

The BAILEYAN

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



Volume 50, Number 4 From the President's corner

Greetings Members,

It was nice to welcome Spring with several beautiful warm days in mid-March. It seems we had more than enough snow this winter for even those individuals who regard snow as "poor man's fertilizer". Now if the mud will dry up a bit so we can complete the cleanup of the perennial beds and prepare the gardens for planting, we will be back in business.

As we approach our April 13th meeting it's time to consider which plants you might like to start from cuttings. Now is the time to start them if we decide to do it. We will need some idea of how many people would like to participate as well as some idea of how many cuttings might be involved so we know how much rooting space we will want to reserve.

It will soon be time to clean up the berm at the Farmer's Market so be thinking of new plants to add to the area to enhance its attractiveness.

Marnie Kerchessner, the Recreation and Youth Coordinator for the Town of Ithaca has offered to attend our April meeting to provide us with more information as to how LHBGC might assist with the Town of Ithaca Community Garden at Linderman Creek. They apparently received a small grant to purchase some fruit trees and have been promised donations of strawberry and asparagus plants and would welcome help getting these items started. We will learn more at the meeting.

The featured guest lecturer for our April meeting will be Marvin Pritts speaking on "Edible Gardening with Fruit". This talk includes lots of fruiting plants that can be used in landscaping that are unfamiliar to many people. It promises to be a fascinating and informative evening.

I'm sorry this message is so long but I want everyone to be aware of each of these topics so you won't be taken by surprise at the meeting. Please be thinking of these projects and how you want to participate in any or all of these projects and how you might contribute to their success. As if I haven't given you enough to think about – remember that the May meeting is our club's plant auction, so start preparing your plants for sale and save lots of money to buy all sorts of new stock.

Looking forward to seeing you all on April 13.

Bob Hillman, President

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.

Save the Date!

April 13th

Gardening with edible fruits
Marvin Pritts

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



May 11th

Plant Auction
Horton Room

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



March '10 Meeting Minutes

The meeting started with questions about tomato blight problems in 2009. Ed Cobb addressed some of the tomato fungal problems and ways to avoid have them this growing season.

Helen swank gave the treasurer's report. We have sound finances going into this year.

The Ithaca Falls Railing Committee was happy to announce that a railing has been installed near the steepest slope at the entrance to the park. Olivia White projected several photos of the new railing. A photo will be taken when the area is graded later in the spring.

A vegetable garden for the food pantry was discussed. Jean Lawrence suggested that we look into growing some vegetables at the Linderman Creek garden plots. The Town of Ithaca will have an intern helping at the site this year. Perhaps club members can help the gardeners by filling in some times when the intern is not available.

Please bring any ideas about garden plans or additions to the berm to the April meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available to block out the summer schedule for the berm maintenance.

All members are encouraged to bring a possible new member to a meeting this year. It would be great to add a few new members.

Ray Fox has checked into using space at KPL to root cuttings. Ken Devine will bring a list to the next meeting of conifers he has available for making cuttings. Members are encouraged to make suggestions of plants of interest for cuttings.

Ruth Doll gave an enthusiastic lecture about vegetable varieties that grow well in the Ithaca area. Ruth suggested good sources for seed of vegetables that have done well in her garden. The best way to start seedlings for the garden was discussed.

Ray Fox provided delicious chocolate brownies.



The Geraniums for the Plant Sale Have Been Started

Due to the assembly line efforts of 8 of our members, 450 geranium plants (red, lavender, white and pink) were transplanted in about an hour on Saturday morning March Twenty-seventh at Guterman Greenhouse. Thanks are due to members: Ray Fox, Debbi Lampman, Dave Farmer, Don Williams, and Bob and Beverly Hillman with special thanks to Bob Parlett and Elsworth Duff who coordinated obtaining the plants, potting soil, pots and greenhouse space. The work proceeded very smoothly and the plants in individual pots are off to a healthy start and should be beautiful at the time of the sale.



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

How to Identify & Control Invasive Plants

Thursday, April 8, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This class will help you to recognize invasive plants in our gardens and natural landscapes. Learn each invader's life cycle, control and eradication, plus suggestions for natives that can be used instead. *Pre-registration required* so enough handouts will be prepared. Fee: \$5. Call (607) 272-2292 to sign up.

PlaySound Project: Plastic Bottle Greenhouse Build

Saturday, April 10, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (rain date: Sunday, 4/11)

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (rain date: Sunday, 4/25)

Ithaca Children's Garden, Rt. 89 at Cass Park, Ithaca

Volunteers are invited to help create a new permanent garden at ICG that highlights the element of sound. For more information, contact Garden Manager, Meghan Cerveny at 272-2292 x122 or mep245@cornell.edu. Undertaken with support from the Cornell Council for the Arts.

