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HOME, GARDEN & LEISURE

VOLUME II, ISSUE 11

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#### THE EDITOR'S DESK

WELCOME TO THE JULY 2011 EDITION of Northern Home, Garden and Leisure, the magazine that takes you on a monthly trip through the homes, gardens and leisure activities of North Country residents. If you are looking for an inexpensive gift, consider giving a subscription to a friend or family member. The annual subscription rate is 12 issues for just \$20. Northern HG&L is written by North Country contributors and published by Studley Printing and Publishing of Plattsburgh. If you've been looking for a way to "buy local," a subscription to Northern HG&L is a great place to start. Call 1-866-563-1414 for your home subscription.

In this month's home profile **Joshua Kretser** and photographer **Johnny** Mitchell visit the home and gardens of William O. Morgan. Mr. Morgan is a successful Plattsburgh businessman who transformed a weedy lot overlooking the Saranac River into a personal retreat from the demands of daily life. His gardens were recently featured in the 2011 Kent Delord House Museum Secret Garden Tour, which highlights notable gardens throughout Clinton County.

Next, home renovation guru Robert Pelletier looks at arbors and pergolas. These popular architectural features allow homeowners to create outdoor "garden rooms" that provide protection from the sun, a quite place to sit, or a support for ornamental or fruiting vines.

Urban gardeners are all too familiar with the shortcomings of gardening on small lots: so much to plant, so little room to plant in. Leonard Perry comes to the rescue with a simple concept, vertical gardening. Many fruits and vegetables thrive when trained on lattices, fences, or stakes and save room in the process. Find out how and what to plant in this issue.

The summer repertory theater season is underway. Fred Balzac surveys the lineup for upcoming theater productions, including Westport's Depot Theater, Saranac Lake's Pendragon Theater, Burlington's Flynn Theater and Plattsburgh's Adirondack Regional Theater (ART). He also includes the growing number of HD broadcasts gaining in popularity throughout the country.

Feeling the summer heat? Julie Canepa recently wandered down to City Hall Place to check out Maria's Italian Ice. One enterprising family has taken over the concession and daughter Maria is paying her college tuition by serving summertime treats.

Are you a serious writer seeking to learn from an experienced professional writer? The Adirondack Center for Writing (ACW) offers an opportunity to polish your prose by attending a Glens Falls workshop with author and teacher Kathryn Kramer. Details are in this issue.

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By Julie Canepa • Photos by Caroline Kehne

North Country Theatre Roundup

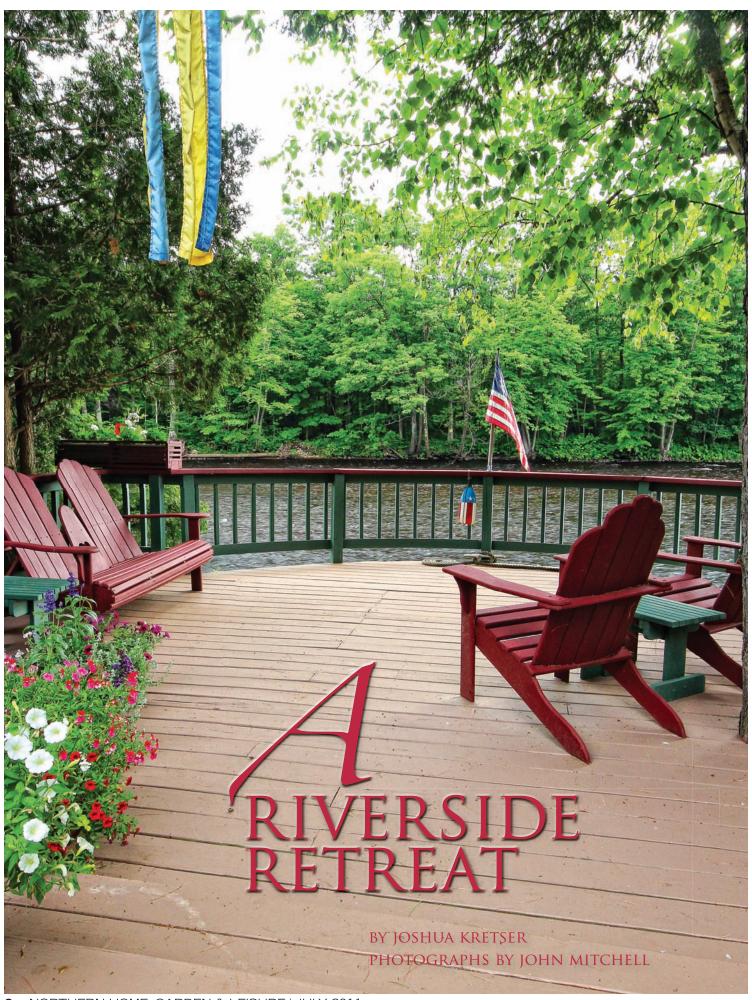
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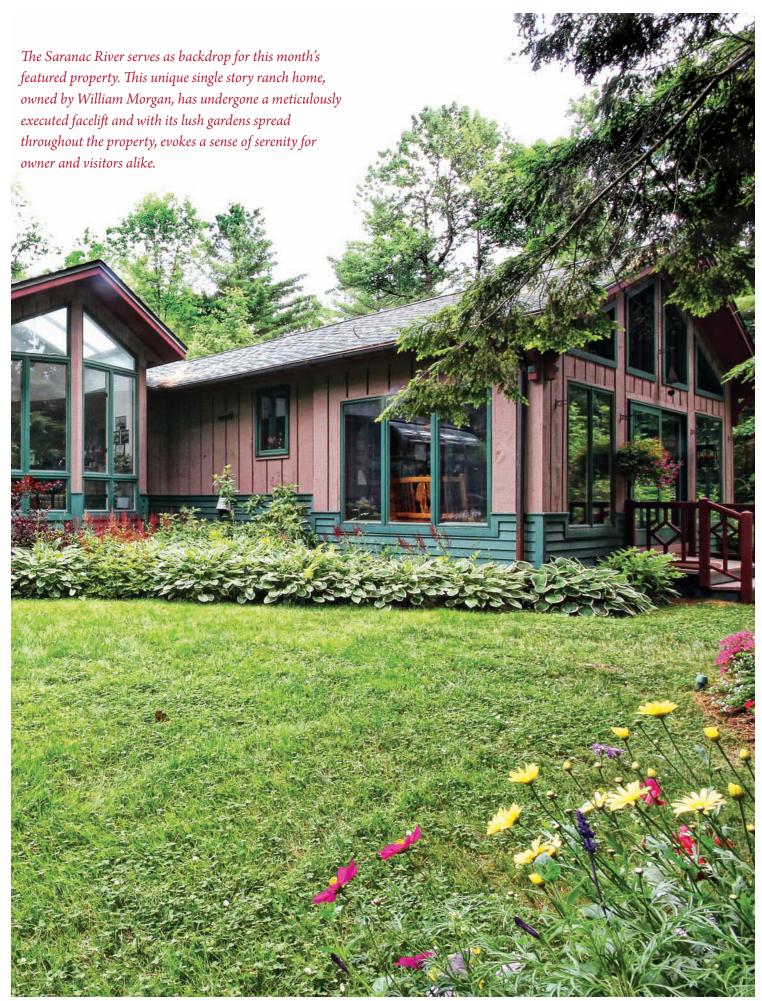
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The Art of Writing

