



# Newsletter

**North American Rock Garden Society**  
Connecticut Chapter July/August 2014

## JULY MEETING

**Paint Your Styrofoam Trough**

**Saturday 19 July 10am**

Home of Maryanne Gryboski  
88 Eager Rd., Franklin, CT 06254

If you never got around to painting the Styrofoam trough you made at last year's workshop, come play with paint in July.

What to bring:

1. Styrofoam box, previously gouged, scarred and carved. A heat gun will be available for sealing the surface but boxes should be otherwise prepped.
2. Old brushes, sponges, rags for paint application.
3. Rubber gloves if you don't want paint on your hands.
4. Latex paint in desirable colors. Leftover house-paints can be used (the Richo's say interior is okay) or pick up a few sample sizes from the paint, hardware or big box store. (Inexpensive, about \$3 each.) You can share paints with other attendees to get color variations without having to purchase an extensive selection.
5. Old clothes to wear.

Dan Richo, who led last year's workshop, may be available to demonstrate painting technique. Also, look at websites that discuss "fish box troughs". All are welcome to paint, mingle or stroll through the garden. Contact Maryanne with any questions.

**Directions** from Rte. 2: take exit for Rte. 32/Franklin-Willimantic/Dodd Stadium. Turn right at end of ramp and go north on Rte. 32. At 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> driveway on right, #88.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Pot-Luck Luncheon was terrific: good food, great gardeners, wonderful location(s), and a perfect summer day. Thank you, Maryanne, for arranging the meeting, and Sally, for sharing your magnificent and continually expanding garden with us. Visiting members' gardens is always a delight; we should plan more.

After a slow and cold start to spring, my plants have "taken off", increasing in size and off-spring, and accompanied by prolific growth of weeds!! I am taking inventory of the plants I plan to bring to our plant sale in late August or early September. I admit that the NARGS ANNUAL MEETING to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 28-30, beckons, but I do not plan to attend this year. If you are planning to attend, let us know. I look forward to painting my Styrofoam troughs on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Maryanne's and checking out the stone wall that she has lovingly built.

~ Ginny

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Early bird registration for the NARGS Annual Meeting has been extended thru July 15<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) for complete info.

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It's time to start collecting for the NARGS seed exchange. If you don't generally send any seed in, consider turning over any that you collect to Barbara van Achterberg or Maryanne Gryboski; they will be happy to forward it to the SeedEx.

## Meeting Report: June 21, 2014

By Barbara van Achterberg

The annual potluck lunch took place in Eastford on June 21 at Variegated Foliage Nursery. The weather on the first day of summer was perfect on the ride from my home in Easton to Eastford, at nearly the opposite end of Connecticut. It took our large group well over an hour to drag ourselves from the winding paths of the nursery, which was also being patronized by several other serious plant buyers. I think that they were being offered the same 20% discount as us. In addition to many hostas, heucherellas and other shade loving perennials, we saw dwarf conifers, shrubs, trees and some sun lovers such as hydrangeas. As a non-rosarian, I surprised myself by buying an Oso Easy Paprika landscape rose to sprawl over the base of my large rock garden: just couldn't resist those single roses in a cheerful paprika hue with yellow centers. Also entrancing was a tiarella in full bloom, no more than six inches high, being proudly carried away by another member.



A raised bed of dwarf hosta. Photo by M. Gryboski.

Despite the crowds at the nursery above us, the picnic area where we ate and held our meeting was totally private. Several large picnic tables and a covered area

with more seats where we stored our coolers gave us plenty of space to eat, converse and listen. The chilled beverages were welcome - thank you, Sally Katkaveck, for bringing these - and the salads were outstanding, featuring many different types of grains, pasta, broccoli, fresh Stonington red shrimp and more. As for the dessert table, for those with room, there was an assortment of cookies and strawberry rhubarb pie.



Members in the picnic area. Photo by B. van Achterberg.

Ginny Gingras warmly welcomed us all, including two guests, one of them becoming a new member. Sally Katkaveck let us know that the Chapter is still solvent, so we can plan for more speakers. Maryanne Gryboski told us about upcoming meetings:

- July 19: painting your Styrofoam trough, at Maryanne's house.
- August, if possible on the next to last weekend, in a central area: member grown plant sale. Bring your seedlings or divisions. If divisions, divide them at least a month ahead so they look healthy for the sale. If you are unable to come yourself, please let a board member know so we can arrange to pick your plants up. This August plant sale used to be a highlight of the Connecticut Chapter year, one we hope to revive. It is also a way to attract new members.

### NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

**CHAIR:** Ginny Gingras / 21 Timber Ln. / Vernon, CT 06066 / 860.875.9865 / [ginnygingras2013@gmail.com](mailto:ginnygingras2013@gmail.com)

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

## Late Summer Seedling Sale

Sally Katkaveck has proposed re-establishing the seedling (division, cutting) sale this year to help bolster the Chapter's treasury. The sale, to be held in either late August or mid-September depending on location availability, will be early enough so purchases can be established in the garden. Judy King remembers getting wonderful stuff before the sale was suspended years ago.

Angela Fichter has a patch of three dwarf phlox brought to a seedling sale by the Redfields many years ago; they are the first phlox to bloom in her garden each spring.

Barbara van Achterberg bought *Omphalodes* 'Starry Eyes' at a tailgate sale in 2002 and now has many of its children in her garden. *Silene caroliniana* 'Millstream' came from a seedling sale in 1981; the original was lost, but its seedling is self-sown in a crevice in her front walk which she carefully weeds. A little clump of *Silene uniflora* 'Compacta' was nabbed at auction last July by Maryanne Gryboski.

Many members also sow seed each year. Barbara has grown both *Paeonia tenuifolia* as well as the rare pink form of *P. t. ssp. lithophila*; Sally has populated her vernal rivulet with *Primula japonica*; and Maryanne is nursing a ¼ flat of white-flowered *Cyclamen hederifolium*.

Many of us who don't actively sow seed benefit from the self-sown seedling: arisaema species, many species of columbine, *Ligularia japonica*, and so on.

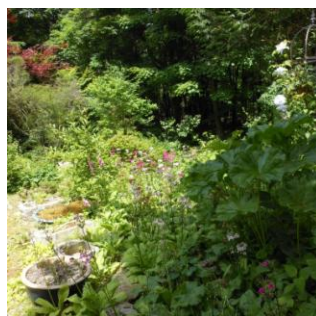
So, look around your garden and pot up what you can. Keep pots small so prices can be kept low. And, once a date is set, tell your friends and neighbors. There's a good chance that something very special may be waiting for a home in your garden.



From the top: very likely *Phlox* 'Sileniflora' and *P.* 'Herbert' in Angela Fichter's garden; *Silene uniflora* 'Compacta' at Maryanne Gryboski's; and *Silene caroliniana* 'Millstream' at Barbara van Achterberg's.

## The Katkaveck Garden

After the close of the June business meeting, attendants headed over to the nearby Katkaveck garden where Sally and Bill led members through sections of their mostly wooded, sloped, five acre property on Bigelow Brook. The areas to the north and east of the house receive the most sun and it is here that many troughs can be found. A small streamlet that carries runoff from the hillside empties first into a bog garden where a white skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton camtschatcensis*, grows. It then continues along an edge of the drive, providing moisture for a colorful mix of *Primula japonica*, *P. sibthorpii*, *ligularia* species and more.



From the top: view of the lushly planted streamlet; a clump of *Glaucidium palmatum*; a ground-hugging evergreen azalea.

As you walk along the path toward the rear of the property, you pass a newly refurbished rock garden of dwarf evergreens and al-pines. Rhododendrons are everywhere, and the occasional bloom could still be seen. A lone salmon-red blossom at ground level alerted us to a prostrate evergreen azalea which Sally referred to as "one of the Hill children". *Lysimachia japonica* was a ground hugging mat of tiny leaves and yellow starlike flowers. A clump of *Glaucidium palmatum* had everyone stumped on its identification because its width of five feet was completely unexpected, and *Paeonia x smoothii*, at the tail end of bloom, was new to many of us.

*Magnolia sieboldii*, a pink kousa dogwood and many Japanese maples occupy

the understory. The pink blossoms of an unmarked *Deutzia* were an attention getter, as was *Enkianthus perulatus* 'Compacta'.

Sally extolled the virtues of *Phlox stolonifera* which, if left to spread, does a great job of keeping weeds down, and she took great joy in the way a mix of shade lovers

See 'Garden' next page

## September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Todd Boland, past director of NARGS and currently chair of the Newfoundland Chapter, will be our speaker. Todd presents on an extensive number of topics and so we are asking members to look at the following abbreviated list and let us know if any are of particular interest.

- Alpines of Eastern North America: Appalachians thru Newfoundland
- Artic Alpines of Newfoundland's Limestone Barrens
- Spring Alpines of the Aragonian Pyrenees, Spain
- The Spectacular Beartooth Mountains
- Alpines of the Bighorns

Please contact Maryanne with your suggestions or if you wish additional information.



NARGS Connecticut Chapter  
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### *'Garden' continued*



filled the area under a grove of hemlock. And, as is often the case with Sally, she ended the tour with shovel in hand to dig plants for her visitors.

Carol Hanby let us know that she has engaged Home Hospice to help care for Nick Nickou. Our thoughts go out to them both.