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FAREWELL

With heavy hearts we bid farewell to George Mc Queen of Sudbury, Massachusetts, who, at the age of 85, died in August at home after a brief illness.

We got to know George on heather-pruning days and at conferences as the newlywed husband of longtime NEHS member Bunny van Valey. Bunny and George were high school sweethearts who found each other again just a few short years ago.

George was a sweet, gentle man, immensely likeable, with a keen intelligence and sense of humor. We will miss him.

Growing Heather

in the Smoky Mountains

Log House Heathers is located in the Smoky Mountains at Sylva, North Carolina. The average rainfall is approximately 47 inches per year. From 2004 until 2008 severe drought conditions existed. The annual mean temperature is 55.7°F with a mean maximum temperature of 68.8°F and a mean winter temperature of 42.6°F. There is an average of eight days per year with temperatures 90°F or greater. The climate is considered temperate with considerable variation from day to day during every season of the year. It is not uncommon to have temperature swings of forty degrees or more during a twenty-four hour period.

The terrain is hilly and the soil is primarily red clay. Since most of us live on quite high hillsides, we have found that the best way to combat this is to use raised beds or terracing. Over time, we have found that a mixture of one part 'our' topsoil, two parts of ground up pine bark and one part pea gravel works. We are contemplating using granite sand from our local quarry in the mixture. -*Art Pilch*

See *Log House Heathers plant list, next column*

Visiting North Carolina

Inspired by the Murphys' example* of a several hundred mile detour to visit the southernmost heather nursery on this side of North America, I made a rather smaller detour to visit Judy and Art Pilch, the owners of this nursery. Log House Heathers in Sylva, NC is about 36°N, about the same latitude as Gibraltar, Crete and Algeria. These, however, are close to sea level, but Sylva is 2500 to 3000 ft. above sea level. The nursery on the hillside above Sylva is about 2800 ft. high, with a southern exposure. Twenty or thirty miles to the northwest is Clingman's Dome (6640 ft.), the high point of the Great Smoky mountains, probably the source of their cold winter winds and wild temperature swings. The real villains are the dehydrating cold winds, however, as the Murphys experienced during their mid-January visit.

-*continued on page 4*

*as reported in last spring's issue of HN

LOG HOUSE HEATHERS PLANT LIST

Because of our climate, we try many different types of Callunas and winter-blooming Ericas. We have experienced success with the following plants:

Andromeda polifolia 'Compacta' and 'Blue Pacific'.

Calluna vulgaris

Grey-green foliage-'Aberdeen', 'Jan Decker', 'Kerstin', 'Silver Knight' and 'Sister Anne'.

Green foliage-'Alba Erecta', 'Allegretto', 'Autumn Glow', 'Corbett's Red', 'Foxhollow Wanderer', 'Minima Smith's Variety', 'Perestrojka', 'Red Fred', 'Ross Hutton', 'Rubrum' and 'Spring Torch'.

Yellow foliage-'Fortyniner Gold', 'Gold Haze', 'Yvette's Gold'.

Yellow-green foliage in summer, orange-red in winter-'Bonfire Brilliance', 'Con Brio', 'Gerda', 'Glenfiddich', 'Glenlivet', 'Glenmorangie', 'Golden Carpet', 'Golden Feather', 'Green Cardinal', 'Highland Rose', 'Hillbrook Orange', 'Multicolor', 'Red Haze', 'Sunset', 'Winter Chocolate', 'Wickwar Flame'.

Bud bloomer-'Underwoodii'

Low-growing-'Gerda', 'Glenmorangie', 'Golden Feather', 'Sister Anne', 'White Lawn'.

Erica carnea -'Bell's Extra Special', 'Foxhollow', 'Golden Starlet', 'Pink Spangles', 'Pirbright Rose', 'Springwood Pink', 'Springwood White', 'Winter Beauty'.

Erica x darlevensis-'Darley Dale' (shell pink to pink), 'Ghost Hills' (pink to heliotrope), 'J. W. Porter' (heliotrope), 'Kramer's Rote' (magenta), 'Mary Helen' (pink) and 'Silberschmelze' (white).

