

Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁷



Celebrating the art of gardening

The Academy's 13th annual Hidden Gardens Tour—the all-but-official start of summer in Columbia County—will take place on Saturday, June 17. This year's theme: "Artful Landscapes."

As always, the self-guided tour highlights a weekend of garden-related activities at the Academy, beginning with the Twilight in the Garden Party on Friday evening (June 16). Once again, Denise and John Dunne will graciously open their Spencertown home, Falling Waters, to partygoers. With its meandering stone walls, rolling meadows and grazing sheep, Falling Waters is reminiscent of the Irish countryside. Cocktails, sparkling beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and a light supper will be served.

Garden varieties

The tour itself will take place on Saturday from 10am to 4pm and include visits to exquisite private gardens in Spencertown, Ghent and Hillsdale and the restored grounds and gardens of Steepletop, home of poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Four additional locations in North Hillsdale include the grounds of a historic bed-and-breakfast, a landscape designer's garden, an 18th-century home with lush edible and flower gardens, and a country house with a parterre, pond, and extensive perennial and edible gardens.

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in the gallery

Art from Farm to Table An exhibit celebrating nature's stunning colors

There is still time to take in "Art from Farm to Table," a multimedia exhibit at the Academy. The show kicked off this year's Hidden Gardens event on May 20 and runs through June 18. Fifteen regional artists are represented with depictions and interpretations of landscapes, buildings, farm life, flowers, vegetables, insects, and animals.

"The works range from finely crafted classical depictions to funky 'outsider' type art," says Norma Cohen, who curated the show, assisted by Barbara Lax. "The artists were inspired by anything and everything found in an agricultural environment that might—or might not—end up on a table."

The artists include April Aldighieri, Deborah Bayley, Arlene Boehm, Jim Brearton, Jerry Freedner, Carl Hetherington, Linda Horn, Caroline Kaars Sypsteyn, Maj Kalfus, Marybeth Ketz, Maria Kolodziej-Zincio, Joan Palmer, Georgia Ranney, Marlene Wiedenbaum, and Jacqueline Wilder.

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 5pm, with extended hours—9am to 4pm—on Saturday, June 17. Admission is free and the artworks are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Academy.

what's coming up



THE GALLERY

Art from Farm to Table

Invitational gallery show
Through June 18



JAZZ AT THE ACADEMY

The Music of Nat King Cole

Teresa Broadwell Sextet
Saturday, June 10, 7pm
Tickets: \$20



Twilight in the Garden Party

Friday, June 16, 6-9pm
Tickets available at
spencertownacademy.org

Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁷

Artful Landscapes

Saturday, June 17
Lecture & breakfast: 8:30-10am
Garden Market on the Green: 9am-3pm
Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm



THE GALLERY

Awakening

First Annual Juried Photography Show
Works by 40+ regional artists
Saturday, June 24-Sunday, July 16
Opening reception: June 24, 4-6pm



September 2-4
12th annual summer bookfest
Watch for details

spencertownacademy.org/events



from the President's iPad



Here Comes the Sun!

Short nights, balmy days and good times at the Academy

As I write this, it's a sunny 78 degrees in Spencertown and tomorrow's forecast is for more of the same. I know the summery weather won't last, though. After all, it's only May.

But these warm days tell me we've made it through another winter and chilly spring, and that we are finally closing in on real summer—the Spencertown Academy Arts Center's 45th. By the time you read this, we'll be just about there.

Personally, I love Columbia County whatever the season. But the region seems to come alive in a special way as we approach the vernal equinox. The first major event of the season, of course, is our beloved Hidden Gardens weekend, which begins with the Twilight in the Garden party on Friday, June 16, followed on Saturday by the Garden Tour, related programs at the Academy and the Garden Market on the Green.

Looking ahead—not that I want to rush the season—the Academy's 12th annual Festival of Books culminates the summer over Labor Day weekend.

I hope you'll take advantage of all that the Academy has to offer this summer. I also invite you to consider volunteering at these events and our others throughout the year. Our most immediate need is for garden docents and garden market attendants for our upcoming Hidden Gardens tour. But whatever you're good at or like to do best, there's a job with your name on it. Please see the volunteering box on page 4 for details.

Meanwhile, my best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Nick Van Alstine

jazz at the Academy

An "Unforgettable" Evening

Jazz sextet performs the music of Nat King Cole

Jazz vocalist-violinist-arranger Teresa Broadwell brings her sextet to the Academy for an evening of Nat King Cole's music on Saturday, June 10 at 7pm.

"Cole's repertoire included many of the most popular standards of his day," Teresa says. "But in addition to his well-known interpretations, we'll also perform some of his rarely heard songs."

All-star team

The sextet features guitarist Mike Novakowski, bassist Pete Toigo, saxophonist Leo Russo, pianist Michael Lamkin and drummer Cliff Brucker.

