



## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Calendar. Cut To the Chase.
2. Feature Plant.
3. President's Column. Board of Directors. New Member.
- 4,5. Spring in the Heather Garden
6. Heath & Heather Garden Companions
7. Cut To the Chase, continued. This 'n That.
- 8,9. International Heather Conference: Registration Forms and Important Information.

### CALENDAR

**APRIL 5—10:00 a.m.**

**Rain date-April 12**

**Spring Pruning of Heather  
Fort Tryon Heather Gardens  
New York City**

**[www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)**

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**APRIL 26—10:30 a.m.**

**Rain date- May 3**

**Spring Pruning of Heather  
Board Meeting  
The Fells**

**Newbury, New Hampshire  
[www.thefells.org](http://www.thefells.org)**

**DETAILS OF THESE EVENTS  
PAGE 7**

## CUT TO THE CHASE

by Donald A. M. Mackay

I was a little late in contributing my part to the 'Chase Bud Trials' reported in the last issue of Heather Notes. My excuse was that I had trouble viewing the plant I got from Bill Dowley since it was under glass under oak leaves under snow.

The snow started to go in February, so I scraped off the oak leaves and removed the pane of glass, which was covered with a light green plastic film to prevent sunburn and supported by rocks to allow air circulation. In English rock gardens this is done routinely, mainly to keep rain away from the crown of alpiners.

My first reaction on seeing the plant was a sigh of relief to see it looking healthy and covered with flower buds. My second impression was that something was amiss. The color was definitely lavender, and though the plant had looked like a bud-bloomer with its pointed buds when I planted it, the swollen buds were now in flattened sprays, some with pistils extending from the corolla. A hand lens inspection showed this plant was strongly multibracteate. It had looked like a bud-bloomer when I had planted it, but the sheltered conditions had evidently favored considerable growth.

A detached sprig neatly flattened itself inside a plastic bag. Not one flower bud was displaced. It evidently preferred living in two dimensions. I thought maybe I had planted the wrong plant, but that is unlikely. I chose the site carefully in a bed with both plenty of summer sun and winter snow in soil that had grown heathers before.

Jane Murphy noted the tips on her plant took on a purplish bronzy tint, which is typical of the winter effect on heathers that contain anthocyanin\* color pigments. And as Judy Doyle noted, her plant had "tiny pinkish buds on healthy hearty green foliage."

Well, my plant is certainly pinkish - a neighbor says lavender - and its foliage is a hearty dark green with dark bronzy green tips, and the buds are mostly closed though definitely buxom. But does that make it a bud-bloomer? We can't say for certain what a sport from a bud-bloomer will turn out to be. Although Kramer\*\* has produced a string of bud-bloomers related to each other, his methodology has utilized production of seed from known parents. Beijerinck\*\*\* has noted that (at least in Holland) bud-bloomers are often found as groups of seedlings. I could find no case of a bud-bloomer occurring as a sport.

The main characteristic of my plant is that it is definitely multibracteate, with flattened close-packed sprays, with several buds showing protruding pistils. Apparently it is not our usual bud-bloomer, though it has some features of one. If this had happened in Ireland it would obviously be the work of pixies accustomed to switching children at birth. Or has a cuckoo been at work?

*Continued on Page 7*

**2008 WORLD HEATHER CONFERENCE  
VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA  
JULY 31 THROUGH AUGUST 4  
COMPLETE INFORMATION ON PAGES 8 AND 9**

Heaths & Heathers • Rare Conifers  
 Japanese Maples • Perennials  
 Unusual Trees & Shrubs • Grasses  
 Alpines & Xeric • Bamboo • Ferns  
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*Calluna vulgaris* 'Spring Torch' in summer bloom  
 Photo courtesy of www.greatplantpicks.com



*Calluna vulgaris* 'SPRING TORCH'

This bushy heather grows to a height of 16" with a 24" spread. Its name is inspired by its pink and red tips (on mid-green foliage) in winter and spring. The mauve flowers appear from August to October. The summer foliage is cream and pink. (*Handy Guide to Heathers*)

