



ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Month: February 2024
- Membership
- 2024 NARGS & ACNARGS Calendar
- Calendar of Garden Events
- Contacts

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 17

*Terry Humphries, Program Chair*

Once again, it's time for MEMBERS' SHARE:

A MEETING WHERE WE ENJOY EACH OTHERS PHOTOS & EXPERIENCES

Please be thinking about what you might prepare to offer the group as a short presentation during February's "Member Share" --our first meeting of 2024! We would love to see photos from your garden or botanical sites you have visited, green spaces you have enjoyed in your travels, cultivation tips, favorite alpines and perennials, or other botanical topics that may interest members of the Adirondack Chapter. You could share an experience about building a garden or rock wall to grow special plants. We love to learn about everything related to gardening. We especially appreciate your ideas at this time of year, as we look ahead to the 2024 gardening season. If you do not have digital photos, you could 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

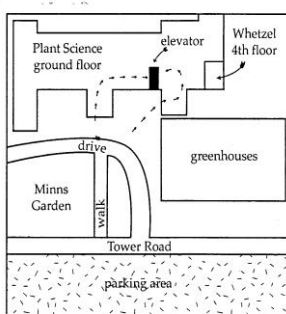
from your computer.) Or bring your PowerPoint or Folder full of images to the meeting on a USB ("flash") drive. Arrive early so we can transfer to the computer in Whetzel Room. Questions? Email: [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com). "

For planning purposes: please 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: [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@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 Sunday, February 11. Presentations sent later can still be squeezed in if time allows. Let's have a great show!

Our MEMBERS SHARE meeting will be held in the **Plant Science Building Whetzel Room**, Rm. 404, Tower Road, Cornell University starting at 1:00. Those that want to bring a brown bag lunch can gather at 12:00 and we will have a chance to visit while we eat.

**\*\*\*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.

## 2024 SEED EXCHANGE

*Susanne Lipari*

Our Chapter took on the enormous task of processing the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the NARGS seed exchange. It was (or still is at this writing) an enormous task, one that landed mostly on our fearless leader's shoulders. Don't get me wrong, many members came and helped to fill the orders. But John Gilrein handled all the background task, from receiving the many boxes of seed and supplies, to interacting with Joyce Fingerut and Laura Serowicz for instructions, to printing out the hundreds of orders, to hauling all those boxes to Ithaca, to handling the special orders from abroad that needed phytosanitary inspection, to being there for every session filling orders. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU, JOHN! And a special thank you to John's wife, Deb, who helped tirelessly, although plants aren't her thing! (she was just trying to stop her sweetheart from going crazy)

The first session was at the Ithaca Library. But we quickly realized that we really needed a location where we could leave everything set up for as long as needed. Setting up, taking down, and moving everything back and forth in our cars was going to take way too much time. Luckily, our chapter member Daniel Lipari has a heated basement workshop he could let us use. Thanks to all the chapter members who braved the bitter cold first few days and the long drive to Mecklenburg to work on filling orders.

The seed picking is hard on the back and requires intense concentration. We all agreed that one thing that made this hard, particularly as more of the ordered seeds were no longer available, was people who did not pick 2<sup>nd</sup> choices, yet wanted substitutes. Our instructions were that everybody needed to get a full complement of 25 (or 35) seed packets, unless they selected “no substitutes”. That left us pickers to try to guess what a good substitute might be, or just hand out random seeds regardless of the recipient's location or interests. We feel that the instructions for the seed exchange should state clearly that substitutes can only be given if there are plenty of 2<sup>nd</sup> choices selected by the recipients. No (or not enough) 2<sup>nd</sup> choices means fewer seed packets in that order, especially for those members who submit their orders later.



## MEMBERSHIP

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

Our heartfelt thanks to all who renewed your membership for 2023! It's time to renew for 2024! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you've already renewed or you're a lifetime member, your 2024 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. Print and complete the 2024 Membership form now: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf> or you can save a stamp and renew in person at our February meeting. Questions? Contact Mary at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: mainly our members-only plant-of-the-month at discounted prices and our May and August member-only plant sales. Any of these can easily recoup the cost of your dues. And ... you can never have too many plants!

We hope to see all of you in 2024!

## NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2024 PROGRAMS

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

Programs for our chapter meetings will be published in the March Green Dragon.

**NARGS National Event: [Western Chapter Study Weekend 2024](#)**

Mar 8 to 11, 2024, Oakland, CA

Hosted by the Western Chapter, San Francisco/ Bay Area.

## 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)

## 2024 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 Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in March '24.