

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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March 2016

MARCH 19: ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDENS

John Gilrein, Chair

Our March presentation will be "English Country Gardens" by our chapter member, Lee Nelson. We visited Lee's enjoyable gardens on our June 2015 garden tour in the Binghamton area.

Lee was born and spent her childhood in the south of England where she received her basic horticulture training. She had a career in horticulture, including 19 years as a horticulture educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension where she was curator of Cutler Botanic garden and served as coordinator of the Master Gardener Program.

She is currently nurturing her love for plants on a double lot in the Binghamton area, successfully growing alpiners, perennials, shrubs, and trees. She enjoys experimenting in her garden, and reports killing a substantial number of plants in the process (how can you have tremendous successes without a few failures along the way?). Lee enjoys visiting gardens in England, and I hope you will enjoy them as well, via Powerpoint.

Our meeting will be held in the renovated Whetzel Room Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Bag lunch and socializing at noon. Program begins at 1:00 pm. Map at the end of this newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

It will be good to get back into the swing of ACNARGS after a few months without many tasks to do! I appreciate the break from the many gardening tasks that need to get done, and I'm already itching to get back into it again. Do gardeners in Florida never get a break? Or maybe they just have a work slow down in summer when the temperature and humidity are both in the 90's for a few months?

It's not too early to get out and pull a few weeds when the weather is warm, as long as the ground is not frozen. We had a little snow here until warm weather this weekend, which helped to keep the ground from freezing, so I did get a few weeds. Our el Nino winter is still in effect, with the temperature fluctuating a lot between warm and cold, encouraging the winter aconites (*Eranthus hyemalis*) into bloom, earlier than normal.



Photo: Martin Olsson (mnemo on en/sv wikipedia and commons)

Now that it's back to cold again, what's a gardener to do? The mail order vendors are pushing out garden catalogs, so it's a good time to catalog shop, and order plants if you're going to get plants via mail order. And order seeds of course, as well. Research online where to get a plant treasure you have not been able to find locally. Plot out on paper how you'll plant your vegetable garden, or a new garden you've been dreaming of. Stock up on your gardening supplies like potting soil and soil amendments. Build a hypertufa trough.

Plant your seeds of alpines and perennials needing stratification (I confess to not having started that yet); there's still time to let seeds stratify outside. Plan a trip with a garden tour or even a day trip to a garden center (e.g. Watson's) or university (Cornell) that has a greenhouse, or to a garden show within driving distance. Barter with a gardening friend to swap plants for labor (or vice versa). Repot houseplants that need it, before you're too busy playing outside. Maybe it's obvious that when I'm not playing in the garden, I'm still *thinking* about it.

We're just getting into a good year of presentations, plants, and camaraderie. Hope to see you soon.

PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH: ASARUM ARIFOLIUM

John Gilrein, Chair

Our March 2016 POM is *Asarum (Hexatylis) arifolium*, in the plant family Aristilocaceae (birthwort family, Dutchman's pipe and gingers). *Asarum arifolium* grows 6 to 8 inches high, in a slowly spreading mat of mottled leaves, shaped like a cross between a heart and an arrowhead. It is native to the southeastern US, hardy to zone 5,

and the leaves are theoretically evergreen, though in our challenging winters, the leaves may not persist through the winter.



Photo courtesy of Sandy's Plants, sandysplants.com

This is a woodland garden plant for light shade to full shade, with well-drained, humus rich, moist soil. The leaves have an anise-like smell, and the plant has some deer resistance. The flowers are pink to brown jugs that partially hide under the foliage, similar to *A. canadense* (our native wild ginger) and *A. europaeum* (European ginger). This will be a low care plant, if provided good conditions.

For a view of some of the other gingers, check out the website of John Lonsdale, Edgewood Gardens. If the weather is not conducive to planting out right now, simply hold your plant in a cool to cold bright location and keep it moist until you can plant it.

