

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

March 2017

MARCH 18: STEPPE TO ALPINE – PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM NARGS 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Terry Humphries and Carol Eichler will share photos and stories from their experiences at NARGS' annual meeting last summer held in Denver and Steamboat Springs. The meeting began at the Denver Botanic Garden and officially ended in secluded Steamboat Springs, popular among world-class skiers, local wildlife (moose and bear), and jet-setters. Their photos encompass plants from day hikes into nearby wilderness preserves (montane life zone 8,000-11,000 feet elevation), visits to private gardens, and to the Yampa River and Denver Botanic Gardens as well as "unofficial" visits to the Betty Ford Alpine Garden, and Mike Kintgen's personal garden in ranch country, about 45 minutes north of Steamboat Springs. If time allows, they will show photos from the Kintgen garden too.



*View of the Crevice Garden at
Yampa River Botanic Garden*

They ambled back to Denver via Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park, where they were fortunate to catch alpine flowers in peak bloom and took many photos. That's potentially another presentation for another time.

Our meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room, Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter. Bring your own bag lunch at noon for socializing. Refreshments to share are appreciated.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

Well the big news this month is that the concern about accessibility into the Cornell University Plant Science Building has gone away. Cornell was planning on keeping the building locked, other than during standard business hours on weekdays. Other building users were challenged with the new difficulty in access, making it unpopular. The current plan is that the building will be open during the day on Saturday, so we will be able to access Plant Science through the main entrance, as in the past. Another venue for the meeting would be possible, but there would be challenges with that, if we were to need to move the meeting. We're still likely to need to move to KPL for fall meetings in the event our meeting date coincides with a home football game.

News from NARGS is that another trip to the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming was added after the original trip filled up. The new trip is June 14 to 19, 2017 and details can be found on the NARGS website. The trip includes 4 days of guided tours, with lodging in Cody, WY.

Other NARGS business: Round 2 of the seed exchange begins on March 1. I was contacted by NARGS regarding the seeds leftover after completion of the seed exchange, and our chapter will get a share of those leftover seeds later this spring, which we will share with our members.

Regardless of which side of the global warming debate you're on, this winter it seems that Mother Nature conspired with the believers in global warming. February 18 people were out in their shorts and T shirts at Cornell, and on February 23, with temperatures in the upper 60s, I had *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) and *Hepatica transylvanica* blooming. No *Cyclamen coum*.....yet, but I'm expecting that to be popping out soon as well (*C. coum* opened February 25 after I wrote the first draft). I wanted all that new snow to stick around a little longer, but one can't always get what one wants. It may turn out OK as long as we don't get too hard of a freeze later. Rather than crying over melting snow, I took the opportunity to get a head start on pruning and weeding so there will be a little less to do when spring (according to the calendar) hits. If you ordered seed from NARGS, it's a good time to plant those seeds and let the outdoor weather swings take care of temperature stratification.

For those who mark their calendars early, the date of our picnic this year was changed to the Sunday of the 4th weekend of August to avoid a conflict with the American Conifer Society's annual meeting (which will be in East Syracuse the previous weekend). So please note that our annual picnic and member's plant sale will be at Robert Treman Park, Upper Pavilion, Sunday August 27, 2017. Meanwhile see you on March 18th!

PLANT OF THE MONTH: TRILLIUM ERECTUM

John Gilrein, POM Coordinator

The March 2017 POM is red trillium, *Trillium erectum*. This plant also has other common names of Wake Robin and Stinking Benjamin. *Trillium erectum* normally has deep red colored flowers, but there is also a variety with ivory colored flowers, not as white as *Trillium grandiflorum*. The native range of *T. erectum* includes nearly every state in the eastern US to the Mississippi River, except Florida, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. This is a pedicellate trillium, that is the flowers are stalked, similar to *T. grandiflorum*. Plants will be shipped as dormant corms. Trilliums are unfortunately susceptible to deer browsing. Flowers are ill-smelling from close range, and are pollinated by flies or beetles, which is not uncommon for deep red flowers.

T. erectum prefers neutral to acid soil, rich in organic matter in partial shade. Sun in early spring, followed by shade in summer is fine; deep, dry shade, such as under a large spruce tree, should be avoided. Plant corms 3 to 4 inches deep in woodland soil. Mulch to retain soil moisture and provide an ongoing supply of organic matter. Plants grow 14 to 20 inches tall and are long-lived in good conditions. Trilliums may go dormant in summer (aestivate) when the soil dries out and they are shaded by fully leafed out trees. The red, fleshy fruit has multiple seeds, which have elaiosomes (oily matter attached to each seed). The elaiosomes attract ants, which may consume the elaiosome and distribute the seed. *T. erectum* is hardy to Zone 3 or 4 (at least to -30 degrees F.).

