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October 2008

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Curator to speak on history of N. Y. Botanical Garden rock garden

Jody Payne, rock garden curator, New York Botanical Garden, will speak on October 18 on *The New York Botanical Garden Rock Garden: A Work in Progress Since 1929*. The **meeting will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County**, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. (where Dey St., Willow Ave. and Rte. 13 meet), and is free and open to the public. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

Species tulips will be our October Plant of the Month, and heucheras leftover from our September Plant of the Month will be available. (See below.)

Wurster work party

Can you give an hour or two? Come join in on Saturday, October 18 at 10 a.m., immediately preceding lunch and our speaker program. Help us put the Wurster Rock Garden to bed for winter.

We're planning a general clean-up, creating a to-do list for next season, and may tackle the bog area which has some assertive plants that should be culled. This is a great opportunity to spend time in this garden, gain first-hand experience and to appreciate how truly fabulous this rock garden is.

Conveniently, Wurster Garden and the venue for meeting are both at the Tompkins County Office of Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. (where Dey St., Willow Ave. and Rte. 13 meet).

Species tulips October Plant of the Month

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month Coordinator:

For our October plant of the month, we will have bulbs of two species Tulips, *T. clusiana* 'Lady Jane' and *T. linifolia*. Both are small enough for the rock garden.

***T. clusiana* 'Lady Jane'** has delicate two tone flowers, rosy red outside and white inside. Height 12 inches.

T. linifolia has narrow leaves with red edges and scarlet red flowers with black bases. Height 6 inches.

Plant species tulips 4 to 5 inches deep in well drained soil. Both are hardy to zone 4.

Heucheras: September 'Plant of the Month'

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month Coordinator:

Our September 2008 plant of the month was hybrid *Heuchera* (Coral Bells). *Heuchera* is a genus which includes at least 4 species native to the U.S., including *H. villosa* native to the Southeastern U.S., and *H. sanguinea*, native to the Southwestern U.S.

The 4 cultivars we purchased are: 'Caramel', 'Miracle', 'Obsidian', and 'Hollywood'. 'Caramel' and 'Miracle' are hybrids of *H. villosa* by Thierry Delabroye. 'Obsidian' and 'Caramel' are hybrids created by Terra Nova nurseries. Since our plants did not sell out at the September meeting, we will have all 4 cultivars for sale at the October 18th meeting.

Heucheras have a long season of interest, with the colorful foliage carrying the show.

'Caramel' has leaves of a golden caramel color with red undersides with cream flowers. Height 8 inches, 24 inches in flower, width 15 -18 inches.

'Miracle' has leaves that emerge chartreuse that mature to brick red with a chartreuse edge and silver undersides, with pink flowers. Height 8 inches, 15 inches in flower, width 12 -14 inches.

'Obsidian' has smooth, dark purple leaves with ivory flowers. Height 10 inches, 24 inches in flower, width 12 – 18 inches.

'Hollywood' has maroon tinted foliage mottled with silver and coral pink flowers, and is a rebloomer. Height 8 inches, 16 inches in flower, width 10 -15 inches.

Heucheras are easy to grow, and well adapted to our climate. They should be planted in full sun to part shade, in well drained, moisture retentive soil. The pink flowered cultivars will be attractive to hummingbirds.

November 15 program plans

November 15 will be our annual meeting and dish-to-pass. Tony Reznicek, curator of the University of Michigan Herbarium will speak. Tentative plans are for pre- and post-meal presentations at our usual location in 404 Plant Science building on the Cornell campus.. Look for details in November newsletter or the ACNARGS blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

Trillium expert to speak at Native Plant Society

From Rosemarie Parker:

John Geyer will be speaking on trilliums to the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society (FLNPS) on November 20th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. All are welcome!

John is known to many in our ACNARGS chapter, and so many of us enjoy trilliums. I understand that John spoke at one of our meetins a few years ago, but it was on a different topic. Contact me for more information: gardener.parker@gmail.com

Cornell Plantations fall lecture series

Cornell Plantations has lined up another fine group of speakers, including ACNARGS member Ellen Hornig of Seneca Hill Perennials. The remaining lectures are at 7:30 p.m. in the Statler Auditorium on the Cornell Campus. More info: <http://www.plantations.cornell.edu/education/lectures.cfm>

October 8: Bringing Nature Home

Doug Tallamy, author and professor of entomology and wildlife ecology, University of Delaware

October 22: The Truth about 'Deer-Resistant' Plants

Mark Bridgen, professor and director, Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center

November 5: Out of Their Element: South African Plants in a Northern New York Garden

Ellen Hornig, horticulturist, owner of Seneca Hill Perennials

November 19: Gardens of the Gods

Ellen Zachos, author, photographer, instructor, and coordinator of the Gardening Department for Continuing Education at the New York Botanical Garden

From the Chair

From Carol Eichler, chair:

Here are some thoughts for a gray day.

As I was weeding my driveway this summer, more than once the thought came to me that I might be at best a little fanatical, at worst – do I dare think that I could be – crazy? Well, it seemed like I had a good reason – the weeds from the driveway spoiled the effect of my tended areas that met at the driveway's edge. All I could notice were those nasty, uninvited dandelions, knotweed, purslane, spurge, plantain and more. My eventual solution? I decided to top sow white clover along the edges, which is not nearly so offensive to my sensitive eye and I fully expect it to be a solution I will live to regret. Anyway, it did raise a question: When do I stop weeding?

