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November 2018

**NOVEMBER 10: BEHIND THE SCENES AT A FLOWER FARM**

*Terry Humphries, Program Coordinator*

The first order of business on November 10th is our annual dish-to-pass luncheon beginning at noon. Besides your dish, please bring your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Arrive early beginning at 11a.m. to help with set-up.



Following lunch Evelyn Lee will give a presentation, "Behind the Scenes at a Flower Farm." Evelyn has always been a gardener, having earned a Masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Certificate of Gardening from The New York Botanical Garden, training as a Master Gardener in Connecticut. She studied floral design in several locations including FlowerSchool New York in Manhattan, and previously worked at a local florist and at

Oliver Nurseries in Fairfield, Connecticut. Most recently, she became a NOFA Accredited Organic Land Care Professional. In so doing, she solidified her horticultural and ecological goals.



Today she operates Butternut Gardens, in Southport Connecticut, a bee-friendly farm in a suburban setting, cultivating nearly 45,000 stems of flowers, greens, and fruits a year. Evelyn is part of the rapidly growing Slow Flowers movement.

Our meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room, Room 404, at 236 Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter. Bring a dish-to-pass and your own table service. Come early to help with set-up. Beverages will be provided.

## FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

How was your garden this year? Are you still enjoying it, on the days when the weather is conducive to being outside? I get outside most days, for at least part of the day, with garden-related tasks being one of the main activities. It's getting a bit chilly for planting, but I still have a few more plants to go in the ground and this year's bulb order. I'm glad I didn't go too crazy buying bulbs, but I did order enough for bulb planting to take a few hours. Might be time to layer up and wear the woolies.



I'm enjoying seeing the last bloomers of the season, and the list of what is blooming in the last half of October is getting smaller. This article I'll devote to the last of the autumn flowers. *Cyclamen hederifolium* (see photo) should be on everyone's mind, as that was one of our October Plants-of-the-Month. This Cyclamen has a long blooming season, starting in August and ending usually in November. The flowers are smaller than florist's cyclamen (frequently seen in large grocery stores in the

winter), but numerous and fragrant. *Heuchera macrorhiza* is a fall bloomer, with sprays of small white flowers and a cast iron constitution; it likes partial shade and unfortunately deer may eat it.

*Saxifraga fortunei* (see photo to the right) is a woodland saxifrage from Japan that comes in white, pink, and deep rose, with a listed hardiness of Zone 6. This is probably not what you would envision when thinking of saxifrages; it's more like strawberry begonia, *Saxifraga stolonifera*, in appearance, but it's not stoloniferous. It's a very low grower, and it survived the last winter without any problem, so I suspect it may be hardier than Zone 6 (I would consider my garden to be in Zone 5b, with the recent somewhat warmer winters). As a plant that's not yet widely available, I suspect its hardiness is still being tested. And anyway, hardiness zones are an estimate and not an exact science. There are at least 3 U.S. suppliers, so I think this could be a future Plant-of-the-Month (maybe when the price drops and it's not sold out like it was in 2018). I hope to try one of the pink or rose cultivars in 2019.



Asters are the big standout when it comes to native wildflowers that we see when out for a walk or a drive; many of our native asters are fall blooming. New England aster

(*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) is a 3-4 foot tall aster that comes in violet, lavender, rose, and white; the common ones can get floppy if not supported. The cultivars 'Purple Dome' (violet) and 'Vibrant Dome' (rose) are shorter cultivars that grow about 18 inches tall, are clump forming, and extremely easy in full sun or partial sun. Heart leaved aster (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*) is a lavender flowered native aster that's also easy in sun to partial shade at 15-18 inches tall; it's a rhizomatous spreader, so it might be better in places where you want more of it. Aromatic aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*) is a 3 foot tall aster with lavender flowers that doesn't spread rhizomatously. *Aster tartaricus* (yay, the genus epithet on this one didn't change!) is a very tall, six feet, aster with dark lavender flowers that is still fresh looking at the end of October. It's one of the last options for bouquets in the fall. *A. tartaricus* is a spreader, so it's best if the gardener keeps the plant in bounds. More restrained cultivars include 'Jindai', reputedly 4 feet high, and 'Blue Lake', reputedly 3 feet high (I plan to try the last cultivar, but can only vouch for the straight species as yet). All these asters are easy plants, hardy to at least Zone 4, and deer don't eat them in South Onondaga.