ADVENTURES IN GROWING FROM SEED

Carol Eichler, Newsletter Editor

I think I'm getting the fever – the seed starting fever, that is. Not only did I place my order of 35 genera from the NARGS seed exchange, I decided to order from the Ontario Rock Garden and Native Plant Society seed exchange too. That meant joining their Chapter and also jumping through the hoops to get a “small lots” cyto-sanitary certificate, which allowed me to import 50 genera.

In past years I have started all my seed indoors and grew them under lights. The process became a somewhat laborious production of assembling the light stand, checking the plants daily and adjusting lights, rearranging trays, etc. Plus those seeds that required a cold period didn't get one so were doomed to failure from the start.

The last 2 or 3 years I switched my technique and have been placing my potted seeds outdoors shortly after I receive my orders (late January) and let nature take its course. Seeds requiring cold treatment get that; seeds that require warmer temperatures to germinate sit in dormancy until conditions are right. It's hard to improve on natural light and, unless we have a dry period, I don't worry much about watering. Of course,

this means I don't have seedlings to offer for our April seed exchange, but by our August sale a number of seedlings have approached sellable size.

Here's some things I did differently this year.

1. I paid closer attention to my potting mix. Last spring I purchased special soilless seedling mix from Earlybird Farms, because it is very fine-grained. The particle size of Perlite in regular mix is too large for my taste. To this Earlybird mix I added in equal portions fine vermiculite and starter chicken grit to create a medium that is both well-drained yet moisture retentive. I used the vermiculite to top dress as well, in the hopes that it will help retain moisture for the tiniest of seeds lying on its surface.

2. I went to my favorite used clothing store and purchased a set of mini-blinds very cheaply to use as labels. This small investment yielded a few hundred labels.

3. I took extra care when handling the seeds. I opened each packet onto a white sheet of paper before sowing. With small seeds, many the size of dust and often resembling the potting mix I'm working with, I felt I was doing a better job of "keeping track" of my seed. After each sowing I then cleaned off the paper before opening the next packet so as not to mix seeds.



4. I actually took notes to track my most basic questions: was there actual seed in the packet or was it just duff? How many seeds did I get? Was the seed large or small? I always think I'll remember these details but I don't.

5. I took time to organize my operation. In the winter it can be challenging to find a place to work that doesn't make a mess in the house or make it an uncomfortable task. This year I worked at countertop level in the mudroom where I felt better about making a mess. Newspaper laid down on my working surface simplified clean-up.

Of course, now I can't wait to see the first seedlings emerge and, like most gardeners, I'm optimistic. If 50% of my pots germinate, I feel successful. From past germination records, I know some species emerged when temperatures were reliably in the 40's. I have yet to find a good, protected place to keep ungerminated pots during the summer – away from lawnmower blowings that contaminate the pots with weeds. Some seeds can take many months to a few years to germinate. So far I've not been that patient. Besides, I generally have plenty of young seedlings to tend to and that's enough for me...for now.

WHY I JOINED NARGS: PANAYOITI KELAIDIS

Panayoti Kelaidis, who is the most visible face of US rock gardening, recently wrote about his experience with NARGS and some of the people he met through the

organization who have been important to him. The piece is from his blog at [Prairie Break](#).

I confess, I am a Plantaholic. Anyone who follows my blog knows that I'm crazy about plants—alpines of course, but desert plants, trees. You name it. And very rarely a person impinges in a post: almost by accident. But I do love people—and my favorite people are members of the North American Rock Garden Society.



Three of the all time greats (left) are Norman Singer in the bright yellow sweater, and tall Geoffrey on the left. In the middle, the white haired gentleman was Bob Heapes. Norman was Secretary then President of NARGS and brought the organization to its apogee. Geoffrey was his partner, who wrote (with Norman's prodding) two of the greatest books on gardening ever: if you don't own them, your

library is poorer for it. Bob was a very successful businessman and one of my greatest mentors: he became President of our Rocky Mountain Chapter at a crucial moment and helped it thrive. Norman helped me in my career enormously. Bob was my best friend for nearly twenty years.

