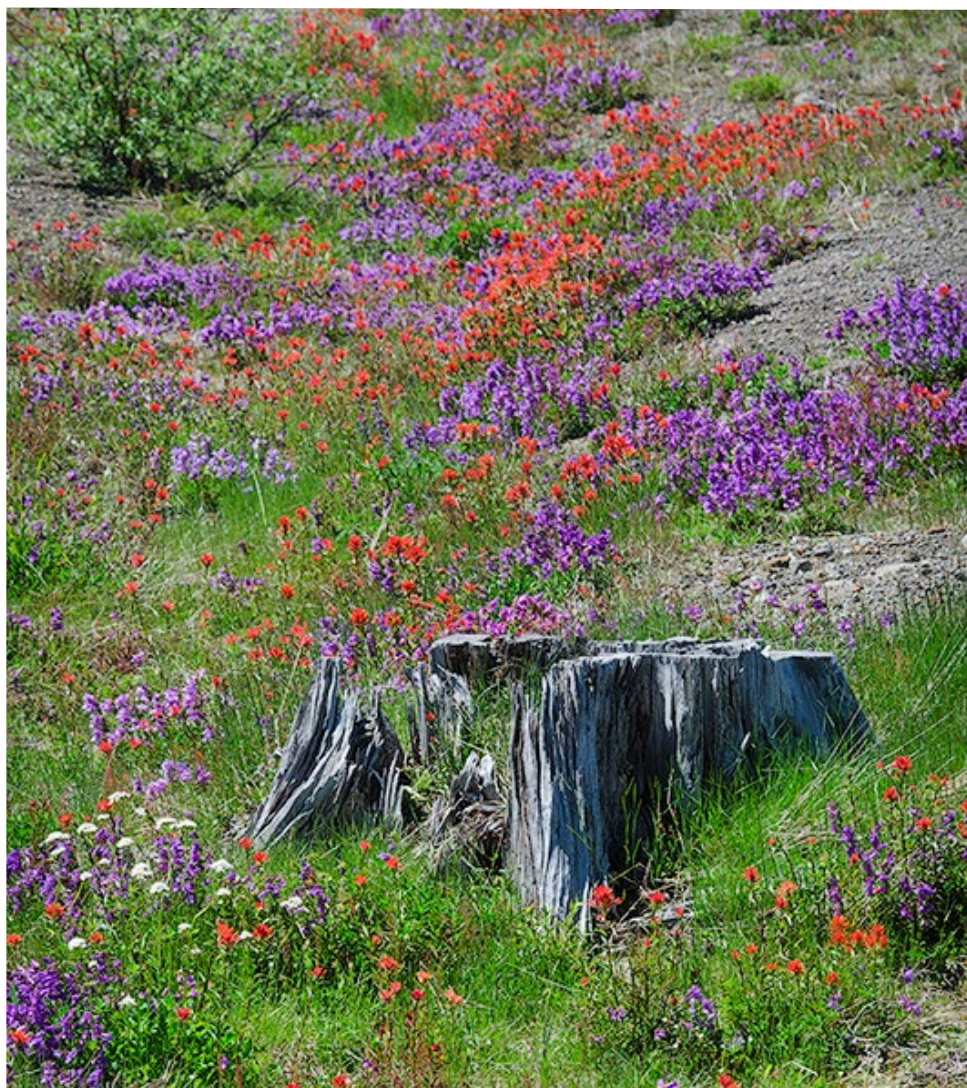


Quarterly

NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

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Front cover: *Castilleja miniata* with *Penstemon cardwellii* at Johnston Ridge, Mt. St. Helens, Washington; Linda Cochran

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FROM THE EDITOR

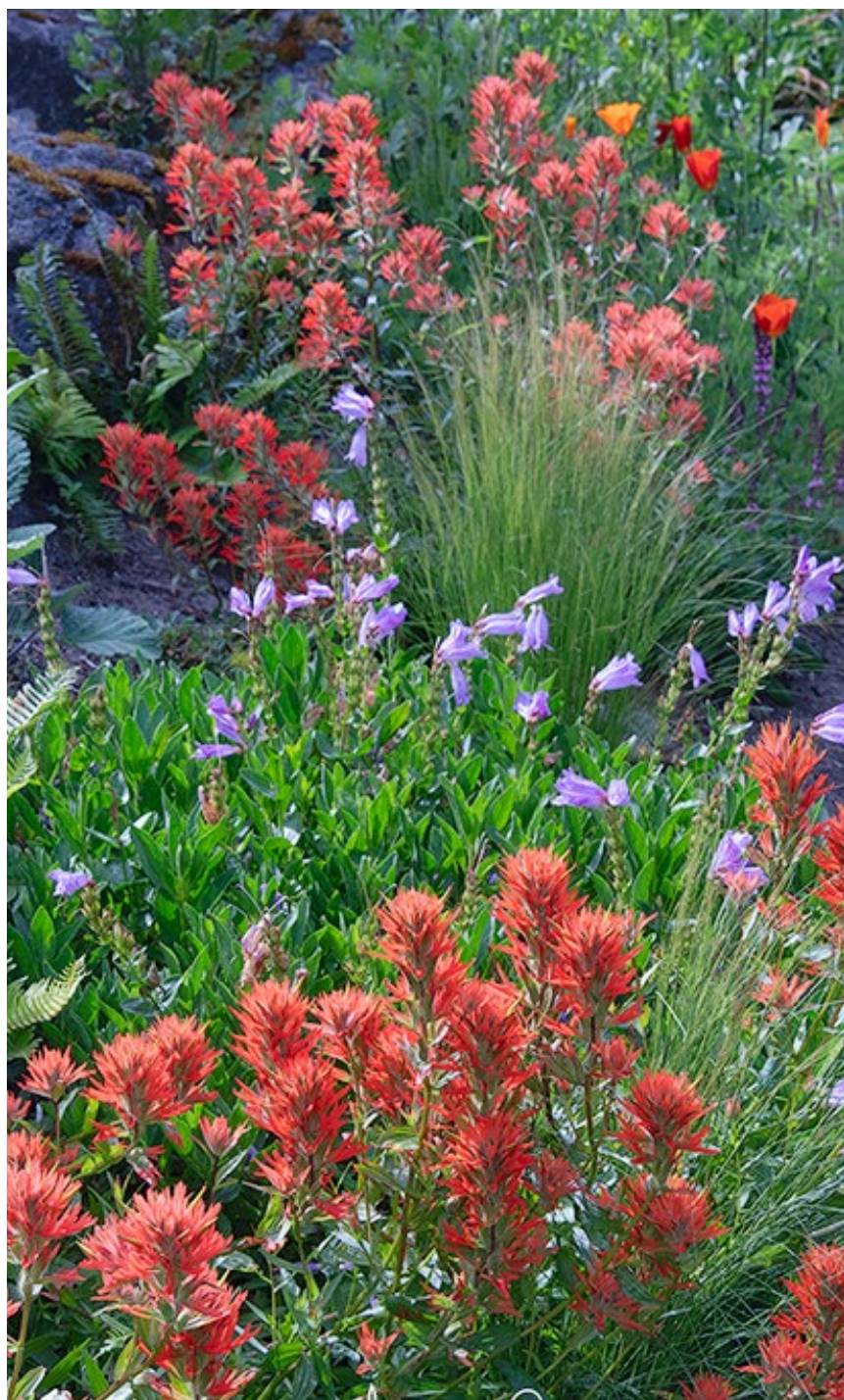
This is volume eighty of the NARGS *Quarterly*. Eighty years of NARGS members, including some of the greatest gardeners in North America, writing and sharing their insights and experiences with other members in the pages of this journal.

In part to mark this enormous milestone, as you have of course noticed, the *Quarterly* has a new look. Matt Mattus – former NARGS president and talented graphic designer – has given the whole journal a redesign. I'm excited that we're marking this volume 80 with a new look. I think it sends the signal that though rich in history, experience, and knowledge, the North American Rock Garden Society is still alive, vibrant, and evolving.

I'm working to keep the *Quarterly* evolving in content as well as appearance, aiming to have more special themed issues coming up, including a special extra-large issue this summer that will serve as a beginners' guide to rock gardening. This issue will help us reach out to and educate new members of our society. If you have suggestions for content for that issue, I'd love to hear them.

New appearance aside, there is a lot to love in this issue: exploring plants in Guizhou, China, gardening in high desert grasslands, cultivating the genus *Castilleja*, plus some lessons and plant favorites from our president Panayoti Kelaidis. Oh, and to round it all out, more information about the Annual General Meeting next year in Ithaca, New York.

Happy Eightieth!



ADVENTURES WITH CASTILLEJAS

LINDA COCHRAN

I HAVE ALWAYS loved castillejas. They seem to me to be the quintessential wildflower of our western landscapes. Castillejas can be seen almost everywhere in the western part of North America, in many different habitats. I have seen them on the Oregon and California coasts, on the shores of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca where I live, in the deserts of eastern Washington and Oregon, and, of course, in the mountains of Oregon and Washington. The over 100 different species grow in many other places in the West, from Canada on down into Texas and Mexico.

For a long time, I thought that castillejas were practically ungrowable in gardens because I had been told they were parasitic plants. This belief was reinforced by many books on the subject. The third edition of *Gardening With Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, published 2019, states that gardeners who grew castillejas must be “just plain lucky” because their seeds “must germinate in the proximity of roots of other plants” (p. 249). As I will show in this article, castillejas do not require being in proximity to the roots of other plants to germinate. At some wholesale nurseries, they are germinated, grown, and sold in the thousands without the presence of hosts in their pots. See the offerings of Seven Oaks Native Plant Nursery, a wholesale nursery in Albany, Oregon. Seven Oaks has been offering *Castilleja miniata* for many years and often has in excess of 300 plants available at a time, all grown in individual pots, without a host.

Opposite: Self sown castillejas in the author's garden..

It was only after I saw them offered for sale by a few native plant nurseries that I realized that growing these beauties in my garden was an achievable goal. I have learned that castillejas are not true parasites. Rather, they are what is called hemiparasitic, meaning that they make their own chlorophyll and can live on their own without a host, but that they also have special roots which can attach to the roots of a host to obtain additional water and nutrients. They have this in common with some other members of the Orobanchaceae family, in particular with members of the genus *Pedicularis* which I have also been growing in my garden.

I first obtained some castillejas about seven or eight years ago from a local native plant nursery. I purchased three *Castilleja miniata* plants, and, as it turned out, this was a good species to start with. Sometimes called common paintbrush or scarlet paintbrush, this is a very widespread species, growing in varying habitats over its extremely large range. I have seen this species growing right at cliff's edge by the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in wet meadows in the Central Cascades in Oregon, by the millions near Johnston Ridge, Mt. St. Helens, on dry volcanic soils, and along roadsides near Chinook Pass in Mt. Rainier National Park.

According to the Burke Herbarium of the University of Washington, this species occurs throughout much of the Pacific Northwest from Alaska south to California, east to the Rocky Mountains in the United States, and east to Ontario in Canada. It is fairly clear from the wide range of this castilleja that it can grow in very wet soils as well as in very dry ones.

When I got my first plants of *Castilleja miniata* I was unsure where to plant them, but after doing some research it appeared that they were not picky about hosts. That fact has been borne out by all my subsequent experience with castillejas. People seem to obsess about the correct host to plant castillejas with and then never get around to planting them. My advice: just plant them, preferably in conditions that mimic as closely as possible their natural habitat, about a foot from just about any other plant. As the castilleja and host grow, their roots will connect. Don't plant too close to the host. I have lost more castillejas as a result of their being overwhelmed



Self-sown castillejas with companion plants in the author's garden

by their host than by their being too far from it. And, of course, once you get castillejas to self-sow, just let nature take its course and don't worry about host plants.

I planted my first three *Castilleja miniata* plants around a *Stipa gigantea* (syn. *Celtica gigantea*). They did well there. It was a fairly dry spot, but they have self-sowed in subsequent years all around that original planting. I do not know if my original plants are still there, but there are plenty of their progeny about. Too many to count, in fact.

Because of the vagaries of my sprinkler system, some of these are now growing in quite moist soil, while others are in very dry spots. I have to say, though, that while *Castilleja miniata* can and does grow in dry soil, it grows more plentifully in moist conditions and I have killed more castilleja seedlings from lack of water than from any other cause. This may have to do with a theory that one reason castillejas tap into their host is to obtain water, so castilleja seedlings starting out on very dry soil must quickly find a host or they will die from lack of water. This may hold even for those castillejas that come from very dry habitats.

After I got those first three castillejas, I discovered a wholesale source for *Castilleja miniata*, so naturally I bought several flats of them and planted them in numerous parts of my garden. The fact that these can be grown by wholesalers gives a clue that they are growable, and not just in small quantities. I should also add that I have since learned that a number of growers produced mass quantities of several different species for revegetation efforts for Puget Sound prairies, including *Castilleja miniata*, *C. hispida*, and *C. levisecta*. *Castilleja levisecta*, also known as the golden castilleja, was endangered in Washington State, and extirpated in Oregon, so a breeding program along with extensive research was undertaken. Vast quantities of this castilleja were propagated, and much was learned in the process. This program was successful. Today this castilleja is off the endangered list, and there are robust populations in Oregon and Washington.



Castilleja levisecta at Finley Wildlife Refuge, near Corvallis, Oregon



An unknown, possibly hybrid, castilleja seedling in the author's garden.

Several things were learned in the course of bringing *Castilleja levisecta* back from the brink. First, castillejas do not require host plants to be grown from seed. Hosts are not required for germination, nor are they required for growing these on, at least for a year or two. I have grown castillejas in pots for as long as four years without a host. As long as they are well fertilized and watered, they do quite well, and they flower. There are studies showing that castillejas with hosts do better in the long run, but it is certainly not necessary for them to have hosts.

A second takeaway from all the studies on *Castilleja levisecta* was that these set much more seed if there were other plants and populations for them to breed with. I think it is reasonable to assume that the same may apply to other species of castillejas as well. In other words, if you want castillejas to self-sow and naturalize in your garden, it is best to have more than one of a species. In fact, the more is probably the better. The fact that I started with so many plants may go a long way to explain why I have been successful with getting them to naturalize in my garden. So my advice is, if you are buying castilleja plants, try to buy more than one at a time. See Beth A. Lawrence's thesis entitled *Studies to Facilitate Reintroduction of Golden Paintbrush (Castilleja levisecta) to the Willamette Valley, Oregon*, presented on December 12, 2005, to the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oregon State University: https://appliedeco.org/wp-content/uploads/Lawrence_Thesis_CHAPTER-5-Growing-Castilleja.pdf This brings up another point about growing castillejas. If you have more than one species in your garden, you are likely to get hybrids. Castillejas are notorious for hybridizing.