Are there any rock garden plants still blooming? Right now, the "last man standing" in my rock garden is *Armeria maritima*, sea thrift, which still has a few inflorescences. Do you have other suggestions for fall bloomers? Send us an article for the Green Dragon!

Hope you can still get out and garden, or play.

John Gilrein, Chair

## 2020 CONFERENCE: NAME THE CONFERENCE CONTEST

The 2020 Planning Committee for the 2020 Annual NARGS meeting that we are hosting is asking for your help to Name the Conference. A \$30 gift certificate to a nursery of your choice goes to the person who suggests the winning title. Conference talks and tours will emphasize creative and forward-looking approaches to rock gardening and horticulture. We're looking for something catchy.

Your winning title will catch people's attention, inspire our logo designer, and encourage NARGS members to come to Ithaca. Start your engines! The Planning Committee has played with the words Innovation and Inspiration which could be incorporated into the theme title or not.

Entries should be submitted to John Gilrein ([basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)) by Nov. 10th and the winner will be determined by the Conference Planning Committee, which reserves the right to make the final decision. Thanks for all your good ideas and suggestions!

## **MORE ON THE 2020 CONFERENCE: SCHOLARSHIPS!**

Mark your calendars for June 18, 19, and 20, of 2020. Sound like a long ways off? It will be here before you know it! The Conference Planning Committee comprised of John Gilrein, Terry Humphries, Steve Whitesell, Marlene Kobre, and Carol Eichler has been hard at work pursuing speakers, venue, lodging, field trips, and many other details to ensure an exciting itinerary that will engage NARGS members from near and far, novice to expert, in their gardening pursuits. It's still a little early to announce the details but stay tuned.

Meanwhile, it was announced at the October program meeting that the ACNARGS Board has voted to offer scholarships of \$300 to any ACNARGS member wishing to attend the 2020 "As Yet Unnamed" Conference. A committee is being established to set up guidelines and the review process and up to \$3,000 in Chapter funds is being set aside. This would allow for as many as 10 scholarships for anyone attending a NARGS national conference for the first time.

This award will go a long way toward subsidizing the registration fee. We hope that a number of you, our members, would want to attend the conference and this award will serve as further incentive. There will be some volunteer expectations attached to the scholarship award, as yet to be determined.

If you want to learn more about NARGS conferences in general, feel free to speak with anyone who has attended a previous national conference including the Planning Committee members listed above.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

There are no new members to report on from the last month. But this is a reminder that our membership year runs the calendar year. So starting January 1, everyone's membership will have expired and we all need to renew. At \$15 a year for an individual/\$20 for a household it is easy to get a great ROI (Return on Investment). Our plant sales and exchanges and members-only Plant-of-the-Month subsidized sales are just two examples of our membership benefits.

*To our Chapter members: A membership directory is published electronically every year in September and accompanies the September newsletter as an attachment. For those who receive a paper copy of the Green Dragon, you will be mailed a printed directory. To respect our members' privacy we do not post the directory online.*

## **SEED PACKAGING DAYS COMING RIGHT UP**

Don't miss one of ACNARGS' social events of the year. We don't exactly bill our seed packaging sessions as social occasions but conversations run lively while we diligently go

about our tasks of packaging and recording seeds from the 200 genera we have committed to completing for this year's NARGS seed exchange.

At our November meeting we'll have a sign-up sheet so that when the seeds arrive and we are able to schedule our December work sessions, we will be able to let everyone know when and where we'll be meeting. Most likely we will again work in the classroom at Ken Post Lab on the Cornell campus, where we have met in previous years.

We try to complete our packaging by putting in one long day, dependent on a good turnout. But often we have to schedule a second session the following week. We also try to schedule alternate dates to allow for inclement weather. Folks pitch in by bringing food for lunch or for munching throughout the day. Besides the fact that NARGS needs our help with the seed exchange since there are seed donations of over 3,000 taxa, we continue to help with the seed exchange because it is fun. If you've never participated before, please consider joining us this year...for the camaraderie.

