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July/August 2013

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AUGUST 17 : MEMBER PLANT SALE AND PICNIC

David Mitchell and BZ Marranta, Plant Sales

Please think about potting up plants now for our annual member sale August 17th. Here's your opportunity to share some of your select plants where you can be sure they'll be nurtured and appreciated. Please label them in advance if at all possible as this will facilitate set-up.

Plans are set for this year's members-only plant sale to be held at the picnic shelter at **Treman State Park's** Upper Entrance. (Note, unless you have a park pass you will be charged an entry fee for parking.) Directions to be found at the end of this newsletter.

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive, get your plant sale number and help with sale set-up.
- 11:00 a.m. Plant sale begins.
- 12:00 noon Lunch and optional cook-out
- Hike the gorge (optional)

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 and sign in. All members are welcome, whether you bring plants to sell or not. This sale has become an important revenue stream for the Chapter. 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. You may join for 2013 at the meeting for \$10 (\$15 for families). It's still a great value since we have half of our program year ahead of us.

The sale begins at approximately 11, with a dish-to-pass lunch to follow. We'll fire up the BBQ for those who want to bring grillables. Bring your own plate, utensils, and drink.

We have a great set-up for the sale with options to contend with whatever weather Mother Nature throws at us - indoor tables, outdoor tables under a roofed porch, and exposed outdoor tables.

Following lunch, those who wish to hike the gorgeous gorge at Treman may do so. If you've never done this before, it comes highly recommended.

FROM THE CHAIR

Carol Eichler

July 22 and the heat wave has broken – at least for now we got some much needed rain, and I can bear to think about gardening once again without jeopardizing my health and well-being. Just in time, I must turn my thoughts to potting plants for our member sale. One plant I expect to bring is *Phytolacca americana* ‘Silverstein,’ a variegated pokeberry I acquired from one of our members via Ellen Hornig of the former Seneca Hill Perennials.



It's not a rock garden plant; in fact it's quite huge and quite spectacular. Look for members bringing rock garden seedlings of a size to share, and perhaps some shrubs from our cuttings workshop offered as well. Most of my favorite plants have come from this sale, so take my word it's not to be missed.

I'm excited that our August meeting will be held at Treman State Park's Upper Entrance. Not only will the picnic shelter handily meet our needs for plants and the dish-to-pass, we'll get a chance to explore one of Ithaca's fabulous gorges. The walk is always a treat for me and, for those who travel from out of town, perhaps a new experience. We'll keep an eye out for *Asplenium* species and other ferns growing from the cliff sides.

With all the ups and downs of our crazy weather this summer, for the most part my flowers and veggies have been happy. (After returning from Turkey in early June it helped me appreciate the lushness of our area.) My big success – for the first time ever - has been eggplant so I'll probably bring a dish that incorporates what promises to be an overabundance of this vegetable (creative recipes welcome).

We'll have the grill fired up for those who want to bring something to grill. And since we have the shelter for the whole day, feel free to hang around, relax, and enjoy the day. Note directions and the day's agenda are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Carol

NEWFOUNDLAND ADVENTURE

John Gilrein

My family took a 2 week vacation at the end of June to **Newfoundland** for hiking. Newfoundland (I'll refer to the island portion of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador as Newfoundland) is an island in the North Atlantic between 46 and 51 degrees N latitude. The island is approximately 42,000 square miles, which makes it smaller than NY state. Due to being surrounded by the sea, and the cold Labrador current, the island has a cool humid continental climate. Summers are cooler than central NY, and winter temperatures are similar to our winters. Per Wikipedia, the average high/low temperatures for July are 71/55, and for January are 28/15 degrees F. Due to the maritime influence, it is frequently cloudy, and it also tends to be windy. We observed blooming to be approximately a month behind Central NY, with tulips, arabis, lilacs, etc. still blooming close to the summer solstice.



