

# Quarterly

NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

VOL 80 ISSUE 4

FALL 2022



# CONTRIBUTORS

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

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**Front cover:** *Geum triflorum* seed heads.  
**Photo by** Rosemary Glos

# FROM THE EDITOR

I'M EXCITED TO start of this issue of the *Quarterly* with a visit to Rosemary Glos's beautiful rock garden. Rosemary recently moved to Michigan for graduate school, but this article showcases the incredible garden she's created on her parents' property in Upstate New York. She cultivates a range of gorgeous plants, and it is exciting to watch a gardener who got hooked on alpiners in high school continuing to thrive and make a beautiful space.

Next up is a brief interview with rock gardening legend Esther Benedict. If you've attended any AGMs within driving range of her home base in Indiana, you've seen – and probably purchased – some of her gorgeous plants. It was fun to be able to ask her some questions and learn a little about how she got into rock gardening, as well as steal some tips on how she gets so many beautiful things to thrive in a climate far, far from the mountains.

Moving from inspiring private rock gardens to a public one, we have a tour through the growth and development of the rock gardens at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, the site of the next NARGS AGM in June, 2023. The gardens look beautiful, and it is wonderful to see the way university students and the local community have gotten so deeply involved in creating and maintaining these spaces.

The next two articles are the blossoming of seeds sown by NARGS funding. NARGS grants help fund rock gardening projects all across North America, and these two articles show just what that money helps create. It is amazing how a little seed money can germinate into beautiful and educational garden spaces.

To wrap things up, we've got a recap of the recent AGM in Ithaca, New York. And if those beautiful photos make you kick yourself for missing that fantastic event, be sure to flip to the next page where we have a quick early announcement of the not-to-be-missed 2023 AGM.



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ISSN 1081-0765: USPS no. 0072-960

Is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the North American Rock Garden Society,

c/o Bobby Ward, Exec. Sec.  
214 Ashton Hall Lane, Raleigh, NC  
27609-3925

A tax exempt, non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Periodicals postage is paid in Raleigh, NC, and additional offices.

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Joseph Tychonievich  
South Bend, Indiana

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

SPRING ISSUE - February 1  
SUMMER ISSUE - May 1  
FALL ISSUE - August 1  
WINTER ISSUE - November 1

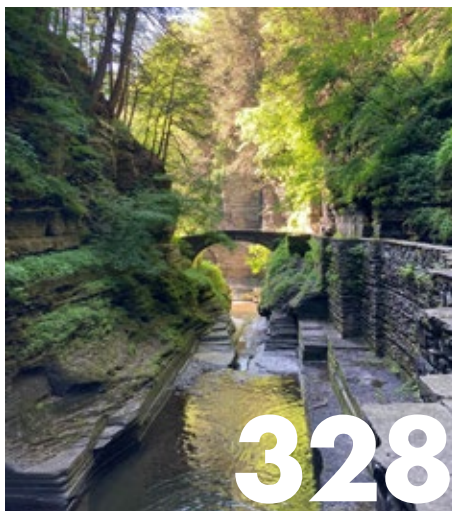
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Annual Dues: US/Canada regular membership \$40, all other countries membership \$45. US/Canada Household membership \$70. Overseas household membership \$75, Patron US/Canada/Overseas \$100, Patron household US/Canada/Overseas household \$150, Student \$15, Institutional membership (defined as herbaria, botanical gardens and institutions of higher learning) \$125.

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# A PLUM PUDDING IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

ROSEMARY GLOS

Sedum was my gateway genus to rock gardening. In high school, I spent a few summers working at a green roof nursery owned by some family friends. Long hours planting and weeding stonecrop-filled modules gave me an appreciation for those hardy, water-wise plants. Planted en masse, they created a glowing tapestry of yellow, pink, white, and green that defied the summer heat and winter cold. I went home with pockets full of cuttings, which Mom allowed me to plant in a rocky section of the flower garden. In 2017, my parents built a small conservatory to overwinter tropical and succulent mother plants. The construction left the front lawn torn up and dotted with piles of gravelly fill. At my parents' suggestion, I jumped at the chance to create rock garden version 2.0.

As it happened, my former employers had just sold the green roof nursery and were looking for a way to unload several large “Super Saks” of green roof media. This blend of expanded shale and compost was the perfect base for the new rock garden. Faced with a patch of lawn approximately 30 by 30 feet (9m x 9m), I drew a rough blueprint with a curved path moving through the square at a diagonal. The bones of the two resulting beds were formed from boulders that had been excavated from our rocky fields over the years. I directed the placement and Dad nudged them into place with a skid steer. The beds are simple mounds of fill covered with expanded shale medium

Opposite: The rock garden then and now.



The sand bed

and dotted with rocks – “plum puddings” à la Farrer, though I use the term affectionately! Smaller rocks are piled and stacked along the edges, forming a loose stone wall. In year two, I added another bed along the west side, filling it with the last of the green roof medium. In 2020, the rock garden crept further west with the addition of a sand-filled cold frame built by my dad. It is a wooden structure with a polycarbonate lid that can be propped up in warm weather. It holds about two tons of builder’s sand obtained from a neighbor’s sand and gravel pit. It has proven very useful for overwintering plants that are on the edge of hardiness and/or dislike winter wet. I sink terracotta pots in one half and plant directly in the other. The latest addition to the rock garden has been an assortment of homemade hypertufa troughs. They are displayed at the edge of the rock garden in summer and overwintered in an unheated greenhouse.

### **Climate and Plant Selection**

Our farm in Berkshire, New York, is on a west-facing hill in a chilly valley microclimate. We experience lows of -20°F (-29°C) in the winter (USDA zone 5A) and highs in the high 90s F (mid 30s C) in the summer. If we’re lucky, we have consistent snow cover throughout the winter, but it is not uncommon to go through a few freeze-thaw cycles that wreak havoc on



finicky alpines. I generally do not water the main garden, except occasionally during the increasingly frequent summer droughts. As a result, anything that gets planted must be tough! The expanded shale medium is fast-draining and low in nutrients. Some parts are very shallow (especially near the edges) and others have up to 3 feet (0.9 m) of shale and fill. The garden is bordered by forest to the east and the house to the north. It starts getting light when the sun creeps over the trees and stays in full sun for the remainder of the day. Since I start many plants from seed, I can plant individuals of a species in many places throughout the garden and see where they thrive. Climate change has made gardening (and farming) much more unpredictable, and some plants are surviving the winters that wouldn't have made it only decades ago.

As of my last count, the rock garden contains approximately 260 species and cultivars. Many have been started from seed, mainly from the NARGS seed exchange, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America seed depot, saved seed, various companies, and indices semina. My mother is very tolerant of all the “weird” plants I sneak into each round of spring seed starting on the farm. The rock garden wouldn't be half as interesting without her help coddling all those seedlings. Other plant sources include sales held by the local Adirondack Chapter of NARGS, the Ithaca Farmers Market, and an assortment of regional nurseries. And, of course, some of my favorites have been cuttings and divisions from friends' gardens.



Aerial view of the rock garden.

## Labeling

As a botanist and former botanical garden employee, I can't resist trying to keep track of every plant in the garden. My garden is small enough that this endeavor is (almost) feasible. In addition to maintaining a spreadsheet listing the name, location, and source of each plant, I make garden labels using my beloved DymoMite tapewriter. This is a vintage handheld embosser with a myriad of quirks – I know, for example, that it nearly always fails to advance on the letter “T.” Dymo probably makes a new version, but I’m attached to mine. I emboss the plant names on 0.5-inch (1.27 cm) aluminum tape and use a handheld eyelet tool to reinforce a hole at one end. The resulting label gets slid onto a wire stake with a spiral at one end – rolled 1.5 times around a tube of lip balm, to be precise! The resulting labels sit neatly at ground level and stay in place. They start shiny but dull with age. They may mess with some people’s aesthetics (I have been known to pull some if they are interfering with photographs) but they are subtle enough for me. Above all, they do not decompose or fade with age, failing only when I slice them with my clippers or pull them with weeds. Whenever a plant dies, its label goes in the growing “graveyard” stack in hopes that I get that plant again or it reappears.