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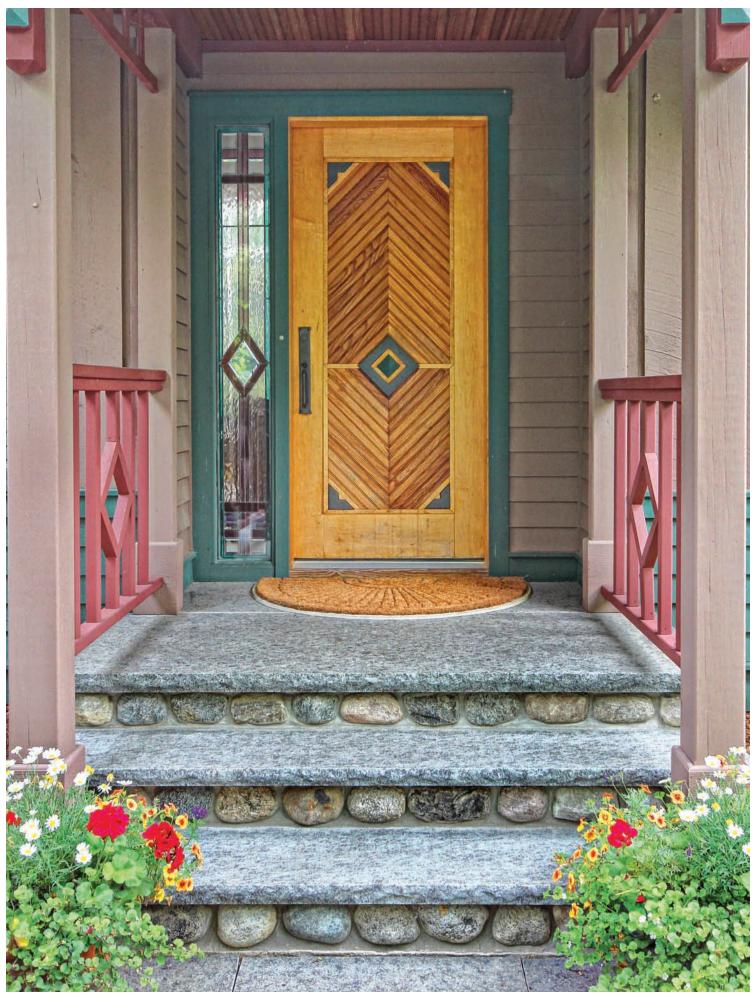


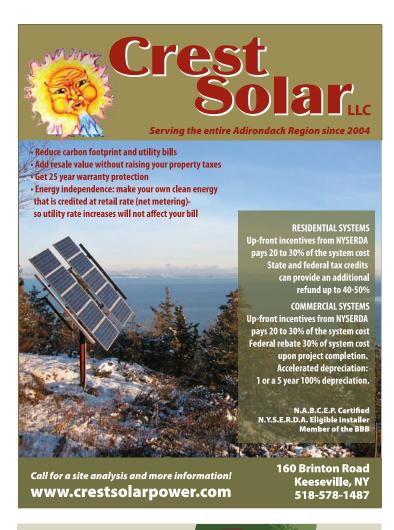
#### THE MAN BEHIND THE HOME

William O. Morgan was born in Westport, Connecticut, on Valentine's Day in 1939. He served in the United States Navy on board the U.S.S. Blandy from 1962 until 1965, worked for Century Boat Company in New York City for three years and came to Plattsburgh in 1975. Soon after, he opened a Volkswagen/Audi/Porsche dealership that was located at the intersection of Cornelia and Broad Streets in the City of Plattsburgh. Some time later he opened a Honda dealership as well, bringing the Hyundai brand to the North Country. He operated the Hyundai and Volkswagen/Audi/Porsche dealerships until selling the franchises in 1995, selling the Honda dealership the following year. After his retirement, Mr. Morgan remained active, this time working as financier, building approximately three homes per year until the recent economic downturn. He plans to resume this line of business within the next few years.

Mr. Morgan has been active in the Plattsburgh business community and has held various positions promoting economic development throughout the North Country. He served as chairman of The Development Corporation in Plattsburgh, president of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, member of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, member of the board of directors at Champlain Valley Physician's Hospital and has volunteered working at the hospital's front desk for the past fifteen years. Mr. Morgan is also currently vice chairman of the board of trustees at Clinton Community College.

In 1985 he purchased this 4.2 acre property with a modest ranch home situated in Morrisonville, N.Y. He recalls that the property was bare of any landscaping and sat plainly on the heavily wooded lot. However Mr. Morgan saw great untapped potential. Now he states, "I love to come home and I hate to leave."







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#### THE TOUR

The home tour begins at the front door artfully crafted by Donald Whaley of Lake Placid, N.Y. The four-hundred pound wooden door was assembled from hundreds of pieces of handcrafted wood with inlays of slate.

From the inside looking out, the house offers visitors serene views of the Saranac River, creating the illusion that the residence is a great ship. The living room's extensive renovations include raising a portion of the ceiling and adding a handful of the home's thirteen skylights that, with large windows, bring the outside in. Mr. Morgan proudly displays his collection of Danish pieces including collectible plates, artwork and sculpture, some of which were passed down to him from his mother.

This space is also home to the dining room featuring a dining table and sideboard made from English-grown yew. The walls are painted a warm yellow. The master bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located to the right of the living room. Mr. Morgan added a solarium to this space, which provides picturesque views of his expansive gardens and the river. "It is truly a beautiful view to enjoy when waking up each morning," he says. He also added the master bath and walk-in closet some time after purchasing the property.



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THE HANDMADE TABLE IN THE KITCHEN FEATURES A CARVED MONOGRAM, REFLECTING THE PERSONAL SIGNATURES OF THE OWNER THAT ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE.

To the left of the living and dining areas is an archway to the home's kitchen. A hallway leads to the second bedroom, a laundry room which leads to the garage, the second of two full bathrooms and a door with access to the full-sized basement.

Following his retirement in 1996, he renovated the dated kitchen with custom cabinetry, modern appliances and three of the home's new skylights. The granite countertop has a stunning varied dark green color. The kitchen shares the space with a comfortable sitting area.

Mr. Morgan's home office is situated in a nook behind handcrafted wooden bi-fold doors. One of the windows in the sitting area features locally-made stained glass. This window is reinforced with bullet-proof glass on the exterior to protect the work of art from any accidental damage.

One unique aspect of the house is the presence of small, personalized signatures. Mr. Morgan's initials are found on the stained glass window as well as carved into the stone of the adjacent wood-burning, Celtic-styled "random rubble" fireplace designed and built by local mason Bill Umbright. A simple heart, representing the owner's birthday (Valentine's Day), is found carved into the central stone on the fireplace and repeated throughout the property.











