

## What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich answers  
your growing concerns  
Issue 71, December 12, 2009

### Here you'll find:

Wanted: Poinsettias nifty,  
not gnatty, pages 1-3  
Breathe free and like the  
lichens, pages 3-4  
Naming thin skinned  
maunderers, page 5  
Cold: Describe, understand,  
revel in it, pages 5-6  
Frost and I cut back a jade, pg. 6  
Protecting still-potted perennial bargains, page 7  
Trees and ice: Betting against bending, page 7  
Plants sleep safe with chemical alarm, page 8  
'Chilled fruit,' a whole new meaning, page 8  
Apple, lilac and peony varieties for warm zones, page 8  
Wolves, peasants and mentors teach us, page 9  
Toward more artful burlap, pages 10-11  
Low sun means time to think, page 11  
Pad now for piled snow to come, page 11  
Who's Janet? How do I contact her? Pages 11-12  
Where to catch Janet in-person, pages 12-13  
Invite Janet & friends to your community, page 13  
*Gardens by Janet* sessions, pages 13-14  
Janet offers 6 books on CD, page 14  
Top right, Poinsettia plants are beautiful and *non-toxic*. Yet they can be  
buggy if we aren't care-full. See below and page 2.  
Lower right, if you're tired of ugly burlap screens, read page 10.



Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila

## Poinsettia bugs her, yet she must have one

How I can get rid of those **bothersome little fruit flies** that appear just as soon as I bring home beautiful poinsettia plants during the holidays? Sure enough, my family and I have the annual sport of trying to swat and catch them during our family meal time. It's so embarrassing during our Christmas gatherings!

**These little pests occur** with the same poinsettia plants my father buys from a fundraiser every year. They are very large and beautiful plants, with very healthy large blooms. It happens right away. **As soon as I remove the clear plastic covering**, unfold the colored foil paper (around the pot), and then give them a drink of water, I see one or two.

My father usually buys five or so, and I then put them in the basement for a week or two before Christmas until I can deliver the rest of them to his home for him to give to his friends. I keep

one for myself, and it does not matter, even once up in the kitchen with the natural lighting, they are still around. It seems as soon as we squash one, soon there are others. Help! - C.W. -

Looking for the straight scoop for you, C.W., I talked to Joe Heidgen, owner and grower at Shady Hill Gardens in Elburn, Illinois. Why him? I figure that if you grow a plant well, in quantity, you know its problems and how to prevent them, so I checked with various friends who are greenhouse growers and garden center buyers, asking, "Who grows really good poinsettias?" Shady Hill's name won the lottery, first to come up multiple times.

Heidgen feels that you're seeing **fungus gnats or whitefly**. Both are pretty much always there or possible in poinsettia production. You might see them if you buy from a grower who cut corners or didn't understand that continuous treatment is needed to keep them at bay. Both pests are worse when it's hot, since they love the heat. This year it's been pretty cool or cold while the plants grew so we're less likely to see them.

This subject takes us into one of those aspects of plant shopping that we gardeners understand better than the general public -- that we should buy from garden centers who know and cater to plant needs as opposed to picking up plants at non-garden re-sellers. In a grocery, department store or home store, poinsettias may be delivered healthy but deteriorate quickly if they're placed in dim light, stressed by cold drafts or watered every day whether they need it or not.

Says Heidgen, "fungus gnats are going to be worse whenever the plants have had a lack of natural light or they're overwatered. Plus some re-sellers put them in those paper sleeves and just leave them in there. The plant might be in there a week or more. It gets no air movement at all. And **the two biggest enemies of fungus gnats are air and light** because they dry the soil."

You seem to have inadvertently been doing what those non-garden stores do, C.W.

### **Poinsettia: Just pretty, not poisonous.**

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is not poisonous. The leaves **don't taste very good** but they will not cause much more than **stomach upset** or stains on the rug if kids or pets chew them.

(From the *American Medical Association's Handbook of Poisonous and Injurious Plants*: "...poinsettia has been found to produce either no effect (orally or topically) or occasional cases of vomiting. This plant does not contain diterpenes (a sap component of some *Euphorbias* which can cause dermatitis).")

This plant's ill-deserved reputation stems from a single well-publicized, erroneous report from Hawaii over 40 years ago. The report was disproved but that news wasn't so well circulated.

