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March 2021

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**MARCH 20, 1P.M. VIA ZOOM: CLAIRE COCKCROFT,
WILDFLOWERS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Terry Humphries, Program Chair

**LOOK FOR THE LINK IN YOUR EMAIL WEDNESDAY EVENING 3/17/21
BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE SLIDE & PLANT LIST**



A computer programmer by trade, Claire Cockcroft has been gardening since she was a small child. In 1987, she moved to Washington State, a great contrast to the semi-desert of Southern California where she grew up. Her first house in Washington was sited in the cool, dense shade of second-growth firs and cedars so she concentrated on primulas, woodlanders, and Himalayan plants. Since moving to Bellevue, she has added sun-lovers to her list. She grows

primulas, meconopsis, lilies, peonies, cardiocrinums (Himalayan lilies), trilliums and other woodlanders, and hardy orchids, but will try almost anything that she can grow from seed. Since 2001, she has traveled to several countries to see plants in their native habitat, photographing and learning how they might be grown.

A long active member of NARGS, Claire has presented widely and volunteered in many capacities. She is a current member of the Northwestern Chapter NARGS which meets in Seattle and Bellevue, WA.

Claire will share her adventures and botanical finds from a trek through the extreme landscape of Himachal Pradesh, a northern Indian state in the western Himalayas.



Meconopsis aculeate in the wild

Editor's Note: We're still Zooming. Don't be shy; give it a try. We're here to help. And we actually spend some time chatting following our program. It's the next best thing to being altogether.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

I know it's a few weeks away from being officially spring, but spring weather is now jockeying with winter as we get closer to real spring. Yesterday [while writing this] it was really close to 50 degrees, and today it was a little above freezing and brilliantly sunny. Though I do like the snow, I'm still really itching for spring and can't wait to start checking out the sprouting plants, pull a few weeds, and see the first blooms of the season. I usually have a *Cyclamen coum* start blooming in late February or early March, but this year with all the snow cover (there's still more than a foot of snow on the ground), I'm not expecting to see anything blooming for a few more weeks. I just got my NARGS seeds from the Seed Exchange yesterday February 24, which took 12 days for delivery from Oregon and sowed most of them today February 25.

The winter NARGS *Quarterly* included an article written by Kenton Seth (who lives in Grand Junction, CO) on seed starting. The article included a lot of good advice about starting seeds and stratifying¹. Kenton used to tweak his soil mixes to make multiple different mixes for different plants, and now only makes one soil mix using a good quality commercial soilless mix and amendments to improve drainage. Types of amendments for improved drainage include scoria ((porous volcanic rock that may be hard to source here), pumice, perlite, Turface (expanded clay), and expanded shale. I doubt he's growing many woodland plants in his very dry Western Colorado climate, and of course rock garden plants love drainage.

He recommended not using soil-based potting mixes. I'm still tweaking my soil mixes, but I'm starting seeds for woodland plants and trees, as well as rock garden plants. One point that's important to think about – drainage in the growing medium is much less

¹ process of treating **seeds** to simulate natural conditions that **seeds would** experience in the soil over-winter to break **seed** dormancies and initiate the **germination** process

critical if you have complete control over watering, i.e. you're stratifying your seeds under cover. One often finds rock garden plants grown in a fairly rich potting mix; this is possible when the nursery is growing in greenhouse and the plants are not at risk of being overwatered.

What's Ahead

What are our chapter's plans for spring 2021? Of course, our March and April meetings will be virtual meetings, on Zoom. The February meeting was almost as good as being together in person, and it was really nice to chat with people and see them on the computer screen. We cannot have an April seedling exchange. We're working on some sort of May plant sale, and we need your input about how we will do this sale. So please fill out the poll sent to you in a separate email (via Survey Monkey); this only takes a few minutes to complete.

People's responses/reactions in a COVID afflicted world are all over the place; we had a successful August plant sale but there were quite a lot of people who would not participate at that time. We could always predict good participation in the Garden Fair plant sale in pre-COVID days. Now it is very hard to predict participation in the May plant sale. We hope to either participate in the modified Ithaca plant sale on May 14 or 21 at the Ithaca Farmer's Market, or have our own/separate Adirondack Chapter plant sale around the same time. A big advantage of the sale at the Ithaca Farmer's Market is for the community to see us, with the possibility of attracting new members.

