



Heather Notes

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Northeast Heather Society

Winter Meeting Capsule

Happenings at the Winter Meeting

102 members paid up
 \$2084.78 balance in treasury
 Northeast to resume publishing its own newsletter
 Spring meeting to be held on June 2, 1991 at the Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, MA to be followed by visiting the gardens of Geoffrey Charlesworth and Norman Singer in nearby Sandisfield
 Annual meeting will be held on Aug. 10 and 11 in NJ
 Cutting exchange proposed and established
 Photos and slides sought for society's collection

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Annual Boston Flower Show Heralds Spring

by KATE HERRICK

Spring has arrived, so the calendar says, in the cold, wet fashion that is typical here in New England. However, a day like today with the temps in the 70's and a crystal blue sky really gets everyone's metabolism running high. After spending 14 days of high energy time (including set-up) on the New England Flower Show, I would not mind a "back to the hearth" attitude that a rainy and cold day could bring.

This year's show was the best one yet. This attitude was shared by all I spoke to. As was the situation last year, Rock Spray Nursery had a booth in the sales area. We got a call one week before the show asking if we would like to double our space. Yes! was the reply. Last year many people walked on by us. This year we made an effort to attract the public's attention. We had posters made from pictures of heather gardens and we put together over a dozen planters which contained miniature heather gardens. These terra-cotta pots of all shapes and sizes were planted to show the many different foliage colors and habits of both Calluna and Erica. To achieve a little height, some small and/or dwarf conifers were included in the pots and Allen Haskell's nursery in New Bedford, MA had an ample supply for me to pick from. All of the heather used came from our own unheated cold frames.

We had to constantly restock the shelves with saleable stock. People who had skeptically bought a few plants last year returned this year with great enthusiasm to buy more. These are new heather gardeners who are hooked and want to expand their collections as well as their knowledge. Both the NEHS and NAHS

should get new members since we gave out over 250 membership applications.

The landscaped areas of the show were fantastic. The theme was "A New England Sampler". Huge murals of a rocky coastline covered the wall. The painted ocean with its breaking waves seemed to be crashing on a sandy beach created with tons of sand and many indigenous plants like Rosa Rugosa, Myrica and Arctostaphylos. It was surprising to see a few clumps of Corema tomentosum (beach heather) included in the display. The beach setting flowed into a working cranberry bog with more native ericaceous plants. Small cottages typical of the east coast and the islands were depicted next and then the setting became that of a village or town center. Very formal gardens with perfectly cut bluestone, topiary in fine pots, perfect roses and fountains led to a woodland with magical wild flowers in a more

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Will Says "I Will"

Will Clarke of North Falmouth, MA has accepted the position of Vice President of the NEHS to fill the unexpired term of Kay La Blanc who resigned because of health reasons.

Clarke's first experience with heathers was in 1983 when he planted a single Erica carnea 'Winter Beauty' at the top of an eroding bank. "It did so well that I added two more" he said. In 1988, while taking a Master Gardener training course he met Harry Bowen who gave him his first Calluna. He soon became a heather devotee and fulltime landscaper.

From your Editor

Welcome to the reemergence of a Northeast Heather Society newsletter after more than a year's hiatus. Before I accepted the position of editor, I asked for a job description. Beyond collecting material from members, supplying meeting information, writing a piece now and then and attending Board meetings, no one could add any other tasks. I accepted the position feeling that I could do a good job and had much to contribute to the Society. Little did I know of the turmoil the job would entail as our newsletter went into hibernation and I was unable to supply "insert" meeting information to the Heather News editor, cope with changed deadlines, or deal with voluminous correspondence about Heather News, NAHS and NEHS.

Hopefully, you will find this quarterly communication to be helpful and informative. It will only be as comprehensive as the contributions supplied by the members of the society. In order to put out a newsletter, I must be able to edit four times a year. I will be learning as much as doing as I master newsletter design and layout skills and work with one computer program before switching to a new Macintosh computer and the Pagemaker publishing program later this year.

