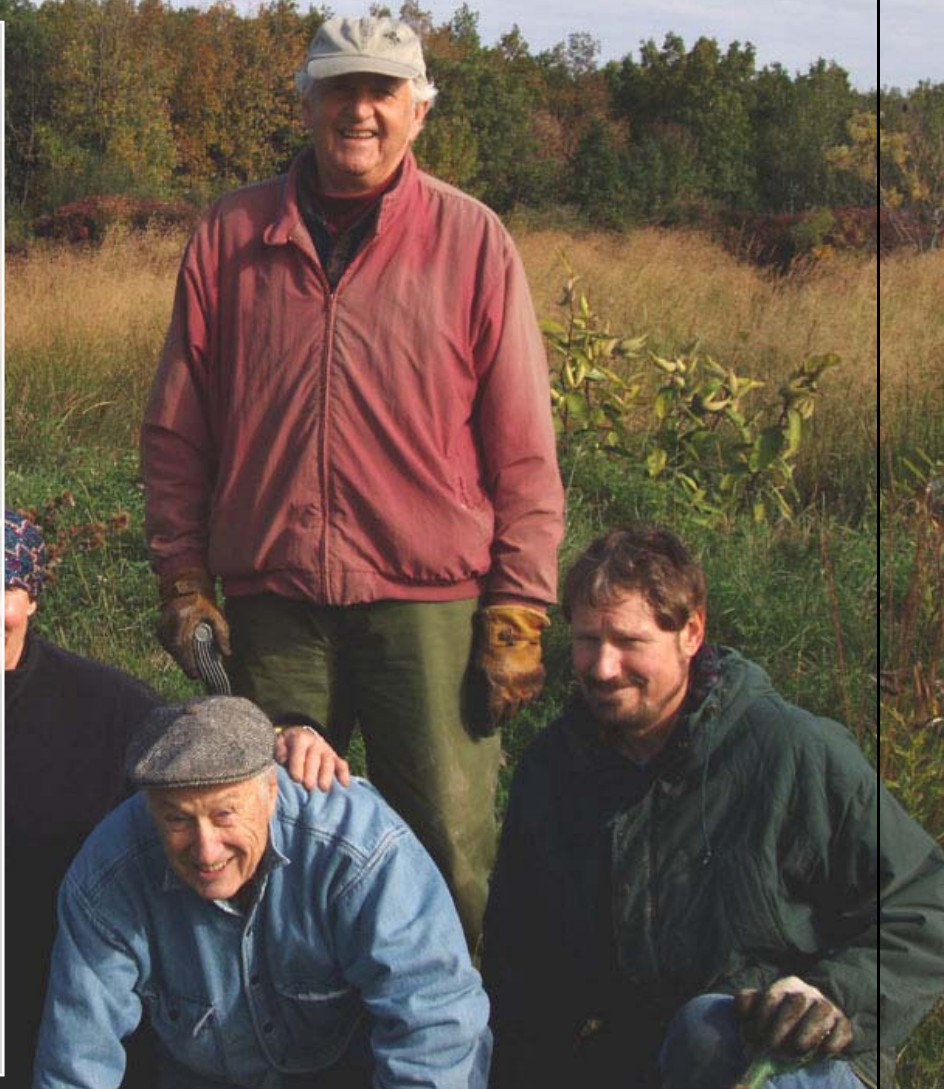


THE BAILEYAN

November

2007



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*The Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club of Ithaca meets each month, on the second Tuesday in the Horton Room in the Floriculture Greenhouse, Tower Road Cornell University Ithaca, New York. The Club is open to all gardeners. Visitors are welcome.*

# 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 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 47 Number 11**

**November 2007**

## **2007 Officers**

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*Corresponding Secretary:* **Cliff Manchester,** 2136 Slaterville Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850  
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*Treasurer:*

