

Beth Larson

Staff member since Spring, 2008

Education: University of Hartford, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Music and Voice. Juilliard Conservatory, post-graduate studies in voice and opera. Career in Opera, 25 years. Studied ballet at DIA, New York City for 10 years. Lived in Italy for two years.

Experience: I have loved gardens since I was a child watching my mother care for our family gardens. I especially recall the 60-year-old wisteria, the two old magnolia trees, the huge flowering cherry tree, and the crab apple tree, which we loved to climb. As an adult while living in downtown Brooklyn, NY, I attended seminars at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and went on as many garden tours as possible in the Brooklyn neighborhoods. When living in Europe, I saw amazing gardens, images of which are permanently in my visual memory. I have been fascinated with the books of Gertrude Jekyll, an English water colorist and landscape horticulturist who redefined the need for advice on color association and sensitive planting. Her writings and drawings were a great inspiration for me over the years as I tried my hand at designing my three perennial gardens.

Favorite things about working at Rutgers: Helping clients add to their existing gardens or choosing plants to create new gardens in areas not yet planted. I love showing customers how to use color and textures to create beautiful and interesting settings. In addition, working with and learning from my co-workers has been a pleasure. Their experience and expertise provides wonderful support.

My hobbies are: Gardening, singing, cooking, photography and drawing.

Goals: To increase my knowledge in all aspects of gardening, including flowering plants, trees and shrubs. To help customers feel excited about their gardens and confident that Rutgers Nursery will provide the services to meet their immediate and ongoing garden and landscaping needs.