



ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

[www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)

May/June 2007

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Hellebore from Marcia Brown Meigs' garden. Photo by Marcia.

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## Take the survey!

The board has prepared a short survey to gather some information to make sure we're meeting members' needs. (It's a separate attachment along with your email, or enclosed separately with snail mail. You'll also find an addendum to the member directory.) Please fill it out so that we can devote our limited time, energy and resources to programs that you will appreciate and enjoy.

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## Plants needed for May 19 Plant Sale

Our Seedling Exchange was fun. Thank you's to all who donated seedlings and pitched in to help. I hope we'll see some of those seedlings become mature plants in your garden and at one of our plant sales.

Speaking of which, we could really use more plants for the May Plant Sale at the Ithaca High School, Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please pot up your donations in a soil-less potting mix, label them, and drop them off as soon as possible at my house in Ithaca. (It's at 402 Esty St., corner of Esty and Washington streets, one block east of Meadow St. My driveway is on Washington St.) Or you can bring plants when we set up at the Ithaca High School on Friday, May 18, 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7

to 9 a.m. Please try to get your plants to us early. Once the sale starts our table gets mobbed!

We're still looking for volunteers to work a couple of hours setting up on Friday and Saturday, and helping with sales on Saturday. If I don't speak to you before the sale, please do come by and see if we need help. There's always plenty to do.

Remember that ACNARGS members will receive a 25% discount at the sale. New and rejoining members will also receive the discount. If you have any questions about plant sales, don't hesitate to ask: [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu) or 607-342-3660.

Happy plant hunting!

**David Mitchell, Plant-sale coordinator**

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## Mark your calendar: 2007 program line-up

**May 19 – Plant Sale**, Ithaca High School

**June 14-18 – Quebec gardens tour.** Stops include Maria Galetti's Alpine Mt Echo Gardens in Sutton, Quebec, and Frank Cabot's garden. Les Quatre Vents. See article below.

**August 18 – Picnic and members-only plant sale.** Bill Plummer, Gangs Mills (near Painted Post), N.Y., will host.

**September 15 – Ellen Hornig**, proprietor of Seneca Hill Perennials and well known to many chapter members, will talk on woodland plants and other treasures from her garden/nursery. Location to be announced.

**September 29 (tentative) – Hypertufa workshop** with Art Friedel, Watson Greenhouse, Lafayette, N.Y.

**October 21 – Janis Ruksans**, owner of Ruksans Bulbs Nursery in Latvia, a world renowned bulb grower and collector and author of five books on bulbs will speak. **Note this meeting will be on a Sunday** due to Ruksans' tight speaking schedule. 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m.

**November 10 – Annual meeting and dish-to-pass.** 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Location to be announced.

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## Quebec garden tour June 14 to 18

We had a great time touring Stonecrop April 28. (That's me visiting with a new friend I met there.) Now we're gearing up for a more ambitious, multi-day tour of gardens in Quebec.

We'll travel first to Frank Cabot's garden, Les Quatre Vents, 90 minutes north of Quebec City (More info about Cabot's world-famous garden: [pss.uvm.edu/ppp/gardens/gm0802.htm](http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/gardens/gm0802.htm). We'll



spend Thursday and Friday nights at Au Petit Berger in La Malbaie. On Saturday we'll head south to Maria Galetti's Alpine Mt Echo Gardens in Sutton, Quebec, near the Vermont border ([www.alpinemtecho.com](http://www.alpinemtecho.com)).

We will start our trek on Thursday, June 14. Some will return on Sunday, June 17 while others of us will stay an extra day to deal with the inspection needed to bring everyone's plants back across the border. It's not too late to join the group. Contact me as soon as possible for more details: [bj1@cornell.edu](mailto:bj1@cornell.edu), 607-539-6484.

