

Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Committee Conference 2007  
Glenveagh, Co. Donegal - From Grottoes to Rockeries

NORTHERN IRELAND HERITAGE GARDENS COMMITTEE  
Conference Programme 2007 Glenveagh Castle

***FROM GROTTOES TO ROCKERIES***



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**from 5.30pm** Registration, Reception and Refreshments

**c.7.30pm** Welcome by the Chairman, David Gilliland

Reg Maxwell: *'Steamy Caves & Waterfalls' Belfast's Victorian Tropical Glen*

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**9.30am** Patrick Bowe: *From Grottoes to Rockeries: an Overview*

**10.15am** tea/coffee

**10.45am** Michael Symes: *From Pavilion to Cave*

**11.30am** Michael Lear: *Thomas Goldney's Grotto in Clifton, Bristol*

**12.15pm** Brenda Lewis: *The Pulham Dynasty - Creators of Grottoes, Ferneries & Rock Gardens 1835-1945*

**1.00pm** lunch

**2.00pm** garden visit at Glenveagh Castle

garden tours 2.30pm & 3.30pm Castle tours 2.15, 2.30, 3.15 & 3.30pm

**7.30pm for 8.00pm** dinner

Richard Wheeler: *Confessions of a Garden Trespasser*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**9.30am** David Mitchell: *'Crosiers Unfurled' - Argyll's Hidden Ferneries - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*

**10.15am** tea/coffee

**10.45am** Paul Maher: *The History of Rock Gardening at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin*

**11.30am** Andrew Sawyer: *Rocks, Rhododendrons and Running Water, Cragside's Himalaya Restored*

**12.15pm** John Page: *Reginald Farrer*

**1.00pm** lunch

**2.00pm** garden visit to Carrablagh House

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**The Glenveagh Woody Plant Collection and its Creators**

*Sean O Gaoithin Head Gardener 2006*

Original Victorian Garden was laid out in the late 1880's for **Mrs. Adair**. Bog was drained, soil imported, establishing a Pleasure Grounds and kitchen garden. Shelter belts of *Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus nigra* ssp. *nigra* were planted. Surviving plants include *Rh. arboretum*, *Rh. ponticum*, *Rh. falconeri*, *Griselinia littoralis*, *Crinodendron hookerianum*, *Acer palmatum atropurpureum* and *Sasa palmata*.

1937 **Henry P McIlhenny** purchased the Glenveagh Estate and began its rejuvenation in the late 1940's. His first help the **Earl and Countess of Leitrim** at Mulroy. Many new *Rhododendrons* were introduced together with, *Azaleas*, *Camellias*, *Eucryphias*, *Embothrium* and herbaceous plants. *Rh. 'Mulroy Vanguard'* raised at Mulroy flourishes still at Glenveagh. (*Rh. thomsonii*, *Rh. ciliatum*, *Rh. augustinii*, *R. fortunei*, *Rh. racemosum*, *Rh. falconeri*, *Rh. sinogrande*, *Rh. 'Cornish Cross'*, *Rh. 'Lady Alice Fitzwilliam'* *Rh. Loderi*)

**James Russell** of Sunningdale Nurseries carried out ambitious planting and landscape schemes from 1953. Complex planting arrangements utilizing *Rhododendrons* for their foliage effect were added in the Pleasure Grounds, Belgian Walk and Woods Path. (*Rhododendron falconeri* x *maceabeanum*, *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* ssp. *xanthocodon*, *Rhododendron sinogrande*, *Rhododendron bureavii*, *Rodgersia pinnata*, *Gunnera tinctoria* and *Osmunda regalis*). He designed the 67 Steps planted with *Rh. ciliatum*. (*Mahonia bealei*, *Rh. sinogrande*, *Trochodendron aralioides*, *Blechnum* sp., *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Crinodendron hookerianum*).

**Lanning Roper** became Garden Advisor at Glenveagh in 1962 remaining for the following 20 years. He designed the Italian Terrace and further developed much of the planting schemes. Colour and the effect of light in the Garden were all important to him much of the planting being kept inside the cool side of the colour spectrum. Purples and silvery greys were used frequently with plants such as *Brachyglottis 'Sunshine'*, *Cotinus*, *Berberis buxifolia 'Atropurpurea'* and *Olearias* (*O. pachyphylla*, *O. cheesemanii*, *O. 'Henry Travers'*, *O. macrodonta*, *O. x 'Zennorensis'*). He further developed the plant collection with introductions from **Hilliers, Duncan and Davies and Slieve Donard**. *Pseudopanax ferox* *P. crassifolius*, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Magnolia tripetala*, *M. wilsonii*, *Schima wallichii*, *Nothofagus dombeyi*, *N. obliqua*, *N. procera*, *N. fusca*, *N. menziesii*, *N. solanderi* v. *cliffortioides* and *N. cunninghamii*.

In 1983 the Castle and Gardens were donated to the Irish Nation by Mr. McIlhenny. Glenveagh National Park officially opened to the public in 1986. Since then many new introductions have been added to the woody collection. This includes two batches of wild source plant material from the International Conifer Conservation Programme ran from RBG Edinburgh. (*Eucryphia cordifolia*, *Taiwania cryptomeroides*, *Cunninghamia konishii*, *Latua pubiflora*, *Pinus montezumae*) and wild source material collected in NW Yunnan China. (*R. clementinae*, *R. proteoides*, *R. roxianum*, *R. racemosum*, *R. scintillans*). Glenveagh is managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

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ODHREACHTA AGUS

RIALTAIS ÁITIÚIL

DEPARTMENT OF

THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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BHEATHA

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