



ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER  
*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

Visit our blog: [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com)

July/August 2010

### In this issue:

- Tour member gardens July 17
- September speaker: Dan Snow
- Members only plant sale August 21
- 2010 program plans
- Work trip to White Pine Camp
- Visit to Ellen Hornig's
- Getting High in Colorado
- Other events
- People

## Tour member gardens July 17

*From Billie Jean Isbell:*

We are invited to visit three of our members' gardens this year on July 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., finishing up with appetizers-to-pass and drinks at Susanne Lipari's at 4 p.m.

We're so fortunate to have such creative and knowledgeable gardeners willing to share their gardens with us.

### Donna Gibson

2021 Ellis Hollow Rd. (about 6 miles east of Ithaca)

Donna's beautiful perennial garden is grown largely in sand. Also, ask to see her garden book while you are there. I what to learn about her method of keeping photographic records of her plantings.

**Directions:** 5.5 miles from East Hill Plaza on Ellis Hollow Road (1 mile from intersection with Ellis Hollow Creek Road). 2 story white house, driveway at very top of hill on left side. Phone- 539-7712; Cell 607-342-3647. Or Take Rt. 79 east, Ellis Hollow road will be the 1st left after passing Caroline Elementary School. 0.95 miles from turn, house on right side.



'Hot garden' at Susanne Lipari's



Shady garden at Donna Gibson's.

**Deb Lampman's Bedlam Gardens**  
1893 Rt 34 B King Ferry, Lansing

Deb is retiring from the nursery business and is selling her stock of plants at 50 percent off July 7-10. If you don't visit her during the sale, it's worth the drive to King Ferry to explore her extensive perennial beds, rock garden, and what she calls the cathedral.

**Directions:** Take 34 B North. From the Lansing schools it's about 10-12 miles. When you reach the stop sign in King Ferry continue 3 miles. Bedlam Gardens is on the west (left) side of the road

**Susanne Lipari**  
3991 Route 228, Alpine, New York

Susanne has invited us to end the day again at her lovely home and garden. She has added a small rock and crevice garden. I have dubbed Susanne's garden Serendipity because you round a corner and always find a surprise.

**Directions:** Take Rt. 79 West to Mecklenburg, take Rt. 228 South (direction Odessa) for 2.4 miles. When you see a silo at the left side of the road, you've made it. Susanne's driveway is across from there. Please park along the road on the shoulder.

Please bring an appetizer or finger food with beverages after 4 p.m.. It's a wonderful time of day to snack and enjoy her gardens.

---

**Dan Snow to speak Sept. 18**

Dan Snow, the author of: *In the Company of Stone: the Art of the Stone Wall*, will give a talk on stone walls and art to our chapter. He believes that: "The earth is alive and continually tries to take back what it has given up." Snow's walls and artwork always embody this dynamic between the earth and the structures he creates. Save the date, details will follow. Meantime, visit Dan's website: [www.inthecompanyofstone.com](http://www.inthecompanyofstone.com)



Border at Bedlam Gardens



Pergola at Deb Lampman's.



Gardens at Susanne Lipari's.

## Members only plant sale August 21

Our Members Only Plant Sale will take place on August 21 at 1 p.m. in the headhouse at the Kenneth Post Lab Greenhouses on the Cornell campus. This is the place to offer your special treasures. Prize plants will be appreciated by your NARGS friends and the sales help fund our various activities and speakers. Of course we are always willing to sign-up new gardeners at any time – even the day of the sale. So bring friends interested in membership. Bring a lunch and come early to help set up and check out the offerings. See you at 1PM!

---

## 2010 program plans

Our **tentative** program line up for the rest of 2010. Details in future newsletters or: [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com)

- July 17: **Member garden tours.**
  - August 21: **Members only plant sale.**
  - September 18: **Dan Snow**, [www.inthecompanyofstone.com](http://www.inthecompanyofstone.com), “Dry stone construction: a ‘fitting’ medium for the rock garden.”
  - October 16: **Elisabeth Zander**, Berkshire Chapter-NARGS, “Vertical Gardening.”
  - November 20: **Program to be announced.**
- 

## Work trip to White Pine Camp

*From Carol Eichler*

A work crew of 5 people, 1 dog, and over 60 plants travelled to White Pine Camp June 18-20 for a week-end of gardening and communing with nature (mosquitoes, black flies, and other biting insects).

The plantings from last year looked great - very few dead plants. Even the lavender seemed to be flourishing. Rumor was the George's had spent a day raking out white pine needles and generally cleaning up.

What's a mystery to me is whether the moss that we saw growing everywhere had really been suppressed by



A small but mighty work crew.



No mulch = moss.

the gravel mulch we put down. It sure seemed to be the case because I don't think the George's could have done **that much** weeding.

Where there was no mulch the moss was certainly in evidence. Note the before and after pics here.



Gravel mulch = no moss.

---

## Visit to Ellen Hornig's

*From Carol Eichler*

A small but no less enthusiastic group had the privilege of visiting Ellen Hornig's garden on June 18. Here are two views of the showy garden along the side yard. We caught the primula japonica in not-so-common colors, selections from Ellen's seedlings.



