



Saximontana

Rocky Mountain Chapter
North American Rock Garden Society
Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 7
July 2014

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Horseshoe Mtn & Cirque Hike, July 12

By Mike Kintgen

Saturday, 7:30am-2pm

Long known for its interesting flora and spectacular setting, Horseshoe Mountain and Cirque is a favorite location of many members and naturalists. We are joining forces with the Colorado Native Plant Society on this hike. Steve Yarbrough will be the leader from the Colorado Native Plant Society. We will be looking for some of the rarer residents of the mountain.

(Continued on page 4)

Lower McGullough Hike, July 26

By Jane Hendrix

Saturday

Located 6½ miles South of Breckenridge at 10,300 feet is the parking area for this wildflower paradise. Klaus & Jane found 130 blooming species on last year's scouting trip! The route trails through a small meadow replete with flowering species.

(Continued on page 4)

Guanella Pass Unhike, August 7

By Dawn Mitchell

Thursday

The destination for the unhike on Thursday, August 7, will be the Guanella Pass Road. There will be stops to view blooming flowers along the way. We will meet at 8:30 am at the Park and Ride (P&R) at C-470 and Morrison Road (on the west side of C-470). Bring a lunch, water, sunscreen, a hat, raingear, etc.

(Continued on page 4)

Horseshoe Mtn Hike

July 12

Lwr McGullough Hk

July 26

Guanella Pass Unhike

August 7

President's Outcrop

By Mary Jenson

Thanks to everyone for making the Spring Garden Tour such a great success. Our Fort Collins members really pulled out all the stops for us. Each garden was unique and offered up food for thought for our own gardens. Thanks to each of the hosts for all the hours of preparation it took to get their gardens ready for the tour. They looked fantastic! I, especially, want to thank Pat Baker for adding her garden at the last minute. I know we were all pleased to hear from Pat; it was interesting to see how well her yard has recovered from the Black Forest Fire.

We have an exciting new adventure awaiting us this winter. The North American Rock Garden Society

North American Rock Garden Society www.rmcnargs.org
Rocky Mountain Chapter *Since 1977*

Objectives of the Rocky Mountain Chapter

To support the goals, purposes and activities of the North American Rock Garden Society; to promote the appreciation and cultivation of rock and alpine plants and wildflowers; to assemble and make available information on the culture of rock and alpine plants and their evaluations as garden materials; to secure and distribute species of rock plants not already in cultivation; to encourage protection of endangered species by preservation of native populations; to encourage rock gardeners to share knowledge, enthusiasm and friendship.

Saximontana is published 10 times per year. Newsletter material is due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Copy, artwork and suggestions may be sent to the editor by email

(NARGS) has asked our Chapter to manage the second round of the Seed Exchange. Last winter we were one of many chapters assigned to the task of sorting seed into small packets. These thousands of small packets were then sent back to NARGS for distribution through the Seed Exchange. I learned from hearing Kenton Seth's presentation on the Seed Exchange in January, there are two rounds of ordering seed. Our Chapter will be filling orders for the second round. This will require us to have a great big party! Linda Meyer has offered her heated garage as "Mail Order Central". I hope you will join the fun in March of 2015 and help our Chapter perform this important step in the Seed Exchange!

Finally, I want to remind everyone of the unique opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting of NARGS being held in Santa Fe, NM from August 28-30th. Because of its close proximity, we expect a larger than usual contingency of RMC members at this conference. Please read more about the conference here: <https://www.nargs.org/santa-fe-annual-general-meeting>.

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Have a great summer! I will look forward to seeing you on one of our July hikes or at the conference

Paper Saximontana price is increasing, e-Saximontana getting easier to access

To receive the paper *Saximontana* now costs \$10 additional, or \$25 total for an individual membership. The real cost of the *Saximontana* is \$25/year/copy, including postage, so this membership does not even contribute to programs. That is why the Board of Directors voted to increase the premium. Although this still does not cover the full cost, including programs, we did not want to give members sticker shock.

