



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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June Special Issue 2016

Special Issue - Special Issue - Special Issue All About the June 18 Garden Tours

ITINERARY

There are four diverse gardens planned for this year's garden tour in Rochester and nearby suburbs. Driving time to the first garden will be approximately 2 hours from downtown Ithaca, allowing for a 10 minute stop. Plan accordingly. We will meet at the first garden stop at 9:30 AM. The gardens are:

1. 9:30 AM: Roz Bliss, 165 Colony Lane, Henrietta, NY 14623 (1 hour)
2. 10:45 AM: Betsy Knapp, 796 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14620 (1 hour)
3. 12:30 PM: Jerry Kral, 700 N Winton Ave, Rochester, NY 14609 (2 hours)
4. 2:15 PM: Matt Szostak, 1120 Harris Road, Webster, NY 14580 (1 hour)

Keep in mind, for the courtesy of our garden hosts, we need to adhere to this time schedule. At the conclusion of the tour you may choose to take a side excursion to visit a nearby nursery.

ABOUT EACH GARDEN

Roz Bliss has a sunny front garden with gravel mulch and troughs. The back garden contrasts with the front, as it's low, damp, with paved walking areas. Plantings are mainly perennials and shrubs, including dwarf evergreens, hostas, Itoh hybrid peonies, Siberian irises, daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium*), roses, honeysuckles (*Lonicera*) and *Primula japonica*. Roz still has plants given to her by Nina Lambert, former long time ACNARGS member. Roz reports preparing her own homemade fertilizer with chopped and blended comfrey leaves and banana peels. The garden has matured and been enhanced for improved footing for better accessibility.

Betsy Knapp is the well-known trough vendor for most of the NARGS Eastern Study events. She has a city lot with a manicured garden, which includes (of course) planted troughs, dwarf conifers, pruned boxwood, a paved patio, and vines. This garden is a perfect example of how to have fun with gardening, doing a lot in a small space.



Jerry and Karen Kral started the design and construction of their gardens in 1992. Over a half mile of bluestone pathways interconnect dozens of raised beds and rock gardens. This allows an intense planting of over 1,000 taxa of plants including over 300 conifer and ginkgo cultivars. The emphasis is to aesthetically display rare and unusual plants. Unique and whimsical statuary, garden art, rock walls, benches, water features, and intimate sitting nooks create a total garden experience. The gardens currently occupy almost an acre within the city of Rochester and are considered the most visited private gardens in the region. Jerry and Karen have hosted local, regional, national and international plant societies. The gardens are unusual in that there are few sweeping vistas. Once in the gardens, the meandering paths limit viewing distances and create a sense of lush, botanical mystery.



In Matt Szostak's garden, the eye is drawn to his beautiful center island and the flowing Wisteria tree. The center island is a feast for the eyes but there is so much more! Matt has been an avid plant collector since 2001 and gravitates to the rare and unique. His paradise, complete with a waterfall and pond, boasts a garden with well-maintained paths and an expanse of daylilies basking in the sun. He has supplemented his diversity of perennials with beautiful trees and shrubs of all kinds.



What to bring:

Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, camera, clothing layers, e.g. warm layer like windbreaker/sweater, rain gear and umbrella if rain is possible, water bottle/drinks, folding chair (there will not be lunch seating for everyone). Please bring GPS and/or

directions since I'm not familiar with Rochester. Bring your own lunch (there may be fast food stops en route or close to our route) . Bring cash if garden stop #4 has plants for sale.

If you plan to join this tour, please RSVP to John Gilrein, Tour Organizer, by email [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu] by June 15, 2016. If you're a maybe, you can let me know that on email. I just want an idea of the number of people on our tour to let the hosts know.

GARDEN TOUR ETIQUETTE

Try to take advantage of en route toilet facilities. Stick to walking on the lawn and paths. No seed collection without the owner's permission. Show appreciation to our generous hosts. Try to stick to the planned times. It's a long day, with the trip from Ithaca and 4 gardens; you're welcome to participate in all or part of the tour as your time allows. No pets. You are welcome to share a plant with hosts if you have plants to share.

