



Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
✧ Volume XLIV ✧ Fall 2020 ✧ Number 4 ✧

Upcoming Programs

Saturday, October 17, 2020 10 a.m.
Sid Jones, 'My Garden 2020',
Via Zoom

Saturday, November 21, 2020, 10 a.m.
Frank Goodhart presents
'Trees, Shrubs, and Companion Plants
for the Smaller Garden', Via Zoom

Please join us!

An invitation to join the session and the password will be emailed to all members. The first 15 minutes will get everybody 'on board' and greeted. At about 10:30, Noel Schulz, our program chair, will introduce speaker (and membership chair) Sid Jones.

Following the tour, Roxanne will moderate a question and answer session of 15-20 minutes using selected questions from text chat.

Please join us via Zoom!

Since Frelinghuysen Arboretum will remain closed for meetings through the end of the year, we will continue to hold our upcoming fall meetings via Zoom.

Many thanks to treasurer Don Grossmann, who has stepped in to be the zoom meeting administrator, and to Noel Schulz, our program chair, who has been working hard assure interesting programming for us. Roxanne Hiltz, our chair, will be the overall moderator and chat channel watcher.



Orostachys iwarenge, grown and photographed by Brian Coleman.

Our October Speaker:

Sid Jones grew up in a small town in North Carolina, gardening from an early age alongside his grandmother, mother and father. After Sid and his wife Marty completed their doctoral studies in chemistry at Purdue University, they came to New Jersey in 1968, and moved to their home in Randolph in May 1970. Gardening started that month with what Sid describes as some very feeble attempts to create something attractive. Since his retirement in 1997 from Hoechst Celanese, Sid joined the Watnong Chapter, and has devoted much more time, thought, and energy to gardening.



Photo by Sid Jones.

He designed the garden's current layout, built walls and paths, planted trees, shrubs, and perennials, and made many mistakes. His plant choices have been greatly influenced by numerous week-long stays at Great Dixter House and Gardens in East Sussex, England, where he learned from the legendary Christopher Lloyd and the world-

renowned head gardener, Fergus Garrett.

Sid's talk for the October 18 Zoom will be 'My Garden 2020'. He has generally had a good year in the garden, and said "everything seems to have had an extended period of bloom". He'll briefly cover every month when plants are in flower, with an emphasis on August to October, since that is his favorite time of year.

Our November Speaker:

November Speaker Frank Goodhart was born in a small town at the base of Mt. Nittany in Centre County, Pennsylvania. He spent a good deal of time walking through the forests there, where his mother told him to look for Mountain Laurel and pink Lady's Slippers and his Dad took him trout fishing. The family grew a large vegetable garden, and a big sour cherry tree.

Frank studied pharmaceutical chemistry and worked in R & D and manufacturing at several pharmaceutical companies. Some of his first garden plants were bought at Watnong Nursery, where he obtained good garden advice and an application for NARGS. He is a former Chair of the Watnong Chapter, and a past president of the American Conifer Society.

Frank will present "Trees, Shrubs, and Companion Plants for the Smaller Gardens". Rock gardeners often enjoy smaller, more intimate gardens,

appropriate for small city lots or niche areas of the larger suburban landscape. Plant groups discussed will include miniature and dwarf Azaleas, *Daphne*, dwarf conifers, and deciduous shrubs. Frank will also include trees up to 10 feet, and those that grow slowly or are fastigate. Species to be discussed are those more sought after by the keen gardener who is interested in extraordinary plants and will include some shrubs and plants native to our area. Please join us!

NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

Roxanne Hiltz will be stepping down as chair at the end of 2020, having completed a two-year term. Please consider nominating yourself for the position! The role of the chair is to:

- Conduct the general meetings of the chapter.
- Conduct board meetings- at least once a year, at the Chair's discretion – currently we meet five times a year, an hour before our regular meetings.
- Oversee the committees of the Chapter: Program, Membership, Newsletter, & Plant Sale.
- Act as liaison to the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, to schedule our meetings.
- Attend the annual Plant Sale and other Chapter events, if possible.
- Represent the Chapter for all business conducted by the North American Rock Garden Society.

All other board members have agreed to remain in their positions for an additional term.

Your Chapter needs you! Please consider stepping up to lead.

Dues are due!

Dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per mailing address. Since we won't be meeting in person, please make your check payable to Watnong Chapter NARGS, and mail it to Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869.

Save the dates!

Since it is uncertain when the Haggerty Center at Frelinghuysen Arboretum will reopen, our spring lectures have been scheduled for Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

February 20, Marta McDowell will present "Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life", along with a brief update on her research on T. H. Everett, one of the founders of NARGS.

March 13, Lesley Parness will present "Drama Queens: Dark Beauties for your Garden".

Last Month's Speaker

by Don Grossmann

The Watnong Chapter is pleased to provide a video copy of the September 19 Chapter meeting presentation by Lisa

Roper. Please use the following link to view the video, which includes the presentation and follow-up questions from the audience:

<https://youtu.be/T3JxT90RrQQ>

To view the video on your full screen, click on the box located in the lower right corner.



Photo by Lisa Roper

Lisa speaks on spring blooming bulbs, including unusual ones. She discusses the different cultural requirements for bulbs to thrive, and how to combine bulbs with perennials, annuals, grasses and other bulbs for optimal effect. She also covers planting techniques, perennializing bulbs, and how to try to ward off critters.

Lisa is the Gravel Garden and Ruin Horticulturist at Chanticleer, a public garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania, where she has gardened in various sections for the past 30 years. She also photographs Chanticleer Garden weekly for What's in Bloom on the Chanticleer website.

We hope that members who missed the September meeting and those who want to see it again will enjoy this video.

NEWS FROM NARGS

It's time to donate seeds for the exchange! In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, there will indeed be a NARGS Seed Exchange for the 2020-2021 season, as reported in the Fall 2020 issue of *The Rock Garden Quarterly*. A contribution of five or more taxa of clean, acceptable seed qualifies members for donor status, allowing them an additional 10 packets of seed and priority filling for the Main Round order. Detailed instructions for donors can be found on the NARGS website, and at nargs.org/seed-donation-instructions. Donation forms were also included with the summer issue of the *Quarterly*. All seed should be sent to Laura Serowicz, 15411 Woodring Street, Livonia, MI 48154-3029. ***Donated seeds must be received by November 1;*** given that mail volume will likely be very high that last week of October please send yours off as soon as possible.

The Watnong chapter has passed Main Distribution fulfillment to the Siskyou Chapter, so your donations will be our only participation in the seed exchange this year.

It Grew for Me!

Tricyrtis formosana 'Samurai'

By Hilary Clayton

I've been enamored with *Tricyrtis* for many years now, for their very late bloom and spectacular flecked flowers, tolerance for high shade and some dry

slopes, and as a late season cut flower. For nearly as long, I've wished for one a bit shorter, as the first cultivars we grew reach about three feet tall.

A few years ago, we added *Tricyrtis formosana* 'Samurai'. Hardy from zones 6 through 8, the flowers are pinker than any other we grow, and the leaves are edged with gold. It's our most delicate, only about 18" tall, and also blooms several weeks earlier, late enough to pair with hardy Cyclamen, but early enough to be mostly finished before frost threatens. Like all the *Tricyrtis* we grow, I especially enjoy a single blossom in a bud vase at the dinner table, where the spectacular flowers can be studied and enjoyed at leisure.



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We are open by appointment only. For requests and availability, contact CoopersHollowFarm@yahoo.com

If you would like to place an ad here, send copy to the Newsletter Editor, hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com. The deadline for our Winter 2021 edition is December 31, 2020.

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