AuSable Forks, NY

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Mr. Morgan coverted the home's screened in porch to a four-season room with large windows, skylights and doors. The doors exit onto a patio area of pavers arranged in a circular pattern. Just past this patio area is a deck overlooking the historic river. Mature fir trees were spared during the deck's construction by working them into the design. The result is that the trees appear to grow through the deck boards.

#### **An Outdoor Paradise**

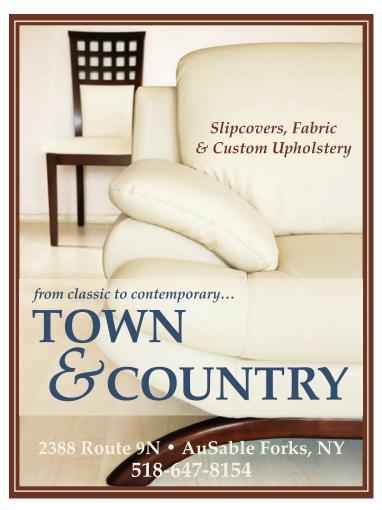
Mr. Morgan is an avid gardener. When he moved into the home, he began developing the landscape throughout the property. Over the past 36 years, he has transformed what was an otherwise

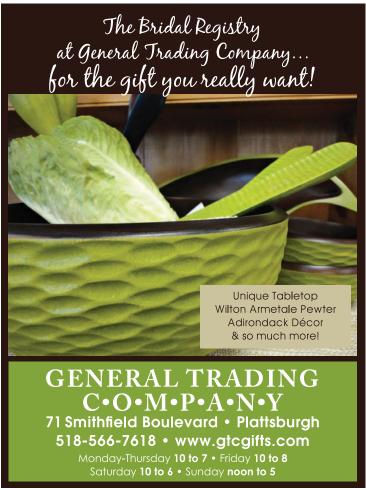
unremarkable lot into the envy of gardeners throughout Clinton County. So outstanding are the gardens that they were one of those featured on the 2011 Kent Delord House Museum Secret Garden Tour, which highlights interesting gardens throughout the county.

The owner takes his gardening seriously. He had a pump-driven, river-fed sprinkler system installed which, during dry spells, operates throughout the six zones of his gardens. Garden visitors are bombarded with beauty and the calming sensory experience of running water and brightly colored flowers and vegetation.

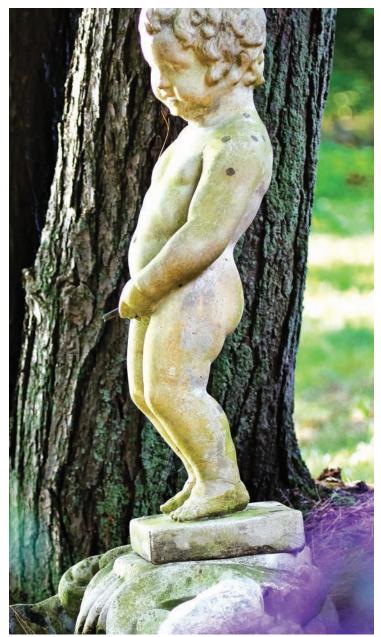










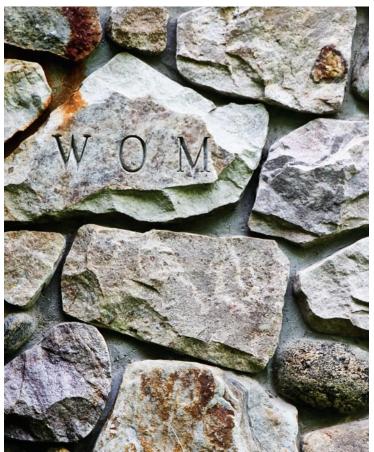




William Morgan's spectacular riverfront home is his own private oasis. His fastidious attention to detail, both indoors and out, provides him a home – not only complete with all of the usual creature comforts, but with an amazing portal into nature's beauty harnessed in his own backyard.

Josh Kretser worked and trained in design in New York City before returning to Clinton County. He is the owner of p.o.d. studio, specializing in interior design, event planning and organization.





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#### FOUNDATIONS SIDEWALKS CURBS SEAWALLS RETAINING WALLS ANYTHING CONCRETE





By Dr. Leonard Perry

f you have a small space for gardening, or if you just want to add a vertical element to gardens, have less time to garden, or have limited mobility, then consider growing vegetables vertically. Growing vegetables upright not only saves space, but makes weeding and of course harvesting easier. You don't have to stoop to cut fruit from the vines. This could be quite a saving for older gardeners or ones with back problems.

Upright vegetables also add an architectural interest. The garden ceases to be just ordinary and utilitarian, and becomes aesthetic as a well-planned perennial border might. They also can be grown on fences to hide ugly chain link ones, or to screen undesirable views.

Pole beans (make sure you don't get the bush varieties) will climb up just about anything, even other plants. Native Americans used these in their traditional "three sisters" plantings of beans, corn, and pumpkins. The corn stalks provided support for the beans, and the pumpkins (or other squash) provided a groundcover or living mulch below. Just make sure if using this method to give the corn a head start, or the fastgrowing beans wont have anything to climb!

Pole beans can also be grown on bamboo teepees, trellises, or over an arbor. The scarlet runner bean is old-fashioned, and has attractive red flowers. There is even a variety of this now with yellow leaves – a nice contrast with the red flowers. I like to add these beans on an upright, attractive blue-sprayed wire support. Pole beans don't just add a vertical accent, but they keep producing longer than bush beans, fruiting as long as you keep picking the pods.

Gourds and winter squash are cousins from the same family, with very long vines, up to 25 feet for the gourds and up to 10 feet for the squash. Both take a long season to mature, so in the colder northern gardens, give these a head start indoors in peat pots that can then be planted out. Heavy fruits of winter squash, such as butternut, should be individually supported by cloth (strips of used panty hose works great too) tied to the trellis or fence on which the vines are trained.

For tying these and other heavy vertical crops to their supports, avoid string, which can cut into stems. Use a soft rope or cord such as cotton clothesline, or one of the thick and soft gardening ropes made just for this purpose. Make sure the supports for these, even for smaller plants such as tomatoes, can hold all the weight of mature plants and their heavy fruits.

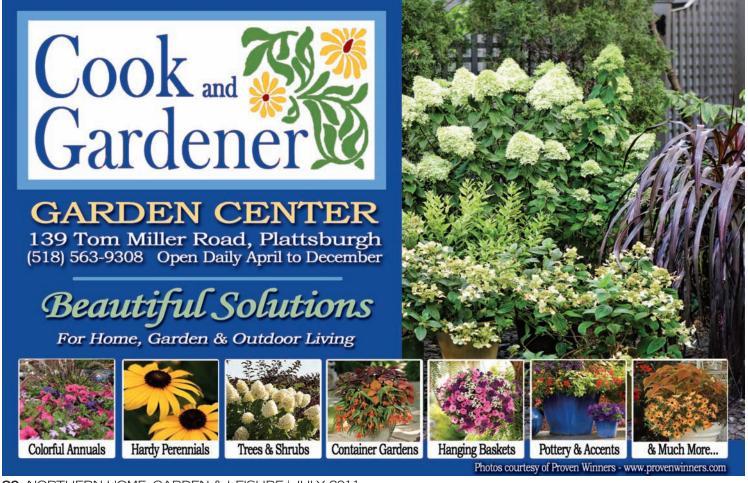
Melons can be grown similar to winter squash, and their fruit similarly supported with cloth twine or even slings made of old towels, sheets, or rags. Use old-fashioned or patterned fabric for an additional decorative touch to the vertical garden.

