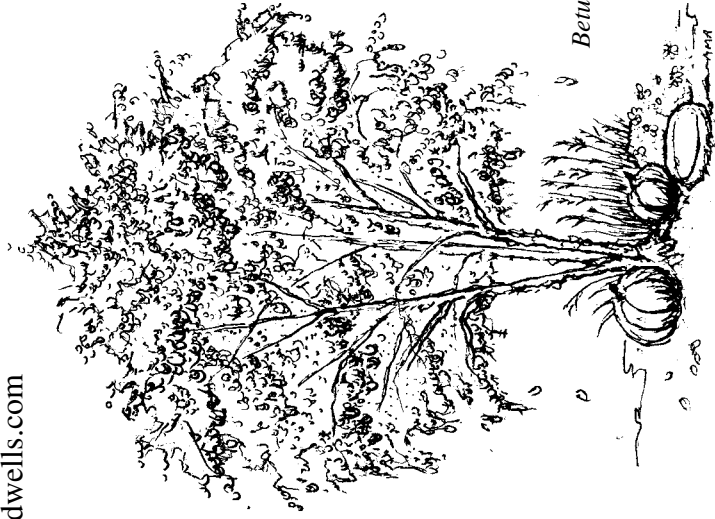


W.D. Wells & Associates, Inc.

Design/Build Landscape Contractors and Professional Garden Care
190 Woodcrest Road, West Grove, PA 19390
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Fall '06 Semiannual Newsletter



Death, Taxes, Weeds & Slime Mold

Death, taxes, weeds and slime mold - what do they all have in common? They are all inevitable!! This has been a great season for both weeds and that ugly slime mold a.k.a.'Dog Vomit'! We have had many customers call with concerns and questions on both of these phenomena. The hot, and what has turned out to be rainy summer, have led to stimulated growth of both these pests.

Weeds require constant attention or they will get ahead of you. A little daily control keeps this from becoming an overwhelming task. The moment a planting bed is cleaned out or created, new weed seeds are invading, carried by the wind, birds, the lawn mower that shoots grass into the bed and other deceptive means. **WHAT TO DO?** Keep a good mulch cover in beds, apply Preen or other pre-emergence products to reduce germination and do a little daily weeding. We follow these practices in our installations and maintenance.

Slime mold, in its many versions (700 varieties have been identified thus far) is a natural occurrence in all wood-based mulch regardless of source. Experts tell us that this is not harmful, just unsightly and will decline with drier conditions. Keeping the mulch fluffed up and reducing watering of beds will help to minimize this. For more information Google "Slime mold mulch". The bottom line, as I am reminded daily by my own gardens, is that both weeds and slime mold are part of the summer landscape despite anyone's best effort.

With the arrival of fall and cooler temperature, conditions are now ideal for planting. Our talented staff will help you create and maintain your "Oasis at Home".

Thank you,
Bill H. Wells, President

**FALL IS FOR
PLANTING**



Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) Revels In Southeastern PA

The week of July 17, 2006 brought as many as 152 landscape designers and allied professionals from the United States and the United Kingdom to Philadelphia for a jam-packed week of garden tours, lectures and workshops.

Two busloads of attendees departed for Bucks County early on Monday morning, visiting the home and garden of noted landscape photographer, Derek Fell. Mr. Fell greeted the eager group, undaunted by temperatures inching towards 100 degrees Fahrenheit. After roaming the 5 acres of tended borders and naturalized meadows, the gang of camera-toting designers explored no fewer than four other private gardens in the region, in addition to the Mercer Tile Works and culminating in a relaxing dinner along the Delaware River in the Bohemian town of New Hope (which recovered nicely from the savage flooding less than two weeks earlier!).

Tuesday introduced the contingent to Chestnut Hill, where stately walled manors revealed charming perennial beds, playful water features and carefully manicured lawns. Lunch was served al fresco at the Morris Arboretum where background of its evolution was explained by its director, Paul Meyer and their lead landscape architect, Carol Franklin of Andropogon Associates. Ltd. A reception of cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres awaited at the Penn's Landing hotel where the group convened in air-conditioned comfort to chat about the sights of the day and wonder about the explorations of tomorrow.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent primarily in the hotel with lectures by notable professionals such as landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy (co-author of the book "Outside the Not-So-Big House"), international water garden designer Anthony Archer-Wills and Longwood Gardens' Planning and Design Specialist, Tres Fromme. An outdoor excursion to the hidden gardens of Society Hill allowed the attendees to visit 19 private homes throughout the neighborhood. The walking tour proved a welcome change of pace to the coaches of the first two days and charged everyone with some fresh (albeit humid) air and sunshine.

