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CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

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July/August 2011

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## July 10 Syracuse area 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](mailto:JGILREIN@twcny.rr.com) 315-492-0844.

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### **Plant sale results**

*From BZ Marranca, treasurer/plant sales:*

We cleared \$2,055.15 plus \$35 in dues, a good return on the generosity of our membership.

## 2011 program plans

Our **tentative** program line up for 2011. Details in future newsletters or [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com):

- July 10 – **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 above for preview and directions.
- August 20 – **Member-only plant sale** and picnic, Billie Jean Isbell's in Brooktondale, N.Y. See article below for details.
- 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).

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## August 20 annual picnic and member-only plant sale

*From Billie Jean Isbell, chair.*

Have you started potting up plants for this year's member-only plants sale and picnic? I have. Plans are set for this year's event, Saturday, August 20, to be held at my home and garden in Brooktondale

The address is 534 Valley Rd. - between the Brooktondale Community Center and the Valley Community Church. (A farmer's market is held at the Community Center 10:00am to 2:00pm)

The schedule:

- **10 a.m.:** Arrive promptly, get your plant sale number and help with set-up and pricing.
- **11 a.m.:** Plant sale begins outdoors rain or shine. Buy, buy, and buy some more.
- **Noonish:** Dish-to-pass picnic lunch (drinks will be provided). We'll eat outdoors weather permitting. I'll rent tables and chairs so that we can sit down for lunch in the shade.

As in past years, we'll very democratically allow those who arrive first to get "first dibs" at purchases. So it pays to arrive early. For the treasured and special plants, we will have a silent auction table.

Note this is our only members-only sale and we should have some real gems. Not yet a member? We welcome you to join for 2011 at this meeting for \$10 (\$15 for families). It's still a great value since we have half of our program year ahead of us.

### Directions:

From downtown Ithaca, take Rt. 79 east. (Rt. 79 east is East State St. and becomes Slaterville Rd.) Continue 5 miles and watch for a green highway sign for Brooktondale. **Turn right onto Brooktondale Rd.** and continue 2.4 miles. Brooktondale Rd. junctures with Valley Rd. at the Brookton Market on the left hand side across from the Brooktondale Post Office. **Do not veer left.** Continue straight onto Valley Rd. and watch for the Brooktondale Community Center on the right hand side of Valley Rd. My house and garden are next door (east) 534 Valley Rd. If you pass the white church on the right, you have gone too far. **Park in the church parking lot.**

## News and pictures from NARGS annual meeting

*From Peter George, NARGS president:*

At the 2011 North American Rock Garden Society Annual Meeting in New London, N.H., we held elections of new officers, as is our tradition. Peter George of the Berkshire Chapter was elected President; Harvey Wrightman of the Ontario Chapter was elected Vice President; Bill Adams of the Rocky Mountain Chapter is the new Treasurer; and Barbara Wetzel of the Illinois-Wisconsin Chapter continues as our Recording Secretary.

We also elected three members to the Board of Directors. Lola Horwitz of the Manhattan Chapter was re-elected; Janet Novak of the Delaware Valley Chapter and Betty Spar of the Potomac Valley Chapter are the two newly elected Board members.

The meeting was sponsored by the Fells Chapter, our newest Chapter, and was filled with beautiful garden visits (see pictures from John Gilrein, next page) and two outstanding speakers who introduced many of us to the alpine flora of New England. It showed that even a tiny Chapter, with fewer than 30 members, can sponsor and run a successful Annual Meeting and even make a few dollars! Keep that in mind when NARGS has an opportunity for your Chapter to host a meeting in your region.

The next year will be filled with new initiatives, including ongoing improvements to our website, The Quarterly Journal, and the Seed Exchange; and a continuing effort to build membership in all of our Chapters.

We will need to find people willing and able to serve on the Board of Directors, as three seats will be opening up next year. And, of course, we will continue to ask members to volunteer for one of the many committees that do the essential work of the organization, without which NARGS could not function.

I'm always available by email and I look forward to hearing from many of you over the next two years. I hope that you take the opportunity to visit the website ([www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)) and see the tremendous improvements we've made over the past couple of years. And of course, please get ready for a dramatic new look to the SeedEx, and our implementation of a web-based ordering capacity!

Finally, one of our most urgent initiatives is to develop an email-based voting mechanism, so that all NARGS members can finally participate fully in the election process. For too long the elections have reflected the views of a tiny percentage of NARGS members. With the advances in technology over the past few years, everyone should be able to vote on line, easily and securely. I'm hoping this will be ready for next year, but I guarantee that, by the end of my two-year term, we'll have the new voting procedures in place.

Thank you for trusting me with this most interesting and challenging opportunity, and I hope that in two years most of you will still have a strongly positive opinion of NARGS and me!

*Peter George*  
[petergeorge@verizon.net](mailto:petergeorge@verizon.net):

John Gilrein (plant of the month and program coordinator) sends along pictures from tours at the NARGS annual meeting:



*Meconopsis grandis*  
Barrett-Fenderson garden, NH



Showy lady slippers  
Eshqua Bog, Eastern Vermont



Pitcher plant flower  
Philbrick-Crescenti Bog, New London, NH

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## People

- Chair: Billie Jean Isbell, [bj1@cornell.edu](mailto:bj1@cornell.edu), 607-539-6484
- Vice chair/program: Open
- Secretary: Harold Peachey, [hpeachey@gmail.com](mailto:hpeachey@gmail.com),
- Treasurer/plant sales/trips: BZ Marranta, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)
- Plant sales: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu), 607-342-3660
- Plant of the Month/program: John Gilrein, [JGILREIN@twcny.rr.com](mailto:JGILREIN@twcny.rr.com), 315-492-0844
- Membership/trips: Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu) 607-387-9308
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## Green Dragon Tales

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