GROWING FROM SEED: MILK JUG TECHNIQUE

Reprinted by permission from "A Garden for the House: Home & Garden Inspiration from Kevin Lee Jacobs (<http://www.agardenforthehouse.com>)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I start my summer garden in December and January, using a neat trick called "Winter-Sowing." Winter-sowing is an outdoor method of seed germination (invented by [Trudi Davidoff](#)) which requires just two things: miniature greenhouses (made from recycled water and milk jugs) and Mother Nature. You can winter-sow your way to a beautiful garden, too...for pennies. Here's how:

Make a Greenhouse. You can make a greenhouse from any number of clear or translucent plastic containers. Like other winter-sowers, I use recyclables, including gallon-size milk and water jugs, and, on rare occasions, 2-liter soda bottles. With jugs and bottles, use a pen-knife to cut around the middle, almost all the way around. The uncut half-inch or so will serve as a hinge.

Next, punch out drainage holes in the bottom of the container. I use a Phillips screwdriver, heated over a flame at the stove, to facilitate the hole-punching job. Punch out also a few holes along the top portion of the jug. These extra holes provide ventilation. Ventilation is the key to preventing excess heat from building up in the greenhouse, and baking the seeds to death. Remove the cap from the jug or bottle. [Watch me make and plant a miniature greenhouse.](#)



Select the Right Soil. It is essential to use a light, fluffy, well-draining potting mixture. A commercial peat moss and perlite mix is fine. Pour the soil, preferably to a [minimum] depth of 2 to 3 inches, into the container.

Water the Soil. Moisten the mix thoroughly, and then let it drain.

Sow the Seeds. Sow your seeds on the soil surface. Cover the seeds with more soil, when necessary, in order to achieve the proper planting depth. Gently pat the mix down, so that seeds and soil make good contact. Then replace the lid, and secure it with a strip of duct tape, as illustrated above. If you live in a cold climate, as I do, plant your perennial and hardy annual seeds first. Should these sprout during a weird warm-spell in winter, they will not be harmed. Wait until March to plant tender annuals. More details here: [What to Winter-Sow...& When.](#)



Remember to Label! For each sowing, indicate with a permanent marker (or a paint-pen) the seed variety and date sown. Do not omit this step, for there is nothing worse than finding, in spring, dozens of miniature greenhouses brimming with seedlings, and not knowing what they are!

Bring the Greenhouse Outdoors. Your planted and labeled greenhouse is now ready to brave the outdoor elements. Select a location that is safe from strong wind, but where sun, rain and snow will be freely admitted. My assorted greenhouses go on a wire-mesh patio table, out of the reach of Lily the Beagle, who would otherwise knock them over. For further protection from tipping, I place them in a large plastic box, *with drainage holes in the bottom.*



Relax! Now sit back and let Nature take over. As the weather chills and warms, your seeds will freeze and thaw. These natural actions loosen the seed-coatings. This is why advance soaking or nicking of hard-shelled seeds, such as Morning Glories and Sweet Peas, is not necessary when you winter-sow.

At the first kiss of spring, but while nights are still freezing, seedlings will begin to emerge. This is the time to check for water. Open the tops, and if the soil appears dry, moisten thoroughly but gently, so as not to disturb tender root systems. Then close the tops. On warm, sunny days, I like to open the tops for



hours at a time, and let the seedlings enjoy the fresh spring air. The tops, of course, are closed at dusk.

I can't tell you how advantageous winter-sowing can be. Last year I produced an entire garden's-worth of perennials this way (far too many, in fact), without the need for light-systems, heating devices, or seed-starting



kits. And, unlike windowsill-germinated seedlings, which more often than not are frail and spindly, winter-sown seeds grow up to be strong, sturdy plants, completely prepared for glorious careers in the open garden.



If I were you, I'd give winter-sowing a try. Honestly, it's the easiest, most cost-effective way to achieve a beautiful garden.

