



What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila
answer your growing concerns
Issue 121, December 1, 2010

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Dream first about color, texture, form, size and function rather than focusing on a specific plant. That can lead you to treasures in every plant category, perennial willow amsonia (*A. tabernaemontan*, here in post-Thanksgiving fall color) and deciduous red osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) as well as trees, groundcover and evergreens. See pages 2 - 4.

Garden design like rearranging the living room

I have struggled for years trying to learn to design or at least understand it better. Sometimes I give it up and know I won't ever "get it" but other times, it seems like if I just concentrate a little harder, the book or article I'm reading is going to pop into focus and enlighten me. I felt that way reading in issue #120 about waiting to decide which plants to use. It sounds almost possible but a corner of my brain says, "No way!" Please tell me more about how you can start designing without first deciding on plants.

You're right about winter and that it's nice to have time for thinking about the garden. When I can't be out there I think about it more! - L.B. -

It's great that you **keep trying**. Just don't let design-unease interfere with your enjoyment of gardens or gardening. In such a broad field as horticulture there's not only room but a need for generalists as well as specialists -- those who are great tenders of plants, transplant artists, people who can pull designs out of thin air, plant breeding wizards, and on and on.

Likewise, there are **myriad ways to design** and we only mean to offer a process for those who are stuck in whatever method they're using, whether that's classical drawing board work or shifting real plants around like chess pieces.

To understand designing before choosing specific plants, **imagine a living room redesign**. It's possible and probably pretty common to think:

- I want something to sit on that's more cushy, warmer colored, and **less heavily patterned** than what's there now.
- And an **easier-care** rug plus **more space** to set down a popcorn bowl.
- Also, something really intriguing for the wall.
- It all has to go with the wood floor, I'm not changing that."

You can imagine it, shift the pieces around, even measure for size without having terms like "ultra-suede sectional, walnut coffee table and Escher print" in mind. It's easier to find suitable pieces if you have imagined them first and

know how you want the pieces to fit and function, but haven't locked onto any one item.

When you turn to a plant encyclopedia or sit with a designer or instructor, we think you're more likely to find great plants if you can supply detail. Perhaps:

- Something that won't get more than **6 or 7 feet tall** and wide.
Or, **pruning's okay**, if it's just once a year, .
- In the **warm color** range, in front of a moss green wall, with color **that lasts a long time**; we want more than just a couple weeks of flower.
- No bad smells!
- A **flowing, cushy** look, no sharp edges, visually speaking, but **interesting**, worth looking at twice.
- For a spot with **ordinary soil** and **sun all day** after about eleven o'clock.

You could go on: "Also something complementary -- a little contrast! -- to kind of circle the six-footer, but not too symmetrically. They should be two or three feet tall and good for holding Christmas lights. And on the ground we need something low, uniform and tough, so we don't have to always weed but also don't have to mulch every square foot every year -- we hate that job. We don't care what color this groundcover or whatever has so long as it goes with the rest."

That may seem like it's asking a lot but good references and plantspeople can handle it and the great ones love it.



This little Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii*) is gorgeous, especially in bloom in May and holding red fruit all winter. But you can design without locking yourself into it as "Step 1." Remain open to other "7-foot, broad, colorful, easy-care elements" so you can fine-tune your vision. Check the next page for an au naturel specimen to compare to this clipped tree, which has been made sharper in outline but is not much smaller than if it was free-form.

Conversation with a designer:

It could start with you providing the description from page 2, or the two of you developing it.

The designer might suggest, "...a gold-tone dwarf conifer like this 'Golden Mop' threadleaf falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Golden Mop', pictured at right). Or if it's not windy we might use a gold Hinoki falsecypress (below). We could frame it with a shorter evergreen shrub. ('Everlow' yew is in the background at right.) And how about a yellow-leaf groundcover such as *Sedum* 'Angelina' or *Sedum kamschaticum*, to include some yellow bloom and orange fall color?"

To that you might say, "Well, I'd rather have more flowers, and I didn't realize it until you showed me this picture but the centerpiece should be broad, not tall."



Conifer:

A shrub or tree that produces its seeds in cones, such as a pine, fir, spruce or yew. Most are evergreen and have needles rather than broad leaves.

So the designer might propose swapping out the conifer for a

Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii*). That crabapple's the right size and shape, and it provides color all fall and winter by way of yellow leaves, then marble-sized red fruit that lasts until late winter when returning birds eat it.

