



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

www.acnargs.org

February 2007

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See you at the February 17 'Member Share' meeting

ACNARGS 2007 program year kicks off Saturday, February 17, with our annual 'Members Share' meeting. Here's your chance to share any photos, gardening stories, or tips and tricks from the year just past. Several members have signed up to present, but it's not too late to add others to our program. For example, member Ken Walkup is going fill us in about the Species Iris Group of North America and their seed exchange. We're also hoping some of our members who attended Winter Study Weekend in Rochester will share a few informal comments about their experience. Contact Carol Eichler if you have something you want to share: cme24@cornell.edu or 607-387-5823.

Bring a brown bag lunch and socialize starting at noon. The program will begin at 1 p.m. in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, on Tower Rd., Cornell University. Don't be put off by the construction in the area. There is plenty of parking along the south side of Tower Rd. east of Plant Science, and in the lot between Tower Rd. and the athletic fields, accessible from the east end of the lot. The easiest entrance into Plant Sciences is the door where the Conservatory meets the building. Use the walkway between the newer greenhouses and the Conservatory.

March 17 meeting preview: Harvey Wrightman on dryland plants, tufa workshop

“Dryland Plants” will be the subject of a talk by Harvey Wrightman at our March 17 meeting. Since 1985, Harvey has run Wrightman Alpines Nursery in Kerwood, Ont. (www.wrightmanalpines.com), where he grows more than 2,000 species and varieties of rock garden and alpine plants. (Look for more program details in our March newsletter.) The program will begin at 1 p.m. in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building on the Cornell Campus. Bring a bag lunch and socialize starting at noon.

Wrightman will also be offering a **tufa-drilling and planting workshop** immediately after the presentation at the Kenneth Post Laboratory Greenhouses on Tower Rd., Cornell University. **Registration is limited to the first 15 chapter members** who send a \$35 check (payable to ACNARGS) to our treasurer, Carolyn Yeager (400 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville NY 13068). The chapter is subsidizing half the actual \$70 cost of the workshop. The fee includes a small piece of tufa and seedlings to plant the tufa after it's drilled. Bring a cordless electric drill. Wrightman will bring the bits. For those who aren't among the lucky first 15 to register, Wrightman welcomes spectators at no charge.

Robin Bell, program coordinator

Plan(t) now for April 'Seedling Exchange'

In lieu of the usual plant sale, we'll be having a 'Seedling Exchange' at our April 21 meeting. After a great presentation by Liz Knowles, we'll dig into our seedlings, divide them up, and hope to see them again in your garden and at one of our plant sales. You may bring your seedlings in individual pots or one large pot. We'll have soil, pots, and labels on hand to help with the transfer to a good home. You do not have to bring seedlings to get seedlings. Oh, and did I mention that this exchange is free! free! free!?

Folks are also welcome to bring divisions of plants, labeled, and potted or not, to be reserved for the May plant sale. In the meantime, good luck with your seeds and may you be able to share your successes in April!

David Mitchell, plant sale coordinator

Mark your calendar: 2007 program line-up

Some programs will include our expanded 'Plant of the Month' offerings. See newsletter before event for details or visit www.acnargs.org for additional program details.

Feb. 17 – Member share meeting. 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m.

March 17 – Chapter Study Group meets at Wurster Memorial Garden, Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

March 17 - Harvey Wrightman, Wrightman Alpines, Kerwood, Ont., will speak on dryland plants. 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m. Tufa workshop/demonstration (pre-registration required) immediately following.

April 21 - Liz Knowles, a gardener and tour organizer from Toronto on "Echoes of wild places: a Hockley Valley, Ontario gardener pushes the limits." Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m. Seedling exchange follows program.

May 19 - Plant Sale, Ithaca High School

April/May/June - Garden tours, dates and destinations to be announced.

August date TBD - Picnic and members-only plant sale. Bill Plummer, Horseheads, N.Y., will host.

September 15 - Ellen Hornig, proprietor of Seneca Hill Perennials and well known to many chapter members, will talk on woodland plants and other treasures from her garden/nursery. Location to be announced.

