



## ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### Letter from the Chair

**August 21 is Members Plant Sale**  
**Remembering Billie Jean and Nari**  
**Membership**

#### Spotted Lantern Fly

#### Upcoming ACNARGS Programs

#### Calendar of Select Events & Programs

#### About ACNARGS

#### About NARGS National

#### ACNARGS Board Members and Contacts

**August 2021**

## Letter from the Chair

*John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair*

What a different summer this has been from summer last year! Summer last year was so dry, and not nearly so dry in South Onondaga as it was in Ithaca or Interlaken. This summer, so far seems like we have similar weather to the humid tropics with high humidity and rain most days (though our rain hasn't been as predictable as the standard late afternoon thunderstorms). After watering the vegetable garden a few times, I haven't had to water at all (other than something just planted). And some of the perennials have grown larger than normal (*Arisaema triphyllum* over 2 feet tall) and other are blooming longer than normal (*Geranium psilostemon*). I don't love the eastern US humidity, but in the grand scheme things, our weather is pretty fine compared to other areas with abnormally high temperatures, smoke and wildfires, and floods, and the vegetable harvest so far looks promising this year.

We appreciate our hosts who generously shared their gardens with us for our June 2021 garden tour day: Susanne, Carol, and Pat. Thank you. I think it's a great educational opportunity to see plants in the ground and get ideas for plants to add to our gardens. Seeing a live plant gives a person a lot more information than a small photo in a garden catalog (or on the internet). And we get to see plants that sometimes are thriving in a location not promoted as a good site; many, but not all plants are flexible and it's good to know more about growing plants that may be new to us. Another plus is that sometimes we get to see a newer cultivar that might be in an improvement in a trait like habit or flower color.

I hope you will join us for our August plant sale/picnic on August 21 at Myer's Park (please read the rest of the Green Dragon for more details). And get potting up some plants early, so they have time to recover from transplanting and will look happy enough to be snapped up in the sale. Recently potted up plants that are wilted don't sell; we all want to take home some happy looking plants. It's sometimes a mystery exactly what will sell at our plant sale, but even after many sales I've sometimes been surprised that one plant sold quickly and another plant didn't sell at all. Suggestions for plants to donate to the sale: cultivars, especially newer/smaller/unusual ones; unusual perennials; foliage and shade plants; late blooming plants. Small plants and healthy seedlings are most welcome. Rather than shooting for a lot of plant donations, go for early potting and what you think will sell. And though our winters are not very predictable, I'm feeling like with the warmer winters the last few years, there's more reason to try to push the hardiness zones of the plants I'm growing in

the ground. Some of my hardiness pushing successes for last winter (I'm theoretically USDA Zone 5B) are a rosemary plant (the plant lived, some of the top died back), *Sauratum venosum* (voodoo lily), and *Eucomis* sp. (pineapple lily, species unknown). *Sauratum venosum* makes offset corms, so if one wants to be conservative, one could winter over some of it indoors and leave the rest in the ground. For me, it's a real plus to not have to dig up those plants every year and stash them in the basement.

I feel like I could nominate July for pest control month! On days when I'm at home, I spent quite a bit of time collecting Japanese beetles, lily leaf beetles, and snails. A positive note about lily leaf beetles is that parasitoid wasps have been approved in some areas to help control these pests; I know some of these wasps were released on Long Island, NY this year. Many of you know this Japanese beetle control method, if anyone reading does not yet, so much the better. A good way of controlling Japanese beetles is to get a container (a 1 quart yogurt container works well), fill up  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  with water, add a teaspoon or so of dish liquid, and collect the beetles in the container. The beetles tend to drop off their perch when disturbed, so place the container under the leaf/leaves with the beetles, and let them drop into the container. Place the container close to the beetles, as occasionally they will drop and fly away. They will soon perish in the detergent solution. Japanese beetles will eat a huge assortment of different plants; some of their favorites are roses (leaves and flowers), *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris* (climbing hydrangea vine), hollyhocks, grapes, jewelweed (they seem to favor *Impatiens glandulifera*, an Asian species), and raspberries. They seem to favor the more tender, newer growth. If you have the time, checking these plants a few times a day will yield more beetles collected. They must move around during the day ... perhaps going for varied diet? I find that picking the beetles off by hand doesn't work as well as collecting in the container; and not everyone likes the feeling of their prickly legs. You'll want to pour out and replace the detergent solution every so often, maybe at intervals of 3 days to a week, as needed. The same process works for the lily leaf beetles, but I usually let them drop into my hand before crushing them.

