

LHBGC OF ITHACA

**April 18th
Plant Auction**

**7:30 PM
IN THE HORTON ROOM
Board of Directors: please meet at 7:00 pm**

**The Liberty Hyde Bailey
Garden Club of Ithaca, NY
Editors: Michael Hayes and Gudrun Reiterer
310 Graduate Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850**

THE BAILEYAN

The Official Newsletter of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club of Ithaca, New York

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club of Ithaca meets each month, on the third Tuesday (second Tuesday in May and December) 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 46 Number 4

April, 2006

2006 Officers

<i>President:</i>	Debi Lampman,	1893 RT 34B, King Ferry, NY 13081-9753 315-364-8725, bedlam@bluefrog.com
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<i>First Vice President:</i>	Ray Fox,	1479 Ellis Hollow Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850 H:272-6867
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<i>Directors:</i>	Ken Devine,	5248 Booth Road, Locke, NY 13092 H: 315-497-0492 rrd4@cornell.edu (2005)
	Ruth Doll,	18 Weber St., Dryden, NY 13053 H:607-844-8341(2004)
	Dave Farmer,	281 Lake Rd, Dryden, NY 13053 607-844-9629, dmf5@cornell.edu (2003)
<i>Regional President:</i>	Debra Nero,	63 North Landon Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 H: 607-539-7062, W: 607-254-4854 dn13@cornell.edu

This month: April 18th, 2006 – Plant Auction

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Next Meeting: May 16, 2006 – Seedling Sale

Meeting Schedule and Programs: 2006

January 17: Organizational Meeting	July 18: Cayuga Day Lillies Ann Ryder, owner
February 21: Gardens of the UK Ray Fox	August 15: Picnic
March 21: Guest Speaker on Bonsai Dr. Lou Albright	September 19: Perennial Exchange Seed List 2006
April 18: Plant Auction	October 17: Dish to Pass
May 16: Seedling Sale*	November 21: Election
May 20: IHS Plant Sale	December 19: Holiday Festivities
June 20: Der Rosenmeister Leon Ginenthal, owner	

Please mark these dates on your Garden Calendar.

*All meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, except for May and December. Meetings are held in the Horton Seminar Room in the Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture Greenhouses, unless otherwise indicated. Specific programs and time variations will be announced in the newsletter. Our usual meeting time is 7:30PM with the Board of Directors meeting at 7:00PM (when held). Summer garden visits sometimes meet earlier. Members and guests are welcome to attend both meetings.

Opportunities

Chicken BBQs at the Varna Community Center. The Varna Community Association will be hosting three chicken barbeque fundraisers this spring and summer. The first barbeque will be our Great May BBQ and Plant Sale and Sturday, May 6th from 1pm on. There will be a variety of plants available for purchase – annuals, bulbs, houseplants, etc.

Cornell Plantations

Botanical Watercolors. (Pre-registration required). Ten Wednesdays, April 5 through June 7; 1 – 3:30 p.m. This 10-week class will explore different ways to represent plants and flowers in watercolor, either alone or in combination with other media. Special emphasis will be placed on composition and botanical accuracy of the drawing. Previous experience in drawing is recommended. Please bring a #3 watercolor brush, a basic watercolor set, 140-pound smooth hot press watercolor paper, an HB and a 4H pencil, a kneaded eraser, a palette, a rag, and a jar for water. Instructor: Camille Doucet, Artist, Ithaca, NY Fee: \$150 members and Cornell students; \$180 nonmembers

Herbal Connections: Fragrance in the Garden. Thursday, April 27; 7 p.m. What could be more inviting than a garden filled with the scent of fragrant herbs and flowers? Vivid photographs of sumptuous fragrant herbs and flowers suitable for growing in upstate New York gardens are highlighted in this program. Plant cultivation and design concepts will also be addressed. (“Herbal Connections” is a series of six informal presentations about herbs, held the last Thursday of each month from April through September. The series is presented in

cooperation with Auraca Herbarists.) Speaker: Pamela Shade, Gardener, Cornell Plantations Fee: \$5 suggested donation