Dyras octoptela

The population is approximately 400,000, smaller than Onondaga County, NY. The west coast of Newfoundland, where we spent our time, has the Long Range Mountains, which are the northernmost extension of the Appalachians. The highest peak of Newfoundland is just over 800

meters high (approximately 2600 feet). Though the mountains are not very high, Western Newfoundland is rugged, with much exposed rock and fjord-like bays and lakes.

Because of its small population, most of Newfoundland is undeveloped. The natural areas of the island are forest, bog, heath, and alpine areas. Due to the coolness and wind, alpine areas can be found close to sea level, and on hilltops close to the coast. The geology of Newfoundland is complex, with igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. There are limestone pavement barrens on the northern peninsula close to the sea. At least two areas in the mountains of the island have exposed serpentine, which is somewhat toxic to plants due to chromium and magnesium. The serpentine areas have plants, but plant density is low and there's much exposed rock.

Due to the rugged landscape (and less than balmy climate), there was little observable agriculture on the western side of the island. Forestry was one of the biggest industries in the recent past, currently diminished in importance. There is relatively little diversity of forest trees, mainly balsam fir, black spruce, white spruce, red maple, and aspen.

A few bits of Newfoundland slang: a “tickle” is a narrow passage hard to squeeze a boat through; “who’s got the side out of her” is who’s got the window open in the car.

There was great hiking and botanizing at Gros Morne National Park, Port au Choix Provincial Park, White Rocks, Burnt Cape, Cape Onion, and Camel Back, among other places.



Rubus articus

More photos at the end of the issue.

A SAMPLE OF INTERESTING PLANTS

Corallorhiza maculata, spotted coral root
Cypripedium calceolus, yellow lady slipper (pictured)
Diapensia lapponica
Dryas octopetala, avens (pictured)
Epigaea repens, trailing arbutus
Mertensia maritima, sea mertensia
Moneses uniflora, one-flowered wintergreen
Oxytropis campestris
Pinguicula vulgaris, butterwort (pictured)
Rhododendron canadense, rhodora
Rhododendron lapponicum, Lapland rosebay
Rhododendron groenlandicum, Labrador tea
Rubus arcticus, Arctic raspberry
Sarracenia purpurea, pitcher plant
Saxifraga oppositifolia, purple saxifrage
Sibbaldiopsis tridentata, three toothed cinquefoil
Silene acaulis moss pink

NO PLANT OF THE MONTH IN AUGUST

Instead, *you* bring the plants to the Members-Only Plant Sale and Picnic! Please think about potting up plants now for our annual member sale August 17th. (Details in the first article.) Here's your opportunity to share some of your select plants where you can be sure they'll be nurtured and appreciated. Please label them in advance if at all possible as this will facilitate set-up.

This is our only members-only sale and we should have some real gems. Who knows what treasures you will bring home?

NEW MEMBERS AND DIRECTORY

Mary Stauble, Membership

Welcome to new member Tom Butler from Brooktondale who learned about us from Billie Jean. Tom says at this point his "rocks are taking precedence over the flowers" - rocks rock, Tom!! Welcome also to three new members who signed up at the Ithaca plant sale - Lucinda Ramberg, Debbie Norton and Dana Carruth all from Ithaca. Dana manages the Finger Lakes School of AOM Chinese Herb Garden in Seneca Falls, NY.

The 2013 Member Directory will be delivered via email and snail mail with this newsletter in early August. If you don't get it or have corrections let me know, mes2@cornell.edu.

FROM THE NATIONAL

Congratulations are due to the NARGS Board of Directors on its first successful electronic vote. As the result of recent changes to the NARGS By-Laws, electronic votes by the Board of Directors are valid as long as 50% of the members vote.

Peter George proposed the following motion:

“Any persons who live at the same address as a NARGS member, Regular, Patron, Lifetime or Honorary, may become a Regular member for \$10/year. This membership has all of the privileges of a Regular member except that it does not provide a paper copy of the Quarterly.”

The motion received 35 "yes" votes and one "no" vote. At least 28 total votes were required for the motion to pass.

