



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XLII ✧ Late Spring 2018 ✧ Number 4 ✧

## Upcoming Programs

### Annual Soiree

**For Members Only!**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

**The Rudolf W. Van Der Goot  
Rose Garden**

**The Colonial Park Gardens**

**156 Mettlers Road,**

**Somerset, New Jersey 08873**

**The festivities begin at 5 p.m.**

**with a guided tour of the**

**Rudolph W. Van Der Goot Rose  
Garden**

**RSVP required by June 15!**

**See page 2 for more details**

**Laurelwood Arboretum Rock  
Garden**

**Construction & Care Sessions**

**June 10 & 16, July 21 & August 4**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day**

**725 Pines Lake Drive West,**

**Wayne, New Jersey, 07470**

**See page 9 for more details.**

**We need YOU to help the picnic  
happen! See page 3 for details**



We had a beautiful weekend for our annual plant sale! More photos on page 4.

Our annual soiree will be held on Wednesday, June 20, rain or shine, at the Rudolf W. Van Der Goot Rose Garden, at The Colonial Park Gardens in Somerset.

A guided tour of the Rudolph W. Van Der Goot Rose Garden will start at 5 p.m. RSVP to Dorothy Wright at

[dorothy.wright@smgpc.com](mailto:dorothy.wright@smgpc.com) or call her at 732-968-2000 by June 15.

The area where we will set up the tables is shaded and flat. **Everyone should bring a chair!** Dorothy will provide drinks, water and soda, and will be ordering sandwiches from Panera.

Members with last names ending in A-K are asked to bring a salad or side dish; L-Z please bring a dessert. Tell Dorothy what you plan to bring when you rsvp so we can avoid duplicates. For directions, enter 156 Mettlers Road, Somerset, NJ 08873 into your favorite GPS, or visit [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org) or call 908-722-1200 extension 5721.

The Rudolph W. Van Der Goot Rose Garden is an accredited All American Rose Selections garden, covering one acre and containing more than 3,000 roses. The garden was named in honor of Rudolf W. van der Goot, the first horticulturist with the Somerset Park Commission, in honor of his work to design and develop the garden. The rose garden includes modern hybrid roses, species roses, and various classes of old garden roses. Only roses that thrive central New Jersey are kept in the garden.

The Rose Garden and surrounding Arboretum were part of the original Mettler Estate, once a working farm. The first section of the garden was developed from the Mettler's formal garden; the flagstone walks and small stone pool are original to the estate.

This section currently features modern hybrid roses, tree roses, and The Grandmother's Garden, a section planted to roses popular before World War II.

The second section of the garden is framed by a trellis and features a variety of climbing roses. The main feature here is the central walk, named for New Jersey Congresswoman Millicent Fenwick, who also served as the U.S. representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. The walk is planted to polyantha roses, and the perimeter to old garden roses.

The third section of the garden is designed in the formal Dutch style, with raised beds framed by low growing perennials, and continues the collection of old roses, along with some modern hybrids.

The rose garden is part of a 144-acre arboretum, which also contains the Fragrance and Sensory Garden, an ornamental grass collection, a 5-acre perennial garden, and numerous labeled specimens of trees, shrubs, flowering shrubs, and dwarf conifers.

Everyone should be prepared for a grand time and wonderful flowers.

**We are still a NARGS Chapter without a Chair!** Please consider if you would be willing and able 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, currently held 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.

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

**We do not yet have a date, location, or party planner for the picnic. Are there local gardens you would like to see? Could you secure a caterer and host the event? Please contact Melissa Grossmann at [donmliss@msn.com](mailto:donmliss@msn.com), or call her at 908-604-8060.**

### **Save the dates!**

With thanks to Program Chair Noel Schulz, here is the fall 2018 Watnong Chapter Speaker list:

9/15/18, Jessica Walliser, Radio Host, 'Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden'

10/21/18, John Lonsdale, Edgewood Gardens, 'Fall Bulbs- Untapped Treasures'

11/17/18, Hubert Ling, Native Plant Society, 'Shade Gardening: Native Wildflowers & Ferns'

## **Laurelwood Arboretum Rock Garden Project Update**

**By Mike Wilson**

**We are ready to plant and mulch a new bed at the Laurelwood Rock Garden!** At this time of year, the primary tasks for the project are weeding, planting, and mulching with gravel. The bed constructed last year is ready to plant and mulch. The beds renovated in past years need some weeding, too. I have scheduled four dates for us to meet in June, July, and August to clean up and maintain this garden. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to plant and care for a rock garden, especially for our many members who regularly request hands-on programming.

