

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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Visit our blog: acnargs.blogspot.com

January-February 2016

FEBRUARY 20: MEMBERS' SHARE: PHOTOS & EXPERIENCES

Nari Mistry, 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 20th.

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. Members are eager to learn.

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.

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 Whetzel Room. Questions? Email: cdcramer@gmail.com "

For planning purposes, here are the DEADLINES:
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 Nari Mistry: nbm2@cornell.edu . If you already know the AV format you will use, let us know that too.

February 15: 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 15. Presentations sent later can still be squeezed in if time allows.

Let's have a great show!

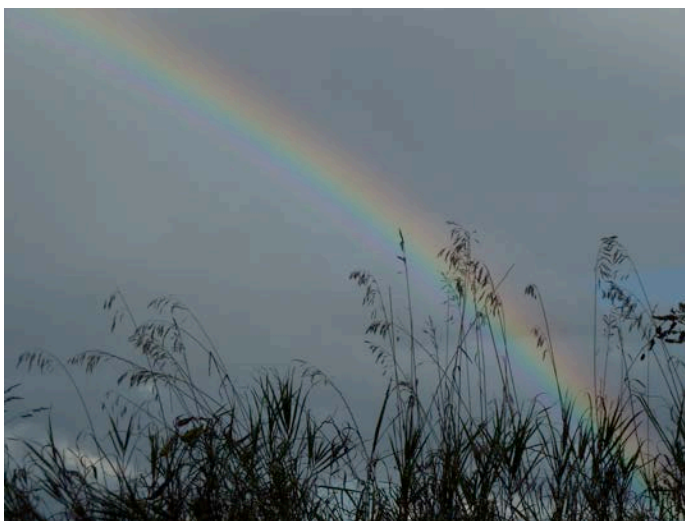
Our meeting will be held in the renovated Whetzel Room Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

We had a large turnout for our NARGS seed packaging workshop in December. It was a fun day of conversation, good food, and counting all sorts of seeds, and we managed to fit our work into one afternoon. Thanks to all who made this day a success.

The NARGS seed exchange is up and running. This is a great perk, as long as you're a NARGS member; for \$15 you get 25 packets of seed, and if you contributed seed (or worked on the seed exchange) you get 35 packets. If you don't have a special seed growing setup, you can plant seeds and let them stratify outdoors for 6-8 weeks (more is OK, too) and let nature do some of the work for you. NARGS really needs our support in addition to all the value that is received along with your membership. Why not check out the seed exchange at NARGS.org and tempt yourself? The coolest thing about NARGS seed is that you can get seed that you might not be able to get anywhere else.



A winter scene. Photo by J. Gilrein

Just recently I was contacted by NARGS in regard to their financial woes. Our mother organization, NARGS, has been running in the red recently. Among the reasons are several years of declining membership, increased expenses for its website and the production costs for the Quarterly. There is no single cure for this dilemma (well maybe if I win Powerball). Your board (ACNARGS) has been asked for ideas about how to help NARGS get into the black financially. And of course, we want to keep NARGS viable. Whether you're a member of NARGS or not, all of us benefit from our

parent organization. Sharing seedlings from the seed exchange has turned into plants for you and sometimes showing up at our plant sales. They have provided world-renowned plantsmen as meeting speakers. They maintain a comprehensive website that serves as a great plant reference. And they offer wonderful annual conferences, which offer a rare opportunity to learn about local flora with local experts.

What's coming up in 2016 with our Chapter? Another good year, of course! We have members' share coming up in February, and interesting speakers for March and April. You can anticipate some worthy Plant-of-the-Month plants, yet to be determined. How about bananas hardy to Zone 5? Or tree ferns? Well, I can't promise that, but we'll have good plants. And we're back to our old venue, Whetzel Room, that's been newly renovated.

The effects of *él Niño* have been interesting over the last few months. I was glad winter was slow to arrive. One of my thoughts was those nice dwarf conifers [from our October Plant-of-the-Month] were settling in better due to the warm weather. My Christmas roses (*Helleborus niger*) have been blooming a few weeks, which only seems appropriate until I recall they never bloomed at Christmastime before. Winter may finally be here and that might keep the alpine plants happier. We got snow today (January 12) to protect things a little from the cold. And we're expecting more. Maybe this will finally be a year I can get a rosemary plant to survive the winter!

Running our organization takes effort and teamwork, and I'm convinced that what I get out of the Adirondack Chapter is proportional to what I put into the Chapter. So consider volunteering for the Adirondack Chapter: bring food or plants to a meeting, help at a meeting with cleanup, suggest a potential speaker, contribute plants to plant sales, consider a position of responsibility [we are looking for a Co-Chair for the plant sales], and/or write an article for the Green Dragon. Our Chapter is your Chapter.