## MEETING RECAPS



Bonnie Gale's September presentation on Creating Woven Willow Structures included this hands-on demonstration where we made a woven fence!

And highlights from Kayla White and Julia Goren's September presentation "Rare, Fragile and Hardy: New York's Alpine Ecosystem:"

- the alpine zone in the Adirondacks extends to 173 acres over 21 summits; it is not contiguous like the alpine zone of New Hampshire; it contains over 30 rare, threatened or endangered flowering species
- pH is in the 3-4 range; essentially an inverted bog
- the summits are very windy; hurricane force winds are common every month on the year and, in the winter, create a build-up of alpine rime ice
- plants growing in the alpine zone have adapted different survival strategies growing close to the ground as a cushion, rosette, graminoid, prostrate shrub, or lichen or moss
- cushion plants maintain internal temperatures higher than the outside temps; they can photosynthesize at 1/2°F above freezing
- there are only 60 frost free days on the summits

- plants here depend on photoperiod to set flower; typically plants conserve energy by setting flower buds every 2-4 years before they bloom
- another plant adaptation is chemical - anthocyanin manifested as an often purplish plant pigmentation - allows photosynthesis on cloudy days and prevents sunburn
- survival rate is improved by the formation of plant colonies
- there are 5 zonal communities
  - sedge/dwarf shrub is snow scoured and the windiest
  - alpine heath where snow is deep and snow melts early; you will get some plants that are technically not alpine; subalpine species are important for holding the soil in place
  - alpine snowbank, occurring on the east side of mountains where snow accumulates; this zone is richest in species; snow cover keeps the soil at ground level at a constant 26°F
  - diapensia community (consisting of diapensia, common name mountain sandwort, Lapland rosebay, and alpine azalea) survives on the harsh windward side of the mountain

Hiking the Adirondack high peaks has become increasingly popular. The Adirondacks Summit Steward Program, now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, utilizes paid staff and over 20 volunteers to educate hikers (reaching the 500,000 milestone this summer) and to enlist their help in protecting alpine species from trampling. Stewards hike to the summits of the tallest mountains every day and speak with every visitor about protecting alpine plants from human trampling by staying on the solid rocks. They are also engaged in trail work and research, which is mainly focused on plant population studies and soil and vegetation recovery.

What about the effects of climate change in New York's high peaks? While long-term effects are still unknown, the snowbank community will be most affected. There has been a distinct decline in snowfall, and snowcover has diminished by 1 month. For the most severe alpine region, wind is the primary ecological driver in the plant community, much more than temperature, and is thus likely to be less affected by global warming.

To learn more, visit the Adirondack Mountain Club website: [ADK Mountain Club \(https://www.adk.org/\)](https://www.adk.org/).

## NEWS FROM NARGS : MORE ON SEEDS

*Carol Eichler, editor*

For those members interested in collecting seed or growing plants from seed, please reference [Volume 65, number 3, Summer 2007 of the Rock Garden Quarterly](#), which has many excellent articles, including Kristl Walek on seed collecting, cleaning and storing; Tony Reznicek on propagating difficult small seed; Norman Deno on seed storage; Jane McGary on bulbs from seed and Carlo Balistrieri on seed sowing.

## **WILL YOU BE THE NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITOR? WHAT'S INVOLVED?**

*Carol Eichler, Newsletter Editor*

After my second stint as newsletter editor, I've decided the time is approaching for me to pass the torch, especially anticipating the added responsibilities of the 2020 Conference. For anyone who could be interested you may wonder what is involved with this job. I wanted to take this opportunity to describe what I do. Let me add a caveat that the new editor has a great deal of freedom to put his/her own twist to the newsletter and can take on more or less tasks, as he/she sees fit.

Each issue of the newsletter begins first with my sending out a reminder about articles for the upcoming issue. Articles are typically due the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month (the week following the program meeting) so that the newsletter can be assembled, then sent out in a timely way during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month). Certain articles are regular features such as "From the Chair," the upcoming program, News from NARGS (this is a regular feature I have been writing), and Plant-of-the-Month. Other articles are more seasonal and reflect what's going on in our Chapter, such as upcoming plant sales, garden tours, seed packaging work sessions, or workshops for example. Meanwhile there are articles that fall into the "nice to include" category – such as reprints of articles from other Chapter newsletters and follow-up on past Chapter activities, and of course photos. I sometimes take photos (but often forget to) from our activities, to include in the newsletter.