(In this photo the camera couldn't do what what the human eye can -- separate the little crabapple from trees 'way in the background. So we outlined its branch tips as a guide.)

But perhaps you'd nix the crabapple when told it would depart from the color scheme in spring for a few weeks to sport pink flower buds opening to white, fragrant flowers.



Then, the designer might have to think on it a bit, to come up with something like, "How about a very nice form of cornelian cherry with cream-edged leaves?"

Oh, the designer would be so pleased with himself or herself, and excited for you! That *Cornus mas* 'Variegata' (right) has yellow flowers in very early spring, small red fruit for the birds in late summer, good maroon fall color, and although it's potentially too large, it's amenable to clipping -- graceful even with regular pruning.

"Wait," you might say, "I've never heard of anything like that. I hope it's not *really* rare, that we can buy it in a size larger than a twig. Because I can wait for something nifty, but not forever!"

And so it goes...

...each new proposal fine tuning the original plant description or developing ideas for adjacent areas.



In this way you might hear about plants you will love but wouldn't have found otherwise:

- 'Tiger Eye' sumac (see issue #107)
- A coppery colored 8-10' spring witchhazel (*Hamamelis x mollis* 'Jelena', (left),
- The combination of blue star (*Amsonia*) and dogwood shown on page 1 (...but use **gold**-leaf *Cornus sericea* 'Hedgerows Gold')
- A mass of a pixie-like tufts from the list of short ornamental grasses and grass-like plants in issue #105.

Looking for back issues?

If you've lost one, or weren't on board 'back when', you can:

- 1) Send us an email. We can re-send an issue or two. (Just be patient with us.) Or,
- 2) Ask a friend who also reads *What's Coming Up* to relay a copy. Or,
- 3) Order our CDs.

About our CDs

- Our first, *Asking about Asters*, presents 6 years of weekly Q&A articles, including issues 1-22 of *What's Coming Up*.
- The second CD, *Potting Up Perennials*, has issues #23 - 122 -- that's more 1,700 pages and 2,400 images.
- Each CD includes an index that covers everything on the disk and in our newsletters. It lets you search our whole collection for any detail.
- There's more. We added 70 of Steven's most beautiful images on *Potting Up Perennials*, in a ready to play screensaver. Order the CDs to have us all in one place, fully indexed. Your order also helps keep this free newsletter in production. To order, see pages 14 & 15.

Planting seeds to grow into great gifts

In a class you taught at Olbrich Gardens this spring, you mentioned an edging shovel you recommended. I cannot remember the brand name. I want to put it on my Christmas wish list so would appreciate your refreshing my memory. - J -

The tool we use for edging and general garden digging is a spade, which has a flattened, rectangular blade (a in the photos here). We recommend in particular the one pictured here and described in #1 below, and offer a second (#2) as an example of those we've seen that pass muster.

1) For every-day use and hard use, we've never met a better spade than those made by Clarington Forge.

<http://www.claringtonforge.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=spade>

We've been using their spades since we began gardening professionally, starting with Janet's own and adding others when she objected to sharing her favorite. We bought more as we and those who gardened with us developed preferences for different handle lengths and grips. (Janet likes a 40" handle with a D grip -- d on these photos. Steven prefers a 42" D and occasional use of a 70" straight handle.) We think, but are no longer sure, that we're still using one that's 30 years old.



This most durable tool we've ever met has **a drawback -- its weight**. It's made of very durable steel and shaped with an extra long socket (c in these photos) to clad the handle. It's for serious gardeners who use it every day, sometimes for hours at a time and include non-standard uses such as for boulder-levering and root-ball shifting.

If you only use a digging tool now and then, opt for Clarington Forge's "Border Spade" which has a smaller, lighter head, or choose something in our #2 category.



2) For occasional use, we have spades that are lighter weight. We know these have blades of thinner or softer metal than our number one pick, but have enough substance to last, temper to hold an edge, and a comfortable tread -- that ledge on the blade's "shoulder" where a boot can push (b at right). We also look for a sturdy handle with a solid attachment to the blade and a comfortable grip. Those we have are of many brands since we pick them up all the time, always in search of and so far not finding the perfect #2. Here's a good #2 from a good on-line supplier, AM Leonard. Make a note on your gift list that one much like it may be available at your local hardware.

<http://www.amleo.com/ames-garden-spade-with-d-grip-handle/p/208GS/>



Home grown's best: Buy local

Support your local hardware whenever you can. On line ordering is great but it would be devastating to lose our local hardware stores. Such a wealth of information and help they give us, and special ordering, too!

