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October 2009

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October 11 program: Pam Eveleigh on Primroses

Primrose expert Pam Eveleigh will speak on The Genus *Primula* and Alberta Flora at our October 11 meeting in the Whetzel Room (404 Plant Sciences Building) on the Cornell Campus. (Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m.) **Note that this meeting is on a Sunday**, rather than our usual Saturday meeting time.

Pam is a founding member of the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS) and is currently CRAGS' Vice-President. She has served as a Board member and webmaster of the American Primrose Society. Her personal website www.primulaworld.com features a gallery of more than 2,500 *Primula* images.



Members will receive a dozen miniature *Narcissi* bulbs for our October Plant of the Month. (See details below.)

Members are invited to join Pam for supper on Sunday (Dutch treat) and/or a trip to Sycamore Hill Gardens in Marcellus on Monday, October 12 (details below). RSVP for supper or the trip by contacting Donna Kraft: dkraft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626.

Let's visit Sycamore Hill Gardens October 12

From Donna Kraft, Vice chair/program:

Pamela Eveleigh, our speaker on Sunday, October 11, said that she would like to see our autumn colors and visit gardens. She will be in the area on Columbus Day, Monday, October 12. So I've made arrangements with Karen Hanford for ACNARGS access to their private Sycamore Hill Gardens in Marcellus!

Go to www.sycamorehillgardens.com for an overview of these magnificent 25 acres! This is a wonderful opportunity for our membership to view these awesome gardens while extending accessibility to our speaker. We will meet at the gardens at 10:30 a.m. and take a leisurely tour. The Hanfords do request a \$5 per person donation for continuing support of Baltimore Woods Centers for Nature Education. Those who wish may also join us for a quick bite to eat in Skaneateles.

Karen did ask about how many people might participate. For more information or to RSVP, contact me: dkraft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626. Sycamore Hill is located at 2130 Old Seneca Turnpike, Marcellus, NY 13108-9760.

October Plant of the Month: miniature *Narcissi*

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month coordinator:

The Plant of the Month at our October 11 meeting will be miniature *Narcissi*. We'll have a selection of bulbs available. The first dozen will be free to each member and any remaining bulbs will be available to purchase. Since we're buying in quantity, leftover bulbs will be sold at a good price. *Narcissi* prefer full sun to partial shade, neutral soil, and good drainage. Pending availability, our selection will include the varieties below, all hardy to at least Zone 4, except *N. caniculatus*:

- 'Small Talk' is an all yellow miniature trumpet, 5 to 6 inches high, blooming in April. Plant 5 to 6 inches deep and 5 inches apart.
 - 'Segovia' is a small cupped Narcissus. It has white perianth (the base) and a small disc shaped greenish-yellow cup. It's 5 to 6 inches high, blooming in April. Plant 6 to 7 inches deep and 6 inches apart.
 - *Narcissus canaliculatus* is a species miniature with multiple flowers. It has a white reflexed perianth and a cup shaped golden crown. It's 6 inches high, blooming in April. Plant 4 to 5 inches deep and 4 to 5 inches apart. It's reputedly hardy to zone 6, so try a protected spot, or be adventurous.
 - *Narcissus cantabricus* is a species miniature with white flowers. It's 6 inches high and blooms in April. Plant 4 to 5 inches deep and 4 to 5 inches apart. Availability may be limited.
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Coming In March: NARGS Seed Exchange, Surplus Round

From Rosemarie Parker:

Our chapter has agreed to coordinate the Surplus Seed round of the NARGS Seed Exchange again this year. The process should be less hectic than last year, as more people adjust to the web-only seed list and get their orders in for the first round. BZ Marranca has agreed to be overall coordinator, and we hope to have weekly coordinators as well to share some of the work. For national NARGS members, the incentives include getting "donor status" on the next year's exchange (10 more packets + priority order filling) and the ability to choose your own surplus seed purchase. The chapter is looking at several incentives for local members who are not national members, so that everyone will want to help. Look for details around February, as the work will take place throughout March. If you have questions or want sign on as one of the weekly coordinators, contact BZ Marranca: mmm10@cornell.edu.

Program report: What's wrong with my plants

We had a beautiful day and a good turnout for our September 19 'What's Wrong With My Plants' program at Billie Jean Isbell's in Brooktondale. Special guest Michael Loos (right), former horticulture educator with Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, Cuyahoga County and active NARGS member, led us on a tour of Billie Jean's gorgeous gardens, and admitted that he was hard-pressed to find many serious problems. He also spoke about ways of preventing infestations before they start, and patiently identified pest and disease problems members brought from their own gardens, carefully sealed in plastic bags.

Thank you Michael and Billie Jean.



2009 program plans

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

Oct. 11 - Pam Eveleigh on primroses. Whetzel Room (404 Plant Sciences Building), Cornell University, Ithaca. Note that this **program is on a Sunday** – not our usual Saturday meeting time.

Oct. 12 - Trip to Sycamore Hill Gardens. 10:30 a.m. See article above for details. Contact Donna Kraft: dkraft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626.

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*. Note new location: Kenneth Post Lab, Cornell University campus.

More events

Spring Bulbs: Three Months of Bloom, Oct. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tompkins County Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Plan now to plant bulbs this fall for three months of bloom next year! Pat Curran, Horticulture Educator, will discuss different bulb varieties, planting and growing tips, and suggestions for using bulbs in the landscape. Fee: \$5; pre-registration requested. Please call 272-2292 for more information or registration.

Cornell Plantations fall lecture series continues. All remaining lectures are 7:30 p.m., Statler Hall Auditorium. For more information, visit:

<http://www.plantations.cornell.edu/learning/lectures/2009series>

- September 30: **The Fruit Hunters.** Adam Gollner, author
- October 14: **The Authentic Garden: Five Principles for Cultivating a Sense of Place.** Claire Sawyers, author and director, Scott Arboretum
- October 28: **Chinese Herbs and Health.** Jean Giblette, owner, High Falls Gardens
- November 11: **Farming in Iroquoia: Surprising Comparisons with European Agriculture.** Jane Mt. Pleasant, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Cornell University

October 30: **Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden** will be speak on **Creating Sustainable Landscapes** at 171 Cedar Arts Center's Drake House Theater, 155 Cedar Street, Corning, N.Y. at 10 a.m. Directions and more info at www.171cedararts.com

People

- Chair/trips: Billie Jean Isbell, bjj1@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
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 - 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
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