Growing Fruit at Home Workshop

Saturday, April 17, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Reisinger's Apple Country Orchard, 2750 Apple Lane off Ellinson Road, Watkins Glen, NY

Growing fruit at home can be fun and provide your family with fresh, flavorful and nutritious food. This full day class covers the basics you'll need to succeed with apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries. It will also mention nut trees, currants and gooseberries. Sessions cover site selection and preparation, including soil testing and fertilizing; critter control and small-scale irrigation; planting, pruning, pest control and other growing practices. Optional lunch session on the nutritional value of fruit, and techniques for preserving the harvest. Bring your own lunch. Fee: \$25/person or \$40/couple. *Pre-registration is required*: call Tioga County Cooperative Extension at (607) 687-4020 or email Molly Shaw at meh39@cornell.edu.

Civic Dialogue Series: Health & Food Security

Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Women's Community Building, 100 West Seneca Street, Ithaca

Join Civic Leader Fellows Bethany Schroeder (President of the Board of Directors of the Ithaca Health Alliance) and Jemila Sequeira (Gardens for Humanity, Whole Community Project, Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension) for this second of two dialogues to consider issues of health and food security in our community. Light dinner and childcare are provided both evenings! Please register so that food and childcare arrangements can be accommodated:

vf3@cornell.edu or 607-255-1148. *Sponsored by the Cornell Public Service Center and co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Whole Community Project of CCE, the Ithaca Health Alliance, the Ithaca Free Clinic, and the Office of Government and Community Relations at Cornell University.*

Community Food Growing Series: Season Extension

Tuesday, April 27, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Ithaca Children's Garden, Rt. 89 at Cass Park, Ithaca

In our cold climate, serious food growers have developed many ways to protect their plants during the cold spring, fall and winter months. We will join the Ithaca Children's Garden learning about basic cold frame construction and use, floating row covers, hoop houses and cold season crop selection. Instructor: Josh Dolan. \$5/session or \$20 for the entire series. *Pre-registration required*. Contact Josh Dolan at sapsquatch7@gmail.com or call (607) 272-2292.

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club 2010 Meeting Schedule (and refreshments)

January 12th: Meeting cancelled

February 9th: History of the Cornell Conservatory Greenhouses – Ed Cobb (Beverly Hillman)

March 9th: Vegetable variety selections for the Ithaca area – Ruth Doll (Ray Fox)

April 13th: Gardening with edible fruits – Marvin Pritts (Ken & Ruth Devine)

May 11th: Plant Auction Horton Room (David & Arnaud)

June 5th: Tour of the local natural area – Anna Statler (Ed Cobb)

July 13th: Picnic? Tour of Ithaca Falls?

August 10th: "Ornamental Grasses" – Irene Lekstusis (Elke)

September 14th: Plant exchange at the Horton Room (Don Williams)

October 12th: Dish to Pass Dinner

November 9th: Election (Beverly Hillman)

December 14th: Holiday Decorations (Ruth Doll)

Chosen News and Articles from other Garden Clubs

❖ **Plant an Indoor Herb Garden** (March - AHWAGA GROWER)

Sow seeds of parsley, oregano, sage, chives and basil in flats. Then transplant them into individual pots.

❖ **New Plants for 2010** (March - Romin'Gardener, Gardeners of Rome New York)

- *Earlybird Cardinal Daylily*: blooms in May through much of growing season; 4" ruffled-edge blooms are fire-engine red with a yellow-to-green throat; thrives in many conditions.
- *Tropical Storm Hosta*: showy little hosta with heart-shaped green leaves with wide, brilliant yellow-gold margins that shine all season. The leaves are puckered, making them less attractive to slugs. Lavender flowers top the plant in early to mid-summer.
- *Purple Rooster Bee Balm*: produces large, royal purple flowers over most of the summer. Mildew resistant foliage and sturdy enough not to need staking.

❖ **Plant a Row for the Hungry (PAR)** (April - Romin'Gardener, Gardeners of Rome New York)

Annually, over 25 million people rely on community food banks, service organizations, and soup kitchens to feed themselves and their families. Since 1995 individuals and corporations throughout the United States have been providing assistance in feeding the hungry in their own communities through the efforts of the Garden Writer's Association's (GWA), Plant A Row for the Hungry campaign (PAR). Because PAR is a community-based program, its success depends on the willingness of individual gardeners, local businesses, and community gardens to give back to the community by donating fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs to food banks, soup kitchens, or service organizations. Talk about PAR with your family, neighbors, friends, and groups you belong to. <http://www.gardenwriters.org/gwa.php?p=par/index.html>

❖ **Seed Starting by Mary Haynes** (March - The Spreader, Men's Garden Club of Syracuse)

Now is the time of year when a member's eyes sparkles with the anticipation of warm soil and sunshine. Spring may just be in the air. This is also the time when we peruse mountains of seed catalogs, dreaming of colorful mounds all over the garden. Seed starting is a great way to save money when adding large amounts of plants to your gardens.