October 21 - Janis Ruksans, owner of Ruksans Bulbs Nursery in Latvia, a world renowned bulb grower and collector and author of five books on bulbs will speak. **Note this meeting will be on a Sunday** due to Ruksans' tight speaking schedule. 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program begins at 1 p.m.

November 10 - Annual meeting and dish-to-pass. 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch at noon. Location to be announced.

Letter from the Chair

So what's up with this winter? Frankly, I don't mind one bit. Gardening in January is an idea I can get used to. I was making the rounds on Sunday, January 7th checking on things like deer damage to shrubs, (alas), frost heaves (had to push a number of sempervivums back into the sandbed), and laying boughs over my troughs. To my surprise I came across a primrose in bloom. Another couple days of weather near 60 and the buds on my hellebores would be open as well. Of course, I couldn't resist pulling a weed or two either. As I walked about, the gardens seemed so small and I felt puzzled about what the heck kept me so busy all growing season. (Winter has a way of playing this trick.)



Receiving this issue of the *Green Dragon* is a sure sign that our Chapter's program year is about to begin. After a two month hiatus it's always great to get together again and to share any photos, stories, or tips and tricks from the gardening year just past at our February 17 'Members Share' meeting. Several members have indicated to me that they would like a few minutes. It's not too late to add others to our program. I am the

contact to coordinate these requests (cme24@cornell.edu or 607-387-5823). Some of you are members of other garden organizations and it would be great to learn more about them and what they have to offer. So please don't be shy; step forward and take the opportunity to show off your favorite photos and other garden reveilles.

One business matter that we forgot to take care of at the November annual meeting is the election – or in this case – the re-election of officers and Board members. This issue has reprinted the roster that will require a membership vote. (See 'People'.)

Finally, the newly-formed Chapter Study Group held its first meeting on January 13 and is off to a great start. You can read more about their plans in this issue. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time. Using the Wurster Garden as the classroom, we think this will be a great opportunity to gain more knowledge about rock gardening and to share this knowledge with the greater membership.

I'm looking forward to another great year of programs and Chapter activities – many of them outlined in this issue. There's much to anticipate and I hope you'll take the time to renew your membership (if you have not already done so) and to renew your commitment to get involved with the Chapter this year.

Happy Gardening!

Carol Eichler, chair

Time to renew!

Did Carol mention it was time to renew? If the technology worked the way it's supposed to, you will find the membership form attached to this newsletter if your dues are due. If you aren't sure, drop an email to Carolyn Yeager at cao2@cornell.edu.

Study group plans

An enthusiastic group of seven Chapter members attended the inaugural meeting of the Chapter Study Group on Saturday, January 13. There was general agreement that the Wurster Memorial Rock Garden on the Tompkins County Extension's grounds will serve as our "classroom." The overlying goal is for each participant to learn more about rock gardening through hands-on experience and to develop ways to share this knowledge with the greater membership. The group will also be photographing plants through the year and considering how to make the garden a more effective teaching tool through the website and other interpretive materials.

For the immediate future the group is looking forward to spring so they can begin the traditional tasks of taking stock, cleaning up, and dividing and potting plants. They have established a "garden alert" e-mail/phone network to be able to mobilize quickly when work needs to be done. With a garden tour/class scheduled for Saturday, April 28 through Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, they want to be sure the garden is looking at its best.

If you wish to be placed on the email alert (or phone if you do not have e-mail), please contact Carol Eichler (cme24@cornell.edu or 607-387-5823).

Any Chapter member may join this group at any time. **The next "official" session will be held on Saturday, March 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** at the garden. The "alert" system will notify everyone on the list if this plan has to be altered. Bring tools and work clothes and plan to attend the Chapter's general meeting at Cornell starting with lunch at noon and program at 1 p.m.

Carol Eichler, chair

2006 member recognition awards

Two Chapter members were recognized for their outstanding contributions to benefit the greater good of our membership. The awardees were announced at the November annual meeting and given a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate as a way to say "thank-you."

