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Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

January-February 2017

FEBRUARY 18: MEMBERS' SHARE: PHOTOS & EXPERIENCES

Terry Humphries, Program Chair

We are hoping for a great line-up of presentations by members at our first meeting of the coming year! So plan to attend on February 18th.

Do you have any photos from your own or other gardens, or from your travels that you can share? We want to see your favorite plants, a garden that inspired you, or a beautiful natural area you visited. Or share an experience about building a garden or growing special plants. We love to learn about everything gardening, all of which seems especially appreciated at this time of year.

If you don't have digital photos, why not create a poster of prints? All are welcome; don't be shy. We are allotting no more than 5 - 10 minutes per person please! So plan your presentations accordingly.

As in the past Craig Cramer is coordinating the AV details. If you have questions email him: cdcramer@gmail.com. Here is what Craig writes:

"My goal is to make it easy for anyone who has great images to share to do so easily. Here are the Audio/Visual (AV) formats you can use for your presentation:

- Preferred: Insert your images into a PowerPoint presentation.
- If you can't do that (I can help you if you have questions), put the images you want to use in a Folder/directory so that they are easily sorted by file name in the order that you want to show them. For example, you could rename your files

01rock-garden-spring.jpg, 02rock-garden-summer.jpg, 03rock-garden-fall.jpg, etc.

You can send the PowerPoint or Folder to me via email and I can check them out beforehand. (If they are too big to send as an attachment, I can set up other ways for you to get them to me from your computer.)

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

For planning purposes:

ASAP to let us know your intention to make a short (5-10 min) presentation. Send a brief email to Craig Cramer: cdcramer@gmail.com AND to Terry Humphries: terryehumphries@gmail.com. If you already know the AV format you will use, let us know that too.

DEADLINE for Submissions is February 10. To make it easier for us to plan the meeting without glitches, please try to send your complete presentation in the above formats to Craig by February 10. Presentations sent later can still be squeezed in if time allows.

Let's have a great show!

Our meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter. Note, we must enter through the outside entrance to the Conservatory, to the right of the main (Minns Garden) entrance. There will be signage to direct you.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

As I write this (January 12), it's 45 degrees outside. Can this be winter? It seems like the weather is yo-yoing back and forth between winter and spring - too warm to light a fire in the woodstove, but warm enough that I actually pulled a few weeds.

Beginning this year, access to Plant Science Building is restricted evenings, weekends and holidays. The Minns Garden door that we are accustomed to using will be locked. But for our meeting days we have permission to unlock the entrance where the Liberty Hyde Bailey Conservatory joins the Plant Science Building just to the east (right) of the usual entrance.

*****Effective Immediately*****

When we our meeting is in the Whetzel Room, Plant Science 404, our usual meeting room, you will need to:

ENTER THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR ADJACENT TO THE GREENHOUSE/CONSERVATORY

The front door will be locked. There's a walk leading to the Greenhouse entry to the right of the front door. We will post signs to remind you.

In December, we spent a full day packaging seed for the NARGS seed exchange and were able to complete the work in one session! Seed packaging volunteers get credit from NARGS, so they are able to order more packets of seed. Thank you to the dozen or so people who volunteered!

News for 2017 is that Terry Humphries has agreed to be our Program Chair. Thanks Nari, for your years of service working on our program, and welcome Terry to her new position! Terry welcomes your support so let her know if you think of potential speakers or program topics you'd like presented.

We continue to look for a new Plant Sales Chair. David Mitchell has been in this position for years and he would like to retire. If you're willing to consider this position, please contact me or David.

Our parent organization, NARGS, has been having financial challenges over a number of years, due in large part to declining membership numbers. The current NARGS Board has been actively working to turn things around – cutting costs where they could (for example, a temporary suspension of the speaker tours). The good news is that due in large part to personal donations, NARGS finished 2016 in the black, but the organization is by no means out of hot water yet.

They are asking every Chapter to look into ways to help NARGS prosper in the future. As a Chapter we are looking at ways to do our part. Stay tuned.

We will not have a Plant of the Month for the February meeting (you didn't really want to plant anything in February, did you?), but we'll resume for the March meeting.

Hope you've already ordered your seeds from NARGS and hope to see you in February.

ON PETER KORN, HUMAN EXCAVATOR: HIS GARDENING TECHNIQUES AND MICRO-NICHES

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

In this article, I will define micro-niches as very small habitats, such as behind a cobble or a miniature conifer. This could be an area of only 6" x 6" (inches) behind a rock in your rock garden.

