



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Connecticut Chapter January/February 2016

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday, January 23, 11am
Home of Maryanne Gryboski
88 Eager Rd., Franklin, CT 06254

A late January **seed sowing workshop** will be held at the home of Maryanne Gryboski. A variety of seed including both woodland and alpine selections as well as germinating mix and planting containers will be provided. Bring a bag lunch. Registration is appreciated but not necessary.

Directions from Rte. 2: take exit for Rte. 32/Franklin-Willimantic. Turn right at end of ramp and go north on Rte. 32. At 3rd light after the Franklin town line bear right onto Baltic Rd. (yellow Victorian at this light). Go 2 miles, turn right on Eager Rd. Follow Eager to end, go directly across cul-de-sac onto drive, and immediately take 1st driveway on right, #88.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Sunday, February 28, 12:30pm
Congregational Church of Easton, Church Hall
336 Westport Road (Rte.136) at Center Street
Easton, CT 06612

Ernest Cavallo

Galanthophilia: A Good Kind of Love

Long Island galanthophile Ernest Cavallo will give a presentation on snowdrops, introducing us to many of the named varieties that today's enthusiasts are seeking.

Ernie has been gardening on the east end of Long Island for over 35 years. Crediting John Grimshaw as his mentor, he has amassed a notable and expanding collection of nearly 200 species and cultivars. He has been a vendor at the Tri-State meeting the past two years and may bring a few potted selections for sale.

The church hall is located across the road from the Congregational Church of Easton.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin the New Year so do our plants, taking a cue from the unseasonably warm weather.

I walk through my garden and see that a daphne's leaves are budding. The *Helleborus foetidus* has been showing its cylindrical early flowers for months...always a welcome sight. (I was introduced to the plant years ago by Nick Nickou; its name refers to a slightly musky odor when its leaves are crushed.) My Japanese wand pussy willow is beginning to bloom; it was grown from branches purchased at the Philadelphia Flower Show many years ago which my husband then planted out. And my favorite *Lewisia* 'George Henley' appears ready to begin its blooming process.

As we bid farewell to 2015, I recall the ways in which I have been touched by many of our fellow gardeners who have left us. Nick Nickou recommended that I read **China, Mother of Gardens**, published in 1929 by Ernest H. Wilson, "Keeper" of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University. I invite you to recall other such contributions, advice and plants that you have received from fellow members.

And I encourage you all to work toward one important goal: attracting new members to the delights of rock gardening and the growing of woodland plants.

~Ginny

In the December Garden

by Maryanne Gryboski



G. 'Potter's Prelude', by Shields. G. 'Three Ships', by Cavallo.

If anyone was dreaming of a white Christmas, they were surely disappointed unless, of course, the "snow" was in the form of snowdrops.

Leslie Shields reports that *Galanthus* 'Potter's Prelude', which is supposed to bloom in fall, was in full flower in mid through late December. Ernie Cavallo says his are also out of sequence: the fall blooming reginae-olgae and Hiemalis Group were a month late with 'Tilebarn Jamie', 'Barnes' and 'Potter's Prelude' still blooming in late December. But *Galanthus* 'Three Ships' was "...right on schedule sailing into bloom as we reach Christmas." *Galanthus elwesii* was blooming in Barbara VanAchterberg's garden on New Year's Eve.

Joan Mencil reports hellebores (below) in bloom on December 24, and in my woodland the trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) hides its pink buds beneath oak leaves.



Plant Lust

by Maryanne Gryboski

I always enjoy visiting gardens, both private and public; inspiration comes from plant combinations, design, and of course the plants themselves. Having visited private gardens last year in Michigan during the NARGS Annual Meeting in May, Coastal Maine Botanic Garden in September and the NYBG for October's Tri-State meeting, I can say I am suffering from a serious case of plant lust. This is one of many plants that caught my eye and made me think, "I gotta have it."



Convolvulus boissieri ssp. *boissieri* at NYBG.

Convolvulus boissieri ssp. *boissieri* is cushion forming, reaching a foot or more in diameter. The crowded leaves are silvery, covered with white hairs that lend softness to them, and beg to be touched. Funnel shaped flowers are large, white with a pink blush. It is found in the mountains of southern Spain while *Convolvulus boissieri* ssp. *compactus* is native to the Balkan Peninsula. Both are found in scree or rock fissures. For first-hand information by Fritz Kummert and Zdenek Zvolanek and good photos see the March, 2010 issue of the *International Rock Gardener*, a publication of the Scottish Rock Garden Club; it can be accessed online at www.srgc.org.uk/logs/index.php?log=international

NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAIR: Ginny Gingras / 21 Timber Ln. / Vernon, CT 06066 / 860.875.9865 / ginnygingras2013@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIR: Position open

SECRETARY: Barbara van Achterberg / 359 Silver Hill Rd. / Easton, CT 06612 / 203.261.2156 / bvanachterberg@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Sally Katkaveck / 82 Ashford Rd. / Ashford, CT 06278 / 860.974.2563 / sallybillkat@charter.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Maryanne Gryboski / 88 Eager Rd. / Franklin, CT 06254 / 860.822.6589 / strollgarden@aol.com

PROGRAMS: Please talk to one of the officers if you are interested in the Programs Chair position.