Arbor Day in the Arboretum. Saturday, April 29; 1 – 4 p.m. Come celebrate Arbor Day in Cornell Plantations' arboretum and learn about the identification, natural history, care, and cultivation of trees. Program includes: guided tree tours at 1:30 and 2:30, planting and pruning demonstrations, free seedling giveaway, and more. The program will conclude with a tree-planting ceremony at 3:30. Free parking is available in the Houston Pond area of the arboretum. Fee: \$5 suggested donation

Sketching in the Garden. (Pre-registration required). Four Sundays, April 30 through May 21; 1 - 4 p.m. Learn to observe more completely and draw careful renditions of your favorite plants, as you enjoy the lush Botanical Garden at Cornell Plantations. Draw a new plant each week or preserve your observations of the same plant's growing habits over four weeks. All ability levels are welcome, from beginner to advanced, ages 12 and older. Please bring a good quality sketchbook, erasers, and a few favorite pencils. You may also wish to bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and folding chair. Instructor: Camille Doucet, Artist, Ithaca, NY. Fee: \$90 members and Cornell students; \$110 nonmembers.

Treasurer Report March 2006

INCOME

6 slug baits (Victor Lazar) \$9.00

EXPENSES

Greenhouse 1/1-3/31/06 \$247.32

Checking Account as of March 31, 2005: \$1,930.61

Petty Cash as of March 31, 2005 \$47.63

Elke Schofield
Treasurer, LHBGC

Meeting Minutes

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club
7:30 pm, 21 March 2006
Horton Room, Ken Post Greenhouse

At the 7:00 pm board meeting, Debi Lampman reviewed plans for this season's seeding and transplanting, and also asked for suggestions regarding the summer picnic. Several options were offered for discussion at the general meeting. Preceding the general meeting was an illustrated talk on the art of "Bonsai" plant culture by Cornell Professor Louis D. Albright, Biological and Environmental Engineering. He covered the intricacies of the many different traditional Asian styles, the selection of pots, and what to look for when purchasing Bonsai from a nursery. Professor Albright suggested that those who wish to explore the subject further, attend exhibit by the Upstate Bonsai Society in Rochester, 12-14 May 2006. Details at www.intlbon.com.

President Lampman reviewed the summer meeting schedule and announced arrangements were being explored with the owner of "Plenty of Posies" for the 15 August meeting. As the summer schedule is filled, it might be possible to plan an excursion on a Sunday afternoon to someplace like Sonnenberg Gardens in place of a picnic. Suggestions are welcome.

Treasurer Elke Schofield reported no expenses or income since the 12/31/05 checking account balance of \$2,135.43, petty cash \$28.13.

Ruth Doll reported that seven members reported for duty on the 3/18 seeding. Additional seeding dates are 4/01, 4/15 and 5/06, at 9:30am, in the greenhouse north of our meeting room. Call Ruth if you have questions: 844-8431.

In response to a question, it was mentioned that this month is the 163rd anniversary of Liberty Hyde Bailey's birth but no special events are planned by the club.

Victor Lazar brought in slug bait traps, available at \$1.50 each, with sale receipts going to the club treasury. Call Victor for orders: 272-8431.

It was mentioned that contrary to last month's newsletter, Rosemary Lapadula is not ill but would appreciate hearing from club friends at her new home: 12706 Geist Cove Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

The April 18 meeting will include our annual plant auction. Members are reminded to bring excess items from their collections for the auction and to bring containers to carry home purchases.

Refreshments were provided by courtesy of Elizabeth Owens-Roe.