The next big question after that is whether we have a chapter sponsored garden tour this year. Like everything else in the past year, if we were to have a garden tour, there might be new rules and/or restrictions to make this safer. We realize not everyone will have been vaccinated by May or June 2021, but many of us will have passed that milestone, which can't come soon enough for me.

Hope to see you in March on Zoom, and maybe in person in May at our outdoor plant sale!

John Gilrein, Chair

THIS AND THAT: THE CHAPTER AT WORK

John Gilrein

Here are still more behind the scenes activities of our Chapter this month.

We contacted lapsed members. Like many other things, the pandemic has complicated membership renewal. Reaching out has been successful, in that some former members renewed, or will renew, their membership.

We extended Zoom meeting invitations to select gardening groups outside our Chapter, for example Master Gardeners. As a result we see increased participants at our Zoom meetings. We are planning to invite the Hudson Valley NARGS Chapter (Westchester County, NY) to our Zoom meeting, which has not been meeting. They are a small Chapter. Our Zoom membership allows 100 participants at a meeting, and we have not yet approached the maximum number.

Another item, which is still under discussion, is whether to involve other local gardening groups in one of our plant sales – either as contributors, shoppers, or both. There are logistics to consider, in order to follow covid protocol for the spring, summer, and fall. Hopefully we'll be able to return to in-person meetings by September!

Save the date. Our Chapter has agreed to host the 2022 NARGS National Conference aka the Annual General Meeting. The dates are Tuesday through Thursday, June 14-16. The Planning Committee – John Gilrein, Terry Humphries, Marlene Kobre, and Carol Eichler, have begun meeting and are trying to re-create as much of the 2020 itinerary as possible. As we get closer to the date, we will be seeking Chapter volunteers for help.

JUST A REMINDER: TIME TO RENEW FOR 2021!

Download the 2021 membership form at acnargs.org/join. 2021 memberships are now due. The email accompanying this newsletter notifies you if you have or have not yet renewed.

GARDENING IN A SAUNA PART 2 (CONTINUED)

Joseph Tychonievich, reprinted by permission from the Winter 2019-20 Rock Garden Quarterly

Editor's note: Having re-located from Michigan to Virginia (3 years ago), Joseph has had new gardening challenges related to big climate changes. It has resulted in one giant experiment. Here we reprint part 2 of his article (see our January issue for Part 1) to list some of the survivors in the hot, rainy summers of his new home. Some of these plants are hardy for us and face our own climate challenges.

Bellium minutum

This one is happy. Maybe too happy. I do love this plant, but I'm probably going to regret planting it. *Bellium minutum* forms a tiny, perfectly flat creeping ground cover of tiny green leaves. Back in Michigan, it would flower more-or-less all summer. Down here, it blooms like crazy in the spring, takes a break for the heat of the summer, and picks up again a little in the fall. It is spreading a little too aggressively, but it is so low growing I'm not too worried about it smothering other plants.



A similar plant *Bellium bellidiodes*. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Daphnes

Alpine daphnes have been at once my biggest success and disappointment. I planted Daphne 'Kilmeston', D. 'Lawrence Crocker', D. 'Rosey Wave' and D. x *hendersonii* expecting them to all die. 'Lawrence Crocker' bit the dust during the first summer, but the other three are thriving. That's the good news. The bad news is that they just don't flower like they did back north. In Michigan, D. x *hendersonii* was a solid mass of flowers every spring and re-bloomed a couple of times during the summer and fall. Here, it is growing just fine, but the flower display is underwhelming. Alpine daphnes were my favorite rock garden plants in Michigan but I don't think I'll be planting them

again down here. I'm holding out hope that the flower display will improve with age, but if it doesn't, they may all get ripped out. The best performer, in terms of flowering, has been D. 'Kilmeston'. It has never covered itself with blooms, but it does flower fairly heavily for a long stretch of spring and early summer.

