

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

May/June 2013

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ithaca Plant Sale
- From the Chair
- Propagation Workshop
- Stark/Stauble Open Garden
- Wurster Demonstration Garden
- Rock Garden Tutorial
- Cazenovia Day Trip
- Save Your Seeds
- NYBG Native Plant Garden Reopens
- New Members & Directory
- Spring at Chanticleer
- Do You Need a New Plant?
- 2013 Programs
- Calendar of garden events
- People

MAY 18 : SPRING GARDEN FAIR & PLANT SALE

David Mitchell

The May plant sale will return to the Ithaca High School (1401 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, New York 14850) on May 18. Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set up is Friday around 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. Arrive early Saturday to drop off plants and help complete the setup. Our booth will be located indoors, probably in the gym.

This year we're asking volunteers to sign up for time slots before the sale. Though this is not a requirement to volunteer, it helps us spread the workload. Advance praise for the following members who have volunteered to help with the sale: Carol Eichler, Joan Lawrence, BZ Marranca, Nari Mistry, Marcia Meigs, Susanne Lipari, John Gilrein, Mary Stauble, Jayne Port, Joan Hermann, and Terry Humphries. Contact me if you're willing to volunteer an hour or two. We need Friday set-up help, final Saturday set-up (8-9), sales people every hour (especially the 9-10 rush), and clean-up at 2.

Remember to pot your plants in soilless mix and to label them in advance (Latin name preferred). I have labels and pots of various sizes if you need them.

My driveway is available for drop offs any time before the day of the sale if you can't make it to the high school Friday or Saturday morning. The driveway is on the Washington Street side of the corner of Washington and Esty Streets (402 Esty Street). My phone number is (607) 342-3660 should you have any questions about the sale. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension can be reached at (607) 272-2292 or visit the [plant sale website](#).

Tip #1: members receive a 25% discount on their purchases from our table. Since our membership runs the calendar year, you may not have renewed yet (or joined for the first time) this year. Membership forms will be available so you may do so at the time of your purchase.

Tip #2: the Master Gardeners will have about 50 pots of double bloodroots, from Pat Curran's garden, for sale.

Tip #3: Visitors are encouraged to bring carts or wagons to aid in transporting their plant purchases to their cars.

FROM THE CHAIR

Carol Eichler



Early flowering Euphorbia myrsinites (Donkey Tail Spurge) and Scilla scilloides, invasive as they are, form a nice color-combination clustered around moss-covered tufa stone.

It's amazing what a few 50 degree days can do to awaken plants from their long winter's nap. Buds have started to swell on trees and shrubs. Magnolias and forsythia are in bloom as are twin leaf, blood root, and pulmonaria among others herbaceous plants. And how welcome they are!

It's getting to be that time when thoughts turn to our May plant sale. Time to pot up divisions of some of your prized plants for the Chapter's biggest fundraiser of the year. To help share the work load, we're asking folks to sign-up for a shift. This is a fun and easy way to support our Chapter, especially if you may not have plants to offer. There's more information contained in this newsletter.

While April was our last speaker meeting until September, we have plenty of activity planned for the summer starting with the May 18th plant sale. You'll want to read this issue carefully since it encompasses two months of activities. We are still working on the details for a day trip to visit gardens in Cazenovia and Clinton, NY. June will be a busy month with the propagation workshop on June 8th and a visit to Bill Stark and Mary Stauble's garden.

By the time you read this the overnight trip to Philadelphia and Delaware will be history but hopefully well-documented with photos to share from the 15 people who are going.

While we keep busy with our gardens and other summer fun, the Green Dragon takes a short hiatus. Watch your Inbox for more details on the Cazenovia trip. The next regular issue of the newsletter will come out in early July to include details about our annual picnic and member only plant sale.

The garden season is just beginning! I hope, like me, you are soooooo looking forward to it!

Happy Gardening,
Carol

PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Pat Curran

The Adirondack Chapter is planning a propagation workshop on Saturday June 8. We have arranged to use the mist propagation greenhouse at Cornell's Ken Post Labs in order to root cuttings (mostly shrubs). Participants will be charged \$10 for supplies (perlite and growth hormone) and the greenhouse space. Here is the very tentative schedule: 8:30 am, meet at KPL to moisten the perlite for the propagation trays and discuss the procedure; 9 am, go take cuttings (or you can bring cuttings from home); 10 am, return to KPL headhouse to 'stick' cuttings in propagation trays; 11am, move propagation trays to the mist house and set up the mist schedule.

