

TRANQUIL TIMES

The Newsletter of Tranquil Lake Nursery

No. 37

Fall, 2011

Fall Events

at Tranquil Lake Nursery

Free and open to the public.
For more information,
call 508-252-4002
or visit www.tranquil-lake.com

Fall Garden Festival Saturday, October 1, 2011 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spend an educational and fun filled day, learning new techniques that will help you to hone your gardening skills and improve the look and care of your own garden.

Learn how to divide perennials and prune shrubs, select plants for their fall and winter landscape interest or to attract butterflies, or select from the top ten list of must have garden plants. Experience the art of Japanese-style flower arranging, renovating a mixed border, building a garden fire pit or gabion garden seat. (See details on page 3)

Garden Design Day Saturday, October 8

Sign up for a half hour garden consultation with landscape horticulturist Warren Leach

\$50 reservation fee
(Redeemable for plants)
Reservations are first come
first serve

Creating A Sense of Place in Your Garden

I love plants and I love making gardens. To me, garden making is more than a horticulturally rich compositions of trees, shrubs, perennials and exotic plants, and it certainly is not a sterile production of bricks and mortar. What I love the most about garden design is the art of creating spaces. Places where you can sit or stroll, enjoy the cool of shade or the warmth of the sun, smell the flowers and fulfil one's primeval connection to nature.

There are differing assertions regarding the character of a primordial space. "In the beginning was the wall", is a pronouncement from Frank Lloyd Wright. Anthropologists declare "In the beginning was the floor". Archaeologist proclaim that "architecture begins with the sheltering roof".

My dear friend and mentor, **Professor Holcombe Austin** unequivocally articulated "*In the beginning was the Place*" in an essay he presented to the **Hellenic Society for Aesthetics**. Holcombe Austin was a Professor-emeritus of Philosophy and an astute scholar of architecture. His home was the last private residence designed by Walter Gropius and the design team TAC. Professor Austin also shared passions for the environment, gardens and trees. He was the driving force for planting scores of trees that beautify the Wheaton College landscape and memorialize classes and colleagues.

His discussion and analysis of the character of Place touches on the psychological, ontological, literally temporal priority and the historicolinguistic. The spatial qualities of place and architecture share a commonality to the attributes found in garden spaces. Being attuned to the Genus Loci, 'the spirit of the site' is key to success and happiness in design.

Claire Sawyers, garden friend and Director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, also articulates this importance of being in harmony with the spirit of the site in her recent book, *The Authentic Garden, Five Principles for Cultivating a Sense of Place*. Sawyers proposes five principles: 1) capture the sense of place; 2) derive beauty from function; 3) use humble or indigenous materials; 4) marry the inside to the outside, and 5) involve the visitor.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, describes in his new book *The Nature Principle* the symptoms of "Nature-Deficit Disorder" and "Place Blindness" and even "Plant Blindness". Send in the landscape horticulturist to the rescue!

Over the past twenty-five years we have imbued the landscape at Tranquil Lake Nursery with gardens that convey a purposeful sense of place. The gardens reflect a diversity of beautiful and drought tolerant plants in harmony to our sandy soils. We have created many garden niches, places to sit and contemplate the larger landscape and the daylily growing fields.

Several years ago, a nursery customer told me I had changed her life. What a flattering statement! Her epiphany occurred at a class I had taught at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, in which she became empowered to experience spatial garden design concepts unencumbered by pencil and paper. After all, a plan diagram is just one form of design communication, it's the genius of place and that expression of the idea that counts in making gardens.

Need help divining your genius loci? We design and create garden from small city plots to country estates and are available to help you experience the wonders of plants and garden making.

Warren Leach, Landscape Horticulturist

Lauding the Late Season Garden

Late Blooming Perennials

Aconitum 'Cloudy'
Anemone tomentosa
Aster novae-angliae 'Purple Dome'
Aster oblongifolius
 'Raydon's Favorite'
Aster tataricus
Boltonia asteroides 'Snowbank'
Chelone sp.
Chrysanthemum koreanum
 'Sheffield'
Coreopsis 'Full Moon'
Cimicifuga simplex 'Brunette'
Eupatorium maculatum
Eupatorium rugosum 'Chocolate'
Hemerocallis 'Autumn King'
Sanquisorba canadensis
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
Solidago sphacelata
 'Golden Fleece'

Late Blooming Trees & Shrubs

Clerodendrum trichotomum
Heptacodium miconioides
Hydrangea paniculata 'Tardiva'
Indigofera amblyantha
Lespedeza thunbergii

Colorful Fall Fruit

White

Actaea pachypoda

Yellow

Ilex verticillata 'Chrysocarpa'