These are the plants that we sell. People in this area are primarily interested in plants with late summer color and that add to winter and early spring interest. For that reason, we grow a large number of plants that change foliage color from summer to winter or have foliage tips that turn color. Our

climate is ideal to promote the concept of using heather in year-round gardens.

*Our favorite plants.

Heaths & Heathers • Rare Conifers
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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Having been Content Editor of *Heather Notes* for the last five years, I am thinking it might be time to retire. If you are interested in taking on this fun, interesting, albeit time-consuming volunteer (i.e. no monetary compensation) challenge, get in touch with me, or president Mary, or any other board member. Our contact info is on page 3. -Judy Doyle

FEATURED PLANT

Calluna vulgaris

AMETHYST

It's easy to see why the gorgeous specimen photographed in Mary's Binghamton, New York garden took a first prize in the parlor show.

This is a bud-bloomer (*f. diplocalyx*) with purplish crimson buds August-January with dark green foliage. It has an upright, bushy habit.

Height 12", Width 16"

According to the *Handy Guide to Heathers -Small*: "Another seedling selected by Kurt Kramer from his breeding work, this one has buds which are bluer than 'Alexandra' and last longer.



Heather Parlor Show Winners

NEHS President Garners the Glory!

Other contestants were left in the mulch during the annual conference's Heather Parlor show held August 29 in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts.

Mary's beauties from her self-described home-based "Matwey Botanic Garden" and the towns of Chenango and Dickinson, where she also gardens, almost made a clean sweep in all of the *Calluna* categories, tripping only over newcomer Eileen Muir's unidentified entry.

Categories and winning cultivars

Class 1: Any single-flowered *Calluna* in flower

Place	Cultivar Name	Entrant
1 st	'Dark Star'	Mary Matwey
2 nd	'Foxhollow Wanderer'	Mary Matwey
3 rd	Unknown	Eileen Muir

Class II: Any double-flowered *Calluna* in flower

Place	Cultivar Name	Entrant
1 st	'Strawberry Delight'	Mary Matwey
2 nd	'Schurig's Sensation'	Mary Matwey
3 rd	'Peter Sparkes'	Town of Dickinson

Class III: Any *Calluna* bud-bloomer with buds set

Place	Cultivar Name	Entrant
1 st	'Amethyst'	Mary Matwey
2 nd	'Anette'	Town of Chenango
3 rd	'Alexandra'	Mary Matwey

Class IV: Any *Erica* in flower

Place	Cultivar Name	Entrant
1st	'Schneekuppe'	Judy Doyle
2nd	'Schneekuppe'	Judy Doyle
3rd	'Swedish Yellow'	Eileen Muir

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Happy Fall Everyone.

As the nights get colder and the days shorten, I check daily on the flowering perennials and annuals in my garden. I have one last garden luncheon to host and although I would love to cut down the tattered *Hostas*, the petal-less *Rudbeckia fulgida* (Brown-eyed Susan), the browning *Phlox paniculata* or the fading zinnias, I resist the urge. Instead, I just trim away the ugliest parts and hope that my visitors will be able to tell that once these were lovely specimens.

It may be hard for them to envision past glories of these plants but there will be no need to make excuses in the heather bed.

This is the time of the year when the heathers explode with color and texture. The bud bloomers are still holding onto their vibrant rose and pink, the double flowered *Callunas* are in full bloom at the tips of their spent flower stems, as are many of the singled flowered *Calluna*. Some have yet to reach their bloom peak, while the earlier blooming heathers display elegant, spent sprays of beige and coral. Even the foliage is giving a glimpse of the bronze, red or orange winter colors. Due largely to an abundance of rain this growing season, the heavily damaged heathers I found in my garden this past spring have made a fantastic recovery. The empty spots have been filled with smaller heathers or shrubs and grasses and the new look is very pleasing. It is truly amazing how the heathers can make such a comeback and if you have had the opportunity to experience this plant revival I hope you expound their endearing qualities to everyone, every chance you get. I'll be content to sit back and enjoy the heathers for another month or so but then it will be time to protect them from the wild winter beasties. Taking a lesson from my furry friends the squirrels who are already storing nuts, I'll rake and shred leaves and then bag them along with pine needles to be heaped around the heathers once the ground freezes. A little wind protection such as a burlap fence is also wise and to that end the stakes will be put in the ground before hand. These are the plans for my heather garden this winter and I hope they will be more successful than last year. What's your plan? Send it to me with your okay to print it in the newsletter. ~Mary

