

Heather Notes

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Northeast Heather Society

Spring Meeting Capsule

Happenings at the Spring Meeting

- 160 members paid up
- \$2457.02 balance in treasury
- Annual meeting will be held on Aug. 10 and 11 in NJ
- Photos and slides sought for society's collection
- Parkshire Botanical Garden to host small heather display
- Longwood Gardens suggested as future meeting site
- Smith College offered as site for next spring meeting

INSIDE

- Correspondence.....pg. 3
- Garden Views.....pg. 4,5
- Fungus.....pg. 6
- Pruning Redux.....pg. 6
- Lucky Heather.....pg. 7

Annual Meeting Set for New Jersey

The annual meeting of the Northeast Heather Society will begin on Saturday, August 10, 1991 at 11 a.m. with a brief business meeting and a brown bag lunch at the Skylands Botanic Garden in Ringwood, N.J. Following a program on flower and foliage color in heathers, we will be able to tour the manor house and gardens. Built and landscaped in the 1920's as a summer residence by Clarence Mackenzie Lewis, the property is now owned by the state of New Jersey. Mr. Lewis' main hobby was horticulture and he collected plants from all over the world. There are magnolia lined walks, a pinetum, terraced areas, vistas and, of course, a heather garden.

The registration fee for the annual meeting is based on a two tier system. A \$25 per person charge covers all meetings, refreshments and the major dinner. A \$10 fee covers meetings and refreshments but no dinner. Advance registrations must be made as soon as possible with Walter Wornick so that we will know how many people to plan for. Print your name, address, telephone number and number of persons coming on a piece of paper and mail along with a check for the appropriate amount made payable to NEHS to Walter, P. O. Box 101, Alstead, N. H. 03602.

The Saturday evening segment at the Ramada Inn includes a wine and cheese gathering, a buffet dinner and a featured speaker. The Ramada is a three diamond AAA rated facility located at 180 Route 17 South, Mahwah, N. J. 07430 and their telephone number is 201-529-5880. It is two miles south of I - 87, exit 15. We

have been offered a special group rate good for Friday, Saturday and Sunday which is \$49, plus tax for a single or double room with one or two beds. Mention the Heather Society to get that rate when you make your reservations for lodging. An indoor pool and health club are available for hotel guests and friendly dogs are welcomed.

The Sunday schedule is as follows: Meet at the Descloux residence at 10 a. m. where a light brunch will be served. Then, we will tour this garden and a neighbor's woodland garden. Two more interesting private gardens will be visited and time will be available to visit the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, or other nearby gardens.

A cookout will be held in the late afternoon at home of Murray and Roxanne Turoff, members who are developing a series of interesting gardens at their lakefront property. Murray is a heather and sedum enthusiast. Roxanne likes perennials, wildflowers and shrubs, and she is making a bog garden. Murray is actually gardening with water plants in a fenced off area at the edge of the lake.

We plan to have a plant sale in conjunction with the cookout. We are asking that each registrant bring from 6 to 12 plants (and hopefully buy the same number) to offset the cost of the food. Please bring tagged plants that are in good condition.

continued on pg. 5, col. 1

From your Editor

"I have to write an editorial for the newsletter" I told Anne, my friend and advisor in all things journalistic. "Why?" she said. "What is your position?" "Prone" was my response and we had a laugh over it because that has been my usual position for the past six months as I have had to cope with a series of debilitating illnesses, none of which were life threatening, but all of which left me with absolutely no energy to do anything more than the basics.

Instead of the every Spring weekend trip to Cape Cod, I managed only three and was in bed there for two out of the three. Gardening chores were not done this year except for the sit down pruning of the heather and that was probably a good thing. It kept me out of the way of ticks and a possible bout with Lyme Disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Cape Cod is a mecca for the deer tick host and two of my friends there have been infected this spring as have two of Kate's dogs. I also am thankful not to have been exposed to that nasty fungus Shirley reported on in this issue.

My down time produced this interesting thought: I had been stuck, poked, prodded, cultured, medicated and x-rayed to no avail. Do our plants actually enjoy or benefit from all the attention they receive?

Getting this newsletter out has been a slow process as I tried to fit its publication into small blocks of time. I'm still working with the Apple because I am familiar with it. My new Macintosh arrived two weeks ago. It has been unpacked and plugged in, but I am not ready to start mastering a new set up and program for this issue. My plans for future issues include using a scanner for visuals and laser printing.

