



# The Lorenzo

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2019  
Vol 21., No. 2

From the President

## Looking Back at the Summer's Events and Ahead to a Festive Holiday Season

by Nancy Weiskotten

As the days become shorter and summer fades into fall, the Friends of Lorenzo start planning our last event of the year, "Christmas Preview Party." This event is one of the most beautiful events of all and brings us the spirit of Christmas, with joy and celebration. Before we talk about Preview Party, let's review what a wonderful year we have all had because of your membership, generous donations, Lorenzo staff, and the Friends of Lorenzo board.

In June, we started the spring and summer season with "Garden Gala." Cazenovia had a very wet spring that delayed the opening of some of the glorious peonies in the Ellen Shipman-designed garden, but just enough peonies and spring flowers were open and we had a lovely Friday night, with drinks and delicious hors d'oeuvres from the Lincklaen House and Wegmans. We enjoyed music by the Cazenovia High School String Ensemble followed by a performance by vocalist Joan Stoker. There were also tours of the Mansion, but the hit of the night, as always, was 'Who was going to win the dinner raffle for eight?' This year it was John Hunter and Bob Winston. Their dinner will be catered by Emily Prial.

Lisa Kelleher headed the weeklong "Lorenzo Kids Camp at Rippleton Schoolhouse" in July. Twelve students, ages 7-10, were treated to unique adventures exploring life in the 1800's through art, nature, and science. The Friends of Lorenzo

board and the children are very lucky to have Lisa as their instructor.

In July we had the very successful "Taste of Madison County" event. With your support and the generous donations from our sponsors, we were fortunate to have 300 people in attendance who enjoyed the large variety of food and drink samples from 23 vendors, a wine pull, a golf chipping contest, and music by Mike Powell. We were lucky to have beautiful weather and the Friends of Lorenzo board very much enjoyed putting on an event to introduce the many different dining options in Madison County that you may not have otherwise known about. With this year's success, the Friends of Lorenzo board hopes to make "Taste of Madison County" an annual event.

As beautiful as the weather was in July for "Taste of Madison County," it turned very cold in August for "Movie on the Lawn" with food from Stockyard BBQ, Not Your Mama's Kitchen, Gilligan's Ice Cream and popcorn from the Cazenovia Middle School PTA. Although it was a chilly night, wearing jackets and sitting under blankets, we had a good time together for this free movie presentation. Let's hope next year the weather is much warmer for us to enjoy "Movie on the Lawn."

During the summer, Lorenzo State Historic Site hosted and helped present "EuroCar 2019," the 44<sup>th</sup> "CAVAC Arts and Crafts Fair," the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Lorenzo Driving Competition" and, on Oct. 12, a celebration of trees honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the planting of the Black

(continues on page 2)



### Taste of Madison County 2019 was a huge success!

*Special thanks to the participating vendors:*

Empire Farm Brewery  
Critz Farms  
Madison County Distillery  
SkyTop Coffee Company  
The Brewster Inn  
Casatinas Restaurant  
Colgate Inn  
Lincklaen House  
7 Trees Dairy Goats  
Nelson Farms Country Store  
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## From the President Looking Back at the Summer's Events and Ahead to a Festive Holiday Season

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Locust that stands at the southeast corner of the mansion. While each of these events felt the impact of a rainy year, they were all successful and will continue as Lorenzo traditions.

In September, Friends of Lorenzo held the annual "Community Day at Rippleton Schoolhouse." Free to kids of all ages, many families enjoyed playing historic games, listening to live music from Salt Potatoes, partaking in fall-themed crafts, and sitting in on classroom activities led by volunteer school marm Sally Ryan. The wagon rides provided by Lamplit Farm were a favorite and children were able to decorate pumpkins from Critz Farms and enjoy refreshments donated by Tops Markets. Although there were light showers at the end of the day, all the many children left smiling proudly with their beautifully decorated pumpkins and other crafts in hand.