Thanks to Terry Humphries for sharing this article. She is trying this method this year.

SEEDLING TIPS: PREVENTING DAMPING OFF

Reprinted from Dave's Garden, February 11, 2011

Have you ever sown seeds indoors and no seedlings appeared, or seedlings appeared only to suddenly collapse and die? The culprit may have been damping-off.

Damping-off is a term that describes the death of seedlings due to rot. There are several species of fungi that may attack seedlings and lead to damping off. Rot can occur soon after germination--so soon that the roots are killed and no stem appears. Damping-off may also occur just after the stem appears, or after seedlings have put on some healthy-looking growth. The seedling may suddenly wilt, or it may keel over from its base.

The best protection against damping-off is an ounce of prevention. Here are some easy-to-follow measures:

- Ensure good drainage in seedlings' pots and trays.
- Set up a small fan to keep air moving.
- Ensure good light to promote strong growth, whether seedlings are in a window or on a light stand.
- Use clean seed-starting equipment, including containers and sterile seed-starting mix.
- Water from below by placing the pots or trays in a container of water or on a capillary mat. The water will soak up through the drainage holes. Once the top of the soil looks moist, remove the pots or trays from the water.
- When sowing seeds cover them only to the depth recommended on the packet, and no deeper. Instead of covering them with your seed-starting mix, cover them

instead with sphagnum moss, coarse sand or chicken grit. These materials are less likely to host fungi.

- Once seedlings appear, mist them daily with weak chamomile or clove tea, and/or dust the soil surface (one time only) with ground cinnamon or powdered charcoal.
- **BRUSH YOUR SEEDLINGS.** Seedlings started indoors tend to be weaker than those that sprout outside in the garden. Indoor seedlings tend to be taller and more tender, even if grown in strong light. The difference is the absence of wind--as wind shakes outdoor seedlings, their stems become stronger and their growth remains stocky. Indoors, you can re-create the effect of the blowing wind by "brushing" your seedlings.

Brush a folded piece of paper across the tops of small seedlings, quickly but gently bending them to horizontal and letting them pop up again. Do this twice a day for about a minute. As seedlings get larger, you can use your hand instead of the paper. In studies, seedlings that were brushed had smaller, darker leaves that grew closer together than those of seedlings that were not brushed.

MORE SEEDLING TIPS: ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

Reprinted by permission from Alpine Line, newsletter of the Allegheny Chapter NARGS, January-March 2016 Issue

Check the bulbs. Even if the bulbs still light (haven't burnt out), if the ends of the tubes are dark they should be replaced. An old bulb's light may be as little as half the strength of a new bulb. Clean the bulbs. Wipe them down with a damp cloth (make sure the unit is unplugged) or a dry duster to remove dust and grime that would otherwise diminish the light. Remember to do this once a week while your seeds grow.

Artificial light can make growing healthy seedlings as simple as a flick of a switch. These simple rules bring the best results when starting seeds on a light stand: Read the seed packet to learn whether the seeds need light to germinate. Most do not. After the seeds sprout, run the lights for 14 to 16 hours each day. Longer is not better; seedlings need a period of darkness during which they can rest. Keep the seedlings' top leaves no more than 3 to 5 inches from the bulbs. A fluorescent tube is brightest at its center and dimmer at its ends. Rotate seedlings over the course of each week so that all spend some days in the middle of the tray.

PLANT PROFILE: *ERYTHRONIUM AMERICANUM*

Joe O'Rourke, Photos by Kevin Nixion; reprinted by permission from Finger Lakes Native Plant Society website www.FLNP.org

When the sunny spots in our woods are carpeted by the nodding yellow flowers of the trout-lily, *Erythronium americanum*, it is a sure sign that spring has arrived in central New York.

As its name suggests, these lovely spring wildflowers are members of the lily family, *Liliaceae*. They like rich woods and are typically found growing in extensive colonies

consisting of hundreds of plants. Most plants will be flowerless, but the leaves themselves are attractive, having reddish-purple and lighter green blotches against a dark green background.