From Your President

I am sorry that I could not attend the Spring meeting held at the Berkshire Botanical Garden. We brought one of our Newfoundlands back from a seven day stay in the intensive care facility at Angel Memorial, a specialized animal hospital located in Boston. The dog was treated for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease, serious (and sometimes fatal) diseases carried by ticks. Any of us who spend time outside in the garden or who have pets which might pick up ticks and bring them inside must be very careful about daily tick inspections.

The Tower Hill Plant Sale which was held the day before the meeting was a great success. About 500 three and a half inch pots were sold during the five hour sale. Last year we sold about half that amount. Although Rock Spray Nursery brought some hefty five and a half inch and one gallon pots of heather to sell, most people wanted a few or more cultivars in the small size to start or add to their heather gardens. This is the second year that NEHS has been asked to join other plant societies in promoting their favorite plants. Walter Wornick, Betsy Erickson and myself were very busy answering questions about cultural requirements and the like while handing out NEHS membership applications. Many NEHS members did come by our tables. It was nice to see you and I hope to see all of you again at the summer meeting in New Jersey.

Attracting new members is important to our growth as a strong society. Please let me or any of our board members know of events in your area like the Tower Hill sale, flower shows or summer fairs where heather can be promoted.

Shirley Redington did a fabulous job arranging the Spring Meeting. The Berkshire Botanic Garden staff is excited by the planned heather planting there which Shirley will be overseeing. Norman and Geoffrey's gardens are what I really missed. I am sure that their extensive gardens and hospitality were appreciated by all members who attended. Many members who do not regularly attend meetings attended this one. I don't know if it was the location, timing or the program that brought the new faces, but we will continue to search for interesting sites for future meetings.

The August meeting to be held in New Jersey will be our two day annual event. Walter has done most of the work for lodging and the Saturday evening meal and Joyce Descloux has made plans for us to visit gardens in her area.

Heather Notes

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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

Correspondence from Near and Far

Well as if I got you into this because you said "yes" when I was on the nominating committee. Forgive me!

When **Heather Notes** came today, I felt like singing "Hallelujah"; we've done it—thanks to Susan. I haven't studied the whole text yet, but I will.

Because my husband is into computers and "good copy" for periodicals, we might possibly suggest changes, but wait.

Note spelling of 'Redington' also the word desiccate comes from the Latin "siccus" meaning dry. Words derived from that root are as often as misspelled as spelled correctly so probably few people noticed. "Forest not 'forrest'.

Best regards to you and let me tell you again how happy I am with your **Heather Notes**.

Shirley Redington

Sorry about the error with your name. Spelling was my worst subject in school to this day I can't spell well. That's why I love a word processor. Unfortunately, their dictionaries are limited. Some words are missing and the publishing program I am using didn't have one built in to read headlines. Setting my computer for a faster response frequently produced multiple letters as well.

Just a quick note to let you know I very much enjoyed Volume 1 Number 1 of **Heather Notes**! Walter was thoughtful enough to send my copy via regular, rather than bulk, mail so we had the weekend to enjoy your new publication.

Our new Cascade chapter is off to a good start with 35 memberships to double our founding meeting in February. We don't plan to meet again until September, but I do hope to get some projects rolling and also to get our own newsletter started. I think it is very important to be able to share and hope we can encourage contributors as you have done.

I'll be interested to know how the cutting exchange goes. Good luck on your want
We did finally get a start of *E. carnea*

'Adrienne Duncan', so hope to be able to take some cuttings in the fall. Shall see. We still do not have any of the others on your wish list. If you do find them, let us know. We'll try too and possibly get some of them into the market place.

Hope the meeting at Stockbridge is a good one. Geoffrey and Norman have been here to visit our nursery and both have ordered plants from us for several years. Seeing their garden would be very interesting! I enjoyed Geoffrey's book.

I guess the NAHS annual meeting is still undecided even though Art Dome and others have said it was to be in New Jersey when NEHS has their annual meeting. I did not plan to attend this year, so have not been involved with such decisions. I suppose our new chapter will be organized well enough if we are asked to put on the 1992 meeting. I just hope that a slate of officers can be found and that the Society can grow as it should.