Happy New Year and New Gardening Season
John

THOUGHTS ON BUILDING A ROCK GARDEN (NOW THAT I HAVE ONE)

Carol Eichler, Newsletter Editor

Some of you know I built my first rock garden over the summer. While I had been contemplating this undertaking for a while, in the end it was necessity that served as the impetus. The number of troughs I had was getting a bit ridiculous. In fact my acquisition of plants was literally growing faster than my acquisition of troughs. Plus, many of my aging troughs were deteriorating and crumbling. So rather than build a lot of new troughs, I decided it was time. I want to share some of my thoughts about my experience with the construction process here.

First, consider siting the rock garden where you can enjoy it from indoors. Part of the allure of a rock garden is its all-season interest. How nice to be able to observe the small plants in bloom from inside as well as outside and in winter to enjoy the structure of well-placed stones.



A glimpse at the garden in progress

Envision your completed garden. I suggest drawing or (since I'm not good at drawing) simply picturing in your mind what it will look like. The rock garden you build will be around for a long time (hopefully) so it's important to get what you want.

Have a construction plan but be prepared to modify. My plan was in my head and very difficult to convey to my non-gardener/builder husband. I knew what the plants would like to thrive (in some ways counter-intuitive to other plants) but was clueless about how to execute the construction. In the end it was good to talk through each step.

Depending on how ambitious the design, it will take more time to build than you think. You will have piles of construction materials lying around so plan carefully where you place them – close enough to be handy yet as unobtrusive as possible. The plus side of building over time is that you get to observe the garden at each phase and identify potential problems. I'll admit my design was modified a lot.

Do your research but don't take the advice of others too seriously. I got lots of conflicting advice so who am I going to believe? I also read detailed accounts of how to construct a crevice garden but I know me. Maybe I'm missing something, but frankly I couldn't stand to be that meticulous.

There is more than one way to resolve a construction dilemma. Take your time to think things through and weigh your options. There always seems to be more than one way to resolve an issue. My biggest concern was dealing with the slope and the potential for significant erosion.

As with all rock gardens (I suspect) there were challenges. For one I built on a natural slope, the degree to which was not fully realized until we began construction. Building on level ground is easier unless, like me, you don't have any. For another I used coarse sand as my growing medium. Thirdly, I wondered whether the sharp drainage I created would puddle water at the low point. We attempted to address each of these issues in the construction. Will the garden wash away? Will the measures I took to minimize that risk work? Only time will answer those questions.

Lastly, I'd suggest don't be afraid to make mistakes. I'm waiting to see what ours are. Isn't gardening all about trial and error? Add to that the constant challenges that Mother Nature offers. Gardens are never static; they are always evolving and changing to reflect our current whims. I've learned these are basic tenets of gardening.

In the end I'm really pleased with the finished construction of my rock garden. That's the most important thing to me. This spring I will be ready to plant. I have an inventory of plants that have survived in my troughs, some of them for years. How will they grow in their new home? Will my dwarf conifers grow too fast? Will I have enough plants or too many? In any case, I'm enjoying my big experiment.

Come to the February Members' Share meeting where I will show photos of my new rock garden at various stages of construction. By the way, please follow my own advice and don't take my observations too seriously.

"SEASIDE" GARDENING IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

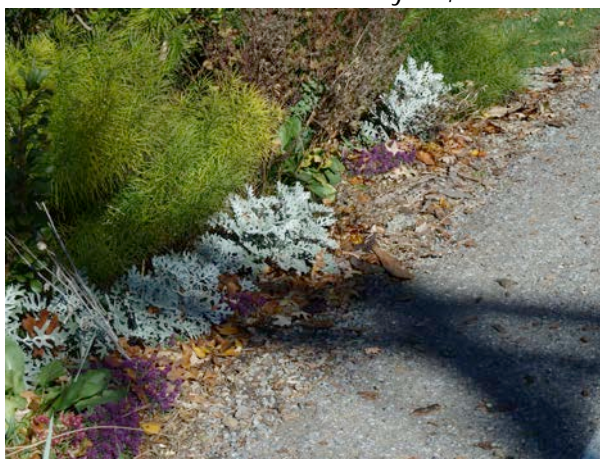
John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

OK, so it's not really near the sea, but my hell strip garden next to the road has to endure seaside-like conditions due to road salt and salt spray. Traditionally, a hell strip is the space

between the road and the sidewalk; I don't have a sidewalk, just a garden bordering the road with it, extra challenges.