Living in the country as I do, my gardens are defined more by own limitations, rather than by property boundaries. In fact, much of my maintenance efforts seem to be aimed at trying to keep the wildness of forest and field from infringing. Every spring when everything seems to need attention at once, I say to myself, "This is too much, something has to give." When do I stop developing new plantings?

Then there is the maintenance issue – mulching, edging, weeding, then edging again. At some point in my day what I consider "that which I do for fun" becomes tough-it-out work, as I drive myself to come to some closure at day's end. The heat, the bugs, the dirt (I am not a neat gardener) all start to get to me. When do I call it a day?

The fall is another time when the garden places its extreme demands. I'm torn between enjoying the last of the lush growth and straggling blooms with tackling garden clean-up before cold temps make the task miserable. When do I put away the tools and call it a season?

When does a gardener say when?

See you at the October meeting!

Carol

Proposed 2009 Chapter Officers

From Carol Eichler, chair:

Our by-laws state that the Nominating Committee will designate its nominees for officers at the October meeting. Additionally nominees may be taken from the floor at the October meeting. Our Chapter has four officers, Chair, Vice Chair/Program, Secretary, and Treasurer. Only the Chair and Vice Chair/Program Chair are up for election this year.

Billie Jean Isbell has agreed to run for Chair and Donna Kraft to serve as the Vice Chair/Program Chair. Our membership is welcome to nominate other candidates. Elections will take place at the annual meeting which will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, November 15th.

Welcome to these new members of our Chapter!

Debra Brock, Robert Dean, Carol Anne Gallagher, Linda Levine, Cindy Lion, Emily Makepeace, Harold Peachey and Marie Greener, Giselle Schatz, Debra Statton, Lynn Yenkey

Reminder: NARGS 2008-2009 Seed Exchange

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month Coordinator:

If you are a member of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS, the national organization of which our Adirondack Chapter is a part), then this article is relevant. NARGS normally has a seed exchange every winter, which is a great opportunity to obtain seed of plants from around the globe, some of which would not be available through any other means. This year NARGS is not mailing out a Seed List to all NARGS members; instead, NARGS will have the Seed List posted on its website:

<http://www.nargs.org> by December 15, 2008. NARGS members should have gotten a postcard advising of the change in routine.

NARGS will have a limited number of printed copies of the Seed List for those with no (or slow) internet access. For a printed copy of the seed list, email your request to seedintake@twmi.rr.com, or mail the request to:

Laura Serowicz
NARGS Seed List
15411 Woodring
Livonia, MI 48154-3029

Requests for a printed copy of the seed list must be received by November 15, 2008.

Please note: this opportunity is only available to NARGS members. If you are a member of the Adirondack Chapter, but not a NARGS member, this is a perk that will make it worth joining.

National meeting canceled

From Dick Bartlett, NARGS (national) president:

The Calgary 2009 Annual meeting has been canceled. Therefore, it is urgent that the following announcement be included in your next newsletter:

Since the NARGS' Annual 2009, Calgary meeting has been canceled, the NARGS annual business meeting has been moved to the Western Winter Study Weekend in Portland, Oregon. This WWSW will be held on March 13-15, 2009. Because the meeting will be in March, all proposed awards and business reports need to be prepared earlier.

It is very important that this information get out to all those people who may be considering attending the Annual meeting so they do not make travel plans to the wrong location.

Ginseng workshop in Norwich October 16

Growing Ginseng in Central New York

Presented by Bob Beyfuss, Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist for American Ginseng Production

October 16, 2008, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Cost: \$15 per farm/family- Includes The Practical Guide to Growing Ginseng, by Bob Beyfuss

At DCMO BOCES Norwich Campus

Ginseng is a native herb that has been used for centuries in Chinese medicine. This forest grown crop has been harvested and exported since the 1700's and continues to be a cash crop today. Growing Ginseng in Central New York will review the process of cultivating ginseng, as well as site selection, harvesting and marketing cultivated ginseng, and the rules and regulations of harvesting wild ginseng. This workshop will not include medicinal uses of ginseng.

If you're interested in growing ginseng in your woodlot for income or pleasure register today by calling 607-334-5841. Please register by October 15, 2008. (There is a field and a classroom portion of this class- rain or shine :)

Contact: J. Rebecca Hargrave, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County,
99 N. Broad St., Norwich, NY 13815, 607-334-5841 x 16

Norman Singer Endowment

From Beverly Shafer, Norman Singer Endowment Fund Chair (via Carol Eichler):

The Norman Singer Endowment Fund is requesting applications for grants for 2009. Next year NARGS will be celebrating it's 75th anniversary. The Endowment Fund was begun by Norman Singer on the occasion of the 50th year of the American Rock Garden Society. The Fund "is intended to be a resource in support of special, one-time projects that advance the art and science of rock gardening." Many types of projects have been supported - from publications, rock garden construction and preservation, public education, and seed collection.

Please make your members aware of the Fund and encourage anyone with an appropriate project to apply. The guidelines are on the NARGS website (<http://www.nargs.org>). If you have any questions please contact me. Also, please note that the application deadline is January 16th due to the early date of the Annual Meeting.

Thank you,

Beverly Shafer, Norman Singer Endowment Fund Chair, Box 428, Etna, CA 96027, bev@dubious.com
530-467-3955

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, ceichler@twcny.rr.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 Marranta, 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 Marranta 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

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