Do convey my greetings to folks like Mac & Edna, Greta, Judy, Kate, Shirley and the rest of the nice folks we met in Freeport. It would be fun to see them all again, but our businesses keep us pretty much tied to the heather farm. August is the month I get out our new mail order lists, place advertising for the coming year and is also a busy month in our wholesale nursery. My husband and I do all the delivering so we are often "on the road" three or four days per week during August and September.

Again, congratulations on a job well done! I'm glad we can start a new file of heather news.

Alice Knight

*You were the only person who responded at all to my want list from the last issue. Good luck with 'Adrienne Duncan'. Are you familiar with *C. vulgaris* 'Annemarie'? It was mentioned in the Wisley handbook.*

Congrats on your first NEHS Notes. Very nice job and believe me, I know how much work goes into it. I will try to send you something for each issue.

Could you also put in a small plea for slides for my book? Haven't been getting many.

Joyce Descloux

Thanks so much for your contributions to the newsletter. I wish I had slides for you in return. Since I don't have any, the only thing I can do is urge our members to send you some.

Bravo! My first copy of **Heather Notes** arrived today. It's terrific! So easy to read and no translation necessary. Keep up the good work.

Kay LeBlanc

The messages of congratulation did great things for my ego. I hope I can keep up the good work but I have to rely on the membership for material and about 150 of you have not contributed any material so far. The white space in this issue is not by design! It represents missing copy.

Everybody at the meeting said they love the newsletter — well done. A little suggestion: possibly to leave enough margin to punch holes (three ring binder type) for those like me who save everything?

Judy Anmahian

I will try with the fall issue when I switch computers and programs. It is a little complicated because of inside and outside right and left margins.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Proudfoot's Place

by Kenneth Proudfoot

I have been growing heathers for almost fifteen years in my present garden. How did I get started? Well, I had come from N. Ireland to Newfoundland in 1967 and thought that, although the winters were rather colder than those in the British Isles, the other conditions were almost perfect—acid soils and lots of rain during the growing season. So when I moved into my present house and found a north-facing bank left after the builders had completed their work, I thought I would try growing a few heathers. My first heathers came from Mayfair Nurseries, Windham, PA (I believe it is no longer in business) and later ones came from Alpenglow Gardens, Surrey, B. C. and Wychavon Nursery, Halifax and local sources.

The first planting I made was a mixed one of *Erica* and *Calluna*, two or three plants of each of twelve varieties which have given me flowering all the year round: *E. carnea* 'Springwood White', *E. darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' and *C. vulgaris* 'County Wicklow', 'J. H. Hamilton', 'Mrs. Pat', 'Juno', 'H. E. Beale', 'Alba', 'Plena', 'Rosea', 'Tib', and *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia*. All of these varieties were planted in a soil and peat mixture in pockets between rocks and, apart from being well watered during the first summer, have received little attention over the years, except for pruning after flowering and weed removal. Each spring I also gave them a dressing of peat, sand and well-rotted compost with the addition of fritted trace elements until they had formed a complete ground cover.

What about winter treatment? For these and some subsequent plantings I used a light covering of spruce boughs for the first year or two but I am not sure that it was really necessary. Certainly well established plants which have not been covered survived extremely well. Last year the plants were snow covered from November till April—in some places with more than three feet of the white stuff—and they had relatively little damage.

My plants have been grown without any companion planting of dwarf conifers as is often done elsewhere and have formed a number of naturally occurring seedlings which are growing quite happily. I have planted late spring and winter flowering varieties in a separate area from the summer flowering, but again on a sloping bank with a northerly aspect. I suspect that my plants would grow more rapidly if they had more sunshine during the day.

Many varieties have grown well for me: 'Jack H. Brummage', 'Cherry Stevens', 'Silberschmelze', 'Jenny Porter', 'King George', 'Ruby Glow', 'Praecox Rubra' and summer flowering 'Corbett's Red', 'Spitfire', 'Elsie Frye', 'Alportii' and 'Rubrifolia'. My more recent plantings have included *D. cantabrica* 'Alba' and 'Praegerae' as well as *C. vulgaris* 'Beoley Gold', 'Multicolor', 'Aurea', and 'Blazeaway'. I also grow *E. carnea* 'Springwood Pink', *E. cinerea* 'Sherry' and *E. tetralix* 'Alba Mollis'. Neither 'Orange Queen' nor 'Hammondii' have been successful.

