

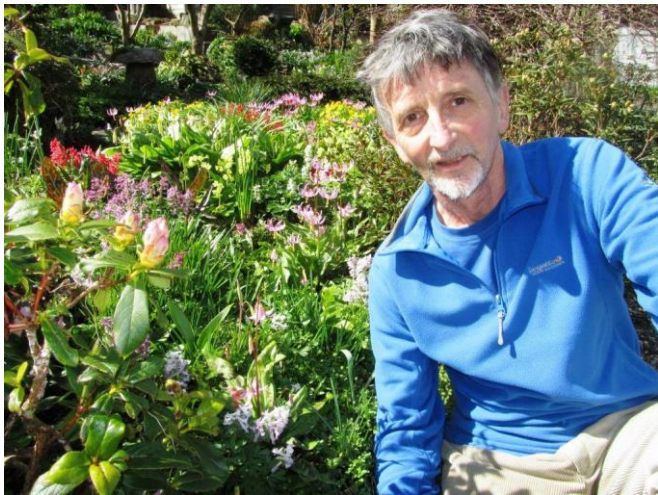


# Newsletter

**North American Rock Garden Society**  
Connecticut Chapter October 2013

## TRI-STATE MEETING

Sunday, October 20, 2013 10 a.m.  
Lyndhurst Estate, Tarrytown, NY



**Ian Young** has gardened with his wife for forty years in Aberdeen, Scotland. He writes the *Bulb Log Diary* for the Scottish Rock Garden Club and co-edits the e-magazine *International Rock Gardener*. He will be presenting two talks: "Bulbs in the Garden" and "Nature, the Gardener's Tutor".



See Tri-State on pg.2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you were able to control the many vigorous weeds of the spring and summer. My alpine and woodland plants were exceptional this year: cyclamen, adonis, *Gentiana asclepiadea*, Kaffir lily and Martagon lily, to mention a few. Now I am preparing to plant garlic in a raised bed. I went to the Garlic Farm in Granby today and learned a few cultivation techniques. And I was delighted to see the rows of zinnias which attract many butterflies, particularly Monarchs.

As I review the past year and plan for the next, I propose that we consider enlarging our membership. This can be done in several ways:

- 1) Having a presence at the Hartford Flower Show.
- 2) Have members share their knowledge of alpiners and rock gardens by presenting a short talk at a meeting or by writing of favorite plants or of our successes and failures.
- 3) Tour members' gardens
- 4) Extol the virtues of woodland and native plants. I am enjoying the flowering of my Franklin tree, planted last year, a tree unknown to me until comments made by NARGS members.
- 5) Hold workshops as we have done in the past. I still have the Bog Garden that we made several years ago. Our trough workshops have always been well received, especially the Styrofoam trough workshop.

I am looking forward to the Tri-State meeting in Lyndhurst, NY. Hope to see many of you there.

~Ginny

Meeting Report: September 8, 2013

By Barbara van Achterberg

Don LaFond of the Great Lakes Chapter of NARGS lives in Michigan and gardens on a gravel pit. As I also live on a gravel bank, I felt that I could learn a lot from him.

He likes iris. Some favorites include: *Iris bucharica*, a beautiful yellow in the Juno section needing excellent drainage; *Iris magnifica 'Alba'*, a white Juno; and *Iris kirkwoodii*, which is hard to find, and has interesting striae in purple and mauve tones. He also grows *Iris graeberiana 'Yellow Fall'* which has clear blue flowers with primrose yellow falls raised over leaves that stay low and splay out. All of these iris need sand beds, very little topsoil and excellent winter drainage.

*Erythronium 'Pagoda'* is the easiest western hybrid trout-lily, Don finds. It is even easier than the native eastern trout-lily, a shy bloomer.

*Corydalis turtschaninovii* is a beautiful shade of blue. I should have asked him how it fares in hot summers. *Crocus hueffelianus* is his favorite crocus. Having grown it from seed, I concur that it is very special - a large, two-tone blue with bright orange stamens and anthers.

*Trillium simile* is like a miniature grandiflorum and does better in cultivation for him than *Trillium rivale*, even though that one is a Michigan native.

Don grows some really choice daphnes. *Daphne cneorum 'Benaco'* is closer to red than pink. *Daphne velenovskyi 'Rubicon'* is very small with pink flowers. He likes the species *Daphne velenovskyi*, also. The easiest daphne to start with, he told us, is *Daphne 'Lawrence Crocker.'* (Here several members nodded their heads in agreement).

*Chaenomeles japonica var. alpina* is a great and easy low-growing flowering quince.

*Origanum rotundifolium* is very pretty, an appealing small plant native to Turkey with pink or white flowers. This is one that is easy to grow from seed. He plants seed in a box with a plywood bottom, puts hardware cloth over it, and changes the mix every year to prevent viruses.

*Eriogonum umbellatum var. porteri* is a miniature buckwheat with flowers that change from yellow to red.

*Campanula stevensiana* is "a good one from Rick Lapp," and *Campanula zoysii* is gorgeous, though unfortunately short-lived.

Even in his sand beds, Don has to give *Lewisia rediviva* special treatment. He plants it in Turface and a bit of sand in a sewer pipe, and covers the top of the pipe with plastic from mid-May to mid-September, allowing no water during those months.

Don gives his plants very weak fertilizer each spring.

Don invited us all to attend the NARGS annual meeting, "Back to Alpines", in Michigan in 2015. The post-conference will take us to many native wildflower areas, some in the UP (Upper Peninsula).

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*Tri-State con't from pg. 1*

There will be vendors, an auction and raffle. Coffee and treats are provided but please bring your own lunch. Note that we will meet in the larger carriage house, just opposite the usual meeting site. The Tri-State meeting always proves to be interesting and lots of fun; please contact Maryanne if you wish to carpool.

**Directions:** from the Merritt/Hutchinson River Pkwy., take exit for the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287. Immediately cross lanes left and follow I-287. Take the last exit before the bridge for Rte. 9, Broadway. Go left on Broadway. Lyndhurst is ½ mile south on the right. Drive in past the mansion to the brick carriage house and park on the road leading down toward the river.

## NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

## Notes from Our Members

Angela Fichter writes that “the garden between the magnolia and where I planted the hydrangea was invaded by profoundly gorgeous, tall and now in full bloom, white asters. They are pretty, but firstly I did not plant them, and secondly, although they are pretty now, I do not want them taking over an area that is predominantly full of spring bloomers... Still it was nice to see a huge swath of bloom in the fall that the bees loved, or at least they loved them until I pulled them out.”

Ginny Gingras reports that the *Cyclamen hederifolium* which she purchased at last year’s Tri-State meeting is blooming beautifully.

As is the cyclamen that Maryanne Gryboski acquired at a CT chapter meeting years ago when Barbara van Achterberg brought in a pot of seedlings to share with members.



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