We encourage you to try the electronic version

Please help the Nominations Committee

Our Board of Directors leads our chapter and makes many decisions on our behalf (you can find minutes on rmcnargs.org). Therefore, it is important that we obtain a representative sample of our membership on the Board. Please help by sending nominations for all officers, but especially the president and treasurer, who are definitely not continuing, to **Kathleen Stewart**. See list of Board members (except for Refreshment Chair, whose name we put there for convenience; we also have an opening there) on page 2. The deadline is August 1, but please send as early as possible. Thank you.—Sally Boyson

Laptop computer needed

Do you have a laptop computer gathering dust somewhere? You could put it to use by donating it to the Rocky Mountain Chapter for guest speaker presentations and other Chapter projects.

The Chapter is seeking donation of a laptop computer that meets the following criteria:

- Processor should be at least dual core, 2Ghz
- Memory (RAM) should be minimum 4Gb

in Santa Fe!

and print out the pages you especially want to read, if you don't like reading on the computer. Most people can set their printers to all-black printing, to save on color ink. The electronic version is easier to get to, now. I send out an email (which I am going to send to ALL members) that now contains a link to take you directly to the *Saximontana*, no password required (thank you Hugh Mac Millan). You cannot go to other places on rmcnargs.org with this link, but you can immediately see the *Saximontana* and enjoy the color. We hope you will try the link now and consider this option for 2015. Thanks.—Sally Boyson



Adam Burch and Kathleen Stewart at the Spring Plant Sale

Photo by Ann Newman

- It should have at least one USB port, and, ideally, an ethernet port
- CD/DVD able
- Windows 7 or greater, 64 bit
- Audio

Thank you.—John Brink

Horseshoe Mtn Hike, from p. 1.

Please register by contacting Mike Kintgen

Meeting location: Prather's Market, 301 US Hwy 285, Fairplay. CO 80440, on the **South** side of the Highway 285 at the intersection with Colorado Highway 9, immediately at the stoplight in Fairplay. We will meet at 7:30am.

From the meeting location we will carpool to the hiking site. The road to the trailhead is not terrible, just bumpy; a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Low clearance vehicles have done it with only minor excitement.

What to bring:

Lunch

Rain gear

Jacket

Water

Sunscreen

Sunglasses

Hat for sun and winter (if you get chilly easily)

Gloves (if you get chilly, it can be cold and the wind often blows in the Cirque)

Alpine Flower Finder (Wingate and Yeatts)

Thunderstorms are a threat and we are hoping to get up the mountain and then back down in time to avoid afternoon storms.

Lower McCullough Hike, from p. 1.

It then enters a spruce-fir forest, revealing the shade-lovers in the understory. A short side trail leads down to McCullough Creek where riparian species thrive. Returning to the main trail, the route continues up a gentle grade to vast meadows of sunflowers, delphiniums and mariposa lilies.

Maximum round-trip distance: 4 miles. Maximum elevation gain: 750 feet.

Bring lunch, warm clothing, rain gear, camera and guide books. Jane will have a self-published wildflower guide specific to this area available for pur-

chase at \$4. However, there is no obligation to buy the booklet.

Meet at the far west end of the City Market parking lot at 9 a.m. There is a public restroom in the store. City Market is located at the north end of Breckenridge at North Park Ave. and Colo. Hwy. 9. There is a traffic roundabout at that intersection. We will plan to return to the trailhead by 4:30 p.m.

Leaders: Klaus & Jane Hendrix, websites: <http://www.picturetrail.com/hendrix>, <http://www.picturetrail.com/snowtrekker7>.

Above Grant, we will find a spot where there are lots of flowers. Continuing up to the Summit Overlook, we might walk the interpretive trail that has been constructed there. In Georgetown, we will stop for ice cream.

This hike is listed as a Colorado Mountain Club hike. It is the Club's policy to pay the driver about \$0.08/mile. The circle trip from the C-470 and Morrison Road P&R to Grant, over the Guanella Pass Road to Georgetown and return, via I-70, to the C-470 and Morrison P&R is about 100 miles. Monoculars and

lawn chairs will be provided, but those who wish to walk a bit further are welcome to do so.