My goal was to create an attractive buffer between the road and the lawn. The soil in this garden also has gravel that is washed or plowed in from the road. With our 10 feet of snow a year, which may come in frequent small snowfalls, the result is a lot of road salt being applied in the winter. I read 2 seaside gardening books to look for plants that would tolerate this challenging environment to help me along the way.

While planting many of the plants, I improved the drainage by mixing quartz sand with the soil. Other than the road salt, the conditions in my hell strip are not that similar to the seaside; the wind, the fog, and the salt-laden air are missing. The big dose of salt during the dormant season creates less challenge than salt doses during active growth. Seaside gardening involves assessing the zones based on closeness to the sea and harshness of conditions, from the sandy dunes at the oceanfront to a byside garden behind a windbreak of trees.



Plants include *Myrica pennsylvannica* (bayberry), *Amsonia hubrichtii* (threadleaf Amsonia), *Eryngium maritimum* (sea holly), *Centranthus ruber* (Jupiter's beard), *Lobularia maritima* (sweet alyssum). Photo by John Gilrein

The roadside conditions in my garden change quickly from the first few feet next to the road (subject to salt draining off the road), to the 6-8 feet subject to the heaviest load of snow and salt pushed off the road by the plows, to the next zone further from the road subject to some salt in the soil. Plants vary in their tolerance of salt, so the closer to the road, the higher the tolerance needed.

Evergreens seem to suffer the most from salt (did you ever see the brown foliage in the spring from salt sprayed evergreens?); deciduous woody plants and perennials that die back to the ground suffer less. Annuals have the advantage of being planted after most of the salt has washed down through the soil, so they do well.

If you have the opportunity to observe the plants growing near the ocean in the Northeast, you'll see many of the same plants listed below thrive there. All of the plants listed are hardy to at least hardiness zone 5. Asters, goldenrods, grasses, daylilies, sea holly, and sea lavender all seem to do well. Of note, if considering conifers, is that blueness of foliage is an indicator of salt tolerance. I'm not sure how absolute this rule is, but Colorado blue spruce would be one of the more salt tolerant conifers. I've listed plants below that have proven they are up for the challenge along my roadside. These are fairly low maintenance, want half- to full-day sun, have fair drought tolerance for our climate, and do not need high fertility.

KEY: H = high salt tolerance, FC = fall color, FRG = fragrant blooms, SPR = spreads, INV = invasive

Trees: ginko (*Ginkgo biloba*) FC; red oak (*Quercus rubra*) FC

Shrubs: bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvannica*) H, SPR; *Rosa rugosa* H, FRG, SPR; fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) FC; *Physocarpus opulifolius* FC; golden currant (*Ribes odoratum*) H, FRG; mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*).

Perennials: New England Aster (now *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) 'Purple Dome' H; Aster *oblongifolius* 'October Skies'; heart leaved aster (*Aster cordifolius*); catmint (*Nepeta faassenii*); dusty miller (*Senecio cineraria*) H; goldenrod (*Solidago* 'Little Lemon'); Hosta cultivars; *Hemerocallis* hybrids H, SPR; Jupiter's beard (*Centranthus ruber*), H; sea holly (*Eryngium amethystinum*) H; sea lavender (*Limonium latifolium*) H

Grasses: *Calamagrostis acutifolia*; tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*); Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra*); blue lyme grass (*Elymus arenarius* 'Glaucua') H, INV; little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) FC; black sedge (*Carex nigra*) H, SPR

Annuals: sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*); Euphorbia "Diamond Frost"; purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*); statice (*Limonium sinuatum*); Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)

Trials: southernwood (*Artemisia abrotanum*); *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'. These have not been tested long enough by me to prove longevity in this setting.

Other good plants: Montauk daisy (*Niponicum nipponanthemum*) H; blue oat grass (*Heliotrichon sempervirens*); beach plum (*Prunus maritima*); white oak (*Quercus alba*) FC.

Notes of caution: blue lyme grass works terribly well but should be planted in something to restrict its root run (e.g. a 5 gallon bucket without a bottom). *Solidago* 'Little Lemon' is not invasive, but many other goldenrods are invasive. The plants listed as spreading do not run fast enough to get out of control for me.

Sources: *Seascape Gardening* by Anne Halpin, Storey Publishing, 2006. *Gardening at the Shore* by Frances Tennenbaum Timber Press, 2006.

