



## NEHS Annual Meeting and Conference - August 27, 2011

by Jane Murphy

### In This Issue

Annual Mtg. & Conf.....	pg 1
Heather Trimming 2012.....	pg 1
A Wordsworth Moment.....	pg 2
A Regional Heather Growing Guide.....	pg 3
Officers/Directors Listing.....	pg 3
Water Water Everywhere.....	pg 4
2012-2013 Slate Approved.....	pg 4
Heather Parlor Show.....	pg 5
Traveling Home.....	pg 5
Photographer Extraordinaire...	pg 6
Unusual Tasks.....	pg 6
Photo Page.....	pg 7
About Heather Notes.....	pg 8
Order Form.....	Insert

### Heather Trimming 2012

Heather trimming schedule for Spring 2012 will appear in the January 2012 Heather Notes Spring Issue. Maybe we will have our web-site up and running by then.

The stranded house guests at this year's Heather conference did get a preview of the Home Page with Side Bars. Now that the conference is over it will move to the top of the priority list.

Our group began Saturday bright and early, meeting at Cutler Botanic Garden at 8AM and heading off for breakfast at Apple Hills. We watched the mist lift from the surrounding fields, as we ate on the porch. The food was delicious and plentiful. Mac the dog enjoyed helping us 'clean our plates'.

The first stop on our tour was the Town of Chenango Town Hall. Local NEHS members maintain this heather garden which uses burgundy and lime colored Barberry as a backdrop for the heather. Two dwarf Alberta spruce on either side of a large boulder provided a central focal point. Different foliage and flower colors was provided by C.v. 'Red Haze', 'Beoly Gold' and 'Perestrojka' among a host of other cultivars in this heather garden.

Our next stop was the 'secret garden' at Broome County Library. The garden, which is adjacent to the library, is only open for special occasions. We felt honored that our visit was considered 'special'. Suzanne Barnes headed the design and planting of the heather, aided by local NEHS members. The garden was filled with a meandering path, and a central lawn area. A variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials filled the beds along the path. Benches, tables, chairs and a gazebo provided plenty of opportunity to sit and enjoy the serenity of the garden. The centerpiece of the garden was the unique sculpture by **Brian Davis** nestled in dwarf, burgundy Barberry. Callunas surrounded the barberry and provided a wonderful contrast in color and texture using cultivars such as 'Orange Queen', 'Kerstin' and 'Anette'. This area will become even more striking as the heathers mature and increase in size. We were all so proud to see the engraved bricks recognizing NEHS and Suzanne Barnes.

Our third stop was completely different. We walked across the street from the library to the Phelps Mansion, which was built in 1870 for Sherman D. Phelps, a local Binghamton businessman, by architect, Isaac G. Perry. The "Gem" at 191 Court Street, now a historic house museum, was an exceptional example by Perry to coordinate into the design, beautiful rare woods, metal, and glass in the interior of the house. We knew we were in for a treat when we saw the beautifully carved ten foot double wood doors at the entrance to the mansion. A beautiful Baccarat crystal chandelier from 1890 adorned the ballroom while rare chandeliers in other rooms were reminiscent of the Victorian period. The wood work in the mansion was exquisite, the combination of woods varying from one room to the next. Half of the group was fortunate to tour with the resident docent. He had many tales of ghost sightings that increased our interest in the mansion and the folks who inhabited it. We all enjoyed our box lunches in the Ballroom of the Phelps Mansion.

Our next stop, the Stony Hill Greenhouse owned by Dana Kieser, an NEHS member, truly had the perfect slogan - 'rare, variegated, and unusual plants.' As Dana states on her website, 'Stony Hill started out as a way for an avid plant collector to support her habit, & has evolved into another child.' We certainly enjoyed getting to know her 'other child'. She had a plethora of unusual plants and garden accessories combined in unusual ways, not to mention her unique collection of glass insulators. Dana's gardens certainly reflected her - just a little bit different, but so lovable. We enjoyed our time there; seeing what she has accomplished and getting great ideas and buying unusual gifts.

Our next stop was the circle at Dickinson Town Hall. I, for one, was delighted to see how it has matured since I last saw it in 2004. It looked wonderful! Despite being exposed on all sides to whatever the weather and man had inflicted, it illustrated to me the resilience of heather. The combination of grasses, conifers and heather was timeless. C.v. 'Peter Sparkes', 'Flamingo' and 'Chase White' stand out in this garden. Oak leaves are the winter mulch of choice in this garden.

