~ MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT ~

ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 @ 6:00 PM, THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

DR. JOHN GRIMSHAW will speak on

PLANTSMAN’S CHOICE: PLANTS I LIKE AND THE REASONS WHY

John Grimshaw has been interested in plants all his life, as both gardener and botanist. He holds a first class degree in botany and doctorate in African forest ecology from Oxford University. African plants remain his principal botanical interest. He is, however, fascinated by all plants and will attempt to grow anything in the garden. The origins of garden plants are a particular fascination and he has traveled widely to see plants growing in habitat. His first book was The Gardener’s Atlas (1998), recounting the journeys plants have made from their source to our gardens.

Having worked in the Netherlands for the seed company K. Sahin, Zaden. B.V., where he was responsible for developing perennials for the seed trade, he is currently Gardens Manager at Colesbourne Park, Gloucestershire. There he is responsible for maintaining and developing the historic Elwes family garden, especially the snowdrop collection. He is co-author of the monograph Snowdrops (2002) by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw, published by his own publishing company, Griffin Press. Between 2004-2009 he was principal author of a major book on trees introduced in the past 35 years, entitled New Trees, Recent Introductions to Cultivation, sponsored by the International Dendrology Society. It was published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in May 2009.

He is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society’s Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy, and Woody Plant Committee. John is particularly proud to be an honorary elder of the Masai community of Lerang’wa, Tanzania.

Please join us for our September meeting to hear this very special speaker, and reminder that our meeting place will be THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, 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.
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~ TRI-STATE MEETING ~

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2011 @ 9:00 AM AT LYNDHURST, TARRYTOWN, NY

MALCOLM McGregor will speak on

10:00 am **A ROCK GARDENER’S EYE 1: A WORLD AWAY – SUBTROPICAL SOUTH VIETNAM AND MEDITERRANEAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

“Between 2007 and 2009 I made a number of trips to southern Vietnam where my wife Monica was working for two years at a school in Saigon. Some of my visits were just for a week others quite a lot longer. Side trips during these years took us to Cambodia, Laos, Borneo and western Australia. All of these allowed me to see these other habitats as a gardener, to see a little of what Vietnamese horticulture involved, and to think about my rock garden back home.”

1:00 pm **A ROCK GARDENER’S EYE 2: SOMEBODY ELSE’S WEEDS – ROCK GARDENING IN AND FROM EAST YORKSHIRE**

East Yorkshire, Malcolm’s home, is not a natural rock gardening habitat: less than ten miles from the East Coast of England, less than 50 feet above sea-level, with mild winters and no snowcover (usually), rainfall rather less than 24 inches year – very unevenly spread through the year so two months can go by with no rain. But then that is the problem for all of us – we spend our time growing plants that don’t grow in the area where we live – that’s what gardeners do.

In this talk Malcolm will reflect on what rock gardening is all about – bringing his love of wild places and plants into the garden – and all that allied to an offbeat look at writers about gardening from Len Deighton (whose first came to notice with *The Ipcress File* the film of which helped make Michael Caine a star), to Karel Capek, a Czech whose book *The Gardener’s Year* should be on every rock-gardener’s bookcase.

Malcolm McGregor is a former president of the Saxifrage Society and current editor of the NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly.
This has been one fast and furious summer, never mind the earthquake and hurricane and heat ... I have a bumper crop of horned tomato worms devouring my rooftop crop, about which I am furious and they are fast! It is a very good thing that they don't go after all of my plants, but why pick on my heirloom tomatoes? And, how the heck to they find them five stories up in the sky with not another tomato for miles except in my refrigerator? A friend of mine, who keeps reptiles, tells me that these very same critters are sold as delicacies at reptile shows, for well-deserving reptiles. Of course they are delicacies; they are filled with my tomatoes! OK, this borders on road rage so I will try to control myself, but ...

We are delighted to say that our friend, and founder, Larry Thomas is due home this week, from a visit to his rehabilitation center following a recent slip. Several of our members have pitched in to keep his terrace watered and weeded and cleaned up from the tumult of the storm – how better to help a friend and devoted gardener.