The last day of the main conference, Friday, began in the college town of Swarthmore and weaved its way northward to the Main Line, home to some of the region's most distinguished citizens and lavish gardens. However, none could be more lavish than Chanticleer, the recently-public garden that hosted the farewell dinner. While noshing on classic picnic fare of corn on the cob and bar-

bequed chicken and sipping cool glasses of chardonnay, the exhausted travelers were reinvigorated by this sublime horticultural and architectural masterpiece that is arguably the finest pleasure garden on the east coast.

With the sun setting, the group loaded on the coaches to return to the hotel. Most packed up for early morning flights home, while an intrepid 85 remained for one more excursion; the post-conference tour of the Brandywine Valley.

The bounty of the area unfolded on Saturday in Wilmington at Gibraltar and Goodstay Gardens and meandered through Greenville, Centreville, Montchannin and Kennett Square with private gardens graciously opened by the owners. The crowning glory of the event was a behind-the-scenes tour of Longwood Gardens, followed by dinner and a dramatic light, music and fireworks display in the Main Fountain Garden.

Delightfully spent and overwhelmed with ideas, the contingent mounted their familiar coaches one last time, bound for home, ready for some rest and thinking about the future. The next conference is in Pasadena, California and only eight months away!



Feature Award:

Congratulations to W. D. Wells & Associates, Inc./Water Crest Farms Nursery located in West Grove, PA on being selected as a winner of the **2006 Green Power: Turn It On!** Award from Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (**PennFuture**). The award is in recognition of purchasing 100 percent wind generated electrical power. They will be accepting this award on September 21, 2006 at a ceremony held at The Hilton Inn at University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia.

The **PennFuture** awards recognize individuals and organizations each year for their work on promoting clean, renewable energy in the Mid-Atlantic region. W. D. Wells & Associates, Inc./Water Crest Farms Nursery is committed to being an environmental leader. Along with using wind generated power, they also use Bio-Diesel in their fleet of landscape trucks and farm equipment.

W. D. Wells & Associates, Inc./Water Crest Farms Nursery thanks the **PennFuture** program and invites everyone to consider using wind generated electrical power for home or business and using clean renewable energy sources for home heating and vehicles.

Jim Donohoe - (AKA Cheesewhiz)
Appalachian Trail Hike Update #2



Mt. Katahdin, Maine



Jim has made incredible progress on his thru hike of the Appalachian Trail! At the time of writing this update Jim is in New York State and on his way to reach Connecticut by the 1st of August. His present goal is to reach the northern terminus of the trail at Mt. Katahdin, Maine by the end of September. Mt Katahdin is in Baxter State Park, a very large wilderness area of 202,064 acres. The park was a gift to the State of Maine by former Gov. Percival P. Baxter. In 1930, Governor Baxter made his first land purchase of 5,960 acres which included Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine. This land was given to the State in 1931. The final hike up the 5267 ft. summit is a 5.5 mile journey which takes about 12 hours to hike up and return back by dark.

Some recent highlights of Jim's hike were spotting bear and rattlesnakes in New Jersey (of all places)! Jim has met all kinds of fellow AT hikers and made incredible new friendships. Jim writes in his trail journal how even strangers are willing to help out a thru hiker with a meal, a shower or simply a vote of faith! We are very proud of Jim for this accomplishment and continue to support his effort to make it to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

You can view a slide show of Jim's journey at the following link <http://photoshow.comcast.net/ddonohoe62>. and read his trail journal at <http://www.trailjournals.com/cheesewhiz/>.

Go Cheesewhiz!!

Feature Garden—Taub Residence



This garden jumps out at you as soon as you turn into the cul-de-sac. The Taub residence is located in Thorndale, PA. This garden came to life in the spring of 2001. The initial hope was to create a garden that had something happening in it all year long. The use of flowering perennials allows the property to burst with color from May through October.



