by smell. Many plants, especially culinary herbs, produce strong scents which may confuse insect pests looking for a host to feed on. Garden vegetable plants such as garlic, onions, chives, and herbs such as catnip, horehound, wormwood, basil, tansy, and mints all produce scents which seem to repel insects or mask the scents which attract insects. A certain level of insect protection can be achieved by carefully interplanting some of these as companions to vegetables.

Try some combinations that folklore says are effective companions like basil planted among tomatoes may repel tomato hornworms; Chives could be planted at the base of roses to repel aphids; and tomatoes planted among asparagus may repel asparagus beetles. Since scientists have not spent much time looking at these relationships among plants and their community we don't have hard facts for these but it never hurts to try!

Basil on the table has many different options as well! Try adding fresh basil leaves to your leaf salad, or layering them with sliced tomatoes and mozzarella (drizzle that with your favorite Italian dressing for a fantastic salad.) I add sprigs of fresh basil to my flower arrangements, they add an additional spicy scent to the bouquet! And don't forget pesto and drying options! Whichever way you cut it, basil is an all around great plant for the garden!

The Gardener's Column

Basil - a great companion in the garden and on the table

By Rochelle Smith

For The Journal-Register

I have a bunch of basil stems and leaves on my desk; the scent is fabulous. This bunch was a gift from a fellow basil admirer; she had more than she could use so shared this spicy scented bunch with me. It won't go to waste ... basil is one of my most favorite of all herbs because it's such a great companion to both the garden and the table.

The basil that we know best, *Ocimum basilicum*, is one of about 65 species of highly aromatic annuals and evergreen perennials and shrubs. The leaves hold both the flavor and scent and are best when added to hot dishes at the end of the cooking period since the flavor is volatile and will "boil off." It is considered an herb because the leaves are used, not the seeds (using the seeds would make it a spice).

In the garden basil has many uses. It is quite acceptable to use food plants in your ornamental garden. Since basil has such variety of colors and textures available in addition to scent it is a natural. The traditional green leafed, sweet basil is a great edger especially if you pinch it back regularly to keep a bushy habit. *O. basilicum* 'Red Rubin' is an upright, bushy well-branched annual that holds scented, oval purple-black leaves with a crinkled edge. How better to add color to the garden than with colored leaves? When placed near the garden path where it will be brushed against this plant will add scent to your garden as well as color. *O. basilicum* 'Cinnamon' has bright green leaves in the traditional shape but the cinnamon-clove scent of the leaves is a nice change. In addition, it has rose-pink flowers. But, since we don't like to let our basil flower (it tends to get quite leggy once it starts to flower) you may not see these. *O. basilicum* 'Green Ruffles' lives up to its name with bright, almost lime-green ruffled leaves. 'Dark Opal' is another deep red. This is a strongly scented plant that is almost pepper tasting for those who like it spicy. For small spaces look toward *O. basilicum* 'Spicy Globe.' This is a rounded, dense compact annual with small,

bright green leaves, great for containers or edging.

In any case grow your basil in light, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic to slightly alkaline in a warm, sheltered site in full sun. Keep it well watered during dry spells in summer, and pinch out the growing tips as plants reach about six inches to promote a bushy habit. Removing the flower spikes as they appear will prolong leaf production. Basil will grow indoors and in greenhouses, as well but, a temperature of 50-59 is required for good growth.

Another great place to plant basil is in the vegetable bed. Destructive insects often locate their food by smell. Many plants, especially culinary herbs, produce strong scents which may confuse insect pests looking for a host to feed on. Garden vegetable plants such as garlic, onions, chives and herbs such as catnip, horehound, wormwood, basil, tansy and mints all produce scents which seem to repel insects or mask the scents which attract insects. A certain level of insect protection can be achieved by carefully interplanting some of these as companions to vegetables.

Try some combinations that folklore says are effective companions like basil planted among tomatoes may repel tomato hornworms. Chives could be planted at the base of roses to repel aphids and tomatoes planted among asparagus may repel asparagus beetles. Since scientists have not spent much time looking at these relationships among plants and their community we don't have hard facts for these but it never hurts to try.

Basil on the table has many different options as well. Try adding fresh basil leaves to your leaf salad, or layering them with sliced tomatoes and mozzarella (drizzle that with your favorite Italian dressing for a fantastic salad). I add sprigs of fresh basil to my flower arrangements. They add an additional spicy scent to the bouquet. And don't forget pesto and drying options. Whichever way you cut it, basil is an all around great plant for the garden.

Rochelle Smith is an extension educator with the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

AGRICULTURE

• The Daily News • Tuesday, August 28, 2001

Horse group saddles kids with learning

By Virginia Kropf

Daily News Staff Writer

ALBION — If Orleans County has one of the best horse programs around, it could be because of the Horse Program Development Committee.

"We have a really committed horse group," said Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension's director, Deb Roberts.

Linda Reville and Dona Scharping of Lyndonville lead the group, which meets the first Monday of each month at Cooperative Extension, 20 South Main St.

"Through Cooperative Extension, this program educates and gives kids an opportunity to experience the many facets of the equine," Scharping said.

Among other things, the youths learn public presentation, physical riding and showmanship, Roberts Rules of Order and horse judging. They also get to participate in hippology competitions and a Horse Bowl with other counties.

HPDC plans its horse program for a year in advance.

An annual open horse show the second Sunday in June is a major fund-raiser for the group, Scharping said. Last year, members earned enough money to build the warmup arena at the fairgrounds. Two years ago, they funded a bleacher cover. Next year's project is to scrape and remove the sod in the warmup arena and add sand to provide safe footing for the horses.

In the future, the group hopes to raise money for a timer system for games and a bulletin

board to post events, classes, etc.

Scharping has been involved with horses since she was a little girl, growing up on a farm in Holley. She has been a 4-H leader for five years and HPDC leader going on three years.

"I felt I learned a lot from the Orleans County 4-H program and I wanted to give something back," she said. "I already had a love of horses, but this program gave me the opportunity to better myself and progress in the horse industry."

Scharping breeds and trains horses and gives riding lessons at her farm on Route 18, Lakewind Equine Center.

The other HPDC leaders also have a long involvement with horses. President Reville owns a hunter/jumper and is very committed to the program, Scharping said.

Vice President Sue DePalma shows quarter horses and is the parent of several 4-H'ers.

Eileen Voak of Medina, treasurer, owns and shows quarter horses and now her daughter Lindsey, 11, is doing it also.

Secretary Bruce Heard and his wife Dorothy of Waterport own quarterhorses and are the parents of 4-H'ers. Dorothy is a 4-H leader with Scharping.

"HPDC is made up of interested and concerned parents who want to see the horse program progress," Scharping said. "They want to help youth participate in as many equine events as possible."

Any interested person is welcome to attend any of the meetings or events, Scharping said.



HORSE CLUB DISPLAY: Dona Scharping and Horse Club members set up a display during last month's Orleans County Fair. With her are Reed Heidemann, 13, of Kendall; Katie Schlehuber, 12, of Kendall; and Carly Wells, 12, of Medina.