

## What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich answers your growing concerns

Issue 73, December 26, 2009



### The best of what came up this year Part one of two:

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A whole season or a single moment may be an individual gardener's high point for the year. I have the pleasure of sharing many such moments with you: My own in every issue; many gardeners' this week.

One of the things that's made this season special for Steven Nikkila was having this woodpecker regularly at his bird feeders. (If you'd like photos like this on your wall, be sure to look at what's on the wall on pages 14-15 and Steven's offer on page 17.)

### Dear Readers:

Recently, you've sent me messages such as, "You should take a holiday break!"

It's difficult for me to stay away from this writing I love. Risky too -- if I step out of the routine of weekly writing, who knows what other pursuit will snare me? However, I had indeed planned a break and here it is. I now turn you over to... you!

Here are some of the things you recognized as the *best* of what came up this year. - Janet -

### Your comments requested:

In this issue, I'm holding some things back so you can tell me if they're needed.

I'm suspending my practice of maneuvering key words within the text and highlighting them in a different color. I imagined this aided speed readers. It's been called to my attention that it is also a drain on ink supplies for readers who print this newsletter.

Another technique I have used is similarly implicate -- that of giving different articles within the newsletter different background colors. I thought these would stand out on PDF thumbnail pages to help you decide where to hop in to sample the next item.

I will reinstate these features in issue #75 pending your comments on comparative readability.

## New-age network, old time barn raising thrill

Thanks for all the "learning experiences" at the zoo and your clients' gardens. ...I was able to see what I wanted and spent the rest of the summer learning how to implement what I wanted to see. ...I wanted to let you know you gave this novice the confidence to grow, and to me, that's what gardening is all about! - Anne Crimmins -

It's been my pleasure, Anne, to work in gardens with enthusiastic people like you. Many have commented that it's an amazing thing to see so much accomplished so quickly. I think it's the thrill that comes to groups who participate in community affairs such as barn raisings -- experiences becoming rare in modern life.

Here's to the best times of this year, where many hands made light work. May they continue next year and many more to come.



ail Anderson and I maneuver a boulder. If more hands could have fit, eight more would have been here. I wrote about building this rock wall with a group of volunteers at the Detroit Zoo, in the October issue of Michigan Gardener magazine. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

**The best thing  
about gardening:  
We learn by doing,  
learn from each other!**  
- Janet -

**Altho' thy Teacher act not as he preaches,  
Yet ne'ertheless, if good, do what he teaches;  
Good counsel, failing Men may give; for why,  
He that's aground knows where the Shoal doth lie.**

- Benjamin Franklin - *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1734

## Sad loss contributes to a "best"

Hi Janet, The best thing that came up this year was part of the garden in front of my house. Several years ago the utility company came out for a gas leak and cut our magnolia's roots. It took that long for our lovely tree to die.

We will be keeping the portion of the bed in the picture but are reworking the area of the magnolia. We put in a Serviceberry, an hinoki cypress and

will be adding more plants in the spring. As a result I have tons of hostas that I am still dividing and potting up! Happy Winter! - Jan Ellison -



The white tree peony is 'Godaishu' purchased 10 years ago and the hosta in front left of it is Sum & Substance which is about that old too. The other hostas I cannot remember as I lost their tags long ago. On the right is the trunk of the magnolia we had to remove.

Photo ©2009 Jan Ellison

How great that the area around a failing tree should put on its best ever show, Jan. Maybe it was the result of increased light under a tree that thinned as it died back. Or perhaps the companion plants gave your magnolia a grand going away party!

At the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the late, great Christopher Lloyd spoke of losing a special plant: **"I was devastated by the loss. For perhaps five minutes. And then, like all gardeners with any ambition at all, I wondered, 'Now what can I plant there instead?'"**

More from Lloyd's book *In My Garden*.  
**...owners applying for tragedy queen roles... it is hard to distinguish whether it is they who are dying... or their plants.**

**...let's admit that the demise... of some old friends can be something of a release.... After all, the whatever-it-is has been there a long time and has served us well.**

**"I remember how thrilled I was when my mother bought me this 'White Swan' (camellia)... (Then, decades later), carrying**

**(a new plant) around in my trug I suddenly thought: Why not get rid of 'White Swan' altogether?"**

And, about acquiring new plants:  
**"Always seize your chance and let the brooding on what to do with the acquisition take place afterwards."**

**"It does help concentrate the mind if you then carry the new plant around the garden with you."**

## Best is one plant plus learning to combine it: *Impatiens* 'Tango'

My best, Janet: An annual plant I grew from seed really stole the show this year for me. The plant is New Guinea *Impatiens* 'Tango.' 'Tango' has brilliant tangerine flowers that bloomed until frost. Paired with anything purple or blue it is spectacular.

