



Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society
✧ Volume XLII ✧ Winter 2018 ✧ Number 1 ✧

Upcoming Programs

Saturday, February 17, 2018, 10 a.m.
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Speaker Lisa Roper, Chanticleer
Horticulturist, presents
'Gravel Gardening'

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 10 a.m.
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Marta McDowell presents
'All the Presidents' Gardens'

Bring a friend, a cheery little
something in bloom, your favorite
warm beverage, and snacks to share!

is a graduate of the Professional Gardener Training Program at Longwood Gardens, and has a BFA from The Cooper Union in New York City, where she studied photography and fine art.



The Gravel Garden at Chanticleer on an October morning. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Our February Speaker

Lisa Roper is the Ruin and Gravel Horticulturist at Chanticleer Garden, in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Previously she gardened for eleven years in the Asian Woods Garden there. For the past six years she has been photographing Chanticleer weekly for the 'What's in Bloom' page on Chanticleer's website.

Lisa teaches classes on gardening for the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society and gives talks all over the country. She

NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

HELP WANTED! 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 meeting- 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.

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



Erodium x variable 'Flore Plena', Dwarf Heronsbill, grown by Ray Waksmundzki. Ray assured us that it is always in bloom. Photo by Hilary Clayton.

MORE HELP WANTED! We need a party planner, or planners, to coordinate our Chapter's 2018 Soiree, Picnic, and Luncheon- or choose one that you'd like to organize. No dates or locations have been determined yet. If you have a garden you'd like to share, or just enjoy hosting garden parties- not

necessarily at your own home- this position is for you! Contact Program Chair Noel Schulz at noelschulz@verizon.net or 201-445-6445 to volunteer.

DUES REMINDER! 2018 dues are now past due! Membership Chair Sid Jones will be on hand at the February meeting to collect dues for 2018. Watnong dues remain a bargain at \$10 individual or \$15 per household/ mailing address. Dues may be paid as cash or check, made payable to Watnong Chapter NARGS. If you can't make the meeting, please mail your dues to Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869.

Sid presented a membership report at the annual meeting in November, and was happy to report an increase in our membership for 2017, owing in part to Program Chair Noel Schulz's great bus trip last May. See page 9 for Sid's report.

Treasurer Don Grossmann provided a financial summary of the Watnong Chapters past five years at the November meeting. See page 10 for his review of our finances, and also those of the 2017 plant sale.

Many thanks to the Watnong NARGS members who packed seed for the annual seed exchange on December 4, 6, & 8: Lainie & John Beavin, Hilary Clayton, Debi Graf, Melissa Grossmann, Roxanne Hiltz, Sid Jones, Peggy Kremetz, Mary Masilamani, & Terrie Reid. Thanks also to The Leonard J.

Buck Garden in Far Hills, for allowing us to work at the Jordan House. We filled 1458 packets of 100 different taxa, from *Coryphantha pseudoechinus* to *Dianthus brevicaulis*.



The seed packing team at the Jordan House, day one.

Anyone interested in working on the next phases of the **Laurelwood Rock Garden Project**- refining the plant list and ordering material- should contact Mike Wilson at miwilson@ramapo.edu or call 862-397-9339. We will also need a volunteer(s) to receive the plant deliveries and care for them until they can be planted next spring.

Save the dates!

Thanks to Program Chair Noel Schulz, here is the 2018 Watnong Chapter Speaker list:

- 2/17/18, Lisa Roper, Chanticleer Horticulturist, 'Gravel Gardening'
- 3/18/18, Marta McDowell, Garden Writer, 'All the Presidents' Gardens'
- 4/21 & 4/22, Annual Plant Sale at The Leonard J. Buck Garden, Far Hills
- 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'



Pam Wilson, Brian Coleman and Sid Jones conduct the door prize raffle at our annual meeting.

OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Summarized by Hilary Clayton

"It wasn't easy, but I enjoyed it; it wasn't cheap, but it was worth it, and it wasn't expected, but I went with it." Ernie Cavallo's presentation 'Galanthophila - A good kind of love' opened with that phrase, and his enthusiasm quickly became apparent. Ernie gardens on Long Island, and had thought of himself as a 'Daffodil guy' until a 2008 article about Snowdrops in Gardens Illustrated changed his course. He now grows over a hundred species and cultivars, and shared knowledge of his best performers with us.