With another year coming to an end, we are busily planning for "Christmas Preview Party." Hosted by the Friends of Lorenzo board, members and their guests are invited to attend an evening of drinks and hors d'oeuvres, with Christmas music by the Cazenovia Chamber Choir, in the beautifully decorated Mansion. We will again have a raffle for a private Christmas Cocktail Party at Lorenzo for 20. I hope you will join us on Dec. 4, to start your holiday season off right. This year's theme is "A Candy Land Christmas"

and the Mansion will be decorated by volunteers giving hours of their time to make every room a spectacular delight to see. After the Preview Party comes Lorenzo's Christmas Celebration, from December 12-15, along with holiday themed tours from Dec. 10-13. For information on the Cocktail Party raffle and the events of the holiday season, check [www.friendsoflorenzo.org](http://www.friendsoflorenzo.org).

Thank you for being a Friends of Lorenzo member and participating in and supporting the various events and activities offered at the site each year. Without you we would not be able to offer all these wonderful events and activities that help bring our community together. I also must acknowledge the staff of Lorenzo for their hard work and support assisting us with our events and activities. Finally, I want to thank the members of the Friends of Lorenzo board for their hard work and dedication in bringing these enjoyable events to you and our community. Without the dedication of the volunteer Friends of Lorenzo board, none of it would be possible.

Enjoy the holidays with friends and family! Once again, thank you for your membership, and we look forward to seeing you at our Christmas festivities and throughout 2020.



### Please consider joining the Friends of Lorenzo Board of Trustees!

### Help us in our preservation efforts.

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## From the Historic Site Manager **Celebrating our Historic Trees**

by Michael Roets

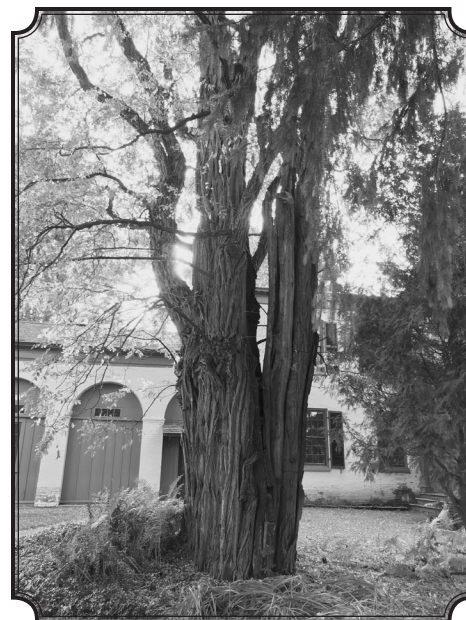
As the hills surrounding Lorenzo become ablaze in color, we are urged to think about the trees that put on this amazing show each fall. It is universally understood that trees are essential to our own existence in that they provide us with the oxygen we breathe, fruit, nuts, and sap for our medicine and food, a fuel source for our heat, and the primary material used in the manufacture of our tools, furniture, and shelters. Additionally, trees are appreciated for their aesthetic value, planted strategically for their shape and color to be appreciated, and for their ability to provide shade and to block wind.

At Lorenzo we have no shortage of trees, and while the focus of our tours and interpretation is on the architecture and decorative arts, we are also aware of the contribution that our trees provide to the feeling of the site's historic authenticity. For this reason, we have a long history of caring for the trees and taking extra measures to protect and extend the lives of our most important specimens. We try to preserve our trees just as we do our buildings and collections; but the trees pose a different challenge in that they are living resources that continue to grow and change through time and that, no matter what we do, they eventually deteriorate and die. Some trees will lose the characteristics that contributed to the

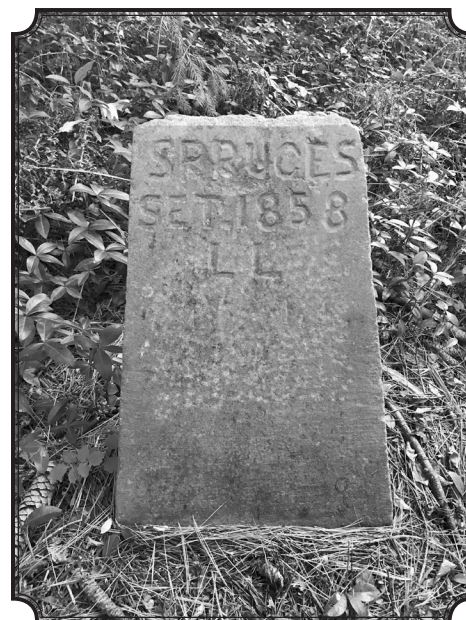
historic landscape long before they die, and will have to be removed and replaced.

