



# Newsletter

**North American Rock Garden Society**  
*Connecticut Chapter September/October 2015*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Sunday, September 20 11:00 am  
Ballek's Garden Center  
90 Maple Avenue, East Haddam, CT 06423

**Speaker: Ruth Bennett**

Ruth Bennett, long-time American Iris Society master judge, has grown hundreds of iris in her Connecticut garden. Her presentation, *Dwarf and Low Growing Iris*, will cover bearded and species iris that range from tiny to 20 inches in height, and will be peppered with cultural tips and sound growing advice.

Bring a bag lunch. Come early or stay late to explore Ballek's extensive offerings.

## TRI-STATE MEETING

Sunday, October 11 10am-2pm  
The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

**Speaker: Peter Korn**

On about five acres outside Goteberg, Sweden, Peter Korn gardens on the large scale, growing species numbering in the thousands which he propagates himself. Woodlands, boggy areas, screes and extensive sand beds are filled with alpinas, steppe bulbs and a variety of plants from throughout the world. Peter will give two presentations: *Woodland Gardens* and *Rock Gardening*.

There will be plant vendors, an auction and a raffle. The Hudson Grill, a full service restaurant, is open in the Garden Café; cafeteria style service is available at the Pine Tree Café at the main Visitor Center. >

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual Meeting, held at my home in Vernon, resulted in no change of Chapter Officers. We had a delightful gathering of sixteen members sharing ideas and looking at plants. A special thank you to Maryanne, our Newsletter/Program Chair, for her exceptional work in our Chapter, and to Barbara van Achterberg for her meticulous reporting of our meetings.

As the summer nears its end there is considerable work to be done in our gardens: weeding, cutting back, dividing plants, and taking inventory and record keeping of plants. And then there is planning for next year and the possible continuation of less rain. But it's also important to appreciate the present and I am enjoying blooms of cyclamen, chelone, Japanese anemones, and my cardinal flowers. And, of course, these will be followed by the late bloomers.

The New Year is not so far away so please consider submitting your ideas for programs, workshops, speakers, trips and, of course, articles for the newsletter.

~Ginny

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Admission and parking is free for attendees. Use the Mosholu Parkway entrance, to the west of the main entrance, and parking is on the left. Just tell the guard at the gate that you will be attending the rock garden meeting. The lot is adjacent to the entrance of Ross Hall where the meeting will be held. NYBG is asking for a count of how many expect to attend, so please contact Maryanne by October 3<sup>rd</sup> and she will forward that information. She will also help arrange carpools if you are interested.

## Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Picnic – August 15<sup>th</sup>

By Barbara van Achterberg



*Arisaema ringens* fronted by *Paeonia obovata* in the Gingras garden.

Ginny Gingras, our Chapter President, manages to fit a remarkable assortment of rare and choice plants in her compact garden. Surprisingly, many of the plants were large, some several feet high. Sixteen of us followed her around the garden. Stupidly, I took no notes and forgot most of the plant names. I do remember a huge *Arisaema ringens* and *Heuchera villosa*, a native resembling a dwarf tiarella. There were also many troughs in sun and shade, and even a Venus flytrap (kept indoors) with a hapless victim in its jaws/claws. We were in the midst of a drought (which has lasted the whole month of August) and I envied Ginny her high water table. She has well water, and has been using her rain barrel which drains water from the roof. But even out of reach of the rain barrel she is able to grow beautiful cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) in several locations. All grew from seed from a single plant!

The lunch, as ever, was delicious. Lots of salads, many from home gardens, refreshing cold drinks and delicious desserts were offered.

After lunch we held the annual business meeting. Ginny hoped for someone to take the reins of the Presidency, but was gracious about continuing as Chair when there were no volunteers. Maryanne Gryboski continues as Newsletter Editor/Programming Coordinator, Barbara van Achterberg as Secretary and Sally Katkaveck as Treasurer. We are looking for more help with programming and hospitality.

Jeana Richo, impressed with Matt Mattus' label making, described how she makes labels using the Brother PT-1230 PC label maker and finds that they last. She also copied my technique of listing plants in alphabetical order in a card file box, but goes a step further: she not only tells where the plants are located in the garden but also pastes pictures of them on the cards, and very neatly too.

Late in September we will meet at Ballek's Garden Center, and in October the Tri-state Meeting will once again be at the New York Botanical Garden with free admission for NARGS members. Emily Ferguson suggested taking a trip to Tower Hill in Boylston, Massachusetts.

After the meeting we had a plant sale. Ginny then dug up perennial begonias, *Begonia grandiflora*, for all who wanted them. My three plants purchased at the sale are still in their pots waiting for rain, the *Lobelia syphilitica* having begun to bloom in its pot.



Ginny digs begonias for Cris Dominijanni and Barbara van Achterberg.

### NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

**VICE-CHAIR:** Position open

**SECRETARY:** Barbara van Achterberg / 359 Silver Hill Rd. / Easton, CT 06612 / 203.261.2156 / [bvanachterberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bvanachterberg@yahoo.com)

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

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