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CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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November 2014

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NOVEMBER 8 : JOHN GILREIN

Our own John Gilrein presents “Exploring Diverse Habitats of Western Newfoundland” on November 8th. The program portion of the meeting follows our annual dish-to-pass beginning at noon at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca. Bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks will be provided.

John’s talk will begin about 1 p.m. In June 2013 John traveled around Western Newfoundland exploring seashore, limestone barrens, serpentine barrens, woodland, and alpine habitats. Newfoundland is relatively unspoiled, and it’s a great place to observe interesting plants without strenuous hiking and high altitude. Most of the slides he will share will be of flora, with a little geology and scenery included.

John describes himself as a pathological gardener who has been exploring the great outdoors for as long as he can remember. He is a long-time member of our Chapter and has assumed a leadership role for most of those years. He currently serves as Program Chair and Plant-of-the-Month Coordinator and he is a generous contributor to our plant sales and door prizes. Join us on November 8 to see yellow lady slippers, sunny seascapes, icebergs, fossils, and more.

Note we are meeting on the 2nd Saturday of November AND that the location for this meeting is Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca with dish-to-pass starting at noon, program at 1:00 pm. Bring table service. Drinks will be provided.

FROM THE CHAIR

Carol Eichler

For the sake of expediency I apologize right off the bat for the brevity of this month's newsletter. It wasn't until I looked at the calendar that I realized we have an unusually short period of time between the October and November meetings. That's because 1) we move our November meeting up to the 2nd week-end of November, to avoid conflicting with Thanksgiving and pre-Thanksgiving plans; and 2) the 2nd week-end of November occurs unusually early this year because the 1st of the month falls on Saturday.

Our November meeting is especially nice because we gather at noon for a dish-to-pass lunch before commencing our speaker presentation. It gives us more time to socialize and share our garden successes, failures, questions, and sometimes even a few answers! Plus the food is always excellent!

Following lunch at approximately 1 p.m. we'll hold a very brief annual meeting as required by our bylaws. Since I can't think of any business to conduct, essentially it means calling a meeting to order and then calling for a motion to adjourn. Besides, I can't wait to hear more about John's trip to Newfoundland – a country truly after a rock gardener's heart with it's a rugged landscape – and to see his photographs. Some of the plants we may even be able to grow here. A slide show may be the next best thing to going there and for now I'll have to be content with this second-best choice.

Please join us. I look forward to seeing you there!

Carol

P.S. The November meeting is also our last general membership meeting of the year. We take a winter hiatus until February 21st (back to the 3rd Saturday) at 1 p.m. to be exact hopefully back at our usual Whetzel Room location. Our program will be Members' Share.

MEMBER APPRECIATION: MYSTERY PLANTS

Carol Eichler

The Chapter has had a good year, a very good year in fact. We're maintaining our membership numbers and acquiring some new members every year. Our plant sales were quite successful as well. Attendance at our meetings has been consistently high and the speakers have been of high quality. Our day trip to Cazenovia gardens was also well attended.

Our success is due to all of you, our members, for the many ways in which you contribute – from donating plants to buying plants to participating in our programs and other activities. So to show our appreciation the Board has made the decision to offer a member appreciation gift to any member who attends the November meeting. All I will say here is that it will be something wonderful to plant in your garden. You'll just have to attend to find out what we are giving away.

MEMBERSHIP: TIME TO RENEW FOR 2015

Mary Stauble

The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you're a lifetime member (and we do have a few of those), your 2015 membership is due soon (Individual@\$10, Household@\$15, Business with business card listing@\$25).

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to

becoming a member: our members-only plants-of-the-month at discounted prices, 25% discount on May plant sale purchases, participating in the members-only plant sale in August and participating in the April members-only seedling exchange to name four – any one of which can easily recoup the cost of your dues.

Plus, you become part of our network of eclectic gardeners eager to become better ones. So why delay? Print and complete the 2015 Membership form here (<http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>). Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu. Membership forms will also be available at the November meeting.

