

WEEKEND GARDENER

BY PAUL CASSON

White tails in the garden



When I was driving around the area recently, a young weeping willow out in the middle of a well kept lawn caught my attention. I pass this way regularly and have seen this 12 to 15 foot sapling many times. Why should it suddenly catch my eye? I slowed down to let things register. There it was—about a foot long patch of bark had been removed from the 2 to 3 inch diameter trunk. It was a buck deer "rubbing post"

Fortunately any willow heals rapidly and in a few years, if you can keep other deer away, you'll never know that anything happened. Other ornamentals aren't always as lucky and stay misshapen or gradually die

The irony is that there are plenty of other trees in the surrounding woods. But it never fails. Every fall as local white-tails approach the rutting season, they leave woods full of assorted sizes, varieties and shapes of trees to do combat with some free standing ornamental tree in some prominent position of the landscape.

Why a particular tree is chosen no one knows, and I doubt that the deer give it much if any thought. There is no practical way to guard against this local problem. The only thing that you can do is to follow up the damage with minor repairs. Paint the wounds with commercial tree paint to prevent further drying of the tissue and flush cut and paint any mangled branches.

Other winter deer damage is their feeding on certain evergreens. I remember one severe winter when the snow was drifted very high, deer fed only on the evergreens they could reach by coming up plowed driveways and shoveled paths. The same plant material in fields and clearings that normally might have been in jeopardy remained untouched all winter.

Our local white-tailed deer are browsers. They must browse on wood (twigs) for cellulose, an important factor in maintaining the specialized bacteria that are part of their digestive system.

Aside from various deciduous trees high on their list of preferred winter wood are the taxus (yew), hemlock and arbor-vitae. If you live in a known deer area, either don't plant these trees too heavily or make provisions to protect them for the winter.

The better spray-on repellents do a better job repelling people. A cage of chicken wire around the trees is the best deterrent against hungry deer.

Rabbits will feed on the bark and shoots of certain woody plants in winter only because their normally herbaceous food is nonexistent at this time. That is why the longer the snow is on the ground and the deeper it remains through winter, the more rabbit damage can be expected. Among their preferred plant material is the bark and twigs of any member of the rose family, particularly apples. When the snow has been down for some time, cotton tails are notorious for their girdling of young fruit trees

Young fruiting and or-

namental flowering varieties of apple, pear and crabapple trees can be saved from rabbits by tying a layer of tar paper around the trunk or placing a cylinder of quarter inch screen (hardware cloth) at least two feet tall around the trunks. If space permits, a good beagle and a twenty gauge shotgun with chilled sites can help you pass the winter.

The use of screen or tarpaper will also guard against mice; they too take their toll of young fruit and ornamental trees by girdling. Mice are not particular about the plant material they feed on. After some heavy winters I have seen mice damage on the bark of rhododendron and junipers. Extra heavy mulches of leaves or hay will harbor the mice during the winter. Winter mulch need be only a few inches thick.

A mixture of glycerine and resin to the consistency of heavy paint brushed on the trunks of young trees will keep both mice and rabbits away for the season.



—William Sacco

SOPRANO Wendy B. Simon will appear in a free concert at The Hudson River Museum Sunday, December 10 at 1:30 p.m. Her program will include songs by Scarlatti, Faure, Debussy, Ives, Foss and Puccini.

Peanuts play six shows in Danbury

DANBURY, Conn. — "Peanuts" character will be on stage this weekend and next at Berkshire Auditorium, Western Connecticut State College. The Dramatons production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," based on Charles Schultz's comic strip, opened December 1 and will play today (Saturday) and Sunday and December 8, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m.

Mary Ann Granata, a senior speech and theater major from Lake Mohegan is director. She appeared most recently as Simone in the Wesconn production of "Marat/Sade."

Julius C. Adams, a senior from North Salem plays Snoopy, and is also musical director. Mr. Adams is a music major who had his own children's theater group in Brewster last year. He has written a musical based on "Rip Van Winkle" which will be produced in the spring.

