



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

www.acnargs.org

February 2008

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February 16: 'Member Share' meeting

Our 2008 program calendar kicks off with our annual **Member Share meeting, February 16 at 1 p.m.**, in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building on the Cornell campus. (Brown bag lunch starts at noon.) The line-up so far includes:

- David Mitchell will be putting together a slide show from our 3-day Quebec trip last summer, including stops at Les Quatres Vents (Frank Cabot's garden, right), Montreal Botanic Gardens, Alpines Mt. Echo, and Cady's Falls Nursery.
- Craig Cramer will provide a quick demo of our new a ACNARS blog.



We expect other members will step forward to share slides, tips and other information. Contact Carol Eichler if you want to share: carol_eichler@excite.com 607-387-5823.

Also bring leftover but still viable seed to share with others and we'll have an informal seed exchange.

Time to renew your membership

If you haven't rejoined for 2008, it's fast and easy. Just download this membership form (<http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>), fill it out, and mail in your check. Or sign up and pay dues at meetings.

New ACNARGS blog

From Craig Cramer, newsletter editor/webmaster:

To streamline our chapter's communications, this winter I started the ACNARGS blog. If you aren't familiar with them, a blog is simply a website organized chronologically, like a diary. Stop in and take a gander at it: <http://acnargs.blogspot.com>.

The advantages of the blog include:

- Instead of waiting until it's time for each issue of the newsletter to come out, information can be posted to the blog continuously.
- All the information doesn't have to flow through me. Blogging is easy and I can train other chapter members how to post to the blog.
- You can write comments to blog posts, sharing information and engaging in online 'conversations'.
- Some items may not make it from the blog to the newsletter due to space considerations.
- It's easier to follow links to more information from the blog posts than from the newsletter.

This year, whenever there is a newsletter issue to get out, I will cut and paste appropriate posts from the blog into our regular newsletter format which you will receive attached to an email. But I also plan to include the table of contents in the email with links directly to the blog posts so that you will hopefully get in the habit of visiting the blog directly whenever you need ACNARGS information.

I will do a short demo at our February meeting. Or if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the blog, don't hesitate to contact me: cdcramer@twcny.rr.com.

2008 program plans

Here are the plans for 2008. More details coming as they are available:

February 16: 'Member Share' meeting. David Mitchell slide show from chapter trip to Quebec and others. Seed sharing. Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

March 15: John Lonsdale, Edgewood Gardens, Exton, Pa., topic TBD, likely Woodland Plants. Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

April 5: Hypertufa Grow Stone Workshop, Taught by Art Friedl, Watson Greenhouse, LaFayette, NY.

April 19: Hitch Lyman, Trumansburg, N.Y., Snowdrops. Seedling exchange. Location TBD. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

Spring and summer garden tours and workshops are still in the planning stages.

May 17: Plant Sale, Ithaca High School, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Midsummer date TBD: Picnic and Member Plant Sale, Judy Fogel's in Lansing.

September 20: Durand Van Doran, Trumansburg, N.Y. metal artist, Wrought Iron in the Garden. Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m.

October 18: Jody Payne, rock garden curator, New York Botanical Garden, topic TBD. Brown bag lunch at noon. Program starts at 1 p.m. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. (where Dey St., Willow Ave. and Rte. 13 meet). If you need directions, visit: counties.cce.cornell.edu/Tompkins or call the CCE office (during regular business hours): (607) 272-2292.

November 15: Annual meeting and dish-to-pass. Location TBD.

Bulk bulb order from Janis Ruksans' catalog

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month Coordinator:

The Adirondack Chapter is going to coordinate a group order from Janis Ruksans nursery in Latvia. Some of you will remember Janis, the well-traveled speaker at our October 2007 meeting. He has traveled extensively throughout the area formerly behind the Iron Curtain -- including Eastern Europe, Turkey, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia -- hunting for plants. Ruksans nursery specializes in exotic geophytes, including bulbs, corms, tubers, etc. Geophytes are plants that have developed means to store energy underground to carry them through difficult growing conditions, usually involving drought, cold, or heat. We'll ignore the scientific designation and refer to geophytes as bulbs in this article.

