

Heather Notes

January 2003

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The President's Corner by Judy Doyle.

The good news

for the northeast is the end of the drought. The frequent fall rains were setting up plants for winter with a better chance of survival. And, just before Thanksgiving, an insulating blanket of snow fell, just in time to protect plants from a drastic plunge in air temperature.

During the first week

of December we had morning degree readings of five and one above zero! There's still a lot of weather between now and spring. One can be sure that heather will be put to the test. Some of mine, the ones just off the front steps, have been sorely tested by a gang of six roofers. I am sure they were extremely careful, but heavy tarps, ladders, booted feet, flying shingles and dropped nails have broken some of the branches. I remind myself of Cathy Singleton's tale of a timber retaining wall landing on her heather garden (April 1999, Volume 9, Number 2) with no damage to the plants, and put aside the worry beads.

Our winter meeting is a short time away. We hope you can get to Tower Hill. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue. Don't forget, April 26th Heather Trimming at the Fells.

With sadness we note the passing of Larry Martin, husband of former NHS president Molly Martin. Larry was a charming and likable man who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

WHAT'S IN A NAME OR INITIALLY SPEAKING:

Sharp eyes may have detected the use of NHS cropping up as the abbreviation for our organization, the Northeast Heather Society. We've been reminded that it is NOT correct to make Northeast into two words: North East; ergo, it is NOT correct to use NEHS as our abbreviation. So, we shall try to mend our ways and not slip up again.

But remember, it is correct to separate and make into two words North American; thus, NAHS. Got it?

PS We will continue to accept without a murmur of protest checks made payable to NEHS.

Our winter meeting promises To be a very enjoyable time.



Calluna vulgaris "Multicolor" in the snow

At the January 11th meeting Nancy Passavant, a director of NHS, will present a Slide Show on the Cultivation of Heathers created by Dee Daneri of the North American Heather Society.

It promises to be a beautifully informative experience. The Show discusses cultivation of heaths and heathers. We will provide growing and grooming guidelines for developing these charming, multi-seasonal plants into well-formed plants. The slides include suggestions on how to establish heathers in the many situations where they can be used and enjoyed the year around. There are many beautiful photographs that vividly illustrate what can be accomplished by using Heaths and Heather, as well as ideas about how to achieve your desired goal. The program will start at 10:00.

Board of Directors meeting will be held after the presentation.

NP

Heather Notes is published quarterly by the Northeast Heather Society

Annual dues are \$10, payable to the treasurer

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Beyond the Heather



The above photo shows my husband, Keith Jones, and me, putting together the previous issue of the Heather Notes. I've received many e-mails and quite a flurry of interest in Cutler Botanic Garden Heathers due to the front page photo of their August garden in Binghamton, NY (more about CBG in a later issue).

The cartoon "Heatherheads" seemed to be an acceptable addition, and will appear periodically. By the way, any of you with a "Why are Heathers better than Roses?" quip, please tell me and your words will be credited.

We've addressed the problem of **mutilated newsletters** by trying a heavier weight paper.

I'd like to share some comments I received and thank all of you who took the time to connect with me.

Here's wishing you a peaceful and productive New Year.

j

Notes to the Editor:

**David and Rita Plumridge
Durham, England**

"Congratulations on your first issue. Colourful, well laid out and interesting! I can really appreciate your production as I have great difficulty in just trying to box text in Word!!"

**Ian Donovan
Pembroke, MA**

former Editor, American Rhododendron Society Massachusetts Chapter:
"Your silly stuff—why not? Keep the reader interested and a member. We already have enough stuffed shirts in the world.

Variety is the spice of life!"

**Joyce Descloux
Randolph, NJ**

Writer and Director, NHS.
"WOW."

**George Bernard
North Chatham, MA**

NHS member and Award-Winning Heather Enthusiast
"Thank you for your letter and for the photos. You have done a super job with the Notes!"

