

The BAILEYAN

<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/LHBGC/>



Star Magnolia



The Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club of Ithaca meets each month on the Second Tuesday at the Horton Room in the Floriculture Greenhouse, Tower Road Cornell University Ithaca, New York. The Club is open to all gardeners. Visitors are welcome.

Volume 51, Number 3

From the President's corner

In the past two weeks we have finally had some Spring like weather. I do not recall a season when there were so many different varieties of daffodils in bloom in my garden at one time. There were several days when the early daffodils were just fading as the mid to late season ones were opening.

The wet weather has delayed some of the work in the garden. According to the local weathermen, this was the wettest April on record.

Please bring plants, seeds or other items for auction and for sharing with other club members. Also remember the Plant Sale on May 14th at 9 AM at the Armory. The geraniums are in full bloom in the Guterman greenhouse.

<http://ccetompkins.org/calendar/10/03/30/spring-garden-fair-plant-sale>

I hope to see everyone at our meeting on May 10th.

Ed Cobb, President

Save the Date!

May 10th
Plant Auction
Horton Room

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:30 PM. The regular meeting will begin at 7 PM



June
TBA

** All photos are courtesy of Ed Cobb unless otherwise noted*

April '11 Meeting Minutes

By Ed Cobb

The upcoming plant sale was discussed. We should have over 300 geranium plants to sell. We will have three tables inside the armory. Volunteers are needed to move the plants from the Guterman Greenhouse to the armory and sell them on Saturday May 14.



Geraniums at Guterman Greenhouse

Helen Swank reports that we will soon have a bike rack at Ithaca Falls. Thanks to Helen for keeping on top of Ithaca's number one tourist attraction.



Designer Bright Red



Designer Hot Pink

It is time to care for the berm at the Farmer's Market. There will be a clean up and planting day in mid to late May. Elke Schofield is heading the berm committee this season. Please consider doing your part by signing up and doing for one week during the growing season. Debbie Lampman suggested planting a *Heptacodium miconioides* (Seven Sons tree) at the berm. She will check for sources.

What we will do for a June meeting was discussed. There are three interesting events to choose from; a "Secret Garden" tour in Aurora, NY, The Dryden Garden tour (mentioned in April's Baileyen and a tour of Borglum's Iris Garden in Hall, NY (see later in this month's Newsletter). <http://www.borglumsiris.com/directions.htm>.

Manuel Aregullin presented interesting information about his research to find plant-based medicines. Manuel explained the mode of action of several of these chemicals and how they interact with cancer cells and the brain plaque of Alzheimers. He also discussed the assays he used to screen potential new chemicals in his laboratory.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Ruth and Ken Devine.



Salix alba



Helleborus sp.

Cornell Extension Activities

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/events/index.html>

Unless another location is listed in the entry, events are held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca NY

Spring Open House at ICG

Saturday, May 7, 1 - 4 pm

Ithaca Children's Garden, Cass Park, Rt. 89. Ithaca, NY 14850

Welcome spring and help open the Ithaca Children's Garden for the season with hands-on activities for all ages including: tree planting in the new Forest Garden, and seed starting in the Edible Garden. Create garden art for both the Children's Garden and your home garden. Special Mother's Day projects for your family and more!

Free Guided Tree Walks

Saturday, May 7 & June 4, 2:15 - 4:15 pm

Join Akiva Silver, tree lore raconteur extraordinaire of Primitive Pursuits, and kindle your own passion and appreciation for the world of trees. If you want to go beyond simple tree identification and learn their edible, medicinal and utilitarian uses, then this is the walk for you. For adults, and children with supervision. *Pre-registration is not required, but is recommended in the event that we must cancel the walk. Please come dressed for the weather.*

Directions: The walk will be held at Ecovillage. Take 79 West from Ithaca for a few minutes (about a mile outside of the 35mph zone), then take a left on to Rachel Carson Way. Follow the driveway all the way to the back and stay to the right. We will meet in the parking lot near the Song common house. It will be appreciated if you don't speed when driving down Rachel Carson Way. If you have any questions call the Primitive Pursuits office at (607) 272-2292.