The taxonomy of the genus depends on how the leaf comes out of the bulb-

flat, pleated, or rolled. Favorite early/fall bloomers include *G. reginae-olgae*, *G. elwesii*, and 'Potter's Prelude'. He provided a long list of 'good do-ers', among them 'S. Arnott', a sterile hybrid- you can tell it's true to type if it doesn't set seed, 'Mrs. Macnamara', named for the mother-in-law of poet Dylan Thomas, and 'Magnet', with a long pedicel that permits the blossom to dance in a breeze.

A true enthusiast, he was also able to provide the back- stories to many cultivar names, always fun in that 'who does your garden grow' sort of way. 'Blewberry Tart' is a loose double that appeared to someone as a lady of ill repute bending to expose her petticoats. Other doubles recommended include 'Ballerina', 'Lady Elphinstone' and 'Lady Beatrix Stanley'.

In the poculiformis cultivars, all of the blossom segments are the same length. 'Alan's Treat' and 'E. A. Bowles' are some examples of this unusual form.

There are even diminutive forms for the rock garden, such as 'Wee Grumpy', 'Tiny Tim', and 'Little Dip'. Unfortunately, Ernie has not found these to perform well in troughs.

Natural division is the easiest form of propagation, but resist the temptation to split them 'in the green'. Instead, divide and replant them immediately in June, taking care they don't dry out. For more adventurous, less patient gardeners, 'chipping' is an option. Under sterile conditions, the bulb is cut through the base plate into

eighths, or evens sixteenths, and then bagged in vermiculite for ten weeks. A good-sized chip may yield two to three bulbs.

Ernie follows the fertilizer recommendations of the MacLennans, who hold the U.K.'s National collection, and feeds his bulbs on holidays: bulb tone on Veteran's Day, superphosphate, potash and lime for Christmas, liquid tomato fertilizer for Valentine's Day, and bulb tone for Easter.

As for companion plants, Ernie regards hardy *Cyclamen* species the best, but also enjoys *Galanthus* paired with *Adonis*, early *Narcissus*, *Daphnes* and *Helleborus*.

Ernie's lecture was both fun and informative, inspiring a bit of late season shopping and beautiful visions of what might grow next year in the garden beds we've just tucked in for the season.

NEWS FROM NARGS

The NARGS 2017 Annual General Meeting in North Carolina

By Roxanne Hiltz

The NARGS annual meetings are a real treat for garden lovers. Like most of the annual meetings, this one based in Raleigh-Durham featured lots of hikes and garden visits, plus an evening and a day of slide-show talks, banquet, and plant sales. There was a hard frost the weekend before the meeting, held

November 15 to 19, but some plants were still in bloom... or just coming into bloom!



The elusive Wood Gentian. Photo by Murray Turoff

The pre and post trips offered an opportunity to see plants “in the wild,” generally my favorite part. This meeting had a two-day pre-trip to parks and preserves in the coastal region. We walked three to five miles a day, depending on whether one opted for side trails. The first day featured the pine forests and “pocosins” of the sand hills region, which are swampy overgrown wooded areas chock full of plants, with boardwalks and elevated paths on which to walk through. We stopped at Lake Waccamaw State Park and Jones Lake State Park the first day. Color was mainly provided by many different kinds of *Ilex* and other plants with berries, and the yellow leaves of Coastal Fothergilla, *Fothergilla gardenii*.

The highlight was the second day visit to the coastal plain, the “Green Swamp,” an area owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy, that

doesn’t even have a sign by the road. It did have late-flowering Pine Barrens Gentian, *Gentiana autumnalis*, Venus Flytrap, *Dionaea muscipula*, Pyxie-Moss, *Pyxidantha barbulata*, and at least five kinds of Pitcher Plants, *Sarracenia* spp. Seeing these required tromping off trail through the savannah or swamp, trying not to think about snakes.

Our second stop was Carolina Beach State Park, with a lovely mile long trail along a major river and to a high sand dune for a view, with many side trails.



Sarracenia at Green Swamp. Photo by Murray Turoff.

Of the six talks, the opening one by Tony Avent, who founded and operates Plant Delights Nursery and the Juniper Level Botanical Garden, was most

interesting to me. He and a colleague described how they used “urbanite” - broken up concrete from foundations or sidewalks or wherever- to produce the hundreds of rock slabs that are placed vertically for crevice gardens. “Urbanite” is generally free, but you do need a concrete saw and a lot of strength to work with it. Crevice gardens are the new rock garden rage. The narrow crevices are filled almost entirely with Permatil or a similar non-soil substance, and the plants then send their roots deep to reach the soil way down, and seem to thrive. While visiting his garden, we saw Tony’s new 250-foot crevice garden -another 150 feet are planned. He specializes in berms covered with unusual plants, such as scores of different agaves, many of which grow huge; there are over 5000 varieties of plants on display. Juniper Level Botanical Garden is seldom open to the public, but you can fill in an online visit request form.



