

spring  
2011

ROCK  
GARDEN  
QUARTERLY

# CONTRIBUTORS

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*All illustrations are by the authors of articles unless otherwise stated.*

Front cover: *Allium callimischon* subsp. *callimischon* with *Oenothera fremontii* out of focus in the background. Photo: Mark McDonough.

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# ROCK GARDEN *Quarterly*

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# The Fells: enduring plants in a historic garden

**IN JUNE THIS YEAR, the Annual meeting will be in New Hampshire. In the last issue, Thelma K. Hewitt introduced two of the northern New England bogs that members will have the chance to visit. This time she reflects on the garden created by Clarence Hay.**



The main house at The Fells (photo The Fells)

AS YOU DRIVE along Route 103A in Newbury, New Hampshire, passing old hunting camps and roads winding into the woods or to Lake Sunapee, you notice a small sign that says “The Fells.” Peeking through the stone entrance gate, you see an old, white cottage. Nothing impressive. Why bother stopping? On the other hand, you think, maybe it’s time to discover what is beyond the cottage, down that long mysterious driveway.

What you find is the setting that Clarence Hay loved, a landscape of mountains, lake, rocks, woods and meadows. Here at The Fells, at what had been his parents’ summer estate, Clarence created outstanding gardens including what some would call a “Nonconventional Rock Garden,” one of a type that Panyoti Kelaidis so ably defended in his award-winning Spring 2009 *Quarterly* article. Hay chose low-growing native plants from nearby fields and forests as well as more typical plants from far-away alpine regions. This mix is one of his rock garden’s special charms.

In addition to its horticultural significance, The Fells is rich in history. John Milton Hay, Clarence’s father, began his career as personal secretary to Abraham Lincoln and died at The Fells while Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt.

While the story of the elder Hay's influence on the history of our country—his involvement in such issues as the Panama Canal Treaty, the adoption of the "open door policy" in China, his diplomatic service— and his literary skills, are worthy of attention, what matters here is that by 1889



View south to Hay rock garden (photo The Fells)

John M. Hay had

amassed 1077 acres of land, including more than a mile of beautiful Lake Sunapee shoreline, for his summer retreat.

During his undergraduate years at Harvard, son Clarence took a class in forestry and excelled in another class on landscape architecture taught by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. In 1909, before he had completed his M.A. in Archeology, Clarence wrote of "carving a little garden out of the woods and surrounding it with a high stone wall". This woodland space is now fondly known as "The Old Garden." *Rhododendron*, *Enkianthus*, *Cornus kousa* and deer-resistant *Pieris floribunda* planted by Clarence, still thrive in this century-old garden.

In 1914, after both his parents had died, Clarence married Alice Appleton who was from a prominent Ipswich, Massachusetts family. The two set about converting their New Hampshire country retreat into a summer estate. Ironically, many of the boulders which earned the property its name of "The Fells" were removed giving space for rose terrace and lawn. Frequent travels to fashionable places in Italy, France, and Great Britain, inspired construction of perennial beds, a rose terrace just south of the dining room in the Main House, and a formal entry courtyard. A visit to Williamsburg prompted the Hays to plant boxwood in the Old Garden, many of which remain. Vast numbers of rhododendrons were planted at the base of the driveway, and a rhododendron walk was installed west of the Old Garden.

Although the property was lovely, Clarence wanted more. In 1929 he had impressive garden walls built of stone, one with an arched niche that held a "goblet urn" from which water cascaded into a pool below. The espaliered pears and yews he planted and the *Hydrangea petiolaris* which surrounds the niche are still admired today. And, beyond the garden wall, he made a rock garden.

There, Clarence laid out stepped paths: one beside a little stream he created, and others meandering down the slope. To the west, he planted a hawthorn tree and to the south, azaleas to provide some shade. Most of the upper garden was kept open. The water for the goblet-urn fountain and the rock garden stream is still gravity-fed from a brook on the distant hill across Route 103A, which was dammed to form a reservoir.

As he planted his rock garden Clarence began recording notes on the source, location and condition of taxa on 683 index cards. One of these indicates that he moved *Aquilegia canadensis* from “the wild” and planted it “brookside, in the pine tree section” where it still grows today. He wrote of moving some *Shortia galacifolia* from the Old Garden to the rock garden stream side where it, too, flourishes. Generally, Clarence chose plants that bloomed later in the season when the family would be in residence to appreciate them. The April-blooming *Shortia* may have been selected as much for its history, which made it a particular favorite among plantsmen of the era, as for its persistent, lush foliage. July-flowering *Galax urceolata*, another member of the *Diapensia* family from similar southern regions, has persisted, equally happy.

Not surprisingly, native groundcovers that appreciate the humus-rich but well-drained soils have endured. *Cornus canadensis* (bunch berry), *Vaccinium vitis-idaea minus* (mountain cranberry), and *Gaultheria procumbens* (wintergreen), all eventually grew together in such an appealing way that later garden volunteers at The Fells began calling this combination the “Hay mix”.

In the lower section of the garden, on the south side of the stream, where the slope faces north, Clarence placed large rocks to imitate exposed ledges and create crevices. It was here, where ground would stay frozen later, and

*Gentiana acaulis*  
2 plants transplanted from old garden 1928  
in side of the stream from the brook  
by year (not sure)

*Shortia galacifolia*  
bed in old garden. 1928. ok. 1929  
some transp. to brook.



Record cards of *Gentiana acaulis* and *Shortia galacifolia* which is pictured below.



The rock garden with artists at The Fells

the snow blanket would be deeper, that he planted his choice alpinists. Many of his lead markers have been found in the gardens. One *Ramonda pyrenaica* (now *R. myconi*) remains just where he indicated having planted it. (In New England, *Ramonda*, like *Lewisia*, prefer to be planted “sideways” in a crevice of a vertical rock face to minimize damage from winter dampness on the undersides of leaves. These hardy, long-lived cousins of African violets appreciate some humus in the soil, and seem to have remarkable ability to recover from drought. A January 2011 Alpine-L listing quoted an article from the early 1800s that suggested *Ramonda* have been cultivated for over 400 years, certainly an enduring favorite of gardeners.)

Beyond the rock garden, overlooking the lake vista to the south, Clarence planted six *Calluna vulgaris* in 1929. The area had the required excellent drainage, acidic soil with sufficient organic matter, and more than a half day of sun. The heather thrived and two years later, in the fall, he added 85 more, with a few being planted within the rock garden. Clarence’s heather beds have been acclaimed as perhaps the finest and largest in the northeast. Over time, self-sown heather appeared in various parts of the property where they remain today.

Clarence was active in the New York Horticultural Society and the New York Section of the American Rock Garden Society. In 1934, he followed the lead of both the Brooklyn and the New York Botanical Gardens by hiring a Kew-trained alpine specialist, Joseph Sharp, to be his head gardener. One can relate to the depth of Clarence’s passion when reading his words, “But in the delightful uncertainty lies the fascination of rock gardening. There is more joy to be found in one rare plant that has survived a New England winter than in the ninety and nine of the commoner varieties that thrive without special attention.” Thirty-three of his cards refer to various species of gentian and 54 to saxifrages.



The records Clarence kept include names of many noteworthy ARGs members who were growers or plant explorers. Harold Rudd brought him *Primula farinosa* 'Macropoda' and *P. mistassinica* from the Gaspé. Carleton Worth, explorer and editor of the ARGs *Bulletin*, gave him *Geum montanum*, *Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum*, *Saxifraga* from the Caucasus, *Geranium farreri*, and more.



The Fells - old garden in the fall (above) and part of the rock garden (below)

In 1935, Montague Free, the first ARGs president, gave Clarence two *Gentiana asclepiadea* plants. Two years later, Clarence planted more from seed. These did so well that their offspring are often available for purchase at The Fells' plant stand. Though Kathryn Taylor, one of ARGs' founding members, gave Clarence her highest praise, calling him a "responsible gardener," a few of the plants he chose, such as *Cytisus*, *Berberis thunbergii* and *Euonymus alatus* are too enduring and are now considered invasive. Today staff and volunteers at The Fells work to eliminate these.



The gardens continued to be expanded through the 1930s but by the late 1950s the central rose beds were removed from the terrace and the mountain vista was allowed to grow in. Some land had been sold; plans were made to give all their remaining land east of Route 103A, nearly 700 acres, to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Clarence Hay's gardens at The Fells declined following his death in 1969. Looking after so much garden space troubled Alice, and she was known to chastise her gardener when he slipped in to weed the rock garden if she was not around. After her death in 1987, at age 93, the remaining property became the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge. By 1991, local gardeners had begun to take an interest in the site, not wanting its precious gardens to be lost forever. The property officially opened as a state historic site in June, 1992 and the state signed a five-year preservation agreement with the Garden Conservancy to be effective January 1, 1993. Thus began the gardens' rebirth.

Among the enduring plants that Bill Noble of the Garden Conservancy and eager volunteers, notably Bunny Van Valey and Ann Loeffler, found

when restoration began was *Potentilla nitida*, with low mats of three-part leaves and almost stemless, rich pink flowers. This charmer from the high limy screes of the Alps was planted in 1931, but listed as dead in 1934. Fortunately, Clarence “repurchased in 1937.” Kris Fenderson remembers seeing drifts of *Primula juliae*; *Arabis* × *sturii* was robust; *Antennaria*, various *Allium*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Dianthus gratianopolitanus*, *Lobelia siphilitica*, and *Ionactis* (*Aster*) *linariifolius* were liberally dispersed. Clarence had written, “The native *Aster linariifolius*, which spreads rapidly, is neat, blooms in September, is useful to take over ground which if neglected would become a wilderness of grasses, goldenrod and milkweed.” *Veronica spicata* ‘Nana’, which, in 1954, he described as “best of all, fine foliage, long bloom, fine for cracks between stepping stones” was everywhere. By that time, he seemed happy to have some less challenging, but reliable plants.

Though nothing of the main rock structure had changed over the decades, the natural litter of decaying leaves had buried completely many parts of the garden. Volunteer Diane Wheaton, while cleaning one area, heard her tools scrape first one stone, then another, and went on to discover a then-unknown network of paths. This led to the uncovering of more paths, some in areas yet to be restored. In fact, fully half of the Clarence Hay Rock Garden, the part that doglegs from a lily pond down into the woods, is yet to be renovated.

Jeff Good, Landscape Director of The Fells, his small seasonal staff, and many industrious volunteers have worked wonders to restore much of the rock garden and to maintain the overall property. Grants from NARGS and other garden admirers have provided some needed funds. Such successes enabled the volunteer organization, which maintained the property for over a decade on behalf of the federal government, to raise the large sum necessary to acquire the remaining 84 acres of the estate, including all the gardens and buildings. A complex land swap resulted in 727 northern New Hampshire wilderness acres being newly conserved, and now 80-acre John Hay National Wildlife Refuge being southern neighbor of The Fells.



## NARGS Annual Meeting news

**The Fells Chapter of NARGS** is eagerly looking forward to your visit to New Hampshire for the NARGS Annual Meeting on June 17-19, 2011. The new owner of the New London Inn will have major renovations completed for those staying there to enjoy.

Vendors are hard at work tending the plants they will bring with them. Our line-up is not yet finalized, but you will find some longtime favorites. Harvey Wrightman promises to bring his treasures from Ontario. The grand assortment of Epimedium will be here. Betsy Knapp will return with her amazing troughs. Broken Arrow Nursery from Hamden, Connecticut, will bring special selections .....  
 ..... and there will be plenty of others .....

Come discover New Hampshire .....

Since acquiring the property in 2008, The Fells organization has continued its long range plan to restore the estate while offering its natural areas for public education and enjoyment. One imagines this would please Clarence who certainly would feel at home among the many species of gentians, primulas, saxifrages, campanulas and dianthus. He might also be happy to see his American chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) being used in a project to breed a blight-resistant strain, and to know that his *Asclepias* have enabled his garden to be designated a Monarch butterfly viewing area and way station. He might be pleased to find enduring favorites that succumbed long ago have been replanted. One can feel sure Clarence would enjoy discovering some selections new to him in his delightfully "Nonconventional Rock Garden" which survives as a living legacy to the inspired gardener who created it more than 80 years ago.



Flowers on The Fells native chestnut tree, *Castanea dentata* (one of the few remaining) are hand-pollinated and bagged.

*The Fells* <[www.thefells.org](http://www.thefells.org)> historic estate and gardens, 456 Route 103A, Newbury New Hampshire, one of New England's finest examples of an early 20th century estate, is now owned by a local non-profit and open to the public.

## NARGS Annual Meeting news

..... Ed Burke of Rocky Dale Gardens of Bristol will be coming; Vermont chapter member Amy Olmsted who tends her own seedlings as well as the nursery's; and Greg Williams, famous for amazing witches brooms he has climbed tall trees to retrieve. Don Avery of Cady's Falls Nursery is not able to get away, but we'll have some of his plants, and we hope to have plants, notecards, and other artwork from the Mileks of Cider Hill Gardens.

Register on-line at <[www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)> or by mail to Joyce Fingerut. For more details on registering, see <<http://fellschapter.wordpress.com/about/>>. Thelma K Hewitt, Annual Meeting Chair<[tkhewitt@aol.com](mailto:tkhewitt@aol.com)>.



..... come discover The Fells ~ June 17-19, 2011

# Rock Gardening from Scratch: Beyond hypertufa - small troughs from Papercrete

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BETTY MACKEY

Perhaps you've made troughs with hypertufa, a mixture of Portland cement, perlite, and peat moss. Thanks to trough book authors Joyce Fingerut and Rex Murfitt, I learned that great method well. Eventually I started fiddling with the recipe ...

CONCRETE IS COMPOSED of Portland cement plus aggregates or filler. Different aggregates such as sand, grit, pebbles, soil, peat moss, perlite, vermiculite, clay chips, and paper shreds give different effects.

Originally I simplified trough-making in order to give quick demos at the Philadelphia Flower Show and avoid carting 94-pound bags of Portland cement downtown. I bought 30-pound bags of pre-formulated "sand mix" or "mortar mix" which is smooth, strong concrete for bricklaying.

As I told the audience, it is like cake mix and all you add is water. You can add pinches of other ingredients for color or texture and get away with it. Then I showed my metal stockpot with straight sides, strangely dented and lined with plastic. Inside that was a hypertufa trough, a relic of my early efforts.

"Never do this," I said, explaining that concrete expands as it cures and getting a laugh of recognition. The dents were from futile efforts to get the trough out of the stockpot.

Plain concrete weighs more per cubic than hypertufa, but that is

not a problem if you are making a small trough. Rex Murfitt has dozens of gorgeous small concrete flower pots for his saxifrage collection. For the demo I molded a trough inside a round disposable cardboard paint bucket and a fluted polystyrene cake cover. Troughs I've made this way are still intact after many harsh winters and hot summers.

## PAPERCRETE

After giving this demo a few times I googled around for new information. Up popped stories about people in the arid Southwest who were using papercrete (newspaper + sand + Portland cement) instead of adobe for building houses. Wow! Perhaps a sizeable papercrete trough would be good. Time for trial and error. I used pure Portland cement from those 94-pound bags and adapted the hypertufa technique, replacing the peat moss and reinforcing fibers with paper, using airy perlite to keep the weight down.

Instead of mashing up huge amounts of newspaper in big vats like the home builders do, I shred it

## PAPERCRETE PROPORTIONS

3 parts Portland Cement, Type I  
2 parts (dry volume, very loosely packed) finely shredded paper  
2 to 3 parts perlite

Water is added at about 1 part water to 7 parts dry ingredients but that varies with conditions. Make batches one at a time, as needed.

dry with an electric paper shredder and add the shreds to the other dry ingredients. Any kind of paper will do but newspaper or brown bags are better than glossy, non-absorbent paper.

As with any trough project, you must get your workplace, forms, and ingredients together carefully and completely before adding water to the dry mixture.

## SUPPLIES & SUGGESTIONS

*outdoor or airy workplace*  
*a source of water*  
*waterproof mixing container such as a carryall tub or wheelbarrow*  
*dust mask*  
*rubber dishwashing gloves*  
*drop cloths or plastic sheeting*  
*measuring container – a cup, can, or bucket*  
*scissors and tape*  
*nails for testing thickness of trough walls*  
*mold or form for the trough*  
*trowel or small shovel for mixing*  
*large strong board for carrying the project on*  
*an outdoor place to dump rinse-water during cleanup*

### PICK A PROJECT.

Decide what size and shape of trough you will make. Get your mold or form ready and place it on a plastic-covered carrying board. You can make your trough inside or outside the form (see Projects A and B on next page).

### GET READY.

Protect the workplace with plastic sheeting and get your water source handy. Protect yourself by putting on gloves and dust mask. Place dry ingredients for one batch of papercrete into the mixing container or wheelbarrow. Break up lumps.

Do not add water until the mold or form is ready and sitting on the carrying board on top of your work table.

### MIXING.

Moisten ingredients with as LITTLE water as possible (e.g. 7 cups mix and 1 cup of water) and knead it in thoroughly. Make a stiff dough that holds its shape without dripping or crumbling. Add water or mix to correct the consistency. Smack and pat the mixture into or onto your mold or form. Work it firmly to get out the air bubbles.