The nursery grows bulbs that are rare, unique, and/or unavailable from other sources, catering to collectors and gardeners with a taste for the unusual. Prices in the 2007 catalog (which are listed in Euros) vary from a modest 1 Euro to 70 Euros for a really rare specimen. We'll continue to promote the group order for a while, but we plan to get the order in relatively early, since quantities are limited, and we're more likely to have our order filled if we order in the Spring. Most of the bulbs will be summer dormant, and thus will be shipped in the summer. If you're interested in ordering, it would be wise to consider the native conditions of the bulbs you will purchase. Some of the bulbs offered are easy to cultivate, others may need special growing conditions, for example withholding watering in the summer (and protecting from rain).

Catalog offerings include: many Alliums (flowering onions), Anemones, Arisaemas and Arums (jack in the pulpit relatives), Crocus, Corydalis, Fritillarias, Geraniums, Iris, Tulips, and many others. The catalog is enjoyable to peruse with the great variety offered and lots of beautiful photos. For questions about ordering, contact me at: basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu or (315)-477-8419. We'll have to work out some of the details, such as the exchange rate, closer to ordering time, and I'm sure we'll need payment at the time of the order.

The catalog is available online at this site: <http://www.remarc.com/craig/images/2008ruksans.pdf>

Hardcopies, send \$5 US to: Janis Ruksans, Dr. Biol., P O Rozula, LV – 4150 Cesis Dist. Latvia

Eastern Winter Study Weekend

The Berkshire Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) is sponsoring the Eastern US Winter Study Weekend which will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Farmington Connecticut the weekend of 28-30 March, 2008. The registration fee, including all meals, is \$220 for NARGS members before 2/28/2008, \$250 from 3/1/2008 onwards. Non-members will pay an additional \$30 to be credited to NARGS membership for one year. Rooms will be available at a steeply discounted rate of \$99 for the 28th & 29th but must be booked prior to the end of February.

A number of stellar speakers have been signed up including Alan Bradshaw, Frank Cabot, Geoffrey Charlesworth, John Good, Priscilla Twombly, Elisabeth & Rod Zander and Zdeněk Zvolánek.

Additionally there will be 5 workshops and an open forum with the speakers and several of the vendors from across North America. The late March date was chosen in part to reduce the time between purchase and planting.

Visit the Berkshire Chapter website (<http://www.bnargs.org/WSWMarch08.htm>) for registration and more information. Or contact Jacques Mommens PO Box 67 in Millwood NY 10546. Or you may call him on 914-762-2948 to register with a credit card.

Western Winter Study Weekend

Plant Treasures for New Millennium, February 29 - March 2, hosted by The Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia, Richmond, (so Vancouver) Canada.

More information online: <http://www.agc-bc.ca/wsw/index.asp>

Hypertufa Grow Stone Workshop April 5

Taught by Art Friedl, Watson Greenhouse, 2980 Sentinel Heights Road, LaFayette, NY
Saturday, April 5th, Time: 10:00 – 11:30-ish
Cost: \$20 for a medium-sized planter (the Chapter will pay the additional \$15 cost per registrant)
Bring: rubber gloves, portable work platform, grubby clothes
Sign up at Feb. or March meetings or contact Carol Eichler carol_eichler@excite.com, 607-387-5823

Participants will create the beginnings of a unique free-form hypertufa planter, "stone" by "stone." Because of the required curing time (ideally 24 hours), Art will get us started and demonstrate the procedure for shaping and carving planting pockets, which each of us will then do on our own time. You must bring a pair of rubber gloves and a sturdy, portable working surface for transporting your planter back home. There's a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 registrants. Art says if the weather is good, he'll hold the class outside on his working tables.

If the weather cooperates and anyone is interested, John Gilrein is offering to take us on a hike in this area. Two local spots nearby offer looks at the Hart's tongue fern (one is Clark Reservation). So bring a bag lunch and prepare for a field trip or to simply take the time to explore Watson's Greenhouse.

Art wears many hats at Watson Greenhouse - hypertufa expert, classes organizer, sales and marketing coordinator, and more. Additionally, he frequently connects with activities at The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Men's Garden Club of Syracuse and other garden-related organizations, and Central New York television. If you have ever been to Watson's Greenhouse, you will surely have noticed and admired his handiwork with hypertufa, using the traditional materials beyond the basic trough. We are fortunate to have Art offer us our own special class.

Visit the website: www.watsongreenhouse.com for directions.

From the Chair

From Carol Eichler, board chair:

I always we enter each new year of our Chapter with great anticipation. The Board, with its annual retreat in January, met to solidify our goals, programs, and projects which then we present to you through this, our first newsletter for 2008.