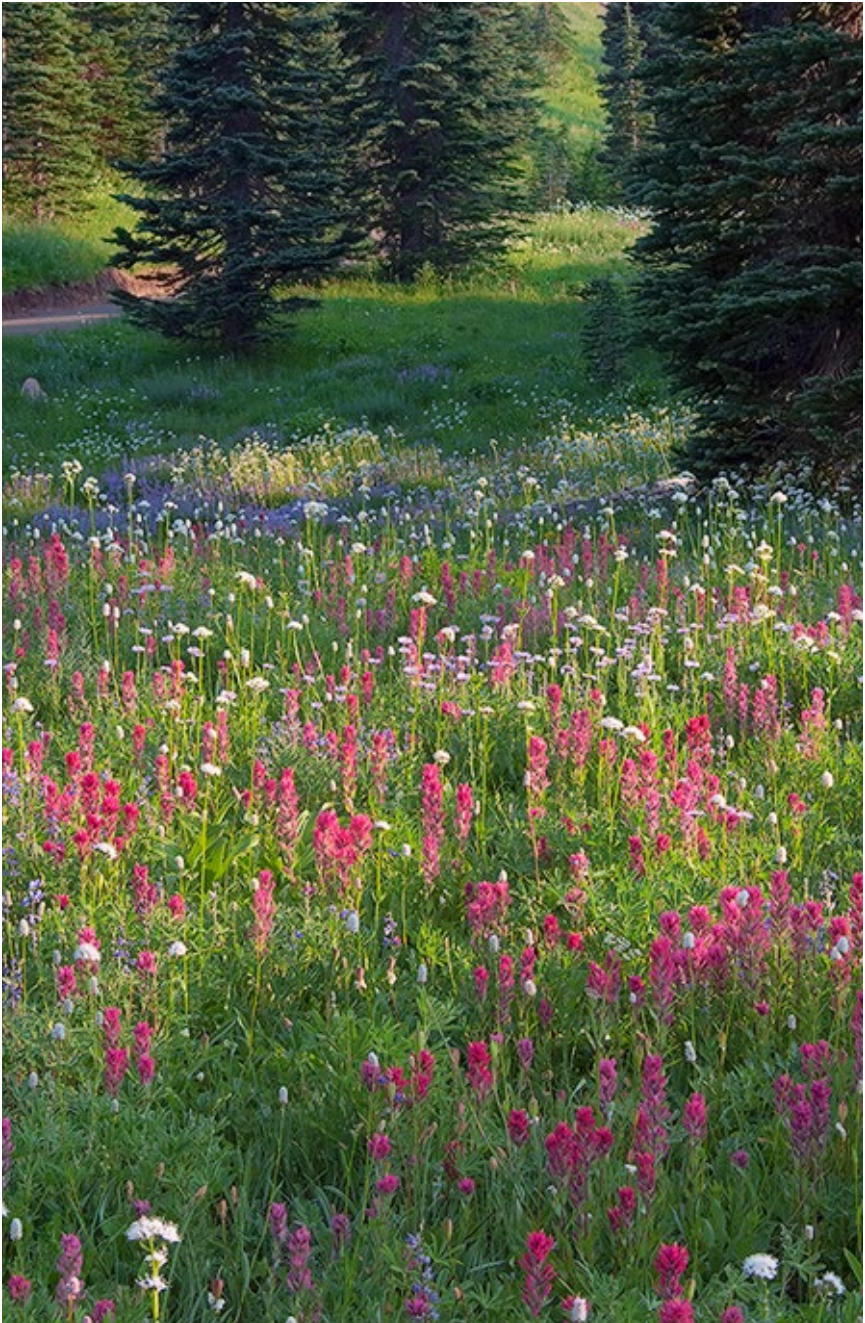
Growing from seed

I have been growing castillejas from seed for a number of years, and I learn more with each succeeding year. I have tried growing all castilleja seeds that I can get a hold of: so far, I have tried at least 17 different species and I have successfully germinated all that I have tried, eventually. All the species I have tried have done best if sown in the winter, no later than the end of January, and for some, even earlier is better. Ones that are from

high elevations seem to need a longer period of cold stratification, which is understandable considering their natural habitat. I have also found that castillejas that do not come up the first year after sowing will often come up the second year. So, as everyone should know by now, pots of seeds that did not come up the first year after sowing should not be thrown away.

I do all of my seed sowing outside on my deck. I leave pots outside for the winter. I do not have a cold frame, but I live in Zone 8 on the Olympic Peninsula where it doesn't get all that cold compared to other parts of the country. I use a cactus mix for sowing all my castilleja seeds. I sow the seeds on top and then cover with a thin layer of poultry grit. I like the cactus mix because it is well-drained and doesn't seem to grow much in the way of mosses and liverworts (although it does eventually grow them). The grit also helps with that, but not one hundred percent. This last year I had some seed of *Castilleja parviflora* var. *oreopola* (aka magenta paintbrush) from near Mt. Rainier. I sowed some in the cactus mix and some in regular potting soil as an experiment since in the wild this paintbrush grows in fairly moist rich conditions. I saw very little difference in germination, except perhaps the seed sown in regular potting mix did a little worse. If I didn't have a good quality cactus mix available, I would probably make a custom mix with a regular starting mix, sand, and grit. In other words, a standard mix for most alpine or dryland plants.

Most castillejas start germinating in the spring. It seems that those from the warmest climates usually germinate first, understandably. This last year *Castilleja parviflora* var. *oreopola* was last to germinate. Others that I have germinated include *C. angustifolia* var. *dubia* (syn *C. chromosa*), *C. applegatei*, *C. arachnoidea*, *C. exserta*, *C. hispida*, *C. integra*, *C. lineariifolia*, *C. miniata*, *C. oresbia*, *C. parvula* var. *parvula*, *C. peckiana*, *C. rhexiifolia*, *C. scabrida*, *C. sulphurea*, and *C. thompsonii*. Germinating these does not necessarily mean that I have gotten all these species established in my garden. Often, a whole seed pot will only produce one seedling. Even if more are produced, there are often large losses in potting the seedlings on. I have concluded that it is best for most of these



Castilleja parviflora var. *oreopola* at Paradise, Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington



Yellow *Castilleja cusickii* at Logan Valley, Oregon ,
with pink flowers that may be *Castilleja gracillima* or a hybrid



Castilleja miniata seedlings

to either leave the seedlings until their second year before potting them on, or to direct sow the seeds in the garden. *Castilleja miniata*, *C. hispida*, *C. linearifolia*, *C. exserta*, *C. integra* and *C. angustifolia* var. *dubia* (syn. *C. chromosa*) are particularly good candidates for direct sowing. If direct sowing, it is important to have some bare soil in the garden to sow them into, or a loose mat-forming plant like *Monardella macrantha* ‘Marian Sampson’. Loose mat-forming plants catch the seeds and provide a host, while simultaneously allowing the castilleja seedlings some light. I often see castillejas growing in loose mats of other plants in the wild. It is also imperative that one can recognize the seedlings. The image above shows what these seedlings look like, more or less, though exact appearance differs from species to species.

In general, the different species look similar to each other at the seedling stage. And if you have a landscaping service, forget about it, since most landscapers are bound to weed out all the seedlings. Finally, I should mention that castilleja seedlings should not be allowed to dry out, as that will surely kill them. This goes for desert species as well as species from wetter areas. As mentioned above, until castillejas attach to a host, it seems they are particularly sensitive to lack of water.



Castilleja exserta in the author's garden

Castilleja exserta is a particularly good species to grow from direct sowing. This is an annual castilleja from California and the southwestern United States. It is very beautiful, especially en masse as it is sometimes seen in the wild. This species has done well with direct seeding in my garden and even perpetuated itself by self-sowing for several years. Recently I did another direct sowing, and it did well from that again. This is a species that I would only direct sow, into an open area in the garden, preferably on lean, well-drained soil.

I now have castillejas growing everywhere in my garden. I have too many to count, and their numbers increase every year, from both self-sowing and more direct sowing by me. Most of the castillejas in my garden are orange

or scarlet. Currently, I am working on getting some of the pink ones to naturalize. These include *Castilleja parviflora* var. *oreopola*, *C. parviflora* var. *olympica*, and *C. rhexiifolia*. Others I would particularly like to obtain are *Castilleja hispida* var. *acuta*, *Castilleja thompsonii* (a yellow/green species common in eastern Washington), and *Castilleja schizotricha*. I have seen some purple-colored castillejas, and those are also on my list to obtain.

The main problem with growing castillejas is obtaining seed. There is no seed commercially available for the vast majority of castilleja species. Fortunately, the NARGS seed exchange often has various species available. Other sources include Western Native Seeds, Alplains, Geoscapes Desert Nursery, Northwest Meadowscapes, Inside Passage Native Seed, Larner Seeds, Plants of the Southwest, Miss Penn's Mountain Seeds, Native Seed (Texas Native Seed), Jelitto Seed, and the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Most of these sources carry only a few species.

My takeaway after growing castillejas for the years that I have is that they should be treated as any other plant. They can be sowed and will germinate like so many other native plants, without any special considerations for the fact that they are hemiparasitic. They can be planted out like most other plants, with the caveat that each of them should be somewhat close to another plant, but what species of plant is not all that important. They can be allowed to self-sow like any other native plant. They can even be dug up and moved like any other plant, an operation I have successfully done on more than one occasion. And finally, they can be direct-sowed like so many of our natives.

I have enjoyed my adventures with castillejas. I think you would enjoy similar adventures in your own garden.

For a fairly comprehensive collection of pictures and descriptions of the species of castillejas, I recommend Mark Egger's Flickr gallery of the genus Castilleja, https://www.flickr.com/photos/mark_egger_castilleja/collections/72157617709816218/



A HIGH DESERT ROCK GARDEN

ERIC GRISSELL

IN 2005, I left my Maryland garden of 26 years and spent the next 12 years establishing a garden near the town of Sonoita, Arizona, about 45 miles (72 km) southeast of Tucson. The property consisted of five acres, of which I planted about one-third acre, mostly devoted to native and xeric-adapted shrubs and trees. A small portion of the planted area was dedicated to a rock garden. What remains of the entire garden sits at 5000 feet (1500 m) in the rolling, high desert grasslands between two mountain ranges, both reaching over 9000 feet (2700 m) in elevation. Since there is so much topography, the plant and animal diversity was extremely high.

Technically defined as Madrean Evergreen Woodland intergrading with Semidesert Grassland, most of the valley consists of rolling hills of native and introduced grass species, but towards the foothills where I lived were scattered oak and juniper trees, under-storied by native *Arctostaphylos*, *Mimosa*, *Rhus*, *Yucca*, *Agave*, *Nolina*, and a few species of rock ferns and geophytes. The annual rainfall averaged 18 inches (45 cm) a year but varied between 9 and 22 inches (20-56 cm) during my dozen years at the garden. These rains (so-called monsoons), generally fell between July and September, creating an odd combination of growing conditions: wet summers and dry autumns, winters, and springs. Because even summer rainfalls were erratic, native plants could be rare one year and common the next.

Opposite: *Nama hispidum* seeded in a flagstone walkway.



Dianthus 'Tiny Rubies'

My first few years were devoted to laying out the hardscape, which consisted of gravel and flagstone pathways, flagstone terraces, and some difficult digging. I incorporated about 40 tons of quarried stone into the garden (25 by hand and 15 into the boulder garden by front-end loader), 15 tons of gravel, five tons of flagstone, and 15 tons of decomposed granite. I could only work about three or four hours a day before collapsing into a pile of pain. Then I lay on the floor and cursed the day I was born.

Although this might eventually have amounted to a garden of interest, after 12 years it was destroyed in a day and night of grass fires that burned much of the garden along with fences, sheds, garden equipment, wellheads, and pumps, not to mention a few dozen aged trees in the natural areas of my property. The house survived, but after the fire water became scarce and advancing age suggested I move to more equitable climes. I now live in Eugene, Oregon.



Phlox kelseyi

Domesticated Rock Garden Plants

Most of the plants included in my rock garden were what one would call easy, generally commercially available, and seemingly not suitable for xeric conditions. For example, I grew *Dianthus* ‘Tiny Rubies,’ which was among the first plants installed in my Maryland gravel bed in 1980. The same plant was still growing when I left for Arizona in 2006. In fond remembrance, I grew ‘Tiny Rubies’ in Arizona, where it lasted (a bit less willingly) 12 years in full sun. I now grow it in my Oregon garden, where it needs restraint. I am fond of *Dianthus* and also grew *D. microlepis* with minor success in Arizona. *Dianthus plumarius* grew willfully, seeding itself anywhere it found a crack in the flagstone pavement or among rocks lining the gravel pathway. Whether in sand or clay, I was amazed by its absolute fondness for heat and drought. I tried several species of *Campanula*, with but little success, as might be expected due to xeric conditions. *Campanula portenschlagiana* ‘Blue Waterfall’ grew in the shade, if somewhat reluctantly. I introduced *Phlox kelseyi*, a xeric western native, which made a successful attempt at growing, but both it and the campanula never had a chance to spread due to the fire.

Successful growers, which might be expected based on their tolerance for dryness, included California eriogonums *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens* and *E. fasciculatum* var. *foliolosum*. Another heat-tolerant rock lover was *Euphorbia clavarioides* var. *truncata* from South Africa. It did well until the temperature dropped down to a mind-numbing 4°F (-15.6°C); normally we only had a few frosty days a year and rarely a few inches of snow, which melted the next day. The succulent *Ruschia pulvinaris*, also from southern Africa, did very well and bloomed profusely every spring despite the weather. Resembling a *Delosperma*, the foliage is a bit confrontational by comparison.

A great mat-forming plant, *Teucrium aroanium*, spread easily with little water. The lilac flowers attracted variegated fritillary butterflies by the dozens (native grassland violets are one of the common larval host plants of this butterfly). This plant has grown readily in Oregon, but it is not as compact or tidy as it was when water-stressed. Not very colorful but an equally easy mat former was *Paronychia kapela* subsp. *serpyllifolia* which grows as a green film with tiny white flowers and bracts like tissue paper. Similar in growth habit but much more attractive was *Veronica liwanensis*, which enjoyed the dry conditions enough to spread into the gravel pathways. Even more colorful was *Genista lydia*, another reminder of my Maryland garden. As might be expected, several penstemons grew well, including the native *Penstemon dasyphyllus* and introduced *P. barbatus* in both its tall forms and dwarf ‘Navigator’ series. I grew several of the larger penstemons but most were too tall for the rock area. The same was true of *Salvia*, though I did fit *S. pachyphylla* into the rockery.



Veronica liwanensis



Penstemon 'Navigator' (top left),
Euphorbia clavarioides var. *truncata* (top right)

Native Plants: Introduced or Naturally Growing on the Property

I grew many shrubby native plants, but few were suitable for the rock garden. Hardy zinnias, largely unknown to the rock garden community, constitute one group that attracted me. There are about a dozen hardy species native to the Southwest and Mexico. I established a large patch of *Zinnia acerosa* by collecting native seed and simply sowing it amongst my large boulder field. This species is widespread in barren ground and disturbed areas, performing as well in a sandy wash as on a clay hillside. It appears as a tiny, woody shrub (10 inches/25 cm tall), covered in white flowers and with needle-like leaves. As with the teucrium mentioned above, it was very attractive to variegated fritillary butterflies. The plants did not survive the fire but reappeared sparsely the next year. Another species, *Zinnia grandiflora*, bearing yellow flowers with an orange center, much prefers grassland clay soil. A ground cover, the single plant that survived the fire, spread by underground rhizomes to fill a square yard (0.8 square



Zinnia grandiflora



Lithospermum incisum

meters) of my boulder garden. *Zinnia citrea*, raised from seed and similar in size to *Z. acerosa*, had solid yellow flowers but did not grow readily or survive the fire. These zinnias are difficult to find in the trade, either seeds or plants, and I suspect they would do poorly in non-xeric sorts of gardens.

