

The BAILEYAN

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

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!

September 14th

Plant Exchange at the Horton Room

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



October 12th

Dish to Pass Dinner

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

Volume 50, Number 8

From the President's corner

Dear Members,

By the time you receive this newsletter the hot dry summer will hopefully be just a memory. As always our September meeting will be the time of the plant exchange. This is the time to share gardening treasures (i.e. excess plants) with fellow gardeners and a great time to pick up new varieties to enhance your gardens.

At this meeting we must decide if we will be planting bulbs or some other plants to enhance the Hospice grounds this fall. All suggestions for this or other projects will be considered and hopefully a vote will determine what our course of action will be.

We should also decide on a fall clean up day at the berm. We usually wait until after a killing frost so it may not be necessary to set a date until early October.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all with your plants at our September 14 meeting.

Bob Hillman, President

Ornamental Grass Tour – Jim Mack

Jim Mack gave the Ornamental Grass Tour at the Cornell Plantations at the last LHBGC Meeting. Below is the list of plants he talked about during the tour.

Ornamental Grasses to Know and Grow – Sampler

Zucker Shrub Garden

Jim Mack

Horticultural and Grounds Operations Manager

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|--|---------------------------|
| 1. <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> | Ravenna Grass |
| 2. <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> ‘Zebrinus’ | Zebra Grass |
| 3. <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> ‘Variegatus’ | Variegated Silver Grass |
| 4. <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> | Northern Sea Oats |
| 5. <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘National Arboretum’ | Fountain Grass |
| 6. <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Rehbraun’ | Red Switch Grass |
| 7. <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Shenandoah’ | Switch Grass |
| 8. <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> ‘Morning Light’ | Japanese Silver Grass |
| 9. <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ‘The Blues’ | Little Bluestem |
| 10. <i>Calamagrostis brachytricha</i> | Korean Feather Reed Grass |
| 11. <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ssp. <i>arundinacea</i> ‘Skyracer’ | Tall Moor Grass |
| 12. <i>Pennisetum orientale</i> ‘Karley Rose’ | Oriental Fountain Grass |

Cornell Plantations Fall Lecture Series

Lectures in the series will follow on alternate Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice Statler Auditorium, Statler Hall. The complete 2010 schedule is as follows:

September 15: Designing with Flora of the American East; Carolyn Summers, author

September 29: Wicked Plants-The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom; Amy Stewart, author

October 13: Earthworms in the Forest: Blessing or Curse? Tim Fahey, Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Natural Resources, Cornell University

October 27: Wild Urban Plants; Peter Del Tredici, Senior Research Scientist, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

November 10: Spirit of John Muir, American Naturalist; Lee Stetson, actor, interpreter, educator

Cornell Plantations is the arboretum, botanical garden, and natural areas of Cornell University, and is a member of Ithaca’s Discovery Trail partnership (www.discoverytrail.net.) Gardens and grounds are open dawn to dusk, seven days a week. For more information, visit www.cornellplantations.org.





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,

Garden Chefs

Sunday, September 5, 1:00-2:30 pm.

Sunday, September 12, 1:00-2:30 pm.

Sunday, September 19, 1:00-2:30 pm.

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

Gardening, cooking, and culture combine in this innovative program in partnership with CERIS, the Cornell Educational Resource for International Studies. Six international food plots will be grown in the Ithaca Children's Garden's "Edible Garden" and one or more will be highlighted during each session. Topics change weekly.

Volunteer Work Days at ICG

Tuesday, September 7, 5:00-6:30pm.

Tuesday, September 14, 5:00-6:30pm.

Tuesday, September 21, 5:00-6:30pm.

Tuesday, September 28, 5:00-6:30pm.

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

Help plant and maintain the Ithaca Children's Garden at its Cass Park site, Tuesdays in September & October. All ages and skill levels are welcome. No gardening experience required.



The Fall Garden – Cooler and More Colorful

Tuesday, September 21, 6:30-8:30 pm.

This class will celebrate fall as the season for garden enjoyment and renewal after a long hot summer. We will discuss what to plant for fall color in blooms and leaves, and tips for fall planting of ornamentals and edibles. Get a head start on next year, while enjoying cooler fall weather! Pre-registration preferred; call 607-272-2292.

Compost with Confidence: "Stealth" / Indoor Composting

Saturday, September 25, 10:00-11:00 am.