We're making some changes and so read this newsletter carefully. First, we welcome some new leadership to the Board. While everyone from the 2007 Board has returned, we have added new positions to share the responsibilities (see Familiar Faces, New Places). There remains one open position at the time of this writing – that of Chapter Treasurer. We continue our appeal for someone – YOU? — to step up and fill this important role.

We offer nothing too radically different. We have lined up four great speaker programs and hope to offer an additional speaker program in November to complement our year-end dish-to-pass. Workshops and garden tours are also in the works with Donna Kraft planning a day trip in June to her garden and several others in the Tully area. Judy Fogel has generously offered to host our August picnic at her home overlooking Cayuga Lake.

This once again there will be ample opportunities to learn more about rock gardening through hands-on experiences – by participating in our free seedling exchange, two plant sales, and plant-of-the-month "buy-one/get-on free" sales and through working in the Wurster Memorial Rock Garden.

In addition to the usual member benefits for plant sales, we will continue to offer several additional member benefits. These include a member appreciation gift (usually a plant – a future newsletter will announce when this will be distributed), a 50% subsidy to workshop attendees, and one-time grants to attend NARGS conferences (note the article on these special grants).

I'm especially excited to have Tom Myers coordinate our efforts at the Wurster Memorial Garden. Tom will spearhead the Wurster Garden Study Group to keep up the momentum that was begun last year.

Lastly, our newsletter and webmaster, Craig Cramer, has taken a bold step to streamline Chapter communications. He is making our website more interactive and dynamic with the addition of a blog. Not only can new information be posted on an on-going basis but others can add comments and create dialogue.

Craig will be demonstrating the new blog at our February meeting "Members Share" for those of us (myself included) unfamiliar with blogging. Another highlight of our February meeting will be seeing photos from last year's three day trip to Quebec gardens. We welcome other contributors.

This should be a good meeting and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again after our winter break.

Carol

ACNARGS Board: Familiar Faces, New Places

From Carol Eichler, board chair:

As we prepare for our 2008 program year you will see many of the same members returning to serve in leadership roles and you will also see some new folks joining them to assist with the many activities that we engage in throughout the year.

As of this writing, we are still looking for a treasurer to handle the Chapter finances. Carolyn Yaeger has set up some easy systems and will be around to offer training to her successor. Learn a new skill or polish an old one. We need someone to step up!

Here's the list of our "go-to" people who "make things happen" for the Chapter in 2008. They welcome your ideas, feedback, and time.

- **Chair:** Carol Eichler, carol_eichler@excite.com 607-387-5823
 - **Program:** Robin Bell, rgb2@cornell.edu 607-272-2074
 - **New! Program Assistants/Garden Trips and Tours:** Billie Jean Isbell, bjj1@cornell.edu 607-539-6484 and Donna Kraft dkaft@twcny.rr.com 315 696-8626
 - **New! Annual Picnic Host:** Judy Fogel jfogel@twcny.rr.com 607-275-3332
 - **Secretary:** Carolyn Yaeger cao2@cornell.edu 607-844-9462
 - **Treasurer:** Vacant. **We need you here!**
 - **Plant Sales:** David Mitchell dwm23@cornell.edu 607-342-3660 and (NEW!) BZ Marranta mmm10@cornell.edu 607-532-8813
 - **Plant-of-the-Month:** John Gilrein, base_camp@verizon.net 315-492-0844
 - **Newsletter Editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer cdcramer@twcny.rr.com 607-539-7233; and **New!** Assistant: Nari Mistry nbm2@cornell.edu 607-272-7496
 - **New! Wurster Garden Coordinator:** Tom Myers tom@ithacanhs.org 607-273-2865
 - **New! Membership:** Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu 607-387-9308
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2007 Financial Report

At our January 19 board meeting, our treasurer Carolyn Yaeger reported on our Chapter's finances. In summary, Carolyn says, "The Chapter finances continue to be stable and income continues to exceed expenses. Extra funds are moved to a savings account to be used for special projects in the future. If you have any questions please contact me at the February meeting."