An announcement will appear in the October Quarterly and in the Bulletin Board on the new nargs.org website. The new changes go into effect upon membership renewal beginning January 1, 2014.

Under the new policy, the additional member at the same address upon paying annual dues of \$10 will be allowed to vote in NARGS elections, participate in the seed exchange, attend annual meetings without paying an additional membership fee, and log onto the new NARGS website as a member. Only one copy of the Quarterly will be mailed to an address. Additional members at the same address who elect not to pay the additional annual membership fee will be allowed to log onto the website as users only.

MAY PLANT SALE REPORT

BZ Marranca, Treasurer



We cleared \$2221.25 at the May plant sale. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale or bought plants. This money goes towards getting interesting speakers and intriguing Plants of the Month.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO COLLECT SEEDS

BZ Marranca

...for the NARGS seed exchange. I hope everyone is having a fantastic growing season. I am the new seed exchange coordinator for NARGS, and I'm sure you're all contemplating from which plants you'll be sending in your saved seeds. Our seed exchange is only as good as the seeds we receive from you, our faithful members. Any member who sends in seeds from at least 5 different varieties of plants is **entitled to 10 more selections** in the main distribution. Your order will also go to the **head of the line** giving you a better opportunity to get those choice varieties. Directions for collecting and cleaning seeds are **available online** as is the donation form.

2013 PROGRAM PLANS

Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (see map on the last page).

August 17: Members-only plant sale and picnic.

September 21: **Matt Mattus** on non-hardy bulbs.

October 19: **Harvey Wrightman** on *Clay Crevice Construction: A new technique for new plants*

November 9: **Don Leopold** on **Native Plants for Difficult Garden and Landscape Settings**

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters, our blog, acnargs.blogspot.com, and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

Kitchen Garden Tour, Aug. 12, 2013, 6-8pm. Gardens of Chrys Gardner and Bill Carini (variety of vegetables, solar greenhouse) and Joel and Sally Gagnon (lots of fruit, root cellar). Sliding scale fee. For more details go to the **CCE website**.

Gathering of Gardeners, Sat. Sept. 14, 2013, Rochester. Barry Glick of Sunshine Farm & Gardens, and Karen Bussolini, garden writer and photographer. Check the **website** for more details.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2013 BOARD MEMBERS

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

Chair: Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com

Program: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, nbm2@cornell.edu

Secretary: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, Karen Hansen

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Purdy, kopurdy@gmail.com

Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

HOW TO GET THERE: DIRECTIONS TO TREMAN STATE PARK

1. Start out going west on RT-79 W/E Seneca St toward N Aurora St. (go 0.77 miles)
2. Turn left onto N Fulton St/RT-13 S/RT-96 S/RT-34 S.
 - N Fulton St is 0.1 miles past N Meadow St
 - Rhine House LLC is on the right
 - If you reach Taughannock Blvd you've gone a little too far (go 0.27 miles)
3. Turn slight right onto RT-13/RT-34/RT-96.
 - RT-13 is 0.1 miles past W Green St
 - Sal's Pizzeria is on the right
 - If you are on RT-96B and reach RT-96B S you've gone a little too far (go 3.17 miles)
4. Turn slight right onto Enfield Falls Rd/RT-327. Continue to follow RT-327.
 - RT-327 is 0.2 miles past Calkins Rd
 - If you are on RT-13 and reach RT-13 N you've gone about 0.4 miles too far (go 0.33 miles)
5. Turning off Route 13 South you drive past the entrance to Lower Treman Park and continue (about 3 miles) up a curvy, ascending road to turn left at the Upper Park Entrance which is clearly marked. The picnic shelter is at the end of the parking area. People may want to drop off plants, etc. near the shelter before parking.
 - If you are on Enfield Falls Rd and reach Gray Rd you've gone about 0.9 miles too far (go 0 miles)

MORE NEWFOUNDLAND PHOTOS

John Gilrein



Cypripedium calceolus



Pinguicula vulgaris

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 Kathy Purdy, kopurdy@gmail.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in September 2013.