## PROJECT A

### MAKE A SMALL TROUGH INSIDE A DISPOSABLE FORM.

The simplest method for making a small trough is to use a small round or square polystyrene food container or a disposable paper paint mixing bucket. Set it on the carrying board on your work table. Put on your gloves and mask and mix the concrete “dough.” Press in the dampened concrete mix, firmly, making an even bottom

and building up the walls. An inch or more of thickness, evenly applied, is good. Cut out or shape a drainage hole in the center. On its board, carry it to a shady, dry place, covered with plastic, and let it set for about 48 hours. Remove the trough, cutting away the form if necessary. A sturdy form can be used again if you just slit it on one side and tape it firmly next time. Some people make troughs inside old baskets.

## PROJECT B

### MAKE A RECTANGULAR PAPERCRETE TROUGH WITH FEET

Select a sturdy, small rectangular box such as a shoebox for your form. Do not choose a tall box for the mix is somewhat liquid and will slip downward. You will make the trough over the box, not inside it. Stuff the box with old newspapers and the like to prevent shifting. Tape it closed and cover it with plastic. Tape the plastic firmly in place all around. Place the box onto the carrying board and set it onto your workspace.

Place your dry ingredients in the mixing bowl, add water, and make the first batch of papercrete. Papercrete works well for a project

made on the outside of a form because it is more pliable than either hypertufa or concrete. Coat the box with a layer (one inch thick or more) of papercrete, starting at the bottom and working up the sides and across the top. Make and use little pads of papercrete and add them as if laying bricks. Work them in smoothly, eliminating cracks and air holes. This takes longer than method A. Mix more papercrete as needed. Make four small balls or blocks of papercrete and stick them on top for feet. Gently wrap the trough with plastic sheeting. On its carrying board, move the covered trough to a dry, shady place such as the garage.

## CLEANUP.

After making either project, clean up immediately. Rinse out your mixing tools and mixing container with water, before the concrete mix hardens.

This will be a very alkaline mixture so be careful where you dump it (not on the acid-soil-loving azaleas!). Don't put it down the drain or it could cause clogging.



PROJECT A: Small trough made inside a fluted plastic form.



PROJECT B: Cardboard box ready to be used as trough form. Stuffed with paper, wrapped in plastic, ready for an outer layer of papercrete an inch or more thick. Feet will be added on top. After papercrete hardens, turn trough right side up, slit visible plastic and underlying cardboard, remove stuffing. Pull box from trough.

Photo: Betty, Tom & Edward Mackey



Papercrete trough with feet finished and planted.

### SMOOTHING AND AGING.

Let the project cure for at least 24 to 48 hours. It may feel warm after 15 to 30 hours – it is curing. When it is firm enough, remove it from the wrappings very carefully and then scratch, smooth out, or age the surface until the shape and texture appeal to you, using an old chisel, can opener, ice scraper, or other tool. Antique troughs of real stone were chiseled. Scrape off all stiff-looking edges, bubbles from molding, and the like. Rewrap it in the plastic and continue curing it in a cool, shady place. 28 days is ideal but 14 days has worked for me, possibly at cost of longevity of the trough. It continues to age and cure after being planted.

### PLANTING.

When the trough has cured, use it like any weatherproof flowerpot. The cement is alkaline, especially when new. Choose small plants in proportion to the container, then set them into place using soil suited to the type of plant. Top the soil with a mulch of small stones or grit, or for shady gardens, a sheet of moss.

*Next time **BETTY MACKAY** will discuss other materials and techniques that can be used for making small troughs.*



Photos: Larry Mellichamp

Fred in his beloved garden

## In Memoriam Frederick W. Case, Jr.

WITH DEEP SADNESS, writes Tony Reznicek, we note the passing of one of our eminent members, Fred Case on Jan. 12, 2011, at age 83 years.

Fred Case was a dedicated teacher, who inspired students to study plants. He taught biology and natural science at Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, and gained a number of honors, including Outstanding Biology Teacher in Michigan in 1971 and Outstanding Science teacher in 1987. He also started a number of students on botanical and horticultural careers. Besides being a teacher, Fred was active his entire life in conservation, and served on the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Michigan, and was a long time member of the advisory committee for Michigan's Threatened and Endangered Species law.

To NARGS members, Fred was best known for his wonderful garden, created over many years, with much help from his wife Roberta Burckhardt ("Boots") Case who passed away in 1998. It was a garden full of remarkable and beautiful plants and a Mecca for gardeners from throughout the world. His spring open garden days attracted huge numbers of visitors. He grew an enormous diversity of plants, but his first love was native species of our wonderful eastern woodlands, especially trilliums; our bog plants, especially orchids and pitcher plants; and American alpiners. In addition to working in his garden, Fred also loved seeing plants in nature, and spent as much time as he could every summer studying orchids, trilliums, pitcher plants, alpiners,



and anything else that interested him in the wild, including butterflies and moths, which were another great love.

Fred was a great photographer, and a superb speaker, much in demand internationally. His lectures were diverse but especially focused on wildflowers, trilliums, orchids, western American alpinists, woodland plants, and bog plants. They always generated enthusiasm, were filled with original information, and never too short. He was always willing to speak to NARGS chapters and spoke at several Annual Meetings, always skillfully using two projectors.

We owe to Fred a number of highly regarded books. His first and probably best known book was *Orchids of the Western Great Lake Region*, first published in 1964, with a revised edition in 1987. In 1978, we saw *Wildflowers of the Northeastern States*, in the Wildflowers of the United States Color Slide Series from the New York Botanical Gardens. The text was accompanied by 35 mm slides, and this is now somewhat of a collectors item. *Wildflowers of the Western Great Lakes Region* (1999), with James R. Wells and T. Lawrence Mellichamp, was a more complete and modern rendition. Best known to NARGS members was his 1997 book *Trilliums*, co-authored with Roberta, which was an instant classic. All his books included much horticultural as well as botanical information. He had been a research associate with the Cranbrook Institute of Science, The University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and the University of Michigan Herbarium. He also made significant contributions to the Michigan Flora project, especially with many hundreds of important herbarium specimens.

Fred, often with Roberta, wrote a number of scientific articles naming species and important variants in orchids, trilliums, and pitcher plants, including orchids *Listera* × *veltmanii* Case and *Platanthera* × *vossii* Case;

Part of the *Sarracenia* collection in the Case greenhouse





*Sarracenia alabamensis* Case & R.B. Case  
– just one of the plants named by Fred.

the pitcher plants *Sarracenia* × *ahlesii* Bell & Case, the federally (US) endangered canebrake pitcher plant *S. alabamensis* Case & R. B. Case, *S. × gilpinii* Bell & Case, and *S. rosea* Naczi, Case & R. B. Case; and *Trillium ovatum* f. *maculosum* Case & R. B. Case. Other notable scientific contributions were the treatment of *Trillium* and *Sarracenia* (with T. Lawrence Mellichamp) in *Flora of North America*. Named in Fred's honor are *Spiranthes casei* Catling & Cruise, a North American native orchid of the Great Lakes region east to Nova Scotia, and *Sarracenia* × *casei* Mellich., a hybrid pitcher plant.

He acquainted many gardeners with unusual and deserving native plants suitable for horticulture, and was responsible for some important introductions, including the double

*Trillium grandiflorum* 'Pamela Copeland' and the striking deep pink *Trillium grandiflorum* (shown on the dust jacket of the *Trillium* book) which has become known as the Case form.

Fred wrote a number of substantial articles for the *Quarterly*, including "Growing Native Orchids" (vol. 39), "Carnivorous plants for Bog Gardens" (vol. 50), and "Trillium grandiflorum, forms, doubles, and diseases" (vol. 52). Fred was awarded the Edgar T. Wherry Award in 1974 and the Carleton R. Worth Award in 1997 for his contributions to the society, which also included serving as the President of the Great Lakes Chapter from 2005-2007.

In 2004, he was awarded the Scott Medal and Award for contributions to American horticulture by the Scott Foundation in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, one of the most prestigious honors in American horticulture.

So many NARGS members remember Fred for his mentoring and kindness to beginning rock gardeners, his support of our local chapter with wonderful plants donated to our plant sales, his willingness to open his magnificent garden to tours and individual visitors, and his generosity with his knowledge of all things natural. We will miss him greatly.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, David B. and Sheri Leaman Case and three granddaughters. Friends planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider the Nature Conservancy of Alabama, Roberta Case-Pine Hill Reserve, the Michigan Nature Association, the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square, or the charity of their choice.

# More images & comments from Photo Contest 2010



DRAMATIC RED-GREEN COMPLEMENTS IN  
FRONT OF DARK-LIGHT CONTRASTS

COOL WITH NARROW COLOR RANGE  
FOCUSES THE EYE ON FORM AND TEXTURE

David Sellars' image (above) of *Castilleja rupicola* set against great mountains communicates the spectacular quality of the plant while a lovely picture from Arlene Perkins of a beautiful white-flowered *Cypripedium reginae* captures its elegance.





Photo Contest 2010  
Photo Contest 2010

*SOFT TONES AND LOW CONTRAST*

*CRISP, BRIGHT AND HIGH CONTRAST*





GREAT DEPTH OF FIELD FROM FOREGROUND TO FAR DISTANCE

NARROW DEPTH OF FIELD TO SEPARATE AND CLARIFY BRANCHES, FLOWERS, AND BLUR THE BACKGROUND

OPPOSITE. Very different approaches to white flowers: Arlene Perkins' close-up (top left) of *Habenaria* flowers has a low-contrast softness; David Sellars' view of *Phlox diffusa* exploits the very bright light to give a crisp finish and a great sense of distance.

THIS PAGE. The photograph (above) of *Eritrichium nanum* in the Pala Group of the Dolomites, by Michel Hoppel, has beautifully modulated tones contributed to by the overcast skies. It uses great depth of field to make everything in focus through to the far distance. By contrast, Lola Horwitz uses a very narrow depth of field to help the viewer make sense of the relative positions of individual stems, thorns, and flowers in front of a rockface in this image of *Polygala baetica* in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.





David Sellars: *Castilleja rupicola* (2nd in Class 1)

Arlene Perkins: *Cypripedium reginae* (3rd in Class 3)

Arlene Perkins: *Habenaria* (shortlisted in Class 5)

David Sellars: *Phlox diffusa* (3rd in Class 1)

Michel Hoppel: *Eritrichium* in the Dolomites (3rd in Class 2)

Lola Horwitz: *Polygala baetica* (shortlisted Class 5)

Merrill Jensen: *Pedicularis lanata* (shortlisted in Class 2)

Michel Hoppel: *Dionysia hausknechtii* (2nd Class 6)

Notes on individual photographs are based on judges' comments.

EXTREME SHARPNESS AND EDGY COLORS  
CREATE NEO-SURREAL PRECISION

WELL-FOCUSSED BUT UNSHARPENED  
AND SOFT COLOR CREATES CALM

Merrill Jensen's portrait-format picture (above) of *Pedicularis lanata* very effectively dramatises the individual in the isolation of the tundra. In Michel Hoppel's image of *Dionysia hausknechtii*, the out-of-focus background again isolates the plant from its surroundings, but without a horizon the effect is quite different.



## PHOTO CONTEST 2011

If you enjoy photographing plants, this is your chance to share your enthusiasm with others—and perhaps win a prize.

In addition to fame, and the gratitude of the editor, you can win a year's NARGS membership as a gift to a new member of your choice.

Full instructions on how to enter will appear in the next issue of the *Quarterly* but here is a list of classes to let you get started.

**CLASS 1: PORTRAIT OF A PLANT IN THE WILD.** Image focuses on a single plant in its native habitat. Ideally, the entire plant should be visible, not just a flower, which is more appropriate to class 5.

**CLASS 2: NATURAL SCENE WITH PLANTS.** Image includes both wild plants and their surrounding habitat and scenery. This is not the same as class 1, and should not foreground a single plant specimen; the emphasis should be on the general scene. Depth of field is a consideration.

**CLASS 3: PORTRAIT OF A PLANT IN CULTIVATION.** Image focuses on a single plant or small group of the same plant in the garden. Ideally, the entire plant should be visible. Images of a single flower are best entered in Class 5.

**CLASS 4: ROCK GARDEN SCENE.** Image of a rock garden (general view or isolated vignette). Please identify the owners of the gardens. Hint: Frame your image carefully to exclude unattractive objects.

**CLASS 5: MACRO PHOTOGRAPH.** Close-up images of single flowers or other plant parts. Judged primarily on technical quality.

**CLASS 6. PLANT IN CONTAINER.** Images of single or multiple plants in pots, troughs, or other containers. Hint: The container must be at least partly visible; if it is not, the photo belongs in class 3.


**You may enter a maximum of ten images in each class. The deadline for entries will be October 1, 2011.** Full instructions on how to enter will appear in the next issue of the *Quarterly* in July.

# Photo Contest 2011



*Iris iberica* subsp. *elegantissima* from a very diverse population  
in southern Georgia





INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE done both, will say that the joy of growing select plants is rivaled (if not overtaken) by the joy of seeing them in their native places. Just seeing the plants was spectacular. I will go back, but, evoking the murmur of nostalgia from this year, I look forward to incorporating Caucasian plants into my garden throughout my life.

KENTON J SETH

## Backpacking for *flowers* around the Caucasus

Having left a job in public horticulture, and taking advantage of my freedom from the high needs of plants in the growing season, feeling very much like a tired father leaving his ten children at a baby-sitter before a holiday, I sought to see some of those very plants in their native places. I bought a one-way ticket in spring 2010 to Tbilisi, the capital of the Republic of Georgia. This was the starting point of a summer's-worth of travel including Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey. I knew I would get to see fine plants easily enough, but didn't want to set myself up for disappointment if I did not visit my Holy Grail plants like local *Tulipa*, *Onco Iris*, and the endemic *Fritillaria orientalis*.

Sparing the reader interesting yet horribly exhaustive details, about the serious logistics and hysterical in-betweens, I do want to note that the plants, places, and people I saw, happened as a mix of plan and accident. I traveled, at times alone, at times with foreign friends old and new, and once with the fortuitous companionship of a troop of international horticulturists, including the late great Jim Archibald, for whom I have much to thank. This account is in your never-ending spirit of horticultural exploration, Jim. Thank you.



Jim Archibald photographing *Paeonia tenuifolia* just north of Gori (where Josef Stalin was born).

Georgia is at once a depressing and uplifting place; there appears to be at least one empty run-down edifice for every person there: Georgian buildings are born old somehow. As a culture, Georgians are an ancient, proud, and tough people. But does Georgia have mountains? Oh, glory yes. Permanent snow and glaciers don the heads and shoulders of the Greater Caucasus, over which presides Mt. Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe. They are located in the north of Georgia, acting as an immense wall between it and Russia, its massive ex-ruler. The Lesser Caucasus, or Transcaucasus, is in the south, and spreads into neighbouring countries, the only permanent snow being on Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey. Most of the Georgian people live in the trough, if you will, between these two charismatic and dreamily floral mountain ranges.

Travel in this part of the world is relatively inexpensive for holders of the more western currencies. Expect to be greeted with warm hospitality, an “undeveloped” or “developing” post-Soviet street-view, and lots of alcohol, or tea, as it was in Turkey, secular as a state, mostly Muslim in practice. Travel infrastructure is lovely: cheap minibuses or vans can get you to small towns where trains and planes will not. Plants can be well-documented, or challenging and obscure to research. Some plants are actively protected, some are protected by inaccessibility or



The dramatically steep and clean slopes outside Bakuriani, Georgia, in the Lesser Caucasus.

are undocumented (ignorance meets providence!), and a few are being completely dug by disreputable commercial bulb vendors who have black, shriveled-up hearts.

The nearest thing to visiting there oneself, and also the best guidebook for plant-peeping within a real adventure, is *Flowers of the Caucasus*, that was available through NARGS Book Service. It is a perfect and rich tome that was worth the dinosaurian weight it added to my ultra-light backpacking equipment. Without sarcasm, thank you NARGS.

Very early morning tea with local policemen in Bayburt in northeastern Turkey.





Summer runoff below the massive Mt. Kazbek near the Russia-Georgia border.

The Greater Caucasus is a glory of rock that is unlike any other mountains I have seen. The great expanses of vertical (and a few degrees short of vertical) stone, draped irregularly with clinging flora, seemed to smile as the authoritative image of what a majority of modern rock gardens seek to demonstrate. Shadows of one of the world's largest birds, the lammergeier, are cast on these rock faces and over shelves of top-notch plants. Deep into the Caucasus, along the recently disputed border between Georgia and Russia, one finds a land cold, moist, and giving the feeling of perpetually being in a cathedral. Here, spring and summer *Gentiana* species will reliably grace the landscape. In spring around creeks and in wet forest-clearings, emerge the incredibly broad and big *Galanthus platyphyllus*. Commonest "bulbs" are *Cyclamen coum*, *Corydalis* (*C. caucasica*, *C. cava*, and *C. angustifolia*), *Colchicum*, *Merendera*, and *Crocus*. This crowd of mountains create that wonderful effect of situation diversity, and plant diversity as a result. I will shy from simply listing too many plants that live here and wax poetic about the vistas. Where mountains meet their valleys, large fans of land are snow-scoured treeless by the gargantuan residue of avalanches, which, in season, are a common and unsurprising element of life. This shrubless and treeless area makes for rich grazing (and fine tent-pitching real-estate for me) in the summer, but also functions as a spring sanctuary for early bulbs and forbs, absorbing the runoff of those melting avalanche carcasses.



*Galanthus platyphyllus* in northern Georgia.

