

The Nursery Scoop

A Publication of the CNY Nursery & Landscape Association
May 2019 ~ Summer is just around the corner!



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A Message from our President, Dale Tuttle...



The past two ends of the months have been a real challenge with unseasonable weather, primarily cold and wet with even some snow. Hopefully in May it will be more seasonable weather so we can all be productive. And please do not forget Mom on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12th.

Thank you to all that attended our PLANTCNY April Meeting, which was held and hosted by long time member and supporter **Green Scapes Inc.** in Jamesville, New York. Thank you to **Todd, Beth and Staff** for their efforts and hospitality. Over 30 people were in attendance. This was a great turnout that was primarily due to the outreach that the staff from Green Scapes did to personally invite people to attend. It was great to see so many people there.

Our next meeting is being hosted by **Northern Nurseries** in Cicero, New York on **Thursday, May 2nd**. Please note this meeting is **one week earlier** than our normal meeting dates. Thank you for hosting and for your past and present support. Please see the Member Profile below for more information. Hope to see everyone there.

Thank you to **Steve Blair from Bartlett Tree Experts** for submitting this month "What's Bugging You" article on Soil Drainage, and **Dave O'Hara from Bailey Nurseries** who submitted this month's "My Favorite Plant" Exochorda x macrantha (Pearl Bush). We continue to receive positive feedback from the "What's Bugging You" and "My Favorite Plant" articles in the monthly

Scoop. If anyone has an interest in submitting an article for the upcoming months, please contact me; this would be a great time to put these articles together before we all get too busy. There are still 6 articles needed for each, for the remainder of 2019.

Arbor Day was April 26th. And a huge “Thank You” to **Chairperson Fernando Araya** who took this project on and pretty much was a one man show for our association along with some volunteers from the Great Bear Park in Fulton, New York. Fernando and volunteers transplanted the Amelanchier that was planted in the Court of Honor at the New York State Fair and relocated it to The Great Bear Park in Volney, New York where there is a project ongoing to re-store the Spring House. Please see the Arbor Day report below, and again Thank You, Fernando, for making this happen. This Amelanchier is being removed from the Court of Honor to make room for a Pinus strobus Pendula that will be planted in its place as a memorial tree for **Brian Skinner**. If there were any members who have done, or who have plans of doing a planting of their own, please contact Fernando so that we can try to get press for every planting. There were some other members that were going to tie in a planting in 2019 as a memorial to our late member and friend Brian Skinner. We really want to track any of these plantings so we can make his family aware.

Thank you to **Program and Promotions Chairperson Dave Iannuzzi** for all his efforts in filling the remaining 2019 Meeting Schedule. Please see that schedule below. Dave is also finalizing the details on the 2019 Clambake and will have that information in next month's scoop. Dave is also working on being able to take a group to the 2019 Buffalo Garden Walk. More information on this will follow.

Thank you,

Dale

Dale Tuttle, President



Minutes of April Meeting, Hosted by Green Scapes Inc.

April 11, 2019

Attendees: Dale Tuttle, Aspinall Tree Nursery; Beth Fry, Green Scapes Inc.; Dana Kuhlmann, SiteOne Landscape Supply; Mike Steves, Ryan-James LLC; Ryan Ochsner, Ryan-James LLC; Chris Coulter & Amy Coulter, Sky High Farms; Patrick White, J&J Landscapes; Peter Daly, Daly Co.; Tom Piscitell, Paragon Supply; Richard Croft, Bartlett Tree Experts; Steve Blair, Bartlett Tree Experts; David Ryan, Rare Earth Nursery; Christin Chandler, Christin Chandler Designs; Dave McIntyre, Rinox; Gerry Rubenstein, Lawn-A-Mat; Craig Smith, Yardsmith; Bill Lentz, Sky Works; ; Elijah Litz, Hunter Springs Landscapes; Chris McAndrews, Hunter Springs Landscape; James Rowlands, Hunter Springs; Dannielle Carr, EDR; Jennifer Watson, Lawley Insurance; Anita Jobb, Do Anything Landscape; Ron Fesko, Milton CAT; Scott Dunes, Mike Barney Management; Jackie Crane, Little York Plantation; John Smith, JC Smith Inc.; Isaac Goodman , Andrew Zimmerman, Kaitlyn Reals, Dan Reeder, Jeff Craner, Todd Schanbacher, Green Scapes Inc.

