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November 2013

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## NOVEMBER 9: NATIVE PLANTS FOR DIFFICULT SITES

*Nari Mistry, Program Committee*

Here's a meeting you won't want to miss! Our November meeting is always a little special because in addition to a speaker, we hold a dish-to-pass lunch. It is also officially our annual meeting - more about that in a bit.



Our speaker for Nov.9, 2013 is Don Leopold. His talk is titled "**Native Plants for Difficult Garden and Landscape Settings.**" Donald J. Leopold is Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental & Forest Biology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse.

He has received many awards for excellence in his research and in teaching. He is a former chair of The Nature Conservancy, Central New York Chapter, and was awarded their Friends of the Land Award in 1995. His research includes the ecology of old-growth forests & wetlands, the biology of rare plant species, and the biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems.

Here is what he says of his work : "My interests span the whole of biology and humanity. It is the collection, interconnectedness, and diversity of life on this planet that inspire and motivate me." Professor Leopold has published

several books which are major treatises on trees, including a widely used textbook on dendrology.

His book, **Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation**, is a comprehensive guide to over 700 native trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers and ferns that are valuable for garden and restoration plantings. In August 2006 this book was given the Garden Writers Association Silver Media Award for excellence in horticultural writings.

**(Note:** Our ACNARGS Chapter has copies of this book for sale at a good discount to members only. They will be available again at the Nov.9 meeting.)

Please plan to join us with your dish-to-pass and your own service at about 11:30 for set-up in the Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science, so that we can begin lunch promptly at noon. Drinks will be provided. Our regular meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the convening of our 2013 annual meeting, announcements, and speaker presentation.

Our annual meeting will be brief with the only item of business being the election of officers for 2014. The slate is listed below and you may note that it looks a like this year's officers. That's because each one has agreed to continue in his/her position for next year.

**Chair:** Carol Eichler

**Vice Chair and Program Chair:** John Gilrein

**Secretary:** Mary Stauble

**Treasurer:** BZ Marranta

Instead of Plant-of-the-Month every member in attendance can look forward to receiving a free Membership Appreciation Gift. The success of our plant sales – thanks in great part to your plant donations and purchases – enables us to offer this gift as a benefit of membership.

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Carol Eichler, ACNARGS Chair*

It's hard for me to accept that our last meeting of the year is just a few days away. Our mild weather – as of this writing I've yet to get a frost here – seems to contradict the dates on my calendar. I always regret seeing the lush colors of our landscape transition to monochromic tones. As a gardener I miss my garden and find myself looking ahead to spring.

Granted there are lots of gardening activities to help sustain me through this dormant time and it begins right here with our annual meeting and luncheon on November 9<sup>th</sup> (look for more information in this newsletter).

Some other markers to look forward to includes the NARGS Seed Exchange. First, there's our get-togethers in early December, as yet unscheduled until we know when we will be receiving the seeds in bulk. Our task will be to portion these seeds into individual packets. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, we're told the seed list and order form will be posted on line (**found here**). That always occupies me for hours of deliberation and research to put an order together. A bonus for volunteers who help with our distribution phase is that they are entitled to order an extra 10 seed packets (35 instead of the usual 25). But remember, you must be a member of NARGS to participate.

What I like about the Seed Exchange is that once the seeds arrive, it's time to think about sowing them. So the new garden season gets a real early start, in defiance of the winter winds howling outside. Look for an article in our first issue of 2014 where I describe my easy method of seed starting without a greenhouse. My technique is less than perfect but I am happy with the results.

Back to this issue, we will find a glimpse into next year's line-up of programs. As time progresses we are certain to add more Chapter activities for 2014. Our Board generally meets in January to make plans for the new program year. Feel free to contact me if you have ideas for garden tours, workshops, or other program enhancements. We on the Board are open to entertaining your suggestions.

Meanwhile, I'll see you at the November meeting!