"'Spring Torch' looks good with spiky, late-summer-blooming perennials, such as red-hot poker (Kniphofia). It contrasts well with ornamental grasses, such as Molinia, Panicum or Stipa. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Spring Torch' grows best in an open, full-sun position, where its foliage color is richest and it flowers abundantly. Plant it in well-drained, humus-rich, acidic soil. Prune stems back to 1/2" to 1" above previous year's growth after blooming. This can also be done in early spring, as 'Spring Torch' blooms on the current year's growth. This heather is quite drought tolerant once established." - www.greatplantpicks.com

Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, Seattle, Washington

Sources:

Rock Spray Nursery  
 PO Box 2035  
 Truro, MA 02666 tel. 508-349-6769  
 www.rockspray.com

Heaths & Heathers  
 502 E. Haskell Hill Road  
 Shelton, WA 98584-8429 tel. 1 800 294 328  
 www.heathsandheathers.com

**DO TELL:** If you live in the northeastern United States and grow *Calluna vulgaris* 'Spring Torch', we would like to hear about your experience with this plant. Please write to:

Judy Doyle, Content editor, 19 Beckwith Street, Danielson, CT 06239 or e-mail: perennialherb@sbcglobal.net

Include a line about your local growing conditions, USDA zone, etc. Thanks!

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**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

*With the weather vacillating between spring and winter I find myself in the same predicament. Do I want to peek at the stirrings of new growth on the plants or just wait until they bloom in my face? Do I want to call the group of local heather society members and talk about trimming the public heather gardens or just wait until all danger of frost is gone? Do I want to start the onions and parsley in the greenhouse or wait a few more weeks so I won't have to keep cutting them back if the weather doesn't moderate enough to plant them in the garden? I find this to be the most exasperating time of year. Up until this writing, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the winter weather has been kind and now that I've jinxed us all, it's time to get on with the main topic of this article.*

*As a young child, 10 or so, I remember traipsing across the fields to the highest point on our farm, the "Huckleberry Field", and picking the "Trailing Arbutus". We would weave the long stems of blossoms into hair pieces and literally float back down to the house on the ethereal aroma. Little did I know that fifty some years later I would once again be enjoying their fragrance but more importantly using their very presence as an indicator of the health of my latest passion, heathers. Epigaea repens, commonly known as "Trailing Arbutus" requires dappled shade, must have an acidic soil and is hardy in Zones 3-9. As an under planting of the shrubs in the heather bed, I am using this plant's health as an indication of the acidity of my soil. This is really a hard to find plant. Not because of its features (glossy green, 3" leaves on rooting stems that will have terminal raceme-like clusters of white to pink, urn shaped flowers) but because of its unassuming nature once planted in the garden. The flowers are usually hidden under the leaves and after blooming the plant will blend into its surroundings where its leaves of green and brown make it almost invisible. I guess these traits are not enough to put this on the Top Ten List of must-have plants. I found mine at 'Quackin' Grass Nursery' in Brooklyn, Connecticut last summer and consider it one of those special finds. Do you have an interesting combination of heather and companion plants? Drop a line or e-mail the editor\* of the Heather Notes and share your treasures.*

-Mary Matwey

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**DON'T BE PRUNED-WE WOULD MISS YOU.  
CHECK THE DATE ON THE ADDRESS PAGE.  
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

***The weird wild winter of 2007 caused unprecedented damage to heather plantings across the north-eastern United States. Just around the first of December we sent out an e-mail to members asking them to tell us what, if anything, they planned on doing to protect their heather this winter. Many of you shared your precautionary steps in the January issue. Now we have asked about the conditions of your heather and your protective covers in these first days of spring. As we go to press in the latter part of March, a lot of our gardens are still either buried under snow or in a semi-frozen mud bath. We remain guarded, fully aware that the weather can pull the rug out from under us if we rush too quickly into the gardens, but oh, the temptations of a nice day!***

*Some have snow cover—*

Here in the "arctic" most of our heathers are still under snow, although this rain may eliminate what is left soon. Those heathers visible seem to have done very well this winter.