Quiet towns full of square Georgian homes occasion the skinny valleys. The uncrumbling rockfaces that overlook them, provide steep steps (occasionally, climbed as such), which manifest as classic pockets, bowls, cracks, and shelves, full of plants. Wherever the almost soilless organic material builds up, our favourite bulbous plants appear. Sometimes, this build-up is on level or down-sloping ledges, and is only held there by a dome of perennial grass, or a twiggy shrub like *Juniperus communis* subsp. *hemispaerica*. (I want to note that I have yet to see this effect in a garden - a hint to readers - will you experiment with me?) Under this supportive plant's auspices, one can find the likes of *Muscari pallens*, *Crocus biflorus*, *Crocus reticulatus*, *Merendera trigyna* (*Colchicum trigynum*),



Carpet of *Galanthus platyphyllus*, *Corydalis* and *Anemone*.

Leaves of *Fritillaria orientalis* near the Russian Military Highway in northern Georgia.





*Iris paradoxa* at home in Armenia.

Habitat (below) of *Iris paradoxa*, dominated by *Astragalus* scrub and *Nepeta*.



*Fritillaria collina*, and legendary *F. orientalis* (although not in flower). This last leans straight outwards to escape the shade of the host plant and send its seeds fluttering into the wind, up and down onto other shelves, to sprout into dainty diamond-leaf progeny in the next season.

*Oncocylus*-division *Iris* species are, at once, enjoying much attention, and suffering from it. Such gems, such banners of glory in the steppes of the old world, have been collected unscrupulously: we've all heard and read the stories. I met one botanist who kept a location of *Iris iberica* secret because the population had been plundered down to a number you can count on one hand. I met a home gardener once – a good man – who had gone so batty for the plants that he had, in my opinion, wild-collected plants to the degree that his avarice eclipsed his normal sense of conservation and sustainability. I swear that upon talking about it, his eyes glazed over and his lips slobbered a bit, like a starved dog catching sight of a London Broil. Madness. After seeing how conspicuous *Iris iberica* can be when in bloom in southern Georgia, I can understand how easily they could be pilfered, and how easily grazed down.

In Armenia, I had the special privilege to visit a secret location of *Iris paradoxa*. Unmolested by bovines and plant-poachers, they dotted rolling foothills like desirable pimples in the hill's teen-age of the growing-season. *Iris paradoxa*'s neighbourhood looked like this: a matrix of *Nepeta*, white *Salvia*, clumping grasses, scattered *Astragalus* scrub, and others. These Oncos were not the only *Iris* about; impressively, four divisions were represented on this hill. Apart from *Iris paradoxa* itself there were *I. caucasica*, *I. reticulata*, and a bearded *Iris* whose name





"Otel Backpack" - cheap and scenic accommodation above Gumuşhane, Turkey.

Ottoman ruins in Gumuşhane surrounded by *Ornithogalum* (left) and *Paeonia* (below).







*Campanula* aff. *choruhensis* near Bayburt, Turkey.

escaped my moleskine. The plants grew in small open spots between their relatives, their falcate blueish leaves looking like loose handfuls of fettuccine pasta. Their soil was extremely organic. It felt just like a bale of dry peat-moss, and extremely well-drained; yes indeed, against my conventional assumptions. The artistic subtlety of this local steppe flora was perfect - those dark purple *Iris* against thin brushstrokes of blonde grass, amidst the soft shapes of *Nepeta*, scrub, and other forbs. It was the inspiration; the holy aesthetic spirit that inspires covers of High Country Gardens catalogues; another image I shall never forget, but will modestly aspire to in my garden.

My gardening life has been spent in the intermountain west, where local, climate-oriented gardeners don't bother to grow things that are known to need more than infrequent waterings. As an American desert rat standing on a steep Turkish hillside, I was shocked and stoked by how dry so many of these plants were growing - especially the tender-looking peonies, cyclamen and daphnes which I had prior-judged as at least misdemeanor-offender water-lovers. Typically, they were growing tight against home-sized stones, under blankets of fist-sized scree, or tightly interwoven with grass tufts or junipers. I have not seen anyone grow their plants in the middle of a clumping grass or shrub: I hereby swore to myself to plant my future plants like this: close, like lovers, to their rocks.

Feeling too brave to be someone whose mind is rooted in reality, I set off one night walking out of Gümüşhane in northeast Turkey, to pick a camping spot like a blind dart-thrower. I would wake the next

day to find that I'd pitched my tent under an Ottoman ruin, rarely visited, and lately besieged by flowers. Flowers galore. It was like someone's rock garden had been packed into a mortar and set off on the top of the mountain. I spent three days taking pictures of *Silene*, *Acantholimon*, *Paenonia*, *Cyclamen*, *Daphne*, *Ornithogalum*, *Stachys*, *Campanula*, *Saxifraga*, *Dianthus*, *Muscari*, *Rosa*, and others that I either forgot or didn't care about, all inhabiting the different aspects of this steep mountain according to their preference. I was so excited by the richness of flora that at one point, in an effort to give me more flower and camera-time (please don't tell my mother), I climbed up a stone cliff so vertical that I had to hoist up my thirty-pound backpack afterwards as it dangled, freely turning, on the end of a rope.



*Caltha* flowering in an ice cave.

By far the strongest and most enchanting plant moment was outside of Bakuriani, a small past-its-heyday ski-town in southwest Georgia known for the bottled spring water it supplies to the country. Above and through the as-yet-leafless forest (passing by *Daphne mezereum* in bloom), there were great alpine hills: steep, smooth, huge, short-turf, soggy with melting snow. They were bejeweled with subtle sheets of blooming *Gentiana angulosa*, *Galanthus alpinus*, and *Caltha*. Giving into my boyish desire to summit any nearby tall things, a closer look higher on and from different aspects of the hills betrayed *Saxifraga* on the few rock outcrops, the dark-stemmed and large-flowered *Scilla rosenii*, *Gagea glacialis*, and, like a warm omen, the genus that I blame for starting my interest in rockeries: *Helianthemum*.

The prior winter's snow had flattened all remnants of last year's herbaceous perennials, leaving the steep turf clean, smooth, and polished-green for the emerging spring flowers. This novel effect, in which waist-high summer perennials (including grasses, *Lilium*, and Apiaceae) grow on the same plane that presents demure, and delicate yet show-stopping ground-huggers, in early spring, begs to be considered for garden use. Again readers, this is a challenge to you.

The unforgettable image of those heaven-emitting gentians of the most perfect electric deep blue will always inspire both my future



Country houses in Georgia with *Anthemis* sp.



Author in front of *Paris incompleta* in Georgia (photo Bob Chapman)

*Helleborus orientalis* retaking gardens of abandoned homes in the Greater Caucasus.





A patchwork of greens in the forest rising above the flowering fruit trees of village gardens: "By far the most beautiful mixed forest I've ever seen in spring" near Kutaisi, western Georgia.

A villager in Vanadzor, Armenia, with a breaking-virus-adorned tulip.



domestic gardening projects and adventure-trekking exploits. It was the color: outside-of-my-prior-lifetime blue: it stretched the sphere of my experiences a wee bit. How often do plants give such energy for the soul?

These places and plants, whether distanced from us by thousands of kilometers, a different language, political instability, lack of documentation, or being generally forgotten by humanity, are special. They are special because they are the places and plants that inspire us and truly give a soul to our motivation for growing flowers. By keeping pretty things that make us



Jumberi, recently bereaved of his two grown sons, lives in the steeply sloping village of Gergeti, Georgia in the middle of the Greater Caucasus.



*Iris paradoxa* next to author's boot.



happy, we are all truly trying to distill and recreate the glory and majesty of creation in our back gardens. For rock gardeners, to host the wee plants that sit at the edge of survival is to entertain an honor to the indomitable spirit of life that these plants seem to exhibit, impersonate, or exemplify. Our gardens: so small – and their plants: even smaller – connect us to the world, our known world. Right now, there is a gardener in North America watering her garden standing next to *Iris paradoxa*. And at the same time, there is a shepherd standing on a hillside in Armenia next to an *Iris paradoxa*, watching his animals.

Perhaps the greater joy than growing and appreciating a plant, is seeing it growing itself in its native place. It is an inexplicably invigorating high. Maybe it is a nostalgia (of knowing the plant), an adventure (of being in a new natural place), an excitement (of finding something valuable to oneself) and veneration (of native survival) all at once. I encourage anyone to go out and appreciate at least one of their favourite plants in its original setting – be it a mile's walk out of the neighborhood or a several-thousand-mile plane trip, bus ride, and trek. It is deep and expanding satisfaction. After all, the most complete and grandest garden is the world – nature itself.

Tea-houses are open late in Turkey, serving just what one really needs

Onions belong to the wonderfully diverse genus *Allium* and this major two-part article guides us through a mix of more common and available species and some that are very rare.

In Part One, **Mark McDonough** looks at species and selections that should be part of every rock garden like beautiful *Allium cernuum* ‘Wall of Pink’ opposite.

AFTER FOUR DECADES of oniony pursuits, the genus *Allium* remains a fervent obsession monopolizing my horticultural eclecticism. Long ago I came to my senses and abandoned the silly notion of cultivating all the species. After all, there are approximately 900 *Allium* taxa found across the northern hemisphere. Besides, the majority of species remain unobtainable, some are intractable in cultivation or difficult at best, and as with other large genera there are scores of similar species only to be pursued in academic botanical exercises.





for the  
love of **Onions**  
*Mark McDonough*

*Allium cernuum* 'Wall of Pink'

Lest I paint too gloomy a picture, there are however myriad garlicky delights for the rock garden, if only more were available. Encouraging is a recent trend towards alliaceous sentience, the palette of species and hybrids steadily expanding, the fashion no doubt amplified by iconic bulb purveyor Janis Ruksans. His essential book, *Buried Treasure*, is unique among works covering hardy bulbs, notable for his celebration of the genus *Allium* along with traditionally popular bulbous genera. Here, for the first time, we get glimpses of the remarkable dwarf *Allium gypsaceum* with voluminous heads of unique beige flowers dramatically veined and edged red-purple, and pygmy *A. verticillatum* with airy spheres of white florets infused with red-purple veins and dark ovaries, both treats from Uzbekistan.

Increasingly many species are available from bulb companies, small specialty growers, and seed exchanges. One drawback remains: plants in cultivation are rife with misnomers, no doubt caused both by the immensity of the genus and the general lack of pertinent and available botanical references, making plant identification difficult. To date, there is not a single modern monographic treatment of the genus; the closest is the 1998 publication *Nomenclator Alliorum, Allium names and synonyms – a world guide*, compiled by M. Gregory, R.M. Fritsch, N.W. Friesen, F.O. Khassanov, & D.W. McNeal, essentially an enumerated list of all *Allium* epithets, both valid binomials and synonyms, known at the time of publication. Many dozens more species have been published since then, mostly from Central Asia. There is dissent among the authors regarding taxonomic standing on a few “species”; no attempt is made in the listing to apply an actual species count. Yet I did apply a manual count and, adding to it the ballpark estimates of recently described species, the genus probably tops 900 taxa.

Rather than concentrate on collecting *Allium* species, I found that exploring diversity within even a single species to be rewarding, leading to greater understanding of the subject species and the genus as a whole. Reflecting back on decades of studies, my experience would be poorer had I not sought out the surprising variability of even our common nodding onion *Allium cernuum* and its prairie home companion *A. stellatum*. Further motivation for pursuing alliums comes from the challenge of finding those that are visually compelling in the landscape and rock garden, as flowering subjects and for their foliage, growth form, and life cycle. I have yet to discover another hardy geophytic genus in my USDA Zone 5 garden in Massachusetts that can provide non-stop succession of flowering from early spring to the last days of autumn. I must admit, too, there is a certain maverick allure to growing plants outside the realm of gardening fashion: to champion an underdog genus, one which is disparaged and invariably underappreciated, yet a genus of huge potential and brimming with fetching incarnations awaiting the chance to grace our gardens.



Of course, we know the genus *Allium* primarily from a handful of species that comprise world agricultural crops: true onions or *Allium cepa*, and consumable alliaceous allies: garlic (*A. sativum*), leeks (*A. porrum*), chives (*A. schoenoprasum*), and shallots and scallions, the latter terms attributed to several possible *Allium* species. Aside from our familiar herb friend the chive, we need not bother looking at this vegetable group here, instead we turn our attention to scores of “ornamental onions”, small bulbous or rhizomatous plants that can fill the rock garden with color during the summer doldrums. To help botanists wade through the vastness of the genus, it can be divided into a number of sections and subsections (in some classifications over 70 sections have been defined), useful contrivances to help organize large and unwieldy genera. We will not belabor the concept of *Allium* sections, because taxonomists are forever redefining and shifting species among them, but they can be useful to quickly gain a visual impression of an *Allium* species by knowing its affiliated section.

So, for the love of onions, how to choose a mere sampling of *Allium* appetizers to give adequate representation? My selection may appear random, but in fact each selection represents labored consideration to find those that best illustrate key features, characteristics, or other important aspects of this tasty genus. That said, your favorites might be missing here, but hopefully there will be some newfound insights to expand any latent garlicky yearnings.

### 1. *Allium zebdanense*

The ornamental onion season starts early with a number of spring blooming species; my favorite is *Allium zebdanense*, a species from north-eastern Turkey, and Lebanon and western Syria. While it grows and flowers well enough in a sunny situation, it excels in open shade, one of the relatively few species suitable and safe (non-invasive) for woodland beds or shady rock gardens. The plant builds into graceful arching clumps of shiny grass-like leaves, surpassed by slender stems and few-flowered upright to semi-nutant umbels of bright white flowers, the individual florets being quite large open funnels reminiscent of the genus *Lloydia*

*Allium zebdanense*



(now subsumed into *Gagea*). Years ago a familiar offering by commercial bulbs dealers, the species is seldom offered these days, although I'm not sure why it fell out of fashion. Since the species seems nearly sterile, producing precious little seed, it does not spread much nor does it show up on seed lists but rarely.

**2. *Allium crenulatum*** (Olympic onion, scalloped onion)

Many western American onions are spring bloomers, good contenders for inclusion in the spring rock garden. A number of westerners share a general thematic "look"; one such theme is of dwarf species with pairs of falcate ribbon-like leaves and short-stemmed to nearly stemless umbels of bloom. *Allium crenulatum* (syn. *A. cascadense*, *A. vancouverense*, *A. watsonii*) is one such character, a species of sub-alpine to alpine heights up to 8000 feet, but also of lower coastal mountain elevations, growing on ridges and rocky slopes, in talus, clay soil, and serpentine. This species has a narrow distribution from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, down through Washington's Olympic Mountains and Cascades into Oregon, with a few disjunct populations in central Washington and Oregon. The leaves are strongly falcate (curved like a sickle), undulating along the ground like little green ribbons, sometimes red-lined, with compact umbels of star-trumpet florets nestled nearly stemless amid the leaves.

*Allium crenulatum* 'Olympic Sunset'





*Allium platycaule* (Broadstemmed onion) from southern Oregon, California and the northwest corner of Nevada is similar to *A. crenulatum* (photo Panayoti Kelaidis)

Flower color can be white (typically aging pinkish) through various shades of pink, and usually with a dark reddish-pink to green midvein.

*Allium crenulatum* 'Olympic Sunset' is a selected form from the Olympic Mountains with rich pink flowers and intense dark midveins, making a showy splash of color late May to June. Easily grown in well-drained sandy soil in full sun, it is a choice candidate for trough or rock garden.

Seed of *Allium crenulatum* is often available in the NARGS seed exchange. Because this species goes dormant right after flowering for the remainder of the year, seedlings require 4–5 years to reach flowering size. There are many dozens of western American dryland or alpine species worth trying, prime candidates for planting in troughs.

### 3. *Allium plummerae* (Tanners Canyon onion)

Among the best American onions is one not to be typecast: *Allium plummerae*, a rare species with restricted distribution in the high mountains of southeastern Arizona and adjacent Sonora, Mexico, often found at 7000–8000 feet elevation. It grows in moist meadows, along stream banks, and occasionally on shaded rocky slopes, and accordingly prospers in the garden if given good soil with adequate moisture, although average garden soil suits it well. This is a hardy clump-forming plant that bulks up into fine specimens. Mature plants form a bold brace of misty gray-green leaves standing skyward, 16–18 inch flower stems just top the foliage with flat-domed clusters of waxy white flowers greeting the sun. Each pudgy floret has a pale yellow to



Left and below:  
*Allium plummerae* is another North American species, this from southeast Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.



pinkish center, the ovaries often aging to a pale amber color. Blooming all of July and into August, this essential species is an outstanding accent in a sunny garden, the pale silvery moss-green foliage and white flowers a refreshing vision on a hot day. Bees, butterflies, nectar-feeding wasps, pollinators of all types are seduced by the blooms. Unlike many bulbous Western American species that go dormant after flowering, *Allium plummerae* has bulbs attached to short rhizomes; the plant behaves as a summer-growing perennial remaining in good foliar form until frost without a dormancy period. Easily grown from seed, flowering in just 2–3 years, this is an ideal American ornamental onion that should be more widely grown.

#### 4. *Allium cernuum* (nodding onion)

Among the more familiar of North American alliums is the nodding onion, *Allium cernuum*. It is small to medium-sized, distinguished by nodding umbels, the crook-necked stems permanently nodding in flower and seed. The individual white, pink, to deep rose-purple florets appear as bell-shaped droplets suspended with geometric precision from gracefully arched pedicels, the floral effect enhanced when the normally green pedicels sport glaucous dusting and color effusion of silver, gray, pink, red, or dark charcoal.