I am also in charge of posting our meetings on the Chapter's Facebook page. In addition, I like to post other items of interest for example photos from our garden tours or reposting anything of particular pertinence, like photos from the NARGS botanical trip to China that Terry Humphries went on or photos from the NARGS conference trip to Newfoundland.

There are many things that make this job easy – our members are good about sending in their articles on time. We have a newsletter template created in Word. No fancy publishing program is required. The newsletter has no defined length; it is as long as it is. Craig does his magic to post the newsletter online (and usually has to compress the file as well) and so far, Mary, as Membership Coordinator, sends the newsletter out either electronically or, in a few cases, by snail mail.

Now to the challenges of the job. It takes time to create 8 newsletters a year and that time can vary - it does tie me up for several hours off and on over the course of several days. Throughout the month I peruse other Chapter newsletters that are sent to me and, if I see a good article, I pursue permission to reprint it (no one has ever said no). I sometimes need to track down photos to use. I often write articles but that is not a prerequisite of the job. Photo of the month is something I initiated so I am always thinking about what that could be and when I make a collage for that, I use PowerPoint to create the layout. The editor position requires good organizational skills because he/she has to be thinking a month or two ahead to make sure our members are informed about upcoming Chapter activities and to create a file of articles to use. This organization in turn, keeps the Chapter "on track."

We just need one good, dedicated person to assume this position. Maybe that's YOU?! Hopefully I haven't made the job seem too daunting and I am happy to talk further with anyone who might be interested and to train anyone who is willing to step forward. Meanwhile I am still the editor through the May/June 2019 issue after which there is a slight hiatus before the July/August issue is due to be published.

## **URBANITE OUTFITTERS : TWO YEAR ADDICTED TO CREVICE GARDENING**

*Jeremy Schmidt, Research and Grounds Supervisor, Juniper Level Botanic Garden*

*All Photos from Juniper Level Botanic Garden*

*Reprinted by Permission from The Trillium, Volume 28, Issue 5, October-November 2018  
Piedmont Chapter North American Rock Garden Society*

.Starting with an idea and a pile of broken concrete, the Urbanite Outfitters Crevice Garden project now snakes its way prominently through Juniper Level Botanic Garden in Raleigh, where it continues to grow and thrive. Tony Avent, (owner of Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. @Juniper Level Botanic Gardens), first conceptualized a crevice garden based on the success of a 2014 Kenton Seth installation at the JC Raulston Arboretum. Consequently, a 2015 JLBG demolition project produced 70cu. yds. of broken concrete slabs—a cost-effective and repurposed material for building crevices. Crevice construction began in January 2017 and has grown to include more than 100 tons of hand-stacked, locally-quarried, “urbanite” slabs. JLBG has spent the last two years addicted to crevice gardening and there's no turning back now! Here's what we've learned, what we've grown, what we've killed, and what's next.

Our botanical goal is primarily to establish new benchmarks of success in growing plants from xerophytic climates including South America, the Middle East, and southern Europe in a hot, humid, rainy climate. We expected a coarse, stone-based soil would reduce the foliar disease pressure on pubescent-leaved plants, and provide the ultrasharp drainage necessary to accomplish our goal. As the size of the crevice garden increased, the project scope and plant selections have diversified to include crevices for calciphiles and wetland plants. Thus, we amended some sections to accommodate a broader array of plant types. On the dry side, we've added organic matter to some crevices to include plants needing fertile soil while retaining sharp drainage. On the wet side, we have installed several dripping seeps that create exciting planting opportunities across a wet-to-dry crevice gradient. And on the wild side, we filled some crevices solely with straight-off-the-shelf bags of dolomitic lime.