Continued on page 3

## A Wordsworth Moment by Donald Mackay

I had a fluttering Wordsworth moment yesterday. But I saw no cloud, no sign of gold, and since yesterday was August 13, there couldn't have been daffodils anyway. What I did see was a faint whiteness mist in the dark recesses of the forest bordering my heather garden in Vermont, a sprinkling of white on the forest floor like the first snow that has filtered through the branches of the pine, spruce, hemlock, birch and maple be that make up most of the forest in this part of Vermont.

I wouldn't have seen anything at all except my Head Gardener (i.e., Chief Weeder) carries the results of her labors into the surrounding woods to decompose on the brush piles she has already collected there. "Come see," was the call from the dark recesses of the woods.

So I tramped into one area I haven't been near for years and found under a group of mature hemlocks a Wordsworthian host of dirty white shoots sprouting from the black forest floor. The shoots were in bundles, rather like etiolated asparagus stalks. I counted at least thirty bundles, with more bundles glimpsed under the were outliers making forest litter, pushing their way through. These bundles were mostly in an area of 15 by 20 feet, but there an extended oval of 30 by 50 feet. The bundles ranged from clumps of as much of fifty stalks down to groups of three or four, and there were even a few single stalks here and there.

In 40 years of wandering the Vermont woods I have come across single clumps of *Monotropa uniflora* on a few occasions, sufficiently memorable ones for me to revisit the sites in later years in vain hopes of another sighting. In fifty years in Westchester I have



seen a solitary clump perhaps three times in my garden, once in a neighbor's, deep in the shade of hemlocks and pine trees. I have seen it in New Hampshire woods around Lake Sunapee, but acidic granite-based New Hampshire soil is much more favorable to ericaceous plants than Vermont's, as evidenced by carpeting wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) common in New Hampshire but yet to be found (by me anyway) around here. The only heather relative fairly common in these woods is the *Pyrola* (*Pyrola elliptica* and *P. minor*) which can be abundant, even mat-forming in one locality, though absent elsewhere.

Indian Pipe, or Ghost Flower or Corpse Plant, in my experience, never grows in groups. A solitary clump shows up one year and then disappears. Wild flowers like Bloodroot and the Liverwort can also populate well defined though rather unique areas, die down to near invisibility, but then reappear in full vigor in spring. These areas are rare enough to keep an eye on and follow throughout the year. Indian Pipe cannot be called rare, but it is certainly uncommon and eye-catching.

Will I now have my own patch of Indian Pipe to monitor yearly? A patch this large may well decide to leave a few plants for next year.

Indian Pipe, a member of the *Pyrola* Family, a branch of the *Erica* Family, is a chlorophyll-deficient saprophyte, i.e., a parasite on some living plant, but unlike most saprophytes, not directly connected to it. The connection by which the plant gets its nutrients is probably mycorrhizal, but whether it is the roots of the plant or the surrounding trees, or both, that provide the connection is not very clear. The nearby hemlock trees provide a clue, as they seem to be involved. The size of the fungal mycelium must be remarkable in order to support so many plants of Indian Pipe.

Presumably, the Indian Pipe is getting a free ride on the mycorrhizal system set up by the hemlock trees, probably to recycle their own leaves, in order to maximize their nutrient supply within the competitive systems of the forest. It seems doubtful that this fungal connection is set up after the growth of Indian Pipe has started. The seeds, like those of orchids, are very fine and have no energy reserve of starch like most seeds. Like orchids, growth may depend on a mycorrhizal association being formed simultaneously as the seed germinates, so this mycorrhiza may be different from that formed by the trees. Freakish conditions might account for one clump forming, but 30 to 50 clumps growing at once seems possible only if the mycelial mat was pre-existent.

One thing is sure. Indian Pipe has no chlorophyll and sees little sun. It clearly needs carbohydrates for the energy requirements of growth. It is not producing them itself, so it is getting them from something that does produce or carry carbohydrates. The former theory that it obtains its food directly from buried decaying matter cannot explain the appearance of so many plants.