***Billie Jean Isbell, Garden trips/tours coordinator***

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### **Letter from the Chair**

Spring seems to finally have arrived for good. For us the busy time begins. I was just out working in light rain; fortunately tomorrow promises to be drier and I have plans to start digging and potting for our plant sale on May 19. As you know, this is our largest fundraiser of the year and arguably the most fun. Not only do you get to share the excess from your garden, you get to buy plants from our booth at a 25% member discount (reason enough to join if you haven't done so yet). **And** with so many plant vendors attending, it's a one-stop shopping spree to start fulfilling your 2007 gardening fantasies.

David Mitchell is our Plant Sale Coordinator and he has outlined in this newsletter everything you need to know about potting up your divisions. We can really use your help with donations but also with our set-up on Friday and before and during the sale on Saturday. It's a great short-term volunteer opportunity that allows you to get to know fellow Chapter members too! Please join us.

We had a great turn-out for our April meeting with our speaker Liz Knowles as she took us along on her plant expeditions around the world. Following her talk we held our annual seedling exchange, which was **free** for the very first time. We had an extensive selection with special thanks to all who brought seedlings to share. They all disappeared and I hope you'll tend them along. Best of luck (I know they can be tricky despite our best care) and please share your successes.

Between now and September we depart from our typical speaker meetings. Our usual May 19 meeting date is our plant sale, June 14 to 18 we have planned a fabulous overnight trip, July at this point has nothing scheduled (as is often the case), and August 18 is our annual picnic and members only sale. Additionally, this newsletter combines May and June, so your next newsletter will arrive in July to remind you of our resumption of Chapter activities.

The Wurster Study Group will be meeting on an ad hoc basis throughout the summer. If you wish to receive notices about their work sessions, please contact me at [cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu) or at 607-387-5823. By the time you receive this newsletter we expect to have planted over 55 newly purchased plants in the Wurster Garden. I hope when you visit Ithaca over the summer that you'll take a moment to check out the garden to see what's of interest. Note, we hope to capture its progress photographically

so another way you can experience the garden is to check for new postings on the Chapter website ([www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)).

Just thinking about all the activity ahead is making me tired! But oh, the joys and the rewards!

Happy gardening all,

**Carol Eichler, chair**

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## May garden tours

If you can't wait for our August 18 picnic to see **Bill and Jane Plummer's woodland garden** near Painted Post, they'll be having an Open Garden on Sunday, May 20 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Here's what you'll see:

An award winning native plant garden under mature oaks, pines and hickories featuring Trilliums, Bloodroot, Virginia Bluebells, Jack-in-the-Pulpits and many other wildflowers planted in masses. As you enter, the driveway is lined with *Epimedium rubrum*. Numerous paths wander throughout both front and back woods allowing close-up views of the plants. There are scores of ferns, both native and exotic, scattered throughout the woods and along a Pteridophyte Ptrail. Bill has planted numerous understory trees including Dogwoods, Redbuds, Silverbells, a Paper Bark Maple and various striped Maples. The shrub border consists mostly of native plants and provides privacy as well as obscuring the deer fence. A large collection of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Mountain Laurel provide bloom from April into July. A half dozen stone walls provide sunny sites for rock garden plants and shady sites for shade lovers. A perennial bed in front is filled with Hellebores, spring bulbs and a host of perennials. The flagstone patio is ringed with flowering shrubs and trees and allows a view of the back woods. A flower bed off the flagstone patio in back contains more shade plants. Still another bed is home to a collection of Epimedium and Astilbe providing color both in spring and in summer.

**From the South:** Take Exit 3 from Rte 15. Follow Rte 417 into Gang Mills to the 3rd light at Beartown Road. Take a left on Beartown. In a mile the road will swing to the left. Go straight on Swan Lane and take an immediate right on Badger Lane. Proceed through the next intersection (Chatfield Place) and bear right at the Yield sign (Fox Lane). Go straight at the next intersection (Weston Lane). We are the third house on the right.