We want an early start so that the cuttings will not be water-stressed, in case it's a really hot day.

This is very tentative, and I still need to discuss details with CU staff, but if you are interested in participating, please e-mail me, Pat Curran, at pc21@cornell.edu. You must pre-register with Pat, and will be notified of finalized details via email.

Please start thinking about what you want to propagate, and how many cuttings of each you want to take. We have the whole 3x20 ft. bench reserved just in case we need that much space.

Greenhouse staff are concerned about insects and diseases being brought accidentally into the mist house (which cannot be sprayed), so I also need knowledgeable people to examine the cuttings for problems. If you can help with this, please let me know.

OPEN GARDEN AFTER PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Bill Stark & Mary Stauble

The Stark/Stauble garden at 232 Cedar Cove Road is being built on 9 acres of Cayuga Lake lakefront in Lansing, north of Ithaca. The garden will be open for viewing from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm - after the Propagation Workshop on Saturday, June 8th. Bill is working on a low cost group purchase of tufa for ACNARGS members this summer and the tour will feature a discussion of construction details of three new tufa gardens. The garden also includes a new tree peony walk, a new planting area we call Lilac Hill, a new rhododendron lined path through a pine forest, candelabra primroses in a ravine garden, waterfalls, water rills, ponds, natural and artificial springs, extensive stonework using the local limestone (the largest stone moved weighs over 100,000 lbs) and ten foot tall natural limestone ledges.

The garden is still under construction - we are currently planting an eighty foot bamboo grove. Everyone should understand that they are visiting a hill and pond garden construction site where we have slippery slopes without stairs, stairs and narrow bridges without rails and lots of gravel to slide on. Everyone should wear sensible shoes and bring a walking stick if they are unstable. Because of its unfinished state, the garden isn't suitable for young children or dogs.

Directions: From Ithaca, take Lakeshore Dr. or Triphammer Rd. North to Rt 34B North. Look for a fire station on the left side of 34B and turn left 500 ft after the fire station onto Algerine Rd. Drive 1 mile on Algerine and look for a small gravel road on the right. There is a small wood sign for "Cedar Cove" set back from the road. Turn right on Cedar Cove Rd. Drive on Cedar Cove for 1 mile to the lake. Go right at the two forks in the road. Once you are close to the lake, look for a house under construction with a green roof. A "Stark/Stauble" sign is at the top of the driveway. Look for marked parking areas along the driveway. Don't park too close to a ledge.

From the North, take 34B South towards Ithaca. After the entrance road to the power plant, take the next right onto Algerine Road. If you drive past a fire station on the right, you've gone too far. Once you are on Algerine Rd., follow the instructions above.

Google Maps recognizes our location as 232 Cedar Cove, Lansing, NY 14882

WURSTER GARDEN: GARDEN OF MEMORIES, GARDEN OF BEAUTY

Carol Eichler



Mid-to-late May is the prime time to visit the Al Wurster Memorial Garden, located behind the Cooperative Extension building at 615 Willow Avenue in Ithaca. Coming to the plant sale? Then why not plan to stop and view the garden?

Every time I visit I'm amazed at the enormity of the project that our Chapter committed to back in 2000. A core group of our members – many of them no longer with us - were involved (me

only peripherally) first with planning over many weeks and months of meetings, then with the construction which actually took place over 2 years. Besides funds from the Chapter, we received a grant from NARGS National and sizable donations made through Cooperative Extension in memory of Al Wurster.

For those new to our Chapter, Al was an avid and enthusiastic gardener who was an active participant in many gardening organizations including the Master Gardeners, L. H. Bailey Garden Club and of course ACNARGS. If you look closely, you'll find the etched stone that dedicates the garden to him.



Viewing the garden brings back many memories. The stone bench was dedicated to two more long-time friends of the Chapter Toni and Bob Wilkinson. Robin Bell (recently turned Oregonian) was instrumental in the garden design incorporating many rock garden styles so that it could serve as a teaching tool. One of the challenges was that the pond was already in place so we had to achieve height with the rock garden working against the natural slope of the land. But we did it!

