~ JANUARY MEETING ~

MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH 6PM AT OUR NEW LOCATION:
NYBG MIDTOWN EDUCATION CENTER, 20 WEST 44TH STREET, ROOM D - QUINCE

LOLA HORWITZ WILL SPEAK ON

SENESCENT BEAUTY

An email conversation between Tom Stuart (charter member of MCNARGS and great friend to the chapter) and me in the fall several years ago has inspired me to prepare this slide show. I had sent him an image of *Bletilla striata*’s fall leave-taking. He wrote back “Senescent Bletilla draws my attention, but I had not thought of it as ornamental. You have opened my eyes.”

I so liked the word *senescent* that I morphed ‘senescent Bletilla’ into ‘senescent beauty’ and started collecting images of plants that have a striking and/or beautiful change of color. I realized that the dying-down process or leave-taking can be one of the best attributes of some plants. My large kitchen window located above the sink allows me many moments of gazing at the garden in all seasons. When yellow, copper orange, red, and brown start appearing in September I am very happy that color will be part of my scenery for many weeks to come. Flower color is of a different density and certainly shorter duration, so I urge gardeners to consider what their plants will look like all fall since we are blessed with a long season of very tolerable weather. I also advocate what you already know: get up close to all parts of your plants, including stems and leaf litter, as you contemplate your own garden’s senescent beauty.

NOTE: NEW MEETING LOCATION
20 West 44th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues (General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen Building). The NYBG Education Midtown Center is located on the third floor. Our meeting is in Room D – Quince. This location is just two blocks from Grand Central Terminal and near all NYC subway and midtown buses.
Christine Datz-Romero is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Lower East Side Ecology Center, and a long-time resident of the neighborhood. Christine has shown her environmental activism by developing innovative, community-based recycling programs over the last two decades. She is a true compost pioneer, inspiring people to compost in their own homes and communities, as well as creating a Compost Collection program in 1990, which has introduced the idea of composting to countless New Yorkers. Additionally, Christine has been at the forefront of the Ecology Center’s innovative Electronics Waste Recycling program. Her passion for green space makes her an advocate for community involvement in public open space. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queens College and has done graduate work at the New School/Milano School for Nonprofit Management. As a member of New York City’s environmental community for more than two decades, Christine currently serves on the Board of the Sixth Street and Avenue B Garden, is a public member of the Waterfront Committee of Community Board 3, and is a member and past chair of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board.
~ ANOTHER HOOSIER IN MANHATTAN ~

The New Year has arrived and the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS will now meet at the NYBG Midtown Education Center at 20 W. 44th Street in Room D – Quince. The room is located on the third floor of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen building, which is an architectural treasure (1891 Lamb & Rich, Extension 1909 Ralph Townsend). Peek inside the stunning library before heading up the lovely staircase to truly appreciate the building. There are elevators if need be. Heartfelt thanks goes to our friends at the New York Botanical Garden who have made this move possible. Please note: Going forward, our meetings will not always be on the third Monday of the month. Sometimes it will be necessary to meet on another day of the week. Ben Burr does an excellent job of keeping our website up to date, so check for the latest information (www.mcnargs.org).

A trip to Washington at the end of December, which included a visit to the United States Botanical Garden made me (horticulturally) proud to be American as the year ended. *Campanula punctata* ‘Pink Octopus’ is a stunner. Lunch across the street at The Museum of the American Indian always beckons as the entrance is flanked by excellent natural-looking ponds surrounded by native plants. The sunny 73 degree weather on arrival allowed for many unseasonal blooms throughout D.C. including German irises and a group of flowering cherry trees, though thankfully none surrounding the Tidal Basin. Their show will wait for spring.

The New Year arrived with blooms hanging on as there had yet to be a hard frost in Manhattan. A final farewell to the many blooms on the High Line on January 3rd was followed by the onset of winter. Of course, the show continues with *Viburnum x bodnantense* ‘Dawn’ in full bloom, *Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Pallida’ and *Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Sunburst’ in early bloom this year… Go and see for yourself. The High Line is worth a visit at any time of year.