This goddess (right) is Marion Jarvie who attended the 1986 Interim International Rock Garden Conference with Barrie Porteous, Andrew Osyany and a few other Ontarians--and became so inspired they started the Ontario Rock Garden Society, which Norman Singer brought into ARGs, and ultimately changed us from a National to International Society. Marion has become one of the leading speakers and garden designers of Canada and North America--and we have maintained a friendship for three decades thanks to NARGS.



Bob Nold (below) has published three landmark books (*Columbines*, *Penstemons* and *High and Dry*): I met him through the North American Rock Garden Society, and we meet regularly at sales and meetings of our local chapter.



Boyd Cline (right) was co-founder of Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, which I have described as my Correspondence College of Horticulture. He was one of my greatest mentors and a dear friend with whom I explored the Siskiyou (not enough) and we spent two unforgettable weeks in the Colorado Rockies together in 1977. He was a stalwart of the Siskiyou chapter of NARGS. His wife won a million dollar lottery, and he lived to be 100 years old: good things happen if you join this club.





Darrell Probst (left) is probably the greatest hybridizer of perennials in America. I met him through NARGS: he practically invented the genus *Epimedium* and worked closely with our first long time NARGS president, Harold Epstein, for whom he named one of the most spectacular Epimedia: you too might have something wonderful named for you by Darrell--but only if you join NARGS!

This (right) is Peter Korn, whose nursery and garden in Eskilby,

Sweden are one of the wonders of the gardening world. He's written a fabulous book (*Peter Korn's Trädgård*), which describes how gardens are microcosms of natural ecosystems, using his Eskilby garden as a model and example. It is also written in English. Peter has invited me to come to Sweden twice: he has also convinced me that the ancient Nordic deities are still treading the earth (and creating great gardens). I would never have met him were it not for NARGS.



I scanned a photograph (left) I took in 1982 when I took Ted Childs (front), Linc (middle) and Timmy Foster on a field trip to Hoosier Pass and South Park. Linc wrote "the Book" on Rock Gardening--and Timmy edited the NARGS journal forever. Their garden, Millstream, was a dream garden if there ever was one, and they built an enormous and gorgeous garden for Ted. I visited once (the first time I was served dinner by servants): you meet giants of all sorts if you join NARGS.

She may not be GIANT, but Bernice (Pete) Peterson (right) produced enormous results. She volunteered for Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Farms for sixty years, working harder than most professionals (and longer hours), editing our journal, proofreading everything that came out

of the office, being a receptionist and starting what has become one of the largest plant sales in the world (it has grossed over half a million dollars in two days). Pete was a charter member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS and had the finest rock garden in Denver for much of the 20th Century. The highest award to volunteers of Denver Botanic Gardens is the "Pete Peterson" award, given once a year to the most deserving of the several thousand volunteers who follow in her pixie footsteps. *Paeonia tenuifolia* naturalized in her garden.





Roy Davidson (left) contributed more articles to the NARGS bulletin than anyone else: he was the acknowledged horticultural authority on *Iris*, *Penstemon* and just about everything else native to the West. He had a spectacular garden in Bellevue, Washington. He started our Rocky Mountain Chapter in 1976, visited us annually for decades and wrote the definitive monograph on *Lewisia*. He became one of my dearest friends and mentors, thanks to NARGS.

Sue Milliken (right) is half of the duo who own Far Reaches Farm--one of the world's greatest rare plant nurseries in Port Townsend, Washington. She and Kelly Dodson visited us a few years ago--another of the treasured NARGS links! She's admiring *Penstemon virens* on Loveland Pass.



Ted Kipping (left), the impresario of the Bay in California, when he (and I) were much younger (and slimmer). I met Ted through NARGS and we always palled around at the dozens of study weekends and conferences we attend together, most recently in October in Berkeley. He is a Lifetime member of NARGS.

I believe Tony Avent (right) is the greatest plantsman in America: I met him through NARGS and he invited me to speak to the Piedmont Chapter when he was their President. If you don't know Plant Delights, you must be living under a rock....