"Each one is a star in his own right," Teresa says. "Mike provides tasteful support for our improvisations and adds his own warm and swinging guitar solos to the powerful front line. Leo's buttery tone and improvisational virtuosity



make every song a treasure. Pete is a legendary sax man who propels the group with a relentlessly swinging energy. Michael has performed extensively throughout the northeast with a huge range of groups. And Cliff is an incredibly versatile musician—a pianist, keyboardist, composer, producer and arranger as well as a world-class percussionist."

Veteran performer

Since the early 1980s, Teresa has been a fixture of the Northeast music scene, performing at concerts and festivals, on radio and TV and at jazz clubs. Her groups have appeared with musical luminaries such as Stan Getz, Jon Hendricks, Marc O'Connor, Leon Redbone, and baritone sax great Nick Brignola. Her recordings include "Sunny Side of the Street," with the New Moon Swing Band and her latest, "Everything's Jake," featuring her swing band Thrivin' on A Riff.

General admission tickets (\$20/\$10 for students) may be purchased in advance at spencertownacademy.org and at the door.

The Academy



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Celebrating the art of gardening CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Saturday morning at 9, featured speaker Ron Kujawski will give a talk entitled "Vegetable Gardening: It's Never Too Late to Start." A garden columnist and author, Ron will offer tips on preparing the garden, planting, making up for lost time, and planning for fall harvests.

Hidden Gardens The Garden Market on the Green will take place on Saturday from 9am to 3pm and showcase plants and accessories from more than a dozen vendors. Bargain-hunters will also want to stop by at the Academy's White Elephant Booth. Food options will include an ice cream sundae booth, burgers, hot dogs and sausages prepared by the Spencertown Volunteer Fire Company, and salads served by Friends of St. Peters.

A weekend to remember:



Scenes from Hidden Gardens '16

In addition, the Garden Market will host two educational opportunities: At 12 noon, Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Lisbeth Karlsson will talk about invasive vs. native species in the garden. Admission is free. At 1pm, Zema's Nursery will lead a workshop on how to make a hummingbird-friendly planter. Advance registration for the workshop is required, and tuition is \$65 (including all materials).

Hidden Gardens is co-chaired by Spencertown Academy Board members Madaline Sparks and Vivian Wachsberger. Tickets and pricing information for the Hidden Gardens tour and Twilight in the Garden Party are available at spencertownacademy.org, at the Academy from 8:30am on the day of the tour, and from 9am to 2pm at the Market on the Green.

building community through the arts

Festival of Books '17

Too Many Books, Too Little Space? Donate your extras to the Festival of Books

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS If you have more books than your shelves can hold, there's an easy way to lighten the load: Donate your extras to the Academy's Festival of Books.

A signature event on the Academy calendar, the Festival is scheduled—as always—for Labor Day weekend. Donations of books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl LPs and audio cassettes—which have regained some of their former popularity—will be accepted starting after July 4. "We'll email details and post them on spencertownacademy.org closer to the date," says volunteer Wayne Greene. Contact Wayne at 917-374-8711 with any questions.

Not to be picky, but...

If you'd like to get an early start on pruning your bookshelves, keep in mind that hard- and soft-cover books in good condition are welcome, but the Festival can't sell books with cracked spines or damaged pages, or items that are soiled, mildewed or heavily written in. "The same goes for books that have been sitting in a damp barn or basement, or providing shelter and sustenance for insects or rodents," says Wayne. The Academy will also pass on textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, pre-2016 travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galley, library books and VHS tapes

If you're donating items that you consider special—such as autographed or rare books—treat them with care. "Keep them separate and consider wrapping them in plastic sleeves," Wayne advises. "Labeling them with post-it notes also helps."

in the gallery

When the Mind's Eye Awakens Photography that reveals the magic of observation



Inspiration for capturing a photographic image may happen without warning—or as the outcome of careful planning. Either way, the result can be magical. "Awakening," the Academy's

first annual juried photography show, will feature the work of more than 40+ regional artists from Saturday, June 24 through Sunday, July 16. Jack Shear will serve as guest juror. Opening reception: June 24, 4-6pm.

the Academy needs you!

Be a Hidden Gardens Volunteer! Have fun—and make a difference

If you've been thinking about volunteering at the Academy, you couldn't have picked a better time. Our annual Hidden Gardens tour takes place June 17 and there are two big ways you can help—as a garden docent or a Garden Market attendant.

Docents will be assigned to a specific site, where they will welcome visitors and provide whatever guidance and help may be needed.

Market attendants will serve in a variety of ways, such as assisting vendors, selling tickets to the tour, and setting up tables.

Those who have helped out at past Hidden Gardens tours—or at any Academy events, concerts and gallery shows—will tell you that volunteering is rewarding, fun and a great way to connect with friends and neighbors. Plus there's an added incentive: All Hidden Gardens volunteers will be treated to a private preview tour of the gardens on Sunday, June 11.

To volunteer—or learn more—email Ann Vartanian at annmvartanian@spencertownacademy.org.