Mother's Day Blossom Festival

Sunday, May 8, 11 am - 5 pm

Littletree Orchards, 345 Shaffer Rd. Newfield, NY 14867

Surround Mom with blossoms, music, and memories; guided orchard tours, orchard scavenger hunt, hands-on family activities, great food, local bands – celebrate the rebirth and renewal of spring in the orchard. Live music all day!

For more information, call or email Debbie Teeter at (607) 272-2292 or dlt22@cornell.edu or Littletree Orchards at 564-9246.

Volunteer Work Days at ICG

Tuesdays, May 10, 17, 24 & 31, 5 - 6 pm

Ithaca Children's Garden, Cass Park, Rt. 89. Ithaca, NY 14850

Help plant and maintain the Ithaca Children's Garden at its Cass Park site, Tuesdays beginning May 3. All ages and skill levels are welcome. No gardening experience required. For more information, contact Leigh MacDonald-Rizzo, Garden Manager at (607) 272-2292 x186, or lam26@cornell.edu.

Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14, 9 am - 1 pm

NYS Armory, 1765 Hanshaw Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR-NYS Armory! Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers, over 40 area growers, and other garden groups offer perennials, specialty plants and gardening advice. You will find organically grown vegetable transplants and heirloom varieties, a huge variety of annuals, herbs and many specialty perennials, flowering shrubs, trees, hardy roses and fruit crops. Free soil pH testing is available and educational exhibits and information are offered. Kids can join the Ithaca Children's Garden for a fun hands-on activity. Bring baskets, wagons, and other containers for transporting plants.

4-H Forestry Exploration: "Wildflower & Fern Walk"

Saturday, May 21, 10 am - 12 pm

4-H Acres, 418 Lower Creek Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

We will learn about types of ferns native to our area, and how to identify wildflowers. Youth will be introduced to nature journaling and sketching. Program takes place outdoors, so dress for the weather! Participants may attend one or all of the sessions in this series. Please preregister by calling Sherron at (607) 272-2292 or emailing scb42@cornell.edu. For a list of all topics, visit <http://ccetompkins.org/4h-forestry>.



Ice King



Little Witch



Jet Fire

Ask a Gardener: Grow native wildflowers in your backyard

(suggested by Ed Cobb) <http://www.theithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201105041720/NEWS01/105040342>

Question: I recently went on a great spring wildflower walk. Can I grow any of our native wildflowers at home?

Answer: Many of our spring-blooming wildflowers are a delightful addition to the dappled shade garden under deciduous trees, or the east-facing flowerbed where they receive morning sun. Before purchasing any, however, be sure that the wildflowers you buy are nursery-propagated, not just nursery-grown.

Among the spring wildflowers that I have found easy to grow are the large white *Trillium grandiflorum*, the dark red *Trillium erectum*, bloodroot, both single and double-flowered, wild columbine, twinleaf, golden ragwort, false Solomon's seal, foamflower, wild geranium, *Iris cristata*, and the tall green native Solomon seal.

Easy to grow and use as deciduous groundcovers are native ginger, *Asarum canadense*, the native *Pachysandra procumbens*, barren strawberry *Waldsteinia fragarioides*, and mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*. Easy to grow native ferns include Christmas fern, lady fern, maidenhair, ostrich (a vigorous spreader), royal, cinnamon, and interrupted ferns (the last three much prefer a damp, shaded site). Spring ephemerals that are easy to grow (these go dormant quickly after blooming) include Virginia bluebells and Dutchman's britches. All these plants are happy with the same growing conditions that make *Hosta*, *Astilbe*, bleedingheart and *Heuchera* thrive.

For a great selection of native plants, as well as perennials, shrubs, trees and veggie and annual transplants, come to the Garden Fair Plant Sale, May 14th, 9 am to 1 pm, at the new location, the NYS Armory, 1765 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca (near the Guthrie Clinic).