*-Sally Katkaveck, Eastford, Connecticut.*

We're still under a lot of snow and ice, hard packed down to about the two foot depth. There is some melting in places, mostly under my large hemlock tree and where we have shoveled. It will be a very slow meltdown! Don't see it happening in the next few days. Meanwhile, my heathers are still sleeping nicely. Last year for clients in Concord I took off the winter protection (evergreen boughs and hay) the last week in March. Then we got two snowstorms in April and it was very cold.

Guess what, we lost most of the heathers! So I am not in a rush to remove anything just yet, even for the clients who have no snow remaining. I'll wait to see what the forecast is for the first week of April.

*-Priscilla Williams, Townsend, Massachusetts*

My heather, in Ludlow, VT is still under about three feet of snow. We've had the snowiest winter we've had in a few years. As long as I have had a heather garden it has spent the winters under snow. So far, the heather has survived and pops back up as soon as I remove the evergreen boughs. I can't wait to see it, but it probably will not be for three or four weeks!

*-Judy McMullen, Ludlow, Vermont*

*Some have not—*

Well, it looks like they (the Ericas) survived well enough, but there are not as many buds as usual. In past years, they've been LOADED with buds, but not this year, although the foliage looks healthy. In fact, this may be a good thing, because they need to be pruned. Now I won't lose as many flowers.

We never got the solid covering of snow that I'd hoped for. We'd get 6 inches or so, then a week later it would all be melted. Then cold, snow & melt. This cycle happened about 6 times over the winter, so the plants had it kind of rough. Haven't seen any sign of split branches, though.

Most of the plants are Erica Carnea. The originals were a 'Springwood White' & a 'Springwood Pink' that I planted back around 2000 (maybe even earlier). There's also a 'December Red', 'Vivelli', and a 'Pink Spangles' that are about the same age. I put in an Erica Darleyensis 'Kramer's Red' last year. There are also a few Calluna vulgaris: 'County Wicklow', 'Red Haze', 'Silver Knight', 'Rosea' & 'Winter Chocolate'. The *Callunas* are looking pretty dried & dead, but they sometimes perk back up.

I'm also in zone 5, in the middle of the Great Lakes area.

*-Maryanne Dunmire, Royal Oak, Michigan*

***Richard Norris tells us of his method of getting his plants to "perk back up": next page***

As I remember(!) I did the usual 'cover' of chopped leaves and a few Christmas tree branches. In other words, I have given up 'pampering' for the practical approach! The practical approach is, if something dies over the winter (or without provocation I have seen or understand!), I shall not replant that animal again.....! It is easier on the aging comfort zone.

The erratic weather conditions we have been experiencing since I moved to Sudbury, MA from Warner, NH, have wreaked havoc with a number of plants I brought with me, as well as a number of *Callunas* purchased here. In NH 90% of the time I could count on ample snow cover. Here in Sudbury we get a decent amount of snow, BUT it doesn't last - only in the shady areas which, of course, are not *Calluna* friendly.....

At the present moment things look okay, but there are more possibilities for erratic weather to change everything at any time in the year...

Thanks for this attempt to better understand the vagaries of trying to grow Heathers and Heath.

*-Bunny van Valey McQueen, Sudbury, Massachusetts*

I have to tell you I did absolutely nothing to my heathers this winter. As you know from earlier messages, I gave up on *Callunas*. It was too much work to help them through the winter and survive the cold, drying winds. All I have left are *Erica carnea*, and all are doing splendidly. We had bouts of snow off and on, but we also had periods of dry, wet, cold and winds. All the *E. carnea* look great and are in bloom . . . a welcome sight as we wait for spring!

*-Nancy Passavant*

*Upper Newton Falls, Massachusetts*

Our winter was pretty mild with only a few dustings of snow. Temperatures seemed to be around 35 to 45 degrees most of the time, with a few nights in the 20's and a few days up to 60-70 degrees!

Most of my winter coverage (evergreen boughs) is still protecting my heathers. There were some branches missing due to two wind storms we have had in the last two weeks. I do have browning on the top of those that are missing their coverage, but hopefully once they're pruned in spring they'll fill out again.

More alarming is the amount of trimmed tops I have from deer grazing. At any time we can have up to 20 deer roaming on our 6 acres (along with wild turkeys and 15-20 guinea hen which visit all of the properties on our street). While it is enjoyable to have this wildlife around, without snow cover, if the heather are out in the open the deer will chew them. It also seems that more of the younger/smaller plants are damaged possibly because they're the right height for the more prevalent smaller deer.

