

## Barbara Hunt

"In England, everybody gardens," she said. And as an Englishwoman by birth, Barbara Hunt admitted that gardening is in her blood.

She remembers collecting pressed wildflowers in her schoolgirl days and being surrounded by Victory Gardens. When she came to the States in 1958, she knew, "I had to have my little bit of a garden." Today, she cultivates both an herbaceous border and a vegetable garden at her Johnstown home. She calls herself a "generalist," her interests limited only by "things that catch my eye."

Having been introduced to the Arboretum by a friend, Barbara first volunteered her time at the Acorn Gift Shop, and then she managed the shop for the past nine years and computerized the shop's record keeping. She was also instrumental in Landis' inclusion in the Departure Shop at the Albany International Airport. In particular, she treasures the personal contacts – volunteers, suppliers, and visitors – that the shop has given her.

She wonders why more people don't know about Landis – and has literally taken some of them here for a visit. She says that the trail system and the marked specimens are now a selling point for first-time visitors. And she hopes for an infusion of "new blood" – volunteers who will enjoy the wonderful mixture of people and place that, for her, Landis has come to represent.

For Barbara Hunt, the Arboretum is synonymous with "peace." There is nothing, she asserted, that says more about peace than the view of the Schoharie Valley from the Meeting House in the fall. Like gardening, it gets into your blood.