A visit to an old gardening friend, Jim Doversberger, in Indianapolis at the end of November put my mind to thinking about the NARGS Annual Meeting our chapter will be hosting in 2017. Though not a rock gardener, Jim has wide horticultural interests, as well as being an accomplished painter, actor, theater director and teacher. Contact with older gardeners is always a delight when they share their experience. Jim described how he always mulches his tomatoes with sycamore leaves as they don’t break down quickly and keep the tomato roots cool. A focus on utilizing resources at hand to garden in a locally specific manner is important to remember as we plan for 2017. The NARGS Annual Meeting in Ann Arbor last year was a great success in that regard. Certainly, the latest Quarterly impressed us all with what awaits us in Steamboat Springs, Colorado this June. Seeing plants in their natural habitat is critical to understanding their needs. As rock gardeners we understand that a plant’s requirements for vitality are foremost in our minds and beyond aesthetic considerations. Consider making the trip to Colorado in June. The Denver Botanic Gardens alone is worth the trip and you will learn a great deal while in great company. And please continue to think about how you can help showcase rock gardening in New York in 2017. An attempt has been made to hijack the term “rock gardening” to mean white cap sea kayaking. www.canoekayak.com/skills/what-is-rock-gardening/#OcDusWZ58JFUhR1m.97

Though I am planning a kayak trip to the Pine Barrens to look at plants, I am not ready to yield to the new definition quite yet. Your help is needed in planning and executing the 2017 NARGS Annual Meeting or we will just have to buy kayaks.

*Jane Allison, who lived in the Village for 60 years, wrote a newspaper column called “A Hoosier in Manhattan” for many decades.*

BRENDAN KENNEY, Chairperson

~ WHAT MAKES NORTHWEST COLORADO SO SPECIAL? ~

Some people would say it’s the Champagne powder that falls on the ski slopes in the winter, others would say it’s the curse the Utes supposedly placed on the Yampa valley, but wildflower lovers would say it’s the sheer magnitude of displays and the variety. Whatever the reason, Northwest Colorado has been drawing humans for millennia to partake in its natural beauty and restorative settings.

Northwest Colorado is special since it lies at the meeting point of several biomes: flora from the South Rockies form the backbone of the flora, with a broad stroke of Great Basin flora brushing through the lower valleys and steppes, while the
Great Plains flora sweep in from the Northeast and rub up against the Park Range. At higher elevations, flora from the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies can be found hundreds of miles south of their normal range. *Trillium ovatum*, *Rhododendron albilabrum* and *Mimulus lewisi* are a few of the flagship plants from the NW biome; mixed into the rest of the landscape is a cast of classic western flowers from bright blue Penstemon, to scarlet paintbrush (Castilleja), to scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis*) and yellow cosmoses of infinite variety.

Steamboat Springs and Denver will be the locations of the 2016 NARGS Annual Meeting. The conference opens the afternoon of the 22nd in Denver with lectures by Kenton Seth and Mike Kintgen, two of NARGS’s youngest members. On Thursday, participants have the option of driving on their own or taking a van trip to Steamboat Springs. The conference resumes in the evening with plant and book sales, and two lectures by internationally-known Johan Nilsson and Nick Courtens. National superstars Kelly Norris and Jim Lochlear will be speaking Friday night, followed by Saturday and Sunday hikes. The Sunday night lecture will be by the very special and heart-warming Marcela Ferreyra from Patagonia. This will be her first lecture to an audience from outside of Colorado in the United States.

Garden tours and visits to Denver Botanic Garden’s renowned alpine collection, along with the fabulous Yampa River Botanic Park and several wonderful private gardens in the Steamboat area will round out the conference.

For details and information visit the NARGS website: [www.nargs.org/2016-annual-general-meeting-steamboat-springs-colorado](http://www.nargs.org/2016-annual-general-meeting-steamboat-springs-colorado) or the conference Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/2016NARGSMeeting](http://www.facebook.com/2016NARGSMeeting)

Direct questions to: KintgenM@botanicgardens.org. We hope to see you in Colorado in June 2016; it promises to be a wonderful and memorable conference.

**MIKE KINTGEN, Rocky Mountain Chapter - NARGS**

~ **WHY DON’T YOU? ~**

~ Plan, dream, and imagine next season’s garden? Place plant orders, search for special things to fill open spaces, replace things that may not have succeeded for whatever reason, or were removed when they outgrew the allotted space, or didn’t perform as hoped. No need to keep anything that doesn’t pull its weight.

~ Prune trees and shrubs on tolerably warm winter days? Then you can appreciate the branch structure and most clearly see what branches can be sacrificed to improve form and air circulation when in leaf.

~ Prepare seed pots for the arrival of seeds that need stratification? Thaw the soil mix inside overnight if necessary so you can fill the pots and leave enough soil mix and grit to top-dress as required. You can plant the seeds outside on any day warm enough to sit outside for the time required to plant. If you get cold or your fingers lose flexibility, you can retire inside until they warm up enough to function again.

~ Enjoy your garden downtime? Explore other interests and horizons beyond your own garden. Finish, or at least start the interior projects you’ve been deferring during the growing season.