Helen E. Swank
Recording Secretary

Plants seeded for Seedling Sale

ANNUALS

Acroclinium ebony rouge

Ageratum blue lagon

Ageratum capri

Alyssum carpet of snow

Alyssum pasterl carpet

Artemisia sweet annie
scentless

Aster astoria mix

Aster benery princess

Aster giant princess

Begonia senator mix

Celosia big chief

Celosia coral gardens

Cobacea alba

Cobacea cathedral bells

Coleus black dragon

Coleus giant exhibition mix

Coleus saber mix

Corriopsis quills thrills

Cosmos bright lights

Cosmos Picatee

Cosmos sonata deaf mix

Dolichos hyacinth bean

Dusty Mills silver duet

Echinacea paradoxa

Echinacea prima donna

Penstenon panelo

Petunia blue ice cleb

Petunia celeb white

Petunia plum ice celeb

Petunia wild rose

Phlox Tapestry

Primula gold lace mix

Rudbeckia cheroker sunset

Rudbeckia goldilocks

Rudbeckia indian summer

Salpiglossis mix

Salvia blue bedder

Salvia lady in red

Salvia splendens bonfire

Salvia vista mix salvia

Snapdragon frosted flames

Snapdragon Madame Butterfly
mix

Snapdragon opus IIV14

Statice pastel sholes

Strawflower mix

Sunflower Cutting Gold

Sunflower Music Box

Sunflower Razzmetarz

Sunflower Soraya

Sunflower Sungold

Sunflower Vanilla Ice

Poppy Pizzcato Mix

Summersun heliopsis

Sweet William Nigricans

Sweet William Noverna mix

Verbascum bold queen

Wallflower charity mix

VEGETABLES

Brusselsprouts jade cross

Celery ventura

Cherry Tomato red grape

Cherry Tomato sunginger

Cherry Tomato sweet baby girl

Cherry Tomato sweet million

Cucumber H-19 little leaf

Eggplant black beauty

Leek king size

Lettuce bibb

Lettuce black seeded simpson

Lettuce Blusket buter

Lettuce cinnemon

Lettuce esmeralda bibb

Lettuce red sails

Lettuce red summer crispy sierra

Lettuce summertime head

Lettuce tom thumb baby bibb

Lettuce webbs wonderful head

Echinacea primadonna deep rose	Sweet Pea Royal mix	Okra cajun delight
Echinacea white swan	Venidium zulu prince	Okra Kakuhou
Gaillardia sundance bi-color	Verbena imagination	Onion celisa
Gaillardia grandiflora mix	Verbena pomance mix	Onion cesra
Gaillardia red plume	Verbena quartz polka dot mix	Onion super star
Geranium scarlet	Verbena serenity mix	Pepper Habanero
Holly Hock Double		
Appleblossom	HERBS	Pepper Hungarian banana
Holly Hock Indian Summer	Chives garlic	Pepper Jalapeno
Holly Hock Queen Purple	Chives lavender	Pepper Kung Pao
Impatiens star dust mix	Coriander cilantro	Pepper Numery Joe z. Parker
Impatiens super elfin cha cha mix		
Kale ornamental	Dill super ducat	Pepper Nurney twilight
Kale osaka	Marjoran sweet	Pepper Serrano chili
Kale redbor	Parsly curly banquet	Pepper super chili
Kale victoria pigeon	Parsly Italian	Pepper tricolor
Lobelia crystal palace	Sage brad leaf	Sweet pepper Antoni Romanian
Lobelia regatta mix	Sage gentian	Sweet pepper blushing beauty
Lupine minarette	Thyme german	Sweet pepper golden cal
Lupine russel choice	PERENNIALS	Sweet pepper golden cal wonder
Millet purple maqesty	Carnation burpees supergiant mix	Sweet pepper new ace
Morning glory cardinals	Carnation chabaud mix	Sweet pepper purple beauty
Morning glory carmen	columbine MB Scot Elliot	Sweet pepper sweet banana
Morning glory heavenly blue	Daisy crazy daisy	Tomato amish paste
Morning glory mini bar rose	Daisy dwarf snow lady	Tomato celebrity
Morning glory mount fugi mix	Daisy may queen	Tomato early goliath
Nasturtium caribbean cocktail	Delphinium bluebutterfly	Tomato Herlom brandy wine
	Delphinium connecticut yankee	Tomato Herlom mortgage lifter
Nasturtium empress of India	Dianthes election & single finest mix	
Nasturtium tall climbing mix	Foxglove apricot	Tomato Herlom pinapple
Nicotiana perfume mix	Foxglove foxy	Tomato New Yorker
Pansy joker mix	Foxglove porply	Tomato Paste Grandma Mary's
Pansy swiss giant mix	Monarda panorama mix	Tomato red robin
	Platycodea mount fugi mix	Tomato red sun
		Tomato vf gardener

