

Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁵



See how your neighbors' gardens grow

Dust off your sun-hat and walking shoes: The Academy's 11th Annual Hidden Gardens Tour is set for Saturday, June 20. This year's theme is Artful Landscapes: Ornamental and Edible Gardens. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 3](#)

in the gallery

Concrete & Clay Works Inspired by the Garden



A gallery show featuring works by eight regional artists will inaugurate this year's Hidden Gardens. The show – "Concrete and Clay: Works Inspired by the Garden" – will be on display at the Academy from May 30 through June 21.

The artists include ceramicists Corinne Alexander, Sue Browdy, Kay Castelle, Mary Anne Davis, Marybeth Ketz, Lauren Mundy and Jacqueline Wilder and concrete fabricator Justin Madsen.

"Gardens, clay and concrete go together," says Barbara Willner, co-chair of the Academy's gallery programming. "We're sure the work of these talented artists will inspire combinations for the home and landscape." The works range

from the decorative to the practical and include a varied mix of pots, planters, vases and furniture in stoneware, porcelain, clay and concrete.

"Concrete & Clay: Works Inspired by the Garden" will open with a festive reception from 4-6pm on May 30. Admission is free; the artworks are for sale, priced from \$10 to \$3,500.

The Academy gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm.

what's coming up



THE GALLERY

Concrete & Clay:
Works Inspired by the Garden
May 30-June 21
[DETAILS ON THIS PAGE](#)

Twilight in the Garden Party

June 19, 6-9pm
Tickets available at spencertownacademy.org.

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Artful Landscapes:
Ornamental and Edible Gardens
June 20:
Lecture & continental breakfast: 8:30-10am
Garden Market on the Green: 9am-3pm
Self-Guided Tour: 10am-4pm

intersection AUSTERLITZ

Spencertown Academy,
Millay at Steepletop
and Old Austerlitz
**A Celebration of Herbs in the
Gallery, Garden, and Kitchen**
June 27 & 28
[DETAILS ON PAGE 2](#)



THE GALLERY

Related:
Artwork by Tom, Frank and Margot Curran
July 11-August 2
Opening reception: July 11, 4-6pm
Gallery hours: Friday, Saturday & Sunday,
1-5pm
[DETAILS ON PAGE 4](#)

10th Annual FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

September 4-7
[DETAILS TO COME](#)

from the president's iPad

Let the sun shine in! Get ready for summer at the Academy



Summer is a glorious time in Columbia County—and for the Spencertown Academy Arts Center. As we approach our 43rd summer, I'm excited about the rich schedule of programs coming up, beginning with Hidden Gardens and culminating with our 11th annual Festival of Books. My heartfelt thanks for your generous and ongoing support.

As an all-volunteer organization, everything we do at the Academy, from minor tasks to major initiatives, depends on the commitment and tireless effort of our volunteers. They do it all.

But the truth is, more help is needed. So I'd like to invite you to add to your support of the Academy by also contributing your time.

There are many ways to volunteer, from receiving donations for the Festival of Books to being a greeter at one—or more—of our gallery shows. You'll find more information on volunteer opportunities on the opposite page.

Raising money is a challenge for any small not-for-profit these days, and more important than ever. But it's the human factor that keeps organizations thriving and vital. Please consider joining in our efforts. If you'd like to volunteer, drop a line to Ann Vartanian at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org.

Meanwhile, enjoy the season. I look forward to seeing you soon and often this summer at the Academy.

Nick Van Alstine

the plot thickens

Teens' Short Story Contest Calling all teenagers: Do you love to write?

Spencertown Academy Arts Center is holding its first-ever Teen Short Story Contest. The contest is open to Berkshire and Columbia County teenagers in grades 9 through 12.

The top three winners will receive cash prizes (\$100, \$75, and \$50 respectively) and be invited to read their stories at the Academy's annual Festival of Books over Labor Day weekend. The entries will be read and judged by a panel of professional writers, book editors, and other publishing professionals.

"The aim of our Festival of Books is to engage and entertain book lovers from throughout the area," says David Highfill who, with Jill Kalotay, is co-chair of the Festival. "We think this contest is a perfect way to accomplish that and to nurture the region's next generation of literary talent."