The plant can reproduce by seed, but it favors vegetative propagation. Each plant forms a corm, an underground tuber-like structure that stores food to help the plant survive the winter. The plants send out runners in the spring, which produce a new plant at the end. Young plants have single small leaves. They produce at least two leaves when they are big enough to flower, which can take up to seven years. One author mentions a study of trout lily in which "the colonies were found to average nearly 150 years in age and were as old as 1,300 years." (ref 1)

The plants are small, generally two to ten inches in height. In rich soils, you tend to find fewer and larger plants. In poorer soils, you tend to find more and smaller plants. The flower is large in comparison to the plant, being an inch or so in width. It has three reflexed sepals and three reflexed petals. The backs of the sepals may have a reddish-purple tinge.

Erythronium americanum goes by many names. It is called "adder's tongue" probably because its leaf resembles that of a tiny fern called adder's tongue, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Another common name is "dogtooth violet". The plants, but especially the leaves, resemble the European species of *Erythronium*, which is *Erythronium dens-canis*. The European species has flowers that are pink-purple colored and so it is called "dogtooth violet" even though it is not a violet, botanically.



"Dogtooth," I think, refers to the appearance of the corm. The naturalist, John Burroughs, coined the term "Trout lily," probably for the speckles or blotches on the leaves that resemble the markings of many kinds of trout.

There is a related species with white flowers, *Erythronium albidum*, which is found west of our area in the midland states. There are several records of it scattered throughout upstate New York including nearby Chenango County (ref 2). It does not occur in the Ithaca area. It is found in Western New York, but it is uncommon (ref 4). Weigand and Eames do not list the white species at all (ref 3).

References:

- 1) Shelter, Stanwyn G., *Yellow Trout-lily - A Lily of Many Aliases*
- 2) Personal communication with Anna Stalter, Bailey Hortorium, Ithaca, NY.
- 3) Wiegand, Karl M. and Eames, Arthur J., "The Flora of the Cayuga Lake Basin, New York"; Cornell University, Ithaca NY; July, 1925
- 4) [The New York Flora Atlas](#)

TIME TO RENEW: 2016 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

If you have not renewed for 2016, you should do it now so you'll be eligible to purchase the plant-of-the-month! The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Your membership status is reported to you in the email with the newsletter link. Contact Mary Stauble at mes2@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL: SURPLUS SEED ROUND OPEN NOW

NARGS' surplus seed round is now open through March 20. The "2015-2016 Surplus Round Seed List" page is here: <https://www.nargs.org/seed-exchange/seed-list-surplus>. The "Seed List Ordering" page link will be put under the SEEDEX dropdown menu.

The procedure for Surplus Seed online ordering is similar to the new Main round online ordering, except that you can request to receive up 100 packets (at \$5 per 20 packets). For ordering instructions please read the "2015 Online Ordering Information - Read First" page <https://www.nargs.org/surplus-ordering-information-read-first>.

The surplus seeds sell out quickly so we strongly recommend you choose MANY more seed numbers than the number of packets you wish to receive to ensure that the order fillers have enough seed numbers to choose from when filling your order. You should also check the Accept Substitute seeds box to ensure you receive the full number of packets you requested if your First and Second choices have sold out.

MORE NEWS FROM NATIONAL: VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Elizabeth Zander

At the beginning of February our Drupal Webmaster for nargs.org, Daniel Dillon, resigned. Currently the site is being handled by our provider, Drupion.com. However we cannot afford this kind of expense for long. So we are looking for a new volunteer webmaster.

This job requires experience or a strong desire to learn Drupal 7 web management/development. Proficiency might include Git, Drush, HTML5, CSS, PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, and Adobe CS Suite a plus. Satisfactory history background check a must. Interested parties can apply to me: Elisabeth Zander: coptis@forecast1.com.

