



# Saximontana

Rocky Mountain Chapter  
North American Rock Garden Society  
Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 9  
September 2014

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## Members' Plant Sale & Mini-Lectures

By Linda Meyer

September 13, 9-2

Members and your extra plants, cuttings and seedlings are all invited to the Members' Plant Sale, where fabulous plants with great low prices will greet you. An added bonus is the garden, home to many unusual plants and art work. Now is the time to pot up plants that are too big for their space, seedlings that have popped up with all the rain this spring and summer. Those members donating 10 or more plants will get first chance to buy the most desirable plants.

After all the plants have been sold or picked up for free, the nominating committee will introduce the nominees for the 2015 board of directors. Nominations will also be taken from the floor (garden).

Bring your lunch and a *chair* and enjoy chatting with other members and visiting the garden. Then, after lunch, a special presentation will be given by Paul Spriggs from Vancouver, BC, an expert on growing *Lewisia tweedyi*. Following Paul's presentation, Randy Tatroe will present a slide show of the May trip to the Badlands. These are two presentations you will want to stay for!

Mike Kintgen or Mary Jenson will be available to collect any seed you have to donate to the flood restoration.

### To NARGS.org readers:

Personal information has been removed from this copy. Members of our Chapter receive the full version.



garden flamingos  
Photo by Sally Boyson

**Members' Plant Sale**  
*Lewisia tweedyi*  
**Badlands Trip**  
Saturday, Sept. 13

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# President's Outcrop

By Mary Jenson

Have you ever eaten prickly pear cactus? My answer to this question would have been no if it hadn't been for two young boys who visited us a few weeks ago. The twin boys and their father, a long time friend, were visiting from Missoula, Montana. These boys were brought up with a great appreciation for plants and animals and love to forage the mountains for huckleberries, chokecherry and serviceberry. After their trip to Colorado, they can now add prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.) to their list!

We were hiking just outside of Boulder on BLM land when we came across a patch of prickly pear. The boys were all excited because they had heard you could eat prickly pear and they wanted to harvest and cook

**North American Rock Garden Society** [www.rmcnargs.org](http://www.rmcnargs.org)  
**Rocky Mountain Chapter** **Since 1977**

## 2014 Chapter Board

President	Mary Jenson
Vice President	Linda Meyer
Secretary	Joe McCleary
Treasurer	Elaine Menter
Members-at-Large	John Brink (Metro) Carol Shinn (Nonmetro)
Membership Committee	Gesa Robeson Joan Schwarz Lori Giesecke
Refreshment Chair	Loretta Koehler
NARGS Representative	Ann Bartlett
Website Administrator	Hugh Mac Millan
<i>Saximontana</i> Editor	Sally Boyson

## 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.

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it. Twelve-year old boys! The first challenge was how to pick the plants. We were hiking and didn't have thick leather gloves along! But, never fear, the boys found two sticks and used them like tongs to twist off the young, tender paddles.

I had just read Marcia Tatroe's article in the summer issue of Colorado Gardener about eating prickly pear, so I was emboldened to give it a try. First, we had to skin the paddles, no small task. We then plunked the skinned paddles in boiling water, sliced and battered the tenderized pieces in flour and egg, and fried them in oil. Now, the moment of truth! Yum! Our labors and spirit of adventure were rewarded! But next time, I think I'll order it off the menu.

This month's newsletter has a lot of great information, including a very important update on the Member's Plant Sale being held on Saturday, September 13th. If you stay for lunch (bring a bag lunch and a chair) you will be treated to two short presentations: a slideshow on the Badlands trip and a guest speaker on *Lewisia tweedyi*. See page 1 for more details. See you there!