Continued on page 3

## A Wordsworth Moment continued from page 2

At one time mycorrhizae were notable for their unusual role in nutrition of heathers and orchids, and a few other plants, and were considered the result of a stand-off between invading fungi and the defense mechanism of plants, as clearly shown by microscopic studies of infected roots. Today mycorrhizae have entered the world of garden catalogs as aids to growth of healthy plants and the term has broadened to the point of diminished utility. But there is little doubt that the original narrowly defined mycorrhizae are at work here.

Incidentally, Ghost Pipe is used as the common name for another parasitic plant called Cancerroot, a member of the *Broomrape* family. It is not related to the Heath Family, and the parasitism is direct as an attachment to the roots of certain favored plants.

### *Daffodils by William Wordsworth (revised 1815)*

*I wandered lonely as a Cloud  
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd  
A host of golden Daffodils;  
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

## A Regional Heather Growing Guide

This informative booklet was introduced in the July issue of the Heather Notes. If you did not order it then, I urge you to do so. You are sure to find some bit of advice or a new method that has proven to work well for other heather growers that you can borrow or adapt to help your plants survive the winter. Additionally, there is advice on optimum siting of plants in the garden, soil preparation, fertilization needs, and planting techniques for both new plants, and the old ones that need a new lease on life. This advice has been collected from heather growers like yourself from various parts of this continent so you are sure to find something that will apply to your unique heather growing conditions. All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Heather Society to be used in our efforts to educate the novice and experienced heather gardener, support heather research and to support the volunteer efforts in maintaining the NEHS supported heather gardens. Thank You in advance for your order. An order form insert is included for your convenience

NEHS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS, 2012				
President/ Content Editor	Mary Matwey	7 Heights Court Binghamton, NY 13905	(607) 723 1418	<a href="mailto:mmatwey@stny.rr.com">mmatwey@stny.rr.com</a>
Vice-President	Donald Mackay	135 Deerfield Lane Pleasantville, NY 10570	(914) 769 6553	<a href="mailto:dammackay@gmail.com">dammackay@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer/ Corres Sec.	Peter Matwey	7 Heights Court Binghamton, NY 13905	(607) 723 1418	<a href="mailto:pmatwey@stny.rr.com">pmatwey@stny.rr.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Elaine Miller	135 Deerfield Lane Pleasantville, NY 10570	(914) 769 6553	<a href="mailto:dammackay@gmail.com">dammackay@gmail.com</a>
Director Emeritus	Harry Bowen	18 Chase Road, Apt. A Falmouth, MA 02540	(508) 548 3113	<a href="mailto:JPNautilus@aol.com">JPNautilus@aol.com</a>
Director	Pat Hoffman	PO Box 305 Swedesboro, NJ 08085	(856) 467 4711	<a href="mailto:njgardener15@hotmail.com">njgardener15@hotmail.com</a>
Director	Bill Dowley	28 Hurricane Road Keene, NH 03431	(603) 355 8801	<a href="mailto:wdowley@ne.rr.com">wdowley@ne.rr.com</a>
Director	Ellen Holland	69 Hope Corson Rd Seaville, NJ 08230	(609) 390 9143	<a href="mailto:ehheather@hotmail.com">ehheather@hotmail.com</a>
Director	Vivagean Merz	55 Upland Drive Falmouth, MA 02540	(508) 548 3282	<a href="mailto:vivagean@comcast.net">vivagean@comcast.net</a>
Director	Paul Murphy	2473 Hickory Hill Road Oxford, PA 19363	(302) 559 6052	<a href="mailto:murphy613@zoominternet.net">murphy613@zoominternet.net</a>
Director	Alice Schaefer	27 Waverly Avenue Newton, MA 02458	(617) 965 0546	<a href="mailto:puppetiris@aol.com">puppetiris@aol.com</a>
Director	Priscilla Williams	35 Turner Road Townsend, MA 01469	(978) 597 3005	<a href="mailto:phw@seedlingspecialist.com">phw@seedlingspecialist.com</a>
Director	Suzanne Barnes	9 Giles St. Binghamton, NY 13905	(607) 770 9414	<a href="mailto:scbee9@aol.com">scbee9@aol.com</a>
Director	Bunny van Valey	108 Mossman Road Sudbury, MA 01776	(978) 443 6454	<a href="mailto:bhvv@msn.com">bhvv@msn.com</a>
Director/ Publishing Editor	Jane Murphy	2473 Hickory Hill Road Oxford, PA 19363	(610) 883 2171	<a href="mailto:murphy1213@zoominternet.net">murphy1213@zoominternet.net</a>