Cucumbers (the traditional vining types, not the newer bush types) also can be grown up a trellis, or on an A-frame structure as made from 2-by-4 inch lumber. You can also make a cage of the heavy wire used to reinforce concrete. A cage of wide-mesh fencing will need additional support, such as wooden stakes or iron rods. I prefer the latter as they don't rot and will last outdoors almost forever. They can be found at many complete hardware stores.

If using stakes of bamboo, decorative rods, or the rusty-colored iron rods, make sure and purchase "cane toppers." These can be plastic or ceramic, just a ball or a decorative structure.

They don't just add to the aesthetics, but also function to protect your eyes when working around them. Less attractive, but functional, safety toppers for canes are small pieces of garden hose.

Peas of course are a favorite early season, upright crop suitable for the vertical garden. Choose the edible-pod or snow peas that produce longer vines than most shelling, or English peas. And since they produce early in the season during cooler weather, combine them with later maturing vines such as beans or cucumbers. Or you may sow peas again in late summer for a fall harvest. Attractive purchased iron or wood patterned trellises work well for peas, as does a lower and higher horizontal wire with twine strung up and down between these. Make sure to keep pea roots cool by mulch or planting behind taller plants.



omatoes come in two types: bush (determinate) varieties and climbing (indeterminate) varieties. Indeterminate varieties (check the seed packet or description for this feature) perform much better grown upright than sprawling over the ground where the fruits can be damaged by disease and insects. You'll need a sturdy stake for them and tie them to it at intervals with soft twine. There are also many types of sturdy wire or metal supports you can buy to support tomatoes, some being in bright colors.

A recent twist on vertical vegetables, tomatoes in particular, is growing them down from hanging baskets rather than up from the ground. Look for small-fruited determinate varieties listed for this, as well as hanging containers for this purpose. Small-fruited peppers also can be used in hanging baskets, particularly if they are low enough to be seen and tended.

More ideas on this and other gardening topics, as well as new varieties, are available from the National Garden Bureau (www.ngb.org).

Dr. Leonard Perry is Extension Professor in the University of Vermont's Department of Plant and Soil Science.





Above: Climbing peas are being trained onto an old section of discarded hairpin fencing salvaged from a local landfill. Weave the pea vines through the openings as they grow for support. At the end of the growing season, the unsecured vines are easily pulled off and composted

Left: Here is a tomato growing technique similar to one used in the Caribbean, where tomatoes are grown on a teepee formed from four bamboo poles attached at the top. These structures are remarkably stable in high windstorms (in the Caribbean, against hurricaneforce winds.) While they are space efficient, they can render plants more susceptible to fungal disease, especially during wet seasons. Selectively pruning interior branches can increase air circulation and facilitate drying to lessen the risk of disease.

Photos: Caroline Kehne.

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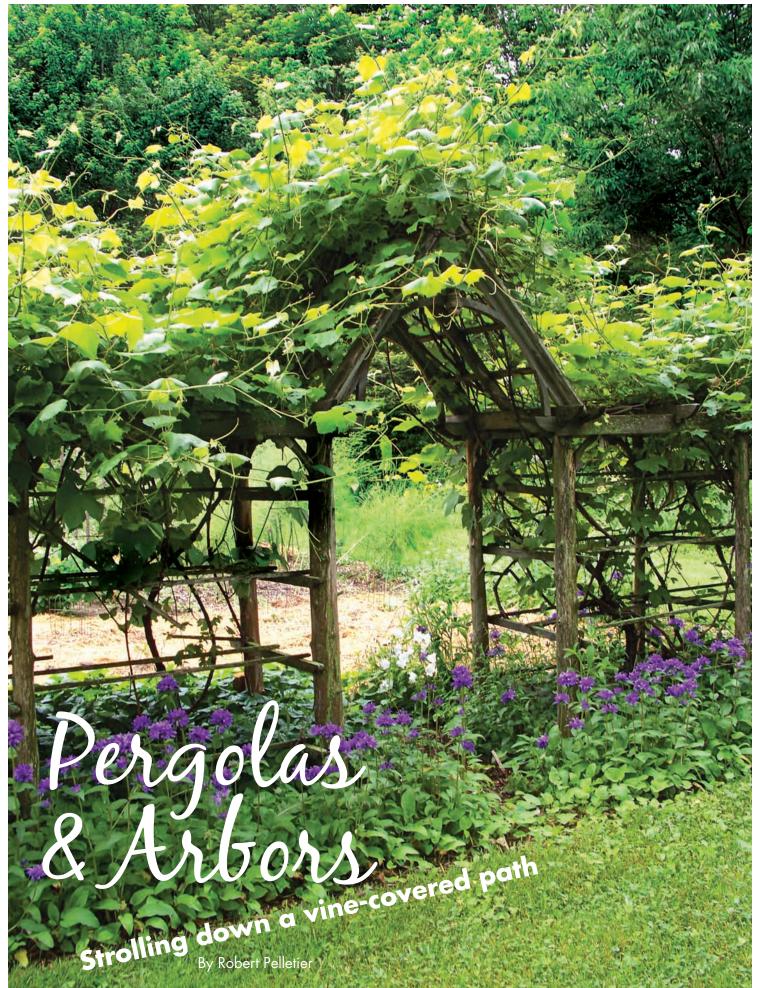
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No other garden feature creates an atmosphere of a quiet, bucolic retreat than a vine-covered pergola or its close relative, the arbor. These simple garden structures, consisting of a trellis roof born by rustic posts or refined classical columns, can accomplish many tasks in the garden landscape. They can create a shady, private path to a garden feature such as a pond or sundial or draw the stroller to a grand vista. They can also support fruit-bearing vines for easy picking or serve as shady, seasonal "outdoor rooms." Their vine-covered trellises provide shade and protection from the summer sun, yet admit much-needed sunlight and warmth into the house in winter. Unlike covered porches, they don't accumulate snow.



#### Ancient Roots

The noted American designer of Mission-style furniture, Gustav Stickley, popularized the pergola in the early 1900s as a way of unifying the house with the landscape. Pergolas became a nearly ubiquitous feature of the low-slung, humble Craftsman cottages and bungalows.

Although pergolas are often associated with Craftsman style architecture and the Arts and Crafts movement, the concept of a vine-covered columned area to converse or stroll through is ancient. Derived from the Latin *pergula* for "projecting roof" or "projecting eave," pergolas became popular in the gymnasia and academies of Ancient Greece and Rome. The pergola re-emerged during the Renaissance and again in the English gardens of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when vine-covered mock ruins and other architectural garden "follies" were all the rage. Pergolas fell briefly out of favor as being too "artificial" for the naturalistic gardens of the late 1700s and early 1800s, but made a strong comeback by the late nineteenth century, championed by notable landscape architects such as Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, who argued that pergolas were suited equally for



Opposite: A swinging settee hanging from the sturdy rafters of this western red cedar pergola offers a relaxing vantage point to gaze over a Japanese-style garden and a pond filled with ornamental carp (koi).