Now let's talk plants! In just over one year, we've planted more than 1,200 taxa into the urbanite crevices. As of October 2018, we are watching more than 870 living taxa...340 of those taxa have now survived over one year. Here are some of our favorite surprises thriving today across JLBG's diverse and expansive crevices:

**Dry Crevices:** Structurally coarse and deficient in organic matter, traditional dry crevice garden “soil” provides a unique opportunity to trial and display thousands of plant taxa that will not survive in JLBG's nutritious, humus-rich, irrigated garden soil.

Our original dry crevice garden soil mix is as follows:

- 8 parts PermaTill® (sterile/inert, 8.0 pH, CEC>20)
- 1 part gravel (#57 stone)
- 1/8 part native coastal plain sand (3.5 pH, Phosphorous index >100)
- 1/8 part Raleigh red clay (5.0 pH, Potassium index >100)
- Trace part organic matter (20)

Two years after the first crevices were populated, we've been amazed at how rapid and deep plants have rooted in and grown in our dry, coarse mix.



T. polium ssp aureum 'Mrs. Milstead'

Most pubescent teucrium melt in Raleigh's wet summer heat. *Teucrium polium* ssp. *aureum* 'Mrs. Milstead' has thrived in our urbanite crevices. Its silvery foliage and bright yellow flowerheads are a delight. Its cousin *Teucrium cossonii*, survives in compost-based garden soil, but seems even more vigorous in dry gravel. We've enjoyed watching *T. cossonii* criss-cross its way over crevices.

Many European silene species dislike our sweltering Piedmont summers. *Silene uniflora* 'Compacta' has performed stunningly however; forming silvery green mounds with large white flowers with inflated calyces. It is self-sowing gracefully into nearby crevices



T. cossonii



S. uniflora 'Compacta'

*Penstemon baccharifolius* from NARGS seed exchange has performed extremely well for us. The specimens are topped in summer with groups of tubular red flowers above a mostly shrubby evergreen clump. We have killed it with compost to the point of despair several times, so we are thrilled to see it thriving in the crevices.



O. squamata

We are pleasantly surprised to have had success with a mid-high altitude Chilean Andes native. We did not expect *Oxalis squamata*, from Denver Botanic Gardens, to power through a hot, wet Piedmont summer.



P. baccharifolius

A Dan Hinkley collection of *Globularia trichosantha* has proven to be a Turkish delight, forming green cushions in the crevices.



C. maritima

Although the sea level native *Crambe maritima* is no stranger to heat and humidity, the corrugated silver leafed rosettes of this cabbage cousin languished and melted away again and again in compost-based soil. After so many failed attempts to grow this plant, we did not set our hopes high. But crambe is just so darn pretty...why not re-re-re-re-try this plant? Urbanite crevices and PermatTill® based soil... success at last!

Dry Fertile Crevices: Being careful to retain sharp drainage, we added organic matter and native soil to several crevices to grow xerophytes in the same crevices as plants suitable for compost-based garden soil. The amended fertile dry crevice garden is as follows:

- 1 part PermaTill® (sterile/inert, 8.0 pH, CEC>20)
- 1 part organic matter
- 1 part native sand/clay mix



*M. autumnalis*

Recent cool nights have awakened the solanaceous summer sleeper, *Mandragora autumnalis*, from its crevice cove. It's just coming into bloom now in early October. Apparently our urbanite was suitable for sleeping through months of hot nights.

*Acinos alpinus*, from Jelitto Seeds, stood the test of summer heat and sailed through the relentless rains of Hurricane Florence. This tiny-leaved European mint now stylishly cascades down the slope, softening the edges of the crevice quite nicely.



*A. alpinus*

A Texas selection of fern's first cousin, *Selaginella wrightii*, passed through summer unscathed, developing into a beautiful evergreen groundcover on a steeply sloped, east-facing concrete slabs.



*S. wrightii*

Wet Calcium Seeps: To contrast the dry, non-irrigated crevices, we have installed seeps to mimic unique naturally wet areas home to diverse, rare, and highly specialized taxa. We used a PermaTill® /compost/soil mix that we estimate will remain on the alkaline side. In addition to an aesthetic benefit, our small alkaline seep has provided excitement and new perspectives.