Some very interesting specimen plants are positioned throughout the landscape to create various points of interest as well as focal points in the garden. Flowering and evergreen shrubs help to provide structure and layers to the site. Sweeps of ornamental grasses and decorative river rock help to add interest to the garden in fall and winter. But wait, because that is not all. In addition to the beautiful plants, the garden also has a handful of garden sculptures and statuary that



can be seen as you move around the area. Landscape lighting is utilized to illuminate the garden by focusing on specific plants and sculptures at night, giving the garden a whole new aura.

It has been a real pleasure to watch this garden develop and grow over the last 5 years. We are grateful to have been able to be part of this project and to help Ms. Taub with her garden.

“ Look Out Heritage— There’s A New Birch in Town”

For the past fifty years or more *Betula nigra* (River Birch) has been a staple in modern American landscapes and gardens. The very popular cultivar *B. nigra* ‘Cully’ or Heritage® River Birch has become a household name. It has been almost exclusively sought out by landscape designers and garden enthusiasts as the multi-stem, medium sized tree, with year round appeal.

Well, look out ‘Cully’ there’s a new birch in town. We would like to introduce you to *Betula nigra* ‘BNMTF’ or Dura Heat® River Birch. Now we don’t have anything against our old friend Heritage. This plant graces some of our own gardens as well as some of yours. But, as with the evolution of all plants and by the grace of modern science, things can always get better! Here’s what these two cousins have in common. Both provide all season interest with beautiful white to cinnamon colored exfoliating, papery bark on the older wood and striking deep chocolate brown bark on the first and second year branches of new growth. Both have great, golden fall color, rounded form, and provide a nice filtered light effect from the sunlight. Here’s what is different between the two. ‘Heritage’ tends to grow a little larger, being recorded up to 40-50 feet tall. ‘Dura Heat’ is slated to grow between 25 and 35 feet tall, with the same fast growth rate as a young plant. ‘Dura Heat’ has slightly smaller, deeper green leaves, which are much thicker and more leathery than those of its relative. The back of the leaf on ‘Dura Heat’ is slightly pubescent and whitish in color, providing a nice two-color display when the wind blows.

This is our third year growing ‘Dura Heat’ here at Water Crest Farms Nursery and we are very impressed with the results. As the name suggests, this plant has and continues to show us much greater drought resistance than its relative during the dry spell last summer and the heat waves of late. In our field production trials of this plant, it has retained its foliage almost fifty percent better than ‘Heritage’ in un-watered field conditions. We have also noticed in side by side plantings, that ‘Dura Heat’ was resistant to Aphid and Leaf Miner infestations that affected ‘Heritage’ two seasons in a row. This may be attributed to the textural differences between the two leaves. With a lot of the things we love about ‘Heritage’ along with a slighter stature and the aforementioned positive attributes, it is an easy decision for us to continue production of ‘Dura Heat’. So when your friendly W. D. Wells and Associates’ designer suggests ‘Dura Heat’ in your next landscape or garden project, you know you’ll be getting a new and improved cultivar of one of your old friends *Betula nigra*.

Best of luck in your next gardening season and remember **Fall is for Planting!**

Fall is the Time to:

- Reinvent your garden; evaluate your successes (and failures). We all have some of both. Is that shrub or tree just too big or failing to thrive? Move it. We can help!
- Was maintenance an issue? If so, consider a “Fall Clean Up” or “Spring Blow Out”. Don’t get behind the “Garden 8 Ball”. With proper pruning, soil amendments and mulching you can get ready for spring now without playing catch-up all season long. Our Professional Gardening Care division is here to help you with those tasks.
- Consider the latest trend from “over the pond”—a winter garden! Attract beneficial, captivating wildlife to your property with seeds, berries and cover for birds. Water is key to our feathered friends—a fountain, spray or stream. We can do it all!
- Amend soil. Soil is key to planting success. Finished compost is available or we can help developing a compost bin – reuse and recycle. Studies show that amending your turf with compost will give excellent results and be the envy of your neighbors without harsh chemicals and less work.
- Add Bulbs! Masses work best. One of landscaping's best value, properly sited and planted bulbs will increase and last for decades. Think *Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter aconite), *Galanthus nivalis* (Snowdrop), *Anemone nemorosa* and a personal favorite *Fritillaria meleagris* (Guinea Hen Flower).
- Just a reminder—be sure that contractors and others working on your property have adequate insurance. If they or one of their employees are injured on your site without proper insurance, the homeowner is responsible.