Meeting Minutes: Welcome by Dale Tuttle and a Thank You to Green Scapes Inc. for Hosting

Todd spoke briefly about the wide variety of Bulk goods, Aquascape products, Natural wall and flagstone and Rinox pavers that Green Scapes offers, as well as specialty soil blends and CU soil. Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and enjoying the food from XO Taco, this was Green Scapes' biggest meeting crowd to date, thanks!

State Association report: Beth Fry- Our last state meeting was held March 4th in Troy, our next Board meeting will be early June and is a conference call. On April 6,2019 our members have been invited to the Farm Bureau meeting that is being held at Barone Gardens and they are holding a listening session to hear the concerns of the Greenhouse and Nursery Industry. NYSNLA works closely with Farm Bureau on advocacy issues and we urge you to attend this meeting,

Arbor Day: Fernando Araya- We will be transplanting the Amelanchier that is in the courtyard at the Fairgrounds to Great Bear Park in Volney. The Amelanchier will be replaced with a Weeping White Pine in memory of arborist Brian Skinner and will be planted during the awards ceremony the opening day of the NYS Fair in August. We are working with NYSNLA to move the signage and other memorial items from the other Courtyard at the Fairgrounds to the one that we maintain. There is also a tree planting planned in Liverpool and if anyone else has anything planned please let us know.

Certification: Beth Fry for Dannielle Carr - There are 11 New CNLPs and 3 SUNY Morrisville Students set to take the exam later in April.

Golf Outing: Beth Fry – We have checked with other regions to see if they have set a date so we don't conflict and we will work on scheduling the 2019 Tournament shortly.

Environmental: Gerry Rubenstein- Gerry mentioned the Farm Bureau event, EPA numbers have changed on packaging so check the bags before you fill out your reports. If you are interested in the full description of these items, contact Beth Fry and we can get them from Gerry.

Nomination: Beth Fry We are still looking for new Board members, contact Beth Fry, Dannielle Carr or Lisa Ballantyne if you are interested in being on the board and for more information.

Membership: Dana Kuhlman - Please reach out to other industry professionals or have some of your employees or co-workers attend a meeting; let others know what PLANTCNY is and how they can participate.

Promotions: Dave Iannuzzi- The Clambake is on July 11, 2019 and will be at the Spinning Wheel in North Syracuse.

Scholarship: Dale Tuttle for Julie Liebmann- The next scholarship will be awarded at the Clambake in July; applications are available on the PLANTCNY website and at www.plantcny.com

Trade Show and Education Day: Beth Fry - Save the date February 12, 2020 at the Lodge at Welch Allyn. We have a couple of topics already lined up; if there is a topic you would like to see scheduled let us know, and if you are interested in helping out on the committee or on the day of the event, contact Beth Fry

Old Business:

PLANTCNY t-shirts and hats are available for order at JC Smith.

If you would like to submit an Article for “My Favorite Plant” or “What’s Bugging You” we would like to get some lined up ahead of time to have for the Scoop. Contact Dale if you are interesting in writing an article.

Submitted by Beth Fry

The CNYSNLA May Meeting -- ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL!

Meeting Host: Northern Nurseries

**Date: Thursday, May 2nd, beginning at 5:30 p.m. --
8633 U.S. Route 11, Cicero, NY**

Please be courteous and RSVP if you are planning on attending the meeting!!

*To RSVP, please contact Matt Munnich at 315-699-3999, or by email to
mmunnich@northernnurseries.com.*

Member Spotlight on ... Northern Nurseries



Northern Nurseries will be hosting the May monthly meeting on **Thursday, May 2nd**, in conjunction with our annual **Spring Open House** that will run all day from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with the association meeting starting at 5:30. **Please take note that the monthly meeting is one week earlier than usual.**

http://www.robertbaker.com/Images/NN_CCart/NN_OH_16/OpenHouse_Cicero16.pdf

In addition to the specials, there will be at least a 10% discount on all Nursery Stock, as well as representatives from Techo Bloc, Belgard, Concrete Stone & Tile, Cambridge, Rosetta, Cast Lighting, Alliance Lighting, and Empire Distributors. There are also discounts on numerous hardgoods. Be sure to stop by and see the latest additions to our Northern Nurseries Stone & Design Center display, which features products from all of the vendors that will be on hand.

