Hidden Gardens 2019
Grab your sun hat and walking shoes!

Hidden Gardens, the Academy’s annual celebration of gardens, gardening and gardeners, will take place Saturday, June 15, The theme: Artful Gardens.

With a varied and exciting schedule 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 in the Academy auditorium at 9am Saturday with the Hidden Gardens Breakfast Lecture, “Growing Cut Flowers for Your Garden and Home,” by Jenny Elliott, owner and lead grower at Tiny Hearts Farm in Copake, NY. Audience members will learn how to incorporate cut flowers into all sizes and styles of gardens, including soil needs, plant types, and variety choices. Doors open at 8:30am; tickets are $15 in advance, $20 at the door, and include a variety of home-baked breakfast treats.

Twilight in the Garden
The Twilight in the Garden Party takes place on Friday, June 14 from 6-9pm, at Meg and Bill Stratton’s 1845 Greek Revival home in Spencertown. Cocktails, sparkling beverages, hors d’oeuvres, and a delicious light supper will be served. A silent auction will feature multiple items ranging from a pair of Wave Hill chairs to a delivered truckload of organic garden mulch. Tickets are $90 in advance and $110 at the door.

The centerpiece of the Hidden Gardens weekend is the self-guided tour on Saturday, June 16 from 10am-4pm, featuring five private gardens in the hamlets of Spencertown and Old Chatham, NY. A variety of garden styles will be on display including the perennial, herb, and pool gardens of a 1770s center hall colonial home ornamented with rustic fencing, pergolas, and arbors; a recently installed meadow with 1,000 native plants; a cloistered rose garden and a 200-acre former horse farm with an English courtyard garden, multiple ponds, sweeping views, and massive islands of perennials, specimen trees and shrubs. continued on page 4

In the gallery
Gardens of Delight Celebrate spring!

You still have time to explore “Gardens of Delight,” a stunning visual arts celebration of spring, and a special addition to Hidden Gardens. The show opened at the Academy on May 18 and continues through Sunday, June 16. The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm. On June 15, the gallery will be open from 9am-4pm.

Seven artists from New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut are represented. Their work, in a variety of media, depicts sumptuous—as well as playful—garden imagery, in styles ranging from Realism to Impressionism and Abstraction. Artists include Stephanie Anderson, Amy Bergeron, Marilyn Orner, Mary Ellen Riell, Laura Shore, Pamela Stoddart and Marianne Van Lent.

what’s coming up

Hidden Gardens 2019
Twilight in the Garden Party
Friday, June 15, 6-9pm
Tickets available at spencertownacademy.org

Artful Landscapes
Saturday, June 15
Lecture & breakfast: 8:30-10am
Garden Market on the Green: 9am-2:30pm
Self-guided tour: 10am-4pm

The Gallery
Gardens of Delight
Annual spring show - Through June 16

Third annual Juried Photography Show
Works by regional artists
June 22-July 14
Reception: Saturday, June 22, 4-6pm

MUSIC AT THE ACADEMY
Kieran Kane & Rayna Gellert
An Evening of Americana
Saturday, June 29, 8pm
Tickets: $20/$15 members/$10 students

The Gallery
The Curator’s Show
July 20-August 11
Reception: Saturday, July 20, 4-6pm

FESTIVAL OF BOOKS
August 30-September 2
The Academy’s 14th annual Labor Day weekend bookfest
Watch for details this summer!

spencertownacademy.org/events
from the President’s iPad

Just Because It’s June  It’s time to let the sunshine in!

The great Ella Fitzgerald knew what she was singing about when she recorded the 1944 hit, “Into each life some rain must fall.” But over the past few months, we’ve seen that sentiment pushed to the max. It’s been the wettest, soggiest spring in memory.

The good news is that the sun is shining as I write this, and I find myself hoping that the weather gods have finally gotten the message: It’s June—so enough with the rain!

We’ll actually be well into June by the time you read this, and that means the Academy’s beloved Hidden Gardens weekend is coming up fast. The festivities begin with the Twilight in the Garden party on Friday, June 14, followed on Saturday by the Garden Tour, related programs at the Academy and the Garden Market on the Green. Looking ahead, the Academy’s 14th 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 book sorters for the Festival of Books. 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.

One more thing: As a lover of gardens, I’m not averse to rain. But next spring, could we have just a bit less of it, please?

Have a wonderful summer!

Nichole Anne Abdon

in the gallery

Images at Human Scale  The third annual juried photography show opens June 22

Art historian-curator Bonnie Yochelson will serve as juror. “Digital imaging provides new opportunities and challenges for photographers and curators alike,” she says. “But images on a screen provide only a preview of the works, so I’m especially looking forward to experiencing the actual works at human scale in the gallery.”