Venus Fly Trap at Green Swamp. Photo by Murray Turoff.

Mini buses or buses were available to take people to public garden visits on

Friday and Sunday. I recommend them all if you are planning a visit to the region. The JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh is open every day of the year and features about 15 kinds of gardens, including a lath house and a rooftop garden. This one had dozens of flowering plants still in bloom.

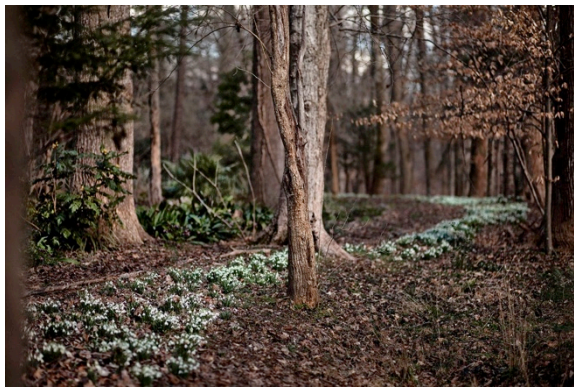
The North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill is open until 5 p.m. every day but Mondays. It has recreated miniature naturalistic versions of the different ecosystems of North Carolina, including a half mile streamside trail, water garden, mountain habitat, coastal plains habitat, etc.



Saracenia flava, North Carolina Botanical Garden. Photo by Murray Turoff.

By contrast, the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham are intensively maintained, generally by tearing things out several times a year and replacing them with things in bloom that season. The Terrace Gardens were completely full of thousands of pansies, dianthus, Iceland poppies, and a few other things. One square yard of wild pocosin has

about 500 kinds of plants that poke through at different times of the year; one square yard of the Terrace Gardens had like 25 pansies, in rows, with lots of mulch and not a single “weed.” Pretty, but not interesting, in my opinion. Our guide there mainly talked about the fabulous memorial and endowment gifts they had received-- this bench, that bridge, that amphitheater-- rather than the plants. They did have some beautiful camellias in bloom.



Galanthus elwesii line woodland paths at Montrose (source: The New York Times)

The highlight of the tour, and reason the meeting was held mid-November, was a visit to Nancy Goodwin's Montrose Gardens in Hillsborough. Now a private garden, it is only open for tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m., or by prior arrangement for large groups. The woodland paths had tens of thousands of fall-blooming *Galanthus elwesii* var. *monostictus*, along with hundreds of *Cyclamen coum*, all peeking up through the fallen leaves. I bought one blooming bulb of the little *G. elwesii* treasures for \$15; I wonder if it will live

up here and if so, when it will bloom again?

**REGISTRATION IS NOW
OPEN for the 2018 NARGS
Annual General Meeting in St.
John, Newfoundland, Canada,
July 6-8, 2018,
"Where Alpines Meet the Sea"
Optional Post-conference Tour
Newfoundland Limestone Barrens
July 9 - 16, 2018
Todd Boland, Trip Leader**

Welcome to Newfoundland, the far east of North America! Eastern Newfoundland is a land of botanical extremes. There are boreal forests of balsam fir, black and white spruce along with the associated northern woodland plants. We have a multitude of bogs and fens, home to a wide variety orchids and insectivorous plants. And then there are rocky coastal barrens which house wind-swept contorted trees and plants of an alpine nature more in common with high elevations of the New England Appalachians.

We have the largest population of North Atlantic summering humpback whales, some of the largest seabird colonies of eastern North America and are along the passing route of icebergs calving off glaciers in Greenland. This NARGS venue provides participants with a chance to visit one of the most

hauntingly beautiful regions of North America. Newfoundland is truly where alpinists meet the sea.

The summer 2018 NARGS meeting will take advantage of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Conference Facility. Accommodations will be available in Macpherson College, opened in 2013, whose private rooms offer modern and comfortable accommodations. Dining areas and lecture theatres are within a couple of minutes' walk from the College.

The University is located in the heart of St. John's such that within a few minutes buses and taxis can bring you to the picturesque downtown with colourful row housing affectionately called "jelly-bean row", a plethora of tourist shops and some of the best seafood dining experiences in eastern North America. One of the main highlights from this meeting will be a visit to the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, an informal garden with 13 themed gardens including rock gardens, crevice garden, alpine trough display and alpine house.

Our guest speakers hail from the coasts of eastern and western Canada as well as Scotland. The plants discussed will be alpinists that can tolerate months of snow and overall wetter climates, with examples from the wild and how they perform in the garden. Day trips will introduce participants to the plants of the eastern Newfoundland coastal

barrens and peat lands. Book sales and author signing for the field guides "The Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador" and "Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland" will be available. Before the conference there will be open gardens. **Further details on the conference--including post-conference tour--and registration forms are provided in the Winter 2018 issue of the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, now posted on line. Your membership print copy is also in the mail to you.**

The link for the main registration is <http://bit.ly/2n8f834>

The link to accommodations at the Memorial University Macpherson College is <http://www.mun.ca/conferences/bookings/nargs2018.php>

Once you get to their website enter the promotion code NARGS2018

Those wishing to book for the Newfoundland post-conference tour should email NARGS Tours Committee co-chairs: Jody Payne,

jodycpayne1@gmail.com

or Lola Horwitz, llhorwitz@gmail.com

We invite you to experience the warmth and hospitality of the oldest city in North America!

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 inclusion in our Late
Winter Newsletter is February 17, 2018**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

11/18/17

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FAMILY</u>	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>NEW</u>	<u>INACTIVE</u>	<u>DUES</u>
2015	36	57	6	12	1110
2016	33	57	8	11	1070
2017	36	73	40	15	1265

NARGS Watnong Chapter

Five Year Financial Summary

As of 11/16/2017

	2017 through 11/16	2016	2015	2014	2013
Revenue					
Membership Dues	\$1,965	\$1,185	\$1,205	\$1,110	\$1,440
Plant Sale Profit - Net	\$3,053	\$4,752	\$3,883	\$5,098	\$4,514
Expenses					
Administrative	-\$264	-\$30	-\$122	-\$24	-\$83
Bus Trip - Net	-\$653	-\$390			
Hospitality	-\$1,614	-\$1,961	-\$2,416	-\$1,128	-\$1,499
Insurance	-\$327	-\$333	-\$351	-\$322	-\$321
Newsletter	-\$325	-\$138	-\$156	-\$225	-\$103
Program	-\$1,838	-\$1,931	-\$1,220	-\$1,130	-\$1,309
Rent		-\$350	-\$175	-\$350	
Donations					
Blackburn Scholars	-\$500				
Buck Garden			-\$8,000		
Laurelwood	-\$1,000		-\$2,245	-\$1,677	
Wycoff Ave Garden			-\$100		
Branching Out					-\$250
Garden Club NJ					-\$200
Net Cash Flow					
	-\$1,503	\$804	-\$9,697	\$1,352	\$2,190
Checking Account Balance					
- End of Year	\$12,391	\$13,894	\$13,090	\$22,787	\$21,435

PLANT SALE	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012 (Sid)
Plant Sales						
Retail	\$16,592.15	\$19,667.85	\$16,963.55	\$21,104.54	\$23,985.07	\$21,433.75
to Buck					\$917.86	\$135.25
to Golf Course					\$93.75	
+ lecture fee					\$200.00	
- cash box	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$300.00	-\$600.00
Gross Sales	\$16,292.15	\$19,367.85	\$16,663.55	\$20,804.54	\$24,896.68	\$20,969.00
Expenses						
Supplies/Adver	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$780.76	\$418.88
Plants	\$9,884.79	\$9,563.54	\$8,595.24	\$10,705.71	\$14,944.75	\$10,487.31
Lectures	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Dept Ag/MCPC				\$95.00		
Profit	\$6,107.36	\$9,504.31	\$7,768.31	\$9,603.83	\$8,971.17	\$10,206.56
Watnong Profit	\$3,053.68	\$4,752.16	\$3,884.16	\$4,801.92	\$4,485.59	\$5,238.53
Buck Share	\$3,053.68	\$4,752.16	\$3,884.16	\$4,801.92	\$4,485.59	
Plants @ cost				\$385.55	\$917.86	
Golf Course					\$93.75	
lecture fee					\$100.00	
Cash to Buck	\$3,053.68	\$4,752.16	\$3,884.16	\$4,416.37	\$3,373.98	

2018 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

2017 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@scparcs.org
Plant Sale Co-Chair	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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