At left, Wiert Nieuemann, now retired as director of the fabulous Utrecht Botanical Garden in Netherlands, is on a field trip to Wyoming with Kirk Fieseler of LaPorte Avenue nursery (the best in the United States for alpiners) when I took this picture. They are treading on *Astragalus sericoleucus*. If you join NARGS I might take you to see it too--but you must not tread on it

I took this picture (right) at the 1981 Interim International Rock Garden Plant Conference in England--that's Will



on the left) and Paul to the right, both Ingwersens. We corresponded and swapped seed for years after that conference. I also met Wilhelm Schacht there, and started a treasured relationship with Jim and Jenny Archibald - maintained on three continents. And [there's] so many more people....



I first met Zdenek Zvolanek (left) face to face at that same conference, and he has come to visit me (as a speaker for our chapter) at regular intervals since 1983--and this May I finally visited him!

I have met literally HUNDREDS of great gardeners thanks to NARGS--these are just a few. And they are the ones who have taught, mentored and nurtured me along the way. Funny thing is--I joined for the plants.

I hear people tell me they "aren't joiners." I sigh and chuckle inwardly: they're missing so much. I didn't join NARGS to meet and become friends with these people (nor Anita Kistler, Pamela Harper, Tony Reznicek, Mark McDonough, Roxie Gevjan, Katrink Hull, Joel and Ellie Spingarn, Paul Halladin, Baldassare Mineo--really the list goes on for pages: you should probably insert your name in here: _____). If I don't know you, I probably will.

"But" you say, "I'm not a FAMOUS person like all of those guys. You just like to NAME drop". If you think that, you really don't know me at all. I could do a blog a hundred times longer than this with the "little people". Come to think of it, I HAVE! On my blog I feature dozens of gardens by people who don't have nurseries, or write, or be "honchos": and I met almost all of them through NARGS as well. They are the ones who have given me my best plants (hardly a week goes by when I don't get an offer of seed or a plant). The "average" rock gardener usually has the best garden--they aren't distracted by public gardening demands, nor nursery management or writing. They are the ones who arrange for me to travel to 150 cities and 12 countries to give talks. They host me, show me natural gardens as well as their own.

NARGS (and her sister organizations: the Alpine Garden Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club, the A.G.S. of British Columbia, the Vancouver Island Rock Alpine Garden Society [the first of them all!], the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society (which just had me tour that fabulous country), these clubs (and many, many more) that have been accused of "dying on the vine" in a recent Garden Rant.

They're not dying on my watch. Their members and plants have become the warp and woof of the fabric of my life. They are wind beneath my wings. And YOURS too, if you let them!

NEWS FROM NARGS : ANNA'S REPORT

Anna Leggatt, NARGS Board Member

Snowdrops are blooming and we have NO snow cover here in Toronto! Nothing much is happening in our gardens yet, but a lot is happening at National.

On Finances

After a number of years with substantial financial losses, NARGS virtually broke even financially in 2015 and, as a result of the generous donations of our members, had a significant financial surplus for 2016. Congratulations to all who helped. However, we must think long term and encourage people to join.

From Betty Spar, NARGS Vice-President

Remember the Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter sponsored Study Weekend May 19 and 20 in Madison. You asked for a study weekend, so I am hoping that this one will be a success. We need to schedule a study weekend for next year so perhaps your chapter would like to plan/host one (perhaps together with some other Chapters?). Remember it doesn't have to be in the winter but rather when it's best for your chapter to put it together. We are also looking for a chapter to sponsor the Annual Meeting for 2019. Contact me, <bettyannespar@gmail.com>, with help in planning it. Meanwhile this November plan to visit North Carolina, where the Piedmont Chapter is hosting this year's Annual Meeting. More information will be forthcoming

Joseph Tychonievich author of *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*, will be stepping up as editor of the NARGS *Quarterly*. Joseph brings with him a new perspective, a unique generational vigor, and a deep respect and knowledge of native plants and alpins. He will be taking over as editor with the summer 2017 issue.

Here's a few miscellaneous announcements. There may still be a few spaces left in the "Plantsman Tour of Wyoming" since a second departure date has been announced running from June 14 to June 19, 2017. The tour to the Dolomites is sold out. Let me know if you really want to go on a botanical trip somewhere for 2018 and beyond.

