

ESTABLISHING A GARDEN

Spring is a busy season. Many activities renew themselves after the winter months have passed. So it is with gardening.

Nothing in gardening insures success more than knowing the growing habits of the plants you want to grow and what they like to grow in. Many good books are available to aid gardeners, so I will break ground in this, my first 10964 article (pardon the pun) by discussing planting site preparation and established plant maintenance. I realize that many Palisadians know a good deal about gardening, but I have chosen this basic topic to start a series of articles and to refresh memories. If you, the reader, would like to know about more specific topics and I can help, I would be glad to respond.

Establishing a new garden requires planning and hard work. To start, perhaps you might draw a sketch of the area and buy a pair of work gloves. To give plants the right start, the soil must be prepared to account for humus content, aeration (tillage) and soil pH.

From walking around town and gardening on my own property, I have found much of the soil to be higher in loam (humus type soil) and lower in clay than some of our surrounding communities. This no doubt is attributable to farming and the wooded nature of Palisades' past. All soils, particularly high clay and sand soils, need humus. You can add humus and aerate the soil in one step by spreading either manure, peat moss, bark mulch, compost, or wood chips on top of the garden site before tilling. Using the old pitch fork or rototiller, work the soil until an even mixture results. Humus worked into the soil will provide

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THE FINE ART OF LAWN LOLLING

by Leslie Price Hayes

Some time shortly after the grass gets mowed, I have this uncontrollable urge to fling myself onto and about our front lawn. I also roll around alot. (Come to think of it, I also roll around a lot! Whaddya know!) Just my luck that this yearning hits hardest when the moment is least opportune, like the time our new neighbors, the Lamperts, were proudly pointing out the Hayes's majestic blue spruce to their week-end guest as I was executing a double-wheelie around my forsythia. And I also remember with mixed emotions of terror and grief, the time the school bus, bloated with teeny boppers, churned up Century Road to free some of its incarcerated. And there was I, knees straddling my ears, earnestly attempting a backward sommersault and finding myself stuck in this most inelegant hold as the hoots and howls built to a clamorous crescendo.

Yes, I can be seen rolling, rolling, rolling on my grass shavings amid slugs, ants, and what have yous. I catch rays, dig the feel underfoot, and get high on the smells of earth and grass and sunshine. These scents especially capture and enrapture me because I am at once reminded of my all-too-happy-and-care-free childhood summers at Camp Odetah in Fitchville, Connecticut. In fact, so frequently am I lost in aromatic remembrances that I regularly stop daughter Elan in our driveway or on the porch and ask her to breathe deeply and share with me the sweet smells of Spring, to which her bored response is always, "I know, I know, it smells like camp."

I remember one occasion in particu-

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Con't. from P.1
moisture retention below the surface while tilling releases compacted soil and provides needed oxygen for the roots. Both are important for good root development, the backbone, if you will, of the garden.

The third aspect of soil preparation is the pH content. When my wife and I moved to Palisades a couple of years ago, we tested the soil. As expected, it was slightly acidic (4.5-5.5) which is just fine for most plants we Palisadians are likely to grow - in fact plants like azaleas, rhododendrons and lilacs thrive in acid soils. Periodically however, soils need to have a topdressing of lime for "sweetening." Lime will bring the pH closer to neutral and insure that the acid level will not fall to a point that could prove toxic to the plant. Soil testing is available through the N.Y. State Extension Service (634-9242).

Maintenance of established gardens for best growth requires regular fertilization and mulch topdressings. Over time, plants absorb soil nutrients; rain and waterings leach others out, while some become unusable through complex chemical bonding within the soil. The result is a tired soil. Aside from periodic liming, flower beds, vegetable gardens and established shrubs and fruit trees should be fertilized and then mulched - annually or semi-annually.