Background

In October 2016, I attended the Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society meeting in Toronto, Ontario with 3 other ACNARGS members to hear speaker Peter Korn, who is an international rock garden persona from southern Sweden. Peter got into gardening in a very big way as a young man. He is into rock gardening, is extremely independent, and decided to follow his own ideas on rock garden development. He chose not to stick to one of the standard prescriptions for creating a rock garden soil mix – that is, equal parts loam, gravel, and organic matter (I don't agree with the old prescription myself).

So to develop his own rock garden he removed all the soil from a very large sloping area of at least several hundred square feet (earning him the epithet of “Human Excavator”) until he hit bedrock, a granite-like igneous, in this case. For his planting medium he used a granitic-type sand with a particle size of 0 to 0.8 cm (0.3 inches), which he applied in a layer at least 8 inches deep over the bedrock.



Peter’s Sloping Rock Garden. Photo from *Peter Korn’s Garden*. Used by permission.

In his book, *Peter Korn’s Garden*, he reports that the beds made with this pure sand exceeded his expectations for performance, i.e. plants were growing successfully. He reports advantages to growing in sand including lack of moisture evaporating from the surface (due to sharp drainage) and roots reaching down into the easily penetrated sand to get to the moisture. Peter gardens in the cool temperate climate of southwestern Sweden, cooler than here in the summer but warmer in the winter. Peter grows plants from around the globe, so he’s working with plants from many different climates, and has access to a greater variety of plants than most (or all) of us.

One of Peter’s talks discussed his extreme attention to detail regarding plant placement in his rock garden. He writes “plant the plant where the plant wants to be, not where you want it.” The first order is knowing what a specific plant needs to grow well; so that means it’s provenance (where it’s from), the climate in that locality, and specific conditions where it’s found (things like soil, elevation, moisture). Dandelions will grow nearly everywhere, but many of the beautiful alpine and woodland treasures like *Eritrichium nanum* (alpine forget-me-not) and *Meconopsis betonicifolia* (blue poppy) are much more particular, and won’t grow unless happy.

Provenance, Climate, and Habitat

Here are some basic concepts to consider. Think first where the plant grows in nature, i.e. the country or state. Then focus on the climate type, which varies based on amount and seasonal rainfall, and temperatures through the seasons.

The main types of climate are:

Humid continental: hot summers, cold winters, fairly regular precipitation [Ithaca, NY]

Maritime: similar to humid continental with cooler summers and warmer winters [Seattle, WA]

Steppe: hot dry summers, cold winters, most precipitation in the spring [Denver, CO]

Desert: hot summers, warm to cold winters, low precipitation [Santa Fe, NM]

Mediterranean: hot dry summers, cool moist winters [Monterey, CA]

Alpine: cool summers, cold snowy winters, intense sunlight, humidity may be low [Rocky Mountain National Park, CO]

Some habitat types:

Forest

Grassland

Alpine tundra

Scree

Streamside or moraine (perched above flowing water under the soil)

Elevation and Exposure

Elevation has a strong effect on growing conditions. It's a familiar concept that temperature decreases with gaining altitude, e.g. snow capped Mt. Rainier. Solar radiation intensity also increases with gaining altitude, as does precipitation. Intense sunlight helps to keep alpine plants short. Alpine plants in New Mexico or Arizona get more precipitation and less heat than the lowland plants at the base of the mountains.

A beneficial exposure in the garden can give plants the edge. A southwest-facing slope would be hot in the summer and hold snow poorly. A north-facing slope would be cooler in summer and hold snow longer during thaws and into the spring. A windy exposure in a wet climate (here) helps to dry plants and reduce issues with fungal infection. An exposure protected from wind may help a marginally hardy plant survive the winter. An exposure near a heat reflecting surface (rock or foundation) may provide a edge for a marginally hardy plant to survive the winter, or a plant used to hot summers to ripen sufficiently to survive a cold winter, in a place where summers are cool. [Note in your garden where snow melts first, where snow is retained the longest – these are easy to define micro-niches]

Plant Placement and Micro-niches

You cannot control your climate or your weather. But you can make the best of it by planting in a site that is more advantageous to the plant.

Everyone understands placing plants in a suitable exposure with regard to sun, shade, or partial sun. Peter's planting carried this to an extreme by his knowledge of the prevailing wind, sun/shade patterns, and moisture availability (including some areas with continuous seeping moisture).

