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CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

Visit our blog: [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com)

October 2012

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## OCTOBER 20 : DEER-RESISTANT PLANTS

**David Fernandez** will be our speaker at the October 2012 meeting. He has a tremendous background to back his talk on **Deer Resistant Plants**, starting with a degree in Landscape Architecture, combined with decades of experience in the horticulture field as a nursery owner in one of the most deer ravaged areas of Central New York. We will have some nice inexpensive deer resistant plants as our Plant of the Month (see article further on in this issue) to go along with the talk purchased through his nursery Cayuga Landscapes. We hope you will attend and get ideas to feed your plant passion, rather than feeding large herbivores!

David graduated from Cornell with a degree in Landscape Architecture after interning with a well known landscape architect in Rochester, NY. Upon graduation, he founded Cayuga Landscape, an Ithaca nursery and design-build landscape contracting firm. Cayuga Landscape has a broad variety of plant material, including trees, shrubs, perennials and rock garden plants. Cayuga Landscape projects include the Tiger Glen Garden at the Johnson Museum and gardens at Cayuga Medical Center. One of his current passions is improving the local landscape with native plants and removal of invasive ones.

The October meeting will be held at the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (see map on the last page). Brown bag lunch from noon on. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

## NEWS FLASH! PLANT LOVER'S OPPORTUNITY

Robin Bell will be moving by year's end (Oregon) and has made the generous offer to ACNARGS members to sell his potted plants (houseplants, orchids, troughs) by silent auction on Saturday, October 6th, Bidding begins at 11 a.m. (please no early arrivals) and closes promptly at 12 noon. He also has some tufa stone. Note some of these items are quite large - so come prepared! Robin's house is located at 714 N. Aurora Street in downtown Ithaca. Proceeds of the sale will go to his favorite charity.

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Carol Eichler*

As the growing season winds down, you should all be enjoying the last hurrah from late bloomers in your garden. Right now my anemones are in glorious bloom with fingers crossed that the deer stay away from them. So far, so good.

Who doesn't have to contend with deer in their gardens (aside from those of you who have put up fences)? So our October talk is a timely one as we hunker down for the dormant season ahead. Our speaker, David Fernandez, owner of Cayuga Landscape, promises to be knowledgeable as well as entertaining.



I've known David since "back in the day" when he was still a student at Cornell and I was a bit younger too. He grew his nursery and his landscape business into one of the largest in our community (if not the largest). It's the dwarf conifers for my troughs that lures me there only to get distracted by other offerings. Note that John Gilrein commented to me that he views Cayuga Landscape as one of his favorites in Central NY (Onondaga County included), because of its interesting selections.

I hope we can share our experiences about which plants have proven resistant to deer and what techniques have been effective for those that aren't. We'll also be providing a plant list developed by Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

See you on October 20<sup>th</sup>!

**Carol**

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

*Mary Stauble*

Welcome to several new ACNARGS members!

Cindy Pataki - Freeville, NY

Ludwig and Dorothy Schiessl - Baldwinsville, NY

Mary Royer - Ithaca, NY

Susan Royer - Upper Montclair, NJ

Helen Griffiths - Wilseyville, NY

Betty and Rick Johnson - Newfield, NY

Elke Schofield - Ithaca, NY

The 2012 Membership Directory has been published - it was sent as an email attachment to most; those who receive the newsletter in printed form got it at the last meeting or in the mail. We have 73 current members; 12 of those joined this year.

## A NEW ADDITION TO THE WURSTER GARDEN

*Carol Eichler*

After a number of years of on-and-off discussion, the Wurster Garden, our public rock garden located at Cooperative Extension, has a trough on display. Some of you will remember the “monster” trough I made at our spring workshop – with many thanks to hubby Steve Dell’Orto and Bill Stark for coming to the rescue when my project ran into serious structural trouble. Using some creative techniques to move it as well, this trough has been curing at my home all summer before travelling to its final resting place at Wurster. I was both dreading and anticipating that day. We purchased plants for the trough at day trips to Stonecrop and Bristol’s earlier this year and David Mitchell has been nurturing the plants through our hot, dry summer.

Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> became “D” Day again with help from Steve and David and our handy truck to move a trough that unplanted weighs in easily at 100 pounds. (I wanted to make sure no one would steal it) Once situated as a wonderful transition between the rock garden and the Ziegler Memorial Border Garden, the fun part began to mix the soil and plant which took only minutes, completing a goal that had been years in the making.



Although it has been up for a while, I should mention that thanks to David Mitchell and Nari Mistry, the Wurster Garden also has a mounted all-weather pamphlet rack containing brochures about the Garden, our Chapter, and about easy rock garden plants. This was another project on our “to do” list that got completed in time for this June’s Fall Creek Garden Tour.

## OCTOBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

*John Gilrein*

Our October 2012 POM is **hellebores**. We will have both Lenten roses (*Helleborus X*, formerly *H. orientalis*) and species hellebores, *H. multifidus* and *H. viridis*. The *Helleborus X* plants are seedlings of selected plants, so flower color will be variable within a color range. Lenten roses are irresistible to me for blooming early and for an extended time, usually March through April, with foliage that stays attractive throughout the season.

Culture of hellebores is easy, as they are not palatable to deer and undemanding when planted in reasonable conditions. Hellebores thrive in well-drained soil with a pH above 5.5. in partial sun/partial shade. In the wild, sometimes the shade is provided by nearby larger herbaceous plants. Liming is recommended in very acidic soils; hellebores are tolerant (if not fond) of mildly alkaline soils (available calcium may be beneficial). Since they are long lived, I would recommend amending the soil prior to planting. Estimated plant sizes (not listed in website) would be 15” inches high by 2 to 3 feet wide for *Helleborus X*, and smaller for the species. The plants we will have are hardy to zone 4 and will be fairly small inexpensive plants. *Helleborus X* plants are evergreen; the species plants may go dormant, depending on conditions. Generally, removal of old foliage on Lenten roses is recommended in late winter, but not absolutely necessary. Deadhead plants unless you want volunteer seedlings.

The wholesaler providing our plants, Pine Knot Farms in Virginia, [www.pineknotfarms.com](http://www.pineknotfarms.com), also lists sources for mail order hellebores, should you want to expand your planting. Our selections for October are:



*Helleborus X* dark wines--variable colors in the deep magenta to slaty purple range



*Helleborus X* rhubarb custard – variations of yellow edged in red.



*Helleborus multifidus* – attractive/variable dissected foliage, flower color variable, either yellow, green, or purple.



*Helleborus viridis* – attractive dissected foliage, green flowers.

Photos courtesy of Pine Knot Farms.

Plant of the Month is a member benefit, partially subsidized by your dues, to provide additional encouragement to attend meetings and expand the horizons of our members. The goal is to coordinate the plant of the month to the meeting topic, though sometimes that is not possible. Please send suggestions for Plant of the Month to John Gilrein.

## CAROL'S BOOK REVIEW ON THE NARGS WEBSITE

October's Book of the Month review on the North American Rock Garden Society's website was written by none other than our fearless leader, Carol Eichler. Carol reviews **Concrete Garden Projects** and suggests it holds ideas for hypertufa projects as well. Read it yourself at <http://nargs.org/nargswiki/tiki-index.php?page=Book+of+the+Month>

## GARDENING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: GARDEN BLOG MEMES

*Kathy Purdy*

Occasionally a garden blogger will invite fellow bloggers to write about a certain topic at a certain time. The initiator collects links to all the posts so that they can be conveniently accessed by all who are interested. This collective writing prompt is known as a meme. They range from informative and interesting to downright silly--and sometimes silly is just what you need. After reading through some descriptions you'll understand better what a garden meme is. Let's start with two that I participate in:

### GARDEN BLOGGERS' BLOOM DAY

Carol Michel of May Dreams Gardens started Garden Bloggers' Bloom Day (<http://www.maydreamsgardens.com/search/label/garden%20bloggers%20bloom%20day>) in February 2007. A big fan of Elizabeth Lawrence, she was prompted by Lawrence's statement that "we can have flowers every day of the year" to invite garden bloggers worldwide to write about what is blooming in their garden on the 15th of every month. Gardeners from around the world participate, and newspapers have written about it. It is fascinating to click on the links listed below her 15th of the month post and find out what is growing in other parts of the world.

### WILDFLOWER WEDNESDAY

Gail Eichelberger, who blogs at Clay and Limestone, has a deep interest in native plants and pollinators, so it's not surprising that she started Wildflower Wednesday (<http://www.clayandlimestone.com/2010/02/wildflower-wednesdayback-to-beginning.html>) to draw more attention to these plants. On the fourth Wednesday of every month she invites bloggers to write about wildflowers: "Wildflower Wednesday is about sharing wildflowers/natives/naturally occurring plants no matter where you garden...How they grow and thrive in your garden is what matters most." Visit her blog on the appointed day and you find links to a collection of writing on native plants.

### FOLIAGE FOLLOW-UP

Pam Penick of Digging introduced Foliage Follow-Up (<http://www.penick.net/digging/?cat=85>) in this way: "Bloom Day is not only a fun meme but a great source of information about what others are growing in your area, or in zones perhaps far different from your own. Flowers can be fleeting, however, and wouldn't it be great to celebrate foliage each month too, learning from others and showing off what's interesting in our own gardens? With that in mind, and with a hat tip to Carol, please join me for Foliage Follow-Up, a monthly celebration of foliage as well as bark, berries, cones, seedpods—any part of a plant that deserves attention."