Limit: 8 participants. Please register with Dawn Mitchell. *Unhikes involve no to short hiking. We find extraordinary flowers close by. Special short-focus monoculars allow those seated or standing to see flowers on the ground close-up.—Ed.*

Spring Plant Sale

Plant Sale Thanks

By Michael Weber

Another great plant sale has come and gone. This year's sale that would not have been possible without all of the hard work, and long hours from the many

Spring Plant Sale

By Ann Newman

On Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, the Denver Botanic Gardens hosted the RMC-NARGS's annual Spring Plant Sale. The Plant Sale was already humming when I arrived at the sale Friday evening. As I was crossing York Street, many RMC-NARGS members passed me on the way to their cars. They had already purchased enough plants to keep them very busy planting choice rock garden plants the rest of the weekend.

Beautiful plants and fabulous garden items filled Mitchell Hall. We had such a great selection of choice plants to choose from! We also had the lovely steel sculptures from Deede Pecora and we had two trough builders: Tamara's Troughs (Tamera Winter) and High Points Nursery (Adam Burch). Thanks to all our wonderful vendors: Aqua Fria, Santa Fe; Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery; Gwen's Daphnes; High Points Nursery, Thornton; Kiota Greenhouse, Inc, Fort Lupton; La Porte Avenue Nursery, Fort Collins; Perennial Favorites, Rye; Sunscapes Rare Plant Nursery, Pueblo; Tamara's Troughs; and Steel Storks 'n Stuff. I asked Bill Adams, owner of Sunscapes, if he had any trouble bringing so many plants from Pueblo. He said he uses a special system to fit them all in the back of his truck.

Friday night shopping was reserved for RMC-NARGS members, including those who joined that evening. Even though I arrived late, there were still

club volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your efforts. I hope that all of the rock garden chapter members' purchases have survived all of the hail storms that have been way to numerous over the last few weeks. I look forward to seeing all of you at next year's sale.

many chapter members shopping for treasures. Gary Mueller had a nice selection of plants; his wife Sharon said she helps by deciding where to plant the plants, and then she helps maintain them, including watering and weeding the beds. Elaine Jurries and Peg Christon were at Anne Smith's tallying table; each had a box of plants. Elaine said her favorites were *Phlomis leuco-*



Members shop a great selection
All photos by Ann Newman

phracta and *Phlox bifida* 'Confetti'. Peg's favorites were *Campanula bellidifolia* and *Erigeron scopulinus*. David and Jo Lynn Winger had five boxes of plants; three of them were for neighbors. Jo Lynn's favorite was *Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips'. I am relatively new to rock gardening so I printed some plant lists from the vendors' websites, which helped me figure out what I wanted to buy. The vendors were also very helpful and told us a lot about their plants!

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In addition to the shoppers, there were many RMC-NARGS volunteers who made the plant sale go smoothly and be a success. I was present for only a few hours on Friday and Saturday and saw many people working at the sale. Joan Schwarz was at the membership table Friday night and Gesa Robeson was at the information table. Gesa had some literature and a box filled with seed packets left over from the winter's NARGS seed exchange; these were available for free for plant sale visitors. Sally Boyson and Randy Tatroe were efficient cashiers. Ann Bartlett had a nice selection of books for sale and said that she had already sold many. The books that did not sell she will keep for another event or donate to the DBG library. Other volunteers had brought in food for the workers, which allowed the volunteers to have something very good to eat when hungry. There were so many other volunteers, all working very hard.

Some RMC-NARGS members had brought in their own trough gardens and there was a special display of them. They were so striking and some trough garden plants were even in bloom!

Saturday's plant sale was open to the public and many visited the sale. I stopped by mid-day. In the Family Corner, Lee Curtis was helping two boys pot and plant some succulents in clay pots to take home. It is part of the chapter's education program, and the boys seemed to be enjoying the activity very much.

Mike Kintgen was on the microphone describing various plants and explaining why shoppers might want the plants in their gardens. This is so helpful to those of us who are new to rock gardening. Many of the plants at the sale are unknown to the general public, but they are beautiful and they grow well in our

Colorado gardens.

Advance advertising for the plant sale described the RMC-NARGS members' trough garden show on Saturday and promised opportunities to "buy and plant your own trough." So that is what I did. I worked with



Ann Newman's trough

Adam Burch of High Points Nursery. I bought one of his nursery's troughs and Adam helped me select suitable plants. There were so many choices but we settled on *Penstemon hallii*, *Erigeron compositus* 'Pink', *Draba rigida* v. *bryoides*, and *Gypsophila bungeana*. Then Adam filled the trough with rock garden soil and rock, and planted the plants in the crevice garden style in the trough. Placing the

rocks in a crevice garden is an art. My trough garden is small but beautiful. The crevice rock is a Sienna brown color, with some quartz and maybe some mica, which highlights the flakes of gold glitter in the trough. All of this is the most wonderful backdrop for my beautiful plants! This miniature rock garden was admired by all who saw it being built at the sale.