Photo courtesy of www.trellisstructures.com.

Above: This simple grape-covered pergola at Plattsburgh's Kent Delord house creates an inviting covered walkway. Photo: Caroline Kehne.

simple cottages and the opulent country estates of the mighty. The democratization of gardening, formerly a pastime reserved to the wealthy, was reflected by the widespread adoption of pergolas by the emerging middle class. The pergola as a feature of "everyman's garden" took strong root in the America of the early twentieth century when it became a favorite element in Colonial Revival movement that sought to emulate the architecture of America's revolutionary past.

#### "Pergola" versus "arbor"

Many people, including several nineteenth century gardeners and landscape architects often use the terms "pergola," "arbor" and "gallery" interchangeably. These structures are all related and often intermix

features. At its simplest, a pergola is composed of dominant piers or columns that support a series of rafters that in turn support a trellis onto which climbing plants can grow. It is often flat-roofed and can create an "outdoor roof" or stretch over a considerable distance to cover a walkway. An arbor is usually is formed by less bulky posts, often has an arched roof and is often used as an entrance. One defining characteristic is that a pergola has rafters that are laid perpendicular to the main axis, while an arbor have lattice strips that run parallel to its length.

Despite their simple construction, pergolas and arbors came a wide variety of styles. Pergolas can either be free standing structures or be attached to the house creating, as Stickley put it, an "arm extending into the garden, gathering it close to its heart." Small pergola-porticos sometimes replace the front entrance porch. Vertical lattice is sometimes attached between the columns for additional privacy. The pergola can be straight or curved and built in a number of styles, such as classical (harkening to its ancient origins), rustic with unpeeled and unturned logs, Asian and the opulent Beaux Arts style of the "Gilded Age." Columns can consist of turned stone, cast concrete, stucco-covered masonry or wood. In addition to these traditional materials, today's homeowners can choose from lightweight and low maintenance materials such as vinyl and fiberglass.

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This arbor made of maintenance-free vinyl makes an attractive support for flowering clematis vines in Rouses Point, NY. Photo: Caroline Kehne.



A color scheme of subdued earth tones instead of glaring white reduces the formality of this arch-top arbor in Venise-en-Quebec (Quebec) and makes it blend harmoniously in its natural surroundings. Photo: Caroline Kehne.

#### Materials

Pergolas with columns and trellises of wood are especially suited for homes with rustic wooden exterior sheathing such as shingles, or Adirondack style log cabins. Both the pergola and shingles can be allowed to weather or stained the same color. Decay resistant woods such as eastern white cedar, western red cedar, mahogany or teak are highly recommended. Pressure-treated wood is usually less attractive (unless stained) and the chemicals in the wood may injure climbing vines. Painting wood pergolas will offer some protection from fungi and damage from UV radiation. However, once the columns and trellis become entwined with vines, additional painting becomes nearly impossible. Special problems areas are column bases and the exposed end grain of the rafter ends, both of which tend to absorb water. Column bases can be mounted on special aluminum bases that keep the wood off the ground and encourage ventilation. Exposed end grain should be periodically

spot-treated with water repellent. Metals such as steel and aluminum are also used and are often less expensive than wood. They are used chiefly for lighter structures such as arbors because the slender tubing or cast elements don't have the same visual mass that bulkier wooden or plastic posts and columns provide.

Pergolas and arbors built of solid cellular vinyl are attractive low maintenance alternatives to wood. This material looks and feels like wood, but will not peel, rot, crack or require periodic painting. Hollow





extruded vinyl is a less expensive option to solid cellular vinyl, but some may find its glossy appearance objectionable.

#### Paint, stain, or bare wood?

Although plastics are virtually maintenance-free, the choice of colors is limited to white and in some instance, a sandy light brown. Plastics can't be stained to match your house and lack the warmth of natural wood. For these reasons, some homeowners choose wood and make the commitment to regular upkeep over the convenience of synthetics. Several options for protecting a wooden arbor or pergola are available.





This pergola frames the main entrance to this Venise-en-Quebec residence and creates an area of filtered shade from which to admire the water fountain. A fully covered porch would have created a gloomy and humid area. Photo: Caroline Kehne.

Some homeowners choose bare, untreated wood. This option makes sense only for rot-resistant woods, which will gradually weather to an attractive light gray. However, unprotected wood can eventually check, split and erode under the destructive action of the sun's UV rays. Those who desire to retain the wood's natural grain have a several treatment options. Film-forming, clear coat polyurethane and varnishes are not recommended because they require frequent maintenance. Minor scratches will often let water penetrate and create unsightly splotches of gray, weathered wood.

A basic treatment involves applying a water repellent with fungicide to inhibit mildew, staining and rot. Some repellents such as Storm Stain Wood Stabilizer by California Paints contain zinc naphthenate fungicide that can stabilize weathered wood. Bleaching oil and fungicide, produced by brands such as Cabot protect wood from staining, checking and fungi. Some brands incorporate a light gray stain. Penetrating, oil-based translucent stains will not crack or peel like paint and generally last about seven years.

If a more uniform, formal appearance is required, the wood's grain should be obscured. Paints are not recommended because of the tendency to crack and peel. Solid color stains are the best options. Solid 28 NORTHERN HOME, GARDEN & LEISURE | JULY 2011

color latex stains are available from several brands such as Cabot and Benjamin Moore. An oil-based primer should be applied beforehand. Solid Color oil stains don't require a primer.

Going down the covered path

Many consider a pergola or arbor without vines as incomplete and naked. Fortunately, North Country gardeners have a variety of climbing and twining plants to choose from to "dress up" their pergolas. In general, avoid placing a pergola or arbor under large trees that will compete for water, light and nutrients. Moist, shady areas may also favor certain plant diseases, such as grape downy mildew and black spot on roses.

On the classical side, there is a wide variety of grape varieties to choose from, from New World "Concord" type vines (*Vitis labrusca*) to "varietal hybrids" that combine the winter hardiness of New World grapes with the taste of "Old World" grapes (*Vitis vinifera*). Another option for the "edible pergola" is the hardy kiwi. A close relative of the familiar fuzzy New Zealand kiwi (*Actinidia acuta*), the hardy kiwi sneers at cold North Country winters, is shade tolerant and produces edible, smooth grape-sized fruit. Some varieties have dark green glossy leaves, while others are variegated green, white and pink. Both male and female plants are required for fruit production. Scarlet runner beans have vigorous vines that produce a profusion of scarlet blossoms and later, edible pods. Clove currant (*Ribes odoratum*) is a rambling bush that can be trained as a climber and is noted for producing a profusion of small yellow trumpet-shaped flowers that fill the air with an intense spicy fragrance a blue-black edible berries.

n the purely ornamental side, pergolas can be adorned with Clematis, climbing honeysuckle, American bittersweet (great for making autumn wreaths), climbing hydrangea, hyacinth bean with mauve or white cinnamon-scented flowers (annual in the North Country), morning glory (also an annual), Boston ivy and Virginia creeper, which turns a deep red tinged with purple in autumn. Hardy climbing roses are also pergola favorites although they aren't vines per se and need to be tied up periodically. Trumpet vine produces orange, yellow and red flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Wisteria, with its fragrant clusters of white or lavender flowers is a perennial favorite in more southern climes, but until recently, varieties with flower buds that are hardy in the local winters were not available. However, Wisteria macrostachya "Blue Moon" will bloom reliably in northern Vermont and is available from www.cadysfallsnursery.com (802-888-5559).