Gardens and flowers have a way of bringing people together, drawing them from their homes.  
~Clare Ansberry

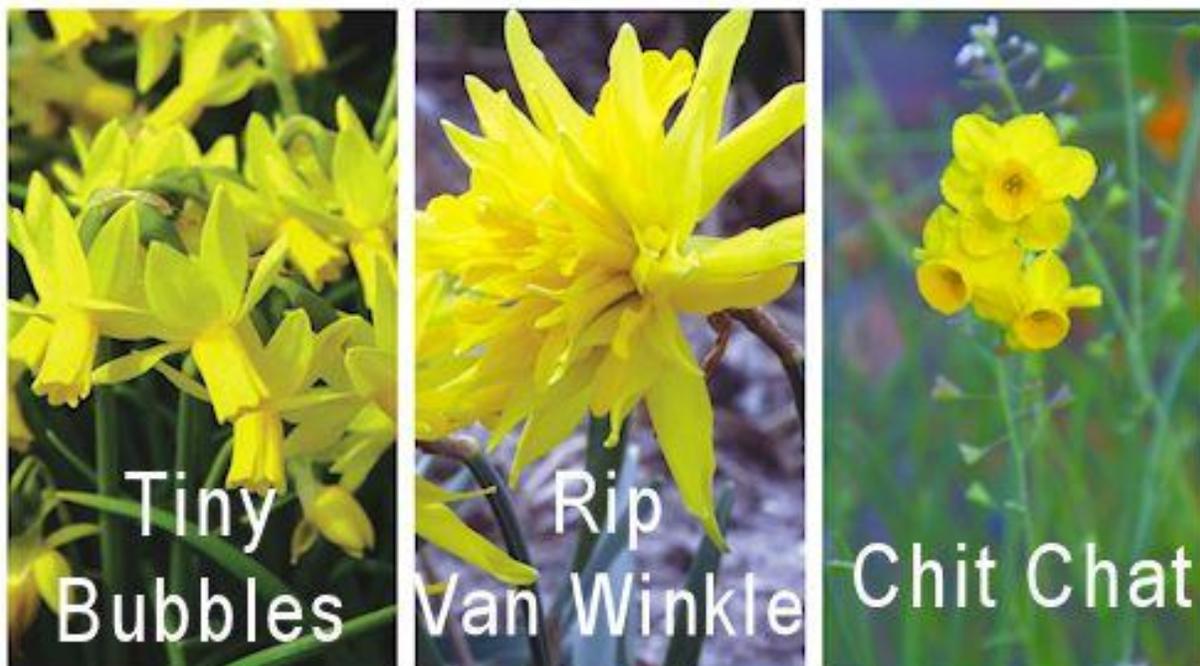
## PLANT OF THE MONTH: MINIATURE DAFFODILS

*John Gilrein*

Our November 2013 POM is miniature daffodils (*Narcissi*). This month the POM will be a member benefit, and the first set of bulbs will be free. Miniature daffodils generally grow 6 inches high or less. The catalog has a disclaimer that the plant height may vary. In my experience, miniature daffodils grow taller than the height figures in catalogs, but I don't yet have experience with the cultivars we're offering this month.

Cultivars we will have are 'Chit Chat', 'Rip Van Winkle', and 'Tiny Bubbles'; these are all yellow daffodils. Since these are very small plants, they should be planted in a location where they can be seen and not obscured by other plants, like the front of a border or in a rock garden.

**Cultivation:** Hardy to zone 4. Plant in full sun to part sun, 4 inches deep and 4 inches apart in good, well drained soil. Daffodils are not normally eaten by deer, voles, etc.



'**Rip Van Winkle**' is a double flowered heirloom daffodil from 1884 with green segments interspersed with yellow. Listed height 5-8 inches; bloom time early-mid Spring.

'**Tiny Bubbles**' is single flowered daffodil with narrow foliage and a strong fragrance. Listed height is 4-6 inches; bloom time is mid Spring.

'**Chit Chat**' is a multi-flowered single daffodil. Listed height is 3 to 4 inches; bloom time is mid-late Spring. Each set of bulbs will have 10 to 12 bulbs (12 for Chit Chat, 10 for Rip van Winkle and Tiny Bubbles). After everyone has received their first set of bulbs, the rest will be sold.