Stories can be on any theme or subject, but only entries that have not been accepted for publication or previously won a prize will be considered.



Additional specs:

Maximum length: 4,000 words

Deadline for submission: June 30, 2015

Format: 12-point type, double-spaced,
1" margins on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper

Email your entry—or any questions—to story@spencertownacademy.org.

And meanwhile, start writing!

cultural crossroads

Three venues, two roads, one amazing day A trio of Columbia County cultural institutions team up in an exciting initiative



**intersection
AUSTERLITZ**
Spencertown Academy
Millay at Steepletop
Old Austerlitz

"Intersection Austerlitz" joins the Spencertown Academy, Millay at Steepletop and Old Austerlitz at the crossroads of art, literature and history. Set to debut this June, the collaboration will feature an array of activities and programs that draw on the creativity and resources of these three cultural treasures. It is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation.

If you're interested in cooking, gardening or art, you won't want to miss "A Celebration of Herbs in the Gallery, Garden and Kitchen"—the first offering of Intersection Austerlitz. The program is rapidly taking shape and will feature a weekend of informative and fun workshops at the Academy, as well as demonstrations and art exhibits at all three venues.

The dates: June 27-28. So mark your calendar—and visit spencertownacademy.org for further details.

the academy

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MEMBERSHIP

Are you a current member of the Spencertown Academy?

Visit our website to sign up or to renew your membership today!

We thank you for your support

PLEASE VISIT

spencertownacademy.org

for information on programs, artsVOYAGE, membership, and volunteer opportunities or to subscribe to our e-blast list.

Hidden Gardens

The self-guided tour will wind through five private residences in Chatham and Kinderhook with gardens ranging from the intimate to the ambitious. They include a romantic country garden anchored by a smaller kitchen garden enclosed in a rose-covered fence; a minimalist deer-resistant landscape with views of the Catskills; and a cozy English Style garden.

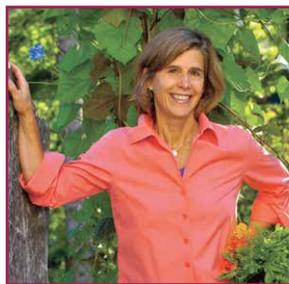
Tour participants will also want to leave time for a stop at Katchkie Farm in Kinderhook, a NOFA (Northeast Organic Farm Association) certified organic farm. Katchkie Farm is also home to the Sylvia Center, whose mission is to inspire children to eat well through hands-on learning experiences on the farm.



As always, the tour weekend begins Friday evening at 6 with the annual Twilight in the Garden Party. This year's event will take place at the historic "shingle-style" home of Maureen Killackey and Bruce Pinkernell in Chatham. Originally called "Oak Hearth," the house includes nine fireplaces throughout the arts and crafts interior. Architect Wilson Eyre, who designed the 1912 home, was a founder and editor of House and Garden Magazine. His interest in the interplay of interior and outdoors is evidenced by the many French doors and windows and stunning views of the Catskills.

A light buffet supper will be served at the Twilight in the Garden party, along with sparkling wines and a special "Solstice Spritzer" cocktail designed by mixologist Jeremy Kenny of Rouge Restaurant in West Stockbridge.

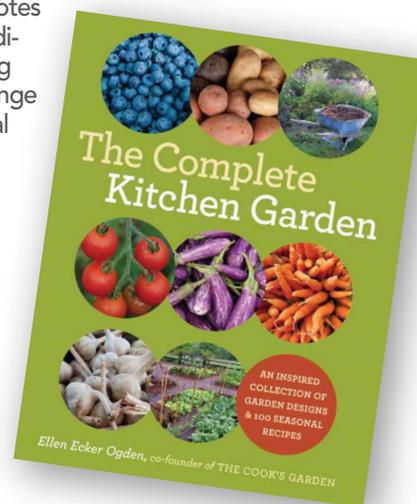
The Art of Growing Food Ellen Ecker Ogden: A Profile



"Anyone can plant a garden, yet not everyone can make it beautiful," says Ellen Ecker Ogden. The Vermont-based food and garden writer and landscape designer will be the featured speaker at this year's Hidden Gardens event. Her illustrated presentation, "The Art of Growing Food," is set for Saturday, June 20, at 8:30am.