### **Poinsettia: You call that Latin?!**

Joel Poinsett was U.S. ambassador to Mexico in the early 1800's. He is credited for sending a plant with brightly colored leaves back home to South Carolina and promoting it among plant loving, influential friends. *Poinsettia* was for some time the plant's scientific name. Taxonomists changed the name when they realized the plant belonged in the genus *Euphorbia*.

When people say, "plant Latin names are so hard!" I think of names like this and wonder if a Roman of the Classical era would have had any idea what a Poinsett might be?

Maybe your father's organization will consider **buying from a different grower** or having the plants delivered **at a later date** so you can reduce the total holding time. It would be good to **remove the sleeves** as soon as you receive the plants, **give them full light**, and water only if the pots truly become light in weight. Perhaps care instructions might be delivered with each plant -- something to explain the need for a free flow of air, good light and careful watering.

Check **Extension bulletins**\* to pin down whether you're dealing with fungus gnats or whiteflies. **Air and light** may be all you need to **control fungus gnats**, which are dark bodied fly-like adults and root-eating larvae. **To battle whitefly** you may also need **insecticidal soap** or another pesticide, applied once or more in applications a week apart. Greenhouse whiteflies are light colored flitters. They scrape or suck leaves in all their life stages.

\*For more on fungus gnats, copy this URL to your browser bar [ipm.uconn.edu/IPM/greenhs/htms/fngnatser.htm](http://ipm.uconn.edu/IPM/greenhs/htms/fngnatser.htm)  
And heed the references to "greenhouse whitefly" in the bulletin you'll see when you paste this URL into your browser [ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7401.html](http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7401.html)

## Relax and enjoy the lichens

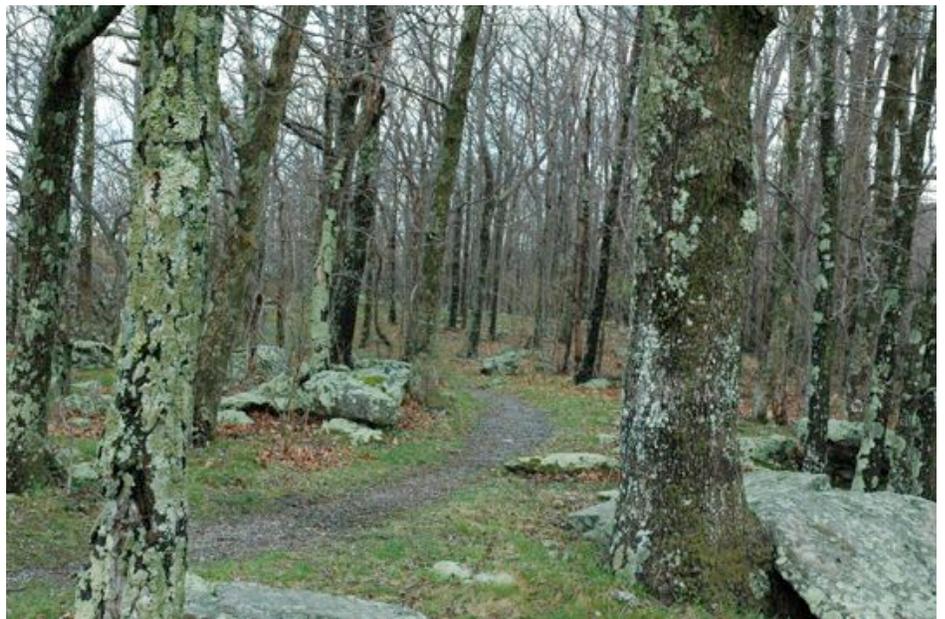
I read with special interest your article in issue #68 about the **Japanese Maple** tree you protected for winter. Then I looked over the trunk of mine very carefully. It faces east and is exposed to south or north winds. The trunk looks fine, to me.

But while paying attention to the tree, I noticed a **grayish colored sort of mold or fungus on some of the branches** -- mostly on the south side of the tree. It is close to the bark -- not raised, just a different color than the branches and spotty in places, more covered in other areas. The tree was looking good during the summer and fall.

It is maybe 10 years old. We purchased this home last year and the landscaping was established. I wondered if I should be doing something about it? - Ginny -

A Japanese maple close to the east side of a building probably isn't in danger from winter sun, Ginny. If it's in the building's shadow all afternoon, it escapes that troublemaking, warm afternoon sun I described in #68, which can damage the tree's thin-barked trunk.

