

# Wildflowers as her palette

## Using native plants, an artist creates her own meadow

By TRACY FRISCH  
Contributing writer

SPENCERTOWN, N.Y.

Linda Horn is a visual artist by profession, but for the past few years the land outside her rural Columbia County home has given her a canvas of a different sort.

On 1 acre of land, Horn created her own meadow, planting dozens of native wildflower species in a matrix of little bluestem grass and Indian grass.

Using techniques she learned from the prairie restoration movement of the Midwest, Horn started work on the project in 2005. The results show what a local meadow might have looked like in centuries past – before imported and invasive species choked out many of the wildflowers and grasses that were once common in the Northeast.

What started out as Horn's creation – "everyone gets to play God when they install a meadow," she remarked – quickly took on a life of its own.

Over the course of each growing season, Horn delights in her meadow's unfolding drama: an ongoing succession of blooms, including new ones she is seeing for the first time; the striking tasseling of the grasses; angular sedges and other intricate natural forms.

The diverse planting nourishes an abundance of insects and birds, and every year, the vivid tableau changes as plants unpredictably move around within the meadow, their seed carried by wildlife or gusts of wind. Landscape architects have tried to manipulate waves of color within similar projects, but over time any original planting design soon gets overshadowed in such a complex natural system.

Horn, describing her alternative landscaping as a form of "social work," has been trying to

educate others about the pleasures and benefits of native meadows. This summer she hosted a public viewing, offering curious visitors the chance to see her meadow at the height of the wildflower season.

In the Northeast, few people have ever seen a meadow of truly native plants. Most of the wildflowers that grow in old fields or show up as garden intruders are, in fact, agricultural weeds that hitchhiked to the New World in shipments of crops or seeds.

But creating a native meadow turns out to be a lot more complicated than scattering a packet of wildflower seeds. The task requires an understanding of the diversity and layers of interrelationships in natural ecosystems. And it's the grasses, not wildflowers, that are the key to a meadow sustaining itself.

### A mission and a teacher

Horn's interest in wildflowers goes back to her childhood in Chicago, where she was particularly smitten with brown-eyed Susans, a native prairie flower that turned up among the other weeds in the city's vacant lots.

"It was so powerful to see something other than cement," she recalled.

After she grew up to become an artist and gal-



Tracy Frisch photos

Using techniques she learned from the prairie restoration movement in the Midwest, Linda Horn set out four years ago to create a native meadow on her Columbia County property.

lery owner in the windy city, she bought 60 acres of land in Michigan as a country getaway. Grappling with what to do with the property, she attended a lecture on large-scale landscape design at the Chicago Botanical Garden. The presentation by Joyce Powers, a pioneer in native prairie restoration, opened up a new era in her life.

"I was seduced by the beauty of it," Horn said.

So about 15 years ago, she enlisted Powers as a consultant to help her install a 5-acre prairie of

EXPLORE A SITE DESIGNED AND HOSTED BY

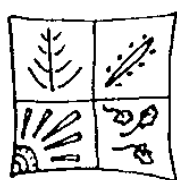
## RBP WebDesigns

MIKE GLIER

Art by Mike Glier - Recent series include:  
Antipodes, Latitude & Longitude  
www.mikeglier.net

NEED A WEB SITE?

Contact Bob Phelps  
518-686-5326  
rbpwebdesigns.com



### Four Seasons Natural Foods Store & Cafe

Open 7 Days, 9am to 8pm

33 Phila Street ~ 584-4670  
Downtown Saratoga Springs

FourSeasonsNaturalFoods.com

PS  
21

PERFORMANCE  
SPACES FOR THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### SEPTEMBER FOLK @ The TENT

Sunday September 6 at 3 pm  
Jacqueline Schwab, piano  
& Reinmar Seidler, cello: Scottish Tunes

Saturday September 12 at 6 pm  
Christine Lavin: Songs & Skits

2980 ROUTE 66 CHATHAM NEW YORK  
reservations www.ps21chatham.org or 518.392.6121

Economic Recovery Act  
30% Tax Credit  
Available!

THERE IS A  
**TREASURE**  
IN YOUR BACK YARD.

