Dear Members,

By the time we meet again Daylight Saving Time will be in effect and we will have one less hour of daylight to enjoy.

Many of us are still putting our gardens to bed for the winter months ahead, planting spring bulbs, digging and drying the tubers for the many flowers that we enjoy from year to year. Some of us have mowed our lawns for the last time and have winterized our equipment.

Kudos to Helen Swank and her committee for spearheading the effort to install a railing at the Ithaca Falls site. The project is moving ahead in a positive direction.

Recently Ruth Doll, Bob Hillman and I met at the Farmers Market Berm and did some necessary weeding, pruning and sprucing up. There is still more work to be done, but our area looks well cared for at this time.

Thanks go to Ed Cobb, Ray Fox and Karl Niklas for planting the miniature daffodil bulbs at the Hospice Care facility.

Traditionally, at the November meeting we put together a slate of officers for the coming year. A list will be presented to the membership at this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 10th.

Regards,

Ken Devine, President
October ’09 Meeting Minutes

In the absence of recording secretary, Anna Stalter, Ken Devine submitted the minutes for the October 13 meeting: There were 13 members present to enjoy a bountiful harvest dinner. Ed Cobb reported that the bulbs have been received for planting at the Hospice Care facility. It was decided that those who could would meet on Saturday, October 17 to plant.

Ken Devine read the draft proposal for the construction of a metal railing at the entrance to the Ithaca Falls Park that will be presented to the Natural Areas Commission for its consideration. Beverly Hillman moved to accept the draft proposal as presented; motion seconded by Cliff Manchester; by unanimous agreement of those present motion passed. Thanks to Helen Swank and the committee for the research and development of the proposal.

There is a need for volunteers to do some fall clean up at the Ithaca Farmers Market berm. Several mentioned they would be able to meet some afternoon very soon to work on this.

Meeting adjourned.

Members of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden club joined staff members of Hospice to plant Spring flowering bulbs donated by the club, on Saturday Oct.17.

Photo from L to R: Joe Smellow, Ray Fox, Lisa Miller and Ed Cobb (Photo by Karl Niklas)
Forcing Spring Bulbs for Winter Bloom  
Thursday, November 19, 6:30-8:30 pm  
It’s easy to ‘force’ hardy spring bulbs for blooms in the winter. Learn how to pot up hardy bulbs like crocus, hyacinths, and daffodils and discuss the care they need to flower well. Class participants will each take home 2 pots planted with bulbs to force at home. Fee: $16. Pre-registration and prepayment required; class limited to 25. Call 607-272-2292.

Harvest Dinners on the Farm  
Sunday, November 8, 6:00 pm  
West Haven Farm at EcoVillage, Ithaca  
Experience an elegant 4-course dinner hosted by an area CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm. This event features food prepared by Chef Jen Irwin of Just A Taste and Chef Stan Walton of Crystal Lake Cafe, with beverages by local brewer Ithaca Beer. All proceeds benefit the Healthy Food for All Program, a collaborative effort of local farms and Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County to provide subsidized CSA shares to low-income families in our community. Tickets are $75/person and may be purchased using PayPal at www.healthyfoodforall.org. Reservations are required and seating is limited so don’t delay. For more information, please visit Healthy Food for All or contact Liz Karabinakis at 607-272-2292 or evk4@cornell.edu.

Re-Thinking Thanksgiving – A Native American Perspective  
Monday, November 16, 6:30-8:00 pm  
The History Center, 401 East State Street, Ithaca  
The Multicultural Resource Center presents this lively and engaging presentation which will give an overview of the history of this misunderstood holiday with Perry Ground, Turtle Clan member of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. Based on the only primary source document that chronicles the “first Thanksgiving” the audience and will learn strategies on how to present accurate and culturally appropriate information about the English settlers at Plymouth and the Wampanoag, the Native people who inhabited that area. FREE, donations gladly accepted at the door. For more information, contact Audrey Cooper at 607-272-2292, ext. 135.

Fall Worm Composting Class  
Saturday, November 21, 10:00 am-12 Noon  
Go home with a starter bin and worms after learning everything you will need to know about how to manage a worm compost bin. Children welcome with an accompanying adult. Fee: $10. Register early because space is limited! Call 607-272-2292.
Slate of Officers for the Elections

President: Robert Hillman
First Vice President: Ray Fox
Second Vice President: ?
Recording Secretary: Anna Stalter
Corresponding Secretary: Cliff Manchester
Editor: Arnaud Germain
Webmaster: David Hiner
Directors: Ken Devine, Ed Cobb, Beverly Hillman, Helen Swank, Ruth Doll

Treasurer: Beverly Hillman
Historian: Ruth Doll

Cornell Plantation Fall Lecture:
November 11th, (7:30pm; Statler Hall Auditorium) Farming in Iroquoia: Surprising Comparisons with European Agriculture by Jane Mt. Pleasant, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Cornell University.

Iroquoian peoples in the northeast were successful farmers for centuries before the arrival of European colonial powers. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries in central and western New York, they grew large acreages of corn grain and dried beans, in addition to a wide assortment of fruits and vegetables. Many people assume that the Three Sisters, the traditional cropping system of the Iroquois, is a simple and relatively unproductive cropping system. But comparison of this system with European agriculture in the same time period shows that Iroquoian farmers produced two to four times as much grain as their European counterparts and supported many more people per acre of land.