**Helen Swank,** 205 Cayuga Heights Road, Ithaca, NY, 14850  
H: 607-257-7541 Fax: 257-9501

**This month: November 13 Elections of Officers**

**Horton Room KLP Green House 7PM**

**Next Month Activity: December 11 Holiday Decorations**

**Horton Room KLP Green House 7PM**

## Tentative Meeting Schedule and Programs: 2007

	Date	Topic	Speaker	Contact info
	January 16	Meeting canceled due to weather		
	February 20	Organization Meeting, Tour of Thailand	Ray Fox	
	February 24	Tour of Orchid Greenhouse Dryden Rd.	Tony Liu	273-3660
	March 20	UK Gardens in Spring	Ed Cobb	
	April 17	Controlling weeds using IPM Methods	Elizabeth Lamb	Em138
	May 15	Plant Swap and Auction		
	19	Hitch Lyman Garden Tour		
	June 23	Garden Tour and Picnic/ Dish to Pass	Beverly and Bob Hillman	273-8838
	July 24	Tour of Perennial Trails	Bill Miller	WBM8
	August 18 3 to 5pm	Tour of Plantsmen Nursery	Dan Segal	
	September 11 7pm	Executive Meeting		
	October 9 7pm	Dish to Pass Dinner		
	November 13	Election of Officers		
	December 11	Holiday Decorations		
		New Diseases to Watch for in the Garden	Karen Snover-Clift	Kls13

Thanks to Ed Cobb for scheduling these events!

**Please mark these dates on your Garden Calendar.**

All meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. 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 sometime. Members and guests are welcome to attend both meetings

## Minutes of LH Bailey Garden Club Oct 9, 2007

A Harvest dinner was held in the Horton room. There were many delicious items to select from.

Meeting opened with a drawing for a verdant Hinoki Cypress provided by Ken Devine . Cliff Manchester was the winner of this fine dwarf conifer.

Planting bulbs at the Hospice on Saturday Oct 13 was planned. All interested are encouraged meet at 10 AM. (A photo and legend of the planting appeared in the October 20th Ithaca Journal.)

A letter from the Veterans Administration thanking us for the geraniums grown by Linda and Bob Parlett was passed around for members to peruse.

New member Arnaud Germain, a grad student at Cornell, was introduced and Arnaud spoke about his garden interests.

Ray Fox mentioned several places near Philadelphia that are nice places to visit including: Longwood Gardens, Winterthur and other Dupont family gardens in the area. Longwood Gardens has elaborate seasonal displays including Fall chrysanthemums and Christmas holiday decorations.

Discussions about the berm at the Ithaca Farmer's Market continued. A fall clean up was discussed and will occur weather permitting.

Members were encouraged to use the club's library.



## **Garden Greetings**

Gardening Tips for Nov./Dec. 2007 issue of  
Upstate Gardeners' Journal  
Prepared by Tompkins County Master Gardener Grow Line Committee

### **IN GENERAL**

Top-dress your flower beds and shrub borders with a light layer of compost or mulch following fall clean up. Be diligent about removing winter annual weeds that might otherwise set seed in early spring.

Make sure you have turned off, disconnected, and drained your hoses to prevent bursting that occurs at freezing. It is not necessary to remove soaker hoses from planting beds.

Sharpen your tools and sterilize them by wiping them with a solution of one part of household bleach to nine parts of water. Also apply preservative oil to metal parts and wooden handles. Tie fluorescent pink or orange plastic tape (the kind surveyors and landscapers use) on your tool handles, and you will never lose them again.

Clean crusty clay pots with a mix of one cup of white vinegar to a gallon of warm water or one part of household bleach to nine parts of water. Plastic pots can be washed in the dishwasher. Clay pots can be sterilized by placing in an oven for an hour at 350 degrees F. Turn off the oven and leave the pots for another hour.

Concentrations of salt materials used to melt ice on driveways and walks are toxic to lawn grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs. Some of the more common plants that are tolerant to salt include juniper, bayberry, rugosa roses, astilbe, gaillardia, lamb's ear and most ornamental grasses.