Please send me your comments on style and design as well as what features you like and dislike so that this newsletter can evolve into a publication we can all be proud of.

From Your President

The winter meeting held at the Arnold Arboretum's Case Estates in February was a productive one. We had the trial run of incorporating our news with Heather News and it did not work as well as we expected. Susan Fischler has taken on the responsibility of producing our new newsletter. We hope you like the name "Heather Notes" which she came up with when starting to put together the layout for this edition. Chores that become a burden are no longer fun or rewarding so let's all give support to Susan and send her your gardening experiences so you can share them with other members.

Will Clarke from Falmouth, MA has accepted the office of president following Kay LaBlanc's resignation. Will is a plantsman who is new to heathers but as a working gardener and friend of the MacKinnons, it's just a matter of time...

The Cutting Exchange will be a great way for all of us to expand our collection of heather. Propagation by cuttings is a very rewarding and natural facet of gardening so send your want or need list to Susan to be listed in upcoming Heather Notes. I hope that this program will entice many members to start rooting some cuttings which can be brought to the plant sales held at all meetings during the growing season. The exchange will be a great way to share plants and experiences with those members who live too far away to attend meetings.

The Spring meeting has been arranged by Shirley Reddington. She knows many people at the Berkshire Botanical Garden and there is a good possibility that we can sponsor a heather garden on their grounds. Those of you who have read Geoffrey Charlesworth's book The Opinionated Gardener, will have a little background about the gardens we will tour at Geoffrey and Norman Singer's home. To reduce the quantity of cars going there, we should car pool and as a courtesy to anyone opening their garden gate to us, plan to use bathroom facilities before arriving.

Heather Notes

Editor

Susan Fischler
180 Everett Pl.
Englewood, NJ 07631

Contributors for this Issue

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Judy Anmahian..... | 23 Tispaquin St. Middleboro, MA 02346 |
| Harry Bowen..... | 30 Chase Rd. Falmouth, MA 02540 |
| Joyce Descloux..... | 32 Longridge Rd. Randolph, NJ 07869 |
| Kate Herrick..... | P. O. Box 693 Truro, MA 02666 |
| Shirley Reddington..... | 1169 Mohawk Rd. Schenectady, NY 12309 |
| Greta Waterman..... | 6 Roland Kimball Freeport, ME 04032 |
| Walter Wornick..... | P. O. Box 101 Airstead, NH 03602 |

Heather Notes is published quarterly. Submit all manuscripts to the editor by the deadlines which are as follows:

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Summer..... | June 15 |
| Fall..... | Sept. 15 |
| Winter..... | Dec. 15 |
| Spring..... | March 15 |

Seeing the Forrest for the Trees

by JUDY ANMAHIAN

One of the greatest pleasures of this 1990-91 winter has been the heather garden - unshrouded - in all its radiant color. On many brief forays to the compost bin or runs to the mailbox I've just stopped in my tracks to admire it, circled it to be amazed by the blazing reds of the south side and stood back to enjoy its tapestry. My "little corner of Scotland" is also an oasis of color in the gray New England landscape of winter, not rivaling its midsummer bloom but, I've decided, excelling it.

In credit for this discovery, I thank George MacKinnon to whom I was once moaning about winter cover for the heather garden and some losses despite it. "Stop fussing over it," he advised. "If you can't enjoy a plant, what good is it?" he posited.

A dangerous idea, I thought, and one that flies in the face of everything I'd read about winter treatment, but coming from a respected, experienced plantsman, one not to be ignored. I hesitantly entered the MacKinnon school of thought in the 89-90 winter, using covering for only a few most treasured cultivars: *Calluna vulgaris* 'Mousehole', 'Mrs Pat', 'Robert Chapman' and the hapless ericas who want to die on me anyway: *E. cinerea* 'C.D. Eason', *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk' and *E. x Williamsii*. One 'Mousehole' succumbed despite the covering as did one *E. carnea* 'Springwood Pink' without; the ericas continued their march toward death whether I helped them or not.