---

## Getting High in Colorado

*From John Gilrein*

At the end of June 2010 I spent a week in Colorado with my family. We drove (with many stops) from Denver to Estes Park, Glenwood Springs, Montrose, Silverton, Gunnison, Buena Vista, and back to Denver. Although June was reputed to be a good time to avoid summer thunderstorms above treeline, we hit more thunderstorm activity than expected. Mostly the



*Tabletop Mt., Rocky Mt. National Park*

thunderstorms were threats, rather than actual rain falling on us, but we did get a short sleet event.

June is an outstanding time for wildflowers, except in the high alpine areas, which were either not snow free very long, or still snow covered. We did find snow in a few areas between 10,000 and 12,000 feet elevation, but only in sheltered areas with a heavier than normal accumulation. I'm sorry the plant identification below can't be more precise. I don't yet have a Western wildflower guide, so I could not always identify the species of plants we were finding; I hope to get my hands on one soon.



*Eritrichium*

One of my goals was to check out the local flora, especially the alpine flora above treeline. Even while driving there were many opportunities to stop and check out some outstanding plants – dwarf Phloxes, larkspurs, Penstemons, paintbrushes, etc. Western Colorado has such a huge variety of habitat with the elevation varying from around 5,000 feet to above 14,000 feet on the highest peaks. One can experience an array of alpine and subalpine flora just exploring the areas around the mountain passes without the hard work of hiking up to the alpine zone under your own power.

Some of the passes we went through were: the Trail Ridge high point (highest pass in Rocky Mt. National Park) over 12,000 feet high; McClure Pass at 8,755 feet; Red Mountain Pass at 11,008 feet; the Molas Divide at 10,910 feet; Monarch Pass at 11,312 feet, and Kenosha Pass at 10,001 feet. The higher passes generally provide more exciting driving (precipitous cliffs and tremendous views) and access to better access to alpine plants. Near the Molas Divide massive pale yellow flowering spikes of yellow Gentians (*Gentiana lutea*) were common. This plant just doesn't look anything like the other Gentians we know. Just up the steep hill above Monarch pass were sky blue *Eritrichiums* (alpine forget me nots) blooming with pink *Silene acaulis*. *Silene acaulis* is known to by shy blooming in cultivation; the mats of it we saw blooming were pretty but none were covered with blossoms like some of the other bun-type plants.



*Phacelia*

We did several hikes up into the high country, challenging more due to the high elevation rather than long distances. Our first real hike was to some high alpine lakes in Rocky Mt. National Park. *Penstemon procerus* (a beautiful, small blue purple flowered Penstemon) was in full bloom and common. Engineer peak was another hike. We could not get to the summit due to thunderstorm activity that started when were above treeline, but saw wildflowers galore,

including *Primula parryi* (Parry primrose), *Hymenoxys acaulis* (old man of the mountains), *Polemonium viscosum* (sky pilot), *Caltha leptosepala* (western marsh marigold). Of course the ubiquitous dandelions were everywhere.

Hiking to Lamphier Lake and Gunsight Pass we saw many alpines sheltered in the rocks on the knife edged ridge near the pass. At 12,000 it's a big advantage to find a little shelter, if you're a plant. Above Monarch Pass, we hiked along a trailless ridge covered with wildflowers. This was the first place we saw *Eritrichiums*, which were small plants but extremely abundant. It's too bad they don't adapt to cultivation in the lowlands. Other plants along the ridge were very small *Lewisias*, tiny pink primroses, many *Polemoniums* (Jacob ladder) of different species, small purple asters.

I hope Carol and Donna (and anyone else we know at the annual NARGS meeting in Colorado) is having a fantastic time and will share some of their plant finds with us. Although we had a fairly short trip, it was rich in flowering plants. It was great to see some natural rock gardens and some of the plants I hope to add to my rock garden at home.

---

## Other events

**Wine Country Garden Tour.** This tour will include Deb Lampman's Bedlam Gardens featuring baked goods to support the Foreign Language Club. Tickets (\$10.00) include wine and artisan cheese tasting for the tour, and are on sale at King Ferry Winery

**Open Days.** The final Tompkins County date on this year's Garden Conservancy Open Days calendar is July 31, and will feature: Lipari Garden, Bassuk/Trowbridge Gardens, Nancy Ridenour. For more information, visit: [gardenconservancy.org/opendays/](http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays/)

---

## People

- Chair/trips: Billie Jean Isbell, [bj1@cornell.edu](mailto:bj1@cornell.edu), 607-539-6484
- Vice chair/program: Donna Kraft, [sanibel.tully@gmail.com](mailto:sanibel.tully@gmail.com), 315 696-8626
- Secretary: Harold Peachey, [hpeachey@gmail.com](mailto:hpeachey@gmail.com),
- Treasurer/plant sales/trips: BZ Marranca, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)
- Plant sales: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu), 607-342-3660
- Plant of the Month/program: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), 315-492-0844
- Membership/trips: Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu) 607-387-9308
- New member hospitality: Judy Fogel [jfogel@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jfogel@twcny.rr.com) 607-275-3332
- Newsletter editor/Webmaster: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

---

## 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@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in September 2010.