There are a number of gardeners now growing heathers in St. John's and the surrounding areas. The Botanical Garden at Memorial University has offered encouragement through the Friends of the Garden who have had rooted cuttings of many varieties available for purchase at their annual plant sale in September.

Herrick's Homestead

by Kate Herrick

Here in New England we have had exceptionally perfect weather. A mild winter really helped the heather to show off beautiful foliage colors and the winter blooming *Erica* stayed in bloom here until the end of May. This was as it should be but isn't always the case. Little if any winter damage can be seen on our plants. Our *C. vulgaris* 'Caerketton' has been in heavy bloom since the last week in May and many others are coming on strong. The summer temperatures and humidity came early this spring and are here to stay I'm afraid. Very little rain has come our way. The little we have had has helped to wash off the pine pollen,

germinate weed seeds and little else. Despite the lack of rain and 90 degree temperatures, the heathers, both young and mature, have never looked better.

Heavy new growth has doubled the size of the young plants in the garden. The hard pruning done in late fall and this spring has forced heavy branching from all stems having foliage. There are always a few plants that for one reason or another miss getting cut back and need that chore attended to now. I don't care if the new growth is lush and flowers have to be sacrificed. Pruning now will encourage branching and the plants will be better off for it.

Three years ago we planted a small triangular island bed where several roads merge near our house with heather, santolina and some tough perennials. Some of the sand was replaced by peat moss and top soil which we dug in before we set in the plants. After an initial deep watering and a three to four inch mulch covering, we only bucketed water there maybe four times when we saw some wilting. Also, we did have to keep on top of weeds that first year. Some of the perennials have since died but the heathers never looked better. Spring mulching and pruning are the only chores necessary now to maintain the bed.

My time for the most part is consumed by running the nursery. New plantings rarely get into the ground before July. Thorough soil preparation, mulching and adequate watering have proven to be essential steps before moving plants or transplanting the from containers.

Debbie's Domestic Debut

by JOYCE DESCLOUX

Since my garden is to be a tour feature of the NEHS annual meeting, I'd like to tell you a bit about it. I live on a wooded ridge, Puddingstone Heights, five miles northwest of Morristown, elevation 1100 feet. The view of Manhattan is spectacular in winter, but in summer the haze and greenery obscure most of it. We moved here in 1984. The property had never been gardened, so it has been a major undertaking to develop it. But it now has become a garden, overflowing with plants for any situation and season; all I love.

A sunny strip behind the house, where it is in view in winter, is reserved for heathers. I am constantly redoing them and shuffling them around, trying to make better arrangements of plants for both winter color and summer bloom. The best bloomers are not the ones with exciting winter foliage, so it takes a bit of planning to have good combinations in both seasons. The peak calluna bloom is July through September, but there is some heath or heather in bloom every month of the year. The *Erica cinerea* are dazzling in June, and have proved easy to grow here and, at least, as hardy as the callunas. I have planted about 200 different cultivars of *Erica* and *Calluna* in the past five years, but I am now refining my collection to those I find particularly appealing to me and good growers in my garden.

I have also planted some dwarf and prostrate heathers on a sunny driveway wall at the front of the house. They have done well as have two *E. x watsonii* - 'Dawn' and 'Truro', plum toned in winter. I have just added the new white-flowered 'Dorothy Metheny'; it has bright green, yellow tipped foliage.

Rhododendrons and azaleas dominate the wooded front lawn, blooming April through June. I have augmented these with other Ericaceous shrubs, some small and precious which I have obtained from specialist growers.

I have far too many dwarf conifers, as I grow them mostly from cuttings and then don't know what to do with them when

they get big. The deer do, though. They have browsed many of my fine *Chamaecyparis* - yet I persist in growing them for the color and texture of their beautiful foliage.

I am also a fern enthusiast, so was delighted to discover that ferns are one of the few plants spurned by deer, and I'm establishing ferneries here and there where conditions are favorable to them and other wildings.