For indoor arrangements, collect the seed heads of ornamental grasses, Siberian iris, tall sedums, coneflowers, branches from red-twigged and yellow-twigged dogwoods, white birch, evergreens, holly and leaves of ivy and pachysandra. Be creative! You can use teasel, cattails, mullein stalks, and so on.

Place evergreen branches in sand in your outside planters. When it freezes, the greens will be held all winter.

Install deer fencing. Spraying a good deer repellent on old socks and tying the socks to the tasty bushes may repel the hungry deer. Even the best commercial deer repellents (based on rotten eggs) will need to be renewed about every four weeks during the winter, according to Paul Curtis' research at Cornell.

Bury small pots of chives in the soil before it freezes. Mark them well. In January, bring them inside and they will grow quickly.

If you have groundcover beds that get smothered in leaves every fall, think about laying netting on them next year before the leaves fall. Netting and leaves can be easily pulled off together.

### **FLOWERS**

#### **November**

Plant your spring bulbs as soon as possible. Plan to start forcing bulbs soon for winter color indoors.

Roses are usually pruned in the spring; however, any tall unwieldy canes, which may break in the wind, should be cut back.

#### **November and December**

Continue to cut back perennials, especially those prone to diseases and insects. Be sure to clean up all foliage and stems where pests can overwinter. Leave perennials that add winter interest to the garden and those whose seed heads the birds enjoy. Be aware, however, that birds may scatter the seeds. You could also put the cut stems with seedheads near your birdfeeders (in the lawn) and not have to worry about volunteer seedlings as much.

Regarding chrysanthemums, some say to cut them back now, others say to leave the old flower stalks on over the winter. However, the consensus in colder areas is that the stems help to trap snow and protect the crown from extreme cold, so cutting the stems back in spring may be preferred.

Mulch marginally-hardy perennials and recent transplants to prevent them from frost heaving. Keep a bucket of mulch or garden soil handy where it won't freeze; if plants do heave anyway, you can cover the roots with the mulch or soil to prevent them from drying out (credit this idea to Elisabeth Sheldon).

Other plants that should not be cut back until spring include lavender, sage, Russian sage, and butterfly bush. These will die back in varying amounts, depending on the winter. In spring, trim off the dead parts at least, and then cut back what's left to the desired size, depending on your particular landscape.

Think about installing stepping stones next year in flower beds, to prevent future compaction. Early May is a good time to site stepping stones, after everything has sprouted, hopefully, and before small naturalizing bulbs have gone dormant. However, stone is probably on sale now.

## **WOODY PLANTS**

### **November and December**

Water evergreens as needed until the ground freezes.

Do not prune trees, except for diseased or broken limbs.

If you haven't protected evergreens growing in high wind and salt-spray areas, apply anti-desiccants (temperatures should be in the 40's) and place windbreaks-barriers of burlap over or around plants.

Install rodent/rabbit guards around the trunks of young trees. The guards should extend about two feet above the average snow depth.

Cover shrubs and young trees enjoyed by deer with plastic or wire netting.

Check for gypsy moth egg masses. They are fuzzy tan masses about the size of a quarter located on the tree trunks. Scrape them off and destroy them.

### **December**

Ice that has accumulated on tree and shrub branches should be allowed to melt naturally to avoid damage. However, heavy snow can be carefully removed with an upward sweep of a broom.

Leave snow and ice in place around the base of trees and shrubs to insulate the plants.

Use your old Christmas tree in your yard as a shelter for birds and other animals that don't cause damage. If you don't have bushes as "waiting stations" 10 or 15 feet from your birdfeeders, the Christmas tree can serve as such.

Evergreen boughs can be used as mulch after the ground is frozen, or as a protection for boxwood and other shrubs that suffer from sun glare.

Remove and destroy infested foliage on arborvitae and juniper to control leaf miner. Browned, hollowed foliage with exit holes indicates a problem.

## **LAWNS**

### **November**

Keep on mowing as long as the grass is growing.

Dormant seeding can be done after the weather is reliably cold, if you have bare spots. The seed will germinate in very early spring. Seed heavily, because some of it will get eaten.