Fair Attendance for Annual Meeting

A smaller group than in many years, nevertheless we managed to just fill a comfy 23 passenger touring bus with good company. These members came:

Suzanne Barnes, Hetty Francke, Pat Hoffman, Ellen Holland, Bill and Vicky Dowley, Ralph and Judy Doyle, Donald Mackay, Elaine Miller, Mary and Peter Matwey, Jane and Paul Murphy, Alice Schaefer (and a friend), Priscilla Sperry, Carolyn Corse, Willa Wick (and her sister), and Priscilla Williams.

They came from Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ottawa, Canada!

DON'T BE PRUNED! WE WOULD MISS YOU!

Check the expiration date on the address page of this newsletter.

Send your renewal to Treasurer Peter Matwey, 7 Heights Court, Binghamton, NY 13905

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North Carolina

Continued from Page 1

Log Cabin Nursery is a mix of nursery operation and private heather gardens, spread over an area of what was once hillside pasture. Art's opinions on winter and summer performance of heathers is therefore colored by personal preferences, mixed with business and market considerations. He started growing heathers as a hobby in 1981 and now, 28 years later, can look with pleasure on a series of heather beds contained in neatly laid stone terraces, all his own work.

He also has the usual nursery equipage of greenhouses and display beds of potted heathers for sale, mostly to landscapers. The potted heathers go into the greenhouses for the winter, but his garden plants have to tough it out. No cover for them, but they do have a good moisture-retentive soil of the native red clay well mixed with a third of ground pine bark and another third of pea gravel. The potted heathers live in a mix of soil and *perlite*, with peat moss substituted for the ground bark.

Pressed for an opinion of what effect his geographic position has on heather performance, he would say only that *Erica x darleyensis* cultivars do very well, with callunas and other ericas close behind. *Erica vagans* does very well. If any erica is problematic in his garden it is some of the *carnea* variety, which he thinks are pining for alpine homes. Even so, *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' does very well, perhaps because it has no memory of the Italian Alps where it was found.

Pressed further on calluna preference he said that as a rule of thumb the double and the gray, hairy callunas seem to suffer somewhat from the generally moist climate, though even here there were notable exceptions where *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Knight' and 'Kerstin' do exceptionally well. *C.v* 'Aberdeen' is also a great performer for him and *C.v*. 'Sunset' and 'Highland Rose' are particular favorites.

The Pilches live in the westernmost part of North Carolina that stretches into the Allegheny mountains. Sylva is close to Tennessee across the mountains, and to both South Carolina and Georgia where they stretch to the Great Smokies. There is a lot of regional variation in the area, and Cashier, 20 miles closer to Georgia, gets about 100 inches of rain a year, and usually much more snow. As has been noted before, the mountains make their own weather.

Talking of weather reminds me that the Pilches were among the few North American Heather Society members who got to the annual conference in Rockport, Maine (1999) before a coastal hurricane made travel almost impossible. You may also remember them from the International Heather Conference last year in Victoria, British Columbia, or before that, at another west coast NAHS meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Unfortunately they could not make this year's meeting in Massachusetts, but would be very glad to meet fellow heather enthusiasts who happen to be in their area, on a Great Smoky Mountain vacation, for example. -Donald Mackay

Great Place for a Conference

If the site of a national heather meeting has a requirement for a number of local tourist attractions in order to help persuade its members to travel long distances, then Asheville and the western tip of North Carolina certainly qualify. The Pilches point out that Asheville, only a few miles away, is a noted convention center, boasting many gardens, the Biltmore Estate Gardens prominent among them. I can add the local scenery is exceptionally fine. I heartily recommend traveling the last most southerly part of the Blue Ridge Parkway, leading to the Great Smokies National Park. It is truly on the ridge with exceptional scenery on both sides.

The Pilch garden is itself a delight, an acre of stone-terraced gardens of heathers and some conifers, and of course, a nursery display area. I'd attend a meeting there in a shot. It is a pity there are not enough NEHS/NAHS members in this area to share the responsibility for organizing such a meeting; unless of course you know someone who can help.

Be sure to read the Murphy's account of their visit to Sylva in January of this year. They arrived in the middle of an unusually bitterly cold spell, Art told me. Even so they could see the love of heathers exhibited by the Pilches. The Murphy's enthusiasm inspired me to visit. Perhaps my enthusiasm will inspire you. I fully agree with Paul Murphy saying the Pilches' heather rivals anything they've seen elsewhere. Their photo was taken in January. Think of what it must be like in the fall, when our annual membership meetings are held. -Donald Mackay

CONFERENCE HISTORY

Donald Mackay has made a persuasive case for the Smoky Mountains as a Northeast Heather Society conference site. If you would like to accept the challenge of organizing the 2010 conference there...or wherever you like...you would join this group of NEHS members who, with no professional conference planning experience, managed to produce wonderful events for us year after year. We would be willing, able and happy to assist you with helpful advice. Get in touch with Mary Matwey. Her contact info is on page 3.

- 2009-Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts-Priscilla Williams & Judy Doyle
- 2008-Oxford, Pennsylvania-Paul & Jane Murphy
- 2007-New York City, New York-Mary Matwey & Bill Dowley
- 2006-Cape Cod, Massachusetts-George & Elizabeth Bernard
- 2005-Newbury, New Hampshire-Bunny van Valey & George McQueen
- 2004-Binghamton, New York-Mary & Peter Matwey
- 2003-Wilmington, Delaware-Jane & Paul Murphy
- 2002-Northeast Connecticut-Judy & Ralph Doyle
- 2001-Providence, Rhode Island-Judy & Ralph Doyle
- 2000-Burlington, Vermont-Molly Martin
- 1999-Camden, Maine-Marjorie Walsh & Greta Waterman
- 1998-Stockbridge, Massachusetts-Molly Martin
- 1997-Cape Cod, Massachusetts-Harry Bowen
- 1996-Morristown, New Jersey-Roxanne Hiltz

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Conference Highlights

It was only after returning home that I noted the weekend in Massachusetts was referred to as the “Annual Membership Conference”. How unfortunate that from 118 members, only two dozen chose to attend. Hopefully this rendition can act as incentive to other members to combine a short holiday with next year’s meeting.

That’s precisely what my sister Annette (not even a member) and I did. We left our small rural southern Ontario town at 7 a.m. with assurance from the GPS that we would arrive in Greenfield, Massachusetts at 8:09 p.m. Needless to say that didn’t happen. Oh, the GPS knew where it wanted to go but we decided on the scenic route (and to skip the \$18 cross-country interstate toll). We dropped down to 5 & 20, indeed a very picturesque drive, albeit slower with all the little towns and hamlets. The long and short of it was we didn’t get checked into the Super 8 until nearly 11:00 p.m., but in the morning we had lots of time to take ourselves on a tour of Greenfield before heading out to the gardens of Liz Toffey. Liz has established and re-established various gardens full of trees, shrubs and perennials over the years and she explained how each evolved. Ditto for her dry stonewalling, walkway and patio area around her front door where plants are happy looking as though they grow right out of the rocks.

Liz’s house and studio gave us an insight into how she interprets gardening color and detail in her watercolors.

Next in line was the quaint little town of Shelburne Falls. The ‘Bridge of Flowers’ is a truly awesome feature. Once a trolley bridge spanning the river, this 400’ passageway is celebrating its 80th year of being maintained as a floral ‘one of a kind’.

Another fascinating site was ‘The Potholes,’ a natural phenomena of a series of holes in the flat rock bored out by swirling waters of receding glacial ices.

We of the rural farming areas of Ontario have breakfast, dinner and *supper* but we are aware that most others have breakfast, lunch and *dinner*. So we always have to question what time you’re having dinner (so we don’t show up too early!!). Because we wandered the town by ourselves we missed the other ‘groups’ and had *supper* by ourselves at the charming small restaurant Café Martin.

