**TIMELY TIPS SEPTEMBER 2018**

**REVIEW**

Welcome back! Let’s review a moment:

Last time we met I spoke to you about the American Sycamore or Buttonwood tree. After collecting large pieces of bark from the Sycamore which looms over my deck, I must reiterate that the Sycamore needs to be kept at a distance from your house. It is very messy. Keep it away from your deck, walkways, and flowerbeds. Plant it at a lawn’s edge or in a large expanse. Admire its majestic size and fascinating bark from afar.

We had also been investigating the various invasive species plaguing our area recently: the Emerald Ash Borer, the Spotted Lantern Fly, and the Jumping Worm. This summer I encountered yet another invasive species in my pond: the Water Chestnut, or *Trapa natans*. I contacted PRISM and highly recommend them.

**PRISM**

PRISM stands for Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. Their website for the Lower Hudson Valley is: <https://www.lhprism.org/>

After speaking with Samantha Epstein at PRISM, and describing the invasive growth we had in our pond, she arrived a few days later with three college students and a canoe in tow. They hand picked and removed a large amount of water chestnut from the center of the pond. FOR FREE!

If you have any questions about any invasive species on your property PRISM is a great place to start.

PRISM is sponsoring an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Day at Mianus River Gorge - Saturday, September 29, from 10 -3pm.

**FALL BULBS & COMPETITIVE GARDENING**

It’s that time of year again. It’s time to plant your spring bulbs and win the daffodil race. If you’d like to have the earliest blooming daffodils on your street, then I recommend **Rijnveld’s Early Sensation** - a Trumpet Daffodil or Long Cupped Narcissi.

Rijenveld’s Early sensation is a brilliant yellow F. Herbert Chapman hybrid from around 1943. It has a 3” golden flower with a star- shaped perianth and a funnel shaped cup with an expanded, flanged and wavy mouth. It is the earliest of the trumpets to bloom by two weeks - at least! I had some that bloomed MID JANUARY one year during a weird warm spell. (Of course they didn’t come back the following year because they never had a chance to absorb enough sunlight once they were covered up with snow when the regularly scheduled winter weather resumed.)

**FALL COLORS & INNISFREE**

If you’re up for a drive to catch some Fall Colors then Innisfree is the place to be.

Innisfree is a gorgeous gardenan hour drive North on the Taconic Pkwy to Millbrook (exit 44). It’s website is: http://www.innisfreegarden.org/events.html

Innisfree was named for a poem by William Butler Yeats written in 1888: “The Isle of Innisfree” that used imagery of an island in Lough Gill Ireland. An article in The New York Times by Ellen Maguire described it as a garden of “Yin, Yang and Yeats”. Rory Stuart, who wrote “What are Gardens for?” says Innisfree is “recognized as one of the world’s ten best gardens. It is a powerful icon of twentieth century design. Over fifty years in the making, it is the work of landscape architect Lester Collins, with important contributions by his clients, artist and teacher Walter Beck, and heiress Marion Burt Beck. Collins’ sweeping landscape merges the essence of Modernist and Romantic ideas with traditional Chinese and Japanese garden design principles in a form that evolved through subtle handling of the site and slow manipulation of its ecology. The result is a distinctly American stroll garden - a sublime composition of rock, water, wood, and sky achieved with remarkable economy and grace.”

 As Yeats wrote in his poem: “ . . . arise and go now, and go to Innisfree.”