As for the other thing, I believe you're seeing lichens. A **lichen** is a symbiotic pairing of a fungus and an algae. there are many kinds, and many that live **on bark**. **Not in it** but **on it**. **They don't hurt** the surface.



Lichens in the woods, on trees and also boulders. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

they're on. Some are quite flat.

It's good to see lichens in our landscapes because they are **signs that the air is clean**. Cleaner, anyway, than when it was loaded with sulfur and soot in the beginning of the Industrial Age. Did you know that back then in some cities it was dusky dark even at midday?

Lichens\* don't hurt the bark or the tree. Sometimes they may seem to be doing damage, when there is a good deal of lichen on a tree that's not looking very lush. In that case the situation is almost always that the lichen was already there when something else happened to impact the tree's health. Then, as the tree became thinner of leaf the extra light reaching the bark allowed the lichen to enlarge.



In the late 1800's and early 1900's so much soot and sulfur filled the air from factory exhausts that no lichens could survive in industrialized cities like Detroit. Then, you'd only find them in far-off woods where the air was clean. Now, the lichens on the previous page, from the Blue Ridge mountains can also be seen the Detroit area (left). I think they are beautiful.

Don't confuse lichens and mushrooms. These tiny (1/2") mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of fungi that are destroying wood inside the tree. Sometimes they can form a dense mat which might look at first glance like lichen.

Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila



\*To see more lichens, copy this URL to your browser:

[images.google.com/images?hl=en&source=hp&q=lichen%20bark&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wi](https://images.google.com/images?hl=en&source=hp&q=lichen%20bark&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&tab=wi)

## Scrabbling in the garden, word play

We gardeners earn admiring murmurs when we display our garden's produce in vases and on plates. Why don't we stir up a bit more admiration by tossing a nifty horticultural term on the table during the next Scrabble game? For instance:

**Drippl**: verb, to dribble briskly, as *dripping* water onto foliage so it will freeze and protect it from frigid air.

**Leptodermatous**: adjective, having thin skin, such as the *leptodermatous* Japanese maples we protect from afternoon winter sun.

**Maunderer**: noun, one who rambles idly, such as a mobile- but not overly aggressive groundcover, enough of a *maunderer* to slip its bounds here or there and just poke up between other plants.

## This week in Janet's garden

**Grow with me! This week I will:**

**Contemplate the cold!** Back in February of this year a reader commented about the "bitter cold" on a day I thought was pretty fair -- in the high 20's F. That started me thinking about cold's relativity, terms we use to describe cold and more. I put that study on hold. I re-opened them this week on a blustery day when I received S.P.'s comment "...we have more than a foot of snow right now, so thinking GARDEN is very therapeutic!"

Here are some of the interesting things that came to light:

***I consider every plant hardy until I have killed it myself.***

- J.C. Raulston, paraphrasing Sir Peter Smithers -

**A garden in winter is the absolute test of the true gardener.**  
Rosemary Verey

### Cold thoughts #1: Them's cold words, pardner!

#### Plants harden or give it up as fall becomes increasingly cold

50°F - Tropicals suffer and die

40°F - Subtropical plants suffer, die back

30-32°F - A "light freeze" occurs. Kills some but not all foliage on hardy deciduous perennials.

Below 20°F - Hard freeze. Soil freezes, ice forms on open water. All annual vegetation is killed.

#### Frost: Hardly crystal clear

Light frost - 32°F

Hard frost - 24°F

Radiation frost - Local events on calm, clear nights. The Earth gives up its warmth to the sky.

Advection frost - Cold air moves in horizontally, usually with wind.

Convection frost - Cold air arrives vertically, perhaps falling in from a colder, higher air mass.

Black frost - A dry freeze.

**Lawn frosts over sooner** than roads and gardens because the light colored sod blanket prevents the ground from absorbing as much heat during the day as a dark asphalt drive or the dark mulch or soil of a garden.

The British have more dealings with frost during winter than with snow. Thus they have a sliding scale of frosts, from light through keen, heavy and severe, occurring at temperatures equivalent to 32°F - 14°F.

### Black frost and gray words take bite out of jade tree

Our jade tree suffered because Steven and I didn't communicate clearly on a day before a freeze was predicted.

I brought it in to the back room one evening before a frost, then asked Steve the next day, "Can you set the jade back outside? It's still nice out and that light's so much better for it."

"Put it on the table out there?" Steven asked.

I answered simply, "Yes."

