

THE GARDENERS' GAZETTE

September 2011

www.lihort.org

Long Island Horticultural Society Journal

NEXT MEETING

DATE: **Sunday, September 25**
Please bring canned goods & nonperishable items

PLACE: **The Conference Center, Planting Fields Arboretum**
(Driving directions are on the website under the "Programs" menu.)

TIME: 1:00 pm

SPEAKER: **Judy Werber**, Home Gardener, Garden Consultant, LIHS Member

TOPIC: **September Song**



TIME: 2:00 pm, Business Meeting & Main Program

SPEAKER: **Todd Forrest**, VP of Horticulture & Living Collections, New York Botanical Garden

TOPIC: **Restoring the Historic Landscape of New York Botanical Garden**

1:00 PROGRAM: Judy is a home gardener on Long Island where gardening wisdom has been passed down through the generations from her mother, grandmother and her aunts. Her first fledging enterprise, 'JAW's Rent-a-Plant', catered to people who wanted something nice growing in their office, but didn't want to pay to do it themselves. Recently she founded a garden consulting business called 'Lazy Daisy Creations'. Other projects include her photos appearing in the 'Endless Summer' hydrangea fall bulletin; she is featured in the February and March issue of a new online garden magazine called "Toil the Soil"; and has created a 'Peace Garden of Remembrance' at her church after 9/11. She will get to share a small part of her garden life with you as she presents what she calls 'September Song'.

2:00 PROGRAM: The New York Botanical Garden was first established in 1891. For the past ten years, the 250-acre garden has been transformed through the restoration of historic collections, construction of new gardens and implementing sustainable horticultural practices. Todd joined NYBG in 1997, first as an intern and then as a research assistant before becoming a vital part of the horticulture staff in 1999. Todd will discuss the restoration efforts with emphasis on innovative tools and techniques that have been used.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 16, **The Conference Center**, Planting Fields Arboretum
1:00 pm: Rick Bogus: Bridge Gardens
2:00 pm: Christine Doctor: The Plant Doctor

We will have a horticultural competition at the September meeting. All entries must be presented by **12:45pm** to be judged. Remember, no more than three entries per member household are allowed. Plants must be in your garden or in your care for at least three months prior to judging in order to qualify.

For each entry, please fill out a green slip with your name and the plant name(s) or arrangement description(s). *At the end of the meeting, leave the green slips on the table to be collected and entered in the record book.*

Please bring in plants and other new items for the raffle at the September meeting. Label all plants clearly and make sure all specimens are disease- and pest-free.



It's never too early to plan for 2012. We are always looking for new speakers. If you have any suggestions contact **Lou Okin** at lou@lihort.org. Please specify that you and/or someone whose opinion that you trust has heard this speaker before. Contact information of the speaker would be very helpful.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Two positions are open — We are looking for two people to take over the recruiting of speakers for our meetings. Contact webmaster@lihort.org if you are interested.



For up-to-date news of LIHS meetings, activities, trips, etc., check our website: www.lihort.org.

If you have any suggestions or comments contact **Anne Schnarwyler: webmaster@lihort.org.**

HOSPITALITY TIDBITS

Pick up a FREE raffle ticket & sign the Cookie List when you bring in snacks so we can acknowledge your contribution.

**The deadline for the
October issue is
September 30th.**

**SEND ITEMS FOR THE
NEWSLETTER!**

Thanks for your writings! Please keep sending your essays, plant profiles, garden travelogues, etc. After all, this is YOUR newsletter – contribute!

Upcoming LIHS Trips

TRIP TO CALIFORNIA FOR THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

December 28th through January 3rd - Among the activities will be a docent led visit to the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino, a day at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, an opportunity to work on a very special float, La Cañada Flintridge, a live performance at the Bandfest, a New Year's Eve Party, seats at the Rose Bowl Parade, and the best part — a chance to get up close and personal with the floats the day after the parade!

We will be staying at the Hilton Woodland Hills Hotel in Los Angeles for six nights. The cost of the trip will be \$1,100, which will include the hotel stay, most meals, all admissions and gratuities. Air transportation is not included.

If you are interested in joining us for a memorable week, please send a deposit check for \$100 made out to LIHS and send it to **Barbara Levine**, 22 Sugar Maple Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576. Any questions, please call me at 516-741-3386 or email barban22@optonline.net.

