

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.

Volume 50, Number 9

From the President's corner

Greetings fellow gardeners,

Fall has arrived but as of the writing of this note there has still not been any frost on the pumpkin. I'm sure we will have that pleasure before our October meeting so we will be able to set up a berm cleanup date.

Ed Cobb contacted Lisa Miller the Building Manager/Gardner at Hospice and received ideas for bulbs to be planted this fall. He has placed an order and hopefully we will have some idea about when they will arrive so we can plan a planting "party" before it gets nasty outside.

At our October meeting we also need to consider a proposal that came to us from the Cornell Prison Education Program. They are considering reclaiming an area of dormant raised beds within the prison to develop a garden to become a vital compliment to science classes already part of the curriculum offered to incarcerated inmates. They are looking for "gardeners willing to oversee the project over the long haul". It seems like a long distance to travel and a long time commitment but I wanted to make everyone aware of this opportunity should anyone have the desire to undertake this challenge.

It has come to our attention that the railing we funded at the Ithaca Falls is being used as a bike rack, which defeats its purpose as a safety device. The suggestion has been made to fund a bike rack in the area to free up the railing for its intended use. Any ideas will be welcome when we discuss this at our meeting as well as any other projects you feel worthy and doable.

Our next meeting will be the dish to pass October fall feast. We have just gotten word that Roger Miller from Candor noted dahlia expert is willing to attend the meeting and enjoy dinner. After dinner he will discuss with us how to divide dahlia tubers.

Sincerely,

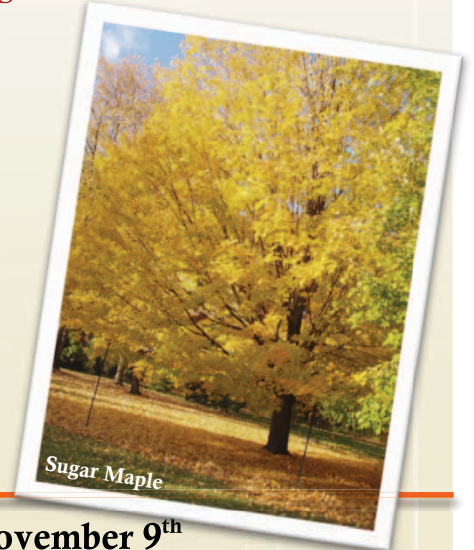
Bob Hillman, President

Save the Date!

October 12th

Dish to Pass Dinner
Horton Room

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



Sugar Maple

November 9th

Elections

** All Photos are courtesy of Ed Cobb*

September '10 Meeting Minutes

By Ed Cobb

At the board meeting various topics were discussed. Nothing has been done about rooting cuttings this year. Late Winter to early Spring are good times to root hardwood cuttings of some plants. If you would like a specific species propagated please let the propagation committee know before the New Year.

Ed Cobb volunteered to take care of purchasing bulbs for the Hospice. They will be planted at the Hospice on East King Road starting around 10 AM on Saturday October 16 if it is not raining hard. All members are invited to help with the activity. We will be planting minor bulbs: *Chionodoxa*, *Crocus*, *Galanthus* and *Scilla* this year.

The berm will need a bit of attention before the snow flies. All members are encouraged to join in with the clean up and the moving of our sign to a more visible location.



The plaque for the Cornell Conservatory Greenhouse is still in planning. The idea of the plaque has been enthusiastically endorsed by William Crepet, Chairman of the Plant Biology department. We need to decide on a specific size and wording for the bronze plaque. The reconstruction of the greenhouse has been delayed so we have a few more months to work on this project.

An election will be held at the November meeting. Anyone interested in serving as an officer of the club, please contact the president.

At the monthly meeting, numbers were drawn and members selected plants from the great variety of plants brought for the exchange. Members left with many exciting new plants to test in their gardens.

Delicious brownies and strawberry cake were provided by Don Williams.



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)

Cornell Extension Activities

<http://ccetompkins.org/calendar>

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



Finger Lakes Cheese Trail

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 10, Noon - 4:00 pm

Various locations in the Finger Lakes

Learn about the wonderful variety of cheeses produced here in the Finger Lakes by visiting our local cheese producers and sampling their products. The Finger Lakes Cheese Trail is a new organization of 10 cheese producers from throughout the Finger Lakes who make artisan cheeses from milk produced at their family

farms. Great cheeses are being made, ranging from English style raw milk cheddars, cheese curd, gouda and swiss types from dairy cow milk, to blue cheeses, chevre and feta from goats and sheep milk.

<http://ccetompkins.org/agriculture/events/finger-lakes-cheese-trail>

Fall Harvest Festival for Kids

Monday, October 11, 1:30 - 5:30 pm

Former P&C Market, 212 Hancock St. Ithaca, NY 14850

Spend the school holiday celebrating the Fall harvest. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy hands-on, harvest-themed activities such as pumpkin painting and more! See harvest foods being prepared and sample the results! FREE to the public. Call 272-2292 for information.

Getting your Landscape Ready for Winter

Thursday, October 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This class will cover what can still be planted, when and what to cut back, when and how to mulch, how much to water, how to protect woodies from deer and rodents, and other seasonal tasks to prepare your landscape plants for winter's challenges. Fee: \$5. Pre-registration preferred. Please call 607-272-2292.

Volunteer Work Day at ICG

Tuesdays, October 12, 19 & 26, 5:00 - 6:30 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 in September & October. All ages and skill levels are welcome. No gardening experience required.

