~ JANUARY MEETING ~

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2013, 6PM @ THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

BARBARA PAUL ROBINSON

ROSEMARY VEREY: LIFE AND LESSONS OF A LEGENDARY GARDENER

During a sabbatical from the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, where she was the first female partner, Barbara Paul Robinson worked as a gardener for Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House, in the Cotswolds of England. She credits this life-transforming experience with soon thereafter becoming the first female president of the New York City Bar. She has written the first and so far only biography, *Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*, published by David R. Godine. Rosemary Verey embraced gardening late in life, was self-taught and went on to achieve international renown. She was the acknowledged apostle of the English Country Style and the “must have” adviser to the rich and famous, including Prince Charles and Elton John. She wrote her first book at 62, followed by 17 more in the following 20 years. Barbara describes Rosemary as her boss, her teacher, her mentor and her special friend. In her talk about her book, Barbara will include some behind-the-scenes stories of working at Barnsley. A frequent speaker, Barbara has published articles in the *New York Times, Horticulture, Fine Gardening* and *Hortus* and has written a chapter in Rosemary Verey’s *The Secret Garden*. Her own gardens at Brush Hill, created with her husband Charles in northwestern Connecticut, can be viewed at [www.brushhillgardens.com](http://www.brushhillgardens.com).

The Horticultural Society of New York, is located at 148 West 37th Street, 13th Floor, between 7th Avenue and Broadway, near the 7th Avenue #1/2/3 lines and the 6th Avenue B/D/F subway lines. It is three blocks north of Macy’s and not far from Grand Central, Penn Station and the Port Authority Bus Terminal.
~ FEBRUARY MEETING ~
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013, 6PM@ THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

EUGENIA BONE

REVELATIONS FROM THE WEIRD WORLD OF MUSHROOMS: WHAT FUNGI ARE DOING IN THE GARDEN AND WHY YOU WANT THEM THERE

Eugenia Bone is a nationally known food journalist and author. Her work has appeared in many magazines and newspapers, including Saveur, Food & Wine, Gourmet, Fine Dining, Martha Stewart Living, Wine Enthusiast, Sunset, The New York Times, and The Denver Post. She is the author of four books. At Mesa’s Edge was nominated for a Colorado Book Award. She wrote Italian Family Dining with her father, celebrated chef Edward Giobbi. Well-Preserved was nominated for a James Beard Award, and was on many best books lists. Her current book is Mycophilia: Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms, which was on Amazon’s best science books of 2011 list and has been nominated for a Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries award. She is currently at work on her fifth book, a preserving book titled The Kitchen Ecosystem. Her writing and recipes have been anthologized in a number of publications, including Best Food Writing, Saveur Cooks, and The Food & Wine Cookbook, among others. Eugenia has lectured widely in venues like the Denver Botanic Gardens and the New York Botanical Garden, has judged wine competitions, and has appeared on television and radio many times. She is the founder of Slow Food Western Slope in Colorado and the president of the New York Mycological Society, which was founded 50 years ago by composer John Cage. She writes a blog called Well-Preserved for The Denver Post. Eugenia lives in New York City and Western Colorado. Contact Eugenia through her website, www.mycophilia.com, or follow her on twitter @eugeniabone.
Happy New Year wishes are definitely in order to all of our members and friends, and plants. Yes, most of us can use a fresh face or fresh perspective once in a while and that goes for our plants and gardens also. It is not only time for dreaming about garden projects, but a time for planning and studying all of those catalogues and seed lists that are arriving via mail and email. Thanks to Lola and her band of merry chapter elves (and many other NARGS elves around the world such as Chief Elves, Joyce Fingert and Laura Serowicz), we have an abundant list of seed that has been collected and made available to NARGS members through the annual Seed Exchange. In the recent past, I have admitted to a propensity for buying larger plants and being less patient in starting my horticultural endeavors from seed (advancing age has nothing to do with this!), however, the only place most of this plant material exists for propagation is … the NARGS Seed Exchange. It is so easy to dream along with the seed list on the Internet; by simply clicking on the name of a plant – you are whisked away to an Internet image and description of the plant in flower, so it is immediately recognizable as a candidate for your garden, or not! It is almost as easy as those little kits where one is told to “just add water and watch it grow”. Of course you need to be a member of NARGS to reap this huge benefit, so if you are not (??!!), NOW is a great time and reason to JOIN. Orders from the NARGS Seed Exchange are fully automated online, but must be placed by February 10th.

