



ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

Visit our blog: [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com)

January/February 2018

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- FEB. 17: MEMBERS' SHARE
- From the Chair
- Membership
- Plant-of-the-Month
- NARGS Annual Meeting
- 2018 Chapter Program
- Calendar of garden events
- People
- Map
- ~~Photo~~-Video-of-the-Month

## FEBRUARY 17 : ANNUAL MEMBERS' SHARE

*Terry Humphries, Program Chair*

Once again, it's time for MEMBERS' SHARE: A MEETING WHERE WE ENJOY EACH OTHERS PHOTOS & EXPERIENCES!

Now is a great time to prepare to offer the group a short presentation during February's "Member Share" --our first meeting of 2018! Please think of photos from your garden or gardens that you have visited, green spaces you have enjoyed in your travels, cultivation tips, favorite alpinists and perennials, and other botanical topics that may interest the group.

Or share an experience about building a garden or rock wall to grow special plants. We love to learn about everything gardening, which everyone especially appreciates hearing about at this time of year. If you do not have digital photos, why not create a poster of prints? All are welcome; don't be shy! We usually allot 10-15 minutes per person, so plan your presentations accordingly. Handouts and tip sheets will be printed if you send them to [\*\*terryhumphries@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:terryhumphries@gmail.com).

As in the past, Craig Cramer is coordinating the AV details. Here is what Craig writes: "My goal is to make it easy for anyone who has great images to share to do so easily. Here are the Audio/Visual (AV) formats you can use for your presentation:

- Preferred: Insert your images into a PowerPoint presentation.
- If you can't do that (I can help you if you have questions), put the images you want to use in a Folder/directory so that they are easily sorted by file name in the order that you want to show them. For example, you could rename your files 01rock-garden-spring.jpg, 02rock-garden-summer.jpg, 03rock-garden-fall.jpg, etc.

You can send the PowerPoint or Folder to me via email and I can check them out beforehand. (If they are too big to send as an attachment, I can set up other ways for you to get them to me from your computer.) Or bring your PowerPoint or Folder full of images to the meeting on a USB ("flash") drive. Arrive early so we can transfer to the computer in Whetzel Room. Questions? Email: [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com). “

**For planning purposes: ASAP to let us know your intention to make a short (10-15 min) presentation. Send a brief email to Craig Cramer: [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com) AND to Terry Humphries: [terryhumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryhumphries@gmail.com).** If you already know the AV format you will use, let us know that too.

**DEADLINE for Submissions is February 11.** To make it easier for us to plan the meeting without glitches, please try to send your complete presentation in the above formats to Craig by February 11. Presentations sent later can still be squeezed in if time allows. Let's have a great show!

Join us at 1:00 p.m. on February 17<sup>th</sup> in the Whetzel Room (404 Plant Science Building, 236 Tower Rd, Cornell University-map at newsletter's end). Optional bring-your-own bag lunch and social time starts at Noon. Drinks provided. Goodies always welcome for sharing.

---

## FROM THE CHAIR

*John Gilrein, Chapter Chair*

It's hard to believe it has been a month since Christmas and winter is half over. Last month [December] we met on 2 Saturdays at KPL (Ken Post Lab) to package seeds for NARGS. Thanks to those who participated in the seed sorting venture. The NARGS seed exchange is an amazing opportunity to get exotic seeds at bargain prices. There are hundreds of species including seed from cultivated plants and wild plants. If you haven't ordered your seed yet, it's not too late for ordering in Phase I, and there's always the second phase of ordering after that for another shot.

We have recently formed a planning committee from our Chapter to explore whether we will offer to host a national NARGS meeting in 2020. There are a lot of details to work out, and as we do this research it will help us decide whether (or not) to host this meeting. Ithaca has a lot to offer with the many natural areas, especially waterfalls. Nor do we lack for program speakers but lodging is expensive. We've formed a core group of 1st and 2nd tier volunteers who are willing to invest their time to work out the details. However - and this is a heads-up - we will need many more volunteers on a limited basis for such activities as assembling conference materials, bus monitors, registration assistants, 'go-fers,' and a number of other tasks. Keeping the total conference cost comparable to past NARGS conferences seems to be our main barrier at this point. If we decide to move forward, you will be hearing more about this.

