

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

September 2014

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Judy Glattstein Sept 20th
- From the Chair
- Hardy Gesneriads
- Jack Lambert Remembered
- What You Missed
- Plant of the Month
- Welcome New Members
- Newsletter Editor Needed
- 2014 Programs
- Calendar of garden events
- People

## SEPTEMBER 20 : JUDY GLATTSTEIN

*Nari Mistri*

Our speaker for September 20, 2014 is Judy Glattstein, who will lead us on a trip down memory lane with her talk on "Historic Rock Gardens of Connecticut and Massachusetts."

Judy is an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, Rutgers Gardens at Rutgers University and a frequent speaker at the Leonard J. Buck Garden. She lectures across the United States and abroad to garden clubs, horticultural societies and professional organizations on a wide variety of horticultural topics. She has authored a number of books including "Bulbs for Garden Habitats", "Consider the Leaf", "Made for the Shade", "Enhance Your Garden with Japanese Plants", and "Garden Design with Foliage". Her articles appear frequently in publications such as Cottage Living, Fine Gardening, Garden Design and Horticulture, among others. Judy is a past chair of both the Watnong and Connecticut Chapters. She gardens in New Jersey on nine wooded acres. Check out her website, **Bellewood Gardens**.



Join us at 1:00 p.m. on September 20<sup>th</sup> in the Whetzel Room (404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University-map at newsletter's end). Optional bring-your-own bag lunch and social time starts at Noon. Drinks provided. Goodies always welcome for sharing.

... We gardeners needn't have a siege mentality toward frost. It's not a villain, holding us hostage in some pitifully short growing season. Jack Frost is simply one more character in this dazzling, sometimes perplexing, and wonderfully rewarding practice we call gardening. ~ Philip Harnden, *The Gardener's Guide to Frost*

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Carol Eichler*

Can you believe it's September already?! Actually it's been feeling a bit like fall for a while with cool days and even cooler evenings. It's been great for working in the garden and with our frequent rains it's been great for planting and transplanting.

By the time you read this, my gardens may be in a state of havoc as only a backhoe can wreak. Of necessity we're having a new septic system installed. Fortunately the proposed design was able to skirt most of the beds but still it will mean a lot of rebuilding. How do you de-compact the soil left by a multi-ton machine?

We had a great August get-together, plant sale and picnic. I must apologize to those of you who went to wrong state park. We did attempt to send out a reminder email but had technical difficulties that prevented us from doing so. To learn more about the sale read the article in this issue.

If you attended but didn't take the hike into the Buttermilk Gorge, you missed some stunning scenery. For those of us who live nearby, it's a place we tend to take for granted and most likely don't visit often enough. And if you didn't join us last week, I've included a few photos here.

I will be unable to attend the September meeting so that means I'll see you in October.  
Cheers,

**Carol**

## HARDY GESNERIADS: RAMONDAS & HABERLEAS

*John Gilrein*



*Ramonda nathaliae*  
'Alba'

The plant family Gesneriaceae includes the well known African violets (*Saintpaulia* sp.), Gloxinias, and several other houseplants. As a rock gardener, my main interest in gesneriads is the hardy and more easily grown gesneriads, Ramonda and Haberlea. Ramondas look like African violets with more wrinkled leaves. Species (provenance listed after each) include *R. myconi* (Pyrenees), *R. nathaliae* (Balkans), *R. serbica* (Balkans), *H. rhodopensis* (Balkans), and *H. ferdinandi-coburgii* (Balkans).

Flower color for Ramondas is violet, white, or pink; flower color for Haberleas is lilac or white. Both flower in June, with some sporadic reflowering in the summer for Ramondas. Both are hardy to at least zone 5, and plant height is 4 to 6 inches in flower. Plants are form compact clumps.

Culture for Ramondas and Haberleas: culture is the same for both species. Exposure should be partial shade/northern or eastern exposure with good light and air circulation. My plants are growing on the east side of a basement wall positioned horizontally, with protection from wind and some rain protection afforded by the wall, or growing on the north side of rocks positioned vertically, with some wind protection. A vertical position is ideal but not necessary.