Hope to see you in August!

## Members Plant Sale is August 21

*Carol Eihler, Plant Sales Chair*

We are almost back to normal times with our annual member only plant sale being held this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of August, that would be August 21, at Myers Park, Lansing, New York.

As far as I'm concerned this is our best plant sale of the year, because we can bring those choice, often one-of-a-kind, special plants that we are willing to share with others AND at bargain prices. Don't forget this is also a major fundraiser for our Chapter, helping to pay to bring speakers to our meetings (even our Zoom meetings). And of course we will have yet another chance to socialize with each other. (We will be following CDC and NYS protocol which at this time means no masks or social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated). Here are the details.

### **Significant Dates**

#### **August 13:**

We will send out a preliminary list of plants that will be offered. This is the last date to submit what plants you are donating to Carol ([carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com))

#### **August 17:**

Advance plant list sent out to members and non-members. If you are not a paid up 2021 member, you can join at the sale.

#### **August 21: Sale Day Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing (see map)  
 10:30 a.m. Sale begins no earlier than 10:30; if you are bringing plants you need to arrive earlier.  
 12:30 p.m. Sale concludes (or perhaps earlier). Now it's time for lunch. Bring-your-own bag lunch. 1:30 p.m. Clean-up (if we run ahead of schedule, clean-up and tour will also be earlier)  
 2:00 p.m. Tour the gardens at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca

The Wurster Memorial Garden at Coop Extension was built and planted in 2000 and 2001 by our Chapter. How many of you have taken the time to visit it? While the garden is spectacular in May and June, there is still much to see and learn. A few faithful members have been tending this garden every year. It serves as a living memorial to the late Al Wurster and to the endurance of our vision of 20 years ago!

### **Donating Plants**

You do not need to donate plants to participate in the sale. We need buyers too! Now is the time, if you haven't already started, to pot up plants for the sale. Remember to bare-root each plant before potting up into a soil-less potting mix. Label in advance please, Latin and common names appreciated. Think about bringing plants that you value that are not so common that they are likely to already be in our gardens. Also, while you may be able to bring 20 of something, don't. One or two of something makes it feel all the more special (probably because it is!)

If you are not planning to attend, feel free to donate plants and arrange for a fellow member to bring them. OR drop them off at David Mitchell's downtown Ithaca house, at 402 Esty Street.

### **Advance Plant List**

We will send out a Plant Sale List in advance. This has worked well so we will continue to do this so that you can build your wish list. As Plant Sale Coordinator, Carol Eichler will be compiling the list of plants for sale. We will want to know quantity, Plant name - Latin, Common name, type of plant (that is rock garden/trough, perennial, tree/shrub, non-hardy, houseplant, etc.), and any notes you care to add about the plant. We don't expect this list will be a complete list; there will be late additions.

### **Auction Table**

Of course we will have an auction table where members can place any unusual plants or large specimens for silent bidding. Your number on the sign-in sheet is also your number for the bid table. The bid table is open until last call when the silent auction is closed.

### **Volunteer: Setting up/Clean-up Day of Sale/Cashier Assistants**

Set-up will begin at 9:00 a.m. At least 4 helpers needed. Please contact Carol ([carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)). Likewise we will need 2-3 people to help with clean-up and 1-2 people to help with cashiering.

We have reserved Pavilion B, which is a large, roofed pavilion. (see map), near the large playground. First, remember to sign-in as you arrive and remember your number as this will be important when numbers are called by group to pick out plants. As you arrive, you will be expected to appropriately place any plants you have brought by Latin name. The tables will be marked alphabetically.