Drab, few-flowered plants barely worth garden space are often encountered, however the species is remarkably variable across its range,



Above: *Allium cernuum* 'Wall of Pink'

Below: *Allium cernuum* - an unnamed form with bountiful flowers





*Allium cernuum* 'Green Eyes' gets its name from the prominent green ovaries and sometimes flushes pink as it ages

and it can manifest highly superior forms. All aspects of the inflorescence: length and path of curved pedicels; the degree of curve before and after anthesis; pedicel slenderness; floret count and density, size and substance, disposition, shape, and color, vary to such a degree that one is rewarded by selection and close observation. Since this species is so easily raised from seed, flowering the second year, growing it from various sources will result in better forms from which to select.

*Allium cernuum* is native to much of the US, mainly concentrated in the eastern and western portions of the country; in the more far-reaching western distribution, the species is found from three Canadian provinces all the way down to Mexico. Two subspecies were described by Marion Ownbey, the father of American *Allium* taxonomy. Later rescinded by the author, the invalid "subsp. *obtusum*" and "subsp. *neomexicanum*" are still seen in literature to this day, including the USDA (US Department of Agriculture). Correctly, the online *Flora of North America* does not recognize any subspecies for *A. cernuum*.

With such wide distribution, in habitats ranging from high mountains to plains and woods, even to the rocky seashore colonies I examined on Whidbey Island, Washington, not only do plant features vary, so does flowering time. By growing a number of forms of *Allium cernuum*, continuous bloom can be had for two and a half months: June through mid-August. The later flowering forms overlap with the earlier flowering forms of *A. stellatum*, inviting interspecific hybridization which can

blur the line between the species. More surprising, however, is that the North American *A. cernuum* will cross with the European and Asian rhizomatous species such as *A. senescens* and *A. nutans*, the hybrids opening up a whole new world of possibilities.

*Allium cernuum* 'Wall of Pink' is a prime example of heterosis whereby various clones of the same species cross to create robust plants of exceptional size and vigor. Flowering stems measure a whopping 29 inches tall, with muscular nodding stems, beautiful sculpted heads of luminous mid-pink, the rotund waxy florets held by thick, arching charcoal-black pedicels.

*Allium cernuum* × *senescens* 'Green Eyes' is leafier than normal *A. cernuum*, with robust grayish slightly twisting leaves broadcasting the *A. senescens* influence, strongly winged thicker-than-normal stems tend to undulate on their ascent, and extraordinarily dense umbels with triple floret count, again flaunting the *A. senescens* influence. White flowers can be tinged pink, depending on weather conditions. The central green ovaries are larger than typical in the species, thus peeking out more prominently, the inspiration behind the cultivar name.

##### 5. *Allium stellatum* (prairie onion, autumn onion)

It is impossible to discuss *Allium stellatum* without referencing its close ally, the nodding onion (*A. cernuum*), with which it is often confused. *Allium stellatum* follows a more Central US distribution largely replacing *A. cernuum*, yet with disjunct eastward outposts and including central Canadian provinces. Two basic prairie onion themes exist, the earlier flowering types bloom July to August with white or light pink flowers, gregarious growers forming modest clumps of tall slender growth and delicate blooms. The late blooming types bloom September to October, or even into November, usually with rich pink flowers on shorter stems, preferring to grow as single bulbs or sometimes paired, but rarely clumping. There are exceptions to these generalizations, but for those looking for late bulbs for the rock garden, there are some that close the season and only grow 6–8 inches tall.

Distinguishing prairie onion from nodding onion isn't too difficult once familiar with the differences. Buds of both species nod, but in *Allium stellatum* the stems become semi-erect to erect, the umbels expanding into sideways hemispheres (ferris wheel orientation) or becoming semi-erect and nearly spherical. The flowers of *A. cernuum* are bell-shaped (campanulate) with similarly deposed inner and outer tepals (although there are forms of *A. cernuum* that show dimorphic tepal arrangement, the inner and outer tepals distinctly arranged; darned exceptions!), whereas *A. stellatum* has starry (stellate) blooms, the mature tepals widely spreading. In *A. stellatum*, the tepals are strongly dimorphic, fresh florets with three outer tepals spread wide, the three inner tepals standing upright at first and folding inwards on



*Allium stellatum* × *senescens*

themselves along their length (connivent), adding to the starry look.

The bulbs of *Allium cernuum* and *A. stellatum* show obvious differences. *Allium cernuum* has elongate bulb bases, the inner bulb coats brilliant lustrous red (can be pink or white too), the outer bulb coats persistent, grayish-brown membranes. The portion above ground flakes and peels lending a gnarly rustic appearance. The leaves tend to be much larger and broad compared to *A. stellatum*. Two or more flower stems per bulb in *A. cernuum* account for its floriferousness.

*Allium stellatum*, on the other hand, has ovoid bulb bases, with similar bulb coat

traits although inner bulb coats are white to pink, not blood red as most *A. cernuum* forms, and typically has just one stem per bulb. The leaves are narrower, sometimes fewer, lending a sparse, less leafy look than in *A. cernuum*. One feature not mentioned in any keys, but one that seems to hold true, is that young seed capsules of *A. stellatum* are dark reddish to black-red hued.

I truly enjoy the prairie onion. Its simple unassuming appearance and minimalist slender growth delightfully exceed expectations when they produce delicate sideways flower bursts in the heat of summer, the florets in delicious shades of pearly light pink, the buds like tiny ovoid egg droplets. I mix these in amongst other summer blooming species, such as *Allium carinatum* subsp. *pulchellum* (particularly the white form) and *A. paniculatum*, for an understated visual cacophony of floral fireworks.

*Allium stellatum* readily interbreeds, both among other clones of prairie onion and with *A. cernuum*, the progeny most often showing heterosis at play, resulting in tall robust plants that are showy in the garden, yet still retaining airy modesty. Similar to nodding onion, *A. stellatum* also jumps the fence and hybridizes with the European and Asian *A. senescens* and *A. nutans* clan. The resulting hybrids show strong influence of *A. senescens*, the hemispheres of bloom becoming dense with greatly increased bud count; in some individuals floret





*Allium stellatum* - color variation in mixed *Allium* planting

count is so multiplied that the impacted buds can't fully open. Instead of slender minimalist foliage, the hybrids are often leafier affairs, with strong twisting *senescens*-like strap foliage, doing a good impression of *A. senescens* when not in flower.

This sort of promiscuity might dismay species purists, but I find this garden indiscrimination great fun. Some hybrids are mere curiosities (such as that pictured opposite), but a couple of selections show promise as excellent garden plants. One such *Allium stellatum* × *senescens* hybrid to be introduced is *Allium* 'Rosy Affair'. In this selection the spirit of prairie onion is retained: the leaves shorter and more strictly basal, yet still emboldened and twisting, showing *senescens* influence; perfectly straight stems to 16 inches tall; tightly crooked heads opening to nodding clusters of rosy-pink starry flowers suspended from reddish pedicels, the heads becoming nearly spherical and deeper pink as they age. Seedling progeny from *A.* 'Rosy Affair' yield beautiful fertile plants in a range of pink and white shades, ready for exploring in further generations.

## 6. *Allium flavum* and *A. flavum* subsp. *tauricum*

Continuing with summer bloomers, the European *Allium flavum* hardly needs introduction, a favorite among rock gardeners for the clumps of silvery foliage and cheery explosions of little waxy-yellow bells in mid summer. Easily grown and flowering the second year from seed, seedlings show much variation. This species is a model for a raft of onion species in the *Codonoprasum* section: small bulbous plants, narrow grassy or wiry foliage, summer blooms, the buds enveloped in distinctive 2-valved spathes that are often strongly veined and attractive in their own right, the segments attenuated into long tails that typically persist even after the flowers spill out. Other familiar *Codonoprasum* onions include purple or white *A. carinatum* subsp. *pulchellum* and variably-hued *A. paniculatum*, both easily grown and valuable as narrow vertical accents requiring almost no real estate in the garden.

A hotbed of *Codonoprasum* speciation occurs in Turkey where the best incarnation of this species lives, namely *Allium flavum* subsp. *tauricum*. The basic theme is of yellow flowers, pedicels and tepals covered with a waxy layer suffusing hints of pink, violet, brown, or green. Many years ago, receiving seed of this subspecies, I was excited to grow some showing a light flush of pink. Friend and fellow *Allium*-fancier J. John Flintoff had seedlings of a lovely melon-orange color, which he shared



*Allium sibthorpiatum*



Opposite: Bright yellow  
*Allium flavum* is one of the best  
known of decorative  
species for the rock garden

Below: *Allium flavum* subsp.  
*tauricum* comes in a spectacular  
range of colors some of which  
have been stabilized through  
selection and breeding



with me. Growing seedlings from the more colorful forms, many soft pastel tones arose, but one year I was surprised with an unusually dark reddish-orange seedling. Continuing to grow on seedlings for a decade and beyond, an astonishing swarm of colors and plant forms resulted. Not only did flower color run the gamut, but plant growth was often dwarf, stocky, multi-stemmed, and heavily silvered; rock garden dream bulbs with literal bouquets of bloom at peak flowering in early July.

*Allium flavum* subsp. *tauricum* will spontaneously hybridize with allied species, such as with minuscule Turkish endemic *A. sibthorpiatum*, itself a first class rock garden subject with cheerful clusters of pearly pink nodding bells, the whole plant only 2–3 inches tall, flowering the same time in early July. Another suspected garden hybrid that occurred in a friend's garden is between *Allium flavum* subsp. *tauricum* and *A. kurtzianum*, yet another dwarf Turkish endemic species, sometimes seen wrongly labelled as *A. olympicum*. This showy hybrid has bright raspberry-pink flowers in tighter heads than is typical for *A. flavum* subsp. *tauricum*.

### **7. *Allium cyaneum* / *A. sikkimense* / *A. beesianum***

This triumvirate of delightful blue-flowered Chinese onions are popularly grown in rock gardening circles although their identities are regularly confused. All three are fine-textured gems suitable for careful cultivation in troughs, containers, or prime rock garden niches, planted in free draining soil generously enriched with humus, and never allowed to dry out completely. All are late flowering; depending on the species and forms grown, flowers can appear in July, August or September, a most welcome time for bloom. While there are a few other blue-flowered Chinese alliums, only these three are common in cultivation. The following simplified key should help separate them. Be aware however, that plants are variable and they don't always fall neatly into place; it is not uncommon to obtain wild-sourced plants that blur the lines and challenge even this humble species demarcation.

- A. Stamens well exerted (protuding):
  - 1. *Allium cyaneum* (leaves narrow semi-terete (cylindrical))
- Stamens not exerted, narrow flat leaves: B
- B. Tepals 6–10 mm long:
  - 2. *A. sikkimense* (small flowers, erect or drooping)
- Tepals 11–14–(17) mm long:
  - 3. *A. beesianum* (larger flowers, erect or drooping)

Each of these species is circulating under a number of forms, some much better than others. An example of a remarkably beautiful form of *A. sikkimense* is a plant photographed in Sichuan (near Litang), China, at 4200m (13900 feet), by plant explorer Harry Jans. I'm sure even the most steadfast *Allium* detractors would welcome this blue beauty into their gardens with open embrace.



*Allium sikkimense* near Litang in Sichuan, China (photo Harry Jans)



*Allium cyaneum* (photo Todd Boland)



*Allium beesianum*



*Allium callimischon* subsp. *callimischon*

### 8. *Allium callimischon*

A group of overly-demure onions can be found in section *Scorodon* (which includes the former *Brevispatha* section), species typified by filiform foliage and sparse fastigate umbels of tiny tubular pale flowers spilling from bud spathes so narrow they are indistinguishable from the stems. Their special trick is to go quasi-dormant in summer, the leaves drying up, leaving only the stems with camouflaged bud spathes, these miraculously popping into bloom late summer or fall.

*Allium callimischon* subsp. *callimischon* is one such tricky urchin, a surprisingly hardy species from southern Greece and Crete, easily grown from seed and enjoying sandy soil in full sun. Blooms appear September to October: tiny open cup-shaped white or pinkish florets, with dark midveins, often with a darker color tinge to the edges and apices of the tepals. Best planted in a trough

where its tiny proportions and inconspicuous flowers can be enjoyed or ridiculed depending upon one's inclination. The more desirable form is *A. callimischon* subsp. *haemostichum* from Crete and nearby Turkey (southwest Anatolia), notable for the pure white flowers which are intricately dotted red in the upper portion of the tepals.

Similar species worth trying are *Allium cupani* and *A. callidiction* both easily raised from seed. There are other little, slender, few-flowered fall-blooming species, such as the rare endemic *A. autumnale* from Cyprus, but these are more difficult to locate in cultivation, and possibly not worth the effort as they have no impact in the garden.

### 9. *Allium senescens* / *A. nutans* clan

At the forefront of my *Allium* studies and hybridization efforts are the rhizomatous alliums, section *Rhizirideum*, a large species-rich section of the genus. The most common species, typifying the section, is *Allium senescens*. While this does have bulbs, they are attached to thick horizontal rhizomes much like an *Iris*, a most distinctive and identifiable characteristic. Unlike the true bulbous species where foliage retreats into dormancy after flowering, rhizomatous alliums behave like normal perennials, growing and maintaining healthy leaves the entire growing season until cut back by frost. Keep this fact in mind when validating your plants because the ubiquitous *A. senescens* usurps the good name of dozens of other species, including summer dormant bulbous species to which it has no relationship.

A spectacular display of *Allium senescens* - *Allium nutans* hybrids



The taxonomy of *Allium senescens* and its subspecies is complex and subject to recent revisions. The shiny green-leaved European phase, *A. senescens* subsp. *montanum*, is now known by the resurrected epithet *A. lusitanicum*, reserving the type, *A. senescens*, to denote the gray-leaved Asian phase of the species. There are other changes too, but as not all floras and authorities have adopted the changes, I continue to use the older long-established names.

Among the more interesting and imposing rhizomatous species, one useful for hybridization is the Siberian *Allium nutans*. This species is like *A. senescens* subsp. *glaucum* on steroids, with broad thick-textured gray leaves that swirl as they ascend. Unlike the hemispherical blooms on *A. senescens*, the balls of bloom on *A. nutans* are larger and completely spherical, or nearly so, in shades of rose to white. Robust forms of *A. nutans* can make stunning garden plants, worth growing for the swirling foliage alone, but the August bloom period is also appreciated for the summer garden.

*Allium senescens* (in the broadest sense), *A. nutans*, and their hybrid



*Allium* 'Sugar Melt' one of Mark McDonough's *A. senescens* hybrids

*Allium* 'Asteroids' - another of Mark's hybrids





progeny, are excellent garden plants that can be selected for continuous fragrant bloom from July to October. Blooms are nectariferous, providing rapacious attraction to bees, butterflies, moths, nectar-feeding wasps, and sundry pollinators. My favorite garden activity on sizzling hot August days is to sit on the grassy edge of my *Allium* garden, observing the sheer profusion of pollinators, particularly giant wasps or mud-daubers flitting about erratically, with iridescent blue-black *Chalybion californicum* a favorite. Reposing in the blazing sun, contemplating the garden; the scene incredibly alive with an improbable profusion of bombinate pollinators creating an ambient hum; innumerable pom-pom blooms in delicate shades of white, pink and lilac belie the sun's intensity and lend a visually cooling effect, the air infused with a decidedly sweet yet mildly cepaceous aroma, I drift off in onion-induced trance to the steppes of Central Asia; I did warn that alliums are my obsession.

#### 10. *Allium thunbergii* clan

What would the autumn garden be without the obligatory favorite, *Allium thunbergii*, closing the season with long eye-lashed purple blooms appearing in October to November. Generally thought of as a Japanese species, it is also native to China and Korea. The most popular named cultivar is *A. thunbergii* 'Ozawa', selected for its smaller stature to 8–10 inches. The foliage is distinctly hollow and three-sided or keeled, long and pointed, making informal clumps, the older leaves aging to a rusty orange color in autumn, an interesting counterpoint to the intense rosy-purple flowers. The buds appear early, by mid summer, telegraphing the autumnal appearance of tousled mop-heads of color. There is also a beautiful, strong growing white form which blooms a bit later than 'Ozawa', closer to the end of October.

A group of allied species abound with taxonomic confusion. These include *Allium sacculiferum*, *A. chinense*, and the Japanese endemic *A. virgunculae*, but recently published species and subtaxa begin to clear the muddle. However no need for concern, anything grown under these names are autumnal delights. There are pixie plants falling under the *A. virgunculae* camp, with few-flowered heads of white, pink, to purple flowers on 3–5 inch stems, and the same spidery eyelashes. There are tall late blooming types that grow 2 feet or more, topped with dense knobs of purple, and everything else in between.