Soil should be humus-rich gritty soil, that is fairly rich soil with very good drainage, but not Spartan rock garden conditions. Both are lime tolerant plants. Plants can dry out to the point the leaves curl, and recover after a rain.

*Haberlea rhodopensis*

Propagation is by seed or division; I'm not quite brave enough yet to dig one up and divide the plant, but it's a goal for me to try. I have thought about creating a special trough with vertical planting positions for these plants; the trough could be covered with a piece of bluestone in the winter to control winter moisture; another goal on my list. In my experience, these are both long lived easy care plants, so I recommend trying them.

For the truly adventurous, there is another species, *Jankaea heldreichii*, which is hardy but

not as easily grown, as it dislikes winter wetness and it best cultivate in an alpine house with a controlled watering regimen. (Photos courtesy Wrightman Alpines)

**For more photos, see the NARGS website:** *Raymonda myconi* and *Haberlea rhodopensis*  
**Source for plants & seed:** **Harvey Wrightman Alpines** is one of the few mail order nurseries selling Ramondas and Haberlea plants. **Alplains** sells *R. myconi* seed.

**Information source:** *The Complete Book of Alpine Gardening*, Bird & Kelly, Ward Lock Ltd. 1992.

## FOUNDING MEMBER JACK LAMBERT DIES

*Craig Cramer*

Robert J. "Jack" Lambert Jr. '50, professor emeritus of freehand drawing, died August 8 at Kendal at Ithaca. He was 86.

Starting in 1962, Lambert led the Freehand Drawing Program, which traces its roots back to Cornell's founding, and was promoted to full professor in 1977. During that time, he nurtured the artistic abilities of innumerable students throughout the University, especially those studying landscape architecture and design.

AC-NARGS member Bill Plummer recalls, "I met Jack and Nina on a rainy Sunday afternoon the year that Bernard Harkness, President of the American Rock Garden Society, hosted a national meeting. There were lectures on Friday in Canandaigua and a plant sale and other activities on Saturday at the Harkness' home on Pre-Emption Road south of Geneva. Sunday was devoted to garden tours. Of course, Nina and Jack's garden was on the tour among many others. And it was there that I got to know them both. Sometime later I was invited to join the informal group that met on an irregular basis. When the Adirondack chapter was formed Nina and Jack were an integral part. They were always together. Jack did illustrations for our chapter, for our Winter Study Weekend, "Chasing the Blues", as well as for the Ontario Chapter."

Lambert retired in 1997, but continued teaching as an emeritus professor, including a weekly lunchtime art class for employees.

His artwork has been exhibited in numerous galleries, museums and juried shows, and is included in many publications and private collections. He also planned and supervised the construction of a rock garden at Cornell Plantations.

Lambert is survived by his daughter, Sarah L. Lambert and son-in-law Michael J. Ward, of Port Jervis, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack's memory may be made to Kendal at Ithaca.

## WHAT YOU MISSED: PICNIC & PLANT SALE

Carol Eichler



Sunshine, yummy food, great companionship, and hundreds of plants for sale are what I call ingredients for a perfect day—if you're a plant lover that is. We gathered at the picnic shelter at the upper entrance to Buttermilk Falls State Park for our annual member only sale.

I was very impressed by the quantity of plants and the number of contributors. It also seems that every year we are seeing more and more rock garden plants for sale and that's a great sign. Our final sales total of \$888.50 reflected the generous contributions of so many of you. Thank you! And thank you to those who bought plants. At the end of the day all the plants were gone!

Terry Humphries and I took the time after clean-up was over to walk the Buttermilk Creek gorge whose trailhead was across W. King Road from the upper park entrance. We immediately entered into a shady, cool, moist world surrounded by steep cliff walls of limestone and shale. The gorge itself descends 500 feet and is quite narrow. The rushing Buttermilk Creek has sculpted deep pools and rock formations and of course waterfalls varying in height. Not far from the upper trailhead is Pinnacle Rock—an impressive 40-foot chiseled spire.