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# Proposed Nominees for the RMC Board of Directors

*By the nominees*

We thank the Nominating Committee, Kathleen Stewart, Carol Earle and Trish Griffin, for coming up with these nominees.—Mary Jenson

**President: Mike Bone.** I am interested in serving a term as your local president. I have been a member for several years, have helped the society in different ways and feel it is the right time to step up and get more involved. In my professional life I am the Propagator and the Curator of Steppe Collections for the Denver Botanic Gardens. In this role I have propagated and grown many of the plants for the Gardens' Rock Alpine Garden. I regularly give presentations and classes on the many techniques of plant propagation. I have grown plants for the society's spring plant sale both from the Botanic Gardens as well as from my own personal collection. Beyond my professional obsession with plants, I am also a very avid gardener. In my personal garden I have a greenhouse, rock garden, perennial gardens, veggie garden, and dry/xeric gardens. I have been a long time member of the IPPS (International Plant Propagators Society), where I have served as a director and have become familiar with the workings of being on a board. In 2013, I was honored by NARGS by receiving the Geoffrey B. Charlesworth Writing Award for a series of articles on propagation in the Quarterly. As president I hope to help keep up our long tradition of excellence with an eye on making sure our future as a society remains viable and valuable.

**Vice-President: Linda Meyer.** Prior to moving to Denver to spend more time with my grandchildren, I realized that rock gardening was the best way to manage the climate and soil in Denver. What a wild ride the past three years have been. My first rock garden was a mound of soil with rocks, which actually became a quite lovely garden and was chosen for the 2013 garden tour. Then Stephanie Ferguson from Calgary came to speak and convinced me that a crevice garden would be best in my small yard—can put in more plants that way. Kenton Seth has installed two crevice gardens for me and I love them.

Along this path, rock gardening and the society has become a large part of my life. As vice-president for the past two years, my responsibilities have been to bring qualified and interesting speakers to the monthly meetings, oversee the two annual plant sales, find leaders for summer hikes, write articles for the Saximontana, and assist the president in a myriad of ways.

At the annual banquet last year I was so honored to receive the NARGS Award for Service, and, if elected, will continue that service to the Chapter.

**Secretary: Greg Hewgley.** The idea of being chapter secretary hadn't crossed my mind before Kathleen Stewart suggested it to me. I've enjoyed being a member for a few years, attending the monthly meetings to hear interesting speakers and volunteering at the spring plant sale. It could be that I'm an unlikely candidate since I've never played a similar role in an organization and as a gardener I seem to be a perpetual novice. Nevertheless, I would be happy to take on the duties of secretary and contribute to our chapter's continued success. Thanks for asking me, Kathleen.

**Treasurer: Connie Olson.** Although I do not do much gardening, I have always loved flowers, especially alpine and native plants. I have been a DBG Mt. Goliath guide since 1998 and active on the board of the Associates of DBG. Thanks to my years of NARGS events, classes, field trips, being a guide at the Romancing the Rockies meeting and the social times with other members, I have enjoyed and learned so much. When I was asked to be nominated for treasurer, I saw it as an opportunity to give back to the organization. My professional career was that of a Clinical Psychologist. When I had my private practice in Hawaii I also served as treasurer of the Hawaii Psychological Association. I also had experience in financial planning and have done income tax preparation as a volunteer for AARP for several years in Hawaii and Colorado. If you choose me, I look forward to being

*(Continued on page 4)*

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on the RMC-NARGS board.

**Metro Member-at-Large Nominee: John Brink.** John is a lifelong vegetable gardener who became captivated by rock gardening in the mid-1980s when he first visited the Denver Botanic Gardens' rock garden. He soon joined NARGS and the Rocky Mountain Chapter and then, in 1990, took Panayoti Kelaidis's Rock Gardens class at Front Range Community College. Over these years he has enjoyed many of the learning and social opportunities the Chapter offers, including lectures, *Saximontana*, workshops, tours and plant sales.

"I have an enormous amount of admiration and respect for the gardening knowledge possessed by members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter" he says, adding "I hope that I can help the Chapter continue to grow and spread that knowledge." If returned to the Board, his priorities for the coming year are to help the Chapter gain and retain new members and develop systems and operating procedures to make it easier for anyone coming into a Board or committee assignment to perform their responsibilities.

