

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

February 2020

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FEBRUARY 15, 2020: ANNUAL MEMBERS' SHARE

Terry Humphries



View of Hahn's Peak from
wildflower meadows at
Rabbit Ears Pass, Colorado

Our first meeting of a brand new chapter year is traditionally our 'Members' Share gathering, a time for members to present mini-programs on garden memories, methods and plans.

We feel like this is a sign of spring, though in some years we need more inspiration than others to believe it is really on its way. The Members Share meeting is a perfect format to set ideas in motion for the garden season ahead

Do you have a few special slides you would like to share? Maybe a fantastic tool or technique? A favorite genus? We would love to have you make a short presentation with photos of your garden or a special natural site you have visited. We love to learn about anything and everything related to gardening. If you do not have digital photos, you could create handouts or a poster of prints. All are encouraged to contribute. We usually allot 10-15 minutes per person, so plan your presentations accordingly. Handouts and tip sheets will be printed if you send them ahead of time to terryehumphries@gmail.com

As in the past, Craig Cramer is coordinating the AV details. Here is what Craig writes:

"If you're going to be presenting, please send your presentation file to Craig Cramer (cdcramer@gmail.com) the week before the meeting so we can minimize technical glitches. If your file is too large to send as an email attachment or if you have other technical questions, let Craig know. If you can't send the file ahead of time, please bring it to the meeting on a USB stick (aka 'thumb drive' or 'flash drive' etc.) and hand it off to Craig as soon as you arrive so that we can transfer the talk onto the podium computer."

For planning purposes: let us know ASAP your intention to make a short (10-15 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 8.

Let's have a great show!

Join us at 1:00 p.m. on February 15th in the Whetzel Room (404 Plant Science Building, 236 Tower Rd, Cornell University-map at newsletter's end). Optional bring-your-own bag lunch and social time starts at noon. Drinks provided. Goodies always welcome for sharing.

FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a poor weather winter day here (Saturday January 25) but it certainly encourages one to stay inside and get some indoor work done. The plant catalogs are starting to pour in, so it's not too early to start thinking about plants to purchase for the year. I'm hoping to get a few orders in early. And sometimes there's an incentive, maybe a discount, for the early orders.

Growing plants from seed is one of the joys of gardening. One can grow plants that are unavailable or hard to source, and the cost is minimal. Sometimes you end up with more plants than you need, and then you can trade plants, give some to friends, and/or donate them to a plant sale. Having multiple seedlings allows one to try them in different sites, and sometimes I'm surprised where the new plant succeeds. Stratification (cold treatment) of seeds of hardy perennials and trees can be done either outside or in the refrigerator. You can email one of us on the board if you're new to stratification and want to try it – it works! The NARGS Seed Exchange (note this includes non-rock garden perennials and trees) is still open for those of you who are members and would still like to order seeds. I received my seeds today!



A significant activity for the Adirondack Chapter coming up is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for NARGS in June 2020. What does the annual meeting involve? There's a pre-meeting tour to the Adirondacks starting June 15. There's a pre-meeting garden tour to Onondaga County on June 18. Then AGM starts June 18 and ends June 21. A post-meeting tour of Hudson Valley gardens starts on June 21. The pre- and post-meeting tours are optional additions to the main event. NARGS membership is required to participate, and one can join during registration for the AGM.

The AGM includes a tour on Friday to Buttermilk Falls State Park or Upper Treman with naturalist guides and garden tours to Ithaca area gardens. There are 2 international speakers (from Netherlands and Denmark) and a tour of Cornell Botanic Gardens. There's a plant sale with multiple interesting vendors, most from distant locations. It's a nice opportunity to network with interesting gardeners from other areas. I've actually attended 8 of these events, and hope to attend more. For more information, check NARGS website.

If you're interested in attending the AGM, the chapter is offering an incentive (a stipend) to current members of the Adirondack Chapter (and NARGS). Part of the deal

with receiving a stipend involves volunteering for tasks during the AGM. We hope you'll consider participating!

Adirondack Chapter Garden Tour 2020: Normally our chapter has a garden tour to several gardens in one area, and the tour has generally been in June. There's nothing written in stone about the tour being scheduled at that time. Of course, many of our herbaceous perennials are at their peak flowering some time in June, so it's a good time to observe perennials at a peak time. With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June this year, I'm going to be tied up with the AGM. For the last few years I have been very involved with or without others in planning the garden tour. I'm taking 2020 off from this task.