**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

## Water Water, Everywhere By Mary Matwey, Pres.

I should have written the 2011 Heather Conference article immediately following the event when Binghamton, NY only had to cope with hurricane Irene. For Binghamtonians that was only an inconvenience and I sympathized and worried for those conference attendees who had to travel home through MA, Upstate NY, VT, PA and NJ. Little did I know that a week and a half later would find Binghamton and the entire south central NY area coping with major flood issues from the remnants of hurricane Lee. If you were unfortunate to live in the path of the flood waters, mud and layers of fine silt cover every thing. Many homes, businesses, farm lands and gardens are estimated to be near a 100% loss. Most significant and sad is the disruption of people's lives and loss of homes and memorabilia as they drag their water damaged belongings to the curb. In the hardest hit areas the recovery process seems almost impossible but somehow we will overcome these adversities with the help of family, friends and neighbors and assistance from charities and government agencies. Already we have had brief, hard rains that washed off some of the silt from the heathers at Cutler which historically goes under when the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers flood. All of the other heather gardens that were on the conference tour survived the deluge well. Those who braved hurricane Irene warnings to attend the conference enjoyed two days (Friday and Saturday) of pleasant weather only to wake up Sunday morning to a short power outage and a lot of wind and rain. But from the sounds of laughter and constant chatter emanating from the enclosed porch, all 18 guests were warm, dry and happy and patiently waiting for brunch to be served. When the power went out, our house guest, Bunny vanValey and my sister, also nicknamed Bunny, took charge and lit candles and oil lamps and prepared to finish baking the breakfast strata on the grill. Luckily the power was restored and the food preparation, coffee making and lighting was executed using modern day conveniences. Half way through brunch, Suzanne Barnes arrived with an assortment of her home made scones. What a great way to finish off brunch. As the morning faded, thoughts of returning home were on everyone's mind. The TV was tuned to the weather station and although I do not like the "fear monger" style of the Weather Channel's live clips and on scene reports when it is about someplace or someone I have no connection to, this was different. We watched as the radar showed yellow, orange and red smudges training across eastern NY, NH, MA and Vermont. We visited websites on the computer (511.statename.com) for VT, NH, MA and for NY to see close up of area maps covered in these little red circles indicating roads closed and bridges washed away. The closure of our local Binghamton airport and roads in and out of VT meant that we would enjoy the company of house guests for a little while longer. As long as they didn't mind eating leftovers we were in good shape. It was late Monday before I realized that no one except the stranded guests had a chance to see my heather garden or visit the wine making area. My heather gardens look like everybody else's, just re-arranged differently and there wasn't any wine fermenting in the "winery" since the grapes are late this year so just in case you were disappointed, nobody really missed anything. The important thing is that all conference attendees made it home safely and were kind enough to let me share with you their homeward bound experiences, see the "Traveling Home". I should point out that definite plans were made at the Annual Membership meeting on Saturday evening to hold the next Heather conference in Vermont, chaired by Donald Mackay and assisted by Bill Dowley. No date has been set just yet but if early, we will see Donald's unusual and unique collection of heather in their prime or if later in the season, we will be enjoying the outstanding colors of Vermont in the fall and beautiful heather past their prime. Stay tuned for the announcement of this event.

### 2012-2013 NEHS Slate of Officers and Directors Approved

One of the responsibilities of the general membership at the Annual Membership Meeting is to vote on a slate of Officers and Directors for the Society as previously approved by the current board of directors. This year, the Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and 4 Board of Director positions were on the slate presented to the general membership. The general membership voted to approve the slate as presented. The new officers and board of directors are as follows:

Treasurer	Peter Matwey	2012-1013	re-elected
Corresponding Secretary	Peter Matwey	2012-2013	re-elected
Recording Secretary	Elaine Miller	2012-2013	new
Director	Bill Dowley	2012-2013	re-elected
Director	Priscilla Williams	2012-2013	re-elected
Director	Pat Hoffman	2012-2013	re-elected

## Heather Parlor Show, 2011

If this year's number of entries in the Heather Parlor Show was not a record then it was a close second. 59 entries were recorded (19 single flower blooms, 13 double flower blooms, 23 bud bloomers and 4 Erica in bloom).