Fertilize two weeks after the last mowing.

Rake leaves off the lawn. These can be used on beds and borders as mulch for winter protection -- or put them on the compost pile.

### **December**

Don't walk on frozen or waterlogged lawns, beds, and borders, or you will cause compaction damage.

Sharpen your mower blades. Either use up the gasoline in the mower, or add a gasoline stabilizer.

## **WATER GARDENS**

If you have fish, use a pond de-icer to maintain an air hole in the ice so that gases that accumulate in the water can escape. If you have koi, you will need a heater.

Add beneficial bacteria ("Microbe-list autumn/winter preparation") to maintain a healthy immune system for fish during the winter and reduce buildup of dead leaves and organic sediment. This tip comes from Tim Schwender of Totality Water Gardens in Spencer, NY. Tim also suggests that you use a net covering to prevent leaves falling into the water.

## **HOUSE PLANTS**

this is a good time of year to focus on your indoor plants, but don't smother them with attention. Keep winter fertilization to

A minimum as plant growth is now at its slowest. Don't over-water, the most common problem for houseplants during the winter, when light levels are very low.

If possible, move plants to higher light levels: from north to east windows, from east to south windows, especially with flowering plants such as hibiscus and gardenia. Turn plants regularly to maintain their shape.

Avoid placing plants on top of a television or a radiator where the air is too warm and drying or too close to window glass, which can be much colder than room temperature.

To maintain higher humidity, place plants on trays lined with pebbles and filled with water to within half of an inch of the base of the pot.

Monitor plants regularly for insect infestations and disease.

Keep leaves free of dust.

Wait until spring to take cuttings.

Plant white or yellow paper white narcissus bulbs, if you didn't start forcing the hardy bulbs earlier in the winter. Paper whites will bloom in six to eight weeks time without the cooling period needed by the hardy varieties. Plant in pebbles and use tall, glass bowls, so that the stems do not bend and need to be tied. Prof. Bill Miller's research has shown that using 10% alcohol in the water results in shorter, less floppy plants.

Begin to water your amaryllis bulb if it has been dormant for ten weeks.

Keep your poinsettias (and other houseplants) out of drafts.

## **VEGETABLES**

Finish garden cleanup including perennial weeds, frozen warm season vegetables etc.

Mulch remaining root vegetables such as carrots, parsnips and beets for winter eating.

Leave kale and collard greens until a hard frost makes them tastier. These also benefit from mulch.

A plastic tunnel over greens and radishes planted in early fall works well until a heavy snow fall collapses it. A sturdy cold frame is even better as a season extender.

Harvest remaining cabbages, Brussels sprouts, and sprouting broccoli before the ground freezes, and then discard the plants.

Mulch strawberries after the ground freezes.

Continue checking for ripeness of any green tomatoes that were brought inside.

Prepare the soil now for a row or two of peas. Peas are best planted in late March or early April before the soil is workable.



**Cooperative  
Extension**  
Tompkins County



**Events Question? Current Programs Staff Employment**

## Calendar of Events

**November 2007 [and beyond](#)**

### **Facilitator Training for Parenting Skills Workshop Series**

**Monday and Tuesday, November 5 & 6, 2007, 9:00 am-4:00 pm**

Join presenters Anna Steinkraus and Edna Brown for a 2-day training for Parenting Educators and those working with parents, children and families. Includes Parenting Skills for Literacy. During the training, you will learn the five communication skills: Encouragement, Can Do, Choices, Self-Control and Respecting Feelings. Cost: \$100.00 (covers training, Parenting Skills Workshop Series Manual, lunch and snack). For more information or [brochure](#) call Anna Steinkraus at 272-2292 or email: [ams69@cornell.edu](mailto:ams69@cornell.edu)