BOOK REVIEW: UNDERSTANDING ALPINE TUNDRA

Carol Eichler, newsletter editor

"The alpine tundra of the United States has never been described for an interested novice." So begins the preface to the 1972 book, *Land Above the Trees: A Guide to*

American Alpine Tundra by Ann H. Zwinger and Beatrice E. Willard. With this book the two have attempted to fill this gap. (This is the “required reading” book mentioned by Lee Nelson at our Chapter’s February meeting). The two authors make a great team – Zwinger, as artist and astute observer, describes the ecosystems within the alpine environment with poetic flair, while Willard, formally educated in the environmental sciences, seems to be the “fact checker.” A bonus to readers is Zwinger’s wonderful botanical line drawings that are riddled throughout the book.

You may recall at our meeting that Lee commented to the effect that to be a rock gardener requires understanding the ecosystems where plants survive. That’s exactly what this book sets out to explain the various micro-environments – from the boulder fields to the talus and scree slopes to the alpine meadows, snow communities and wetlands. To each system they write about the plants and animals that have developed specialized adaptations. Part two of the book expands on specific tundra areas – all but one are out West, where most alpine regions exist. But I give the authors credit that they include a chapter on Mount Washington in New Hampshire, one of only a handful of eastern mountaintops where true tundra exists.

I first read this book shortly after returning from the NARGS Conference in Colorado in 2010. Its descriptions gave explanation to my observations on the day trips we took to various alpine regions. The writers echo my sentiment completely when they state, “Alpine communities, at first glance, may seem a tangled, incoherent mixture of plant species. A slight rise, an area of disturbed earth, a boulder pulled out of a meadow turf, may make havoc of the homogenous characteristics one usually associates with lowland plant communities of similar smallness. In the alpine region, one can sit in a gopher garden, rest one’s feet in a fellfield and put a hand in a sedge meadow....The alpine tundra is a place of infinite enchantment.”



Alpine environment with oxytropis, silene, tetraneuris acaulis var. caespitosa (goldflower) at Weston Pass, Colorado

The end of the book contains a 53-page table (and by its title, a “comprehensive” listing) of alpine plants contained within the continental U.S. along with information on their eco-community/habitat and U.S. and world distribution. These are wild species, some of which are to be found in our own rock gardens. We must come to accept the reality that many of these plants are next to impossible to grow here. Hard as we try to modify those elements with our control, the climatic conditions to be found in central New York cannot duplicate their native habitat. At least this book, in describing the different alpine environments, attempts to give us a “fighting chance.”

A companion book, *Beyond the Aspen Grove*, this time written solely by Ann Zwinger (and I believe her first book resulting in a long career as natural history writer),

documents the natural world at Constant Friendship, her family's seasonal retreat located at an elevation of 8,000 feet in the shadow of Pikes Peak. The land she describes is technically "montane" country and as such, makes this book a good preparatory assignment for NARGS' upcoming conference in Steamboat Springs.



A boggy area w/shurbs (potentilla, willow, Pinon-Juniper woodlands. oak, Mountain mahogany and Sagebrush) & other woodies (douglas fir, pine, aspen), iris...

Using the same keenness of observation and poetic prose, Zwinger walks us through her family's 40-acre property from its lake and streams to its meadow and woods. Montane country is land associated with mountains capable of supporting both herbaceous and woody plants within a landscape taller and lush than is to be found in the harsher, and thus more stark, alpine tundra. (Returning from the tundra in 2010, we also enjoyed brief visits to montane regions as well)

If these two books don't make you yearn to pack your bags and travel to the mountains out west, I'm not sure what will.

MEMBERS' SHARE: BRIEF REVIEW

Nari Mistry, Program Chair

The Feb. 20 Members Share meeting was very well attended. Everybody seemed to like the presentations and we hope to continue this tradition.