For the past 4 years I've had great success using garlic clips attached to the top or side branches of my plants. I also apply garlic oil flung from a paint brush onto most of my plants 2-3 times each winter.

In the past, the deer would stay away from those plants with the clips (the garlic odor lasts up to 6 months). This year I've noticed clips laying on the ground. It appears the deer are biting the branches below where the clip is thus causing it to fall off!

I guess next year I'll try a new deterrent. Prior to using the garlic clips, I used coyote urine and that worked well but was not as convenient to use and quite unpleasant if it dripped down your fingers while filling the vials. (Now, if I can only figure out how to get the coyotes to fill the vials for me!) And, no, there aren't any coyotes here (that I know of)!

-Pat Hoffman  
Swedesboro, New Jersey

### SURVIVOR

*Erica carnea* has apparently taken the lead in the survivor race, at least in the northeastern United States

I have just joined the NE Heather Society...I have been growing heather for about 4 or 5 years and tend over 150 plants. One of the problems I encountered was not having a really good idea regarding the ultimate size of the plants. Also I tended to buy plants in twos and threes. So I have a patchwork; they are now smooshing into each other—which wouldn't be bad except they are different heights, so some low liers are getting a bit smothered!

I recently came back from Scotland, and to my surprise, after spending days in different parts of the Highlands, found that there was ONE dominant type of heather that covered the hillsides with mauve carpets. I saw one or two of the other kinds but not in profusion.

My latest plantings have been of one kind *en masse*, using two of my favorites—the prostrate (*Calluna vulgaris*) 'Mrs. R.H. Grey' and the wild and gaudy (C.v.) 'Wickwar Flame' (sometimes mixed with 'Firefly', a similar plant).

Last year I had some winter damage. I lost a number of plants and some were badly damaged with only a few surviving parts. I had good results cutting out the dead parts of two damaged (*Erica carnea*) 'December Red' with a small, sharp spade and then putting the two half-plants tightly together to form a new plant of normal appearance! I didn't like the look of the single plants after excising the dead parts! After a year you couldn't tell they were 'spliced'! I've also had success restoring partly dead plants by using the technique of burying them until only the live bits showed. The plants are now growing happily, and as they look nice, I have just let them be as they are.

When I first had a few heathers, I bought a pair of large sheep shears for pruning. But as my collection grew, it became impractical to trim them all by hand. Black & Decker™ makes this neat little 6" electric hedge trimmer that I use now. It makes the job a cinch. One can only take purism so far!

I would love to host a regional meeting sometime. I have a large home on one acre, landscaped with Japanese maples, bamboo, heather, hosta, clematis and stone as dominant themes.

-Richard Norris  
Northampton, MA

*Editor's note: We are pleased to announce that arrangements have indeed been made for our chapter to visit Richard's garden, September 13. Details will be in the summer issue of this newsletter.*

### PLEASE WRITE

Do you have a story, poem, riddle, bit of folklore, useful tip, question, comment, correction, weather report, garden to visit, a companion planting idea, a photo to share? Contributions to this newsletter on the subject of heath and heather are always welcome. Send any such to:

Content Editor-Judy Doyle, 19 Beckwith Street, Danielson, CT 06239 or [perennialherb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:perennialherb@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you!

## HEATH AND HEATHER GARDEN COMPANIONS

By Wayne Paquette

In today's smaller gardens it is imperative that we, the magicians of our realms, make every plant count in as many seasons as possible. Heathers (*Calluna*) and heaths (*Erica*) dovetail nicely in this sensible goal. These evergreen shrubs flower over a long span, heaths generally in winter/spring, heathers summer/fall. The foliage on many cultivars as if by sorcery change colors through the seasons, contributing greatly to seasonal interest.

There are deciduous shrubs and vines that both blend but contrast nicely with heaths and heathers. They hold powers that can transform a garden of *Erica* and *Calluna* from a static evergreen blanket into a brilliant landscape filled with seasonal reflection and stunning color contrasts. In an easy sleight of hand you, the illusionist, can add enchantment to your gardens.