Saponaria 'Pink Surprise'

Right after I moved I was in Minnesota to speak at a gardening event and got to visit with the legendary rock gardener and nursery woman Betty Ann Addison. She kept offering me plants and I kept saying they looked beautiful but I was sure they wouldn't survive in my new, hot garden. Luckily, she didn't listen to me, and I went home with some beauties, like *Saponaria* 'Pink Surprise'. It is so tiny, so perfect and alpine-looking that I just knew it was going to die. I was completely wrong. It may be my favorite plant in the whole crevice, forming a perfect mound of tiny foliage and, in classic alpine fashion, completely covering itself with flowers in spring.

Dianthus 'Red Penny'

This is another gift from Betty Ann Addison. Again, I looked at those silver leaves and the dense growth habit and thought there was no chance it would make it through a coastal Virginia summer. Again, I was completely wrong. It has produced masses of intense flowers in spring with sporadic re-bloom through the summer. I bet it would re-bloom even better if I deadheaded it.

Cactus

I've been collecting different species and hybrids of the genus *Echinocereus* for a few years. Many of them were perfectly hardy in my Michigan rock garden, they have beautiful flowers, and they don't have obnoxious glochids [translate: spines or prickles] like opuntias. Moving to a warmer climate, I happily put the whole collection into my crevice, where I'm sorry to say that some have died, and the others have merely survived. The happiest of the bunch is *Echinocereus reichenbachii*. I guess I shouldn't be surprised that plants native to high dry places in the West don't exactly love a constant deluge of water. I have seen happy specimens of other species around the Southeast, so maybe I just need to give them even better drainage.



Aloe striatula (syn. *Aloiampelos striatula*) [Note:: not winter hardy in New York]

I grew this from seeds and plopped about 20 of them in my tiny crevice garden. The seedlings looked so small and innocent. By the end of their first summer, they were all over a foot tall and I was getting worried. I dig some out and gave them to friends but still had 15 going into their first winter. At first, I thought they'd all survive but mercifully a bit of colder weather killed all but three individuals. Those three may still be too large for the garden, but they are staying for now. They haven't flowered yet, but the foliage is pretty fantastic.

Z. grandiflora. Photo by Stan Shebs, Wikimedia

Zinnia grandiflora

I'm a huge fan of this plant, have been ever since seeing it growing in huge sheets in gardens in Denver. My personal experience is that there is a lot of variability in how well

different clones perform in wet climates. My first ever plant was a named selection, 'Gold on Blue' which sat in my Michigan garden for one summer, never grew, and never flowered. Plants I grew from seed I purchased from Alpains showed huge variations in vigor. Some seedlings wasted away and died while others bloomed all summer long and spread happily. A couple of the happily growing seedlings moved down here to Virginia where they are just as happy. They pump out little yellow flowers all summer long, even through the most oppressive heat and humidity. I grow this in mounded sand next to the crevices because it can spread very aggressively. If you'd like to grow this plant in a rainy climate, I recommend starting with a packet of seed. The seed germinates easily, the seedlings start flowering their first summer, and you'll get some genetic diversity to select from.

Zauschneria (Syn. Epilobium)

This is a genus I've drooled over on visits to Denver, where specimens cover themselves with a glorious excess of brilliant flowers. So I thought I'd try some. I purchased *Z. latifolia* 'Woody's Peach Surprise', *Z. garrettii* 'Orange Carpet', and *Z. canum* var. Arizonica 'Sky Island Orange'. 'Woody's Peach Surprise' bit the dust nearly immediately. But the other two... They didn't just thrive, they quickly ran out of the crevice garden, into my rich, heavy, native soil, and generally started making pests of themselves. However, though they proved to be something close to weeds, in their first year I got a total of three miserable little flowers. Frustrated, I ripped all of them out of the crevice garden, but some of the runners that had spread into the surrounding grounds, and this year... well, it is a different story. I don't know if it was the richer soil, a hot, dry spell at the end of the summer, or something else, but they are blooming like CRAZY, covering themselves with brilliant flowers. Hopefully they'll keep doing it in years to come, though I certainly won't be letting them set root in a crevice garden ever again.