I used this variety in large pots with *Cordyline* 'Red Star' (for height), *Angelonia* (also easy from seed), *Verbena*, *Lobelia*, and *Nemesia* as its blue/purple color-opposite. Conditions must have been good because 'Tango' soon outgrew (and camouflaged) its partners, reaching nearly 2' x 2'. Seeds are widely available, and germinate quickly. The plant holds up against rain and the sun. (With all this praise, it seems a shame that I did not take a picture!) - Carol Gibbs -

Thanks for the report, especially the combination ideas\*, Carol!

\*Paste this URL to your browser bar to see 'Tango'-plus-blue: [whiteflowerfarm.com/73755-product.html](http://whiteflowerfarm.com/73755-product.html)



New Guinea *impatiens* are grown as much for their foliage as their bloom. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### About New Guinea *Impatiens* size, from Missouri Botanical Gardens\*:

You may be surprised at how big (to four feet) these normally small plants can get with just a season's growth.

\*For more, paste this URL into your browser: [mobot.org/gardinghelp/plantfinder/plant.asp?code=B665](http://mobot.org/gardinghelp/plantfinder/plant.asp?code=B665)

### Cool summer, great *Impatiens*

A cool summer can make a big difference in certain plants' growth and bloom. Certainly *Impatiens* perform better when cool:

Experiments using *Impatiens* and *Viola* showed that even heat tolerant varieties showed reduced flowering after temperatures hit 95°F for just 2 hours per day. Heat prevents or reduces photosynthesis in this species; with less energy flowering fell off.

## Spiderflower *Cleome* 'Senorita Rosalita'

My contribution to the "Best of 2005" is the *Cleome* 'Senorita Rosalita' a Proven Winner plant. I bought them at the Pontiac Farmer's Market but didn't see them other places. They were gorgeous when I planted them and remained gorgeous from June until the first heavy frost. No deadheading & no extra care! - Beverly Pintar -



Spiderflower (*Cleome*) takes its name from whiskery stamens like spider legs.



What's pictured here is *not* the variety 'Rosalita', which is shorter than most at 2-4' rather than 3-6'. 'Rosalita' was bred for reduced height, heat- and drought tolerance, and sterility -- it does not produce seed, a characteristic that extends each flower's life.

People have asked whether dwarf- and specially colored spiderflowers will come true if we collect and sow its seed. Although 'Rosalita' is sterile, others are prolific seed producers. Growers in the know tell me that if the plant sets seed at all it's definitely worth a try.

In fact, you may not have a choice, since most self-sow freely. You may have to cull the seedlings to eliminate those that revert to taller form or unwanted colors.

Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### **Ick, it stinks and it's sticky!**

- Overheard as a kindergarten group roamed my garden -

**"If it's a flower and it wants to grow in my garden, how can I pull it out?!"** - Anonymous -

## *Delphinium* beats the odds, takes the spotlight

I never have luck with Delphiniums, but for some reason I tried again when I found a very royal blue color last fall. This time I put three of them right outside my office. Only one thrived, but what a show it gave me for weeks! - Donna Gundle-Krieg -

Photo ©2009 Donna Gundle-Krieg

### ***Delphinium* sends a message**

In the Victorian era "Language of flowers", *Delphiniums* in a floral arrangement signified swiftness and lightness.

### **Delphin - Dolphin**

The name *Delphinium* comes from the Greek delphis, dolphin, referring to the similarity between this flower's profile and that of the head and nose of a dolphin.

### **True blue genes**

Delphinidin is a chemical compound produced in some plants -- delphinium, pansy, Concord grape, cranberry pomegranate, etc. - which gives tissues a red or blue-red hue. It is an anthocyanidin, usually obtained as  $C_{15}H_{11}ClO_7$ .

In 2005 the delphinid-producing gene from a pansy was spliced into a rose to produce the first true blue rose flower.