Some homeowners prefer to avoid the "fuss and muss" associated with plants on a pergola but may still desire overhead shade. Some pergola manufacturers make pergola awnings that are hung between the rafters. The awnings on some models can be retracted automatically with a remote control.





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#### Sources:

The following makers produce mail-order kits and can render custom design as well.

www.backyardamerica.com (877-489-8064).
www.gardenstructure.com (888-293-8938).
www.newenglandarbors.com (800-282-9346).
specializes in vinyl structures.
www.simplyarbor.com (866-579-5182).
www.trellisstructure.com (888-285-4624)
specializes in western red cedar structures.
www.yardarbors.com (800-448-2870).

Do it yourselfers can browse through several free arbor plans at www.bluegrassgardens.com.

Construction tips are available at www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/pergola/3352811.

Above: A rustic, Gothic-revival styled grape arbor (designed and built by the author) serves as an entrance to a vegetable garden. Photo: Caroline Kehne.



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ike so many culinary delights that hail from abroad, Italian ice has a long and much-debated history. Many peoples in addition to the Italians— Arabs, Sicilians, Turks, Chinese, French and Spanish— have thrown their hats in the ring for top billing as the originators of this cool treat. What we do know is that "Italian ice" (a.k.a. granita in Italian, albeit a more granular version) and "sorbet" (a smoother variation associated with the French), are made with ingredients similar to ice cream, only without the dairy. Basic ingredients include water, pure sugar cane and the desired flavoring. Although similar, Italian ice is not synonymous with snow cones, which may have the same crunchy texture, but are made with flavorings that are poured on top of plain, shaved ice. Italian ice, in contrast, has the flavorings mixed in.

That said, Italian ice can only mean one thing—summer! No one knows this better than the Smith family, the new vendors of the Italian ice kiosk, located at 40 City Hall Place, only a stone's throw from Plattsburgh's stately City Hall Rotunda. When the previous operators, the Rendinaro family, moved on, the Smiths moved in. Parents Mike and Marilyn Smith were prompted by their daughter Maria to create a business proposal for use of the small, freestanding structure and submit it to the city. Maria, just entering Plattsburgh State on early admission last year, buckled down, crunched the numbers with her dad and won the bid over other proposals. Maria's Italian Ice was born!

Marilyn Smith gives the city credit for giving her daughter the opportunity and the support to run the business venture. Now in their second year at the downtown location, business is booming. They offer basic flavors, including lemon, cherry, blueberry,



Opposite: Maria Smith (right) and her cousin Brittany Lareau (left) man the Italian ice stand on July 4.

Right: Maria's Italian Ice, a stone's throw from City Hall Place and the Macdonough Monument.

coconut, mango, green apple, and watermelon, but recently went out on a limb and brought in root beer, bubble gum, banana and vanilla, to name a few.

f the Italian ice business looks like a piece of cake, think again. The authentic and delicious product that the Smiths serve is manufactured in New Jersey. Depending on how brisk business is, at least two to three trips downstate are required to keep them well stocked with product over the course of the summer. And since sales are already up over last year, they could be in for even more. A typical trip involves renting a trailer and hitting the road in the wee hours to make it to the ice producers before they close at 1 p.m. They load up the truck with many five gallon containers and dry ice, turn around and head home. All in all, it is a 16hour round trip that is well worth it. Residents of Plattsburgh, and other visitors, are eating it up. Favorite flavor? Hands down, lemon. The Smith's stock up on this tart flavor at a ratio of two to one over any of the others. Serving sizes are small and large, and you can mix flavors at no extra charge. Customers can even have their Italian ice served in a mini-baseball helmet. While Yankees, Mets and Red Sox versions are available, the Yankees helmet sales always win out.

The choice of a family business is no coincidence. Marilyn grew up in New York City, right around the corner from the famous "Lemon Ice King of Corona." She has fond memories of the delicious, small batch handmade ices of her childhood. The best thing about this business, says Marilyn, is that when you serve people Italian ice and ice cream, customers always walk away smiling and happy.

This family-run business really is a labor of love. Both Mike and Marilyn have full time jobs, with the Italian ice business taking up a large portion of their spare time. Mike is mechanically inclined and has been able to repair the soft ice cream machine when it starts acting up, but Maria is running the business and says that it has been a valuable and profitable learning opportunity. Last year when it was

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time to pay Maria's college tuition, she and Marilyn took the sticky one dollar bills, fives, tens and twenties down to the Plattsburgh State Bursar's Office and handed them over as payment.

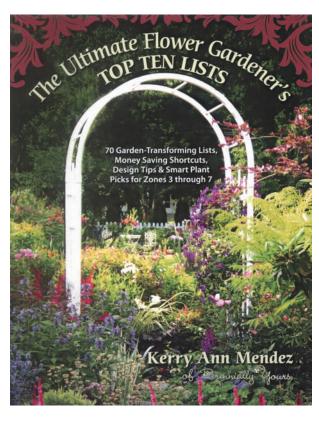
In the end, everyone is a winner: Maria's parents are proud of her accomplishments, Maria is gaining on-the-job experience and learning entrepreneurship, and City Hall has a thriving seasonal business that makes people happy. Who could ask for anything more?

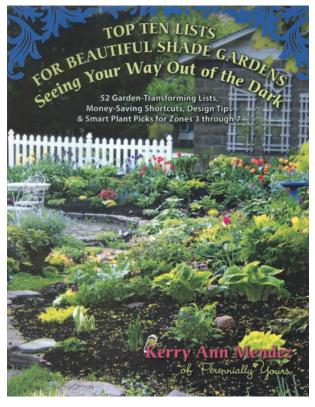


## Perennials for the Busy Gardener

KDH Museum Garden Club Hosts Speaker Kerry Ann Mendez







In early July, Kent Delord House Garden Club members held their annual Secret Garden Tour, inviting participants to visit some of the area's most creative and inspiring private gardens. On August 9, 2011, the Garden Club will follow up with another outstanding event when renowned garden designer Kerry Ann Mendez comes to town. Mendez will top off an evening of activities that includes a Garden Club silent auction, a gardening talk, gardening question and answer session and book signing. The event is a fundraiser for the KDH Museum Garden Club, which plants and maintains the gardens of the Kent Delord House Museum.

Kerry and Sergio Mendez run Perennially Yours, a business dedicated to promoting "low-maintenance, ever-blooming gardens." The business, based in Ballston Spa, N.Y., offers educational classes, home consultations and speaking services. Once a month from May through August, they open the Perennially Yours gardens for public visitation. Perennially Yours has been featured on HGTV and has been in Horticulture, Fine Gardening, Garden Gate, How-To Gardening, Country Gardens, Garden Ideas & Outdoor Living and People, Places & Plants gardening magazines.