Before dawn the next morning, I heard the radio report a lower current temperature than I'd expected. Not terribly concerned because a roof such as on our porch is great frost protection (see wara-tate on page #), I glanced out the back door to see if frost had formed outdoors. I saw no frost but was alarmed to see the table on our covered porch was empty! Steven had set the jade on the *other* table, on the *open patio*.

No frost had yet formed there yet the damage was done, by black frost. I know when it comes to tropical or subtropical plants and cold, the longer the exposure, the greater the harm. So I brought the jade in to our cool back room right away. The leaves looked fine for a day, then all of the outermost layer turned dark.

So I pruned the plant back hard. (left, below.) I've done this many times before, and often harder. However, I usually do that in spring when I can put it outdoors and out of mind while its new growth comes back fast and thick.

Next time Olive the tree-climbing cat (above) visits, she'll be miffed that her favorite hiding tree has become so open.



It's a trooper, this old jade. After just three weeks it's blooming in a sunny window and adding interest in another way -- pushing out new shoots.. My pencil points to one of the new buds. (See the flowers? Too bad most of the branches were killed or they would all be blooming.)

## Cold thoughts #2: Perennials still in pots? Protect 'em!

It's no shame to go through winter with **plants still unplanted** from that last couldn't-resist-it perennial sale. Yet don't take chances and lose what you gained by those great buys.

**Sink those pots or bury them in mulch** to protect the roots -- much less hardy than the crown.

What if you don't? Some may make it. From research funded by the Perennial Plant Association to determine the temperature at which lethal ice crystals formed in these plants:

Without insulating soil, yarrow (*Achillea*), bee balm (*Monarda*), and foamflower (*Tiarella*) will survive 24 hours at 8°F.

By comparison, blue mist spirea (*Caryopteris*), tall phlox, toadlily (*Tricyrtis*) and *Veronica* died after 24 hours between 21°F and 28°F.\*

## Cold thoughts #3: Who'll bend to the cold, this year?

### Plants harden or give it up as fall becomes increasingly cold

Trees least likely to be damaged in an ice storm

baldcypress  
beech  
blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
crabapple  
flowering cherry  
ginkgo  
hemlock  
ironwood (*Ostrya*)  
Kentucky coffee tree  
spruce  
sugar maple  
sweetgum (*Liquidambar*)  
white oak, pin oak  
(From a survey by  
New York State arborists  
after a particularly devastating winter.)

After **23 inches of snow fell** in November, 1996 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, horticulturist Paul Pfiefer reported that **mature birches were bent to the ground**, and the trunks of a 15' kousa dogwood were so splayed that the plant looked like a 6' shrub. All recovered completely.

**Birch twigs loaded with ice may weigh 8 times more** than they do without ice. They make their whole branch far heavier than a similar length of icy oak- or honeylocust branch. Oak and honeylocust have fewer twigs on which ice can form.

**A tree that picks itself up** after bending under snow or ice uses the **same technique that grass does** to raise up **after being trampled**. Cells on the top side of the bent structure shrink to lift the whole.

Best **toy for gardeners** this Christmas? Perhaps a **weather station** with one or more outdoor data collecting stations. Move those stations around to locate warm and cold microclimates in your yard, learn where it's calm on windy days, etc.

## Flowering crabapples and lilacs actually grow better in the North than in other parts of the continent.

Leon Snyder, *Trees and Shrubs for Northern Gardens*

### Cold thoughts #4: A chilling tale of fruit trees and alarms

Did you know that **plants set chemical alarm clocks** if Fall for their Spring wake-up?

Many hardy plants protect themselves by **accumulating special chemicals in fall** in their growth buds. These compounds **break down only while temperatures are below about 45°F**, and **prevent growth from resuming** until they are all gone. They add up to a chemical alarm clock set to go off only after a certain amount of time at low temperature. The plant's protected since it **won't be fooled into growth and killed in an early thaw**.

Many hardy plants **require 1,000 hours** of chill, or about 90 days in zone 5:

Where winter is such that about 12 hours of each day are 45°F or lower, then a 1,000 hour chilling requirement will be met in **about 83 days**.

**Detroit and Chicago** begin to average 40°F halfway into November and remain there into the first part of March. **Toronto** averages 40°F at the beginning of November. So if February brings prolonged, unusually warm weather to the Great Lakes region, trees that require 1,000 hours of chilling (and are not inhibited by short days) are more at risk of leafing out early in Toronto than in Detroit or Chicago.