You can view the spreadsheet online here: www.acnargs.org/pdfs/2007finreport.pdf

Hardy Ferns for Rock Gardens

From John Gilrein, Plant of the Month Coordinator:

Reference: Ferns for American Gardens, John T. Mickel, 2003, Timber Press

Almost everyone admires ferns for their grace and quiet beauty. In this article I will discuss ferns for 3 of rock gardeners' favorite habitats, limiting the ferns discussed for woodland sites to some of the smaller ferns and ferns that grow naturally in rocky areas.

Ferns for Sunny sites

One does not normally associate ferns with sunny sites and well drained soils, but there are a few ferns that thrive in full sun conditions and very well drained soil.

1. *Pellaea atropurpurea*, purple cliff brake is an attractive fern that likes limey soil and sun. The fronds are from 8 to 20 inches long and evergreen. The leafstalks (stipes) are purple and the pinnae (leaflets) are silvery green. This fern is found over much over North America and Mexico and is hardy to zone 4.

2. *Cheilanthes lanosa*, hairy lip fern is more of a traditional looking fern than *Pellaea* with finely divided fronds. This fern occurs throughout much of the Eastern half of the US on rocky slopes, both calcareous (lime - rich) and non-calcareous and is hardy to zone 5.

3. *Cheilanthes argentea*, Asian lip fern has fronds that are deep green above and white underneath on reddish black stems. Forest Farm's catalog reports that this fern grows in sun in soil of medium moisture conditions (moisture retentive soil with good drainage) and hardiness to zone 5.

My reference doesn't include much detail on soil preferences for the ferns #1 and 2 above. I suspect these two ferns would prefer very well drained soil to rock garden conditions. *P. atropurpurea* has done well in my sunny rock garden for 2 growing seasons.

Ferns for Woodland sites

Most ferns are associated with woodland sites either with good drainage or wet soil conditions.

4. *Asplenium platyneuron*, ebony spleenwort, is small fern with narrow fronds (about 1 inch wide) 8 to 18 inches long with dark stems. It occurs in eastern North America in dryish soils and on rocks. This is reportedly easy. I have ebony spleenwort growing well (so far after 1 season) in a trough in part shade. It doesn't need rocky soil, just good drainage and is evergreen and hardy to zone 4.

5. *Asplenium trichomanes*, maidenhair spleenwort, is a very small, delicate fern with narrow fronds 4 to 7 inches long with dark stems. It occurs across the northern hemisphere and grows in rock crevices and rocky slopes. This is an excellent fern for a trough. I haven't grown it, but I would suggest gritty conditions with humus. It is evergreen and hardy to zone 2.

6. *Asplenium (Phyllitis) scolopendrium*, hart's tongue fern is a rare fern reportedly found in only 2 of New York's counties. It is also found in a few other states, Ontario, Canada, and Europe. This fern has evergreen, undivided strap like leaves, 8 to 16 inches long. Locally it inhabits north facing limestone talus slopes. The growing conditions provide a cool exposure, shade, and rich alkaline soil with good drainage. It is hardy to zone 5 and it more adaptable under cultivation. It needs a shady side with good drainage. There are hundreds of cultivars of this ferns with fronds that are wavy, crested, or divided, but not many of the cultivars may be available locally.

7. *Adiantum pedatum*, Northern maidenhair fern is a common fern that is found in most of Eastern North America. It grows up to about 2 feet high in rich, well drained soil in shade. The stems are purple or black, which creates a nice contrast with the green fronds. The maidenhair's rhizome is a short creeping type which branches and can divided into separate plants. Northern maidenhair is hardy to zone 2.

8. *Polystichum acrostichoides*, Christmas fern, is an evergreen fern common in woods in our area and found throughout Eastern North America. The fronds are lustrous, dark green, and 1 to 2 feet long. This fern prefers moist woodland conditions with some lime, but will also do well on dryish soil in shade and is tolerant of acid soil. The crown of a mature Christmas fern is actually severally crowns crowded together on a short rhizome. The crowns can be cut apart to multiply the plant. It is hardy to zone 3.

Ferns for Water Gardens

The following ferns really are not ferns for rock gardens, but rock garden enthusiasts seem to appreciate ponds and bog gardens and these are great ferns. All three ferns below will be quite happy with saturated soil conditions.

9. *Osmunda regalis*, royal fern is beautiful fern that is worthy of its name. It is found in swamps and wet sites in North America, Europe, and curiously enough, tropical America as well. It grows in clumps from 2 to 6 feet tall. Royal fern will grow in shallow standing water or in normal garden conditions; it should grow tallest when grown in wet conditions. The more moisture it has, the more sun it can take. This fern can take neutral soil, but I suspect it prefers acid soils. It is hardy to zone 2.