I would like to see the chapter organize a garden tour this year (other than all the tours during the AGM). Ideally the 2020 garden tour would not be in June to conflict with attendance at the AGM – how about July or September? Coordinating the garden tour involves work that can easily be done during non-routine work hours from home (e.g. emails and phone calls) and it's a one-time job. Can you volunteer for this? If you're interested, let me know, and I can offer guidance on how to plan it. Ideally, we could have 2 people share this task. Our garden tours are well attended and our members appreciate seeing the interesting and diverse gardens on these tours.

Hope to see you in 2020!
John Gilrein, Chair

2020 MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble

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, your 2020 membership is due now (Individual @\$15, Household @\$20, Business with business card listing @\$30). 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 2020 Membership form here: <http://www.remarc.com/acnargs/join.pdf> Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu.

STIPENDS AVAILABLE FOR THE NARGS CONFERENCE

Just a reminder...Our Chapter has set aside funds to offer \$300 stipends to help defray the \$425 registration fee for members of our Chapter who wish to attend the NARGS Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference, Foresight 2020: Exploration and Inspiration. The meeting dates are June 18-20 and base camp for the events is the Robert Purcell Community Center on Cornell's north campus.

As a registrant you will be able to fully participate in all Conference activities:

- 2 daytime field trips to gardens and a gorge walk
- 2 talks by Harry Jans, 1 talk by Kaj Andersen, 4 talks by Cornell Botanic Gardens naturalists and horticulturists
- After-hours mini-talks
- 2 scheduled plant sales and book sales and signings
- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 dinner at Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery
- Friday night catered banquet with cash bar; Saturday dinner is on your own
- NARGS Annual Meeting and Awards
- Door prizes

Perhaps more importantly, you will be mingling with NARGS members from throughout the US, Canada, and further afield – plant enthusiasts like you.

Who's eligible for a stipend?

We will follow past guidelines of NARGS' AGM stipends. That is:

- anyone who has never previously received a stipend to attend a national AGM (either annual meeting or study week-end)

And

- has been/is a member of ACNARGS in both 2019 and 2020

And

- is a member of NARGS at the time of applying for a stipend; the individual can join at the same time as their stipend application is submitted

A letter of application should be submitted to John Gilrein (basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), ACNARGS Chair, by Feb. 15, 2020 and all applications will be reviewed by a Review Committee. Notification of stipend recipients will be notified as soon as possible after the March 15, 2020 Chapter meeting and no later than March 31, 2020. Any recipient is expected to volunteer for a few hours during the conference.

Please refer to the November/December newsletter for more information.

As a registrant, you may wish to make lodging accommodations in Ithaca. At our March meeting we will start circulating a sign-up sheet to coordinate those who can offer housing in or near Ithaca and those in need of a place to stay. In this way we hope to further defray the expenses of our members who come from a distance.

AND MORE CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS

Registration is now LIVE!

By the time you receive this newsletter our Conference website will be live. That means you can now register. We are limited to 135 attendees so if you plan to attend, don't wait too long or you may get closed out. You access the registration site by going to args.org/events and clicking on Annual Meeting and Tours June 2020.

Winter Quarterly

One might describe it as an Adirondack Chapter "takeover." The Winter issue of the *Quarterly* contains a number of articles pertinent to the Conference. It includes not only details about the Conference but also articles by John Gilrein, Bill Stark, and Carol Eichler. Lots of good photos too! You can see excerpts of the articles on the NARGS website but only members can view the

full issue or receive a paper copy. Some copies will be available for you to thumb through at the February meeting.

Call for volunteers

We need volunteers during the conference. Many of the tasks are simply helping to direct people to the rooms where different activities occur. Carol Eichler is coordinating volunteers and you can make her job easier by approaching her. Otherwise, she'll be contacting you!



T-shirt
Mock-up

All our volunteers – registered or not – will receive a conference t-shirt and are invited to attend our plant sales. We will also reimburse any “in the line of duty” campus parking expenses that you incur.

Share your garden photos

We're putting together a Powerpoint slide show o photographs from our members' gardens. The slide show will run on a continuous loop at our attendees are filing into the auditorium for each evening's talks. Share the best photos from your garden – close-ups as well as landscape views – by sending them electronically to Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com

ROSE SOCIETY COMES TO THE FINGER LAKES

Are you interested in learning how to grow roses that thrive in our region in a sustainable manner? Please consider joining us. Come check out the newly-formed Finger Lakes/Southern Tier Regional Rose Society

We rotate meeting locations through several central locations in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier so no one has to drive a long distance every month. Meetings are held the 4th Saturday of the month from 1-3 PM.