In warmer winter zones where it's 45°F or below for only 6 hours each day, then only **500 hours** of chilling may be provided in that **83 day** winter.

**Washington D.C.** has only about 40 days when the average temperature is 45°F or lower and **Houston, Texas**, only dips to an average of 45°F for a week or so in January. Since 1,000-hour plants aren't likely to feel their requisite chilling hours, low-chill plant varieties must be grown to insure flower buds perform properly. There are **low chill fruit trees, peonies, lilacs, etc.**

**Chilling hours required** (below 45°F)  
for proper bloom, fruit:  
**apple\*** 1,000 - 1,500 ( Example: 'Northern Spy')  
**apple, low-chill** 600 - 800  
(Ex.: 'Granny Smith', Braeburn, 'Wealthy')  
**apple, subtropical** 200 - 500  
**apricot** 700 - 1,000  
**cherry** 1,100 - 1,500  
**lilac, cutleaf** (*Syringa laciniata*) 750  
**lilac, most** spp. and varieties 1,000 - 2,000  
**peach/nectarine** 500 - 1,200  
**peach, low-chill** 200 - 500  
(Ex.: 'Bonita', 'Sunred', 'Desert Gold')  
**pear\*** 1,000 - 1,500  
**pear, Asian** 900 - 1,000  
(Ex.: 'Shinseiki', '20th Century')  
**peony** 1,000 - 1,500  
**peony, low-chill**  
(Ex.: 'Krinkled White', 'Festiva Maxima')  
**plum** 800 - 1,200

\*For more on growing fruit, I recommend Stella Otto's book *Backyard Orchardist*.

#### Extremes for a flower or

"Isn't it enough they can grow tropical hibiscus outdoors?":

Some warm-western U.S. gardeners cover their peony's crown with ice for a month in order to insure bloom.

**Chillingly alone? Never! Our mentors will always be with us:**

Most of us had a **parent, neighbor or other veteran gardener** to guide us through our first attempts to grow. The **gardening advice they gave us** may include facts that took generations to confirm and tweak. Think how true it is that a medieval town, dependent on its crops, would be better off battling wolves than experiencing a midwinter warm up that could cause early flowering of fruit trees and loss of that food. That's why this saying has endured since then:

***I'd rather see a wolf in February than a peasant in shirtsleeves.***

Given chilling hour science, there's just as much truth in what a great gardener and writer said:

***A year without its winter would seem all wrong to me...  
It is a necessity, not just a necessary evil.***  
- Christopher Lloyd -

Although I only met Lloyd a few times, from those and his writing I took him as mentor!



Send your mentor's wise words -- I'll pass along all I can.



Light frost is like dew on a mum. Hard frost ices the last rose (above, right), and a freeze decorates rose hips in winter (left). Frost is far more trouble for hardy plants in spring than in fall, because once plants' chemical alarm clock has released them to grow, they need more than just hours to regain hardiness. So this viburnum (above, center) may lose its flowers at 30°F in May after surviving -10°F in January.

Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila

*What's Up #71, Page 9*

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## Cold thoughts #5: So you think it's tough to put up burlap wind screens?

### Dreams of foreign Garden by Janet sessions

I've mentioned to some of you who come to my *Garden By Janet* sessions, that one day perhaps we will do such a session **in Japan** in late fall. My aim would be to learn to create some of their beautiful **forms of winter protection, called fuyu-jitaku:**

**Yuki-tsure**, literally, "snow suspension"

Evergreens in Japanese gardens may be pruned as "cloud trees" in which the foliage becomes concentrated in tufts at branch ends. Snow can accumulate in the needled ends and overload the branches. This method of protecting such plants sets a pole into the ground alongside the cloud tree's trunk. Thick hemp **ropes suspend the cloud tree's limbs to the top of that pole.**

The ropes not only support the limbs but help snow slide down the lines, past the limbs. More than that, they're beautiful -- the frame of a paper umbrella without its paper cover.

### Miki-tsure

Like yuki-tsure, but ropes run from the top of the cloud tree's own trunk to its limbs.

**Yuki-gakoi** - "snow fence"

**Windbreaks** of straw mat, bamboo and hemp. (Much classier than burlap creations on page 1!)

**Fuyu-gakoi / Niwa-gakoi** - "winter fence"

**Preventing snow load**, as with split bamboo strips tied close together in a dome over a plant.



### See it on the Internet

**Yuki-tsure** protects a cloud pine - copy this URL to your browser.  
[de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Datei:Yukitsuri-standalonepine-02-2006-03-03.jpg&filetimestamp=20060304094451](http://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Datei:Yukitsuri-standalonepine-02-2006-03-03.jpg&filetimestamp=20060304094451)  
(Just click on the photo!)