Why tipsy flowers don't tip over: Booze stunts stem and leaves, but doesn't affect blossoms, study finds

By Susan S. Lang

Those paperwhites and other daffodils sure could use a drink -- a little whiskey, vodka gin or tequila could keep them from falling over.

A new Cornell study finds that a touch of booze is a great way to keep certain houseplants from getting too tall by stunting their growth. "Dilute solutions of alcohol -- though not beer or wine -- are a simple and effective way to reduce stem and leaf growth," said William Miller, professor of horticulture and director of the Flower Bulb Research Program at Cornell.

"When the liquor is properly used, the paperwhites we tested were stunted by 30 to 50 percent, but their flowers were as large, fragrant and long-lasting as usual," added Miller, whose new study on how alcohol inhibits

houseplant growth will be published in the April issue of HortTechnology, a peer-reviewed journal of horticulture.

Miller will be working this spring to see if a little booze works for amaryllis and such vegetables as tomatoes and peppers, as well. His work with tulips so far has been promising but not yet definitive: "I think with a little jiggering -- no pun intended -- of the system, the method will work for tulips, though I think it will not be as simple as with paperwhites."



From left: Untreated paperwhites grown in water, plants grown in 2 percent, 4 percent, 6 percent, 8 percent and 10 percent ethanol.

Last year, Miller received a call from The New York Times about a reader who had written to the garden editor claiming that gin had prevented some paperwhite narcissi from growing too tall and floppy and asked if it was because of some "essential oil" in the gin.

Intrigued that dilute alcohol might act as a growth retardant, Miller and former Cornell student Erin Finan '05 conducted experiments with ethanol (1, 5, 10 and 25 percent) and "Ziva" paperwhite narcissi (*Narcissus tazetta*), and later with about a dozen kinds of alcohol, including dry gin, unflavored vodka, whiskey, white rum, gold tequila, mint schnapps, red and white wine and pale lager beer, on paperwhites.

"While solutions greater than 10 percent alcohol were toxic, solutions between 4 and 6 percent alcohol stunted the paperwhites effectively," said Miller.

To control stem and leaf growth, he suggests waiting until paperwhites or other daffodil shoots are several inches long to drain the water and replace it with a solution of 4 to 6 percent alcohol -- hard liquor or rubbing alcohol.

To get a 5 percent solution from 80-proof liquor, which is 40 percent alcohol (such as gin, vodka, whiskey, rum or tequila), add one part liquor to seven parts water. To use rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol), which is 70 percent alcohol, dilute one part with 10-11 parts water.

Why does booze stunt plant growth? "We don't know, but we're working on this," Miller writes in a fact sheet available on the Web called "Pickling Your Paperwhites" (available at <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/miller/pubs.html>).

"We think it simply might be water stress, that is, the alcohol makes it more difficult for the plant to absorb water, so the plant suffers a slight lack of water, enough to reduce leaf and stem growth, but not enough to affect flower size or flower longevity."

But don't serve beer or wine to plants -- the sugars wreak havoc on their health.



Dr. Lou Albright with examples of his Bonsai collection



Seeding time
In the
greenhouse