John is presently serving as the Metro Area Member-at-Large. He has volunteered at plant sales and seed exchange packaging sessions and he chaired the Chapter's Awards Committee in 2011 and 2012. He was also an ex-officio member of the executive board of another Colorado nonprofit for about 10 years prior to his retirement in 2012.

**Non-metro Member-at-Large: Carol Shinn.** I have served in this position since January. I have enjoyed learning about the workings of our chapter and will assist the board members as best I can. I hope to help the chapter grow and do what I can to spread the word about rock gardening in Fort Collins. I have been an avid rock gardener in both Tempe, AZ and in Fort Collins, where we moved in 2006. I enjoy experi-

menting with different styles and techniques of rock gardening. This year Randy and I have put in a large vertical crevice garden, which contrasts with an earlier-planted, horizontal crevice garden. I have started propagating our own plants from seed, and am now thinking about beds dedicated to particular species or particular ecosystems. (See p. 8 in *e-Saximontana—Ed.*)



*Gentiana paradoxa*  
Photo by Sally Boyson

**Membership Co-Chair: Joan Schwarz.** When my children were out of the house I became a volunteer in the rock garden. Panayoti was the curator & Sandy Snyder was his assistant. I joined the Rock Garden Society in the late '70 and the American Rock Garden Society at the same time. (North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) was not yet formed.) I became a member of the ARGs in the '80 and president of RMC in

late '80. I've enjoyed being a member of the membership committee for a long time & have found best friends in the society.

**Membership Co-Chair: Gesa Robeson.** Gardening and gardens have always interested me—therefore 30 years ago I became a volunteer at the Rock Alpine Garden at DBG and a member of the Rock Garden Society. I have held the office of treasurer and have been one part of the membership committee for many years. I have also chaired both the DBG and the RMC spring plant sales. I am the collector of yearly dues and membership roster co-creator.

**NARGS Representative: Ann Bartlett.** I have served for quite a few years as the chapter's NARGS representative. My duties included keeping our members informed of national activities by a column in the *Saximontana*. I also represented our chapter at the board meeting during the 2013 national conference in Asheville, NC. This year I have promoted the national

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meeting in Santa Fe and succeeded in procuring three stipends, 2 local and 1 national, for our members to attend the conference. I also run our chapter book sales.

**Web Master: Hugh Mac Millan.** It is my intention to retain the post of [rmcnargs.org](http://rmcnargs.org) web master. My qualifications are that I have administered this website for 9 years, the American Penstemon Society website for many years (lost count), the NARGS national website for several years, and the Eriogonum Society website for 6 years—the implication being that I have experience.

**Saximontana Editor: Sally Boyson.** I learned

about RMC-NARGS when I had to re-do portions of my back yard, wanted a rock garden and the general landscaper did a terrible job. "Dr. Green" in the Denver Botanic Gardens' library told me about RMC-NARGS and said they were having a symposium that Saturday. I was excited by that, signed up and went to the Banquet. As I was circulating, trying to find someone to re-do the rocks, I said I had computer skills to trade (this was a good number of years ago). Joan Schwarz heard this and, when the Randy Tatroe, the president said, "We still need an editor," Joan said, "We have one!" I have been editor ever since and, if you will have me, I am happy to continue. I appreciate all who have contributed, as I could not do the job without you. More contributors are welcome!



*Sedum sieboldii*  
Photo by Sally Boyson

### *Preview of Quintuple Day*

Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9 am to 5 pm

Every October our society hosts a "Quintuple Day," bringing in five speakers in a single all-day program. This year Quintuple Day will be held at the Chatfield location of the Denver Botanic Gardens, a lovely setting and one that few of us have experi-

enced. Our 5 speakers this year are outstanding plants-people, the cream of the crop from Colorado and Santa Fe: Dan Johnson, John Weiser, Lauren Springer Ogden, Gwen Moore and Kirk Fieseler. More about the speakers next issue. Do plan on attending Q-day.  
—Linda Meyer

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### *Santa Fe NARGS meeting Ride Sharing*