10. *Osmunda cinnamomea*, cinnamon fern is named for the erect cinnamon colored fertile fronds (spore bearing fronds) in the center of the plant. Cinnamon fern is also found in swamps and wet places. It grows from 2 to 4 feet tall and needs acid soil. Similar to royal fern, this fern will grow in shallow water, and the more moisture it has, the more sun it can take. It will grow well in a shady site with good soil of the proper pH. If you don't have acidic soil, it would probably grow well in a plastic pot sunk into the ground filled with rich, acidified soil. It is hardy to zone 2.

11. *Matteucia struthiopteris*, ostrich fern is tolerant of a wide variety of conditions. Its ideal habitat is rich, alkaline muck in a bright location, or humusy woodland soil with partial shade. It will grow well in decent soil with partial shade, and also well in full sun with wet soil. Ostrich fern's feathery fronds grow 2 to 6 feet tall. It is a bit of a thug, spreading vigorously by underground runners, but is not difficult to control, so it is best planted where it has room to run. Since the fiddleheads of this fern are edible (and taste good), having a lot of it provides enough plants for a good harvest of an early spring vegetable. Ostrich fern creates a beautiful background in a wooded area, but the fronds tend to get brown and tattered by the end of summer unless they receive adequate water. It is found across the Northern hemisphere and is hardy to zone 2.

Sources for Fern Plants

(Numbers following nursery names designate which ferns above they carry.)

Eastern Plant Specialties - #4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
P O 385
Rahway, NJ 07065
www.easternplant.com

Arrowhead Alpines - #4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11
P O Box 857
Fowlerville, MI 48836
www.arrowheadalpines.com

Munchkin Nursery & Gardens - #5, 8, 9, 10,
323 Woodside Drive NW
Depauw, IN 47115-9039
www.munchkinnursery.com

Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery - #1, 2, 4, 6, 7
2115 Talent Avenue
Talent, OR 97540
www.siskiyourareplantnursery.com

Forest Farm - #3, 6, 9, 10, 11
990 Tethrow Road
Williams, OR 97544-9599
www.forestfarm.com

Tips and Tricks to Seed-Starting

From Carol Eichler, revised from Green Dragon, February, 2004.

While I make no claims to be an expert, I'd like to offer some tips and tricks from my own experience with growing plants from seed and more specifically from the NARGS seed exchange.

1. A sturdy four-shelf "workshop" shelving unit works well as a growing stand, is inexpensive, and provides a lot of growing space for small plants without taking up a lot of room. A sunny window simply does not supply enough light.
2. Use 2-row fluorescent shop lights – no need for the more expensive full-spectrum "plant" lights on the market. Mount them to the bottom of each shelf.
3. I keep the lights on 24/7. It's just easier – a no-brainer. And it's especially helpful to guarantee that seedlings enjoy literally life-saving "sunshine" as they emerge. They can get weak and leggy if they're deprived of this early light.
4. Position the lights 3-4 inches from the top of the plants. Hang them from the shelving with a chain to allow you to adjust the distance from the plants as they grow.
5. For potting medium you can't beat commercial seed starting soil mix. It holds moisture well – critical for seed germination, doesn't compact, and it helps promote vigorous root growth.
6. I fill small pots – 4-inch is my preferred size– with potting medium to about 1/4 inch from the top. I like to sow the seeds in rows. The "organization" makes it easier for me to handle small seedlings at transplant time. However, this may not be possible with really small seeds. Again the pot size allows plenty of space for root growth. These individual pots are then placed into plant trays. Be sure to label your pot with plant name and date.
7. I don't cover small seed but do pat them firmly into the soil so there is good contact. Then, I mist over the top, In the past I have layed a sheet of plastic over the tray to help keep the soil constantly moist but have found this tricky to navigate. Instead, I now buy a plastic cover that's made to fit over the plastic plant tray and it has worked beautifully.
8. I check once or twice a day to see what needs tending. Water? I mist to avoid over-watering which seems to be my biggest pitfall. Have seedlings emerged? I cheer. Do the lights need to be raised? Does anything need to be transplanted?
9. When seedlings are ready to transplant (first true leaves appear), I switch to a gritty soil mix that alpiners prefer – adding coarse sand or perlite whatever I have on hand – to commercial soil-less mix, operating on the premise that this medium is still a temporary home for the plant.
10. I transplant to 2-inch pots and can fit 2 dozen or more into a tray.