Don't Eat the Daisies—(Eat the Daylilies)

For centuries, daylilies have been used by the Chinese. They are, in fact, major ingredients in such famous oriental dishes as Mo Shu Pork and Hot and Sour Soup. The flavor of daylily buds and flowers varies with the variety, brighter colors tending to be somewhat spicier. Generally, the buds have been compared in taste to something between green beans and asparagus. Nutritionally, daylily buds and blossoms have about the same protein as spinach, more Vitamin A than green beans and Vitamin C comparable to orange juice. If you are going to eat daylilies as part of your regular diet, the American Hemerocallis Society is an excellent source of information for daylily consumption data and instructions.

Here are a few ways to use daylilies: **Freezing:** Daylily buds freeze as well as any other garden vegetable. Blanch, cool and drain then pack in freezer bags. **Garnish:** Daylilies can be floated on top of punch. They can also be used to enhance the appearance of food displays (competition for that parsley or kale). **Sautéed:** Wash and drain 2 qts. buds. Fry in a skillet with 3 tbsp. butter, 2 tbsp. chopped scallions and a clove of garlic. After five minutes add a teaspoon each of tarragon and parsley. Add salt and pepper to taste then sauté another five minutes. Makes a great hot side dish for six to eight people.

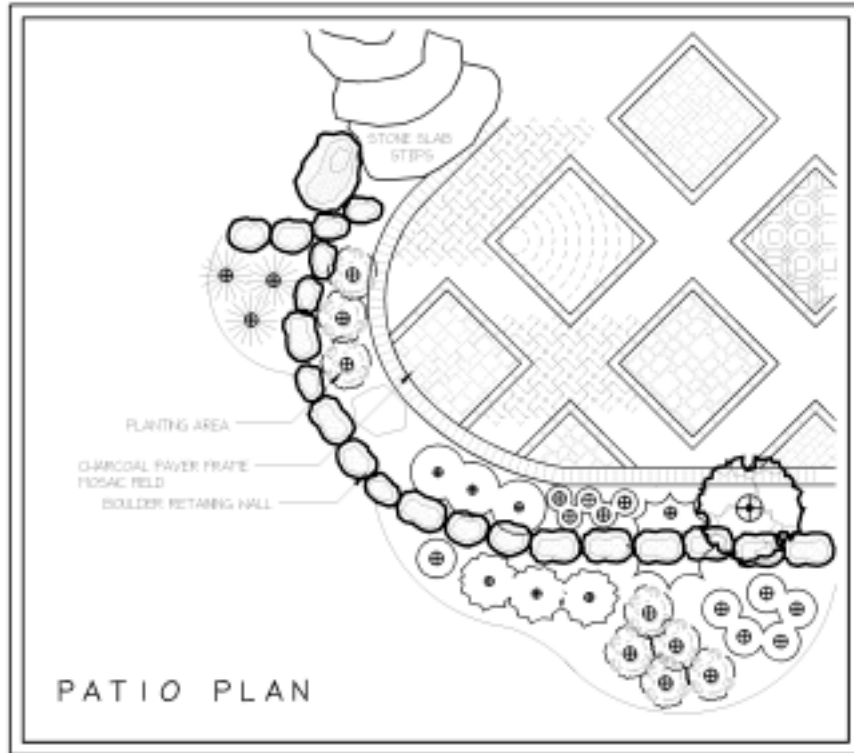
Creative Patio and Pool Planning



Unless you're blessed with the understanding of scale, color, construction methods, plant species, construction costs and design principals, you most likely will need the assistance of a professional landscape designer. You may want to create a small intimate courtyard for two or a natural screen line planting on a 3 acre property. The design process allows individuals to express their desires and seek a creative plan. A client may be intimidated at first, however once the process is complete, it is often a very gratifying and rewarding experience.

Recently I had the privilege of working with clients who needed help with planning for a patio and swimming pool. Initial requests for the patio was a size large enough to entertain family and friends, a small fire pit for evening use, an area designated for two to three outdoor grills and plantings to compliment the outdoor living space. The pool was to be incorporated with the new patio area; however this first phase would not address specific pool details.