"Charlie Brown's" technical director is Frank Herbert, Mt. Kisco. He has designed a stylized set based on children's playground equipment, with a life-size doghouse for Snoopy.

Christmas keepsakes to be museum topic

YONKERS — John Begg, sculptor and former vice-president of Oxford University Press, will present a program, "Christmas Keepsakes", at The Hudson River Museum Wednesday, December 6 at 8 p.m.

Christmas booklets, known as keepsakes, were designed by John Begg for Oxford University Press when he served that company as art director and vice-president. The Oxford keepsakes, recognized for their design distinction, have frequently been selected for exhibitions of the American Institute of

Graphic Arts and the art Director's Club of New York. Individual keepsakes have been included in the annual exhibits of the printing industries of metropolitan New York and were included in a US Information Service show that toured Latin America.

The keepsakes have covered many aspects of Yuletide interest with texts on the celebration of Christmas in different countries; on Christmas carols, Christmas verse, Christmas party games; on the Shaker Order of Christmas; and Christmas with George Washington in retirement.

Yorktown Museum slates Christmas bazaar today

YORKTOWN — From 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, the Town Hall in Yorktown Heights will be full of dolls and toys, boutique tables holding Christmas ornaments and

stuffed animals, white elephants, and homemade specialties. Proceeds from the Yorktown Museum's fifth annual Christmas bazaar will finance museum shows and projects.

Antique dolls, toys and miniatures, including paintings, will be on display. For sale will be reasonably priced miniature furniture and sterling silver replicas in miniature.

Copies of 19th century illustrated children's books will be priced from 50 cents. There will be a truckful of living plants and some orchids. The food table will hold unusual breads and pastries. Sandwiches, hot sausage rolls, mince pies, and old-fashioned hot spiced cider will be available at the lunch hour.

John Begg was born in Florida and graduated from Columbia University where he majored in fine art. Later he studied sculpture with Jose de Creeft and Ossip Zadkine. His work has been exhibited at New York galleries including New School, East River, Bucholz, and Karl Nierendorf and at Brooklyn Museum, Whitney Museum, Riverside Museum, Worcester Museum, Albany Institute of History and Art and

Addison Gallery of American Art where he is represented in the permanent colleges, as well as that of The Hudson River Museum through a sculpture purchase in October 1970.

At a reception after "Christmas Keepsakes," Mr. Begg will meet his audience and discuss his program. The admission charge will be \$1 for those who are not museum members.

Theater package offer: Papp's 'Much Ado'

TARRYTOWN — The second offering in the new Pennybridge Theatre Party series will be Joseph Papp's limited engagement production of "Much Ado About Nothing."

For the matinee Saturday, December 9, Pennybridge Theatre will provide Westchester and Rockland residents with tickets, lunch and transportation from Tarrytown's Hilton Inn to the Winter Garden Theatre in New York.

"Much Ado About Nothing," Shakespeare's comedy, was

presented by Mr. Papp as one of his Central Park Festival productions. A free-wheeling adaptation, it includes such Americana as a ragtime brass band, draft beer, the Keystone Kops, straw hats and blazers. It is directed by A. J. Antoon and stars Kathleen Widdoes as Beatrice and Sam Waterston as Benedick.

Pennybridge Theatre Party is available to individuals, as well as groups. Information can be had by calling the Hilton Inn, Tarrytown.

Oboist to play world premiere

YONKERS — Oboist Brenda Schuman, a graduate student in music at Sarah Lawrence College will perform in a concert 8 p.m. Monday in Reisinger Auditorium on the college campus.

Miss Schuman, who received a BA from Queens College and an MA in music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, is working

toward the degree of master of fine arts at Sarah Lawrence

Included in the program will be the world premiere of "Balloon Letters," a composition for cello, violin, bassoon, clarinet and oboe, written and conducted by Meyer Kupferman, a member of the Sarah Lawrence College music faculty.



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