Due to his garden being on a slope and availability of large rocks, many different micro-niches were available for planting. Planting in a micro-niche may not work out for every rock garden plant, but I believe it's a good strategy for adventurous gardeners, especially for those with a healthy skepticism of "this plant won't grow here". Some example of micro-niche strategy applied to planting:

Alpine plant: place in a sunny, windy location to keep growth tight and foliage drier.

Plant from an area with warmer winters, or plant that's marginally hardy: place in sand above a seep, where the water seeping will keep the soil warmer, or place where snow will accumulate during the winter to protect the plant from extreme cold with snow cover.

Plant intolerant of too much summer heat: place in a site with afternoon shade or on the north side of a rock, or place on a north-facing slope.

Plant from an area with hotter summers: place on a south facing slope/hot exposure with gravel mulch, or place on the south side of a building.

Plant from an area with little or no summer precipitation: place at the top of a slope, or under a dry eave of the house.

One can compensate for coolness by providing afternoon shade; for the need for heat by providing a sunnier exposure; for dryness in a humid climate by providing better drainage; and for thirsty plants by providing a natural water source.

Compensating by planting in a suitable micro-niche is more likely to succeed if your climate is not too dissimilar from the plant's natural climate. So a moist micro-niche in Phoenix, AZ, might not be conducive to growing *Primula japonica*.

If you don't know enough about a specific plant's natural habitat, you can use visual clues to help with some of the plant's preferences, e.g. thick leaves, waxy leaves, silver leaves, furry leaves, small or no leaves are adaptations to a dry habitat. Similarly, large, thin or juicy leaves would be adaptations to a moist or wet habitat.

Specialized Habitats

Here are a few examples of plants I've placed in specialized habitats:

- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) on the east side of the house, close to the foundation
- *Hesperaloe parviflora* (a desert plant) next to the garage foundation for extra heat
- Placing a moisture loving plant under the house eaves with rain runoff (where there are no gutters) e.g. *Primula japonica*.

I hope you can use this thinking to your advantage to try some new and possibly "difficult" plants and have success!

Reference: *Peter Korn's Garden*, 2013, Publisher Peter Korn.
Website: www.peterkornstradgard.se

NEWS FROM NATIONAL: NARGS CHAPTERS COMMITTEE

Anna Leggatt, NARGS Board Member

Best Wishes for the New Year. I hope all your gardens grow well and you have perfect weather for all your differing plants. I am Anna Leggatt. I've been a member of ORG&HPS [Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society] and NARGS for about 30 years.

I am your liaison on a new NARGS committee, called the Chapters Committee, chaired by Don LaFond. This committee is responsible for creating a dialogue between local NARGS chapter members and the National board. With 38 chapters and 9 directors, each director has been assigned about 4 Chapters. We want to kindle more interest in NARGS: there is so much going for it. Here are some ways to become more involved.

By the time you read this you will have received the NARGS Quarterly and know that Malcolm McGregor is retiring as our editor. He has done a splendid job. Do you know the ideal person to become the new editor? Or you might be that person. Applicants should contact me.

How about joining the Board? Nominations for officers and directors (2017) are posted on the NARGS site at: [NARGS Board Nominations](#). From-the-floor nominations are now being accepted.

Plan to attend the Spring Garden Gala in Madison, Wisconsin, NARGS Study Weekend, Fri-Sat, May 19-20, 2017 – learn a lot, visit some great gardens and meet other garden enthusiasts. Details are in the *Quarterly* and on line at www.nargs.org. I won't be able to attend because I already have tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show!

If you have any ideas, thoughts, concerns, compliments, questions, or just want to rant, please email me - anna.leggatt@sympatico.ca. I would like to visit all my chapters. Distance and US/Canada currency exchange may make this challenging. At least Ithaca is within a day's drive. So for now, I'll leave you with this wish: May all your seeds germinate (I hope you ordered from the seed exchange – there were some treasures there).

PLANT PROFILE: SUCCULENTS – A BOOK REVIEW (AND WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT THESE PLANTS)

by Carol Khayatt (Reprinted with permission from *Minnesota Rock Plant Notes*, January 2017)

Succulents: Tough Plants for Every Climate is a beautiful and well-written book with stunning photographs. If it's true that our summers will become more like Kansas with climate change, succulents are going to be a good option for the xeric landscape. There are succulents native to every state. Some are hardy while others are not hardy but are amenable to growing indoors, possibly in a succulent "garden." Their versatility lies in the fact that they come in all sort of interesting shapes and sizes.

Sedums and sempervivums are hardy to zone 3 and have endlessly fascinating symmetry. Succulents that will withstand -20° are considered hardy, so those of us in Zone 4 are willing to push this limit, with the right kind of soil. Overall habit and form are the appeal. Some non-hardy succulents make wonderful indoor container gardens.

Families:

1. Agavaceae are often large with spear or sword shaped leaves. Some yuccas, such as *Y. filamentosa* and *Y. glauca* are hardy to zone 3. *Y. thompsoniana* is listed as hardy to zone 4, but takes six or seven years to reach its full height of 10 to 15 feet.

2. Crassulaceae include the sedums and sempervivums, as well as the more tender *Aeonium*, *Echeveria*, and *Dudleya*, and of course the genus *Crassula*.



An assortment of tiny sedums and semps growing in minimal plant medium

Hens and chicks (*Sempervivums*) prefer cool nights and need a cold dormant season to be healthy. They will thrive in heavy clay-based soils but also do well in sandy soils with adequate moisture. The variety of color ranges from burgundy to orange to yellow, green and silver and placement in a sunny spot brings out the color to best advantage. These plants are superb in pots and containers. *Sempervivum arachnoidium* is a tiny gem less than 6" high, originally from the Alps, and look like tiny eggs in a nest.

3. Mesembryanthaceae: Most of these are from South Africa, such as living stones (*Lithops*) and ice plants, (*Mesembryanthemum*), *Carprobotus* and their (marginally) hardy counterparts, *Delosperma*. Most are fleshy with many-petaled flowers.

4. Cactaceae: All but one genus are native to the new world, with some cactus native in all the contiguous United States except Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The reduced leaves and their bracts are transformed into spines, aeriotes and glochidia. These can be painful and even toxic!

Two opuntias, prickly pear cacti, I am eager to try are yellow flowered *O. humifusa* and hot pink flowered *O. polycantha*, native from North Dakota to Alberta and south through Arizona and Texas. And yes, they are hardy.



More semps grown in a sand bed

5. Portulacaceae*: Plants from this genus are located all over the world. Not all are succulent and some are weeds, such as purslane. Included are annual moss roses (*Portulaca grandiflora*) and the genera *Lewisia* and *Talinum*** . *Talinum* species overwinter as thick fleshy stems.

6. Jovibarbas, the "other" hens and chicks, are very similar to semps in appearance. The main difference is in how jovibarba produce their offsets – either mashed inside the mother plant or growing on top of the mother plant so that they pop off and roll away to grow elsewhere. Their flowers are also very different. Jovibarba flowers are generally yellowish with closed petals while semp flowers are star-shaped in a wider range of colors. Four smaller species of jovibarba worth mentioning are, *J. heuffei* from the Balkans and *J. arenaria*, *J. hirta*, *J. allionii* and *J. sobolifera* originally from southern Europe.



A happy Lewisia growing in a trough

Cacti, yuccas, delospermas, agaves and talinums generally have their growth spurts when temperatures are above 60 degrees and will do best in full sun. Lewisias, sempervivums and some sedums may need a bit of shade in the summer. *Yucca nana*, sometimes grouped with *Y. harminariae* is hardy to zone 4 and is the smallest of the outdoor yuccas.

The genus *Orostachys* is related to both sedums and sempervivums. They are from Japan and northern Asia and would prefer shade part of the day, but may grow in full sun. They really don't want to dry out and in fact, that may be the more critical factor as to their location in the garden.

The book also includes general information on design, propagation, winter protection, and soils, plus sections on choosing and placing pots and on making hyperfufa containers.

* Most purslane family (Portulacaceae), including Spring Beauty (Claytonia), Bitterroot (Lewisia), and Fameflower (Pheperanthus) are now in the Miner's Leaf Lettuce Family (Montiaceae).

** Most *Talinums* are now *Pheperanthus*.

The book: *Succulents: Tough Plants for Every Climate* by Gwen Moore Kelaidis
Photography by Saxon Holt, Storey Publishing, 2008.

WHY JOIN NARGS

Rich Rodich, Minnesota Rock Garden Chapter, & Don LaFond, NARGS Board member

Are we a Minnesota Rock Garden Society all by ourselves? Certainly not! Our club would never be what it is today, with all that we know, share, learn, teach, give, and receive without the (national) North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). Actually, we wouldn't even be at all! Our entire existence is made possible by the national organization.

So yes, we are here as a Chapter of NARGS, even though we are not required to be members of NARGS. I wondered - what else do we get from NARGS without being members? As it turns out, lots of things.

The program that we take the most advantage of is the International Speakers Tour. Through NARGS, we are able to book worldwide authorities on plants for presentations at our meetings. Yes, we pay each speaker an honorarium, but the several thousand dollars needed to facilitate their journeys here is absorbed by NARGS. Knowledge is what we get from NARGS.

National's online presence is a great resource, at your fingertips, and "free" to you, paid for by NARGS, whether you access their Facebook page or the many options through the NARGS website, nargs.org. Back issues of the *Quarterly* are available (this archive is searchable, too) as is the online discussion forum to ask questions, post photos or discuss topics or just eavesdrop. There are rock garden reference pages and a wiki of plant information and pictures. [Ed. Note: A general "google" plant search often lands me on the NARGS website] Also available are links to other information sites and related vendors. And let's not forget the worldwide publicity our Chapter enjoys through our own listing and link on the NARGS site.

We are blessed with many knowledgeable stalwarts in our Chapter. These are our "go to" people when we have particular plant related questions. How did they get so smart? Ask any of them: NARGS is integral to their learning experience.

Non-members of NARGS indirectly get plants through NARGS by piggybacking on NARGS members. Those of us who participate in the renowned worldwide Seed Exchange (with over 4,000 plant species) bring vibrant and exciting new plants to Chapter plant sales. (Should I list the hundreds that I have brought?)

So we receive a whole bunch of free advantages from NARGS that help to make our Chapter a viable, fun, and vibrant society. To NARGS non-members, don't feel guilty, feel thankful! NARGS realizes that there can be legitimate reasons why some of us don't sign up with the National Society and that's okay. However, if your reason is that you don't get any benefits from the National Society, think again.

Of course, joining NARGS brings more benefits on top of those already mentioned. You will receive the acclaimed *Rock Garden Quarterly* periodical, in both print and electronic forms. New members automatically receive the Beginner's Handbook for rock gardeners. Only members enjoy the privilege of participating in the annual NARGS seed exchange. Members can also receive discount pricing as they attend national and regional education meetings that feature international speakers. A membership directory is available, as well as deals on tours and expeditions.

Wow! We get a lot from our parent National Organization. I am so very proud to be a member of both MN-NARGS and NARGS!

Addendum from Don LaFond

Rich has succinctly stated what NARGS does for its members. I would like to see NARGS continue to do all that it does and reinstate past benefits. I'm sure you do also, but frankly we need to increase our revenue.

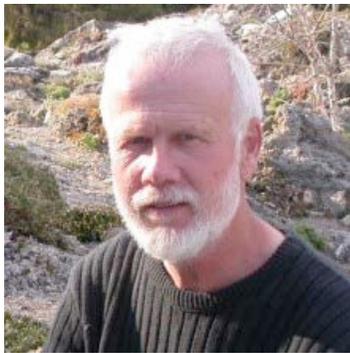
That's where the chapters committee comes in. We are trying a new approach – to work with chapters to figure out how to build up membership numbers – both yours and ours - so we can continue to offer the *Quarterly*, Seed Exchange, website and to reinstate past benefits like speakers tours every year and meeting stipends.

Change is occurring in the gardening community, whether they be clubs, magazines, or nurseries. Judging by the amount of garden activity I see in blogs, Facebook and other social media, I don't believe gardening is going away but interest in the social aspect of gardening is declining. We need to counteract this trend.

We want to hear from you about what you think can be done to get more people interested in rock gardening, aka getting new members. The only way we can continue the long-term survival of NARGS – or your Chapter for that matter - is by continuing to recruit new members. National wants to act as the conduit for sharing ideas and best practices among chapters. Here are two ideas I'll suggest right now: buy a membership to NARGS for your local library, that is a way to get more eyes in front of our fantastic *Quarterly*. Another idea is for your chapter to offer a partial or full NARGS membership to new members.

Each chapter has been assigned a director to facilitate this sharing of information. I urge you all to take advantage of this improved communication by contacting your Chapter liaison and sharing your thoughts on how best we can work together to strengthen the rock gardening community. Remember the future of NARGS National is interconnected to the future of your Chapter. (To communicate your ideas see Anna Leggatt's article in this newsletter)

HARVEY WRIGHTMAN (1949-2016) TRIBUTE



Harvey Wrightman passed away on December 9, 2016 succumbing to a long-term battle with cancer. I am excerpting a small portion of the obituary written by his daughter Esther Wrightman. Esther is continuing to run the nursery, Wrightman Alpines that Harvey opened with his wife Irene over 30 years ago. The complete obituary is available [here](#). This is how I want to think of Harvey.