Here are the results:

<u>Class I</u>	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u>	<u>Single Flowered Bloom</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	'Fortyniner Gold'	Suzanne Barnes
2 <sup>nd</sup>	'Hiemalis'	Pat Hoffman
3 <sup>rd</sup>	'Fortyniner Gold'	Bill Dowley
<u>Class II</u>	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u>	<u>Double Flowered Bloom</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	'Shurig's Sensation'	Mary Matwey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	'Tib'	Mary Matwey
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Unknown	Hetty Francke
<u>Class III</u>	<u>Erica species</u>	<u>In Bloom</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Erica vagans, 'Birch Glow'	Cutler Botanic Garden
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daboecia cantabrica, 'Atropurpurea'	Jane Murphy
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Erica vagans, 'Birch Glow'	Jane Murphy
<u>Class IV</u>	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u>	<u>Bud Bloomer</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	'Athene'	Bill Dowley
2 <sup>nd</sup>	'Amanda'	Bill Dowley
3 <sup>rd</sup>	'Sandy'	Bill Dowley

### Traveling Home

Bunny vanValey, a passenger with Bill and Vicky Dowley, making their way across MA shares this thrilling narrative:

*"The trip home was hopefully a once in a lifetime experience.....!!! Bill made the trip seem like a piece of cake even though at times the spray from other cars and TRUCKS was blinding.....!!! In the areas where the hills and mountains rose up above us, riverlets of water came tumbling down the banks with terrifying force carrying anything in its path with it...!!! Soon after we made our way through the Berkshires (MA), the rain let up to a manageable more comfortable storm... and was just a sprinkle when we arrived in Sudbury... !!!"*

Our friends from Canada, Willa Wick and her sister Annette, had this to say:

*"Annette and I had several hours of hard rain before we drove west far enough to get it behind us. All we could think was "oh those poor souls, they're all driving east into it"*

Paul and Jane Murphy and Hetty and Hans Francke traveled south to PA and DE and for the most part were clear of the storm. The cleanup was waiting for them when they got home.

From Donald Mackay and Elaine Miller:

*'Had an easy ride on Route 17 back to Westchester until we reached the NY Thruway junction. The Thruway was closed both ways due to flooding and its traffic was diverted onto Rte 6 which made a very slow ride through Harri-man State Park. Quite a bit of damage to road surfaces in the park. Somehow we got shunted onto the Palisades Parkway, but it was going south instead of towards the Bear Mountain Bridge. After about 8 miles we managed to get off and head back on local roads to the bridge. We got there eventually and found no traffic at all. Very strange.'*

### NEHS Annual Meeting and Conference continued from page 1

Our final tour stop was Cutler Botanic Garden. I recalled how spectacular it was at the 2004 NEHS Conference and was not disappointed in 2011. This garden has been completely renovated with soil amendments of sand and compost and many companion plantings and paths have been added. Center stage was Erica vagans 'Birch Glow' and C.v. 'Amethyst'. C.v. 'Lime Glade' will be used to define border lines between the swaths of heather. Despite some losses, it still retains its beauty. The losses have not defeated the caretakers; only presented the Master Gardeners with an opportunity to think Bigger.... Better.... Bolder!

We finished our very intense day with a delightful activity - creating gourd flower pots! Terry Nolte provided the raw materials, gentle instruction and encouragement, so that all us were able to create our own astounding gourd flower pots. We were amazed at how wonderful and unique our creations were .....Thank You Terry!

## Photographer Extraordinaire by Mary Matwey

How do you give someone a gift that forces that person to forsake all principals and edicts they have lived by for years, electronic devices are just a fad. We have all enjoyed Donald Mackay's eloquent and descriptive writings which served to stimulate our imagination. However, some of us have better imagination than others so when the thought occurred to his friends to present him with a gift for all that he has done for our Society, in particular the creation of "A Regional Heather Growing Guide", I immediately thought of a digital camera; the devil's canvas to enhance the written word, serving as a permanent record of what we saw, where we were, when we were there and who we were with. I knew we had to be devious about it so I asked Donald to take pictures with "my camera" because, always being the photographer, I rarely appear in photos for any event. Reluctantly he agreed and as you'll see, his photos are pretty darn good.

## Unusual Tasks for a Used Camera by Donald Mackay

Mary Matwey certainly knows how to use her Presidential Powers to delegate, whether by fiat, dictum, ukase, bull or simple edict.