Your home is sitting on a **free and renewable** supply of energy. A WaterFurnace geothermal system taps into that source for **dramatic energy savings** and exceptional heating and cooling comfort. Many homeowners **save as much as 70%** in heating, cooling and hot water costs.

**WaterFurnace**  
Booster from the Ground Up  
waterfurnace.com

Call **Dee's Electrical** today to learn how to **tap into your buried treasure**. No pirate required.

**DEE'S**  
SINCE 1964

Geothermal Systems  
www.deeselectric.com  
(802) 362-2268

Visit us at **Live Green Energy Expo**  
September 5<sup>th</sup> at Riley Rink  
in Manchester Center

IT'S OUR 33RD YEAR,  
AND WE'LL SERVE YOU BETTER!

100 Units on Display Wood • Gas • Corn  
47 Burning Pellet Burning  
STOVES • FIREPLACES • INSERTS



Showroom open Monday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.



Route 40 South Argyle  
(518) 638-8950  
fax 638-6786  
www.thestovery.com



NFI Certified Installers



tall grasses on her Michigan land. Powers became her teacher and a good friend.

Powers dedicated her career to ecosystem repair after witnessing the destruction of tropical forests in Mexico, where she was doing academic research from 1969-71. A few years later, when she and her husband, a University of Wisconsin professor, were building a house 20 miles west of Madison, Powers decided to plant a prairie instead of a lawn.

The prairie restoration movement in the Midwest was then in its infancy, and Powers had already grown some native plant seed as a volunteer for the local chapter of the Audubon Society. As no commercial sources for these seeds existed, people had to collect seed from prairie remnants that were under threat by plow or bulldozer.

Later one of Powers' colleagues discovered precious reservoirs of prairie plants – and a place

to gather their seed – in old pioneer cemeteries that had never been cultivated. He convinced some of the historical societies that maintained these sites to cease mowing, and even to burn them, in order to preserve the prairie plant communities.

Enthralled by her work with the prairie, Powers started one of the first three prairie plant nurseries and seed producers in the Midwest. Though she sold her successful business in 2005, she still works with clients like Horn.

Complex task

In the East, although more and more gar-

continued on next page

IT'S LOCAL!



PRODUCE, MILK,  
MEAT, AND MORE...



Two Spoon Farm

A Pasture based CSA  
specializing in all-natural meats

- Grass-fed Beef
- Pastured Poultry
- Free-Range Pork

Brian and Angie McGinness  
(802) 823-7308 Pownal VT  
twospoonfarm@hotmail.com

CLEAR BROOK FARM

Summer Flavors at Clear Brook

Certified Organic:

Tomatoes, Broccoli, Carrots, Lettuce,  
Spinach, Radishes, Squash, Beet Greens,  
Beets, Chard, Arugula

Sweet Corn, Green Beans,  
and Melons

Raspberries, Blueberries, Sublime  
Peaches and other fruit

Vermont Cheeses, Breads, Sweets  
Bottled Organic Milk

Open Every Day 9 am to 6 pm  
Rt. 7A, Shaftsbury, VT (Across from  
the Chocolate Barn) (802) 442-4273

WINTER CSA SIGN-UP NOW

2009 Summer  
Farmers  
Markets

MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire County

Adams  
Fri, Sat noon-6pm May 29-Oct 23  
60 Columbia St.

Berkshire Area/Lanesboro  
Wed & Sat 8am-2pm May 2-Nov 21  
Berkshire Mall lot by Sears, Rte 8

Great Barrington  
Saturday 9am-1pm May 9-Oct 31  
former RR station, Castle St.

Lee  
Friday 10 am-1 pm May 8-Oct 9  
next to Lee Post Office

Lenox  
Friday 2-6pm May-Oct 9  
Triangle Park, Main St, Downtown

North Adams  
Sat 8am-12:30 pm July 18-Oct 31  
St. Anthony lot, Marshall & Center Sts

Otis  
Sat 9am-1pm May 9-Oct 10  
L & M Auto, Blandford Rd, Rte 23 E

Pittsfield (MA)  
Thurs 4-7pm June-Oct 29  
400 North St, Downtown

Sheffield  
Friday 3:30-6:30pm May 8 -Oct 9  
Rte 7, Old Parish Church lot

Williamstown  
Saturday 8:30am-12:30pm  
end of May-Oct  
Spring St Parking Lot

NEW YORK

Columbia County

Chatham  
Fri 4-7pm June 5-Oct 30  
15 Church St. (Rte. 203)  
site of Real Food Market Co-op