### **Procedure for the Sale**

Once the sale opens, we will open the sale "grab" to a limited number of people at a time, giving priority in the 1st two rounds to those who donated plants or who helped with early set-up. The sale will now start to resemble past years, allowing 1 plant per person in Round 1, 2 plants per person in Round 2, 3 plants in Round 3, after which the sale is open to all for an unlimited number of plants.

We may pause periodically to allow time to talk about special plants and for a mid-sale browsing break. We will take a little time to talk about items on the bid table too and provide the opportunity to ask questions about sale plants. Remember, the sale itself happens quickly.

### **Pricing Simplified**

While it's not a perfect system, we will determine plant price by pot size: 2-inch pot = \$2, 3-inch pot = \$3, 4" pot \$4, etc. We will use colored pricing sticks for plants in pots that we feel are under- or over-priced. Remember, we will go to half-price at some point, so those \$4 not-so-special plants will then be priced at \$2. There will be pricing charts, pricing sticks, and plant labels on hand.

**After Sale Lunch and Clean-up**

After paying for your plant purchases with the cashier, it's time for lunch! Bring your own lunch, your own water to stay hydrated and a beverage if desired. We will provide snacks and a limited amount of bottled water. Water bottles can be refilled at the Park. We can eat in small groups at the shelter or, if the weather is nice, lunch can be enjoyed outdoors anywhere within the Park.

**Garden Tour**

Don't call it a day just yet! Plan to take the time to visit the gardens at Cooperative Extension at 615 Willow Avenue, beyond Stewart Park and Ithaca High School and just off Route 13. Besides our own Wurster Memorial Rock Garden (which our Chapter has continuously maintained for the past 20 years), there is much more to see - a native plants garden, vegetable trial plots, water feature, and other perennial borders surrounding the building and side lot.

It's beyond a doubt a full day. Tiring? Probably! But better yet, happy? Almost certainly!

Sign up for Set up (at 9a.m.),  
Cashier helper (noon-ish) or  
Clean-up (at 1:30pm) by  
contacting Carol,  
[carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com).  
Thanks!

## Remembering Billie Jean Isbel and Nari Mistry



Billie Jean Isbell passed away on June 26, 2021 in Santa Fe, NM, and Nari (Nariman) Mistry passed away July 1, 2021 in Ithaca.

Billie Jean was an anthropologist with Cornell, a former Adirondack Chapter Chair, hosted garden tours and a chapter meeting at her home in Brooktondale, and planned one of our

best trips, a trip to Quebec, which included a private garden tour of Frank Cabot's Au Quatre Vents and a stop at Cady's Falls Nursery in Vermont.

Nari Mistry was a physicist at Cornell, a former Adirondack Chapter Program Chair, hosted garden tours at his home, and self-taught watercolor painter.



We have fond memories of their time in the Adirondack Chapter.

For memories of Billie Jean <https://memories.net/timeline/billiejean-isbell-93912>

To see Nari's obituary <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/theithacajournal/name/nariman-mistry-obituary?pid=199315381>

Friends are invited to gather in Nari's gardens 2–4 p.m., Thursday, August 5, 1159 Ellis Hollow Rd, Ithaca.

## Wurster Garden Tour on Flock



A screenshot of Carol Eichler giving YouTuber Summer Rayne Oakes a tour of Wurster Garden.

Summer Rayne Oakes started 'Plant One On Me' back in February 2017 to help answer houseplant care questions. Since that time, her YouTube channel has expanded in scope and depth, featuring regular episodes that share the beauty of plants with the people who love them. Oakes' mission is to bring people closer to plants by bringing plants closer to them through engaging, entertaining, and educational content. You'll see houseplant tips, home tours, plant unboxings, field trips to botanical gardens, and more on her channel.

## Membership

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

Our heartfelt thanks to all who renewed your membership for 2021 after such a challenging year!