Appearing nearly identical to *Zinnia acerosa*, *Melampodium leucanthum* (blackfoot daisy) was much easier to grow and easier to obtain seed. I introduced seed to the boulder garden and the plants grew well, even surviving the fire.

A native plant of great beauty, *Lithospermum incisum*, turned up on its own as a permanent visitor to the boulder garden. Well worth having, but elusive in my area, I made no attempt to propagate it. At some point, a plant called sand bells (*Nama hispidum*) seeded itself in two different flagstone walkways. I had no idea where it came from, but it was about as pretty as a “weed” could get. An annual mat-former with purple flowers, it bloomed over a long stretch of time and reseeded every year.



Yellow and orange forms of *Calochortus kennedyi* (top)

A yellow form of *Calochortus kennedyi* grew near my driveway in solid clay soil. Oddly, it seemed as if planted in a row. Within 1000 feet of my property a patch of mixed calochortus bloomed, including an orange form of *C. kennedyi* and white and pink forms of what I believe to be *C. ambiguus*. I was never quite certain of their identity. I didn't have the heart (or strength) to attempt transplanting any of these to the rock garden; it would have taken a pickaxe. They were an inspiration where they bloomed!

A few additional rock garden worthy plants that grew on my property included the common and widespread *Glandularia* (syn. *Verbena*) *gooddingii*. It did perfectly well on its own, especially after the fire when bare ground was exposed. The purple flowers smothered the foliage, forming manicured mounds. The uncommon spider milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*) was interesting in structure and flower, and low enough to fit into any rock garden, but I imagine it would only appeal to an entomologist such as myself.

Attempting to garden in a xeric garden, with poor soil, was a challenge, perhaps not suitable for an “elderly gentleman,” as I am sometimes referred to. The weather, at 5000 feet, was entirely enjoyable, as was the constant light, the thunderous summer rainfalls, and the minor successes that could be achieved. Unfortunately, 12 years is not long enough to claim any sort of victory—there seldom is in a garden—but it was fulfilling while it lasted.



Zinnia acerosa



EXPLORATIONS IN GUIZHOU

SUE MILLIKEN and KELLY DODSON

OUR TRAVEL COMPANIONS on our 2012 trip to Guizhou and beyond were our close friends Steve Hootman, Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden (RSBG) and an amazing plantsman beyond his beloved ericaceae, and Tom Hudson, owner and keeper of one of the world's great collections of rare trees and woody plants at Tregrehan Garden in Cornwall, England. The previous day we had explored Leigong Shan, the highest of the Miaoling Mountains in Guizhou, which we had also visited almost exactly two years earlier in October of 2010. The previous spring, on an RSBG tour, Steve had met various officials, including a highly connected young woman who promised the desired permits to explore "good" forest in nearby Leigongping.

We met with the young lady and her entourage early in the morning for permits and photographs. To our relief, it was obvious that she had no intention of accompanying us as she was dressed in a short fur jacket, ultra-short miniskirt, and stiletto heels. Our guide, Gary Luo, had arranged for a porter and local guide at a nearby village, so off we went. We had stopped briefly for some select cuts from a pig being parted out on a roadside table when Steve said "Gary, you know we like beer with our dinner – we'll have beer won't we?" This was good for a laugh all around as we knew it was already a lot for the porter we were meeting to pack up the mountain.

We arrived at the end of the road where it literally stopped against the wall of a house in a remarkably scenic village built on steep slopes and

surrounded by rice paddies. The beautiful homes were simple but with such perfection of design, function, and ornament that we all could imagine living there. We met our porter, who lived in one of the houses. He was a very slight fellow, perhaps five feet five inches (165 cm) in height and surely no more than 120 pounds (54 kg). He had a split bamboo carry pole with notches on the ends for hanging bags and which rested diagonally across one shoulder, rounded side down. He started hanging the four tents, five sleeping bags, pads, pork, vegetables, rice, pots and pans, firewood, etc., on the pole. It was a staggering load. At that point, Gary came over with a case of nine beers and hung that on. We erupted in mortified laughter, “No! No – we don’t need beer – we were kidding!”



Hiking through the village in Leigongping.

Fortunately, our local guide pitched in to carry half the load. Just about then, the rain started so we all repaired to the shelter of a house where the tents and sleeping bags were put into plastic bags with the hope that they might stay dry in what had become a deluge. With both porters loaded up, the little guy tucked a long machete in front and a stout curved sickle in a wooden sheath on his back and headed uphill. We left feeling a bit odd with our high-tech rain gear and boots while our porters had pretty much nothing.

Winding our way between and behind houses, zigzagging up the slope, we came out into rice paddies. Rice paddies in China never fail to amaze us, hills completely transformed by the industry of generations digging by hand. Taken as a whole, the immense scale of the hill paddies of Asia must be considered a wonder of the world. They have such a pleasing and uncomplicated design made possible by an extensive and subtly complex irrigation system which brings water down from the hills to flood the paddies as needed.

The paddies are always beautiful. From the simplicity of bare mud or water before planting to the bulwarks of pounded earth walls supporting these ponded fields, they clothe the hills like the ridged scales of some great fish. From the fresh green of newly planted rice, to the lush tallness of ripening seed heads, to the harvest and staging of bundled sheaves, it is all beauty. Tom, who has been on twenty-plus trips to China alone, shot photo after photo, saying “These will look just like all the others” while we all did the same.

As we were walking along these narrow trails, Tom turned back to us saying, “You into epimediums?” Our sudden intensity was answer enough. Nestled in the hacked and grazed bramble at the base of a shrubby birch was a fine epimedium. Despite its hardscrabble existence, we could tell this would merit a good spot in the garden. It looked like *Epimedium wushanense*, with narrow, toothed leaves, but we weren’t in the Wushan. Darrell Probst later told us we had found the newly described *E. pseudowushanense*, which seemed perfectly named.

It was a good long day, climbing up through unremarkable scrub forest in the rain and persistent hill fog with just enough punctuations of botanical excitement to keep our spirits buoyed. Steve grouched about the fine young lady's glowing description of the beautiful forest, and we suspected, given her attire, that her definition of "forest" was different than ours.

One of the highlights was hulking large shrubs of *Daphniphyllum macropodum* marching uphill as the trail passed through a relatively open area. These somber forms, like brooding rhododendrons, were evocative of the hunkered mass and stoic perseverance of musk oxen in a winter storm. Three or four were declining and obviously dying. This was sad to see but, like many plants nearing the end, they opted to spend whatever reserves they had left in an explosion of fecundity and were covered in black fruit.

Another plant that grabbed our attention was one we saw on our lunch break on the trail. As we ate our apples, bananas, and hard-boiled eggs, we admired a couple of nearby *Malus cf. prunifolia*, which were simply covered in small lemon-yellow apples not much larger than the fruit on a mountain ash. After we finished our lunch apples, we got a handful of the smaller ones to go.



Yellow fruit on *Malus cf. prunifolia*



Seed structure on *Carpinus fangiana*

We soon came upon a sizeable 40 foot (12 m) tree of the coveted hornbeam *Carpinus fangiana* which had eluded us on Leigong Shan. Seeing the impressively long, hop-like seed structures of overlapping brown bracts lifted a weight from our minds as this was a species we all keenly wanted to find. In flower, these pendulous structures are greenish and have been recorded to exceed 20 inches (51 cm) long, which easily places them as queen of the genus. This finding went a long way in relieving our disappointment at not seeing any old-growth forest.

Steve and Tom headed up the trail, but we lingered as there were trifoliate *Arisaema* on the slope below to investigate. Nearby, a small drift of *Reineckea carnea* called. This is an under appreciated evergreen ground



Hydrangea aspera with dark sterile florets

cover allied to *Convallaria* and we have taken an interest in it since our introduction, in 1997, of a distinct form of the species from the Gang Ho Ba. As a result, we don't pass up collections of *Reineckea* in the field to assist in future DNA work on the genus. Science aside, we just like their evergreen grassy leaves and small candles of scented white flowers, usually colored mauve on the reverse.

We caught up to the boys who had become glamoured by what Steve described as the largest *Rhododendron calophytum* he had ever seen. These were massive individuals, with one forming a 35 foot (11 m) tree, wider than it was tall, whose open habit well displayed the muscular horizontal side branches.

We noted what we presumed to be *Lilium brownii*, a widespread lily in western China with white fragrant trumpets touched in mauve in the throat. These had seed capsules that were immature and green, but such pods can often be collected if necessary and carefully ripened for a few weeks. A grouping of *Hydrangea aspera* Villosa Group drew us off the trail as there was some definite variation in the lace cap flower heads. One had very dark sterile florets while in another, the florets were noticeably larger than usual.

Not much further, we found *Tripterospermum pallidum*, which is a vining gentian relative, closely related to *Crawfordia*. This had climbed up seven feet (2 m) into a tangle of branches and the narrow white flowers were nicely displayed against the rich green of the broadly ovate-elliptic leaves. *Tripterospermum* is an amusing genus with its late-season flowers followed by an extended seed capsule that is often reddish and looks a bit like a tube of lipstick.

The rain had ceased, and we eventually made it to the top, which was a large plateau covered with a perched bog. There was sphagnum moss among the tussocks of grass and you couldn't see more than 50 feet (15 m) due to the thick fog. At this point, Gary, who was waiting for us, started to get a little twitchy as the path had petered out. There were no landmarks, and the two porters had long gone on ahead. He was feeling stranded in the bog to which his bright tennis shoes were not quite suited. Kelly picked out little high points to step on and got him out of the deepest part. Gary started calling for the porters, but no answer came. He looked left, then right, then stood in indecision. Which way to go?



Tripterospermum pallidum

We had traveled with Gary in 2010, and he should know not to pause on a trail with us. Predictably, we all headed off to the right where we could just make out *Enkianthus chinensis* standing like gaunt shrouded sentries in the high meadow. The leaves had mostly fallen from this deciduous rhododendron relative, which was too bad as they would have had brilliant wine red and orange coloration. We cared not a whit about missing the foliage as the clustered hanging seed capsules were a striking red and simply riveting. We wondered how much more intense would they look on a sunny day.

Meanwhile, Gary had made a decision and headed off confidently. We caught up, passing scattered gentians in the turf which reminded us of *Gentiana atunsiensis* in Yunnan. This was interesting as this mountain top was essentially a tiny refugium of cold montane flora surrounded by warm temperate to subtropical flora. We soon heard the source of Gary's confidence in the Thunk! Thunk! Thunk! of our porters chopping wood for a fire. This was well to the left of our present course so we veered towards the sound and came upon the campsite.

The porters had a smoldering fire started out of five foot (1.5 m) *Lithocarpus* logs courtesy of the heavy sickle our porter carried. We've seen green *Lithocarpus* used before in China for fires, while in Arunachal Pradesh rhododendron was favored. We could hear rhythmic chopping several hundred feet away and before long our porter arrived, dragging an immense piece of timber.

We noticed the village guide standing in the nearby tiny stream and washing something in the water. We walked over and he was rinsing off the roadside pork which he had packed up the mountain. There were potatoes and peppers laid out on the ground along with various spices and OMG! The beer! The brief pang of remorse quickly made way for the thought that dinner was going to work out nicely and that we would tip heavily.

We quickly set up the tents, got our gear stowed and sorted, and got out of any really wet clothes. The four of us went to help Gary set up his tent



Preparing food in camp

as he had never camped before and was standing helpless. He had bought some high-tech, spring-loaded double helix thing that was supposed to be self-erecting if only we could read the instructions. It was defying our best efforts when Tom lost it and literally threw himself on the tent, wrestling and twisting the hoops into position accompanied by his unique polyglot of incomprehensible Kiwi and Cornish curses.

With camp set up and an hour of daylight left, we decided to go further along the trail and see what tomorrow might bring. In just a few hundred yards, we were able to see what the mist had been hiding: a rare piece of intact old-growth hardwood forest! An immense *Fagus* claimed our field of vision and luckily this was growing at the bottom of a ravine with our trail skirting midway up its flank so branches laden with seed were in easy reach.

Tom looked at the leaf petioles, capsules, and vegetative buds and pronounced it a match to *Fagus longipetiolata* as grown in the UK. What a treat to find this. We moved to the next grand old *Fagus*, and we were all prepared to dismiss it as another *F. longipetiolata* when Tom said “Hold on

a sec, mateys. There's something going on here." The leaf petiole on this plant was three times longer, and the capsules and buds were a bit different as well. The consensus was that this must be the true *F. longipetiolata* and the others perhaps a variety of that or something else even more specific. There was lots of talk of isolation mechanisms in speciation and wondering why we weren't seeing intermediates between the two forms. Tom has seen the short-petioled *Fagus* in Vietnam and China as well as in cultivation so to find this massive tree that was different... well, safe to say, he was literally one happy camper. The identity of this tree has recently become either clearer (or murkier) with some taxonomists subsuming the species *F. longipetiolata* into *F. sinensis*.

Scarcely 200 feet (61 m) down the trail, we clambered down to a low, level mucky area, made our way across to dry ground, and found ourselves forced to pick our favorite child. The conundrum of an evergreen *Magnolia* (or *Michelia* according to the Chinese) to the left or, to the right, a small *Rehderodendron macrocarpum* with branches bent under the weight of



Nuts on *Rehderodendron macrocarpum*

its big nuts. As is so often the case, size won out and Steve chose the *Rehderodendron* while we went *Magnolia*.

Steve had collected this once before in 1995 and has beautiful trees growing at the RSBG. *Rehderodendron* is in the Styracaceae and has white, pendulous flowers with an orange-blossom fragrance and lovely dark green leaves with reddish petioles. The large seeds are covered in a thick leathery mesocarp looking like a large, elongated walnut. Inside this protective husk is a woody ribbed armature enclosing three or four longitudinal embryos. Growing this plant from seed is a challenge as the various layers enclosing the embryo vault, including the sinus plug in the woody enclosure, must decay for germination to occur. Two to four years is typical, and Tom probably has the dubious record of eight years. It is not uncommon for one embryo to grow away strongly and then, two or three years later, to find one or more new seedlings germinating from the original seed at the base of your vigorous sapling. It is a pretty cool survival strategy.

The magnolia was a tall, narrow tree with small, glossy, evergreen leaves and liberally decked out in red fruit finery. It is always a treat to find *Magnolia* seeds in the wild as birds eat them on the tree. We have seen flocks of blood pheasants not missing a single fallen seed. This was later identified by magnolia authority Dick Figlar as *Magnolia leveilleana*, a species with small yellowish flowers which he had originally described and one that had never been introduced to cultivation. This one plant made the entire trip.