So what do I do with the pots of seed which haven't germinated? I know some alpine seed can takes months to years to germinate as well. I dutifully to care for them, take them outdoors when the weather allows, and let nature take over (with no success, I might add). For now, I'm content to play the odds and go the easy route. I am rewarded with enough success that I have more plants than I know what to do with. I bring the excess to the Chapter seedling exchange and that problem is quickly solved!

Seed germination references

From Carol Eichler:

Growing from seed this winter? These websites has fairly extensive seed germination information:

- Tom Clothier's Garden Walk and Talk: <http://tomclothier.hort.net/>

- Ontario Rock Garden Society Seed Germination Index:
<http://webhome.idirect.com/%7Ejehan/Information/orgsseedx.htm>
- The Seed Site: <http://theseedsite.co.uk/>

The definitive work of course is Norman C. Deno's "Seed Germination Theory and Practice, 2nd edition and his First and Second Supplements. They are available through the NARGS Book Service:
<http://www.nargs.org/libry/bookstore.html>

Gardens North Seeds

From Carol Eichler:

In completing my request for the NARGS seedlist, I came across a great resource - Gardens North, a nursery out of Ottawa, Ontario that sells seeds. Their website (<http://gardensnorth.com>) is a great resource in that you can look up plants from their on-line catalog. Under the "perennials" category for instance you can look up a plant to see a picture and description plus information about germination and hardiness. Even though this is a Canadian nursery they use USDA Hardiness Zones, hooray! There's even one section on seeds from Ruksans' nursery (not extensive, but presumably Gardens North has done their research on hardiness).

Perhaps I should explain how I "came across" this nursery. As part of my selection of seeds from the NARGS seed exchange, I was using the Google Images search engine to look up plant pictures and other information. By clicking on a particular image I also got the link to the "parent" webpage. To the extent that I allowed myself these side excursions, Gardens North wasn't the only great find. Among others I found a great tourist agency out of the UK that offers wonderful accommodations and tours to the dolomites in Northern Italy. I've been dreaming about a trip there ever since Harry Jans' talks. :)

National NARGS News

From Carol Eichler:

As Chapter Chair, I keep getting reports from Dick Bartlett, President of our parent organization, NARGS National, about the communication problem he has with the Chapters and general membership. Consequently, I've decided to take on the role of facilitating this communication by posting regular "National News" articles. Here goes!

NARGS Annual Seed Exchange: Get an early start to the gardening season by starting seeds this winter. This year's seed exchange includes an impressive 4,570 separate species listings and 34 pages of 2-column print! If you're a National member, there's still time to order. The order deadline, now extended one week, is Feb. 20, 2008.

Not a member and want to participate? It's not too late to join concurrently with your order. The list, instructions, and order form can be accessed at the NARGS website:
<http://nargs.org/seed/exchange.html>. Only 10% of NARGS members donate seed. You'll notice some familiar Adirondack Chapter names among them.

Hint: Even though I got the printed copy, I downloaded the lists onto my computer from the website, combined both "collected" and "wild" lists into one Excel document, and began my process of selection from there, where I could easily record notes. When I was ready to commit my first and alternate choices, I merely sorted by the "number" column so that the plants were in sequence and easily copied - by hand - onto my paper order form.

Norman Singer Endowment Fund 2008: Have an idea for a community rock garden or other project? NARGS awards grants through the Singer Fund, in order "to be a resource in support of special, one-time projects that advance the art and science of rock gardening." Guidelines may be accessed at <http://www.nargs.org/info/endowmentguide.html> Applications are due by April 15, 2008 and should be sent to Phyllis Gustafson, 250 Maple St., Central Point, OR 97502 or dgusgus@charter.net Grant recipients are notified after the NARGS Annual Meeting in June.

Chapter Offers Special 2008 Member Grants

From Carol Eichler, board chair:

Our Chapter is again offering one-time grants to encourage our members to attend the national rock garden conferences – Eastern Study Week-end and NARGS Annual Meeting. Geographically, both are being held relatively close this year.