Blending classic design with artful touches, the kitchen gardens Ellen has designed for clients, communities and businesses are both practical and beautiful. Her books include *The Complete Kitchen Garden*, *From the Cook's Garden*, and *The Vermont Cheese Book*. Her newest book, *The Vermont Country Store Cookbook*, is due out this September and features recipes, Vermont stories and anecdotes about Vermont food. In addition, her designs and writing have appeared in a wide range of food, garden and general interest publications, from *Martha Stewart Living* to *The New York Times*.

"A true kitchen garden opens your senses both in the garden and in the kitchen," Ellen says. Her presentation is designed to inspire new and experienced gardeners "to elevate an ordinary vegetable garden to the extraordinary."



the rewards of volunteering



The Academy Needs You! You can make a difference



It's been two years since The Spencertown Academy Arts Center switched to an all-volunteer basis, and the results have been exceptional. In 2014, our signature events broke records for participation and fundraising. Our 2015 calendar is looking even more exciting, with planning for our signature events well underway and new programs being explored. All of it, of course, is the work of our volunteers.

And that's where you come in.

The next big event, Hidden Gardens, takes place June 20 and there are many ways you can help—as a docent at the various gardens, or assisting at the Garden Market on the Green, for example. Whatever time you can contribute, from an hour or two to a few days, will make a real difference. We are also looking for gallery attendants for art shows throughout the rest of the season.

The Academy belongs to all of us. Volunteering is essential, not to mention enormously rewarding and a lot of fun! It is an opportunity to get to know your neighbors while joining in work that benefits and supports a worthy mission.

What would you like to do? Volunteer at an event? Join a committee? Develop an idea of your own? Be in touch. Let us hear from you. Your involvement means everything! Contact us at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org or 518-392-3693.

Ann Vartanian is Volunteer Coordinator for the Spencertown Academy Arts Center

Hidden Gardens ²⁰¹⁵

Artful Landscapes: Ornamental and Edible Gardens

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2015

GARDEN TOUR • GALLERY EXHIBITION • MARKET ON THE GREEN
TWILIGHT GARDEN PARTY • LECTURE ELLEN ECKER OGDEN

art in the family

"Related": Artwork by Tom, Frank and Margot Curran An upcoming gallery show proves that talent is kin deep

Long-time Spencertown residents remember the Curran family, who made their home here in the 1950s. From a family of 10 creative siblings, three Currans—Tom, Frank and Margot—would emerge as accomplished visual artists.

Still residing in Columbia County, the three are excited to offer "Related," a curated selection of their recent prints, paintings and drawings, reflecting their shared interest in the novel application of classic techniques.

"The parents of 10 children are necessarily resourceful, and somehow all of us were encouraged to pursue our own interests," says Margot, a painter living in Valatie. After working in costume design in Paris and Minneapolis, she switched careers to museum exhibit installation. She has been painting since 2000.

Tom is a professional designer and

machinist as well as the mayor of Chatham Village. "I spent my early childhood in Spencertown, which gave me a deep love of nature and an appreciation for small-town community life," he says. "My parents were very supportive of my creativity and encouraged me with tools and books, and schooling."

After starting his own design and woodworking business in 1982, Frank found himself spending more and more time on artwork over the years. He enjoys oil painting and printing and has exhibited regionally and locally since the 1990s.

"Related" will be on display in the Gallery from July 11 through August 2. Meet the artists and enjoy their work at an opening reception at the Academy on Saturday, July 11, from 4-6pm. During this show, the Gallery will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1 to 5pm.



Fur. Fin. Feathers.

The Spencertown Academy will host "Fur. Fin. Feathers."—a juried art show with an animal theme. The dates: October 31 through November 22.

Please note: Submissions for this regional show will be accepted from residents of Columbia, Rensselaer, Albany, Ulster, Dutchess and Greene Counties in New York, Litchfield in Connecticut, and Berkshire in Massachusetts. First and Second prize winners will be awarded one-person shows in 2016 in the Academy's large and small galleries, respectively.

The deadline for entries is September 1. Guideline details are available at spencertownacademy.org/gallery/juried_show. Please email any questions to art@spencertownacademy.org.

CALL TO
ARTISTS