

## HAPPY SPRING FROM CROSS ISLAND FARMS



### WHERE ARE SIGNS OF SPRING



Spring has arrived! Despite the current wintry weather, signs of the season are abundant in the Enchanted Edible Forest. Catkins on Hazelburt trees (pollinated by wind) are elongating and filling with pollen; crocuses are

small, slow-growing trees related to dogwoods which bear tasty, tart, edible cherries in August,

## WHAT'S GROWING UNDER LIGHTS





Late last month Dani planted a flat of annual "rainbow" chard for the vegetable garden and a flat of perennials for the edible forest including (clockwise from upper left): garden sorrel, chives, chamomile and yarrow. The chard can tolerate temperatures down to about 20 degrees and will be transplanted into a garden row once the chance of nights going lower than that has passed. In time, the perennials will be transplanted into individual pots to mature before they are planted out to provide edible groundcover in the enchanted forest.

## WHO'S VOLUNTEERING



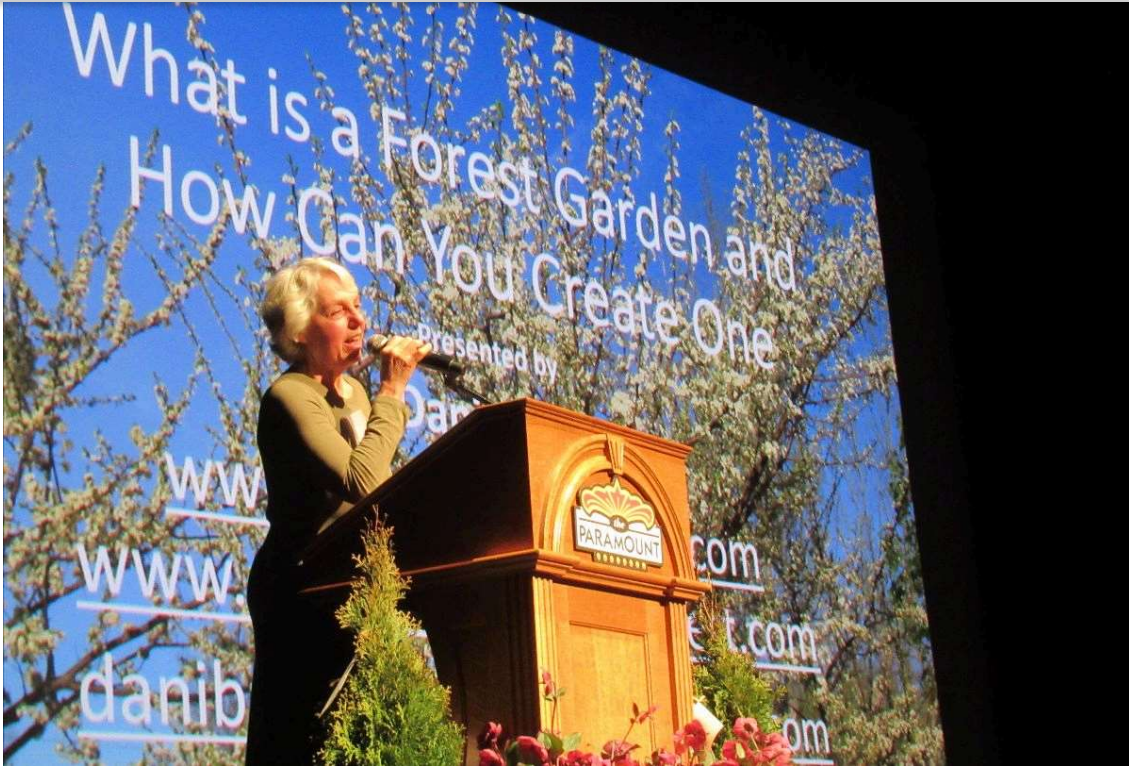
Instead of going to Florida, Freshman Sadie Otten, shown here with yearling goats and Farmer David, decided to take her Spring break during a wintry March week at Cross Island Farms. Sadie is an Environmental Studies major as well as a talented musician who hopes to pursue a career singing operatic arias. She is well on her way as she has already performed in Carnegie Hall! During her week at the farm she pruned raspberries, collected eggs, and herded goats, all while braving cold winds and frequent snow squalls.

## **WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE TV SHOW**



The Home-Scale Forest Garden Show had its first shoot this month to document late winter activities in the Edible Forest.. Here WPBS's production team members Tracy Duflo and Eric Cleary capture Dani in her living room planting perennial herb seeds in a flat. Next, the team moved outdoors to shoot Dani pruning currants and raspberries, frost-seeding clover, planting dormant cuttings, and harvesting (and later cooking) sunchokes. The production team will return several times over this growing season to cover the ecological principles incorporated in the garden as well as seasonal tasks including harvesting perennial herbs, vegetables, berries, fruits and nuts. The eventual six-episode series should be ready for distribution in the Spring of 2025.

## **WHEN AND WHERE IS DANI SPEAKING**



Above, last month Dani spoke at the Piedmont Landscape Association Seminar in Charlottesville, Virginia. Scheduled speaking engagements going forward include:

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**Remote: Podcast with Gabriella Soto-Velez, of the National Center for Appropriate Technology**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

[ATTRA - Voices from the Field on Apple Podcasts](#)

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**Remote: Native Perennial Food Plants for your Edible Landscape**

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.- 7:45 p.m.

**The NOFA/NH Garden Series**

[Organic Gardening Series | nofanh](#)

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**On-Site: Garden Conservancy Open Day  
in the**

**Enchanted Edible Forest Garden**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**to register go to**

[Jefferson County, NY Open Day :: Events : The Garden Conservancy](#)

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## Ontario Bay Initiative and Lyme Garden Club

Sunday, June 9 2024 1 p.m. till?

To register go to:

[Events - OBI - An Eastern Lake Ontario Conservancy \(obilandtrust.org\)](https://www.obilandtrust.org)

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## Off-Site: Native Perennial Food Plants for Pollinators and People KEYNOTE SPEAKER at 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

<https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management/outreach-education/events/annual-conference>

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## Off-Site: Native FoodPlants for Pollinators and People for TILT's Annual Birkhead Lecture

Zenda Farms, Clayton, NY 13624

<https://tilandtrust.org>

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## ENJOY DISCOVERING SIGNS OF SPRING NEAR YOU

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Dani Baker

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