Z. californica 'Olbrich Side garden, Wuk Med Garden

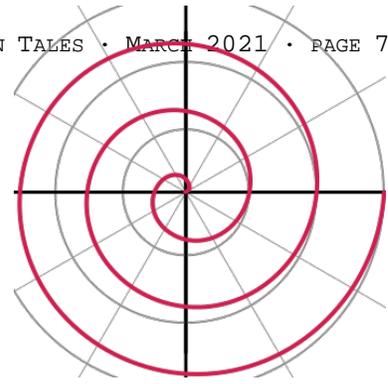
Those are the highlights of my new crevice garden. I've killed a lot of plants and there remains a long list of plants to try in the future, but I'm thrilled with the range of rock garden plants I've been able to cultivate in my cheap little crevice garden in this sauna-like climate.

A SPIRAL ROCK GARDEN TO BUILD IN A DAY

Carol Eichler

For years I've had my eye on a small spiral garden on the corner of Court and Albany Streets by the Alex Haley swimming pool in Ithaca. It has deteriorated over the years but my recollection is that there was someone working on staff at Cooperative Extension here who was building them, and maybe even holding how-to construction workshops. It turns out this a basic technique for permaculture gardening And they are perfect for fitting a lot of plants into a small space, perfect for herbs since you don't really need a lot of plants for kitchen use.

For some of these very same reasons, this type of construction would be perfect for a rock garden because.... It makes good use of a small space by building up. The height helps achieve a greater planting depth to allow for the root growth of rock garden plants and, like with herbs, you could fit a lot of plants in a small space. But maybe what attracts me even more is that it looks easy enough to construct. When it comes to gardening, I'm always looking for easy.



The Archimedes Spiral

For anyone who wants to consider building a spiral rock garden, I found a great website that walks you through the steps of construction. Granted, it's geared to planting an herb garden. However, it can be easily adapted for a rock garden. I've outlined the basic steps here with my own speculative modifications.

If you are intrigued, I suggest that after reading my article you go to the website noted below, where there are great photos, illustrations, and videos that not only demonstrate the steps but suggests different building materials and design modifications.

5 steps to building a spiral rock garden:

1. Select the site and map out your circle.
Choose a sunny location, ideally away from big trees whose leaves, when they drop, become a maintenance issue; allow for about a 5 to 7 foot diameter circle for the planting area. By not making the diameter too large, you will be able to reach into the center for maintenance. Add another foot or so all around to create a transition zone from the surrounding lawn to the garden.
2. Prepare the base and map out your circle.
You can create a simple compass with a stake as the center point and string length equal to half the chosen diameter. One video demonstrated marking the spiral lines with gravel or spray paint.

Suppress the weeds first.

The website suggests placing a layer of sturdy landscapes fabric to prevent earthworms from mixing native soil with your carefully selected gritty soil medium. Then layer thicknesses of cardboard as foundation, followed by an optional layer of gravel.

If your intention is to build a rock garden, I suggest for your lowest planting level that you dig out the soil to about a spade depth to create a deeper root run for the base plants – some of this displaced soil can be used to help fill the center of your spiral.

3. Construct the spiral wall.
You can use most any material such as bricks, pavers or somewhat trickier-to-work-with blocky stones to create the spiral and build height, depending what you may have on hand, how much labor and/or money you want to invest. This will also create planting pockets in between the layers of material.
4. Add growing medium.

Coarse builders sand is currently a favored choice of many rock gardeners including me. It's cheap (especially if bought in bulk where you can load your own and pay by the pound)². Sand provides both sharp drainage and (if deep enough) good moisture retention, no mixing required. Sand that is quarried locally should have the calcareous pH that is desirable for many rock garden plants.

I'm sure there's a way to calculate how much growing medium you will need (more than you might think) but I've been notoriously bad at being accurate – once dramatically overestimating, once under-estimating.

Water in your growing medium to eliminate air pockets or better yet allow your growing medium to settle for a few weeks. If not planting right away, I like to top with a pea gravel mulch (again hauling my own and paying by the pound) to help hold the sand in place and avoid wash-outs.

