



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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May/June 2011

In this issue:

- New location for May 14 Plant Sale
- Program plans
- May 21 open garden at Bill & Jane Plummer's
- June 11 Garden Conservancy Open Days
- Still room for White Pine Camp work weekend
- July 10 garden tour
- Remembering departed members
- New books in lending library
- Other events

New location for May 14 Plant Sale

From David Mitchell, plant sale coordinator:

The annual Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14 at the New York State Armory, 1765 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca (off Route 13 east of the airport). Setup is Friday, May 13 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will have an indoor location with other garden groups, plus there will be more than 40 vendors outside.

Plants should be potted up in soil-less mix at least two weeks before the sale. This will ensure our display will be full of healthy looking plants. Those who have plants to donate but can't make the setup or morning of sale, feel free to drop plants in my driveway at 402 Esty Street (driveway is on Washington Street side). Please remember to have all plants labelled. Let me know if you need help digging special plants.



Keep in mind that people flock to our table for the unique plants we have that can't be found from other vendors. If you have something different or special that needs dividing, you can be sure that your donation will make some gardener's day and find a new home where it will be appreciated.

Volunteering for the sale is casual. We do not have a sign up sheet for time slots. Members are free to come and go as they please. The sale is fun, friendly, and a great learning experience. Contact me if you have questions: (607) 342-3660 or dwm23@cornell.edu.

2011 program plans

Our **tentative** program line up for 2011. Details in future newsletters or acnargs.blogspot.com:

- May 14: **Ithaca Plant Sale**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., NYS Armory off Rt. 13 N at 1765 Hanshaw Rd. See article above.
- June 18-20 – Working trip to **White Pine Camp**. Still room if you want to attend. See article below for details.
- July 10 – **Member garden tour**, Syracuse area. Featured gardens include Michael Brennan's, in Pompey, and John Gilrein's and Harold Peachey's, both in South Onondaga. See article below for preview and directions.
- August (date to be announced) – **Member plant sale** and picnic. Details coming in July/August newsletter
- September (tentative, date to be announced) – Working trip to **White Pine Camp**.
- September 17 – Lee Ginenthal, Bonsai. CCE of Tompkins County.
- October 15 – TBA. 404 Plant Science Bldg. (Whetzel Room).
- November 12 – Maria Galetti, topic TBA. CCE of Tompkins County. (Note this meeting is on the second Saturday).

May 21 Open garden at Bill and Jane Plummer's



Bill and Jane Plummer will host an Open Garden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 21. Their garden is located at 10 Fox Lane East, Gang Mills, N.Y. (near Painted Post).

Their award-winning native plant garden is under mature oaks, pines and hickories and features trillium, bloodroot, Virginia bluebells and some 60 other wildflowers often planted in masses. More than two dozen native ferns line the paths and are used as foundation plantings and throughout the woods. High-limbed trees are underplanted with flowering trees and shrubs, including native azaleas.

In addition to the native plants, the garden contains numerous other shade-loving plants, e.g. Asian counterparts as well as a number of Asian maples, a small collection of dwarf conifers, rock garden plants and a large collection of rhododendrons.

This garden has received awards from the Federated Garden Club and the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society and has hosted a number of tours as well as visits from scores of individuals. Bill is generous in donating plants from his garden for plant sales.

Directons to Plummers’: Take I86 West to Exit 44A-Williamsport/Robert Dann Drive. Exit RIGHT onto Robert Dann Drive. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto Chatfield Place. In the housing development turn RIGHT onto the first street-Weston Lane. Turn an immediate RIGHT onto Fox Ln E. Third house up on the right. You can still get there from Exit 44B. Turn left at traffic light onto South Hamilton St. Get in left lane and turn onto Robert Dann Drive after Wal-Mart entrance.

June 11 Garden Conservancy Open Days

Billie Jean Isbell's garden in Brooktondale is one of three Tompkins County Gardens featured in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days June 11.

Also featured that day are Woodland Wonders and Medicine Tree Farm, both in Newfield.

Writes Billie Jean in the Garden Conservancy's description: “My garden features a series of rooms separated by trees and shrubs that were planted in 1984. I started with two spring rock gardens next to the house. Then, I experimented with a sand bed and a “hot garden” inspired by Elizabeth Sheldon’s garden in Lansing. The pond and waterfall replaced the old perennial garden in 2005 and I added a crevice garden next to the waterfall in 2006. In 2010, I completed three more rooms: another crevice garden called Apu Isbell, an outdoor study under the canopy of a gigantic weeping beech, and an Earth Mother altar.”

Directions and more information at www.gardenconservancy.org.

