



ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

May 2024

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## MAY 18, 2024: MEMBERS ONLY PLANT SALE

*Carol Eichler, Plant Sale Coordinator*

What goes around, comes around. Yes, it's almost time for our annual spring plant sale and there are sure to be some great plants for everyone! As for the last few years, we've elected to keep this sale is for members only on Saturday, May 18. We'll be at the same large pavilion at Myers Park, near the marina (be prepared for whatever weather Mother Nature chooses to deliver that day. Note: Unless you are a resident of the Town of Lansing, the park charges admission of \$7 per car.

You should be potting up plants to bring, though contributing plants is certainly not a requirement to attend. We need buyers too and our plants will be priced to sell. It's good to be reminded that the sale supports our speaker program and plant-of-the-month. Have a friend who might be interested too? Bring them along, please. We may be a rock garden club but the plant selection is by no means limited to rock garden plants. We receive donations of everything from familiar perennials for sun or shade, to woodland plants, trees and shrubs, houseplants, and usually a "free" table too. More rare plants or those priced more than \$8 go on the silent auction table. As a gardener friend once told me, "You should buy the plants you don't know."

**Volunteers:** Every year we count on folks to help with set-up at 9a.m., cashiering, and clean-up. Let me know if you're willing to step up. ([carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com))

**Lunch:** After clean-up we will enjoy a dish-to-pass lunch together. The chapter will provide beverages. Remember to bring your own table setting!

Here's the schedule for May 18th

- 9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing
- 10:00 a.m. Plan to arrive if you are bringing plants

- 10:30 a.m. Sale begins no earlier than 10:30 (if we are ready earlier, you will have a chance to peruse the offerings and socialize, if we need a bit more time, we will start the sale later)
- 12:00 p.m. Sale concludes, cashier opens to take your payment, and clean-up begins (with lots of helpers this will go fast); if we finish earlier, we eat earlier!
- 12:30 Dish-to-Pass, relax, socialize. No rush. We have reserved the pavilion for the whole day.

Advanced Logistics: Have you started potting up plants yet? Now is the time. We ask that you remove what soil you can and pot into soil-less potting mix. We decided not to take any extra precautions to address the jumping worm issue. (Buyer beware: if you do not have jumping worms in your garden, we suggest bare rooting any plant purchases before setting them out in your garden). Label your plants in advance please.

Consider:

- Try to bring plants that are not so common (granted that is not so easy to determine)
- Bring small numbers of a species (suggested 3 – 5)
- Special plants should be placed on the bid table.
- Label your plants in advance – Latin name and common name (if known)
- If you are not able to attend, please consider donating plants anyway and asking a fellow member to bring them.

Day of Sale Logistics: As you arrive, we ask that you first place the plants that you bring on the staging tables and then onto the appropriate tables, with signage indicating alphabetical order. Our sale procedure will be essentially the same as previous years (please refer to May 2022 Green Dragon at acnargs.org newsletter archives). To summarize briefly we call people up by order of arrival on the sign-up sheet (don't forget to sign-in) and allow limited selections. That way we hope everyone gets a chance at their first-choice plants. After several "limited choice" rounds, the sale is opened up to all.

Directions to Myers Park and the Pavilion Take 34B (whether approaching from the north or south). Before the bridge over Salmon Creek, turn onto Myers Road, towards the lake. If you miss the turn, this road forms a loop so it intersects 34B again after you cross the bridge. The entrance to Myers Park is ahead at the stop sign on Myers Road. You will cross the railroad tracks. Pavilion B is located near the marina with ample parking available.

There's lots to anticipate. Will Frank bring his entourage from Scranton again? I hope so!

Carol Eichler, Plan Sale Coordinator, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Contact me if you have questions.



## FROM THE CHAIR

*John Gilrein, Chair*

After what seems like only a week ago that we had snow, it's starting to feel summery out in the garden. These are some of the symptoms: warblers singing, blackflies, needing to change into shorts & tee shirt,

too many plants to get in the ground. I'm enjoying the tulips and anemones, and the earliest rhizomatous irises are blooming, *Iris pumila*.

Around 15 of us participated in the garden tours over the last weekend, which included Elisabeth Zander's garden and Hollister in Connecticut, Stonecrop, Untermeyer, and the New York Botanic Garden in New York. We had great weather and bought a lot of plants, most of them at Stonecrop. With luck and good horticulture, some of those plants will provide divisions for future plant sales. Hope you can join us at our upcoming plant sale Saturday May 18 at Myer's Park.

Save the date: Saturday June 8. The Adirondack Chapter's garden tour day is June 8 including 4 gardens in Onondaga County. Detailed information will be sent soon in a separate email. The gardens of these people are included:

Dianne Bordoni, Dewitt

Janet Allen, Westvale

John Gilrein, South Onondaga

Diana Smith/Topiary Gardens, north Skaneateles

Enjoy your spring!