A form given to me from the US National Arboretum labeled *Allium taquetii*, a synonym for *A. thunbergii*, is a conundrum with broad, perfectly flat linear leaves, rather yellowish-green hued and held in graceful arching fashion. Vegetatively unlike *A. thunbergii*, yet appearing very late in the season with identical purple eye-lashed blooms, it might align with the recently published flat-leaved *A. pseudojaponicum*. Depending on the season, the flowers try to open in November and December, defying early frosts and even snow. This overachiever remains a favorite. When all else is dried and dead looking, I walk

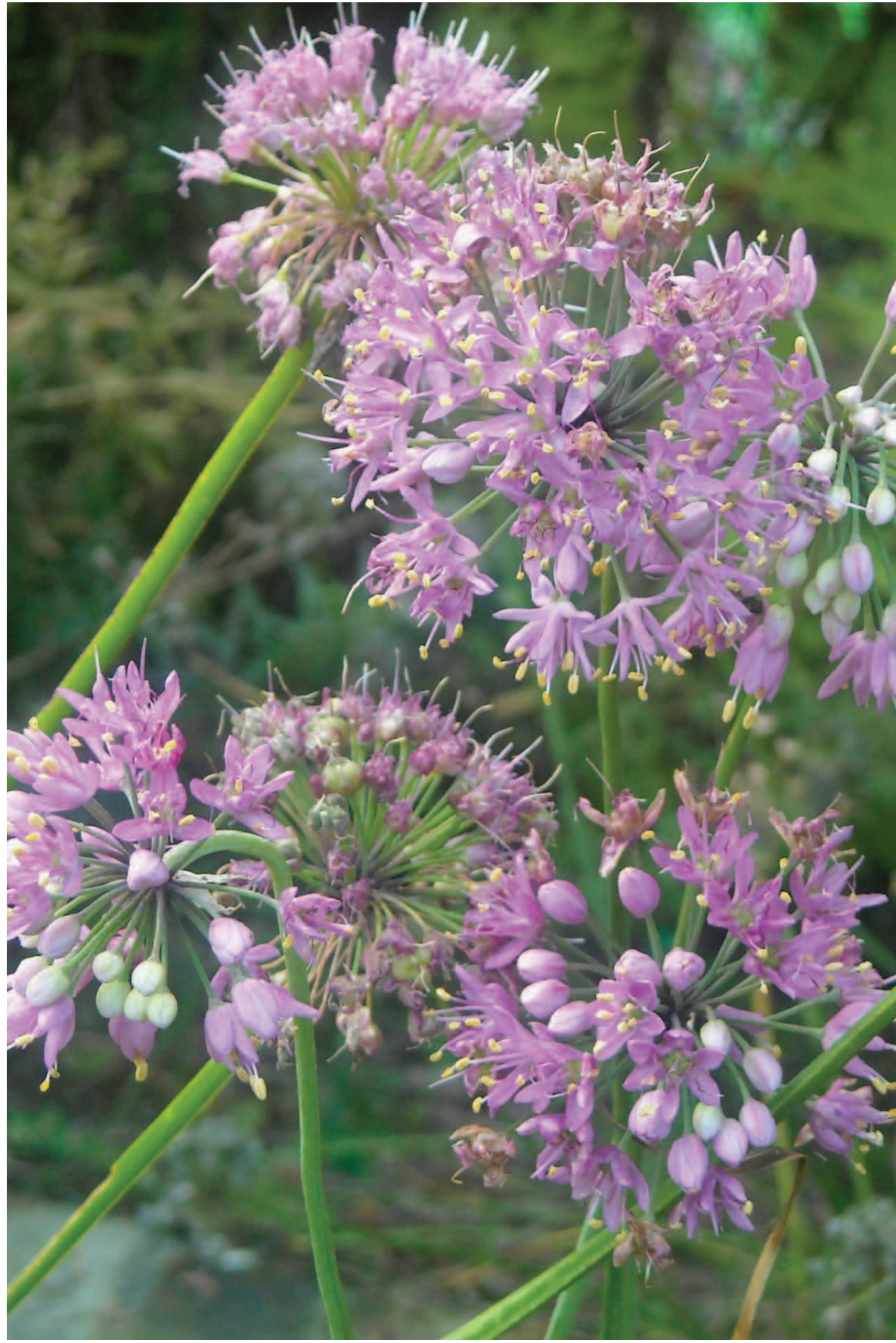
the garden with a hot cup of tea and marvel at this plant's tenacious determination to flower at the wrong season; I often whisper to it words of encouragement.

There is no need to worry about unwanted seedlings on any of these late-blooming onions because they flower so late that seed capsules typically have insufficient time to develop successfully. Cutting off the stems and developing capsules as late in the season as possible, then allowing them to dry indoors, can lead to viable seed collection. Flowering-size plants are possible in about 2–3 years from seed. While these onions will grow in sun, they do not enjoy hot parched locations, instead preferring some shade and light humus-rich soil augmented with sand for drainage. Traditionally these little purple eye-lashed onions are among a handful of flowering plants to close the late autumn garden, a perfect ending to a long and flowery onion season.

*Allium thunbergii* 'Alba', the white form of *A. thunbergii* 'Ozawa', is strong-growing and flowers slightly later than the typical form



Opposite: A late pink-flowered *Allium stellatum* (p.141)





Rock walls provide habitats for a whole range of plants such as *Veronica* and *Dianthus* as well as other wildlife

## The many pleasures of Rock Wall Gardens

CHARLES GLEAVES

LIKE SO MANY other gardeners, I came to rock gardening late in my gardening career, but I am still fit enough to schlep rocks. In my relatively short history of rock gardening I have four generations of rockeries, each more ambitious than the last, but all more or less in the form of rock retaining walls. They created new growing conditions that allow me the opportunity to grow a whole new world of plants. I am now growing plants that I had previously killed, plants that I was eager to grow but was skeptical of having success with, and plants I had never even considered trying before. I like the retaining wall format because it helps me escape the burial mound look I have seen and tried myself. It is also nice to have a somewhat vertical plane to work on. I like to be immersed in my gardens, and while I haven't managed to achieve the sense of enclosure that I aspire to, I still enjoy the change from flat gardens.

Of course, I was and remain naïve about rock gardening, but I have very much enjoyed the learning process. For example, as I finished a rock wall in a sunny site I thought that now was an opportunity to grow hardy succulents. I attended a lecture on the subject and armed myself with a list of five hardy prospects of very different types: *Delosperma congestum*, *Delosperma nubigenum*, *Phemeranthus calycinum*, *Escobaria vivipara* and *Echinocereus coccineus*. All succumbed to the first winter except for *Phemeranthus* which seeded itself throughout the sunny portion of the wall.

The wall provides vastly better drainage than any of my other gardens, but perhaps it lacks that “perfect” drainage that would allow some revered rock garden favorites to survive the winter wetness. On the other hand, last summer when we had some protracted hot dry weather, that sunny wall required more irrigation than any of my several other gardens (probably a function of my plant selection indiscretions). The plants that need better drainage remove themselves from the garden by dying in the winter. On the other hand, I need to recall which plants were chronic wilters last summer, like *Heuchera pulchella*, *Coreopsis* ‘Cosmic Eye’, and *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, and replace them with plants better adapted to the site.

Here in Ohio we are subjected to hot humid summers in which night-time minimum temperatures can often be above seventy degrees. This is, I read, deadly to alpines, as are our often “open” winters in which we have many cold days with no snow cover. I don’t make

*Dicentra* ‘King of Hearts’ looking completely at home in a corner of the rock wall





*Bergenia ciliata* does not have to be grown in a rock wall but it grows in very similar habitats in the wild.

a point of trying to grow alpines but do have a number of plants I suppose are common in rock gardens such as *Veronica prostrata*, *Androsace sarmentosa* 'Chumbyi', *Dianthus gratianopolitanus*, *Armenia caespitosa*, and *Petrorhagia saxifraga*, and so forth.

One of the biggest thrills of my rock gardens has been the success they finally provided me with some plants I had killed in the past like *Iris cristata*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Lewisia* hybrids, *Anthericum ramosum*, *Polygala major*, and curiously *Incarvillea delavayi*. And then there are those that I never even dreamed of growing successfully until I had rockeries, such as *Linnaea borealis*, *Penstemon confertus*, *Ramonda myconi*, *Gentiana acaulis* (with its amazing iridescent blue flowers), *Gentiana* 'True Blue' and *Gentiana scabra*.

I also have been able to create special affects with my retaining wall rock gardens. For example, a wall in a shady site divides a slope into two terraces. The wall is covered entirely with *Dryopteris marginalis*, making a vertical display of ferns with no stone visible.

I enjoy my self-seeders. I already mentioned how *Phemeranthus calycinum* seeds itself around one of my rock gardens but *Myosotis sylvestris* and *Silene caroliniana* subsp. *wherryi* are also prolific and welcome self-seeders, particularly in a flat skirt of rocks I have at the base of a retaining wall along my gravel driveway. I am encouraging plants such as these to run into the gravel. In another area *Sagina subulata* responded to only the slightest encouragement by carpeting the ground between two rock walls that face each other. I like to lie on

it while pricking out weeds. And I was very gratified that when my *Saxifraga × arendsii* didn't take to the place I selected it was able, on its own, to find a more suitable spot to grow.

Finally there are the plants that probably don't need to be grown in my rock walls, but I get such satisfaction out of having them there that I make room. The common *Primula veris* is one of my favorites, and I keep it going through the summer with an occasional bit of extra water. Other *Primula* species and hybrids make a great show in various moister portions of the rockeries. *Dicentra* 'King of Hearts' could grow many places, but I have never displayed it as effectively as in my rockery. *Bergenia ciliata* is a bit unusual around here, and I love the way its huge leaves hang onto the side of my wall, but I suspect it is not obliged to be grown only there. I also grow an assortment of dwarf conifers in my walls with the expectation that gradually they will make an interesting contribution to the appearance of the rock garden (if the deer would just leave them alone).

So it's the wide range of pleasures that my various rock walls provide me that keep sending me back to my wonderful local sandstone quarry's scrap pile and its endless supply of rocks. It is probably good for my sanity and those around me that it is such an expedition to go get them.

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# NARGS Speaker Tour May 2010

CLIFF BOOKER

Pitcher plants in Ev Whittemore's garden in North Carolina



## CHAPTER 3

*Wisconsin-Illinois and Ed Glover – Washington DC with Mike Cassidy and the Potomac Valley Chapter – Ev Whittemore and the Southern Appalachian Chapter – meeting up with Alan Grainger – Back to Poughkeepsie – Stonecrop – Elisabeth and Rob Zander – a few thoughts about touring*

WISCONSIN-ILLINOIS IS a thriving chapter driven, it seems to me, by having an ebullient Chapter Chair, Ed Glover, at the helm and a passionate and purposeful presence on the web. The chapter newsletter, *The Northern Outcrop*, skillfully edited by John Mather is an exceptional read and this most amiable group had arranged plant sales, garden openings and other events to coincide with our visit.

In the UK we are used to tea and biscuits (and an occasional cake) at our local group meetings; in North America (because of the distances travelled) everyone partakes in a potluck luncheon of epic proportions, culinary masterpieces vie for one's fork and the multifarious desserts one's spoon. Such was the fare laid on for us by the Chapter and over thirty enthusiastic members attended both of the afternoon lectures, at the spacious and impressive Dane County Extension Building.

Ed is heavily involved as a rock garden volunteer for the Allen Centennial Gardens, maintained by the Department of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and we felt extremely fortunate to be given not only a conducted tour of these charming city grounds, but also around Ed's pristine private alpine garden in Mount Horeb. Speaker hosts are most often retired, but occasionally a visiting lecturer is privileged to be welcomed by someone who has sacrificed holidays from work to entertain and chauffeur - Ed was one such. For two days he ferried us from one incredible garden to the next and we were privileged to enjoy spectacular displays of iris, hostas and hemerocallis, stately *Paeonia rockii* and many miles of wonderful Wisconsin.

One highlight proved to be a visit to an Eden created by artists John and Jennifer Sharp on a derelict riverside site in rural Mineral Point. Woodcarver John, and equally brilliant painter Jennifer, have designed and built a most beautiful home and garden.

An enormous rockscape greets you as you turn onto the property and recently established but already exquisite gardens encircle the house. An idyllic spot enhanced and well-watered by the creative juices of this lovely couple. Garden reports rarely feature external doors or bathrooms, but I must make an exception in this case – carved herons and garlands bedecked the various portals and the smallest room in the house was a stunning mosaic-lined haven of grace and functionality.

Another of Ed's magical mystery tour destinations, the Flower Factory at Staughton, features highly on web searches of Wisconsin nurseries, and we soon discovered why. From the delightful residence fronting the country road to the child-friendly railway track encircling a raised rock garden; from the alpine herbage flourishing on the shed roof

to the vast sales areas and numerous polytunnels, this is obviously a cosseted and successful business. The consummate catalogue confirmed our initial impression. As Brits, we were particularly taken with the choice of hardy cacti and especially the large pans of *Opuntia fragilis* var. *denudata*, a native of Texas and we also coveted a super plant of *Penstemon rupicola* 'Pink Holly' in a raised bed near the potting shed.

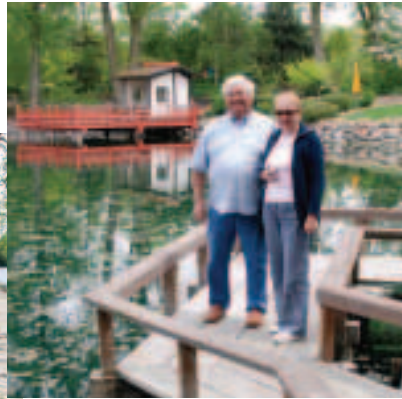
Wisconsin seems blessed with a number of exceptional gardens and nurseries and none impressed us more than the 20-acre non-profit Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, blossoming beautifully under the guardianship of Director of Horticulture, Mark Dwyer, and his obviously very able team. Internationally themed gardens (Japanese, Scottish, Italian, French and English cottage) feature prominently amidst less formal shade, prairie, fern, moss and woodland sections, while an enormous lake criss-crossed by spectacular Japanese bridges provides a focal and navigation point within these glorious gardens.

The 12th full day of our tour saw us leaving our rain-soaked hotel in Chicago by shuttle bus for the short journey to O'Hare airport and then onwards on to Washington Dulles. One of the attributes intrinsic to this type of organized tour is the opportunity to meet new and generous hosts at each alternative port of call - we couldn't have selected kinder or more amiable hosts if we had trawled the Host and Hostess of the Year Awards for the past ten years.

The capital proved no exception, our genial and companionable host Mike Cassidy met us at the airport and made our time in Alexandria and Washington DC one of the highlights of our tour: escorted drives around the capital, splendid meals, magnificent four-poster accommodation, garden tours, regular meetings with two Presidents and photo opportunities with the cutest dog in the East. Admittedly our three meetings with Presidents Obama and Karzai were distant affairs as their respective motorcades hurtled by on three separate sprints betwixt White House and airport, Capitol to Pentagon. And Mike's Welsh springer spaniel Dwynwyn really did resist every attempt to digitize his good looks. Dogged in his determination not to be photographed, he continually disappeared from the room at the first sight of a camera.

Dwynwyn's lovely house in Alexandria (for he is the true master) is set in lush forested gardens, with hawks in the trees, orchids in the glades and arisaemas in profusion. Though Mike had trees in abundance, he still treated us to a super day at the National Arboretum on New York Avenue. Classifying such a spectacular garden as an arboretum detracts slightly from the scope and diversity to be found within it ... "arboretum" denotes a botanical garden devoted to trees and this beautiful horticultural haven contains so much more than that. Perennials, herbs, rock plants, azaleas, dogwoods, ferns, hollies and magnolias all occupy their own designated heavens, but pride of place must go to the Asian and bonsai collections: the former arrayed over

Ed Glover and Sue Booker in Rotary Gardens (right) and the rock garden (below)



Part of the garden at The Flower Factory



Allen Centennial Garden (above) and rockscape in John & Jennifer Sharp's garden (right)



thirteen acres of steeply sloping stunningly planted terrain, the latter are housed in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, which boasts one of the largest collections of these timeless trees in North America.

Washington DC and Alexandria fall within the remit of the Potomac Valley Chapter and we were honored to be invited to a “Welcome to Washington” party at the home of Chapter Chair, Betty Spar and husband Ed, where we were feted in a marvelous and metropolitan manner. Two of the guests at the party, Bob and Audrey Faden (Bob is Research Botanist & Assistant Curator at the Smithsonian) kindly invited us to tour both their plant-packed private garden and a delightful public garden they maintained for the local community in Alexandria and we also got the opportunity to meander the main thoroughfares and the impressive waterfront of this most genteel of towns.

The chapter meets at Green Springs Gardens Park and over thirty members attended my “Dolomites” presentation and I was delighted to answer a host of questions from all around the hall. The Potomac Valley Chapter has grown since their inception in 1965 into one of the most successful of chapters and this is due in no small part to the efforts of editor Jim McKenney in producing yet another excellent (in this instance bi-monthly) newsletter. These chapter organs are the life-blood of NARGS, we should all celebrate and appreciate the dedicated few who devote their time and energies to maintaining such a vital service.

Weather conditions varied considerably during our twenty-one day tour, from the damp and chill of Newfoundland, through bright sunshine and occasional drizzle in Virginia, to the unseasonal heat wave of a New York spring, but the warmth of the welcomes didn’t waver wherever we went. We crept, unwillingly, from the four-poster at 6 am and dragged ourselves away from the dewy-eyed dog and his dewy-eyed owner to board our flights to Charlotte and then on to Asheville, North Carolina.

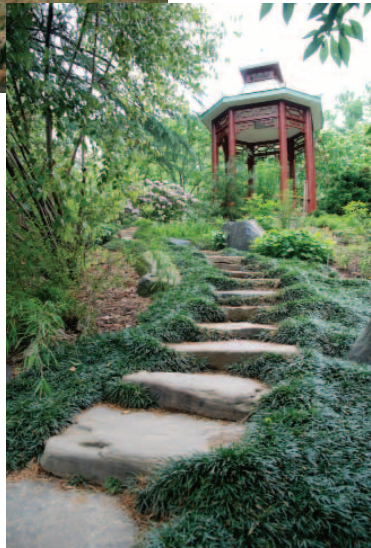
The sun was high on touchdown and it matched the warmth and brightness of our welcome from Southern Appalachian Chapter officers Mary Lou and Bob Kemp, who transported us through stunning scenery of southern hardwood forests, mountain laurels and rustic townships. We were on our way to the home and garden of one Ev Whittimore; we knew the name, we didn’t realize the significance.