First you must store your seeds properly when they arrive and its very simple. Seeds must be stored between 35 and 45 degrees and at a relative humidity of between 23% and 30%. This will maintain the vitality of the seeds. Your refrigerator is a good location to store seeds. Seeds stored properly will remain viable for more than a year. If you wish to check the viability of your seeds, you can do a simple test like this: take 10 seeds and place within the folds of a damp paper towel. Put the towel in a plastic zip bag and place the bag in a location that the temperature is the same as the seed pack's recommendation for germination. Wait the seed pack's recommended number of days for germination and then open the paper towel and see how many seeds germinated. Three out of ten is poor and 10 out of ten is super, so sow according to your germination percentage. Which means if you are only getting a 30% germination you will have to sow 3 times the number of seeds for good germination against 90% germination of seeds. When sowing seeds remember that oxygen is critical to germination and do not let the soil get too wet. Wet soil will also enhance the development of fungus. But here is a tip that will help prevent fungus from forming: sprinkle cinnamon powder over the soil it is a natural prevention for fungus. When you fill the trays or pots with the soil mixture remember a good rule of thumb is to wet the soil then squeeze some soil in your hand and if it is moist without water runny out is should be just right for your seeds. Fill your containers with soil and rap on the table to settle the soil down but do not compress the soil. Sowing the seeds correctly is half the battle so read the seed packets carefully before you begin to see whether or not the seed requires light to germinate or how deeply to plant the seed. Some seeds do not germinate at all if covered like snapdragons. How many of you have bought snapdragon seeds only to find they did not germinate, well now you know don't cover the seed they need light to germinate. Pansy and Viola seeds will not germinate well if the seed is not covered with soil. When you do cover the seeds cover them evenly with soil mixture. Now if you dibble which creates a shallow depression in the surface of your soil this will also help to germinate your seeds. The dibble will let the seed fall into the center of your container easily and put the seed at the correct depth for planting and all you have to do is cover.

- The first stage of your seed's growth is very important. It is the absorption of moisture from the soil and the air surrounding the seed and this is when the roots first start to grow. Too little water and the germination will stop or too much water and the seed will drown. To help keep the soil moist put a clear plastic sheet over the tray or remove the sheet if the soil is too moist. I take coat hangers straighten them out and make a U shape and tap to my flats to make a greenhouse. Also check with seed package for the best germination temperature for your seeds. Sixty to Seventy degrees is a good average for seed germination.

- The next stage is the point at which the first leaves appear called seed leaves and are not the true leaves of the plant. At this point you would remove the plastic cover and allow the soil to dry slightly. It is time to add the proper lighting and cooler temperatures for the seedlings to grow. Most cases of damping-off happen during this growth stage from either too low light or over watering. Reminder: keep artificial lights at least 6 inches from the seedling.

- Stage three is when the first true leaves sprout and the plant is ready to grow to its full size. At this stage most plants will benefit from a weekly feeding. Most commercially sold soluble plant fertilizers are suitable for your seedlings at a rate of 100 to 150 parts per million of nitrogen. Yellow leaves are an indication of a hungry plant. Also remember to water your seedlings.

- Stage four is when the plant has reached its point of transplant. When transplanting the plant remember that its growth many be stunted until it acclimates to its new environment. When you have transplanted your seedlings it is time to think about hardening it off so it can be ready to grow in your garden.

Articles brought to the editor's attention by Barbara Littlefair

27 Perennials with Long-lasting Appeal

<http://www.finegardening.com/27-perennials-with-long-lasting-appeal.aspx>

Piet Oudolf names just a few of his favorites and explains their appeal by Virginia Small

Garden designer Piet Oudolf has gained international renown for his imaginative plantings. One of his design strategies is to include many plants that bloom late and look good as they go to seed. The result is a garden that looks just as appealing in fall and winter as it does in spring and summer. The perennials recommended here are characterized by appealing seed heads and distinctive structural outlines.

