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July/August 2009

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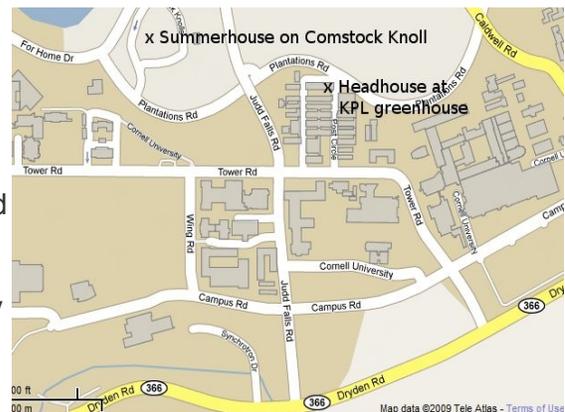
August 15 Annual Picnic and Member-Only Plant Sale

From Donna Kraft, vice-chair/program:

Plans are set for this year's member picnic and plant sale to be held on Saturday, August 15th at Kenneth Post Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca. ACNARGS will provide a light lunch for those who **RSVP by August 7** to Donna Kraft at 315 696-8626 or dkraft@twcny.rr.com.

The schedule:

- **10:00 a.m.** Arrive promptly, get your plant sale number, help with sale set-up and pricing.
- **11:00 a.m.** Plant sale begins. Buy, buy, and buy some more.
- **12:00 noon-ish** Picnic lunch on the Knoll at Cornell Plantations if weather is good or stay at KPL if conditions dictate.
- **1:30-ish p.m.** Enjoy Cornell Plantations.



As in past years, we'll very democratically allow those who arrive first to get "first dibs" at purchases. So it pays to arrive early. For the treasured and special plants, we will have a silent auction table. Note: this is our one members-only sale and we should have some real horticultural gems. Please label your plant contributions in advance to speed things up.

Not yet a member? We welcome you to join for 2009 at this meeting for \$10 (\$15 for families). It's still a great value since we have half of our program year ahead of us. As soon as we finish the plant sale, respondents will enjoy sandwiches, wraps, salads, and dessert provided by our chapter! Socialize and then enjoy Cornell Plantations.

Don't forget to RSVP by August 7.

Highlights from May garden tours

From ACNARGS member Lynn Purdon Yenkey. Visit her excellent garden blog at <http://travelinbride.wordpress.com>

This year's member tour showcased starkly different gardens--urban, suburban, country, and commercial--whose common theme was the expert intertwining of rock, native, and traditional plantings. As a novice rock gardener also just acclimatizing to the Northeast, this mix was exciting to see. Each of these gardeners is expanding the notion of what gardens can be in their own specific settings. The pictures below are only a small representation from a remarkable day of seeing and learning from a passionate, friendly crowd. Unfortunately, I was not able to go to Bedlam Gardens.

Nari Mistry: The garden at the home of Nari Mistry and his wife, Gin, on about two acres just east of Ithaca, manages to have two large areas devoted to rock plantings, a bog, a vegetable garden, a woodland, a sunny swath for tall grass and wildflowers, a spacious treehouse and play area for children, a moss garden, as well as traditional perennial borders. To share the success of their propagation efforts, guests were treated to gifts of native plant seedlings as well as tea and cookies.



This stand of Trillium was planted soon after they bought the property 40 years ago. It has never been divided.



Visible from Ellis Hollow Road, the Cornell Tower bird house is one of many that invite a wide variety of birds into the garden.



Cactus anchoring the center rock garden.



At the back of the property, a wooden path carries you over a boggy natural area filled with sensitive fern.



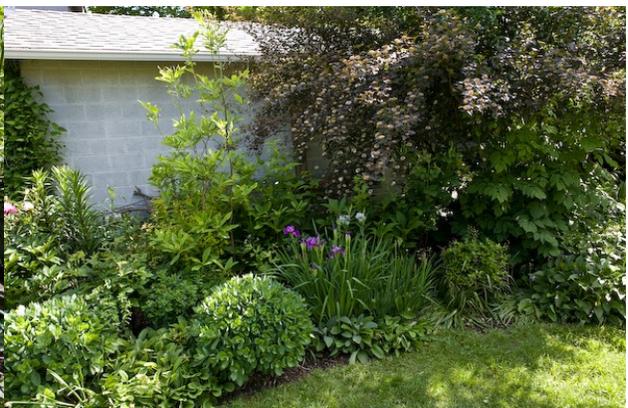
A second gravel and rock garden to the south of the house spans a small slope leading to the back of the property. Another birdhouse stands at one of several transitional spaces in the garden.

David Mitchell: Passing through the layers of texture in the living rooms David Mitchell has created in his Esty Street garden, you might forget you're in a smallish urban corner. On one side of his home, the potager and rock garden soak up the sun, and a lush arbor is anchored by an old pear tree--the last survivor of a small orchard once shared by Fall Creek's old Italian community. A path leads behind the well-hidden garage to a sophisticated shade garden on the south side side, walled completely from the street by a tall hedge and shaped by one of the oldest Magnolias in the city. Roses around the covered front porch echo his Southern heritage, but the semi-formal style throughout reveals David's passions for plantsmanship and design.



David's potager, off the side door, shares color, form, and fragrance with passersby. Below, the rock garden at lawn's edge, softened with spring flowers.