The Cicero location has been serving the Central New York Green Industry since 1985 and is one of eight Northern Nurseries Wholesale Distribution Centers in the Northeast. We offer not only a complete line of Nursery Stock, but also a full line of Hardline products that include stone products (both manufactured and natural), as well as Stone tools and supplies, Aquascape Pond Supplies, landscape lighting and professional turf supplies. This allows us to be a "One-Stop Shop" supplier for the trade. **Northern Nurseries** is part of the **Robert Baker Companies**, which in addition to our eight Wholesale Distribution Centers, operates two production companies, Robert Baker Nurseries of West Suffield, CT and Medford Nursery in Medford, NJ.



The CNYSNLA Scholarship Program

*The first of our two 2019 Scholarships will be given out at the annual Clambake in July. You can obtain a **Scholarship Application** for the **Bob Case Scholarship Award** by visiting our website at www.plantcny.com. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Liebmann, Scholarship Chair, at 492-1100, or rockinghorse1257@aol.com.*



What's Bugging You?

Soil Drainage 2018

Shared with us by Steve Blair, Bartlett Tree Experts

RESEARCH LABORATORY TECHNICAL REPORT



Soil Drainage

E. Thomas Smiley, PhD, Urban Forestry

Water is essential for plant growth. However, either too little or too much water can result in decline and death of plants. A good soil, one termed well drained, has about half its volume in actual soil solids, and the other half as air space. Of this air space, about half is made up of large spaces and half of small spaces. Under normal periods of irrigation or rainfall, the small pore spaces are able to hold water while the larger ones release the water to the pull of gravity and refill with air. This maintains a balance of air spaces and water capacity in the soil.



Figure 1: Fine feeder roots growing in well drained soil

Roots absorb oxygen out of the soil and expel carbon dioxide back into the soil in their normal process of respiration. This happens in the pore spaces between soil particles that do not fill with water. Without this normal exchange of gases, carbon dioxide builds up, oxygen is less available, and roots die.

For this reason, internal drainage characteristics of soils are among the major factors that determine what types of plants will grow on a particular landscape site. When soils retain too much water, or restrict water movement through them, the result can be root suffocation, root disease, and eventual root death.

On somewhat poorly drained sites, plants might not die, but instead show chronic decline symptoms associated with root loss. These symptoms might include yellowing of leaves (chlorosis), defoliation, marginal scorching, dwarfed foliage, and dieback. Trees and shrubs experiencing root decline from excess water are also more susceptible to attack and invasion by secondary diseases and insects.

Factors that contribute to wet soils

Wet soils stay wet for several possible reasons. These include:

Compaction

When the surface of the soil has pore spaces (macropores) removed by compression with heavy equipment, vibration or heavy foot traffic, water will not easily move into it. Instead, water runs off if sloped or puddles if on flat areas. Flat areas may then stay wet since the water does not readily percolate (move downward).

Limiting Subsurface Layers

Soils can have layers below the surface that restrict the natural movement of water down through them. In this case, the water “perches” in the soil above the restrictive layer and keeps it wet. Some soils naturally have impermeable layers as a result of how they developed. A common, human-caused impermeable layer or “hardpan” can be found on land that was plowed for many years. This layer is usually located 8”-10” below the surface, the depth to the bottom of the plow.

High Water Table

When the water table is near the surface, the soil may be wet where roots grow. Water tables are highest in winter and spring.

Clay Soils

Soils vary tremendously in their composition due to differences in texture and chemistry, the amount of large and small pore spaces, and the structure of the soil. These natural soil characteristics determine how quickly water moves down through the soil to the water table. Soils with an overabundance of small pore spaces (micropores) hold more water and for a longer period, thus restricting oxygen. On soils in which the main particle size is in clay range, the soil might naturally drain very poorly.

Matching Plants to Soil Drainage

In nature, the right plant is often found matched to a particular soil. If rainfall remains normal and soil drainage patterns are not changed, native trees and plants can thrive. In horticulture, a common mistake is matching a poorly drained soil with a plant that requires good drainage. Lists of plants grouped according to their tolerances of “wet feet” can be found in many horticulture books or in the Bartlett Technical Reports entitled “Shrubs for Poorly Drained Soils” and “Trees for Poorly Drained Soils.” See Table 1 for a short list of shrubs suited for poorly drained sites.