If an annual schedule is chosen, fertilize in the spring with a high nitrogen balanced fertilizer. I use 10-10-10 or 10-5-5 commercially available bag fertilizer (the numbers stand for % by weight of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, in that order). The nitrogen will support spring and summer vegetative growth while the phosphorus and potassium will assist the plant in fall to "harden off" before winter. Be careful to follow the recommended dosages per manufacturer labels and spread fertilizers evenly. A helpful hint for hill-side plantings is to place the fertilizer on the uphill side to prevent washing away. If a semi-annual schedule is chosen, use a high nitrogen spring fertilizer in conjunction with a high

phosphorus and potassium fall fertilizer. Again, follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

In any discussion of fertilizers, I would not want to overlook organic manures. For they are a fine way to rejuvenate the soil. Organics are primarily nitrogen carriers, having little phosphorous and potassium. Chicken manure aside, the small amounts of nitrogen in manure and compost are "used up" rapidly. On the other hand, organic materials add humus and moisture retention properties to the soil not available from commercial fertilizers. Chicken manure, being predominantly urea, is high in nitrogen and may even burn plants if not allowed to decompose before use.

After fertilizing, heaping an organic mulch around the base of shrubs or trees and over the tops of garden beds is an effective way to ensure that the fertilizer penetrates into the ground and is not washed away. Mulch will hold water for plant roots, keep weeds to a minimum and aesthetically improve the garden character. Many varied tree products are available as mulch; wood chips, bark mulch, saw dust, peat moss, pine cones and pine bark nuggets. In my travels, I have seen pine needles, coffee bean husks, straw and coconut husks used as well, the point being that any organic matter is possible.

In closing, the hard work needed to establish a garden will repay you in satisfaction, beauty and higher productivity in the end. Till in your humus throughly, check the pH and plant wisely. For established gardens, fertilizing and mulching will prolong the health of the plants and insure their beauty. Keeping weeds to a minimum reduces the competition for nutrients and water. A good looking garden is probably a healthy one. Enjoy.

LARRY BUCCIARELLI

[Mr. Bucciarelli holds a B.S. in Horticulture Technology and an M.S. in Plant Pathology from the University of Hawaii. He received his M.B.A. from Pace University. He is currently employed in the produce industry and serves as consultant to a number of local landscapers.

lar, soon after Dennis and I had put down roots on Century Road. I was, to coin a phrase my friends, lawn lolling. Dennis, unable to resist what looked to be quite the sensual experience his wife was enjoying -- without him -- joined me on the grass, and together we embarked on some serious lawn lolling. He'd roll one way and I'd roll the other and one thing led to another and pretty soon we were rolling, rolling, rolling on our front lawn; we were playing tag and throwing each other to the ground; we were laughing and wrestling and just having a grand old time, absolutely lost in uninhibited coltish behavior.

Then Dennis jumped me. We meshed in mortal, giggling combat like two soft-shell crabs tumbling on a Maryland beach, just when (if memory serves) either the Botwins or the Feltons (I forget now who) drove up the street and into their driveway. Mind you, we were new to the block. Dennis and I froze, suddenly painfully aware that we looked to be in flagrante delicti, as it were, on our front lawn! Which of course caused an explosion of raucous laughter and shrieking on our part, and mercifully silent retreat into their house on the part of either Botwin or Felton. Whichever of our dear neighbors it was saw us that day, they have shown the inestimably good taste and forbearance never to mention it to us, for which Dr. Hayes and I are eternally in their debt.

As for lawn lolling, I highly recommend it; moreover, I suspect that there are a great many secret lollers among you. Come out into the open! Experience the delights of rolling about with Mother Nature as you did as a child! Let us cast aside our Palisadian reserve, and when outsiders visit our private little hamlet let's give 'em something to remember!

See you on the grass!

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OUR SCHOOLS

June brings all kinds of goodies: warm sunny days, pool openings, summer holidays and bright smiles of achievement on the faces of students completing another year of studies.

Palisades students in William O. Schaeffer Elementary School moving up from fourth grade are:

Stephanie Albin, Kevin Driscoll, Wendell Gaa, Carrie Horton, Elizabeth Jefferies, Jane Lattes, Assante Laurea.

Receiving awards in the South Orangetown Middle School are:

Kenneth Chung, James T. Farley, Jacob Lawrence, Monica Wernicki (Presidential Academic Fitness Award); Eric Olson (Presidential Fitness Award in Physical Education); Joseph Olson (Merit Award in Physical Education); Kevin Burke, Kenneth Chung, James T. Farley, Brian Larkin, Jennifer Lewy, Dennis Mercado, Raymond O'Prey, Charles Swartz (Achievement Award in Physical Education).

