

to accomplish.

Top on my list?

- Pick basil and make pesto
- Pick and roast tomatoes for sauce
- Pick dried bean pods and pull vines where possible
- Pick cucumbers and make more pickles
- Glean remaining strawberry popcorn ears and pull stalks
- Pick and roast eggplant for soups and dips

What a treat! I can almost taste the finished foods as I scribble the tasks, eager to start crossing them off. I envision by Sunday night a larder bursting at the seams and a satisfied sigh as I drift off to sleep.

But, then, Kevin adds his priorities:

- Mow lawn
- Stack wood
- Weed
- Order and spread mulch.

My soaring heart takes a tumble. Those sound way too time-consuming and exhausting. Not that they don't also need to be addressed. But there are only two of us ... and only so many hours in the day ... and only two days in a weekend.

Before I can reassess and choose what to put on hold, Kevin's phone rings. By conversation's end, we find ourselves with Saturday dinner plans and a menu to create.

Hmmm.

How 'bout tacos with fresh salsa and fixings from the garden? And apple crisp with Twenty Ounce and Cortlands from the farmers market?

I add grocery shopping to the list. And vacuuming. General house cleaning. Baking. Dinner prep.

And, there it goes.

Before we even complete the wish list, every moment seems accounted for.

A full weekend, for sure. Just not so open anymore.

*Schoonover is chief copy editor at the Times. She and her husband, Kevin, are creating an edible landscape garden. Follow their progress every Friday in the Times' Home & Garden section.*

explains how they work to rehabilitate different birds of prey all year long, and she talks about some of the adaptations that make owls so special. We've seen her bring tiny saw-whet owls, a flighty snowy owl, a regal great horned owl, and my personal favorite, a big, sweet barred owl. Jean and Len teach the audience about the different owl calls, and sometimes the owls call back! This is an excellent opportunity to see live owls up close.

After the presentation, audience members will be invited to walk through the woods and fields behind the MAC, looking and calling for wild owls in the night. The MAC woods are home to barred

owls. Barra is the Environmental Education Center for some easy Halloween crafting. We'll be using recycled tin cans to create tin can lanterns to display in your harvest decorations. This is a great activity for adults and kids, and everyone is invited. This event is 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Education Center on Route 414 in Seneca Falls. Space is limited; call 539-5624 to register.

*Barra is the Environmental Education Specialist for the Montezuma Audubon Center and the Seneca Meadows Wetland Preserve and Environmental Education Center. She can be reached at [abarra@audubon.org](mailto:abarra@audubon.org).*



Times file photo

A live birds-of-prey presentation by bird rehabilitator Jean Soprano of Kindred Kingdom was held last winter at Montezuma Winery. Soprano, and possibly this barn owl, will visit the Montezuma Audubon Center for a Happy Owlween program.



Below, Mark Benjamin, community relations director for Seneca Meadows Inc., stands with residents of Huntington Living Center and the new mobile gardens filled with vegetables, herbs and flowers. The raised beds are on wheels (at left) so they can be moved throughout the facility.

## Project creates raised, mobile gardens

WATERLOO — Huntington Living Center residents have completed a Mobile Therapeutic Gardens project funded by Seneca Meadows Inc.

The project entailed adding raised, mobile gardens that are wheelchair accessible for indoor and outdoor use. The residents planted herbs, vegetables and flowers. The gardens are moved from unit to unit at Huntington so those with lifelong interest can garden. Melanie Jarvis of Healing with Nature's Gifts

in Lodi served as consultant and devised the plan and materials.

"We were very excited to bring the beautiful gardens inside for the residents to enjoy," said Debbie Lockett, assistant administrator and director of Activities at Huntington Living Center. "Our residents were very excited to participate in the gardening process from planting to harvest. We celebrated by cooking the various vegetables that were planted including making fried green tomatoes."



## Now's a good time to weed, mulch, gather seeds, plant bulbs

By **ROGER VANNOSTRAND**  
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Now that autumn has arrived and our trees are vividly displaying their colors it's important to know that it's still a great time to garden.

The shorter days, cooler temperatures, morning dews and rain falls trigger responses in plant growth that home gardeners should take advantage of.

Weed growth generally slows down before freezing tempera-

tures stop it altogether, therefore weeding, edging and mulching garden beds now will have them looking their best next spring. Several layers of wet newspaper laid out under the mulch are reputed to keep down weed growth for two or more seasons.

As the foliage of trees and shrubbery turns to colors and drops, the starches and sugars produced during photosynthesis over the season are moved downward to energize the root systems of newly planted and existing plants. This includes transplants

and minor damage to home lawns. Lawns containing blue-grasses will spread roots and send up tillers (new grass blades) in the fall.

In the case of perennial flowers this root growth makes early fall a great time to plant, divide (if overgrown), or transplant (if crowded or in the wrong spot). These plants should be mulched promptly to within 1-2" from the stems or crowns to prevent rot. This mulching will conserve winter moisture, prolong root growth, and prevent heaving during late

winter freezes.

Many annuals will drop seeds into the garden and will often germinate next spring. Seed pods once mature can be gathered to save in labeled Ziploc bags or containers in the fridge or cool basement to be planted early in spring or started indoors. Annuals worth saving include cosmos, nicotiana, cleome, zinnias, verbena bonariensis (for butterflies) and Mexican sunflower. Perennials worth saving include coneflowers, blackeyed and browneyed susans that will likely seed themselves if

you do not bother gathering and saving them.

Last of all, plant spring bulbs in early fall to allow them to set vigorous roots. This will enhance chances of better flowering the second season.

*VanNostrand is an experienced local horticulturist and an Ontario County Cornell Master Gardener. He also is a landscape consultant. Listen to him on his radio show "Let's Get Growing" Saturdays from 9 to 9:30 a.m. on WACK 1240am*

## Gardening symposium next week

CANANDAIGUA — Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park, 151 Charlotte St., will host garden expert and writer Vincent Simeone as the keynote speaker at its Oct. 11 Fall Gardening Symposium.

Simeone will speak on how to use trees and shrubs to create visual interest and appeal all year long in gardens and landscaping.

For 22 years, Simeone has worked at the Planting Field Arboretum State Historic Park in New York where he is the director. Simeone is also a popular author of five gardening books including his most recent, "Grow More With Less: Sustainable Garden Methods."

Tickets for the 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. symposium are \$85 per person and \$75 for Sonnenberg members. Paid reservations are required and may be made by calling (585) 394-4922 or visiting [www.sonnenberg.org](http://www.sonnenberg.org). Symposium admission includes a boxed lunch and book signings.