



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rockgarden Society

Green Dragon Tales

May 2004

Adirondack Chapter

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Letter from the Program Chair

I have served as Program Chair for two years and have found it to be a rewarding but very challenging job. As a whole, it has been too demanding for me to continue to do by myself. I've realized that it is a good thing for one person to do it for longer than one term, since there is a certain level of expertise that one reaches after having done it for a few years, however, as it's set up now, that person can't be me!

I am proposing that this job be rearranged so that it is done by more than one person. It could be divided between 3-5 members and then it would not be a job that needs constant attention, as it does now. I will outline how I think that it could be divided up, but the success of this scheme depends on others be willing to step up and learn how to do a part. To encourage all of you to seriously consider volunteering, let me say that I am willing to continue to arrange for outside speakers for another two years (this takes care of the programs in March, April, September and October) but if no one volunteers for other parts, they will not get done next year!! (Is this a carrot or a stick?)

If Program Chair job is split up the way I'm proposing, one person could easily do one part of it for longer than two years and not feel "burnt out". Here's one way we might split this job up:

Program Chair Coordinator: Make sure descriptions of program get to *Green Dragon* and Publicity Chair. Reserve rooms for programs. Get the key for Whetzel Room and equipment necessary for programs. Make arrangements for February program (Members sharing) and November (Annual meeting and potluck). Keep an eye on budget. Represent Program Committee by attending Executive Committee meetings.

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Speaker Chair: Find outside speakers, work out travel, accommodations and hospitality (March, April, September, October). Get biographical information to *Green Dragon* and Publicity Chair.

Garden Tour Coordinator: Set up tour for May or June. The last few years garden tours have been enthusiastically attended. Tours can be local day trips or overnight/out-of-town. There are many nurseries and gardens in the Northeast that we could visit. Job would include deciding which places to go and making arrangements for visit, getting descriptive information to the *Green Dragon*, finding out who wants to go, making arrangements for overnight accommodations if necessary, drawing up a schedule. There are also many members who would go if we could find some way to provide transportation, via bus or van. I have not had the time to explore these options.

Picnic and Workshops: Find a member to host picnic (July). Write description and directions for *Green Dragon* and Publicity Chair.

Figure out if a workshop is appropriate to offer in a given year. Decide on topic. Find someone to teach it and a venue. Write description and manage sign up process. Get materials.

David Mitchell, Marcia Meigs

and Billie Jean Isbel are the nominating committee this year. Please call them and tell them if you are interested in any of these jobs. Please say yes if they ask you to consider being nominated

Anne Klingensmith
Program Chair



Mary Woodsen, a Science Writer with the IPM program at Cornell does monthly articles for the Ithaca Journal. Her next topic is weeds. She would like to talk to someone who knows their weeds, and can talk about different strategies for different types of weeds, be they in the vegetable or flower garden, and which weeds to worry about the most. Garlic mustard is just one possibility since it flowers in May and is terribly invasive.

This person needs to be willing to have his/her garden featured in a photograph in the Journal (preferably with the gardener in the photo).

Mary's e-mail is mm95@cornell.edu.

Pat Curran

May Plant Sale

This year's plant sale at the Ithaca High School will be on May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. As you may know, this is our biggest fundraiser and we hope that you will all bring many treasures to sell there. **Please make sure all your plants are completely labeled!!!!** We also need volunteers to help with the sale.

Tom Meyers (607-273-2865 or Robinia@lightLink.com) is in charge of the sale. You can drop off plants from 5 - 7 PM on Friday, May 14 and at 8 AM on Saturday morning before the sale. Please call Tom to let him know if you can help with the setup and the pricing of plants.

Trough Plants Gone Wild?

Earlier this spring, I worked with a 4-H youth group to build small hypertufa troughs. Soon, the kids will be planting them with easy-to-grow trough plants — creeping sedums, hens and chicks, etc. I'll be donating some from my garden, but we could use some more. If your trough plants have gone wild and spread too far, consider donating some of the surplus to help fuel interest in this next generation of rock gardeners. I can pick up in the Ithaca area. Please contact me:

Craig Cramer, 607-539-7233, cdcramer@twcny.rr.com

Craig Cramer

Plants for Life 2004 is looking for a Donations Chair

Plants for Life 2004 is looking for a knowledgeable plant person to chair the private donations committee. This person needs to be willing to receive phone calls and emails from potential donors, find out what they have to donate and decide if PFL can use the offered plants and how many of them. We have detailed records of what was donated in the past and how much of each species can be sold. It also involves occasional garden visits to evaluate the offer and to decide if a digging party is in the interest of the plant sale. Most of these visits will be during the time from mid-June to late July.