I have collections of *Sempervivum*, *Hosta*, dwarf daylilies (*hemerocallis*), *Sedum*, *Dianthus*, wildflowers, herbs and ivies. And as I find garden space tightening, I substitute small plants for large ones. I train clematis to high shrubs, drape vines on poles, put hanging plants in every wall and otherwise seek to achieve maximum effect with minimum space and effort. Not that there's not more property - there seems to be no limit to it. But there is a limit to me!

Gardiner's Garden

by Charles Gardiner

I just finished installing a new heath and heather bed accented with dwarf rhododendrons, mountain laurel, pieris and even two dwarf apples. I planted 192 heaths and heathers of 21 varieties with the accent on *E. carnea*. This last winter was the first one in quite a while that we did not spend in Florida and I was quite taken with the winter heaths.

Annual Meeting

continued from pg. 1, col. 3

For those wishing to stay over to visit other nearby interesting gardens, call 1-800-Jersey-7 or write the NJ Department of Commerce, Energy & Economic Development Division of Travel & Tourism, PO Box 5289, Clifton NJ 07012 for a free Discover New Jersey Guide. Be sure to ask for New Jersey Gardens, a colorful booklet with maps and directions to all gardens, arboreta and parks. After all, New Jersey is the Garden State.

Morristown is, of course, renowned as George Washington's headquarters during the latter years of the Revolutionary War. The Ford Mansion, where he stayed, and Jockey Hollow, where the troops encamped, are a national park with many interesting exhibits, including a colonial garden at the Tempe-Wicke House near Jockey Hollow.

Morristown is also home to the George Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 E. Hanover Ave. A wide range of native and exotic plants arranged in formal and informal settings can be seen.

Well-Sweep Herb Farm in Port Murray is recommended for herb enthusiasts. It features many gardens and topiary, all done with herbs, and the Farm has a wide range of plants for sale.

For those wishing to spend the night in the Morristown area, there are several excellent motels (Best Western) and hotels (Plaza Headquarters), among others.

Beware the Fungus

by Shirley Redington

All gardeners and nursery professionals who come into contact with hay, soil, rose canes, decaying vegetation (compost), sphagnum moss, peat moss or moss of any kind should be alert to the possibility of contracting the disease sporotrichosis. It can happen when the fungus *Sporothrix Schenkii* enters the blood stream through cuts or pricks in the skin. The symptoms of the disease are raised lesions on the hands or arms which often spread in streaks of boil-like ulcerations. Occasionally the disease goes farther than the skin and lymph nodes and brings about serious complications.

Not all of the of the above mentioned substances are contaminated with this fungus and not all human beings are equally susceptible to the disease. In the 1960's though, an epidemic among thousands of miners in South Africa was traceable to the fungus which was found in mine timbers and dust.

The reason why gardeners should know about the disease is that many doctors do not. It is rare but has a worldwide distribution. If symptoms are present, a doctor should contact the local department of public health to learn how to take a specimen for laboratory culture since surgical drainage will make the lesions worse. If the culture proves positive, the effective cure is a course of treatment with potassium iodide— not antibiotics.

Health officials recommend that gardeners wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants when handling plants which might break the skin. Since many of us garden in the hot weather and dress for the temperature, the next best thing is to know about the disease so that you can help your doctor help you if it is suspected.

References: Phone conversation with Stan Kondracki, New York State Dept. of Health and fact sheets published by that department. Article by K. G. Proudfoot, *Peat News*, vol. 10, no. 304, Jan. 1989.

Repell Deer with Homebrew

by Joyce Descloux

In recent years deer have become a nuisance in the northeast. To keep them from munching our favorite plants, I have been using a homemade repellent for the past three years with excellent results.

In a blender throw three large eggs, shells included. Add a large clove of sliced garlic, two cups of fresh green onion tops and two cups of water. Liquefy, about two minutes. Add mixture to a pail which contains one to two quarts of warm water and some melted deodorant soap. Stir together, then add two tablespoons of chili powder or hot pepper and mix well.

With a kitchen scrub brush flick this recipe over the plants to be protected, being sure to get bits of eggshell on them. When used every two weeks or so, I have found this mixture totally effective, even in winter. Save a bit of the batch in a tightly closed jar to add to the next preparation. It develops a "ripe" odor, offensive up close, but not noticeable in the garden.