More to the point, though, is that for the first time, nearly the whole garden was visible through the winter. I watched and marvelled as *C. v.* 'Blazeaway' turned from gold through orange to red and back again. I ran my hand over the shimmering silver-purple branches of *C. v.* 'Bronze Beauty' (a.k.a. 'Black Beauty') and said "Hey! those are frozen blossoms!" *C. v.* 'Darleyensis' was stunning, transformed to black lace against the clear green of *C. v.* 'Martha Hermann'. I finally saw the forest for the trees.

This winter the garden went entirely without cover. It seems to be standing up well and I'm pleased to be rid of the

desiccated Christmas tree branches which lend nothing to neatness and which look by March like a jumble of dead brush. I expect some losses but they are acceptable.

I hasten to add that Mr. MacKinnon's advice wasn't meant to be cultural but that of gardening philosophy, and it opened my eyes. Okay, I may spend my twilight years trying to make a microclimate for *Daboecia cantabrica*, but for now my new motto is "If you can't stand the winter, get out of my garden!"

Thanks, Mac, for teaching me that one's own experience is often better than all the books one reads.

Spring Maintenance

by GRETA WATERMAN

Spring care of heaths and heathers is very important. If the plants have been covered with winter protection, they should be uncovered from early to mid-April. In windy or open areas, it is best to wait until the later time to pull back the covering from the majority of the plants. Regardless of timing, all plants will need a few days to adapt to changes in exposure. If pine needles were used, they should be tucked around the base of the plants to help keep down weeds and increase moisture retention.

Pruning is crucial to the health and appearance of heaths and heathers and beneficial to heaths if the plants are crowded or have dead wood. Heathers need an annual pruning although some people prefer to do this chore in the late fall. If pruning in the spring, do it promptly as heathers form this year's blossoms on new growth. The plant should be cut back to below last year's old blossom heads. Shape each plant being sure to leave some green foliage and if plants have grown together, trim around each one to open spaces between them. This practice will ensure air circulation and cut down on fungus problems. Dead wood on heaths should be removed and the plants shaped at the same time. It is important to do the pruning of spring-blooming heaths after

Spring Meeting Set

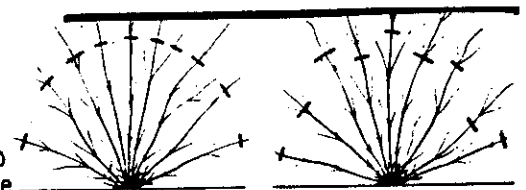
The Spring meeting of the North East Heather Society will be held at the Berkshire Botanical Garden (formerly the Berkshire Garden Center) in Stockbridge, MA on Sunday, June 2, 1991 at 10:00 a.m.

Following a membership meeting will be a tour of the garden and lunch. As usual, you must bring your own lunch and we will have a coffee urn set up with hot water for instant coffee, tea and cocoa. Any baked goods brought along to share would be appreciated.

Promptly at one o'clock we will have to leave in order to have enough time to visit the famous gardens of Geoffrey Charlesworth and Norman Singer located in Sandisfield, about 20 minutes away.

If you are coming from a long distance, you may wish to stay overnight in the southern Berkshires. The region has much to offer: Chesterwood for indoor and outdoor sculpture, the Norman Rockwell museum, good dining at the Red Lion Inn and, of course, Tanglewood. For a long list of motels, hotels, bed-and-breakfasts and restaurants contact The Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, 362 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

The Garden is located on Route 102, two miles west of Stockbridge center at the intersection of Routes 102 and 183. Their phone number is 413-298-3926.



Not like this . . . but like this

they bloom and before new growth begins. Heaths form next year's blossoms on this year's new growth.

