

The First Frost

By Sharon Miller



Sharon's Japanese maple (Photo by Pat Dejoy)

First frost. The first autumn frost declares the end of the growing season, that moment when exposed vegetation is nipped by freezing temperatures and coated with a layer of ice crystals. The season culminates and the red Japanese maple tree dominating a significant corner of my front garden is poised with acceptance. Today, cold and crisp air wafts a scent of fertile soil in my direction; an interdependent blending of earth, decay and

moisture.

The Japanese maple's ruby colored, feather-light leaves spread in layers and form a regal vestment that slightly touches the ground in a gentle breeze. The tree has yet to express its last hurrah when leaves turn fiery and alive with light. Passersby invariably pause, sigh and comment as through momentarily begifted by this beauty.

I recall an autumn afternoon many years ago when dense and

encroaching bushes occupied this space until I received the Japanese maple as a birthday gift. The tree awaited planting. With rigorous shoveling and lots of sweat, the scene was finally prepared for change. A friend's red pick-up truck strained mercifully and gave all it had to remove the bushes' gnarly root. What a scene: the connecting rope taut between the entangled roots and a truck threatening to snap apart. Hours elapsed before the young Japanese maple was planted with care and expectancy.

The tree's vitality and location are optimal, and it thrives season following season. After the imminent foliage fireworks, the tree acquiesces to nature's rhythms and sheds all leaves revealing its nakedness. Although naked, the Japanese maple stands with dignity. Limb and trunk structure refine its undressed graceful identity, an essence that pulses with potency and life. Tiny buds are protectively sealed to endure and ensure a rebirth of cyclical beauty.

Sharon Miller is a 26 year resident in the South Wedge. Her Japanese maple attracts neighbors from around the area to view its autumnal beauty.

The North Wedge by Justin Hubbell



Lots of Food

By Deborah Klee

Build the gardens and they shall come. Grow food in urban settings and all shall eat. Co-create with neighbors and community shall be built. Create beautiful spaces in nature for contemplation, and we will heal along with Mother Earth. This is not a dream. This is coming to your neighborhood, and you can participate, contribute and benefit in a myriad of ways.

Lots of Food (LOF), is a not-for-profit Rochester-based program of Seeking Common Ground, Inc. dedicated to making the food in its edible landscapes freely accessible and available to all. Its mission reads: creates and supports turning disused land into edible landscapes and utilizes appropriate technology to make visible the web of connection in our local food communities from dirt to fork. With the help of about 100 volunteers and coordinated by Patty Love, program manager and permaculture enthusiast, LOF has

begun converting a dozen disused plots of land throughout the city into public edible forest gardens. The gardens designs are co-created by Guild Team members and implemented at garden planting parties by a network of dedicated



Rev. Matthew and Chase Hurwitz at the informal charette in July 27th.

volunteers along with neighbors and folks who stop by to see "what's going on over there."

In collaboration with Rev. Matthew Martin Nickoloff, pastor of the South Wedge Mission, and with community support, Lots of Food intends to transform the long unused plot between the church and neighboring former parish house from a mowed lawn space into an oasis of perennial food sources, as well as a site for

contemplation, inspiration and healing for folks of any spiritual background.

The garden design for 125 Caroline takes into consideration community suggestions made at the informational charette held at the site on July 27th. Preliminary ideas for the site include a thirsty rain garden to help mitigate runoff from parking lot into the garden and the neighbor's basement, pawpaws around the tool shed, a bramble patch along the building, a grape arbor, and a mix of perennial vegetables, herbs, flower, and other fruit. To reflect the theme and tradition of Peace in this space, the proposed design includes a peace sign gathering space in the garden's center for outdoor church services. There will also be a space for a Peace Pole in the proposed design and a Little Free Library.

Once the design is approved, building garden beds, planting trees and shrubs and mulching paths will start. Work parties are scheduled on the LOF website at lotsoffood.org, where you can also find more information on LOF, permaculture, a map and photos of sites in progress, as well as a

volunteercaplication.

The LOF project at South Wedge Mission has the potential to grow something much larger than a food system. Not only will LOF plant healthy, local, ecologically grown food for the public to share in, but volunteers will also share and develop personal knowledge

and skills while creating a resilient local economy as we regenerate and revitalize the land we steward.

If you are moved to join us, opportunities abound. Come join us in the transformation of 125 Caroline Street. You will be glad you did!

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Thirst4Art

By Nancy O'Donnell

Artist Aimee Bergvall and Event Coordinator Marissa Siciliano, childhood friends in Wayland, NY, classmates in grad school, both travelled all over the world before finding themselves back in Wayland looking for a new career direction. The two joined energy, passion and the belief that anyone can paint and started Thirst4Life painting classes. Their venue is not a light-filled studio, but bars, restaurants and wineries in the area. And instead of canvas, painters used recycled vinyl records. No solitary creation here. Artists and would be painters are encouraged to bring a friend along to make it a social experience. Their website says it all: "Our

painting classes are for everyone—whether you have never painted before and don't think you can draw a stick figure, or if you are a seasoned artist. Along with group painting classes, the company also offers at special events for creatives from 5 to 80 years old.

To learn more, visit Facebook, www.thirst4art.com or email thirst4art@gmail.com.



Aimee Bergvall and Marissa Siciliano

Thirst4Art Classes
Wed., October 2, 16, 30,
6:30 - 9pm, Napa Wood
Fired Pizzeria & Bistro,
573 S. Clinton Ave.

Thurs., October 3, 17,
6 - 8:30 pm, Buffalo Wild
Wings Grill & Bar,
780 Jefferson Rd.

Wed., October 9, 6- 8:30 pm,
Winton Bar & Grill, 196 N.
Winton Rd.

Fri., Oct. 18, 6 - 8:30 pm,
TC Riley's Pub & Grill in
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200 Park Point Dr.

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