Plant of the Month is a member benefit, partially subsidized by your dues, to provide additional encouragement to attend meetings and expand the horizons of our members. The goal is to coordinate the plant of the month to the meeting topic, though sometimes that is not possible. Please send suggestions for Plant of the Month to John Gilrein.

It is a greater act of faith to plant a bulb than to plant a tree . . . to see in these wizened, colourless shapes the subtle curves of the *Iris reticulata* or the tight locks of the hyacinth. ~Clair Leighton, Four Hedges

## GREAT GARDEN SPEAKERS

*Kathy Purdy*

Since I was the speaker at the last meeting, I'm not going to review the talk. But if you were there, I thank you, and would like to remind you to write your own review of my talk on **Great Garden Speakers**. This website provides listings of speakers on all sorts of garden topics, including gardening, nature, horticulture and design. You can search the database by topic, speaker, and geographical location, which makes it easy to find a speaker who doesn't need overnight accommodations. If you or someone you know belongs to another gardening organization looking for speakers, have them check out **Great Garden Speakers**.



## NARGS SEED EXCHANGE IS COMING OUR WAY!

*Carol Eichler*

We just can't seem to help ourselves. Our Chapter has committed to yet another year of helping with the NARGS Seed Exchange. Thanks to those of who have already signed up to help, I'm confident we can easily fulfill our commitment with the Packaging Phase. More are always welcome to help so please contact me if you interested in participating. Packaging means we'll be receiving donations of seed "in bulk" to pack into individual glassine envelopes. We do only a small portion of the more than 4,000 taxa that are donated.



Our Chapter has done this phase before – last year, as well as several years ago (not to mention the 3 years we served as the Seed Distribution Chapter). Here's what the Packing Phase entails: We will schedule 1-3 group sessions as required, once we know when the seed will arrive. We don't get a lot of advance notice as to the date but it will be sometime between late November and early December and we will have until January 1<sup>st</sup> to complete the job and send everything on to the next phase of the Exchange. Last year we met at the classroom at Ken Post Lab and we hope to do so again this year.

One by one we take bulk seed from a given species, break it down into smaller quantities of seed into the suggested number of packages, seal and label each package. The job is a bit tedious but the camaraderie of working in a group makes the task of packaging fun (in my opinion) and the work goes fast. Everything goes so smoothly because

NARGS is so well organized with specific instructions and all the materials we need. Add to that our past experience of simple "tools" that make the job go even more smoothly, and even a beginner soon becomes a skilled seed packer.

As soon as we have the scheduled the workdays we'll send out an email to all our members with this information and further instructions.

### HOW THE SEED EXCHANGE WORKS

Overall, the NARGS Seed Exchange is an amazing process. For those who are interested in learning more, here's an explanation of how the Seed Exchange works from the NARGS website: "The Seed Exchange is made possible through the generosity and hard work of many NARGS members. It begins with members collecting seed of plants in their garden or in natural areas.

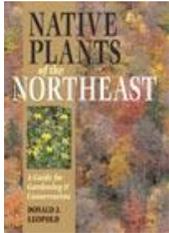
Donated seed is sent to the Intake Manager, Laura Serowicz. The Intake Manager enters all the donations into a computer database, verifies the seed name and adds descriptions where needed. Each donor is assigned a donor number, which will be included in the Seed List. The Seed List is posted on the NARGS website in mid-December.

“By mid- to late-November all the donated seeds are cataloged and the database program generates the seed list numbers. The seeds are shipped to various Packaging Chapters and individuals who divide them into individual packets in December. The finished packets are then sent to the Main Seed Distribution Chapter, where the seed orders from members are picked and mailed out from early January to mid February.

“A surplus seed list of all the seed numbers which are left over after the Main Seed Distribution is closed is sent in late February to members who request it and surplus seed orders are filled in early March by the Surplus Seed Distribution Chapter. All members are charged a nominal fee for surplus seed orders based on the quantity of packets they request. After that the remaining seed is sent to various NARGS chapters for distribution to their members.”

