



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

September 2011

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September 17 program: Art and Science of Bonsai

Lee Ginenthal, proprietor of Der Rosenmeister Nursery in Ithaca, will speak on The Art and Science of Bonsai at our September 17 program.

In his talk, Lee, who has been learning about and growing bonsai for more than 35 years, will show us how knowledge and skills in bonsai can be applied to a wide range of gardens and pruning of woody plants.

The plant of the month will be 'grasses' from Earthly Pursuits. (Details below.)

The meeting will be held at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. (Where Dey St., Willow Ave. and Rte. 13 meet). Brown bag lunch at noon, program starts at 1 p.m.

Need directions? Visit: cctompkins.org/about or call the CCE office during regular business hours: (607) 272-2292.

2011 program plans

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

- Sept. 14-16 – Working trip to **White Pine Camp**. See article below to sign up.
- Sept. 17 – **Lee Ginenthal, Art and Science of Bonsai**. Tompkins County CCE.
- Oct. 15 – **Tracy McLellan, Weird and Wonderful Plants of Namibia**. 404 Plant Science Bldg. (Whetzel Room), Cornell.
- Nov. 12 – TBA. CCE-Tompkins Cty. (Note this meeting is on the 2nd Saturday).

September plant of the month: 'Grasses'

From John Gilrein, plant of the month coordinator:

Our September plant of the month is ornamental "grasses" from Earthly Pursuits in Maryland. Bonsai plants would be too costly for plant of the month, and some of the ornamental grasses really look good in the Fall. Pending availability, these will be available at the September meeting:

- *Andropogon gerardii*, broom sedge, height 2-3 feet, DM, S, [3].
- *Briza media*, quaking grass, height 1 foot, DM, S, [4].
- *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, Korean reed grass, 2-3 feet, M, S, [4].
- *Carex elata**, Bowles golden grass, 2- 3 feet, M, Sh-PS, [5].
- *Carex pennsylvanica**, oak sedge, 8 inches, Sh-PS, [4].
- *Deschampsia caespitosa* 'Bronzeschleier', tufted hair grass, 3 feet, M, S-PS, [4].
- *Muehlenbergia capillaris*, pink muehly grass, 3 feet, S, [6].
- *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Little Bunny', mini fountain grass, 8-12 inches, S, [6].

Key for cultural directions: D=drought tolerant, M= moisture tolerant, S=sun, Sh=shade, PS=part sun, [x] = hardiness zone. *These are technically sedges, rather than grasses.

Annual picnic and member-only plant sale

Good turnout, delicious food, wonderful weather and great plants. Who could ask for more?

Special thanks to Donna Gibson for volunteering to host at the last minute.

We made \$556.50 from the sale to help support chapter activities.



White Pine Camp – Success in June. Next trip September 14-16

From Carol Eichler ceichler@twcny.rr.com

In June, an enthusiastic ACNARG delegation returned to the Heutte Rock Garden at White Pine Camp at Paul Smith's in the Adirondacks for its fourth foray in as many years to plant, weed, and perform other general maintenance on this historic garden. With plants donated from members' gardens (thanks to Susanne Lipari, Donna Gibson, and Carol Eichler), unsold plants from the Chapter's spring plant sale, and cash contributions made by this year's participants, we added over 70 new plants to the garden.

We've been gradually adding woodies to the garden. This year's new additions included two *Andromeda polifolia* 'Blue Ice', *Daphne mezereum*, *Picea alba* 'Nidiformis', *Pinus mugo*, *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Blue Pigmy,' and a dwarf *Tsuga* species.

The moss that we managed to suppress for two years by using a pea gravel mulch had returned to compete with our cultivated plants. The group was determined to pull as much as we could (a stop-gap measure) and will research how we might deal with it long-term. Many of our previous plantings not only survived but were thriving. The Japanese maple standing at about 3 feet tall still looks good though it had been topped, perhaps by deer. As long as it receives snow cover it will likely survive, though anything above the snow may suffer dieback. The top of the tree was likely above the snow line and hence made a nice snack.

Room for 1 or 2 more in September ...

We'll be making a fall work trip to the Camp on Sept. 14-16 to do some bulb planting. The Camp has reserved a cottage for a two-night complimentary stay. We've ordered several hundred bulbs thanks to contributions from the Chapter and from Dick and Mary George, former Chapter members who were the ones to restore this historic rock garden. The Georges have since moved to become year-round Adirondack residents.

This trip is the last Chapter-sponsored one. So if you're interested, now is the time to commit. We will work until all the bulbs are planted (approximately 4 hours) with any time remaining to do general weeding and clean-up. The rest of the time is yours to spend as you please. I always love going out on the river in the kayak and of course eating out in Saranac Lake.

If you're interested in going on this September trip, contact Carol Eichler at ceichler@twcny.rr.com.



Working in the Heutte Rock Garden



The garden in June

NARGS Book of the Month

Looking for a good garden-book read? Don't miss the NARGS Book of the Month book reviews.

This month's selection is Timber Press's *The Book of Little Hostas: 200 Small, Very Small, and Mini Varieties* by Kathy Guest Shadrack and Michael Shadrack, reviewed by Carole Bordelon, curator at the National Arboretum and a member of the Potomac Valley Chapter of NARGS.

Previous reviews include *Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide to the 2000 Species, Hybrids & Cultivars*, *The Opinionated Gardener: Random Offshoots from an Alpine Garden*, and *Gardening on Pavement, Tables, and Hard Surfaces*.

Robin Bell contributed the July review of *Thoughtful Gardening*, by Robin Lane Fox.

Find the reviews by visiting the NARGS Web site (www.nargs.org). Then click on Book of the Month in the left column.

Garden tour report

Special thanks to Michael Brennan, John Gilrein and Harold Peachey who opened their gardens for our July garden tour.

Carol Eichler passes along a few pictures from the day ...



Michael Brennan's



Harold Peachey's



John Gilrein's

People

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