*Amelanchier stolonifera* is not often seen. It is a suckering form of shadblow, growing between one and one-half to two feet tall. Though in the wild it can reach six feet it has never approached this in my garden. It is also possible that this plant, which was sold to me many years ago by that moniker, is not *A. stolonifera* but another closely related shorter-growing running serviceberry. There are four smallish suckering species all native to the east coast including one endangered, *A. nantucketensis*. This little sorcerer spreads at a modest rate and hasn't 'eaten' my garden. It also tends not to grow so thickly that it smothers or visually blocks its shorter growing garden companions. But in time if it should develop into too full a thicket it would be a simple matter to prune, thinning the number of stems. **In spring their lovely white bloom overlaps the flowering of *Erica carnea*.** The typical fleecy flowers are pure, clean white almost with a silvery sheen. The flowers give way to glaucous purple-black berries adored by birds. Amerindians gathered them in summer for eating as likely did early settlers. If you get to sample one you will find them sweet and tasty. The rounded semi-glossy leaves sometimes pick up some red, orange and yellow tones in autumn before dropping but this is not a guarantee; rather it is a bonus. Running serviceberry also does not inhabit lime soils and will, therefore, settle happily into the conditions enjoyed by members of *Ericaceae*. This plant will add a wild, rustic look to the garden, simply fetching erupting from a carpet of gold-needled *Erica*. The stems may also afford a little extra protection in winter. And though it will not satisfy everyone's taste it certainly could have a place for some who prefer a touch of casual naturalism in their gardens. All the running serviceberries are hardy in zone 4.

*Fothergilla major* 'Blue Shadow' will bloom with the heaths. The fragrant white bottlebrush flowers, like lanterns floating in the vault of the Great Hall of Hogwart's School in the Harry Potter series, will light the garden in spring. The dense rounded shrub growing between four and five feet tall will form a beautiful backdrop or step up in the heath and heather border. This is a recent introduction similar in look to the cultivar 'Mt. Airy' but with quite blue foliage. If 'Blue Shadow' is too large for your tastes then consider 'Blue Mist' which grows to only three feet in height. Both cultivars are quietly handsome in summer and would contrast quietly with green or gray *Calluna* foliage.

Or set the floor of your garden with an accent of rich green heath in front of your *Fothergillas*. In autumn all *Fothergilla* develop festive colors. In a mix of red, orange, yellow and an occasional purple in some years, they provide an altogether gorgeous autumn display - the grand party in the Great Hall of your garden before the winter solstice. *Fothergilla* is considered hardy through zone 5.

*Clematis texensis* will stretch its stems and sprawl its arms in all directions seeming to supernaturally levitate above the heath and heather garden. This wonderful *Clematis*, hardy in zone 5, flowers for a long and recurrent fashion from summer into fall. Each erect flower, which can stand two or more inches tall, loosely resembles a four-pointed stylized lily tulip. But 'Gravetye Beauty' and 'Duchess of Albany' can sport five and sometimes six tepals. Four-tepaled 'Princess Diana' is a deep intense pink, 'Sir Trevor Lawrence' deep crimson. Most, if not all cultivars, display highlighted central zones of lighter silvery pink on each tepal. These *Clematis* will add color and interest during the period after the *Erica* have bloomed and before the *Calluna* begin. The flowering cycle of the *Clematis* will overlap with *Calluna* as they begin their show in high to late summer. Clean up is easy: I generally leave them in winter cutting them back severely in late winter or very early spring. As they bloom on the new stems you will not upset the flowering. The added cover, though modest, may benefit heaths and heathers in winter without completely masking their remarkable hues. Usually one thinks of *Clematis* as thriving in calcareous conditions but *C. texensis* seems to revel in the same acid condition of its garden mates.

