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November 2008

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## **Two presentations to highlight Nov. 15 meeting and dish-to-pass**

Tony Reznicek, curator of the University of Michigan Herbarium, will speak on "The Eaves of the World -- Plant diversity in the mountains of western China" and "Collector's plants, or why I grow so many weird (and occasionally ugly) plants" at our November 15 annual meeting and dish-to-pass.

The meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Here's the schedule:

- 10:30: Tony Reznicek's presentation on "Plant diversity in the mountains of western China."
  - Noon: Dish-to-pass. (Bring a place setting.)
  - 1:00: Short annual meeting followed by Tony's second presentation on "Collector's plants ... "
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### **Ellen Hornig, Seneca Hill Perennials, to speak on South African Plants Nov. 5**

As part of the Cornell Plantations fall lecture series, Ellen Hornig, horticulturist and owner of Seneca Hill Perennials will speak on "Out of Their Element: South African Plants in a Northern New York Garden," November 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Alice Statler Auditorium, Statler Hall, Cornell University.

From Cornell Plantations' description:

Gardeners are notorious for experimenting with improbable plants. The wonder of it is not that so many plants die in this process, but that so many live. How do plants not only survive, but even thrive, in garden conditions totally unlike the plants' wild habitats? Taking this question as her underlying theme, Hornig will present some of the less likely inhabitants of her garden, the South African species from the Eastern Cape region. She will compare their garden conditions with their wild habitats, offer some possible explanations for her success in growing these fantastic plants in upstate New York, and encourage all gardeners to be more adventurous.

### **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 meetings a few years ago, but it was on a different topic. Contact me for more information: [gardener.parker@gmail.com](mailto:gardener.parker@gmail.com)

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### **Cornell Plantations fall lecture series**

Ellen Zachos, author, photographer, instructor, and coordinator of the Gardening Department for Continuing Education at the New York Botanical Garden will speak on "Gardens of the Gods," November 19, 7:30 p.m. in the Statler Auditorium on the Cornell Campus. More info:  
<http://www.plantations.cornell.edu/education/lectures.cfm>

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### **Chapter to coordinate Round 2 Seed Exchange**

*From Carol Eicher, chair:*

After much deliberation, our Chapter has committed to coordinating NARGS' Round 2 Seed Exchange Surplus Distribution which takes place over two to three weeks in March.

We have found vacant lab space at Cornell where we can set up and a number of you have expressed interest in helping. We will need more helpers and we'll be putting out the call when we establish our work dates.

We'll be filling orders – generally about 250 – coming from all over the world. It should be fun and a great opportunity to socialize at a time of year when we're itching to get outdoors and garden.

We'll need someone to step up to coordinate this project. Might that be you? Stay tuned.

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### **From the Chair**

*From Carol Eichler, chair:*

Fall is a good time for taking stock. As I walk about my garden this time of year I'm taking notes about what worked, what didn't, what things I need to address in the spring. Everything is so lush and full it's hard to imagine the transformation that comes with winter or to remember, come spring, this moment in time.

So too, it's time to take stock of our Chapter's year. It has been a busy one – and a good one. If I were to describe the year, what stands out for me is the addition of a greater-than-average number of new members. Wow! It was also a stellar year for our plant sales. This issue includes a report from our various Board members and serves as our annual report. This a very hard-working, dedicated group so please take a moment to thank them for all that they do. I know I am eternally grateful for the privilege of working with them all.

I hope their reports will invoke memories of your gardening year and ways in which our Chapter enhanced your knowledge and experience. For my part I am reporting that this year ends my second term as Chair and so I am stepping down or should I say Billie Jean Isbell is stepping up, with your vote at the annual

meeting in November, to serve as Chair for the next 2-year term. Many of you know Billie Jean. She has wonderful ever-evolving gardens including several rock gardens, water features, and wonderful mixed border plantings. The Chapter will be in very capable hands.

This issue of GD also offers a preview of our coming program year. You will get a chance to see Billie Jean's garden, in fact, if you attend our September 2009 program.

Please come to our November meeting, scheduled on the third Saturday of the month, November 15th. We are breaking with tradition by offering a speaker program. Tony Reznicek will present two talks sandwiched (no pun intended) between our traditional dish-to-pass luncheon. It should be a great way to end a great year.

Happy gardening,

*Carol*

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### **Sneak peek at 2009 program plans**

Plans are well underway for our 2009 programs. Here's a sneak peek at the **tentative** schedule:

Feb. 21: **Members share meeting** will feature **Barb Hamlin** who attended her first NARGS National Conference in Ottawa and is eager to share photos taken from the field trips in natural areas offering great biodiversity and presentations by other Chapter members.

March 21: **Rock Garden Basics workshop.** Learn the basics of soil mixes, construction and plants from Chapter experts and invited guests.

April 24: **Michael Shadrack** will speak on **Miniature Hostas**. Michael has been a member of the British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society for twelve years and is currently their Chairman and Bulletin Editor. He is also a member of the American Hosta Society. His interest in photography has led to a library of nearly 3,200 hosta images, many of which have been published in books, magazines and catalogs. He has co-authored with Diana Grenfell two wonderful Timber Press books: The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas and The Pocket Guide to Hostas.

May 16: **Plant sale** at Ithaca High School

May TBD: **Tour of Ithaca gardens.**

June TBD: 2-night **trip to the Philadelphia area** to visit Chanticleer and private gardens.

Aug. 15: **Members-only plant sale** and tour of Cornell Plantations.

Sept. 19: **Michael Loos**, horticulture educator with Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, Cuyahoga County and active NARGS member on **What's Wrong with my Plants? Rx for Ailing Plants and Best Cultivation Practices**. We plan to meet at Billie Jean Isbell's garden for some hands-on troubleshooting.

October: Program TBD.

Nov. 14: **Annual meeting, dish-to-pass** and presentation by **Donald J. Leopold** on **Native Plants for the Naturalistic Garden**. Leopold has been studying native plants for nearly 30 years. In 1985, he joined the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. Currently, he is Distinguished Teaching Professor at SUNY. Dr. Leopold has published five books, including Native Plants of the Northeast, Trees of New York and Landowner's Guide to State-Protected Plants of Forests in New York State co-authored with D. J. Raynal.

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## 2008 board reports

Some quick updates from 2008 ...

*From David Mitchell (plant sales co-coordinator) and BZ Marranca (plant sales co-coordinator and treasurer):*

It was another good year in plant sales. Although our April seedling exchange is free, side sales totaled about \$200. The May sale at the high school brought in a record \$2,955. (Special thanks to all who helped in my absence.) Our members-only sale in August raked in \$592, bringing the total for the year to \$3,747. Thank you to all who donated quality plants, bought plants and pitched in to help run the sales.

*From BZ Marranca, treasurer:*

We met or exceeded all of our budgeted projections as far as plant sales went. (See plant sale report.) We did really well at the Garden Fair this year. We brought in nearly double the amount for which we had budgeted. Dues, however, fell a little short of projection. But we haven't spent as much as projected (yet). I'll have a spreadsheet available later.

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## It's not too early to renew for 2009

Membership form and info: <http://acnargs.blogspot.com/>

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## 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 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, cdcrmer@twcny.rr.com, 607-539-7233 and Nari Mistry nbm2@cornell.edu, 607-272-7496
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## *Green Dragon Tales*

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