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July/August 2014

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## AUGUST 16 : MEMBERS PLANT SALE & PICNIC

*David Mitchell and BZ Marrance Plant Sales*

Please think about potting up plants now for our annual member sale August 16th. Here's your opportunity to share some of your select plants (even if you can only spare one division) where you can be sure they'll be nurtured and appreciated. Please label them in advance if at all possible as this will facilitate set-up. This sale is one of only two Chapter sales and are key to funding our paid speaker program throughout the year.

Plans are set for this year's members plant sale to be held at the picnic shelter at Buttermilk State Park's Upper Entrance. Note at 10 a.m. the Park starts charging a parking fee (unless you have a season pass). Directions are to be found in this newsletter.

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive, get your plant sale number and help with sale set-up; bring a dish-to-pass
- 11:00 a.m. (approximately) Plant sale begins
- 12:00 noon Lunch and optional cook-out
- Hike the gorge (optional)

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 and sign in. All members are welcome, whether you bring plants to sell or not. This sale has become an important revenue stream for the Chapter. For the treasured and rare plants, we will have a silent auction table. Note this is our only members-only sale and we should have some real gems (last year there a number of rock garden plants and they were a big hit). You may join for 2014 at the meeting for \$10 (\$15 for families). It's still a great value since we have half of our program year ahead of us.

The sale begins at approximately 11, with a dish-to-pass lunch to follow. Please bring your own service. Beverages will be supplied. We'll fire up the BBQ for those who want to bring grillables.

We have a great set-up for the sale with options to contend with whatever weather mother nature throws at us - ample indoor tables and exposed outdoor tables.

Following lunch, those who wish to hike the gorgeous gorge at Upper Buttermilk may do so. It's a short but steep downhill hike (unless you want to hike all the way to the Park's lower entrance)

with wet spots on the trail so wear good shoes and of course, the return is all uphill. If you've never done this before, it comes highly recommended. Hopefully we won't be flooded out as happened last year.

The simplest way to get to Buttermilk State Park's Upper Entrance is via Highway 96B also known as Danby Road. Turn at W. King Road which is marked by a traffic light as well as road signage to the park. Stay on King Road to the park entrance - again marked by a sign. The shelter is just beyond the 1st parking area. Here's a park map (<http://nysparks.com/parks/attachments/ButtermilkFallsParkMap.pdf>) and a link to Google maps (<http://nysparks.com/parks/151/getting-there.aspx>) to get step-by-step directions from your starting point.

All in all, look forward to a good time with plenty of plants and food for everyone!

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Carol Eichler*

We could be living in the tropics with our steamy days and rain most afternoons. The plants are loving it and I am too. Any summer in which I don't have to water is much appreciated. Of course, the downside is that the weeds are loving it too requiring my constant diligence in the garden. But isn't that always the case?

Since our last newsletter we've had a lot going on - the May plant sale, trough making workshop, and day trip tour to Cazenovia gardens. You'll see a recap of the highlights in this issue.

This newsletter heralds upcoming events as our Chapter resumes its 2014 program year starting with the ever-popular member-only sale and picnic. You should enjoy our gorge-ous location at Buttermilk State Park. We have rented the picnic shelter so rain or shine we won't be intimidated by those unpredictable afternoon storms.

It will be good to see everyone again and share garden stories, food, and plants.

**Carol**

There is something about a garden that brings out a fiercely possessive streak in the best of us. All our triumphs, to be really satisfying, must stem from our own individual efforts; and we look with a cold eye upon innovations for which we are not personally responsible. Even a suggestion, however tactfully introduced, is not always taken in good part. . . We gardeners should not be blamed for this defensive attitude, which is based on the intense interest we take in our work. Without it, gardening would become an undertaking so laborious, so frustrating, so maddening, that there would soon be no gardens at all. As with all truly creative pursuits, the appeal is to the mind and to the heart, rather than to the pocket; and unless we can convince ourselves, beyond any doubt, that the credit is ours, and ours alone, we are like a singer listening to the applause for a song that someone else has sung.

~Old Herbaceous by Reginald Arkell

## PLANT SALE SUCCESS!

*Carol Eichler*

One of my markers for measuring the success of our big May plant sale is "Did we get rid of all our plants?" While it may be debated whether that is a good measure, if it were assumed to be true, then this year would stand up as one of our most successful.