Marcia Meigs, while contributing in many ways, is most noted for the generosity with which she shares her plants, many of them rare and unusual, for our plant sales and often to raffle at our general meetings. Marcia has served on the Chapter's Board and coordinated our publicity efforts for a number of years. We also know and love Marcia for the enthusiasm with which she purchases plants at our sales. <smiley face>

Margaret "Peg" Ross was our second recipient for 2006. Peg was one of our first Greene members and stepped right up to get involved. She has been instrumental in promoting rock gardening to her community and among fellow gardeners. With Alice Davis, she has organized wonderful garden tours for the last two years and that is a huge task for which we are very grateful.

Thank you again Marcia and Peg.

Carol Eichler, chair

We need you! Volunteer to help the Chapter

Want to get more involved with the Chapter? We hope so! We are fortunate to have a very committed Board but they can't and shouldn't do it all. A number of our members have responded to particular needs on our Membership form and we thank you. You will be hearing from us.

Here are some additional tasks we could use your help with. Please contact Carol Eichler (cme24@cornell.edu, 607-387-5823) if you are interested.

Meeting Set-up and Greeters: Arrive about 11:45 to set up sign-in book, name tags, and other materials. Note when someone is missing a name tag. Greet attendees as they arrive. Help visitors and new members feel welcome. At the end of the meeting pack everything up for next time. (Note: you do not have to haul or store anything.) Please join Colette Menassian with this task.

Door Prize Coordinator: Make sure everyone is entered in the sign in book for door prizes and coordinate the drawing give-away. Alice Davis will be assuming this job, but could use a substitute when she's unable to attend meetings.

Food and Drink Set-up: Arrive about 11:45 to set up coffee and hot water pots and all the accoutrements. At the end of the meeting clean and pack everything up for next time. Make purchases when supplies are low. Coordinate refreshments: optional. (Note: you do not have to haul or store anything)

Treasurer's Report for 2006

The Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society again had a successful year financially. Our income exceeded our expenses and we did not need to use any of our reserves. The highlights:

- Plant Sales: Income exceeded expense by \$2,778.
- Programs: Workshops had net profit of \$320.
- Speakers & Tours cost \$1,019.

We began 2006 with undesignated funds of \$2,468 and ended the year with \$5,126 in those same funds. We also have a balance of \$465 in the Wilkinson Memorial Account. The funds invested with the Community Foundation have increased from \$17,272 to \$19,981.

Based on this positive financial condition, the Board has approved subsidizing the workshop and plant of the month programs in 2007. The tufa workshop to be held March 17, 2007 carries a full cost of \$70 per participant. Members will only pay \$35 with the Chapter reserves paying the other half. Plant of the Month will be offered with each speaker and will feature buy one plant/get one free! Again, with the Chapter covering the balance.

If anyone would like to see the entire report, copies will be available at the February meeting or by contacting Carolyn Yaeger: cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462.

Carolyn Yaeger, treasurer

Other events:

April 28 - Wurster Rock Garden Guided Tour led by Robin Bell and sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Interested in rock gardening, but don't know how to get started? Come from 10 to 11:30 for a guided tour of the demonstration Wurster Rock Garden, just off Dey St. near Extension. Robin will explain the several designs incorporated into the garden and discuss the plants represented and other easy rock garden plants. *Rain or shine!* Limit 15. \$5 fee. Pre-registration preferred. Contact Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu or (607) 272-2292.

People

Questions? Want to find out how you can help the Chapter? Don't hesitate to contact one of the volunteers who help make everything happen. (This is the slate to be voted on at our Feb. meeting):

- **Chair/Membership:** Carol Eichler, cme24@cornell.edu, 607-387-5823
 - **Vice Chair/Program:** Robin Bell, rgb2@cornell.edu, 607-272-2074
 - **Treasurer/Secretary:** Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
 - **Garden trips/tours:** Billie Jean Isbell, bji1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484
 - **Plant sales:** David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660
 - **Plant of the Month:** John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
 - **Newsletter editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer, cdramer@twcny.rr.com, 607-539-7233
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Green Dragon Tales

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