Meetings of our Manhattan Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society are designed to meet the needs of our diverse membership. Many of you are professional horticulturists, many of you are hobbyist horticulturists and some of us just like plants and the high-quality programs and speakers that we offer. Abbie and Steve and several others work hard to provide these programs and we thank them for their diligence in this task. If there are speakers or programs which you think would be appropriate for our group – please let us know. If there are other areas of the organization that interest you, such as plant sales or field trips – please let us know, we welcome your participation. We welcome Nancy Crumley to our Board of Directors, along with the ongoing members who were all elected at the Annual Meeting in December 2012. Note, that we try not to bring the nuts and bolts of business to conduct at general meetings – to spare your time and patience! Now that I have my official hat on … DUES ARE DUE! Please see Gelene or email her or, just send money to help pay for our meeting space and programming. Notice that our dues have not gone up in a gazillion years, thanks to revenues from plant sales and donations.

Whether winter has come or gone or is someplace in-between, we are marching forward into “show season” when our hearts and minds are adamantly yearning for green-growing-things, so we venture out in potentially frigid weather to Plant-O-Rama, a variety of orchid and indoor plant shows and, very soon – the Philadelphia and Boston Flower Shows.

Just in case you think nothing is going on above ground in your garden, go out there and check … you might be surprised. Olives and other woody subjects of mine have spent most of the “winter” on the fire escape where a pot of daffodils is one inch high today. Some plants in troughs look exactly the same as they did in July and others, well – what to my wondering eyes should appear on Christmas day, but a Gentian acaulis with two flowers! I wanted to bring them in to show my holiday guests, but lugging a 50 pound stone trough down four flights of stairs would not have made for a leisurely holiday, besides who ever heard of red and green and blue decorations? I hope your holidays were lovely and that you will LEAP into the New Year by joining us at our January meeting!
Gardening is a piece of cake when there’s nothing left to do until the mail order nurseries start delivering. Yet well into October I was still harvesting wild strawberries, zaftig little cliffhangers that were a favorite alpine planting of 2012. All summer long *Fragaria vesca* ‘Mara des Bois’ formed a chorus line, dangling from terra cotta pots on the parapet wall. Right before Hurricane Sandy I closed the whole show down. I cut off every last runner: I transplanted every rooted wiry stem into mulch beneath the hawthorns. I imagined next year’s groundcover. Someone asked, “Won’t you ever leave any plant alone?” My response is Pavlovian. As soon as things are looking good I grab my shears. It’s a wonder I still have a garden. The scruffy lemon verbena (*Aloysia citriodora*) from the Union Square Greenmarket that took two years to train as a standard? I gave it the ‘Chelsea Chop’ and cut back the aromatic leaves and branches right to the trunk. Then I spent the summer eyeballing two vertical sticks stuck in a pot; the stake and the apathetic headless woody stem. What are a few months when we garden for eternity? As soon as the slow-growing little-leaf winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei* ‘Kewensis’) is climbing the north wall – just the way Lori from Oliver’s promised – I’ll snip fistfuls of contenders and push them into the grit of paving joints where the mortar used to be. No rooting hormone powders, no gels, no nothing. It’s ‘crevice planting’ rooftop-style and they’re on their own, like everything else up here. A garden is full of directional signs driving us to do better. Inspiring speakers clue us in as well. Welcome Panayoti Kelaidis!

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**Editor’s Note:** Two recent speakers to the Manhattan Chapter, Lori Chips and Matt Mattus, offer their impressions of our upcoming March speaker, Panayoti Kelaidis from the Denver Botanic Gardens. He may be familiar already to many of our readers for introducing so many dryland and highland plants from South Africa, Central Asia, and other regions to American gardeners, including several *Delosperma* cultivars, through the Plant Select program he advises. Many will also know him as an infectiously enthusiastic and charismatic speaker, and on March 18th, you will too.