Continuing along that line, give a hand to Gardenviews in Northville, Michigan (202 W. Main Street), or see if you can nurture an establishment like it near your home. Gardenviews is not a hardware store but its owners know good tools and heard us when we wailed, "There are no local places to buy a decent spade when we need one *today!*" Call Gardenviews (248-380-8881) and warn them you're coming for a Clarington Forge spade. They are handmade tools and they do sometimes run out between batches.

Spade v. shovel, what's the point?

When we say "spade", we know that many people think of the more-widely known shovel -- the tool with a pointed tip and cupped form. The two should not be confused in use, however.

The spade is for *slicing* and digging. It cuts what's in its way, in a clean, straight line. Perfect for

making a beautiful, deep edge on a bed. Just right, too for severing roots all around a root ball so we can lift the plant. If we do this work with the shovel, with its point designed to slide around impediments and a cupped shape that creates a scalloped edge, we can cut clear 'round a plant and still when we go to lift it there can be roots untouched and holding the ball in place.



The shovel is great for digging holes in new ground. It's made to penetrate hard soil, letting all the gardener's weight rest on one point. It requires less force to break tough ground with a shovel than if you use a spade, just as one tap on a nail is more likely to sink it into wood than if you hammered on a razor blade.



In the loose soil of a garden where slicing roots -- lawn, weed, perennial, shrub -- is more often the goal than excavating soil, we choose the tool more like a razor blade than a nail.

Arranged marriages, holly style

How can you tell if you're given a male or female holly bush? I was given a bush, but don't know to tell, and would like to get the male or female to go with it so it will produce berries. - K -

There are two times when we can look at a holly and know its sex, K.

One is when there is fruit on a plant. If it has fruit it must be a female. Even single plants can produce berries -- all it takes is a male in the neighborhood, within bee-flying range.

The other time is when they flower. The blossoms are tiny but read-able. If there is pollen in a flower, the plant that bears it is a male. Female plants produce female flowers, with green-button centers but no pollen.

We cannot say whether a fruitless plant is male or female. A male won't bear fruit but a female that was not pollinated will be barren, too.

Some people might say there is a third time when sex is apparent. That's when we buy the plant and read the tag to choose one 'China Boy' to go with our three 'China Girls' or look for a strapping young 'Blue Boy' to serve a hedge of 'Blue Maid' hollies. We don't include that as a sure thing, however, since we have seen tags become mixed so that a 'Blue Prince' ended up for sale as 'Blue Princess.' A good garden center will replace the plant to correct that mistake but first the gardener has to have seen the plant in bloom or fruit to recognize the error.

This week in Janet's garden

Grow with me! This week:

Create some holiday sparkle in four-season planters. We start with some pruning -- all that cool stuff we grow can all afford to donate a sprig or three to the mix. Push the cut ends of our cuts into the potting soil of the container

.....

Catch the hollies blooming, to see if the **lack of berries** might be a **sex issue**. At our Detroit Zoo garden, we realized that's so. We have only male plants!

Most plant species have flowers with both seed-forming (**female**) and pollen-bearing (**male**) parts. Some, including holly, bittersweet vine, *Thalictrum*, and *Ginkgo*, make only one kind of flower or the other on any given plant. We denote individuals of that species "male" or "female" with variety names such as 'Prince' and 'Indian Maiden' and plant both sexes to see fruit on the females.

The only way to **be sure** of such a plant's sex is to see the flower. If it produces **pollen, it's male** (below, left). If it has a well developed pistil -- seed forming portion-- but no pollen, it's female (below, right).

Michigan holly, right and below, also called winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*).
Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila



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Keep planting. Take advantage of sales. There is no reason to stop planting just because it's summer.

Who's Up #48, Page 9
©2009 Janet Macunovich

In issue #48 we got up close and personal with holly flowers. If you have a mystery holly longing for a mate, keep this issue or that one on tap for a guide next June when the hollies bloom.



until the whole thing is stuffed full of color and texture.

Below: Here are some raw materials: A bit of a white pine branch (a) was tickling heads of passersby, so we nipped it off. The Austrian pine (b) came from similar circumstances. The pretty blue-berried sprays (e) are three branch tips cut out of a jolly big juniper -- a plant so full we couldn't see anything missing even a minute after making the cuts. The gracefully weeping fronds (c) and blue bits (d) came from an Alaska false cypress and a blue spruce, both always ready to give a little for the holidays.