Some of the Arctic willows will make very nice heath and heather companion plants. At about sixteen inches tall *Salix helvetica* displays silky hirsute leaves in silver gray on a nicely domed little shrub. *Salix repens* var. *argentea* can grow two feet or taller with twiggy stems that sport lovely little white-silver light-catching catkins up and down the stems in late winter and early spring. The small rounded leaves like little mouse ears then emerge in a beautiful pewter gray tone that last the summer. Both of these *Salix* would form beautiful monochromes with *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Knight'. These Arctic willows take well to pruning so can be kept smaller and bushier. *Salix purpurea* 'Canyon Blue', though a delicate-looking upright grower, is tough as nails. This selected purple osier displays tiny catkins with a slight lavender tint in abundance before the elliptic bluish leaves form on fine, dark purple stems. It can grow to be 3 to 4 feet tall each season. I tend to cut mine back every year or two so that it grows thicker, shorter. The dark purple winter stems will conjure a spell erupting over burnished gold tones as found in both *Erica carnea* 'Altadena' or *Calluna vulgaris* 'Gold Haze'. All three willows - which are hardy to at least zone 3 - they're from the Arctic - enjoy the acid conditions as found in a heath.

Just as densely packed conifer gardens can be funereal in their weight, on a smaller scale *Erica* and *Calluna* collections can make a heavy blanket that begs for deciduous relief. You are the magicians of your gardens. So, consider waving the shovel that is your wand. Plant some carefully chosen deciduous shrubs into the fabric of your ericaceous collection and create magic.

## Cut To the Chase

-Continued from page 1

However, a sport if it is to be noticed does not usually follow its progenitor, either in shape or in color. Kramer has produced new hybrid multibracteate plants by crossing the multibracteate 'Battle of Arnhem' with 'Long White' (it gave white-flowered 'Peace') and with 'Allegro' (it gave beet-colored 'Perestroika'). Multibracteate plants have arisen spontaneously in the US, UK, but mainly in Holland, though I read of none originating as a sport. As far as I know, the genetic determinants of both multibracteate and bud-bloomer types are conveyed by sexual means (i.e. by formations of seeds). For causation of sports one usually has to look for insect damage, mechanical cell injury, radiation effects or chemical damage by mutagens, viral or other infection as by mycoplasmas\*\*\*\*, or some combinations of these factors.

As Beijerinck has noted, calluna is distinctive for its multitude of forms that intergrade from one to the other. The numbers of bracts on a flower stem can range from four to sixty-four, with multibracteate forms starting at twelve. Some flowers on bud-bloomers can retain some sexual features just as a few flowers on 'Tib' are not doubled and can be used to produce seed. Hard and fast classifications are hard to come by. This new plant needs closer inspection.

### References

\*Anthocyanins are a group of water-soluble plant pigments responsible for the colors of flowers and for the colors of plant juices like those from grapes and beets.

\*\*Kurt Kramer is a German plantsman who has had outstanding success in finding and breeding many new heather cultivars. 'Kramer's Red' is well known to all of us, as are the several new hybrid bud-bloomers that he has produced in the last few years.

\*\*\*Wilhelm Beijerinck, a noted Dutch botanist and microbiologist wrote "Calluna - A Monograph on the Scotch Heather," just before WWII, appearing in 1940 as Comm. Nr.20 of the Biological Station, Wijster, Holland. The proper botanic reference is Kon. Ned. Akad. Wet., Verh.(Tweede Sectie), DI. XXXVIII, No.4, p.1-180, 1940. It is by far the most complete and thorough treatise on heather. After examination of hundreds of observed forms, he could suggest a breakdown into only two botanical varieties, genuina and hirsuta, the latter containing very few plants. All the other differences could be classified as forms or subforms, regrettably with little application to horticultural naming practices.

\*\*\*\*Mycoplasma were first described as very small bacteria-like infectious organisms differing mainly in their lack of a cell wall. As recently applied to plant diseases, their preferred name is phytoplasma. They have been associated with the formation of witches-brooms. If the tissue from a witches-broom can be regenerated by vegetative means and maintain its new characteristics, it could then be called a sport in horticultural terms. However, some experts question whether this feature by itself is proof of altered DNA rather than that of a constant or renewed infection such as seen in viral contamination of Darwin tulips.

## SPRING CLEANING

For centuries heather was considered strictly utilitarian. Large stems were made into brooms, shorter ones into brushes. Trailing shoots were woven into baskets and various portions of the plant were stuffed into bedding. It was even used by Scottish Highlanders to form their homes' walls and roofs.....and sometimes to treat intestinal ills, which may be one reason its dominant genus is named *Calluna*, from a Greek word meaning 'to cleanse'.