Our newest member Teresa Craighead spoke first, giving a nice pictorial account (and video clips) of a 200-mile walk coast-to-coast across northern England, showing flora and scenic views. Lee Nelson presented next showing some nice shots of English rock-garden displays and troughs.

We followed up with Carol Eichler on construction of her new crevice garden, which will give ample space and more for all the plants she has now in many troughs. Nari Mistry showed his recently constructed "Czech" crevice garden on a raised bed, showing new construction and blooms from 2015. (As requested Nari's slide listing the stages of construction of his raised bed rock garden is included in this newsletter)

Bill Plummer showed a few slides of his house and yard from 50 years ago when he and his wife first moved there and consequently before his many garden improvements. Pat Curran gave a 30-minute "rapid view" of plants in the Betty Ford Gardens in Vail, Colorado, plus some more Colorado wildflowers along the way.

(Editor's Note: For me what was so great about each presentation was that each member was speaking from experience thus giving us the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Thank you all for sharing!)



- Excavate to ~6" (clayey soil); lay construction-grade weed cloth
- Add coarse stones & rubble, about 2" deep
- Pile a mound of #1 round stone (1/2 -3/4" dia), NOT sharp edged
- Build up exterior walls ~12" high on grade level, [~18" total depth]
- Spread #1 stone to within 2" of top of wall
- Place large & small boulders to form miniature landscape & crevices
- Fill top 2" layer around stones with soil mixture of equal parts of :
 - coarse sand (limestone, from quarry)
 - Turface (fired clay pellets)
 - Low-nutrient soil mix (From GreenTree)
- Cover with pea gravel mulch ~1/2" deep & allow to settle for a few weeks
- Fill crevices with the same soil mixture, only when planting
- Add rocks to landscape to create more crevices & basins

CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAISED BED (October 2013)

Nari's steps to constructing a rock garden

UPCOMING 2016 ACNARGS PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the renovated Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

March 19: Lee Nelson, English Country Gardens

April 16: Elisabeth Zander, NARGS Recording Secretary and Officer, Berkshire Chapter. Two talks: 1) Scottish and Welsh Gardens; 2) Daphnes

May 14: Our biggest plant sale/fundraiser of the year at the annual Garden Fair, Ithaca; sponsored by Cooperative Extension

June 23-27: "Steppe to Alpines: A Higher State," NARGS National Conference and Annual Meeting in Denver and Steamboat Springs; sponsored by Rocky Mountain Chapter. Registration is open and filling up quickly. Go to [2016 NARGS Annual Meeting](#) for more info

September 17: Teri Dunn Chace, "Seeing Flowers: All about Flowers, Plant Families and Pollination," based on her best-selling book *Seeing Flowers*

Oct.15: Jill M. Nicolaus, critterolost, author, and writer-contributor to Dave's Garden website. Topic to be announced

Nov.12: Elizabeth Lawson, Primroses

As we learn more details of these meetings they will be included in future newsletters, our blog, acnargs.blogspot.com, and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to Carol Eichler at carolithaca@gmail.com

March 7: Getting Started with Nut Trees, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

March 16: Seed Starting for Beginners, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

March 16: MAGICAL MUSHROOMS, MISCHIEVOUS MOLDS, George Hudler, Cornell Professor, 7 pm, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7 pm. at the Unitarian Church annex

March 20: Seedy Sunday, 11am-3 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

March 23: Spring Propagation of Fruit Plants, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

March 30: Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 2 (rain date April 3): Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting, 10am-12noon, Indian Creek Orchard, sponsored by Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 6: Gardening for Native Pollinators, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 16 (rain date April 17): Fruit Tree Pruning II, 10am-12noon, Indian Creek Orchard, sponsored by Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 20: Which Vegetables to Grow? 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

April 20: Wild Violets of New York, Arieh Tal, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7 pm. at the Unitarian Church annex

April 27: Easy Care Roses, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

April 28: Banking on the Rain: Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