NEW PERENNIAL CULTIVARS* – Some Highlights

~ submitted by Rosemary Papayanopulos, LIHS Member

- *Hellebore* 'Ice Follies' – creamy white flowers with deep burgundy centers (shade)
- *Brunnera* 'Emerald Mist' – variegated leaves with blue flowers (moist soil - shade)
- *Euphorbia* 'Ascot Rainbow' – green and cream variegated foliage with chartreuse blooms
- *Sedum* 'Autumn Charm' [*Sedum* 'Lajos'] – cream edged foliage with pink blooms changing to rest red (a compact plant)
- *Heucherella* 'Stoplight' – chartreuse foliage with red veins, white flowers (part shade)
- 'Sarastro' Bellflower – purple flowers on strong stems; doesn't reseed
- 'Banana Cream' Shasta Daisy – pale yellow, 4-5" flowers

* *Garden Gate* (Oct. 2011, #101)

SOME CONIFERS TO CONTEMPLATE ~ submitted by Rosemary Papayanopulos, LIHS Member

Conifers are part of the backbone of a garden. They anchor the winter garden when the deciduous plants are at rest. Many new plants are available each year. Check out the nurseries listed for new selections and check the American Conifer Society's website for information about conifers in general (www.conifersociety.org). Many of the new cultivars are dwarf or compact which makes them better candidates for small gardens. You can also have more varieties for your collection if the plants are diminutive. Look for the words Little, Nana or Compacta when at the nursery. In a recent article by Rita Pelczar in *The American Gardener* Nov/Dec 2010 v. 89 no. 6, p.26-31, several of the new plants are showcased. Some highlights from the plants mentioned follow. Zones listed are USDA hardiness/AHS heat:

- *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Crippsii' (Golden Hinoki False Cypress) 25-50' x 25' – has gold foliage and a broad pyramidal form, full sun for good color, zone 4-8/8-1
- *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans Nana', 6' x 4' – dark green foliage in an irregular mounding form, good for rock gardens, zone 6-9/8-1
- *C. japonica* 'Globosa Nana', 2-3' x 3-3 1/2' – blue green foliage taking on a reddish tinge in winter and a mounded shape, zone 6-9/9-4
- *C. japonica* 'Gyokuryu', 8' x 6' – very dark foliage forming a dense pyramid, zone 6-9/9-4
- *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Sky High', 12-15' x 3-5' – silver-blue foliage and a dense columnar form, zone 3-7/7-1
- *J. virginiana* 'Glauca Compacta' 10' x 5' – blue-green foliage in a small compact tree (good container plant), zone 4-9/9-1
- *J. virginiana* 'Hancock Weeping', 25-30' x 8-10' – weeping branches, zone 4-9/9-1
- *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Miss Grace' – is a small, narrow (deciduous) tree with good fall color, zone 5-10/12-8
- *Picea abies* 'Little Gem' 1 1/2' x 3-6' – green foliage in a flat, globular shape, good for rock gardens, zone 3-8/8-1
- *Thuja orientalis* 'Morgan' 3' x 2' – chartreuse-yellow foliage changing to copper-orange in winter; neat, compact, upright habit, zone 5-8/9-6.
- *Thuja plicata* 'Pygmaea' 2-2 1/2' x 2-3' – blue-green foliage with a compact form, zone 6-8/8-6

THE CLOISTERS – A UNIQUE PUBLIC GARDEN ~ submitted by Irene Lucarelli, LIHS Member

Most people would probably not think of The Cloisters Museum and Gardens as a public garden destination. It is part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is the only horticultural garden in the entire organization. The gardens are very special, focusing on the plants and gardening practices of the Middle Ages. Deidre Larkin (who spoke at one of our meetings about two years ago) is the horticulturist in charge of the Gardens. With her background in medieval history and horticulture, she ensures that the gardens are planted with historical accuracy.

After visiting The Cloisters, I could easily imagine that they were several hundred years old, when in reality they only opened in 1938. They are situated on 60-acres of land overlooking the Hudson River in the Bronx and established with money that was donated by George Grey Barnard and John D. Rockefeller. In fact, Mr. Rockefeller had the foresight to buy and set aside the land directly across the river to preserve the view from the Cloisters!

The Cloisters is a combination of five medieval (12th-15th century) French monasteries and holds 5,000 works of art. It has three gardens: The Cuxa Cloister Garth, the Bonnefort Cloister Herb Garden and the Trie Cloister Garden. The Cuxa Cloister Garden is a square, open-air courtyard surrounded by covered passageways. During the winter, the passageways (arcades) are sealed with glass panels. The garden or garth is divided into quarters and had has a fountain in the center. Each quadrant has a crabapple tree growing in its center with medieval and modern plants growing throughout to provide color and scent during three seasons.