OPTIONAL SIDE EXCURSIONS

On your own time you may wish to check out these other destinations in the area.

- 1) Thousand Acre Swamp, Penfield: Nature Conservancy Preserve
- 2) Bristol's Garden Center, Victor, on NY 96, open until 7 PM.
- 3) Palmiter's Nursery, Avon, closes at 5 PM.
- 4) Highland Park, Rochester.
- 5) Unfortunately not Oriental Garden Supply, Pittsford, since it closes at 4 PM.

Bristol's was the Rochester area vendor to visit for rock garden plants, but my understanding is that their rock garden inventory is reduced from the past. It's still a large nursery with a great variety (trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, supplies).

DIRECTIONS

Directions start at the Ithaca Bakery, 400 North Meadow Street, Ithaca, and the directions assume you can find NY 89 North [Taughannock Boulevard]. The times listed do not include stops, and there are NY Thruway tolls for the trip out and the return trip. It's a long drive to Rochester, but each garden on the tour is close to the one following it. If you don't have a GPS or smart phone, please consider printing the directions from Google Maps or a similar program that provides maps & directions, and you will get exact distances between turns.

Destination #1 Roz Bliss, 89 miles/1 hour 45 minutes.

- 1) Take NY 89 NORTH from Ithaca to Varick/County Rt 128
- 2) LEFT on CR 128 WEST to NY 414

- 3) LEFT on NY 414 SOUTH
- 4) First right on White Road WEST
- 5) RIGHT on NY 96 NORTH, follow NY 96 to the Thruway (Interstate 90)
- 6) Take Thruway 90 WEST to EXIT 46 (Interstate 390)
- 7) *Note there is a complex exiting pattern*
- 8) Follow ramp for INT 390 North but take the RIGHT FORK on the ramp for NY 253 Lehigh Station Road [don't get on INT 390 NORTH!!]
- 9) Turn RIGHT on NY 253 EAST and go 2.1 miles
- 10) LEFT on Masthead Way
- 11) LEFT on Colony Lane to 165 on the left.
Park on the road.

Destination #2 Betsy Knapp, 7 miles/13 minutes

- 1) NORTH on Colony Lane
- 2) LEFT on Calkins Road WEST
- 3) RIGHT on NY 15A NORTH
- 4) Get on Interstate 390 NORTH
- 5) Follow 390 NORTH as it merges with INT 590
- 6) Take EXIT 16 East Henrietta Road
- 7) RIGHT on East Henrietta Road NORTH
- 8) Soft RIGHT/Veer onto South Avenue
- 9) Go 1.7 miles to 796 South Ave on the right
Park on street

LUNCH 1145 AM to 1215 PM [strongly suggested that bring your own]

Destination #3 Jerry Kral , 5 miles/11 minutes

- 1) RIGHT on South Avenue NORTH
- 2) RIGHT on Byron Street
- 3) Turn & merge into INTERSTATE 490 EAST
- 4) Take EXIT 20 Winton Road
- 5) Merge into Norris Drive
- 6) LEFT turn onto South Winton Road
- 7) Go 1.4 miles NORTH on Winton to 900 North Winton on the right
Park on the street

Destination #4 Matt Szostak, 10 miles/16 minutes

- 1) RIGHT on N Winton Road NORTH
- 2) RIGHT on Empire Boulevard NY 404 EAST
- 3) RIGHT on Plank Road EAST
- 4) LEFT on Harris Road to 1120 Harris Road on the right

RETURN TO ITHACA, 88 miles 1 hour 45 minutes

(as an alternate route, you can go North and take expressways all the way to the Thruway/more distance & same driving time).

- 1) SOUTH on Harris Road
- 2) LEFT on Walson Road
- 3) This becomes Turk Hill Road
- 4) LEFT on NY 96
- 5) LEFT on ramp for INTERSTATE 490 SOUTH
- 6) Get on NY Thruway/INTERSTATE 90 EAST
- 7) EXIT at NY 96
- 8) NY 96 SOUTH to White Road
- 9) LEFT on White Road EAST
- 10) LEFT on NY 414 NORTH
- 11) RIGHT on CR 128 EAST
- 12) RIGHT on NY 89 SOUTH