New Tool Found for Pruning

by Walter Wornick

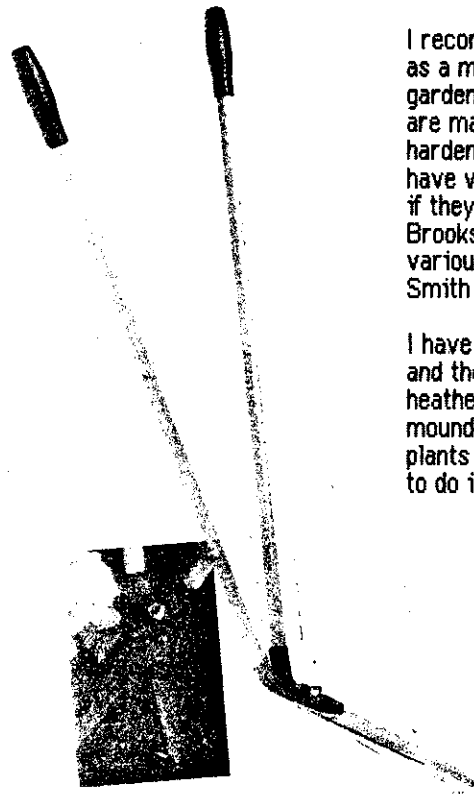
I have always enjoyed sitting among my heathers in early Spring, pruning them with various types of hand pruners. I know that the purest only use "sheep shears", but I have never been able to master their use. However, as the heather beds got larger and the back got weaker, I looked for a better way to prune and I found one this year.

While visiting Brookstone's main store in Peterborough, NH, I wandered into their closeout room and found a pair of long handled lawn shears made of English steel. I thought they would be useful to trim the grass around the beds, so I took them home.

As I started to trim around the beds, I clipped off some stems of the heathers growing near the edges. I found that the shears worked very well on the plants and it was possible to snip off individual stems or groups of them as I wished. I got a good perspective of the plant, looking down on it, rather than viewing it from a sitting position. The lawn shears were also much faster and did a more effective job than my hand shears.

I recommend the long handled lawn shears as a multi-purpose tool in the heather garden. Make sure you get the ones that are made of hollow ground steel with hardened edges, not the flimsy ones which have wheels on the bottom. I don't know if they are still available from Brookstones, but I have seen them in various garden supply catalogs including Smith & Hawken.

I have seen hedge shears used for pruning and they act much like sheep do with heather, forming little yellow or green mounds. It is difficult to individualize the plants with these shears as we were told to do in the last issue.



The Rest of the Story

by Susan Fischler

When I wrote the first part of my article about the relationship of two of my hobbies, growing heather and exhibiting dogs which was published in the fall issue of Heather News, I wondered if *C. vulgaris* 'August Beauty' would be as good a talisman as 'My Dream' had been.

Well, it was. With a fine specimen plant in the trunk of my car at the show site, Brandy went on to be awarded Best of Opposite Sex and got two more points toward her championship at the Greater Lowell Kennel Club show. That weekend I stayed at my friend Barbara's house in MA and I had wanted to bring her some lucky heather for one of her dogs, Goldmedal Pina Colada, who needed a major win to finish her championship. Show points are awarded based on the number of dogs entered in the breed competition and major wins consist of three, four or five points awarded at one show. Barbara had been looking for the major for months and I apologized as I gave her a rather small pot of *C. vulgaris* 'Golden Feather'. The Latin word for heather is "pinna" so there was something of a connection. It was the closest I could come to Pina's name. Heather hybridizers haven't named any plants "pineapple" or "coconut" or "rum." Barbara's skepticism changed to elation when Pina finished with a three point win at the very next dog show.

Brandy still needed help on our elusive quest for the magic 15 points needed for her championship. I thought that *E. watsonii* 'Truro' might do it for the Cape Cod shows. After all, our second home is in Truro on the Cape and before dog shows, I had spent most weekends and summers there. I thought I had chosen well. Though Barbara and I both wore flowering sprigs of this plant for the two shows, it was a pointless weekend.

I was depressed. We were in a dry period. Even though Barbara continued to introduce me to more and more exhibitors who told me that we were doing well in the point department, I continued to be disappointed. The main heather blooming period had about finished for the season but over the Columbus Day weekend, I noticed that *C. vulgaris* 'Finale' had bloomed so I figured that we had one more chance for heather to do its thing. I

managed to keep a sprig alive on my windowsill while Brandy, with a piece of the heather taped to her travel crate, flew to Puerto Rico with a professional handler. She picked up her next nine points including the required two majors.

