

July/August 2023

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## MEMBER PLANT SALE

**August 26, 2023**

Our traditional members only plant sale is coming soon! **Mark your calendars NOW** because the sale will take place on August 26<sup>th</sup>. **THIS IS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.** We return to the same large pavilion at Myers Park, near the marina. By now, you should know the drill: admission fee for non-residents of the Town of Lansing, bring plants if you have some to share; be prepared to buy plants (as if you needed encouragement!).

Typically, we have used this sale to share some of our favorite and/or special plants. There are sure to be some “grown-on” seedlings, often rare plants that nurseries don’t sell. It’s a plant lovers paradise! Plus, the sale raises funds that helps us pay for great speakers (they don’t come cheaply).

There’s always some discussion about what plants will sell and that’s a very tough question to answer. A plant that’s popular one year, may not be the next. Go figure! We certainly don’t want to share an invasive plant, but what is invasive? We may have different definitions of “invasive” since plants can behave differently based on their growing conditions. So don’t be surprised if prior to the sale, we may have a discussion about certain plants that have been donated.

As usual, your plant sale coordinator (me) needs help with set-up and more importantly with clean-up. Please contact Carol ([carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)) to volunteer. After a busy morning, (if you’re like me) you’ll be ravenous. Casseroles and cookies are calling but let’s all pitch in to clean-up so that we can sit down together to enjoy lunch and to socialize.

Lunch is almost as important as the plant sale. As with the spring sale, we will plan a dish-to-pass meal. The chapter will provide beverages. Remember to bring your own table setting!

Here's the schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing
- 10:00 a.m. Plan to arrive if you are bringing plants (labelled please) and place them alphabetically by Latin name
- 10:30 a.m. Sale begins (and no earlier but it might be a bit later if need be)
- Time TBD: Sale concludes, and cashier opens to take your payment. The sale usually lasts about an hour. Then...
- EVERYONE PITCHES IN TO CLEAN-UP and set-up for lunch
- 12:30 p.m. (approximately) Dish-to-Pass is announced, if we finish earlier, we eat earlier!

**Advanced Logistics:** Early August is the ideal time to start potting your plant donations. That will give your divisions time to recover from any transplant shock. To minimize the spread of jumping worms, remember to bare-root each plant before potting it into a soil-less potting mix (not garden soil or what is labelled as top soil). Chances are we all have jumping worms. But if you think you do not, we suggest taking the extra measure to bare root any plant purchases before setting them out in your garden (and dispose—not compost—the removed soil. Label your plants in advance please.

**Day of Sale Logistics:** As you arrive, we ask that you place the plants that you bring on the appropriate tables, which will have signage so plants will be in roughly alphabetical order. Our sale procedure will be essentially the same as previous years (which I won't go into here; if need be, refer to past newsletters).

**Silent Auction Table:** Special plants should be placed on the bid table. The auction will be open throughout the sale for some friendly bidding competition.

**Directions to Myers Park and the Pavilion:** Take 34B (whether approaching from the north or south). Before the bridge over Salmon Creek, turn onto Myers Road, towards the lake. If you miss the turn, this road forms a loop so it intersects 34B again after you cross the bridge. The entrance to Myers Park is ahead at the stop sign on Myers Road. You will cross the railroad tracks. Pavilion B is located near the marina with ample parking available.

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.

*Carol Eichler, Plant Sale Coordinator*

## **FROM THE CHAIR**

*John Gilrein, Chair*

This spring has been feast or famine and thankfully the drought is over at least until the end of the season. It was a challenging season with some higher than normal temperatures and a few weeks without rain. I sympathize with those of you who have limited water resources to expend on watering your gardens. I lost only a few small plants in the rock garden, which were either planted this spring or last summer. Will a dry spring be the new norm? We're all hoping it will not be the case. It would help though to consider future plantings to include some plants tolerant of dry soil and/or not requiring much water – much more complicated than just planting cacti and yuccas.