### **Pretty enough to eat? No, but it can heal!**

Ingesting *Delphinium* parts will make you sick so it is correct to treat them as poisonous plants.

However, throughout northern temperate regions where these plants occur naturally, they have been used as strong external medicines, such as the powdered seed for toothache. During the Napoleonic wars and the American Civil War delphinium powders were prescribed as a topical treatment for head lice.

Among anthocyanins tested to learn how antioxidants from fruits and vegetables work to prevent cardiovascular disease and cancer, delphinidin was the most potent angiogenic inhibitor.



## Wonder of the year: Watching a vision become reality

Patty Donahue leads the Taylor Conservatory Foundation, which is developing a garden in Taylor, Michigan around a scale model of an historic building on Belle Isle, Detroit -- the Anna Scripps Whitcomb conservatory. She sends this lovely photo and encouragement to everyone working on a big project:



A garden never happens as quickly as we want but what we've planted so far around the Taylor Conservatory really came up beautifully this year. Makes us keep on digging to get the whole grand plan completed. - Patty Donahue -

Photo ©2009 Dave Gorgon

For more photos: copy this URL to your browser: [taylorconservatory.org/](http://taylorconservatory.org/)

**The better part of garden wisdom has to do with patience...  
(The garden) is a living work of art... (The plan) an outline for the future.**

- Norman K. Johnson -Garden Design: History, Principles, Elements, Practice

## Kudus to 'Sweet 100' cherry tomatoes that went on and on

'Sweet 100' cherry tomatoes took over this year. They had to be pruned off the driveway repeatedly so the car would not run over them. Finding homes for all those tomatoes was fun, too! - Marilyn Alimpich



Here's the driveway-side tomato that went gung ho. What can be better than to have a beautiful garden and eat it, too!

Photo  
©2009  
Marilyn  
Alimpich

### Newcomers steal the show

Central- and South America often receive little mention in horticulture. Yet consider the tomato and pepper, both introduced to the rest of the world as part of the 15th century Columbian Exchange. They were grown at first as decorative oddities, with horticultural gurus warning gardeners away from their use as an edible crop even into the 1600's because they belong to the nightshade family, known for toxic plants.

Still, these plants took the world by storm. That's clear in any tally of cultures' "traditional cuisine." In just a few centuries, people from tropical Asia to temperate Europe turned one or both plants into staples of their diet.

**Most tomato varieties will set more fruit if the flower is agitated...  
Daily shaking can be used to increase flower set..."**

- Suzanne Ashworth - *Seed to Seed*

## Hallelujah: *Hydrangeas* finally bloomed!

I do have a success story from this past year – my hydrangeas, all 3 of them. I was tired of getting only a few- to zero blooms and so we tried protecting them with burlap and leaves. It was a great result by comparison.

The mophead rewarded me with 12-15 blooms of purple and blue colors, the lacecap actually produced one long-lived bloom that is a lovely shade of dark pink, and the third plant (also a mophead) gave me 2 giant flowers (which dried on the bush and are now gracing my dining room table.) So we've done it again – all 3 plus a baby one with red flowers are swathed in burlap and leaves and will hopefully be even better next year. – Paula Brose –



Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### Rarely-seen color deserves poetic description

From Webster's Third New International Dictionary:  
hydrangea blue *n*: a pale purplish blue that is deeper and slightly redder than starlight blue and bluer and deeper than haze blue, moonstone blue or Ontario violet

In gardening, everything's relative. In maritime climates zone 6 and warmer, a blue- or pink- mophead- or lacecap *Hydrangea* shrub may produce a hundred flowers and require nothing except water. That's the case with this plant growing on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. In continental climates and zone 5, however, gardeners must go an extra mile to see even a few blooms per plant, even on new varieties such as 'All Summer Beauty' which have basal growth more likely to bloom in its first year.

### Pruning persnickety *Hydrangeas*

The trouble with blue and pink hydrangea species and varieties in a continental (non-maritime) climate and where winter temperatures dip colder than 10°F? The tips of branches are killed by winter cold or late spring frosts. Thus Nature is "pruning" them incorrectly.