Hillsdale  
Saturdays 6/6, 6/20, 7/4, 7/18, 8/1,  
8/15, 8/29, 9/6, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17  
9 am - 12 pm  
Hillsdale Town Park

Hudson  
Saturday 9am-1pm May 9 - Nov 21  
N. 6th St & Columbia St parking lot

Kinderhook  
Sat 8am-12:30 pm June 6-Oct 10  
Village Green, Center of Village

Philmont  
Saturday 9am-2pm June 6-Oct 17  
113 Main St at Summit St corner

Stuyvesant  
Friday 4-7pm May 9-Sept 26  
RR station 55 Riverview St & Rte 26A

Rensselaer County

Hoosick  
NEW! Countryside Farmers Market  
Friday 4-7pm June 5-Columbus Day  
Countryside Woodcraft Store, Rte. 7

Troy Waterfront Market  
Saturday 9am-1pm May-October  
Hedley Park Place, 433 River St.  
north of Green Island Bridge

Saratoga County

Ballston Spa  
Thurs 3-6pm June 11-Sept 24  
Business & Professional Assoc.  
also, Sat 9am-noon June 13-Sept 26  
Wiswall Park, Front St.

Gansevoort  
Thurs 3-6pm June 4-Oct 29  
Village Park

Saratoga Springs  
Wed 3-6pm May 6-Oct 28  
Saratoga Farmers Market Assoc.  
also, Sat 9am-1pm May 2-Oct 31  
High Rock Park, High Rock Ave

South Glens Falls  
Monday 10am-1pm June 1-Oct 26  
Village Park, Spring Street

Warren County

Glens Falls  
Saturday 8-noon May 2-Nov 21  
Farmers Market Pavilion, South St

Queensbury  
Monday 3-6pm May 4-Oct 26el  
Elk's Lodge lot, 23 Cronin Rd

Washington County

Cambridge  
Sunday 10am-2pm, May 17-Oct 11  
Freight Yard, E. Main & Washington

Fort Edward  
Friday 10am-1pm, June 5-Oct 30  
Broadway Bowl parking lot, Rte 4

Granville  
Tues 2-5 pm June 2-Oct 27  
downtown Granville

Greenwich  
Thurs 2-5:30pm June 4-Oct  
Former IGA lot, Main St. (Route 29)

Hudson Falls  
Tuesday 10am-1pm June 2-Oct 27  
Sutherland Farms, Lower Dix Ave  
also, Wed 10am-2pm June 10-Oct 14  
Washington Cty Municipal Ctr Annex

Middle Granville  
Monday 2-5pm May 25-October  
Middle Granville Rd.near bowling alley

Salem  
Saturday 10am-1pm May 23-October  
Village Park, Main St

Whitehall  
Tues 1-4 pm June 2-October  
The Boulevard Park

VERMONT

Bennington County

Bennington (Walloomsac Market)  
Sat 10am-1pm, May 9 - Oct 31  
Tues 3:30-5:30pm May 12 - Oct 27  
former RR station parking lot, Depot St

Dorset  
Sun 10am-2pm, May 24 - Oct 11  
H.N. Williams Store, 2732 Rte 30

Manchester  
Thursday 3-6pm, June 4-Oct 8  
Thompson Rec Center, Rte 30 W.

Rutland County

Brandon  
Friday 9am-2pm May 22-Oct 9  
Central Park

Castleton  
Thurs. 330-6:30 pm June 18 - Oct 15  
Main St., next to Citizen's Bank

Fair Haven  
Friday 3-6pm June 5-Oct 23  
on the green

Pittsfield (VT)  
Thursdays, 3 - 6 pm  
Route 100 North, Pittsfield Green

Poultney  
Thurs 9am-2pm, June 25-Oct 8  
look for signs in Poultney

Rutland  
Tues 3-6pm, May 19-Oct 27  
also, Sat 9am-2pm May 9-Oct 31  
Depot Park, Downtown

Wells  
9 am-1 pm May 23-Oct 10  
Wells Four Corner on Rte. 30



Local. Fresh. Fun. Yum.