We generally meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot at Laurelwood Arboretum and usually are finished by 2 p.m. Most of the dates are on a Saturday, and if necessary we will use Sunday as a rain date.

If you would like to participate, please email me at [miwilson@ramapo.edu](mailto:miwilson@ramapo.edu) or call or text me at 862-397-9339. It helps with planning if I know in advance how many people are coming. Below are the dates:

June 10, 2018

June 16, 2018

July 21, 2018

August 4, 2018

**We hope to see you there!**





Plant sale co-chair Melissa Grossmann arrives to set up the sale on a chilly Thursday morning. Photo by Kathleen Apt.

## Plant Sale Report

By Melissa Grossmann,  
Plant Sale Co-Chair

The 2018 plant sale netted \$7,786.68, a 27.5% increase over last year, despite the last-minute unavailability of many of our carefully chosen plants, and the near impossibility of digging any plants from our own gardens. Many joyful thanks are due to all volunteers and Buck Garden staff who contributed to this complex project, sometimes in some truly foul weather. When the sun is shining benevolently and the customers are buzzing happily among the beautiful plants, I hope you feel, as I do, the satisfaction of working with generous and talented people to accomplish our worthwhile goal.



Plant sale volunteer coordinator Martha Podilchuk on Saturday afternoon.



Leonard J. Buck Interpretive Gardener Trish Scibilia introduces Saturday's lecture, 'The Garden Tourist', and speaker Jana Milbocker



Plant sale set up volunteers joined the staff of The Leonard J. Buck Gardens for lunch on Thursday, April 19, 2018. Photo by Kathleen Apt.



Happy shoppers on a beautiful day

## **More Results of the plant sale: the Treasurer's perspective** By Donald Grossmann

I am pleased to report the results of the Watnong NARGS' 2018 plant sale.

2018 Highlights:

- Gross Sales of \$16,671.42 were 2.3% higher than 2017.
- Total Profit of \$7,786.68 was 27.5% higher than 2017, primarily due to lower plant expense, as a greater number of ordered plants were unavailable compared to prior years.

Also, please note that historically, the plant sale expenses have never included the cost of providing food for volunteers and Buck Garden staff. Instead, the full amount of this expense (\$316.07) is borne by the chapter as "hospitality" expense. The board is currently considering whether this practice should be reconsidered for future years.

See page 9 for the 2018 summary and yearly comparisons from 2013 – 2018.

### **NEWS FROM NARGS**

Watnong members may recall that for the past few Decembers our chapter has worked with Phase 2 of the NARGS Seed Exchange, packing seeds. For 2019 and 2020 we've been asked to handle the main distribution of seeds to members instead. We served as the seed distribution chapter several years ago, under the direction of Peggy



Krementz, and all who participated found it a fun way to spend a winter afternoon.

The Main Distribution of seeds begins in late December with the receipt of packaged seeds from the various chapters. Seed orders arrive via e-mail and paper mail, and orders are fulfilled throughout the month of January and into February. This year, the Sierra Chapter filled 596 orders in 16 work sessions, with the help of 19 volunteers overall, far fewer orders than in years past, when orders reached 1500 or more.

We will again be using the Jordan House at The Leonard J. Buck Garden. In order for the Watnong chapter to fulfill this critical role in the seed exchange, we will need a team: for example, someone to handle the computer work, printing out the electronic orders and entering the mailed-in orders, plus keeping stats on orders filled, which can be done at or after the work sessions. Another person can handle the logistics of the seeds: setting up the boxes of packets, keeping them tidy as the stocks are depleted, making additional packets as needed. A third (or more!) person can oversee the mailing of the filled orders by addressing the shipping envelopes, filling out customs forms for Canadian/overseas members' orders (this can be done online), and toting filled orders to the post office, which also can be done outside the work sessions.

General volunteers, who come for a

few hours at a time, can handle the filling of the individual orders. These volunteers don't necessarily have to be NARGS or chapter members; the staff at The Leonard J. Buck Garden has helped in the past, and has expressed a willingness to do so again.

**If you would be interested in helping to run the seed distribution, please contact Hilary Clayton at 908-781-2521 or [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com).**



*Draba aizoides*, photo by Mike Wilson

### ***Draba aizoides* and more:**

#### **They Grew for Me**

Text and photo by Michael Wilson

A long time ago, George Sternlieb gave me a small flat of *Draba dubia* seedlings that were no larger than a pencil eraser. There may have been 30 or 40 seedlings. I was able to plant them in drifts and into crevices in my rock garden. I was surprised that most of them lived and the following year they

were nice sized, 6" buns that flowered early in the spring (mid-April) with a multitude of white flowers.