For **fuyu-gakoi**, copy to your browser  
[ginzando.ne.jp/~imai/fuyugakoi1.jpg](http://ginzando.ne.jp/~imai/fuyugakoi1.jpg)  
or  
[panorama-journey.com/wayhome/images/fuyugakoi2008-04.jpg](http://panorama-journey.com/wayhome/images/fuyugakoi2008-04.jpg)

For **wara-maki**,  
[murnijapan.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/p10008411.jpg](http://murnijapan.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/p10008411.jpg)

**Wara-maki** - "straw binding"

As ornament and to **protect thin-barked trees**. Rice straw or other mats wrap the trunk, sometimes overlapping like petticoats under a skirt. Tied with hemp rope, often died black. Straw may also cover the ground around the plant's trunk, fanned out radially.

**Kasa** -- a wide, conical hat

May be placed **above a whole plant or atop the trunk** to finish off a wara-maki. A beautiful kasa for an early blooming broadleaf evergreen might be bamboo supports covered with brown dried reed and green bamboo tied with black hemp.

When I decorated my dwarf Alberta spruce for Halloween, I didn't realize I was parodying Japanese winter kasa.

Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### Yabu-maki

**Leafy bundles** of (bamboo) branches tied onto limbs or trunks of a plant that needs only a little protection. The hemlock branches I placed in and showed you on my mom-in-law's Japanese maple fall very roughly into this category. See issue #69. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### Miki-maki

**Straw mats tied around trunks** for appearance and, on pine, timed to cause destructive caterpillars that seek winter shelter in rough bark to lodge in that straw. In early spring the mats are removed and burned, killing the caterpillars.

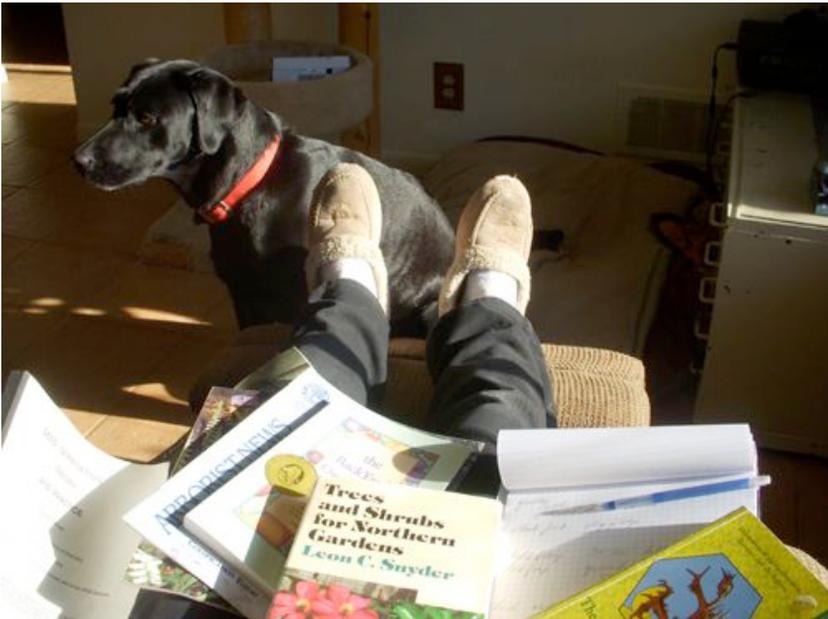
**Wara-tate** - "straw protective screen"  
Straw mats on bamboo stilts. They make **a roof over tender plants**, holding in ground warmth. There are no walls so the plants can be seen and admired.



Do you ever put wara-tate of a kind over plants, perhaps in spring using floating row cover? You might place **panels of water under that cover** when frost is likely. The **water releases heat as it cools**, warming the space under the cover with 17.562 calories even as it freezes.

## Wrap-up with Grins and Grow-ans that turn our green thumbs up or down

**Grins:** To the low angle sun that reaches deep into my house only in winter, and to sitting in it during the laid back days of December. These are those lovely days after we've admitted we can't do much outdoors anymore but before we start saying "Winter's almost gone and I'm not done with my list!"