Along the cliff walls we found crumbling tufa and questioned whether there might be hardened tufa stone lying further downstream. We were on the look-out for *Asplenium trichomanes* hugging moist rock crevices and they were in fact quite numerous once we scaled our focus past

the showy drifts of woodland ferns. We were also on the alert (thank you Harold) for a late blooming terrestrial orchid and we did find it (though Harold will have to tell you its name).



As if the day wasn't perfect enough, the hike was like icing on the cake. (More photos on the [ACNARGS Facebook page](#).)

## PLANT OF THE MONTH: DWARF CORAL BELLS

*John Gilrein*

Our September 2014 POM is dwarf Heucheras from Arrowhead Alpines in Michigan. Heucheras are commonly known as alumroots, or coral bells. Heucheras are perennial plants in the saxifrage family, Saxifragaceae, and the genus includes approximately 37 species. They are native to the western North America. They have palmately lobed leaves on long petioles (leaf stalks). Our POM Heucheras are all small plants, much smaller than the common Heucheras in the trade like 'Palace Purple', 'Caramel', and 'Lime Rickey'.

Cultural information: plant Heucheras is full sun to part shade, in good, well drained soil. They do not need to be cosseted with rock garden or rich soil conditions. A hot, sunny, parched spot would not be ideal. I have *H. pulchella* in a fairly shady spot, where it is doing well, but does not flower very strongly. Heucheras have reasonable tolerance of dryness, once established.

Bonuses are that Heucheras have long lasting, attractive foliage, and those with red or pink flowers attract hummingbirds.

**NOTE:** table information based on online Arrowhead Alpines catalog. Not all plants included height data, provenance, or leaf/flower color. Hardiness zone rating is as listed in the catalog, though I would not be surprised if some of these were hardier than listed.

Heuchera species Common name Provenance	height	Leaf color	Flower color	Hardiness zone
<i>H. bracteata</i> , Rocky Mt. alumroot		Green with red tones	green	5
<i>H. elegans</i> , urnflower alumroot California	6 inches		Red/white	5
<i>H. grossularifolia</i> 'Cream' gooseberry leaf alumroot Northwestern US			cream	4
<i>H. parvifolia</i> v. <i>nivalis</i> littleleaf alumroot	tiny	Green with Red tones		4
<i>H. pulchella</i> Sandia Mt. alumroot New Mexico	approx.. 6 inches	green	pink	5

Sources: Wikipedia and Arrowhead Alpines 2014 online catalog.



*H. pulchella*



*H. parvifolia* v. *nivalis*



*H. elegans*

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.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

*Mary Stauble*

Please welcome our new members who signed up at the August picnic/plant sale!

Colette De Haan and daughter Vashti De Haan from Groton

Louise Lutz from Tully

Richard Lowenstein from Oneonta

Name tags for new members will be available at the September meeting. I am hoping to distribute the member directory via email prior to the meeting; printed newsletter folk will receive it in the mail. Rick and Colette are rejoining after several years' hiatus. Welcome! Also, Colette and her daughter signed up with Lifetime Family Membership. Double thank you!

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

Kathy Purdy needs to step down as newsletter editor. If you feel comfortable using Microsoft Word and have an email account, you can edit the newsletter. You also need to send out publicity notices for upcoming meetings, and forward our newsletter to other chapters' editors. Kathy will help you get started. Contact Carol Eichler at [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

## 2014 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).*

**September 20:** Judy Glattstein, Historic Rock Gardens of Connecticut and Massachusetts

**October 18:** Mike Kintgen, Rock Gardening, and Alpines of Colorado and Wyoming (double program, begins at 11am and change of location: 4H Acres)

**November 8:** John Gilrein, A Tour of Newfoundland (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, not the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday)

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

## CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

**Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Meetings** take place at the Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo and Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St & up the stairs).

Monthly meetings (September-May), 7-8:30 pm, are free and open to the public.

For information on upcoming talks, or to become a member of FLNPS, contact Rosemarie Parker at 257-4853, or go to the website listed below.

### **Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Plant Walks**

Walks meet at different times and locations. Topics vary from wildflowers to fall fungi. Walks will be posted at the [website](#).

