

Fiddlehead Creek-Gardener's Headquarters For Native Plant Species Plus NYS Hops



Fiddlehead Creek has dozens of types of native plants for gardens of all kinds, and soon, your favorite beer may be brewed from their hops.

Courtesy Of Fiddlehead Creek

BY JILL NAGY

Chris and Emily DeBolt grow hearty, sustainable, native plants in their Champlain Valley nursery. They are also trying, almost single-handedly, to revive commercial hops production in New York State.

Their business, Fiddlehead Creek, is located in Hartford, New York, nestled between New York's Adirondack Mountains and Vermont's Green Mountains, near Ft. Ann. The address is Route 40, Hartford, New York; the map is on their website, <http://fiddleheadcreek.com>

They began growing plants four years ago. This is their third year of retail sales. They offer a variety of shrubs, ferns, flowering perennials, "spring ephemera," and specialized plants. There are plants to attract birds, including hummingbirds (try the bright red cardinal flower, for example), or butterflies. There are plants that will survive drought; others that will thrive on an occasional flood of rain runoff; and plants that make good buffers to protect local waters.

Everything is native to New York State. That makes Fiddlehead Creek a good place to start for a gardener wishing to replace invasive species with natives.

They sell both retail and wholesale and offer consulting and design services as well. Chris also indulges his talent for woodworking and Emily, hers for photography. Many of the results

are in their gift shop, including bird houses, bat boxes, tables, and photographs. A weekly blog describes and shows what is in bloom.

And then there are the hops, one of the major ingredients of beer. It is a crop that was once grown extensively in New York State, but most of the United States production has moved to the Pacific Northwest. The DeBolts, especially Chris, are trying to change that. In 2009, they planted their first hops, trying out a few varieties. If all goes well, they will have their first commercial crop this year. They are members of the Northeast Hops Alliance, an organization trying to bring hops production back to the Upper Hudson/Champlain region of New York State.

The ambitious young couple – she is 29; he just turned 30 on July 4 – met as undergraduates at Cornell University. Their undergraduate majors had nothing to do with either hops or landscape plants, but they both went on to earn master's degrees from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. They bought a house and about 20 acres of land and, literally, built their business. Initially, they both had day jobs to sustain themselves but Chris recently left his to farm fulltime. Emily still works for the Lake George Association.

The telephone number for Fiddlehead Creek is (518) 632-5505. □

Glens Falls Saving \$865K With No-Interest Loan From NYS Environmental Facilities

The Board of Directors of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) has approved a \$1,438,526 interest-free loan to refinance the City of Glens Falls' costs in controlling periodic sewer overflows at its Water Street Pump Station.

The 30-year, no-interest loan from EFC will save the city an estimated \$865,000 over the cost of borrowing on its own. The new loan will refinance a Bond Anticipation Note taken out by the city and avoids the need for Glens Falls to issue its own long-term debt to pay for the project.

Completed last year, the sewer improvements are designed to remove 90 percent of the peak, wet-weather flow entering the Water Street Pump Station, preventing sewage overflows from then entering the Champlain Feeder Canal. The project, which came in under budget, also replaced sewer mains on Knight and Staple streets.

"Sewer overflows during storms are a problem for many communities in New York and the City of Glens Falls has engineered a cost-effective solution that will significantly reduce these overflows from occurring," said EFC President and CEO Matthew Driscoll. "With these improvements, the city is showing responsible environmental stewardship, and EFC is pleased to assist Glens Falls in meeting its goals by saving the city more than three-quarters of a million dollars with a 30-year, interest-free loan."

"Managing municipal water systems and preventing sewer overflows can be challenging," said DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, who is also

president of the EFC Board of Directors. "This EFC interest-free loan will be extremely helpful to the City of Glens Falls for sewer improvements and help to prevent any potential contamination near the areas waterways."

Glens Falls Mayor John A. Diamond said, "On behalf of the City of Glens Falls, I'd like to thank Gov. Cuomo and his agencies for the continuing assistance with much-needed projects in Glens Falls. In particular, I'd like to thank Matthew Driscoll and NYS EFC for helping the City realize a substantial savings on the cost of these vital infrastructure improvements."

EFC manages the largest State Revolving Funds (SRF) for Clean Water and Drinking Water projects in the nation, providing more than \$15 billion in low-cost financing and grants to local governments since 1990.

EFC's financial management has been cited as among the best in the nation by the Environmental Financial Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Its effective investment strategies have produced hundreds of millions of dollars in additional infrastructure investment for New York State – unique among state SRF authorities, according to the EPA panel. When EFC borrows money on behalf of local government, these financings consistently win Triple-A and other high ratings from the leading credit-rating agencies, lowering the borrowing costs for New York municipalities and public authorities. □

Aurea's Gifts

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as dark chocolate, milk chocolate, some with a hint of sea salt, coffee, nuts, and berries. Aurea's also carries a line of Quill Art made by local 92 year-old artisan, Alan Girvin. The shop carries unique up-cycled and recycled gifts repurposed from bicycle chains, sprockets, old vinyl record albums and wine corks. Hand-made dichromic glass jewelry, clocks, compacts and trinket boxes, and a line of Art Masks from Venice, round out the store's unique offerings.

The shop also features work from artisans from The Shirt Factory, an arts and healing center located at the corner of Lawrence and Cooper Streets in Glens Falls.

Some of the more unusual items at Aurea's are wine bottle holders, Harley Motorcycle garden stakes, and wooden birds made with drafting tools, watch parts and measuring items. They also feature Native Adirondack wood pens crafted by a local artisan, each pen having its own distinct style.

The shop also hosts book signings for local authors. Most recently they hosted a book signing for Maury Thompson and his book "The Biggest Kid at the Balloon Festival: The Walter Griskot Story". On July 26th, they will have a signing with Paul Gibaldi, author of "Seasons of the Adirondacks". Aurea's Unique Gifts is open daily Monday through Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5.

Visit the shop within Glenwood Manor Antiques & More, 60 Glenwood Avenue in Queensbury. Call Richie Smith at 798-4747 for more information, or visit their Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/AureasUniqueGifts. □



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