We went about a half mile further on the trail with giant trees towering mysteriously in the gloaming and keeping their identity safe with identifying leaves held far above. *Rhododendron calophyllum* here and there and an odd species new to Steve got him fired up. A few gesneriads piqued our interest and the usual panoply of Asian ferns, including *Woodwardia japonica*, had us hunkered over while Tom inquired if we were finding some interesting mud-dwellers. Tree guys – what can you do? The village guide appeared out of the growing darkness and mimed eating: dinner was ready.

We arrived to a good, if smoky, fire in the almost dark and found a skillet full of pork curry and a pot of rice. First, we had to toast with a glass of the local home-brewed rice-based white lightning the porters had brought with them in an old cooking oil plastic jug. They had earned it! We have never acquired a taste for this, valiantly choking it down on various trips to India, China, and Vietnam. The original porter had apparently been partaking during the dinner preparation as he had a good glow on. We moved on to our beer quite quickly as we didn't want their heroic efforts in hauling it up the mountain to be in vain. Tom showed off the Kiwi beer bottle opener by using one bottle to open the other and then popped the others open using a bit of wood.

Dinner was fantastic and we quickly finished our bowls using chopsticks fashioned from the thin, reedy, bamboo growing nearby. The porter asked via the village guide if we would like to try some wild greens and we said sure! He went off into the dark with a small flashlight, returning with a big handful of some coarse herbaceous Lamiaceae which he threw into the skillet and steamed. It was fun to try the local wildcraft. Gary started dropping potatoes into the coals, saying they were for the next course, which was roast pork. We got some long bamboo skewers and stuck chunks of raw pig on the ends. Steve was looking forward to this as he loves meat on a stick and is always gazing longingly at the street vendors with their grilled meat skewers of questionable provenance. We all opted for caution and roasted our pork until well-done, if not charred.

Eventually, Steve's bamboo burned through, and his meat fell into the fire. After some ineffectual jabbing, he poked it out to the edge and stabbed it with a new skewer. A little worse for wear and covered in ash, but he was not deterred. Finally, he deemed it done and was walking away to let it cool when it slid off his skewer and landed in the muck of the side path going to the creek. More stabbing occurred, but this time accompanied by colorful curses mixed with our howls of laughter before it was again secured.

Cutting to the end of the Meat-on-a-Stick Saga, his bamboo burned through once again, plunging his abused pork into the flames. He stared for a

moment and then with a terse oath turned and walked into the dark toward his tent, chased by unsympathetic whoops. We were finishing our very tasty roast pork when he returned, had a cup of scotch, and proceeded to worry a charred potato he scuffed from the coals. He's a game lad.

The porters slickered up whatever we didn't eat and were drinking Leigong Boilermakers, alternating beer with moonshine. The little porter was quite hammered and was hanging onto Gary, talking to him nose to nose for a solid 30 minutes. Gary looked over at us and said "I have no idea what he is saying – I don't understand Miao." None of us spoke Miao either, but we knew what he was saying because this level of inebriation in men has a commonality that cuts across cultures and races: "You're a great guy. You hiring me to porter for you is just so great. You're the best, man. I mean it. I'd do anything for you, bro – just let me know. Anytime you're back here and need help, anything – you call me. Just call me, man. I'll drop whatever. This is so great and I really, really like you. Have another drink. We're like brothers, I love you, man!"

We four soon retired to our tents, leaving Gary and the porters to tell inappropriate stories about the foreigners and hoping that the machete-and-sickle-wearing porter remained a happily maudlin drunk. It was with no small twinge of guilt that we went to our tents and climbed into our bags because the porters had no tent, bags, blankets, or even a plastic sheet, planning to just sleep by the fire in their coats. The temperature was dropping, and the wind was picking up. We awoke often in the night from the wind and cold and wondered how they were faring out in the elements.

In the morning, both were alive. The little drunk porter had squatted on his heels by the smoldering fire and formed himself into a little ball with his coat wrapped around him. Steve said he could hear him snoring in the middle of the night which eased his mind. He was moving but quite sluggishly like a very cold lizard, but he soon got all the parts awake and started breaking camp.

The other porter was in much better shape. He had gotten very cold in the night and begged to come into Gary's tent. Gary said "Great! Get in here and hold me – I'm freezing." They spooned the night away in shivery discomfort. It seems Gary had brought his son's sleeping bag from Taiwan where it is 90°F (32°C) during the day and a little cooler at night. It was no match for the top of this mountain. This was Gary's first camping trip and maybe his last.

We quickly packed, thrilled that the weather had cleared and we could see our surroundings. It would have been fun to explore a bit but, as always, we had a long way to go to reach the next village with little time to spare. We found some cold potatoes in the dead remains of the fire and ate what parts were palatable, augmenting with a trail bar, as we headed left on the trail towards the woods while our porters went right and back to their village. They would meet one of our drivers there who would pick up our gear.

In the early morning sunlight, the forest of last evening looked even more spectacular. Sue said it was like a classic Appalachian forest, with the similarity of genera and appearance. The *Fagus* were simply magnificent, but it was the *Carpinus fangiiana*, pushing 100 feet (30 m) in height, that left us grasping for adequate hyperbolic superlatives. The foliage and infructescences were so high as to be indistinguishable without binoculars. The leaves scattering the trail, however, were unmistakable with their signature abaxial ribbing from the veins, leaving us no doubt that we were looking at champion trees of the species, as the *Flora of China* describes *C. fangiiana* as "trees to 20 m tall."

This was a moving moment, apparently especially so for Steve, who said he needed a few minutes and would catch up with us. We continued down the trail which followed a small, foot-wide irrigation canal bringing water down from the summit to the rice paddies 15 or more miles (24 km) away. Sue soon spied a *Polygonatum* arching out from a low bank and, lifting the yellowing stem with its ranked leaves, revealed the dangling black fruit in clusters of threes. Our friend and taxonomic advisor to our Conservancy, Dr. Aaron Floden, is the world expert on the genus *Polygonatum*, so we always try to obtain materials with provenance to expand the knowledge of the genus.



We were just finishing scouting the *Polygonatum* area when Steve caught up to us looking pleased with himself. We thought the reason was obvious, but then saw he was clutching something in his hand. “You haven’t found any *Paris* yet, have you?” he said innocently, knowing damn well we had been searching fruitlessly for one of our favorite genera the whole trip. “I went uphill to do my thing and there it was.” He held out a fruiting head and leaf. Wow! We asked if he had a guess on species. “Dunno. *Paris crappiana* probably.” We remembered he did the same thing in Nagaland on Mt. Japfu in 2003, but that time it was *Dactylicapnos* (syn. *Dicentra*) *torulosa*, as we were keen then to see some of the yellow vining species.

From there, we saw *Disporum cantoniense*, a large *Ophiopogon* with blue-black fruit growing in the litter beneath a *Castanea*, a self-fertile *Skimmia reevesiana* with clusters of red fruit and, at seven feet (2 m) in height, quite tall for this species. Such a treat to be walking in this sheltered valley with a small stream splashing whitely near the trail and exciting plants all about.

One of the best broadleaf evergreens we saw on the trip was found here growing from the top of a low tumble of rocks covered thickly in forest



Blue fruit on an *Ophiopogon* species.

duff. The thick, glossy, rich green leaves on this 20 foot (6 m) shrub were attraction enough and the blue fruits like small alien olives told us this was a particularly fine *Symplocos* species. The fruiting prequel would get rave reviews with its clusters of small white fragrant flowers. The one downside of *Symplocos* is the seeds are famously recalcitrant to germinate.

The *Symplocos* was just uphill from Steve swooning over huge old plants of *Rhododendron glanduliferum* with long, 12 inch (30 cm) leaves and whose petioles, buds, new growth, seed capsule, and even the flower petals, were clad in diagnostic stipitate (stalked) glands. The white flowers are fragrant and we all would have given some minor appendage to see these in bloom. This has proved to be an exceptional species for a sheltered woodland setting. Steve was especially stoked by these as they were the biggest he had ever seen and he was instrumental some years earlier in helping to introduce the species to cultivation. Fast forward three years and it got even better, with this population being described as a new species, *Rhododendron leigongshanense*. By mid-afternoon, we had left the forested valley on the mountain's flank and were sad to be quit of it. The mature forest had been great to see, indeed it was one of the most memorable experiences we have had in the field. We have the stewardship of the local Miao people to thank for keeping this remnant forest intact. For better or worse, we were able to give these great trees our full attention due to the relative paucity of a herbaceous component. Sue mused on the rich diversity of plants we might have seen in spring when the now-dormant spring ephemerals would be in their full glory.

As we finally approached the Miao village at day's end, we heard an approaching racket of firecrackers and music. A funeral procession of hundreds of mourners was headed up the path. Strings of firecrackers were exploding, accompanied by brass trumpets, drum, and cymbals. We stood aside and watched the spectacle pass, wondering how traditional Western funerals became such dour things. When we die, break out the band and put on your party clothes for a good old-fashioned Miao sendoff – you are all invited!

TEN PLANTS AND TEN LESSONS

PANAYOTI KELAIDIS

IT IS INTRIGUING to compare how various gardeners deal with the unpleasant reality that when you try to grow challenging plants, or plants novel to horticulture, you inevitably end up with the tags of dead plants. Some gardeners brazenly display them in wide cup fulls, like gruesome trophies. Others discard and hide them like a dirty secret. I have heard plant tags referred to in many ways. Perhaps the most distressing was when a new acquaintance (Bob Heapes, who went on to become a fine rock gardener, president of our chapter, and a dear friend) declared, in disgust, on his first visit to the Rock Alpine Garden that “it looked like the Arlington cemetery of mice.” Admittedly, we had planted a lot of little plants and dutifully retained their glaring white labels until proper plaques could be engraved, but referring to them as “mouse tombstones” went too far. I spent the better part of a week cramming the nasty white things as deep into the ground as I could, breaking a goodly number of them in the process. Thinking back forty years, I suspect most of them truly have turned into plant tombstones.

I’m with the fastidious gardeners who like to trash them immediately. The number of the dear departed can be daunting. I make the mistake of entering all new plant acquisitions in an Excel file, with truly depressing factoids like what the plant cost. That file is 996kb in size (pretty big for Excel) and when I scan it I’m amazed that I could have possibly grown so many plants once upon a time. Worse yet, my photo files are full of phantom plants, some of which I grew for decades. Geoffrey Charlesworth

once said, “It doesn’t matter if you’ve grown a plant, it only matters if you photographed it to prove you grew it.” But oh, if one could have that plant back again!

As I was scanning my image files to prepare a talk recently, I kept noticing plants I grew — often in quantity and well — that are now just a memory. I started to take down names thinking some may reappear on the NARGS seedlist, when it occurred to me that each of these seemed to have a story associated with them that could be of interest to fellow rock gardeners. Of course, if you’ve never lost a plant (or if every seed pot you sow germinates promptly and in quantity) there is nothing here of value to read. Go on to the next article, please.

Aethionema capitatum

The so-called “Persian candytufts” occur with special variety and beauty in both Turkey and Greece, many with flowers much deeper rose pink and more compact in habit than *Aethionema grandiflorum* or *A. pulchellum*, the most frequently encountered species in rock gardens. A spate of species have been introduced to cultivation in recent decades, many from Turkey



Aethionema capitatum



Ajuga chamaepitys var. *glareosa*

which is perhaps the epicenter of the genus and home to its most extreme expressions. I have grown a dozen or more, many of which are wonderful performers, sourced from the Jim and Jenny Archibald or various Czech collectors. The photograph of this species was not taken in my garden (where it never quite attained that size or magnificence) but in the garden of Bill Adams of Sunscapes Nursery in Pueblo, Colorado. Bill's specimen persisted for many years and provided us all with seedlings that never did quite as well as they did for him (which spurred us on to try harder). This species is basically *Aethionema grandiflorum* only half the size and more dome-shaped. In other words, perfect. *Aethionema grandiflorum* spreads widely and grows in almost any condition short of full shade or bog, but its cousin never quite took off the same. Bill sold dozens, if not hundreds, of this over the decades. Surely someone had it thrive for them. Lesson: when a plant is available at a reasonable price and it's a winner, buy more than one or two and plant them in the likeliest places where they'll thrive and stay around.

Ajuga chamaepitys var. *glareosum*

Visitors to my garden are sometimes shocked by the profligacy of the typical form of this species (*Ajuga chamaepitys* subsp. *chia*) which can be found in all cardinal points and corners of my yard, though it's so easy to remove and can be gotten rid of if you work at it. It even thrives with cacti in unwatered beds. Why is its woollier cousin so stubborn by contrast? At one point, I had a dozen or so popping up here and there in a scree, but one by one they disappeared, and one day var. *glareosa* was gone. Variety *chia* is beautiful in its own way but var. *glareosa*'s ermine cape (and more temperamental performance) makes it so much more desirable, especially because we already have the weedier one. Lesson: spend more time eliminating the weedy cousin and less time admiring the pretty one.

Alkanna aucheriana

I grew this from seed from the Archibalds. Jim introduced many extraordinary plants, but usually maintained a suitable Scottish caution in not building expectations too high. This was one he was less restrained about than usual. I recall the price was relatively dear, and my hopes were stratospheric. The silvery foliage, perfect tufted habit, and those flowers did

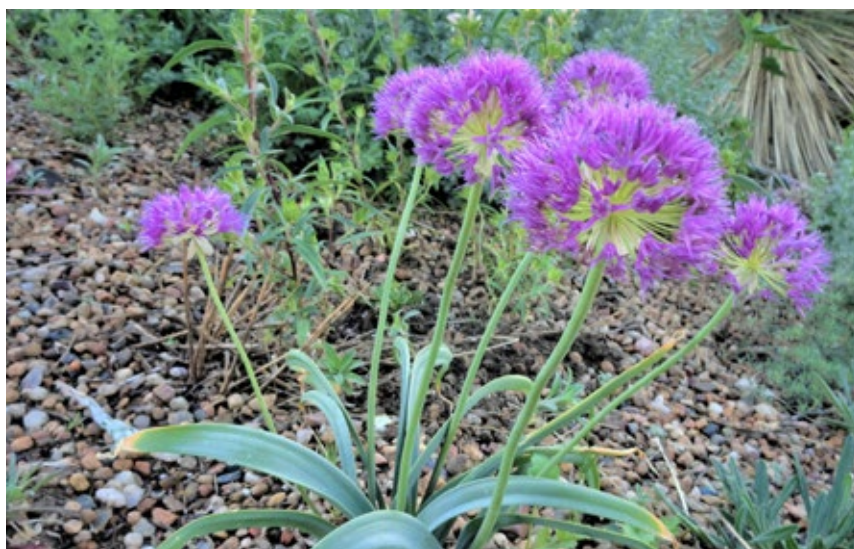


Alkanna aucheriana

not disappoint. Only it didn't seem to set seed for us (don't all bees love blue?) and the plant did not live forever. The one pictured was growing outdoors in a trough in Mike Kintgen's Denver, Colorado, garden, inspiring a great deal of nostalgic envy for several years. Lesson: try and pollinate your choice plants to encourage them to set seed.