I say this because we actually sold out early! That translates to no leftover plants to figure out how to dispose of, early clean-up, and early departure! Anecdotally, it seemed we may not have had the quantity of past years but the quality of plants - all donated from our members I might add - was very good. We netted \$1,353.75 from the sale, sufficient to compensate our speakers and assure a strong program for next year.

Outreach and visibility are also important aspects of the sale and as in past years we acquired a few new members. Hopefully we'll see them at some of our upcoming meetings. A big thank you goes out to all of you who participated by donating plants, working the sale, and buying plants.

## CAZENOVIA GARDENS DAY TRIP

*Carol Eichler*



Nearly 30 of us converged in Cazenovia on June 7<sup>th</sup> – a perfect summer day – to visit 4 private gardens and optional side trips to the Lorenzo, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, or nearby nurseries.

First stop: Bobbi Cleaveland's gardens built around a historic house c.1830 and descending to Chittenango Creek. Formal beds near the house included a water feature, whimsical sculptures, and flowers selected for both its sunny and shady environments. Garden beds lined both sides of a picket fence offering wonderful viewing from the yard as well as for motorists driving by on Route 13. However her gardens didn't stop there. Stone steps led to the creek and still more gardens.

Next stop was Graham and Ann Egerton's gardens not more than a ¼ mile away. They have lived at this location for 14 years and their first garden investment was in many beautiful ornamental trees, which have now achieved significant size to form the bones of these gardens. The Egerton's have developed many meandering beds and have plans to develop still more, as unbelievable as that seems.

After an opportunity to rest both mind and body (otherwise known as a lunch break) we continued ever onward to the gardens of Roger DeMuth. His gardens were the most surprising – for me at least, because I knew so little about them. As it turns out, Roger is a graphic artist and this is became clearly evident everywhere from his choice of plant materials, colors, design, and sculptural features – most especially his wife's unusual pottery. For those who weren't on the trip he has published a book that contains wonderful photographs that capture the intensity and spirit of what he works so hard to achieve ([preview the book online here](#)).



Last but not least, we visited Nancy Hook's gardens. Again, we were awed by her expansive beds and plant selection. Once an active member of our Chapter, her rock garden is now 30 or more years old, comprised mostly of choice conifers who have now grown out of scale with their original intent but beautiful none-the-less. We concluded our tour there by feeding the hundreds of koi and trying to avoid the wrath of Mama Goose who was protecting her goslings.

All in all the day was a sensory delight. Each and every garden could be described by the title of Roger's book, *A Hobby Gone Berserk*.

The garden is not only an ornamental place, but a habitat and a civilization.  
~Stanley Kunitz, *The Wild Braid*

## TROUGH WORKSHOP

*Carol Eichler*



A small, but ambitious group of ACNARGS-ers gathered to build troughs at the home of Mary Stauble and Bill Stark. They also invited us to tour their gardens where the Japanese Primrose in their many color variations were in peak bloom.

For those who didn't participate, Bill furnished the cement mixer (a huge help!) and his time to make the hypertufa mix, a tented and tabled work area, and Mary made yummy refreshments.

The day concluded with a great tour of their gardens. Since our last trough workshop, they have added



substantial plantings and continue to build on long-term plans to develop their lakeside property. Many thanks Mary and Bill for being such great hosts and for providing these pictures.

## A SUMMER VENTURE TO LAKE SUPERIOR

*Carol Eichler*

I've been promising myself this trip for a long time and finally pulled it off this year - visiting the north shore of Lake Superior. Oh, to travel to the place where folks from the land of 10,000 lakes go on vacation! Incorporating this trip with a visit to family members in Iowa amounted to a 250+ mile detour – and that was just one-way, but so worth the effort.

Long-time friends in the Minneapolis area joined me and my husband and became our tour guides to this beautiful area. You have to be rugged to live in Minnesota with their brutal winters and buggy summers. Lake Superior bespoke rugged (even as I enjoyed the comforts of a rustic

cottage at Cascade Lodge) with frost warnings at night and chilly days in the 50's (in late June no less).