Red

Aronia arbutifolia
Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'
Malus x. 'Indian Summer'
Malus x. 'Molten Lava'

Blue

Myrica pensylvanica 'Silver Sprite'
Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur'

Purple

Callicarpa dichotoma

Black

Aronia melanocarpa
Belamcanda chinensis
Lindera glauca var. *salicifolia*

Colorful Fall Foliage

Amsonia hubrichtii
Lindera glauca var. *salicifolia*
Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur'

Our gardening inspiration and motivation in the landscape may be unduly influenced by arbitrary calendar dates, such as Labor Day or the autumnal equinox. Although the day length is certainly shortening, the breadth of beauty bursting forth in the garden is far from waning. The gardening season is not over by a long shot! Early fall is an ideal time for both planting a new garden or refreshing your current one. During this season, there is a wealth of herbaceous perennials and woody plants that sport colorful flowers, fruits and seedheads. Fall is so much more than just corn stalks and pumpkins.

A few years ago, we designed and planted a landscape that defines this "Late Season Garden". It flourishes with September bloom that extends through October, with a finale of colorful late fall fruit lasting into winter accompanied by brightly pigmented twigs.

The garden space we transformed was a partially walled, rectilinear plot viewed from a piazza. Adding to the design challenge, the area was filled with crushed stone from the house construction and devoid of any soil. We composed a double row grid to echo the architecture of the house and establish the bones of the garden. Six tree pits were dug within the geometric pattern and filled with loam. The floor of the garden space is paved with chevron patterned bands of bluestone that edge the planting beds. Rice stone, which is comfortable to bare feet, surfaces the unplanted spaces.

A grove of seven-son flower trees (*Heptacodium miconioides*) was planted in the grid matrix. It is a perfect tree to anchor this garden's seasonal theme. Heptacodium is a small tree which blooms in September with panicles of fragrant white flowers. The flowers transform in October to

amazing, bright pink, calyx-stars. Heptacodium's exfoliating tan bark is also ornamental, adding to winter interest.

The blocks of Heptacodium are underplanted with *Carex morrowii* var. *temnolepsis*, (Silk tassel sedge) golden thyme, golden alpine strawberries (*Fragaria vesca* 'Golden Alexandria'), evergreen Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), *Geranium* 'Rozanne' and autumn crocus (*Colchicum*). The drifts of naked lavender colchicum flowers blooming through the fine, hair-like mops of *Carex* 'Silk Tassels' is spellbinding. The purple flowers of *Geranium* 'Rozanne' and flowers and fruit of the golden alpine strawberries continues until hard frost.

Flanking the grove of Heptacodium are weeping flowering crabapples (*Malus x* 'Molten Lava') whose pendulous branches are laden with vivid red fruit, persisting throughout the winter.

The acid yellow umbels of *Patrinia scabiosifolia* float in horizontal drifts against the cascading, rosy mounds of purple bush clover (*Lespedeza thunbergii* 'Gibraltar'). The evergreen yellow-banded spiked foliage of *Yucca filamentosa* 'Bright Edge' and fine textured leaves of *Amsonia hubrichtii* add contrasts in texture and color to the purple flowers of *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'.

Other late season perennials such as the lavender *Aster oblongifolia* 'Raydon's Favorite', white *Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank' and pink *Anemone tomentosa* 'Robustissima' contribute to a late season floral fanfare. Another edge of the garden is planted with a border of Asian spicebush (*Lindera glauca* var. *salicifolia*

underplanted with a native goldenrod (*Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'). The golden foamy flowers of goldenrod set the stage for the Linderas' pumpkin orange foliar transformation in late October. The Linderas' leaves then fade to tan and persist all winter, adding a warm presence to icy winter snow.

Indigofera amblyantha is outstanding for its long season of constant bloom. A member of the pea family, this *Indigofera* is a shrub six or so feet in height and width. It is clothed in delicate grey-green compound leaves and thrives in dry soils, in full sun to part shade. *Indigofera amblyantha* blooms continuously with spiked clusters of shrimp pink flowers from the end of May to hard frost in late October! Combine *Indigofera* with *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy',

Hemerocallis 'Back to School', *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian sage) and *Coreopsis* 'Full Moon' against the maroon foliage of *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple' for a knockout display in the late-blooming border.

This garden is sustained beyond its late blooms with colorful fall foliage and the evergreen boughs of conifers combined with colorful twigs and fruits. Japanese tabletop pine (*Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera') and a dwarf contorted white pine (*Pinus strobus* 'John's Find') add a sculptural presence above winter's snowy drifts. The fiery red stems of *Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal', and red fruit of winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red') add to a the winter garden delights. Fall is definitely for Planting!