## HARVEST MONDAY

Daphne of Daphne's Dandelions decided she wanted to track how much she spent, and how much she harvested from her garden each year. That gradually evolved into Harvest Monday (<http://daphnesdandelions.blogspot.com/search/label/Harvest%20Monday>), where she shares her tally for the week and invites other gardeners to do the same.

## GARDENING OOPS

Joene Hendry has declared the first day of every month to be Gardening Oops Day (<http://www.joenesgarden.com/tag/gardening-oops-goops/>) As she wisely observes, " If you've not had a gardening faux pas you've not gardened hard enough.... Don't be shy. Tell your tale in a comment below or share your GOOPs on your own blog.... Garden thoughtfully ... may my GOOPs prevent your GOOPs."

## GARDEN DESIGNERS ROUNDTABLE

This is organized differently from all the preceding memes in that the contributors were handpicked and the topic varies each month. "Garden Designers Roundtable (<http://gdrt.wordpress.com/>) began in December 2009, when four professional landscape and garden designers who write blogs teamed up and asked themselves the question: **Does Your Garden Designer Practice What He/She Preaches?** This event was so well received that the original group expanded to include blogging designers from across the U.S. Garden Designers Roundtable now includes 21 professional landscape and garden designers from all across the United States and Great Britain."

## EVEN MORE

As you can see, there is quite a bit of variety in the topics these memes revolve around. Others you may wish to investigate include

- Fertilizer Friday ~ Flaunt Your Flowers (<http://www.tootsietime.com/p/fertilizer-friday.html>)
- Bloomin' Tuesday (<http://msgreenthumbjean.blogspot.com/search/label/Bloomin%27%20Tuesday>)
- You Can Grow That! (<http://wholelifegardening.com/blog/category/you-can-grow-that/>)

## NYBG: WORK & REWARDS

*Carol Eichler*

3 + 3 = 275 Magical Mathematics!



How can that be? Let me explain. Three people working three hours planted 275 ferns at the NY Botanical Gardens on Friday, August 31st. OK, we had a little help from staffers Stefan, who we kept busy delivering more plants from the greenhouses, and Yuko, who belatedly joined us with our planting assignment. With temperatures expected to rise near 100° thankfully we were working in the shade to plant woodland ferns.

We made a good-size dent in the total project of planting 550 ferns in this area. Unfortunately for the Native Plants Garden, these ferns were ordered for its major renovation currently underway, only to discover the species ordered was not a native one. Because of this mistake the Rock Garden became 550 plants richer. Barbara Moyer, Elke Schofield, and I would have finished the project off except that the ferns had to be deep-watered in the afternoon to keep them happy over the long (and predicted hot, dry) Labor Day week-end ahead.

We weren't objecting since we were anxious to visit other areas of the Botanical Garden. Jody Payne, curator of both the rock garden and the native plants garden, gave us a behind-the-scenes tour including a sneak peak at the Native Plants Garden, which has been under construction and enclosed within a tall stockade fence since perhaps 2010. Scooting along in a golf cart we also saw the propagation greenhouses and the air-conditioned alpine house – both of which are closed to the public. We felt like royalty!

So now of course we have to return in the spring to see the fruits of our handiwork and timed to view the opening of the Native Plants Garden in all its promising glory.

## WHAT YOU MISSED: NICK TURLAND

Carol Eichler



*Asperula neilreichii*

What a treat it was to have Nick Turland as our September speaker. He's on a whirlwind tour of local NARGS chapters – crisscrossing through New England before his last stop at the Minnesota chapter, a bit closer to his home in the St. Louis area. It was a surprise that he originally hailed from England, although he's been at the Missouri Botanical Gardens for 15 years. Fortunately for him and us, his job requires him to travel to many mountainous regions of the world.

In his first presentation he shared slides from his botanical field trips to Mount Rax in the Austrian Alps, not far from Vienna, and to the Tyrolean Alps just this summer. I suspect we could grow many of these calcareous plants if we can find the seeds or plants in the trade. Thanks to Nick's posting to Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nturland/sets/>) and with due credit, I have included some photos of plants that caught my eye.

*Paeonia mascula*



After taking a break to distribute door prizes and purchase plants-of-the-month, Nick resumed with his second presentation "Plant Hunting in South-Western Turkey." We saw familiar genera such as *Eranthis*, *Crocus*, *Tulipa*, *Scilla* and *Ornithogalum* and some not too familiar, certainly some plants among them worthy of trying in our home gardens.