We find inspiration in others' work. This arrangement of twisted willow and white pine from an Urbana, Illinois garden.



Sometimes we finish off a pot full of cuttings with a bright bow or a shiny unbreakable ornament, but heck, when redtwig stems are so bright all on their own, there's no need!

It is in midwinter that I sometimes glean from my pines... a curious transfusion of courage.

- Aldo Leopold, *a Sand County Almanac* -

Still in Janet's garden...

Here's an idea for a gardeners' party -- a variation on the Christmas cookie swap. Ask each person to bring 10 clippings from something in their garden that might be found in a wreath. Heap the whole beautiful mixture onto a table and send everyone home with an evergreen potpourri.

Cast a little shade where it's needed. It's a critical point for many hardy plants, as temperatures fall well below freezing at night. That big drop at sundown can put the hurt on plants whose trunk bases are not quite hardened off yet -- the base of a woody plant being the last part to become ready for freeze. We shade the root zone and base of the trunk of late-planted trees and shrubs, and natives of the sheltered woodland that are growing in the open. This second group includes Japanese maples, redbuds, flowering dogwoods and beeches.

Anything that will cast a shadow on the soil will screen it from the sun. We aim to block the midday and afternoon sun, which is the troublemaker in winter. We might use a low fence of burlap or "park" a solid winter decoration there. (You know the ones, those foam or wooden cut-outs of Santa and reindeer...) A metal cut-out sculpture, a large foam or plastic planter stuffed with evergreens, even a piece of a patio furniture that can stay out during winter will work. If we have the time, we can even make a nifty screen or wattle fence of evergreen boughs. That will gradually lose needles to open up by spring.



Broadleaf evergreen:

A broadleaf shrub or tree that is not deciduous. It has leaves, as opposed to needles but it does not shed all its leaves each fall. Boxwood, citrus trees, Southern magnolia, most *Rhododendrons* and hollies are examples.

Two requests of *you* are still in play: Nominate a pesty fall leaf, submit a poem.

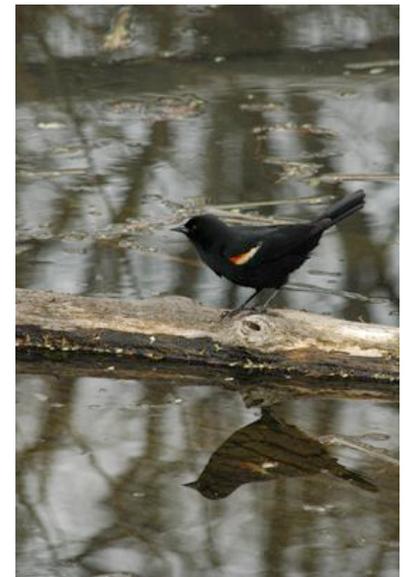


Want to **vent about fall leaf** chores? Which trees or situation do you nominate as the worst?

Share with us **a poem about a bird or a garden**. It can be one you know or one you have written, from tiny ditty to epic work.

We're making a collection of these curses and verses in preparation for a fun event in the new year -- details here soon!

Email your leafy laments and avian verse to JMaxGarden@aol.com.



Green thumbs up to plants that glow in the low angle winter light, such as the **native grass little bluestem**. *Schizachyrium scoparium* shines like buffed copper.

Green thumbs down to being overcome by the dark. If you're one of us who suffer the blues when the days are short, buy a full spectrum light bulb for the lamp at your desk or favorite chair. We can't photosynthesize but we do use light and feel better when there's more of it in natural tones.



Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

A professional gardener and educator since 1984, Janet Macunovich has been operating for twice that many years as "**Practical Patty**," a title bestowed by her Aunt Melrose. She's helped a great many people improve their gardens and their lives by sharing her experience and knowledge in understandable terms and practical tactics. When not writing this newsletter she's designing, planting and tending

gardens through her business, Perennial Favorites.



The guy with the dirty camera. Professional gardener and horticultural photographer Steven Nikkila is often on both ends of a "shoot" -- doing the garden work as well as capturing it for the enlightenment and enjoyment of others. He says a camera's worst enemies are water, sand and the camera owner. Like almost everything he shares here, that is based on personal experience.

When you see his shots of gardens and gardeners at work, and hear his explanations how-to, keep in mind that he was peeling off gloves -- or muddying the camera! -- between every shot. Nikkila feels that, "doing the work myself that I describe in my articles and photos makes me better at teaching, writing and photography. Yet even after 20 years of doing this, I'm still lousy when it comes to keeping cameras clean!"