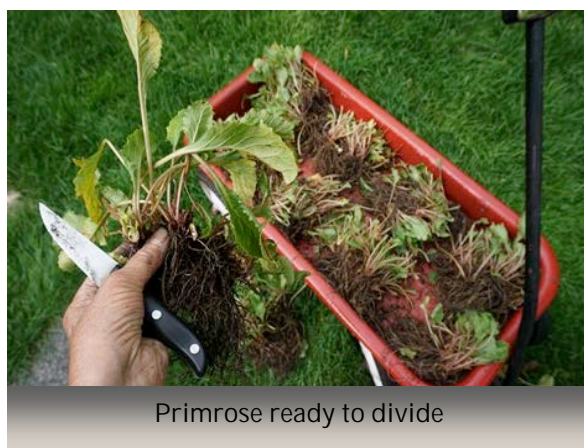
PLANT PROFILE: *PRIMULA JULIANA*

Betty Ann Addison

Reprinted by permission from January 2016 issue of Minnesota Rock Plant Notes

Great swaths of color can have an unforgettable impact in gardens, multiplying the effect of a single, beautiful plant. *Primula Juliana*, in all its varying shades of wine, pink, yellow and red, is a prime candidate to create that "wow" factor in your garden. It is easier than you may think.

First, find a place with rich soil, in sun or part shade, that you can water conveniently. Till it up with a garden fork or machine and incorporate additional organic matter, since primroses are an "edge of the woods" plant like rhododendrons, tree peonies and lady slippers, and like them, they thrive in a humusy soil. August, once the worst of the heat is over, is the ideal time to divide them because primroses grow best in cool weather, but only tolerate heat. In addition, it is the time when most plants set buds for next spring. September is fine also, but divide no later than October. Primulas need time to extend their roots into the soil, form a winter rosette and make many buds for a good display in April and May. [Editor's note: here where we could be 1 2 climate zones warmer, we may be able to extend this planting window]



Primrose ready to divide

Division is beneficial to plants, either those from your garden or purchased. They grow better in new soil, without competition, and will visibly respond in a few weeks. To divide, work in the shade, expose the roots, wash off the soil, and cut apart the rosettes. If rosettes are not clearly separated, tease the clump back and forth with your hands to expose clumps that give you a root and a shoot. Large leaves can be pruned back in half, or entirely, so that the root and top are balanced.

Keep the divisions moist while you are planting. I like to throw them down, 6 to 8 inches apart in staggered rows, then quickly plant them. Make sure the hole extends down to accept the whole length of the root and firm the soil around each one. You can water in the plants to settle them and bond them in their new beds, using plain water or a mild solution of liquid fertilizer. If it turns hot, new divisions can't suck up enough water to keep the leaves plump, so cover with a white sheet and water on top of that for a few days. Cool weather will not hurt them.

We don't use deep winter mulch over the plants because that would encourage mice or voles. However, a layer of chipped leaves between the rosettes makes a welcome soil covering that will preserve soil moisture.



Primula 'Wanda'
Photo by B Addison

Here are some of our favorite Primula Juliana selections: Primula juliana 'Cherry', Primula j. 'Jewel', Primula j. 'Springtime', Primula J. 'Wanda', and Primula j. 'Groenekan Glory'.

Primulas are very "willing plants" that meet the gardener halfway.

More photos are posted on the ACNARGS Facebook page.

NARGS SEED EXCHANGE: STILL TIME TO ORDER



Here's a collage of photos from our Chapter's seed packaging day December 12th. Thanks to all who helped make quick work of the task, for preparing such yummy food, and for great conversation!

There's still time to order seeds. Round 1 of the Seed Exchange concludes soon. The Round 2 list of available seed will be posted on the NARGS website (nargs.org) beginning March 1 and ordering begins immediately thereafter. Unlike the Round 1 limitation of 25 genera (or 35 as a donor/volunteer), you can order up to 100 genera.

More photos of our Chapter's seed packaging day are posted on the ACNARGS Facebook page.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL: "A HIGHER STATE - STEPPE TO ALPINE" JUNE 23-27 - NOT TO BE MISSED

Mike Kintgen, President NARGS National and Director, 2016 NARGS Conference

What makes Northwest Colorado so special? For many gardeners I dare say it would be the sheer magnitude of displays and the variety of wildflowers found there. Northwest Colorado has been drawing humans for millennia to partake in its natural beauty and restorative settings.



Late June wildflowers – Senecio & Bistorata
Photo by Mike Kintgen

Want to see these flowers? There will be ample opportunity at the NARGS National Meeting June 23-27 in Denver and Steamboat Springs. Days will be filled with garden tours and visits to the Denver Botanic Garden's renowned alpine collection, the fabulous Yampa River Botanic Park, and several wonderful private gardens in the Steamboat area as well as guided walks into nearby natural areas that will showcase a variety of habitats. These walks will be suitable for different levels of physical ability.