Ithaca Community Gardens Compost Demo Site. Rt. 13 and Carpenter Circle, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Local compost experts will provide information and give hands-on demonstrations to help you set up and manage a compost system in any setting. Each class of the series (last Saturday of the month, noon - 1pm) will cover composting basics. In addition, the September class will focus on how to maintain an indoor bin using a double bin system. The class will be taught by a team of Tompkins County Master Composters, who are prepared to answer questions. Sign-up for this FREE class by emailing Liz Falk, erf59@cornell.edu or call (607) 272-2292.

Free Guided Tree Walks

Saturday, September 25, 2:15-4:15 pm.

Stewart Park, Gardner Parkway, Ithaca, NY 14850

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. Participants should keep left when entering Stewart Park and meet by the pond.*

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: Cancelled

August 10th: "Ornamental Grasses" – Jim Mack (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)

Grown in Tompkins: Hobby becomes growing concern for raiser of orchids

Ithaca Journal Article from August 8th, 2010

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20100808/NEWS01/8080321/Grown-in-Tompkins-Hobby-becomes-growing-concern-for-raiser-of-orchids>

DRYDEN -- About eight years ago, Tony Liu, a hobby orchid grower in Ithaca, had two dozen of his delicate, tropical plants bloom at once. He decided, on a whim, to take them to Wegmans, where the store put them up for sale.

The response was immediate. Within a week, the store sold out. Soon after, he got a call: "Danny Wegman came and bought your orchids this week," a store employee told him.

Just like that, Liu was offered the chance to supply 60 of the chain's stores with the exotic, blooming orchids, which Liu sells at his showroom for between \$25 and \$35 each.

After the first two dozen sold so well, Liu decided to expand, and he turned his hobby into a successful business called The Orchid Place. He finished construction on his 10,000 foot greenhouse in 2004, and since then has delivered thousands of the flowers -- hundreds a week, during the busy holiday seasons -- to Wegmans stores, local florists and to about 20 Whole Foods stores in the New England region.

"I really wanted to push them, I wanted everyone to enjoy them," Liu said about his decision to turn it into a business. "Basically, I love orchids very much, and they were not very popular for awhile."

Liu's sister, Colleen, helps him run The Orchid Place, and he employs a greenhouse assistant and a delivery driver to help him manage the thousands of plants he imports as seedlings from Taiwan -- his home country, where they grow naturally -- and nurtures into full-blown blooming beauties, which are arranged into neat rows in his moist greenhouse on Dryden Road.

Liu's family has been very important to him throughout the whole process, he said. The greenhouse was built partially because it gave his elderly mother, who died recently at age 99, somewhere to go that was hot and moist during the winter months. His sister rings up customers in the showroom, and his wife, Maggie, is often in and out of the business throughout the day.

Orchids need very specific care, and so Liu has become something of a guru to orchid growers and to his customers. He recently hosted a busload of Penn State master gardeners, who seemed delighted to be given the chance to tour his orchid gardens.

"It was very informative," said Katie Blackmore, a master gardener who purchased an orchid after hearing Liu's speech about how to effectively care for the plant. "He's a wonderful expert, he's cut and dry as far as how you take care of them, and his shop is lovely."

Regardless of how much work he has in the greenhouse each day, Liu, like his doted-on plants, said he always indulges his other hobby -- he drinks hot oolong tea every day.

"I have two hobbies, orchids and tea drinking, and I cannot decide which is number one and which is number two," he said.



Best Compost Tea Recipe for Gigantic Plants

Courtesy of Barbara Littlefair

After checking out today's Fine Gardening Magazine's 'Garden Picture of the Day' at the above site I noticed a link to Lefty's best compost tea recipes. Go to the link below and let Lefty tell you and show you how to make his tea and see his gigantic tomato plants:

http://ebm.e.taunton.com/c/tag/hBMiJRMARi9sTA42tNbBzIST57y/doc.html?t_params=EMAIL%3Dbl24%2540cornell.edu%26PASSWORD%3DAri9sTBzIST5BMiJRM5M6MgbTBo2SM

The best compost tea recipe:

<http://www.leftysrevolution.com/?gclid=CM2eiYGr-qMCFVw65QoddB-bLA>



Chosen News and Articles from other Garden Clubs

❖ **Gardening Tips for September** (September, Romin' Gardener)

Add a touch of fall to your landscape by planting hardy Mums now.