Washington County's premier source for local  
vegetables (hand-picked daily right here on the farm),  
plus gorgeous local fruits and cheeses. Great selection  
of other yummys.

Six Generations of Growing.

Our farming heritage, mineral rich flinty soil, and  
microclimate make for terroir, yielding vegetables with  
heirloom flavor and exceptional culinary qualities.

Such a Selection!

At our farmstore you'll also find our own bacon, eggs,  
fresh breads, fruit pies, salads, plus weekend specials  
including fresh made tamales. Email or call for details.

Vintage Kitchen Items and Old Books.

Feed your mind and decorate your kitchen... visit  
our vintage kitchen collectibles and used books  
departments.

FALL SPECIAL:  
50 LB. BAGS  
OF NEW CROP POTATOES

SHELDON FARMS  
MARKET

4363 Rte 22, Salem (518) 854-7847

Founding member, Slow Food Saratoga Convivium

For menus, mailing list, special events:  
pat@sheldonfarmsny.com



Eat Healthy Food from Healthy  
Natural Animals Born on our Farm

No feed additives or antibiotics or hormones  
are fed to our cattle or pigs. Choose from  
many fresh frozen cuts of beef or pork.  
Discounts given for picking up at the farm  
and volume purchase. Make an appointment  
to see our farm and select from the freezer.  
We can email brochures and price lists.

Please call 518-692-3120  
for more information  
or to place an order

Alan and Nancy Brown  
135 Lewis Hill Lane, Greenwich, NY 12834  
www.LewisWaiteFarm.com  
email: nkdbrown@LewisWaiteFarm.com



deners and nature lovers deliberately plant and encourage native perennials, the concept of meadow restoration remains virtually unknown. Consequently no one appears to be systematically collecting seed from East Coast strains of native meadow plants. Horn would like to see this void filled.

A quality prairie is diverse, and it must be appropriate to the place where it is planted. Powers said that over a two- or three-year period, she would plant as many as 100 different species on a single site. Through trial and error, she learned to delay planting certain species of plants for a year or more, as they wouldn't survive until a hospitable environment had developed.

"It's complex, and it's not quick," Powers explained. "It's the time dimension that people have a lot of trouble understanding."

Some would-be prairie caretakers get disappointed and give up after a year or two, she said.

In the first year, many prairie plants only grow several inches tall, putting most of their energy into sending their roots deep. They won't reach a normal height or bloom until at least the second year.

So even though Horn seeded more than 30 different species in 2005, she is still waiting patiently to see some of them. This summer, one of her newest finds is a plant named guarra, whose flower she said "looks like little butterflies when it opens." This year she also made her first identification of an unusual legume called round-headed bush clover.

"It's like the Discovery channel," she said of the surprises.

#### Maintenance required

People often wrongly assume that prairie plants require highly fertile soil because of their association with the deep soils of the Midwest and Great Plains. But those rich soils are the result of prairie, not the cause, and prairie plants do fine in poor soils – and are actually the most effective way to restore depleted soils, Powers said.

A well-established prairie or meadow is far less energy intensive than other human-managed landscapes, as it doesn't need to be mowed or fertilized. But that doesn't mean a newly planted meadow is a low-maintenance landscape.

In the early stages of her meadow, Horn devoted a lot of time to clipping or pulling out cer-

tain unwanted plants, like Canada goldenrod, a native species that colonizes large expanses if left unchecked. She is intentionally growing several less common goldenrods.

She does a controlled burn in the spring to rejuvenate the plants and discourage fire-susceptible weeds, and she continues to do some weeding. The plants tolerate light feeding by deer and rabbits.

When Powers started her first prairie 35 years ago, she also spent countless hours clipping out weeds. After getting them under control, it only took an afternoon a year to burn the area.

In her Michigan prairie and her Spencertown meadow, Horn relied on Roundup, the widely used, broad-spectrum herbicide made by Monsanto, as an aide in making her pre-planting tabula rasa. Although she views most other uses of the herbicide as "short-sighted," Horn makes an exception for this purpose – "when the outcome is so wonderful and you're using it once, strategically."