The desired patio location was on a south facing slope which stood above a lower pond. Accessibility to the patio location would be through a unique koi



pond and bog, retained and terraced with natural stone boulders, stepping stone slabs, and plants. The clients enjoy a deep appreciation of art, especially mosaic patterns, evident by their unique rear walk composed of varying colors, sizes, shapes and even river jack stone. Building upon this queue, I began to creatively explore how to construct a mosaic patio on a large scale where details, patterns and colors would be valued.

Through several meetings and revisions, we developed a patio plan that would artistically address their desires. I proposed a terraced patio continuing with the same boulders adjacent to the patio. The patio edge would stop 4' short of the boulders to allow for the integration of plants. The plants provide additional color, shade and aroma. The stone slabs leading from the upper koi pond would blend into the patio. The main patio color would be a tan paver, which would compliment the brown boulders. I then choose to designate 5' x 5' square areas in the tan paver field as picture frames for creative paver panels of mosaic patterns, colors and styles. The frames would be called out by using a charcoal color paver, which would also be used to border the entire patio perimeter. The whole patio would be set on a 45 degree rotation which helped to subliminally

direct traffic flow on the patio and would add another creative dimension to the mosaic patio pattern.

We incorporated a lower patio where the homeowners could move the grills from underneath the bedroom deck when needed and return them when not in use. A small concaved fire pit nestled between the boulders was lined with 4" x 4" cobblestone. The pit was situated directly adjacent to the patio and it provides warmth and extended outdoor enjoyment year round. Plants between the patio and boulders had to tolerate and thrive in the super heated location. Plant species used included perovskia, coreopsis, hemerocallis, panicum, cotoneaster, baptisia and hypericum.

The plan and finished project were a huge success. The clients enjoyed the design process and we are now planning the pool layout and design. With the creative support of the clients and continued design process interaction I am sure the end result will be another rousing success!

Rich McGowan, P.C.H.



Do you know where this garden photograph was taken?



The first correct respondent will receive (1) *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley', Boxwood. Please call or email Ruth Ann Gilbert, 610.869.3883 x 18, ragilbert@wdwells.com.



Spring '06 Mystery Garden

Answer: The entrance to The Stopford Family Meadow Maze at Tyler Arboretum in Media, PA.

*Congratulations to the
Winners: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Suto and Mr. Mark Gormel*

Notes From The Nursery

As we are writing our Fall Newsletter, the mid-Atlantic is experiencing a record heat wave. With temperatures nearing triple digits and energy prices at all time highs, it made me think about how trees and shrubs can help conserve energy, provide natural cooling and help the environment.

Properly placed shade trees, shrub masses and evergreen screenings can help shield your home from the baking sun and blustery winter winds. By strategically placing major shade trees on the southern and southwestern sides of your home, you can create a shady area that shields the home from mid and late day sun. Shrub masses can be used to shade walls and air conditioning units for added efficiency. Evergreen screens, 30-40' away from the northwest and north side of your home can substantially affect your winter heating needs. Environmentally, in addition to helping conserve energy, trees help to clean the air we breathe.

Talk with your designer today about some tremendous shade tree and shrub specials we are offering at the nursery for fall and winter planting. There will be considerable savings on many desirable plants. Also, if you have plants that you would like to relocate on your property, fall and winter is an excellent time for transplanting. Your trees will wake up next spring in their new homes. Relocate a plant for increased visibility and appreciation, or give a plant more space to grow. Turn improperly located plants into assets in the landscape. We, at Water Crest Farms Nursery, have the proper equipment to accomplish these moves.

Remember if we all do little things to conserve energy and improve the environment, it can compound into greater effect for our nation and our planet.

Have a great fall!

David V. Wells and the staff at Water Crest Farms Nursery
The nursery division of W. D. Wells and Associates, Inc.



Gardens and Events for Your Fall Enjoyment

Jenkins Arboretum

631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333 / 610-647-8870

Located on the Main Line in Devon, Pennsylvania, Jenkins Arboretum is 46 acres of preserved, botanical gardens. Showcasing native trees, shrubs, rhododendron, azaleas, laurel, blueberries, ferns and wildflowers. **Jenkins Arboretum** features beautiful gardens and natural habitats in an area of Chester County where these are rapidly disappearing.

The arboretum is home to a large array of wildlife such as green herons, foxes, king fishers, red-tail hawks, owls, flying squirrels, turtles, and over 90 identified bird species.