At the base of a seep, *Trautvetteria nervata*, a 2017 rescue from near Augusta, GA, has exploded into a real show-stopper. "Chalk" this one up to "you never know unless you try." This just-in-time collection looks far better growing in the crevice garden's wet alkaline seeps than when we came upon it in a now clear-cut cypress/gum swamp. We had no idea this uncommon, uncultivated species would command such garden presence. From June to October, large corymbs of white powderpuff flowers rise prominently above the amazing dissected foliage.



*T. nervata*

Dolomitic Limestone Crevices: In another demonstration of "you don't know unless you try," we've filled a crevice section with pulverized dolomitic lime right out of the bag and incorporated taxa native to dolomitic situations. We tested a sample of our store-bought dolomitic lime to see exactly what it was made of. Of course our general assumption was a very high pH...perhaps >9.0pH. Wrong!

Here is what we found:

- -pH: 7.3
- Ca:Mg: ~1:1
- S index: ~7000
- CEC: 34
- 

We would never have guessed that the pH was so low! A sulfur content about 70 times what we find in our native JLBG soils would logically adjust the pH down. Although several accessions have died, others thrive when planted in this section.

A pleasantly plump *Echinocactus texensis* collection from Roosevelt Co, NM, has outperformed our expectations in the pure dolomitic limestone crevices. We are excited to see just how chubby this seed-grown collection grows.



*E. texensis*



*C. hexapetala*

Our 2'- wide *Clematis hexapetala* 'Mongolian

Snowflakes' has excelled in limestone—outperforming itself in compost-based garden locations. We've enjoyed an all-summer flurry of starry white four-petaled flowers.

*Agave x gracilipes*, a seed-grown Kenton Seth selection from Culberson Co, TX, is now established and steadily suckering through solid limestone.

This naturally occurring hybrid between *Agave parryi* ssp. *neomexicana* and *A. lechuguilla* usually struggles in hot rainy summers and cold wet winters, but has proven successful in its urbanite location.



*Agave x gracilipes*

#### Other Plant Notes:

The Urbanite Outfitters project, like the rest of JLBG, froze solid during a January 2018 cold spell. Raleigh remained below freezing for an unprecedented 200 consecutive hours. Although the minimum temperature was on-par with an average winter low, the duration of the freeze was unprecedented.

After the freeze...an abrupt thaw. We watched bewildered as dozens of agaves melted into succulent soup bowls. Cacti and other succulents sailed through for the most part, but what caused the antifreeze endowed genetics of *Agave ovatifolia*, *A. lophantha*, *A. flexispina*, etc., to fail at temps above 10F? We assumed that 100 tons of concrete would provide a warm winter microclimate. Our measurements verified that we had created the opposite microclimate. In the top 6", our crevices were up to 5F colder than the top few inches of compost-based soil. We suspect the porosity of the crevice mix invited the cold to infiltrate into the crevices. Many marginal succulents acclimated to climates with short winter bursts simply were unable to tolerate frozen roots.

We hear gardeners regurgitate the narrative that native plants won't grow as well outside their native environment. We fact-checked this theory with *Tephrosia spicata*, a delightful fabaceous Wake Co. native. *Tephrosia* collected from JLBG's in-situ population, occurring in soil with pH of 3.2, was planted a few hundred feet away into our PermaTill® -based crevice mix, a pH greater than 8.0. *Tephrosia spicata* 'Awakening' now thrives in soil 100,000 times more alkaline than its native environment. Myth busted.

Two years addicted to crevice gardening...it's been a wild ride. Every square inch of concrete crevice offers us some insight into the botanical world, and an opportunity to slow down and take a second look. Going forward, we plan to continue growing and diversifying the crevice garden.

The author would like to thank Zac Hill, JLBG Plant Records Specialist and Taxonomist, and Vince Schneider, JLBG Volunteer Curator of Cacti and Succulents, for their help in compiling the data and images for this article. φ



*T. spicata*

## UPCOMING 2018 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, 236 Tower Road, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*

November 10: Evelyn Lee, Butternut Gardens, LLC (formerly with Oliver's Nursery in Fairfield, CT.) Behind the Scenes at a Flower Farm. Our last meeting for 2018 with a dish-to-pass preceding our speaker program.