If you did not yet renew, it's time! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you've already renewed or you're a lifetime member, your 2021 membership is due now (Individual @\$15, Household @\$20, Business with business card listing @\$30). If you have not renewed, you will see a reminder message in the email announcing this newsletter.

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: Our members-only plants-of-the-month at discounted prices, 25% discount on May plant sale purchases, Participation in the members-only plant sale in August, and Participation in the April members-only seedling exchange to name four – any one of which can easily recoup the cost of your dues. Hopefully we will have many more of these activities in 2021 than we did in 2020. Print and complete the 2021 Membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf> Questions? Contact Mary at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu).

# Report sightings!

Email a photo to:  
SpottedLanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov

# Spotted Lanternfly

# WANTED

IN THE FINGER LAKES

**FOR THE  
DESTRUCTION  
OF CROPS  
& PROPERTY**



Nymph



Adult



Egg Mass



SCAN ME!

## VIOLATIONS:

Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive pest with several prior offenses:

- **Destroying** crop and plant species
- **Vandalizing** with black mold
- **Threatening** food, beer and wine industries
- **Sabotaging** local economy

## DESCRIPTION:

Spotted Lanternfly is often misidentified. Here's how to spot it:

- **One inch** long
- **Gray-brown** forewings with black spots
- **Bright red** underwings
- **Gathers on trees**, especially Tree of Heaven



Funding for this material provided via the Environmental Protection Fund

IF SEEN, PLEASE TAKE A PHOTO AND E-MAIL IT TO: [SpottedLanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:SpottedLanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov)

## Upcoming 2021 ACNARGS Programs

**NOTE:** Due to Covid our meetings will take on a different format. We do plan to hold live meetings via Zoom and are currently in the process of booking speakers, hopefully on our “usual” meeting dates. For those of you unfamiliar with Zoom, we will be sending out information about how to connect and can offer assistance to anyone who requests it. We hope to have our meeting calendar finalized - as much as anyone can plan ahead these days - for publication in our next newsletter.

**August 5-8:** NARGS Annual General Meeting in Durango, CO. Info and registration at [NARGS.org](http://NARGS.org)

**August 21:** Annual member only plant sale

What's in store for our programs this summer and fall? After our usual summer program meeting hiatus, hopefully we will be able to meet in person. This newsletter is your best source for learning about our 2021 programming.

## Calendar of Select Events & Programs

*Practical Earthkeeper*, Home Gardening Program, [Cornell Cooperative Extension](#)

[Finger Lakes Native Plant Society](#) monthly meetings

[Cornell Botanic Gardens](#) events

[Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club](#)

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to David Mitchell at [david\\_mitchell\\_14850@yahoo.com](mailto:david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com)

## About ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 5 program-speaker meetings, the *Green Dragon* newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, two plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners. The public is always welcome.

Chapter membership starts at \$15 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form at [www.acnargs.org/join.pdf](http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf).

## About NARGS National

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication focused on rock gardening, and an online website featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS National also conducts winter study weekends and holds its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens and take field trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

## 2021 ACNARGS Board Members and Contacts

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

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

Program: **Terry Humphries**, [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com)

Program Committee Members: **Could this be you?**

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

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

Plant Sales Chair: **Carol Eichler** [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Plant Sales Committee Members: **Michael Loos**, **BZ Marranta**, **David Mitchell**

Plant of the Month: **Marlene Kobre**, [mkobre@ithaca.edu](mailto:mkobre@ithaca.edu)

Membership: Seeking someone to do this. **Could this be you?**

New Member Hospitality: **Graham Egerton**

Newsletter Editor: **David Mitchell**, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu). **Looking for a new editor!**

Calendar: **Pat Curran**, [pc21@cornell.edu](mailto:pc21@cornell.edu)

Webmaster, Program Tech: **Craig Cramer**, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

## *Green Dragon Tales*

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Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to David Mitchell,

[david\\_mitchell\\_14850@yahoo.com](mailto:david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com). The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website [www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)