Tools for making durable, metal plant labels

## Garden Favorites

I could go on and on about plants (there are so many good ones), but here is a smattering that have given me the greatest joy over the past five years, organized roughly by bloom time.

### Perennials

***Crocus ‘Orange Monarch’*** is a charming orange crocus reaches its peak in early April. The flowers are smaller than many other crocus cultivars, but what it lacks in size it makes up for in color and quantity. It is one of the earliest blooms in my garden, preceded only by a few other crocuses and the irises ‘Katherine Hodgkin’ and ‘Harmony’ (also classics!). I originally got mine from K. van Bourgondien in 2018.

***Pulmonaria ‘Blue Ensign’*** is a reliable true-blue lungwort that blooms April to May. I feed this one every couple of weeks when it is at its peak since the expanded shale is a little lean for its taste. My plant was purchased from Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, New York, during their annual plant sale in 2018.



*Crocus ‘Orange Monarch’*



***Iris cristata* ‘Eco Bluebird’** has proven remarkably tough, spreading in one of the driest, shallowest, sunniest parts of the garden. It started as a six-inch (15 cm) clump (purchased from Mostardi Nursery of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, in 2018) and has since expanded to a mat three feet (0.9 m) in diameter. This May, it had hundreds of miniature flowers!

***Cytisus* ‘Lena’** is a non-invasive hybrid of *Cytisus scoparius* and *C. x dallimorei* that produces extraordinary yellow and orange flowers in late May and early June. I picked mine up last year at Petitti’s Garden Center in Strongsville, Ohio.

***Aquilegia viridiflora*** is one is in my top five columbines, and I have a LOT of favorites when it comes to this genus. It has unusual green and chocolate brown flowers and self-seeds lightly. Many of my columbines get mowed down by tiny green caterpillars, but I enjoy them while I can. Other favorites include *A. flabellata* ‘Nana,’ *A. flabellata* ‘Alba’, *A. grahamii*, and *A. vulgaris* ‘Ruby Port’. I try to get a few new ones from the seed exchange every year.

***Gentiana acaulis*** is obvious. Tiny plant, giant true-blue flowers: what’s not to love? Mine was a division from a friend. It didn’t make as many flowers this year as in the past, so I should probably divide it, but I admit I’m scared. I feed it weekly during the growing season. (See photo on the back cover)

***Geum triflorum*** is a wonderful New York native whose chief attractions are the feathery pink fruit. (See the photo on the front cover) They are incomparable waving above the garden at the golden hour. My plants bloom in mid to late May, with the fruits lasting through June and early July. I started mine from wild-collected seed, but they are readily available, including through the NARGS seed exchange.

***Taraxacum pseudoroeseum*** is a dandelion and I love dandelions! *Taraxacum* is an underappreciated genus with some truly wonderful species. The flowerheads on this one start as a yellow and white “fried egg” with the white soon fading to pink. Other great dandelions include *T. faeroense* (yellow flowers and dark red foliage), *T. albidum* (white flowers), *T. leucanthum* (yellow and white flowers), and *T. atrans* (narrow foliage, small white



Top left: *Iris cristata* 'Eco Bluebird' Top right: *Cytisus* 'Lena'  
 Bottom left: *Aquilegia viridiflora* Bottom right: *Taraxacum pseudorozeum*





Top left: *Asphodeline lutea* Top right: *Kniphofia northiae*

Bottom: *Opuntia* 'Mulberry Creek'



flowerheads). Give one a try next time you see one in the seed exchange, just don't forget to make a sign asking well-meaning visitors not to weed out the dandelions.

***Thalictrum alpinum*** is one of the best thalictrums for a trough. This is a tiny plant (no more than a foot/30 cm in flower) with fine foliage and a cloud of flowers. Mine typically bloom in late April and early May. I originally got the seed from the index seminum of the Lodz Botanic Garden in Poland (2020). Other great thalictrums (but much bigger!) are *T. rochebrunianum* (clouds of purple flowers) and *T. flavum* subsp. *glaucum* (masses of pale yellow flowers).

***Asphodeline lutea***, aka king's spear, has been a centerpiece of the garden since the first year. It produces a clump of blue-green rosettes that transform into robust stalks of yellow flowers in early June. Each rosette dies after blooming, but there is a constant supply of pups. I started mine from the 2016-17 NARGS seed exchange.

***Opuntia* 'Mulberry Creek'** is a stunning selection with ombre orange-pink petals that bloom in early July. Hardy prickly pears have been a mainstay of the garden ever since I inherited a bunch of wild-type *Opuntia humifusa* from the green roof nursery. I got my 'Mulberry Creek' at Bristol's Garden Center in Victor, New York, in 2018. Other opuntias that thrive in the garden include *O. polyacantha* 'Crystal Tide' (cream-colored petals with red filaments) and *Opuntia fragilis* (yellow flowers).

***Kniphofia northiae*** is truly the queen of kniphofias! This plant was the cornerstone of the garden from 2017 to 2021. It produced a cluster of huge rosettes reminiscent of an agave or yucca. It finally bloomed in June 2021 (glory!) only to perish the following winter (sadness). I don't know if it exhausted itself flowering or merely succumbed to winter wet, but I miss it dearly. I started mine from the 2016-17 seed exchange but haven't seen it offered since. Contact me if you have seed or know who does!



*Clematis integrifolia*.

***Helianthemum nummularium* ‘Wisley Pink’** is a charming rockrose with glaucous foliage and pastel pink flowers. It put on a real show this June and July, with a new wave of flowers every morning. I shear it lightly after blooming to encourage fresh growth. Mine came from Cayuga Landscape in Ithaca, New York.

***Clematis integrifolia*** is a shrubby clematis that never fails. Every year, it blooms merrily and spectacularly while mom’s large-flowered cultivars succumb to wilt (RIP). The nodding blue flowers start in late May and continue into early July before being replaced by pom-pom fruit. Blue and white forms of this species are commonly available. I also love *Clematis tangutica* ‘Helios’, a yellow-flowered variety that climbs the fence at one edge of the garden.

***Saponaria cypria*** This “saucy soapwort from Cyprus” merited a feature in the *Quarterly* a while back, but I’ll also plug it here. It germinated well for me last spring, so I put several in the garden and they exploded with pink flowers in mid-July. The long flowering stems flop, so they are best appreciated while you lie on the path in early evening. I got my seed from the 2020-21 seed exchange.

*Symphyotrichum ericoides* ‘**Snow Flurry**’ is an aster that forms a weeping mound of white flowerheads in late September. Like most rock gardens, mine peaks in late spring, so I am always looking for good late-season color. I picked mine up at a plant sale at Cutler Botanic Garden in Binghamton, New York.



Top: *Helianthemum nummularium* ‘Wisley Pink’

Bottom: *Symphyotrichum ericoides* ‘Snow Flurry’



## Annuals and other monocarpic plants

*Cleome hirta* is a bushy annual spider flower with sticky foliage and purple flowers with two yellow “eyes.” I generally start it from seed each year because self-sown individuals don’t get very big over our growing season. My seed originally came from the 2018-19 seed exchange and I have been saving my own since.

*Linaria aeruginea* self-seeds abundantly across the garden, bearing flowers in every shade of purple, orange, and yellow throughout the summer. I let it fill in the gaps between rocks, removing it by the handful where it isn’t wanted. It is another gem from the 2018-19 seed exchange.



