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October 2022

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OCTOBER 12: KAJ ANDERSEN INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER FROM DENMARK PRESENTS 2 TALKS



Kaj literally with his nose to the grindstone at Bangsbo

Everything about our October meeting is special. Special time, special day and, best of all, a very special speaker! We are pleased to introduce international speaker Kaj Andersen to the U.S. rock garden community. Our Chapter is his first stop on NARGS' official Traveling Speaker Tour in the East. PLEASE NOTE ALSO OUR SPECIAL MEETING DAY AND TIME. We are back at Tompkins County Public Library in the BorgWarner East meeting room. Kaj will present two talks - "Bangsbo Botanical Garden, Crevice and Tufa Gardens", and "Visiting Dutch Alpine Gardens", with a lunch break in between. Kaj is a renowned plant explorer from Denmark who has botanized for thirty years throughout Europe, and lectured to groups of plant enthusiasts all over the world. He even has two plants named after him! How special is that?!

The schedule follows. Join us for 1 or both talks with a "bring your own bag lunch" break in between.

11:30 1st talk "Bangsbo Botanical Garden, Crevice and Tufa Gardens"

12:30 break for lunch (1 hr)

1:30 ACNARGS business

2:00 2nd talk "Visiting Dutch Alpine Gardens", 1.5 hrs



Bangsbo Crevice Garden under construction.

NOTE This meeting is being held at the Tompkins County Public Library East BorgWarner Room AND on Wednesday October 12th. [Tompkins County Public Library is located at 101 East Green Street.](#) (click for the map). The Library will be open. At the main entry on Green Street the BorgWarner Room is to the left past the stacks, following a wide aisle that parallels Green Street. The room is conveniently located across from the restrooms.

The Cayuga Street parking garage (235 S. Cayuga Street) is located behind the Library and above Coltivare Bistro. It is fully accessible with elevator and has plenty of spaces. The charge is \$1 per hour. Pick up a ticket as you enter, pay at the street level machine as you leave (credit accepted). See "From the Chair" for further information.

Just a reminder, we ask all attendees to be fully vaccinated. Additionally, we will be following CDC and NYS covid protocol, which at this time does not require masks though you may choose to do so. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

I'm sorry that more members didn't make the September meeting to hear our speaker, Mike Hough, speak about bog gardens and related topics. It was an interesting talk and

some of us are hoping we can visit his garden in the future. For more about bog gardens, see my article in an upcoming Green Dragon.

Please note about the October meeting: we're holding it on WEDNESDAY October 12 at 11:30 AM at the downtown Ithaca (Tompkins County) public library. Staff at the library on September 24 were most helpful helping me find our meeting room. (it was my first time at the library.) Parking options for those attending the meeting include the Green Street parking garage (almost directly opposite the library), and street parking. Parking at the parking garage is \$1/hour; one can pay with cash or credit (but not AMEX); note you will have to drive up the upper floors as lower floors have reserved parking. It's a much shorter walk from the garage to the library than the walk we were used to going to the Plant Science Building. There are both a nice open stairway and elevators. For street parking, you may want to park farther away to avoid the 2 hour parking spaces close to downtown. I hope to see you there. You'll get to enjoy good company, interesting talks, and get our Plant of the Month (tulip bulbs).

John Gilrein, Chair

PLANT OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Marlene Kobre, POM Coordinator

Thank goodness for spring flowering bulbs, not just for signaling the garden's resurrection from winter woes, but also for providing some wonderful POM possibilities in the autumn. For this October I've turned again to the Species Tulips, which I've grown increasingly fond of since rediscovering them a few years ago. Species Tulips, also known as botanical tulips, are the ancestors of today's showy hybrid Tulips, but their differences from their descendants offer gardeners several advantages.

The hybrids do make a bolder statement in the spring garden, but they are not reliably perennial, losing vigor and even disappearing after the first year. Species Tulips will not only return year after year, but if happily situated they often increase and even naturalize through spreading underground stolons. The flowers are smaller and less showy, but they have a charm all their own, with many species producing more interesting foliage and multiple flowers on each stem. Their size also makes them a good choice for the rock garden. And since they bloom earlier than most hybrids and sport smaller leaves, they don't pose nearly the eyesore of their larger descendants after the blooms have faded.