Jenkins Arboretum is one of Eastern Pennsylvania's best kept secrets. Admission is free. The arboretum is open to the public 365 days a year from sunrise to sundown.

Sunday, September 17 at 4:00 P. M. in the Jenkins House Garden there will be an outdoor baroque Renaissance concert conducted by Maestro Valentin Radu. There will be professional singers and musicians in Renaissance costume playing authentic period instruments, including a harpsichord. Free Event!

Please visit their website for a list of events. www.jenkinsarboretum.org

Welkinweir

1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 / 610-469-7543

The former estate of Everett and Grace Rodebaugh, Welkinweir (which means Where the Sky Meets the Water and Green Valleys) was transformed from a declining farm into formal gardens, arboretum and sanctuary. The unique diversity on the estate provides ponds, wetlands, meadows and woodlands all located in a secluded valley. Visitors to **Welkinweir** will be treated to beautiful and unique garden collections every season of the year. Spring offers blossoms of cherries, magnolias, dogwoods, one of a kind rhododendrons, azaleas and daffodils in arboretum collections. Summer highlights include perennials surrounding barn ruins and pristine water lilies located in the Great Pond. In autumn, the estate erupts in a blaze of color with autumn foliage. Winter brings the quiet beauty of dormant plants, interesting colors and textures of evergreens in the Pinetum. Visitors can chose to hike a variety of trails, all of different lengths, and observe many different species of animals and birds in their natural environments. This beautiful hidden secret is located just over the Chester County line in Montgomery County. You can also visit the **Welkinweir** website for more information, maps and a list of events. greenvalleys.org/welkinweir.asp

The grounds are open daily with hours varying seasonally.

Get Lost in a Maze This Fall!

Marlborough Valley Corn Maize

1081 Wawaset Road (Rt. #842), Kennett Square, PA 19348

The **Marlborough Valley Corn Maize** offers a variety of attractions for the whole family. Open mid-September through October 31. Attempt this 8.5-acre maze in the daytime or wait until dark and walk through the Flash Light Maze. If you dare, you can try to make it through Terro Hollow, the haunted version of the maze. Family attractions include farm animals. Join in at the camp fires, play in the Corn Box, shoot the Corn Cannon, attempt the Hay Jump, take a hayride, launch a pumpkin from the Pumpkin Launcher, check out the Goatwalk, pick a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch or try to find your way out of the Mini Mazes. Located on Rt. #842 between Kennett Square and West Chester, **Marlborough Valley Corn Maize** has fun for everyone. Check out their website at www.mvmaze.com or call 610-347-1314 for hours of operation and more information. Ameri-Green Bio Fuels sponsor this year's maze.

Cherry-Crest Farm

150 Cherry Hill Road, Ronks, PA 17572

The Amazing Maize Maze™ 2006 Theme 'Farm Food and Fun'

Located in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch County, this incredible maze is a mind-bending 5 acres with over 2.5 miles of paths, scenic bridges, clues and two Maze Masters. You can attempt this Amazing Maize Maze(tm) in the dark as Flashlight Maze (this is a non-scary maze). For the little ones there is The Courtyard full of fun activities such as a Farm Wagon Tour, two separate Pedal Cart Tracks, Goatwalk, Rope Maze, Sandbox, Farm Animal Center, Rain Room, Bee Hive Observation, Baby Chicks Hatchery, Logic Mazes and a Picnic Area. In The Barnyard you can check out these fun activities - Singing Chicken Show, Obstacle Course, Hay Chute Giant Slide, Hay Tunnel, Hay Jump and Pumpkin Slingshot. Plan to make a day trip and visit this fun family corn maze. Directions, admission & events schedule are available at www.cherrycrestfarm.com or call 717-687-6843.

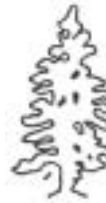
Unionville Community Fair

Unionville High School, Rt.# 82, Unionville, PA 19375

October 12th to 14th, 2006.

This is one of the oldest community fairs in Pennsylvania. There are many activities and displays that appeal to every age group and interest. For more information visit their website www.unionvillecommunityfair.org or Email: infor@ucfair.org.

W. D. Wells and Associates, Inc. will be creating a display garden in this year's event.



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Thanks to Mary Allinson for the cover art.

Note: Please visit our website to see the photos in color!



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE