



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

April 2016

APRIL 16: ELISABETH ZANDER: TWO TALKS AND EARLY START TIME AT 11:00 A.M.

Nari Mistry, Program Chair

Our speaker for April 16 will be Elisabeth Zander, from the Berkshire Chapter of NARGS. We look forward to two great talks, starting at 11 am sharp. The first talk at 11 a.m. will be a tour of *Scottish & Welsh Gardens*. After a break for lunch during which time we will run the seedling exchange (with potential plants for sale too), we will have the second talk at approximately 1pm on *Daphnes*. This is sure to be a hit with all of us who would love to grow these beautiful flowering shrubs in our rock gardens or troughs.



Daphne x 'Leila Haines'
blooming in Wurster Garden
(not yet this year)

Elisabeth Zander is well known in rock garden circles. She got hooked on rock gardens years ago when she helped set up at a plant sale of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society. Linc Foster and others encouraged her to buy plants, pointing out great plants and their habits, all to be got at amazing prices. She joined the CT Chapter and soon after, she also joined the Berkshire Chapter.

Under the tutelage of Norman Singer, she became the Newsletter Editor. During this time, she published the well-loved articles of Geoffrey Charlesworth (which became his second book) and many others. In 1994-96, she directed the NARGS Seed Exchange. An avid grower, she was sowing well over 1,400 packets of seed each year by the late 90's. She built raised berms, hill pocket and shade gardens to house all the plants she grew and kept over 2,500 species thriving. A former Berkshire Chapter Chair she now organizes the Chapter Program venues.

At the turn of the millennium, Elisabeth moved her gardening to a blank slate of property in Goshen. Since then, she and her husband Rod have built a greenhouse, stone walls, plunge beds, troughs, raised beds, sand beds, and extensive crevice gardens. Still sowing seed, she has tapered down to a couple hundred packets of seed a year.

Come and listen to two varied and interesting talks to sharpen your appetite for gardens.

Our meeting will be held in the renovated Whetzel Room Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter

Note: Our speaker will be arriving on Friday evening and staying at the home of Christina Gomez. If you wish to join them for dinner at an Ithaca restaurant yet-to-be-determined, please contact Christina at cgomez@uwalumni.com.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

As I start writing this, March is going out "like a lamb"; it's 60 degrees F. at 9 PM, maybe a little windy, but a very pleasant spring day We're having a longer spring, weather-wise, than last year, which is very nice. Lots of flowers are in bloom, and not accompanied by too much heat, biting insects, and droning lawnmowers. Here's what's in bloom now: *Anemone blanda*, *Chionodoxa lucilae*, *Cornus mas*, *Corydalis solida*, *Cyclamen coum*, *Draba* species, *Eunomia oppositifolia*, *Helleborus cyclophyllus*, *Helleborus niger* (still in bloom since Christmas), *Helleborus X* (Lenten roses), early *Narcissus* ('February Gold' and 'Mite'), *Tulipa pulchella* 'Violacea', *Pulmonaria angustifolia*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, and early violets (*Viola* sp.). I'm a little surprised about what is in bloom this early, but the temperatures have been mostly pretty mild. What's now gone by: species *Crocus*, *Galanthus nivalis*, bulbous Irises.

It's time to cut down foliage of last year's Epimediums, ferns, and grasses, push back any plants that had heaved out of the ground due to frost, and work on pruning tree peonies and fruit trees. Any garden work that can be done now, rather than during the heavy demand time of late spring and early summer, will reduce the pressure on you in that busy time.

Seeds and Seedlings: I received a portion of the leftover NARGS seed from the seed exchange, so those will be available at the April meeting. Some ideas on what to do with these, after all they are free and you can afford to gamble:

- Sow out in flats, and take your chances on germination without cold stratification
- Sow in a flat, refrigerate for a month, then put outside
- Refrigerate seed in a moistened paper towel in a Ziploc bag for a month, then sow

- Sow in September/October, hoping for germination in spring 2017
- Sow in a spot in the garden that is not too crowded with foliage of perennials
- Save the seed in a cool to cold, dry place, and sow in winter/early spring 2017.

Many perennials require cold stratification to germinate, but not all do. Consult with your fellow gardeners if you want suggestions on what to pick out of the motley assortment of seeds. Or be wild and take a chance on an unknown genus! If you have success, bring your extras to our member sale in August.

We're looking for seedlings and small divisions for our April seedling exchange (see article later in this newsletter). Please bring seedlings or small perennial divisions to the meeting, labeled. And consider bringing a container (bag, flat, box, etc.) to transport your acquisitions home with you.

Hope to see you for our great April programs to help kick off our gardening adventures of 2016!

John

GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL SEEDLING EXCHANGE

David Mitchell, Plant Sale Chair



Yes, our April meeting signals that it's time for our annual tradition of sharing and exchanging seedlings. If you have any seedlings, bring in your extras to share. We'll provide plastic bags and labels for transport home. Seedlings are free for members with a nominal charge for non-members (bring quarters or better yet join the Chapter. We hope you'll take some seedlings even if you have none to share.

Potted divisions will also be accepted and priced for sale or held for the May plant sale. There may even be a bidding table if we get something special!

I'm hoping the seedlings will find good homes and that some will eventually show up on our tables at the May and August plant sales. The seedling exchange is a great way to learn about how to start and grow plants from seeds.



Seedling: Tiny, above ground plant with its 1st true leaves and its long root system

Editor's Note: As follow-up to the article, "Seed Collecting and Propagation Thoughts," I wrote in the October 2015 newsletter about seed starting outdoors, three genera have germinated as observed on 3/22/16 and four more as of 3/26.

PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH: GEMS FROM LAPORTE

John Gilrein, POM Coordinator

Our April 2016 POMs are plants from Laporte Avenue nursery in Fort Collins, Colorado. There is a really nice online catalog, but ordering is not electronic, so the plants we receive may not be exactly as listed in the table below – depending on availability. Plants from Laporte are generally hardy to at least Zone 5 (- 20 degrees F.), but hardiness will depend also on other factors, such as drainage. Their catalog does not list specific hardiness zones, however Laporte doesn't generally sell non-hardy plants (and is located in Zone 5). Sometimes drainage flaws are more problematic with rock garden type plants than low temperatures, due to our fluctuating winter temperatures and rain.

There are plants in the order with different cultural needs, so be sure to either pick up a plant that will be suited to the conditions where you will plant it, or plan to modify the conditions to give your POM plant a good home. If you're planning on planting your POM plant in a trough, it's easy to create the right conditions of soil and light exposure. The plants likely to be most challenging for us to grow are the Erigeron and the Oxytropis. You can view photos of some of the plants on the last page of this newsletter. The LaPorte website <http://laporteavenuenursery.com/> may have more photos (though not all plants listed have a photo), or you can "google" a plant to look for more pictures and information.

Though it's more spring-like now than last year, it's a good idea to let your new plant adjust to being outside, after its long trip in shipping. It may have been greenhouse-grown and used to some shelter, so letting it acclimate, by exposing it outdoors to partial shade and some shelter from the wind, and progressing to more sun and more exposure. If we were to have cool, cloudy, and calm weather for 5 days in a row (unlikely), this would not be necessary.

Plant & Origin	Light Exposure	Height x Width	Soil	Flower Color
Androsace lanuginose 3 (photo)	FS - PS	4 x 16 "	RG [T]	pale pink
Aquilegia flabellata Nana 4 (photo)	FS - PS	8 x 8 "	WD – RG [T]	purple
Clematis hirsutissima Bergen Park 1 (photo)	FS	12 x 15"	RG	purple
Cyclamen purpurascens 2 (photo)	PS - SH	6 x 6"	Woodland/WD	pink
Erigeron compositus 1	FS	2 x 5"	RG [T]	pink
Gentiana angustifolia 2	FS - PS	3 x 5"	WD	blue
Oxytropis lambertii 1	FS	4 x 6"	RG	magenta

Plant & Origin	Light Exposure	Height x Width	Soil	Flower Color
Penstemon hallii (photo) 1	FS - PS	3 x 6"	RG [T]	purple
Phlox bifida 'Pink' 5	FS - PS	4 x 12"	WD - RG	pink
Primula marginata 'Wharfedale Bluebell" 1 (photo)	FS – PS	2 X 3"	RG	blue

KEY

Origin: 1 = Western US; 2 = Europe; 3 = Himalayas; 4 = Japan; 5 = US

Sun Exposure: FS = full sun; PS = part shade; SH = shade

Soil: WD = well drained; RG = rock garden; [T] = trough plant

THE BAGGIE METHOD OF SEED STARTING

Donna McMaster, member Ontario Chapter, ORG&HPS

I use the baggie method of seed starting almost exclusively since about 2008. I encountered this method in the 2008 edition of the British Clematis Society yearbook. There are two good articles there.

My approach is not foolproof but it keeps me happy and entertained all winter. Anything that has not germinated in spring, when I am ready to get outdoors, just goes in the fridge for 4 or 5 months and I rarely even look at them again until fall.

I use snack-size baggies. I prefer vermiculite because that was the first recommendation I got. I know lots of folks use pro-mix and I understand that works well too. I use about 1/3 cup vermiculite to which I add a tablespoon of water, more or less depending on the medium. You want it just moisturized then seal the bag. I will occasionally have a little mold develop, which just requires a shake of cinnamon. It does not affect germination.

I sort my seeds based on their requirements from information in our [ORG&HPS] seed exchange list - room temperature, refrigerator or outside, scarified, stratified, etc.

Those that require room temperature are the largest group. I store them in a shoebox with no additional light, and try to remember to look at them every week or so. Those that prefer a cool start go in the refrigerator and I don't often check them. Those that require alternating freeze thaw, go in my barbecue outside safe from squirrels etc. I only pot my seedlings up when they show green. At this point they go under lights and I will fertilize when they have a second set of leaves

I find some seeds with throw a radical and not send up a stem for another year, clematis in particular. It does become necessary to add some water if you have to wait a long while for germination.

I am not the expert on this subject. Our member Robert Pavlis keeps records and percentages of his success. I am just in it for fun. I usually start 60 to 100 packs of seed,

mostly perennials and woodies, and I am happy to have enough to add some to my own garden and then share the rest.

SOWING SEEDS IN MOSS: A NOT SO NEW TECHNIQUE

(Excerpted from Gabriela Costea and reprinted by permission from <http://botanicallyinclined.org>)

If [a plant] likes to grow and spread on moss, it makes sense to sow it like that, right? Nature is often the best source of inspiration.

For sowing on moss:

Prepare a pot/mossy stone, your moss pieces and potting mix (best to add some sand to it);

Place the moss pieces you gathered, press well, water;

Spread the seeds on top, water again;

Enclose the pot/stone in a Ziploc bag, or cover just the top;

Overwinter outside; in the spring start opening the Ziploc or remove the plastic cover.

The seedlings will be tiny and remain like that for some time, so keep it in a shaded spot and mist once in a while. A smaller pot can be kept in the Ziploc but watch it closely as the moss can overgrow the tiny seedlings (this can be rectified by trimming it). It depends on what type of moss is used.



For the full article go to

[Saxifraga cuneifolia and Gaultheria procumbens](http://botanicallyinclined.org/green-inspiration-saxifraga-sowing-in-moss/)

<http://botanicallyinclined.org/green-inspiration-saxifraga-sowing-in-moss/>

MAY 14 IS OUR BIG PLANT SALE

David Mitchell, Plant Sale Chair

It's not too early to start potting up your divisions for the May plant sale. Please use only soilless potting mix and remember to label every pot (preferably in advance), with the plant's common name and Latin name too if you know it. We welcome donations of all kinds of plants in good condition – including small trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, natives, and rock garden plants.



Our sale tables last year were a busy place.

The May plant sale will be held at the Ithaca High School on May 14. Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set up is Friday from around 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. Drop off your plants Friday during set up times, or arrive early Saturday and bring your plants then and help complete the setup. Our booth will be located indoors in the new gymnasium. This year we're asking volunteers to sign-up for time slots in advance. We need people for set-up, assistance with sales, and clean-up. Though there is not a requirement to volunteer, it helps us spread the workload, it's fun, and it's a great way to contribute to the Chapter.

My driveway is available for drop offs any time if you can't make it to the high school Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. The driveway is on the Washington Street side of the corner of Washington and Esty Streets (402 Esty Street). My phone number is (607) 342-3660 should you have any questions. For information about this year's Garden Fair Tompkins County Cooperative Extension can be reached at (607) 272-2292 or visit the plant sale website at [Cooperative Extension May Plant Sale](#).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

If you have not renewed for 2016, you should do it now so you'll be eligible to purchase the plant-of-the-month! The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Your membership status is reported to you in the email with the newsletter link. Contact Mary Stauble at mes2@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

Please welcome Wendy Sherman, a new member from Marcellus. She added the following note to her membership form:

I would like to ask members to "adopt" a small garden area - likely a planter box, in the city of Syracuse. If near my workplace (State Office Bldg) such as near Hanover Square, I would help maintain it. Last year I adopted a couple of areas on my own and the City helped water them. I provided plants, prepared beds, and maintained them. City puts up a sign saying who plants/maintains the beds. Some employees of local business will also help, if provided guidance. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please call (315-673-9391 home or 315-706-6587 cell) or email (wksherman@hotmail.com) me to discuss. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER TURNS 40!

Compiled by Carol Eichler

♪ Happy Birthday to Us! ♪

Thanks to a NARGS publication, *A History of the American Rock Garden Society 1934-1995** and write-ups by Betty Corning and Norman Markert in that book, we have the following information about the early days of our Chapter:

- 1934: American Rock Garden Society is founded in NYC

- 1968: (pre-Adirondack Chapter) Bernard Harkness serves as President of ARGs through 1972
- 1972: Bernard and Mabel Harkness along with the "Ithaca Group" host National's Annual Meeting in Canandaigua
- 1976: informal meeting of upstate New Yorkers attending the NARGs study week-end in Boston; this is recognized as the Chapter's founding year, becoming the 16th chapter of ARGs
- 1977: first independent meeting organized by Betty Corning and Kathie Lippitt in Albany
- 1979: Albany-based group merged with the Ithaca Rock Garden Study Group (which had existed for "many years"); 8 meetings were held, dues were \$2, and there were 24 members; meeting alternated between Ithaca and Albany
- 1980: the name Adirondack was chosen for the Chapter to reflect inclusive membership to anyone in upstate New York
- 1983: Ithaca hosts the annual meeting of the ARGs
- 1983: our Chapter establishes National's Carlton Worth Award with a major contribution to be awarded to an individual who has published in the horticulture field related to rock gardening; the Award continues to be given annually
- 1985: Bill Hamilton is awarded National's Marcel LePiniec Award, given to people who are actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners
- 1986: Berkshire Chapter forms and the Albany-based faction joins that Chapter
- 1989: Mabel Harkness honored by the Chapter and National, receives the Carleton R. Worth Award, given to an author of distinguished writings about rock gardening and rock garden plants in a book or in magazine articles, for her efforts in editing the *Bernard E. Harkness Seedlist Handbook* editions I-IV and for publishing the 4th edition
- 1988: Bill Plummer becomes Manager of the ARGs Slide Collection and remains in that position for 10 years or more
- 1989: Chapter co-sponsors a garden symposium "On the Rocks" with Cornell Plantations and the Federated Gardens Clubs of NYS
- 1990: Membership in the Chapter is 100+ and continues at that level into 1995 (when this book was published; leadership members at that time (not mentioned elsewhere) includes some familiar names Lee Nelson, Joan Keefe, Bill Dress, Nina and Jack Lambert, Bob and Toni Wilkinson, and Robin Bell as well as some less familiar but no less important ones: Elva Link, Lois Petrie, and Dorothy Clark
- 1994: ARGs becomes North American Rock Gardening Society

And since 1994? While we do have somewhat sparse, archived files, they haven't been compiled into a concise summary. In general we know that that our Chapter continues to thrive. We have a substantial membership base, with 85 members last year, and individuals continue to be willing to step up to leadership roles – the people who perform the tasks that keep our Chapter running. Without either, there would be no Adirondack Chapter as it exists today. Our program year is filled with stimulating speakers, workshops, plant sales, plant-of-the-month, regular newsletters, and garden tours. We also have assume responsibilities at the National level such as helping with the annual Seed Exchange.

As long as we can continue to generate new members, especially ones who are willing to take on the responsibilities of organizing the activities of the Chapter, our future looks bright. Happy 40th birthday! We have a lot to celebrate!

