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# *Dan's Papers*



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ART BY WILLEM DE KOONING



# Dan's North Fork with Editor Susan Whitney Simm

## Glorious Gardening At Trimble's Of Corchaug

### A North Fork Institution Still Shines Brightly, Especially During Planting Season

By Jolie Trueman-Honey

The best antidote to a soggy spring is a drive along the North Fork's Main Road, where nurseries displaying their riotous array of colorful annuals can be found interspersed among the wineries that have made the region famous. One thing is for sure: you're never more than a couple of minutes away from a flat of purple petunias or a fine glass of Merlot. However, as any wine connoisseur can tell you, not all Chardonnays are created equal. So it is with plants.

Trimble's Nursery, established in 1991, is the gold standard by which all nurseries ought to be judged. Voted Best Garden Center in Dan's Papers' Best of the Best Contest every year from 1998 through 2002, Trimble's clearly lives up to its motto: Imagination - Experience - Quality.

Owners Anne Trimble and Nancy Leskody are proud of their well-deserved reputation. These two women know plants. Anne, a native Rhode Islander, attended the University of Rhode Island as a horticulture major. After graduation, she moved to New York where she became the Director of Children's Education at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and later had the distinction of being appointed the first landscape director for Tavern on the Green, Central Park's world famous restaurant. It is Anne who deserves the kudos for their fabulous gardens. Co-owner of GEO Design Custom Gardens, Anne provided landscape plans and construction for co-ops, roof-top gardens and terraces throughout Manhattan.

Nancy grew up right here on Long Island in Valley Stream, and her love of nature led her to an agricul-

tural certificate from Farmingdale and a job with the New York City Parks Department. The two met when Nancy, working in Central Park, frequented the Tavern on the Green ladies' room. (I can hardly

shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs. But not only is their merchandise special; their service is as well. Anne still does what she loves most: designs and installs gardens. Whatever your vision of the perfect garden is (from a formal Japanese tea garden to a flower-besotted field), Anne can make it happen.

Nancy runs the business, providing the finest quality plants for the most reasonable price. And this pursuit takes her all over the country. She tells me, "Nowhere do you pay less for plants than on the East Coast. I try to keep our prices in line, but one thing I'll never sacrifice is quality. Everything that we sell is top of the line." While you can buy a flat of impatiens cheaper in places along the Main Road or at the giant wholesalers, Nancy says her customers come back year after year saying that what they've bought at Trimble's "just doesn't die."

Also, you won't find their variety anywhere else. Sure, you can find verbena in any nursery. But Trimble's has verbena in five different colors. And Nancy tells me that some 80% of their plants are propagated and grown right on their property.

So proud are they of their wares that they display their name right on their pots along with planting instructions.

But a trip to Trimble's is more than just picking up a bag of potting soil. You can spend hours meandering through their lush grounds. Love hydrangea? Check out Hoophouse #10 where you can find Nikko Blue, Tokyo Delight, Pee Gee, Blue Wave, Sunlight, and many other varieties. Looking for climbers for your new trellis? Visit Hoophouse #9, the Vine House, where clematis (in every color imaginable), trumpet vines, ivies, grape vines and climbing hydrangea reside. In fact, if you're smart, you'll pick

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The welcoming entrance to Trimble's Nursery

blame her; if you haven't used it, it's a definite 10!). The rest is history.

When they bought the Cutchogue property in 1991, it was an existing garden center in very poor condition. It took them a year just to clean out the greenhouse and begin to grow plants there. But clean they did, and construct and improve. Nancy says, "Our goal was simply to be the best nursery on the North Fork. In fact, it still is." A stroll through their lovely four acre grounds, bears that out.

Trimble's specializes in rare and unusual trees,



Partners Anne Trimble and Nancy Leskody

All photos by Jolie Trueman-Honey

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yourself up a site map that can help you hone in on the hosta house, or ferret out the flowering annual flats. Not sure what you want? Stroll through the Idea Garden for inspiration or ask any of the helpful blue or orange t-shirted crew.

And speaking of help, Anne and Nancy are happy to share their expertise, offering free lunchtime lectures every Saturday in May (with more planned in June) from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch (they'll provide the drinks!) while either Anne or Nancy discusses topics such as "Gardening 101" which covers all the basics, and "We Do Let Our Friends Plant Annuals" which takes participants on a nursery tour where they'll learn what's new and "what's right for



Strolling the grounds at Trimble's is always a treat where," with emphasis on maximum color, longevity and texture. Call or pick up their brochure for the lecture schedule.

So respected is this nursery that the Perennial Plant Association, (a group of plant breeders, wholesale and retail growers and garden center owners from across the country), whose annual symposium is being held in New York City this summer, chose Trimble's as a stop on their area tour. Now that is an honor.

So, if you love to plant, if gardening is the light at the end of your winter tunnel, if colorful arrays of flowers heal whatever ails you, a pilgrimage to Trimble's is an absolute must!

Trimble's of Corchaug Nursery is located at 20985 Main Rd. in Cutchogue. Hours are 9 to 5 daily. 631 734-6494.