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

Where to catch Janet and Steven in-person:

Save the dates!

Saturday mornings, January 22, January 29 and February 5: Three chances to grow with us: *Gardening Small Spaces, A Garden's Natural History, and Full-sense Gardening*. It's our *twentieth year* of collaborating with that very special volunteer organization, the Detroit Garden Center, to bring you this Winter Seminar Series. Join us for one or all three sessions, in Detroit right around the corner from Eastern Market at historic Trinity Church. Go to www.detroitgardencenter.org or call 313-259-6363 for details and to register.

Sunday, January 23, 3:00 p.m.: *Birds and garden poetry* at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Royal Oak, Michigan. Free. Watch these newsletters for the details.

Sunday afternoons in February: *Tool care parties!* From Belle Isle north to Ortonville, at places all over Southeast Michigan, you can pick your date and place, bring your tools and join us for productive fun. Watch these newsletters for the details.

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

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

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

So ask us about

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

Janet and Steven can also connect you to one or a whole line-up of other experts who know how to explain how-to. So give them a **call or send an email** to make a date, request a list of classes and talks or get a referral.

JMaxGarden@aol.com or **248-681-7850**. Their calendars fill about a year in advance for spring weekends, and six months ahead for most other weekends and evenings. Just give them some lead time, then they can meet you at *your* garden event.

Janet and Steven are a great addition to an educational or entertainment program, together, separately or with expert friends.



To attend *Garden by Janet* sessions:

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

- 1) At the **gardens we tend through our business, Perennial Favorites:** Our clients understand our enthusiasm for teaching. Some open their gardens to small groups who want to see and practice "how to." When the work we're scheduled to do may be of interest to you, we invite you in.
- 2) In the **Detroit Zoo, Adopt-A-Garden** program where we're 22-year veterans. Many people have worked with us there, some for a day and others for years. We have fun, we learn, we accomplish much. You can check out this program by coming in as my student on a temporary pass. **To join Janet at the Zoo**, email mstgarden@gmail.com with the subject line of your email "Help at zoo."

Overheard at a *Garden By Janet* session:

A: I can't believe how easy this is!

B: Yeah, isn't it something? I knew you *could* do this but I was always too chicken to try it!



Where we go to *Garden by Janet*

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

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



Time to garden your walls...

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

You can own any of Steven's images from *What's Coming Up*. Or if you have

a flower, type of scene or hue in mind you can request your dream. His library* includes tens of thousands of plants and natural images, so Steven can assemble a customized photo sampler for you. Email us at JMaxGarden@aol.com for details, to request a sampler or to place an order.

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

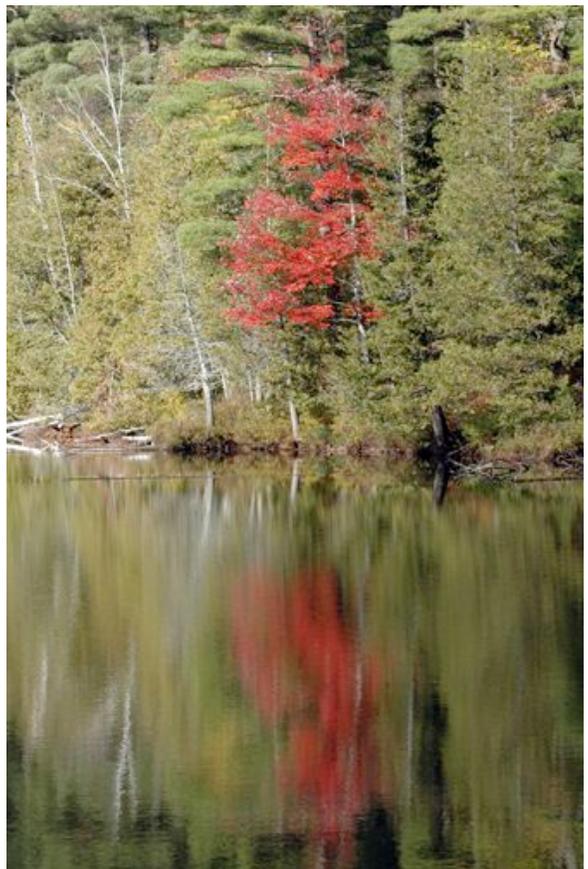
Matted, framed, overall 11 x 15", \$48

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

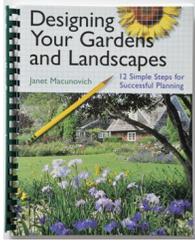
Describe your dream image or color to Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com. He'll send you a photo sampler and price list.