Top: *Linaria aeruginea*

Bottom: *Anthyllis vulneraria* subsp. *coccinea*

*Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. coccinea* is a weeping biennial legume with brilliant red flowers that peaks in late May. I let it self-seed along the edges of beds, where it spills into the path. Originally from the 2016-17 seed exchange.

*Campanula incurva* takes three years to bloom (and dies after it does) but the floral display is truly over the top. My happiest plants were grown in pots sunk in the covered, sand-filled cold frame. After two years as rosettes, they erupted into mounds with hundreds of large, pale blue bells. This species is regularly available in the seed exchange.

I moved to Michigan last spring for graduate school, leaving the garden in my mother's capable hands. She has kept it beautifully and sends me regular bloom updates. I am deeply grateful to her and my dad for enabling my rock garden habit over the years! I look forward to seeing it evolve and grow.



*Campanula incurva* in the sand bed

# A CONVERSATION WITH ESTHER BENEDICT

INTERVIEWED by JOSEPH TYCHONIEVICH

*Please introduce yourself.*

I live on a small farm in northern Indiana with my husband, Robert. I am a self-taught gardener, gleaning information from books, magazines, trial and error, and many wonderful people who are willing to share their knowledge. Robert and I enjoy seeing plants in their natural habitat, and visiting botanical gardens, nurseries, and private gardens. We belong to the Great Lakes Chapter of NARGS.

*How did you get into gardening in general, and rock gardening in particular?*

I grew up with gardening. Every year, my mom would let each child pick something exotic or fun from the seed catalog. I can remember vegetable spaghetti, peanuts, Indian corn, gourds, cotton, cacti, and giant watermelons. Rock gardening came much later, after marriage and buying a property. While raising a family, the gardening was centered



Esther building a new crevice  
bed in her garden





Top: *Daphne* growing in tufa

Bottom: Esther's garden in the summer



*Physoplexis comosa* in peak bloom.

around veggies and annuals, but then I started branching out into seed starting and perennials. I saw a brief article in a gardening magazine about rock gardening and one of the sources mentioned was Trenoll Nursery near Trenton, Ohio. We visited there and I was introduced to alpins by the owner, Dorothy Parker. I made a sizable purchase and, as we were leaving, Dorothy stuffed a grocery bag in my arms. It was half full of NARGS quarterlies, each full of pictures of incredible plants that I never dreamed existed... I was hooked!

*Many NARGS members will be familiar with you as a vendor at various AGMs. How did you get started with the nursery?*

I enjoy seed starting and propagating and found out I could not only support my hobby but also expand it by turning it into a business. Sometimes it is a fine line between the two.

*You garden in northern Indiana, about as far from mountains as it is possible to be. Can you describe your climate and any challenges to growing alpins in these conditions?*



Describe the climate in Indiana? After a hot, dry summer in 2022, we received 5.5 inches (14 cm) of rain in one hour on the first of August. It's usually one extreme or the other. With well-drained potting mix and sand beds we can deal with the precipitation. It's the hot, humid, weather in the summer and freezing and thawing in January that cause the most damage.

*You grow some pretty amazing plants, but perhaps the most impressive is your incredible *Physoplexis comosa*. What's your secret to getting this beautiful species to thrive?*

I honestly don't know. Getting viable seed is the first hurdle. *Physoplexis* germination is easy with GA<sub>3</sub> and or chilling. Nursing the tiny little plants thru the first year is a challenge. After that, just watch out for slugs. And whatever you do, don't ever brag about blooming it! I did that the year it had 23 flower heads, and ever since it has produced just a measly three or four.

*If you had to pick just five must-have rock garden plants, what would they be?*

Everyone knows how difficult a choice this is, and it changes frequently. Today the favorites would be:

*Gentiana acaulis*, the rock garden classic with huge, blue flowers.

*Soldanella*, a native of European mountains with delicate lavender bells early in the spring.



Left: *Aquilegia scopulorum* Right: *Gentiana acaulis*





*Lewisia cotyledon* 'Regenbogen'

*Aquilegia scopulorum*, one of the dwarf columbines from western North America. It is one of the first alpines I bloomed from seed and still a favorite.

*Lewisia*, the western American succulent with spectacular floral displays.

*Corydalis hamata* is one that I've never grown, but it has been on my 'must get' list ever since I first saw pictures.

*I feel like every rock gardener has a different soil mix that they love. What's yours?*

For seed germinating, I use equal parts calcined clay, perlite, and commercial peat-based germinating mix. I use this for most seeds, even my vegetables. The mix falls off the roots at transplanting time; you can successfully transplant poppies out of it.

For pot growing, we have used several different mixes formulated for green roof plantings. The current one we are using has a large percentage of expanded shale plus a little bark.



Assorted lewisias in a strawberry pot

*And finally, if you could go back in time and visit yourself when you were first starting rock gardening, what advice would you give?*

Drainage, drainage, drainage. I progressed from adding a little sand to my soil to just forgetting the soil and using the sand!

*Thank you Esther!*

*Know a rock gardener you'd like to see interviewed in the Quarterly? Let me know via the [Contact Us](#) page on [NARGS.org](#)*

# EVOLUTION OF A ROCK GARDEN

DARWIN CARR

THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY Bicentennial Botanical Garden is located on the Bible Hill campus of the Faculty of Agriculture about 60 miles (100 km) northeast of the main campus in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The campus grounds encompass 26 acres (10.5 ha) of sweeping lawns, a large collection of trees and shrubs, as well as various feature gardens that are used as a living laboratory for the landscape horticulture and agricultural technical and degree programs offered at the Faculty of Agriculture.

In 2018, Dalhousie University marked its 200th anniversary with a year-long celebration. As part of this celebration, the campus grounds were officially named the Dalhousie University Bicentennial Botanical Garden. Several feature gardens attract visitors and showcase the work of the garden staff and work projects by landscape horticulture classes past and present. The six main feature gardens are the Pollinator Garden, Berlin Wall display, Alumni Gardens, Herb Garden, Rock Garden, and the Limestone Alpine Garden. Other features of interest on the Bible Hill campus are the heath and heather beds and the collection of rhododendrons and azaleas throughout the campus left, to our benefit, by hardiness trials performed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in the '60s and '70s.

The rock garden has been the main drawing feature since it was developed in the early 2000s. This garden began as a project to replace the previous small rock garden which was lost to building upgrades on the adjacent horticulture building. We were very fortunate to have access to Dr. Bernard Jackson, past director of the Memorial University Botanical Garden, as our





The crevice garden

Friends of the Garden coordinator on the campus at the time. He was eager to help rebuild the new rock garden display.

With a generous donation of rock from a local quarry and a small budget provided from the Friends of the Garden for excavation and stone placement, the project commenced in June of 2002. Earth shaping, stone trucking, and placement was completed by then end of July under the direction of Bernard and his mantra of “We need more rocks!” The former small rock garden of 40 by 40 feet (12 by 12 m) grew to its present size of approximately two thirds of an acre (0.25 ha). The main rock garden was built using approximately 800 tons of red granite boulders, gravel, and crusher fines.

The main body of the rock garden, with its ridges and valleys, cliffs, scree garden, and dry stream bed, was completed by the end of the first year of construction. Alpine plants, ground covers, dwarf evergreens, and small flowering shrubs were installed by the Friends of the Garden and students in landscape horticulture labs.



The completed courtyard garden

Over the first winter, we planned to add a main entrance and courtyard to the rock garden to create a gathering area for this new campus feature. We applied for funding from North American Rock Garden Society's Norman Singer Endowment Fund. Thankfully, our application was approved, and we were granted enough to acquire the cut limestone pavers for the courtyard project.

As the garden was starting to take shape, local rock garden enthusiasts wanted to get involved. With Bernard's encouragement, the Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club was formed in the winter of 2003. We started with a small core group of eight to ten members. We applied to NARGS to become the Nova Scotia chapter and were warmly welcomed. The group has become a constant source of support for the garden's evolution ever since.