The Bonnefort Cloister Herb Garden is planted with specialized authentic medieval plants that have uses in cooking, medicine, art, housekeeping and even magic. It also contains raised beds, wattle fences, two large, graceful espaliered pear trees and four beautiful mature quince trees. Special pruning techniques have to be performed on the crabapple and espaliered pear trees as part of their maintenance/restoration. The Trie Cloister Garden also has a fountain in its center and is planted throughout with predominantly Spring blooming European native herbs, shrubs and flowers. Many of the plants in this garden are those found in the tapestries which are displayed in the museum itself – with special emphasis on the millefleurs design of the series of seven magnificent Unicorn Tapestries displayed there.

This public garden is like no other, not only because of its medieval theme, but also because it is so intimately connected with the museum's extraordinary architectural features and other fine works of art. The museum galleries and gardens are intertwined so that one cannot help but wander in and out of each feature; one gives definition and context to the other. It is a four season museum. Pay a visit and get lost in time . . .

Visit www.metmuseum.org/cloisters for complete information about the Cloisters. Be sure to check their garden blog "The Medieval Garden Enclosed", which is rich with information about the historically accurate plants and their uses.

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO BRING IN THOSE TENDER PLANTS?*

~ submitted by Rosemary Papayanopoulos, LIHS Member

A useful list of minimum Fahrenheit emperatives for several tender plants:

- 45 ° Banana, Begonia, Boston Fern, Coleus, Cordyline, Taro
- 35 ° Flowering Maple, Calibraochoa, Lantana, Oxalis, Asparagus Fern, Geranium
- 25 ° Fig, Nemesia, osteospermum, Snapdragon, Twinspur

* *Garden Gate* (Oct. 2011, #101)

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

____ Yes, renew my/our membership @ 25 ____# of gift membership(s) @ \$25 each (Attach separate sheet if necessary).

NAME: (1) _____ (2) _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

**MAIL TO: Laura Weill, LIHS Membership Secretary, 9 Ryan Street, Syosset, NY 11791
or bring to next meeting. Please make check payable to LIHS.**

LETTER TO THE NEXT GARDENER ~ submitted by Lynn Thompson, LIHS Member

Dear Gardener,

I feel a little silly leaving this letter behind, like a mother leaving instruction for the babysitter. Except I am not coming back at the end of the evening. The garden is yours now, to do with what you wish. Still, there may be some mysteries I can solve, some secrets I can pass on, before I am so immersed in the process of moving that I have no time to sit down and gather my thoughts.

If you come here in the winter, save your strength and let the oxalis have the run of the place. I tried for years to eradicate it, but it couldn't be done. Think of this as an exercise in letting go – a sort of Zen-like permissiveness that you might never allow yourself the rest of the year.

I'm sorry about the lemon tree. I lavished all my love on the orange tree, fertilizing it, picking it clean of bugs, pruning it judiciously and then staving off colds every winter with its fruit. Meanwhile, the lemon tree suffered. I made a few drastic cuts to remove some old, half-dead branches, but it never produced more than a few edible lemons a year. Looking at it now, I notice the leaves are yellow. It probably has iron deficiency. It was careless of me to ignore it, and I have no excuse. Do try to nurse it along if you can.

Don't give up on the fuchsia or the wisteria. They are old plants, and their branches are surprisingly light and brittle, like the bones of old women. But if you feed them and prune them just a little now and then, they will reward you with a modest show of flowers every spring.

Oh, and if a volunteer tomato emerges over the summer, encourage it. More likely than not, you have been blessed

with Sungold, the sweetest cherry tomato I've ever tasted. I grew Sungolds every year I lived here, and by the end of the season the tomato bed was littered with the excess fruit. It will spring out of one former tomato bed or another if you let it, and if you're not a cherry-tomato lover already, it will win you over.

If there are any roses along the side yard, it is only because I failed to eradicate them entirely. They are horrid, sickly things, good for nothing, incapable of more than a few token blooms. Dig them out, if you can, or whack them down to the ground, but don't fall prey to their pretty rose-garden promises. They will only disappoint you.

Yes, I am responsible for the forget-me-nots. I planted one simple row of them, and now they are everywhere: in the vegetable beds, among the groundcovers, even sprouting in the planters on the front porch, all the result of an unfortunate combination of sticky little burrlike seeds and an adventurous young cat who loved to romp through the garden. Well, there are worse weeds than forget-me-nots, and at least you will have something to pick in February and to keep in very small jars on the windowsill.

I do have one request. Please leave the spot between the wisteria and the camellias, under the eaves of the shed, untouched. If nothing has changed, you'll know the spot because it is covered with lambs' ear. I know it will be tempting, particularly since you'll probably have the sense to knock down that old shed and either expand the garden or pave over more of it, to make room for a modern, double-car garage. But I had to leave a pet behind in that spot, and I just can't bear the thought of her getting tilled up or paved over.