Kerry Mendez is also the author of The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists (March 2010) and Top Tens for Beautiful Shade Gardens (March 2011). She will sign copies of her books after the presentation and question session. Copies may be purchased at the presentation or in advance at Cook & Gardener in Plattsburgh.

Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance from members of the Kent Delord House Museum Garden Club and at Cook & Gardener in Plattsburgh,

N.Y. Tickets are \$15 per person. No tickets will be available at the door. To purchase a ticket, call Barb Adams at (518) 563-6920 or Mimi McDowell at (518) 563-2041.

Both titles are available now at Cook & Gardener on Tom Miller Road in Plattsburgh.



#### An Evening with Kerry Mendez

August 9, 2011 • 6 − 9:30 pm Clinton Community College Auditorium Stafford Science Center

6 pm Doors open for the Silent Auction
7 - 8 pm Speaker Kerry Mendez
8 - 8:30 pm Q&A session
8:30 - 9:30 pm Book signing









## North Country Summer 2011 Theater Roundup



Riffin' and Tappin', conceived by Christopher Patterson with Oregon Cabaret Theatre - New York premiere The Depot Theatre – 6705 Main Street (Route 9N), Westport, NY (at the Amtrak train station)

Continues July 7-11, 14-16 at 8 pm; July 9 & 16 at 2 pm and July 17 at 5 pm

Tickets: \$25 • Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org

#### Stuart Little

Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY Continues July 7 at 7 pm and July 9 at 5 pm and July 20 & 30 at 11 am with performances through September

Tickets: \$10 (age 16 & older), \$8 (ages 6-15), \$5 (age 5 & younger) Box office: (518) 891-1854; www.pendragontheatre.org

#### Compiled by Fred Balzac

The Mystery of Irma Vep, by Charles Ludlam Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY July 8-9 at 8 pm at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and July 20-21 at 8 pm at Pendragon Theatre with performances through September Tickets at LPCA: \$20 adults; \$18 students & seniors Tickets at Pendragon: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors (65+), \$10 (age 17 & younger); groups of 10 or more \$16; rush tickets \$10 off adult price (announced daily for performances that same day, secured between 3 and 6 pm, limited number available each day); matinees all seats \$12

LPCA Box office: (518) 523-2512, www.LakePlacidArts.org Pendragon Box office: (518) 891-1854, www.pendragontheatre.org



Stuart Little, part of the Pendragon Theatre's 2011 Summer Repertory.

Opus, a play by Michael Hollinger

The Recovery Lounge, Route 9N (at Springfield Road), Upper Jay, NY **July 7-10 & 14-17** at 8 pm

Tickets: \$18

Reservations: (518) 946-8315, srmonsterbuck@gmail.com

Billy Goats Gruff (children's opera)

Seagle Music Colony, 999 Charley Hill Road, Schroon Lake, NY July 9 at 10 & 11:30 am, at Schroon Lake Central School; also on tour: July 12, Indian Lake; July 13, Lake Placid; July 15, Bolton Landing; July 16, Glens Falls; July 19, North Creek; July 20, Ticonderoga; July 23, Chestertown; appropriate for ages 5 and up; call the Seagle Colony for details Info: (518) 532-7875, info@seaglecolony.com

Tonight Only: *Just a Dancin' Fool*, featuring Chris Patterson The Depot Theatre, 6705 Main Street (Route 9N), Westport, NY

**July 13** at 8 pm

(at the Amtrak train station)

Tickets: \$12

Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org

Sweeney Todd, with music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY

July 13-16, 22-23 & 30 & August 2-3 at 8 pm

and July 31 at 2 pm

at LPCA August 8-9 at 8 pm

Tickets at Pendragon: \$25 adults, \$22 seniors (65+),

\$10 (age 17 & younger); matinees: all seats \$15

\$10 (age 17 & younger); matinees: all seats \$15 Tickets at LPCA: \$25 adults, \$22, seniors & students Pendragon Box office: (518) 891-1854; www.pendragontheatre.org LPCA Box office: (518) 523-2512, www.LakePlacidArts.org

Road to Dannemora, an original musical with a score by Sam Balzac, lyrics by Kathleen Recchia book by Balzac & Recchia, with additional material contributed by Fred Balzac

Keene Central School Auditorium, Market Street, Keene Valley, NY  ${\bf July~16}$  at  $7~{\rm pm}$ 

Free admission with donations accepted;

the performance is the culmination of a one-week intensive theater workshop for children ages  $8\ \text{to}\ 18$ 

Info: (518) 946-8323

Godspell Jr.

Adirondack Regional Theatre (ART)

St. Augustine's Community Center, presented by Peru Community Church, St. Augustine's Parish and the Knights of Columbus **July 16** at 7 pm; free admission with donations accepted

For more information: (518) 643-8716

The Compleat Works of Wm. Shakespeare (abridged)
The Adirondack Shakespeare Company of Schroon Lake, NY, at Crown Point State Historic Site

July 17 at 2 pm • Admission is free

bring a lawn chair or blanket

For more information contact: Artistic Director Tara Bradway

(215) 520-3815 or visit www.adkshakes.org

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum with music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart Adirondack Lakes Summer Theatre Festival at LPCA 17 Algonquin Drive (off Route 86), Lake Placid, NY July 18, at 8 pm

Tickets: \$16 adults; \$14 seniors & students; \$12 children 12 & under

Reservations: (518) 523-2512, www.LakePlacidArts.org

Rent, a musical by Jonathan Larson Essex Theatre Company at the Strand Theatre 25 Brinkerhoff Street, Plattsburgh, NY Opens **July 19** at 6 pm with "A Bohemian Festival" including hors d'oeuvres and desserts Tickets: \$40 pre-paid, \$50 at the door

July 20-22 at 8 pm, July 23 at 2 pm and July 24, at 6 pm

Tickets: \$12 pre-paid, \$15 at the door

Rated R for language and adult content and may not be suitable

for children under age 16

Reservations: (518) 526-4520, tickets@essextheatre.org

Lullaby of Broadway, a revue

Seagle Music Colony, 999 Charley Hill Road, Schroon Lake, NY

July 21-22, at 8 pm; also on tour: July 23, North Creek;

July 28, Bolton Landing; July 29, Lake Placid;

August 2, Blue Mountain Lake; August 9-10, Glens Falls

Admission to Seagle Colony performances: \$25 adults, \$15 children

Info: (518) 532-7875, info@seaglecolony.com *Living Together*, a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn The Depot Theatre, Route 9N, Westport, NY (at the Amtrak train station)

July 22-August 7

Tickets: \$25

Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY **July 27-29** at 8 pm with performances into mid-August Tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors (65+), \$10 (age 17 & younger); groups of 10 or more: \$16; rush tickets: \$10 off adult price (announced daily for performances that same day, secured between 3 and 6 pm, limited number available each day); matinees: all seats \$12; Box office: (518) 891-1854; www.pendragontheatre.org

Tonight Only: *Ivy Rowe*, featuring Barbara Bates Smith with Jeff Sebens The Depot Theatre, 6705 Main Street (Route 9N), Westport, NY (at the Amtrak train station)