Still room for White Pine Camp work weekend

From Carol Eichler

We can still accommodate a few more people for the White Pine Camp work weekend June 18 to 20. (See March newsletter for details.) Plant donations of all kinds are also welcome. We'll accept anything that is of small to moderate size, sun or shade as the garden is vast and offers various conditions to allow for a wide range of plants. We are not so concerned with zone hardiness since the deep and reliable snow cover forms good protection for plants that we would not expect to survive. In that regard, this garden has become a testing ground. Contact Carol Eichler if you're interested in going or have plants to donate. ceichler@twcny.rr.com

July 10 Member Garden Tour

Plans are set for our July 10 garden tour with a trio of spectacular Syracuse-area gardens. Here's the schedule:

10 a.m.: Michael Brennan’s garden, 1697 Berwyn Road, Pompey, N.Y.

Pagoda Hill is named for the *Cornus alternifolia* (pagoda dogwood) that proliferate on the eighteen-acre hilltop. Mown paths allow access through the varied terrain of meadow,

woodland, hillside, and pond. Close to the house is a sixty-foot locust pergola for growing roses and clematis, bordered by peonies and iris. The brick-lined gravel path continues into a formal perennial garden backed by a thirty-foot hot-colored border. The path ends with a locust arbor surrounded by twenty-seven raised beds for vegetables and cut flowers. Connected to the house is a shad shrub border featuring chartreuse foliage and blue and white flowers.

There is a convenience store/gas station between the first and second stops on NY 11 in Lafayette (NORTH of US 20).

12 noon: John Gilrein's garden, 4003 Bussey Road, South Onondaga, N.Y.

John has informal gardens with a rock garden, a crevice garden, a woodland garden adjacent to a bog garden, and borders with shrubs and perennials.

1:30 p.m. Harold Peachey's garden, 3837 Bussey Road, South Onondaga, N.Y.

Harold has newly developing gardens including prairie, shade gardens, common borders, a rock garden, The Bear's Grave (too big for a dog's grave), a vegetable garden and grasses. Liberal use of annuals mixed with an interesting starter collection of perennials from around the world.

Late lunch on the deck at Harold's after the garden tour. Dish to pass or bring your own lunch.

Please be considerate of the garden tour hosts and gentle on the gardens in the garden tour. The hosts will likely participate in the garden tour, so please be mindful of your arrival time. You may tour all of the gardens, or just one or two of them.

Directions from Ithaca:

- 1) To Michael Brennan's [1 hour/45 miles]
- 2) Take NY 13 NORTH to Cortlandville (don't follow NY 13 when it turns right to downtown Cortland)
- 3) NY 13 will become NY 281, Take NY 281 NORTH to the spur road for Interstate 81
- 4) Go right on the spur road/follow Int. 81 signs, go NORTH on Int. 81
- 5) Exit at the Tully Exit [Exit 14]
- 6) Go Left at the stop sign onto NY 281 NORTH, go 1 block
- 7) Go Right on NY 80 EAST for 4.2 miles, past Apulia Station and Apulia
- 8) Go Left on Berwyn Road (North)
- 9) Go 1.8 miles to Michael Brennan's 1697 Berwyn (corner of Stebbins Road and Berwyn Road)
- 10) Park on the WEST side of the road (house side)

- 1) To John Gilrein's [25 minutes/19 miles]
- 2) Take Stebbins Road WEST to Berry Road
- 3) Go RIGHT on Berry Road (NORTH) and Keep LEFT to stay on Berry
- 4) At STOP sign go Left (WEST) on US 20 10.5 miles to NY 80
- 5) Right on NY 80 (road heads North at this point) 1.7 miles to STOP sign
- 6) Go straight at STOP sign, leaving NY 80. This is now Makyes Road.
- 7) Take Makyes Road 1 mile to first intersection (no stop sign) at Tanner Road
- 8) LEFT on Tanner Road (West) WEST 0.5 miles to Bussey Road, go slowly, Bussey Road is hidden behind the red barn close to the road
- 9) Right on Bussey Road. If you get to a STOP sign, you missed the turn. Go 1.5 miles NORTH on Bussey Road to 4003 Bussey.
- 10) Park on the West side of Bussey Road only.

- 1) To Harold Peachey's [a half mile]
- 2) Go 0.5 miles SOUTH on Bussey Road to 3837 Bussey Road. Park on the WEST side of Bussey Road only.

Return to Ithaca

- 1) Go SOUTH on Bussey Road to the end (1 mile)
- 2) Go Left to the STOP sign 0.5 miles to Makyes Road
- 3) Go RIGHT on Makyes Road 1 mile to the STOP sign
- 4) Go STRAIGHT across the stop onto NY 80 SOUTH
- 5) Go 12 miles to the Lake Road/ and the Tully on ramp for Interstate 81 SOUTH, on the RIGHT directly across from Burger King
- 6) EXIT at Exit 12 Homer/Cortland and follow signs for NY 281 SOUTH and NY 13 SOUTH

Use Google Maps or contact John Gilrein for directions from other points
JGILREIN@twcny.rr.com 315-492-0844.