This year at Lorenzo we celebrated the anniversary of our Black Locust tree that was planted 200 years ago, at the southeast corner of the mansion. In this case, the tree was planted to commemorate the wedding of Jonathan Denise Ledyard – brother-in-law of John Lincklaen – to Jane Strawbridge, so with its preservation we are also preserving an important event. As a part of this celebration we were able to give out 50 saplings to visitors and we also planted three trees in the historic “Dark Aisle.”

The “Dark Aisle” is a very significant feature of Lorenzo’s historic landscape consisting of a grove of evergreen trees that encloses the formal and vegetable gardens. The grove provides a wind break to the south and west of the garden and contains historic paths offering visitors a peaceful setting for a walk. The historic plantings here are well documented with stone monuments that specify the types of trees, the year they were planted, and by whom. This area has been a focus of restoration efforts over the past year and the planting of these three trees, along with other work, will ensure that this area maintains its historic character for future visitors to continue to enjoy.



*Black Locust planted 200 years ago*



*Stone Monument from 1858 planting in the “Dark Aisle” by Ledyard Lincklaen*



*Lorenzo site staff Kevin Chick planting a new tree in the “Dark Aisle”*





## Significant Historic Trees of Lorenzo

by Jackie Roshia, Interpretive Program Assistant

### Tamarack or Larch

The east meadow at Lorenzo is bordered by Route 20 to the north, the parking lot and Gift Shop to the south, and Mansion to the west. Through the years that the Lincklaen/Ledyard families lived here, it has been used both for crops and grazing. There were known to have been several species of trees, including tamarack or larch, seen here to the right in this circa 1890-1900 photograph. These trees are the only conifers to lose their needles each fall after turning bright yellow. As they can live up to 180 years, the tamarack currently in the east meadow could be one from this earlier time period.



*Lorenzo's remaining tamarack.*



### President Grover Cleveland's Tree

This towering white pine can be found along the path in the grove of trees to the west of the Mansion's front lawn. Lorenzo resident Charles Fairchild served as Secretary of the Treasury for President Cleveland in the 1880s. The President and his wife visited Cazenovia and stayed at Lorenzo with the Fairchilds on July 18 and 19, 1887. According to a note written by Lorenzo's third owner, Helen Lincklaen Fairchild, the white pine was "planted by President Cleveland first in the garden, then necessarily removed for more space to the West side of the West Drive...It may be known by a stone at its base...marked with the President's initials."



*President Grover Cleveland's Tree and the stone marker at its base.*





## Norway Spruce

This tree was planted on the front lawn of Lorenzo by second owner Ledyard Lincklaen in 1845 to commemorate the birth of his daughter, Helen Lincklaen Fairchild. In the past, the top has been damaged by lightning and so, with support from the Friends of Lorenzo, lightning protection has been installed. The Norway spruce can be seen to the left in this 1858 sketch by Ledyard Lincklaen and to the right in Dwight Williams Jr.'s 1884 view of Cazenovia Lake.



## Tulip Poplar

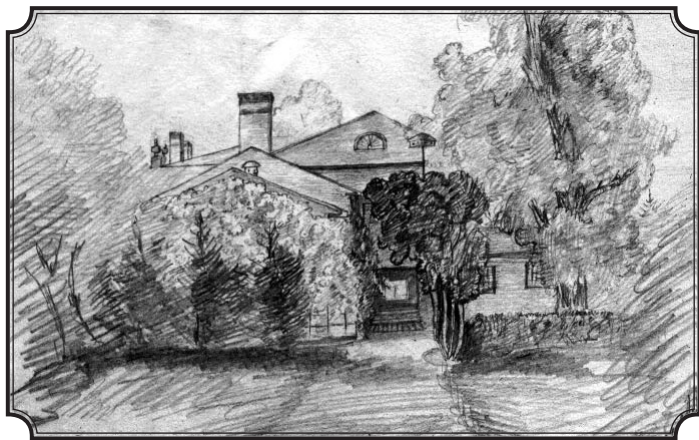
Second owner Ledyard Lincklaen planted a tulip poplar near the center of Lorenzo's front lawn around 1860. In 1915, it was lost in a storm and replaced around 1920 with a second tulip poplar which was a gift to Helen Lincklaen Fairchild from her cousin. The second tree was removed during the 1940s. In June 1981, the current tree was planted in the approximate location of the original in memory of R. James Hubbard by friends and associates of the Central New York Parks Commission. Mr. Hubbard was a descendant of the Ledyard family and a member of the Parks Commission.