Saturday’s drizzle didn’t dampen spirits as we were bussed to the 75-acre Nasami Farm & Native Plant Propagation Nursery of the New England Wildflower Society. The theme of the society is “Learn, Grow, Protect...and Enjoy”. Before visiting the greenhouses and outside retail plant sales area we were given the low-down on their almost completed new quarters. The staff outlined how the newly erected building had earned numerous points and an award for the many ‘go-green’ and environmentally conscious methods used in construction. Unfortunately, because we can’t transport plants across the border, my sister and I had to turn a cold shoulder to all the native offerings.

Still travelling in a drizzle, but this time much less, our next stop was at the home of yoga instructor Eileen Muir near Goshen. Scotland-born Eileen has only been an industrious gardener for about 4 years and has had a lot of fun designing her various beds.* She even conned her students into digging the pond for her! In her yoga studio (room of windows) we enjoyed a sandwich lunch.

The skies were clear as we arrived at the Smith College Botanic Garden. This has been a continual evolution into learning and growth since two homesteads were a mix of gardens, orchards and hayfields back in 1875. For a couple of hours we were left to our own devices in exploring the various greenhouses and outdoor landscapes.

Back in our lodgings we rested a bit before heading out to supper (dinner) at The Night Kitchen.

Oh, I forgot to mention, travelling in Massachusetts is somewhat similar to northern Ontario with all the hills (mountains??) and rock. But at least we don’t have too many of those crazy roundabouts.

Nearly every one was present to enjoy the ambience and fine dining in a room overlooking and practically sitting on top of the river.

Sunday morning we travelled north to Keene, New Hampshire where Vice-President Bill Dowley and his wife Vicki hosted breakfast. It was warm and sunny as we ate in the largest glassed-in porch I have ever seen. Here the annual meeting was held. How refreshing. Altho’ adhering to parliamentary procedure and no one spoke out of turn, things were so relaxed and informal. Everything necessary was covered and discussed, and printed minutes were distributed from the 2008 meeting. With the formal requirements behind us we then converged on the Dowley heather nursery where many fine specimens were snapped up (but again we had to shun the offerings).

To complete our mini vacation my sister and I then headed across Massachusetts to the coastal town of Scituate where our ancestors landed many moons ago. They came as part of the “Men of Kent” and some of the 300+ year old slate tombstones are still legible. A couple of the original farm buildings are not only still standing, but occupied.

Evening open air and typical seafood dining was another luxury before leaving Massachusetts. From Scituate we headed straight back (toll or no toll) to Geneva, New York to spend time with friends, and from there headed south and west to Marion, Ohio to visit yet again.

A thoroughly enjoyable week. And yes, health and weather permitting we will join the North Easterners again next year for the conference.

Meeting the people behind the news bulletin names is so much fun – and gives one ideas for further friendships (funships) and travels.

To all you other members out there who have never attended the conference – try it, it will certainly pique your interest in the society. ~*Willa Wick, Ontario, Canada*

**with design assistance from Priscilla William’s Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening in Townsend, Massachusetts*

“My ‘Thanks’ go to all the members/board members, who coordinated a wonderful few days in Western Massachusetts. All the events were nice experiences and much enjoyed by me. It does not happen often that I am surrounded by heather/heath plant people!” ~*Hetty Francke, Delaware*

“I enjoyed the conference very much, and regret that I have not made it to more of them.”- *Priscilla Sperry, Connecticut*

Heather in the Kitchen

Alas, *Erica*, the type genus of the vast Heather (*Ericaceae*) Family is not particularly edible to us, but sheep, hare and grouse do eat the succulent fresh tip growth of heather and do often end up in the kitchen. The heather they eat is called **ling** in many parts of the British Isles, and in Scandinavia where **lyng** is Norse for the heather that covers vast areas of heath and moorland along the Atlantic coast of Europe.