*Leontopodium alpinum*

I was pleased to see so many in attendance to hear Nick, in spite of competing with Ithaca's Porch Fest and a beautiful, sunny day. Thank you to NARGS National for bringing him to us and to Harold Peachey and Marie Greener for hosting him.

*Soldanella austriaca*



## 2012-2013 PROGRAM PLANS

**October 12-14:** Autumn in the Garden: A Time for Troughs, NARGS Eastern Study Weekend in Pittsburgh, PA, hosted by the Allegheny Chapter. See article or visit the website for more info (<http://home.comcast.net/~sylvialynch/Study%20Weekend%20Information.htm>)

**October 20:** **David Fernandez**, owner of Cayuga Landscape in Ithaca: gardening with deer

**November 10:** **Jerry Kral**, Rochester gardener *extraordinaire*

**February 16, 2013:** Members Share

**March 16, 2013:** **John Gaunt** of Greenleaf Garden Supply on soils

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters and [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com). When in question, visit our blog.

## CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

*Pat Curran*

**Sat. Sept. 29, 11am-12noon**, Compost with Confidence, Compost Demo Site at IFM

**Fri. Sept. 28-Sun. Sept. 30** - Apple Harvest Festival, downtown Ithaca

**Wed. Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 pm** Maple Sugaring, Josh Dolan, TCCE

**Mon. Oct. 8, 1-4 pm** Fall Harvest Festival for Kids, former P&C Market, Hancock St.

**Thurs. Oct. 11, 6:30-8:30 pm** Easy Plants for New Gardeners, Pat Curran, TCCE

**Fri. Oct. 12-Sun. Oct. 14** Green Building Weekend: film Fri. night; house tours Sat. & Sun., see P.E. for details

**Sat. Oct. 13, 2-5 pm** Scarecrow Jubilee and Pumpkin Jam, Ithaca Children's Garden, Cass Park (southern end), Route 89

**Wed. Oct. 17, 7 pm** Sugar Maple Mysteries, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church annex, second floor

**Sat. Oct. 20, 1 pm** Gardening with Deer, David Fernandez, owner of Cayuga Landscape in Ithaca, monthly meeting of the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Bldg, Cornell

**Mon. Oct. 22, 6:30-8:30 pm** Uncommon Plants for Experienced Gardeners, Pat Curran, TCCE

**Fri. Oct. 26-Sat. Oct. 27** NYS African Violet Society Convention Show & Sale, Auburn NY; for Info: call Kathy Garbarino (315) 829-3679 or e-mail: [Kgarb@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Kgarb@twcny.rr.com)

**Sat. Oct. 27, 11am-12 noon**, Compost with Confidence, Compost Demo Site at IFM

**Sat. Nov. 3, 10am-12noon**, Vote for Worms, \$10 per family, TCCE

**Sat. Nov. 10, 1 pm** Jerry Kral, Rochester gardener *extraordinaire*, monthly meeting of the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Bldg, Cornell

**Wed. Nov. 21, 7 pm** Escaping the Deer's Mouth, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church annex, second floor

**Fri. Nov. 30, 6:30-8:30 pm** Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop Ann Rider and MG volunteers (this session will be oriented towards those who have participated before). \$9 for Master Gardeners (half-price).

**Sat. Dec. 1, 10am-12 noon** Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop Ann Rider and MG volunteers (this session will include how-to instructions by Master Gardener volunteers). \$9 for Master Gardeners (half-price)

**Wed. Dec. 19, 7 pm** Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Solstice Celebration, site TBA

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2012 BOARD MEMBERS

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

Chair: Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Program: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, [nbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:nbm2@cornell.edu)

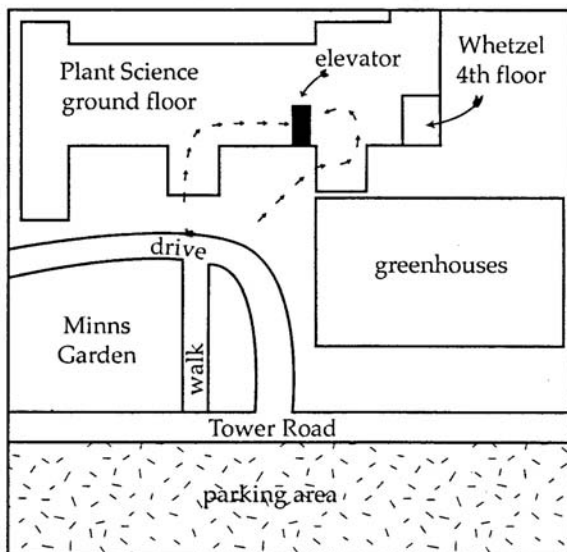
Secretary: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)



Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu)  
Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca  
Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), Karen Hansen  
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## HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP



## 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](mailto:kopurdy@gmail.com).  
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