NARGS Surplus Seed Exchange is available to order March 1 - 15. The main seed exchange is now complete and your seeds should have arrived. Don't forget the STUDY WEEKEND in Madison, Wisconsin - May 19-20 2017. Prices increase on April 19. Lastly, nominations for the new board have now been closed. Online election will be from June 1-15, 2017

May all your seeds germinate! ==Anna, anna.leggatt@sympatico.ca

PLANT PROFILE: OUR TOP 20 ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

John Gilrein

Last summer, the Adirondack Chapter was asked by NARGS to briefly describe our growing conditions and submit a list of 20 rock garden plants that would be very growable, or even thrive, for beginning rock gardeners. I received suggestions for plants to include in the list from Pat Curran, Carol Eichler, Nari Mistry, and David Mitchell, and submitted some myself. I could have easily submitted 40 plants, so I had to narrow down the list I sent to NARGS. There are certainly more plants that could be included in the list. Some of my significant criteria were that the plant had to fit in scale with a modest size rock garden, be it sunny or shady, and I had to have a complete botanical name. The list submitted to NARGS is below. Note, I did not have enough experience with some of the plants below to comment on how easy or drought tolerant they are.

One of the challenges of rock gardening is that there are some stunning plants, which are effectively not growable outdoors in our climate, due to factors such as summer days being too humid, summer nights being too warm, and/or winters having too much rainy weather and temperatures above freezing.

The climate description from my submission:

Most of our gardens are in hardiness zones 5a and 5b. We have a modified continental climate with hot humid summers and cold winters, which include periods of thaws with rain. Our annual precipitation is around 40 inches (expressed as rain), with snowfall varying from around 60 inches (Ithaca) to 120 inches (Syracuse).

I did not mention some of the climate extremes of our membership, which would be that downtown Ithaca may be Zone 6a and higher elevation areas, such as in Oneida County, may be zone 4b.

Plant Name	Sun exposure	Soil type	
<i>Achillea lewisii</i> 'King Edward'	Sun	Rock garden	6
<i>Allium thunbergii</i> 'Ozawa'	Sun	Rock garden	1, 2, 3, 8
<i>Androsace sarmentosa</i> 'Chumbyi'	Sun	Rock garden	3
<i>Aquilegia flabellata</i>	Sun	Rock garden/crevice	T
<i>Campanula portenschlagiana</i> 'Resholt'	Sun/part sun	Rock garden	5
<i>Cyclamen coum</i>	Part shade	Well drained	7
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Part shade	Well drained	8, 9
<i>Daphne arbuscula</i>	Sun	Rock garden	2, 3, T
<i>Daphne</i> x 'Lawrence Crocker'	Sun	Rock garden	2, 3
<i>Draba aizoides</i>	Sun	Rock garden	3, T
<i>Edraianthus graminifolius</i>	Sun	Rock garden	T
<i>Erysimum helveticum</i>	Sun	Rock garden	
<i>Gentiana septemfida</i>	Part sun	Well drained	
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i> 'Little Gem'	Sun	Rock garden	2, 3, 6
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	Sun	Rock garden	2, 3, 6
<i>Potentilla porphyrantha</i>	Sun	Rock garden	
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i> and <i>S. cochlearifolia</i>	Part sun	Rock garden	2, 3, T
<i>Saxifraga</i> x <i>urbium</i>	Part shade	Well drained	3
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i> and other Semps	Sun	Rock garden	2, 3, 6, 9, T
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i> 'Minus'	Sun	Rock garden	3, 4, 6

KEY TO COMMENTS

1 – long lived; 2 – drought tolerant; 3 – low care; 4 – spreader; 5 – liked by slugs; 6 – OK in full hot sun; 7 – early bloom; 8 – late bloom; 9 – great foliage; T - trough

How can a person tell if a plant will be a moderately easy rock garden plant? Unfortunately there is no reference book to inform you whether a plant is reasonably growable in our area. Most of us do not want to go to extreme measures to keep plants alive, such as placing ice cubes on troughs of saxifrages to keep them cooler on

excessively hot days of summer (I didn't make this up). Here are some good sources of information which will indicate a plant may be moderately easy in rock garden conditions:

- Someone nearby is growing a plant.
- Talk to other gardeners; someone you know may be growing the plant you want, or may have killed it multiple times.
- The plant has a widespread native range, it's not just indigenous to the alpine area of one mountain in Wyoming.
- The plant's native range is not extremely dissimilar from our area, in terms of normal temperatures and precipitation. Plants growing in poor dry soil in the northeastern and north central US or western Europe are easily growable by us when we provide similar soil conditions (i.e. a rock garden), e.g. *Opuntia humifusa* (prickly pear cactus) and *Armeria maritima* (sea thrift). Steppe plants (e.g. from the US high plains) would be more likely growable here than desert plants.
- Catalog/supplier descriptive information. High Country Gardens has clear descriptions of rainfall zones (similar to hardiness zones in increments of 10" of rain) that a plant will tolerate. Some of the most xeric plants (grow in desert areas with 10" or less of annual precipitation) will not tolerate our 40 inches of annual precipitation – e.g. can't grow here without excessive coddling, like covering with plexiglass in the winter. We can grow many of the plants that will grow in the Great Plains with 30" of annual precipitation. Many suppliers unfortunately do not provide this level of detail.