5. Wait to plant.

For me I've been most successful if I plant when the weather is consistently cool. My preference is to plant in spring as early as possible and preferably before May 1st. The plants at that time are eager to grow, seem to establish more quickly, and we can usually count on regular rainfall. After May 1st, temperatures often spike into the 80's, which can spell sudden death to a rock garden plant when its roots aren't yet established.

Resources: For more complete instructions copy and paste this URL into your browser: <https://themicrogardener.com/4-step-guide-to-building-a-herb-spiral/> This site is geared to building an herb garden as I mentioned. Herb plants as they grow will eventually obscure the spiral and its beautiful foundation of stone or stone-like material. But not so with rock garden plants – as I see it, yet another reason for using this construction method for planting to rock garden plants!

NARCISSUS BULB FLY: HIDDEN CULPRIT

Pat Curran

We are used to thinking of Narcissus as fool proof spring bulbs, if they get enough sun and are planted in well-drained, not too heavy soil. We are warned not to cut the foliage off before it yellows, which is often not until late June. And yes, the bulbs may need dividing after 20 years or so when they get crowded and the amount of bloom starts to decrease. But since they are rodent and deer resistant, we rely on them for spring color.

But there is a villain lurking underground that you might have and not know about.

I'm referring to the Narcissus bulb fly. There are two species, the greater and the lesser bulb fly, but the maggots of both species live down in the bulb and hollow it out with their feeding. If that doesn't kill the bulb, the rot that frequently sets in will do the trick. The maggot of the greater bulb fly is large, one per bulb, while the maggots of the lesser

² Not a commercial endorsement but I am often asked where to get my sand and gravel. I get mine from close by P&S Excavating on Agard Road, Trumansburg. They also operate Cayuga Compost.

bulb fly are much smaller and several will be found together in one bulb.

I had a GrowLine call many years ago from a respected professional gardener who wanted to know why the Narcissus planted at a client's landscape had not come up the next spring. Perhaps the drainage was poor, but I recommended digging a couple of bulbs up to see what they looked like. I never did hear the results, unfortunately. But I had heard about the bulb fly and started to pay more attention at home.

Every winter, I force Narcissus bulbs for bloom in the house in February, or March. After they bloom, I keep the foliage going until normal dormancy occurs. At this point, usually May, I could plant the bulbs in the landscape, but I'm usually too busy. The bulbs either stay planted in the pots, out of the sun and rain, or I knock the bulbs out of the pots and store them dry.

I've learned that it's best to knock the bulbs out of the pots so I can inspect them. Occasionally I find a rotten bulb or an infested one. Where do these bulb fly maggots come from? I'm left to wonder if there were tiny eggs on the bulbs.

I've also found infested bulbs when I have done landscape renovation which involved digging and dividing Narcissus. Now that's scary! I just hope that the bulb flies are not widespread. There's not a lot of information available on these bulb flies, and the Cornell entomology department didn't have a factsheet on the issue the last time I checked.

How does one detect infested bulbs that may not be showing symptoms? I have learned that if the Narcissus bulb is not rock hard, it is probably infested. If the bulb is the least bit softer than that, I take my trusty Felco pruners and make a vertical cut from the basal plate up to the top of the bulb. This exposes the core of the bulb where the maggots and/or the rot is present.

Sometimes there are small maggots living between the layers inside the bulb (think layers like an onion). If the bulb is especially precious or important, you can peel off the outer layers and save the uninfested core. If you made a vertical cut through the basal plate, the two bulb halves are still viable. Go ahead and plant them or the whole core if you didn't cut, and in a few years, the bulb will have grown enough to resume blooming. Apparently, the bulb fly is another introduced insect: The adult flies are bumblebee mimics.

Here below are a few websites that I found useful. My takeaway is that if I see Narcissus foliage that is paltry and hasn't bloomed, one reason might be bulb flies. I will try to dig those bulbs up and investigate. I will also maintain a mulch over the bulbs in the hope that the eggs or hatching larvae don't manage to make it down to the bulb.