Ask a Gardener appears weekly in *The Journal* during the growing season. For answers to other garden, lawn, landscape and pest questions, call Cooperative Extension at 607-272-2292 or email: growline1@gmail.com. This article was written by Patricia Curran, horticulture program manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.



Images from Google Search

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club 2011 Meeting Schedule (and refreshments)

January 11th: Meeting cancelled

February 8th: Organization for 2011 & Hardwood Cuttings (Ed)

March 8th: History of the American Chestnut – Shawn Kenaley (Beverly)

April 12th: The Role of Plants in Drug Development – Manuel Aregullin (Ken)

May 10th: Plant Auction at the Horton Room (Helen)

June 14th: TBA (Elke)

July 12th: Picnic?

August 9th or 13th: Butterfly Display at the Cayuga Nature Center – Jack Little & Joan

September 13th: Plant Exchange at the Horton Room (David & Arnaud)

October 11th: Dish to Pass Dinner

November 8th: Election

December 13th: Holiday Decorations

The Herb Gardener (suggested by David Hiner)

<http://theherbgardener.blogspot.com/2008/03/laying-out-your-herb-garden.html>

*Grow herbs and use them in your **kitchen**, crafts, and healing. Herbs are a great introduction to gardening, and they are a wonderful way to get children interested in plants and nature. The content of this site is anecdotal and provided for entertainment purposes. It is not intended as medical advice. If you are ill, please see your doctor.*

Laying out Your Herb Garden

Preparing the soil and selecting the plants or seeds is only part of the adventure, now comes the layout. Let's recap for a moment. You have prepared your soil by amending it and working it to a depth of at least six inches. The site you have selected has at least six hours of sunlight each day, and does not sit in a boggy area or in a spot that's riddled with tree roots. Great start! Now you should be thinking about how to organize your plot. Good housekeeping will require you to reach all the way to the back of the plot for weeding and harvesting. If you can't do that from the front, you will have to



add stepping-stones every few feet for ingress and egress (in and out). You'll also have to consider the heights of the plants you are planning on using, together with their light requirements, especially if portions of your plot receive partial shade.

Formal Herb Garden Layouts

Popular layouts include wagon wheels, half wagon wheels, and fans. Some of these are traditional and have a long history. The three mentioned above can also incorporate architectural elements into their design, like statuary, sundials, birdbaths, and fountains. Gardens that can be viewed from the upper stories of your home lend themselves well to these kinds of designs. The spokes or fan divisions can be made with bark, hedges, small stones, brick, wooden dividers, or prepared plastic edging material. The plants that you keep in each division of the fan or wheel should be roughly the same size to help maintain the visual illusion. It is also helpful to group plants with similarly colored blooms. Your creativity will really shine through if you try for one of these effects, but you can still have a wonderful herb garden without as much work. For more ideas and some layouts, about.com has a good spread on formal herb gardens: <http://gardening.about.com/od/gardendesignplans/ig/Formal-Herb-Garden-Design/Laying-Out-and-Herb-Garden.htm>

Simple Herb Garden Layouts

A simple rectangle border can be transformed when it becomes an herb patch. Be careful to place taller plants toward the back. Borders that are bounded on one or two sides by walls or fences are more sheltered from the wind and are a better choice, particularly in harsh climates. Laying out your plot like a checkerboard can be very effective, grouping herbs that grow to similar heights and have complementary foliage and blooms. For example: fennel, garlic, rosemary, pineapple sage, dill, tansy, and lavender can grow quite tall and should be placed at the back of the plot, while basil, cilantro, and rue grow slightly smaller, and thyme, chives, marjoram, woodruff, and oregano can be placed at the front. Invasive creepers like peppermint, catnip, spearmint, and lemon balm can be contained in pots and placed partway into the soil as focal points. Partially submerged pots can also hold tender perennials (frost sensitive) that you plan on bringing indoors in the fall (like rosemary, ginger, bay leaf, and French lavender).