Plants that provide structure

1. Autumn snakeroots (*Actaea simplex* and cvs.; formerly *Cimicifuga simplex*), Zones 4–8
2. Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), Z 3–8
3. Jerusalem sages (*Phlomis* spp. and cvs.), Z 4–10
4. Joe Pye weeds (*Eupatorium purpureum* and *E. maculatum* and cvs.), Z 3–9
5. Meadow rues (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium* and cvs.), Z 5–9
6. Miss Willmott's ghost (*Eryngium giganteum*), Z 5–8
7. Queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), Z 3–9
8. Sages (*Salvia nemorosa* and cvs.), Z 5–9 (after a cutback and a second crop of flowers)
9. Sea lavender (*Limonium latifolium*), Z 4–9

Plants with attractive seed heads

10. Asters (*Aster* spp. and cvs.), Z 4–8
11. Bee balms (*Monarda* spp. and cvs.), Z 4–9
12. Burnets (*Sanguisorba* spp. and cvs.), Z 3–8
13. Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia* spp. and cvs.), Z 3–9
14. Goldenrods (*Solidago* spp. and cvs.), Z 5–9
15. Mountain fleece (*Persicaria amplexicaulis*), Z 5–8
16. Orpines (*Sedum telephium* and cvs.), Z 4–9
17. Purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea* and cvs.), Z 3–9
18. Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), Z 4–8
19. Yellow wax-bells (*Kirengeshoma palmata*), Z 5–8

Plants with a distinct winter shape

20. Eulalia grasses (*Miscanthus sinensis* cvs.), Z 4–9*
21. Feather grasses (*Stipa* spp. and cvs.), Z 7–10
22. Feather reed grasses (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* and cvs.), Z 5–9
23. Fountain grasses (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* and cvs.), Z 6–9
24. Prairie dropseeds (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Z 3–9*
25. Purple moor grasses (*Molinia caerulea* and cvs.), Z 5–9*
26. Switch grasses (*Panicum virgatum* and cvs.), Z 5–9*
27. Tufted hair grasses (*Deschampsia cespitosa* and cvs.), Z 5–9*



Garden is a True Community Asset

<http://sustainabletompkins.org/>

The Town of Ithaca opened a community garden located on the West Hill accessible via Conifer Drive off Route 79 (Also known as Hector St in the City and Mecklenburg Rd in the Town.)

The Town is accepting applications for garden plots for the 2010-growing season. The garden consists of 100 plots that are 20 by 20 feet or 10 by 10 feet. Additional space (200' by 30') was set aside for communal gardening and children's areas. People who do not want to commit to a garden plot for the entire growing season have the option to garden in a shared gardening area.

The town has established a Garden Council which is committee composed of gardeners to determine how the garden will operate in the future. If you have questions, concerns or would like more information about the garden, please contact Marnie Kirchgessner at mkirchgessner@town.ithaca.ny.us.

In cooperation with the United Way of Tompkins County donation of garden tools, seeds, plant sets, other garden related supplies or cash contributions to the garden are greatly appreciated (and tax deductible) to help get the garden underway! Contact Marnie Kirchgessner with questions about donations.

If you think your organization has something to offer the community garden, or the community garden has something to offer your organization, feel free to contact us and we will respond as soon as possible.

Many websites for everybody's interest (provided by Barbara Littlefair)

- Fine Gardening website (<http://www.finegardening.com>)
- Bring the Buzzzzz Back to Your Garden (<http://www.finegardening.com/design/articles/attracting-bees-to-your-garden.aspx>)
- 20 Gardenworthy Self-Sowers (<http://www.finegardening.com/design/articles/20-gardenworthy-self-sowers.aspx>)
- Create your design in less than 5 minutes (<http://www.chanticleergarden.org>)
- Sunshine Farms & Gardens (<http://www.sunfarm.com>)
- National Gardening Association (<http://www.garden.org>)
- Longwood Gardens (<http://www.longwoodgardens.org>)
- Dupont Gardens (<http://www.frenchtownner.com/Dupont-Gardens-Near-Philadelphia.html>)
- Peddler's Village (<http://peddlersvillage.com>)
- Winterthur (<http://www.winterthur.org>)
- Chanticleer, a pleasure garden (<http://www.chanticleergarden.org>)
- The New York Botanical Garden (<http://nybg.org>)
- Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage (<http://www.mhgp.org>)
- Lilac Festival (<http://www.lilacfestival.com>)
- Moss Acres (<http://www.mossacres.com>)
- Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park (<http://www.sonnenberg.org>)
- Cornell University Plantations (<http://www.cornellplantations.org>)
- Tompkins County Community Beautification Program (http://csetompkins.org/community_beautification/index.htm)
- 2010 Open Days Garden Tour Schedule (http://csetompkins.org/community_beautification/OpenDaysGardenTours.htm)
- Linwood Gardens (<http://www.linwoodgardens.org>)
- The Garden Conservancy (<http://www.gardenconservancy.org>)
- The Preservation Society of Newport County (<http://www.newportmansions.org>)
- Garden Walk Buffalo (<http://gardenwalkbuffalo.com>)

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