**July 27** at 8 pm

Tickets: \$12

Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org

The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare
Westport Shakespeare-in-the-Park Festival/The Depot Apprentice
Program, Arts Council of Northern NY Ballard Park Concert Series,
Ballard Park, Route 22, Westport, NY

August 5-6 at 5 pm (dates & times to be confirmed)

Free admission, donations appreciated; bring a lawn chair or blanket Depot Box office: (518) 962-4449, www.depottheatre.org

Lost in Yonkers, by Neil Simon

Essex Theatre Company at the Masonic Lodge, Route 22, Essex, NY **August 11** at 7 pm (pay what you can); **August 12**, **18** at 7 pm;

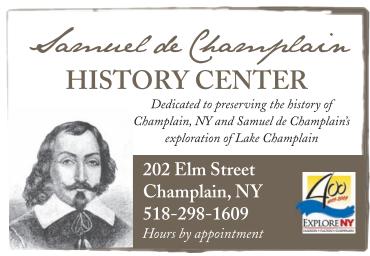
August 19-20 at 8 pm; August 21 at 2 pm

Reservations: (518) 526-4520, tickets@essextheatre.org

Wicked City, a musical with book and lyrics by Chad Beguelin and music by Matthew Sklar – New York premiere
The Depot Theatre, Route 9N, Westport, NY (at the Amtrak station)
August 12-21

Tickets: \$25 • Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org





*The Mousetrap*, by Agatha Christie Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Avenue Saranac Lake, NY

August 18, 20, 23, 24, 30, 31 at 8 pm

August 21 at 2 pm with performances into September 3 additional performances at LPCA October 7-9
Tickets at Pendragon: \$20 adults; \$18 seniors (65+); \$10 (age 17 & younger); groups of 10 or more \$16; Rush tickets \$10 off adult price (announced daily for performances that same day, secured between 3 and 6 pm, limited number available each day); matinees all seats \$12; Box office: (518) 891-1854; www.pendragontheatre.org; LPCA: (518) 523-2512, www.LakePlacidArts.org

Fully Committed, by Becky Mode, based on characters developed by Becky Mode and Mark Setlock
The Depot Theatre, Route 9N, Westport, NY
August 26-September 4

Tickets: \$25

Box office: (518) 962-4449; www.depottheatre.org

#### **Met Live in HD Encore Broadcast**

#### Verdi's Don Carlo

August 2 at 7pm

Running time: 3 hrs 34 min Lake Placid Center for the Arts

Lake Placid, NY

Director Nicholas Hytner, Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Roberto Alagna in the title role. Ferruccio Furlanetto, Marina Poplavskaya, Anna Smirnova, and Simon Keenlyside also star.

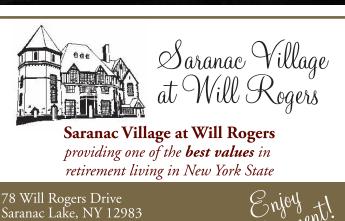
General admission: \$15 LPCA members: \$12 Ticket info: (518) 523-2512

Right: Scene from the Metropolitan Opera's current production of Verdi's Don Carlo.

Photo courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera.







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#### Workshop offers help to fiction writers

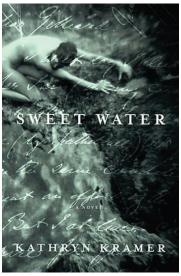
THE ADIRONDACK CENTER FOR WRITING (ACW) presents writer Kathryn Kramer for a full-day workshop for those with a serious interest in writing fiction. Join LARAC (Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council) in Glens Falls on August 6, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a full day of work-shopping, with specific emphasis on dialogue, point of view and voice, character development, and plot. The workshop will include discussion, readings, and writing exercises. Participants will be expected to create and share work at the event.

Kathryn Kramer has published several novels, including her most recent, *Sweet Water*, which Publisher's Weekly called an "ambitious and richly imagined tale of romantic intrigue." She has written short fiction and non-fiction articles on subjects ranging from chanterelle mushrooms to Henry James. Kathryn in currently completing a memoir entitled, *Missing History: The Covert Education of a Child of the Great Books*.

Kathryn is an experienced instructor. A Visiting Professor of English and American Literatures at Middlebury College in Vermont, she has previously taught at Washington University, the University of Cincinnati, and Marlboro College. She received an M.A. in writing from Johns Hopkins. She is a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, an Ingram Merrill grant, and others. She has been in residence at the Bellagio Study Center, the Bogliasco Foundation, and the MacDowell Colony.

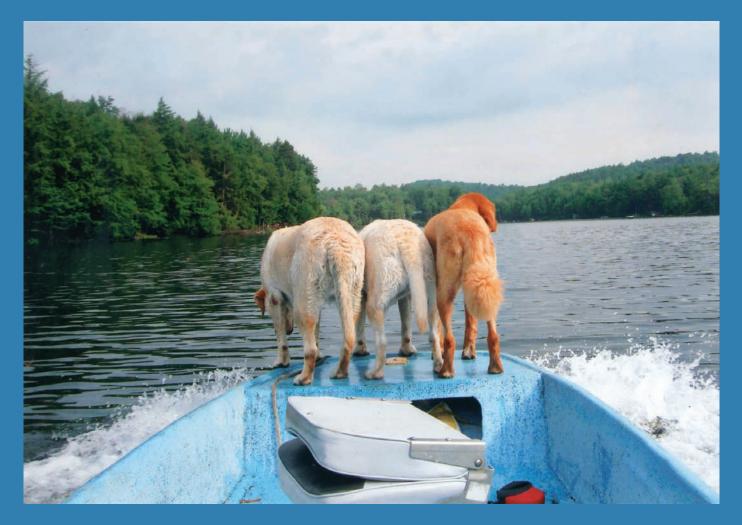
Registration is \$75 for members of ACW and \$85 for non-members, including the cost of lunch. To register or with questions, please

contact the Adirondack Center for Writing at (518) 327-6278 or visit its website, www.adirondackcenterforwriting.org . LARAC is located at 7 Lapham Place in Glens Falls, NY.



#### NORTHERN HOME, GARDEN and LEISURE

# Notographen's Journal



Inge Sapp was born in Leipzig, Germany and now lives in Plattsburgh and Tupper Lake, NY. This photo is of her yellow Labrador, Joy, and Joy's two grandchildren, Keski and Chance, who were visiting Eagle Crag Lake. All three and their owners share a love of boating.

Submissions should include the photographer's name, address, phone number or email address. Entries may be submitted as color prints or digital files, but no originals, please. Images must be 300 dpi and a minimum (approximate) size of 5 inches by 7 inches. Submission is open to professionals and amateurs.

Each month we invite our readers to submit a photo that illustrates life in the North Country through the months and seasons.

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Please include a brief description of subject matter, location and a brief bio of photographer. Digital files may be sent to kim@studleyprinting.com, "Attention HGL Photo Journal". A hard copy can be dropped off at Studley Printing & Publishing, 4701 Route 9, Plattsburgh, Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm.

## Don't ask us,

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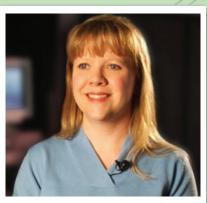
- Betsy Latham, BC & DC Landscaping, Saranac Lake, NY

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