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CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

www.acnargs.org

September 2005

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**September 17 Program: A Day with Harry Jans
(Presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.)**

For our September 17 meeting, we are very fortunate to host two presentations by Dutch rock gardener extraordinaire Harry Jans. Jans has been rock gardening for nearly 25 years, specializing in rare and unusual alpines. He is also a founding member of the Dutch Rock Garden Society and is currently their president.

Jans has been a member and leader of expeditions to Iran, various provinces in China, Italy, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and recently, Tibet. He is a regular lecturer at conferences in Europe and North America.

His topics for September 17 will be:

- **My Own Rock Garden** – (11 a.m.) Jans' experiences growing alpines in the "hills" of Holland, including lots of cultural practices and information about growing in an alpine house and tufa wall.
- **Cream of the Alps** – (1 p.m.) A roundup of the best plants from various corners of the Alps.



Harry Jans with one of his famous hypertufa plantings.
Photo courtesy Alan Grainger.

Jans hasn't yet translated his website (www.jansalpines.com) into English. But if you would like a preview of some of his photos, click on "Planten fotos."

Billie Jean Isbell is planning a Plant of the Month that will feature the Alpines Jans will be talking about.

Both lectures are free and open to the public, and will include many practical growing tips. We will break between the presentations for a brown bag lunch.

Note the meeting location: Room B, **Tompkins County Cooperative Extension**, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, N.Y. (This change from our usual location because of the lack of parking on campus due to the Cornell home football game.)

Anne Klingensmith, Speaker Coordinator

Mark Your Calendar: October Programs

Mark your calendars now and look for details in the next newsletter:

- **October 15** – Meeting speaker: TBA. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, Ithaca. Details coming in October issue of *The Green Dragon*.
 - **October 22** – Trough building workshop led by Tom Myers, 10 a.m. at 4-H Acres, Ithaca (off Rt. 13 near NYSEG). There will be a charge for materials. Space is limited. More details to follow at September meeting and October issue of *The Green Dragon*.
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Letter from the chair

Welcome back! *The Green Dragon* is back to its monthly publication schedule and our monthly meetings are resuming. Please pay attention however to location! At many members' requests we have moved our meetings to Cooperative Extension on those Saturdays in which there's a Cornell home football game (which meant nearby parking was scarce).

Our **September program** will start things off with a gardener of some note, Harry Jans. To take advantage of this rare opportunity, we have scheduled him to give two presentations on Saturday. You may attend one or both talks as your schedule allows and please encourage your gardening friends – whether rock gardeners or not – to join us.

It's been a busy summer. The **lack of rain** made it a little difficult to enjoy the endless glorious days of sunshine. Watering was an endless task. At least it was an appropriate year for my new project – putting in a small sandbed for sedums and sempervivums. I know many of my plants were unhappy with nature's hand and it is causing me to appreciate those varieties that seem especially drought-

tolerant. I also noticed that those plants that enjoyed the protection of a boulder also fared quite well. Hooray for rocks.

Those of you who attended the container gardening workshop at Dana's **Stony Hill Gardens** know what a treat it was to visit her nursery loaded with great plants and accessories and to view her extensive planting beds. If you haven't been there, I have one suggestion – Go!

This year we tried something different by combining our typically well-attended August plant sale with our annual picnic. Thank you Debi Lampman for your great accommodations and hospitality, your gardening stories and impressive plantings at **Bedlam Gardens**. And thank you all for bringing such great plants (we made \$318 to help fund future programs) and delicious food! I know I went home feeling quite fulfilled.



Debi Lampman shows off her not-yet-finished rock garden at the August picnic and member plant sale.

I believe we have a great line-up of fall programs coming up to close out our year. Please plan to join us. When you receive this newsletter, I will be enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery of Colorado. They've had a dry summer too so I don't expect to see much in bloom but it will be enjoyable and most of all, relaxing. I'm having fun with my new digital camera and hope to have some photos to share with you all.

Happy Gardening!

Carol Eichler, Chair

Ruin Garden at Chanticleer

The Ruin Garden at Chanticleer, located just outside Philadelphia, offers a new and whimsical meaning to "rock gardening." I visited this summer as part of a tour for Tompkins County Master Gardeners.

Constructed in 1999, The Ruin Garden was conceived by Chanticleer's serving Director Chris Woods. Originally the intent was to use the partially dismantled Minder House standing on the site. Instead, for safety reasons the only part of the original house that was used was the foundation and the tile "rug." It is still

effective in depicting the remains of a stone house, with plants intermingling with the home's components – floors, walls, windows.

Chanticleer is a 35-acre pleasure garden located near Philadelphia. Their website ([www. chanticleergarden.org](http://www.chanticleergarden.org)) quotes Adrian Higgins, of the Washington Post "[Chanticleer is]...one of the most interesting and edgy public gardens in America." I would tend to agree. The Ruin was one of many fine features which a garden devotee can explore for hours.

Carol Eichler, Chair



An overview of The Ruin at Chanticleer.



Cascading rock wall.



"Books" of stone in the Library.



A quirky fountain (right) with carved marble faces in pool.





Loved this "living" mantelpiece! An inspiration!



Tanya Garger relaxes in a stone chair.

Programs at a glance

- **Sept. 17:** Meeting speaker: Harry Jans from the Netherlands. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, Ithaca. Presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- **Oct. 15:** Meeting speaker: TBA. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, Ithaca.
- **Oct. 22:** Trough building workshop. 10 a.m., 4-H Acres, Ithaca. (Off Rt. 13 near NYSEG.)
- **Nov. 19:** Annual Meeting & Lunch. Members share tips on overwintering plants in pots. Art Trimble reports on national NARGS conference. Whetzel Room, Plant Science Building, Cornell.
- Updates and more information: www.acnargs.org

Other events

- **Sept. 10 and 11: Plants For Life Sale** to support the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Sale beneath the crescent at Schoellkopf Field, Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY. More info: www.ibca.net/plantsforlife
- **Cornell Plantations Lecture Series:** Starting Sept. 7, Wednesday evenings (except Oct. 12) through Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., Alice Statler Hall Auditorium, Cornell University. (**Note exception:** Sept. 7 lecture, will be at 5:30 p.m. in Warren Hall Auditorium, Cornell University.) Full schedule: www.plantations.cornell.edu/education/lectures.cfm
- **Jan. 27-29: Master Class in Rock Gardening** sponsored by Manhattan Chapter, North American Rock Gardening Society. More info: www.nargs.org.

People

Questions? Want to find out how you can help the Chapter? Don't hesitate to contact one of the volunteers who help make everything happen:

- **Chair:** Carol Eichler, cme24@cornell.edu, 607-387-5823
 - **Treasurer:** Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
 - **Speaker Coordinator:** Anne Klingensmith, aekling@lightlink.com, 607-256-9308
 - **Garden Trip/Tours:** Peg Ross and Alice Davis, pogr@aol.com, 607-656-4237 (Peg), 607-656-9931 (Alice)
 - **Picnic:** Debi Lampman, bedlam@bluefrognet.net, 315-364-8725
 - **Member participation:** George Erdman, gerdman@binghamton.edu, 607-748-3984
 - **Plant of the Month:** Billie Jean Isbell, bj1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484
 - **Plant sales:** David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660
 - **Membership:** John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
 - **Newsletter editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer, cdcramer@twcny.rr.com, 607-539-7233
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