Mark Your Plants With Popsicle Sticks

If you are planning on planting culinary, medicinal, and decorative herbs, be careful to label each one. Rue and feverfew can be dangerous if ingested in high concentrations, so don't risk confusing them for salad ingredients. Small markers made from Popsicle sticks (or disposable silverware knives) can make it easy for even your children to help you snip small quantities of herbs like thyme and chives for the table. For this purpose, I've always kept a pair of kid sized (blunt tipped) scissors near the kitchen door, along with a small basket.

Special Notes: Give Herbs Room to Grow

Be sure to give your herbs enough room to grow. Many herb varieties grow fast, much faster than you would expect, and can crowd neighbors.

Cut Herbs Back When Necessary

Herbs are naturally hardy, so don't be afraid to cut back dill, fennel, and basil when they start to get leggy or too large. This is a great opportunity to harvest them.

Herb Bolting

Many herbs will bolt when the weather gets hot too fast. Bolting is a process in which herbs begin to direct all of their energies toward flowering and setting seed. It's a survival mechanism. To encourage your plants to slow down and apply more attention to leafing, pinch off flower buds as they begin to appear. If you don't take this measure, your plants will grow long and spindly, producing seeds and little else.

Events around here... (from the May 2011 Romin'Gardener)

- ❖ **Upstate NY Spring Regional Meeting** May 7th, 2011. The Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave. Albany, NY. 518-489-2951.
9:30 - 10:00 am Coffee and Social Hour, 10 - 11:45 am Business Meeting, 12 pm Cash Lunch. Please call Ron Fallon 315-853-5172 or email at ranguin05@yahoo.com to let him know how many will be attending.
- ❖ **63rd Annual Tulip Festival in Albany** May 7th & 8th, 11 am – 6 pm, admission free.
Washington Park, Albany, NY. Vendors, Food, Music. A highly anticipated spring tradition continues when over 200,000 tulip bulbs blossom into a sea of colors just in time for this Mother's Day celebration in Washington Park.
- ❖ **Lilac Festival in Rochester** May 13th – 22th, admission free. Highland Park, Rochester, NY.
See 500 varieties of lilacs on more than 1,200 bushes. What was first planted in 1892 by horticulturist John Dunbar has turned into the world's largest lilac collection. Visitors will see not only nature's bounty in abundance, but exhibitors, food vendors, entertainment, children's activities and more.
- ❖ **Hamilton College Arboretum Series in the Science Center Kennedy Auditorium** Saturday, May 28th, "A. P. Saunders Tree Peony Fest" 10 am - noon: Arboretum Director Terry Hawkrige and Lead Horticulturist Dan Rouillier will present a seminar on A.P. Saunders and the hybridization of his world class peonies here on College Hill from 1920-1940. Dan will demonstrate the proper planting of a peony through a demonstration in the Grant Garden. Root Glen tree and Garden tours will conclude the festivities. Please meet in the Grant Garden.
- ❖ **Visit Beautiful Sonnenberg Gardens** Located two hours from Rome at 151 Charlotte St. Canandaigua, (585) 394-4922, nestled in the picturesque Finger Lakes region of New York, Sonnenberg Gardens is a New York State Historic Park offering one of the few remaining estates in the U.S. with a Queen Anne-style mansion and formal gardens. Built in 1887, Sonnenberg's 40-room Mansion offers visitors a glimpse of what life was like in the late nineteenth century. Across the 50-acre property, the estate boasts nine formal gardens representing many cultures and historic periods including 12th-century Asia, 4th-century Rome and the French Renaissance. A 20-acre arboretum of rare and exotic trees, plants and unique landscapes stretches across the grounds, while a Lord & Burnham wood-and-glass greenhouse complex of the Victorian period features varieties of orchids, succulents, tropical plants and flowers, as well as vegetables. Worth the drive!

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