Grant applications for ESW “Rock Gardening for the Future,” being held March 28-30 in Farmington, CT, will be received and considered on a rolling basis until February 23rd. Check this website (<http://nargs.org/meet/EWSW2008.html>) for further details about all that this conference offers, including great speakers, vendors, and garden tours and an on-line registration form.

The Annual meeting “One Valley: Five Habitats,” is being held June 12-15 in Ottawa, Canada. Grant applications will be received until April 19th and notifications will be by April 26 to take advantage of the early registration discount . Online details are available here (<http://www.ovrghs.ca/NARGS08/nargs08.htm>).

Those eligible to receive a Chapter grant must be a current member of the Chapter and of NARGS National, must have never received a Chapter conference stipend before (we have been awarding these grants for the last three years), and must clearly state in their application a significant way in which they will contribute “in-kind” to the greater Chapter membership. Examples of past contributions included, recipients who have written newsletter articles, delivered slide show programs at a general meeting, or donated time and/or plants to maintenance of the Wurster Garden.

The Grants Committee is comprised of Jerry Yaeger and Nari Mistry. Applications may be submitted via email to jay7@cornell.edu or by mail to Jerry Yaeger, AC-NARGS, 400 Irish Settlement Rd., Freeville, NY 13068. The maximum grant is set at \$200 per person. Remember, the ESW deadline is coming soon, on February 23rd.

American Primrose Society

This comes to us from Lee Nelson:

Are you a gardener with many interests besides rock gardening? Then the American Primrose Society may be of interest to you.

New England chapter of the American Primrose Society invites you to join them. Our 'Annual Primrose Show' provides a great venue to showcase your prized plants and compete for ribbons and awards. Garden tours and educational lecture meetings throughout the season provide a great learning experience and the opportunity to meet with enthusiastic gardeners. For more information contact: Lee Nelson. primulee@hotmail.com or 607-648-5995.

Visit the American Primrose Society website: <http://www.americanprimrosesociety.org>

Other Events

Via Carol Eichler (with thanks to Maria Galetti for some of this information):

- February 27-March 2: CNY Blooms, Syracuse Flower and Garden Show; <http://www.cnyblooms.com>
- March 2-9: Jazz it Up! Philadelphia Flower Show; <http://www.theflowershow.com>
- March 13-16: It's a Garden Life, annual Rochester, NY Flower Show <http://www.rochesterflowershow.com>

- March 28-30: Rock Gardening for the Future, NARGS Eastern (Winter) Study Week-end Hosted by the Berkshire Chapter NARGS, held in Hartford, CT: <http://www.bnargs.org/WSWMarch08.htm>
- April 26: Stonecrop Gardens Open House and Plant Sale, Cold Spring, NY; <http://www.stonecrop.org>
- May 11 Rare and Unusual Plant Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada; <http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm>
- May 17 -18: Trade Secrets - A Rare Plant and garden antiques sale and garden tours, Sharon, CT; <http://www.tradesecretsct.com>
- June 12-15: NARGS National Conference and Meeting, Ottawa Canada, sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Chapter, NARGS (more information forthcoming)

People

Questions? Want to find out how you can help the Chapter? Don't hesitate to contact one of the volunteers who help make everything happen. (This is the slate to be voted on at our Feb. meeting):

- **Chair/Membership:** Carol Eichler, carol_eichler@excite.com, 607-387-5823
- **Vice Chair/Program:** Robin Bell, rgb2@cornell.edu, 607-272-2074
- **Secretary:** Carolyn Yaeger, cao2@cornell.edu, 607-844-9462
- **Treasurer:** Vacant
- **Program Assistants/Garden Trips and Tours:** Billie Jean Isbell, bjj1@cornell.edu, 607-539-6484 and Donna Kraft, dkaft@twcny.rr.com, 315 696-8626
- **Plant sales:** David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu, 607-342-3660 and BZ Marranta mmm10@cornell.edu 607-532-8813
- **Plant of the Month:** John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, 315-492-0844
- **Wurster Garden Coordinator:** Tom Myers tom@ithacanhs.org 607-273-2865
- **Membership:** Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu 607-387-9308
- **Annual Picnic Host:** Judy Fogel jfogel@twcny.rr.com 607-275-3332
- **Newsletter editor/Webmaster:** Craig Cramer, cdcramer@twcny.rr.com, 607-539-7233 and Nari Mistry nbm2@cornell.edu, 607-272-7496

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