To gardeners, heather or ling is *Calluna vulgaris*, and heath is a catch-all term for the various species of *Erica* that are hardy in the area. The most common are *Erica cinerea* or Bell Heather, and *Erica tetralix* or Bog Heather. Bell Heather comes into bloom early and clothes the moor in purple in June and July. *Calluna* blooms August to September and gives another coating of color to the moor. Bees seem to like *calluna* and bee-keepers transport hives containing broods of freshly raised bees to the moors in the Fall to take advantage of this in gaining large stores of heather honey which is prized for its dark color, heathery scent and thickness. Physical chemists prize heather honey for its high viscosity and strange property of thixotropic flow. A buzzer of exactly the right frequency will cause heather honey to flow from the comb. Otherwise it is too thick to run out unaided.

Honey was as prized in northern latitudes as grapes were in southern ones. Both have sugar contents high enough to ensure vigorous fermentation by wild yeasts, vigorous enough to exclude air and ensure the sugar is converted to ethanol. Heather honey was rarely eaten as such: it was sure to end up as mead, meath, mulse, mellicrater, hydromel or metheglin, or in other kitchen recipes. When malting of barley was discovered, and then distillation, the need for honey as the starting sugary material was much reduced.

A rumor persists that the Picts, coexistent with the Gaels, had a secret recipe for making beer out of heather. The recipe had to be magical, however, as well as secret since heather does not have enough sugar or starch to be converted to alcohol. Heather ale is today an article of commerce, but the heather (actually the flowering tops of *calluna* and bog heather) is there to provide a pleasant odor, or more likely a lingering bitter

ness. Hopping of beer is a comparatively late process and hops did not reach England until about 1470. Hops were expensive and heather (among other plants) was probably used as a hop substitute for beer fermented in the usual way.

Heather honey and heather ale about exhaust the culinary import from *calluna* and *erica*, unless heather-fed lamb or grouse or hare qualify indirectly.

Unfortunately for us, the ovary of heathers is superior to the calyx and only dry seeds are produced. However, in the botanically, very closely related *Vaccinium* and *Gaylussacia* families, the ovary is inferior and the seeds are produced inside a sweet pulpy mass we call a berry. Blueberries (*Vaccinium*) and Huckleberries (*Gaylussacia*) are indeed culinary treasures, and though the berries are frequently interchanged, blueberry or huckleberry pie is a rare treat. To be excruciatingly exact, neither is truly a berry (nor is cranberry, strawberry, raspberry, blackberry) and one has to go to the grape, tomato and banana to find a berry satisfactory to the botanists.

Cranberry, another kitchen candidate, comes from the *Vaccinium* Family, making this close relative of the heathers the most fruitful source of culinary utility. In Sweden, the most common cranberries are called Lingonberries, much esteemed for making a relish for venison. Cranberries were valuable to native people both in Scandinavia and North America for their keeping power, and berries could overwinter without rotting due to their preservative powers (probably due to benzoic acid).

Other berries are found in the *Ericaceae* Family, especially *salal* in the Pacific Northwest, long used for making pemmican. *Salal* or *Shallon* is in the *Gaultheria* Family, but most members produce barely edible fruit due to their high oil of wintergreen content, but still a useful flavor source for certain kitchen uses.

Gaultheria procumbens, the usual ericaceous source of Oil of Wintergreen, brings us into the realm of herbal medicines, which allows me to go back to other uses of common heather. Certainly it was once commonly used as a dye (for wool, anyway) and in some cultures was used as a herbal tea to treat bladder and urinary infections. There is scientific credibility for its use in bladder infections since heather contains an antibacterial substance tied in an unusual chemical linkage (a β -glycoside) which means it gets to the bladder unchanged where the active principle is released by enzymes. Other *Ericaceae* contain this chemical but heather is the commonest source of this herbal tea, and was no doubt brewed in the kitchen.

Heather does find another way into the kitchen, via the back door so to speak. Small brushes could be made of the flexible ends of heather stems, tied into a tight bundle to be used as a handle for a scrubbing brush for pots and

pans. Another variety of heather with long flexible stems (probably Bog Heather) was made into scouring pads. These were called *ringes* (two syllables) and were made by the tinkers (traveling people, in today's jargon) and sold door-to-door in times not so long ago (up to WWII). This would mean the kitchen door would be the gypsy target, so if heather didn't get into the main meal, at least it served a role in the clean-up process.