*Images in our newsletter are depicted in low-resolution to facilitate e-mail transmission. Steven's originals and art created from them are full resolution, with so much clear detail they are sharp even as wall-size cloth banners.



You asked for our advice "on paper". We wrote and sell these books plus CDs:



Designing Your Gardens and Landscapes

First published in 1990 as *Easy Garden Design*, a 150-page step-by-step recipe that's become a design classic. Janet developed, uses and has trained thousands of others to use this process. People say: "This is exactly the simple, clear approach I need!" This design process is applicable world-wide.

Soft cover, spiral bound. B&W illustrations by Janet. \$19.00

Caring for Perennials

Janet's unique approach to perennial care how-to, the real-time story of one bed from early spring to season's end. The 180 engaging and fact-filled pages make you part of all Janet does and you might ever need to do in each task's appropriate season and sequence. Includes a chart of what to do, when for 70 top perennials. Advice in this book is applicable in all of temperate U.S. and Canada. The perennial chart includes a key to adapt its timing for far southern or northern edges of that range.

Soft cover book. Text by Janet Macunovich. Color illustrations by Steven Nikkila. \$20.00



Asking About Asters CD.

A digital library of six years of Janet's work: weekly columns, newsletters and over 200 extra Q&A letters to individual gardeners. 1,681 questions answered about soil preparation, fertilizing, pruning, design, choosing plants, foiling bugs and much more. No repeated topics. Fully indexed; the entire collection can be searched from one index.

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



Potting Up Perennials CD. Order now for December 2010 shipping

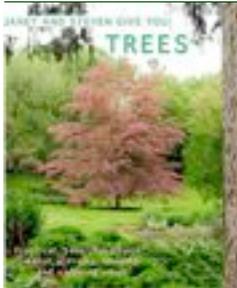
A digital collection of 2009 & 2010's *What's Coming Up*: 100 issues, over 1,700 pages with nearly 1,100 articles, 2,400 images and 500 quick-look lists and reports. Includes a comprehensive index so you search all the *What's Coming Up* newsletters at once to find help on any topic quickly. Index includes our previously-released digital library, *Asking About Asters*, so you can search both CDs from one index.

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

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

Janet & Steven's complete digital library New for 2010

Set of two CDs: *Asking About Asters* and *Potting Up Perennials*. \$30.00



Janet and Steven give you: Trees. New for 2010*

A choice collection of Janet and Steven's advice for tree selection, planting and care. Each article made its debut in *Michigan Gardener* magazine and has been on hold since, awaiting completion of its fellows until this comprehensive compilation became possible. Topics include: Selecting trees; fall color; what's happening to ash trees; replacing a big tree; descriptions, lists and photos of great trees; why starting small is a good idea when planting; planting how-to, why's and why not's; staking, watering and fertilizing; mulching; rescuing a tree from the lawn; preventing construction damage; pruning to keep trees and shrubs small; removing suckers; detecting girdling roots; and dealing with maple tar spot and lecanium scale.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

New for 2010* Janet and Steven give you: Landscape Ideas.

Janet and Steven's favorite articles on landscape design and renovation: Designing with foliage color; covering up after the bulb season; doubling up perennials for 3-season color; shady solutions; using usual plants in unusual ways; designing hypo-allergenic gardens; Murphy's Laws applied to gardens; renovation how-to; fragrant plants and designs; attracting wildlife; rockwork; invasive plants; discovering a site's hidden assets; using herbs in a landscape; and how to cheat to improve a garden quickly. These articles appeared first in *Michigan Gardener* magazine individually between 1999 and 2010. Now they're collected in this set for your design library.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00



Janet and Steven give you: Garden Care. New for 2010*

Vital how-to for tending a garden, from Janet and Steven's favorite articles on: bed preparation; soil testing; making a weed-free bed; spring start-up; improving hard-packed soil; fertilizing; watering; cutting back and deadheading; repairing irrigation; drought-tolerant plants; sharpening tools; tweaking in summer; staking; and the art of fall garden clean up. Items in this collection were selected from among Janet and Steven's ten years of *Michigan Gardener* articles. Each made its debut in that magazine, waited for its companion pieces and now they all join your library in this more durable and comprehensive form.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

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