In the summer of 2003, Dr. Jackson did some politicking and was able to secure 25 large hand-cut sandstone blocks from a building demolition that

were being stored by a local municipality. We employed local stone mason, Heather Lawson of Raspberry Bay Stone, to carve out eight stone troughs to add to the new courtyard display.

Additional plantings and a woodland walk were added by the Friends and the master gardener summer school in July of 2003 to prepare for a connection between the main garden and the courtyard entrance.

That September brought a flurry of activity. With Bernard's direction, students in our horticulture programs did the site preparation for the courtyard. A two-level display paved with limestone sourced in New Brunswick, two flanking crevice gardens, island beds with troughs strategically placed for display effect, and dry-stone walls all came together to give this garden the look of age and provide ample areas to grow alpine flora.

We were very fortunate to have many students and instructors involved in the embellishment of this amazing garden. The engineering wood construction class got involved and throughout the winter constructed two cedar bridges, garden benches, garbage receptacles, and a grand shingled entrance structure.



The entrance structure built by students





View of the garden from the look-out deck

A cedar look-out deck on the upper cliff area, providing a panoramic view of the main garden, was built with funding support provided by the Environmental Sciences student club.

This rock garden was officially dedicated to Dr. Bernard S. Jackson in the summer of 2006. The bulb garden and seed sculpture were installed in 2011. In memory of one of the founding rock garden club members, and with the help of horticulture students, we also installed a large circular seating area to accommodate visitors in the rock garden. In the lead-up to the 10th anniversary celebration in 2012, we added a barrens garden and a small peat bed to the woodland area to provide specialized habitat for blue poppies, orchids, fall gentians, dwarf rhododendrons, and other choice plants.

In 2017, an exciting new limestone rock garden was proposed as part of the Bicentennial Botanical Garden launch and Dalhousie University’s bicentennial celebrations for 2018.

This new garden includes an outdoor classroom, supported by alumni donations. This new limestone habitat creates a different environment than our existing granite rock garden and provides a whole new learning experience for the students in the horticulture program.

We were very fortunate to have another local quarry provide material support in the form of boulders and gravel for our rock garden construction. Approximately 450 tons of limestone rock and gravel were used in this new garden build. Ground breaking commenced in the fall of 2017 to make way for the student involvement in fall 2018.



Left: The new outdoor classroom space  
Right: Student-built bridge over the dry stream





Top: Side entrance to the scree garden  
Bottom: Friends of the Garden building



The new limestone garden has various features unique to our campus: an outdoor classroom, limestone ledge cliffs, large crevice beds, a limestone pavement, talus slope and scree, a pond supported by a dry-stacked wall, and bio swales to control runoff entering garden from the adjacent parking lot.

In the 2019, we added a small alpine meadow plot surrounded by complementary paver walkways. It was an exciting year for putting the finishing touches on this new garden display as well as placing lots of rock garden treasures. We are very fortunate to have Wrightman Alpines Nursery only a few hours away in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Esther Wrightman has been a great source for choice alpine and rock plants, as well as giving sound advice on how to grow a multitude of alpine gems.

So, if you are ever in Bible Hill, Nova Scotia, why not stop by our beautiful campus and see one of the best kept secrets of the rock gardening world? Everyone is welcome to visit the garden and explore the rest of our beautiful campus. For more information about the garden and planning your visit: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/about/gardens.html>



Dr. Bernard Jackson directing the placement of rocks in the garden.

# COMMUNITY CREVICE GARDEN IN IDAHO SPRINGS

URSULA CRUZALEGUI

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, a small community in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, now has a beautiful crevice garden thanks to you and our committed volunteers. Scraps-to-Soil volunteers Ursula Cruzalegui and Margie Marlin took care of design, coordination, construction, planting, and everything in between. The project would have not been possible without some key sponsors. The North American Rock Garden Society provided the financial support to purchase the alpine plants native to the Rocky Mountains and their labels, and local Albert Frei & Sons/ Walstrum Quarry provided sand, rocks, and pea gravel. Special thanks to Jeff Stzermantoni for his help transporting the material from the quarry to the community garden.

Scraps-to-Soil (S2S) is an all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 2010. Our goal is to develop a synergistic set of programs that increase access to sustainable and healthy lifestyle options for residents of communities in Clear Creek County.

We have been through a whirlwind since the original community garden was removed in 2016 to make room for road improvements. We were able to secure funding and space to rebuild on city property managed by S2S volunteers. The new garden is open to the public in the heart of Idaho Springs.

Once the community garden was built, the last piece of the puzzle was to landscape a uniquely shaped space between the garden and our neighbors. This space is called the Pocket Garden, and it's a space for the community to enjoy. The crevice garden is on the north side, crowned by the garden sign. There is a bench between it and a strawberry patch, next to a native plants area on the southern end of the property.



The completed crevice garden, topped with the garden sign



The crevice garden is 140 square feet (13 m<sup>2</sup>) at an elevation of 7,526 feet (2,294 m). Our goal for this project was to beautify the space and better define the property line while educating the residents about the benefits of rock gardens in our area. We accomplished this by inviting the community to participate in the construction and have a hands-on experience. Scraps-to-Soil hopes to find more opportunities to build crevice gardens in our community and keep inspiring our neighbors and our municipalities to embrace this option.

We were finally able to celebrate the reconstruction of the garden with the community on July 17th, 2022. Everyone loved the pocket garden and all the details and hard work put into it by so many volunteers. Thanks again to everyone who made this possible in one way or another, please don't hesitate to contact us at [scraps.to.soil@gmail.com](mailto:scraps.to.soil@gmail.com) if you would like to get a tour of the garden if you are ever visiting the area!



The space before the garden construction began



Top: Careful plans and a three-dimensional model ensured the garden construction process was smooth.  
Bottom: Volunteers work placing the rocks.





Volunteers building and planting the garden





New plants in the crevice garden.  
 Top left: *Armeria maritima* 'Rubrifolia' Top right: *Phlox* 'Violet Pinwheels'  
 Bottom: *Tanacetum densum* subsp. *amani*

# THE CREVICE BED AT NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC GARDEN

ERIN DOOLITTLE

DURING THE SUMMER of 2020, in full pandemic lockdown, I began to contemplate the future of the Scrophulariaceae bed. It is 20 feet (6 m) wide, ringed by a nine-inch-high (23 cm) granite curb, and sits at the northern terminus of the north-south spine of New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston, Massachusetts. It needed to make a statement.

The year 2020 was the second in a multi-year transformation of the former Systematic Garden, a taxonomic garden based on the Cronquist system, built in 2001, in the Nadeau Garden of Inspiration. The layout was inspired by classic French garden design and features 22 beds arranged in a loosely symmetrical rectangle. Each bed reflected a different theme, based on cultural needs, design, or function. There are beds dedicated to sun perennials, cut flowers, foliage, fragrance, and pollinators, to name a few. But there was no rock garden. The shape of the Scrophulariaceae bed lent itself to becoming a rock garden, I thought, because it is raised and circular, so I could build up a little mountain and showcase diminutive rock garden gems. As it happened, I knew nothing about rock gardens. In gardening, as in life, I am a generalist. In my research, I quickly came across the North American Rock Garden Society and the Norman Singer Endowment Fund grant program. We pulled together an application for a grant to research rock gardens in Colorado and around the Northeast.



Aerial view of the Nadeau Garden

The Rock Garden is located in the circular structure on the right.

First stop, Denver. In Colorado, I had to let go of my notions of what a garden is and learn to see in a new way. Instead of the dominant palette of greens and blues I was accustomed to, the colors were sandy browns and rusty reds. The vegetation was gray-green and sparse. Of course, I expected this, but it was still an adjustment. What I hadn't really understood was that the rocks themselves were a primary design element and the plants were adornments. That is wildly different from the gardens I was used to designing and seeing. I was used to the plant material defining the shape, texture, and color of the garden bed, and filling it completely.