Ah, December! If I take enough books and magazines to a comfy chair near a south window, I have both entertainment and a nice lap robe when I nod off in the low winter sun.

**Grow-ans:** To the compaction that can happen to us northerners' gardens in those places where snow must be piled. A heavy mulch there now -- a few bags of those fall leaves you're hoarding! -- can help prevent the worst damage.

## Who's Janet?

**An eternal student of gardening,** Janet Macunovich has embraced the perspectives of Thomas Jefferson (who said he was 'an old man but a young gardener') and philosopher-garden writer Allen Lacy (who can 'spend an entire lifetime in one corner of one garden and still not know all

that's going on there'). She aims to keep studying gardening all her life, at universities' and botanical gardens' courses, in books and at lectures, in hers and others' gardens. "It's such a privilege to work in other peoples' gardens," says Macunovich, "where the same plants I grow in my yard show me all the aspects they can take in different situations. Some years I work in 100 gardens and don't see the same thing twice. To observe, question, research and experiment in gardens, to talk with, learn from and explain what I've learned to others, that's better than gold." Email questions to her at JMaxGarden@aol.com.

### Where to catch Janet and friends\* in-person:

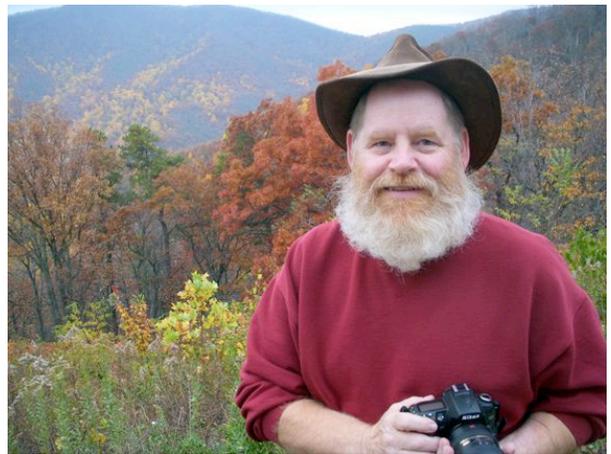
\*See "By seeing Santa?!", January 30 and "Invite Janet or Steven" on page 14.

**By seeing Santa?! Many dates and places around Southeast Michigan.** That's right folks, the resemblance is no accident. **Steven Nikkila is a Santa's Helper.** He's pretty sure that Santa is one of his Finnish kin, so he does his best to assist that jolly old elf by collecting wish lists from kids and gardeners each holiday season. Look for him at the Village of Rochester shopping mall in Rochester, Michigan, and other locations. You can send him



your gardening wish list -- we'll publish them here

before the holiday. Then you can leave a print-out of this newsletter where your special someone can find it as a hint! Or to invite Santa Steve to your holiday gathering, contact him at hortphoto@gmail.com or 248-681-7850.



Some of you have noticed the resemblance, especially during the second half of each year when Steven lets his beard grow long for his off-season job...

### Stay tuned here for:

**January and February. Garden and landscape design classes,** in and around the Detroit area. Multi-session, hands-on workshops -- Janet's long-time specialty.

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010. "What's Coming Up for professional gardeners."** Join Janet at the **Association of Professional Gardeners meeting.** Details will be available here and at [www.associationofprofessionalgardeners.org](http://www.associationofprofessionalgardeners.org)

**Thursday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. "Saving Time and Money in the Garden."** Economize with Janet at **Cromaine District Library, Hartland, Michigan.**

**Saturdays, January 23, January 30 and February 6, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Garden Design, New Plants, and Janet & Steve's 50 Favorite Before-Afters."** These sessions featuring Janet Macunovich, Cheryl Bennerup and Steven Nikkila are sponsored by The Detroit Garden Center as part of its 19th annual winter seminar series. They'll be held at Historic Trinity Church

auditorium, 1345 Gratiot near Easter Market in Detroit. Registration information will be available here and through The Detroit Garden Center at 313-259-6363, [detroitgardenctr@yahoo.com](mailto:detroitgardenctr@yahoo.com) or [www.detroitgardencenter.org](http://www.detroitgardencenter.org).

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

We go where we're invited! That's taken us all over the country and then some over the past 20 years. We address many topics, drawing from our list of **100+ talks**. We also continue **to meet groups' needs** and expand our horizons by developing new material or "hybridizing" from what we already have.