*Original tulip poplar in left foreground, circa 1880*



*Current tulip poplar, left, June 2012*



## Black Locust Tree

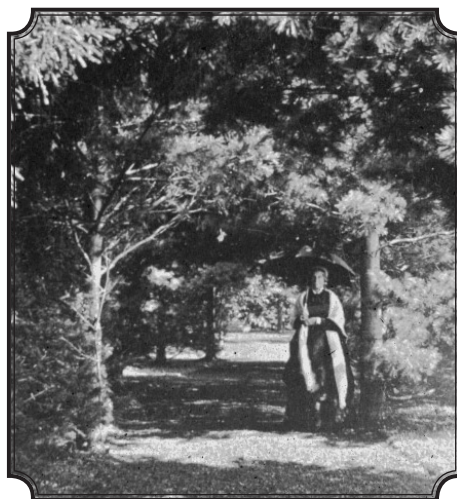
The black locust tree which stands by the back door of Lorenzo, was planted to commemorate the Oct. 26, 1819 wedding of Jonathan Denise Ledyard, brother-in-law of John Lincklaen, to Jane Strawbridge. According to family tradition, following their wedding near Philadelphia, PA, the couple brought the tree with them to Lorenzo. It can be seen in the right background of this Sept. 27, 1865 sketch by George S. Ledyard, and at the center of the circa 1897 photograph.



## Dark Aisle

Ledyard Lincklaen's sketch, dated October 30, 1853 shows a view from the south fields into Lorenzo's formal garden. In 1854, Lincklaen began the creation of a garden enclosure, today known as the Dark Aisle, to separate the garden from the agricultural fields to the south and west. His plantings included white pines, Norway spruces, Scotch pines, hemlocks, and cedars. Ledyard Lincklaen placed two markers in the Dark Aisle to note the dates of his plantings and initialed them with his "LL" monogram. Following his death in 1864, his wife, Helen Clarissa, continued to add to the plantings in the enclosure and opened the paths through it in 1867. Subsequent residents of Lorenzo continued to maintain and add new trees and ground cover plants to the Dark Aisle.

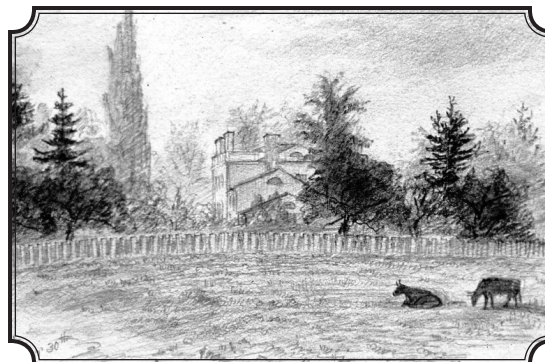
Today the Syracuse Garden Club and Lorenzo staff continue the curation of this section of the historic landscape with projects that include maintenance of paths, removal of invasive plants and replanting of trees lost due to storm damage and time.



*Helen Clarissa Seymour Lincklaen in the south section of the Dark Aisle, c. 1880*



*Looking south through the west section of the Dark Aisle, c. 1900.*



*Ledyard Lincklaen sketch, dated October 30, 1853*







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# *A Candy Land Christmas*

**Wednesday, December 4, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

The Friends of Lorenzo Christmas Preview Party

Enjoy food, drinks, music, raffles, beautiful decorations, and festive attire!

\$25 Members \* \$35 Not-Yet-Members \* \$50 Patrons

tickets online at: [www.friendsoflorenzo.org](http://www.friendsoflorenzo.org) or call (315) 440-2727

**Thursday & Friday, December 12 & 13, 7 – 9 PM**

**Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15, 1 – 4 PM**

Holiday Celebration with refreshments, live music, and sleigh rides!

**Tuesday – Friday, December 10 – 13, 1 – 4 PM**

Guided Tours of the decorated mansion

ADMISSION: \$6 per person; \$2 children 12 and under

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