Some of the other plants suggested by contributors included *Alchemilla erythropoda* (dwarf ladies' mantle), *Anemone pulsatilla/Pulsatilla vulgaris* (pasqueflower), dwarf *Antennaria* (pussy toes), dwarf *Heuchera* (coral bells), *Limonium latifolium* (sea lavender), and *Orostachys iwarenge* (dunce caps).

What plants would you place in your Top 20?

JOIN THE SPRING GARDENING GALA!

Make your spring an adventure. Plan to attend a plant-filled, itinerary-packed, springtime weekend in Madison, Wisconsin - one you'll really treasure. You'll hear expert speakers and enjoy plant-buying visits to a pair of nurseries stocked with choice varieties. Couple that with tours of two unique private gardens (one with rocks you'll have to see to believe) and a pair of great public gardens, including the University of Wisconsin's famed Arboretum. See the multi-page ad in the winter (January 2017) issue of the NARGS *Rock Garden Quarterly* for more information, including how to register.

FRIDAY, MAY 19th

•We kick off with a meet, greet, shop, and eat at The Flower Factory, an enormous perennial nursery with the midwest's largest selection of perennials. They have more than a dozen large hoop houses and outdoor benches – including a large hoop house devoted just to alpiners. You'll have time to load up on plants! Check them out at www.theflowerfactorynursery.com.

•We'll enjoy a midwestern pig Rrast (with vegetarian options). The meal will have all the fixin's, including local craft beers. There will be a talk by Nancy Nedveck, owner of The Flower Factory, on choice plants and a chance to shop for plants at the nursery!

SATURDAY, May 20th

Daytime garden visits include:

- Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm, a legendary destination for midwestern gardeners. It features a truly enormous collection of rare and specialty perennials, especially peonies, iris, and hosta along with choice ornamental trees, shrubs and vines. This nursery is normally mail-order only, but we've arranged this special opportunity for you to purchase your own plants. [Song Sparrow Farm](#)
- Sandgren garden, Madison. You've never seen a garden like this one. With rare woodies and choice perennials embedded in a wonderland maze of forty tons of enormous boulders.
- Kinlen garden, Madison. You'll be entering the dream garden of a true, longtime plant fanatic, with examples of how to grow choice plants spectacularly well on a tucked-away city lot.
- UW Madison Allen Centennial Garden, includes a great scenic rock garden right in the heart of one of the nation's most beautiful college campuses.
- University of Wisconsin Arboretum, a jewel of the city, with vast plantings in the 35-acre Longenecker Horticultural Garden and several others, including dwarf conifers and several world-class woody plant collections. You can expect to see many of the lilacs, crab apples, magnolias, and redbuds in bloom.

Evening Program of Speakers:

Steve Lesch, garden designer and installer since 1973, will present a talk *The Design & Construction of an Urban Open Forested Rocky Glen* on the Sandgren Garden.

Joseph Tychonievich, author of *Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*, just out from Timber Press. Copies can be purchased at a 40% discount on Registration. He worked for Shibamichi Honten Nursery in Saitama, Japan and two years at Arrowhead Alpines.

Visit [Wisconsin Spring Garden Gala](#) for logistics and to register NOW!

TIME TO RENEW: 2017 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome new member Steve Whitesell from North Blenheim! Steve spoke at our November 2016 meeting and at the February Members' Share meeting.

If you have not renewed for 2017, you should do it now so you'll be eligible to purchase the plant-of-the-month and you may join at the March meeting. 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.

ACNARGS membership in 2016 totaled 90 compared to memberships of 85 the previous two years. 5 individuals and 1 household joined at the 2016 plant sale.

