



Liquid Sunshine

Newsletter of the Marsh Botanical Garden

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Garden Notes:

Annual Beds

After the recent killing frost, we have started cleaning out the annual beds that we had planted this summer. The plan for these areas includes plantings of bulbs and a growing area for Vivian Irish's lab. We have ordered several varieties of Tulips, Narcissi, Chionodoxa, Scilla, Crocus and others. Some will be planted in these beds, and others will be planted out in areas of the garden.

Our experiment in incorporating tropical plants into the annual beds seemed to work wonderfully. The Tree-Fern, the Sugar Can, the Dwarf Banana and others added color, textural and proportional contrast to the beds, but also added an edible element to the landscape. Although the frost got the Bananas before they ripened, they did flower and produce a bunch. As well, the Sugar Cane rendered its eponymous sweetness when I gnawed on the stalk yesterday.

We have tilled up some additional areas in the garden for different uses, which we are in the process of planning for in the coming growing season. For that reason, if any labs have specific requests for outdoor growing space, now is the time to communicate those to us. Even if there is no surety of the size needed, or even if the space is necessary, it would be very helpful to hear of any possible plans for use of the space.

We will be undertaking some soil sampling in the garden beds over the winter, as well as distributing compost from the Marsh Gardens compost pile to these areas.

Gifts to the Garden

We would like to thank some folks for their generous donations to the garden. Kate Tatham, a senior administrative assistant in MC/DB handed over some Blood-root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), several Jack-in-the-Pulpits (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and an unidentified fern. These have been planted out in the gardens. Kate also gave us some Jack-in-the-Pulpit seeds, which have been scattered in the woods as well.

A beautiful little Sourwood tree (*Oxydendron arboreum*) was planted out on the hill near Marsh Hall, a gift of an anonymous donor.

I would also like to thank my friend and former student from Haverford College, Heidi Witmer, who gave generously of her time and energy for several days over the last few weeks, on a volunteer basis. Her enthusiasm and love of gardening were noted by many. We hope that she will join us for more common ground in future weeks.

Compost Up-date

As mentioned earlier under Annual Beds, we will start distributing the results of our season-long efforts at composting. The compost pile has been a qualified success. A complete success in lowering our contributions to the trash stream from Marsh Gardens, but somewhat less successful in producing a consistently high quality compost, mostly due to the fact that we are not able to grind or shred the components as they are added to the pile. A chipper/shredder is on our wish list.

Liquid Sunshine is a publication of the Marsh Botanical Garden at Yale University. The title comes from a common nickname for rain, because we only have time to write on rainy days.

Marsh Garden extends from Prospect Street to our office on the corner of Hillside Place and Mansfield Street. The Garden is open to the public and we welcome you to visit anytime.

Director	Timothy Nelson
Manager	Eric Larson
Horticulturist	David Garinger
Steering Committee	Mark Ashton, Mary Helen Goldsmith, Michael Donoghue, Timothy Nelson

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Tea with the Donoghue Lab

On Thursday, October 23, we hosted the folks who toil diligently in Michael Donoghue's lab at EEB. For the readers who are not aware that there are two branches of Biology here at Yale, EEB stands for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, while MC/DB is the acronym we use for Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. Michael's lab is the first that we have hosted from the EEB side, and we look forward to more interchange within this department.

For the first time, we hosted a tea without the excellent services of Ginger Stevens and Leslie Kuo, but we had excellent help in preparing for this event from volunteer Heidi Witmer, and one of our student workers, Elizabeth Black.

We had an excellent turn-out, with a couple of folks unable to come either because of prior commitment, or in one case, the trip back from Portugal was not 'funded.' We regret the loss, but reiterate that all who have missed a tea in the past will have plenty of chances to attend in the future.

Besides the good people from the Donoghue lab, we were also honored to have Nico Cellinese, the curator from the herbarium join us. As well, Melina Shannon-DePietro from the Sustainable Food Initiative attended.

We started out with our usual tea and pastries, hot from the ovens of Patisserie Normande, with some introductions and informal exchange. Then we convened a tour of the greenhouses, as the outside gardens have gone to sleep for the winter, for the most part.

Dave's expertise and his joy in growing were on display, as we trooped through the greenhouses. Words fail me, so I will include several pictures, which also won't completely capture the feeling that day, but will come closer.



Above: Heidi and Elizabeth Black helped to host the latest tea event. Below: Nico Cellinese and others pay close attention as Dave Garinger, Marsh Gardens' Horticulturist, gives the tour.



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Marsh Gardeners, Past and Present

Leslie Kuo and Ginger Stevens have moved on to greener pastures, if there is such a thing, and their good work and energy have been missed. However, we do have some new introductions to make, and a returning employee to recognize.

Aravinda Ananda returns from working with us last year. She is an undergraduate, and works principally with Mary Helen Goldsmith on the labeling project.

Laurie Cuocco is a graduate student in Forestry and Environmental Science. She is splitting a job with her roommate, Elizabeth Black, a graduate student in International Studies. These two members of the proletariat have done everything from weeding and mowing, to roto-tilling and trash pick up. We are very glad to have all three of these folks with us, and you will be hearing more about their exploits in future newsletters.