**PANAYOTI KELAIDIS: THE MAN, THE MYTH, AND THE VORTEX (with a little dancing towards the end)**

If you are even remotely interested in plants and have never heard of Panayoti Kelaidis, then you must indeed live in some sort of strange unaccountable vacuum. In this short space it would be difficult to explain his impact on American rock gardening. He is someone with many fingers in many pies, each one more intriguing than the last. Google his name and browse. If you do, I guarantee your head will not come up from the computer for several hours and you may feel like you have returned from a trip through the looking glass.

Panayoti is the spirit and genius behind the Rock Alpine Garden at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Once, on a drive through the West, my husband Joe and I were invited to his home for dinner. In a timorous, diffident sort of way I knew about the etiquette of bringing plant gifts. I had tortured over this briefly. So, timorously and diffidently I dragged Panayoti out to our SUV and handed him a pot of *Tanacetum niveum*. It turns out he had introduced the plant! I morosely moved to put it back in the truck, but he snagged the plant, pronouncing happily that it was not in his garden at the moment. His response may have been a kindness to a newbie, but I still appreciated it. Luckily, I had also brought along *Origanum* ‘Kent Beauty’, not then yet widely available, which I had scored at Logee’s Greenhouse in Connecticut, and that was definitely a hit. Naturally, a discussion of herbs kicked up during which I learned that the best culinary oregano is Greek and always white flowered.
Kindness seems to be more than momentary with him; I think it is a recurrent theme. When I first met him I was working under the tutelage of Bob Bartolomei, the Rock Garden Curator at NYBG. As I helped with the tours of the greenhouse, pithouses, and alpine house I soon realized I had rarely met a more personable guy, and hardly ever one as knowledgeable. As luck would have it, it fell to me to drive him to Wave Hill. I got us only slightly lost and as I chattered, probably incomprehensibly, I asked if his last name was Lithuanian? No, it is Greek, but close etymologically (that’s “et” not “ent” which would have thrown us into the world of bugs.) As I chattered, I practiced (in my head) introducing him to the legendary Marco Polo Stufano. When we stepped out of my car I did just that as our host strolled towards us across the parking lot. Then I said: “Would it be possible to tag along for the tour?” in what I hoped was an extremely humble, yet avidly interested voice. Of course it was and off we went, with me learning not just new species but entirely unfamiliar genera. I will confess that yes, this was a premeditated crime; I had received permission from my curator to stay if it was okay with them, and for as long as it took, and it became a most memorable afternoon on the Hudson.

In the years since I have had a number of encounters with Panayoti. We co-judged at a NARGS flower show and we were members of a “Panel of Experts” (!) at a Winter Study Weekend. I have enjoyed his lectures, and have even been the astounded recipient of some of his Drakensberg seed, collected on one of his many adventures in South Africa. I have read with extreme pleasure anything written by him. Do I know him well? I have to say not as well as I’d like to. Over the years I have learned that those who don’t know Panayoti want to meet him. Those who have met him want to know him better, so I guess I fall into that category.

One Winter Study Weekend organized by the Siskiyou Chapter, a King and Queen of the Banquet were crowned. Judith Jones of Fancy Fronds fame was Queen and, of course, Panayoti was King. Phyllis Gustafson was called forward to perform an alphabetical alpine list. I felt just a small shiver of nerves as I watched others called out for various “punishments.” As I and my tablemates at the back of the Hall waxed rather merry, we also waxed a bit louder than we should have. I felt rather than saw the “Eye of Mordor” turning upon us. Our entire table was called to the front of the room. The King declared a chorus line and it was at that moment, as we linked arms and got going, that I learned that rock gardeners, for all their many assets, have no rhythm at all….

Panayoti is not so much a man as a vortex, a vortex around whom whirls activity of every horticultural sort. This vortex will be arriving in Manhattan in March. Only fools will miss it.

~ LORI CHIPS

PANAY-YODA KELAIDIS, HORTICULTURAL ICONOCLAST

Hidden in the garage at Panayoti Kelaidis’ modest brick home in suburban Denver there is a sign. On it, in bright safety-orange spray paint, is written ‘Panayoti’. It gets placed at the end of his long drive to direct garden visitors to his home, and not the church at the end of the drive. Few gardeners have earned the praise and respect which Panayoti gets. A horticultural iconoclast, Panayoti is so much more than just a plantsman; he is a botanical evangelist, praised and cherished by a multi-generational posse ranging from young interns at the Denver Botanic Gardens, to some of the most respected botanists in the world. In many ways, he is indeed ‘Panay-yoda’ to those of us who love him.

