



# ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

*North American Rockgarden Society*

## *Green Dragon Tales*

[www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)

February 2005

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### *LETTER FROM THE CHAIR*

Greetings of the new year to all of you!

Our first meeting of a brand-new Chapter year is coming soon (February 19). I hope you are eager to attend. I see our February meeting as a sign of spring. It represents a time to immerse myself in things “green” and to re-unite with fellow friends and gardeners who understand what I mean when I say “I’d rather be . . . gardening.” As in the past, we have designed the February meeting as a members’ time to share garden memories – photos or slides of your garden or others that you’ve visited, stories of the season gone by, and plans for the future. Or perhaps you may wish to use this time to pose a question about how others address a particular challenge. This is **your** meeting, so please plan to participate.

We have also invited Ken Hover, Cornell professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, to enlighten us about the properties and behavior of concrete, a topic to which he has devoted his research. When I first heard Ken speak on this subject, I had one of those “aha!” moments. I immediately gained insight into why some of my troughs have held up better than others – and understood what I was doing wrong. Ken is a wonderful teacher with abounding energy and a great sense of humor. So, his talk promises to be both educational and fun. Believe me, you won’t want to miss his presentation.

A reminder: it’s not too early to start seeds for

the April seedling sale. To encourage you to get involved, at the February 19 meeting we will be offering seeds from the NARGS seed exchange, potting mix, pots and labels, so there will no excuses not to try your hand. I’m sure many techniques abound out there for starting seeds, so this is one thing we can share. I’ll offer my easy “no-fuss” technique.

The Board and Committees met in January for what has become an annual planning meeting. We use this time together to set goals for the coming year. As I was taking notes, two words seemed to be common to almost everything we addressed – participation and communication. Indeed, it seems the vitality of our Chapter depends on these two elements.

To illustrate my point, I’ve already mentioned several ways **you can participate** in February alone – first by attending the meeting, second by sharing, and third by starting seeds for the April seedling sale. (Bring seeds to share for starting to the Feb. 19 meeting.) Please participate and get involved. I think you’ll discover, the more you invest, the more you will get back. When our Officers and Committee Chairs ask, I hope you will say, “Yes. I can help!” Or better yet, step forward and don’t wait to be asked.

Without communication, participation becomes a moot point. We use both our newsletter and meetings as important conduits – to announce upcoming

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[www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)

programs and timely information. Contributing to the newsletter is another way you can participate – by writing articles, submitting reprinted articles (by permission of course), or contributing garden questions/solutions we can publish.

We also plan to improve communications to others who might not know about us by more broadly publicizing our meetings in the region that we serve. We also hope you will more actively use our Chapter website [www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org) as another information source. But communication is a two-way street, so please seek out Board members to give us your thoughts, feedback, and ideas.

In an effort to keep my remarks brief, we've include a list of Board members and responsibilities elsewhere in the newsletter as well as a calendar for the year. (You may want to cut and paste this information into your Member Handbook.) I want to thank all of these individuals in advance for giving so generously of their time for the good of the Chapter in the coming year.

I also want to thank those retiring from the AC-NARGS Board for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Chapter: Michelle Jones Ham, Art Trimble, Tom Myers and Roseanne Moresco. Also, thanks to Marcia Meigs, who has served ably as our one-person publicity committee. It takes a whole membership to run the Chapter.

I hope you're anticipating the year ahead as much as I am. So plan to break that winter dormancy and attend our February 19 meeting. Of course our meetings are always open to the general public so please invite friends and fellow gardeners to attend. Let me remind you however, that to reap the full benefits of the Chapter, including discounted purchases at the May plant sale, participation in our August sale, mailing of the newsletter, and notices of garden tours and workshops, you must be a member. At \$10 per calendar year, it's one of the best deals around. The renewal form is included in this issue.

See you there February 19! And remember your charge in the year ahead – to participate and communicate.



Happy gardening,

*Carol*

## Join us for the February Program

Troughs, seed starting and member sharing all in the mix.

Our first meeting of the year will feature a topic near and dear to anyone growing (or thinking about growing) rock garden plants in troughs: “All You Ever Really Wanted to Know About Concrete.” Ken Hover, professor in Cornell University’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering will speak about the properties of cement, including critical factors in creating mixes and in curing methods to create strong and enduring hypertufa containers. There will be ample opportunity for you to ask specific questions related to your own experience.

Dr. Hover is “Mr. Concrete” at Cornell — a renowned authority on this ubiquitous material. He’s a licensed engineer and has been a researcher and award-winning teacher at Cornell since 1984. His enthusiasm for concrete is infectious and he’s sure to entertain as well as enlighten. This topic has more nuances than you might imagine and it’s certain to make us all better trough-builders in the future.