There is one poorly attested human use of heather itself as a foodstuff. That was a flour made from *calluna* for use in famine times in Sweden. This association of heather with famine presumably accounts for the Swedish belief that heather is unlucky. The Victorian embellished belief that white heather is lucky has no part in Swedish culture.

Peasants usually needed four to five thousand calories daily and had no inkling that in years to come people would gladly pay more for food without calories than with. I, therefore, foresee – at least in Swedish kitchens – a burgeoning use of heather flour. It should be at least as good as the cellulose - essentially purified wood flour – that finds a large market in low-calorie baked goods.

Heather scones, heather crumpets and Swedish muffins are, therefore, definitely on the horizon as these recipes belong in every modern calorie-aborrent kitchen.

-Donald Mackay

Donald Mackay was inspired to write his fascinating account of culinary heather by Lora Brody, contributing food editor for Horticulture magazine. We met her during our '09 conference Saturday evening dinner in 'The Night Kitchen', her son Max's restaurant in Montague, Massachusetts. Lora asked us if we knew of any recipes using heather that she could use in her magazine column.

If you know of any recipes incorporating heather, and would like to share, we would love to hear from you. Please send to- Judy Doyle, 19 Beckwith Street, Danielson, CT 06239; perennialherb@sbcglobal.net; or lora@lorabrody.com



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

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West Newbury, Massachusetts

Annabell Minty
Monroe Township, New Jersey



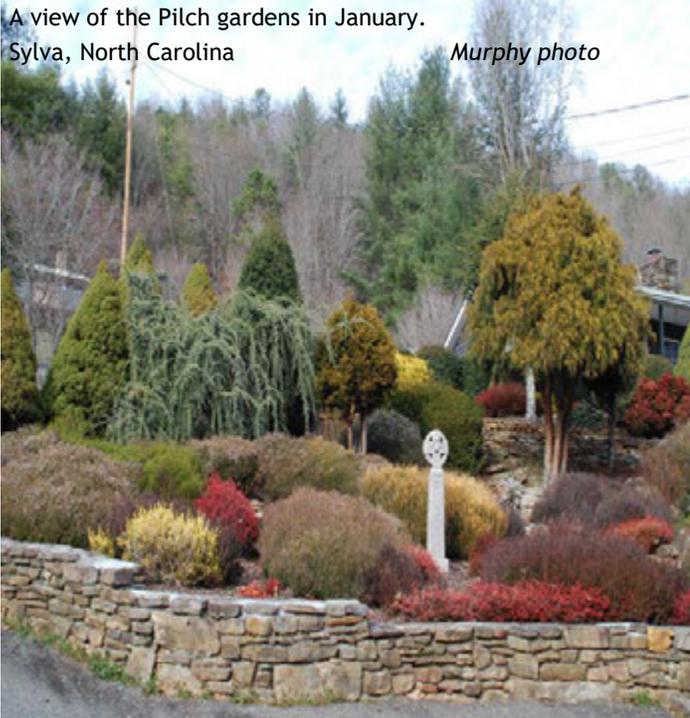
Bill Dowley's lovely "wild" heather hill in NH created by benign neglect. *Doyle photo*



