

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS



A NEW AMENITY IN THE EDIBLE FOREST



Just completed this fall by Master Builder Dick Edgar and his crew is the "Hobbit House," a 20 foot wide octagonal building with an accessible cupola affording an aerial view of the garden. This unique shelter will be used for tours in inclement weather, workshops, power point presentations, benefit events and other yet unthought of activities.

REPLENISHED HOUSING TO INVITE THE BIRDS





Earlier this month we refurbished the bird houses scattered around the edible forest. We cleaned out last year's nests and placed a bed of inviting wood shavings on the floor of each birdhouse to prepare them for new residents this spring. It is important to perform this task just after New Years because chickadees search for nesting sites during warm winter days as early as late January and February.

PLANT PROTECTION TO DETER WILD CRITTERS



Winter is a time when green food is scarce so critters like mice, voles, rabbits and deer will dine on dormant fruit tree and berry bush bark and branches. To protect these valuable plants, Dani places protective metal guards around them. Upper left is a cylinder of hardware cloth to protect a fruit tree trunk from rodent girdling. . Upper right is a wrap of metal window screening to guard the stems of a berry bush. And lower left is an upside-down tomato cage wrapped with chicken wire to protect an entire seedling tree from deer predation. Lower right is telltale evidence of a bunny having eaten the tops of unprotected raspberry canes.



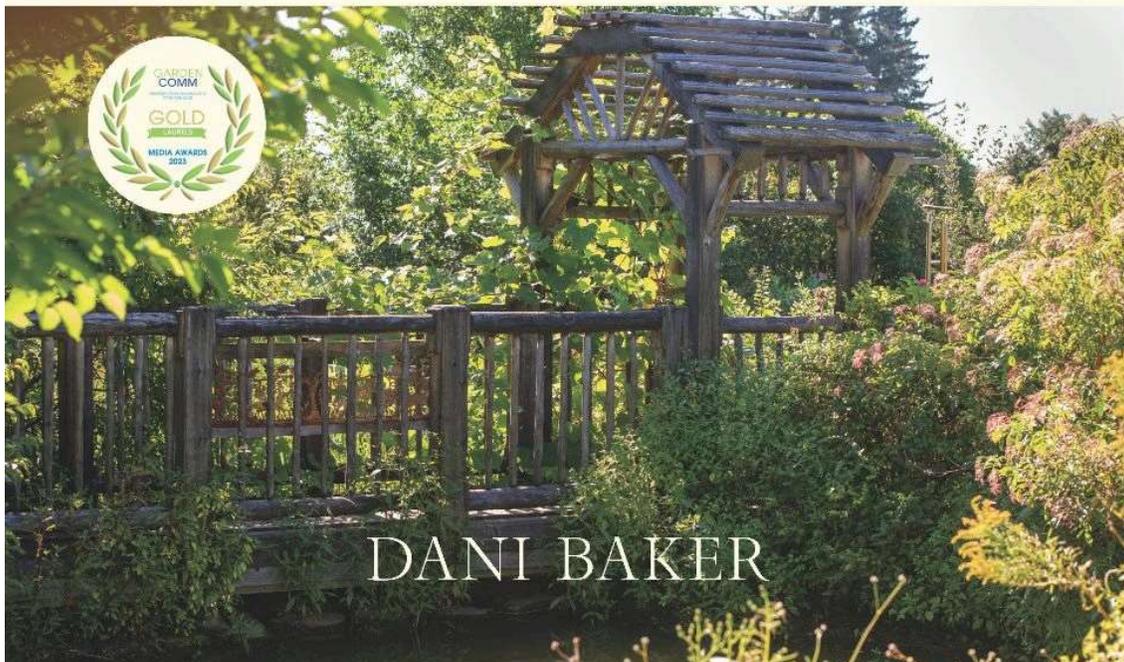
Garlic Chives are attractive even in winter as snow collects atop their decorative seedheads.

NEWS ABOUT DANI'S BOOK



THE HOME-SCALE FOREST GARDEN

How to Plan, Plant, and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape



Sales of the award-winning *Home-Scale Forest Garden* have gone so well that it is already in its second printing! It is available for purchase at numerous online venues.

WHEN AND WHERE IS DANI SPEAKING



Pictured above Dani is addressing attendees at the Virginia Association for Biological Farming Summit in Roanoke, Virginia earlier this month

Scheduled speaking engagements going forward include:

Off-site: Hosting Beneficial Creatures on Your Property

Saturday, February 10, 2024 | 11:00 am - Noon

In-person at Depauville Free Library

depauvillefreelibrary.org

Off-site: Native Perennial Food Plants for Pollinators and People

Saturday, February 17, 2024

NOFA/VT Winter Conference

University of Vermont | Burlington, VT

[Click Here for more Information about this event.](#)

Off-site: What is a Forest Garden and How Can You Create One?

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 | 9:00 am - 10:15

The Piedmont Landscape Association Seminar

Charlottesville, Virginia

www.piedmontlandscape.org/seminar

2024 NYS IPM Annual Conference - Fruit IPM for the Home Garden and Landscape

June 27 at the Cornell Cooperative Albany Office

24 Martin Rd, Voorheesville, NY 12186

STAY WARM AND ENJOY THIS WINTER SEASON

Dani Baker

Owner [Cross Island Farms](#) | Creator [The Enchanted Edible Forest](#) | Author [The Home-Scale Forest Garden: How to Plan, Plant and Tend a Resilient Edible Landscape](#)

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