I have created a ride board for those going to Santa Fe who also would like to offer rides or those

interested in finding a ride. It is self-managed with directions right on the page (right side). Thanks to John Brink and Mary Jenson for testing this. —Hugh Mac Millan

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### *Thank You to Anita Cox*

Our club member Anita Cox has generously donated a Dell computer to the club. This acquisition

will enable us to more easily meet the needs of our presenters, who usually use Powerpoint for their presentations. We are most grateful, Anita.—Linda Meyer

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# Guanella Pass - RMC UnHike

By Lori Giesecke

Thursday, Aug 7th started and ended with sunny, warm weather; the hail storm in between did not stop us from seeing many little ‘treasures’.

The first stop was soon after the turn-off at Grant, along Hwy 285. We saw some dusty wild flowers along the side of the road, which is being improved. Here came the dark clouds, lightning, thunder, wind and rain. By the time we were moving, the rain changed to hail. Let’s go for it—to the top of the pass. Thankfully, we could see tire tracks (from the car ahead) in the whitened road so we got there with no problems.

Just before the very top of the pass, where the weather was changing, we stopped to check on a few wild flowers along the road. One flower in particular to see was a tiny white flower here and there on the hill side—oh, that was hail.

Finally, we stopped at the newly improved Summit rest area to eat our lunches in the cars because of the cool wind. First, right next to the parking area,

Joan spotted a queen’s crown [*Sedum rhodanthum*] and later, on the other side of parking lot, fireweed [*Epilobium angustifolium*] was spotted. Off we went

up a nice wide trail. We saw two types of creamy yellow Indian paintbrush: Western [*Castilleja occidentalis*] and alpine [*C. puberula*], a large yellow *Potentilla diversifolia*, a few pussy toes [*Antennaria media*] and a cluster of “old-man-of-the- mountain,” aka alpine sunflower [*Tetrameuris grandiflora*]. The best one that Dawn pointed out to us was the alpine bistort [*Bistorta vivipara*], which she explained had tiny bulbs, not seeds, on its stem—a real alpine adaptation. Dawn Mitchell, our excellent leader, identified the flowers for us.



The unhikers  
Photo by Lori Giesecke

Before driving down the “hill” to Denver, we stopped in Georgetown at a popular ice cream store on the main street for delicious treat. Some of us sat outside on a sunny bench to enjoy the warmth. Great trip.

*Welcome New Members*

*Changes*

## 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](http://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](http://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:\_\_\_\_\_

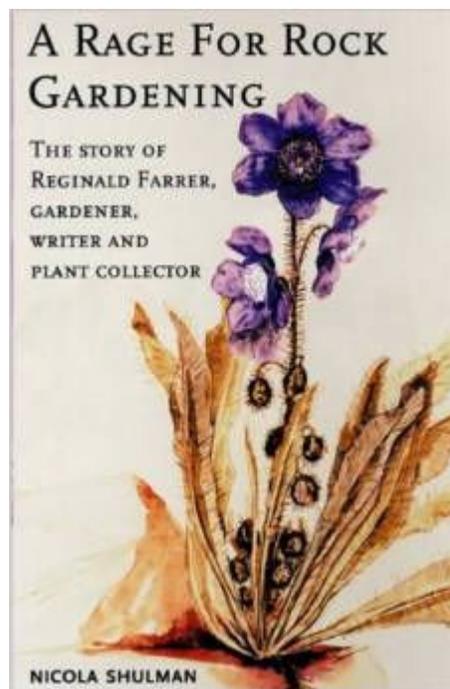
Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (please!):\_\_\_\_\_

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.

### NARGS Book Reviews

*A Rage For Rock Gardening*, by Nicola Shulman, subtitled, *The story of Reginald Farrer, gardener, writer and plant collector*. The reviewer for this book was kind and generous in her review but Shulman dwells on Farrer's family life rather than his extraordinary contributions to gardening. It may be just not a good book and because it's about someone near and dear to rock gardeners everywhere, I have actually asked another rock gardener to read it and give us his thoughts. Meanwhile, you can read the review posted on the NARGS website. (This got a 4-star review on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).—Ed.)