"If there was one thing [Harvey] loved most, I'd say it was growing seedlings. The spurt of new growth was pure joy for him. To an outsider they'd think he was crazy, excited over a ziplock bag of tiny green sprouts. Or showing the smallest of plants in the crevice garden, with just a flower or two on it.

"I know that the one thing he always wished to see was what he called a "democratization" of growing alpines. He wanted everyone to have the opportunity to grow and enjoy them. Seed collectors started this by selling wild, normally unavailable seeds to the general public. And nursery growers like Harvey continued it in plant form."

TIME TO RENEW: 2017 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Time to renew your membership! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you've already renewed or you're a lifetime member (and we do have a few of those), your 2017 membership is due now (Individual @\$10, Household @\$15,

Business with business card listing @\$25). If you have not renewed, you will see a reminder message in the email announcing this newsletter.

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, participation in the members-only plant sale in August, and participation 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 2017 Membership form here (<http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>). Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu

UPCOMING 2017 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.

Feb. 18: Members Share: Personal garden photos and experiences

Mar. 18: Carol Eichler & Terry Humphries: "Steppe to Alpine: Highlights from NARGS' Steamboat Springs Annual Meeting"

April 15: Elizabeth Lawson: "Primroses and Primrose Breeder Florence Bellis."

May 19-20: Spring Gala Week-end (a NARGS Study Week-end), Madison, Wisconsin, sponsored by Wisconsin-Illinois NARGS Chapter. More info at www.nargs.org and our next newsletter.

May 20: Our big Plant Sale fundraiser as part of CCETC's Garden Fair

Aug. TBD: ACNARGS Picnic and Members' Plant Sale

Aug. 17-19: American Conifer Society national meeting in East Syracuse. [Info here](#). Save the date

Sept. 16: To be announced

Oct.21: To be announced

Nov.11: Mary & Steve Squyres: "Following the Secret Lives of Plants: snooping on your garden"

Nov. 17-19: NARGS Annual Meeting, Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Save the date.

As we learn more details of these 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

Feb. 12: Betty Ford Alpine Garden/Colorado Wildflowers & Scenery, talk by Pat Curran, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 2:30 pm. Fee

Feb. 15: Native Plant Gardens presented by Arieh Tal, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society at Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo and Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St & up the stairs), 7 - 8:30 pm

March 5: Chanticleer Garden, talk by Pat Curran, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 2:30 pm. Sliding fee scale

March 10-11 Finger Lakes Native Plant Symposium, Ithaca.
<http://www.ithacanativelandscape.com/>

March 11 – 19: Holland: Flowering the World," Philadelphia Flower Show.
<http://theflowershow.com/>

March 16: Gardening for Native Bees and Butterflies. sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:30-8:30 pm. Sliding fee scale

March 26: Community Seed Share, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 11-2pm. Donation or bring seeds

April 8 (tentatively): Garden Conservancy Open Days, Hitch Lyman's garden, Ithaca

April 19: Make a Bee Hotel for Native Pollinators, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:30-8:30 pm

April 23: Stonecrop Gardens Plant Sale, <http://www.stonecrop.org/>

May 10: Using Native Plants in Your Garden - It's For the Birds! sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:00-8:00 pm.

May 20: Garden Fair and Plant Sale, sponsored by Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Plant Walks 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: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

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

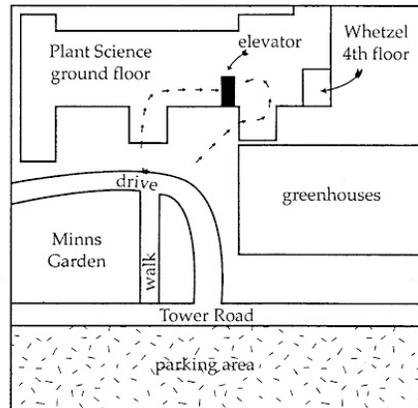
Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

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

GREEN DRAGON TALES

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Keep going there's more!



Map: Whetzel Room,
Cornell campus

**PHOTO OF THE MONTH: SAHARA DESERT PLANTS
COLLAGE (NEXT PAGE)**

Sahara Plants clockwise from right: Date palm, desert gourd (*Citrullus colocynthis*), Sodom apple (milkweed relative *Calotropis procera*), *C. procera* seed pod, vine of desert gourd, tiny oasis flower still to be identified. Photos by Carol Eichler from her trip to Morocco