**From the North and West:** Take Exit 44 toward Gang Mills (Do not take Rte 15 to Williamsport). Turn right at the flashing red light and left at the traffic signal at the foot of the ramp (Canada Rd). Turn right at the next light (Robert Dann Drive) and left at the light onto Chatfield Place (The entrance to Home depot and Wal-Mart will be to your right). In one mile turn right on Weston and an immediate right onto Fox Lane. We are the third house on the right.

**From the East:** Take Exit 44 toward Gang Mills (Do not take Rte 15 to Williamsport). Turn left at the traffic light at the top of the ramp. Turn left at the light at the bottom of the ramp (Canada Rd). Turn right at the next light (Robert Dann Drive) and left at the light onto Chatfield Place (The entrance to Home depot and Wal-Mart will be to your right). In one mile turn right on Weston and an immediate right onto Fox Lane. We are the third house on the right.

Note: Should you inadvertently take Rte 15 proceed to Exit 3 and follow the first set of directions. Please park head in on the grass strip by the road!

**The Garden Conservancy** is sponsoring Open Days tours in Tompkins County on May 19, June 9, and July 14 include Hitch Lyman's, Myers Gardens, Jim Eavenson, Posner Garden, Medicine Tree Farm, Hospicare, Ann M. and Carlton J. Manzano Garden, Cayuga Daylilies, Roseanne and Joe Moresco, Mount Garden, and Lion Garden. For descriptions, directions and which garden is open on which date, visit the Garden Conservancy website: [www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays](http://www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays)

### Treasurer position available

The Adirondack Chapter of NARGS will need a replacement Treasurer in 2008. The perks are great:

- You get to take in lots of other people's money and then spend it;
- You get to hear all the news first hand and help shape the future direction of the Chapter;
- You get to work with the current treasurer to learn the job.

The only requirement is basic knowledge of computers and Excel spreadsheet software. No bookkeeping experience is necessary and it takes only a few hours a month of your time. Plus, you'll learn a marketable (perhaps even new) skill!

If you are interested, please call me, at (607-844-9462)

**Carolyn Yaeger, treasurer**

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### Volunteer needed - for lettering on our name tags

We are in the process of printing new name tags, thanks to David Mitchell's assistance. However, we thought it would be great if there was someone among our membership who can do calligraphy or who simply has nice handwriting who would be willing to print our members' names on the name tags. Might this be you? Contact Carol Eichler (607-387-5823 or [cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu)). (Note: We won't need the name tags until our August 18 picnic and plant sale.)

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### Hypertufa workshop coming in fall

Plans are in the works for a fall workshop (tentatively September 29) with Art Friedel, Watson Greenhouse, Lafayette, N.Y., to make hypertufa grow stones. The cost will be \$35 and limited to 10 members. For more about Art, visit the Watson Greenhouse website: [www.watsongreenhouse.com](http://www.watsongreenhouse.com). Look for more information and registration details in the July/Aug. newsletter.

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### 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. (This is the slate to be voted on at our Feb. meeting):

- **Chair/Membership:** Carol Eichler, [cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu), 607-387-5823
  - **Vice Chair/Program:** Robin Bell, [rgb2@cornell.edu](mailto:rgb2@cornell.edu), 607-272-2074
  - **Treasurer/Secretary:** Carolyn Yaeger, [cao2@cornell.edu](mailto:cao2@cornell.edu), 607-844-9462
  - **Garden trips/tours:** Billie Jean Isbell, [bj1@cornell.edu](mailto:bj1@cornell.edu), 607-539-6484
  - **Plant sales:** David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu), 607-342-3660
  - **Plant of the Month:** John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), 315-492-0844
  - **Newsletter editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cdcramer@twcny.rr.com), 607-539-7233
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### 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 Craig Cramer: [cdcramer@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cdcramer@twcny.rr.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in **July/August**. Photo of Billie Jean with frog statue by David Mitchell.