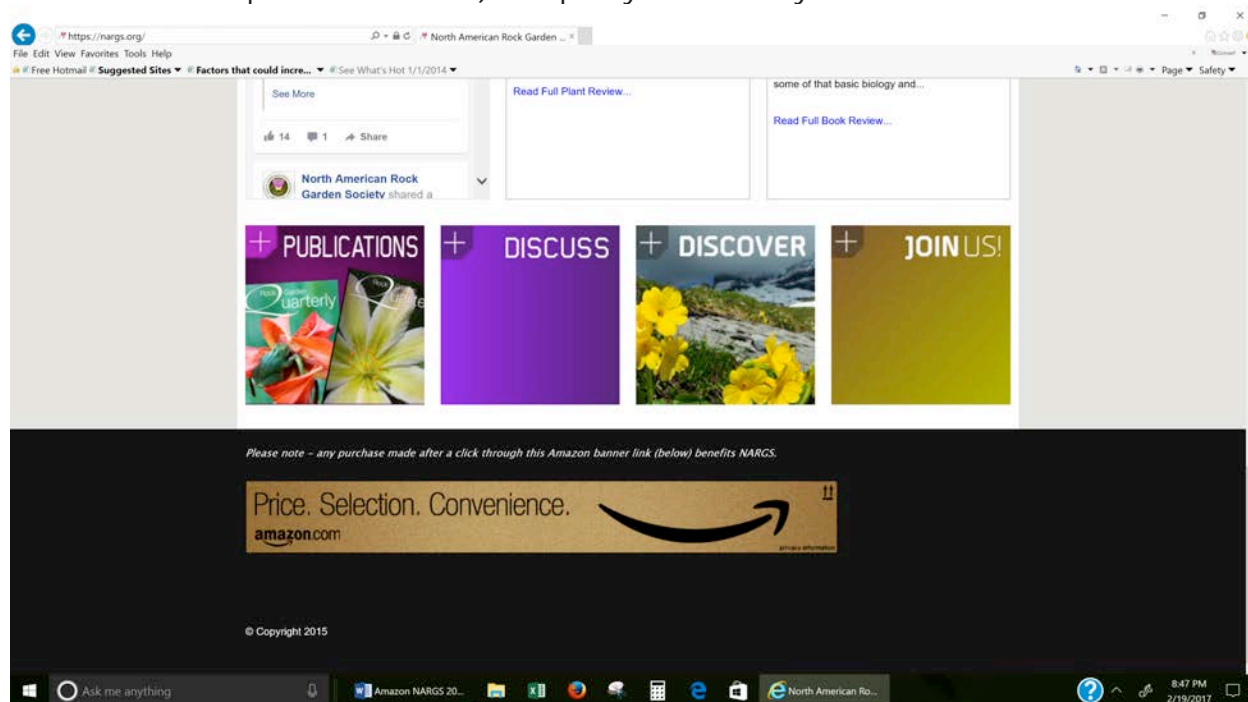
GIVING TO NARGS: THROUGH AMAZON.COM

Richard Lane, Piedmont Chapter

Do you know about the NARGS Amazon.com link?

Have you ever purchased an item online through Amazon.com? Most of us have. Are you a regular shopper at Amazon.com? Many of us are. Have you ever shopped at Amazon.com through the NARGS website link? Very few of us do.

Every time an individual - NARGS member or non-member - goes to the NARGS.org website and then clicks on the link to Amazon.com (the black banner at the bottom of the NARGS home page), your browser opens to the Amazon.com page. (Note: Mozilla Firefox does not provide the link.) Shop as you normally do.



When you make your purchases through Amazon in this way, you have just made a financial contribution to NARGS. The North American Rock Garden Society earns a commission on each item purchased. The commission varies based upon the item purchased and typically ranges from 4% to 18%. You make your purchase just as if you had gone to Amazon.com directly and there is no additional cost to you.

CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD: NARI MISTRY

Nari Mistry was presented with a Chapter Service Award at our February meeting to acknowledge his many contributions to the Adirondack Chapter, not the least of which is

his recent service as our Program Chair. His nomination is printed here and will be included in an upcoming issue of the NARGS *Quarterly*.

"Our speaker programs are one of the most important offerings of the Adirondack Chapter NARGS. With good programs we attract new members and in general elicit good attendance at our meetings. Therefore serving as Program Chair – the person in charge of booking our speakers- brings with it a lot of responsibility. It also requires a lot of time, attention to detail, and most of all, resourcefulness. Add to that the fact that for the most part the job falls to one person.

"Fortunately, the Adirondack Chapter has had a member willing to take on this role – Nari Mistry. He has held this position admirably for a number of years. Our attendance numbers have never been so consistently high (at least in my recollection) and to that I attribute the excellence of our speakers, the diversity of their topics and to Nari who has pulled it all together.