The summer started off with the BANG of the Annual Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society in New Hampshire. Lola and Francisco and I drove up through the lovely countrysides of New Hampshire and Vermont, one wonders what shape they might be in after the recent flooding – an altered state, I'm afraid. The couple of lectures were terrific, the private gardens were just fantastic – what an honor to share the beauty of those private gardens at their peak. There was a terrific plant sale with many vendors and lots of rare plants to fill every little space in the car on the way home. And good friends with whom to commiserate over the inevitable comment ...“who bought all those plants?” There was a small, but nice plant show and such exciting business as elections and business meetings. We congratulate Lola Horwitz for having been elected to serve again as a director on the NARGS board, and our neighbor Peter George for having been elected the new President of NARGS, with Harvey Wrightman as Vice President. We look forward to this breath of fresh air in the administration with great expectations from very capable and devoted people. To celebrate this lofty occasion, I trekked off to climb Mt. Washington with Francisco and Maria Galletti – what a thrilling experience, and to climb with such knowledgeable guides whom they provided from the local chapter and resident authorities.

Back at home on the ranch, I was keeping up pretty well with the watering and the heat, although that week of 100 degree temperatures did take its toll on a few – I would go up to the roof to hose them down every morning and evening, and I could hear them gasping, or was that me? I lost a nice woody Mitraria coccinea that week which was quite mature and trained in a cascade form, which had, strangely enough – two weeks earlier, won a blue ribbon and Best Trained Plant at the annual convention of The Gesneriad Society. Aw, well – I have replaced it and will grow it again ... and better, having learned a good lesson.

The dryness that I have observed since the hurricane has been much more noticeable than the earlier heat; it is obvious in the street trees and almost anything with a broad leaf, like Ramonda. The other true alpines are certainly accustomed to high winds - in their genes, if not in this lifetime! My latest challenge is to plant and successfully grow a peat block. I have a nice selection of acid-loving plants and I can't wait to get them growing now that the heat of summer is somewhat passed; nice Rhododendron benhallii, several Shortia species, a Drosera and a few other appropriate plants. I may be up on the roof watering in mid-winter to keep it moist, but I have no other plans for winter? I will see you Monday!
Longtime Manhattan Chapter member Dr. Nina Lambert died peacefully at home in Ithaca, NY on Friday, December 10, 2010. She was born in Brooklyn on October 20, 1932, the daughter of the late Robert Lee and Helen S. Weinberg. Nina graduated with a BA in Art History from Vassar College and received a Masters degree in Child Development and Family Relations from Cornell University. She taught Child Development at Vassar for two years before returning to Cornell in pursuit of her PhD in Child Psychology. After completing post-doctoral work at UCSF, she worked as a research associate at Cornell before starting her private practice in Ithaca in 1963.

She married Robert John (Jack) Lambert, Jr. in 1956, their daughter Sarah. L. Lambert, lives with her husband in Port Jervis, NY. Nina and Jack created a much-admired garden in Ithaca and were active in the Adirondack chapter and NARGS events for many years. They spoke to the Manhattan chapter in the mid-1990s on their notable garden. Jack, who taught drawing in the Architecture school at Cornell, was a gifted watercolorist who painted the terraces of his host, Larry Thomas, and fellow member, the late Ellie Popper, illustrated here.
When a new or revamped magazine – with impressive graphics but a muddy vision of purpose – goes down quicker than impatiens after the first frost, consider Tom Powell’s THE AVANT GARDENER. It’s an unassuming publication, still typed out in the same green font – and get this – not a visual in sight! But THE AVANT GARDENER is a ‘unique horticultural news service,’ (to quote the subtitle), that has confidently been around for decades, dispensing a fascinating potpourri of information harvested from endless resources and usually ahead of the horticultural curve. To be honest, the tidy eight-page monthly publication can remain unread and neatly folded until I’m on a bus. Or standing in line at the post office. Or I’ll stockpile copies as I did this past spring for in-flight entertainment because I also want to travel the world of gardening news, everything from trout lilies for shade gardeners to a ‘Special Issue’ on the currently hot topic of ‘Foraging for Edible Wild Plants.’ So there I am on British Airways 174 to London, off to the Chelsea Flower Show, and – lo and behold – in the May, 2011 edition there’s a synopsis of ‘The Container Garden, Considered,’ a story that I wrote and illustrated for the NARGS ROCK GARDEN QUARTERLY, Winter 2010/2011. (To subscribe to THE AVANT GARDENER, @ $24/year, send your check to: Horticultural Data Processors, Box 489, New York, NY 10028.) ~ Abbie