I assume all attendees at our 2011 Annual Meeting were given some job or other the second they showed up, but in my case a brand new camera was thrust into my hands with the instruction to point it at people and press a shiny button to record the finest moments of our convention in Binghamton, NY. I must have pressed that button a hundred times or more before Mary pried it from my cramped grip to see how many shots were usable, i.e. how many anterior shots there were rather than posterior ones. In defense I must point out that the latter shot presents itself far more frequently than the former, especially when heather enthusiasts are scrabbling in the mulch looking for some kind of label.

To minimize this faceless task, I took on the bottomless job of trying to photograph heather plants with the corresponding label, no mean task when some of our more prominent attendees had supplied so many of the beautiful plants we saw gracing the facades of the Chenango and Dickinson Town Halls, the Broome County Library, and the Cutler Botanic Garden. We need a Regional Guide on Survival of Plant Labels, with sections dedicated to Winter Protection, Sun Bleaching and Rain Resistance. It also needs a large section on Brittleness and Placement of Names on the labels. It is amazing how many of our cultivars end in -ea and -folia, or -hite, -range, -red, -old, or -eauty. A reverse spelling of our cultivars would be a helpful addition to our plant lists. So would an NEHS grant to nurseries to ensure their use of labels that can last longer than a few days of exposure to rain and sun under garden conditions.

Using both sides of the label for the name would also be extremely useful for our garden archaeologist as he or she tries to reassemble the shards of broken labels to try to reestablish the connection between the plant and its putative name. One has to say 'putative' to acknowledge the other onerous job of the archaeologist in tying the plant not just to its label but to its correct name. One cannot always lay inconsistencies on the back of the nursery since it is known crows will steal shiny objects for their nests, and worms show enormous strength in pulling leaves and even rooted cuttings into their burrows.

With momentous thoughts such as these I found it difficult to stay calm long enough to frame both plant and label (when findable) without the same pair of shoes showing up in many pictures. Much of the trouble was due to the inferior type of camera thrust into my hands. The viewfinder is large enough but the picture gets very fuzzy as you bring the camera to the eye. However, I admit I got somewhat careless after the first 25 shots as it then became obvious the film had broken and I was merely operating the shutter. Still the click had a satisfying sound, and in any case I couldn't find a way to get the film out of the camera. I assume Mary found a way to do it after I had been relieved of the onerous responsibility of Annual Meeting Archivist.

I hope the photos, when and if they appear in Heather Notes, will not offend too many. Luckily most will be faceless. However, a study of textiles may identify the wearer in certain unusual positions. Sorry about that.

P.S. At the Conference dinner I was most agreeably surprised to have that same camera returned to me by Mary with instructions to keep it. Either I had broken it or used up all its film. Either way I am most thankful to the donors. I will treasure it, even if it now is a used item, and will continue to press that shiny button in my unending quest for a durable, readable label. Label Archaeology may soon become a standard discipline in the Master Gardener curriculum.

Apple Hills photo by damm



Phelps Mansion



Town of Chenago



Creating gourds photo by damm

Broome County Library Secret Garden



Plaques at Broom County Library



Cutler Botanic Garden photo by damm



Circle at Dickinson Town Hall



**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, Phylloce* 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. A family membership permits more than one family member to vote and participate in all NEHS activities for an additional \$5 per year fee above the annual dues. The family membership includes all household members residing at the same address and each member has one vote. Each household will receive only one copy of Heather Notes.

Dues for an Individual: \$15 a year; \$28 for a two year membership; \$40 for a three year membership

Dues for a Family \$20 a year; \$33 for a two year membership; \$45 for a three year membership

Remit payment to: Peter Matwey, Treasurer, 7 Heights Court, Binghamton, NY 13905

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

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

**ADVERTISING:** Quarter page ad: \$35 per issue; \$25 per issue if advertising in two or more consecutive issues.

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

**BE A CONTRIBUTOR TO HEATHER NOTES:**

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

Mary Matwey, 7 Heights Court, Binghamton, NY 13905 (607) 723 1418 [mmatwey@stny.rr.com](mailto:mmatwey@stny.rr.com)

All material may be edited for clarity and length.

**DEADLINES FOR EACH ISSUE:**

March 20—June 20—September 20—December 20

