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May/June 2009

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May Plant Sale -- Plants needed!

From David Mitchell, plant sales coordinator along with BZ Marrantca.

Now's the time to have your plant donations potted up so that they'll have time to recover and look great for the plant sale May 16 at the Ithaca High School. We'll start setup on Friday around 4 p.m. and usually work until 8 p.m.

My driveway is available for drop-offs anytime until 3:30 p.m. on Friday 5/15, if you really can't make it to the high school. (The driveway is on the Washington Street side of the corner of Washington and Esty Streets, 402 Esty Street.) After then, all plants need to be brought directly to the high school before 8 p.m. Friday or early Saturday morning.

Please have your plants labeled and suggest a price. This is especially important if you drop the plants off early on Saturday. Labeling, pricing and setting up all at the same time makes for a very hectic Saturday morning!

We need volunteers for setup, day of sale setup, cashiers, and plant advisers during the sale, and cleanup. Remember, members receive a 25 percent discount on purchases at the sale.

The sale hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those working at the sale have a chance to pick out some cool plants before others get there. Please arrive early to help with late donations or jump in any time to help. Every pot should have a label and a price stick before the sale starts.

My phone number is (607) 342-3660 should you have any questions about the sale.

Visit members' gardens May 31

From Billie Jean Isbell, chair and garden tour coordinator.

We've planned a series of garden visits for May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We will be visiting 4 members' gardens that are quite different: David Mitchell's urban garden in downtown Ithaca, Nariman Mistry's suburban garden, Deb Lapman's commercial enterprise with many unusual plants, Bedlam Gardens, in King Ferry, and Susanne Lampari's country garden in Alpine.

Visit the Mitchell, Mistry and Bedlam gardens anytime during the day. But plan to be at Susanne Lapari's between 3-4p.m. for a final get together. Bring snacks and drinks to share.

Addresses and directions:

David Michell

402 Esty St., Ithaca. (607) 342-3660

From Route 13 (Meadow St.) North, turn right at Esty Street just before the Tamarind Thai restaurant and after CFCU bank. David's house is at the first intersection, on your left. The corner is Esty and Washington Streets. Park anywhere on the street. Coming from downtown, heading west on Buffalo, turn right on Washington Street. Go two blocks to Esty Street. David's house is on the corner, the one with the huge hedges.

Deb Lampman, Bedlam Gardens

1893 Rt 34 B King Ferry. (315)346-8726

Bedlam Gardens is about 19 miles from downtown Ithaca. Take 34 to 34 B. Continue on 34 B 10-12 miles past the Lansing schools. When you reach the stop sign in King Ferry Deb's place is 3 miles north on the west (left) side of the road. You can't miss it -- too many flowers!

Nari Mistry

1159 Ellis Hollow Rd. (607) 272-7496

Ellis Hollow Rd. originates at East Hill Plaza and 1159 is one mile east of the Plaza. Turn left onto Dodge Rd. where visitors should park. (Traffic is too heavy on Ellis Hollow Rd.) Nari's house and garden are across the street on Ellis Hollow.

Susanne Lipari

Alpine, N.Y. (607-256-9308)

Plan to end your visits at Susanne Lipari's. She is expecting us in the afternoon at the end of our tour. Bring nibbles and drinks to share. Take Rt. 79 West to Mecklenburg, take Rt. 228 South (direction Odessa) for 2.4 miles. When you see a silo at the left side of the road, you've made it. Her driveway is across the road on the right. Please park along the road on the shoulder.

Let's visit Linwood Gardens

From Billie Jean Isbell, chair and garden tour coordinator.

Linwood is a private garden on the historical registry, located in Pavilion, N.Y. (southwest of Rochester). It is only open during the festival of flowers:

May 24 or June 7. Open to the public 9 am to 5 pm
Suggested contribution \$8 for garden preservation. Guided tour \$10

I will check their website regularly to see when the best time to visit will be. We will aim for either Sunday, May 24th or Sunday, June 7th. Send me an email (bjj1@cornell.edu) if you are interested in joining the group or call: (607)539-6484.

This will be a day trip, leaving Ithaca at around 8 a.m. and returning by 5 p.m. I'll see if there is a nursery we can visit in the vicinity. The garden does not have picnic facilities but they do sell food and drinks.

Come join us. It will be a great opportunity to see one of the historic gardens in our region. You can check out the website to check on updates of blooms: <http://linwoodgardens.org>.

NARGS interest groups

A message from the National President of NARGS via Billie Jean Isbell, chair.

I am pleased to announce an idea that has the potential to increase NARGS membership. The idea was suggested at a NARGS board meeting a few years ago.