Leave her there, if you can – it is a peaceful quiet spot, and I'm sure you'll be glad you kept it just as it is.

Maybe it's a little crazy for me to write a letter like this. After all, we don't really own the land; we just occupy it. I moved onto this piece of land and knew immediately that someone had been there before me. The daffodil bulbs scattered along the fence, the ancient floribunda, the citrus trees all pointed to a long-ago gardener with ambitious plans. And once, digging in the garden, I found a piece of stone, chipped into a crude blade. Someone was here, crouched on a bare bluff overlooking the river, before the settlers arrived and colonized the rim of land around the bay. Land is the one thing that can't be moved. But if a cutting can be made, I will make it and bring a little seedling along with me, tucked between a lamp and a toolbox in the backseat. Like a chain letter, I will take a plant from this garden and the next and the one after that, and so on, until someday I am an old woman nurturing along a patchwork quilt of a garden, with cuttings and scraps from every garden I tended before.

I hope I have left the garden in better condition than it was when I arrived. It may be weedy and unkempt when you find it, but just wait. I'm sure the cosmos, and the yarrow will hold its own against the oxalis, and somewhere in the wilderness, in the gentle tangle, the butterflies and the bees will return, as they have for years. Wishing you luck and patience and plenty of sun.

From the book *From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden* by Amy Stewart. Copyright 2001 by Amy Stewart. Published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

Editor's Corner

I can feel that Autumn is just around the corner as temperatures begin to cool off a bit. It's a nice change from the heat and humidity we had all summer. Some of my annuals look tired from the harsh summer, the colors of the leaves are beginning to turn, and the crickets sing all day and all night long reminding me that summer is at its end. I'm look-

ing forward to planting some pansies, chrysanthemums and kale, and the aroma of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, and all those things that remind me of Autumn. I'm ready to begin the cleanup of my gardens and welcome Autumn!

Sylvia

GARDENERS' CALENDAR

September 2011

- 3-4 **L.I. Dahlia Society Dahlia Show**, Carriage House Lower Level, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Hwy., Great River. For more information visit www.longislanddahlia.com.
- 9 **L.I. Rose Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm - Succession Gardening presented by Barbara Levine, Plainview/Old Bethpage Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY. For further information go to www.longislandroses.org or contact Mary Jane Lee at 516-627-6382.
- 10 **Hope Goddard Iselin Preserve**, 2 pm. Learn about the joys and challenges of managing a small field with Jane Jackson. To register and for directions please contact North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or andrea@northshorelandalliance.org.
- 12 **L.I. Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30pm - Woodland Scene presented by Hal Mahony, Main Greenhouse classroom, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. Call 516-922-9210 or visit www.longislandbonsai.org.
- 12 **Mid Island Dahlia Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm - How easy it is to participate in a dahlia show, 8pm - Staging your blooms for the show. Church of the Advent, 555 Advent St., Westbury. Free refreshments will be served. Call 516-791-6894 or visit midislanddahlia.com for details.
- 17 **Hempstead Plains**, Nassau Community College, Garden City, 10:00am. Explore the flora and fauna of the legendary Hempstead Plains. Betsy Gulotta, Conservation Project Manager of Friends of Hempstead Plains, will lead this walk through this magnificent site that remains from what was at one time 40,000 acres of grassland across Nassau County. To register and for directions contact North Shore Land Alliance at 516-626-0908 or andrea@northshorelandalliance.org.
- 17-18 **Mid Island Dahlia Society's Dahlia Show**, Saturday, 1-5pm; Sunday, noon-5pm. Burns Horticultural Center, Planting Fields Arboretum, Planting Fields, Rd., Oyster Bay, NY. For more information visit www.midislanddahlia.com.
- 18 **American Rhododendron Society Monthly Meeting**, 2pm. Speaker, Jackson McCarter. Main Greenhouse, Planting Fields Arboretum, Planting Fields, Rd., Oyster Bay. For more information visit www.nyrhododendron.org.
- 18 **"Migrating Birds"**, Muttontown Preserve, 8:30-11:30am. Guided walk through the heavily wooded former estate of Albania's King Zog, Mutton Lane, East Norwich, \$5 fee. Call 516-571-8500 for registration.
- 18 **Fall Garden Celebration**, 9am-2pm. Free lectures, plant sale. SUNY Farmingdale State College. Free admission. For more information visit www.farmingdale.edu/horticulture or call 631-420-2075 or 631-420-2113.
- 22 **L.I. Dahlia Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm, Carriage House, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Hwy., Great River. For more information visit www.longislanddahlia.com.
- 22-25 **It's A Fair Day, A Petite Standard Flower Show**, Long Island Fair, Old Bethpage Village Restoration, 1303 Round Swamp Rd., Old Bethpage. For more information call the Flower Show Committee Chairman, Barbara Aiello at 631-283-5228.