Do not prune Azaleas, Rhododendrons and other spring flowering shrubs because they have already set their buds for next year's blooms. If you feel these shrubs do need to be pruned, however, you can prune them now, but you will sacrifice next spring flowers.

Time to feed your plants with a good quality, slow release plant food made for perennials and flowering shrubs and trees that contains slow-release nitrogen, sulfate of potash, iron and other micro-nutrients for overall plant growth and development.

Feed evergreens (Hollies, Boxwoods and Yews) and deciduous trees (Maples, Oaks and Ash) with a tree & shrub food. This product contains slow-release nitrogen, sulfate of potash, iron and other micro-nutrients for overall plant growth and development.

Time to transplant peonies or divide them if you wish to multiply your plants.

Spring blooming bulbs are best to plant in October. Plant Iris, Tulips, Crocus, Daffodils and many others for glorious color next spring.

Add a touch of fall to your home and landscape with hardy Mums.

September is the best month of the entire year to seed your lawn. This includes both seeding a new lawn and reseeding (overseeding) an established lawn to make it thicker and healthier.

Dryden Town Talk: A Spared Sunflower Pays Gardeners back

Ithaca Journal Article from August 24th, 2010

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20100824/NEWS01/8240372/Dryden-Town-Talk-A-spared-sunflower-pays-gardeners-back>

Crowning the rise at the north end of Spring House Road, the modest farm that used to house Miller's Milkers comes into full view. This year, another unique sight has been added to the landscape.

Now that Tom and Cindy aren't chasing cows by day and night, they have time to tend to some of life's simpler pleasures. Cindy has enjoyed caring for plants since her high school days and is now able to keep a garden, along with her burgeoning collection of house plants.

Bird feeders are also a part of the side porch plant collection, which means that along with the dandelions and other garden interlopers, sunflowers try to take over ground intended for vegetables. Tom and Cindy were diligent in moving most of them out, but one plant among the peppers and broccoli caught their eye and was allowed to remain. Today, they are thankful for that choice.

Along with a call into a local horticulturist Cindy found out Dryden Town Talk to share about this spectacular sunflower. Measuring 15 inches in circumference at its base, this beauty boasts of more than 100 flower heads. Most domestic sunflowers produce one sunshine-yellow flower per stalk, so this plant is something to see. Currently supported by its own fence stake and a bungee cord, the plant towers above 6 feet and is covered with blossoms.

When asked about the story behind this unique plant, Tom is quick to attribute it to the soil, which was amended by the leftovers of the previous tenants. Whatever the source, there is a one-of-a-kind sight to see this summer when driving north past Dryden High.

While visiting with the Millers, Tom shared about a new venture that he and Cindy are undertaking. Being aware of the hard financial times that people are facing, and being well acquainted with the pervasive cold of a New York winter, Miller's Coal Bin will be open for business by mid-September. For those who heat with coal, the cost of a year's supply is a significant expense. Miller's Coal Bin will allow customers to purchase coal on an as-needed basis, either by the bag or five-gallon bucket. A discount is available for those who bring their own buckets or return the bags for filling, according to Tom. For more information, contact Tom at 844-4537



Message from Barbara Littlefair

Here is a collage of butterfly pics I've taken this summer. I found the plant in my garden that attracted most kinds of butterflies wasn't the butterfly bush but a very tall Agastache 'Black Adder' plant that has been covered all summer long with masses of lavender 'bottle brush' looking flowers. Other plants that attracted butterflies was the Thalictrum 'Lavender Mist', Purple Cone Flower-Echinacea, butterfly bush, Verbena boniariensis, ground cover myrtle, lilies, hosta, coreopsis, butterfly weed, and for the Comma butterfly (not pictured in the collage-I didn't have space to include a picture of all the butterflies I've photographed) it seems that it likes to be on the trunk of one of our trees when the late afternoon sunshine hits it. These plants also attract hummingbirds and the clearwing hummingbird moth to my garden. I try to have plants that attract birds all year around as the butterflies and moths only visit for a short time. My yard is mostly in the shade but this doesn't stop the birds, butterflies and moths from visiting, thank goodness! Enjoy. Barbara



<http://photography.about.com/od/takingpictures/ss/Monarch-Butterfly-Migration-When-To-Photograph-Monarch-Butterflies.htm?nl=1>

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