## VIDEOS ON TREES BY DON LEOPOLD

*Kathy Purdy*



If you would like to learn more about trees, Don Leopold, our speaker for the upcoming meeting, has created a **series of videos which can be viewed on YouTube**. There are 35 short videos, each on a different species.

Just a reminder, we are offering Professor Leopold's book, *Native Plants of the Northeast*, for sale to members at a deeply discounted rate. The book will be available at both the October and November meetings, while supplies last.

## 2013 PROGRAM PLANS

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

**November 9: Don Leopold on Native Plants for Difficult Garden and Landscape Settings.** This includes a dish-to-pass lunch starting at noon.

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

I suppose no one who loves his garden is entirely without books on his favourite subject; and, indeed, I have always found that a lover of gardens and flowers is also more or less a lover and reader of books. In our country villages the chief applicants for books from the lending library are the gardeners, and the more they love their gardens and their flowers the more they wish to read about them; and the more they get to know from books the more they desire to know; and when cut off from their gardens by snow and frost they still find plenty of employment and pleasant work in reading of their favourites; and the best gardeners are the greatest readers, for Sir Thomas Browne's saying holds good with gardening and botany as much as in other pursuits, "They do most by books, who could do much without them. ~ Henry Nicholson Ellacombe, 1901

## CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

**Pick a Durable Tree for Your Site** Mon. Nov. 4, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, CCE

**Don Leopold, Native Plants for Difficult Garden and Landscape Settings** Sat. Nov. 9, 12pm for dish-to-pass lunch, Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, Wetzel Rm., Plant Sci. Bldg, Cornell (NB: this meeting is on the **SECOND** Saturday)

**David Werier, Field Botanist, Rare Plants of Westport NY** Wed. Nov. 20, 7 pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church Annex, second floor

## DECEMBER

**Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop** (for those who have participated before), Friday Dec. 6, 6:30-8:30 pm, \$10 special MG price, limited to 15, CCE, taught by MG volunteers, pre-registration AND PREPAYMENT required.

**Evergreen Wreath-Making Workshop** (*how-to instructions by MG volunteers, for those who have not participated before*), Sat. Dec. 7, 10 am-12 noon, \$10 special MG price, limited to 15, pre-registration AND PREPAYMENT required.

**Solstice Celebration** Wed. Dec. 18, 7 pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, check **website** for location

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2013 BOARD MEMBERS

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

Chair: Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

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

Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, [nbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:nbm2@cornell.edu)

Secretary: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

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

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), Karen Hansen

Membership: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, [terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org](mailto:terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org)

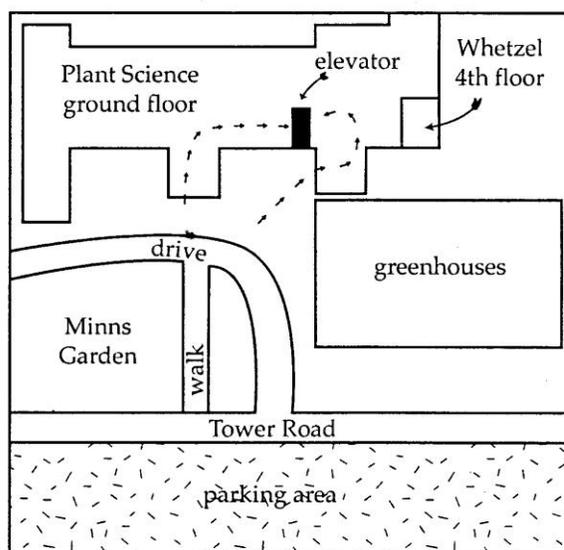
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Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [edcramer@gmail.com](mailto:edcramer@gmail.com)

## HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP

This is on the Cornell University Campus.



## GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Kathy Purdy, [kopurdy@gmail.com](mailto:kopurdy@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in 2014.