The suggestion is to establish NARGS interest groups, which would be dedicated to particular genus of plant, a specific type of gardening or a pastime related to rock gardening. This could include, for example, Campanula, Fritillaria, or Helleborus sections. Other groups could be dedicated to woodland rock garden or gardening in troughs and other containers. There might be a place for plant photography.

The NARGS member who has agreed to take charge of interest groups is Tony Reznicek.

How would it work? There were two scenarios written on the subject and these are attached. The original proposal came from the Rock Garden Quarterly editor, Jane McGary, and was based on the Alpine Garden Society's (Great Britain) structure. Later, past president Dick Bartlett wrote a supporting opinion and included a potential list of societies to approach.

A lot of creative thinking will have to go into the project. Clearly, the first thing to do would be to ask the AGS how they handled it. To that end, Tony Reznicek and I are going to talk to Malcolm McGregor, of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, who is also an active member of the AGS saxifrage group. Malcolm is scheduled to speak at the Great Lakes Chapter "Spring Gala", Saturday May 16 - Sunday 17.

Once in place, the interest groups could have an impact on NARGS and its activities, most notably the Quarterly, the Web site and the Seed Exchange. There is a lot we can gain from these groups. You will hear more about the project as the work progresses.

Would you like to help with this project? Volunteers are needed; please contact Tony reznicek@umich.edu or me grazynalg@sbcglobal.net.

Grazyna Grauer,
NARGS President

Volunteers needed for new NARGS website, Quarterly editor search

From Craig Cramer, newsletter editor/webmaster.

The new and improved National NARGS website is expected to go live this month. Organizers are looking for volunteers to help with monitoring discussion forums, posting updates, and providing back-end support and graphic help. To find out more, contact NARGS president Grazyna Grauer grazynalg@sbcglobal.net.

Jane McGary will be retiring as editor of *Rock Garden Quarterly* next year. Maria Galletti is chairing an editor search committee that is also looking at the "need to redefine our journal for the purpose of being more vital and relative to the membership of the organization."

If you'd like background correspondence on the interest groups, new website, or editor search, email me at cdcramer@twcny.rr.com and I'll pass them along.

2009 program plans

Here's the **tentative** line-up for 2009. Check future newsletters or the ACNARGS blog (<http://acnargs.blogspot.com>) for details.

May 16 - Plant Sale at Ithaca Garden Fair. Ithaca High School. See more info in this newsletter.

May 31 - Garden tours. Ithaca. See more info in this newsletter.

June 4-6 or June 11-13 - Work trip to White Pine Camp. Paul Smiths, N.Y. Contact Carol Eichler by April 15 if you'd like to attend: ceichler@twcny.rr.com, 607-387-5823

~~**July date TBD - Picnic and special program.**~~ Don and Lela Avery, Cady's Falls Nursery will not be able to join us.

Aug. 15 - 'Members Only' plant sale and picnic. Kenneth Post Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca.

Sept 19 - What's Wrong With My Plants? with Michael Loos, horticulture educator with Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, Cuyahoga County and active NARGS member. Site to be determined. We are looking for a members garden where Michael can actually show us what's wrong with our plants. Volunteers?

Oct. 11 - Pam Eveleigh on primroses (tentative).

Nov. 14 - Native Plants for the Naturalistic Garden with Don Leopold, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and author of *Native Plants of the Northeast*. Kenneth Post Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca.

More summer events

In addition to our May 31 tour of members' gardens, there are lots of other garden-related activities sponsored by other groups to take in this summer:

Mother's Day Garden Tour at Sycamore Hill Gardens - May 10, Marcellus. More info.: <http://www.baltimorewoods.org>

Der Rosenmeister in Ithaca has a season-long line-up of informative and educational programs. More info: <http://www.derrosenmeister.com/events.html>

Cornell Plantations has it's usual spectacular line-up of walks, workshops and other events. More info: <http://www.plantations.cornell.edu/event>

Garden Conservancy Open Days (<http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays>):

- Tompkins County: June 13 (3 gardens including David Mitchell's)
- Oswego: June 14 (Seneca Hill Perennials)
- Tompkins County: July 11 (2 gardens)
- Marcellus: July 12 (Sycamore Hill)

People

- Chair/trips: Billie Jean Isbell, bj1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484
- Vice chair/program: Donna Kraft, dkraft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626
- Secretary: Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
- Treasurer/Plant sales: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu
- Program: Carol Eichler, ceichler@twcny.rr.com, 607-387-5823
- Plant sales: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660
- Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
- Membership: Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu 607-387-9308
- New member hospitality: Judy Fogel jfogel@twcny.rr.com 607-275-3332
- Newsletter editor/Webmaster: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@twcny.rr.com

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: cdcramer@twcny.rr.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in July.