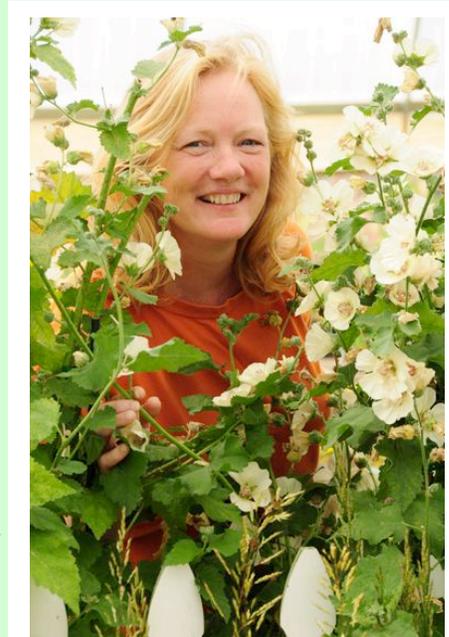
So, whether it's...

- a **how-to lesson for a garden club** meeting,
  - a **hands-on workshop** at a site of your choosing or
  - a **multi-part class** for a small group,
- ...we're game!

We can also connect you to one or a whole line-up of other experts who know how to explain how-to. So give us a **call or send an email** to make a date, request our list of classes and talks or get a referral. **JMaxGarden@aol.com** or **248-681-7850**. Our calendars fill about a year in advance for spring weekends, and six months ahead for most other weekends and evenings. So give us some lead time. Then we can meet you in *your* garden.

Steven Nikkila and Janet Macunovich (top) have been digging, shooting and teaching how-to for 22 years. They began producing conferences in the early '90s and then ran a gardening school for 12 years, featuring instructors who knew their stuff in the garden as well as knowing how to get their messages across in front of a group. That line-up includes people like Cheryl Bennerup (right). Cheryl and Janet began their relationship 20 years ago when Cheryl grew perennials for Janet at her Milford, Michigan greenhouse and continues today as Janet taps into Cheryl's know-how as chief of propagation and troubleshooting at one of the country's largest perennial growers, Sunny Border Nursery in Connecticut. Janet and Steve are glad to help you themselves or refer you to others to meet your group's need. Contact them at [JMaxGarden@aol.com](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com) or 248-681-7850 when you want to set up a talk, workshop or class.

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### About attending Gardens by Janet sessions:

We gardeners are let-me-see, hands-on people and that's how we learn best. In these sessions, I offer you that kind of chance to grow. You can visit me where I'm working and you can either watch or work with me side by side. I hope you'll bring your gloves and join in so you realize the most value for the time.

At the **gardens I tend through my business, Perennial Favorites**: My clients understand my enthusiasm for teaching. Some open their gardens to small groups who want to see and practice "how to." When the work I'm scheduled to do may be of interest to you, I invite you in.

In the **Detroit Zoo Adopt-A-Garden** program: I'm a 21-year veteran of this great program. Many people have worked with me there, some for a day and others for years. We have fun, we learn, we accomplish much. The program requires that regular garden volunteers complete an interview and orientation process but you can come as my student on a temporary pass for a day or two. **To join me at the Zoo** for a Garden By Janet, email [mstgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:mstgarden@yahoo.com). Make the subject line of your email "I'll help at the zoo with Janet." That will connect you to my friend Deb Tosch who'll send you upcoming work dates, directions for meeting up with my group at the zoo as a temporary helper, plus all you need to sign up officially if you decide to stay on.

### A complete library of Janet's gardening how-to on one CD... just \$24.

Is this *What's Coming Up* newsletter useful to you? Imagine how a whole year of these weekly newsletters could help your garden grow.

Now imagine *SIX YEARS* of the same: 1,681 gardeners' questions answered, with no repeated topics! And picture that collection fully indexed and searchable by any key word you can type.

That's what you can have on my CD, *Asking About Asters!* It's six books plus one comprehensive index. Each book contains a full year of weekly Q&A.

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To get a copy of my CD, send a check payable to Janet Macunovich, to 120 Lorberta, Waterford, MI 48328-3041. Include your name and full mailing address.

My CD has everything from six of my books: How to prep soil, design, choose and de-bug plants, plus one A-Z index!

Jam packed with information that's easy to access. Type any key word into the index's "Search" field to receive a click-thru list of every place those "hydrangea" facts, winter interest tips, acidity explanations, etc. appear in this CD's 6 books.