*Flook, Marnie: A History of the American Rock Garden Society 1934 – 1995

Editor's Note: My apologies in advance for any errors of omission or commission. For our archives I'd appreciate any additions or corrections. Since 2003 our newsletters have been archived on our website, serving to preserve our history. Anyone wishing to take up the task of updating our history from 1995 forward, please contact John Gilrein.

WURSTER GARDEN: SPRING AWAKENING

Carol Eichler, Newsletter Editor

Like our home gardens "our" Al Wurster Memorial Rock Garden, located at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension offices (615 Willow Av., Ithaca) is starting to wake up. And, like our home gardens, it needs a spring clean-up. David Mitchell and Carol Eichler coordinate group work days – generally weekdays after 5 pm with relatively short notice, based on the projected weather. Contact either of them to be placed on email alert. The rock garden doesn't require a lot of maintenance - several times through the growing season suffices. With a small group the work goes quickly. Be sure to visit the garden when you can to follow it throughout the growing season and see what's in bloom. Generally mid- to late May is absolutely spectacular peak bloom (maybe earlier this year). It's not to be missed!



Blooming NOW this tiny little Draba species

More photos are posted on the ACNARGS Facebook page [ACNARGS Facebook](#) including "before" pictures where the structure of the garden is holding its own. You'll also see a few other flowers in bloom right now. They won't last long, so go see them today. I think we need to plant more spring bulbs to add to early season interest.

INTERNATIONAL ROCK GARDENER: FREE RESOURCE



The Scottish Rock Garden Club is delighted to present a monthly online magazine for Rock Gardeners, which is posted online at [International Rock Gardener](#) at the end of each month as a PDF.

Each issue has a mix of photo-based items, their target being a minimum of pots and a maximum of plants in the wild and in gardens, from photographers in different countries. In essence this is an international celebration, if you will, of mountain plants in habitat and in our gardens.

The aim of the newsletter and the Club is to showcase the beauty of the plants, where they are found in nature or as they are used in garden settings and give brief comments on cultivation.

This venture is coordinated and compiled by Margaret Young, Zdenek Zvolánek and Ian Young. They believe the world of rock gardeners is just that: an international community of people with a deep interest in the flora of the mountains and wild places; we hope to provide a regular electronic glimpse of these plants.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL: NORMAN SINGER GRANTS

Based on the income earned by the Norman Singer Endowment in 2015, NARGS expects to award \$4,000-5,000 in grants in 2016 for projects that advance the art and science of rock gardening. Guidelines for submittal of applications and selection of projects, as well as the application form, are provided on the NARGS website at: [Norman Singer Endowment Fund](#)

The deadline for submittal of applications is May 15, 2016. Grant awards will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in Colorado in late June. Committee chair contact, David White: dmwhite_nc@yahoo.com.

OHIO NATIONAL CONIFER CONFERENCE: JUNE 23-25

Excerpted from *The Coniferite*, Winter 2015

As an alternative to attending NARGS Conference in Colorado which begins June 22 (and registration is now full), perhaps you'd like to consider attending the American Conifer Society's National Conference June 23-25 in Newark, Ohio, near Columbus. This event has the added benefit of being much closer to home and very drivable.

The agenda will have a decidedly oriental flavor, kicked off by Dennis Groh's presentation on Japanese gardens. Jack Wikie will talk about bonsai, and several of the tour gardens have Japanese elements. The agenda includes lectures and workshops as well as private and public garden tours, including Dawes Arboretum, Schnormeier Gardens, and Ariel Foundation Park. More info at www.conifersociety.org.

UPCOMING 2016 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 renovated Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

April 16: Elisabeth Zander, NARGS Recording Secretary and Officer, Berkshire Chapter. Two talks: 1) Scottish and Welsh Gardens; 2) Daphnes

May 14: Our biggest plant sale/fundraiser of the year at CCETC's annual Garden Fair, Ithaca; sponsored by Cooperative Extension

June 23-27: "Steppe to Alpines: A Higher State," NARGS National Conference and Annual Meeting in Denver and Steamboat Springs; sponsored by Rocky Mountain Chapter. Registration is now full but you can sign up for the waiting list.