This is also traditionally the “members’ share” meeting, and

we will have time for members to share a few choice slides, photo album, favorite tool, garden comments, or anything else that you’d like to share.

Another reason to attend is to get a jump on seed starting for our April seedling sale. We’ll have on hand seeds from the NARGS seed exchange, potting mix, pots and labels, so there will no excuses not to try your hand raising seedlings for the sale. If you have seeds you can share for seed starting, please bring them to the meeting.

Debi Lampman, member and owner of Bedlam Gardens is providing Scott’s Metro Mix 560 for members to try for seed starting. She had great luck mixing one third sand with it. It has coconut fibers or coir that she prefers over other mixes. She will also sell the mix to members at \$15.00 for a 2.8 cu ft. bag at Bedlam. Agway sold the same for \$25.00 last year.

The meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room (4th floor of the Plant Science Building, Cornell University). The Board meeting begins at 11 a.m. Brown bag lunch starts at noon. Program starts 1 p.m. Free and open to the public.



**February 19th. Brown bag lunch at noon, program at 1 PM**  
**Whetzel Room, 4th floor Plant Science Building**  
**Cornell Campus**

### March Meeting Preview: Trilliums and Other Spring Ephemerals

At our March 19 meeting Robin Bell will show slides from two trips that he took last year – one to the south of the U.S. and one to the south of the globe!

On the way to the national meeting in North Carolina last spring, Robin spent some time in Pennsylvania and Delaware as well as the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia and North Carolina. He will show slides of spring ephemerals of this region, but particularly of the trilliums seen on the way.

In October, Robin traveled to the south island of New Zealand and met up with a newly formed Trillium group and toured many gardens around Christchurch.

Plants of the Month will feature a selection of Hellebores from member Ellen Hornig, owner of [Seneca Hill Perennials](#), as a gift to members who are in attendance at the March meeting.

The meeting will be in the Whetzel Room, Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown Bag lunch starts at noon and the talk at 1 p.m.



*Anne Klingensmaith*

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## Mark your calendars.

### Here's the tentative line up for 2005 programs:

**Feb. 19:** Speaker: Ken Hoover on Concrete, plus member sharing, supplies for seed starting. (Whetzel Room.)

**March 19:** Meeting speaker: Robin Bell on Trilliums and other Spring Ephemerals. (Whetzel Room.)

**April 16:** Meeting speaker: Lee Nelson on Heaths and Heathers. Seedling sale. Cooperative Extension, Ithaca.

**May 21:** Plant Sale Fundraiser, Ithaca High School.

**June 11:** Garden tours in Greene and Binghamton.

**June 25:** Work session and brown bag lunch at Wurster Garden, Cooperative Extension, Ithaca.

**July (date TBA):** Workshop (topic to be determined)

**Aug. 20:** Member Plant Sale/Picnic hosted by Debi Lampman, Bedlam Gardens, King Ferry.

**Sept. 17:** Meeting speaker: Harry Jans from the Netherlands. (Whetzel Room.)

**Oct. 15:** Meeting speaker: TBA. (Whetzel Room.)

**Nov. 19:** Annual Meeting & Lunch. Members share tips on overwintering plants in pots. (Whetzel Room.)

[www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)

Updates and more information: [www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org) and in the Green Dragon newsletter, published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May, July, Sept., Oct., Nov.).

Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Craig Cramer: [cdcramer@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cdcramer@twcny.rr.com). 

*Anne Klingensmith*

## 2005 Plant Sales

It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I accept the position of Plant Sales Chair. Tom Myers has done an incredible job in the Chapter's most important revenue generating activity. I can still hear him say, "We have some great plant material here today."

It is this "great plant material" that makes great gardens and is something I relish at each meeting. I'm also looking forward to seeing what members can produce in the coming months for our seedling sale in April, the plant sale at Ithaca High School in May, and the members-only plant sale in August.

Please consider propagating and sharing in the responsibilities of producing plants for our Chapter sales. You can learn so much about plants through propagating them. As you see in this newsletter, this year promises to be an exciting one filled with stories, cultural tips, and lots of plants! 

*David Mitchen*

## Volunteers Needed:

**Notetakers/Writers:** To follow-up when we have a speaker with a summary article for the next issue of the Green Dragon. This means taking good notes at the meeting and preparing a short article by the following Friday's newsletter copy deadline. It could be as simple as a paragraph describing the topic, commenting on a few plants that you particularly liked (that would be hardy), why you liked them, with a description, and resources. This should be coordinated with Anne Klingensmith, who books the speakers and will try to get the script for the talk and hand-outs electronically. Please contact Carol Eichler, [cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu) or 607-387-5823.