Table 1: Shrubs for Poorly Drained Soils

| Common name | Scientific name |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Florida anise | <i>Illicium floridanum</i> |
| Sarcococca | <i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> |
| Viburnum | <i>Viburnum</i> spp.* |
| Inkberry holly | <i>Ilex glabra</i> |
| Yaupon holly | <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> |
| Winterberry holly | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> |
| Chinese witchhazel | <i>Hamamelis mollis</i> |
| Butterfly bush | <i>Buddleia davidii</i> |
| Sweetshrub | <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> |
| Summersweet clethra | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> |
| Crapemyrtle | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> |
| Mockorange | <i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> |
| Arborvitae | <i>Thuja</i> spp. |

* Numerous evergreen and deciduous viburnum are available. Consult Dirr (*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*) for a complete listing and description of species and cultivars.

Determining Soil Drainage Characteristics

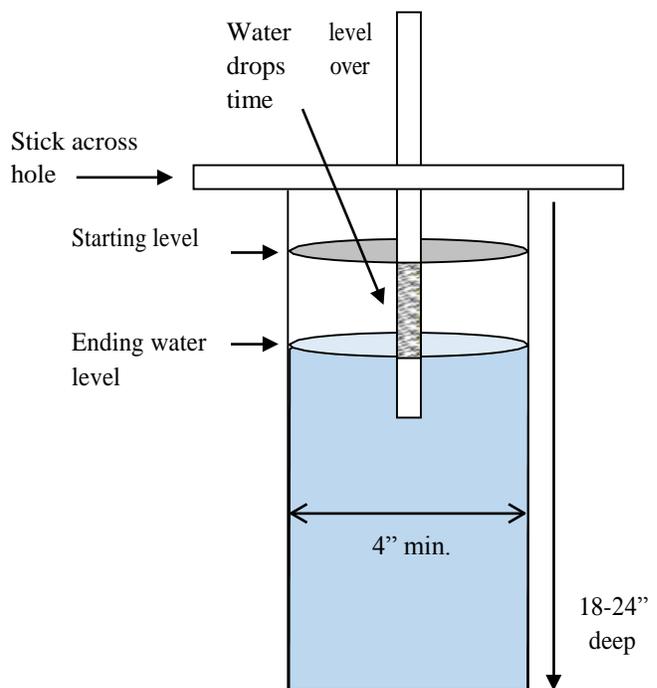
The most reliable technique of assessing soil drainage is to have a soil expert visually examine a soil, looking at texture, color patterns, and limiting soil layers. Indicators of wetness include gray or white mottling.

Another simple method of assessing internal soil drainage is called a percolation test. The soils should not be excessively dry or saturated when this test is performed. Directions for performing this simple test are below:

Instructions for performing a percolation test

1. With a shovel, auger, or posthole digger, dig hole 18" to 24" deep. Hole diameter should be a minimum of 4 inches. The diameter of the hole should be uniform from top to bottom with the bottom being flat.
2. Fill hole with water to the top and let stand for at least an hour to pre-wet the soil.
3. Refill hole to within a couple inches of the top. Don't allow water to overflow the hole.
4. To aid in measurement, place a stick across the top of the hole and use a ruler or measuring tape to mark periodic drops in water level.
5. Allow the hole to drain for at least one hour. A longer period (2 to 3 hours) will give a more accurate reading of average percolation rates.
6. Determine average drop in water level per hour and refer to the table below to interpret results.

Figure: Percolation test hole



How to interpret results

| If water level in hole drops... | Site is... |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Less than one-half inch per hour | Poorly drained and suited to wet site species |
| One-half inch to one inch per hour | Moderately well drained and acceptable for many species including wet site species |
| More than one inch per hour | Well drained and suitable for all species including sensitive species |



My Favorite Plant

Exochorda x macrantha Pearl Bush

Shared with us by Dave O'Hara, Bailey Nurseries

Well, I racked my brain and searched high and low to figure out what my favorite plant is. And I thought, how could I have just one? Especially with the addition of so many great varieties being introduced each year. So, I decided to start with the one in my own yard that I look forward to every spring. Living in the Tug Hill Region, our winters are long and never lacking snow. Why I decided on a plant that flowers white is beyond me, but here it is.



Exochorda x macrantha Pearl Bush. It's a cross between E. racemosa and E. korolkowii, (I read that in Dr. Dirr's book, I'm not that smart!) The particular variety is Lotus Moon from the First Edition brand. Right now, the plant is loaded with swelling flower buds waiting to burst into a grand display of white blooms. It really does look like a string of pearls.