This began my interest in the genus *Draba*, a member of the *Brassicaceae* (Mustard) family, and the following summer, I saw a *Draba aizoides* for sale at a local nursery. Naturally, I purchased the plant and put it into the open rock garden. It grew quickly, with slightly larger leaves than *D. dubia*, but instead had larger, vibrant yellow flowers. In addition, it flowered a good week earlier than *D. dubia* and overall was a larger plant. It lasted in the open garden for more than 10 years before it succumbed, probably due to my neglect. I do grow *D. aizoides* in my troughs also and recommend it if you do not have a formal rock garden. If you do not have a trough, the plant will do equally as well in a clay pot. It needs good gritty rock garden soil mixture that contains some aquarium gravel, sand, and a little compost.

I also have tried *Draba rigida* and have had some success. This is a much smaller plant with some of the varieties being as small as your thumb. But when it blooms well it is spectacular, with hundreds of minute, yellow flowers that resemble a pincushion. I have found that it does best when planted

directly into tufa, but have had some success with it planted into my trough with a good, gritty soil mix.

I have gone on to try several different species of *Draba* over the years and have always found them to be reliable. There are many different ones to try and they come in various forms from tiny little bun plants to larger creeping plants, like *D. sibirica*. Give them a try!

## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



**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 Summer Newsletter is July 25, 2018.**

## 2018 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair	Please Consider	Your Name Here!	
Vice Chair	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Treasurer	Don Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Secretary	Debi Graf	201-919-0749	DGRAFatHome@aol.com

## 2018 WATNONG COMMITTEES

Membership & Distribution	Sid Jones	973-366-7241	rsj40jr@icloud.com
Programs	Noel Schulz	201-445-6445	noelschulz@verizon.net
Program Committee	Brian Coleman	973-325-3453	bell.coleman@verizon.net
Program Committee	Lainie Beavin	908-537-4448	beavin@embarqmail.com
Digital Projector	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Publicity	Carolyn Iglesias	973-763-3275	mushroomhouse1@optonline.net
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Jim Avens	908-234-2677x 22	javens@scparks.org
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Newsletter	Hilary Clayton	908-781-2521	hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com



<b>PLANT SALE RESULTS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Plant Sales</b>						
<b>Retail</b>	\$16,971.42	\$16,592.15	\$19,667.85	\$16,963.55	\$21,104.54	\$23,985.07
<b>to Buck</b>						\$917.86
<b>to Golf Course</b>						\$93.75
<b>+ lecture fee</b>						\$200.00
<b>- cash box</b>	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00
<b>Gross Sales</b>	<b>\$16,671.42</b>	<b>\$16,292.15</b>	<b>\$19,367.85</b>	<b>\$16,663.55</b>	<b>\$20,804.54</b>	<b>\$24,896.68</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
<b>Supplies/Advertising</b>	\$242.99	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$780.76
<b>Plants</b>	\$8,371.75	\$9,884.79	\$9,563.54	\$8,595.24	\$10,705.71	\$14,944.75
<b>Return Check</b>						
<b>Lectures</b>	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
<b>Dept Ag/MCPC</b>	\$20.00				\$95.00	
<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$7,786.68</b>	<b>\$6,107.36</b>	<b>\$9,504.31</b>	<b>\$7,768.31</b>	<b>\$9,603.83</b>	<b>\$8,971.17</b>
<b>Watnong Profit</b>	<b>\$3,893.34</b>	<b>\$3,053.68</b>	<b>\$4,752.16</b>	<b>\$3,884.16</b>	<b>\$4,801.92</b>	<b>\$4,485.59</b>
<b>Buck Share</b>	\$3,893.34	\$3,053.68	\$4,752.16	\$3,884.16	\$4,801.92	\$4,485.59
<b>Plants @ cost</b>					\$385.55	\$917.86
<b>Golf Course</b>						\$93.75
<b>lecture fee</b>						\$100.00
<b>Cash to Buck</b>	<b>\$3,893.34</b>	<b>\$3,053.68</b>	<b>\$4,752.16</b>	<b>\$3,884.16</b>	<b>\$4,416.37</b>	<b>\$3,373.98</b>

If you print this newsletter, please recycle it when you're finished.

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**