Hues of deep and bright purples surround the pond. Below, an old garage is all but hidden by many plant forms, giving depth to a bed just a few feet wide.





The 70-year-old saucer Magnolia spreads its sculpted grace over the west side of the home. In the winter, David says the shadows of its branches on the stone patio look like dragon tails.

Under the magnolia, Asian and native Trilliums, Hostas, May apples, and ferns surround the shaded patio.

Susanne Lipari: At the end of the day, tour-goers met at Susanne Lipari's home near Alpine, NY. Gardening here for 29 years, intensively for 15, she has created a modern country garden, with a rolling softness shaped with the heart of an artist and the eye of a scientist. The gentle color of creepers, rock plants, and whimsical containers anchoring the steep gravel/scree slope from street to front door invite you up and in. Pathways using stone from the old farm's walkways lead to the north garden, with big-leaved Hostas, nursery beds, and a large vegetable plot. To the west, uphill from the house, a steep slope laid with gravel forms another, shadier rock garden. Moving south, the sunnier hillside opens up with flowering borders and the patio from which to enjoy the view of the garden and into the valley fields.



Susanne's large country garden has stone paths to walk and branches shaping expansive views. Below, a tree snag decorated with beakers accentuates the borrowed view across the valley.

Clematis lights up the central sunny garden. Below, old farm containers, enamel tubs, and troughs dot the scree slope facing the road.





Hostas are so varied and prolific here, they form hedges.



Masses of color surround the patio, where the tour-goers ended the day with snacks and conversation.



Susanne leads the group around the northwest garden. As a novice, I was delighted to hear her answer when asked the name of a specific plant: "That's why I have all of you out here!" Jokes aside, she is clearly an expert at designing and maintaining the right places for a huge variety of plants. Right, Upended beakers and bottles throughout the garden catch the light and lend an air of plant science to the country.

Plan ahead for native plant art exhibition

From Rosemarie Parker:

Artists with an affinity for plants take note: A juried art exhibition is currently being planned by the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society. The show will highlight the beauty and diversity of our region's native plants and fungi and will welcome a wide variety of media.

It will be hosted at the Tompkins County Public Library from January through March 2010, and its opening will coincide with Ithaca's 6th annual Light in Winter festival. Jurors include Camille Doucet, painting and botanical illustration; Eric Serritella, ceramic art; and David Watkins, photography.

Now is the time to begin planning your submissions. For more information, visit www.flnps.org/artshow

White Pine Camp clean-up

Susanne Lipari passed along these pictures from the Chapter's work day at White Pine Camp in the Adirondacks.



May plant sale report

From David Mitchell and BZ Marrantca, plant sale coordinators:

The final total for the plant sale was \$2,108.75. This includes new and renewing members dues. We have six new members and eight renewals (\$70.00). The new members are Susan Barnett, Lynn Bonnivier, Donna Gibson, Graham Kerslick, Susan Lipinoga and Flora Marrantca. Thank you to all who donated quality plants, bought plants and pitched in to help run the sale. Also welcome new and renewing members!

Wurster Garden 'Weed Fest' thanks!

Thanks to all who helped weed, deadhead and perform other maintenance in the rain at the Wurster Garden 'Weed Fest' June 18. It's that kind of dedication that makes Wurster sparkle, as in this picture snapped by David Mitchell earlier in the season.



Irma Markert's garden

From Carol Eichler:

On our June trip to White Pine Camp, we (11 of us) had a very nice visit with Irma Markert at her well-established, well-tended gardens in Ogdensburg. Her property is along the St. Lawrence River providing ideal conditions for wet-loving candelabra primroses. What a show as they were in full bloom! Her rock garden was exquisite too, built along the stone paths leading from the house down to the river's edge. One of Irma and Harold amongst the primroses.



2009 program plans

Here's the **tentative** line-up for 2009. Check future newsletters or the ACNARGS blog (<http://acnargs.blogspot.com>) for details.

- **Aug. 15 - 'Members Only' plant sale and picnic.** Plant sale at Kenneth Post Greenhouses, Tower Rd., Cornell. Set up starts at 10 a.m. Picnic at Comstock Knoll summerhouse, Cornell Plantations (weather permitting).
- **Sept 19 - What's Wrong With My Plants?** with Michael Loos, horticulture educator with Ohio State University Cooperative Extension, Cuyahoga County and active NARGS member. This program will be held in Billie Jean Isbell's garden in Brooktondale, where Michael will give us a real-world look at plant problems.
- **Oct. 11 - Pam Eveleigh on primroses.** Whetzel Room (404 Plant Sciences Building), Cornell University, Ithaca. Note that this **program is on a Sunday** – not our usual Saturday meeting time.
- **Nov. 14 - Native Plants for the Naturalistic Garden** with Don Leopold, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and author of *Native Plants of the Northeast*. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca.

People

- Chair/trips: Billie Jean Isbell, bjj1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484
- Vice chair/program: Donna Kraft, dkraft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626
- Secretary: Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
- Treasurer/Plant sales: BZ Marranta, mmm10@cornell.edu
- Program: Carol Eichler, ceichler@twcny.rr.com, 607-387-5823
- Plant sales: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660
- Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
- Membership: Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu 607-387-9308
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Green Dragon Tales

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