



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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October 2011

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October 15 program: Weird and Wonderful Plants of Namibia

Our October program will feature Tracy McLellan speaking on the Weird and Wonderful Plants of Namibia.

From baobab trees along waterfalls on the border with Angola, to the wondrous two-leaved *Welwitschia mirabilis* (right) and tall tree-like aloes, Tracy will describe the botanical riches of the southern African country Namibia and neighboring regions of South Africa. The extremely low rainfall conditions host numerous succulents, and many areas have had little human disturbance.

Our Plant of the Month will feature a selection of bulbs. See article below for details.

We'll meet in 404 Plant Science Building on the Cornell University campus. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1:00 p.m.



2011 program plans

Our **tentative** program line up for 2011. Details in future newsletters or acnargs.blogspot.com:

- Nov. 12 – Chapter member **Robin Bell, Trilliums: A Love Affair**. CCE-Tompkins Cty. (Note this meeting is on the 2nd Saturday).

October plant of the month:

From John Gilrein, plant of the month coordinator:

In keeping with tradition, our plant of the month for October will be bulbs. Everyone will get a free *Scilla pratensis*, meadow squill, and 1 bag of bulbs of your choice. *Scilla pratensis* can be forced to bloom indoors. If there are bulbs remaining, we'll sell them at the end of the meeting.

Name Origin	Flower color Bloom time	Height	Planting Depth	Hardiness Zones
<i>Scilla pratensis</i> Meadow squill (Europe)	Lavender May/June	6"	5"	4 to 8
<i>Lilium leichtinii</i> ?Yellow Turk's cap type (Japan)	Yellow with maroon spots June or July	? around 2'	6"	3 to 8
<i>Galanthus elwesii</i> Giant snowdrop (Eastern Mediterranean)	White tipped with green Early Spring	5 to 8"	4"	3 to 8

White Pine Camp trip report

From Carol Eichler ceichler@twcny.rr.com

In spite of persistent rain and chilly temperatures, five hardy souls travelled to White Pine Camp in the Adirondacks September 14 to 16. We were able to take advantage of a break in the rain to plant over 500 bulbs, concentrating them in only five of the 16 mounds toward the entrance. A grouping of scilla will greet more adventurous visitors who meander into the garden and choose to pause at the garden bench. As with most bulb plantings, it's all about anticipating spring, and I'd love to see the display!

We received an appreciative note from Dick and Mary George, the owners of White Pine Camp:

On behalf of White Pine Camp we want to express our sincere gratitude for all the hard work, donations of plants and advice the members of the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society have given to the Frederic Heutte Alpine Rock Garden at White Pine Camp over the past year.

We specifically want to thank Pat Fisher, Donna Gibson, Fred and Tibby McLafferty, Karen Hansen, Bob Schneider, and Carol Eichler for traveling to the Adirondacks in June and working so diligently to make improvements in the garden; planting, pruning and weeding. We also send special thanks for the donations of plants to Donna Gibson, Susanne Lipari, Carol Eichler, and the Chapter for your donations of plants and funding for bulbs for fall planting.

The Frederic Heutte Garden is enjoyed by hundreds of White Pine Camp's guests and tour participants each year. The significant contributions from your organization help to make the garden an impressive exhibit.

Again, many thanks to all of you for your kind and generous support. We look forward to seeing you at White Pine Camp again in September.



A very happy silene (above) that has self-sown in several places and is still blooming away



Harold Peachey (above) with his handy-dandy bulb-planter a.k.a. a drill.



The moss (left) is largely held at bay within the plantings (where we concentrated our efforts this spring), but it's still a constant force to be reckoned with. It does look pretty as an edging though, doesn't it?

From the chair: In praise of rock gardens

From Billie Jean Isbell bjj1@cornell.edu

As many of you know, I have been out of commission this summer and my garden has been sorely neglected. But I must say the rock gardens have needed very little attention. They were not over-run with weeds, nor did they suffer during the long drought, or the flooding.

My back garden was inundated for several days but the rock gardens drained quickly. I'm thinking of converting one other



perennial bed to a rock garden or sand bed. Sand beds and rock gardens certainly make life easier.

I did install an automatic computerized watering system for half of the new rock garden, the Apu, built in 2010 primarily to keep the dwarf Ginko biloba 'Mariken' watered. It needs moist well-drained soil and has done well with water every other day.

During this dreadful summer I did lose a few plants. I can't seem to keep Mossy saxafraga peterpan alive, and all of the Androsace have perished as well. But while my perennial beds look dreadful, the rock gardens and sand bed came through a difficult summer with great success.

Please consider serving on the board. We cannot function without the participation of our membership. Election for new board members will take place in November. Please contact me if you are interested in serving.

Free shade plants

From Janet Thomas jjstomas333@yahoo.com:

I have woodland/shade plants that need a good home. Some of them can be transplanted now in the fall, while others will need to be transplanted in the spring. I'm in the south of Tioga County, about 10 minutes from Owego, 45 minutes from Ithaca. If people are interested, they can contact me to arrange a visit.

Plants available are: *Aruncus dioicus* (Goat's Beard), *Azalea* 'Cornell Pink', *Cimicifuga racemosa* (Black Snakeroot), *Clethra alnifolia*, *Frankliniana*, miniature boxwood, Oakleaf hydrangea, Red twig dogwood, *Thalictrum* (Meadow Rue), Various groundcovers (Asian ginger, geranium, plumbago, epimedium), Various ferns, Yellow twig dogwood.

People

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