The first garden I saw was that of Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator and director of outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens. He had graciously invited me to his home my first night in Denver. After dinner outside on the lawn, we took a stroll around the garden. It was a classic plant lover's garden, full of individuals, secret gems, and sentimental favorites. Because it was my first night there and I was a bit overwhelmed, I didn't take notes or pictures. But it was the beginning of me adjusting my vision to a different kind of garden.



The next day, I traveled to Vail, to the Betty Ford Alpine Garden, where I met with Curator Nick Courtens, who graciously showed me around this beautiful garden. The tininess of many alpine plants demands that you move in close, like with a Fabergé egg. As Nick explained, rock gardens are intended to look as if they rose naturally from the earth below. Even crevice gardens, with their linear arrangement of slabs, are usually naturalistic in design. I also had the opportunity to see the work of Kenton Seth, a world-renowned crevice garden designer who not only designed crevice gardens at the Betty Ford Alpine Garden but also at Glenn Guetenberg and Patrice Van Vleet's garden in Littleton, and Carol and Randy Shinn's garden in Fort Collins.

In Fort Collins, I visited the extraordinary garden designed by the Shinns, of which Kenton Seth's crevice bed was just a small part. Carol is a genius at combining individual plants into a cohesive whole, no mean feat. I was learning that rock gardens in general rely on that sort of design. I haven't seen one that clumps like plants together or is even densely planted.



Crevice bed at Betty Ford Alpine Garden



Top: Crevice garden at Denver Botanic Gardens

Bottom: Part of Carol and Randy Shinns' rock garden

At Denver Botanic Gardens, I toured the expansive rock garden with Mike Kintgen. We talked about the naturalistic style of rock gardens. In my case, it would be impossible to create a garden that truly looks like it just grew there, because it's in a raised bed in a formal garden. Mike's opinion was simply that whatever direction I went, go in 100 percent.



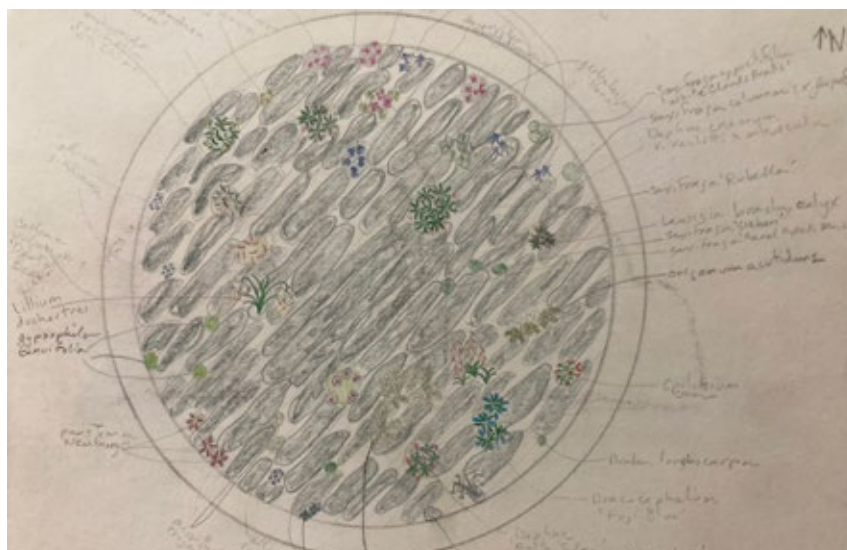


Crevice garden designed by Zdeněk Zvolánek  
at the Montreal Botanical Garden

Things were a bit different when I toured some rock gardens in the Northeast. Firstly, I focused more on the plant material, since they were more suited to my climate than what I saw in Colorado. Also, the gardens were not crevice gardens, except for the extensive and beautiful one at the Montreal Botanic Garden designed by Czech rock garden guru Zdeněk Zvolánek.

Back at home, I started work on the design. I wanted a craggy high point in the center of the bed with the line of the stones at an angle from the garden's central axis so that those approaching through the Kinship Arbor would not be seeing the garden head-on. This would also make a shady area to the northwest for plants that won't tolerate being blasted by sun all day.





Drawing of the planned crevice garden

I went searching for the rocks I would need. Initially, we investigated harvesting them on-site from the many fallen down stone walls or the plentiful shist found on the hillsides. However, I thought it would be too difficult to collect stone from the woods, so we did purchase stone from Sansoucy Stone in Worcester, which is harvested from stone walls in New England. The four large stone slabs that form the central mountain are Goshen stone, a metamorphic rock from central Massachusetts. After running out of the fieldstone from Sansoucy, I found piles of it on the property. They had been collected by our tractor operator during irrigation projects. In the end, most of the stone for the garden was from Tower Hill.



Stone ready for construction



Starting to construct the rock structure of the garden

First, we laid down a 3-inch (7.6 cm) bed of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (1.9 cm) chipped stone. The large central stones were wedged into gulleys dug in the base layer to keep them upright. Once those were in place, I arranged the remainder by hand. As I worked, I realized the ground level needed to be varied so I created hills and valleys.

From the sides, the rock garden looks like waves or mountains. The ground level swells and sinks. I poured in the fill material as I worked, and then built up to fill most of the crevices almost to the top. After allowing it to settle for a couple of weeks (which proved to be not long enough), I planted. I ordered plants from Wrightman's Alpines and Arrowhead Alpines. I also had plants I had grown from NARGS Seed Exchange seeds, which didn't survive the transition to the garden as well as the ordered plants. Elisabeth Zander picked out five wonderful daphnes from O'Brien's Nursery in Connecticut for me. As the plants start to fill in the spaces between the vertical stone slabs, I will need to reassess and replant certain areas, as plants may not survive or may not be positioned in the ideal location within the crevice garden. This project has given me great joy and I hope that it will inspire visitors to our garden to experiment with rock and crevice garden designs in their own outdoor spaces.





Top: The crevice structure built and ready for planting

Bottom: The final, planted garden







# AGM RECAP: ITHACA THE SPECTACULAR

DEBORAH BANKS

Some women spend weekends with their friends at a spa, go on long shopping trips together, or travel to see a play in the city. Others go on fishing expeditions or long golf weekends. My favorite getaway with a friend or two is to go to a gardening conference, garden tour, or plant sale. With the NARGS 2022 AGM, we had all those experiences in one event.

The NARGS AGM in Ithaca featured three days of garden tours, renowned speakers on all four days, a plant sale with several great vendors, and book signings. The NARGS annual awards were also presented over the course of the conference.

All these events were wonderful, even though most of the specific alpine plant information discussed in the lectures was over my head. I freely admit that I am not an alpine or rock gardener. So why was I at this rock gardening conference? I could have just visited Garden Conservancy open garden days on my own, watched gardening webinars on topics closer to my own interests, and purchased plants from some great nurseries on the internet or in nearby areas.

I went for the people. The conference was attended by nearly one hundred avid gardeners. The conference promotional material doesn't convey how much fun you can have spending all that time with other gardeners. I

Opposite: Treman Gorge, Photo by Panayoti Kelaidis



Top: Garden with lake views, Photo by George Fearon

Bottom: Karen Perkins of Garden Visions Epimediums selling plants.