October 2011

- 1-2 **L.I. Dahlia Society Fall Dahlia Show & Photo Contest**, Carriage House Lower Level, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Hwy., Great River. For more information visit www.longislanddahlia.com.
- 3 **Mid Island Dahlia Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm. - How to store dahlias over winter, 8pm - Making winning dahlia arrangements. Church of the Advent, 555 Advent St., Westbury. Call 516-791-6894 or visit midislanddahlia.com.
- 9-10 **Mid Island Dahlia Society Dahlia Show**, Sun 1-5pm; Mon 12-5pm. Burns Horticultural Center, Planting Fields Arboretum, Planting Fields, Rd., Oyster Bay, NY. For more information visit www.midislanddahlia.com.
- 14 **L.I. Rose Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm. Plainview/Old Bethpage Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY. For further information go to www.longislandroses.org or contact Mary Jane Lee at 516-627-6382.
- 16 **American Rhododendron Society Monthly Meeting**, 2pm. Speaker, Harold Sweetman. Main Greenhouse, Planting Fields Arboretum, Planting Fields, Rd., Oyster Bay. For more information visit www.nyrhododendron.org.
- 17 **L.I. Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30pm - Pines presented by Jack Sustic. Main Greenhouse classroom, Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. Call 516-922-9210 or visit www.longislandbonsai.org.
- 17 **L.I. Cactus & Succulent Society Monthly Meeting**, 7:30pm. Kellenberg Memorial High School, 1400 Glenn Curtis Blvd., Uniondale, NY. For more information visit www.
- 20 **L.I. Dahlia Society Monthly Meeting**, 7pm. Carriage House, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, 440 Montauk Hwy., Great River. For more information visit www.longislanddahlia.com.

Fall Lecture Series at Martin Viette Nurseries: Saturdays, 11am. Free informative lectures held rain or shine under the big green tent at Martin Viette Nurseries, 6050 Northern Blvd., East Norwich. To reserve a spot please call 516-922-5530.

October 1 - Fall Landscaping for LI Gardeners

October 15 - Bedding the Landscape for Winter

*Local plant societies and public gardens are invited to send information on upcoming events and programs of horticultural interest to the Gazette's newsletter editor, Sylvia Cordero-Skidmore, at least two months in advance.
Contact info: newsletter@lihort.org or 25 Greenvale Lane, Levittown, NY 11756. (No phone calls please.)*



www.lihort.org

Send \$25/calendar year dues & address corrections to:
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9 Ryan Street, Syosset, NY 11791
Phone: 516-496-7011
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🌸 *LIHS is now on FACEBOOK!* 🌸

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President's Message

Where do the summers go? It seems like I planted a whole bunch of annuals a couple of days ago. I am not ready for the snow and ice. My friend Norma tells me that the best place to live is Costa Rica. The temperature rarely goes over 90 degrees and under 50. I don't think the term annuals pertains to this country.

I would like to mention that the meeting has been changed from September 18th to the 25th. The **North American Rock Garden Society** will be joining us at the next meeting, so please try to make them feel welcome. We will be combining raffles so bring a lot of money for raffle tickets.

On a sad note, **Bob Weshler's** wife Edie has passed

away. All of our prayers go out to Bob who is a wonderful husband and father and is an adored member of our society. I know that she passed away peacefully with all the support and comfort Bob had given to her.

Our first speaker will be **Judy Werber**, who replaces John Capobinaco. She will share a small part of her garden life with you in what she calls 'September Song'. Judy is a member of our society and very active in garden design. Our second speaker will be **Todd Forrest**, who is Vice President of Horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden. I hope all of you can make it to our next meeting with these wonderful speakers.

See you in September!

Bruce

LIHS has joined The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College as an organization for the 2011 year. If LIHS members are traveling in the Philadelphia area, you may want to visit the arboretum. It's a wonderful place. ~ *Anne Mehlinger*

Members receive a 10% discount at Main Street Nursery, 475 W. Main St., Huntington (631-549-4515) and at Oakwood Road Nursery Ltd., Huntington (631-673-0555). Just show your LIHS membership card.



Remember to bring can tabs. The collection box can be found by the entry at every meeting!

The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes