



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XLIII ✧ Fall 2019 ✧ Number 6 ✧

## Upcoming Programs

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 10 a.m.**  
**Frelinghuysen Arboretum**  
**Watnong's own Joann Knapp**  
**'The Frustrations of a Flower**  
**Photographer'**

**Please bring your favorite warm**  
**beverage, a friend, and a snack to**  
**share!**

**Saturday, November 16, 2019 10 a.m.**  
**Annual Meeting & Luncheon**  
**For Members Only!**

**Speaker Michael Hagen of the New**  
**York Botanical Garden,**  
**'The T. H. Everett Memorial Rock**  
**Garden: Past, Present, and Future'**

**A-E, please bring a pre-meeting snack**  
**or appetizer, F- N please bring a side**  
**dish and O -Z please bring a dessert.**  
**Please bring your contribution ready-**  
**to-serve and with any necessary**  
**serving utensils.**



**The beautiful Frelinghuysen Arboretum on**  
**the day of our September meeting. Photo by**  
**Kenneth Johnson.**

## **Our October Speaker: Joann** **Knapp**

Joann was a member of the staff at Planting Fields Arboretum for 25 years and retired from state service in 1994. She and her husband Fred were active members of a number of amateur plant societies on Long Island including the Long Island Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. Between 1971 and 2007, when they were not attending plant society meetings and garden tours, she and Fred developed a shady two-acre woodland garden in Locust Valley full of Rhododendrons, native and exotic wildflowers, ferns, Hostas, Primroses and Hellebores.

An avid photographer, Joann was in charge of the slide library at Planting Fields and maintained her own collection of horticultural photographs, especially those of wild and cultivated plants appropriate for rock gardens. Using these slides, she lectured and taught extensively in the New York area.

Since 2007, after moving to a senior community in northern New Jersey, she and Fred continue to garden in the small, flat, full sun squares provided for the residents. For the first time, in their eighties, they learned to grow sun-loving plants, especially low growing perennials and the cherished alpines they both love. Reluctant to dispose of many of her plant photographs, Joann has decided to put together one last slide lecture titled "The Frustrations of a Flower Photographer" which she hopes you will enjoy.

## **NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER**

Dues for 2020 will be collected at the October & November meetings. Dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per mailing address. Payment by check is preferred; please make your payable to Watnong Chapter NARGS. If you're not able to attend the October or November meeting, please mail your check to Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869.

## **Save the dates!**

January 6- February 7 2020, exact days to be announced, NARGS Seed Exchange distribution at The Jordan House, see page 4.

2/16/20 Barbara Melera, Landrith Seed, 'The D. Landreth Seed Company and the Story of America's Great Seedhouses'

3/21/20 Joseph Tychonievich, NARGS Editor, Green Sparrow Gardens, 'Rock Gardening: Reimagining a classic style for Today's Garden'

4/25& 26, Annual Plant Sale at The Leonard J. Buck Garden, Far Hills

June, July, or August: Annual Picnic and Plant Swap, host, date and location to be determined

9/19/20 Lisa Roper, Chanticleer Horticulturist, 'Bulbs'

10/18/20 Randy Heffner, Aquascape, 'Sarracenia'

11/21/20 Lori Chips, Oliver Nurseries, 'Container Gardening'

## **Elections are coming!**

After many years of service to the Watnong Chapter, Mike Wilson, co-chair, and Carolyn Iglesias, Publicity, will be stepping down at the end of 2019.

Also, we are still in need of a volunteer or two to serve as hospitality coordinator.

Watnong Chair Roxanne Hiltz has secured nominees for Co-chair & Publicity positions, but at publication we still need a nominee or two for hospitality. Anyone interested in the positions should speak to Roxanne at the October meeting. Biographies of the nominee for co-chair will be published in the Late Fall Newsletter, and voting will occur at the annual meeting in November.

Although not a board position, we need a coordinator for the annual picnic and plant swap! It can be held at your garden, or the public garden of your choice. Please contact Noel or Roxanne (see page 7) if you'd like to volunteer.

### **Hospitality is back!**

We need a coordinator & volunteers for our hospitality committee now and need more volunteers! One, or preferably two, people should sign up for each of our program meetings.

Volunteers should arrive at 9 a.m. on the day of the meeting to set out table covers, paper and plastic ware, beverage fixings, and start the water for tea or cocoa, which takes about 40 minutes to heat. Hospitality volunteers will also help those who arrive with goodies to arrange them. After the meeting, allow at least five minutes for those who want a post meeting snack, then clean off the

covers, pack up the remaining supplies, and help carry them out.

Please remember to thank our hospitality volunteers: Volunteers for our October 13 meeting are Lillie Dorchak & Shirley Rovinski; Michele Guitierrez and CarolAnn Baldowski are the hospitality volunteers for the November 16 meeting.

To sign up, or for more information, email [Roxanne.hiltz@gmail.com](mailto:Roxanne.hiltz@gmail.com)

## **NEWS FROM NARGS**

### **NARGS TRI-STATE MEETING**

**Sunday, October 13, 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the New York Botanic Garden's Ross Auditorium.**

Speaker David Charlton has been a member of the AGS since 1986, Derby Local Group Annual Show Secretary since 1990 and Local Group Secretary since 2010. He is an occasional exhibitor at AGS shows and has managed over the years to accumulate a Gold Medal and one bar. He is a solicitor and has worked as a part-time Consultant for an East Midlands law firm since retiring from a senior position in the Legal Department of Alliance Boots in Nottingham. Escape from full-time work has given him time to fulfill his love for wildlife and the natural environment. He is a Trustee of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and every summer leads mountain flower walks in the Dolomites for a specialist mountain holiday company

(Collett's). He is co-author of *Mountain Flowers of the Dolomites* (with Cliff Booker), a great guide to the flowers of those wonderful mountains

David will be speaking on *Flowers of the Picos de Europa*, and *Flowers of the Dolomites*.

**Members are free to bring guests and are encouraged to do so, but must RSVP to [judi.dumont@gmail.com](mailto:judi.dumont@gmail.com) the names of those attending and whether or not they'll be driving.**

**SEED EX IS COMING!** It's time to start thinking about the Seed Exchange again! While you go about your weeding and deadheading, don't forget to bring along a paper bag for any seeds you might want to share. Donations to the seed exchange must be received by November 1. **For information on how to collect, package, and ship your seeds, visit [nargs.org](http://nargs.org).**

The Watnong Chapter will again be running Phase III of the seed exchange, the distribution. We'll be working in the Jordan House at The Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, from early January through the first week of February. You don't need to be a member of NARGS to help with the seed distribution, and many hands make light work! For more information, or to volunteer, contact

Hilary Clayton at  
[hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com)  
or 908-781-2521.

## Summary of our September Speaker

By Melissa Grossman

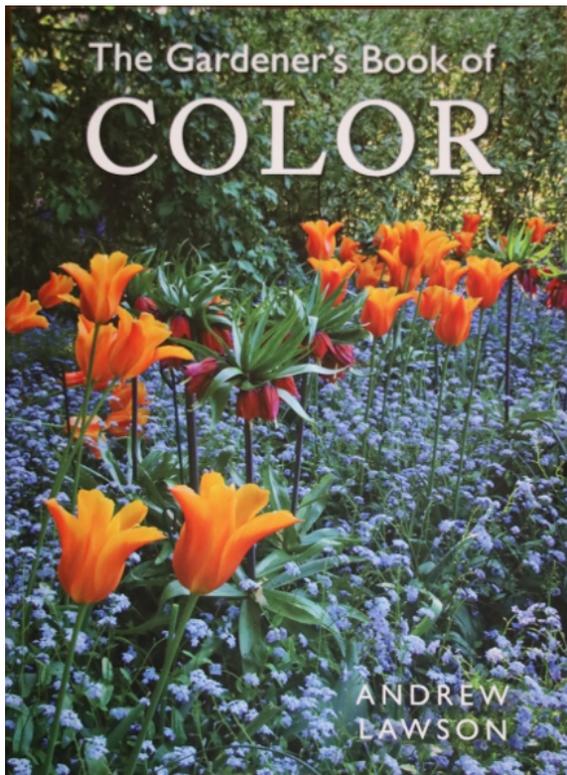
After seeing Elisabeth Zanders' rock garden, I worry that I may be a trifle lazy. Elisabeth started with one raised rock garden bed, the most that she felt she could maintain at that point in her life. As her life evolved, so did her garden, sprouting, well, pretty much everything a rock gardener could dream of, and on a scale much larger than what you are imagining. There are stone walls, raised beds for every type of cultural requirement, including a hardy cactus garden, a sunken garden, a crevice garden, troughs and a greenhouse. And that's just the rock garden portion of the property. These multitudinous situations are populated with rare plants that you can only get if you grow them from seed. It was a privilege and a treat to have such an accomplished gardener share her garden with us.