The effect of all that stone was strikingly barren. The initial plants, though numerous, were small and didn't help to soften the hardscape. I'll admit we received more than a little criticism from skeptics. What had we created!

Today no one doubts that the Wurster Garden is a thing of beauty. David Mitchell deserves acknowledgement, more than anyone, for his on-going commitment to maintaining the Garden. The Garden is a sight not-to-be missed any time of year.

ROCK GARDEN TUTORIAL TUESDAY MAY 7TH

Pat Curran

Our local rock garden chapter is offering an introduction to rock gardening. In this class you will learn the basics to get you started. After a rain-or-shine tour of the Al Wurster Demonstration Rock Garden, come indoors to learn about its construction, easy plants to grow, and options such as troughs. A slide show will include photos of the 100-year-old Frederick Heutte Rock Garden at White Pine Camp in the Adirondacks.

Planning a Rock Garden will take place Tues. May 7, 6-8 pm at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca. Meet at the Extension Building parking lot before the tour. *Rain or shine!* Pre-registration recommended; limited to 20 attendees. Call 272-2292 for more information or registration. Cost: \$5-\$10 (self-determined sliding scale fee). This is a good opportunity that will not be repeated for several years.

CAZENOVIA, HERE WE COME

Terry Humphries

Get ready to see two fabulous gardens! Joan Herrmann and I are planning a day garden trip to two wonderful area gardens. First garden on the tour will be that of Graham Egerton in Cazenovia, who has been a long-time Chapter member. We are planning a full 2 hours at Graham's garden where there is much to see. A former horticulture student at the **Barnes Foundation**, he has applied his training to create a stupendous garden.

Then we will move on to Root Glen in Clinton, NY. Many will recall the wonderful photos from Root Glen on the Hamilton College Campus that Joan shared with us at our February members' share meeting. The Glen, planted and maintained by 3 generations of the Root family before being deeded to the college, contains over 65 species of trees, dozens of shrubs and scores of varieties of flowers, and includes such areas as the Hemlock Enclosure, Primrose Basin, Fern Path, and a display of native trees and plants. For more info visit the **arboretum website**.

The date is not yet determined, so we'll send out a separate notice as soon as the trip details are finalized.

DUDE, SAVE THOSE SEEDS!

BZ Marranca, Director NARGS Seed Exchange

It's never too early to think about saving seeds! While you're out and about in your garden or on your travels, think about donating seeds to the NARGS seed exchange. We have a really fantastic seed exchange but it's only as good as the seeds sent in by our faithful members. Details about where and when to send seeds will follow shortly. Information on saving seeds is available on the NARGS website.

NYBG RENOVATED NATIVE PLANT GARDEN OPENS

Carol Eichler

May 4 & 5 marked the grand opening of the completely renovated Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden, thanks to a grant by the Leon Levy Foundation. Designed by Sheila Brady, principal of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, it has been planted with nearly 100,000 native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses.

The garden also offers a stunning water feature with multiple cascades, shaded woodlands, lush wetlands, and open meadows with wildflowers that draw a colorful array of birds and butterflies. Jody Payne, who oversees this garden area as well as the adjacent rock garden (you may recall she spoke to our Chapter several years ago), acknowledges the rare opportunity that this Foundation gift afforded, to allow a complete rethinking and redesign on such a large scale. While both garden areas may offer peak bloom in the spring, they are designed to flourish in every season and certainly warrant a visit. Add this to your list!

NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Mary Stauble

Rosemarie Hanson of Trumansburg, sister of Kathy Purdy, joined at our March meeting. Susan Biddle is from Apalachin and Barbara Littlefair is from Lansing. Both joined at our April meeting. Diana Garcia and Janet Hawkes joined us for the Delaware Valley trip. Diana is a former co-worker of Carol Eichler's. She's a renter but is soon to plant her first hypertufa trough. Janet is the daughter of member Joan Lawrence, herself a new member last year. Welcome to all!

Since we generally acquire several new members after the May plant sale, you can expect the 2013 Member Directory to be delivered via email and snail mail in June or July.