Graduates from Tappan Zee High School receiving awards are:

Jennifer Hall (PTSA 3rd place Fine Arts); Denise Hurban (Almar Photography Award); Kimberly Long (N.Y.S. Regents Scholarship, Pace University Academic Scholarship); David Nelson (B.O.C.E.S. Raymond De Meola Award for Carpentry); Karen Olsen (along with the other co-editors of the Literary Magazine TONES, won recognition in the 1985 Program To Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines); Andrew Turner (Boulderberg Manor Culinary Arts Award for Outstanding Effort and Growth).

Also graduating are Donald Douglas, Scott Magri and Jonathan Thayer.

Bravo, Palisades students! And good luck.

GERALDINE MIRAS, Trustee

HUDSON RIVER DINING

This article is not intended to be a restaurant review but rather a commentary on summer dining in and around our area. Where can you go on a hot summer evening when you're feeling languid and can not bear the thought of entering the kitchen? You know the feeling when even setting up the barbeque does not thrill you at all. Let's say it is a clear summer day and you feel like going out to lunch.

With the Hudson River practically at our door step, what could be more pleasant and enjoyable than partaking of a meal al fresco with the river in the background? Fortunately, there are a few restaurants offering such ambience, ready and waiting for your arrival.

The nearest restaurant, Piermont Marina (365-1350), on River Road in Piermont at the sight of the old Fort Comfort Inn, offers a spacious deck at the edge of the river bank. Lunch is served Tuesday through Saturday with brunch on Sunday. You can dine comfortably under an umbrella, watching the flotilla of boats go by and throw the friendly ducks a piece of bread. While dinner is served outside, the management does not encourage late diners because the mosquitos are on the prowl. You are also welcome to stop by for a drink and appetizer or perhaps later for dessert and coffee.

Up river in Nyack is the River Club (358-0220) on the site of the old Angel Cafe. Here, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, lunch and dinner are served on the outside deck, overlooking a marina. On weekends, the restaurant offers a clam, shrimp, and oyster bar outside - Friday evenings from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday, starting at 1 p.m. There is also a snack menu available for those dining al fresco. Of course, you can just drop by for a drink or for coffee and dessert and take in the view.

Heading north to Haverstraw, drive down to the Marina and you will see Huckleberry's (429-8600). The building is quite spectacular, a large, modern,

wooden two-storied structure with the deck almost cantilevered over the river, impressive surroundings for your lunch or dinner.

If you happen to be across the river, the Chart House (693-4130) in Dobbs Ferry, another impressive structure, offers stunning views of the Palisades. You can even spot a few houses in Sneider's Landing through the trees. The glass-enclosed restaurant has spectacular views of the river. Unfortunately, you can not eat out on the attractive deck, but you can have a drink there while waiting for your table. And wait you will, since the popular Chart House does not take reservations. If waiting doesn't appeal to you, try to get there at 5 p.m., opening time. The restaurant is not open for lunch but does serve Sunday brunch.

Up the hill from the Chart House is Rudy's Beau Rivage, offering a wonderful vista of the river. However, the restaurant caters mostly to banquets, weddings, and private parties. Individual groups are likely to be neglected. Dining outside is only possible if there are not private parties that day. So beware.

KAREN JEFFERIES

"BRING DOWN THE HOUSE" REVIEWED

The show was called "Bring Down The House To Raise The Roof" and the house did indeed come down.

On Saturday night, May 31st, Palisades Productions, a newly formed theatrical company put together a talent revue to raise funds to raise the roof on the Palisades Presbyterian Church. It was standing room only and the packed house stood fast for the fifteen act revue.

Simulating a television talent search, the show brought forth the best in local professional and amateur talent. Musicians, both classical and jazz played to the crowd around song and dance routines, folk singers and humorists. Show tunes too were sung and played, a juggler juggled and operatic heights were

scaled by a gifted comic singer.

It was a TV talent show complete with warm-up man, tongue in cheek applause meter and one perpathetic talent scout. Commercials were pitched, but no one left the room. The crowd was buying it and buy it all they did.

