



Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
✧ Volume XLV ✧ Late Summer 2021 ✧ Number 5 ✧

Upcoming Programs for Watnong Members Only!

'The Betty Ford Alpine Gardens' lecture was moved to 9/4/21, due to a change in the speakers schedule. A recorded version will be available on or about 9/11; watch your email for the link.

Upcoming Speakers,
via Zoom at 10:30 a.m.

October 17, Arnie Friedman,
'Water Garden Features'

November 20, Mark Garland
'Wildflowers of Washington's Olympic
Mountains'



Debby Zweig, host of the August garden tour and plant sale, in her front garden with the very comprehensive bloom list she prepared for the day. More photos start on page 4.

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Delainey Williams spent the summer of 2019 as an intern at Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail, Colorado. Her talk gives an overview of the garden sections there with lots of photos, highlights some plants of interest at the garden, and talks about other fun aspects of being an intern in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

She went into this internship with zero knowledge of rock gardening, and now it will forever hold a place in her heart because of her time at Betty Ford.

Delaine earned a B.S. in Horticulture from Michigan State University and has worked in urban farming and at the Morris Arboretum. She is currently back in her hometown of Detroit, Michigan. Her graduation ceremony, postponed by the pandemic, was rescheduled for September 18, hence the need to reschedule her lecture for us! Watch your email for a recorded version, which should be ready about 9/11/21.

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER:

Arnie Freidman is a Master Gardener and former instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, and a landscape designer with certificates in design and horticulture. He owns *Landscapes by Design, LLC*, a landscape design and management company. His design services encompass entire landscapes with stonework, water features and gardens, to small intimate plantings, fire pits, and seating walls, He enjoys solving issues like excess storm water or old out of control gardens.

Arnie enjoys teaching, lecturing and writing articles on design, sustainability issues and water design and management. He is the former president of the Association of Landscape Designers, New York Chapter, a past member of the Upper Saddle River Planning Board and Shade Tree Commission. He served as

president of the Bergen County Master Gardeners and today is its Outreach Chairman and coordinates its Speakers Bureau. He is an ardent gardener and enjoys touring gardens around the world as an avid traveler. He will speak on 'Water Garden Features' Saturday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m., via zoom.

NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

Plant Sale Report

By Melissa Grossmann

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the plant sale on August 21. It was wonderful to see everyone, and the fabulousness and amount of the donations, and the number of people in attendance exceeded my expectations! The chapter made \$393.00.

Special thanks to Debby and Steve Zweig for generously opening their garden to us. It was the perfect location on a perfect day, and I hope you enjoyed having us.

From Judy Glattstein: NYBG has a free library of zoom lectures that they have hosted/presented.

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/lectures-talks-symposia/lecture-library/>

Surely there is something here to entertain each of us and our friends!

Do you have a friend or neighbor who discovered gardening during the pandemic? Consider gifting them a membership to the Watnong chapter! At \$10 per year, it's an affordable

introduction to all kinds of new plants and techniques, and members joining before August 20 can join us at our plant sale, which is sure to hold many hard-to-find treasures. Dues are \$10 per person, or \$15 per mailing address. Please make your check payable to Watnong Chapter NARGS, and mail it to Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869.



Viburnum acerifolium, maple leaf viburnum, in fruit, at the home of Debby and Steve Zweig.

OUR AUGUST GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE

Text and Photos by Hilary Clayton

Many thanks to Debby and Steve Zweig for hosting a delightful Watnong NARGS gathering! In spite of the forecast, the weather was perfect for us, not too hot and the rain held off.

Debby and Steve purchased their home across the street from Lake Shawnee in Jefferson Township in 1996. At that time, the garden was a forest of mature trees; unfortunately, 16 hemlocks were lost to the woolly adelgid. Shade gardens were a natural fit, with the goal providing food and shelter to attract wildlife. Many desirable native plants were already on site- maple leaf viburnums, witch-hazel, choke cherry and mayapple; to these Debby added a broad selection of mostly native flowering perennials and ferns to create very natural looking beds and borders.

Over the years, neighbors have removed mature trees, adding sunlight and new planting opportunities. Meadow type plants, such as *Veronicastrum* 'Fascination', *Eupatorium dubium* 'Baby Joe', and *Verbesina alternifolia*, wingstem, were added, and attract many pollinators. A fence nearby supports a beautiful and much- admired variegated climbing Hydrangea, *Hydrangea anomala* spp *petiolaris* 'Firefly', as well as the native Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*.

In 2019, inspired by her volunteer work with the Watnong NARGS project at the Laurelwood Arboretum, Debby began a rock garden of her own, featuring *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Hage'; dwarf *Hosta* 'You're So Vein', 'Mouse Ear', and 'Twist of Lime', and the spreaders *Campanula poscharskyana* 'Camgood', *Isotoma fluviatilis*, the blue star creeper, and *Callirhoe involucrata*. In addition there are spring blooming *Aquilegia* 'Corbett', *Iberis sempervirens*,

candytuft, and as a work in progress, surely more to come.

Debby's newest addition, some vegetable planters, came in response to her neighbors' tree removals last winter. These attracted a lot of admiration- not just for the gorgeous tomatoes, but for her clever use of Krylon Coarse Stone Texture Finish Spray Paint, which makes the large plastic containers look like huge troughs. (She bought it at Home Depot but suspects it's available whenever Krylon paint is sold.)

In addition to being a long -needed opportunity to see each other again, the plant sale raised \$393, with zero expenses. Thanks again to Debby and Steve for making the day possible!



The Pond Garden



Spotted in the front garden!



Debby and a large not-really-stone trough



Verbesina alternifolia, wingstem, with visitor.



Michael Clayton and Sid Jones admire the Woodland Garden



From left, the Rock Garden, Woodland Garden (back) and Pond Garden.



Hardy *Begonia grandis*



The Rock Garden, as seen from the Woodland Garden



Mary Masilamani and Bernice De Carlo enjoy some time together



Action at the plant sale tables!



Some great plant finds!

WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

FREE PLANTS!

Annette Tyler, aotyer@optonline.net in Morristown has plants to give away- dig them and they're yours! brown-eyed Susans, black-eyed Susans, forget-me-nots, blue-eyed grass, purple cone flowers, Shasta daisies, columbine, Joe Pye, anise hyssop, goldenrod, Siberian iris balloon flowers, primroses, common milkweed, oxeye sunflowers (small flowers), rose campion (white), AND probably other things! She also has milkweed pods—common, swamp, and orange. Contact Annette to



Host Debby Zweig with Barb Pecca

arrange a digging date if you're interested!

If you would like to place an ad here, send copy to the Newsletter Editor, hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com. Deadline for the fall newsletter is October 17, 2021.

HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



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