Spring is an excellent time to add new heaths and heathers or to move crowded plants. Frequent watering is essential until plants have become established in their new sites. Using your finger to check for sufficient moisture can be done probing the soil next to a plant. It should feel damp to the touch.

Boston Flower Show

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relaxed mode. All were well maintained throughout the show period.

On the last weekend, plants that were in magnificent bud and bloom the first days had wilting flowers and were sprouting vigorous growth. Spring was over and summer was here.

The exhibitions staged by different plant societies were excellent. I had promised myself more time to view them this year. It wasn't until the last day that Betsy and I had time to visit the separate wing which held the flower arrangements and potted plants in the amateur commutations. I am quite sure that an Erica in heavy bloom and the appropriate pot could have walked away with a couple of ribbons. The only criteria for exhibition in the many categories is membership in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Contact them at 300 Mass Ave., Boston, MA 02115. Possibly a cutting rooted today could be a prize winner in 1992!

Did You Know That?

An article written by you might have appeared in this column. Your editor needs to have material to include in your newsletter.

Sharpen your pencils, refill your pens, get busy at your typewriter or computer set up and commit your words to paper. Produce rough drafts or final copy about your experiences with heath and heather and submit them for publication.

Artists out there have another skill needed for our newsletter. Drawings and sketches of heathers will greatly enhance our newsletter too. Take a moment to illustrate your favorite plant or its flower and send it along with a caption.

Propagating Heather From Cuttings

by HARRY E. BOWEN

Propagating cuttings of hardy shrubs can be a formidable challenge for the inexperienced home gardener. Yet, with heathers, large numbers of many varieties offer the best opportunity for a successful, attractive planting. Being able to propagate one's own stock from a small inventory of basic varieties represents a good approach to gardening satisfaction without undue expense. It also allows for enlarging one's inventory with gifted, bartered or "pinched" cuttings of rare and interesting varieties.

The following method, modified somewhat for my home use, is basically the one used by Edna and George Mackinnon for their commercial production at Waquoit Nurseries. It has proven to me to be simple, successful and not demanding of either time or supplies.

Material for cuttings can be collected any time from early September to late December. Ideally, it should be processed immediately but can be safely kept for several weeks if lightly dampened and stored in sealed plastic bags in the refrigerator.

Trays to contain the cuttings while they root are two inch deep wooden frames built with available scrap lumber. The bottom of each consists of 1/4" hardware cloth which is then covered with a single layer of newspaper before the rooting mix, an equal mixture of builders sand, peat moss and vermiculite, is added. This ratio provides a firm medium which will support the cuttings while allowing for easy penetration of the young roots, good moisture retention and aeration.

Once the rooting trays are ready and the mix thoroughly moistened, the cuttings can be prepared. They should come from the growth of the current year and be 1 1/2" to 2" long (shorter ones don't do well). Strip the foliage from the lower two thirds with the fingers, not the fingernails, dip the stems in dry rooting hormone ("Rootone" powder containing 0.3% growth-regulating substances) and shake lightly. Using an eight penny nail, make a hole in the rooting mix, insert the

cuttings up to their foliage, firm in lightly with the fingers and water gently to wash the rooting mixture snugly around the cuttings.

The finished tray is placed firmly on the soil in my solar pit greenhouse. Excess water drains readily while the soil contact beneath the wire/paper bottom inhibits drying. A double thickness of fiberglass window screening protects the cuttings from full sun.

The greenhouse, heated only by the sun, never freezes. With the weak winter sun, cuttings lie dormant for weeks neither rooting nor showing growth of foliage. Watering is done only when the soil surface begins to feel dry to the touch - once every week or two, more frequently as the weather warms. The most critical issue in the greenhouse is to provide for adequate ventilation, cool temperatures and low humidity to prevent dampening off. This is accomplished by opening the door daily throughout the winter except on the most bleak and dark days. Chilling will not harm the cuttings but a still, hot, moist environment is an invitation to fungal attack. So far it has not been necessary for me to use fungicides.

