

Hidden Gardens 2018

Artful Landscapes



Hidden Gardens, the Academy's annual celebration of all things horticultural, will take place June 2, 15, and 16. With a full line-up of events, this beloved community tradition has served as the gateway to summer in Columbia County each year since 2005. Hidden Gardens is co-chaired by Spencertown Academy Board members Madaline Sparks and Vivian Wachsberger.

The program begins on Saturday, June 2 at 10:30am with the Hidden Gardens Breakfast Lecture, "Where Have All the Monarchs Gone and What We Can Do About It" by environmental activist, butterfly expert and master gardener Maraleen Manos-Jones. Butterfly-friendly perennials will be on sale;

tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and include a light continental breakfast.

Party time

The Twilight in the Garden Party takes place on Friday, June 15 from 6-9pm at Meg and Bill Stratton's 1845 Greek Revival home in Spencertown, amid shade trees and meadows and wooded areas beyond. Cocktails, sparkling beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and a light supper are served. Tickets are \$90 in advance and \$100 at the door.

The highlight of the Hidden Gardens weekend is the self-guided tour on Saturday, June 16 from 10am-4pm. The tour showcases six exquisite private gardens in Spencertown, New Concord, and Red Rock, as well as the restored gardens of 20th century American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay at Steepletop in Austerlitz. Participants will get to explore the landscapes of several historic homes featuring abundant gardens and curated grounds; a shade garden and pond complementing a contemporary house in the woods; a brick sundial garden bordered by lavender and filled with blooming perennials; a formal "secret garden" surrounded by a tall privet hedge; and one inspired by the Grande Allée in Monet's gardens at Giverny.

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in the gallery

Woodlands and Wetlands

Artists' visions of two vital eco-systems

"Woodlands and Wetlands," a multimedia exhibit featuring artists Jacqueline Altman, James Coe, George Dirolf, Ellen Jouret-Epstein, Roger McKee, and Burdette Parks, will be on display in the Academy gallery on Saturday, June 16 from 9am-4pm and on Sunday, June 17 from 1-5pm. The exhibit, focusing on flora, fauna, and aquatic areas within these living environments, kicked off the Hidden Gardens program on May 25. Admission is free and the artworks are for sale. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Academy.

Habitats or puddles?

On Sunday, June 3 at 2pm, in conjunction with the exhibit, Columbia Land Conservancy Stewardship and Education Manager Heidi Bock will give an illustrated talk titled "Woodland Pools: Important Habitats or Just Big Puddles?" Following the talk, she will lead a nature walk at Harris Conservation Area in Austerlitz to view regional woodlands and wetlands. Admission to the talk and walk is free. Advance reservations can be made at art@spencertownacademy.org.



ELLEN JOURET-EPSTEIN

what's coming up

Hidden Gardens²⁰¹⁸ 
Where Have All the Monarchs Gone and What We Can Do About It
 Saturday, June 2, 10:30am
 Tickets \$15 (advance); \$20 (day of)

MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY

Rachelle Garniez:
Songs, Streams, NYC Dreams
 An evening of lyrical and rhapsodic story-songs by the singer/composer
 Saturday, June 2, 7:30pm
 Tickets: \$20/\$10 students

THE GALLERY

Woodland Pools:
Important Habitats or Just Big Puddles?
 Illustrated talk in conjunction with
 Woodlands and Wetlands Gallery Show
 Sunday, June 3, 2pm

AUSTERLITZ BICENTENNIAL
 Parade, exhibits, tours & other events
 celebrating our community's history
 Saturday & Sunday, June 9 & 10

Twilight in the Garden Party 
 Saturday, June 15, 6-9pm
 Tickets available at
spencertownacademy.org

Hidden Gardens²⁰¹⁸
Artful Landscapes
 Saturday, June 16
 Garden Market on the Green: 9am-3pm
 Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm

THE GALLERY

Illumination. Light From Darkness
Regional Juried Photo Show
 Featuring works by regional artists
 June 23-July 15
 Reception: Saturday, June 23, 4-6pm

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

August 31-September 3
 The Academy's 13th annual Labor Day
 weekend bookfest
 Watch for details this summer!



