



What's this Bug?

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER of the North American Rock Garden Society September-October 2015

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Stefan Cover

Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology,
Ant Collection

“What’s that Bug?”



Colorado potato beetle

Stefan has agreed bring his expertise to identify the bugs in our photos, and talk about the roles they play in our gardens. Learn about the beneficial habits of these insects as well as their harmful behavior. If you haven't started taking any photos, please do so ASAP. I (Ellen) have been doing this sporadically all summer, and it is great fun. Like many, I never paid a lot of attention to most of my bugs. As I've photographed them, I've gained a lot of affection and respect for them. Try it!

Email your set of photos to Ellen Hornig
hornig@oswego.edu and she will send them to Stefan.

2015 Calendar

September 19, 2015 Saturday

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge,
680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA

10:30 a.m. Welcome –
coffee, tea and cookies. Members N
through Z, please contribute nibbles

11:00 a.m. Stefan Cover

“What’s that Bug?”

12:00 noon Lunch (byol)

**1:00pm ANNUAL SALE
of SEEDLINGS and PLANTS**

October 4, 2015 Sunday

Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

10:30 a.m. Welcome –

11:00 a.m. Peter Korn

“Learning from the Wild”

12:00 noon Lunch (byol)

1:00pm 1:00 p.m. Peter Korn .
“The Rock Garden”

November 21, 2015 Saturday

Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge,
680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA

10:30 a.m. Welcome –
coffee, tea and cookies. Members A
through M, please contribute nibbles

11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

12:00 noon Buffet or byol

**1:00 p.m. Barb Cooper and
Bella Seiden**

“Botanizing in Patagonia”

Instructions for Seedling and Plant Sale

Plants for the seedling and plant sale should be potted and individually labeled with the plant's botanical name and variety or cultivar, if applicable. Short lengths of slats from vinyl window blinds work well as labels. At the top of each label, please write the first letter of the genus name; this makes it much easier to sort plants into alphabetical groupings. Please try to make your labels legible.

We recommend you arrive between 10AM and 10:30AM if you're donating plants to the sale. This will help us get everything set up before our meeting begins.

When our plant sale begins, donors will get first choice (one plant per ten donated). We will then open the sale to all other members. Most plants will be priced at \$1 each; when sales slow to a crawl at that price, we'll go to \$.50, then to \$.25, and finally to \$.0. Some larger and/or rarer plants will be priced higher (\$3 or \$5), and we may opt to auction off a few special things.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SET UP. If you're able to help with this, please e-mail Ellen Hornig at <hornig@oswego.edu>.

OCTOBER MEETING October 4, 2015

About Peter Korn

"Actually, there are no difficulties to growing plants; it is just very hard to create their cultural environments."



So says our guest speaker in October, Peter Korn from Sweden. It is his opinion that in order to grow many different plants with very diverse needs one must create the appropriate conditions for them. Peter believes in looking to nature, learning how plants survive in their native habitat and then trying to achieve the same in his own garden. The presentation in the morning "Learning from the Wild" illustrates how plants adapt to specific conditions in their environment and uses that insight to create comparable conditions in the home garden. Knowing NARGS members' devotion to rock garden plants, we have asked Peter to talk about the construction of his own rock garden for our afternoon session. His excellent photos of his construction progress will undoubtedly inspire projects or at least revisions.



Korn's home in Eskilsby, Sweden

N.B. For this special occasion we will meet at Tower Hill

Botanical Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. Be sure to bring a guest and introduce them to the lively and informative meetings we hold.

Annual Meeting Notice November 21, 2015

at Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

Meet *Barb Cooper* and *Bella Seiden*, two incredibly intrepid ladies who planned and executed their own trip through Patagonia last fall (Nov. 13-Dec 20, 2014), driving themselves over 2800 miles and botanizing along the way. In their own words, “We discovered the thrill of roadside botanizing and were simply awed by the array of flora we encountered. We had set our sights on a few plants that we hoped to find, and for the most part, we did - and then some! The sheer size and beauty of Patagonia was truly amazing. We will share photos of the plants we were fortunate to find in their various habitats.”

You *must* mark your calendars for this “not to miss” program

Notes from My Garden

My 1/3 acre garden in Newton though easily managed by me alone had never gone untended for more than 10 days at a time during the growing season. What would happen this summer when I left for the first time for 6 consecutive weeks? I obsessively combed every square centimeter of soil for weeds and mulched all obvious bare earth, arranged for the neighborhood kid to cut the lawn and the morning of July 13th took one last look and made for the airport. We pulled into the driveway August 24th at dusk and I took a quick tour in the waning light. The first impression was exuberance with obvious evidence of recent rain fall. So far so good but early the next morning I was able to see in detail the successes and failures.

Let's discuss the successes first. The most obvious were the annuals/tender perennials. The dahlias had not only survived but were luxuriant. I usually overwinter my dahlia tubers and I particularly enjoy the dark burgundy/eggplant flowers and plant them sporadically around the garden for late season pops of color. This year I had also started from seed a series named 'Bishop's Children' from *Select Seeds*. The germination rate was excellent and many were now in bloom with the typical purplish/green dark foliage noted in the Bishop's series. The flowers range from true red to salmon and the purple side of mauve. I hope they will set tubers to be dug this fall. Other annuals that performed well this year include *Calendula officinalis*, *Centaurea cyanus* (bachelor buttons), and *Mirabilis jalapa*.

Many of the late summer/fall perennials were not in bloom yet last week but the foliage appeared healthy with buds in place for asters, *Boltonia asteroides*, late salvias and *Lespedeza thunbergii*. Of particular note the pure white lilies (possibly a variety of *L. formosanum* that I obtained from a friend a few years ago) were just coming into bloom with minimal rabbit damage.



My border after 6 weeks without care!

Now to the failures. Unfortunately the rain had also brought on an abundant weed crop and appeared to have toppled over a few tall lilies. The prostate spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*) and crab grass had spread mats of significant square footage along the front walkway. There was a definite aura of 'unoccupied home' around the front entrance of the house that needed to be dealt with immediately or risk temptation of a burglary. Next year I might consider having the neighborhood teen weed this bed as well as cut the lawn!

Ellen Weinberg

Reminder: BE GREEN Bring Your Own Mug

Directions to Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

**680 Hudson Road,
Sudbury, MA.**

from Route 95/128 and the East: Take Route 20 (Boston Post Road) West through Weston. Turn right onto Rt. 27 and follow this into Sudbury. Stay straight on Hudson Rd. and go about 3 miles to Winterberry Lane on the right. The Parking/building is 0.4 miles in on the left.

from Route I 495: Take Exit 26 to Rt. 62 for 6.5 miles as merges with Sudbury Rd and go another .5 miles on Hudson Rd. On the left is Winterberry Lane and the parking/building is .4 miles in on the left.

Directions to Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

11 French Drive, Boylston, MA

from Boston: Find your most direct route to Route 495 and its intersection with Route 290. On Route 495 that is Exit 25B for Route 290 west. Once on Route 290 W, take Exit 24, Church Street, Northborough/Boylston. Follow to Boylston 3 miles. Entrance to Tower Hill is on right with a dark red sign.

Chapter Officers for 2015

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The Newsletter of the New England Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is published 3-4 times a year, January, March, June, and September as well as additional notices when needed. ed.