Dec. TBD: Chapter workdays to package seed for the NARGS Seed Exchange

Dec. 15: NARGS Seed Exchange ordering begins

Jan. 1, 2019: ACNARGS due for the calendar year 2019

Feb. 16: ACNARGS meetings resume with Members' Share

March 16: First speaker program of the ACNARGSyear; Upcoming programs to be announced in the Jan./Feb. newsletter

May 3-5, 2019: "Rooted in Diversity," NARGS Study Weekend, based at Sheraton Great Valley Hotel, Frazer, PA, a Philadelphia suburb. Hosted by Delaware Valley Chapter NARGS with details in the Fall Quarterly (not yet published) and in this newsletter.

June 18-20, 2020: NARGS Annual General Meeting, Yet-to-Be-Named Conference hosted by ACNARGS in Ithaca, NY

May 8-11, 2021: International Rock Gardening Conference, Perth Scotland. Start saving your pennies.

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

## HAVE SOME/WANT SOME

Here's our new monthly feature – a classified section – to facilitate your gardening wants and needs. Do you have too many large pots? Do you want some small pots? Do you have too many divisions (that will otherwise go into the compost)? Are you seeking a certain plant? The idea is to use this newsletter to express your “haves” that you are willing to give away and “wants” for any items you are seeking. To post a listing contact Carol Eichler at [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com).

### HAVE:

Will be bringing a few offsets of *Sauromatum venosum*, the non-hardy ‘Voodoo Lily,’ to the November meeting, Carol Eichler

### WANT:

Still seeking more plastic berry containers. I'd also love a few large, clear clamshell containers that greens are often packed in. Don't recycle them, save them for me. Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

*Panax trifolius* and *Asclepius quinquefolia*. Contact Bill Plummer, [remmulp@stny.rr.com](mailto:remmulp@stny.rr.com)

## 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](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Cooperative Extension Horticulture Programs, located at 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 607-272-2292. Unless otherwise stated, classes require pre-registration and have a self-determining sliding fee scale. More info at [www.ccetompkins.org](http://www.ccetompkins.org)

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Meetings from 7-8:30pm at the Ithaca Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo & Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St. & up the stairs). More info at [www.FLNPS.org](http://www.FLNPS.org). Also look for FLNPS Walks meeting at different times and locations.

Cornell Botanic Gardens (formerly Cornell Plantations) calendar of events visit: [CBG Calendar](#). Fall Lecture Series (the last one on November 7) [CBG Fall Lecture Series](#).

## 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 5 program-speaker meetings, the *Green Dragon* newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, 2 plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. 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 \$15 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, annual membership directory, 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](http://www.nargs.org)) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly Publication focused on rock gardening, 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. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

## 2018 BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

Chair: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Program: Terry Humphries, [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com)

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu). Seeking a Co-Chair to work alongside David...Why not you?

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

Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, [mkobre@ithaca.edu](mailto:mkobre@ithaca.edu)

Membership: Seeking someone to do this. Could this be you?

New Member Hospitality: Graham Egerton

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com) Seeking a new editor beginning June 2019

Calendar: Pat Curran, [pc21@cornell.edu](mailto:pc21@cornell.edu)

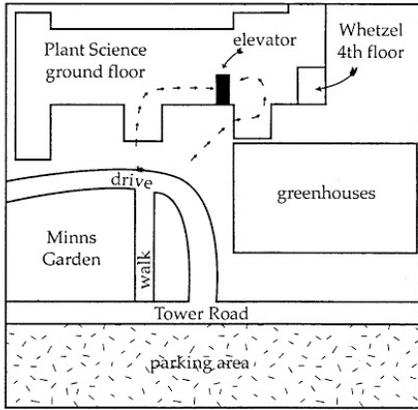
Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be our

January/February issue. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website:

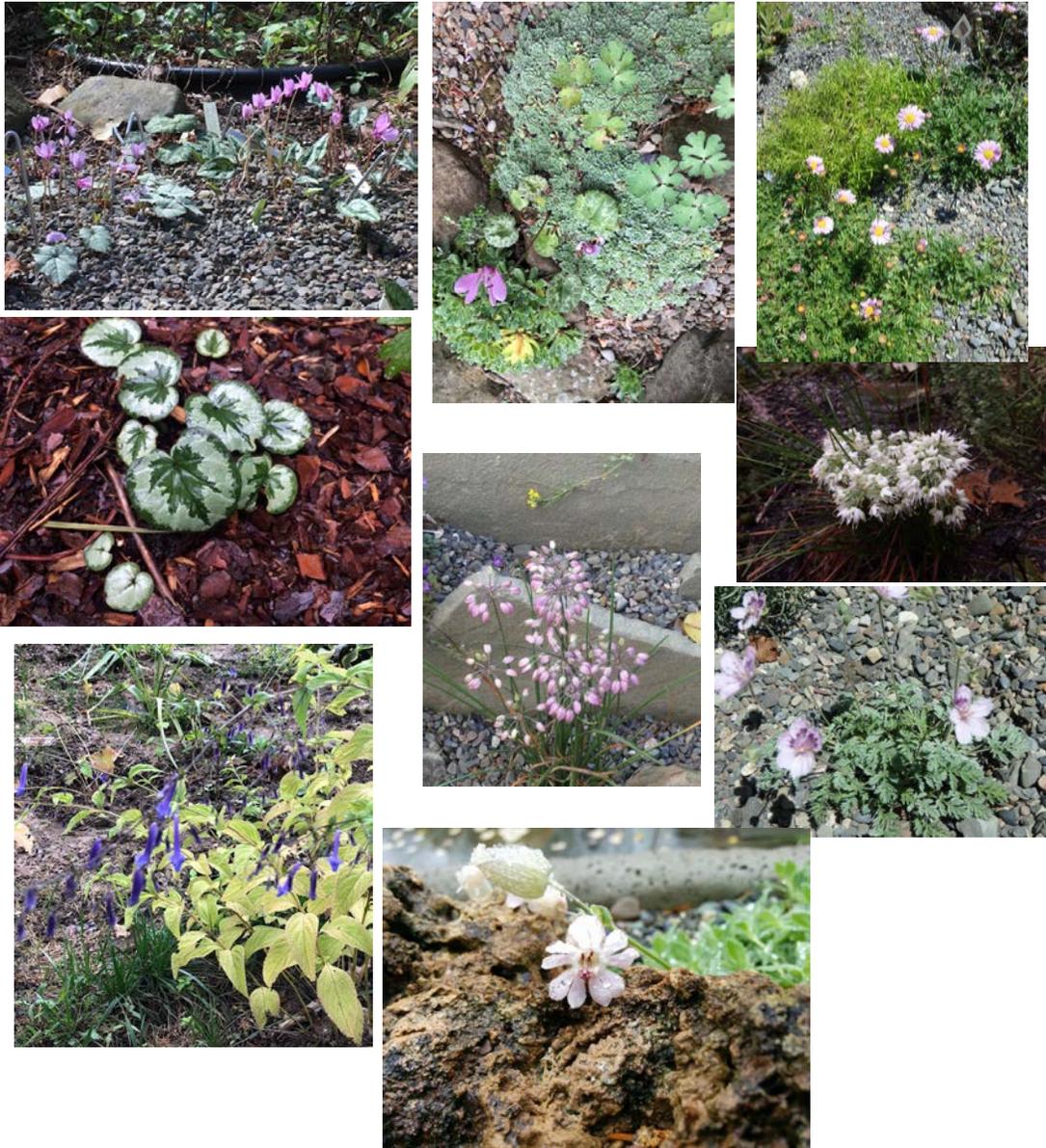
[www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)



Map: Whetzel Room, Room 404 Plant Science Building, 236 Tower Rd., Cornell campus

**PHOTOS OF THE MONTH: FALL BLOOMERS IN THE (MOSTLY) ROCK GARDEN**

(see next page)



Clockwise from Upper Left: *Cyclamen hederifolium*-Nari Mistry; *C. Purpurescens* growing in *Saxifraga cochlearis*-N. Mistry; *Chrysanthemum weyerii*-Eichler; *Silene uniflora*-H. Peachey; *Erodium* x 'Natasha'-C. Eichler; *Rabdosia longitubia*; 24-30" tall & wide for pt. shad- S. Whitesell; *C. coum* w/Christmas tree leaf pattern- J. Gilrein; Center: *Allium thunbergii* 'Ozawa;' C Eichler