Allium douglasii

As all rock gardeners quickly learn, certain genera are prone to extremes. *Viola* and *Allium* can be incredibly pestiferous weeds you have a devil of a time exorcising from your garden or they can be a challenge. A few plants in both genera hug the happy middle and *Allium douglasii* is one of those. Many of our native onions are attractive and some are even quite showy but few make as big an impact as this endemic of the interior Pacific Northwest with its two-inch (5 cm) spherical blooms of bright purple in high spring. Year after year, it gradually expanded and I wondered: should I divide it in the spring or wait till it goes dormant in the fall? I put it off, the clump got bigger, until one spring it wasn't there. Rot? Theft? Was it overgrown and I didn't notice? Lesson: propagate and share. Propagate and share. Don't be complacent.



Allium douglasii

Amsonia tharpia

Everyone knows the bluestars, which are mainstays of perennial borders and meadows. They are as valuable for their lemon-yellow fall color as they are for their powder blue puffs of late spring flowers. But what to make of a little cluster of tinier species from the Southwest, which make little vases of silvery foliage with waxy white flowers for weeks in late spring? If they were only orange, or blue like their cousins, or maybe pink, there would be a great demand for these as they are so graceful. I tried growing this species two or three times (the picture was taken at Bill Adams' garden again) but in retrospect, I realize I probably cooked or dried it out thinking that, since it was Southwestern, it liked to bake. I learned this in time to grow its look-alike cousin *Amsonia peeblesii* so all isn't lost: Lesson: because a plant comes from Arizona doesn't mean it's a saguaro!



Amsonia tharpia



Anagallis monelli 'Orange Form'

***Anagallis monelli* 'Orange Form'**

If you garden long enough, you will discover *Anagallis monelli* (syn. *Lysimachia monelli*), a stunning mound-forming perennial with cobalt blue flowers with an almost iridescent glow about them. I should say, it's perennial in Zone 7 or perhaps Zone 8, it's an annual for us mortals in the colder zones, but still often sold by the more upscale garden centers or nurseries. The species is quite widespread and variable in the Mediterranean basin, and a compact orange form was collected by Mike Kintgen and Rod Haenni that survived several winters in quite a few gardens in the Denver area. I don't think there are many rock plants that produce such a dazzling and long display of colors. It came readily from cuttings and I remember one spring when hundreds were sold at Denver Botanic Gardens' spring plant sale. Lesson: when you have a dazzling cultivar, do what you can to keep it.

Androsace sericea

There is no end of white, compact androsaces, all of which are desirable. Not all of them are easy, however. While not as vigorous as *Androsace taurica*, *A. villosa*, or a few others in the complex, *A. sericea* grew well enough for me. I think it came from seed I'd collected off huge mounds of the species studded with tiny seed heads at the base of Nanga Parbat (the ninth highest peak on the planet, and one of the most stunning) in the western Himalayas. I remember seed setting on my plants, which I shared with the exchanges. Lesson: share by all means, but be sure to sow some yourself, too.



Androsace sericea



Angelica archangelica

Angelica archangelica

Just what a rock gardener needs: a gigantic biennial umbel that towers over the garden and dies after producing a bushel of seed. This is not a rare plant, nor is it particularly choice, but when you look at the picture you can see that it shatters stereotypes. This plant makes green look sexy. It set a ton of seed (which I sowed) and died. The next spring I planted a few here and there where they sputtered and eventually produced a low umbrella or two of “meh” flower clusters. Lesson learned: it’s not the plant in and of itself, it’s how well you grow it. And, as Geoffrey would point out, if you remember to take a picture.

Artemisia tripartita subsp. *rupicola*

There are plants you love that others cannot fathom. My garden is full of *Artemisia*, which a Freudian might claim has to do with that being my mother’s first name. No doubt, since I was a “mommy’s boy,” there may be some truth in that, but anyone born and bred in the West had better learn to love the genus. Once you’re smitten, you’d be surprised how many tiny,



Artemisia tripartita subsp. *rupicola*

gnarly, impossibly cute sagebrushes there are. Once you've grown a few, you want to grow more. Perhaps 100 miles north of Denver, in Albany County, Wyoming I have seen whole hillsides near Medicine Bow covered with thousands of this gem of a tiny sagebrush interspersed with blazing Indian paintbrush, tiny penstemons, and huge clumps of *Cryptantha caespitosa*. I managed to capture a little of this magic in a trough where you could enjoy the bonsai-like elegance of the sagebrush up close, with little steppe flowers dancing around it. I enjoyed it for years and years, neglecting to collect seed or taking cuttings. It's been gone for a decade or more now, and as the growing season closes every year I think I should have driven up to Medicine Bow and collected a few pinches of seed. Maybe next year. Lesson learned: don't just collect seed, grow it.

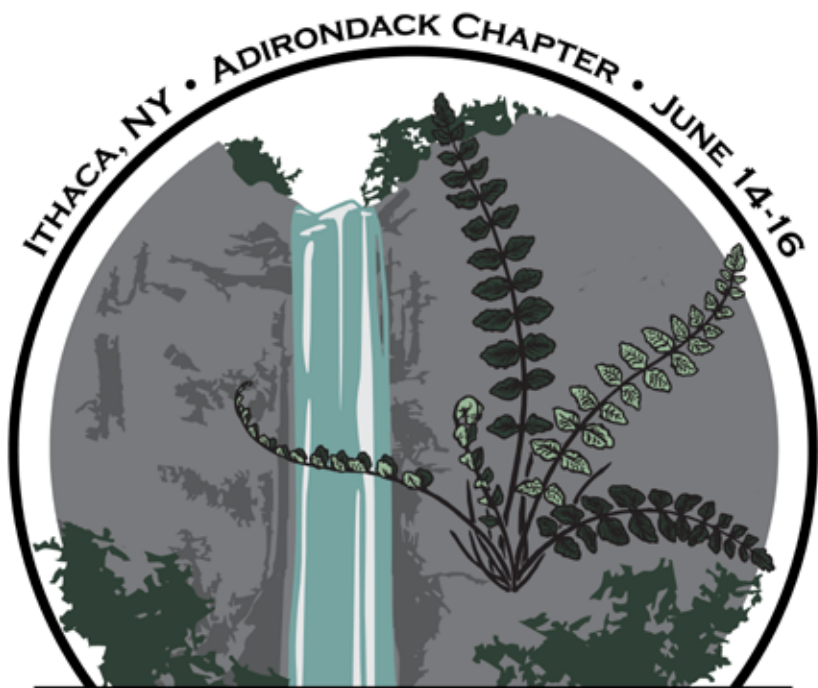
Asperula daphneola

The tiny cousins of woodruff need a good common name. They aren't really "ruff" and they don't grow in the woods like their cousin *Galium odoratum*. There are a dozen or more cushion-forming asperulas that grow at altitude all over the Mediterranean, each one more adorable than the next. Best of all, they seem to persist with a little attention and they're pretty easy to grow from division, or layerings. No excuse to fumble with these. And when you've seen bowling ball-like mounds on a mountain top, as I have, you do tend to watch after them. Except my clump of *A. daphneola*, which was planted just a little too close to a very vigorous *Sempervivum* of the arachnoideum persuasion. The two are hopelessly intertwined and I will have to do major surgery (and propagation) to restore the fantastic little mounds of bright pink trumpet blooms that it produced year after year. I promise I shall do so this spring for sure. Lesson learned: make propagation a priority you will honor!

Try as we may, we will inevitably lose plants, often those that we took special pride in and which reigned supreme in our gardens. Consider that in this article I only dipped into the first letter of the alphabet. There is a phantom rock garden in my slide files filled with wonderful gems I still yearn for. At least I can enjoy their images.



Asperula daphneola



Alpine Visions

EXPLORATION AND INSPIRATION
NARGS

WHERE WILL YOU be June 14th to 17th of 2022? We hope you answered in Ithaca, New York, attending the NARGS Annual General Meeting.

The Adirondack Chapter, along with its co-sponsor Cornell Botanic Gardens, is planning a rich three-day experience filled with the opportunities to visit gardens and natural areas, to hear knowledgeable speakers, to reconnect with friends, and to buy plants from choice nurseries. We hope you'll be more than pleased with our program line-up designed to stimulate you to cultivate your own alpine vision through exploration and inspiration.

We have tried to retain much of the 2020 itinerary that had to be canceled. So rather than repeat much of the details and photos, we refer you to the Winter 2019/2020 *Rock Garden Quarterly*, which is always available to NARGS members on the NARGS website (<https://www.nargs.org/event/alpine-visions-exploration-and-inspiration-ithaca-ny-2022>). The information provided here covers the essentials of what you need to know to help you plan your trip.

Speakers

Kicking off our speaker line-up, F. Robert Wesley, botanist with Cornell Botanic Gardens, will invite us to explore bogs and wetlands to enjoy the native orchids of New York State, of which there are nearly 60 species, including many that are rare or endangered. His stunning photographs will offer us the next best thing to being there in person.

Eleftherios Dariotis (whom you may know as Liberto Dario, the name he created for his Facebook page) will be our tour guide as he takes us along on his plant explorations in the mountains of his native Greece and to places further afield. He led the NARGS Tour to Greece in 2019. An outstanding plantsman, gardener, and all-around great guy, his two talks could well tempt us to sign up for his next tour. See his interview in the Fall 2021 *Rock Garden Quarterly*.

The team of **Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson**, also no strangers to plant exploration, will share plant treasures they have found, cultivated, struggled to preserve, and sometimes introduced into the trade (see their article in this issue). Located in Port Townsend, Washington, their nursery, Far Reaches Farm, and the not-for-profit arm, Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy, are testaments to their dedication to and passion for the botanical world. They will also be delivering two talks to do justice to the full scope of their enterprise.

For more extensive bios, please refer to the Fall 2021 *Rock Garden Quarterly*.



The Bill Stark and Mary Stauble Garden

Field Trips: June 15th

On Wednesday, we've planned a full day's outing, dividing into three groups with three identical itineraries, visiting in round-robin fashion. Box lunch on the go will be at a local park. Buses will transport us to enjoy one of the area's gorges for a guided walk with local naturalist experts. Walking at a leisurely "botanical pace" over approximately 1½ hours, improved pathways do involve walking up and down steep stone steps (often wet) and woodland paths. Be advised to wear comfortable clothing and hiking shoes and perhaps to bring along a hiking stick. The paths are not handicapped accessible but we will offer "gentler" alternatives if need be.

We round out the day with visits to two of our members' private gardens to see how the owners have realized their uniquely different garden visions.

The Bill Stark and Mary Stauble Garden is an ambitious ongoing project that just keeps getting bigger and better each year. The Winter 2019-2020 *Rock Garden Quarterly* article *Gardening with Glaciers* offers us a great introduction to this garden, and there have been extensive additions in the two years since then.

The Marlene Kobre and Ron Denson Garden utilizes their suburban lot to the max, demonstrating how there always seems to be room for one more plant or one more garden. From tree peonies and Japanese maples to dwarf conifers, succulents, and rock gardens, it's hard to say which they are most passionate about. Through the seasons, each plant has its time to shine.

Field Trips: June 16th

On our second field trip day, Thursday, after breakfast and a morning talk, be prepared for a lovely ramble along Beebe Lake on mostly level ground from our AGM headquarters to the Cornell Botanic Gardens, where you are free to roam the collections. Docents will be scattered throughout the gardens to answer questions.

Then enjoy a free afternoon to further explore the F.R. Newman Arboretum, other gardens around Campus, or downtown. There are even several waterfalls and a gorge within walking distance. We can offer plenty of suggestions for things to do and places to dine but don't forget to return. We reconvene for our last talk and the conclusion of the AGM Thursday evening.



Upper Treman Gorge



Ted and Elly Hildebrant of Coldwater Pond Nursery

Plant Sales

Of course, we have set aside time for plant sales on both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The following nurseries are confirmed at this time.

Cayuga Landscape, Ithaca, NY, David Fernandez, owner: www.cayugalandscape.com. Kass Kerns, Senior Horticulturalist at the Garden Center, will be offering a selection of choice dwarf conifers, unusual deciduous ornamentals, and interesting perennials suitable for rock and woodland gardens.

Coldwater Pond Nursery, Phelps, NY: <http://www.coldwaterpond.com>

Ted and Elly Hildebrant, owners, have dedicated this nursery to propagating and growing select woody ornamentals for gardeners as well as growers. The availability list on their website reveals the exceptional quality, range, and scope of this nursery's offerings.

Cornell Botanic Gardens, Ithaca, NY: <http://cornellbotanicgardens.org>

The Horticultural Enterprises Team, comprised of Cornell Plant Science students in the Learning by Leading Program, will have plants for sale. We're not certain what they'll be offering, but we welcome their presence and are proud to support their Program.

Garden Vision Epimediums, Templeton, MA: <http://www.epimediums.com>
Owner Karen Perkins has drawn on the hybridizing work of Darrel Probst for the impressive array of epimediums available from her nursery. See her website for a complete listing of the epimedium cultivars and other choice perennials for shade.

Kingbird Farm, Berkshire, NY: www.kingbirdfarm.com Owners Karma and Michael Glos and their daughter Rosemary will be offering an eclectic mix of Certified Organic rock garden plants, perennial herbs, tropical plants, seed-grown rare succulents, and unusual annuals. Rock garden offerings include old standbys (hardy *Opuntia*, *Sempervivum*, *Aquilegia*), along with whatever catches their eye in the yearly seed exchanges.

Private Garden, Nappanee, IN: No website, but a tantalizing review here: <https://www.nwitimes.com/lifestyles/one-tank-trip-benedict-s-nursery/> article. Esther Benedict, the owner, collects miniature plants, which means a lot of alpines, some of which are already growing in tufa. She will have a wide selection of mini hostas, rock garden ferns, daphnes, and other choice alpines, as well as papercrete troughs to display them. In 2020 she received the NARGS Marcel Le Piniec Award given to a nursery person, propagator, hybridizer, or plant explorer who is currently actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners.



Physoplexis comosa grown by vendor Esther Benedict

Topiary Gardens, Marcellus, NY: <http://www.topiary-gardens.com>
Topiary Gardens, owned by Diana Smith, specializes in new and hard-to-find conifers and perennials including choice alpines, shrubs, and trees. However, Diana's real passion is Japanese maples, and she offers over 500 varieties grafted and grown at the nursery. Visit her website to take a video tour of her lovely Japanese gardens, featuring maples, conifers, stone work, and an impressive water feature.

Wrightman Alpines, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, CA:
www.wrightmanalpines.com We are hugely pleased that Esther Wrightman will be in attendance, offering a choice selection of what looks especially good from the more than 600 alpine plants listed in their catalog. She notes that her presence will depend on the status at the border, which has been in a state of flux throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Syracuse Area Pre-AGM Day Trip, Tuesday, June 14

A charter bus will leave Tuesday morning to take pre-AGM registrants to visit three Syracuse area gardens. These are the same gardens as were offered in 2020: the gardens of Dianne and Dan Bordoni, Donna and Jim Kraft, and Pagoda Hill owned by Michael Brennan and Bob Moss, with just over an hour's drive to the first garden. Each garden is awe-inspiring yet uniquely different. If you need to be enticed, see the pictorial article in the Winter 2019-2020 *Rock Garden Quarterly*. We can accommodate between 36 and 50 people. Cost is \$55 including a box lunch, but not breakfast, which can be purchased very reasonably at the dining facility at Morrison Hall.