I just returned a few days ago from the 2023 Annual Meeting in Truro, Nova Scotia, which a few others from our chapter also attended. It was a very enjoyable event with bus trips to gardens and natural areas, lots of chatting with plantspeople, and a chance to explore beautiful Nova Scotia. The fires in Nova Scotia had been extinguished by cool, wet weather before our arrival but we did drive through one small, burned area. Highlights were the 2



rock gardens at Dalhousie Agricultural College (one granite, the other limestone), a natural area underlain by gypsum (a rock composed of calcium sulfate) with small yellow lady slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) and ram's head lady slippers (*Cyp. arietinum*), and a sand



barrens natural area near the coast with dragon's mouth orchids (*Arethusa bulbosa*) and golden beach heather (*Hudsonia ericoides*). It was my first experience bringing live plants



across the border from Canada to the US with a phytosanitary certificate (verification from Canadian authorities that the plants were not infested with insects or disease). We were limited to 12 plants without additional authorization from the NARGS chapter in Nova Scotia. We were limited to 12 plants without additional authorization from the phyto inspector to check our plants and issue the certificate, which made it easy. Terry and I declared our plants at the US border reentry point, the officer checked the phyto certificate, and it was smooth sailing back with the plants. I would highly recommend visiting Nova Scotia.

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Thanks to all of you who made for a successful May plant sale this year: Plant Sale Chair, volunteers/helpers, plant donors, and purchasers. We completed the plant sale relatively quickly and were left with few plants at the end. We very much appreciate the plants donated to the sale, and there were special plants we were able to include in a silent auction. Please note that contributing plants is NOT a requirement for participating in the sale; we do not want anyone to feel pressured to donate plants if you're not in a position to donate worthy plants. There were a few concerns with the plant sale: invasive plants and there may have been a few plants in garden soil. If you have a question about a plant you're thinking of bringing, email me or Carol Eichler (email addresses are in every newsletter, go to [acnargs.org](http://acnargs.org) for archived newsletters). We are planning to check plants for upcoming plant sales and remove any plants outside our criteria to be included in the sale.

Hope to see you in August!

## MEMBERSHIP

*Mary Stauble*, Membership Coordinator

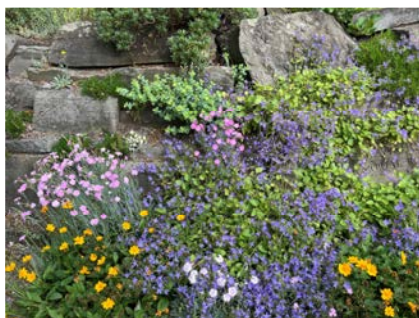
Please welcome 2 new members! Shelley Thorpe is from LaFayette and Diane Tripodi of Ithaca joined at our May plant sale.

If you have not yet renewed for 2023 dues are \$15 for individuals, \$20 for a household - perhaps you will be able to take advantage of our member benefits in 2023! That includes plant-of-the-

month as an exclusive benefit for members only. Check my email announcement of the newsletter link for your membership status. The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Contact Mary Stauble at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu) if you have any questions.

## WURSTER GARDEN UPDATE :

*Carol Eichler*



Intense heat and drought don't seem to have affected the Wurster Garden. As of mid-June it is still putting on quite a colorful show. June's blooms are the second wave in the season's succession of flowers that consist of dianthus, campanulas, penstemons,



geraniums, and more as these photos indicate.

Since I was traveling during much of June, I owe a big thanks to Sheila Stone who gave the plants a big boost by watering through the driest of periods. Many rock garden plants have adapted to tough times by sending out long tap roots and the stones in the garden help to channel the water to those roots as well as having a cooling effect. That certainly helped too, especially with older established plants.



It's worth a trip to visit the garden. Take note of a new sign at the garden, atop the brochure rack. We're displaying an aluminum color copy of our 2022 Francis Cabot Award from NARGS, framed and mounted thanks to my husband Steve Dell'Orto. The Francis Cabot Award is given to a public garden that excels in furthering the purpose of the North American Rock Gardening Society. The Al Wurster Memorial Rock Garden was built in 2000 and continues to be maintained by volunteers from our Chapter. We have reason to be proud of both the garden and this award!