-Excerpt from article on heather in October 2006 issue of 'Country Living' magazine.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Biannually, our chapter customarily includes an updated membership list in the spring issue of *Heather Notes*. This is the year.

Peter Matwey, keeper of the membership addresses, has worked very hard to get all the information right. Please let him know if you find an error in your listing.

Peter Matwey

7 Heights Court

Binghamton, New York 13905

pmatwey@stny.rr.com

## PRUNING PRIMER

For both the Fort Tryon and Fells pruning parties: Bring your lunch, and also your favorite shears, knee pads, gloves, etc. Many hands make light work. It's a real treat to be out in the fresh air, greeting familiar faces and welcoming new friends, and the results of our efforts are truly stunning.

The Scottish Pipe and Drum Band ([www.nyscottish.org](http://www.nyscottish.org)) will once again be on hand to accompany the trimming activity at Fort Tryon.

Everyone is welcome to join the fun. Come and meet your fellow NEHS members.

Please let President Mary Matwey know if you plan to attend and/or need more information.

(607) 723 1418; mmatwey@stny.rr.com.

## GOT PHOTOS?

A photo display is being prepared for the conference by NEHS chapter members Jane Murphy and Alice Schaefer. They are calling for photos of heath and heather from every state in which there are NEHS members.

Jane says your photos can be submitted in either paper or digital (JPEG) form.

Paper photos can be returned to contributor upon request.

Send your photo(s) to:

Jane Murphy

2473 Hickory Hill Road

Oxford, PA 19363

[murphy1213@zoominternet.net](mailto:murphy1213@zoominternet.net)

Please include all pertinent information you may have.

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

on aspects of plants in the genera *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, and *Erica*

International Heather Conferences are held every four years (earlier conferences were in Germany and Scotland) and are open to anyone with an interest in heathers. These conferences are primarily horticultural in emphasis but also include design and scientific research components. **Research contributions on any topic related to heathers are welcome.** Manuscripts will be considered for publication in *Heathers*, the yearbook of The Heather Society (UK). If you are aware of an individual, organization or institution which could contribute to our knowledge of the genera *Calluna*, *Daboecia*, and *Erica*, commonly called heathers, please contact Ella May Wulff, 2299 Wooded Knolls Drive, Philomath, OR 97370-5908, USA; 541-929-6272; [ewulff@peak.org](mailto:ewulff@peak.org)

## THE NORTH AMERICAN HEATHER SOCIETY (NAHS) PRESENTS THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL HEATHER CONFERENCE HARBOUR TOWERS HOTEL, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Plan to attend the first World Heather Conference to be held on a Pacific island. Victoria has warm, dry summers with low humidity. The city is an international destination renown for its gardens, in a tranquil and stunning Pacific coast location. Come for the information-packed conference programs and enjoy all that the city and surroundings have to offer. Mid-summer always brings a festival atmosphere to Victoria.

### CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The conference begins on the afternoon of Thursday, July 31st with registration and social mingling. The first day's activities conclude with an official welcome, buffet banquet, and a multi-media orientation to Victoria's history, culture, and many attractions.

The program includes a full schedule of seminars, workshops, panel discussions and poster sessions on a variety of heather-related topics. Bus tours will introduce participants to heather gardens and the native forests in the Victoria area and in the Cowichan Valley to the north, where many members of the Vancouver Island Heather Society reside. In the evenings, following dinner, participants will enjoy presentations by outstanding speakers or, on Sunday evening, a spectacular outdoor concert. This latter event is part of the celebration of British Columbia Day, which spills over into a fun-filled, three-day weekend in Victoria. The free outdoor concert of popular classical music on Sunday evening features the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and takes place on the stunningly beautiful harbour front adjacent to the conference hotel. Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, complete with bells, cannon and fireworks brings to a close this memorable evening. The conference concludes the following day, Monday, August 4th, with a farewell lunch and entertainment.