As the sun climbs, usually by mid-March, a spurt of new green will appear. A gentle tug on a cutting will reveal the resistance of tender new rootlets. By late May the cuttings are large enough to be potted up and moved outdoors. Equal parts of garden soil, peat moss and builders sand make an acceptable potting mix and three or four inch plastic pots work well for the cuttings. Care should be taken to harden the transplants off for several days before placing in the full sun. They must also be watered faithfully since small pots in the sun dry quickly and the new roots will not tolerate drying.

Growth of these potted plants is rapid, usually fast enough to allow planting in my Cape Cod garden by September. Thus the cycle, garden to garden, is completed

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Propagating

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within one year. While I do not fertilize heathers in the garden, the growth of the youngsters can be considerably encouraged by light feedings. Two of these using dilute Miracid, the first one month after potting and the second a month later, work quite well.

My success with this propagating program approaches 100% with most of the Callunas, Ericas, Bruckenthalia and Daboecia. Difficulty is encountered only with certain gray strains of Calluna vulgaris such as 'Silver Queen' and 'White Knight' where the success rate is often as low as 60%. No ready explanation comes to mind. These cuttings show no evidence of fungal infection. They simply fail to root, eventually drying up, turning brown and dying.

Although my method uses a solar greenhouse simply because it is available, rooting cuttings in a protected situation would probably be equally successful.

Many commercial growers use unheated greenhouses where cuttings are subjected to freezing and thawing throughout the winter. This does not seem to interfere with rooting. Any device such as the Nearing Frame, originally designed for rooting rhododendrons, should work well. The Nearing Frame consists of a sunken coldframe, covered with glass and protected from the sun by a three-sided lean-to with the open side facing due north. I plan to try just such a device this fall and will report on it at a later date.

Propagating can be a straightforward and gratifying procedure. So get busy heather gardeners. Gather your cuttings where you may and multiply to your hearts content.

Rooting Heath and Heather

by JOYCE DESCLOUX

I have been asked to write about my methods of rooting heather and heather cuttings. Actually, I don't do much of this myself, preferring to layer plants I want more of. I find it much quicker, more reliable and easier: just peg down a branch with a stone. Sometimes I rub the bottom of the branch with the stone to abrade it lightly to ensure quick rooting. Wrapping it with long-fibered sphagnum moss also speeds the process and gives the roots both nutrients and fungus protection. Lacking that, just make sure the soil is peaty and damp, moist but not wet.

Another reason I don't bother much with cuttings is that so often when I have gone to all the trouble of preparing them and filling trays, they all mold anyway. I have had some success with sticking them directly in the soil on the shady north side of larger callunas or dwarf evergreens (especially pines). If done in early fall, the cuttings, covered by leaves over winter root and make good growth in the spring. However, many of them fail to survive the heat and humidity of our summers. They either dry out or succumb to botritis which is endemic here. I find early spring and early fall the best time to make cuttings or layerings. Both need two to three months of the cool moderate weather we get then to establish. I use lots of mulch, which prevents frost heave and drying out in winter or summer.

This winter I did take some cuttings of a variegated calluna, 'Naturepark', in January by simply pinching off ends, about an inch, with my thumb and finger. I stuck these in a small plastic container into which I had stuffed some unmilled sphagnum moss and then filled with vermiculite. I put the container into a quart-sized ziploc bag and stood it vertically in a window where it gets good north light and could be kept at a temperature of 55-65 degrees. The cuttings appear to have rooted and are putting out new growth. However, I haven't opened the bag to check on this as that might change the atmosphere, introduce toxins or otherwise cause them to fail.