We still needed one more point. Not only was 'Finale' dead but I was nervous because I had to take Brandy into the ring myself. With 'Finale' in my non-bait pocket we entered the ring at the Union County K.C. show in Elizabeth, NJ on Nov. 3. We won! It was a good win. Somehow things in my life had almost come full circle. Elizabeth is my hometown and the first dog show I had ever attended was the Union County one in 1963.

Brandy, the ninth champion for her dam, Goldmedal Girl of Shamrock CD and the thirtieth for her sire, Ch Sanbrook Silk Electric, still had the prestigious Westminster show to compete in. Exhibiting there was another one of my goals. I hoped that I could find some blooming heather at a florist in February. After all, I reasoned, at that level of competition we would need all the luck we could get!

Two of the N.J. florists who usually have heather had none and I resigned myself to compete without our usual good luck charm. Even though I found some heather at the last minute at a shop not far from Madison Square Garden, the show sight, we didn't win. The heather was nameless, I rationalized, and we couldn't relate to it. But I had my dream, an official champion and I had made it to Westminster.

This sounds like the end of my story but as with all hobbies there are always acquisitions. My new puppy is just six months old and entered in her first shows in mid-July. We only have one problem. Goldmedal Excelsior, whom I call Chelsea, has no heather namesake! Can you believe that our English colleagues haven't named a plant after their most famous of flower shows?

Heather in the News

A recent **New York Times** article profiled the new home of Jack Lenor Larsen, a noted fabric designer, in East Hampton, Long Island. Called Longhouse, the building project lasted over five years. The 12,000 square-foot home contains Mr. Larsen's collection of American 20th century crafts and is situated in 16 acre landscaped park. Featured on the property is an array of heather. According to Mr. Larsen, "the heather is important because it can be seen from three floors" in the house.

