



Liquid Sunshine

Newsletter of the Marsh Botanical Garden
Volume 2, Number 4 • September 20, 2004

Garden Notes

After several months' absence, I'd like to welcome everybody back to another issue of Liquid Sunshine. We had a very productive growing season so far, with more good weather anticipated. We had plenty of timely rainfall, except for one or two weeks during August. The Annual Flower Gardens were again very successful, both in terms of the display and the chance for our summer employees to design a growing floral display.

We planted several trees in the spring, to add to our slice of the urban forest, and they seem to be doing quite well, despite some unfortunate activities involving lawn mowers and string trimmers.

Catching up with Dave...

The indoor collections have continued their modest but very important expansion, as Dave Garinger has added to our teaching collection, with purchases of aroid plants, bromeliads, orchids, tropical fruit trees, perennials and "Oh my goodness, what have I NOT bought!" says Dave. We have expanded those collections especially used by Plant Diversity Classes, in which we were asked to provide specimens of some economically important taxa.

Dave also constructed a display for the aroid plants, showing a creativity coupled with practical problem-solving that exemplifies Dave's contributions to the garden. Dave also purchased a Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), which is a very important species economically and culturally. More on this

later.

Outside in the Garden

We jury-rigged a watering contraption out of a used barrel, some railroad ties and a bungy cord to facilitate watering trees and newly planted perennials in the gardens. The wet summer has been good for plant growth, especially the weeds. But we managed to persuade many of the worst characters and hangers-on, to look for work elsewhere. For instance, last year the big problem was the Viny Nightshade, which I was able to stay on top of this year, just by anticipating its late-season surge. The Purple Loose-Strife, although still present, has been kept under control, as has most of the poison ivy. Oriental Bittersweet, Hall's Honeysuckle, and several other problem plants still are present, but not as over-powering as they once were. Two plants that are starting to give concern are the Mimosa Tree (*Albizia julibrissin*) and Burning Bush (*Euonymus alata*) which are emanating out from the original planting in waves like an invading scourge.

This last spring we planted the first of several stages of a shrub border along the chain link fence leading to our head house. This will provide year-round interest and create a more attractive entrance to our humble home. As well, the entry garden was installed and planted this spring, which makes for quite a different impression when entering the door.

Another event at the Garden this summer that had a significant impact on my time and energy, was the wedding that took place here. The Quaker ceremony was at Farnum Garden,

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.

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Manager	<i>Eric Larson</i>
Horticulturist	<i>David Garinger</i>
Steering Committee	<i>Mark Ashton, Mary Helen Goldsmith, Michael Donoghue, Timothy Nelson</i>

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directly across the street, and the reception was in a tent here on Marsh Gardens, in the area where the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies has their commencement. Over two hundred guests, plus caterers, photographers, deliveries, justice of the peace and some lookers-on, were regaled on a beautiful summer day, on July 31, as Linda Sarro, the assistant to the Associate Provost for Science and Technology and I were married. The band with whom I play, Peach Pie, played music as we tripped the light fantastic on a dance floor constructed for the occasion. The night before, in the lower garden, we had the Big Green Truck Pizza Guy feed the sixty or so guests for the 'rehearsal dinner.' The flowers were cut from our annual and perennial borders, which didn't seem to show much diminished color, and the grounds were the scene of some very happy kids as they got to run around during the reception. All in all, a good time was had by all, but the event didn't go off without a hitch: indeed, Linda and I are now hitched.

Eleanor Burgess, one of our academic calendar student workers, and I planted several fruit trees this spring, which did very well over the summer. We don't anticipate fruit on any of them until the fall of 2006, which will be Eleanor's senior year. We hope that at least one pie will result at that point, with which we can celebrate the bounty of the garden's usufruct.

At the encouragement of Mary Helen Goldsmith, past Director of the Gardens, we planted a small patch of wild flower seed in an area where a contractor had repaired a storm sewer problem. The resulting garden has elicited favorable comments from many folks, mostly F and ES community members, as this garden is right outside the north door of Greeley Lab. Mostly annuals at this point, we have been also introducing some perennials that Dave had started from seed, to provide more long-lasting interest from year to year.