NARGS Annual Meeting 2016



By Mike Kintgen, Rocky Mountain Chapter-NARGS

What makes Colorado so special? Some people would say it's the Champagne powder that falls on the ski slopes in the winter, others would say it's the curse the Utes supposedly placed on the Yampa valley, but wildflower lovers would say it's the sheer magnitude of displays and the variety. Whatever the reason, Northwest Colorado has been drawing humans for millennia to partake in its natural beauty and restorative settings.

Northwest Colorado is special since it lies at the meeting point of several biomes: flora from the South Rockies form the backbone of the flora, with a broad stroke of Great Basin flora brushing through the lower valleys and steppes, while the Great Plains flora sweep in from the Northeast and rub up against the Park Range. At higher elevations, flora from the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies can be found hundreds of miles south of 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 penstemon, to scarlet paintbrush (*Castilleja*), to scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis*) and yellow composites of infinite variety.

Steamboat Springs and Denver will be the locations of the 2016 NARGS Annual Meeting. The conference opens the afternoon of June 22nd in Denver with lectures by Kenton Seth and Mike Kintgen, two of NARGS's youngest members. On Thursday, participants have the option of driving on their own or taking a van trip to Steamboat Springs. The conference resumes that evening with plant and book sales, and 2 lectures by internationally-known Johan Nilsson and Nick Courtens. National superstars Kelly Norris and Jim Lochlear will be speaking Friday night, followed by Saturday and Sunday hikes. The Sunday night lecture will be by the very special and heart-warming Marcela Ferreyra from Patagonia.

Garden tours and visits to Denver Botanic Garden's renowned alpine collection, along with the fabulous Yampa River Botanic Park and several wonderful private gardens in the Steamboat area will round out the conference.

For details and information visit the NARGS website <https://www.nargs.org/2016-annual-general-meeting-steamboat-springs-colorado> or the conference Facebook page www.facebook.com/2016NARGSmeeeting. Direct questions to kintgem@botanicgardens.org. We hope to see you in Colorado in June 2016.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Annual membership runs February through January. Membership includes the newsletter, visits to members' gardens, plant sales and auctions, workshops, and access to top notch speakers.

Use the form below to renew your membership for one or more years at the rate of \$10 per year. Also, consider giving a gift membership to a gardening friend or relative: a one-time introductory gift membership is only \$7.

And while you are at it, don't forget to renew your membership in NARGS or join if you are not already a member. You will receive the NARGS **Rock Garden Quarterly**, have access to the seed exchange, and full access to the NARGS website which is a wealth of plant information. Membership is \$40. Make checks payable to **North American Rock Garden Society** and mail to: NARGS, P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604; or go to www.nargs.org and click on 'Membership Form'.

Renew now while you're thinking of it!

CT HORT Symposium: *Gardening with a Purpose*, February 6, 2016, featuring Ken Druse, info at www.cthort.org.

CT Hardy Plant Symposium: *Tiarella Defined*, with Sinclair Adams and *Little Hostas* with Mike & Kathy Guest Shadrock, March 5, 2016, info to follow at www.cthardyplantsociety.org or email Leslie Shields: selchie1@comcast.net.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

Beginning Balance:			
	Webster Checking A/C		\$3081.06
Income:			
	Dues	\$470.00	
	Fundraising	<u>136.00</u>	
			606.00
Expenses:			
	Newsletter	< 13.60>	
	Programs	< 310.00>	
	Tri-State	< <u>35.96</u> >	
			< <u>359.56</u> >
Ending Balance			\$3327.50

Sally Katkaveck

NARGS CT Chapter 2016 Membership Dues - \$10

Send this form along with check payable to **CT Chapter, NARGS**
To: Sally Katkaveck, Treasurer, 82 Ashford Rd., Ashford, CT 06278

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Gift Membership: _____

Sending the newsletter digitally saves money. All e-mail addresses are confidential and are not shared.

CT NARGS needs your time and talents. Please consider volunteering for:

___Programs Coordinator ___Workshop Leader

___Program Presenter ___Garden Host/Hostess ___Newsletter Article

Comments: _____

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