If you are at all interested in taking over this very rewarding position, please contact Susanne Lipari at 387-9308 or sel3@cornell.edu for details.



June Ithaca Garden Tour

Three of our members have graciously agreed to open their gardens to us on Saturday, June 19th. All are “city” gardens where space is tight and paths are narrow, please watch your step. The Wurster Garden and the open gardens are all within 5 minutes’ driving time of each other. Each garden will be open for only two hours so please plan accordingly. Please respect this time schedule so that you are not inconveniencing our hosts or wandering around in their garden unaccompanied.

Complete driving directions will be included in the June Green Dragon and will be posted on our website.

The schedule is as follows:

10 am to noon Joe and Roseanne Moresco.
7 Highland Park Lane

Joe and Roseanne have a garden with everything and they are also our local hardy cactus experts. Here you will see rock garden, woodland plants, good specimen trees and shrubs as well as a splendid water feature.

11:30 to 1:00 Brown Bag lunch and weed pulling
at the Wurster Garden. 312 Dey Street.
We have a room reserved inside if it rains.

1:00 to 3:00 Robin Bell
714 North Aurora Street.

Robin has lived and gardened at his house for many years. He has a Halda rock garden, has done lots of experimenting with tufa, grows a huge variety of plants, woody, perennial, alpine and wetland.

3:00 to 5:00 David Mitchell
402 Esty Street

David and Scott created their backyard garden in a very short time but it has already won awards and is included on more prestigious tours than ours!

Here also you will see a wide range of plants, including a superb rock garden, vegetables, woodland, shrubs, many gems tucked here and there.

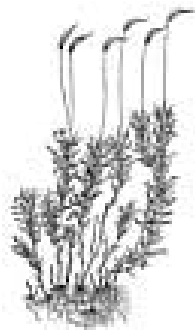
Soil Secrets from Stonecrop

Last year when our Chapter toured Stonecrop, Erika Rauch asked their horticultural staff about the alpine soil mix they use. They kindly provided their formula as follows:

4 parts humus
9 parts sand
2 parts peat moss
2 parts perlite
2 parts vermiculite
very small amount (optional)
Electra or Alpha Alpha meal (or other organic plant food)

A rock gardeners' discussion on soil mixes can be lively. This recipe supplied here should by no means be considered "the definitive" formula. We all have our preferences based on past successes or failures. Stonecrop's recipe is a complicated one. It seems to emphasize drainage and low fertility, consistent with everything I know about alpine plants.

Carol Eichler



A Preview to an Exciting Meeting in September

Stalking the Wild Orchid

Our speaker for the month of September will be William Mathis of The Wild Orchid Company. His company produces and sells a variety of terrestrial orchids from North America, Europe, and Asia, all ones that are hardy in southeastern Pennsylvania. (Terrestrial orchids are those that grow in the ground, as opposed to many from the tropics that are epiphytic on trees, and include lady slippers as well as several other genera.)

His presentation is titled "Gardening with Hardy Terrestrial Orchids: "Indoors and "Out" and will be an overview of the cultural requirements for successfully growing terrestrial orchids. Over ten species will be discussed in detail and will include orchids that grow in upland, wetland, and transition habitats.

On his website, <http://www.wildorchidcompany.com/> you will see *Cypripediums* for sale as well as *Dactylorhiza*, *Pogonia*, *Spiranthes*, *Habenaria*, and *Bletilla*. Come and learn if you can create the right conditions to add these rare and wonderful plants to your garden.

Anne Klingnesmith

New Members in the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society

We wish to welcome the following new Chapter members who joined us in April. From now and into the future we plan to use our newsletter to recognize new members.

Rosalie Stefan
from Chenango Forks
Nancy Reynolds
from Greene
Leslie Arduser-Brogan
from Webster
Mary and Dick George,
Heather Weiss
and **Elizabeth Reed**
from Ithaca

