

... FROM CHAPTER 24 HURRICANE FLOYD



Upper pond with *Amelanchier* in bloom

... At the end of the day on September 16, 1999, we noted on our worksheet: "Checked property to make sure all catch basins are clear as Hurricane Floyd approaches." The forecast was for heavy rains and damaging winds.

The following morning we drove to Croton Lake Road to see if any trees had come down. Near the entrance to the Steinhardt property we were forced to stop. A wide section of Croton Lake Road had collapsed, leaving a gaping hole where the road had been. We parked our car on the side of the road and walked the rest of the way.

When we entered the property we headed toward the Main Pond, expecting to see downed trees and limbs

dangling precariously. But what we saw from a distance made us suddenly begin to run, as if getting there sooner would somehow soften the blow.

Our beautiful gardens were obliterated! Ten years of work and obsessive creative energy had been destroyed by a torrent of muddy water that had picked up everything in its path, including the neighbor's fence from across the road, almost half a mile upstream.

... Wherever we looked, the devastation was unimaginable! We walked across what was left of the Grass Garden to inspect the Main Pond ...



Michael studying his ducks