May 2: Dividing Daylilies and Other Perennials, 6:00-8:00 pm, Tompkins CCE
Rain or shine (indoors if wet). Fee: \$10. Limited to 15 participants; *prepayment required*

May 14: Garden Fair Plant Sale, sponsored by Tompkins County CCE Master Gardeners

May 18: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – film and local intervention efforts, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7 pm. at the Unitarian Church annex

May 25: The Partial Shade Garden, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

June 1: Trees and Shrubs for Difficult Sites, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

June 18: Sycamore Hill Gardens Garden tour, probably 10-4. Fundraiser. Fee

June 19: Southern Cayuga Garden Club Garden, 1-4 pm, Aurora area. Fundraiser. Fee

June 23-25: American Conifer Society's National Conference, Newark, Ohio. Info at www.conifersociety.org

August 6: Tompkins County Open Garden Day

August 12-13: American Conifer Society's Northeast Regional Meeting, Keene, New Hampshire. Info at www.conifersociety.org

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society also schedule Plant Walks that meet at different times and locations. Topics vary from wildflowers to lichens to winter twig ID. For more information, call Anna Stalter (607) 379-0924 or Susanne Lorbeer at (607) 257-0835

ABOUT US – ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 6 program-speaker meetings, the Green Dragon newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, and 3 plant sales a year. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners. The public is always welcome.

Chapter membership starts at \$10 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>).

ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication, and an on-line web site featuring an archive of past publications, a chat

forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS National also conducts winter study weekends and holds its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens, and take field trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

Chair: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: Nari Mistry, nbm2@cornell.edu

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu. Seeking a Co-Chair for 2016 to work alongside David...Why not you?

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca, Carol Eichler

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

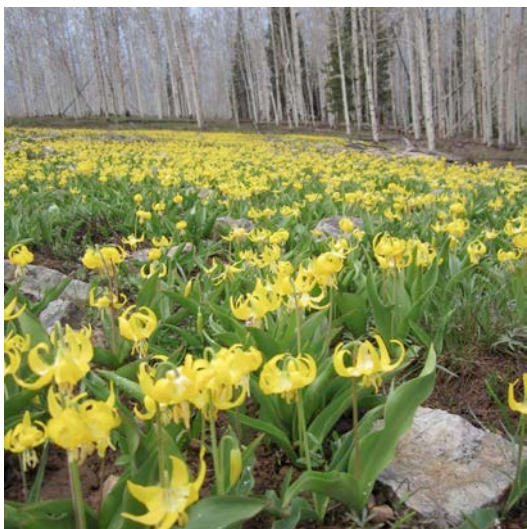
Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Jan/Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be our April 2016 issue. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website:

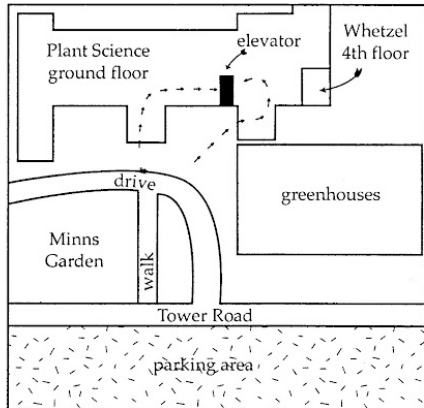
www.acnargs.org

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Tired of Winter? Here's a photo of spring in Routt County, Colorado. We hope to see you at the 2016 NARGS Annual meeting in Denver and Steamboat Springs in June. Online registration is open now at <https://www.nargs.org/steamboat-springs-registration>.

Editor's Note: If you are planning to attend the Conference/Annual meeting, as I am, contact me at carolithaca@gmail.com. We may or may not be able to coordinate and pool our resources. I am planning to rent a car and drive from Denver to Steamboat Springs which leaves open the possibility of some side stops "on the way" to and from Steamboat Springs (the Betty Ford Alpine Garden being one). If it works out, I'd be happy to have company.



Map: Whetzel Room,
Cornell campus