SPRING AT CHANTICLEER

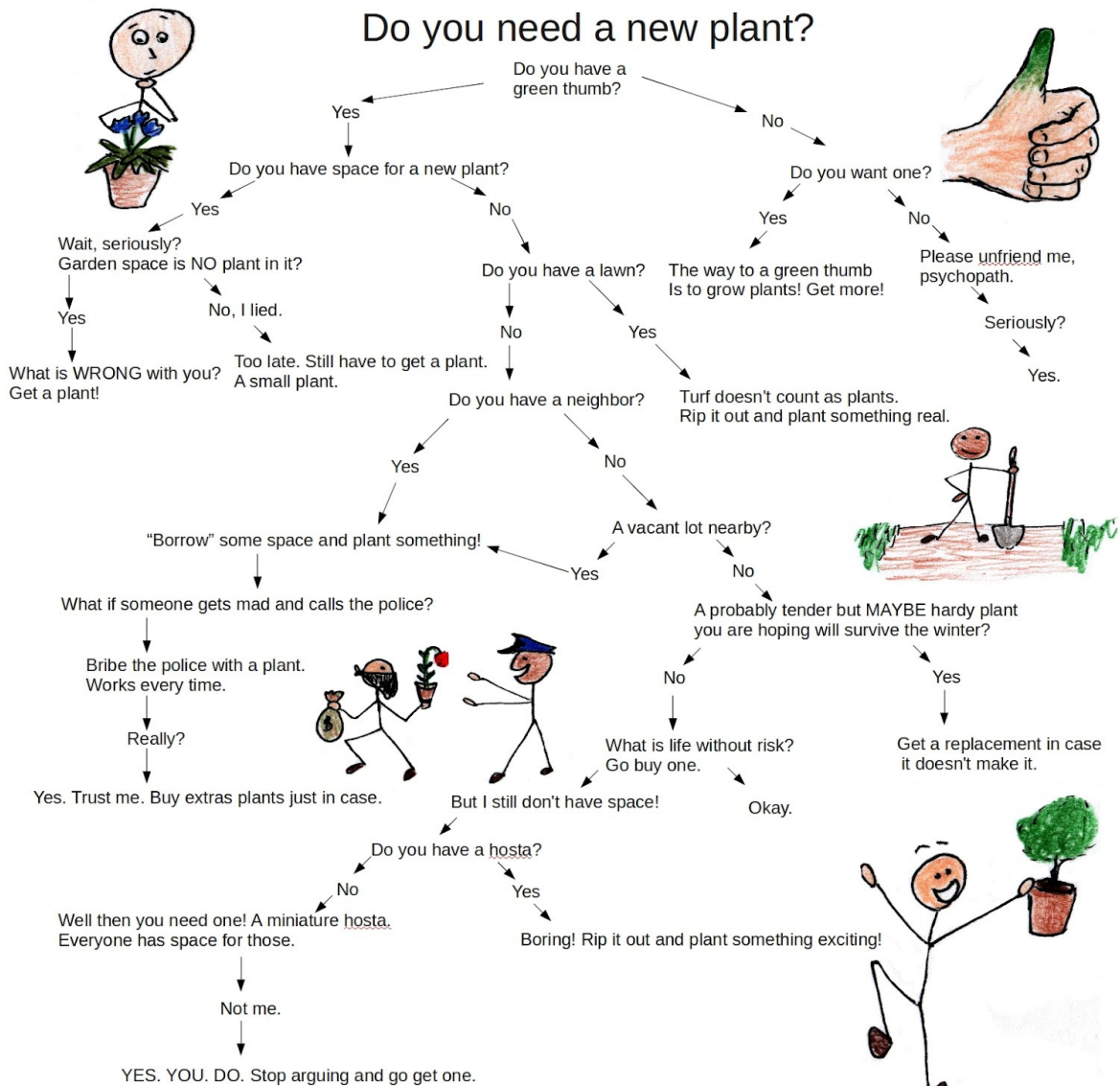


Look what you missed by not going on the Delaware Valley trip at the end of April. Photo taken by Carol Eichler, who also organized the trip. In addition to Chanticleer, the fifteen member-travelers visited the Morris Arboretum, Meadowbrook Farm, Winterthur, the Mt. Cuba Center, and several private gardens. I wish I could have gone, don't you?

DO YOU NEED A NEW PLANT?