## WURSTER GARDEN EVENT

*Carol Eichler, Wurster Garden Angel*

The gardens at Cooperative Extension including the Wurster Rock Garden will be part of the Fall Creek Garden Tour on July 14. I am looking for volunteers to work shifts that day. This will be great outreach that may even attract some new members. Contact Carol Eichler if you're willing to help.

If you're not familiar with the Fall Creek Tour this is an annual event and walking tour of home gardens in the Fall Creek area. It's really fun and always free. More information can be found here: <https://www.visitithaca.com/event/fall-creek-garden-tour/3049/>

## MEMBERSHIP

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

If you have not yet renewed for 2024 dues are \$15 for individuals, \$20 for a household - perhaps you will be able to take advantage of our member benefits in 2024! That includes our member only plant sale this month! Check my email announcement of the newsletter link for your membership status. The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>

or you can renew at the plant sale. Contact Mary Stauble at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu) if you have any questions.

And we have a special offer!!! Guests who have never belonged to ACNARGS before and attend the May plant sale will receive a complimentary membership to ACNARGS through 2024. This will allow them to buy plants and the other privileges of membership.

## FOLLOW-UP ON APRIL PRESENTATION

*Carol Eichler*



While Janet Allen's April presentation, "The Little Things that Run the World" focused on the fascinating interrelationship between insects and plants, her broader message is that the future of mankind depends on insects and the many functions that they serve. Hence, it behooves us to be more mindful of the plants we select to grow in our gardens.

In case you haven't gotten the message, we should be incorporating more native plants, preferably not the cultivars, into our gardens. It's a huge challenge on a global scale and difficult to understand how one person can make a difference. Visiting Janet's garden, as we will on June 8, offers the evidence.

While few gardeners would be as dedicated as Janet is, she does serve as an inspiration. Not only has she converted her property to natives, she has become a strong advocate and activist through her speaking engagements and organizational work. She offered many resources to commit to our own learning process. Two websites that she recommended, that include a wealth of information, are a good place to explore, especially on a rainy day.

Habitat Gardening of Central New York (<https://wildones.org/chapters/new-york/>) is the local chapter of the parent organization, Wild Ones. This Chapter serve multiple counties including Tompkins County. Join their mailing list to receive their newsletter and calendar. Their YouTube channel includes recordings of past programs. The second resource is Janet's personal website located at <https://ourhabitatgarden.org/>. She says she has created over 300 pages. Janet mentioned many other web resources as well, which your own explorations and interests will no doubt lead you to discover.

Resources on native plants abound in Tompkins County too. For starters, check out the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society (website [flnps.org](http://flnps.org) - a wealth of information) and the Tompkins Pollinator Pathway (<https://blogs.cornell.edu/tompkinspollinatorpathway/partner-organizations/>), of which the latter, like Habitat Gardening of Central New York and ACNARGS, is part of a national affiliate.



## NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2024 PROGRAMS

**NOTE: As of now, we are meeting in-person at Cornell in the Whetzel Room and not recording the sessions.**

- **Garden Tour** of Pat Curran and Nigel Dyson-Hudson's Garden on Sunday May 5, 1-5 pm.
- The **Adirondack Chapter's garden tour** day is June 8 including 4 gardens in Onondaga County. Detailed information will be sent soon in a separate email. The gardens of these people are included:
- **Wurster Rock Garden** and other gardens at Cooperative Extension will be included in the **Annual Fall Creek Garden Tour** on July 14 11 - 4pm:
- Info here: <https://www.visitithaca.com/event/fall-creek-garden-tour/3049/>

## CALENDAR OF SELECT AREA GARDEN EVENTS

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information: [cctompkins.org](http://cctompkins.org)

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings – a hybrid of in-person and zoom:  
<https://flnps.org/> Recordings of past programs are available to view online.

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

Habitat Gardening in CNY, local Wild Ones Chapter: <https://www.hgcny.org/>

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

To have your garden event listed send all pertinent information to Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)

## 2024 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

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

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

Program Committee Members: Would you like to help? Share your speaker suggestions!

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer (aka CFO): Marlene Kobre

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

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

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

New Member Hospitality: Graham Egerton, Anne Redfern

Newsletter Editor: Susanne Lipari [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)

Wurster Garden Coordinator: Carol Eichler

Wurster Volunteers: Elaine Caso, Ellen Lane, Sheila Stone; Others always welcome! Contact Carol Eichler if you wish to be added to the email list.

Book Order Manager: New NARGS program to offer NARGS' members select books at deeply discounted prices. New Chapter position. Looking for a volunteer!  
 Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto: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, occasional 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. 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), invitations to our garden day trips, 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](http://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 a wealth of information including current and archived of Quarterly's, recordings of past study days and more. NARGS National also 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 (Jan./Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec. Submit articles no later than the fourth Friday of the month preceding the monthly publication to Susanne Lipari, [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be July/August 2024