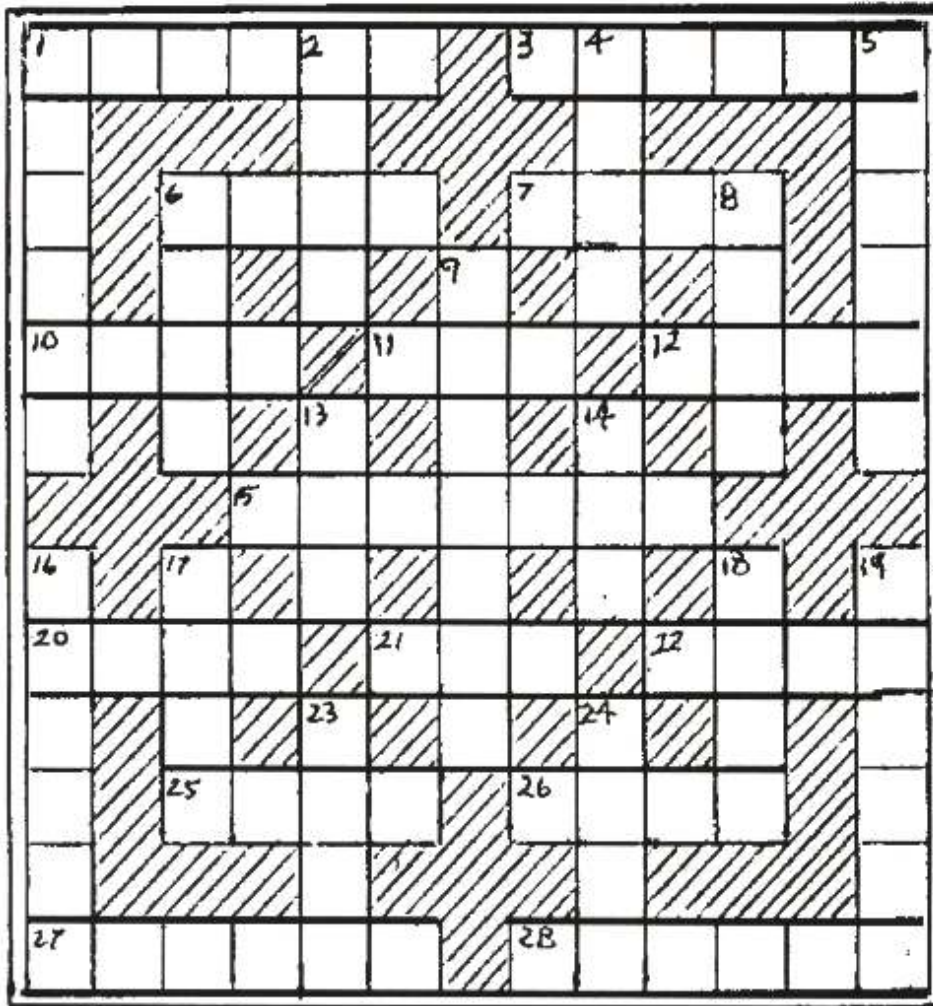
**Joyce Prothero
Editor, Heather News
North American Heather Society**

"Congratulations on your firstborn newsletter! It was so nice to see the faces of the many NHS members previously known only by email addresses I empathize completely with the steep learning curve you have just encountered, and conquered in fine style."

HEATHER NOTES CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. 1

by Shaw



ACROSS

- 1 Useful hand tool
- 3 Ericas
- 6 Garden nuisance
- 7 Nature's propagator
- 10 ___ van Leyen, calluna
- 11 Immature flower
- 12 ___ Heath, Erica Arborea
- 15 Calluna vulgaris
- 20 ___ Pearl, E. x Watsonii
- 21 NAHS officer, inits.
- 22 White
- 25 Garden invader
- 26 ___ Helen, E. x Darleyensis
- 27 Heather plantation
- 28 ___ Dale, E. x Darleyensis

DOWN

- 1 Calluna cultivar, semi prostrate
- 2 ___ Frye, calluna
- 4 ___ Valley, E. cinerea
- 5 ___ Knight, calluna
- 6 Garden carryall
- 8 Atro
- 9 Obstacle to importing
- 13 Home for heathers
- 14 Rote
- 16 Time to plant
- 17 Poor man's manure
- 18 No place for heather
- 19 damm
- 23 Very dry, withered

Note from the Editor

This Heather Notes Crossword is dedicated to Lawrence H. Martin, late husband of NHS member, Molly Martin.

Larry (1929-2002) was "A Midwesterner by birth, A New Yorker by design, and A Vermonter by choice who continued to do *The New York Times* crossword puzzle every Sunday." M.M.

The Editor was stumped by a lack of cultivar knowledge. I vowed to improve my education on that subject so out came the RockSpray Nursery Catalogue, Hortus and anything else heatherwise. I admit to using the dictionary just once!

My thanks to "Shaw", our very own mystery puzzler.

I hope you enjoy the challenge.

Answers will appear in the next issue of the Heather Notes.

New Members

Robert Bonneville	Danielson	CT
Roy Drake, SJ	Bronx	NY
Regina & Roger Knight	Lincolnville Center	ME
Benjamin Martin	Waterford	CT
Mary Matwey	Binghamton	NY
Kimberly McCulloch	Beecher	IL
Jack Mona	Woodstock	CT
Judith Music	Norwich	VT

Thanks again to Robert Bonneville and Jack Mona, Annual Meeting garden hosts and new members.

2003 Annual Conference

Jane Murphy reports that the dates for the 2003 NHS/NAHS annual conference and meeting are September 12-14, 2003. Location is the northern Delaware area, accommodations will be at the Double Tree Motel in Wilmington. Room prices estimated at \$80.00. Garden tour includes Mt. Cuba and Winterthur. The second annual Heather Flower Show and exchange will also be held.

Winter Meeting with Heather Slide Show at Tower Hill Botanic Garden January 11, 10 to 3.

Directions to Tower Hill Botanic Garden at 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA.

From the East or Northeast: Take Route 495 to Route 290 west to Church St., Northboro/Boylston (exit 24). Turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Church St. Travel 3 miles. Tower Hill is on your right.

From the South or West: Take Route I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike) to exit 10 (Route 290), Auburn. Take Route 290 east to Church St., Northboro/Boylston (exit 24). Turn left at bottom of exit ramp onto Church St. Travel 3 miles. Tower Hill is on your right.

From the North or Northwest: Take Route 2 to exit 35 (Route 70). Travel through Lancaster/Lunenburg past the Tahanto Regional High School on your right. Approximately 1 1/4 miles further along Route 70, take a left at the blinking yellow light at French Drive. Turn left at sign for Tower Hill.

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All submissions to Heather Notes will be accepted for publication, and may be edited for clarity and length. Please include your name and phone number.

Deadlines for each issue

January.....Dec. 20
April.....March 20
July.....June 20
October.....Sept. 20