Corning Local Harvest Festival

Friday, October 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Corning Museum of Glass, 1 Museum Way, Corning, NY

Consumers can connect with local producers of vegetables, fruits, meats and more at this 2nd annual event, organized and hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension! Last year's festival in Corning drew 500 visitors! For information on participating farms, admission, etc. check back as the date nears or contact Kerri Bartlett at 607-664-2311 or ksb29@cornell.edu.

Free Guided Tree Walks

Saturday, October 23, 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.*

Compost with Confidence: Winter Composting

Saturday, October 30, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Ithaca Community Gardens, Compost Demo Site, Rt. 13 and Carpenter Circle at the entrance of the Farmers' Market, 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 October class will focus on to extend the composting season well into the cold months and the preparations necessary to ensure successful composting over the winter. 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.

'Wicked' plants can kill, warns best-selling author

By Kate Neafsey Engler

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Oct10/PoisonPlantCov.html>

What do monkshood, oleander, tobacco and corn have in common? They are all "wicked," said author Amy Stewart speaking to a full house in Statler Auditorium Sept. 29.

Stewart is the author of The New York Times best-seller "Wicked Plants: The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities," which won a 2010 American Horticultural Society Book Award.

Stewart delivered the annual Audrey Harkness O'Connor Lecture, part of the Cornell Plantations' 2010 Fall Lecture Series. In her lecture, "Wicked Plants - The Deliciously Dark Side of the Plant Kingdom," Stewart highlighted some stories from her book, which focuses on treacherous flora, especially those that played a role in the death of a famous figure or in a major event.

Take white snakeroot: When eaten by grazing cows, its toxin gets into their milk and can poison humans who drink it. As the title of Stewart's book suggests, Abraham Lincoln's mother succumbed to "milk sickness" by drinking tainted milk when Lincoln was 9 years old.

Wicked plants, she said, the ones that are "poisonous, deadly or offensive," surround us in cities, parks and homes. For example, the castor oil plant is commonly used in urban plantings, but its beans contain the deadly toxin ricin. Nightshade is another beautiful plant, but it can cause hallucinations and be fatal if eaten.

In 1961, residents of Santa Cruz, Calif., noticed that many disoriented seagulls were flying into people and buildings. It wasn't until years later that scientists realized that the seagulls had consumed fish that had fed on algae containing a neurotoxin. Purportedly, Stewart said, the event was Alfred Hitchcock's inspiration for his film "The Birds."

Stewart also discussed such influential fungi as ergot, which contains a precursor to the hallucinogen LSD. Ergot, which grows on grain and survives baking and brewing, has been theorized to be the cause of the odd behavior associated with the Salem witch trials of 1692, Stewart said.

Even several common houseplants are poisonous, she said, such as the sago palm, which is toxic to dogs, and the lily, which is toxic to cats. Pet owners and parents of small children, she warned, need to be careful about what plants they keep in and around their homes - more than 68,000 human poisonings are caused by plants each year, she cited.

Stewart's next book, "Wicked Bugs: A Natural History of the Dark Side of Bugs," is scheduled for publication in May 2011.

CU's W.C. Muenscher Poisonous Plant Garden

When researching poisonous plants for her book, Amy Stewart first turned to Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. She was guided to the W.C. Muenscher Poisonous Plant Garden, located behind James Law Auditorium. The garden, with nearly 100 plants represented - most from the northeastern United States - is part of the Cornell Plantations. It is named for Muenscher, a professor of botany at Cornell from 1923 to 1954, who wrote the classic book "Poisonous Plants of the United States."

Muenscher established the garden to instruct veterinary students on common plants that are poisonous to livestock and companion animals; many are toxic to humans as well, such as white snakeroot, larkspurs, poison ivy, jimsonweed, pokeweed and purple foxglove.

The signs labeling each plant include details about the plants and their effects and a similar booklet is for sale in the Plantations Gift Shop. While the best time to view the garden is between June and August, several plants are still in bloom, including monkshood, castor bean and pokeweed.



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:

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.

Gardening Tips for October (October, Romin' Gardener)

- By mid-October, or if frost is predicted, pick all tomatoes, whether they are ripe or not.
- Refrigerate or freeze ripe tomatoes. Wrap green tomatoes or hang the entire plants (with unpicked fruit) upside down. Alternatively these can be stored in a brown paper bag in a cool dark area.
- Start fall compost pile.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs.
- Divide and replant crowded fall-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow.
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants).
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch.
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials after bloom.
- Protect roses for winter.
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines.
- Plant container and burlapped trees.
- Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials after two or three hard frosts and when leaves begin to brown.
- After several hard frosts add mulch to your perennial flower garden. A one inch layer of straw or chopped leaves will help conserve soil moisture and protect the root system.
- Dig and bring in cannas, dahlias and gladiolus. Dry, clean and store in a cool location free from frost.
- Remove leaves from lawn to reduce lawn problems. Compost or shred and use them for mulch.
- Fall is the time to control certain broadleaf weeds in the lawn, such as white clover, dandelion and ground ivy.
- Make a note of any particular productive or unsatisfactory varieties of vegetables that you planted this year. Such information can be very useful when planning next years' garden.
- Remove any diseased or insect-infested plant material from your garden, it may harbor over-wintering stages of disease or insect pests. If you leave this plant material in your garden, you are leaving diseases and insects which will begin to reproduce again next spring and add to next years' pest problem.
- Cure pumpkins, butternut and hubbard squash at temperatures between 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit for two or three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55-60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Use dried herbs to make fragrant wreaths and dried flower arrangements.
- Clean up the orchard and small fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or mummies carry disease organisms through the winter to attack next years' crop.
- Christmas cactus need special care now to get its beautiful flowers this December. Buds will form at 50-60 degrees Fahrenheit or if the plant is exposed to at least 13 hours of complete darkness each night.



Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club 2010 Officers

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