## BOOK REVIEW:

The Gardener's Book of Color  
by Andrew Lawson  
Reviewed by Judy Glattstein

If plants could talk I'm convinced that there are those in my garden muttering "Here comes that woman with a shovel. Again." A visit to a nursery sends me home with something beautifully in bloom. It is given companions, plants arranged in what I intend to be attractive

and harmonious combinations. But sometimes the results are, shall we say, unfortunate. The color is too bright or too pale. It changes, from bud to bloom to fading flower. Maybe if they were rearranged, like the furniture. And out comes the shovel. Again. Why should it be so difficult to create attractive, harmonious combinations. What do other gardeners know that I do not? When I visit they seem to have the knack for putting plants together so they look better than they do individually.



Which is where the revised and updated edition of Andrew Lawson's *The Gardener's Book of Color* might be helpful. Every garden, or say, every gardener, is different. Do you want a calm and soothing garden or one that's

vibrant and stimulating? Only flowers? How about considering leaves, seeds, bark and berries? Think of it as painting, but with plants rather than pigments.

Profusely illustrated, as you might expect from an author who is an award winning garden photographer, the book begins with a chapter on color. *Understanding Colour* (Lawson is British) explores aspects of the color wheel, saturation, light and dark tones, influence of light, and more.

The majority of the book is devoted to *Gardening with Colour*, first exploring single colors and then moving on to harmonies, contrasts, and mixed colors. Illustrations vary from full page garden vignettes, half page mixed plantings, smaller plant portraits, with explanations of the plants - both flowers and foliage - the season, and more. There is a, let's call it a dictionary, of plants briefly providing both Latin and common name, type of plant (shrub, perennial, bulb, etc), sun or shade, dimensions. Some but not all are illustrated.

Single colours explored range from yellows to oranges to reds, soften with white to pinks, then on to violets, blues, greens of various hues (and foliage here reigns supreme), to silver-greys and then white. Let's see what Lawson has to say for oranges. It's a demanding, attention-grabbing colour. Especially in a small garden, use in moderation, perhaps an isolated patch of color. Moving on to pale orange and apricot. Use them with closely related tints of pale yellow, yellow-pink, muted russets

and bronzes. They are especially difficult to use with cool blue-pinks.

Having studied painting at St Martin's School of Arts Lawson has a grounding in colour theory that goes beyond the basics. Harmonious colors, he begins his explanation, are those closely related on the colour wheel. Colour temperature - blues and blue-violets are cool, subdued, calming. Reds and oranges are hot, vibrant. There is discourse on harmonies with blue, with pink (which may be a cool pink with a hint of blue or a warm pink with a tint of yellow), and more, going around the colour wheel. Harmonies are, relatively, easy. It's when contrasts of colour, tone, and temperature are brought into play that planning the garden becomes more complicated. This section may be the most intriguing.

An interesting section concludes the book with two dozen drawings that show the major plantings illustrated in the book, complete with related page number, a complete list of the plants with their Latin and relevant cultivar names too.

There is a bibliography referencing other titles for garden colour, colour for artists, information on plants, and miscellaneous on color theory and color perception. Originally published by Pimpernel Press Ltd in 2015, I wish this American edition had revised the small hardiness zone chart at the back of the book. This makes the hardiness zones given for plants throughout the book suspect. However, colours remain what

they are, and for this the book is very useful.

The Gardener's Book of Color by Andrew Lawson  
Firefly Books, Paperback, \$24.95, ISBN 978 0 22 8101710

A review copy of this book was provided by the publisher.

## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### Would you give a friend a ride?

Long time Watnong NARGS member Ann Wiss would like to continue to attend our meetings and activities but needs a ride to and from. If you live near Short Hills, New Jersey, please consider bringing her with you. For more information contact Hilary (see page 7).

## HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



**Coopers Hollow Farm** specializes in native plants with people-pleasing qualities; pollinator friendly and ecologically beneficial. We offer selections of flowering perennials and shrubs, understory trees, shade grasses

for dry to wet areas, ferns, and ground covers. Smaller sizes are available for mass plantings. Coopers Hollow is a NJ registered nursery located in Bernardsville, using only organic practices (not certified).

We are open by appointment only. For requests and availability, contact [CoopersHollowFarm@yahoo.com](mailto:CoopersHollowFarm@yahoo.com)

If you would like to place an ad here, send copy to the Newsletter Editor, [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com).

Deadline for inclusion in our Late Summer Newsletter is October 15, 2019.

### 2019 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair	Roxanne Hiltz	973-361-6680	roxanne.hiltz@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
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Secretary	Debi Graf	201-919-0749	DGRAFatHome@aol.com

### 2019 WATNONG COMMITTEES

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**THE WATNONG CHAPTER  
NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY  
c/o The Leonard J. Buck Garden  
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Far Hills, NJ 07931**

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