As was the case when we arrived at Anne Spiegel’s home twelve or so days earlier, the first glimpse of Ev’s amazing garden caused my shutter release finger to twitch uncontrollably, and my capacious memory card to overload on sight. By the gate to this white-walled single-story property stood three of the finest troughs it has been my pleasure to covet.

Troughs in the UK are, as often than not, planted as mini-landscapes with rock mountains, gravel screes and suitably sized alpine gems. Ev does have numerous troughs of this ilk, but the entrance area is reserved for carnivorous plant troughs, the like of which I have never encountered before. Huge stands of perfectly flowered pitcher plants glowed red,



Mike Cassidy and Sue Booker in the entrance to the gardens of the National Bonsai Museum (above) in the National Arboretum (right)



Potomac Valley Chapter venue at Green Spring Gardens



Potomac Valley Chapter venue at Green Spring Gardens

Chapter party (from left): Dan Nicolson, Bob and Audrey Faden, Ed Spar, Alice Nicolson, Mike Cassidy, Betty Ann Spar, Sarah Strickler, Margot Ellis, and Sue Booker



amber, sulphur and green in the Carolina sunshine and the insect population of this beautiful state diminished drastically by the second. Not content with simply stunning her guests (both human and insect), Ev continued the onslaught along the front and side of her property with darlingtonias, droseras and sarracenias in an array of receptacles, each plant flowering profusely, each attracting the attention of my already exhausted lens and each eliciting more gasps of appreciation and awe. But Ev is not just a magnificent gardener, she is also a wonderful host.

Our visit to the eastern States gave us the opportunity to meet up with our great friends and fellow East Lancashire (Alpine Garden Society) Group members, Alan and Sherba Grainger, who now reside in Berea, Kentucky. As part of the preparations for our tour, Alan and I discussed possible rendezvous locations over the telephone, but each would require them to drive huge distances in one day. As soon as Ev heard of the dilemma she immediately offered to host the Graingers as well, and such generosity enabled us to spend quality time with wonderful friends in the most beautiful of surroundings. The Graingers traveled to Ev's home in Penrose in an almighty storm, enjoyed wonderful weather during their brief sojourn and then journeyed home through a continuous squall - and all this to see the author present a lecture entitled "Cream of Alpines." That's what a realist would call an unproductive weekend.

This final lecture of the tour attracted over thirty members to the village hall in Flat Rock, certainly the prettiest venue on our itinerary, and this group of enthusiasts provided catering and care of the utmost quality. It was especially pleasing to be introduced to the meeting by my long-time buddy Alan, but a little worrying as to what he might reveal. Like listening to the best man's speech at your own wedding, which is quite apt as I was proud to be Alan's best man back in December 2002.

We were thrilled to be invited to another lovely garden after my talk and we all enjoyed the bonsai display, the elegantly planted water garden, alpine beds and forest-edge shrubbery (and the delicious lemon beer), that Membership Secretary Beverly French and her husband Joe have developed in the midst of so many wonderful trees.

The Southern Appalachian Chapter is fortunate to be based in such a beautiful part of the world and Ev Whittemore has enhanced her own cherished segment of this by creating an awe-inspiring garden on a sloping site near the town of Brevard. This region of the Blue Ridge Mountains contains a host of spectacular waterfalls, and delights in its county name: Transylvania; and we have never encountered so many churches in one community ... perhaps as an antidote to horrors unseen.

Ev's garden is an eclectic mix of perfectly grown rock and scree plants; superb sempervivums; woodland gems and a vertiginous bank of cushion phlox the like of which you are unlikely to see anywhere else in the eastern states. Naturally, Ev is not remotely satisfied with just growing exceptional plants, she has to display her progeny in



Part of Ev Whittemore's scree garden and a trough of beautiful Sarracenias



Southern Appalachian Chapter venue at Flat Rock Village Hall



From left: Jan Larsen, Chapter chair Lew Applebaum, Alan Grainger, Joe French, Sue Booker, Bev French, Ev Whittemore, Barb Applebaum, and Sherba Grainger in front of the pond in Bev & Joe's garden.



meticulous layers of pristine top dressing that form elliptical drifts, each perfectly delineated from its immediate neighbors by color, composition or compaction. Punctuating these bark-chip or granite drifts are themed troughs, all made by Ev, each of such different size, shape and constitution. The renowned Southern Appalachian hospitality reached a new intensity when we were unreservedly invited to return to NC to stay with several members of the Chapter, and this after just one lecture and some wonderful dishes at the Twin Dragons Chinese banquet in Brevard.

The following morning saw an emotional farewell to an amazing lady and an amazing garden. Ev drove us to the airport for flights to Atlanta and on to Newburgh. Her generosity of spirit and our instant rapport will linger long in our memories and especially our hearts.

The lectures were completed, the actual tour had reached its conclusion, but we still had heaven-sent opportunities to visit Frank Cabot's magnificent Stonecrop Gardens at Cold Spring, New York; Elisabeth Zander's superb boulder and crevice garden in Goshen, Connecticut, created under the masterly direction of Czech saxifrage expert, Zdenek Zvolánek; the Big Apple itself and more of Anne Spiegel's earthly paradise in Wappingers Falls, near Poughkeepsie - who could resist?

A fortnight of temperatures in the 90s and a complete lack of precipitation had polished off the glorious spate of western phloxes, only an abundant ribbon of *Phlox borealis* remained in part bloom, suspended as it was in a long deep crevice immediately above the drive. Stands of iris, stately paeonies, penstemon, dodecatheons, aquilegias, dryas and even candelabra primulas now caught the eye as one ascended (both in height and floral kudos) to the continually expanding crevice garden perched high on the plateau above the cliffs.

Here were perfect examples of eriogonum, physoplexis, astragalus, oxytropis, campanula, physaria, dianthus, dwarf penstemon, aubretia and alpine poppies in a host of vibrant colours. The crevice area is very much a work in progress and Anne must have toiled so hard during our fourteen days away from the garden - new dry stone walls had appeared and more steps had been created, leading both the eye and the foot to fresh vistas and pristine photo opportunities - her additions didn't disappoint, they dumbfounded.

Crevice gardens seem to be in vogue at the moment, but many that we have seen have been built in isolation, usually on flat open areas and away from other rock formations or adjoining bluffs. Anne has integrated her burgeoning crevice garden into the architecture and the core of her rockwork; cliffs flow into crevice; boulders interject into the entirety; it all makes for a handsome and very natural whole. By the use of only one colour and type of rock (and chips) this unity is accentuated and the introduction of tiny plants during construction produces an immediate, if understandably somewhat sparse, result.



Frank Higginson Cabot, one-time Chair of the New York Botanical Garden and renowned garden designer, conservationist and horticultural writer, began constructing Stonecrop Gardens after he left college. His wonderful creation in Cold Spring, New York, was first opened to the public in summer 1992. He now lives and gardens on more than twenty acres in Quebec, Canada, but his legacy to this enchanting part of the Hudson Valley is the mightily impressive Stonecrop estate, thriving under Director, and fellow Brit, Caroline Burgess. Located on an exposed and windswept hillside at over 1,100 feet this twelve-acre garden and nursery enjoys a Zone 5 climate and features woodland, water, rock, trough, grass and display gardens and a beautiful conservatory, alpine house and even an enclosed English-style flower garden.

The absolute highlight was an incredible stand of cypripediums that Caroline pointed out as we were about to leave thereby delaying departure time by thirty photographs and as many minutes - but highlights were many in this glorious garden and the pergola, pond, cascade and elegant stone bridge would all feature prominently on any photographer's checklist.

If Stonecrop is Frank Cabot's legacy to the horticulturalists of New York state, then the name Elisabeth Zander should live long in the hearts and memories of the gardeners of Goshen, Connecticut. Elisabeth and stonemason husband Rod have, with the very able assistance of Czech crevice-garden guru Zdenek Zvolánek, created a striking rock and boulder garden of epic proportions. Saxifrages vie with phlox, leucojums jockey with sempervivum, trilliums with trollius and iris with incarvilleas in this fracas of stone, scree, shingle and superb vegetation. Woodland beds skirt rock-work and troughs dot like punctuation marks in flowery verse. An American plantswoman of the highest echelon, Elisabeth is continuing to surround her home with outcrops, walls, moraines, pavements and crevice gardens of infinite size, shape and design, but is continually counting the cost in time, effort and dollars of stocking these ever-expanding beds with plants worthy of their fine new homes.

As a successful stonemason Rod is accustomed to manhandling large blocks of stone, but even he must have balked at the size of some of the boulders and slabs introduced into this scheme - but what husband would have the temerity to thwart a plantswoman's desires? While familiar European gems such as ramondas, haberleas, saxifrages and primulas flourish among the crevices, raised beds, boulders and walls, native cypripediums, podophyllums and trilliums illuminate the dappled shade. This was to be our first sighting of the magnificent *Paeonia × handel-mazzettii* (now treated as *P. delavayi* in *Flora of China*), among many amazing plants in Elisabeth's garden, this glorious bronze peony (grown from seed collected and named by Joseph Halda) didn't disappoint and, as hosts, Elisabeth and Rod didn't disappoint in any way either when they kindly entertained Sue and I, Anne and Joe Spiegel, and

fellow members of the Berkshire Chapter, Robin Magowan, Juliet Matilla and Treasurer Pam Johnson, to a superb “Farewell to America” meal after our too brief garden visit.

We couldn't stay so near to the Big Apple without venturing into the city for our maiden visit and, by taking the train alongside the meandering Hudson to Grand Central Station, we passed through or beside iconic places with names that have, through music or word, become embedded in my psyche. Cold Spring Harbor, Garrison, Harlem, Sing-Sing, the Bronx and Yonkers all spring to mind, but nothing could prepare us for the visual impact of the city itself. We are not megalopolis people ... usually! We try to avoid cities on our travels and take detours around them wherever possible, but New York is a mountain photographer's dream - peaks, clefts and gullies fill every frame; eyes and viewfinder are constantly drawn aloft; shade and sunlight face an eternal battle for supremacy; miniature cameos of some form or another blossom on every ledge and strata ... for New York read the Dolomites. Except, may I add, in the way in which my wife was seduced into parting with money by the diamond purveyors at Tiffanys.

Our final morning was spent packing (our cases and memory cards with more images of Anne's incredible garden) and then it was time for farewells. Hard enough normally, but leaving this particular garden, this particular tour, and these particular people proved an utter wrench.

America didn't let us leave quite so easily either ... we had one last “meeting” with President Obama (visiting West Point for a graduation ceremony), who used Newburgh airport for his helicopter touchdown, which delayed our flight to Philadelphia by ninety minutes and resulted in us being interviewed by a local television station on the merits of quiet regional airports - then back across the pond to Manchester, England, and brilliant early morning sunshine that admittedly tried hard, but couldn't hope to outshine this most splendid of tours.

*Footnote. Speaker hospitality isn't the easiest of entities to quantify or qualify. It doesn't seem appropriate or appreciative to issue star ratings to private houses and volunteer hosts ... any generous offers of bed and board and travel assistance should be gratefully received for what they are and relished and recognized in every way possible. That said, it is our pleasant duty to confirm that the North American people (and members of NARGS Chapters in particular) make, without doubt, the finest hosts ever to turn down a duvet, bring forth a breakfast, or cosset their all-consuming guests to within an inch of their lives. We were so very fortunate to stay in the homes of, and be fed and ferried about by, some of the nicest and most generous people it has ever been our privilege to meet. We would like to put on record our whole-hearted thanks to NARGS and to you all for the warmth of your welcome; the magnificence of your hospitality and the friendships you have created, both in our hearts and in our address books.*



Stonecrop Gardens



Elisabeth & Rod Zander and parts of their rock and crevice gardens



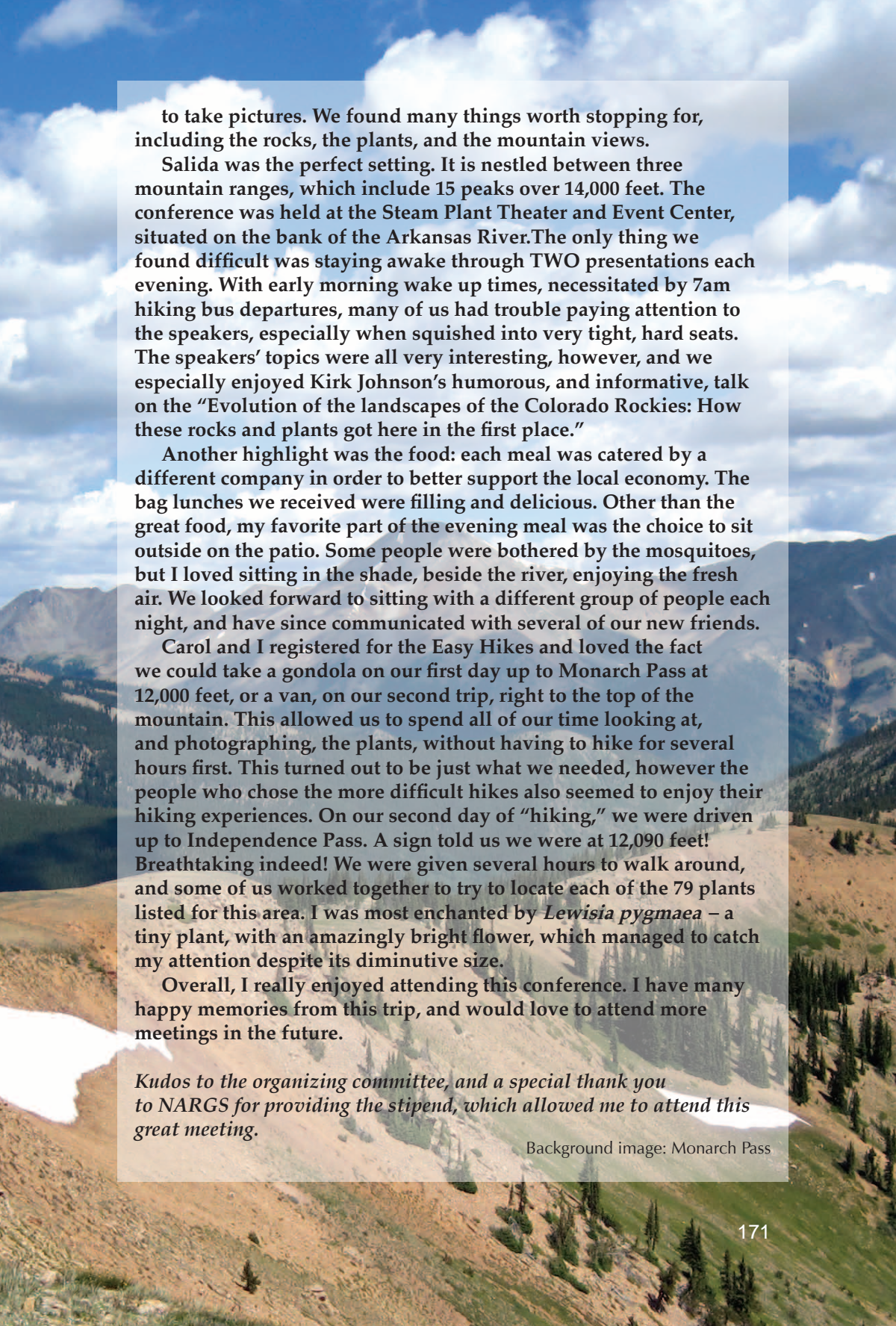
# Romancing the Rockies

First-time attendee *CATHY KURIO* reviews the July 2010 NARGS Annual Meeting in Denver & Salida, Colorado

EVEN THOUGH I was one of the original 1991 members of the Alpine Study Group, which became the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society in 1994, I had never attended a NARGS national meeting. I had always envied those able to attend the Winter Study Weekends, usually held in a warmer locale than Calgary, but had never seriously considered attending a NARGS meeting, until I heard about the Annual Meeting to be held in Colorado this past July. When I mentioned I was interested in attending, I discovered my fellow CRAGS Board member, Carol Huggler, was also thinking about going. With money available from both NARGS and CRAGS, to help us pay for the conference, we were off and running.

I really wasn't sure what to expect, but I was looking forward to meeting many of the NARGS people I had corresponded with over the last 2 years as president of CRAGS. I was also excited about getting to the top of a mountain, without having to do a lot of hiking. I live close to the Canadian Rocky Mountains, yet I rarely get a chance to see the alpinists I grow living in their native habitat. And the Denver Botanic Gardens had always been on my list of "Places to Visit".

Our conference experience began in Denver, on Sunday afternoon, as we tried to locate some of the local gardens which were open for viewing. I was not particularly bothered by Denver's higher elevation, but the intensity of the sun's rays, coupled with high temperatures, did make walking around the Botanic Garden, later that afternoon, somewhat tiring. But it was wonderful to see this world-class botanic garden, with healthy, happy plants growing in its many different sections. I was amazed at the variety of plants they are able to grow so well. Carol, especially, enjoyed the opportunity to see the Henry Moore sculptures, which were artistically positioned around the garden. After a delicious dinner, served under a large tent, and a quick trip through the conservatory, we decided it was time for us to return to our hotel. We were sorry to miss the evening's speakers, but decided we needed to get some sleep before we embarked on the next leg of our adventure. Our drive to Salida, the next morning, was a highlight of our trip. Thankfully, we chose to rent a car, which allowed us to travel at our own pace and stop, often,



to take pictures. We found many things worth stopping for, including the rocks, the plants, and the mountain views.