If the Narcissus are well established for years, I may contradict the general cultural information and cut it off way down, earlier than usual, probably at the end of May so that I can mulch right over the bulbs better. This may make it harder for the bulb fly to lay eggs in the soil cracks (see the websites) and/or for the maggots to move down to the bulb.

Bug Guide:

<https://bugguide.net/node/view/7222>

Advice from North Carolina:

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/narcissus-bulb-fly>

and Colorado, with especially good pictures:

<https://webdoc.agsci.colostate.edu/bspm/InsectInformation/FactSheets/Narcissus%20Bulb%20Fly%202020.pdf>

Gardening Know-How

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/bgen/tips-for-bulb-fly-control.htm>

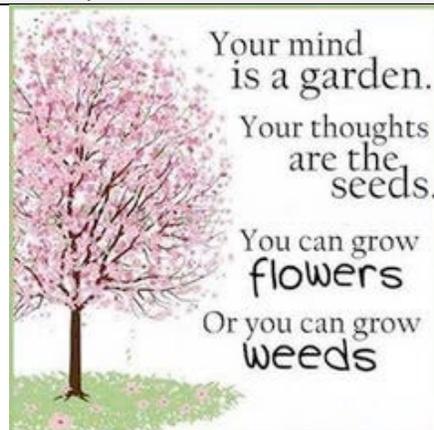
NEWS FROM NARGS: TUNE IN TO PANYOTI

Panayoti Kelaidis, a VIP at Denver Botanic Garden and with NARGS, has been gardening for 60 years, and is really into plants. Dubbed “an acolyte of the cathedral of chlorophyll,” he was recently interviewed by Doug Tallamy in his hour-long audio podcast. The episode is titled “The Art and Science of Rock Gardening” (podcast #306), and it is well worth listening to at indefenseofplants.com/podcast.

BILL PLUMMER TRIBUTE

The latest issue of *Solidago*, the newsletter of the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, included a wonderful tribute to Bill Plummer, which is well worth sharing. Viewing the photos is like visiting his garden...again. Here's the link: [Solidago March 2021](https://flnps.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Solidago%202022(1)%20March%202021%20final%20color%20to%20post%20%20print_Redacted%20sml.pdf) OR ([https://flnps.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Solidago%202022\(1\)%20March%202021%20final%20color%20to%20post%20%20print_Redacted%20sml.pdf](https://flnps.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Solidago%202022(1)%20March%202021%20final%20color%20to%20post%20%20print_Redacted%20sml.pdf))

Got a question? Have a comment to offer? Join the discussion; join the ACNARGS Member Forum. Not a member yet? The Forum is limited to ACNARGS Members. Send a request to Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com. Then simply respond to your email invitation to join this Google Group.



ACNARGS UPCOMING 2021 PROGRAMS

NOTE: Due to covid our meetings will take on a different format for the foreseeable future. We will hold live meetings via Zoom for now, with hopes of resuming in-person meetings in the fall. For those of you unfamiliar with Zoom, contact Terry Humphries for assistance.

March 20: Claire Cockcroft via Zoom, "Wildflowers of the Himachal Pradesh"

April 17: Anna Leggatt via Zoom, "Clematis the Queen of Flowers"

May TBD: Plant Sale covid style, date and format announced in our April newsletter

2021 NARGS Annual General Meeting in Durango, CO. Scheduled for June but may be rescheduled for late summer. As of press time, no further information is available.

What's in store for our programs this summer and fall? Hopefully we will be able to meet in person. This newsletter is your best source for learning about our 2021 programming.

CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

For the latest information, visit these websites of these gardening organizations.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information:
<http://cctetompkins.org/gardening>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings via zoom. <https://flnps.org/>

Cornell Botanic Gardens: Verdant Views virtual programs; no on-site events at this time; visit Cornell Gardens at home: <https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/explore/events/>

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

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to David Mitchell at david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com

2021 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

Chair: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca, David Mitchell

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 and sometimes Carol Eichler.

Looking for a new editor!

Calendar: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

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

ABOUT US – ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NARGS

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, two 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 [our Zoom subscription limits participants to 100]. 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.

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 focused on rock gardening, and an online website 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.

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, david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com
Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be April 2021.