Hidden Gardens Needs You!  Have fun—and make a difference

If you’ve been thinking about volunteering at the Academy, your timing is perfect: Our annual Hidden Gardens tour takes place Saturday, June 15, and there are big ways you can help: Garden 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 need volunteers for both the 9:45am-1pm and 12:45-4pm shifts.

Market attendants at the Market on the Green will help with set-up or breakdown, selling tour tickets, or assisting vendors and shoppers, depending on the shift—7-10am; 9:45am-1pm; or 12:45-4:30pm.

Volunteering is rewarding and fun—plus there’s an added bonus: All volunteers will be treated to a private preview of the gardens on the tour on Saturday morning, June 8.

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 Barbara Smith at volunteer@spencertownacademy.org

the rewards of volunteering

The Spencertown Academy’s third annual juried photography show, featuring works by more than 30 regional artists, will run from from Saturday, June 22 through Sunday, July 14. Opening reception: June 22, 4-6pm.

The Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Nick Van Alstine, President
Madaline Sparks, Vice President
Jo-Anne Bilotti, Treasurer
Jill Kalotay, Secretary

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.

the rewards of volunteering

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The Academy’s Roots & Shoots series will feature the celebrated Americana duo Kieran Kane and Rayna Gellert on Saturday, June 29 at 8pm.

“These two renowned solo artists have joined forces to create a major new voice in American music,” says Gerald Seligman, a member of the Academy’s Music Committee. “The songs are their own, the harmonies finely tuned, and the playing—on guitars, fiddle, banjo, and more—glances back to early American forms even as it looks forward with freshly contemporary ideas.”

The Kieran and Rayna concert will be the fifth in the Roots & Shoots series, which premiered this year. Earlier, Academy audiences enjoyed performances by the Celtic/Irish folk duo Kevin McKrell and Brian Melick; folksinger Ana Egge with Alec Spiegelman; rockabilly group Lustre Kings; and the Chapin Sisters.

General admission tickets ($20 public, $15 Academy members, $10 students) may be purchased in advance via www.spencertownacademy.org and will be available at the door.

Remembering Jerry

The life of Jerry Croghan, Spencertown neighbor, Academy board member and beloved friend, was celebrated at the Crandell Theater in Chatham on April 18. Jerry passed away on March 4 while vacationing in the West Indies. He was 76.

“Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Jerry knows there was nothing bland or boring about him,” says Spencertown Academy president Nick Van Alstine. “He loved Spencertown and cherished the friendships he made here. At the Academy he was a steady presence for many years and cared deeply about everything the Academy stood for—the arts, our community, our shared history.”

Born in 1942, Jerry graduated from Fordham University in 1964 and went on to earn a Masters and PhD in psychology. He maintained a full-time psychotherapy practice in Manhattan.

Jerry is survived by his husband, Louis Hedgecock. They were married in 2014, having been together 35 years.

Contributions in Jerry’s memory and honor may be made to the Spencertown Academy Building Fund, 790 Route 203, PO Box 80, Spencertown, NY 12165; or to the Dramatists Guild Foundation, https://dgf.org/donate/.
Festival of Books ’19
Out with the Old... Overrun with books? The Academy will gratefully accept them
If your shelves are sagging under the weight of too many books, there’s an easy way to lighten the load: Offload your extras to the Academy’s Festival of Books. The Academy’s signature end-of-summer event, the Festival begins on Friday, August 30 and continues through Labor Day weekend with author readings and signings, a Children’s Program, and one of the best used-book sales in the region.

If you’d like to get an early start on pruning your bookshelves, gently-used hard- and soft-covered books, as well as, CDs, DVDs and vinyl LPs, will be accepted at the Academy starting July 6. 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-2018 travel guides, uncorrected proofs or galleys, library books, audio cassettes and VHS tapes.

If you’re donating higher-value items, 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.”

Hidden Gardens 2019 – continued from page 1
Grab your sun hat and walking shoes!
Shoppers’ delight
The Garden Market on the Green will take place on Saturday, June 15 from 9am to 2:30pm 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, with a percentage of all sales benefiting the Academy. In addition, the Academy’s White Elephant Booth will offer bargains on select garden items, and Pro Sharp Mobile Service will be on hand to offer same-day sharpening of pruners and shears.

Food trucks will offer breakfast and lunch options prepared by Arturo’s Restaurant at Micosta and Larry’s What’s Good to Eat. Admission is free.

Tickets for the tour 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.

Check Out the Academy’s New Website!
A new experience awaits next time you click on www.spencertownacademy.org. You’ll land on a redesigned website with a clean new look, intuitive navigation and improved functionality. Plus it’s optimized for desktop, tablet and mobile phone.