Hard though it is to choose among the many available species, I've settled on *Tulipa clusiana* Honky Tonk (enticed in part by its name) and hope you will enjoy seeing it in your early spring garden. The Species Tulips' native habitats in the Mediterranean and Central Asia are being seriously endangered by climate change, so I like to think that planting them in our gardens might help protect them from extinction.



Description and Cultivation Advice:

Hardiness zone: 3-8

Bloom Time and Color: April. "Dreamy" pale yellow with soft pink flushes.

Ht: 6"-8"

Light: Full sun preferred but part sun also works

Soil: Sandy, gritty, even rocky loam with a neutral Ph to promote vigorous root growth.

Good drainage is a must. Avoid wet feet at all costs and do not add acidic or alkaline amendments.

Planting: 4"- 5" deep, with the tip facing up and the basal plate facing down. For Species Tulips

Scheepers recommends spacing 9 per square foot. Loosen the soil 2-3" below the bulb but do not add anything to the planting hole.

See John Scheepers' website for more extensive cultivation advice.

NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2022 PROGRAMS

Carol Eichler Editor

Apologies for the abbreviated newsletter this month. Quick turn-around was required since our September meeting was late in the month and October is earlier than our usual. Plus, I am off on a road trip tomorrow as I write this and still have a ton of preparations (including preparing plants for my absence). I'll be back in time to join you for the October meeting.

NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2022 PROGRAMS

NOTE: As of now, we are planning in-person meetings this fall. Please take special note regarding meeting dates and locations because we have had to do some juggling and are not meeting at "our usual" time of the month or location.

October 12: Note this is a Wednesday with talks at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Kaj Andersen, part of the NARGS traveling speaker program; 2 talks: "Bangsbo Botanical Garden, Crevice and Tufa Gardens" and "Visiting Dutch Alpine Gardens" with a bring your own lunch break and social hour in between. Attend 1 or both talks. Held at the Tompkins County Public Library

November 1: Deadline for seed to be received for the NARGS Seed Exchange (see NARGS.org for details)

November TBA : We are working to book Karen Perkins, owner of Garden Visions Epimediums. She will speak and bring plants for sale. Since her nursery is closing at the end of this year, here is your chance to enhance your garden with her special offerings. More about the nursery and Karen here: epimediums.com.

December TBD: Seed packaging for the NARGS Seed Exchange

May 5-9, 2023: 4th Czech International Rock Garden Conference, Pruhonice, Czech Republic. Info <https://czrgs.cz/>. Registration is limited but seems to still be open.

June 8-11 2023: Rocks, Plants, Habitats, NARGS Annual General Meeting hosted by Nova Scotia Chapter in Truro, Nova Scotia. Info <https://nargs23.org/>. Scroll down to watch the video – what a beautiful place! This should be an awesome meeting in an awesome location. Start planning now to attend.

CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

For the latest information, visit the websites of these gardening organizations.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information:

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings. <https://flnps.org/> Note on Sept. 20, Michael Hough will speak on *Spiranthes* orchids of New York, in person, by zoom or post-meeting recording. Info [here](#). Recordings of past programs are still available to view online.

Cornell Botanic Gardens: <https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/explore/events/>

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

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

2022 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

Chair (aka head honcho): John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: Would you like to help?

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer (aka CFO): Marlene Kobre

Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, mkobre@ithaca.edu

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Graham Egerton, Anne Redfern

Newsletter Editor: Open. Carol Eichler (temporary)/We need someone to take on this responsibility!

Book Order Manager: New NARGS program to offer NARGS' members select books at deeply discounted prices. New Chapter position. Looking for a volunteer!

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

ABOUT US – ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NARGS

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, occasional overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, two plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. 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 \$15 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), invitations to our garden day trips, opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales.

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 focused on rock gardening, and an online website featuring a wealth of information including current and archived of Quarterly's, recordings of past study days and more. NARGS National also 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. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec. Submit articles no later than the fourth Friday of the month preceding the monthly publication to Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be November 2022.