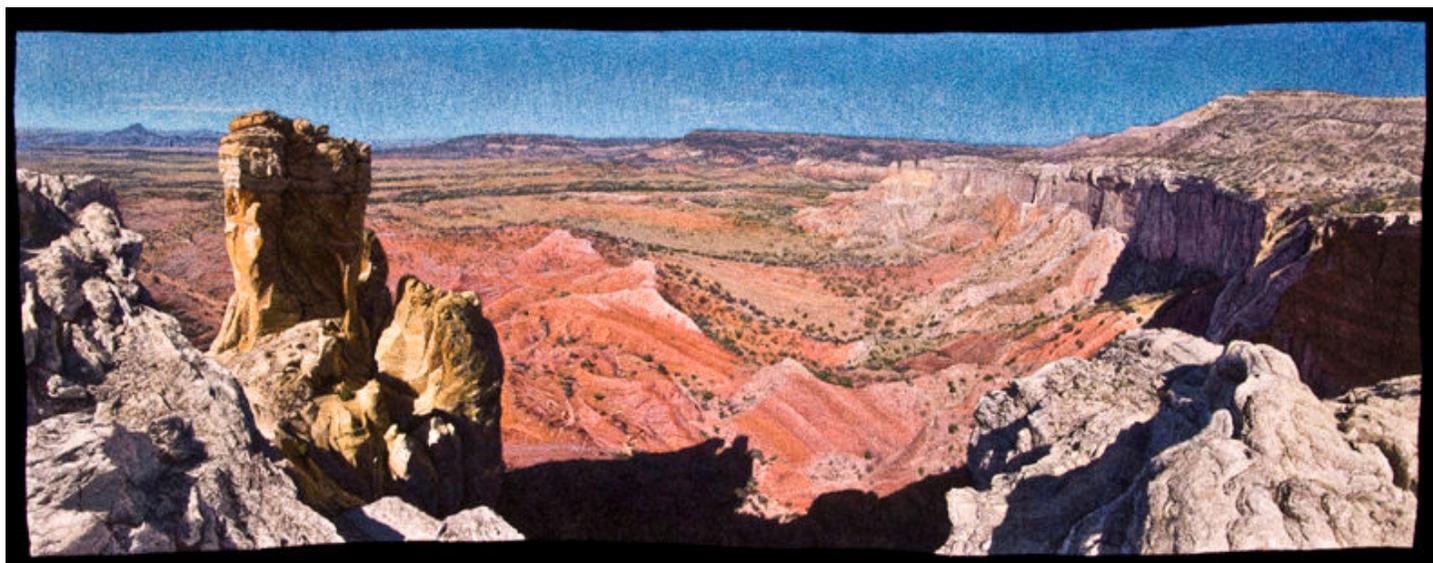
The other booklet, entitled, "Growing Winter Hardy Cacti in Cold/Wet Climate Conditions," by our own John N. Spain, is a little bible for those who live in New England and some Middle Atlantic States. Elisabeth Harmon Zander contributed to the booklet and it really is a how-to book. John received the Marcel LePinieac award last year for his propagation efforts with cacti and other plants.

The full reviews are located on the NARGS Web site at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org). Click on "Plants" and then "Book of the Month."—Betty Spar

## Rocky Mountain Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society Calendar ~ Summer-Fall 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](http://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](http://www.rmcnargs.org) is individual for *Saximontana* and Membership Roster only.**

September 13 Saturday	Members' Plant Sale, please see p. 1.
October 25 Saturday	Quintuple Day
November 8 Saturday	Banquet



Chimney Rock, by Carol Shinn

Our Mon-Metro Member-at-Large, Carol Shinn, makes art in a most unusual way. Carol's technique of freestyle machine embroidery derives from her special skill of drawing. She layers different colored thread one upon the other to completely cover her canvases. See other examples of her work at her gallery's website, at <http://www.tansecontemporary.com/sagemoon/artistPages/CShinn.html>. Take a look at the sold ones, too.