My sister, Margaret Johnson has had good success with the cuttings I gave her. When I visited her in Charlotte, NC at the end of February, she had several callunas growing well on the sunny south side of her residence. A plant of Erica carnea 'Furzey' was in bloom. The winters there are ideal for heathers, no ground freeze and lots of cool rainy weather. But summers are six months long with temperatures often 95 degrees or above. The spot where she had planted them, a narrow strip between an asphalt driveway and a south-facing brick facade, was especially hot. They couldn't have looked happier! Margie said she had worked lots of peat into the red clay soil and that they were kept well-mulched with pine straw, the foot-long needles of the longleaf pine, and watered almost every day if it didn't rain. The bed was also sloped for good drainage.

I asked her how she did cuttings and she said she made "greenhouses" out of two liter soda bottles by cutting them in half, sticking cuttings in the bottom part and then replacing the tops to keep the atmosphere moist. She uses a mix of one part each peat moss, vermiculite and sterilized potting soil. She kept the cuttings in the shade on her second floor balcony during the winter and they were well-rooted by spring when she set them in the ground. She lost some but many survived transplanting. They were still small but growing well and made a nice groundcover with pink Phlox subulata, early-blooming dwarf bulbs and evergreen liriope.

As a precaution, I would like to warn you of spirotrichosis, a serious fungal disease sometimes carried in sphagnum moss. I could not garden without sphagnum but I sterilize it first by putting it, slightly dampened, into a large Reynolds Bake-in bag and heating in an oven at 300 degrees for one hour to kill any fungus spores. I have found that this also destroys any insect or snail eggs and other diseases which it might harbor. The moss can be kept in the bag afterwards and used as needed. I do not recommend using a microwave oven for this as it might not heat the core of the contents sufficiently.

Highlights of Three Eastern Flower Shows

by WALTER WORNICK

For some reason, all of the major flower shows in the northeast are held at approximately the same time which makes it difficult to get to see all of them without some careful planning. Somehow, I managed and what follows are my impressions of each.

The New York Flower Show was held on a narrow pier at the foot of 52nd St. This pier, which is owned by the City of New York, is not at all conducive to having large garden displays. I saw no heather at this show, not even any dried heaths in the sales area or dried false heather either. There was a very fine display of dwarf conifers that would be suitable companion plants in a heather garden and for me, they were the high point of that show.

The Philadelphia Show is supposed to be the largest in area and also by attendance and I was fortunate to be able to park about 20 blocks from the show site. The show included many massive gardens. One even included a driveway with a car! Penn. State University called their display "Seasonal Awakening" and they included some *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' in it. It was certainly an apt use of plant material. Frank's, a large chain of garden centers, had some *E. carnea* 'Mediterranean', a pink bloom I didn't know, in the concession area. Of course, there were also the usual bunches of sprayed heath and false heather for sale.

The competition gardens continue to be extensive and a learning experience. Although not everyone would want a sprouting dolphin topiary in their home garden, it is always a interesting to see what others dream up.

This is the first year that I felt that the Boston Flower Show was the best in the East. Although it was less extensive than Philadelphia, it consistently made good use of various sized gardens. I attended towards the end of the run and the plant materials were still fresh and had been regularly maintained or replaced.

There were many references to heather

at the show. A beach scene showed *Hudsonia tomentosa* called Beach Heather. Another exhibit contained *Cuphea hyssopifolia*, referred to as False Heather and used in warm climates such as Florida. In addition to Rockspray Nursery's terracotta pots of 'Springwood White', I also saw some *E. carnea* in the MFGA exhibit. The central water garden had some *C. vulgaris* 'County Wicklow' and Mahoney's Garden Center showed some of that *E. carnea* 'Mediterranean' that I had seen in Philadelphia.

Kate Herrick had a double sized booth in the sales area and she gave out numerous NEHS and NAHS applications and a constant stream of information on our favorite plants. I expect that we will be getting many new members due to her efforts.