Though I actually like winter (most days at least), I'm always looking forward to spring, when it's easier to be outside - there's new growth, and the gardening can start. I do have my first plant order submitted, but no seeds started yet (someone I know nearby almost always has their seeds started this early). My volunteer job involves a lot of "weeding", and it's more satisfying cutting down the *Lonicera tartarica* (Tartarian honeysuckle), and invasive alien plant, when you can pull or pry it out by the roots.

Looking ahead this year, there are a lot of things you can do to green up your year: turn some of your lawn to garden, plant a tree, grow some veggies, plant some flowers, take out some alien

plants like buckthorn or honeysuckle, even better replace the aliens with native plants, shop at a local nursery, take a hike. Better to be green like that than with envy!

Have a happy, healthy, green 2018,

John Gilrein, Chair

## AN EDITOR'S APOLOGY

*Carol Eichler, Newsletter Editor*

Just hours before the newsletter was set to be finalized, my computer crashed. So I have had to hastily reconstruct this issue with thanks to Kathy Purdy for supplying me with the newsletter template she used from her days as editor in 2014; my husband Steve for the use of his computer even though he doesn't have MSWord the template somehow worked, and Google's Gmail which still allowed me to access the articles for this issue.

For the sake of compiling this issue #2 and out to all of you in a timely way - a process that involves Craig doing his magic to post the newsletter electronically to our web and Mary sending it out to everyone, I have omitted photos. Meanwhile my computer is in the computer "hospital" and I am hopeful it can be repaired. "It takes a village." Thank you all for understanding.

## MEMBERSHIP: A TIME FOR RENEWALS

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

Time to renew your membership! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you've already renewed or you're a lifetime member (and we do have a few of those), your 2018 membership is due now (Individual @\$15, Household @\$20, Business with business card listing @\$30). If you have not renewed, you will see a reminder message in the email announcing this newsletter.

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: our members-only plants-of-the-month at discounted prices, 25% discount on May plant sale purchases, participation in the members-only plant sale in August, and participation in the April members-only seedling exchange to name four – any one of which can easily recoup the cost of your dues. Plus, you become part of our network of eclectic gardeners eager to become better ones.

So why delay? Print and complete the 2018 Membership form here (<http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>). Questions? Contact Mary at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu).

## PLANT OF THE MONTH: HOW I WISH...

*Marlene Kobre, POM Coordinator*

Much as I would love to announce a POM selection for February, it's hard to find a source who would ship an order that early. There will be a POM for March. I'm still researching possible candidates, so I'd welcome your suggestions about either plants or sources. Hope you're managing the gardening withdrawal we're all probably suffering from.

Plant of the Month is a member benefit, partially subsidized by your dues, to provide additional encouragement to attend meetings and expand the horizons of our members. The goal is to

coordinate the plant of the month to the meeting topic, though sometimes that is not possible. Please send suggestions for Plant of the Month to Marlene Kobre, [mkobre@ithaca.edu](mailto:mkobre@ithaca.edu).

## NEWS FROM NARGS: NEWFOUNDLAND CHAPTER HOSTS “WHERE ALPINES MEET THE SEA”

Welcome to Newfoundland, the far east of North America! Eastern Newfoundland is a land of botanical extremes: boreal forests of balsam fir and black and white spruce, trees that are associated with northern woodlands; a multitude of bogs and fens, where grow a multitude of orchids and insectivorous plants; and rocky barrens of the coast which house wind-swept contorted trees and plants of an alpine nature more in common with high elevations of the New England Appalachians.

Additionally, we have the largest population of North Atlantic summering humpback whales, some of the largest seabird colonies of eastern North America, and are along the passing route of icebergs calving off glaciers in Greenland. All of this provides the backdrop for NARGS 2018 annual meeting in St. John's Newfoundland, Canada from July 6-8. It is your chance to visit one of the most hauntingly beautiful regions of North America - truly a place where alpines meet the sea.