Glyphosate, the weed-killer in Roundup, has long been touted as virtually nontoxic to animals. But critics cite laboratory studies that have linked exposure to genetic damage to human cells and

## Destination: WILLIAMSTOWN, MA

"Dance" 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, Sept. 25 & 26, at '62 Center

Lucinda Childs' signature work performed by nine dancers under her direction

Open Tues- Wed 6:30 AM- 2:00 PM  
Thurs-Fri, Sat. 6:30 AM- 8:00 PM  
Sunday 7:00 AM- 3:00 PM  
Mondays- Closed




**The Chef's Hat**

Serving the best breakfast around.  
Lunch and now dinner (breakfast all day).

**Turnip available every day**

**905 Simonds Road • Route 7  
Williamstown, Ma • 413-458-5120**



130 Water Street  
Williamstown, Mass, 01267  
Tel. 413-458-8445

Outdoor Gear & Clothing  
for the Berkshires

Bicycle Sales, Rentals  
and Repairs

*In the Beautiful Berkshires*



Open Year Round  
Major Credit Cards  
Wi-Fi

Route 7, Williamstown  
Massachusetts 01267  
**413-458-8006**  
Fax 413-458-0237  
Ray & Midge Regnaiere  
ccmotel@aol.com  
www.cozycornermotel.com

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

9/13 - 9/17 • "(500) Days of Summer," romantic comedy • Images • See Calendar for times each day

9/16 • Exeter College Chapel Choir • 7:30 pm  
• Thompson Chapel, Williams

9/18 • Williams Chamber Players • 8 pm • Brooks-Rogers, Williams

9/19 • Woofstock 2009 – Berkshire Humane Society's annual dog walk event (See Calendar for details)

9/22 • Karrin Allyson • 8 pm • Chapin Hall, Williams

9/22 • Wilderness explorer, photographer and author Tom Reed • 7 pm • at The Mountain Goat, 130 Water St., Williamstown, MA • more info in Calendar or 413-458-8445

9/25 • "Cinema Salon Film Club at the Clark" introductory meeting • 4 pm • Clark

9/25 & 9/26 • Lucinda Childs' signature work "Dance" performed by nine dancers under her direction • 8 pm • Williams ('62 Center) • more in Calendar

9/27 • lecture by Jay A. Clarke "Questioning Munch's Madness" • 3 pm • Clark

9/30 • lecture "Fakes and Forgeries: The Art of Deception" by forensic paper historian Peter Bower • 7 pm • Clark

*More than a deli*  
Dinner items To Go  
House smoked fresh Shetland organic salmon  
Catering



60 Spring St.  
Williamstown, MA 01267  
Phone: 413-458-1360  
Fax: 413-458-1361  
HelensPlace@msn.com

Flowers for every occasion  
Wedding Specialists



**Mount Williams Greenhouses, Inc.**  
1090 State Road  
North Adams, MA 01247

(413) 663-8665 Fax: (413) 664-6957  
(413) 662-2210 E-mail: mtwilliams01247@yahoo.com  
1-800-339-0269 www.mtwilliamsgreenhouses.com

*Come see our 11 greenhouses!  
Open year round*

Fine Asian Cuisine

Japanese, Chinese & Korean Cuisine  
Featuring Authentic Sushi Bar



**Chopsticks**

412 MAIN STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN, MA 01267

TEL. 413.458.5750  
FAX. 413.458.1075

Mon ~ Thurs 10:30am ~ 10:30 pm  
Fri & Sat 10:30 am ~ 11:00 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am ~ 10:30 pm

**PANDORA™**  
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS





...MAKE THEM  
UNFORGETTABLE

**Open Daily**  
10 am - 6 pm  
Sun 12 - 5 pm

**413-458-4305**  
24 Water Street  
Williamstown, MA

**Free gift wrapping**

www.amyscottage.com



to the immune systems of fish. Studies also have found an association between glyphosphate exposure and an increased risk of the cancer, miscarriage and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Although Powers recommended the herbicide as an initial shortcut in ecological restoration work, she acknowledged that the same end could be achieved with tillage. She planted her first prairie on land that her husband had tilled three or four times annually for two years.