Lee Curtis teaches children how to plant sempervivums in pots with Dick Bartlett looking on.

To learn more about troughs, I will be referring to the April issue of "Colorado Gardener." It features an article, "Grow Miniature Gardens in Hyper-Tufa Troughs," by our chapter's Tamara Winter, who is also one of our trough vendors. There is a second article, "Stellar Plants for Troughs," by Mike Kintgen. There's a list of great trough plants there and suggestions on what to avoid if one wants to keep the plants in a

trough garden alive. I will be referring to these articles often. In case you missed getting the April issue, it will likely be on-line for awhile at www.coloradogardener.com, under "Past Issues."

Our plant sale was a big success, with gross sales of \$25,791 and a net of \$6,790.24, after payments to DBG and taxes, per Elaine Menter, Treasurer.—Ed.

Replant Boulder—Two Easy Ways

By Mike Kintgen

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is championing two easy ways to help replant flood-impacted properties in Boulder County, thanks to an excellent idea by Barbara Boardman. One is to save seed and the other is to donate funds to go toward purchasing seed that can be distributed to families who need help re-establishing a native landscape after last September's floods.

Saving seed is one of the easiest ways to share and establish many native and rock garden plants. Collecting seed is simple and fun. Most species take about 4-8 weeks from flowering to ripen their seeds; of course there are always exceptions to the rule. I watch plants in my garden at home, checking on them periodically to see how things are progressing. Plants that are going to set viable seeds will develop full fat looking seed heads; anything withered and brown prematurely (before the 4 -8 weeks) will probably not be viable. It is time to collect once when seed capsules start to turn brown and open or, in the case of species with fluff seeds (like pussy toes (*Antennaria*), *Erigeron*), the fluff seems to get really fluffy and can easily be removed from the stem when it is time to collect.

I use paper bags or envelopes (no plastic) as the seed need to have air movement to dry the capsules and prevent mold. I store my bags and envelopes in a cool but well-ventilated location; if it is exceptionally humid like last September, I set up a fan to help move air.

I write the species name and date collected on the outside of the envelope. Please keep species separate.

One can often shake the bag or envelope after 3-10 days and hear if there are viable seeds in there. They should rattle. Fluffy seed will not rattle.

Please consider saving seed from your own garden to help gardeners in Boulder County replant some of their flood-damaged yards. Colorado natives are preferred due to issues of potential invasive plants. Due to the sensitivity of the areas the seed is being donated to, I have prepared a short list of recom-

mended easy-to-collect species below. Most of the things listed below would be ready to harvest July 4–mid-August in the Denver area.

Flowers

Abronia fragrans

Allium cernuum (Nodding onion); please note other species of *Allium* are potentially invasive especially *Allium christophii*.

Antennaria species (pussytoes) (June to August)

Aquilegia coerulea (June to September)

Aquilegia saximonatana (June to September)

Argemone polyanthemos (July to September)

Castilleja integra

Cleome serrulata

Erigonum (Buckwheat)

Erigeron

Gaillardia aristata

Geum triflorum

Linum lewisii

Lupinus argenteus

Penstemon

Townsendia

Grasses

Little bluestem

Blue gramma

Items to avoid would be nonnatives that self-sow in your home gardens and anything on the State's noxious weed list. http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/ag_Conservation/CBON/1251618874438.

Another easy way to help out is to contribute

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funds that would go toward augmenting the collected seed with seed purchased from a native plants seed company. Simply send a check made out to “RMC-NARGS Flood Restoration Fund” to the Chapter Treasurer, Elaine Menter, or bring your contribution to the Members’ Plant Sale on September 13. Once the funds are collected, the Chapter will use them to purchase the seed that will be distributed to Boulder

County residents. Thank you very much for your donations of cash or seed, and please bring the labeled seed collections to the Members’ Plant Sale.