Our next meeting will be February 22 from 1-3PM at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, 615 Willow Avenue, Ithaca, NY. There will be a presentation by the Director and Treasurer of the ARS NY District on starting a chapter of the American Rose Society as well as a discussion about tools for the rose garden and hands-on experience sharpening pruners and loppers.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lee Ginenthal, derrosenmeister@gmail.com or 607-351-1336

2020 ACNARGS 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,

February 15: Annual Members' Share

March 21: Kevin Nixon, PhD, professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Biology Section: “Cushion Steppe and Alpine Zone flora of Patagonia”

April 18: Christine Froehlich, Rochester-based garden designer, consultant, and lecturer: “Working with the Environment”

May 16: Garden Fair and (our) Plant Sale

We also hope to offer a trough-making workshop tentatively in March.

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletter and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

A LATE SUMMER DISCOVERY

Carol Eichler

I happened to notice a rather pathetic looking swamp milkweed, struggling to compete in a jungle of other plants, was being eaten. Could it be the monarch caterpillar? Yes, it was! Later I wished I had captured it, as I have done in years past, to watch it form its chrysalis and then days later to emerge. But I thought of doing so too late and I could no longer find the caterpillar.

However, as luck would have it, my husband found the chrysalis! It was attached to a railing at our back door. This caterpillar had walked across the driveway to find a place to attach, conveniently right outside the house.

I knew the butterfly was about to emerge when I saw the chrysalis turning dark. I didn't catch the emergence. But I got a photo shortly thereafter. It was a chilly morning, so it wasn't going anywhere for a while. But, I missed its first flight too.



OTHER GARDEN EVENTS CALENDAR

- Feb. 9: Dan Klein on English gardens including the Chelsea flower show, part of Winter garden slide show series at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 2pm
- Feb. 23: Winter landscape features, part of Winter garden slide show series at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 2pm
- Feb. 29-March 8: Philadelphia flower show
- March 19-22: flower show in western NY March 19 through the 22nd
- April 4-5: VaVa Bloom Garden Show, Dickman Farms, Auburn
- April 25: 24th Annual Gathering of Gardeners Symposium, Rochester

May 8 – 17 Rochester Lilac Festival
May 10: Sycamore Hill Gardens open; also open June 20
May 16: Garden Fair and Plant sale at IHS
May week-ends TBD: Linwood Gardens Tree Peony Festival of
June 18: Der Rosenmeister open house 4-7 pm
June 27: Dryden Open Gate Garden and Art Tour
July 11 or 12: Southern Cayuga Garden Club Summer Tour in the Genoa area
July 11: Garden Conservancy Open Days, Ithaca area
Aug. 8: Garden Conservancy Open Days, Ithaca area

Check out additional gardening programs of these organizations below.
Practical Earthkeeper, Home Gardening Program, Cooperative Extension
<http://ccetompkins.org/gardening/practical-earthkeeper>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings,
<http://ccetompkins.org/gardening/practical-earthkeeper>

Cornell Botanic Garden events,
<https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/explore/events/>

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/LHBGC/>

Irish Castles, Gardens and Wildflowers Tour: June 28-July; Chrys Gardener's personalized tour.

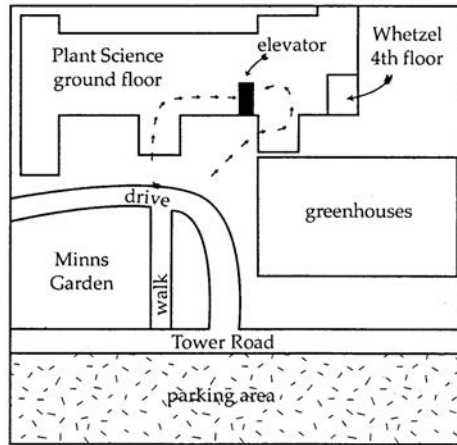
RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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

Chair: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu
Program: Terry Humphries, terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org
Treasurer: BZ Marranta, mmm10@cornell.edu; Assistant: Marlene Kobre
Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com
Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranta
Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, mkobre@ithaca.edu
Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu
New Member Hospitality: Graham Egerton
Newsletter Editor: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu
Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu
Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

HOW TO GET THERE: WHETZEL MEETING ROOM MAP

The Plant Science Building is located at 236 Tower Road 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 David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in March 2020.