



Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
✂ Volume XLV ✂ Summer 2021 ✂ Number 4 ✂

Upcoming Programs for Watnong Members Only!

For Members Only!
**Garden Tour and Plant Sale at the
home of Debbie Zweig**
Saturday, August 21, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
**(Rain date Sunday, August 22, will be
announced via email if needed)**
All details on page 2.

Fall Speakers, via Zoom 10:30 a.m.

**September 18, Delainey Williams,
'The Betty Ford Alpine Gardens'**
See page 2 -3 for more information.

**October 17, Arnie Friedman,
'Water Garden Features'**

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



Above, *Cotoneaster dammeri* in the garden of Noel Schulz at the spring garden tour May 22, 2021. Photo by Noel Schulz. Below, 'Lauren's Grape' poppy with *Verbascum* and *Astilbe* in the garden of Sid Jones, see article on page 3. Photo by Sid Jones.



OUR AUGUST GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE

There will be a garden tour and plant sale for members only at the home of Debby Zweig, 85 East Shawnee Trail, Wharton NJ, 07885 on Saturday, August 21, 2021 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (rain date August 22, 2021 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.) If needed, the rain date will be announced via email.

Debby will prepare a bloom list for self-guided tours of the garden; we will follow the CDC guidelines in effect in August regarding masks and social distancing.

The plant sale will be handicapped accessible, but the garden tour and rest room will require the use of stairs. (There are handicap accessible restrooms available nearby at the McDonald's on Route 15 in Lake Hopatcong, and also a Porta John in the parking lot of the Lake Shawnee Clubhouse at 4 West Shawnee Trail, Wharton NJ 07885, 8/10 mile from the Zweig's).

Members are encouraged to bring their own food, drink, chairs, and boxes for purchases.

The sale will have three sections: surplus seeds from the NARGS seed exchange will be available free to members; member grown plants, priced \$1 - \$5, with a few special plants sold to the highest bidder in a silent auction, and lightly used garden books, priced at \$2.

Members are asked to label and pre-price plants with a tag or tape on the pot. If you have plants of higher value to be sold in the silent auction send a picture and description to Melissa Grossmann at donmliss@msn.com or call 908-604-8060, or text a photo to Don Grossmann's cell phone: 908-397-8551. by August 18. Likewise, if you have plants that you would like to donate that do not fit into either category, please contact Melissa and we'll agree on a price. **Please plan to bring a box for your purchases, and to bring any of your leftover plants home!**

We plan to offer donated garden themed books at \$2 each. Books remaining at the end of the day can be brought home again or left to be collected by Melissa and brought to our next in-person meeting, perhaps February 2022? **Please bring your checkbook, or small bills!**

Other questions? Contact Debby Zweig, zweig@hotmail.com or call 201-230-7725, or Melissa Grossmann, donmliss@msn.com or call 908-604-8060.

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Delainey Williams spent the summer of 2019 as an intern at Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail, Colorado. She will give an overview of the garden sections with lots of photos, highlight some plants of interest at the garden, and talk 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.

Delainey 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.

NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

It remains uncertain when the Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum will re-open. Committee Chair Noel Schulz has arranged Zoom speakers for virtual meetings in September, October, and November. All meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Please mark your calendars!

September 18, Delainey Williams,
'The Betty Ford Alpine Garden'

October 17, Arnie Friedman,
'Water Garden Features'

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

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.

IT GREW FOR ME!

Text and photos by Sid Jones



Germander 'Blue Angel' and *Corydalis lutea*

This year I decided to grow several annuals that I had never tried before or had tried with no or minimal success. All of my selections germinate best under cool conditions. They were 'Imperial Blue' larkspur, *Consolida ajacis*

'Imperial Blue', 'Blue Angel' germander, *Viscaria oculata* 'Blue Angel', Ladybird Poppy, *Papaver commutatum*, 'Lauren's Grape' poppy, *Papaver somniferum* 'Lauren's Grape', and laceflower, *Orlaya grandiflora*.

The seeds were sown at the recommended depth, each in a small pot. All were placed outside on March 1, 2021, underneath a large overhanging eave on our deck. There they had bright light and some direct sun and were easy to monitor. I failed to keep a record of the exact germination dates, however the poppies and the viscaria germinated quickly and copiously. The larkspur and orlaya were slower and germinated over a longer period of time.

Conventional wisdom says that poppies resent being transplanted so they should be sown in situ in the garden. I have tried scattering poppy seeds in the late winter and had only marginal success. On April 1 I carefully transplanted the poppies when they had only their cotyledons. I potted up 32 of each of the two varieties of poppy and had >90% survival for planting in the garden. The germander, larkspur and laceflower were potted after they had true leaves, and almost all grew on successfully.

All of these annuals developed into nice sized plants. I kept the larkspur outside because some references say that it requires weeks experiencing



Laceflower and *Dahlia* 'Karma Choc'

temperatures in the 40's F to induce flowering. The other seedlings I grew on under lights in the basement. All of these annuals starting flowering in June and are still flowering. In my opinion they would have done better, and perhaps flowered earlier, if I had larger plants to put into the garden and had done so in April instead of early May. This is especially true of the larkspur. I wanted to plant it between emerging perennials and by May the perennials were growing so fast that they swamped the larkspurs before they could put on sufficient growth to sit above the perennials. The others have contributed to my early summer garden as shown in the photos.



Ladybird poppy and laceflower

WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



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 September 3, 2021.

2021 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

Co-Chair	Roxanne Hiltz	973-361-6680	roxanne.hiltz@gmail.com
Co-Chair	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Vice Chair	Brian Coleman	973-325-3453	bell.coleman@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Secretary	Debby Zweig	201-230-7725	zweig@hotmail.com

2021 WATNONG COMMITTEES

Membership & Distribution	Sid Jones	973-366-7241	rsj40jr@icloud.com
Programs	Noel Schulz	201-445-6445	noelschulz@verizon.net
Program Committee	Debby Zweig	201-230-7725	zweig@hotmail.com
Digital Projector	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Publicity	Martha Podilchuk	908-507-6487	marthapod@comcast.net
Plant Sale	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Newsletter	Hilary Clayton	908-781-2521	hilaryhclayton@gmail.com

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

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