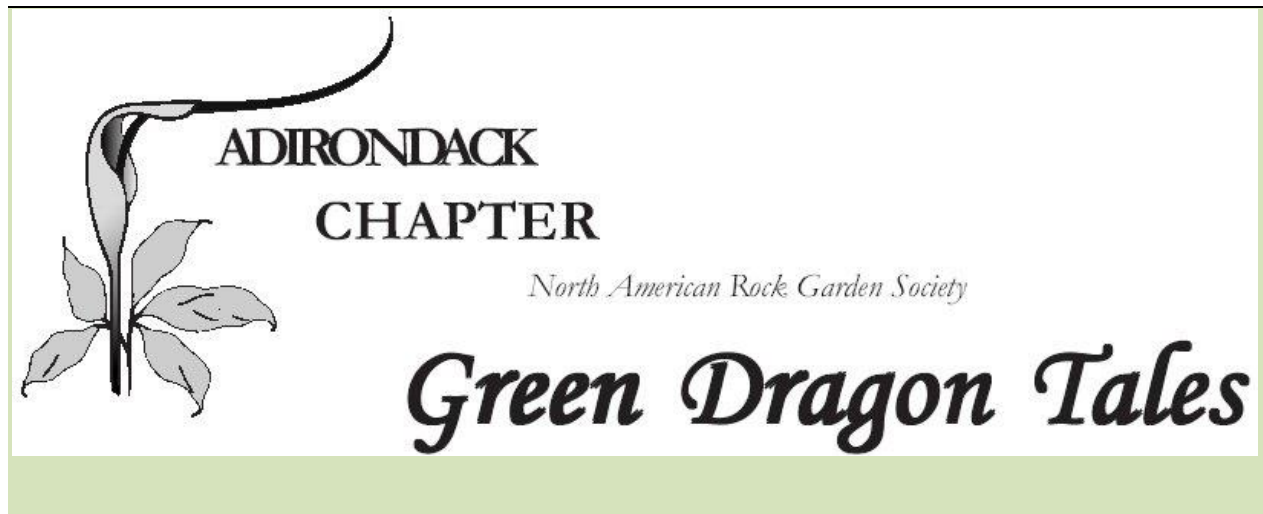




November 2025

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NOVEMBER 15, 2025: TERI DUNN CHASE: SEEING SEEDS

Terry Humphries, *Program Chair*

Seeing Seeds

Teri Dunn Chase, Little Falls, New York

1:00 PM Whetzel Room, Plant Science Building Cornell University

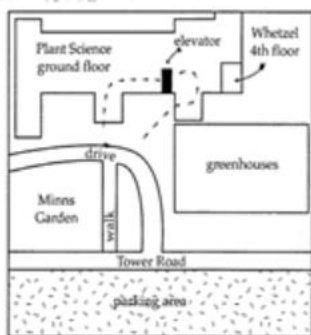
Dish-to-pass lunch starting at noon

With a broad range of expertise and interests, Teri has a taste for exploration and a talent for expressing insight and wonder in her writings. Her book, *Seeing Seeds* won the American Horticultural Society Book of the Year Award, and will be her topic for our meeting in November.

A centuries-old saying goes, “great oaks from little acorns grow.” Teri will show us how there is much more to a seed than the plant it will someday become: seeds, seedheads, pods, and fruits have their own astounding beauty that rivals, and sometimes even surpasses, the beauty of flowers. Bitter melon seeds resemble a handful of rubies. Poppy pods could be art nouveau salt shakers. And butterfly vine seeds look exactly like those delicate insects captured in mid-flight.

Seeds look exactly like those delicate insects captured in mid-flight. Seeds also come with fascinating stories. Jewels of Opar got its name from a fabled city in Edgar Rice Burroughs’s Tarzan stories. Lotus seeds sent into orbit by Chinese scientists came back to earth mysteriously altered. And fava beans have a Jekyll-and-Hyde medicinal personality: they can cause the debilitating condition known as favism in some individuals and at the same time combat the microorganism that causes malaria. As Teri takes us deep into the world of seed, we will gain an understanding of how seeds are formed and dispersed, why they look the way they do, and how they fit into the environment. *Seeing Seeds* will take you to strange and wonderful places. When you return, it’s safe to say that you’ll never look at a seed the same way again.

Our regular meetings are held in Room 404 Plant Science, 236 Tower Road on the Cornell Campus.