September 17: Teri Dunn Chace, "Seeing Flowers," based on her best-selling, award-winning book of the same title

Oct.15: Jill M. Nicolaus, critterolost, author, and writer-contributor to Dave's Garden website. Topic to be announced

Nov.12: Elizabeth Lawson, Primroses

As we learn more details of our meetings they will be included in future newsletters, our blog, acnargs.blogspot.com, and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to Carol Eichler at carolithaca@gmail.com

April 6: Gardening for Native Pollinators, 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 9: Agstravaganza, 10am-2pm, Ithaca Mall

April 16: Garden in the Woods opens, New England Wildflower Society, Framingham, MA <http://www.newenglandwild.org/> opens

April 16 (rain date April 17): Fruit Tree Pruning II, 10am-12noon, Indian Creek Orchard, sponsored by Tompkins CCE. Fee

April 20: Which Vegetables to Grow? 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

April 20: WILD VIOLETS OF NEW YORK, Arieh Tal, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7pm. at the Unitarian Church annex

April 23: Earth Day, 12 noon to 9pm, The Space @ Greenstar

April 27: Easy Care Roses, 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

April 28: Banking on the Rain: Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens, 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee

April 29-May 1: National Primrose Show sponsored by New England Chapter of the



American Primula Society at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA

May 2: Dividing Daylilies and Other Perennials, 6:00-8:00pm, Tompkins CCE; rain or shine (indoors if wet). Fee: \$10. Limited to 15 participants; *prepayment required*

May 6-15: Lilac Festival, Rochester NY

May 14: Garden Fair Plant Sale, sponsored by Tompkins County CCE Master Gardeners

May 18: HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID - FILM & LOCAL INTERVENTION EFFORTS sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7pm. at the Unitarian Church annex

May 25: The Partial Shade Garden, 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

June 1: Trees and Shrubs for Difficult Sites, 6:30-8:30pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee

June 18: Sycamore Hill Gardens Garden tour, probably 10am-4pm. Fundraiser. Fee

June 19: Southern Cayuga Garden Club Garden, 1-4pm, Aurora area. Fundraiser. Fee

June 23-25: American Conifer Society's National Conference, Newark, Ohio. Info at www.conifersociety.org

July 10: Fall Creek Garden tour, 11am-3pm

July 16: Dryden Garden & Art Tour, 9am-2pm

July 30 & 31: Buffalo Garden Walk, <http://www.gardenwalkbuffalo.com/>

August 6: Tompkins County Open Garden Day (5 gardens)

August 12-13: American Conifer Society's Northeast Regional Meeting, Keene, New Hampshire. Info at www.conifersociety.org

Sept. 10: Gathering of Gardeners, Rochester

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society also schedules Plant Walks that meet at different times and locations. Topics vary from wildflowers to lichens to winter twig ID. For more information, call Anna Stalter (607) 379-0924 or Susanne Lorbeer at (607) 257-0835

ABOUT US - ACNARGS

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, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, and 3 plant sales a year. 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 \$10 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee),

opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>).

ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication, and an on-line web site featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS National also conducts winter study weekends and 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.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

Program: Nari Mistry, nbm2@cornell.edu

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu. Seeking a Co-Chair for 2016 to work alongside David... Why not you?

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca, Carol Eichler

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

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

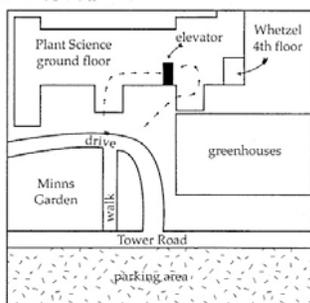
Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

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

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Jan/Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). 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 our May/June 2016 issue. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website: www.acnargs.org



Map: Whetzel Room, Room 404 Plant Science, on Tower Road, Cornell campus

Photos of the Month: Plant-of-the-Month



Androsace lanuginosa



Cyclamen purpurascens



Aquilegia flabellate 'Nana'



Penstemon hallii



Clematis hirsutissima
'Bergen Park form'



Primula marginata – NOTE this isn't the selection 'Wharfedale Bluebell', which would be bluer than this variety

Photo credits: Laporte Avenue Nursery