Plants of the Sino-Himalaya

By Linda Meyer and Sally Boyson

On May 16 and 17, Martin Walsh, renowned plant-hunter and landscaper from Dublin, came to speak to us as the North American Rock Garden Society’s Western sponsored speaker. On Friday night, he spoke about “High and Low in the Himalaya.”

When it comes to spectacular mountain scenery, few places, if any, can compare with the Himalaya. It is, after all, the greatest mountain system on earth. The flora of this region is equally impressive and is also tremendously rich. Perhaps one of the most exciting aspects of this flora is that it is also extraordinarily diverse, ranging from subtropical to alpine.

After a brief overview of the entire Himalayan region from Himachal Pradesh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east, Mr. Walsh showed photos of the culture of the different people who live in the Himalayan region, then went on to discuss the diverse habitats in which Himalayan plants grow—ranging from cloud forest, to subalpine and alpine meadows as well as scree, moraines and rock crevices, etc. Mr. Walsh firmly believes that the key to successful cultivation of these plants lies in the understanding of the different types of habitats that these plants inhabit.

On Saturday afternoon, we learned about “Chinese and Himalayan Plants for the Garden,” with an emphasis on plants that are growable in our gardens. Mr. Walsh started by telling us about the Western plant-hunters who had risked health and life in order to introduce many of these plants into cultivation. He had ravishing photos of the individual plants and then of great fields of them that seemed impossible. Although these were advised to be able to be grown by us (mostly available only by seed or from specialist nurseries), quite a few seemed to be woodland plants that would require significant moisture. Plants that grow out in the open included *Allium*, lilies, *Androsace*, primulas, anemone, *Codonopsis* etc.

Although most of us who have tried them have cried over our blue *Corydalis*, Mr. Walsh had a new, fabulous species, *Corydalis melanochlora* with finely dissected leaves that was growing in scree—no mention that this was available anywhere. Other plants with drier growing conditions were *Arisaema flavum*, *Gypsophila cerastoides* and *Clematis rehderiana*. All-in-all, you missed fascinating history and great photos of beautiful plants if you missed these programs.

The Grand Tour

By Lee Curtis

What a great year to show off your rock garden! Cool but not too cold weather and plenty of precipita-

tion (most of the hail so far has been smallish and

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semi-slushy.) Plenty of bright sun has been available with time to dig and meditate in the garden. The Fort

Collins contingent of the Rocky Mountain Chapter once again combined to throw an extravagant tour of gorgeous rock gardens. Picture-perfect weather on May 31 combined with meticulously groomed gardens and proud, happy gardeners for an extraordinary day of garden visits. Busy, photo-snapping guests flew like bees among six perfect gardens.

Randy and Carol Shinn introduced their spanking new garden a few years ago for the last Fort Collins rock garden tour. Since then, their garden has settled in and the plantings this spring have matured into brilliant waves of colorful flowers. But Carol and Randy have continued to innovate, ever changing and reinventing the beds and plantings. Kenton Seth built an elegant, new crevice garden addition for them this spring at the front of the house. Steeply sloped and newly planted, already it has a rocky beauty as it settles into its new space. Contrasting the vertical rock placement in front, Carol and Randy had a horizontal crevice garden in the back that was in full bloom. Paths let visitors circulate past the waterfall and shade beds back to the veggie garden.

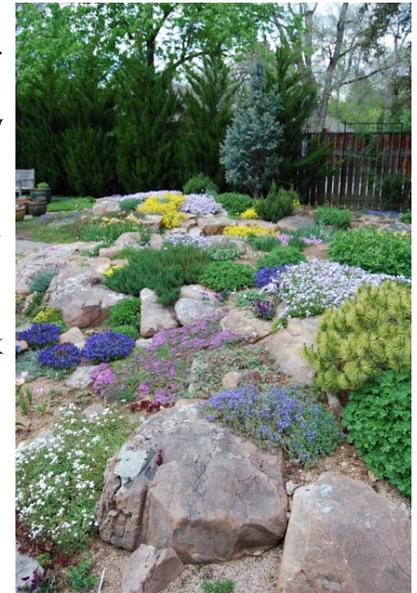
Some of our chapter volunteered a few years ago to help plant the fledgling rock gardens in the Gardens at Spring Creek that were jointly designed by Maddy Weisz and Kirk Feiseler. I remember Kirk tactically organized a mass planting day with an army of gardeners digging in thousands of choice plants in a few hours. Since then, the garden has grown and changed into a comfortable space with high rock berms well-clothed with a huge variety of blooming plants and choice dwarf trees. It is a large rock garden so the va-