Currently, the west wing of the Plant Sciences Building has been shut down for renovations. Other than having those hallways walled off, everything should look pretty much as it did last time you were here. Remember the elevator to the 4th floor and then exit right down the long hallway. You will be facing the Whetzel Room.

Just a reminder, we ask all attendees to be fully vaccinated. Additionally, we will be following CDC, NYS, and Cornell covid protocol, which at this time does not require masks though you may choose to do so. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

Now that we're at the end of the growing season, will you reflect on what plants did poorly in the dry weather, and make changes? If only we could see what the next few years will bring for precipitation! I feel like I was on a bit of an island of almost enough precipitation, in contrast with the more droughty weather in Ithaca and Barneveld. With the rain of October, at least the plants are no longer thirsty, though I don't think the water table is quite back to normal yet.

I hope you'll be joining us for the November meeting with our Dish-to-pass lunch and our Plant of the Month, that was meant for October and arrived too late for the last meeting. In December we'll get together for our annual seed packaging meeting to help with the NARGS Seed Exchange – date and time to be announced.

The days of rainy weather are driving me a little nuts! I want to be outside more, and I still have a few plants to get in the ground and most of this year's bulb order to plant. I was able to get out and do a little gardening today (October 24) between cloudbursts. Continuing the nutty theme, I'm pretty crazy about cyclamen. I have most of my *Cyclamen hederifolium* blooming now. This is such an undemanding plant, a rare treasure that's fine with tree/shrub roots stealing all the summer moisture, as long as the plant gets moisture in its growing season (fall through early spring). A reasonable amount of light shade of deciduous plants is fine, and this plant has gorgeous foliage. A few plants start blooming in late August, and the last few blooms are still around in November.



Every growing season has its challenges, and I know this past one certainly had challenges. If you have great successes or real failures, I'd love to hear about them—either via email or in person. What plants just gave up in the drought this year? Or what plants came through the dry weather beautifully without a lot of irrigation? I had more rain than many of you, but I would say the ferns, which are in shade, all came through the dry weather in reasonable shape – perhaps not as happy as the last few years.

Hope to see you soon.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

This is just a reminder that our membership year runs the calendar year. So, starting January 1, 2026 everyone's membership will have expired, and we all will need to renew. Rates are \$15 a year for an individual and \$20 for a household. There will be an announcement in the January/February 2026 newsletter. The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Contact Mary Stauble at mes2@cornell.edu if you have any questions.

WURSTER GARDEN UPDATE

Carol Eichler

We have a new garden opportunity at the site of the Wurster Rock Garden. Over the past year, the pond that preceded the building of the rock garden has been retired and will be ready for a spring planting.

We've been keeping you up to date with our progress. First, the pond was drained and filled in with wood chips last fall. Over the summer we helped accelerate their decomposition by adding nitrogen and, for a little interest, the Beautification Brigade temporarily planted surplus elephant ears (*Colocasia* sp.) in that area.

We held various planting and weeding sessions throughout the summer. Because we had such a prolonged dry spell in August and September, there weren't many weeds to pull during that period. In part, that's due as well to John Gilrein working solo in the garden after our September meeting.

On October 18, Master Gardeners (thank you, Linda Uhll, who is also a ACNARGS member) added a generous layer of topsoil. So, come spring this area will be ready to plant with shade loving plants. The loose plan as of now is to plant some unusual ferns interspersed with a few forbs for color.

Ellen Lane and Elaine Caso also showed up to work to clean-up at Wurster. There were some leaves to pick up but most of the trees in downtown Ithaca haven't yet shed their leaves. We may just wait until spring to do a final clean-up.

Anne Klingensmith has been working to renovate the bog. She was also there working to add a few plants. Even though the summer was quite dry, the bog soil was saturated. Good news if we want to try growing plants that thrive under wet conditions, although the lack of sun could also be a factor.

This is not a very large area to plant but it bristles with possibilities. There are lots of MGV-maintained demonstration gardens, so we are looking for something different. The theme is "Pushing the Zone with Plants Lesser Known." If you want to be a part of planning out this space, contact me Carol carolithaca@gmail.com Sounds like a good winter project!

NEWS FROM NARGS – SOUTH AFRICA TRIP

Carol Eichler, NARGS Recording Secretary



I wake up and try to grow accustomed to the fact that I'm in Cape Town, South Africa. Yes, Africa! Air travel can be disorienting. At breakfast, I meet my fellow travelers – six of them, with the seventh due to arrive about noon.