From the New Royal Horticultural Society *Dictionary of Gardening*, on pruning *Hydrangea*:

"With clump forming types that produce shoots from the base (such as blue- and pink- lacecap *H. serrata* and mophead *H. macrophylla*), flowers are occasionally carried on these but in the main are formed terminally on the previous season's wood. The pruning of these should be confined to the removal of old flower heads (leave this until spring to help frost protection) and weak, congested or exhausted growth at the base. This allows light and air to the centre of the bush, encouraging good ripening and flowers. Shoots should not simply be shortened back, as in most cases the removal of the terminal bud will cause the flowers to be lost for that season."

## Man and garden's best friend: Dog shows gardens can change

I have favorite places in my garden. So does my dog. Unfortunately, his favorite spot was in the corner of a flower bed. This year I learned that the true beauty of a garden is that it can be changed. Rather than continue the battle to keep the dog out of the garden, I moved a few plants and gave Rookie his own path. The peacefulness of the garden has been restored. - Noreen StClair -



Rookie is a 26 pound West Highland White Terrier, a small dog who is rather large for his breed. Here he is "helping" me move plants. He's also a born digger, so he was determined to jump my little fences and dig his way through to his corner. His path was blocked by a beautiful bed of Tall Phlox, Penstemon, and Bearded Iris. I moved them at the end of July, which is not exactly the best time for transplanting, but all seemed to be okay till fall. Truth is, it really doesn't matter. If they don't come back in the spring, I'll have the opportunity to try something new.

Photos ©2009 Noreen StClair

### **Gardening with a Westie: Moles, beware!**

The West Highland white terrier or "Westie" breed was developed in Scotland to seek and dig out foxes and badgers.

Of another Westie, StClair writes, "My first was a female who was a non-stop digger. She learned very quickly to respect the boundaries of the flower beds, but the lawn was another story. She would sniff out a tunneling mole and dig like crazy, following his path. In fact, one of her trenches became the border for a new flower bed!"

It's said that one of the breed's red forebears was mistaken for a fox and shot. Afterward, white dogs were selected to help distinguish them from their quarry.



## The heart of gardening: Smiling at every flower

I have a flower that I don't know what to say about except that it makes me happy when I look at it! - Susan Burskey -

That is one of the best endorsements of gardening I can imagine, Susan -- that of pure enjoyment, unfettered by any need to memorize names or other details. A friend, now in her tenth decade and still working nimbly in her rich woodland garden, says to me now as she did many years ago, "Oh I don't know what it's called. I used to. I used to pay attention to the names but now I don't think it's important."

*Colchicum*, an autumn-blooming bulb sometimes called fall crocus. The flower is not accompanied by foliage (leaves emerge in spring) which explains another of its common names, "naked ladies." This plant that may be a better bet than most for a garden frequented by rabbits, deer and other herbivores, since it contains the toxic alkaloid, colchicine. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila (I'm sorry, Susan, that something didn't work right when I tried to capture the photo you sent, and in the 11th hour it poofed out of existence. I offer this substitute picture, hoping that I correctly identified and recalled what you sent. But then, that's exactly the point. It *doesn't* matter except it was an exquisite little bloom! - Janet -)



**Tim was so learned that he could name a Horse in nine languages,  
So ignorant, that he bought a Cow to ride on.**

- Benjamin Franklin - *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 1750

## Every delicious fall color in your own back yard



Hi, Janet. Regarding fall color, I am with Steven. It's all about the beauty of the subtle.

My backyard sported green-yellow-orange-red snowmound spirea, yellow locust and crabapple trees, and crimson barberry, in addition to the flame-red burning bush. This display was stunning against the gray/brown lichen-studded branches and the evergreen pines. Oh wait, I forgot the green-orange-red

sedum! Wonderful! - Carole Cooper -

I hope a reminder of fall color, like this dwarf fothergilla glowing with anthocyanins, doesn't revive in Carole Cooper her "homesickness for Michigan, even with its cold and snowy weather." Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### Chemical reprise: Medicinal anthocyanins are also fall pigment

"The shortening days and cool nights of autumn trigger changes in the tree. One of these changes is the growth of a corky membrane between the branch and the leaf stem. This membrane interferes with the flow of nutrients into the leaf. ...the production of chlorophyll in the leaf declines... the concentration of sugar in the leaf increases, the sugar reacts to form anthocyanins. These pigments cause the yellowing leaves to turn red. Red maples, red oaks, and sumac produce anthocyanins in abundance and display the brightest reds and purples in the autumn landscape." For more, copy this URL to your browser [scifun.chem.wisc.edu/CHEMWEEK/fallcolr/fallcolr.html](http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/CHEMWEEK/fallcolr/fallcolr.html)

Thanks, Carole. Nothing's better than to have each day in a garden offer a different delight.