Photo by Nigel Dyson-Hudson

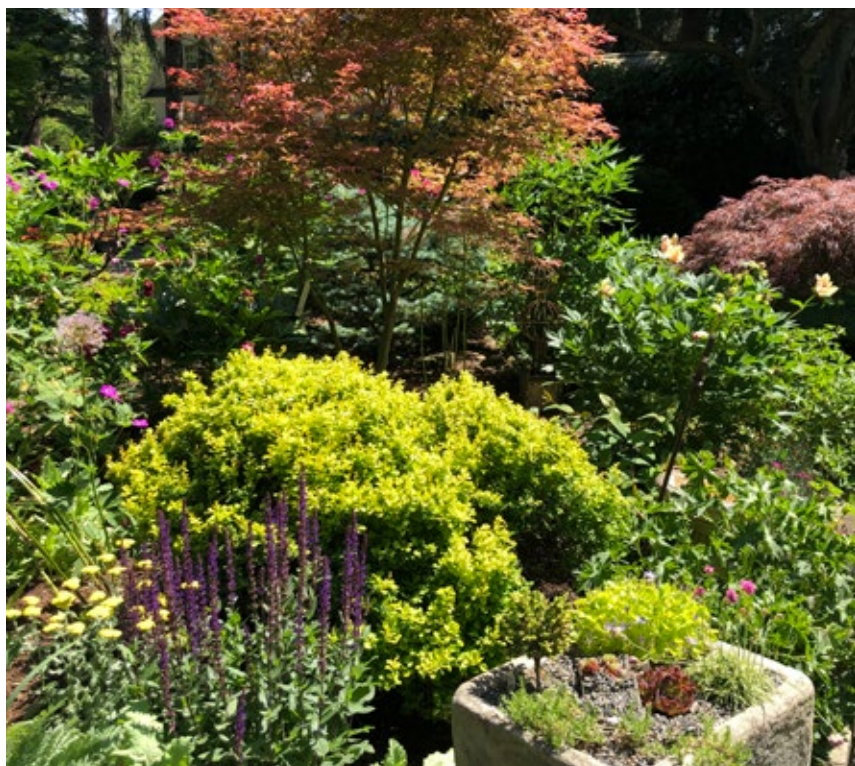


connected with gardeners I had met previously and met many new people. I checked out members of not-that-far-away NARGS chapters I might want to join. We all ate most of our meals together, rode a bus together, looked at gardens together, bought plants together and sat together for the lectures. We shared bug spray. We cheered for the gardeners among us who won NARGS awards for their commitment and their outstanding achievements. We applauded the gardeners who attended with their adult children. We became a community.

It is a lovely experience to be able to discuss which *Rodgersia* species you are looking at with other gardeners who know what a *Rodgersia* is. To admire a large, complex and flawlessly maintained garden with people who know the immense effort that garden represents. To debate whether you need three more epimediums with someone who is holding four weigelas. To snoop through the plants that your friends bought to see what you missed. To finally meet gardeners in person with whom you have been friends on Facebook for months or years.



Len and Cindy Lions' garden



Marlene Kobre and Ron Denson's garden

The conference activities were noteworthy in their own right. The speakers were impressive. Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson from Far Reaches Farm were my favorites, for their knowledgeable and humorous lectures. I may never hike remote Asian mountain trails in search of plants I've never heard of, but I enjoyed their descriptions of their experiences. They teased each other with obvious affection, shared old photos of their beaming young faces from the trip where they met, and gave us details on a few of Kelly's sketchy adventures. Another speaker was Eleftherios Dariotis from Greece who lectured with passion about the alpine flora of Greece and his new garden in Crete. We also heard from F. Robert Wesley of Ithaca about the native orchids of New York State.

The conference garden tours were also splendid. Wednesday found us divided onto two different tour buses. The group on my bus first toured

a small section of Upper Treman State Park. The morning shadows on the rocks and the sounds of the water added to the beauty of the gorge. We were there early enough to have it mostly to ourselves (just us fifty gardeners, that is). I vowed to return for a long weekend with my husband sometime soon to explore the trails.

Our bus also visited Marlene Kobre and Ron Denson's garden, which was filled with troughs and large rock garden beds. These were planted with small conifers and alpine specimens including many early summer bloomers. The garden was encircled by a large shrub and tree border, including dozens of Japanese maples, large conifers, colorful shrubs and perennials. There was even a dolled-up garden shed tucked into the back beyond the hosta border. This immaculate suburban garden read like a much larger property.

The last stop of our bus tour was the garden of Bill Stark and Mary Stauble. Bill and Mary's garden had the feel of an archaeological excavation. They have removed several tons of soil to expose the bedrock. Paths traveled down through the layers of geological time, but everywhere we were



Conference attendees in Bill Stark and Mary Stauble's garden



surrounded by botanical treasures. Crevices displayed choice daphnes, small ferns and alpine plants. Larger cavities contained conifers and a few xeric perennials. The sun-baked rock simmered in the heat. Winding down past the stone ledges and boulders felt like descending to the sea. A few quick steps and I was in the shade, watching a stream flow past primulas, ferns, and ligularias. It is an amazing garden, and the winner of this year's Linc and Timmy Foster Millstream Award.

On Thursday, we visited the Cornell Botanic Gardens to enjoy their many display areas. Friday's on-your-own garden tour was also fun. Unfortunately, my friend and I did not make it to Carol Eichler's garden, due to a time constraint. We knew we would have other opportunities to do so, so that was the one we skipped. We visited two gardens that were new to us. Len and Cindy Lions' garden was notable for the spectacular ponds and the many ornaments tucked here and there amid the perennials and shrubs, even in the woods. Their woods were traversed by a long boardwalk, taking us past decorative urns, a painted gateway to nowhere,



Herb garden at Cornell Botanic Gardens. Photo by Eleftherios Dariotis.



Len and Cindy Lions' garden

dangling metal ornaments (like earrings for the trees) and other artwork. Mary Squyres' garden of unusual shrubs and trees also contained many native plants tucked into its woodland setting. Her grand entrance was especially memorable with its half-moon gate and peaked roof.

Lastly but not least, the vendors at the plant sale did not disappoint. Karen Perkins of Garden Visions, in her last year of plant sales, was there with a large table of epimediums and a few other woodland plants. Coldwater Pond Nursery always entices me with their large selection of unusual woody ornamentals. Kingbird Farms of Ithaca, Esther Benedict from Indiana, and Cornell horticulture students also had wonderful plants for sale. Some of the conference speakers also had books for sale.

If you have never attended a NARGS conference, I urge you to consider it in the future. After all, next year's conference is in Nova Scotia!



Come to see our varied rocks, plants, and habitats on the northeast coast of North America. The 2023 NARGS Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held from June 8 to 11 at the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada. Join us for receptions, rare and unusual plant sale, banquets, speakers, and plant, habitat and garden tours.

Our field trips will include coastal barrens, gypsum deposits, woodland walks and varied gardens.

Speakers include:

**Gerald Gloade** on Introduction to Mi'kaw'ki and Mi'kmaw legends.

**Allan Belliveau**, Acadia Irving Botanical Garden, on Nova Scotia flora.



*Cypripedium acaule*



**Esther Wrightman**, of Wrightman Alpines Nursery, on new and interesting plants

**Julia Corden**, on Alpine plants from around the world

**Jiří Papoušek**, of the Prague Rock Garden Club

More information on the conference program, accommodation and travel is available on the conference website: [nargs23.org](http://nargs23.org). Watch our video on Nova Scotia plants and gardens posted on the website as well.

Registration opens in January 2023.

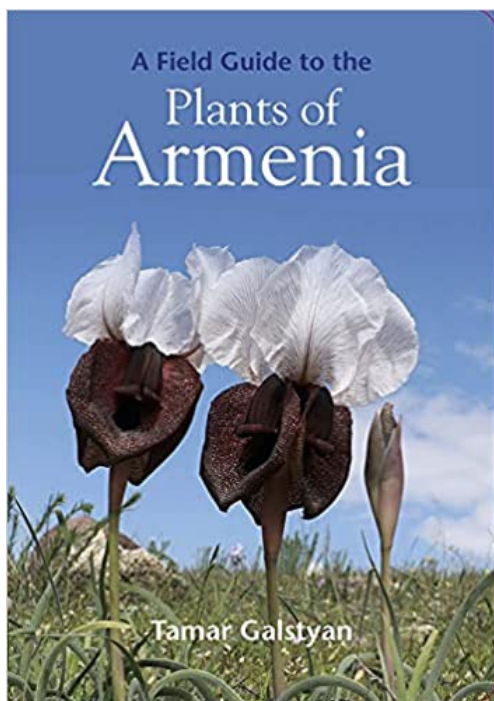
We are also planning a post-conference tour to gardens and landscape of southern Nova Scotia.