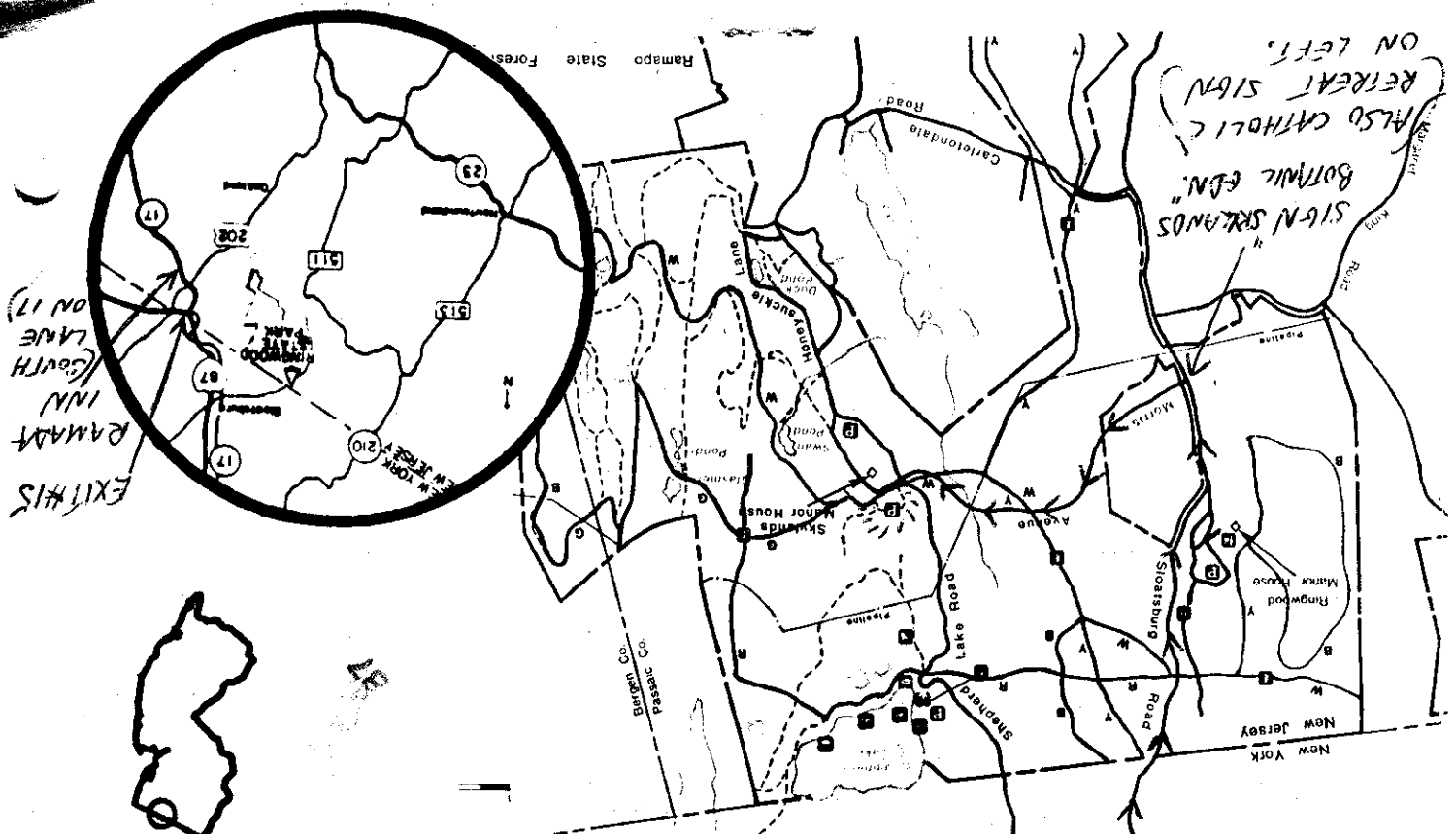
Membership Rises in Society

As of this issue, our organization numbers 160 members. Let's work together towards a goal of 200 by year's end. Applications are available so please pass them on to friends and fellow gardeners.

There was some confusion about membership expiration dates on last issue's mailing label. The computer seems to be programmed to print a three part date. Disregard the first set of numbers and if the label shows a 91 or later year, your dues have been paid.

Cutting Exchange Attracts No Response

The Cutting Exchange, proposed in the last issue of Heather Notes, has failed to produce any members who want cuttings or who have cuttings to offer other Society members. Check your plants. What is exceptionally nice which you would like to share? What have you been looking for to no avail? The Exchange can serve both needs if you take the time to write to Susan Fischler, 180 Everett Pl, Englewood, NJ 07631 with your goodies or desires.



Ringwood State Park

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

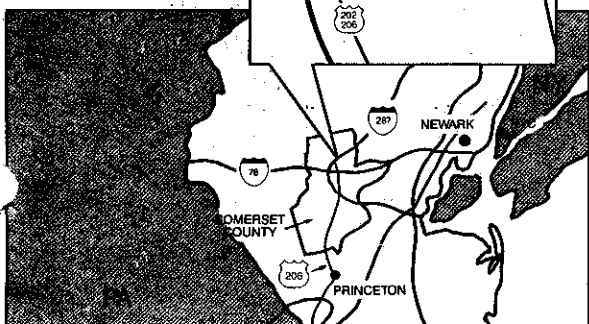
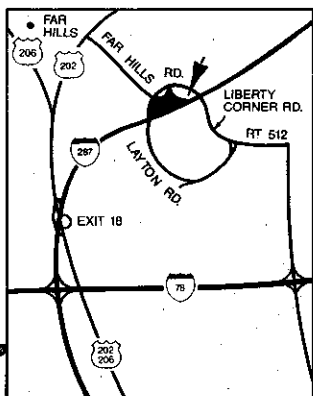


Leonard J. Buck Garden

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

DIRECTIONS

From interstate 287, take exit 18. If approaching from the south, the exit is marked 18B. If approaching from the north, the exit is marked 18. From the exit ramp, take route 202/206 north, keeping to the right to continue north on 202. Follow signs to Morristown and Far Hills. At the Far Hills train station, turn right just before the railroad tracks onto Liberty Corner--Far Hills Road. Go 9/10 of a mile to Layton Road, turn right. Garden is on the left side.



12/31/93
 DONALD MACKAY
 135 DEERFIELD LN
 PLEASANTVILLE, NY 10570

GWF WESTCHESTER NY 105 #3 07/07/91