## Bumper crop from the back yard orchard

What was best of this year's garden? Apples!

March gave the impression of a wonderful season to come. The "Apple Tree" got a good hair cut. Fruit began to appear. Clusters of five or six indicated a need to thin! Still, the branches were hanging down as the summer progressed. At harvest time, we began to fill baskets and crates, realizing we could never make enough applesauce to use all this. Friends and neighbors were delighted. Not one pesticide was sprayed! - Diane Opria -

Of the bumper crop of apples this year, we say, 'Thank you, Mother Nature!' Photo ©2009 Jim Opria

**There's plenty of boys that will come hankering and gruvelling around when you've got an apple, and beg the core off you; but when they've got one, and you beg the core and remind them how you gave them a core at one time, they make a mouth at you and thank you 'most to death, but there ain't-a-going to be no core.**

- Mark Twain, - Tom Sawyer abroad



### **Bountiful gardens: Don't take them for granted**

Today in the U.S. we are so rich we no longer know how much simple things in our own yards are worth. This became apparent to me when my cousins from Byelorussia visited and argued with me about the proper way to prune a crabapple.

Recognizing the tree as an apple and aware that at home anyone fortunate enough to have an apple tree strives for produce which can be taken to Minsk and sold for a pretty penny, they lobbied for cuts that would help the tree bear more fruit. However, I was pruning to contain the tree's size and make it look good while in bloom, for clients who consider fruit messy and would have been happy with no crop at all."

## Appreciate the time to just kick back and let the gardens lie

This photo says it all: Sometimes the best part of a garden is the off-season! - Deb Hall -



Winter: When nothing that Puck, my Jack Russell terrier pup, does can bother the garden. Photo ©2009 Deb Hall

**I am that merry wanderer of the night.  
I jest to Oberon and make him smile...  
And then the whole quire hold their hips and laugh,  
And waxen in their mirth and neeze and swear.  
A merrier hour was never wasted there**  
- William Shakespeare - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
Puck's reply when Titania's fairy guessed about his identity

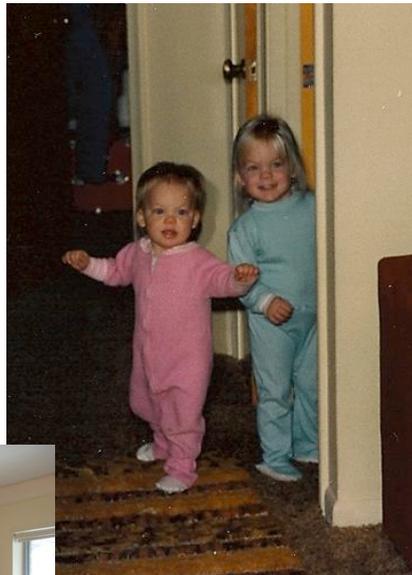
[In our next issue: Part two of your best of what came up this year](#)

## Incoming questions trigger meditation and discovery

All the very best are wished for you, Steven and family for freely sharing your knowledge of gardening in every way. You have taught me a whole lot and I hope you will not get tired of "gardening how-to" in your weekly newsletter. - Luz -



My best to you, too, Luz, and no worries about stopping this writing we do. We gain so much by doing it. The questions come in and cause us to look into what we never knew or ponder better ways to describe what we think we already know.



When Sherry in Oregon sent us her question about a Christmas tree in 2008, my research took me into the origins of evergreen winter decorations. This year, that voyage of discovery served us well.

In my childhood, decorating a tree was done on Christmas Eve after the youngest were in bed, and the results attributed to Santa. Steven and I continue this tradition. (We captured our daughter Sonja and son Cory on the Christmas morning when they caught sight of Santa's work.) So our tree season begins December 24 and runs to "Little Christmas" on January 6.