FEBRUARY 21ST MEMBERS' SHARE PROGRAM: HEADS UP

Our first program meeting of 2015 will be a return by request of our Members' Share Presentations. Do you have any photos from your garden (or other people's gardens) or photos from your travels that you may want to share? We hope so! We want to see them whether it's a favorite plant in bloom, a garden that inspired you, or a beautiful natural area you visited (and these are just some suggestions). The winter months are a great time to pull some of your electronic photos together. Don't use a digital camera? Why not create a poster of prints? All are welcome.

We've asked Craig to coordinate the photo submissions. Let him know by Feb. 1st if you have photos to share and he can connect with you about how best to format and send them to him. Knowing who's participating will also help with planning the time allotment for the program – no more than 5-10 minutes per person, please. That said, the more the merrier! A reminder will be included in the next newsletter, which you should look for in your Inbox in mid-January.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED...STILL

Carol Eichler

In spite of the notice in the last two newsletters and announcements at our meetings too, we are still in search of a newsletter editor starting with our January/February 2015 issue. Want to know what it entails? Contact Kathy Purdy or Carol Eichler (who has been filling in since Kathy's resignation).

One thing I didn't mention before is that as Editor you become a de facto member of the ACNARGS Board of "Responsible People." As a Board we meet once a year, usually in January, to make plans for the year ahead. The rest of the year we communicate by emails with the expectation that each of us will follow through on the commitments we made. Remarkably the system works because we have such a great group of volunteers.

Feel you have more computer skills than gardening skills to offer? Then, compiling the newsletter may be the ideal way for you to contribute to our Chapter. And your contribution will be most appreciated.

SEED DISTRIBUTION IS COMING IN DECEMBER

Carol Eichler

Our Chapter has agreed to help with Phase II of this year's NARGS Seed Exchange, which involves dividing and re-packaging the donated seeds. Since we do not know when the materials will be sent to us, we do not as yet have dates scheduled for our work sessions/parties. We do know this phase needs to take place in December and that we'll likely schedule the sessions over

2 week-ends. You can expect us to send out specific information as soon as we have it. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help. We'll circulate the sign-up sheet again at our November meeting.

I am looking for someone in the Chapter to step up as Coordinator this year. Basically, the Coordinator is responsible for receiving the seed, providing temporary storage (3-4 smallish boxes), scheduling work sessions (reserving a work space, collecting sign-ups, etc.), notifying everyone about time and place for the work sessions, and lastly, sending the packaged seed onto the distribution phase on schedule.

This is a short-term commitment requiring minimal time and it's a great way to support our Chapter! Plus National offers very detailed instructions so nothing is left to guesswork. Please contact Carol Eichler.

UPCOMING ACNARGS PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

November 8: John Gilrein, "Exploring Diverse Habitats of Western Newfoundland;" Dish-to-Pass starts at noon, Annual Meeting and talk begins at approximately 1 p.m. at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av, Ithaca, NY

December dates TBD: Seed packaging session(s): sign-up at Oct. and Nov. meetings

January 1: 2015 ACNARGS memberships must be renewed for the calendar year

February 21: Members' Share; see article in this newsletter; more information will be forthcoming in the Jan/Feb newsletter

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters, our blog, acnargs.blogspot.com, and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

Nov. 10 - Nov. 22: 3rd Annual Leaf Swap and Compost Giveaway, at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension

Nov. 12: An Introduction to Classical Bonsai Art by William N. Valavanis, Cornell Plantations Lecture, 7:30 p.m. Statler Auditorium, Cornell University

Nov. 19: ICE AGES IN THE FINGER LAKES. Lecture by David Barclay, SUNY Cortland, (FLNPS) Lecture, 7 p.m. Unitarian Church Annex, Buffalo St. Entrance

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

Chair: Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com

Program: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, nbm2@cornell.edu

Secretary: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu, Karen Hansen

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler (temporary through 2014), carolithaca@gmail.com

Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

GREEN DRAGON TALES

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Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Carol Eichler,

carolithaca@gmail.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in February 2015.