With the chair: In memory of our members who have passed away

From Billie Jean Isbell, chair

While it was still cold and winter seemed that it would never end, I marveled as the early bloomers in my garden stubbornly forced their way through the cold ground to announce the coming of spring: *Galanthus*, helebore, *Saxafragia*, primroses and dwarf daffodils rewarded me with early color.

I acquired all of these plants and bulbs through our chapter's activities. As our gardens burst into bloom let's remember chapter members who have passed away leaving behind their memories in the plants they have donated to our plant sales and exchanges as well as energy and extensive knowledge they contributed to our chapter.

Three members who have passed away were instrumental in the establishment of the Adirondack Chapter in the late 1970's: Irma and Norbert Markert and Nina Lambert. They were also among the organizers of the 1989 Garden Symposium called "On the Rocks" sponsored by our chapter at Cornell Plantations. They remained active in our chapter until their deaths in 2009-10.

The Markerts received the chapters' Service award in 1994 for promoting rock gardening and sharing their extensive knowledge as well as their plants for beginners. Nina Lambert's rock garden was an inspiration to rock gardeners in our region and far beyond. One of our members, Rosemarie Parker, recalls that she still has many plants that Nina gave her as 'starter plants.' And she adds that she cannot see *Allium carinatum* spp. *Pulchellum* in her garden without thinking of Nina. Nina was also our chapter's ambassador. She reached out to national and international speakers who recall fondly her hospitality during their visits.

We would also like to remember two members of our chapter from Greene who also passed away during the last year: Shirley Halwig and Alice Davis. Shirley continued gardening as long as she could. I remember that she used her small transplanting spade as a cane as she showed our chapter her lovely garden a few years ago. Alice Davis was a faithful attendee of our meetings until her failing health prevented her from traveling from Greene. I especially appreciated Alice's energy and her sense of humor. Both were generous providers of plant material to our chapter.

As we look at our gardens, let's remember these members and their contributions to our gardens. The chapter is donating \$500 dollars in their memory.

New books in lending library

From Carol Eichler

We extend our thanks to Tibby McLafferty for donating the following reference books (they originally came from Carol Sienko, who had a wonderful rock garden on Ellis Hollow Creek Rd. outside Ithaca) to our lending library:

All About Rock Garden Plants by Walter Kolaga. Nice older gardening book with good suggestions for rock placement and layout on various types of slopes, the incorporation of naturalistic water features, and a discussion of different kinds of gardens, such as a bog or cactus garden.

Rock Gardens: How to Plan and Plant Them by A. Edwards. Edwards was Assistant curator of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew and it includes color plates.

The Present Day Rock Garden by Sampson Clay. Published in 1954.

The English Rock Garden, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 by Reginald Farrer. Farrer (1880 – 1920) was a traveler and plant collector especially throughout Asia, publishing a number of books. He brought many plants back to England to be planted near his home village of Clapham, North Yorkshire. In the words of Farrer's biographer, Nicola Shulman, "He brought rock-gardening into the hearts of the British people." His lasting legacy is a spectacular display of plants from the Himalayas, which are today growing in a wild display around Ingleborough. While other plantings of his survive in Clapham village. For the armchair traveler these books are another way in which Farrer has shared his discoveries.

Seed exchange thanks

From BZ Marranca, treasurer and seed exchange organizer:

We picked 16,605 packets in 190 people/hours. It took 31 hours to do the distribution to chapters for a total of 221 people/hours. Thanks to those who worked on this: Carol Eichler, John Gilrein, Karen Hansen, Michelle Jones, Susanne Lipari, Michael Loos, BZ Marranca, Marcia Meigs, Sean Meigs, Nari Mistry, David Mitchell, Nancy Munckenbeck, Rosemarie Parker, Bill Plummer, Cheryl Schaefer, Bruce Steinberg, and Mike Wheeler.

Other events

- **Open Garden at Bill and Jane Plummers**, May 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 10 Fox Lane East Gang Mills (near Painted Post). See article above.
- **Garden Conservancy Open Days** - Tompkins County: June 11. Onondaga County: July 31, September 18. More info at: <http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays>

- **NARGS 2011 Annual Meeting: Discovering the Flora of New England** - June 17-19, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, N.H. Hosted by The Fells Chapter-NARGS with post conference trip options June 20. More info: fellschapter.wordpress.com/about/
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People

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