**Refreshments:** For the February meeting, we need two people to arrive at 12:30 p.m. to bring snacks, bring milk, and set up and start the hot water/coffee. Please contact Carol Eichler, [cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu) or 607-387-5823. We will circulate a sign-up for future meetings.

**Seeds/pots:** For the February meeting, you are welcome to bring extra seeds, small pots suitable for starting seeds, and cell packs. Potting soil and plant labels will be supplied at the meeting.  *Carol*

## Meet our Board and Key Volunteers

Our 2005 Board is comprised of familiar faces – some new, some assuming new roles, some modifying their roles. Their contact information is listed on page 1 of the newsletter.

**Carol Eichler** – Chair. Carol was secretary/treasurer last year.

**Anne Klingensmith** – Speakers coordinator. We've organized a committee to assume other responsibilities. (*They are not Board members.*) The committee is:

**Krys Cail**, who will oversee the meeting room details and for this year will organize the November meeting.

**Alice Davis and Peg Ross**, who are planning the May garden tour on their home turf in the Greene and Binghamton areas.

**Debi Lampman**, who will host the annual picnic at her home and nursery.

**Secretary: open** position. For

now the taking of minutes, which is the primary responsibility, will be rotated among Board members.

**Carolyn Yaeger** - Treasurer. Carolyn has been nominated and has agreed to serve. Our by-laws require that she be elected by the membership and we will hold that vote at our February meeting.

**At-large appointed Board members:**

**Billie Jean Isbell** - plant-of-the-month coordinator, continuing.

**David Mitchell** - plant sales coordinator. New role.

**Craig Cramer** - publicity coordinator, webmaster (continuing), and newsletter editor. He will be

the first point of contact for submitting newsletter articles. New to the Board, new roles.

**Susanne Lipari** - Newsletter producer. Continuing, *not a Board position.*

**John Gilrein** - membership coordinator. New to the Board, new role with continued assistance from **Art Trimble**

**Robin Bell**, ex-officio – Chapter representative to NARGS National meetings.

**George Erdman** - Member participation. George has some great ideas to increase involvement.



### More about our great programs in 2005

As many of you know, I am continuing to work on programs for the Adirondack Chapter, but only in the capacity of arranging for speakers. We have established a committee for assuming other aspects of program planning.

There will be four programs this year with speakers, in the months of March, April, September and October. Here's a preview of what's ahead:

In March, Robin Bell will show slides of two trips that he took in pursuit of trilliums, one to the Blue Ridge and one to New Zealand.

In April, Lee Nelson will speak on Heaths and Heathers. This meeting will be at the Cooperative Extension office in Ithaca and include our Seedling Sale.

In September we will be host to Harry Jans, from the Netherlands. Harry is a very experienced rock gardener, founder of the Dutch Rock Garden Society, member and leader of many expeditions and tours, and he lectures regularly worldwide. I haven't picked out topics yet, but the choices all look fantastic. I will probably schedule him to do two lectures — one at 11 a.m. and one

at 1:30 p.m. Details will be in the Green Dragon. We're still working on our October program.

In June this year we decided to have a work session and brown bag lunch, at the Wurster Garden. This is a good opportunity to get your hands on some real rock garden plants. There will be lots of weeding, dividing, maybe some planting. We will meet at 10 a.m., break for lunch and socializing. Please join us if you can.

*Anne Klingensmith,  
Speaker Coordinator*



# ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

*North American Rockgarden Society*

## Membership Form 2005

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

new member

renewal

Individual life time

family membership

family life time

nursery

Have you joined NARGS national?

Is your garden open for visitors?

### Would you like to help? (Please circle below and/ or give details)

**Hospitality:** Host a picnic Host a speaker Provide transportation Make phone calls

**Newsletter:** Write or solicit articles draw pictures provide photos

**Events:** be a speaker ( subject)\_\_\_\_\_ suggest a speaker (who?)\_\_\_\_\_

**other suggestions** \_\_\_\_\_

### Would you like receive the Green Dragon (our newsletter) as

paper copy

as a PDF file attached to an email

an email providing you with a link to an online version of the Green Dragon

Please remember that you can always print out the electronic version of the newsletter if you prefer not to read it while sitting at your computer. Sending it electronically is easier and cheaper for the chapter and makes it possible to include color photos and links to great garden sites, which will not be available to those who receive the paper version.

**Please fill out and include your check for \$10.00 for an individual, \$150 for individual life time, \$15 for a family, \$225 for a family life time, and \$25.00 for a one year nursery membership and send to:**

**Carolyn Yaeger, 400 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville NY 13068**