Busy Doings

Summer's approaching—and the Academy's ready!

One gauge of the Spencertown Academy's activity level is the "What's Coming Up" feature in this issue of the newsletter—and, more to the point, its sheer size and density. Typically the column fits on the front page with room to spare; this time we needed a shoehorn to get it all in—evidence of busy doings at the Academy these late spring days.

For the volunteers who plan and produce our amazing array of events, it may seem like there are more balls to keep in the air and more details to keep track of than ever—but no one is complaining. The Academy is supposed to be a busy place—and all indications are that it will stay busy as the days grow longer.

On the eve of our 46th summer, I'm excited about the rich schedule of programs coming up, beginning with the Austerlitz Bicentennial on June 9 and 10 and the world premiere of a 20-minute movie about the Spencertown Academy. Next

comes our annual Hidden Gardens weekend, which defines the start of summer in these parts. The Twilight in the Garden party takes place on Friday, June 15, followed on Saturday by the Garden Tour and our Garden Market on the Green. Bookending the season is our 13th annual Festival of Books, set for Labor Day weekend.

I hope you'll take advantage of all that the Academy has to offer—now and in the coming months. 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, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you this summer at the Academy.

Nick Van Alstine

Building update

Portrait of an Artist

A special evening with a multi-talented couple



At the Academy on April 28, Tony Award-winning actress Linda Lavin, her husband, painter-jazz musician Steve Bakunas, and their dog Mickey took the stage for a benefit performance of "Portrait of an Artist."

Over the course of 90 minutes, Linda answered questions from Steve about her life and career while he painted her portrait on an easel facing the audience. (Mickey mostly dozed.) The couple has previously performed the program at venues around the country. The portrait was raffled off at the end of the evening at the cocktail reception following the performance.

A boost for the Building Campaign

Proceeds from "Portrait of the Artist" were earmarked exclusively for the Building Campaign. With the replacement of the roof and the reconstruction of the cornice, bell tower and chimney completed, the next phase of the project, which includes the restoration and repainting of the columns, siding and trim, is about to begin. In the final phase, the parking lot, driveway, fence and walkways will be improved and brought up to safety standards.

The Building Campaign is more than halfway toward its fundraising goal of \$600,000, but needs \$280,000 to complete and maintain the improvements. Donations can be made at spencertownacademy.org/support.



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.



Out with the Old... Plagued by book glut? Donate your extras to the Academy



The summer equinox is still a few weeks away, but it's not too early to be looking ahead to the Academy's

signature end-of-summer event—the 13th annual Festival of Books, which begins on Friday, August 31, and runs through Labor Day weekend.

Whether you're a Kindle-and-iPad reader or an ink-and-paper traditionalist, the Festival offers a chance to do some serious browsing and buying. But if your shelves are already buckling under the weight of too many books, you can offload your extras to the Festival.

Gently used hard- and soft-covers, CDs, DVDs, vinyl LPs and audio cassettes will be accepted at



the Academy starting July 7. Details will be emailed and posted on spencertownacademy.org closer to the date.

Thanks just the same, but...

While items in good condition are welcome, the Festival will pass on books with cracked spines or torn pages, or that are soiled, mildewed or heavily marked up. "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 volunteer Wayne Greene. The Academy will also pass on textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, pre-2017 travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galley's, library books and VHS tapes.

If you're donating higher-value items, such as autographed or rare books, keep them separate and consider wrapping them in plastic sleeves. "Labeling them with post-it notes also helps," Wayne says.