Around her home, Horn has been removing the 70 rosebushes and other ornamentals she inherited from the property’s previous owners. It took all summer to dig out the perennials, which she gave away to friends.

Because grasses, in their enormous variety, belong to Horn’s favorite plant family, she has planted plugs of them in the beds in front of her house. Although they look exotic, the ones she put in are actually distinctive natives with names like prairie drop seed and purple love grass.

Horn said she wants to encourage others to take a section of their property and plant a native meadow for habitat and beauty.



The wildflowers outside Horn’s home in Spencertown provide an ever-changing summer scene in place of the monotony of a lawn.

Tracy Frisch photo



# Desperados

Fresh mexican grille  
Colonial plaza, williamstown 458-2100

**Monday night specials**  
40 cent buffalo wings (10 wing minimum)  
\$4.25 Cheese nachos    \$5.50 Designer nachos

**Tuesday night specials**  
All you can eat tacos \$10.95  
/all you can eat burritos & enchiladas \$11.95

**Wednesday night specials**  
Buy 1 'rito, get 1 half price!!!

*Entire menu available for take-out*  
Lunch: thu-fri-sat    Dinner: 7 nights from 4 pm

*"Quaint country décor, Quiet atmosphere, Friendly hospitality and spotless rooms in the Heart of Williamstown"*

## Willows Motel

Walk to Williams College, Restaurants, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. Close to Mass MoCA, Clark Art Institute, and many more local attractions.

Enjoy the comforts of home at the Willows Motel; spotless rooms and apartments, free wireless internet, heated outdoor pool, warm country decor in a park-like setting, seasonal continental breakfast picnic area, gardens, and free parking.

480 Main Street  
Route 2  
Williamstown, MA  
413-458-5768  
www.willowsmotel.com

## SPICEROOT

MODERN INDIAN CUISINE

23 Spring Street, Williamstown MA 01267  
413-458-5200  
www.spiceroot.com

**FALL SPECIAL**  
DINNER FOR TWO + 1 NIGHT STAY  
\$119.00  
*Some restrictions may apply*

### WILLIAMSTOWN MOTEL

295 Main Street • Route 2  
Williamstown MA 01267  
413-458-5202  
www.williamstownmotel.com

## Encounter MANIFESTOS

★ **NOW ON VIEW**

The Founding Documents of the United States

**FREE ADMISSION**

★ Main Street (Route 2)  
Williamstown, Mass.  
www.wcma.org

### WILLIAMS COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

## GETTING TO WILLIAMSTOWN

- from Bennington 20 minutes
- from Cambridge 45 minutes
- from Glens Falls 1 hour, 45 minutes
- from Great Barrington 1 hour
- from Hudson 1 hour 10 minutes
- from Manchester 45 minutes
- from Pittsfield 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs 1 hour, 30 minutes

*See map on page 13*

# '62 CTD

'62 CENTER FOR THEATRE AND DANCE

## SEPTEMBER

- **SCREENING: LUCINDA CHILDS**  
SEP 21 @ 7:00PM | IMAGES CINEMA
- **MASTER CLASS: LUCINDA CHILDS**  
SEP 24 @ 4:00PM | DANCE STUDIO
- **LUCINDA CHILDS: DANCE**  
SEP 25 & 26 @ 8:00PM | MST
- **SCREENING: EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH: THE CHANGING IMAGE OF OPERA**  
SEP 28 @ 7:00PM | IMAGES CINEMA

## OCTOBER

- **BILL LOWE-ANDY JAFFE REPERTORY BIG BAND**  
OCT 9 @ 8:00PM | AMT
- **JAMES FALLOWS LECTURE - CHINA RISING**  
OCT 14 @ 8:00PM | MST
- **KENNEDY'S CHILDREN**  
OCT 15 & 16 @ 7:30PM  
OCT 17 @ 2:30 & 7:30PM | CST
- **BERKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
OCT 16 @ 8:00PM | MST

MST = MAINSTAGE  
AMT = ADAMS MEMORIAL THEATRE  
CST = CENTERSTAGE

- WilliamsTheatre Production
- Department of Dance Production
- CenterSeries Production
- CenterSeries Integrated Programming

Box Office 413.597.2425  
62center.williams.edu

2009-2010