"His involvement with the Chapter doesn't stop there however. He has built beautiful rock gardens and continues to build more. His garden is open to visitors and has been scheduled on one of our day garden tours. He shares photos of his garden, especially of alpiners in bloom as well as contributing plants to our plant sales. As editor of the newsletter, I appreciate his write-ups of the program and that he voluntarily writes articles from time to time about his gardening experiences. Nari belongs to NARGS National and participates in their annual seedling exchange, which is where he has obtained some of the rock garden gems that he has so successfully grown.

"Nari has certainly earned this recognition for a Chapter Service Award."

Nominated by Carol Eichler

UPCOMING 2017 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 18: Carol Eichler & Terry Humphries: "Steppe to Alpine: Highlights from NARGS' Steamboat Springs Annual Meeting"

April 15: Elizabeth Lawson: "Primroses and Primrose Breeder Florence Bellis."

May 19-20: Spring Gala Week-end (a NARGS Study Week-end), Madison, Wisconsin, sponsored by Wisconsin-Illinois NARGS Chapter. More info in this newsletter and at www.nargs.org

May 20: Our big Plant Sale fundraiser as part of CCETC's Garden Fair

Aug. 27: ACNARGS Picnic and Members' Plant Sale at Upper Treman State Park. Note the meeting is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of August. Mark your calendar now.

Aug. 17-19: American Conifer Society national meeting in East Syracuse. [Info here](#). Save the date

Sept. 16: Ken Hull, Native Orchids

Oct.21 Yasemin Kon, author of *Wildflowers of Turkey*

Nov.11: Mary & Steve Squyres: "Following the Secret Lives of Plants: snooping on your garden [with help from technology]"

Nov. 17-19: NARGS Annual Meeting, Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Save the date.

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 5: Chanticleer Garden, talk by Pat Curran, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 2:30 pm. Sliding fee scale

March 10-11 Finger Lakes Native Plant Symposium, Ithaca.
<http://www.ithacanativelandscape.com/>

March 11 – 19: Holland: Flowering the World," Philadelphia Flower Show.
<http://theflowershow.com/>

March 16: Gardening for Native Bees and Butterflies. sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:30-8:30 pm. Sliding fee scale

March 26: Community Seed Share, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 11-2pm. Donation or bring seeds

April 8 (tentatively): Garden Conservancy Open Days, Hitch Lyman's garden, Ithaca

April 19: Make a Bee Hotel for Native Pollinators, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:30-8:30 pm

April 23: Stonecrop Gardens Plant Sale, <http://www.stonecrop.org/>

May 10: Using Native Plants in Your Garden - It's For the Birds! sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:00-8:00 pm.

May 20: Garden Fair and Plant Sale, sponsored by Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

May 20 & 21 (tentatively, depending on weather): Tree Peony Festival at Linwood Gardens, Pavillion NY. And May 27-28, June 3-4.
<http://www.linwoodgardens.org/>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Plant Walks 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: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

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

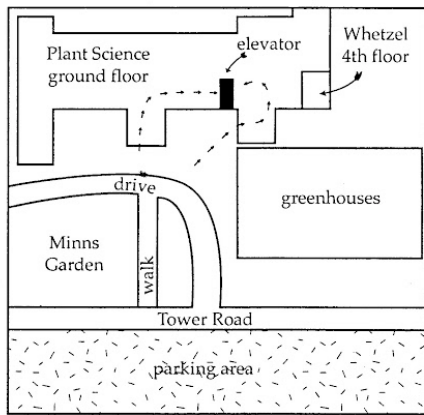
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Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

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

Map: Whetzel Room,
Cornell campus



PHOTOS OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY GARDENING (NEXT PAGE)

What's blooming in John Glein's garden on Feb. 23, 2017?



Helleborus niger



Cyclamen cilicium



Hepatica transylvanica

John writes: Normally here *H. niger* does not bloom until spring (the name is more appropriate for the UK). However, with the warm and inconsistent winter weather, my *H. niger* has been partially in bloom for at least a month. More flowers were open yesterday than a month ago. I even had 2 honeybees visit the plant yesterday. I have several *H. niger*, and at least 2 are in pretty full bloom. 1 is in a fairly protected, but not necessarily very warm, location. And *Cyclamen coum* was blooming as of February 25.