The bus returns to Robert Purcell Community Center in time for the second day of the plant sale. Note you must be an AGM registrant or guest of a registrant to go on this trip.

On-your-own Garden Tours, Friday June 17

You can view still more gardens on Friday after the AGM has officially closed. At this time five Chapter members have agreed to open their gardens for visitation, plus our Chapter's public rock garden, the Al Wurster Memorial Rock Garden in the city of Ithaca.



Views from Pagoda Hill owned by Michael Brennan and Bob Moss (top) and the gardens of Dianne and Dan Bordini (bottom).

Registration

- Opens January 31, 2022, on the NARGS.org home page
- Limited to 150 registrants. Spaces went fast in 2020 so if you plan to attend, don't delay. For those unable to attend, we plan to record the presentations, as Durango did for the 2021 AGM.
- Cost \$450; must be a NARGS member; however, you can join, renew, or even verify that your membership is current, at the time of registration.
- Payment by credit card is required at the time of registration and you will receive email confirmation.
- Registration is online only (no paper registration)

When you Register you will be asked to:

- Reserve lodging in Toni Morrison Hall if you choose. Off-campus motel information is also provided.
- Request roommate preference.
- If appropriate, add an accompanying guest. Guest meals can be purchased at the dining hall with a credit card on a walk-in basis.
 - Pay for on-campus parking (recommended) in the nearby parking lot designated for our use.
- Make a guest reservation for the banquet.
 - Register for the Syracuse pre-AGM day trip.
 - Choose your box lunch and banquet meal options.
 - Request special needs/meals.

Dining

Your registration includes all meals except for Thursday dinner-on-your-own. Breakfasts and Tuesday dinner (preceded by happy hour) will be offered in the Morrison Dining Hall in “All You Care to Eat” style. Micro-restaurant food stations offer a surprising variety of cuisines with many tantalizing choices! Wednesday will be a served dinner with an open bar.

Lodging

For your convenience, we have set aside a block of single and double rooms in the new Toni Morrison Hall at the projected rate of \$89.50 per person/per night and \$62 per person/per night, plus sales tax. This brand new residence hall couldn't be more convenient, as some AGM activities will be located in this building while others will be quartered in the Robert Purcell Community Center across the street. Unfortunately, with this choice, you will not be able to extend your stay beyond Thursday evening, June 16th.

All rooms are suite-style (see layout) shared with up to five people and furnished with twin beds, linens, towels, and bar soap but no other toiletries. The bathroom is shared with 1 shower, 2 toilets, and 3 sinks. Early arrivals may book the night of June 13. We will attempt to honor roommate requests.

Alternatively, a limited number of rooms are being held at special rates at two nearby motels: Best Western University Inn of Ithaca (\$139+taxes for single/double room for two) and Homewood Suites by Hilton, Ithaca NY (\$149 + taxes for single/double room for two). Ask for the NARGS AGM rate, which can also be applied to two days before and two days after the official AGM dates (in other words dates ranging from June 12 – 18). Ask the motel about their free, door-to-door shuttle service to the AGM. Advance arrangements are required. All rooms are subject to availability.

AGM Base Camp

Cornell campus is huge so our activities are fortunately contained to a small area on north campus. Most activities will be held in Robert Purcell Community Center (RPCC), or Morrison Hall.

Checking In

Upon arrival, AGM check-in will be at the Service Center at Robert Purcell Community Center, 217 George Jessup Rd. on the north campus of Cornell University, Ithaca. Official check-in begins Tuesday, June 14 at 2 pm. We plan to post signage and, more importantly, have volunteers on hand to help orient you.

Important Dates

- January 31: Registration opens
- May 14: Last date to register without a penalty; thereafter registration will cost \$475.
- May 14: Last date to cancel your registration, less a \$50 processing fee; thereafter registration fee is forfeited.
- May 14: Last date rooms are held at the residence hall and motels

Getting to and around Ithaca

We like to say we're centrally isolated in Ithaca, but we do offer several ways to get here.

By car: For many registrants arriving by car is realistic as well as convenient. We are located a day's drive from many NARGS Chapters in the northeast, mid-Atlantic, and midwest. Parking on campus will be available only in a designated lot and charged a special AGM rate yet to be determined by ParkMobile.

By Air: Ithaca is served by three airlines: Delta, United, and American. Airports in Elmira/Corning, Rochester, and Syracuse offer additional carriers.

By bus: Ithaca is served by Greyhound, Shortline (within New York State), and the NYC to Ithaca direct shuttle via OurBus. For getting from Campus on the hill to Downtown on the flats, TCAT city bus service runs several buses, including the #10 which runs a continuous campus to downtown loop every 10 minutes (<https://tcatbus.com/> to check routes, schedules, etc.).

While no doubt a little challenging, it is possible to stay off campus without a car utilizing the motels' shuttle service from the airport and to and from the Robert Purcell Community Center. Car rental services are available at the Tompkins Ithaca Regional Airport. Advance reservations are recommended. Ithaca also offers Uber, Lyft, and taxi service.

COVID-19 Protocol

Because COVID-19 is still a concern, NARGS is requiring all registrants to be vaccinated. We will also need to require adherence to Cornell's visitor protocol at the time of the AGM. The current campus visitor protocol can be found here: <https://covid.cornell.edu/visitors/> . These protocols are subject to change at any time.

Additional Information/Questions

We will address anticipated questions and provide further details in our FAQs. It will be posted on the same page as the AGM registration link on the NARGS website. Your AGM packet will include options for free time activities, including dining options. If you still have unanswered questions contact our Registration Coordinator: John Gilrein, agmithaca2022@twcny.rr.com.

This AGM is a program of NARGS, hosted by the Adirondack Chapter NARGS and not by Cornell University. NARGS and its affiliate, the Adirondack Chapter NARGS, assumes exclusive responsibility for all aspects of program content, scheduling, and procedures.



Upper Treman Gorge



Botanizing the Adirondacks

June 12-14, 2022

\$495 double occupancy or \$595 single occupancy

Summary

This tour will occur immediately prior to the NARGS Annual General Meeting at Cornell University. The tour will focus on the native flora of the Adirondack region and includes guided hikes to see alpine vegetation on Whiteface Mountain (one of the “High Peaks” of the Adirondacks) and to two bogs in the western Adirondacks. The tour will also visit the Chaumont Barrens alvar and the Adirondack Experience Museum that highlights the history and culture of the region. The tour will use a professionally driven bus and will be limited to 25 participants.



Sunday, June 12

The tour will depart from the Syracuse airport at 12:30 pm and will travel to the Chaumont Barrens to see one of the world’s finest examples of alvar grasslands.

Alvars are highly unique, prairie-like landscapes consisting of a thin layer of soil above highly fractured limestone bedrock. Here you can see rare plant communities that are not found elsewhere in the

Northeast. Among the plants that we hope to find are *Cypripedium parviflorum*, *Geum triflorum*, *Phlox divaricata*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, and others. The barrens are also home to an array of warblers and other bird species. Following our time in the barrens, we will continue on to Wilmington, NY, for dinner and lodging.

Monday, June 13

We will leave the hotel at 8:00 to meet our guide (tentatively Kayla White from the Adirondack Mountain Club) for a botanical tour of on Whiteface Mountain. Plants that should be in bloom include *Rhododendron groenlandicum*, *Vaccinium uliginosum*, *Trichophorum cespitosum* subsp. *cespitosum*, *Carex scirpoidea* subsp. *scirpoidea*, *C. bigelowii*, and *Salix uva-ursi*. Notable plants we may also see include *Prenanthes boottii*, *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*, *Solidago leiocarpa*, and *Minuartia groenlandica*. After the hike, we will stop in Saranac Lake for lunch and then drive to Blue Mountain Lake to visit the Adirondack Experience Museum. We will end the day in Inlet, NY, for dinner and lodging.

Tuesday, June 14

Our guide for the morning will be Gary Lee, retired New York State Forest Ranger and avid naturalist. We will leave the hotel at 7:30 to meet Gary at Ferd's Bog, where we will hike on a boardwalk to enjoy a wide variety of native plants and birds. Plants that should be in bloom include *Sarracenia*



purpurea, *Drosera rotundifoliam*, *Rhododendron groenlandicum*, *Andromeda polifolia*, and more. We will depart at around 10:00 to drive to Remsen, NY. Be prepared to get your feet wet at Remsen Bog while looking for *Cypripedium reginae*, *Calopogon tuberosus* var. *tuberosus*, and *Liparis loeselii* as well as pitcher plants and sundews. We will depart from Remsen Bog at roughly 12:30 and hope to be at Cornell University by 3:00.

Other information

- Meals: The tour price includes breakfast at both hotels as well as water and snacks on the bus. We will provide transportation to recommended local restaurants for lunch and dinner, but each participant will be responsible for selecting and paying for these meals.

- Lodging: Cadence Lodge in Wilmington and Marina Motel in Inlet. Both hotels are highly rated by Trip Advisor. Single participants may be asked to share room if necessary for all participants to stay at the same location (if room sharing is required, the double occupancy rate will apply).

- Transportation: Air conditioned bus driven by professional driver. The bus is equipped with bathroom facilities.

- Guide and Entrance Fees: Guide and entrance fees to all tour sites are included.

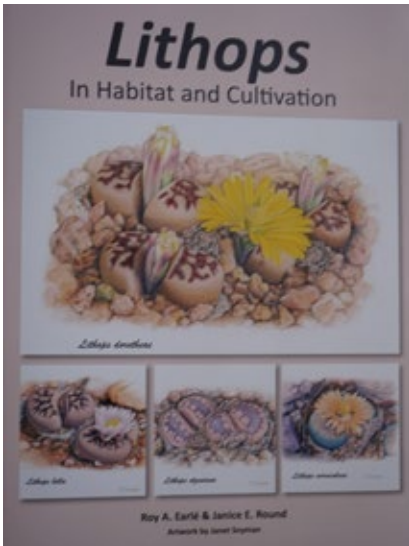
- Hikes: Tour participants should be in reasonable shape and able to traverse uneven terrain. Whiteface Mountain summit is 4,867 ft. versus 4,600 ft at parking area. The goal of the tour is to botanize and is not a test of endurance or climbing skills

- Group Size and Price: The tour price is based on 20-25 participants. If there are fewer than 20 participants, NARGS may need to cancel the tour or increase the price.

Registration for the tour will be handled directly by NARGS and will open concurrently with registration for the AGM. Registration will open on January 31. Go to www.nargs.org and check under "Latest News" to register



LITHOPS IN HABITAT AND CULTIVATION



Lithops In Habitat and Cultivation
By Roy A. Earle and Janice Round
Artwork by Janet Snyman
Self-Published, July 2021

This magnum opus treatment of the genus *Lithops* recognizes 40 species and 48 subspecies and varieties in colonies occurring in South Africa, Namibia, and just into the southeast of Botswana. In addition, dozens of cultivars and hybrids are described with color photos of each. All of the *Lithops* taxa are illustrated with at least one color habitat photo and most with a color cultivation photo as well, combined with detailed descriptions

of each habitat. Janet Snyman's superb watercolor illustrations of each species appear on the opening page of each species' treatment. The layout is inviting, with clear and concise writing and easy-to-read fonts. The presentation of the photos, botanical illustrations, distribution maps, and other figures is of the highest quality with errors and typos at a minimum.

Andrew Young, a contributor to the book, produced clear and very useful distribution maps of each taxon as well as a combined map of South Africa and Namibia showing the entirety of *Lithops* distribution. Maps showing additional towns that correlate to field collection numbers would be even more useful as would maps showing overlapping *Lithops* species. *Lithops* occur in both the winter and summer rainfall areas, and in some of the coldest regions of South Africa.

In addition to *Lithops*, several dozen companion succulents have detailed descriptions and photos. Also, a bonus for those interested in growing *Lithops* outdoors in cold climates or unheated greenhouses

or cold frames, there is information that several species of *Lithops* (including *L. salicola*, *L. lesliei* and *L. verruculosa*) grow amidst known cold-tolerant plants including *Aloinopsis*, *Cheiridopsis*, *Ruschia*, and at least one *Euphorbia* species, many of which will thrive in Denver area microclimates, surviving temperatures to -10°F (-12°C) with no snow cover or frost cloth. These cold-tolerant succulent companions are pictured and described with the specific *Lithops* taxa that grow alongside them.

Incorporating the latest scientific and hobby literature, this book is indispensable to any beginning or advanced grower who wants up-to-date information. A list of sources referenced is at the end of each chapter, appendix, and species description. Extensive, detailed information is included for growing *Lithops* from seed and for dealing with pests, such as mealybugs and mites. Relevant geology, climate change perspectives, new colony discoveries and expansions, electron microscopy of each taxon's seed, comprehensive photos and descriptions of companion succulents, and a similar treatment of an extensive *Lithops* cultivar list greatly build upon earlier authors' commendable efforts

The authors detail initial restoration efforts with some *Lithops* species in Namibia, a cooperative effort with the Lithops Research and Conservation Foundation. Some progress has been made restoring lithops to colonies previously degraded by early 1900s botanists but much more experimental work remains on what will be a multi-generational effort to determine the best methods.

In sum, there is nothing to dislike in this book and much to praise. This treatment sets a new standard for evaluating any important succulent genus. A new appreciation of lithops awaits beginner and advanced growers and students of lithops. The decades of productive field, laboratory, and cultivation research encompassed by this volume make it a tour de force and a standard reference for personal and library collections. Please treat yourself to this treasure.

The book is only available from Roy A. Earle and sells for 49.95 pounds plus shipping; shipping discounts may be available for orders of 8 or more books at one time. Roy's email is: safaris.namibia@yahoo.co.uk

Rod Haenni (Thanks to both Tim Harvey and Steve Brack for helpful comments that improved this review).



Bulletin Board

winter
2021/22

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President's Message: Winter 2021/22

This time of year, gardeners are of two minds. We have likely nestled last year's garden to bed, and we are perhaps sorting and labelling images we took over the last twelve months. Late fall is a time of reckoning and reflection. But the NARGS seedlist is forthcoming, if not already arrived—and there are still two webinars to enjoy: on January 15 and February 19. We are all starting to plan and plot more and more for the coming year (the tsunami of seed catalogs will soon be cresting!), deciding what all we plan to grow, what new projects to take on, and where we might not venture forth. It's probably not too early to sign up for the Annual General Meeting in Ithaca, New York, since there are only 150 spaces reserved for us. Thanks to our Webmaster, we will undoubtedly have the presentations taped so all members can enjoy them virtually. But there's no way to tape or pass on the camaraderie and fellowship of a gathering like this.