This region of northwest Colorado lies at the meeting point of several biomes - flora from the South Rockies forms the

backbone, with a broad stroke of great Basin flora brushing through the lower valleys and steppes as the great plains flora sweeps in from the Northeast and rubs up against the park range. At higher elevations flora from the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies can also be found, hundreds of miles south of what is considered their normal range. *Trillium ovatum*, *Rhododendron albiflorum*, and *Mimulus lewisii* are a few of the flagship plants from the NW biome. Mixed into the rest of the landscape is a cast of classic western flowers from bright blue penstemons, to scarlet paintbrush (*Castilleja*) and scarlet gillia (*Ipomopsis*), as well as yellow composites of infinite variety.

The conference, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Chapter, opens the afternoon of June 22nd in Denver with lectures by Kenton Seth and Mike Kintgen, two of NARGS youngest members. On Thursday, participants have the option of driving on their own or taking a van trip to Steamboat Springs (170 miles to the northwest). The conference resumes that evening with plant and book sales, and lectures by internationally known speakers, Johan Nilsson and Nick Courtens. National superstars Kelly Norris and Jim Lochlear will be speaking Friday night, followed by Saturday and Sunday hikes. The conference officially concludes Sunday night June 27th with a very special presentation by Marcela Ferreyra from Patagonia. This will be her first U.S. lecture to an audience outside of Colorado.



Flat Tops sagebrush. Photo Karen Vail

For details and information visit the NARGS website [2016 NARGS Annual Meeting](#) or Facebook page www.facebook.com/2016NARGSmeeeting [or reposted on the ACNARGS Facebook page]. The 2016 Winter Quarterly is also devoted to information about the conference and the natural areas around Steamboat Springs. Direct specific questions to kintgem@botanicgardens.org. By the time this newsletter is sent out, online registration should be open.

We hope to see you in Colorado this June. It promises to be a wonderful and memorable conference. Come visit a botanical paradise.

TIME TO RENEW: 2016 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome the first new members of 2016 - Tracy Farrell and Teresa Craighead both from Ithaca.

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 2016 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 2016 Membership form here (<http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>). Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu

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.

February 20: Members Share

March 19: Lee Nelson, English Country Gardens

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 the 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 for the meeting is expected to be open online beginning January 16. Go to [2016 NARGS Annual Meeting](#) for more info.

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. 17: FROM DRESDEN TO DRYDEN: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK PURSH, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7 pm at the Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo and Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St & up the stairs).

February 28: Marlene Kobre of the Adirondack chapter of NARGS, "Gardening in Time," 2:30 pm. Free and open to the public. The 3rd Garden Travel Winter Slide Show sponsored by Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca; \$3 suggested donation to help support the Horticulture Program.

March 2: Permaculture Design Studio, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

March 7: Getting Started with Nut Trees, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

March 16: Seed Starting for Beginners, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

March 16: MAGICAL MUSHROOMS, MISCHIEVOUS MOLDS, George Hudler, Cornell Professor, 7 pm, sponsored by Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, 7 pm. at the Unitarian Church annex.

March 20: Seedy Sunday, 11am-3 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

March 23: Spring Propagation of Fruit Plants, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

March 30: Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening, 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE. Fee.

April 2 (rain date April 3): Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting, 10am-12noon, Indian Creek Orchard, sponsored by Tompkins CCE. Fee.

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

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? 6:30-8:30 pm, Tompkins CCE, Fee.

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

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

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

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

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, 7 pm. at the Unitarian Church annex.

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

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

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society also schedule 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 Marranta, 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

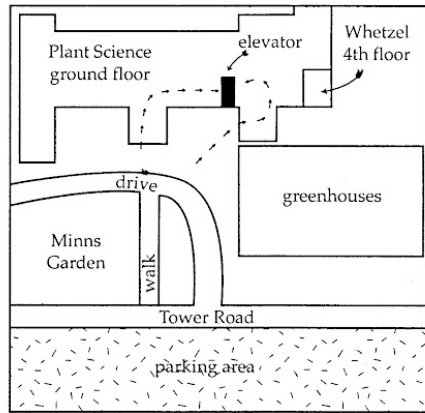
GREEN DRAGON TALES

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 March 2016 issue. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website: www.acnargs.org

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Crevice Garden at Yampa River Botanic Park, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
Photo by Mike Kintgen



Map: Whetzel Room,
Cornell campus