Warren Leach

A Threesome of Sensational Shrubs for the Late Garden

Daphne x 'Eternal Fragrance' reblooms with sensuous fragrant flowers from late August through October. A delightful garden gem; for the entry garden, along a frequented path or by a terrace sitting area, *Daphne* 'Eternal Fragrance' delights with its long season of bloom. Plant *Daphne* in full sun to partial shade in well drained soil.

Lespedeza thunbergii 'Spring Grove' blooms with a fountain of lavender flowers in September. Plant this tough and drought tolerant member of the pea family in full sun. *Lespedeza* is a showy

addition to a shrub border or other late blooming perennial such as sedum, aster, boltonia and ornamental grasses.

Lindera glauca var. salicifolia displays the most exquisite foliage. The fine textured leaves are olive green with lighter undersides. Jet black fall fruit and leaves that burst into flaming orange fall color are just part of *Lindera's* garden delight. In November, the leaves fiery color eventually transform to a buff tan which persist all winter, warming the icy landscape. Plant a border of *Lindera* in full sun to part shade. A great combination with *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'.

Celebrating Twenty Five Years

It was twenty-five years ago in October 1986, that we purchased Tranquil Lake Nursery. We thank you all for your support over these past twenty five years and look forward to a bright and blooming future.

Warren Leach and Philip Boucher

Fall Garden Festival

Saturday, October 1

10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Workshop & Demonstrations

- 10:00 Artful Pruning of Your Trees and Shrubs
Jimmy Riddle
- 10:30 Planting for a Colorful Fall and Winter Garden
Warren Leach
- 11:30 Gardening for Butterflies and Biodiversity
Debi Hogan
- 12:00 Designing and Constructing a Garden Fire Pit
Jimmy Riddle & Warren Leach
- 12:30 Designing and Planting Tips for Renovating a Mixed Border
Warren Leach
- 1:30 Creative Arrangements from the Fall Garden with a Japanese Flair
Gilbert Moore
- 2:00 Building a Gabion Garden Seat
Jimmy Riddle
- 2:30 Dividing Techniques and Tips for the Fall Garden
Philip Boucher
- 3:00 Top Ten Must Have Plants for Your Garden
Warren Leach

The **Fall Garden Festival** is free and open to the public. Bring a picnic lunch and lawn chair and plan to spend the whole day in the gardens and learning new techniques that will bring color and interest to your fall and winter garden. We'll provide cold drinks. For descriptions of each talk visit www.tranquil-lake.com.

Visit our Website

We invite you to visit the Tranquil Lake Nursery website for a full listing of the Siberian Iris, Japanese Iris and Daylilies that are available this year. Each iris and daylily variety is accompanied by a description of the flower and the height and characteristics of the plant. A picture is also provided for most varieties. You will also find a **downloadable catalog of our most popular daylilies and iris**. Many specialized list of daylilies by color, height, flower size and more; copies of the plant articles from past newsletters and information on garden lectures and events is also available. Check out these ever updated resources at www.tranquil-lake.com.

**** On-Line Newsletter ****

Tranquil Lake Nursery has gone green with our newsletter. We invite you to share this e-newsletter with friends. To join our e-list, send your request to tranquil-lake@earthlink.net and we'll sign you up.

Garden Design Days

Does your garden need design finesse? Are you looking for planting solutions for a problem garden area? Or, do you just need to decide where to start?

On **October 8th** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., you can register for a half hour special garden consultation with our own talented horticulturist and garden designer **Warren Leach** and he will help you come up with a planting design solutions. Bring photos of your garden area and rough measurements of your site. Warren will sketch out solutions and provide a suggested plant list.

Preregistration is required and must be accompanied by a **\$50 registration fee**. This fee is **redeemable for plants on the day of the consult**. Consultation slots will be filled on a first call - first serve basis, so call and reserve your design time now.

Visiting the Nursery

Tranquil Lake Nursery is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5. p.m., until October 15. After October 15, call to make an appointment, as we will have reduced hours. The nursery is closed on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

Directions: Tranquil Lake Nursery is located just north of Route 44 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, about 8 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island. If you are traveling **east on Route 44**, take a left turn onto River Street immediately after you pass Winthrop Commons and the Route 44 Recreation Center. Continue on River Street across Broad Street. The nursery is the fourth driveway on the right. If you are traveling **west on Route 44**, travel 1.4 miles past the intersection of Route 118 and Route 44. You will pass the Rehoboth Schools on the right. Make the next right turn onto Danforth Street. Then take the first left on River Street. Tranquil Lake Nursery is the fourth driveway on the left.

Rehoboth, MA 02769
45 River Street
Tranquil Lake Nursery