Centaurea, Cosmos, Gaillardia and others were included in the mix that was sown in June. We hope these annuals will



The longer view includes our planting in the foreground, with Greeley Lab, and the research corn for the Dellaporta Lab.

Summer Employees/Horticultural Interns

Betsey Enenbach and Michelle Brickner joined us for the summer, and left their marks on the garden and in our thoughts, as they have both moved on to greener pastures, we would hope. Michelle is teaching at a private school in Salt Lake City, and last we talked to her, was very excited about the transition to the 'Western frame of mind.' Betsey had not found gainful employment as of our last visit with her, but she is close with several applications, and is now ensconced in Chicago. We'd like to thank them for a great summer and for sharing their spirit with us. Both sets of parents came to check on their daughters over the summer, and that was also a big part of our experience with them both. Michelle's father sent me a hoe that he had fashioned by hand from scrap metal, and I have to say, it IS 'de bomb,' as they say: lightweight, yet formidable enough for those weeds that escaped the earlier weeding. Betsey's family came with such an enthusiasm that I was not sure if we had enough work gloves to hand out. Thanks again to Betsey and Michelle. Come back when you can.

Michelle and Betsey and I worked on bench improvements here at the gardens this summer, including the installation of the swing from the Oak tree, and the Serendipity Bench, as I call it. The Serendipity Bench was the result of the removal some years past of two of the leaders of a multi-stemmed Juniper. I evened the two stumps off with the chain saw, and Betsey and Michelle sanded, stained and applied polyurethane to a piece of Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) that I had brought with me from Pennsylvania. A piece of the same board was used to create a swing that we installed on the horizontal branch of the signature White Oak above the garden. Garden visitors have used both benches often over the summer, as they offer a place

to sit in the shade, with thoughtful views of the garden. As well, the existing bench had been creating some maintenance problems, which we solved by installing a flagstone landing beneath. In addition, Len Sablitz, former superintendent, built a fine picnic table which resides near the shop.



The Serendipity bench 'neath the Juniper tree.



The swing in a moment of reflection.



Our Featured Plant with Dave Garinger

Programs and Events

We have hosted several events over the summer and into this fall. We had several small school groups come in for a tour, and most recently the New England Wild Flower Society, in conjunction with the Peabody Museum and Marsh Gardens, presented a day-long workshop about the propagation of wildflowers by seed. This was well-attended despite the remnants of Hurricane Ivan blowing through, and the attendees were well rewarded for their pains. Author, plantsman and manager of the NEWFS nursery, Bill Cullina was excellent at providing information as well as helping to impart his passion for the subject. We look forward to more of these collaborations. We will be providing a calendar of future events for the gardens, so that readers who are interested can join us.

Earlier in the summer, we invited the Dellaporta Lab to join us for tea and some light refreshments. Although attendance was diminutive, we had a good time with excellent give-and-take concerning horticulture, gardening, Yale's community and how the two entities interface, if I may use that term as a verb this once. With the wedding, I must admit that our tea events were sporadic this summer, but we will be more aggressive this fall. Look for your invitation!

The Featured Plant.

The Featured Plant is growing now on the fence next to the entryway garden here at Marsh Gardens. *Mina lobata* is also known as *Ipomoea lobata* depending on who you talk to, or more correctly to whom you talk. The common names include Spanish Flag, Firecracker Vine and Exotic Love. Don't let the nomenclature keep you from growing this fabulous annual vine. It is not as vigorous or invasive as its relatives in the Morning Glory family (Convolvulaceae), and its floral habits are interesting in the extreme.

Given full sun (at least six hours a day), this vine will stretch to eight or ten feet, covering a chain link fence or perhaps that rusted pickup that was left on the property when you bought it. The flowers are held above the mass of leaves on slender tendrils. Although the blossoms are not fragrant, they do attract hummingbirds by dint of color. The flowers are scarlet, fading to yellow and finally to white, with all three colors appearing on the stalk at the same time. The photo shows Dave Garinger, our horticulturist, gesticulating about how fond he is of this annual vine. He will be growing it in the greenhouse this winter for display and instructional purposes.