# Bookshelf

## A FIELD GUIDE TO THE PLANTS OF ARMENIA



*A Field Guide to the Plants of Armenia*

Tamar Galstyan

Filbert Press, 2022

The Armenian flora was absolutely the first I became fascinated with, even before that of my hometown. It was in my teens and 20s, the result of falling into rock gardening through the gateway addiction of bulbs and becoming very close friends, through what was then the new world of the internet, with a Northern Armenian gardener. So, it is with a certain strange nostalgia, but also a fresh and more experienced appreciation of field guides and the craft of books in general, that I took in Tamar Galstyan's new *Plants of Armenia*.

This volume can be taken in as either a sofa-side ride to a distant land or a primer for visiting Armenia yourself, which is in actuality easier than it sounds and something I deeply recommend.

To visit, the country is inexpensive and impossibly friendly. For a “foreign” country, anglophones will find it familiar because it's western and culturally Christian (Orthodox). In fact, many of the world's oldest churches stand in Armenia. It is not a tourist hotspot, so it is genuine, owing its remarkable ease of travel to its hospitable culture. Botanical tourism is a truly wholesome way to support a land and its people that have been geologically and economically isolated forever. Armenia is not blessed with shiny resources valued by the modern era, so it's remarkably stable if a little trapped, still dusty from a

post-Soviet history. This theme of isolation runs through both the fascinatingly esoteric and difficult language and the botanical diversity. The plants are at once familiar and ancient, from knotweed (*Polygonum*), smokebush (*Cotinus coggygia*), to germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*) and even *Cyclamen*.

The book is broken very palatably into families, each taxon is consistently photographed with its own diagnostics and map. The Armenian name is given in their alphabet, which would be useful to show to a local when talking about a plant (but no Latin phonetic spelling, which I admit would be almost impossible. Armenian is very difficult). I appreciate how it does not focus solely on bulbous plants or showy classics famous to rock gardeners, but everyday beautiful roadside weeds and wildflowers as well as habitat-defining trees and shrubs which stand out to a person who is there in the flesh. If I had one desire of the book, it would be even a brief description of the floristic regions within Armenia. Established bioregions like the “Shiblaik” are used in descriptions but, unfortunately, never defined in the book.

It would be beyond rude not to acknowledge the incredibly complete and stunningly high-quality photography from Galstyan and a few other contributors, including field guide veteran Chris Gardner who also designed this book. The photos are at once illustrative, diagnostic, and beautiful for every single species.

Galstyan has absolutely nailed her stated goal of making the book user-friendly. An armchair observer of floristic regions will, at a glance, be able to comfortably see the relationships between the Armenian flora and neighboring regions without the inevitable headache that would come of taking a deep dive into a traditional botanical floristic key and descriptions.

Those traveling to Armenia will appreciate that this book is dense but small and with round edges for fitting into a pocket or luggage. When I did my own traveling, as a more spry youth a decade ago in Armenia and the Caucasus, I actually carried Holubec’s giant coffee-table book because Galstyan’s book didn’t exist at the time! May the next generation of flower tourists visit the humble and magical Hayastan (Armenia) with this book in hand, or even better, with Galstyan herself. I am inspired to go back.

*Kenton Seth*



# THE NEW NARGS.ORG WEBSITE

ELISABETH ZANDER

Welcome to the new website for nargs.org. We have implemented many new features, including ones to keep our website secure.

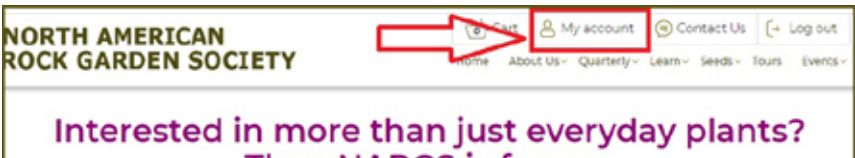


At the top right of the homepage, find the “Log in” button. Click it to bring up the pop-up.

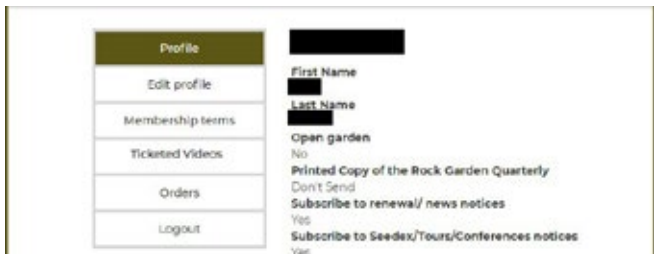


Be sure to check the “Remember me” box so the site will always appear in your browser with a logged-in state. This connection will remain until you click the “Log out” button. Keep in mind, though, your credentials will remain within whatever browser used regardless of your log-out, so don’t click the box while at a library or other public computer.

After logging in, click “My account”



Here you may view or edit your profile as well as check your orders, virtual conferences, and membership term.




In “Edit Profile” you may edit your password, email address, user name, and postal mail address.

Scroll down to subscribe/unsubscribe to the promotional material or renewals. Be sure to click “SAVE” to keep any changes you have made.

Click on “Ticketed Videos” to display any videos to which you might have tickets. The first entry is the entire conference page while the rest are individual videos.

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To reach any NARGS manager, click the “Contact Us” button, right next to the “Log in” button on the top main menu. Should you forget your username or have any other question, this is where you can reach out to “Membership” for help.



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SEND MESSAGE

We retained many of the features from the previous site and enhanced them in the menu.



“About Us,” when you are not logged-in, lists an assortment of information such as links to associated chapters. Upon Login, that menu expands to include “Chapter Contacts” and “Members Only Email Contacts” and “Members’ News.” Remember you must be logged in to see these options.



A completely new item is the grouping tab “Learn,” which is where you can find the “Plant of the Month,” as well as the “Book Review.” Also do check out the “Plant Profiles.” The entire photobase is now searchable. All the Forum information is still available; find it in the “Forum Archive,” where it, too, is searchable. “Sources” is also completely new, loaded with current sites with plants and seed for sale, as well as Seed Exchanges of various societies.

Again, to reach any NARGS manager, click the “Contact Us,” right next to the “Log in” button. Should you forget your username or have any other question, here is where you might reach out to “Membership” for assistance. For help with our NARGS Seed Exchange questions, select “Seed Exchange.”



## Bulletin Board

*fall*  
2022

volume 80 | 4

### President's Message

As the growing season slows down and the nights grow cooler in the Northern Hemisphere, our gardens often become even more colorful than in springtime with garish fall foliage—as if Nature is tossing one last big fling before winter sets in! Although I am enthralled with the mass bloom of bulbs and treasures of springtime, I find that the last months of the year are often more relaxed, reflective and generally a lot less hectic! There's suddenly a lot more time to organize photo images, write some notes, and look back over the past season (as well as to start cogitating about next year). Let's not get too relaxed—remember that the seed exchange is still accepting late-maturing seed right up to the end of November.

Most chapters of NARGS have cautiously begun in-person meetings this year. Of course, as a group rock gardeners generally don't congregate in the sweaty, tight quarters of night clubs or other settings where pandemic germs proliferate and spread. We are an outdoorsy group by and large, and somewhat sedate! Useful qualities for longevity as it turns out. It has been sobering to realize the COVID pandemic has produced numerous unexpected outcomes. Nurseries have had a hard time keeping up with the demand for plants, and "supply chain breakdowns" have caused some necessities (like pots made in China) to be scarce. The pandemic has generated a huge new wave of interest in gardening—among young people much of it is focused on house plants and succulents. But I am convinced that more and more will be buying houses and finding their hobby moving outdoors.