One of the reasons I like this plant is how cold hardy and reliable it is to bloom every spring. If you recall the spring of 2017 we had an early warm up in March and then a drastic cool down the first of April. I believe 10 degrees or colder. Lotus Moon was just about ready to burst into color before the drop in temp. I thought, not a chance. I was wrong! It took a few days to warm up, then the plant put on quite a display of color. Zone 4 it is.

If you are looking for the plant that can fit into a foundation planting, this fits the bill. About 5' in height and 3-4' in width. It has a compact habit. I would say it could make a nice hedge. It would make a nice border between property lines. It does bloom on previous year's growth, so pruning should take place shortly after it blooms. I tucked my plant into

an area in my garden that needs a little more managing. I tend to give it some shape a few times a year, but still get the full flower display.

Is it deer resistant? I think that depends on where you live and plant. It is listed as a deer resistant plant. I think it falls along the same lines as privet and lilacs. The deer may try it, if desperate, but if there is something else in the area they will ignore it.

If you are looking to try something different, it is very low maintenance with a nice bright green foliage. Full sun is best. For the most part it is pest free. Even the rabbits didn't eat it. Give Exochorda a try, you can't go wrong!



Arbor Day 2019 Report, submitted by Fernando Araya...

A tree has been spared from gloom.

A native tree of year long delight

Has been donated by PLANTCNY to Great Bear Recreation Area for the Spring House site.

In earnest effort to restore, and honor history of years before,

Friends of Great Bear took on an arduous chore.

With plan, heart, camaraderie, shovel and back, friends took on to act.

Excavate and pry,

A Serviceberry tree at State Fairgrounds was prepared for a vehicular ride.

Tall it stood and trailer laid

A grand gift donated and salvaged for Great Bear visitors for their eyes to lay.

Truly a tree salvaged from gloom.

At Great Bear Recreation Area it shall bloom.

- Fernando

Great Bear Springs Recreation Area is a multi use natural area of woods, fields and streams, owned by the City of Fulton and the Town of Volney. Great Bear has over 8 miles of woodland trails that are maintained by the volunteer group Friends of Great Bear.

During the summer of 2018 the historic Italianate designed Spring House was repaired through generous donations of supporters. These repairs were facilitated by **Fernando Araya (Fine Gardening)** as several trees and overgrowth crowded the structure, which would have made renovations difficult.

This year "2019" Leadership Oswego County, volunteer community stewards and Friends of Great Bear planned landscaping the spring house area, and again Fernando was called upon to help with this endeavor. PlantCNY generously offered a native Serviceberry tree that had outgrown its space at the NYS Horticulture Building.

Using shovels, picks and pulleys the 16 ft. tree was gently removed by Fernando and two FOGB members. On Saturday, April 27th, honoring Arbor Day, Friends of Great Bear, Fernando, and members of Leadership Oswego County planted the beautiful Serviceberry tree amid sleet, snow and rain, the Spring House area being refreshed with beautiful results. Gracing the Spring House, the efforts by these people will be appreciated by all who come to Great Bear.

Friends of Great Bear thanks all those people from PlantCNY who donated the tree making this happen.

Hail, rain and snow

Mother Nature did bestow.

With willing volunteer and good shovel we persevered.

An Amelanchier at Great Bear Recreation Area on Arbor Day was planted for eyes to peer.



Many thanks to Todd Schanbacher, Beth Fry, and the staff of Green Scapes Inc. for hosting us at the April meeting!





May CNLP Report, shared with us by Beth Fry...

Three Morrisville College students took the CNLP exam on April 25 and all three passed!! Thank you to **Aida Khalil** for leading the review sessions for the students and to Dannielle Carr for proctoring the exam.

- **Cherl Schwebe**
- **Cherish Simmons**
- **John Bousquet**



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2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT 5:30 P.M. (UNLESS SPECIFIED)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>January 10</i> | SiteOne Landscape Supply |
| <i>February</i> | NO MEETING |
| <i>March 14</i> | Skyworks LLC |
| <i>April 11</i> | Green Scapes Inc. |
| <i>May 2</i> | Northern Nurseries (one week earlier than usual) |
| <i>June</i> | NO MEETING |
| <i>July 11</i> | Clambake at Spinning Wheel |
| <i>August 8</i> | Gasparini Landscaping |
| <i>September 12</i> | J.C. Smith Inc. |
| <i>October 10</i> | Rocking Horse Farms |
| <i>November 14</i> | Techo Bloc |
| <i>December 12</i> | HOLIDAY LUNCHEON |