ABBIE ZABAR, McNARGS Member since 1997, has just received the prestigious Gold Award of Achievement in the category of Best Newspaper Writing from the Garden Writer’s Association Media Awards Program for her story, ‘A Vine in the Sky,’ which appeared in the October 1, 2010 edition of The Forward. http://www.forward.com/articles/131477/. The Gold Awards of Achievement, announced at the 63rd Garden Writers Association Awards Banquet in Indianapolis on August 30, 2011, recognizes individuals and companies who achieve the highest levels of talent and professionalism in garden communications.
Ed: Congratulations on a well-deserved honor. Abbie has previously won a GWA Gold Award in 1988 for her first book, THE POTTED HERB, now considered a gardening classic.]

“The Garden Writers Association Media Awards showcase communicators, photographers, illustrators, publishers and graphic designers that have pursued excellence in gardening communication,” says Janet Leatherman, President of GWA. “The Media Award winners have been judged by industry experts and show significant distinction and merits that exemplify exceptional work.”

Since the early 1980’s, the GWA Media Awards program has recognized outstanding writing, photography, graphic design and illustration for books, newspaper stories, magazine articles, and other works focused on gardening. In recent years awards have expanded to include on-air talent, production and direction for radio, television, video, Internet and other electronic media.


**LAWRENCE THOMAS** is the runner up for the **Geoffrey Charlesworth Award** for an outstanding article published in the *NARGS Quarterly*. Larry won for his article “Rock Gardening on a Balcony” published in the Winter 2010 edition, vol. 68, No. 1, page 39.

[LARRY THOMAS and JAKE’S TERRACE  watercolor by Jack Lambert]
~ WHY DON'T YOU? ~

~ Think about grades in the garden and filling holes and depressions with planting mix to create a more level planting bed? Terrace banks to create level areas if necessary with rock or other soil retaining materials. The level beds will retain soil moisture better and better display plants.

~ Continue to collect seeds for the various seed exchanges? These member benefits can’t operate to their maximum potential without quality contributions from YOU.

~ Consciously plant more Fall-blooming species to create additional interest in this season when dropping temperatures make you want to spend more time outside? There is a wealth of perennials, bulbs, and woody plants available to help you meet this goal.

{STEVE WHITESELL needs to start over on his fledgling garden upstate, which was recently covered with eight feet of water and 4-9” of newly deposited silty mud in the recent flood caused by Hurricane Irene and a dam failure upstream. It’s always something.}

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

~ MANHATTAN CHAPTER NARGS ~

2012 Membership Form

It may seem a bit early to pay your dues for 2012 (unless you forgot to pay for 2011?), but why not beat the rush and sail worry-free into the new year?

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 months’ mailing label. If you owe chapter dues, please take time to pay them.

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

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~ JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 14TH, WHEN OUR SPEAKER WILL BE
JANE MCGARY SPEAKING ON EXPLORING UNUSUAL BULBS ~

~ THE DECEMBER 12TH PROGRAM WILL FEATURE MCNARGS MEMBER
KEAN TECK ENG SPEAKING ON RESTORING THE ALPINE GARDEN IN FORT TRYON PARK ~

{Submission Deadline for the November/December Newsletter: November 3, 2011}