Joseph Tychonievich, Nursery Manager, *Arrowhead Alpines*

Editor's Note: In case anyone is unsure about attending the **Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale** in Ithaca, the following decision tree has been provided to help you make up your mind. See more of Joseph's line drawings [here](#). He's also made a few **videos**. Joseph was blogging about his gardening adventures while still in grad school, and since joining Arrowhead he has become their official and quite entertaining voice. He's also written **Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener**.



By: Joseph Tychonievich

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).

May 18: look for us at the Ithaca Garden Fair and Plant Sale at the Ithaca High School. Members get a 25% discount! Plan on volunteering for part of your visit.

August 17: Members-only plant sale and picnic. This meeting will be located at the picnic shelter at the upper entrance to Robert H. Treman St. Park. Note, unless you have a park pass you will be charged an entry fee for parking.

September 21: Matt Mattus (<http://www.growingwithplants.com/>) on non-hardy bulbs.

October 19: Harvey Wrightman (<http://www.wrightmanalpines.com/>) on *Clay Crevice Construction: A new technique for new plants*

November 9: Don Leopold (<http://www.timberpress.com/speakers/author?id=61>)

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

MAY

Designing for Four Seasons of Interest, May 4, 7-9pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin
Dividing Daylilies and Other Perennials, Thurs. May 9, 6-8 pm, Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca (CCE)

Tree Peony festival at Linwood Gardens in Pavilion, May 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 10-4, not open Memorial Day

Revisiting the Mire: Floristic Explorations at McLean Bogs, Torben Russo & Robert Dirig, Wed. May 15, 7pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor

Lilac Festival, Rochester NY, May 10-13, 2013

Garden Fair Plant Sale, Sat. May 18, 9am-2pm – SAVE THE DATE!!! AC-NARGS will have plants for sale, and members get a 25% discount.

After-the-Sale Sale, Tues. May 21, 4-6 pm, Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca – MG plants from the Plant Sale, PLUS garden-related yard sale items – books, tools, garden gadgets, houseplants, pots

JUNE

Designing a Garden with Rooms, June 1, 7-9pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin.

Southern Cayuga Garden Club Garden Tour (Genoa area), Sun. June 9, 2013, 1-5pm

Insect pests of Vegetable Gardens: Identification and Organic Control, Thurs. June 13, 6:30-8:30 pm, CCE

Tompkins County Garden Conservancy Open Garden Day, Sat. June 15, 2013, 10am-4pm (DEBI LAMPMAN'S GARDEN IS ONE OF THOSE FEATURED)

Annual Plastic Pot Swap, Thurs. June 20-Tues. June 25, 12-7 pm, CCE (only pots in good condition will be accepted)

Unusual Plants for Zone 4/5, June 22, 7-9pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin, NY

JULY & BEYOND

Seed Saving Techniques: Selection, Rogueing and Hand-Pollination, Wed. July 3, 6:30-8:30 pm, CCE

Gathering of Gardeners, Sat. Sept. 14, 2013, Rochester (featuring Barry Glick of Sunshine Farm & Gardens, and Karen Bussolini, garden writer and photographer)

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2013 BOARD MEMBERS

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

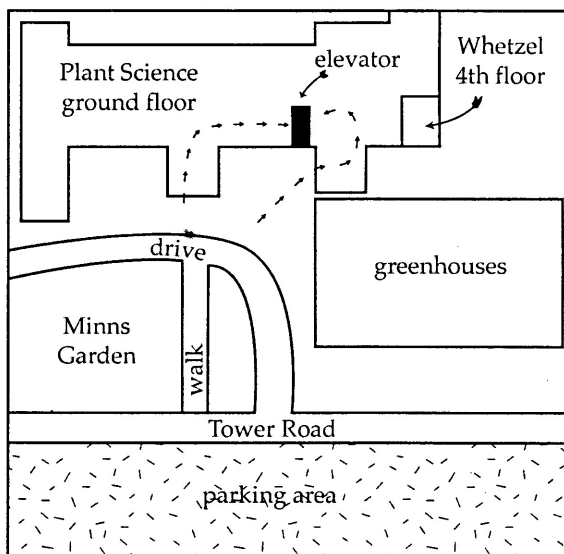
Chair: Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com

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
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HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP

This is on the Cornell University Campus.



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.