

ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

**JANUARY**

January 2024

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- February 2024: Member Share.
- January 2024: Multiple meetings to process seed exchange.

## FROM THE CHAIR

*John Gilrein, Chair*

I hope you have had a productive gardening year. I appreciate having a bit of a break from gardening with the winter weather. It's not a complete break from thinking about gardening however, as it's a great time to read about plants or plan your garden for the coming year. Gardening is a bit of an adventure; one never knows entirely how the garden will turn out with the variable weather we get. I suggest you try a new adventure in your garden this year.

Make a bog garden; build and plant a trough; make a fern garden; try a bed of tropical plants (even tropical looking plants like cannas will work); try some new annuals; get adventurous with a container with flowers and foliage plants. I got an idea for a mini-mountain for saxifrages (this would work well with thyme or sempervivums); this won't be one of my first projects to tackle, but it's a possibility for the future. A bit of risk could reap great rewards!

Check out the NARGS website for the promising upcoming program January 13, 2024 "The Undervalued Ranunculaceae" with some renowned speakers, e.g. John Massey. Ranunculaceae is the buttercup family which includes many of our beloved garden plants, including anemone, clematis, columbine, delphinium, hepatica, pulsatilla, and trollius. If you can't view with program live, programs are archived for viewing later. There is a fee, and there are multiple other programs available from the NARGS website, [nargs.org](http://nargs.org).

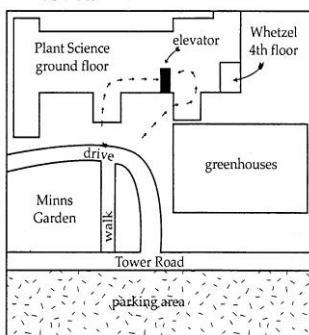
Please join in one of our work sessions for fulfilling orders for the NARGS Seed Exchange – see the article in this newsletter.

**DATE : FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

*Terry Humphries, Program Chair*

Please consider making a presentation at our February Member Share program and let Terry know what you will present.

**\*\*\*\*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.

**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 SEED EXCHANGE**

*John Gilrein, Chair*

### **NARGS Seed Exchange – Please Help!**

Our chapter is doing the first round of order fulfillment for the current NARGS Seed Exchange. This is a very big task, and I'm planning on doing a huge share of the work. We'll need as much help as we can get. Most of the work done by volunteers will be joining us at a work session, picking up a seed order, and filling the order from the seed trays. I have reserved space at Ken Post Lab classroom [KPL] (where we've normally packaged seeds in the past) and the Tompkins County Public Library Borg Warner East [TCPL] (downtown Ithaca). I'm not expecting a problem with KPL, since I tried to reserve the room on weekends, and school is not in session part of that time, but the reservation is not yet approved. I'm planning work sessions from 10 AM to 3 PM for those dates. Working for part of the shift is fine – no one is expected to work the whole shift.

### **Work dates are as follows:**

Saturday January 6 KPL  
Thursday January 11 TCPL  
Wednesday January 17 TCPL  
Saturday January 20 KPL  
Sunday January 28 KPL

Please join us for one or some work sessions. I'd suggest letting me know that you're planning on joining in, either by email several days ahead [jgilrein@twcny.rr.com] or text message [#315-430-8855]. I will cancel for bad weather (e.g. ice storm, blizzard, etc.) but I won't cancel for an

inch or 2 of snow. If you will be there at lunchtime, bring a dish to pass and we'll have some good social time along with the work.

## 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.**

## 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](http://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 Carol Eichler  
[carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be February '24.