The conference will be held at the Harbour Towers Hotel. **Hotel Reservations** must be made before July 1, 2008 at the latest. An extremely favorable conference rate of \$149 per double room per night applies for the nights of July 30 to August 6 inclusive. A 17% room tax is additional. Participants are responsible for making their room arrangements directly with the hotel and for settling their accounts accordingly at the end of their stay. When contacting the hotel for reservations, be sure to request the special rate negotiated for the International Heather Conference. Room reservations may be made by phone or online. Hotel contact info: 345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC, V8K 1W4; 1-800-663-5896 toll free in North America or 250-385-2405 local call.

On-line reservations and credit card payments may be made through a secure server by going to the hotel's website: [www.harbourtowers.com](http://www.harbourtowers.com). Click on the following: Reservations>Online Reservation>Group Reservations (at center bottom). In the ATTENDEE CODE box, enter "heather" (without quotes) and click Attendee Login, which brings up the reservation forms to be completed. The total cost will be displayed as you select your requirements. Underground parking for cars is available at the Harbour Towers Hotel for \$2 per day for registered guests. Non-guests may park at \$7 daily. Advance booking is required.

Other details are available through the North American Heather Society website:

[www.northamericanheathersoc.org](http://www.northamericanheathersoc.org)

Editor's Note: This information is extracted and condensed from the NAHS website and the Summer 2007 Issue of Heather News Quarterly, the newsletter of the North American Heather Society, hosts of the Conference.

### TRAVELING TO THE 2008 INTERNATIONAL HEATHER CONFERENCE?

NEW TRAVEL REGULATIONS INTRODUCED BY BOTH THE U.S. AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS AFFECT ALL PERSONS CROSSING THE BORDER IN EITHER DIRECTION. CURRENTLY ALL AIR TRAVELERS NEED A PASSPORT. BY SUMMER 2008 IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT WILL APPLY TO ALL BORDER CROSSINGS, WHETHER BY AIR, LAND OR WATER



**HEATHER NOTES**, all rights reserved, is published quarterly by the Northeast Heather Society, a tax-exempt organization and a chapter of the North American Heather Society (NAHS).

The purpose of the Northeast Heather Society is to foster interest in growing heathers (*Calluna*, *Erica*, *Daboecia*, *Cassiope*, *Phyllodoce* and *Andromeda*) in northeastern North America, by serving as a conduit of educational information for both the experienced and the novice gardener.

**MEMBERSHIP** in the Northeast Heather Society is open to anyone who pays dues to this chapter. Membership benefits include: a subscription to this quarterly newsletter, participation in chapter meetings and elections, borrowing privileges for slide/power point presentations, and, most valuable of all, contact with fellow heather gardeners who mostly live in or near your growing zone, all willing to share helpful advice and their experiences.

**DUES:** \$15.00 a year. (\$28.00 for a 2-year membership, \$40.00 for a 3-year membership.)

**REMIT TO:** Peter Matwey, Treasurer, 7 Heights Court, Binghamton, NY 13905

**HEATHER CULTURE PROGRAMS** are available. For slides, contact Harry Bowen, 30 Chase Road, Falmouth, MA 02540 (508) 548 3113. For digital presentations, contact Bill Dowley (603) 355-8801; [wdowley@ne.rr.com](mailto:wdowley@ne.rr.com).

**WEB INFORMATION:** NAHS website: [www.northamericanheathersoc.org](http://www.northamericanheathersoc.org)

Click on 'Chapters' to find the Northeast Heather Society page.

**ADVERTISING:** Ad size is currently quarter page. Cost is \$35 an issue or \$25 if advertising in two or more consecutive issues. Contact: Pat Hoffman (856) 467-4711; [Njgardener15@hotmail.com](mailto:Njgardener15@hotmail.com).

**BE A CONTRIBUTOR TO HEATHER NOTES:**

Do you have a story, an anecdote, a poem, or a photo to share? A question for the plant doctor?

Contact: Judy Doyle, Content Editor, 19 Beckwith Street, Danielson, CT 06239; or [perennialherb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:perennialherb@sbcglobal.net).

All submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

**DEADLINES FOR EACH ISSUE:**

MARCH 20-----JUNE 20-----SEPTEMBER 20-----DECEMBER 20