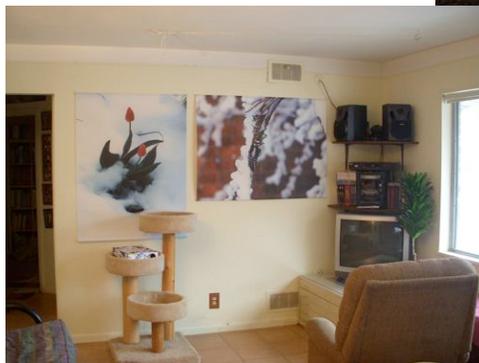
Often, I cut the top from our fast-growing Alaska false cypress and use it as our tree. (If you save these newsletters or own my CD collection *Asking About Asters*, see it in What's Coming Up #14.) This year I expected to do the

same but after clearing the space in our living room on December 23 and stepping out to cut the tree, I saw that the current top really should be left one more year to develop.

What to do? Trees on commercial lots are too dry so late in the season and generally too dense for our liking, anyway. There was no time left in our schedule to go out to a tree farm to cut a tree. Then I recalled what we read, that the

Christmas tree ritual stems from the bringing-in of a Christmas *branch*. I did some pruning and came home with this white pine branch.

Decorating it was a wonderful meditation on the beauty, balance and details of a single tree limb. The delight continues as I sit beneath it. Thank you, Sherry, and all who send questions, for steering us into such magical experiences! Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila



## Garden on a wall

That's some of Steven's **wall art** behind my Yule branch. If you'd like to have a hanging like this or a framed photo from Steven, check his offer on page 17.

## Who's Janet?

**A gardener who got carried away.** Janet Macunovich has been known to two generations of neighborhood children as "the lady at the flower house, the one with no lawn." Her lifelong interest in plants grew to a passion after she spent the summer of 1973 working in England, where she had the privilege of apprenticing to tenth-generation gardeners in a 300 year old garden. By 1981 the last of the lawn disappeared from her yard just as her hobby -- helping



others in their gardens -- grew beyond its bounds into a gardening business. Eventually her talent as a writer and speaker crossed with her experience in the garden and grew on as books (such as "Designing Your Gardens and Landscape" and "Caring for Perennials"), a weekly newspaper column now available by email at [JMaxGarden@aol.com](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com), a radio talk show and a gardening school. Email questions to her at [JMaxGarden@aol.com](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com).

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

\*See January 30 and "Invite Janet or Steven" on page 17.

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

**Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m..**  
**Choosing the Best of New Plants.** Join Janet at the **Association of Professional Gardeners meeting**. At Warren Mott High School in Warren, Michigan. The meeting is open to members and other gardeners, professional or otherwise, are welcome for this meeting. More details 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, Steven Nikkila (above) and Cheryl Bennerup (more about Cheryl on page 17) 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). Photo ©2009 Sonja Nikkila

## About attending Gardens by Janet sessions:

Anne's message on page 2 referred to these opportunities. (Next opportunity to *Garden by Janet*: February 7 tool cleaning pot luck! Details here, soon) 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. **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."

## 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 (above) 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. Photos ©2009 Betty Grady and ©2009 Steven Nikkila



## Time to garden your walls!

Steven's decorated our walls with beautiful images from gardens and Nature. Now he can help you do the same.

Any of Steven's images here in *What's Coming Up* can be made to hang on your wall. Email us at [JMaxGarden](mailto:JMaxGarden) for details and to place an order.

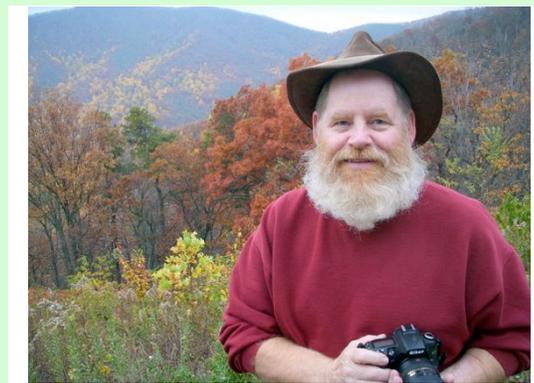
Prices depend on your choices in format and size.

For example:

Framed, matted, image 8" x 10", frame 11" x 14-1/2", \$48

Cloth tapestry\*, 3' x 4' (photo-quality print, museum-grade cloth) \$215

\*My favorite; I can change our display by simply rolling up one and unrolling another.



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