## MARLENE KOBRE AWARD AND CELEBRATION

*Carol Eichler*



Congratulations to Marlene and Ron for being awarded the **Linc and Timmy Foster Millstream Garden Award!**

Marlene's garden displays an amazing harmony of form. It is very soothing for the eye and the soul. It is also the inspiring garden of a great observer and caretaker – providing each plant with the requirements it needs not just to survive, but to thrive.

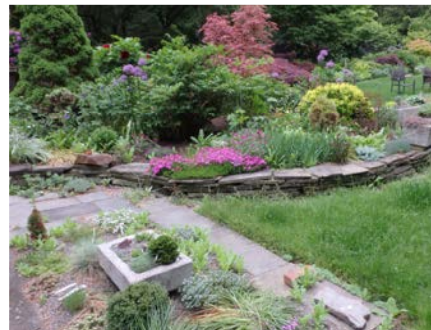
When Marlene bought her home over 40 years ago the backyard was a forest that had to be cleared to make room for the plants she had a passion for - tree peonies, Japanese maples, rock

gardens and troughs – Kabschia saxifrages are her current challenge. Her patio is filled with arrangements of tender perennials in pots and the succulents that remind her of her many stays in New Mexico.

Recently she added a second rock garden, a dwarf conifer bed, and always more, more, more Japanese maples. Her gardens are filled with gems and rarities.

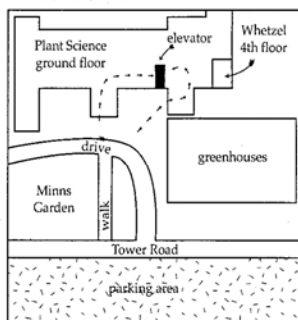
Carol Eichler and husband Steve Dell'Orto invited Marlene and Ron to their home and in the presence of a few Chapter members made the (surprise) announcement of the award.

See the [full nomination](#) article on the NARGS website.



Some of the Japanese maples in Marlene's Garden

**\*\*\*\*NOTE: Our meetings are back at Whetzel Room,  
Room 404 Plant Sciences Building  
236 Tower Road, Cornell University! \*\*\*\***



The west wing of the Plant Sciences Building has been shut down for renovations. But those won't start until next year sometime. So other than having those hallways walled off, everything should look pretty much as it did last time you were here. Remember the elevator to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and then exit right down the long hallway. You will be facing the Whetzel Room. The west wing of the Plant Sciences Building has been shut down for renovations. But those won't start until next year sometime. So other than having those hallways walled off, everything should look pretty much as it

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**Just a reminder**, we ask all attendees to be fully vaccinated. Additionally, we will be following CDC, NYS, and Cornell 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.

## NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2023 PROGRAMS

**NOTE: As of now, we are meeting in-person at Cornell in the Whetzel Room and not recording the sessions.**

August 26: Annual Member Only Plant Sale, Myers Park Pavilion. Note this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

September 28 (tentatively): Gerard van Buiton, NARGS Traveling Speaker from the Netherlands. Note this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

October 21: Program meeting, speaker to be announced.

November 11: Program meeting, speaker to be announced Note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

## CALENDAR OF SELECT AREA GARDEN EVENTS

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information: [ccetompkins.org](https://ccetompkins.org)

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings – a hybrid of in-person and zoom: <https://flnps.org/> Recordings of past programs are available to view online.

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

Habitat Gardening in CNY, local Wild Ones Chapter: <https://www.hgcny.org/>

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

To have your garden event listed send all pertinent information to Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)

## 2023 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](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)  
 Program Coordinator: Terry Humphries, [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com)  
 Program Committee Members: Would you like to help? Share your speaker suggestions!  
 Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"  
 Treasurer (aka CFO): Marlene Kobre  
 Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)  
 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: Graham Egerton, Anne Redfern  
 Newsletter Editor: Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)  
 Wurster Garden Coordinator: Carol Eichler  
 Wurster Volunteers: Elaine Caso, Ellen Lane, Sheila Stone; Others always welcome! Contact Carol Eichler if you wish to be added to the email list.  
 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](mailto: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](http://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 (Jan./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 Susanne Lipari, [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be September 2023.