### **Auraca Herbarists**

Meetings are usually held the second Tuesday of each month: lunch 12 noon, program 1 pm.

For more information, call Kathleen Seibel at 607-898-3986 or e-mail [kseibel45@gmail.com](mailto:kseibel45@gmail.com)

**Cornell Plantations free Wednesday Night Lectures** are held at 7:30 pm (except for the first lecture Sept. 3). For information on lectures and classes, check [their website](#).

### **SEPTEMBER:**

**Gathering of Gardeners**, Sat. Sept. 13, 2014, David Culp and Elizabeth Licata, speakers

**Judy's Day**, Sun. Sept. 21, 1-5pm

### **Fall Creek Garden Club Plant Swap 2014**

Sun. Sept. 28, 11am-3pm, Thompson Park, North Cayuga St at Cascadilla Creek. Bring your extra plants and pick up some new ones: perennials, annuals, house plants, bulbs, tubers, seeds, shrubs, even trees. Please label your plants. If you don't know what they are, we can help identify them. Feel free to come empty-handed; we'll have plenty of plants. New things arrive constantly so plan to stay awhile if you can.

### **OCTOBER:**

#### **Getting Your Landscape Ready for Winter**

Mon. Oct. 20, 6:30-8:30 pm

Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca

This class will cover what can still be planted, when and what to cut back, when and how to mulch, how much to water, how to protect woodies from deer and rodents, and other seasonal tasks to prepare your landscape plants for winter's challenges. Handouts will include a list of deer-resistant plants. Pre-registration recommended to avoid last-minute cancellation. Please call 272-2292.

### **DECEMBER:**

#### **Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop**

Friday Dec. 5, 6:30-8:30 pm (also see other session below)

Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca

Make a beautiful evergreen wreath to decorate your home for the holidays! Fresh-cut greens, ring, wires, and ribbons supplied. Bring any special decorating materials you like to personalize your wreath. Wear casual clothes and bring pruning shears, scissors, and gloves. Fee: \$18. Class limited to 15. Pre-registration AND PREPAYMENT required. This session will be oriented towards those who have participated before, with less instruction. If you have not participated before, you should sign up for the Sat. morning session. Please call 272-2292.

**Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop**

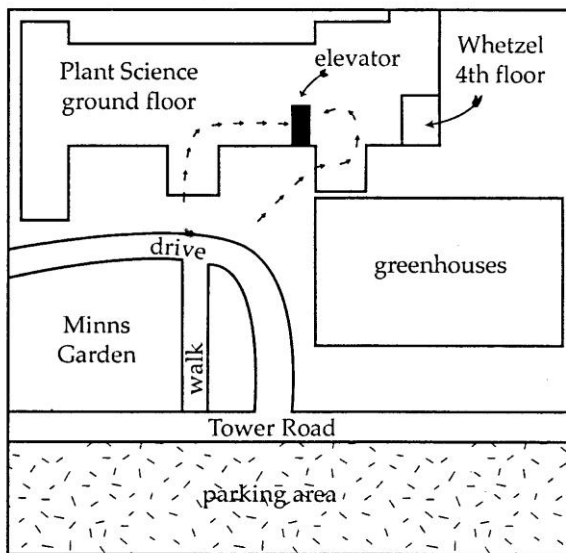
Sat. Dec. 6, 10 am-12 noon (also see other session above)  
 Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca  
 We are offering a second session of our popular evergreen wreath-making workshop this year, due to its popularity! See description details above. This Sat. morning session will include how-to instructions by Master Gardener volunteers.

**RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 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  
 Membership: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)  
 New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, [terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org](mailto:terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org)  
 Newsletter Editor: maybe you!  
 Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, [pc21@cornell.edu](mailto:pc21@cornell.edu)  
 Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

**HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP**

The Plant Science Building is located at 236 Tower Road 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 the newsletter editor.  
Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in October 2014.



*Heuchera bracteata*, another plant of the month selection.



Timmy and Linc Foster Memorial  
Garden at the Berkshire Botanical  
Garden