Shinn garden
Photo by Randy Shinn

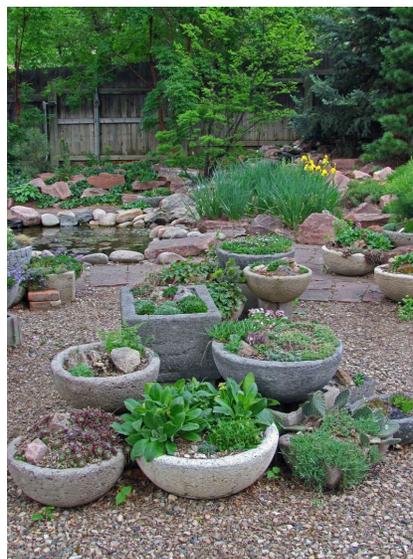
riety of habitats is comprehensive and the size of the plantings is generous and has been well cared for. This area of the public garden is worth revisiting many times just for its educational value, but its beauty makes the rock garden a living jewel that changes with the seasons.

Maddy Weisz and her husband are professional landscape architects and their carefully planned rock gardens balance generous human habitats with carefully chosen rocks immersed in happy, well-grown cushions of rock garden plants. Everywhere were personal, thoughtful touches among the flowers that set their garden apart; gravel beds were punctuated with topographic stepping stones and a stegosaurus sculpture built of stone prowled the back bed. A balance of sunlight and shade traveled throughout this garden throughout the day making any hour pleasant viewing.



Weisz garden
Photo by Randy Shinn

Kirk Feiseler and Karen Lehrer were kind to open



LaPorte Avenue Nursery
Photo by Lee Curtis

La Porte Avenue Nursery's gardens for viewing and the nursery greenhouses for shopping, with plenty of choice plants and grafted trees for sale. The rock gardens feature many of Kirk's selected trees in mature sizes and choice plants well-sited; it's an insightful look into how to cultivate successfully many of their select plants and

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both Kirk and Karen were very helpful with hints about growing. A waterfall, chickens, lath-house, greenhouses, (even a green roof planted with xeric plants!) and happy, healthy rock gardens –this secluded little nursery had it all.

Jan DeVore’s garden has been nurtured for years and has choice, mature trees, shrubs, rock gardens,



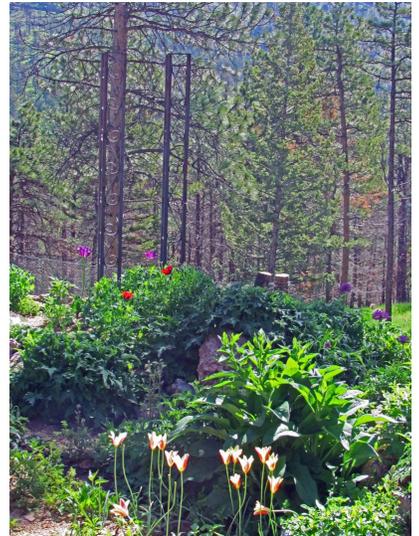
Jan DeVore’s garden
Photo by Lee Curtis

waterfall and pools, even a busy beehive. Jan’s the Queen of Hypertufa creations; her gardens are filled with the most adventurous forms. Explore and discover how many different ways she’s used cement mixtures throughout the gardens. She’s always evolving new ways to grow and showcase plants. Her lath house was filled

with gorgeous bonsai trees. Her latest creation and grand experiment is a 10 foot diameter trough with no bottom, filled with sand. Give her a few years and she’ll know how sand culture works in Colorado. Plus,

Kenton Seth just built a new, black granite (with white veining) crevice garden for Jan. Soon she’ll be the crevice garden expert too.