Several tours will be in the offing in 2022: a valuable opportunity to see rock garden plants in the wild, as well as utterly novel gardens. It is my fervent hope that COVID-19 will have retreated to a point where we can all contemplate these social gatherings without fear. Would that we could peer into a crystal ball and know what the future holds!

When one assumes a new responsibility, such as becoming president of a North American club like NARGS, you inevitably have certain goals and aspirations. Perhaps this is a place for me to share a few of mine?

My first hope is that we can bring awareness and appreciation of rock gardening to a wide audience. Not only tiny alpins, but all the colorful denizens of hills, ponds, woods, meadows, bogs, deserts, and steppes of North America and beyond, because NARGS encompasses all of these and more! It is my conviction that few pastimes provide greater rewards. The Administrative Committee, Board, and staff of NARGS are busy exploring many ways we can do this—and I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

I am determined that NARGS will serve our many chapters even more than we have in the past: I've undertaken to write short essays that most chapters have been publishing that highlight special plants and programs offered by NARGS. We provide visiting speakers, surplus seed, and other "perks" to Chapters—and I know that chapters have done a great job of educating and promoting NARGS to their local members. We can do more!

We plan to update publications like the Beginner's Handbook, and have an up-to-date and enchanting membership brochure to share with likely prospects. Let's seek out like-minded keen gardeners in our sister clubs specializing in succulents, irises, bulbs, perennials, and especially Master Gardener programs (how can you call yourself a Master Gardener if you haven't mastered rock gardening?).

Sarah Strickler, our new NARGS Secretary has begun to gather information about public rock gardens across North America to be published on our website: I have a hunch we'll be surprised at how many of these there are. I know that crevice gardens are being built in parks and botanic gardens across North America—and a landmark publication about these is due to be published this coming summer: we're negotiating with the English publisher's distributor to see if we can provide advance orders (at a discount) to our chapters—thereby expanding the offerings of our Bookstore.

The last initiative that's in the works is to explore, delineate, and publicize the role that rock gardening has taken in preserving plants. Most serious gardeners are aware that *Franklinia altamaha* is extinct in the wild, but thriving in gardens around the world. Similarly, *Tulipa sprengeri* (the last tulip to bloom and one of the best) has not been found in the wild again since it was introduced a century ago, but thrives in hundreds of NARGS members gardens. I know that our membership is deeply committed to conservation—let's celebrate this facet of our work!

I have a special note of thanks to our editor: In November, I was in Louisville, Kentucky, giving two presentations. The director of a nearby botanical garden complimented the *Rock Garden Quarterly* with high praise: "Surely I can't think of another publication in North America that can begin to compare to it." If you've read this far, I suspect you'll agree! Thank you, Joseph!

Panayoti Kelaidis

North American Rock Garden Society
2021 Year-End Report
December 2021

A Look Back to 2021 and Look Forward to 2022

Rock gardeners possess a sort of magic wand in our art that has guided and perhaps protected us through the COVID-19 era of the last two years (and counting). Our gardens, troughs, and seed pots (not to mention our fellow gardeners) have provided a haven from the plague that those who aren't so connected to Nature may not have. Those of us who love to travel found time to catch up on neglected chores at home, and through the mixed blessing of Zoom, have found powerful new ways to connect and communicate with friends near and far. NARGS had the temerity to even schedule a LIVE annual meeting ("Edge of the Rockies") last August in Durango, Colorado, with over 200 participants and local volunteers that was a resounding success.

Despite COVID-19, the year 2021 has so far been a good financial year for NARGS; however, we will still be dependent on membership renewals and year-end donations to cover our expenses for the remainder of 2021 to get 2022 started. The Crevices and Woodlanders study days were great successes and brought us new members and additional funding. Continued postponement of the Traveling Speakers Tour cut our expected expenses. Postponement of the members' Tours and Adventures program for 2021 because of COVID-19 has, however, left a financial hole as the year closes. We intend to return to both activities—in much the same fashion—as soon as feasible. Whether we can regain some of our tour revenue in 2022 remains uncertain.

There were no NARGS tours in 2021 due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19. However, there are three tours planned in 2022, organized by David White (North Carolina). These include a three-day tour of the Adirondacks in upstate New York, a twelve-day tour of the Bernese Oberland region of the Swiss Alps (currently full), and a seventeen-day tour of Argentine Patagonia. The Adirondacks tour is scheduled for June 12 - 14 (immediately before the Annual General Meeting in Ithaca) and will open for registration at the same time as registration for the AGM, planned in January. Registration is currently open for the Argentina tour, which is scheduled for November 28 – December 14, 2022. If you would like more information about these tours, have suggestions for future tours, or would like to join the Tours and Adventures Committee, send an email to nargstours@gmail.com.

The Traveling Speakers Program will emerge from pandemic-induced dormancy in 2022, starting with talks planned from the spring through the fall 2022. The program is funded by an anonymous, generous donor and headed by Rosemary Monahan (Massachusetts). Our website and the Quarterly will contain details of the 2022 program. Or check with your local chapter leadership for speakers in your area.

Preparation for the 2021 - 2022 Seed Exchange has been going on for the past few months, led by Laura Serowicz (Michigan), Joyce Fingerut (Connecticut), and the many chapter members who volunteer to sort, pack, and mail the seeds that you order. Under the duress of the COVID-19 restrictions, the Siskiyou Chapter (Oregon) and the Great Lakes Chapter (Michigan) volunteers safely handled a total of 824 orders (an increase over last year's 771) for the 2020 - 2021 Seed Exchange. After which, thirty chapters received a portion of the remaining seed to share among all their chapter members, as well as some community groups. After months of preparation, the 2021-2022 Seed Exchange is now in progress with Main Round ordering beginning December 15th. The Delaware Valley Chapter has stepped up and volunteered to handle the Main Distribution for the next two years, and the Great Lakes will do the Surplus Round once again. We are very grateful to all the seed donors and chapter members and volunteers who have made the Seed Exchange the successful asset that draws in new members each year.

Looking ahead to 2022, the Adirondack Chapter is hosting the NARGS annual meeting in Ithaca, New York, on the campus of Cornell University (June 14 – 16) and spearheaded by Carol Eichler (New York). The conference is titled "Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration." Information has been published in the Rock Garden Quarterly with registration opening in January 2022.

As we move into volume 80 of the Rock Garden Quarterly, our editor, Joseph Tychonievich (Indiana) is excited that the journal is still evolving and growing. As you will see in the January (winter) 2022 issue, Matt Mattus (Massachusetts) and Joseph have finished a redesign of the look of the Quarterly's cover and pages, and there are new projects in the works. The summer 2022 issue is going to be a special extra-length issue focused on the basics of rock gardening for beginners to serve as a tool to introduce this wonderful form of gardening to new growers. That is, this will be a new "Beginners" handbook.

Our past president (and current webmaster) Elisabeth Zander (Connecticut) inaugurated the first Winter Webinars (virtual conferences) via Zoom that have garnered a tremendous international audience. The conference recordings will remain on the website for ticket holders to view at their leisure. Gradually after two years, they will all be free for the entire membership. Some talks, like those from the Durango 2021 Annual General Meeting, are currently free now to all members. Have you checked them out yet? We thank all those panelists who made these programs possible. And we plan to present two more virtual conferences this winter 2022: January 15 (succulent plants) and February 19 (meadows). They may be viewed live but will be recorded for later viewing.

The NARGS website is in the midst of a complicated software upgrade from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9, a website content management system. In addition to publishing the Rock Garden Quarterly on the website, we have

added custom programming for our Tours and Adventures and also tapes of our virtual conferences. We anticipate easier future access to these events on our website.

Your Continued Financial Support is Appreciated

Each year many of us have watched as this or that magical woodlot where we once marveled at the trilliums or trout lilies transform into another subdivision. Our gardens are a haven for forms of all manner of choice plants, even whole species that may no longer be found in the wild. Gardens become an anthology of plants one cannot live without—and for many of us our fellow gardeners we meet at chapter meetings or at Study Weekends and Annual meetings become as precious. These are a sort of family gathering—a family that one picks rather than one you happen to be born into! We believe the extended family of NARGS, with your help, will embrace new generations of gardeners who will be committed to preserving Nature in the wild, and cherishing her wildlings in our home gardens. Your year-end gift will accelerate this vision and help it come about. Should you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with us via our CONTACT form located top right on our home page, www.nargs.org

Under the pandemic relief program (CARES Act), U.S. taxpayers can deduct up to \$300 and those filing “married filing jointly” up to \$600 given to a nonprofit organization and take the standard deduction as well. NARGS is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Taxpayers who donate up to \$300 or \$600, as appropriate, now can typically deduct that amount in addition to taking the standard deduction. Individual taxpayers are eligible for their cash only (credit card, check) donations in the spring when they file their return for 2021. Consult your tax professional for further details. Act now before the year closes. Help us balance our budget. This deduction may not be around for 2022.

Your continuing individual membership helps support the seed exchange, annual meetings and study weekends, traveling speakers, and our publication, *The Rock Garden Quarterly*. However, your membership dues don't fully cover these activities that you value. We hope you will make a donation on-line on the NARGS Web site at www.nargs.org and click on the “\$Donate” button, about mid-way down on the left side. You may donate on-line using your credit card or your PayPal account. Or you may donate by check in U.S. funds (payable to NARGS) or by mailing credit card information to: NARGS, POB 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604 USA.

Thank you for helping NARGS remain a champion of the North American gardening community.

Respectfully,

Panayoti Kelaidis (President), NARGS Officers, and Board of Directors

A photograph of two women in blue jackets looking at plants in a greenhouse. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is looking down at a plant. The woman on the right has dark hair and glasses and is also looking down at a plant. They are standing in a greenhouse with a glass and metal structure. There are various plants and flowers visible, including purple flowers in the foreground.

*Help NARGS
and new rock gardeners
grow.*

**Give a gift membership to
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and introduce someone to a world of
passionate gardeners.
Give access to the seed exchange, *Rock Garden
Quarterly*, tours and adventures, meetings and
study weekends.**

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Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

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Individual \$40 \$45

Student \$15 \$15

Mail with check payable to the North American Rock Garden Society to P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604

Or visit nargs.org/join

New and Rejoining Members

*Welcome to all those who joined or rejoined between
August 23 and November 7, 2021*

Anthony, Susan Leigh, Scituate, WA
Beutler, Margaret, Sherman, CT
Block, Ed, Prairie du Chien, WI
Bosshard, Kenneth, Layton, UT
Brey, Jess, Bronx, NY
Cohen, Jacki, Royal Oak, MI
Crosbie, Colin, Dumfries, UK
Culp, David L., Downingtown, PA
Culpepper, Anthony, Durango, CO
Duplessis, Bruce, Calgary, AB, Canada
Elkins, Judith, Prineville, OR
Fillion, Jacob, Durango, CO
Fox, Cheryl B., Bloomfield, CT
Freeman, Dawn, Harleysville, PA
Ganley, Joan, Calgary, AB, Canada
Grigg, Marlene, Bedford, NS, Canada
Gunn, Graham, Edinburgh, UK
Hillier, Paul, NF, Canada
Howard, Lawrence, Durham, NC
Jones, Cynthia, Lacey, WA
Jones, Kelly, Shoreline, WA
Lancaster, Rebecca, Halifax, NS,
Canada
Linke, Elizabeth, Eagle, CO
Marquardt, Kay, Fort Collins, CO
McEnhill, Ali, Rhinebeck, NY
McGrath, Antonia, NF, Canada
Mermuys, Dries, Chapel Hill, NC
Napper, Joanne, Denver, CO
Parish, Ivy, Silverthorne, CO
Patel, Parul, Ellicott City, MD
Patti, Joseph, Norristown, PA
Pavlik, Mary-Jo, North York, ON,
Canada
Perham, Marilou, Huntington, NY
Perkins, Sally, Salem, NH
Peterson, Richard, Poulsbo, WA
Plant, Marilyn, Vancouver, BC,
Canada
Pogust, Daniel, Portland, OR
Pooke, Diana, Norval, ON, Canada
Reiten, Eli Marie (Norway)
Repetti, Peter, Durham, NC
Rosenblum, Marc, Falls City, OR
Rude, C. Elaine, Calgary, AB, Canada
Schueler, Matthew, Altamont, NY
Scott, Peter & Cynthia, Boulder, CO
Selwyn-Smith, Rose, Lower Onslow,
NS, Canada
Steele, Mike, Aztec, NM
Swinford, Ann, Ann Arbor, MI
Tsinigine, Adriano, K., Tuba City, AZ
Vanchiswar, Shoba, Chappaqua, NY
Vore, Jan de, Fort Collins, CO
Wallace, Mary, Blanco, TX
Walters, Lynn, Santa Fe, NM
Wegner, Michael, Black Mountain,
NC
Yahres, Erin Anne van, Paoli, PA

NARGS Donations

Donations to NARGS between August 1 and October 31, 2021.

To support the General Fund, Seed Exchange, *Rock Garden Quarterly*, in honor of Dan Johnson, and in memory of Billie Jean Isbell.

Adirondack Chapter of NARGS

Adams, Robert (Indiana)	Lockhart, Bruce (Massachusetts)
Adelman, Elizabeth (Wisconsin)	McMaster, Donna (Ontario)
Boulby, Christine (United Kingdom)	Moscetti, Paula J. (New Jersey)
Brown, Alison (Maine)	Moyer, Jane A. (New Jersey)
Brunjes, Diane (Colorado)	Norris, Peter (Massachusetts)
Church, Clara A. (California)	Parish, Ivy (Colorado)
Clark, Susan (Massachusetts)	Petersen, Alan (Arizona)
Darling, Eric (Massachusetts)	Repetti, Peter (North Carolina)
Dumont, Judith (New York)	Richardson, Kathleen L. (Washington)
Dussler, Barbara (Germany)	Rieder, Corina (California)
Eichler, Carol (New York)	Rittner, Irene (Maine)
Eterno, Becky (Colorado)	Rogers, Beverly (Virginia)
Evanetz, Susanne (British Columbia)	Scharf, Barb (British Columbia)
Feitler, Maryanna (Indiana)	Shepard, Cecile (California)
Fillion, Jacob (Colorado)	Straub, Peter S. (California)
Fluet, Amy (Wyoming)	Swanberg, Joan (Virginia)
Goldman, Doris (Pennsylvania)	Sworden, Kathleen (Ohio)
Grenfell, Elizabeth (Virginia)	Toit, Helen du (Massachusetts)
Hamel, Anita (Maryland)	Vaxvick, Linda L. (Alberta)
Houdek, Robert (Ohio)	Wagner, Jeff (Colorado)
Levy, Sterling (Nova Scotia)	Ward, Bobby (North Carolina)
	Wollenberg, L. J. W. "Bert" van den (Netherlands)

Norman Singer Endowment Applications Due March 1, 2022

NARGS expects to award grants in 2022 to one or more projects that advance the art and science of rock gardening. Guidelines for submittal of applications and selection of projects, as well as the application form, are posted online. The deadline for submittal of applications is March 1, 2022. Grant recipients will be announced in June at the NARGS annual meeting in Ithaca, New York.