The first stop is the famed Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. The reality starts to set in – I'm nowhere near Kansas (or Ithaca, New York) anymore. So many strange and wonderful plants – and this is just day one out of 15. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and for good reason. The West Cape is noted for its plant diversity; the main reason I chose to take this NARGS tour. Reason number two, if one is needed, is that so many of the plants would be new to me. I was ready for an adventure.



There was much to be amazed by as we journeyed north out of the city. The West Cape is dry, mountainous interspersed with valleys and very unpopulated. We traveled high and low through diverse terrain - often boulder scrambling or bushwhacking through low-growing shrubs, many of them thorny – ouch! Burn zones were another sought after habitat where we searched for new growth of Proteaceae and other plants requiring fire for regrowth. There was even a touch of danger – aggressive baboons and a puff adder (thankfully spotted on the road and not hidden in the bush). And some more benign wildlife like hyrax, brown zebras, and several species of antelope – springbok, steenbok and gemsbok, not to mention lots of bird species.

Strange genera (to me at least) soon became common names though they were differentiated into many species. Our guide could distinguish them based on his encyclopedic memory, location and extensive library of field guides. Morea, Babiana, Bulbinella, Lachenalia, Ferraria, Geissorhiza, and lots more. Thankfully, there were a few familiar genera but new-to-me species such as Crassula, Pelargonium, Eucomis, Gladiolus.



This tour was offered through NARGS Tours so I do want to put in a plug for these trips. If you love plants, these tours offer a rare opportunity to enjoy plants growing in their native habitat. To add to the enjoyment, which I cannot emphasize enough, is to enjoy them with fellow plant enthusiasts. It's like going on an AGM field trip times 1,000. On November 22, you have the opportunity to experience some of NARGS most exciting trips virtually. **Check it out!** Or you may want to sign up for one of the upcoming tours.

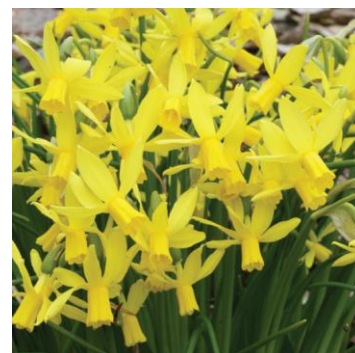
You may not be able to afford to go on many trips, but you owe it to yourself to go on one at the very least. I know this trip to the West Cape, South Africa was a dream and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me!

Where to begin with photos? I'll send a few, with thanks to Ross Kouzes for photos and IDs. Watch for a day-by-day account coming in the winter and spring Quarterly's with as many photos will fit.

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

Marlene Kobre, POM Coordinator

The selection for this month is a daffodil selected by Carol Eichler, who noticed it last spring blooming in the Wurster Garden. Though tiny in stature, it was a beautiful reminder that good things often come in small packages—perfect for the rock garden. Carol traced its source to a narcissus mix from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and further research identified it as 'Tiny Bubbles,' a hybrid developed right at the Brent and Becky Nursery. In addition to packing a lot of power in a diminutive flower, like all daffodils, it is critter proof from the chipmunks and squirrels that regularly forage most of the bulbs planted at Wurster.



DESCRIPTION & CULTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

Zone: 4-9

Flowers: As a member of Daffodil Division 12, ‘Tiny Bubbles’ conforms to the criteria for miniature daffodils defined by the American Daffodil Society: flowers 1” in diameter and 4-6” tall, with multiple blooms per scape. ‘Tiny Bubbles’ has at least 2-3 fragrant, golden-yellow flowers per plant.

Bloom Time: March-April

Light: Full sun preferred; at least 8 hours of sun after trees have leaved out. (I suggest taking this with a grain of salt. We’ve grown daffodils in a lot less than full sun.)

Soil and Planting: Daffs like fertile, well-drained soil. If your soil is heavy in clay, add sand, compost, or grits to improve drainage. Planting depth 3”-4”, spaced 2-3” apart. Water well after planting in the first year.

Thank you, Carol, for sharing this treasure with us!

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.

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:
ccetompkins.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

2025 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

Program Coordinator: Terry Humphries, 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

Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, mkobre@ithaca.edu

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality:

Newsletter Editor: Susanne Lipari 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

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) 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 plant 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, selj3@cornell.edu. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be February 2026.