Salida was the perfect setting. It is nestled between three mountain ranges, which include 15 peaks over 14,000 feet. The conference was held at the Steam Plant Theater and Event Center, situated on the bank of the Arkansas River. The only thing we found difficult was staying awake through TWO presentations each evening. With early morning wake up times, necessitated by 7am hiking bus departures, many of us had trouble paying attention to the speakers, especially when squished into very tight, hard seats. The speakers' topics were all very interesting, however, and we especially enjoyed Kirk Johnson's humorous, and informative, talk on the "Evolution of the landscapes of the Colorado Rockies: How these rocks and plants got here in the first place."

Another highlight was the food: each meal was catered by a different company in order to better support the local economy. The bag lunches we received were filling and delicious. Other than the great food, my favorite part of the evening meal was the choice to sit outside on the patio. Some people were bothered by the mosquitoes, but I loved sitting in the shade, beside the river, enjoying the fresh air. We looked forward to sitting with a different group of people each night, and have since communicated with several of our new friends.

Carol and I registered for the Easy Hikes and loved the fact we could take a gondola on our first day up to Monarch Pass at 12,000 feet, or a van, on our second trip, right to the top of the mountain. This allowed us to spend all of our time looking at, and photographing, the plants, without having to hike for several hours first. This turned out to be just what we needed, however the people who chose the more difficult hikes also seemed to enjoy their hiking experiences. On our second day of "hiking," we were driven up to Independence Pass. A sign told us we were at 12,090 feet! Breathtaking indeed! We were given several hours to walk around, and some of us worked together to try to locate each of the 79 plants listed for this area. I was most enchanted by *Lewisia pygmaea* – a tiny plant, with an amazingly bright flower, which managed to catch my attention despite its diminutive size.

Overall, I really enjoyed attending this conference. I have many happy memories from this trip, and would love to attend more meetings in the future.

*Kudos to the organizing committee, and a special thank you to NARGS for providing the stipend, which allowed me to attend this great meeting.*

Background image: Monarch Pass



# NARGS Bulletin Board

*News supplement to the Rock Garden Quarterly*



## *From the President*

Dear NARGS Members,

Central Ohio, where I live, received a lot of snow this winter. Snow is good for the plants, and I keep telling myself that. Shoveling it is like gardening in white: it makes the job almost simpatico.

When it comes to NARGS matters, the Seed Exchange is going strong and there are happy proclamations on the NARGS Discussion Forum from members whose seed has already arrived. Many thanks to Joyce Fingerut, Laura Serowicz, Joan Haas, and BZ Marranta for their fine work on this vital membership service and to Matt Mattus for designing the beautiful website banners for the SeedEx as well as other NARGS events.

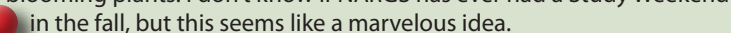
On our website <[www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)> we now have links to close to 200 titles of books available through <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)> and the list is growing. To find the links go to the left-hand menu on the home page and click on "Sales, Books." Buying books through the NARGS website is a way to support the organization because we receive a small percentage from the sales.

Another new feature is the "Book of the Month" reviews on the Wiki part of the website. The reviews were inaugurated at the first of the year, and judging from access statistics the reviews are quickly becoming a popular destination. Do you want to review a book? Please contact Betty Anne Spar at <[bettyannespar@aol.com](mailto:bettyannespar@aol.com)>.

As I write, in mid-February, we are trying to secure a new Webmaster to replace Hugh MacMillan who has done a wonderful job and if we are lucky will have someone by the time you read this (LATE NEWS - our new webmaster, as of March 1st, is Chris Klapwijk from BC).

At the end of January, we passed the first anniversary of the NARGS website Discussion Forum. To celebrate the occasion, the team of Forum Moderators led by Mark McDonough opened the Forum to everyone. Hugh MacMillan made the necessary technical preparations for this move, and it is hoped that the open Forum will bring us more members from a global audience.

In my last letter I told you we did not have anyone to host the Eastern Study Weekend in 2012. We do now: the Allegheny Chapter invites everyone to Pittsburgh in October 2012. Its tentative theme is "Autumn in the Garden - a Time for Troughs" with emphasis on fall-blooming plants. I don't know if NARGS has ever had a Study Weekend in the fall, but this seems like a marvelous idea.



Increasing membership in NARGS is one of our foremost tasks this year as we are dealing with a deficit budget. One of the ways of lowering the deficit is to provide more money through membership fees. At the beginning of February, NARGS had 2615 members (up about 50 in the last six months) and perhaps we could gain another 100 by year's end. To accomplish that, I appointed the "NARGS Membership Benefits Think Tank" chaired by Jane McGary to come up with ideas of additional benefits we could afford to offer to our members. I am working with Chapter Chairs on recruiting local Chapter members who are not yet NARGS (national) members.

Enlarging the membership count will, I am sure, feature strongly in the plans of the next NARGS administration. This issue of the Quarterly contains bios of nominees for future officers of NARGS, and the election will take place at the Annual Meeting in New Hampshire in June. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Alice Nicolson, for the consummate approach to its task.

I hope many of you have already registered for the New Hampshire Meeting in June. There are going to be great hikes and gardens to see. You don't want to miss it.

And finally a sincere note of thanks to all the donors who responded to NARGS December giving appeals. Your generosity leads to improved services and I am grateful for your making it possible.

Best regards,  
Grazyna Grauer  
NARGS President  
<grazynalg@sbcglobal.net>

## NARGS 2012

### Western Winter Study Weekend and Annual Meeting - March 9-11, 2012

The Northwestern Chapter, invites you to the 37th annual Western Winter Study Weekend "Stop the Car...NOW!: East of the Far West", which is being held in Everett Washington on the weekend of March 9-11, 2012. It will feature talks by eminent naturalists, gardeners, and experts on Northwest Flora and history, plant displays, book and plant sales, as well as workshops, garden tours, and more.

Just north of Seattle, Everett is a small seaport city with a rich history and has many amenities including museums, sculpture displays, great shopping, casinos, and is very easy to get to by train (station is 2 blocks from the hotel).

Questions: call Ilse at 425-681-9341  
or email at <Mail4IlseB@gmail.com>  
or check our chapter website: NARGSnw.org



# *NARGS December 2010 Donations Appeal*

(breakdown as of January 27, 2011)

## DESIGNATED

In memory of Sasha Borkovec (General Fund)	\$500
In honor of Hugh Mac Millan (General Fund)	150
In honor of Todd Boland (General Fund)	75
In memory of Nina Lambert (General Fund)	50
In memory of Amy Bieber (General Fund)	100
In memory of Irma & Norbert Markert (Rock Garden Quarterly)	100
In memory of Pat Bender and Steve Doonan (General Fund)	50
In memory of Pat Bender (General fund)	100
In memory of Carol Fyler (General fund)	50
In memory of Betty Morrison (Shasta Chap.) (General Fund)	25
Speaker's Tour Program	300
On-line seed ordering/Web site	150
"Rock Garden Quarterly"	1725
Norman Singer Endowment Fund	150
Digitizing back issues of RGQ	50
GENERAL FUND or UNDESIGNATED	1765
TOTAL	\$5340

## IS YOUR GARDEN OPEN?

If your garden is open to other NARGS members by appointment or invitation, please send an email to

<nargs@nc.rr.com>

so that we can include you in members garden-open listings.



## *DONORS - December 2, 2010 to January 27, 2011*

Anonymous	LeClerc, Henri J. (New York)
Apgar, Patricia (New Jersey)	Leece, Cathy (Minnesota)
Atwater, Berta (Rhode Island)	Lockhart, Bruce (Massachusetts)
Asmundson, Mary Ellen (Washington)	MacMillan, Hugh (Colorado)
Aurichio, Linda (California)	Magowan, Robin & Juliet Mattila (Turnip Top Foundation)
Bennett, Marguerite (Washington)	(Connecticut)
Bierhoff, Ruth (North Carolina)	Mah, Daisy (California)
Borkovec, Vera (Maryland)	Maran, Mary (New York)
Bouffard, Vivien (Massachusetts)	McClure, Mary (North Carolina)
Bucher, Ann (Washington)	McDonald, Rosaleen (Nova Scotia)
Burnet, Jr., Thornton (Virginia)	McIntosh, Kevin (Maryland)
Bush, Allen (Kentucky)	Milano, Phyllis (Connecticut)
Church, Clara (California)	Milliken, Sue & Kelly Dodson (Washington)
Clark, Susan (Massachusetts)	Mirro, Jr., Gene (Washington)
Downe, Peter & Beryl (United Kingdom)	Moamar, Amal (Massachusetts)
Dunlop, Gary (United Kingdom)	Moran, Anita (Maryland)
Eichler, Carol (New York)	Plummer, William (New York)
Feitler, Mary Anna (Indiana)	Reznicek, Tony & Susan (Michigan)
Foster, Joanne (New Jersey)	Ryan, Dan (Ireland)
Gibson, Cornelia (Colorado)	Sale, Charles (British Columbia)
Gonzy, Michele (France)	Smith, Patrick (Ireland)
Grauer, Grazyna (Ohio)	Stefanee, Milan (Washington)
Gutierrez, Barbara Hoyle (South Carolina)	Stephenson, Laura (Pennsylvania)
Hampton, Sandra Kay (Illinois)	Streeter, Mary Ann (Massachusetts)
Harrison, Lynne (Washington)	Thornley, Winnie (United Kingdom)
Hipkin, Charles (United Kingdom)	Ward, Bobby (North Carolina)
Jenson, Mary (Colorado)	Whitlock, Paula (New Jersey)
Koltun, Nancy (Illinois)	Wood, James (Saskatchewan)
Konen, Sally (Idaho)	Zielinski, Eugene (Georgia)
Lauber, Alice (Washington)	

*We have learned of the deaths of the following NARGS members:*

*Frederick "Fred" Case, Saginaw, Michigan*

*David J. Fletcher, Taunton, Somerset, United Kingdom*

*Harry Hay, Tadworth, Surrey, United Kingdom*

*Nina Lambert, Ithaca, New York*

*Greg Speichert, Bloomington, Indiana*

*Jean Pierre Kohli, Lausanne, Switzerland*



## ***NARGS Seed Exchange Report***

The 2010-2011 NARGS Seed Exchange is moving along smoothly, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Laura Serowicz as Intake Manager, Joan Haas as Main Distribution Coordinator, BZ Marranca as Coordinator of the Surplus Distribution, and the help of dozens and dozens of volunteer workers (not all of them NARGS members!) throughout the country.

Unfortunately, our level of seed donations was slightly lower than in past years: 3606 taxa, as compared with 3882 last year. The numbers are not necessarily so disturbing in themselves, but because they represent a continuing downward trend. We hope it will be possible to increase numbers in future years by making more members aware of seed donating. Members could begin now, by thinking about (even making lists of) plants in their gardens whose seed would be welcomed by other members. Any US members who collect spring ephemeral seed might try storing them in plastic bags with barely moist vermiculite (or contact Laura Serowicz <[seedintake@twmi.rr.com](mailto:seedintake@twmi.rr.com)> for further information). Chapters are encouraged to organize seed-collecting and cleaning activities, possibly as part of their September meetings. The Connecticut and the Wisconsin-Illinois chapters already have such activities planned and would be happy to share their ideas with (and receive many more from) other chapters.

Laura Serowicz has done her usual superb job of recording seed donations (including a good deal of taxonomic sleuthing), organizing and distributing the seeds to seventeen groups and chapters for re-packaging, and producing a faultless seedlist.

Do take a look at this year's list - choose SEED EX from the main page at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) and you'll get a page headed by one of the great banners designed for the Seed Exchange (like the one at the head of this page). It may whet your appetite for next year - you'll find so many plants that you "need."

The Main Distribution, so ably organized by Joan Haas of the Delaware Valley chapter, is on-target to fulfill at least as many orders as the past couple of years (the deadline for receiving orders is after the deadline for this report). That means that around 750 members are obviously interested in seeds, and if we could just bump up the number who donate by even a small percent, we would have a seedlist that looks more like NARGS in its heyday.

BZ Marranca, of the Adirondack chapter, will be coordinating the volunteers who will handle the distribution of seeds in a second round of orders (this report is written before the second round begins). There are still many packets of interesting and choice items available among the surplus seeds - most often because members have not yet discovered the value of these rare and unusual taxa. So this round is a great way to try something new, as well as build up stocks of old favorites and fillers.

Those dozens and dozens of volunteers at each phase of the seedex are to be congratulated and thanked for their work, and we can only hope that this small (but sincere) acknowledgement of their worth and their help will be enough to keep them returning in the future.

I hope all chapter Chairs took advantage of the distribution of leftover seeds to receive a portion for their chapters. These seeds can be shared with all chapter members (not just those who belong to NARGS national) as well as local community organizations. Packets of seed are welcomed by schools and scouts, as well as public parks and gardens, and offer a good way to reach out to the community and make them more aware of rock gardening and our organization.

Joyce Fingerut, Director NARGS Seed Exchange,

<[alpinegarden@comcast.net](mailto:alpinegarden@comcast.net)>

## NOMINATIONS for Officers & Directors

Alice Nicolson, chair of the nominating committee, presents the following list of nominees for posts as Officers and Directors. She writes, "On behalf of the committee I am happy to present the nominees listed below. In combination with the returning directors Anne Spiegel (Berkshire), Jane Grushow (Delaware Valley), Lee Curtis (Rocky Mountain), Ray Deutsch (Western), Marguerite Bennett (Northwestern) and Philip MacDougall (Vancouver), we feel there is a reasonable geographic representation; ten chapters filling 13 offices. We have also aimed to bring some new blood into the NARGS administration and feel we have been somewhat successful."

**PETER GEORGE (President)** has been a member of NARGS and the Berkshire Chapter since 1996 and has served in various offices for the chapter, including plant sales, President and, currently, Editor. He chaired the Winter Study Weekend in Hartford in 2008, and currently serves as a moderator for the NARGS Forum. He says he has learned an enormous amount about gardening from visits to wonderful local gardens of NARGS members as well as from an array of outstanding speakers, both at chapter meetings and at NARGS events. He lives in Massachusetts with his youngest son, works from home (he is Managing Partner of Healthcare Litigation Support) and is glad to be able to spend a lot of time in his garden.

**HARVEY WRIGHTMAN (Vice President)** started Wrightman Alpines in 1985 as a specialty nursery with a goal of providing new plant material from collectors around the world, and up-to-date cultural advice that emphasizes simple, effective growing techniques. Members of the Ontario Chapter, he and his wife, Irene, were co-recipients of the NARGS Marcel LePiniec Award (2009) in recognition of their contributions to the rock garden community.

*NOMINATIONS for Officers & Directors continue on next page*

## *NOMINATIONS for Officers & Directors, cont'd*

**BARBARA WETZEL (Recording Secretary)** is a member and former Chair of the Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter of NARGS. She has been the Recording Secretary since the fall of 2009 and is the current Chair of the Speakers Tour Program. She worked in real estate property management until her retirement. She gardens in Barrington Hills, Illinois, on six acres where she enjoys the challenge of cultivating a southeastern garden in NW Illinois. Her garden includes a large woodland with hundreds of azaleas set beneath oak, hickory, redbud and dogwood trees, underplanted with wildflowers; a native prairie surrounded by perennial beds and two rock gardens; all enclosed by an 8-foot black chain link fence which excludes tall rodents.

**BILL ADAMS (Treasurer)** says "I'm a native Coloradan and, although having a degree in Biology, worked in the banking industry for over 20 years. In 1995, I retired from banking and expanded my rock gardening hobby into Sunscapes Rare Plant Nursery, a small wholesale and mail order nursery specializing in rare and unusual plants for rock gardens and dryland gardens. I have been a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS since the early 80's and have served as Treasurer since 2007. I have also provided the financial audit of the 2008 and 2009 financial records of NARGS and served as Treasurer for the recent NARGS National Meeting held in Colorado and organized by the Rocky Mountain Chapter. I'm also active in the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society and the North American Mycological Society."

**LOLA LLOYD HORWITZ (Director)** is a charter member of the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS and organized the 2006 EWSW during her tenure as Chapter Chair. An avid seedaholic, she has organized volunteers to help with Phase 2 (repackaging) of the NARGS Seed Exchange, as well as contributed articles to the NARGS Quarterly and given lectures to local chapters. NARGS and rock gardening have been a vital part of her life. She works part-time as a landscape designer.

**JANET NOVAK (Director)** has been a NARGS member for ten years. She belongs to the Delaware Valley Chapter and serves as its webmaster. She is also president of the Philadelphia Botanical Club. Janet gardens in Philadelphia, where she has squeezed 650 different species and cultivars into a yard of one sixth of an acre. Her plant interests include Campanulas, Epimediums, native orchids, and plants native to limestone habitats in eastern United States.

**BETTY SPAR (Director)** says "I went back to school at 47 and started a career in Horticulture. After a three year stint at a propagation nursery and four years at the New York Botanical Garden in the T. H. Everett Rock Garden, I was honored to have been mentored by Bob Bartolomei. We botanized in the Big Horns and Rockies and my life clearly was bliss. During that time I became a NARGS and Hudson Valley Chapter member. I've attended meetings in the Berkshires, Manhattan, and New Jersey. Our family followed the major breadwinner to Washington and after volunteering at several gardens, I was offered a gardening position at the United States Botanic Garden. I just retired as Administration Officer after 17 years, so now I'm yours. I chair the Potomac Valley Chapter and act as team leader for the newly inaugurated Wiki Book of the Month Review on the NARGS Web site."