Tower Hill Plant Sale

The Tower Hill Botanic Garden's plant sale will be held on June 1, 1991 in Boylston, MA and we have been asked to participate along with several other plant societies. The sale of heather will benefit both NEHS and Tower Hill and we will have an opportunity to share information about growing heather with those who may not, as yet, have caught the bug. It is also a good opportunity to distribute society membership information.

Tower Hill is located two miles from the intersections of Routes 140 and 70 on northbound Route 70. A white sign marks the garden's road and we would welcome assistance from any member who can stop by.

Tower Hill is a member of NEHS and the gardens contain many areas of interest. They have a newly planted conifer and shrub section with a brick walkway.

The Cutting Exchange

As a way to increase the types and numbers of cultivars grown by our members, President Kate Herrick proposed a "cutting exchange" at the winter meeting of the Society held on February 16, 1991 at the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum. Following much discussion, it was decided that members should send lists of "wants" and "haves" to Susan Fischler, 180 Everett Place, Englewood, NJ 07631 who will organize the information for inclusion in the newsletter. Readers will be able to contact prospective recipients or donors to arrange for exchanges and determine postage costs and solve timing problems.

Using a plant that Kate had brought to the meeting, George MacKinnon demonstrated a method he uses to prepare cuttings for mailing. Mac said that the method is so easy that his sister-in-law uses it to send him cuttings from England. Stems of plant material were cut about 6" long and the bottom 1" was wrapped with a small piece of wet paper towel secured with a rubber band. Cuttings were next enclosed in a zip-lock plastic bag before being inserted into a mailing envelope. After-care instructions can be found in

Harry Bowen's article on page 4 and Jo Descloux's on page 5.

To get us started, here is a list of plant cuttings wanted by Susan. She can offer stock from almost 250 cultivars in return.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <u>C. vulgaris</u> | <u>E. carnea</u> | <u>E. cinerea</u> |
| Crimson Glory | Adrienne | Cairn |
| Dixon's Blazes | Duncan | Valley |
| Glencoe | | Contrast |
| Ingrid Bouter | <u>E. vagans</u> | Josephine |
| Rubrifolia | Fiddlestone | Ross |
| | | Joseph |
| Murphy | | Pentreath |
| | | Sherry |
| <u>D. cantabrica</u> | <u>D. x scotica</u> | |
| Bicolor | Corra | |

If you have any of these plants and can supply cuttings, let Susan know. She would also appreciate it if you know who has any of them for sale.

Check over your "want lists" and start sending them in! Make sure to include your complete mailing address and don't forget to mention what you might have to offer to someone else.

Book Services Still Available For Society Members

One of the services the NEHS offers to its members is the opportunity to purchase books about heather. For the past several years, Walter Wornick has been able to obtain new and used editions of several titles from an English bookseller. Many of them are out of print and some are considered classics. Walter generally carts his book box of goodies to our meetings but for those of you who haven't been to one lately, he will gladly ship a book to you.

The present inventory consists of single copies of each title listed below and Walter will fill orders sent to him at P. O. Box 101, Alstead, NH 03602 as they are received. Checks should be made payable to NEHS and include an additional \$1.50 postage for each book. If the book you want has already been sold, Walter will try to locate another copy for you. Titles currently available include:

The Hardy Heaths, Johnson, 1928 ed, \$15.00; 1956 ed, \$13.00; The English Heather Garden, Maxwell & Patrick, 1956 ed, \$14.00; British Garden Club ed., \$12.00; Introducing Hardy Heaths & The Heather Garden, Letts, 1966 ed, \$11.00.

Remember These Dates

June 1.....Tower Hill Sale
June 2.....Spring Meeting
June 15.....Heather Notes
.....Deadline
Aug. 10-11.....Summer Meeting
Sept. 15.....Heather Notes
.....Deadline
Oct. 26?.....Fall Meeting
Dec. 15.....Heather Notes
.....Deadline

Copies of the British Heather Society's three cultural leaflets are available for \$2.50 per set plus \$.52 postage.

