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September 2008

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Metal artist to speak on *Wrought Iron in the Garden*

Durand Van Doran, Trumansburg, N.Y. metal artist, will speak at our fall kick-off program **September 20** on *Wrought Iron in the Garden*. One of Durand's most recent works is the gate at the west end of Minns Garden outside the Plant Science Building on the Cornell University campus. (View images here: www.remarc.com/craig/?p=385)

The meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

Fall program plans

Here are the plans for the rest of 2008. See ACNARGS blog for more info: acnargs.blogspot.com

- **September 20:** Durand Van Doran, Trumansburg, N.Y. metal artist, *Wrought Iron in the Garden*. Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.
- **October 18:** Jody Payne, rock garden curator, New York Botanical Garden, topic TBD. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. (where Dey St., Willow Ave. and Rte. 13 meet). If you need directions, visit: counties.cce.cornell.edu/Tompkins or call the CCE office (during regular business hours): (607) 272-2292.
- **November 15:** Annual meeting and dish-to-pass. Tony Reznicek, curator of the University of Michigan Herbarium will speak on a topic TBD. Location TBD.

Garden photography workshop canceled

The September 20 Garden Photography Workshop with local photographer Julie Magura (www.juliemagura.com) has been canceled, but we may try again next spring. If you are interested in such a workshop, email Susanne Lipari: sel3@cornell.edu.

From the Chair

As much as I hate to see summer end, there are always many things that I anticipate about the fall - cool crisp days, the angle of the sun in the early morning, and the transformation of our landscape from greens to golds, reds, and oranges.

September, too, means the resumption of our speaker programs and, trust, me, there is much to anticipate here this season. Robin Bell has lined up 3 excellent speakers in a row. (Another eagerly awaited event is the start of the Kitchen Theatre Company's new season, but that's a topic for another time – and yes, a merciless plug for another of my passions.)

It has been a busy summer in the garden and there are still projects on my list that I haven't gotten to and more busy days ahead – pushing well into November - before I put the garden to bed, if Mother Nature is kind to us. I admit that sometimes for a moment I'm almost relieved when I put my hand tools away for the last time. No more aching back, dirty knees, and calloused hands.

Give me a week and an uncertain restlessness begins to overcome me knowing it will be a long dormant season. Longing to get back to the garden. I'll try to content myself with the garden catalogs that start to arrive (earlier each year it seems) until at last it's time to sow seeds from the NARGS seed exchange and, like the seeds themselves, a part of me comes alive and I am again in my element among my friends in the plant world.

Back to the present, I look forward to our September meeting and seeing you all again.

Good gardening,

Carol Eichler, chair

2009 NARGS Eastern Winter Study Weekend

The Potomac Valley Chapter will host the 2009 Eastern Winter Study Weekend January 30 through February 1 at the Sheraton Reston Hotel, Reston, Virginia. Featured speakers include:

- Tony Avent, proprietor of Plant Delights Nursery, North Carolina.
- Peggy Olwell, Bureau of Land Management and Plant Conservation Alliance, Washington, D.C., on how climate changes may affect gardeners.
- Judith and Dick Tyler, Pine Knot Farms, Clarksville, Virginia, on their experiences collecting, propagating and growing hellebores.
- Mark Bridgen, Cornell University, New York, on his experiences collecting and breeding Chilean geophytes.
- Nick Turland, Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis, Missouri, on Mediterranean plants.
- Richard Critz, former editor of the *Primrose Journal* on maintaining primulas in warmer gardens.
- J.P. (Koos) Roux, Curator of the Compton Herbarium, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Cape Town, South Africa, on South African Flora.
- Bill McLaughlin, curator, United States Botanic Garden, on mid-Atlantic and other natives for rock and dry gardens.
- Richard Olsen, researcher at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., on new plant introductions, particularly woodies.

Breakout sessions include:

- Plant photography in the digital age.
- Current issues in plant and seed importation.
- Gravel gardening in hot and humid areas.

For more info and to register, visit: <http://www.pvcnargs.org/ewsw09home.htm>

Frederick Heutte Rock Garden dedication

From Carol Eichler, chair:

A drizzle of rain didn't keep over 100 people away from the White Pine Camp Centennial celebration on Saturday, August 10th. The day kicked off with the dedication of the historic rock garden, not quite a 100 years old and nearly lost to obscurity but for the efforts of a determined group of people, spearheaded by Dick and Mary George.