Pat Baker’s high mountain garden and house are a recovering wonder after a wildfire devoured her home and garden just 3 years ago. This moisture-plentiful Spring, her garden was lush and green with fresh bright



Pat Baker’s garden
Photo by Lee Curtis

flowers re-carpeting her hillsides. Many of her scorched troughs have been replanted, many bulbs and plants surprisingly survived the fire and the following reconstruction of her house. Her garden sparkled with ‘Lady Bird’ poppies, columbines, and a variety of high altitude plants. Pat’s artistic arrangements of South American sculpture and repurposed, fire-scarred wood, glass, and metal punctuated the garden making each inch a thoughtful pleasure and surprise.

Aquilegia flabellate nana
Photo by Sally Boyson

Welcome new members

Members whose information was published in the May edition of the Membership Roster: Dale Ball, Louise Bath, Wendy Carley, Tom Carlough, Mari Marjack, Dawn Orr & Caryl Thompson, Cynthia Schuele, Edward & Marilyn Kirchhoff, Robert Shelden, Betty & Rick Steck, Mary Steiner, Sharon Stewart and Ellen Taylor.



Membership Form: Rocky Mountain Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

All renewals are due in JANUARY, regardless of date of joining.

Rocky Mountain Chapter Options (circle one; see www.rmcnargs.org for benefits): paper Saximontana now \$10 added.

Individual =\$15; Household =\$20; Supporting =\$55; Patron =\$105; Life =\$305. PAPER SAX +\$10 = \$_____

(North American Rock Garden Society dues are now paid separately and dues have changed. See www.nargs.org.)

Check One: New Renewing Today's Date_____

Names and contact information are published in the annual Roster, which is password-protected online. The Roster is labeled for members' use only.

Please choose _____EMAIL (PDF in color) OR _____PAPER (B/W) newsletter, *Saximontana* (add \$10 above for paper).

Name(s) as you wish them to appear in listing:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Telephone:_____ E-mail (please!):_____

This is NEW INFORMATION: ___Yes ___No. This is a CORRECTION for current Roster/ mailing: ___Yes.

Make check payable to RMC-NARGS. Mail to Gesa Robeson, 1648 Yosemite St., Denver, CO 80220.

Stalking the Wild Astragalus

For five days in May, fourteen people from the Rocky Mountain Chapter explored the rolling grass-land sea of South Dakota in search of *Astragalus barrii*—a rare endemic plant native to southwestern South Dakota, Northwestern Nebraska and the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana. The plant was named for renowned horticulturist Claude Barr, who ranched in South Dakota. Cindy Reed, president of the Great Plains Native Plant Society, arranged for us to be accompanied by members of their group and be guided by Milt Haar, the ecologist for Badlands National Park.

We spent a spectacular day hiking and exploring the badlands complete with bison. At the end of the day, we reached a narrow strip of



Astragalus barrii
Photo by Kathleen Stewart

land still in the Park and there, on white silica in a very small area, bloomed hundreds of the plants we sought. The ground shone blindingly white and large (4"-5") plates of chalcedony (a calcium silicate) accompanied the plant, which indicated that the geologic formation where it grew was deposited in a marine environment. This plant, as with so many other endemics, is threatened by oil and gas drilling and all-terrain vehicle riding on unprotected "badlands."

What a privilege it was to see this remote part of the Great Plains and connect to some of its flora. We saw many other plants at Agate Fossil Beds and Scottsbluff National Monument on our return trip and were amazed by our good weather.

—Kathleen Stewart

Insurance Knowledge?

Our Chapter needs a member who is knowledgeable about insurance to review our policies. Are you

able to help?

Rocky Mountain Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

Calendar ~ Summer 2014

Most meetings are held on the third Wednesday of many months at Denver Botanic Gardens, with Social at 6:00 p.m. and Program at 7:00 p.m. Please always check current issue or www.rmcnargs.org for changes. Major updates are also sent by email, so please be sure Lori Giesecke (p. 2) has your current email address. **Login to www.rmcnargs.org is individual for *Saximontana* and Membership Roster only.**

July 12 Saturday	Hike, Mike Kintgen, Horseshoe Mountain and Cirque.
July 26 Saturday	Hike, Jane Hendrix, McCullough Gulch.
August 7 Thursday	Guanella Pass Unhike—all abilities welcome, but limited to 8.
September 13 Saturday	Members' Plant Sale. Marcia and Randy Tatroe's home



Adam Burch's new trough
Photo by Adam Burch