The summer 2018 NARGS meeting will take advantage of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Conference Facility. Accommodations will be available in Macpherson College, opened in 2013, whose private rooms offer modern and comfortable accommodations. Dining areas and lecture theaters are within a couple of minutes' walk from the College. One of the main highlights from this meeting will be a visit to the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, an informal garden with 13 themed gardens including rock gardens, a crevice garden, alpine trough display, and alpine house.

We're packing a lot into 3 days. Our guest speakers hail from the coasts of eastern and western Canada and Scotland, day trips that will introduce you to the plants of the eastern Newfoundland coastal barrens and peatlands, and book sales and author signing for the field guides "The Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador" and "Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland" will be available. Plus a pre-conference offering to visit private gardens. More information is available at <https://nargs.org/news/2017-12-11/registration-open-newfoundland-annual-meeting>. Further questions contact Todd Boland at [todd.boland@warp.nfld.net](mailto:todd.boland@warp.nfld.net)

## 2018 PROGRAM PLANS

*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 Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, 236 Tower Rd., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (see map on the last page).*

Feb. 17: Members' Share: Personal garden photos and experiences

Mar. 17: Barbara Cooper and Bella Seiden from the Ontario Chapter: Botanizing in Patagonia

April 21: Anna Leggett, NARGS Board member and Ontario Chapter: "Favorite Plants from around the World & Can We Grow Them?" & 'Rock Gardening, troughs, screes and sand beds"

May 19: Plant Sale fundraiser as part of CCETC's Garden Fair

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters, our blog, [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com), and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

## CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

### February

Wed. Feb. 7, 6:30-8:30 pm. Landscape Design Tips and Tricks. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av, Ithaca. Fee: \$7-\$10 Sliding Fee Scale (SFS)

Sun. Feb. 11, 2:00-3:30 pm. Master Gardeners' Top Forty: Favorite Garden Plants Slide Show. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Suggested donation \$3. No pre-registration required, for this presentation

Wed., Feb 21, 6:30-8:00 pm. Making and Using Biochar in Your Garden. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. SFS \$7-\$10.

### March

Sat. Mar. 3, 10-12 noon. Bokashi Compost Workshop. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Fee: \$10 per household.

This Japanese composting technique involves natural fermentation and offers a way for people to manage food scraps. The liquid produced can be used to water houseplants while the food scraps are pre-digested, and can then be composted or buried in soil to finish. Join bokashi expert from NYC, Shig Matsukawa, in learning about the practice and go home with your own bokashi starter kit.

Wed. Mar. 7, 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Make a Bee Hotel for Native Pollinators. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Fee: \$10, includes materials for participants to make bee hotels to take home.

Sat. Mar. 10, 10:00- 12:00 pm. Seed Starting, includes techniques such as cold stratification and scarification, simple recipes for making your own potting and fertilizer mixes, and tools such as grow lights, heat mats and soil blocks. All participants will leave with a few starts to take home. SFS \$7-10.

Wed. Mar. 14, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Soil Series #1: Know Your Soil. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Learn how to use the online Web Soil Survey. Bring a soil sample from your home garden and a laptop (if possible). SFS \$7-\$10.

Wed. Mar. 21, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Soil Series #2: The Soil Microbiome with CU Professor Peter Hobbs and learn about practical techniques for facilitating a healthy microflora in your garden. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. SFS \$7-\$10.

Sat. Mar. 24, 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Spring Worm Compost Class. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. \$10 per household. Register online, space is limited!

Sun. Mar. 25, 11:00 - 2:00 pm. Community Seed Swap. Tompkins County Cooperative Extension. Free if you bring seeds to share, otherwise a \$5.00 donation.

Wed. Mar. 28, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Soil Series #3: Improving Your Garden Soil - sheet mulching, compost and vermicompost, cover crops, compost teas and juices, biochar, broad forking, double digging, and more. SFS \$7-\$10.