SEED EXCHANGE

Many thanks to the many donors who contributed seeds to this season's Exchange – there would be no seedex without your help. And we greatly appreciate the many volunteers who divided those donated seeds into all the little packets, so that more members could enjoy the bounty.

We warmly thank the Delaware Valley and Great Lakes chapters for handling the fulfillment of our seed orders (Main and Surplus rounds, respectively). The distribution phases of the Seed Exchange require a great deal of planning and careful work on the part of the coordinators and the many volunteers, and we are very grateful that they are all willing to take on these responsibilities.

It may not be too late for you to place an order, even in the Main Distribution, since orders will be accepted until January 31. Of course, you can also request seeds during the Surplus Round, from March 1 - 21.

Then, if you still haven't fully fed your seed needs, encourage your chapter Chair to respond to my email in early March, in order to receive a portion of the remaining seeds, free of charge, for your group to share among members and community (scouts, schools, public gardens).

Members living in Japan, the UK, and countries in the EU can place an order only from the Main Distribution, as NARGS will need to obtain phytosanitary certificates for the seeds entering your countries. We appreciate the help of the Consignees in each of those countries, who have been willing to accept the bulk shipments and re-mail them to individual members. These orders will ship in February, after the seeds have been inspected and the necessary phytosanitary certificates issued.

We do remind all our members that you must request only those seeds that are permitted to be imported into your country. We cannot be responsible for checking each order against national regulations and lists of approved plants/seeds and cannot refill any orders that are denied entry.

If you plan to place an order from our website, please be sure that our Executive Secretary, Bobby Ward, has your most current email address, so that the electronic ordering system can recognize you as an active member.

If you need a print copy of the Seedlist and order form, contact me immediately:

Joyce Fingerut
537 Taugwonk Road
Stonington, CT 06378-1805
U.S.A.

1-860-535-3067

I hope you've been enjoying all those new garden beds that you added during the past two years of restricted travel. Which means that if there was ever a need for seedlings, it's now! Winter is the time for hazy dreaming and hard planning. Among your new year's plans and resolutions, think about the seeds from your own gardens – on plants perhaps grown from our seedex seeds – that you can contribute to next season's Exchange.

The following recently became NARGS Patrons:

Beelman, Clare (Montana)
Berlin, Marc (Maine)
Bosshard, Kenneth (Utah)
Cromwell, Cynthia (North Carolina)
Gluek, Nancy K. (Massachusetts)
Jaynes, Craig (Ohio)
Johnson, Ozzie (Georgia)
Krementz-Bigliani, Majella (New Jersey)
Lofgren, Aaron (Minnesota)
Pulman, David (Georgia)
Smedley, Mike (Colorado)

NARGS Awards Nominations Due April 1, 2022

Nominations are due to Cyndy Cromwell, chair of the Awards Committee, by April 1, 2022. Send electronic nominations only, please. Email to: Cyndy ; AND to the other members of the Awards Committee: Don LaFond, Florene Carney, Rosemary Monahan, and Mark McDonough.

Awards will be announced in June at the NARGS annual meeting in Ithaca, New York.

Award of Merit: Established in 1965, this award is given to persons who have made outstanding contributions to rock and alpine gardening and to the North American Rock Garden Society. In addition, the recipients will be people of demonstrated plantsmanship. The recipient must be an active member of the Society.

Marcel Le Piniec Award: Established in 1969, this award is given to a nursery person, propagator, hybridizer, or plant explorer who is currently actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners. This may be a joint award if two people have worked closely together. The recipient need not be a member of NARGS.

Edgar T. Wherry Award: Established in 1973, this award is given from time to time to a person who has made an outstanding contribution in the dissemination of botanical and/or horticultural information about native North American plants. The works must be scientifically sound, but may be written for popular readership and do not have to be specifically about rock garden plants. Generally, the award recognizes a body of work or a lifetime of literary effort rather than a single work (see the Carleton R. Worth Award). The recipient does not have to be a member of the Society.

Carleton R. Worth Award: Established in 1985, this award is given to an author of distinguished writings about rock gardening and rock garden plants in a book or in magazine articles. The Award may also be based on an Editor's body of work for a Chapter Newsletter. The recipient does not have to be a member of the Society.

Marvin E. Black Award: Established in 1990, this award is given to a member of the Society who excels at promoting membership in NARGS; organizing study weekends, national, and international meetings. They

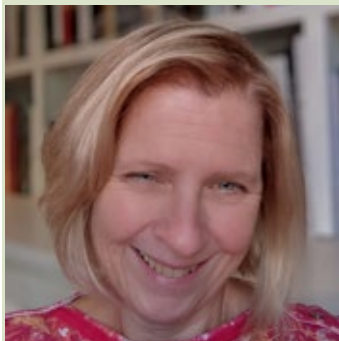
should also be involved in such activities as planning trips to study plants and to meet other plant people. The emphasis shall be placed on a member who has helped other people to reach their potential in the plant world. The recipient must be a member of the Society.

Linc & Timmy Foster Millstream Garden Award: Established in 2006, this award is for an outstanding contribution to the North American Rock Garden Society for creating a superior garden. This is not meant to be a competition, but to recognize members' great gardens across the various styles and regions of the United States and Canada. Since there is such a wide range of possibilities in style and climate regions, it has been decided there needs to be four categories of gardens. They are: the Container Garden, the Alpine Rock Garden, the Woodland Garden and the Special Garden. Any of these gardens must be a private garden to eliminate unfair institutional advantages. This award is meant to reward the creation of gardens, which meet a wide standard set by the North American Rock Garden Society, and reflects well on that society. The Millstream award should be submitted with a short one-page essay (300-500 words--that can be published in the *Rock Garden Quarterly*) with 3-7 images (preferably sent at 1 MB, but with higher resolution backup available if the garden is to be featured in the *Quarterly*). The recipient must be a member of the Society.

Frank Cabot Public Garden Award: Established in 2018 this award is given to a public garden that excels in furthering the purpose of the North American Rock Garden Society in promoting the construction and design of rock gardens; the cultivation, conservation, and knowledge of rock garden plants and their geographical distribution; and the public outreach through plant exploration and introduction of new garden-worthy species. The award is limited to great public gardens in the United States and Canada that meet high standards in the creation of public rock gardens. Since there is such a wide range of possibilities in climate and geographic regions, there are four categories of public gardens that may be considered for the award. They are: the Container Garden, the Alpine Rock Garden, the Woodland Garden, and the Special Garden. The Frank Cabot Public Garden Award should be submitted with a short one-page essay (300-500 words--that can be published in the *Rock Garden Quarterly*) with 3-7 images (preferably sent at 1 MB, but with higher resolution backup available if the garden is to be featured in the *Quarterly*).

NARGS 2022 Nominations for Online Election May 2 through May 15, 2022

Recommended by the NARGS Nominating Committee, consisting of Ed Glover, chair; Mike Bone, Brendan Kenney, Terry Laskiewicz, Tony Reznicek, Sarah Strickler, and Bobby Ward.



Nominated for Director: Cyndy Cromwell (North Carolina):

“Horticulture has always been an important part of my life. Ten years ago, I went from caring for extensive mixed borders in Connecticut, to learning how to garden in the sometimes-challenging conditions of the U.S. Southeast. Crevice rock gardening is now my main interest

in the home garden. I am chair of the Piedmont Chapter of NARGS and this has been a wonderful resource, allowing me the opportunity to learn from wonderful speakers from all over the world, as well as knowledgeable fellow members. The NARGS travel program has allowed me to botanize in amazing locations with some of the world's best plant people. NARGS is truly an outstanding horticultural organization, and I would be honored to serve another term as a Board member.” [Cyndy is currently serving as a member of the NARGS Board of Directors and is eligible to be re-elected to a second three-year term. She is Southeast and Middle Atlantic coordinator for the NARGS Traveling Speakers Program and is chair of the NARGS Awards Committee.]

Nominated for Director: Christine Ebrahimi (Oregon): “I am a botanist and Oregonian, who has spent years trying to grow difficult alpine plants in the impossibly wet Oregon weather. As a member of NARGS (Columbia-Willamette and Siskiyou chapters) for almost 30 years, I have held numerous board positions, organized field trips, presented talks on rock

gardening or travel adventures, and attended study weekends and national meetings. Rock gardening is my passion - be it in a trough, rockery, or sand bed. I love propagating and growing plants. I would enjoy providing input from the western chapters in helping to guide the future of this wonderful organization we all love!"



Nominated for Director: Kiamara Ludwig (California): "Kiamara is a skilled grower and gardener with experience in many specialized plant groups: geophytes, ferns, alpines and alpine-like plants, succulents, and bryophytes. Ms. Ludwig was one of the primary instigators in starting the Bryophyte Chapter of the California

Native Plant Society (CNPS). She, and a small cadre of dedicated grower-gardeners, have recently rejuvenated the Western Chapter of NARGS. In 2020, she completed her four-year term as an Interpretive Student Aide at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in the Berkeley Hills, where she continues with her main interest in plant propagation. While a long-time member of NARGS, she has until recently focused primarily on propagating plants for the rock garden group at the San Francisco Botanical Garden and for private clients allowing her to install rock gardens. With the new display gardens at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden and the Gardens at Lake Merritt (Oakland), she has decided to take a more public role. That combined with her term on the CNPS Bryophyte Chapter board ending, it seems a perfect time for her to join the NARGS group as a board member."

NARGS 2022 From-the-Floor Nominations Election of Three Board Members

The names of those proposed by the Nominating Committee can be viewed on the NARGS website <www.nargs.org> and in this issue of the *Quarterly*. There is now opportunity for members to nominate FROM THE FLOOR no later than January 31, 2022. The combined list of candidates will be published on the NARGS website by April 1 and in the spring 2022 *Quarterly* (dispatched no later than the end of March 2022).

Online election will be held Monday, May 2 through Sunday, May 15, 2022. All active members will be mailed a link shortly before the election opens. Your email address will admit you. If you are a member and have never verified your email address, please do so as soon as possible. You may contact Bobby Ward (nargs@nc.rr.com) for help. The www.nargs.org website also will have a notice when voting begins.

A from-the-floor nomination for board members may be emailed to Ed Glover, Nominating Committee Chair, no later than January 31, 2022.

The Nomination must include:

1. Name, chapter (if applicable), email address, and position for which each person is nominated. (The nominee must be a member of NARGS).
2. Bio of the nominee (approximately 100 words or less, written by the nominee)
3. Picture of nominee (shoulder length)
4. Note of acceptance from (new) nominee indicating a willingness to be NARGS director (three-year term), if elected.

All nominations and required nominee information must be received by January 31, 2022.

Save The Date: Virtual Study Days Via Zoom

January 15, 2022

NARGS Rocks: Succulents on the Rocks

Host: Rod Haenni

Speakers: Lori Chips, Jay Akerley, Vince Russo, Amanda Bennett,
Kiamara Ludwig, and Rod Haenni

February 19, 2022

NARGS Rocks: Rock Gardening Does Meadows

Host: Kenton Seth

Upcoming NARGS Meetings:

Ithaca, New York, June 14 - 17, 2022

Nova Scotia, Canada, 2023

Book of the Month

Do you like to read about rock gardening and horticultural subjects? Please share your useful insights with other members and get a free review copy of the book for your efforts. Reviewers are always sought for the NARGS website Book-of-the-Month feature. In return for submitting a 300-400-word review of the book of your choice, the book will be sent to you free of charge. Select your own title for review or suggestions can be provided.

Please contact Steve Whitesell at elysium214@aol.com for more information.

NARGS Traveling Speakers Program

The Regional Chairs of our Traveling Speakers Program are working on plans to bring speakers from abroad and across North America to chapters in 2022, assuming the state of the pandemic allows this travel. We will post information about speaker schedules on the NARGS website and in the *Quarterly* as plans develop. Stay tuned for details from regions as they are available.

---Rosemary Monahan, chair Traveling Speakers Program

NARGS Patagonia Tours in 2022

The NARGS Tours and Adventures Committee has planned two tours to the Patagonia region of Argentina in 2022. The 12-day main tour is scheduled for November 28 – December 9, 2022, and will start in the Northern Lakes District of Patagonia, travel north through alpine and forest venues, and then to the grasslands and semi-desert at the northern end of Patagonia. Immediately after is a 5-day extension on December 10 – 14, 2022, to the area around El Calafate in the Southern Lakes District. The timing of each tour was selected to coincide with expected bloom times. Well-known botanist and author Marcela Ferreyra will guide both tours. If you would like to receive a more detailed itinerary and registration information, send an email to nargstours@gmail.com.

We have learned of the death of the following NARGS members:

Jan Dobak (Columbia-Willamette Chapter)

Joerg Leiss, Listowel, Ontario

Richard “Dick” Rosenberg, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

NARGS Service Awards

Diana Pooke (Ontario Chapter)

Diana and Bill Pooke garden in Norval, Ontario, near the Credit River and the Niagara Escarpment. Their garden is in the ever-diminishing countryside, with a rockery, pond, perennials, and ornamental grasses. Diana collects unusual and rare plants, many of which she has grown from seed. Diana joined the Ontario Chapter in 2001. In 2005, she became co-editor of our Journal with Belinda Gallagher and then in 2010 with Barb Lee.

She took copious notes at meetings and wrote up reports so we have records of the speakers' presentations, from "Small Hostas for Small Gardens" to "Twenty-Five Years on a Sand Dune." She also wrote over ten articles, including "Seedpods in the Winter," "Appreciating and Protecting the Pollinators," and "Confessions of a Seed-Saver." Her contributions to our chapter's seed exchange are always interesting. Diana has talked to us and other groups on a diverse range of topics: Ornamental Grasses, Thugs in the Garden, Seed Saving, Growing from Seed, and many more. She is a long-standing Master Gardener and belongs to several horticultural societies. She helped in creating the Lucy Maud Montgomery (Anne of Green Gables) Heritage Garden in Norval, which has a splendid Children's Garden. Diana is an asset to our society and to horticulture. (Written by Anna Leggatt)

Sherill Allard (Ontario Chapter)

Sherill joined our NARGS chapter in 2012 and became a member of the website committee in 2018. As it became apparent that the old website was failing, Sherill advised us on a replacement. From the beginning, it was evident that Sherill was a valuable committee member who had a working knowledge of the complexity of websites. Sherill encouraged the website committee to adopt Joomla as the content management system for the new website. Sherill then volunteered to learn Joomla and to develop the website for the Ontario Chapter. This involved countless hours of studying, experimenting, revising, and testing the website's design. Her persistence throughout this frustrating and demanding period was remarkable. With the completion of the basic website, including an on-line payment system, Sherill opened the new website to the public just in time for last year's chapter's Seedex. Since then, she has patiently helped other members learn how to post information and worked through the inevitable troubleshooting associated with a new website. The cost of designing and developing a Joomla website is \$5,000 minimum and Joomla beginner courses start at \$199. Sherill has done this as a volunteer! (Written by Carol Clark)



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www.americanprimrosesociety.org

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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.

The Board of Directors of NARGS consists of the four above-named officers, the immediate past president of NARGS, and nine elected directors.

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.

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