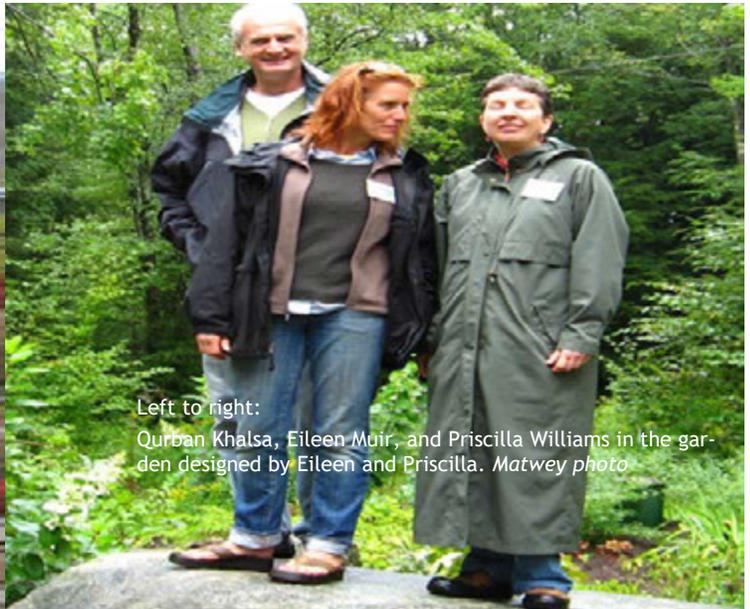
Matwey photo

A view of the Pilch gardens in January. Sylva, North Carolina

Murphy photo



Ron Wik, nursery manager of Nasami Farm in Whately, Massachusetts, explains to NEHS conference attendees that sand is layered atop the planting medium when starting ericaceous plants to minimize algae



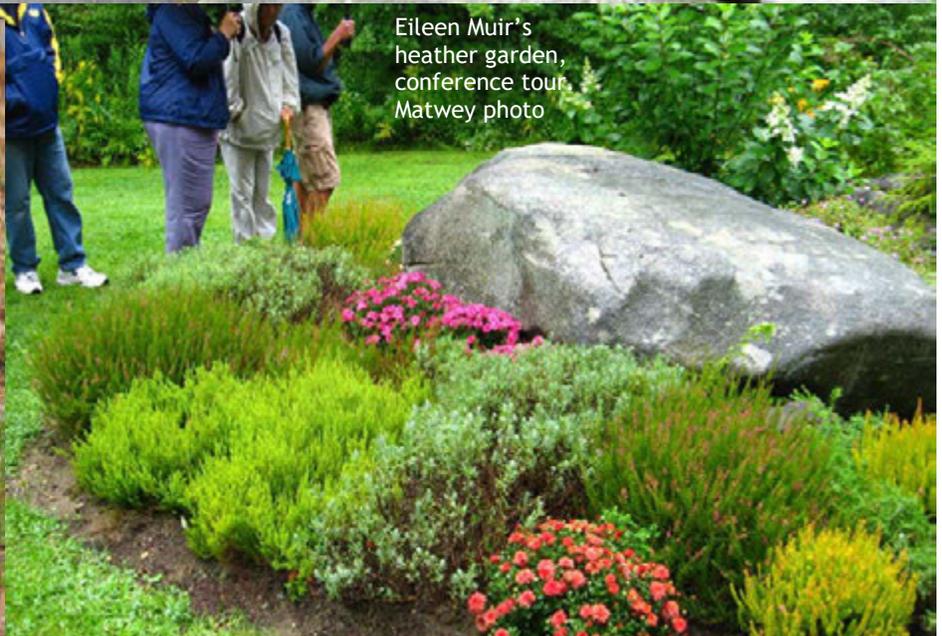
Left to right: Qurban Khalsa, Eileen Muir, and Priscilla Williams in the garden designed by Eileen and Priscilla. *Matwey photo*



Lora Brody
Contributing
Food Editor for
'Horticulture' magazine.



Coming in the Winter 2010 issue:
Read about this wild heather found on Mt. Acadia, Maine



Eileen Muir's heather garden, conference tour. *Matwey photo*

HEATHER NOTES, all rights reserved, is published quarterly by the Northeast Heather Society (NEHS), 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 a year. \$28 for a two year membership; \$40 for a three-year membership. Remit payment to:
Peter Matwey, Treasurer, 7 Heights Court, Binghamton, NY 13905

HEATHER CULTURE PROGRAMS are available. For slides, contact: Harry Bowen, Falmouth, MA. Tel (508) 548 3113.
For digital presentations, contact Bill Dowley, Keene, NH. Tel. (603) 355-8801; wdowley@ne.rr.com

WEB INFORMATION: North American Heather Society website: www.northamericanheathersoc.org

Click on 'Chapters' to find the Northeast Heather Society (NEHS) chapter page.

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Contact: Pat Hoffman (856) 467-4711; njgardener15@hotmail.com

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Do you have a suggestion, a question, a story, an anecdote, a poem, or a photo to share? Contact the Content editor:

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All material may be edited for clarity and length.

DEADLINES FOR EACH ISSUE:

March 20—June 20—September 20—December 20