### **Save Energy, Save Dollars**

**Monday, November 5, 5:00-7:00 pm**

*Brooktondale Community Center's Old Fire Hall, 522 Valley Road, Brooktondale*

Learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy and reduce your energy bills. Also learn about programs that can help you afford energy-efficiency improvements with subsidies, low-interest loans, or free services to qualifying households. All participating households will receive a free energy kit, including weatherstripping, shrink window insulation, faucet aerator, outlet and light switch gaskets, and more. Free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required for this class. Call [Carole Fisher](#) CCE at 272-2292 for information or to register. (To be offered again on 11/9 at 12:30 pm and 12/11 at 1 pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County)

### **America Recycles Day Celebration**

**Saturday, November 3, 10:00 am-4:00 pm**

*Ithaca (formerly "Pyramid") Mall*

The 10th anniversary of the nationally celebrated America Recycles Day. This year, families and individuals will come together to celebrate with a birthday party atmosphere. Various organizations will demonstrate the community's recycling efforts and earth-friendly efforts and will offer interactive activities around the "4R's" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rebuy). Free and open to the public.

### **Digital Cameras & Photography: An Overview for Beginners**

**Thursday, November 8, 7:00-9:00 pm**

Local photographer Nigel Dyson-Hudson will review digital cameras and their features. A brief review of helpful photography techniques will be followed by a Q & A session. Bring your camera and owner's manual. Fee: \$10. Class limited to 20. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Please call 272-2292.

### **Save Energy, Save Dollars**

**Monday, November 5, 5:00-7:00 pm**

*Brooktondale Community Center's Old Fire Hall, 522 Valley Road, Brooktondale 14817*

Participants will learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce their energy usage and about programs that can help them afford energy-efficiency improvements. Each participating household will receive a free kit of energy-saving items

worth \$15. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. Call CCE to reserve a seat at (607) 272-2292 or email Carole Fisher at [crf11@cornell.edu](mailto:crf11@cornell.edu). (To be offered at the CCE-Education Center on 11/14 at 7 pm, and 12/11 at 1 pm)

## Save Energy, Save Dollars

### Friday, November 9, 12:30 pm

Participants will learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce their energy usage and about programs that can help them afford energy-efficiency improvements. Each participating household will receive a free kit of energy-saving items worth \$15. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. Call CCE to reserve a seat at (607) 272-2292 or email Carole Fisher at [crf11@cornell.edu](mailto:crf11@cornell.edu). (To be offered again on 11/14 at 7 pm, and 12/11 at 1 pm)

## Making Ends Meet

### Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 pm

This workshop provides an overview of the process for developing and using a household spending plan. We also explore ways to maximize resources and reduce energy use. Free and open to the public, with refreshments and door prizes. All attendees also receive a money management tool kit. Information also will be provided about the One-on-One Program for households that would like individualized instruction. Class size is limited; advance registration is required. Call 272-2292 for more information or to reserve a seat. (To be offered again on 12/18 at 10 am)

## Save Energy, Save Dollars

### Wednesday, November 14, 7 pm

Participants will learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce their energy usage and about programs that can help them afford energy-efficiency improvements. Each participating household will receive a free kit of energy-saving items worth \$15. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. Call CCE to reserve a seat at (607) 272-2292 or email Carole Fisher at [crf11@cornell.edu](mailto:crf11@cornell.edu). (To be offered again on 12/11 at 1 pm)

## Vote for Worms! - Fall Worm Composting Class

### Saturday, November 17, 10:00 am-Noon

Spend your post-election Saturday morning with us "Vermicomposting" - that is, composting with worms. Learn what kind of worms are needed, how to get them, setting up a bin, and how to maintain it. Everyone who completes this workshop will leave with a starter bin and worms. Children welcome with accompanying adult. Fee: \$10 per household (sliding scale). Register early because space is limited! Call 272-2292.





# LHBGC OF ITHACA

November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Elections

7:00 PM  
Horton Room

**The Liberty Hyde Bailey  
Garden Club of Ithaca, NY  
Editor Robert and Linda Parlett  
97 Vanbuskirk Gulf Rd  
Newfield, NY 14867**