Austerlitz Bicentennial



200 Years and Counting

As Austerlitz celebrates its bicentennial, the Academy plays a key role

Founded in 1818, the town of Austerlitz will mark its bicentennial on Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, with a varied program of historical exhibits, talks and tours, a parade along Routes 7 and 203, and other events—including the premiere of a documentary about the Spencertown Academy.

Produced and directed by Monk Schane-Lydon, the 20-minute film, *Spencertown Academy: Keeping Our History Alive*, features commentary by former Executive Director Judy Staber; former Town Board member Joel Dyslin; former Board members Steve Somlo, Irene Stone and Denise Dunne; Nick Van Alstine and Madaline Sparks, President and Vice President of the Academy's current Board; local resident and longtime supporter John Dunne; preservation architect Marilyn Kaplan; and Fern Sloan

and Ted Pugh, of the Actors' Ensemble, the Academy's former resident theatre group.

Also interviewed in the film are Dan and Chris Rundell and Mitzi Lobdel, who shared memories of attending the Spencertown Academy in the 1950s and '60s, when it was still a two-room schoolhouse; Tom Curran, an alum from the early 70s; and teacher Marion Ulmer. The film also includes vintage photos and an account by Town Historian Tom Moreland of the Academy's founding.

Spencertown Academy: Keeping Our History Alive will be shown continuously in the Academy auditorium on Saturday from 10am-3pm. Tom Moreland will present a talk at the Academy at 4pm on Saturday, titled "The History of Austerlitz 1756-2018."

Hidden Gardens 2018

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Artful Landscapes Shoppers' delight



The Garden Market on the Green will take place on Saturday, June 16 from 9am to 3pm at the Spencertown Village Green across the street from the Academy. More than 20 vendors will offer plants, home and garden furnishings, birdhouses, antiques, garden books, and garden advice. The Academy's White Elephant Booth will offer bargains on select garden items and accessories.

Food options will include egg sandwiches for breakfast and grilled burgers and hot dogs for lunch prepared by the Spencer-

town Volunteer Fire Company; Arturo's at Micosta food truck will offer crepes, coffee, fruit salad, organic juices, and vegetarian quesadillas. There will also be an ice cream sundae booth staffed by Academy members.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 day of; package rates for multiple events are also available. For tickets and pricing information, visit www.spencertownacademy.org. Day-of garden tour tickets and maps will be available from 9am-2pm at the Academy and at the Garden Market on the Green.

building community through the arts

in the gallery

The Juries Are Out The Academy hosts two upcoming juried shows

"Illumination," the Spencertown Academy's second annual juried photography show, will feature the work of regional artists from Saturday, June 23 through Sunday, July 15. Nationally exhibited multi-disciplinary artist Jan Nagle will serve as guest juror. Opening reception: June 23, 4-6pm. Submissions for the Academy's fourth



regional juried art show are being accepted currently from residents of Columbia, Rensselaer, Albany, Ulster, Dutchess and Greene Counties (New York), Litchfield County (Connecticut), and Berkshire County (Massachusetts). The show will run from October 6-21, with the opening reception on Saturday, October 6, 4-6pm. Please visit spencertownacademy.org/gallery for details and submission guidelines.



the rewards of helping out

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



Like all of the Academy's signature events, our annual Hidden Gardens tour is planned and produced entirely by volunteers. With this year's tour fast approaching, now is the time to let us know if 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, direct parking if necessary, and offer guidance and help as needed. We have open spots for both the 9:45am-1pm and 12:45-4pm shifts.

Depending on the shift, market attendants will help with set-up or breakdown, selling tickets to the tour, and assisting

vendors and shoppers. There are three shifts: 7-10:30am; 10:15am-2:30pm; and 2:15-5pm.

Volunteering is rewarding and fun—plus there's an added bonus: All volunteers will be treated to a private preview tour and breakfast on Sunday morning, June 10.

So please let us know how you'd like to help, including the shift you prefer. We will do our very best to accommodate you.

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

We look forward to seeing you on June 16.