It was a ten dollar show and the multitude was fed before the show went on. A twilight buffet awaited the hungry and fine wines too, for a slight stipend more.

Then as dusk gave way to darkness, the dining, sipping, talking, gave way to show time and the stars came out in Palisades.

They glowed for two short hours, but the after-glow lingered many hours more.

D.B.

[Performers: Marshall Berger, Virginia Dare, Jackie Drechsler, Laura Ebemeyer, Katie Elevitch, Jamie Fitzgerald, David Frye, Philip Galinsky, Nancy Griffing, Leslie, Dennis, Jennifer and Katie Hayes, Roger Hooker, Lizzie Jefferies, Claire, Eden Lee and Roger Jellinek, Virginia Kahrman, John Kim, Jennifer Lewy, Cass and Nick Ludington, Nicole Morris, Ralph Olsen, Ernie Quick, David Sanders, Jennifer and Michael Shapiro, Henry Shaw.

Co-Directors: Eden Lee Jellinek and Cass Ludington. Producer: Karen Jefferies.

Stage Manager: Don Bracken. Lighting: Mark Jellinek. Set Design: Jacquelyn Anderson and Ralph Olsen. Publicity: Joan Bracken, Ann Tonetti and Andrea Williams. Video Taping: Fred Griffing.]

PALISADES VILLAGE VOTE

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Total Voted: 663
Yes: 294
No: 369

Total Not Voted: 228

Total Residents: 1300

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- 30 Six-week summer session for adults and children. Day or evening classes in visual arts, music, acting, dance, exercise, and writing. Call 358-0877 for brochure or stop by at 27 So. Greenbush Rd., So. Nyack.
- 22 Raku Workshop (decorating and glazing bisqued ware), led by Rosemary Aiello, 9-5, \$30.

Exhibitions:

June 16 through Oct. 10: Sculpture of Roy Gussow and Benson Selzer; paintings of Michael Knigin. Blue Hill Cultural Center, atrium and lobby exhibition space at Blue Hill Plaza, Orangeburg Rd., Pearl River. Open M-F, 8-5, Sat. 9-2.

DONATIONS were received this month from Mrs. Laura Ebmeyer, Percy W. and Grace J. Hill and Miriam G. MacAllister. Thank you!

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

SUMMER HOURS: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat. and Sun., closed.

Housebound patrons may receive and return paperback books by mail (post paid). A catalog of titles is available at the library. You may write directly to Books by Mail, Ramapo-Catskill Library System, 619 North St., Middletown, NY 10940. New catalogs will be sent with your books, thereafter.



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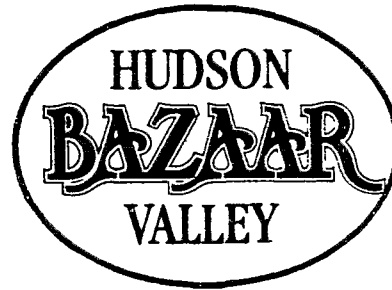
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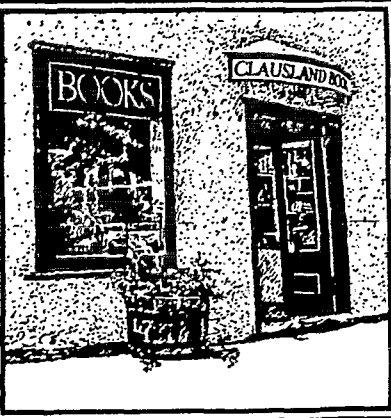
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10964 DEADLINE.

This June issue will be the last before our summer break. The next 10964 will be mailed to you in September and the deadline for copy is the 15th of August.

HAVE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY SUMMER!

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Girl Scout Day Camp, six one-week session beginning July 7-11. \$65 per week/scouts; \$75 non-scouts. Ages 5-13. Fee includes bus transportation to Tomkins Cove. Call 638-0438 for more information.

Rockland Center For The Arts, two 4-week sessions (3 days a week) beginning June 30-July 25. \$230 for members; \$245 non-members. Ages 5-12. Own transportation needed to W. Nyack. Call 358-0877 for more information.

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