Right outside the cottage door was the Cascade River and one of its many cascading waterfalls for which it is known – raging at high water from the frequent rains of this summer. Stepping outdoors I caught a hiking trail that follows the river and joins up with the 296-mile Superior Hiking Trail above the Lake.



The spring wildflowers were still very much in bloom. I captured a few with my camera for you to enjoy. With this wacky weather I saw lilacs and crabapples in bloom simultaneously with iris and daylilies. Or is this normal for an area that claims only one month of summer?



The rocky shores of Superior are a great place for rock hounds too. Agates and Thompsonite are there to be found. I wasn't so fortunate, however I confess I returned with a bagful of interesting stones that are likely to end up in one of my troughs.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Staub

Please welcome several new members who joined at the Plant Sale:

Shirley Hogg from Freeville  
Marian Hiemstra from Walton  
Deborah Banks from Oneonta  
Ann Martin from Ithaca

Also welcome Joanne Farbman from Ithaca who joined via mail.

The plant sale at the picnic in August is only open to members so make sure you are paid up if you want to buy plants. If you are not paid up you will see a message in my newsletter announcement email to you.

Please contact me ([mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)) if you have any questions.

## AMERICAN CONIFER SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Northeast Region of the American Conifer Society is holding its annual conference in Rochester on September 19-21. The agenda includes guest speaker Richard Eyre of Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery on Friday and Saturday bus tours to four private gardens and the Highland Park Arboretum. There are a number of suggested pre- and post-conference self-guided tours as well. More information can be found [here](#).

Contact Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com) if you are interested in the agenda.

## 2014 PROGRAM PLANS

*Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (see map on the last page).*

**August 16:** Members-only plant sale and picnic.

**September 20:** Judy Glattstein, topic to be determined

**October 18:** Mike Kintgen, Rock Gardening, and Alpines of Colorado and Wyoming

**November 8:** John Gilrein, A Tour of Newfoundland

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters, our blog, [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com), and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

## CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

**Climate Change and Gardening in NYS**, Wed. July 30, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, Tompkins CCE, \$5-10 self-determined sliding scale

**Dryden Open Gate Garden & Art Tour**, Sat. Aug. 16, 9am-2pm (5 gardens for \$5) – same day as our picnic

**Gathering of Gardeners**, Sat. Sept. 13, 2014, David Culp and Elizabeth Licata, speakers

Weeds are not only plants in the wrong place, but plants which have slipped into the wrong culture.  
~Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants by Richard Mabey, p. 11

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

*If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!*

Chair: Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Program: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, [nbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:nbm2@cornell.edu)

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Treasurer: BZ Marranca, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), Karen Hansen

Membership: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, [terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org](mailto:terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org)

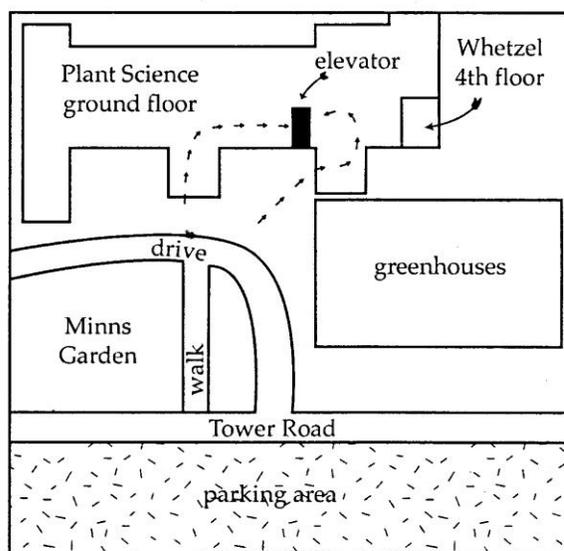
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## HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP

The Plant Science Building is located at 236 Tower Road on the Cornell University Campus.



## GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.).

Submit articles three weeks prior to the next meeting to Kathy Purdy, [kopurdy@gmail.com](mailto:kopurdy@gmail.com).

Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in September 2014.

Almost anything you do in the garden, for example weeding, is an effort to create some sort of order out of nature's tendency to run wild. There has to be a certain degree of domestication in a garden. The danger is that you can so tame a garden that it becomes a *thing*. It becomes landscaping.

~Stanley Kunitz, *The Wild Braid*