## Persons who joined NARGS November 1 to January 31

Halton, Beatrice, 32 Bent St., Leongatha, Victoria 3953, Australia  
McDonnell, Yvonne, 35 Heathersett Rd., Sassafras, Victoria 3787, Australia  
Van Bauwel, Robrecht, Beauvoisiaan 117, Kalmthout 2920, Belgium  
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 Kemp, Mary Lou, 49 Skyline Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28791  
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 Thain, Barbara, 1325 Hazelwood Dr., Midwest City, OK 73110  
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 Feldman, Merle, 21043 Highway 47, Yamhill, OR 97148  
 Frojen, Leonard A., 2735 Malibu Way, Eugene, OR 97405  
 Lloyd, Kirk, 8032 Liberty Rd. South, Salem, OR 97306  
 Dus, James, E3 Deibert Dr., Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
 Filson, Lorraine, 403 Bedford Court, Quakertown, PA 18951  
 Miller, Francis, 265 New Darlington Rd., Media, PA 19063  
 Browne, Gioia T., 79 Peckham Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837  
 Kopp, Judith, 5538 Ashbrook Lane, Maryville, TN 37801  
 Skaggs, Dale, Dixon Gallery & Gardens, 4339 Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38117  
 Frowine, Steve, Natural Wonders, 5802 Bob Bullock C1, Unit 328C-169, Laredo, TX 78041  
 Klein, David, 6602 Spring Cypress Rd., Spring, TX 77379  
 Kollmann, Friedric, 7169 S. 2930 East, Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121  
 Sorensen, Eric, 963 Marion Village Rd., Sandy, UT 84094  
 Bradford, Elizabeth, 114 West Alexandria Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301  
 March, Skip, 410 South Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Milek, Sarah, 1747 Hunt Rd., Windsor, VT 05089  
 Evans, Nancy & Charles, 3008 44th Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98199  
 Neely, Diana, PO Box 235, Medina, WA 98039  
 Janik, Lynn, 1622 Frederic St., Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 McCracken, Jud, 552 245th St., Osceola, WI 54020

**THE FOLLOWING RECENTLY  
 BECAME NARGS LIFE MEMBERS**

*Kathy Macartney (Ontario)*  
*Harold Peachey (New York)*  
*Barbara Wetzel (Illinois)*

**THE FOLLOWING RECENTLY BECAME PATRONS**

*Gioia T. Browne (Rhode Island)*  
*Hilary and Michael Clayton (New Jersey)*  
*Louisa Ferree (Massachusetts)*  
*Jane Grushow (Pennsylvania)*  
*Alan Horne & Joseph Teti (New York)*  
*Albert Martin (New Jersey)*  
*Scott Robinson (Western Australia)*  
*Betty Anne Spar (Virginia)*  
*Steve Utkus & Radford MacFarlane (Delaware)*  
*Katherine Mauney (North Carolina)*

**REQUEST TO NARGS  
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NARGS would like to obtain email addresses of its life members to be able to communicate from time to time.

Please send to

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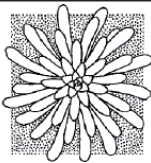


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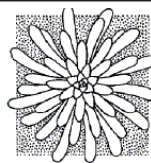
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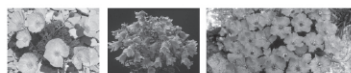


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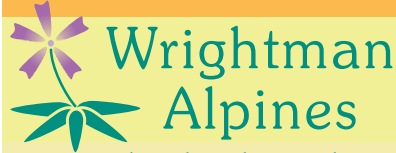
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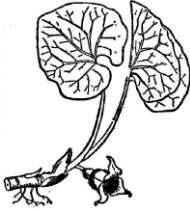
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- 🌸 SX/BX: The *very best* seed and bulb exchange in the U.S.
- 🌸 Membership Directory: Published and distributed annually  
All this for only \$20/year U.S., or \$25 for international members!

**Join online and pay via PayPal; [www.PacificBulbSociety.org](http://www.PacificBulbSociety.org)**

Or contact: Patricia Colville, PBS Membership, 1555 Washburn Rd., Pasadena, CA 91105

Email: [patrylis@aol.com](mailto:patrylis@aol.com)

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### **American Primrose Society**

*invites everyone who enjoys  
primroses to join our society.*

*Members receive the quarterly magazine  
and seed exchange privileges.*

*Dues (individual or household) \$25  
per calendar year.*

*Jon Kawaguchi  
3524 Bowman Court  
Alameda, CA 94502*

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

5 bedroom, 3 bath (circa) 1820 Dutch Colonial on 30 acres of gently sloping land in Warwick (Orange County), NY. Avid NARGS member has created diverse gardens, including a large rock garden with waterfall and pond. Woody species list is long and interesting, reflecting 28 years of ordering from NARGS Quarterly advertisers!

Contact [sanford.glazman@randrealty.com](mailto:sanford.glazman@randrealty.com)  
or have a look at [www.randrealty.com](http://www.randrealty.com) and web # **485841**

Additional garden pictures are available.

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# NARGS 2011 NATIONAL MEETING

## Discovering the Flora of New England

NARGS 2011 Annual Meeting, June 17-19

Exciting flora in New England? Come see for yourself!

An old New England farmer once said "My best crop is the rocks I harvest from my field." He was perhaps exaggerating to make a point, but not by much. In northern New England, the rocks left by the glaciers can be a nightmare when planting a new garden. And each spring brings forth a new crop.

So what's one to do? Rather than be cursed as an obstacle, the presence of rocks provides New England gardeners with a unique opportunity to create a garden perfectly suited to its site. Come see for yourself! From the magnificent White Mountains in the north of New Hampshire and the rolling Green Mountains of Vermont, through the Lake Districts and many historic and quaint regions, New England is filled with rock gardens of beautiful flora and unique species.

Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH, will be the main location for meetings, presentations, vendors, and other activities. This classic colonial campus lies in New Hampshire's scenic Lake Sunapee Region with 360-degree views of mountains, forests, and lakes. The tree-lined campus is nestled in the quaint New England town of New London, a perfect setting for our NARGS Annual Meeting.

### CELEBRATE THE FLORA OF NEW ENGLAND

Discover The Fells and Clarence Hay's  
80-year-old rock garden

Discover the beauty of Eshqua Bog and  
Phillbrick-Cricenti Bog, both rich fens

Discover exceptional gardens

Linger after the meeting and discover the  
alpine flora of Mount Washington and the  
Garden in the Woods, home of the New  
England Wild Flower Society

<http://fellschapter.wordpress.com/about/>

## SCHEDULE

### Friday, June 17

Registration at bus loading.

- 8:30 or 9:30 a.m. Departures for Eshqua Bog and Highberg Gardens
- 3:00 p.m. Tours of The Fells and reception
- 5:30-7:30 Vendors open, Plant Show, Silent Auction, Social Hour, Ware Campus Center, Colby-Sawyer College
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner: Ware Campus Center, Colby-Sawyer College
- 7:30 p.m. Awards meeting
- 8:15 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Arthur Haines

### Saturday, June 18

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at Ware Campus Center, Colby-Sawyer College
- 8:30 a.m. Departure for Hewitt, Fenderson, and Fry gardens
- 3:00-7:15 Vendors open, Plant Show, Silent Auction at College
- 5:30 p.m. Social
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner: Ware Campus Center, Colby-Sawyer College
- 7:15 p.m. Annual Meeting
- 8:15 p.m. Speaker: William Cullina
- 9:15-10:00 Final vendor opportunities

### Sunday, June 19

Breakfast on your own

- 9:00-12:00 Visit Philbrick-Cricenti Bog and local gardens.

### Sunday, June 19 & Monday, June 20

Post Conference Trip Options, on your own

Post-conference activities could include:

Visit **Mount Washington**, the highest peak in the Northeast, and discover the alpine flora of the White Mountains during their prime bloom time, including the very rare Mount Washington endemic, *Potentilla robbinsiana*, subject of successful federal protection. Botanists, including Arthur Haines, will be on hand on Monday, June 20, to provide you with information, help direct you, and answer your questions. To allow three hours to reach the Mount Washington region, you will want to leave New London on Sunday afternoon. The most interesting route takes you over the Kancamagus Highway. Those who love to shop may want to visit the outlet stores in North Conway, just south of Mount Washington. New Hampshire has no sales tax, making shopping more affordable.

**The Garden in the Woods** (Framingham, MA), is home of the New England Wild Flower Society, a two-hour ride from Colby-Sawyer College. Monday, June 20, a day when this ever-changing living museum is closed to the public, we are invited to visit the Garden in the Woods, with the largest landscaped collection of native plants in the region, more than 1,000 native plant species, as well as the unique New England Garden of Rare and Endangered Plants.

There are other nearby sites, for gardeners and non-gardeners.

Further information will be available when you send in your registration.

NARGS ANNUAL MEETING June 17 - 19, 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

Discovering the Flora of New England

The Registration Fee of \$300 includes Friday lunch and dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; transportation Friday and Saturday from Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH, to garden sites; after-dinner speakers.

**Registration #1: Name :**

Street Address

Street Address

City, State

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Land; \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ; Cell \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration #2: Name:**

Street Address

Street Address

City, State

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Land; \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ; Cell \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

Payment amount; \$300 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Three ways to pay:**

**1. Check made out to "The Fells Chapter, NARGS"**

**2. PayPal through the NARGS website**

If you paid online, please check here \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Visa or Mastercard**

Credit card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_

(we cannot accept Discover or American Express)

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_ / 201\_\_

Verification code (three numbers, on reverse of card) \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND THIS FORM TO**

**Joyce Fingerut, Registrar  
537 Taugwonk Road  
Stonington, CT 06378-1805  
USA**

Questions:

**Thelma Hewitt**, Meeting Chair: 603-763-0045; Tkewitt@aol.com

**Joyce Fingerut**, Registrar: 860-535-3067; alpinegarden@comcast.net



## Our Speakers

**Arthur Haines** (<http://www.arthurhaines.com/>) is a plant biologist specializing in the taxonomy and identification of New England tracheophytes. Among his publications are two user-friendly taxonomic and ecological references, *The Families Huperziaceae and Lycopodiaceae of New England* and *The Viola of Maine*, as well as *The Flora of Maine*. Arthur is a research botanist for the New England Wild Flower Society, writing a new tracheophyte flora of New England, to be published in 2011, and a regional reviewer for the *Flora of North America* project. He will speak about native alpine plants and some of the interesting adaptations we see in New England, and perhaps some comparisons between Mount Katahdin and Mount Washington.

**Bill Cullina** (<http://www.williamcullina.com/>) is the Director of Horticulture/Plant Curator for one of North America's newest and most exciting public gardens, The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, Maine. A well-known author and recognized authority on North American native plants, Bill lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups, and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Wildflowers of the United States and Canada; Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; Understanding Orchids; Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses*; and most recently, *Understanding Perennials*, published in 2009. Bill will talk about growing some of New England's challenging alpine and woodland plants.

## Lodging in the New London area

The conference meetings, meals, and sales will be held on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College and registrants need to reserve rooms in and around nearby New London, NH.

Until April 11, all rooms are being held for NARGS members for June 17 and 18, 2011, at the two facilities closest to Colby-Sawyer College: The New London Inn and The Fairway Motel. You must say you are with NARGS when you make your room reservation.

**The New London Inn**, 353 Main Street, New London, NH 03257  
<http://www.newlondoninn.us/home.htm> 800 526-2791

This is the nearest to our meeting site, about a three-tenths mile walk.

**The Fairway Motel**, 344 Andover Road, (Route 11) [http://www.lakesunapeecc.com/content/motel/fairway\\_motel.php?CID=5](http://www.lakesunapeecc.com/content/motel/fairway_motel.php?CID=5) 603-526-0202

This is an easy drive, a bit more than a mile and a half from the meeting site. If these are full, there are other relatively nearby places to consider.

A list of several additional inns and hotels, as well as information on transportation options to New London, NH, will be available when you send in your registration.



**HELLO**  
WELCOME TO NEW HAMPSHIRE!

## NARGS CHAPTERS (meeting place/area) & CHAIRPERSONS \_\_\_\_\_

Adirondack (Ithaca, NY)	Billie Jean Isbell - bj11@cornell.edu
Alaska (Anchorage & Mat-Su Valley)	Carmel Tysver - garden@gci.net
Allegheny (Pittsburgh, PA)	Patricia McGuire - cmpmam@juno.com
Berkshire (Stockbridge, MA)	Erica Schumacher - ejnovick@yahoo.com
Calgary Rock & Alpine Garden Society (Calgary, AB)	Cathy Kurio - cakurio@shaw.ca
Columbia-Willamette (Portland, OR)	Jane McGary - janemcgary@earthlink.net
Connecticut (New Haven, CT)	Virginia Gingras - ginnygingras@netzero.net
Delaware Valley (Philadelphia, PA)	Tammy Harkness - plant_nerd@msn.com
Emerald (Eugene, OR)	Tanya Harvey - Tanya@westerncascades.com
Fells (Newbury, NH)	Thelma Hewitt - Tkewitt@aol.com
Gateway (St. Louis, MO)	Bruce Buehrig - buehrig31@aol.com
Genesee Valley (Rochester, NY)	Betsy Knapp - eeknapp@rochester.rr.com
Great Lakes (Southern MI)	John Serowicz - skeptic@twmi.rr.com
Hudson Valley (Westchester Co, NY)	Don Dembowski - dondembowski@optonline.net
Long Island (Oyster Bay, NY)	Donald Ohl - donohl@yahoo.com
Manhattan (New York, NY)	Michael A. Riley - ManhattanNARGS@verizon.net
Mason-Dixon (Norrisville, MD)	Richard Arnold - r.arnold4@verizon.net
Minnesota (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)	Meredith Schurr - meredithis@comcast.net
New England (Waltham/Boylston, MA)	Mike Saganich - ceruleanprism@yahoo.com
Newfoundland (St. John's, NL)	Todd Boland - todd.boland@warp.nfld.net
Northwestern (Seattle, WA)	Claire Cockcroft - claire.primula@yahoo.com
Nova Scotia (Halifax & Truro, NS)	Darwin Carr - dcarr@nsac.ca
Ohio Valley (OH and surrounding states)	Chuck Gleaves - gleaves.charles@gmail.com
Ontario (Don Mills, ON)	Virginia Hildebrandt - vhildebrandt@sentex.ca
Ottawa Valley (Ottawa, ON)	Judy Wall - jpwall@ripnet.com
Painted Hills (John Day, OR)	Gail Klodzinski - gailkathryn9@hotmail.com
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Potomac Valley (Alexandria, VA)	Betty Anne Spar - bettyannespar@aol.com
Quebec (Montreal, QC)	Robert LeClerc - duckfrm@total.net
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Shasta (Etna, CA)	Clara Church - collinus@sisqtel.net
Sierra (Sonora, CA)	Mary Gentes - gentesmc@att.net
Siskiyou (Medford, OR)	Baldassare Mineo - italio@hotmail.com
Southern Appalachian (Asheville, NC)	Lew Applebaum - blapplebaum@bellsouth.net
Wasatch (Salt Lake City, UT)	David Joyner - d.e.joyner@m.cc.utah.edu
Watnong (Far Hills, NJ)	Ying Huang - yh2.2005@gmail.com
Western (San Francisco Bay area, CA)	Ted Kipping - tkipplingsprint@earthlink.net
Wisconsin-Illinois (Madison-Chicago)	Ed Glover - glover@oncology.wisc.edu

## NARGS STRUCTURE \_\_\_\_\_

The officers of the North American Rock Garden Society consist of a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. The officers are elected by the membership at an annual meeting.

The Board of Directors of NARGS consists of the four above-name officers, the immediate past president of NARGS, nine elected directors, and the chair of each NARGS chapter. Chapter chairs are required to be NARGS members by NARGS by-laws.

The affairs of NARGS are administered by an Administrative Committee (called AdCom) consisting of the president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, and one director-at-large, selected annually by the NARGS officers from among the nine elected directors.

## OFFICERS \_\_\_\_\_

President	Grazyna Grauer, grazynalg@sbcglobal.net 5640 Windwood Dr., Dublin, OH 43017
Vice President	Maria Galletti, mg.galletti@gmail.com 1182 Parmenter Rd., Sutton, QC J0E 2K0
Recording Secretary	Barbara Wetzel 20 Braeburn Lane, Barrington Hills, IL 60010
Treasurer	Randy Tatroe 17156 E. Berry Pl., Centennial, CO 80015
Director-at-Large	Lee Curtis, 1620 S. Parfet Ct., Lakewood, CO 80232
Immediate Past President	Dick Bartlett, Lakewood, CO


## DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD \_\_\_\_\_

2008–2011	Dianne Huling, East Greenwich, RI Tony Reznicek, Ann Arbor, MI Alice Nicolson, Arlington, VA
2009–2012	Marguerite Bennett, Seattle, WA Lee Curtis, Lakewood, CO Ray Deutsch, Redwood City, CA
2010–2013	Jane Grushow, Ephrata, PA Philip MacDougall, Surrey, BC Anne Spiegel, Wappinger Falls, NY

## MANAGERS \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Secretary	Bobby J. Ward (919) 781-3291 PO Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604 nargs@nc.rr.com
Book Service	See the NARGS website: <a href="http://www.nargs.org">www.nargs.org</a>

Back cover: *Lamium cymbalariaifolium* flowering in the ruins of Bayburt Castle, Turkey. Photo: Kenton J Seth.



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