Sun. March 30, 1-4 pm,. Restoring Neglected Apple Trees with Akiva Silver, Twisted Tree Farm. Register at [akivasilver@yahoo.com](mailto:akivasilver@yahoo.com).

### **Other Horticulture Happenings for February and March**

*(not comprehensive)*

Mar. 2 & 3. Ithaca Native Landscape Symposium. Ithaca. [www.ithacanativelandscape.com](http://www.ithacanativelandscape.com)

Mar. 3-11. Philadelphia Flower Show “Wonders of Water.” <https://theflowershow.com/>

Mar, 8-11: Gardenscape “The Flower City Blooms Again.” Henrietta, NY. <https://rochesterflowershow.com>

Mar 9-18. Toronto Flower Show, “Canada Blooms.” <http://canadablooms.com/>

Mar 14-18. Boston Flower Show “Savor Spring.” <http://bostonflowershow.com/>

Mar. 22-25. Plantasia “Cityscapes into the Night, Buffalo, NY. <https://plantasiany.com/>

### **Check out other local gardening groups**

Cornell Botanic Gardens. <http://www.ssreg.com/cornellplantations/default.asp?page=Main>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society. <http://flnps.org/>

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club. <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/LHBGC/>

Auraca Herbarists. For more info, email [AuracaHerbarists@gmail.com](mailto:AuracaHerbarists@gmail.com) or call Pat Curran at 607-564-7927.

---

## **CHAPTER LEADERS/2018 BOARD MEMBERS**

*If you want to become more involved, we'd love to hear from you!*

Chair: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Program: Terry Humphries, [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com)

Secretary: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

Treasurer: BZ Marranta, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranta

Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, [mkobre@ithaca.edu](mailto:mkobre@ithaca.edu)

Membership: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

New Member Hospitality: Nari Mistry, [nbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:nbm2@cornell.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, [pc21@cornell.edu](mailto:pc21@cornell.edu)

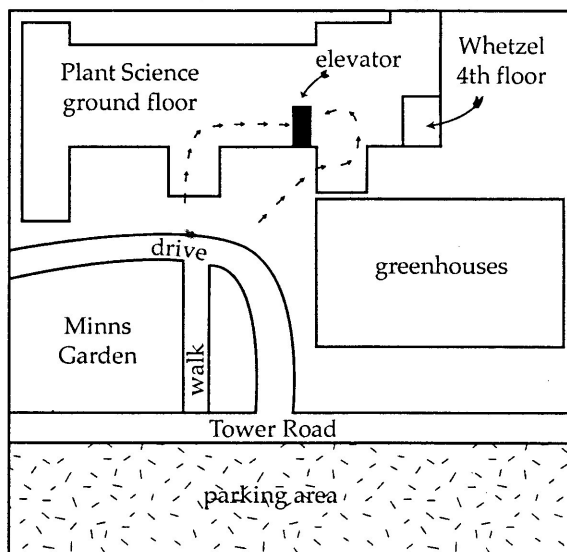
Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

---

## **HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP (NEXT PAGE)**



The Plant Science Building is located at 236 Tower Road on the Cornell University Campus.



## GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (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](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in March 2018.

## PHOTO-OF-THE-MONTH: JUMPING WORMS - A VIDEO AND FACT SHEET

Jumping Worms have invaded! Do you know how to identify them? Do you have them in your garden? And if you do, what should you do?

Follow this link

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=191&v=AB1ATzbGWKU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=191&v=AB1ATzbGWKU)) to check out this clever video and fact sheet

([https://blogs.cornell.edu/cerp/files/2017/11/JumpingWoms\\_FactSheet-11\\_15\\_17-2026fwf.pdf](https://blogs.cornell.edu/cerp/files/2017/11/JumpingWoms_FactSheet-11_15_17-2026fwf.pdf)).

Learn about why these invasive worms threaten Northeastern forests, what makes them so invasive, and what you can do to prevent their spread.