The Green Dragon's July-August issue chronicled our Chapter's late contribution to the rock garden – a weekend of planting. When I returned on August 10th to participate in the dedication, I was anxious to see how everything fared. Fortunately, it had been a wet summer assuring the survival of almost everything we set in the ground. A couple choice shots are offered here to illustrate how well the plants have adapted as well as a photo of the ribbon-cutting. The garden herein is known as the Frederick Heutte Rock Garden to honor the man who designed the original garden in so many years ago.

Top 10 Reasons for Having a Nursery Bed

From Carol Eichler, chair:

1. Evaluate a new plant; what is its growing habit? will it be invasive?
2. Provide extra attention for an ailing plant
3. Serve as a placeholder until a more permanent spot can be prepared
4. Propagate cuttings or divisions (for our plant sales)
5. Tend young seedlings
6. Hold divisions until our plant sales
7. Overwinter late acquisitions
8. Carol recommends it.

OK, I lied. I only came up with 8, but maybe someone else can suggest some other reasons to make it 10. Join the discussion on the ACNARGS blog: <http://acnargs.blogspot.com/2008/08/top-10-reasons-for-having-nursery-bed.html>

News from National

NARGS National is seeking a Chapter to assume the responsibilities for Phase 4 of the Seed Exchange. This part of our fabulous international seed exchange involves packaging 2nd round requests for surplus seed, a much, much smaller group by far than those in the initial round. The overview of what this entails is outlined below.

Your Chapter Chair, Carol, is putting out the call to you - the Adirondack Chapter - to solicit interest in assuming this important role for National. Please respond to Carol if this looks like something that you would be willing to volunteer for. I know that you've had great participation and in fact enjoyed helping out with Phase 1 which is much more tedious (counting, packaging and labeling seeds).

Also, there's need for a place to set up and for several large tables. If you have a space, again, please contact Carol. It may be possible with enough volunteers to compress this operation into fewer days. Carol's contact info: ceichler@twcny.rr.com or 607-387-5823. Thus far leads from other Chapters had led us to dead-ends. Thank you for your consideration.

Description of Phase 4, Seed Exchange

Surplus Seed Distribution (aka Second Round) takes place in mid- March, working a few hours to set up, three to four full days (depending on number helping) filling orders, a couple hours distributing the remaining seed to chapters, and, lastly, dismantling. The Great Lakes Chapter worked one Sunday at the beginning for set up and started processing orders, then two to four weekdays (~1-8pm) the first two weeks-with most volunteers working in four hour shifts. The last week they worked one weekday to finish orders and the final day (a few days after the deadline for orders) was for any late orders, dividing the remaining seed among the requesting chapters, and dismantling and storing supplies till next year.

This project can be done by 10-12 volunteers working multiple shifts, or up to 25 individuals. Our set up was ideal for 3-6 people each shift to avoid getting in each others way - but the optimal number can vary considerably based on your set-up. Approximately 33 table feet is required (for ex. 5 six foot tables and a card table - enough tables to hold the seed trays, 1 table for preparing orders for shipping, 1 table for repacking, and the card table for logging orders as they arrive. More tables would allow you to spread out the work more and would help accommodate more volunteers.

People

Questions? Want to find out how you can help the Chapter? Don't hesitate to contact one of the volunteers who help make everything happen. (This is the slate to be voted on at our Feb. meeting):

- **Chair/Membership:** Carol Eichler, carol_eichler@excite.com, 607-387-5823
- **Vice Chair/Program:** Robin Bell, rgb2@cornell.edu, 607-272-2074
- **Secretary:** Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
- **Treasurer:** BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu
- **Program Assistants/Garden Trips and Tours:** Billie Jean Isbell, bji1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484 and Donna Kraft, dkaft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626
- **Plant sales:** David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660 and BZ Marranca mmm10@cornell.edu 607-532-8813
- **Plant of the Month:** John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
- **Wurster Garden Coordinator:** Tom Myers tom@ithacanhs.org 607-273-2865
- **Membership:** Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu 607-387-9308
- **Annual Picnic Host:** Judy Fogel jfogel@twcny.rr.com 607-275-3332
- **Newsletter editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer, cdramer@twcny.rr.com, 607-539-7233 and Nari Mistry nbm2@cornell.edu, 607-272-7496

Green Dragon Tales

Published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Craig Cramer: cdramer@twcny.rr.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in **October**.