~ MATT MATTUS

www.prairiebreak.blogspot.com

THE URBAN ROCK GARDENER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013
~ WHY DON’T YOU? ~

~ Spend some quality time with the flood of seed and plant catalogs filling your mailbox this time of year? Some can be wonderful educational resources. There are also wonderful plant selections offered by two mail order nurseries with impressive online catalogs. If you haven’t ordered from Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, WA or Arrowhead Alpines in Fowlerville, MI you owe it to yourself to examine their lists. If you have other favorite mail order nurseries you’d like chapter members to know about, please send an email and I’ll print their names and addresses in the next newsletter.

~ Buy bulbs after the 25-50% off sales commence in mid-to-late November? Most of the large wholesale bulb merchants like Van Engelen and Brent and Becky’s Bulbs offer a wide selection at significant savings. There is still plenty of time to plant until early-to-mid December in our area. Buy the things you really want early at full price to avoid selling-out disappointment, but get a lot more when sale time comes along.

~ Plan to order or grow from seed more summer-flowering rock garden plants to extend the season of interest in your garden and troughs? Many species and cultivars of Delosperma have become available recently, largely through the efforts and selections of Panayoti Kelaidis, our March speaker.

~ Strive for twelve months of bloom in your garden? Admittedly, the last two Winters haven’t exactly conformed to the norm, but Galanthus elwesii has been in bloom since mid-December and more have opened in the last two days in early January. It’s the best addition I can come up with to help achieve that goal.

~ STEVE WHITESELL
WWW.MCNARGS.ORG

~ 2013 DATES OF NOTE ~

January 28, Monday – MCNARGS 6PM meeting at the HSNY
Barbara Paul Robinson – Rosemary Verey: Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener

January 29, Tuesday - Plant-O-Rama 9AM to 4PM at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Metro Hort Group event for horticultural professionals, open to the public, for details: www.bbg.org

February 25, Monday – MCNARGS 6PM meeting at the HSNY
Eugenia Bone – Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms: What Fungi are Doing in the Garden and Why You Want them There

March 2-10 – The Philadelphia Flower Show, get ready to be BRILLIANT, a British horticultural invasion! www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYDhldYCnRE


March 18, Monday – MCNARGS meeting 6PM meeting at the HSNY
Panayoti Kelaidis – Urban Rock Gardening

April 15, Monday – MCNARGS 6PM meeting at the HSNY
Thomas Stuart – Garden Worthy Ferns: Adiantum to Woodsia

April 28, Sunday – MCNARGS Annual Plant Sale, El Sol Brillante

May 2-5 – 2013 Annual Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society, Asheville NC
Exploring the Flora of the Blue Ridge, early registration deadline is March 2, for details www.nargs2013.org/index.php

May 20, Monday – MCNARGS 6PM meeting at the HSNY
Bobby J. Ward - Planting for a Better World: The Influence of J. C. Raulston, Horticultural Ambassador

~ NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY ~

Join today. NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials. Annual dues in the U.S. and Canada are $30, payable in U.S. funds. VISA/Mastercard accepted. Benefits of membership include: Rock Garden Quarterly with articles on alpines and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen and ink drawings; annual seed exchange with thousands of plant species; study weekends and annual meetings in either U.S. or Canada; and book service to members.

Join online at www.nargs.org Or write: Bobby J. Ward, Executive Secretary NARGS
P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604, USA

The Rock Garden Quarterly is now online and members have free access. The path is www.nxtbook.com/Allen/roga/70-2

~ MANHATTAN CHAPTER NARGS ~

2013 Membership Form (Consider a Growing Gift Membership to a new member?)

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Your dues status is indicated on this month’s mailing label.

Membership renewal is due in January, so if you owe chapter dues, please take the time to pay them now.

Send your check (payable to MCNARGS) to:

Gelene Scarborough, Membership Secretary
103 West 105th Street #5B
New York NY  10025

THE URBAN ROCK GARDENER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013
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~ WE’LL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING ~

{Submission deadline for the March/April Newsletter: March 2, 2013}

Mark your calendars for our special March 18th program featuring Panayoti Kelaidis from the Denver Botanic Gardens speaking on “Urban Rock Gardening”.

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MANHATTAN CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
101 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025

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