

# TRANQUIL TIMES

## The Newsletter of Tranquil Lake Nursery

No. 36

Summer, 2011

### Summer & Fall Events at Tranquil Lake Nursery

Free and open to the public. For more information, call 508-252-4002 or visit [www.tranquil-lake.com](http://www.tranquil-lake.com)

### Fall Garden Festival Saturday, October 1, 2011 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A fun and educational day filled with workshops and hands-on demonstrations that will help you to hone your gardening skills and improve the beauty of your landscape year round.

### Garden Lectures on Saturdays in September

#### 11 a.m. Bring a Lawn Chair

- Sept. 17 The Mixed Border: Plant Combinations of Perennials, Trees and Shrubs for a Long Season of Interest
- Sept. 24 Foliage, Fruits, Seeds & More to Add Interest Garden Accents

(Descriptions of garden talks are on our website at [www.tranquil-lake.com](http://www.tranquil-lake.com))

### Siberian Iris Field Clearance Sale

Visit the Nursery on Saturday, September 24 for exceptional prices on our Siberian Iris. For details visit [www.tranquil-lake.com](http://www.tranquil-lake.com)

### Garden Design Days

Saturdays, August 20  
& October 8

Sign up for a half hour garden design consult with Warren Leach

\$50 reservation fee  
(Redeemable in exchange for plants)  
Reservations first come - first serve

### Treasuring the Plants Around Us

Plants are objects of wonder for what they provide aesthetically, economically and environmentally. We simply wouldn't exist without their ability to photosynthesize, converting the energy from the sun to the food that feeds all living things. They not only provide humanity with food, fiber, pharmaceuticals and beauty, they also give us that essential element, oxygen. Yet while plants are as ubiquitous as the atmosphere, we get so busy sometimes that they become nearly invisible. We encourage you to stop, see and smell the flowers daily.

Plants, and the gardens that are made from them, are also essential for their innate beauty and the pleasure they give us. Paraphrasing Ralph Waldo Emerson, "beauty is its own excuse for being." And what a world of beauty plants have to offer; emerald green mosses, red-capped lichens, fragrant and brightly colored flowers and the sculptural forms of woody trees and shrubs.

If there is a bare spot of ground almost anywhere on earth, a plant of some type will grow there. Nature abhors a void. Of course, many of these opportunistic plants are not always appreciated as cited in the book "Weeds: In Defense of Nature's Most Unloved Plants" by Richard Mabey. We should all acquire a taste for purslane and celebrate its beauty and good taste.

I've always been fascinated by the unique plant communities that grow in rocky niches and shallow soils. On the cliff face of Mount Champlain in Maine, surviving in scarce inches of gravelly soil and organic duff grows bonsai-like bear oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), juniper (*Juniperus communis* 'Repanda'), bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and wine leaf cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*). This is a beautiful planting combination that can easily be translated to the built landscape to form a garden in a sunny dry site in the city or country. *Potentilla tridentata* is an excellent replacement for unneeded turf. Its leaves turn a beautiful wine-red color in fall. Bayberry is a drought and salt-tolerant shrub that can be used as a three-to-four foot high groundcover or small tree showing off its grey bark. Bayberry's glossy leaves are delightfully fragrant and female plants sport waxy, blue fruit. The Morton Arboretum's female selection of bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica* 'Silver Sprite') draws attention.

A superb companion for 'Silver Sprite' bayberry is a male clone of sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides* 'Sprite'). This compact male form displays a mantle of fine textured, silver foliage. 'Sprite' sea-buckthorn is also salt and drought tolerant. I've used it to make a 'lavender-like' hedge, planted in gravelly-soil on a steep slope retaining a bluestone terrace in full sun! 'Sprite's silver-grey leaves last into December and leaf out early in spring maintaining a winter presence of sinuous stems.

Fragrant flowers add an extra element of delight in any garden. *Daphne x transatlanticum* 'Eternal Fragrance' can't be beat for scent and season of bloom. Sweet clusters of star like flowers start blooming in late May and continue through the summer with a crescendo of heavy re-bloom in September and October. Grow *Daphne* in sun to part shade in well drained soil.

We've been treasuring plants and encouraging their cultivation at Tranquil Lake Nursery for twenty five years and love to share our experiences with you to better appreciate the wonders of plants and garden making.

Warren Leach

## Nursery Update

This is an exciting year for Tranquil Lake Nursery as we plan for the future of the business. In the spring newsletter we told you about the work that we are doing to **preserve the land by working with agricultural and conservation groups**. While this is a very slow process, we feel that things are moving forward. We are especially pleased that the nursery property is seen by so many others as an important environmental resource, for both its sandy agricultural soils and its location along the Palmer River. We will keep you apprized of future details on our website.

## Visit our Website

We invite you to visit the Tranquil Lake Nursery website for a full listing of the Siberian Iris, Japanese Iris and Daylilies that are available this year. Each iris and daylily variety is accompanied by a description of the flower and the height and characteristics of the plant. A picture is also provided for most varieties. You will also find a **downloadable catalog of our most popular daylilies and iris**. Many specialized lists of daylilies by color, height, flower size and more; copies of the plant articles from past newsletters and information on garden lectures and events is also available. Check out these ever updated resources at [www.tranquil-lake.com](http://www.tranquil-lake.com).

## Garden Design Days

The spring Garden Design Days were so popular that we are bringing them back for the summer and fall. This is a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with garden designer Warren Leach to discuss planting solutions for a garden problem.

On two Saturdays, **August 20<sup>th</sup>** and **October 8<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., you can register for a half hour special garden consultation with our own talented horticulturist and garden designer **Warren Leach** and he will help you come up with a planting design solution. Bring photos of your garden area and rough measurements of your site. Warren will sketch out solutions and provide a suggested plant list.

Preregistration is required and must be accompanied by a **\$50 registration fee**. This fee is **redeemable for plants on the day of the consult**. Consultation slots will be filled on a first call - first serve basis, so call and reserve your design time now.

## \*\* On-Line Newsletter \*\*

Tranquil Lake Nursery has gone green with our newsletter. We invite you to share this e-newsletter with friends. To join our e-list, send your request to [tranquil-lake@earthlink.net](mailto:tranquil-lake@earthlink.net) and we'll sign you up.

## Visiting the Nursery

Tranquil Lake Nursery is open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., from April 25 through to the end of July. **Starting in August**, we will continue to be at the nursery daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to water plants and maintain the nursery business. However, we will have somewhat reduced staffing. If you are planning to order daylilies for digging, we ask you to call in your order in advance, so that we will be able to accommodate your needs in a timely fashion. The nursery will be closed on Labor Day.

**Directions:** Tranquil Lake Nursery is located just north of Route 44 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, about 8 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island. If you are traveling **east on Route 44**, take a left turn onto River Street immediately after you pass Winthrop Commons and the Route 44 Recreation Center. Continue on River Street across Broad Street. The nursery is the fourth driveway on the right. If you are traveling **west on Route 44**, travel 1.4 miles past the intersection of Route 118 and Route 44. You will pass the Rehoboth Schools on the right. Make the next right turn onto Danforth Street. Then take the first left on River Street. Tranquil Lake Nursery is the fourth driveway on the left.

Rehoboth, MA 02769  
45 River Street  
Tranquil Lake Nursery