**STEVE WHITESELL**

~ **A NEW RESOLVE ~**

At the start of any new year, thoughts turn to shedding bad habits and starting afresh. Why not add the Manhattan Chapter to the list of resolutions and improvements you’ll undertake in 2016? There are so many ways you can contribute to chapter activities! Any organization staffed entirely by volunteers is constantly in need of fresh and enthusiastic input and ideas, so why not yours? Have you enjoyed chapter tours or have ideas for future destinations? Then speak to Brendan about them or even take on the planning of a tour yourself. Have you found a new plant at a chapter plant sale that has become a favorite? Speak to some of the plant sale committee members about contributing your time and talents as a volunteer or plant donor. Do you have a lasting memory of one or several of the world-class speakers who have addressed our group over the years? Do you have suggestions of someone you’d like to hear in the future or would you like to propose a talk of your own? Speak to Abbie about it. Would you like to share a gardening experience in writing with chapter members or solicit responses to a question? Consider writing an article for the newsletter you’re reading now.
Your contributions to chapter activities will help the chapter better represent your own interests and add a fresh vitality to our group. This will be even more important in upcoming months as the Manhattan Chapter prepares to host the 2017 NARGS Annual Meeting. Help create the experience of a lifetime for yourself and our guests from around the world, and make new friends while you’re at it. You will be informed of specific projects that require volunteer help, but why wait for the call? Please volunteer before you’re drafted; contact Michael Riley for specifics.

STEVE WHITESELL

~ NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY ~

Join today. NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials and woody plants. Annual dues in the U.S. and Canada are $40, 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.

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

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

~ MANHATTAN CHAPTER NARGS ~

Membership Form

Individual $20    Student $15
Individual 3 years $50    Gift membership* $15 (When renewing, you may give a Gift Membership to a new member.)

Members’ dues status is indicated on this month’s mailing label. Membership renewal is due in January, if you owe chapter dues, please take the time to pay them now.

Send your check (made payable to MCNARGS) with this form to: Gelene Scarborough, Membership Secretary
103 West 105th Street #5B
New York NY 10025

PLEASE PRINT

Name
Address
Telephone    Email

Do you want to receive your newsletter via email only? We do not use your email for commercial purposes. ☐ Yes ☐ No

MCNARGS is a volunteer organization. We would like your participation in our activities. How can you help?

☒ Annual Plant Sale ☐ Newsletter ☐ Hospitality at meetings

THE URBAN ROCK GARDENER January/February 2016
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2016

CHAIRPERSON
Brendan Kenney
917-544-3288 ManhattanNARGS@verizon.net

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON
Abbie Zabar fromabbie@gmail.com

TREASURER
Yukie Kurashina ykurashina@hotmail.com

SECRETARY
Judith Dumont judi.dumont@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Gelene Scarborough gelenes@verizon.net

DIRECTORS
Nancy Crumley nancycrumley@gmail.com
Lola Horwitz lhorwitz@gmail.com

TOUR DIRECTOR
Brendan Kenney NY10014@aol.com

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE
Mary Buchen marybuchen@gmail.com
Nancy Crumley nancycrumley@gmail.com
Judith Dumont judi.dumont@gmail.com
Lola Horwitz lhorwitz@gmail.com

NARGS 2017 ANNUAL MEETING
Michael A. Riley Riley2362@aol.com

WEBMASTER
Benjamin Burr webmaster@mcnargs.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Steve Whitesell steven.whitesell@parks.nyc.gov

PROOFREADING
Nancy Crumley

PRINTING AND PRODUCTION
Michael Riley

NEWSLETTER FOUNDING EDITOR
Lawrence B. Thomas

CONTRIBUTORS to the January/February 2016 Issue:
Brendan Kenney, Mike Kintgen, and Steve Whitesell

THE MANHATTAN CHAPTER of NARGS, founded in
1987, is a group of gardening enthusiasts who are dedicated to
the propagation and promotion of an eclectic range of plants,
with emphasis on alpine and rock gardening selections. Our
Chapter Programs, designed for a sophisticated mix of
professionals and amateurs, cover a broad spectrum of special
interests such as rock and alpine, woodland, bog, raised bed,
planted walls as well as trough and container gardening.
The yearly membership fee of $20 entitles members to five
informative copies of THE URBAN ROCK GARDENER,
to attend all meetings and field trips, as well as tours of unique
and private gardens; plus participation in our much-anticipated
Annual Plant Sale. If you are not already a member we invite
you to be a guest at one of our upcoming meetings.

© 2016 Manhattan Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
No material published in this newsletter, printed or virtual, can be reproduced without the express permission of its author.

~ WE’LL SEE YOU AT THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS ~
(Submission Deadline for the March/April newsletter: March 3, 2016)

MANHATTAN CHAPTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
101 WEST 104TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10025

Happy New Year - Time to Renew Your Dues?

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Please recycle this publication. Thank You!