Terry L. Underhill's book Heaths and Heathers has just been issued in a revised edition. Although it retails for \$45.00, we will be able to offer it to our members at \$30.00 plus shipping if there is enough interest in the book. We must have a minimum of five orders to make it available at that price. Notify Walter if you are interested in this.

Membership Status Needs Checking

Check your mailing label to determine the status of your membership. Unless '91 or a later year appears, your dues are past due and you will be unable to receive Heather Notes. The renewal rate is five dollars per year and we are grateful to those people who renew at that rate for a longer time period. Kenneth Proudfoot of Goulds, Newfoundland, Canada recently renewed his membership for ten years and Mrs. K. R. Mahony of Portsmouth, N.H., a new member, joined for four years.

You can also help us strengthen our organization. We have had new membership applications printed and you can help by distributing them to some of your friends or fellow garden club associates. A supply of the forms are available at every society meeting or they can be gotten from Shirley Reddington, 1169 Mohawk Rd., Schenectady, NY 12309.

Summer Meeting Planned for August

The NEHS Annual Meeting is planned for the weekend of August 10-11, 1991 at the Skylands Botanic Garden located in New Jersey's Ringwood State Park. This 4,318 acre facility is located on the border of New Jersey and New York. We plan to stay overnight in the Ringwood area and are in the process of making arrangements for reduced rates at a local AAA rated three diamond motel. The cost for lodging is expected to be about \$50 for one, two, three or four person occupancy and the motel will accept "friendly" dogs.

Following Saturday evening's dinner, program and motel stay, we will spend Sunday visiting the garden of Joyce Descloix, which has been featured in Fine Gardening magazine, as well as several others in the area.

Advance reservation fees of \$25 per person will include refreshments both days in addition to the Saturday evening dinner and meeting costs. It would be very helpful if you would register early with Walter Wornick. He needs to know how many of you expect to attend, how many rooms you will need and whether you will have dinner with us. His address: P.O. Box 101, Alstead, NH 03602. This information will help us to negotiate a good deal with both the motel and restaurant.

We try to hold our annual meetings at different locations in the northeast so that more of our members can have the opportunity to attend. If you have a suggestion for a meeting sight, please include it as well in your note to Walter.

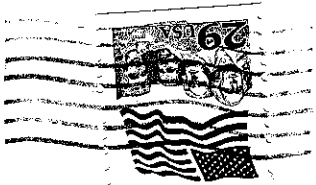
Thanks Due to Walter

by Susan Fischler

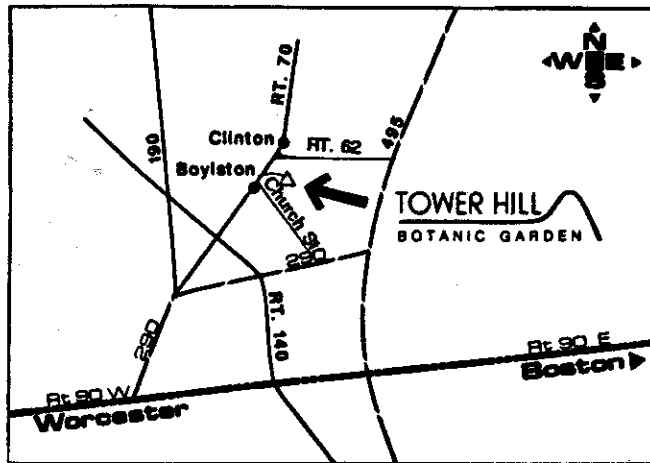
Most of the items on this page were written from information supplied by Walter Wornick (his name appears at least four times). If you are hesitant to write a complete article, supply your editor with some facts and she will produce the copy for you. Material doesn't even have to be typed. Legible handwriting will due.

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Northeast Heather Society
P. O. Box 101
Alstead, NH 03602



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