

HEATHER NOTES

JULY 2007
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Above: Northeast Heather Society volunteers planting young heather in the eighty-plus year-old bed at the Fells on Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire, in April. The ancient heather plants had been so severely damaged in the winter of 2006 that they were not salvageable. Members who worked on this project:: Suzanne Barnes, Bill Dowley, Judy and Ralph Doyle, Donald Mackay, Mary Matwey, George Mc Queen, Elaine Miller and Bunny van Valey. The new plants, supplied at cost by Bill's New England Heather, were donated by NEHS. Head Groundskeeper Jeff Goode designed the new layout and supervised the placement of the plants.

JULY 21

**NORTHEAST HEATHER SOCIETY CHAPTER
SUMMER MEETING**
at the home of Ann Driesen
South Hamilton, Massachusetts
Details follow Ann's Report on Page 5.

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**SEPTEMBER 7,8,9**  
**NORTH AMERICAN HEATHER SOCIETY  
CONFERENCE**  
**NEW YORK CITY**  
Hosted by you, the members of the  
Northeast Heather Society chapter, NEHS.

Registration forms and complete information are on  
pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

**Heaths & Heathers • Rare Conifers**  
**Japanese Maples • Perennials**  
**Unusual Trees & Shrubs • Grasses**  
**Alpines & Xeric • Bamboo • Ferns**  
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The heather garden that Jane and Paul left behind in Delaware. Paul's account of their gardening moves begins on page 4



*Calluna vulgaris* 'C.W. Nix'. in a Binghamton New York garden. Photo courtesy of Mary Matwey.

This is a sport of a wild plant collected by C.W. Nix, Tilgate, Sussex, England. It has an open, erect habit.; about 14" x 24" fully grown. Blooms August to October.



#### THE ROSE AMONG THE HEATHER

Grew a baby rosebud rare,  
 Lonely... 'mong the heather;  
 Morning was not half so fair.  
 One looked long who, lingering there,  
 Fain had looked forever.  
 Dainty, wayward, crimson rose;  
 Rosebud 'mong the heather;  
 "Sweet, I'll steal thee, ay or no!"  
 Quoth he, from the heather.  
 "Then I'll prick thee" laughed she low,  
 "Heedless, heartless—even so,  
 Thou'll think on me forever."  
 Rosebud, rosebud, red, red rose;  
 Rosebud 'mong the heather.  
 Willful wooers are not slow,  
 Rosebud's o'er the heather.  
 Thorns can wound till life-drops flow;  
 In two hearts a weary woe  
 Woke to slumber never.  
 Rosebud, rosebud, red, red rose;  
 Rosebud 'mong the heather.

Translated from Goethe's 'Heiden-Roslein'-  
 1879

#### FAREWELL TO GRACE

Grace Bowen, the petite and witty charmer of a woman who accompanied her husband Harry Bowen to all NEHS gatherings, recently passed away in Falmouth, Massachusetts, where they made their home. We extend our deepest sympathies to Harry and their family.

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**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

When I was just a silent member of the NEHS the annual conferences seemed a long time apart but the upcoming September conference is rushing toward me, now that I'm president of the society and chairwoman of the conference planning committee! Much work has been done by a few dedicated members to put together one of this society's best conferences yet.

Bill Dowley, co-chair of this event, has done some wonderful PR with the Fort Tryon garden staff. Consequently we will view a bed of some 2500 heather plants when we tour Fort Tryon Park on Saturday. The New York Botanical Garden will provide us with a personal tour of their rock garden area and possible future heather bed while Wave Hill will top off the day like the icing on the cake. Sunday's self-guided tour of Stonecrop Garden will be worth delaying your trip back home. So there you have it. All of this along with great accommodations, meals and a first-rate Friday night speaker from Overdevest Nurseries. The only thing we'll be missing is **you** if you don't come!

The NEHS member population is changing as is the availability of those few stalwart members who by their untiring involvement have kept the society going for you and me. Those of us who have attended a few conferences still remember what it was like the first time. (New faces and names. Are they going to ask me to volunteer for something? Will I have to name all the heathers in my garden? Wait, I don't have any heathers in my garden.....)

Seriously, I hope you will make every effort to attend this year's heather conference and meet the friendly folk who are your fellow Northeast Heather Society members. There's a photo of some of them on page 7. Nice- looking bunch, aren't they? Not scary at all! Come to the conference and make some new friends and new memories. See you in September!

-Mary Matwey

*PS-Don't be pruned! Check your membership expiration date on the back address page, and renew promptly. There's lots more to come in future issues.*

 **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**  
**MARIO ABREU, ALBION, CA**  
**RUTH M. BRENNER - PLYMOUTH, MA**  
**EDSON E. ELDRIDGE/ N.CHATHAM LANDSCAPE CHATHAM, MA**

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