It behooves all of us to reach out and welcome a vast new generation of plant lovers. This new wave should find a perfect home in NARGS: we share the earth-friendly values of today's youth, the reverence for natural areas, and some of their cynicism about the material values of a culture obsessed with the cults of Hollywood, sports, and crass commercialism.

Of course, everyone is anxious to court youth: the Millennial generation is even larger than the Boomers' numbers after all. And they have years of buying power before them! I think I speak for most rock gardeners when I say that we also revere age and the wisdom that comes with it.

This past spring I was invited by the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society to speak at their spring show and symposium, which celebrated the Centennial of that society (a year late thanks to COVID, alas). VIRAGS has the distinction of being the first plant society dedicated to the study of rock gardens and alpine plants. Few places on earth can match the scenic grandeur and fantastic horticulture in a climate so mild that it can accommodate virtually any plant from the temperate zone from echeveria from Mexico, all manner of Chinese rhododendrons to high alpine plants from Alaska and the Yukon. Wouldn't Victoria be a wonderful place for a Study Weekend?

On behalf of NARGS and rock gardeners everywhere, I wish the rock gardeners of Vancouver Island the happiest of Centennials, and may the next century see their gardens continue to prosper and flourish!

Now hurry up and go package up a few last seed packets please for the exchange!

---Panayoti Kelaidis



## Call for NARGS Nominations for 2023

NOTE: The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2022

The NARGS Nominating Committee announces its call for nominees for the 2023 election of four officers and three directors. It is up to all members to consider whom they might nominate. Self-nomination is also acceptable.

For duties of these positions, please refer to the By-Laws on the website at "About Us" then "Policies" at <https://www.nargs.org/nargs-policies>

Nominations accepted for **president, vice president, recording secretary, and treasurer**. New candidates for these positions stand for a two-year term; current persons filling these positions are eligible for re-election.

Nominations also accepted for three **directors**. Directors serve for three years. Every year three new directors are elected as three directors have completed their term. The directors may be elected for a second three-year term.

The mission of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the position of directors and officers who want to serve, have the qualifications to serve, and who fulfill as much as possible the need for geographic diversity between the continuing board members and new members. Geographic diversity cannot always be achieved.

We will accept names submitted by any current member of NARGS for these seven positions. The nominee must be a member of NARGS.

Please provide the following information for each nominee.

1. Name, chapter (if applicable) e-mail address, and position for which each person is nominated.
2. Bio of nominee (100 words or less written by nominee)
3. Picture (shoulder length face shot)

4. Note of acceptance from the nominee indicating a willingness to be a NARGS director (three-year term).

5. Your own reason for nominating the person.

Note the bio and the picture will be used for publication in *The Rock Garden Quarterly* and on the NARGS website if such nominee is on the final slate or subsequently stands from the floor. All the above is for use by the Nominating Committee.

**Nominations should be emailed to Ed Glover, chair of nominating committee:** To reach Ed, click the "Contact Us," next to the "Log in" button and select "General" or put "Nominations" in subject line.

### **Timetable**

The call for Nominations is Stage 1 of the election process outlined below.

STAGE 1: Timetable and call for nominations are published in the fall 2022 *Quarterly*. Nominations to Nominating Committee by deadline of November 1, 2022.

STAGE 2: Nominating Committee agree on a slate to be published on website by December 31, 2022.

STAGE 3: From-the-floor nominations January 1-31, 2023

STAGE 4: Combined list of candidates to be published in spring 2023. *Quarterly* (deadline February 1 for dispatch late March) and posted on the website.

STAGE 5: Election online: Monday, May 1 through Sunday, May 14, 2023.

STAGE 6: Announcement of election results subsequent to ratification at Board Meeting in June 2023.

## **NARGS Donations**

Donations to NARGS between May 1 and July 30, 2022.

In memory of Ann LaVallee and to support the General Fund.

Urban Forestry Organization (New York)  
Goldsworthy, James (Washington)  
LaVallee, Steven (Wisconsin)

### **The following recently became NARGS Patrons:**

Anderson, Scott (Missouri)  
Aurichio, Linda (California)  
Bosshard, Kenneth (Utah)  
duPont, Elise (Delaware)  
Gray, Gail (Colorado)  
Krohn, Karen (Connecticut)  
Krongard, Kristin (New Jersey)  
LaVallee, Steven (Wisconsin)  
Riehl, Deborah (Washington)  
Schueler, David (Washington)

### **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](mailto:elysium214@aol.com) for more information.



# New and Rejoining Members

*Welcome to all those who joined or rejoined between  
May 1 and July 30, 2022*

Andersson, Dawn, Calumet, MI  
Berg, Roberta, Philadelphia, PA  
Bolton, Roberta, Lake Point, UT  
Bradford, Carol, Syracuse, NY  
Brooks, Don, Seattle, WA

Bucher, Adam, Alexandria, VA  
Burrell, Colston, Free Union, VA  
Chamberlin, Terry, Lakeside, CA  
Constantine, Tracy, Emmaus, PA  
Cooper, Jessica, Lincoln, MA  
Cooper, Michael, Townsend, MA  
Cundiff, Alcinda, Boulder, CO  
Dean, Jonathan, Northampton,  
MA

Detrick, Emily, Ithaca, NY  
Doris & Robert Goldman, Seattle,  
WA

Ede, Cindy, Scappoose, OR  
Feyerabend, Barbara, Oakland, CA  
Harter, Jeff, San Francisco, CA  
Hefner, Debra, Birchwood, WI

Hill, Zac, Willow Spring, NC  
Jones, Bryon, Tacoma, WA  
Kennerley, Genevieve, Oakland, CA  
Killeffer, Christian, Franklinton, NC  
Koh, Sarah, Sparks, NV

Marshall, Jim, Parry Sound, ON  
McMillan, Patrick, Apex, NC  
McWay, Linda, Raleigh, NC  
Meyer, Uta, Little Rock, AR  
Minhas, Fatima Naz, Mississauga, ON  
Orton-Palmer, Amelia, Salida, CO  
Schellinger, Karen M., Avon, MN  
Smith, Diane, Amsterdam, NY  
Somasundaran, Tamara, Athens, NY

Temple, Zoe, Keene, NH  
Waard, Anita de, Jericho, VT  
Walence, Amy, Garner, NC  
Williams, Kevin, Denver, CO  
Wilson, Michael, Denville, NJ  
Yoakley, John, Fort Jones, CA

YOU CAN HELP KEEP NARGS SOLVENT!

## Circle of 100 Challenge

Be among the 100 NARGS members willing to give \$300

DONATE AT [NARGS.ORG](https://nargs.org)

# SEED EXCHANGE

Now is the time to get your last-minute seeds collected, cleaned, and sent to Laura Serowicz if they are to be included in this year's Seed List so that you can receive Donor privileges. It only takes a donation of five different kinds of garden-worthy plants to gain you ten extra packets of seed, not to mention priority in having your order filled. I'd say that's a pretty good deal. Be sure to mail them in time for the seeds to reach Laura by November 1. If you are planning on donating seeds that are late to ripen, include their names on the list with the seeds you are sending now, and then mail the late-maturing seeds to Laura by December 1.

If you are a digital subscriber to the *Quarterly* and reside within the U.S., you can either download from our website and print a copy of the donation form, or request one from Laura. If you live outside the United States, you will need to either request a print copy of our Small Lots of Seed import permit and the green & yellow mailing label for your donated seeds, or have them sent electronically, for you to print (the green & yellow mailing label must be in color). Contact:

Laura Serowicz  
15411 Woodring Street  
Livonia, Michigan 48154-3029  
U.S.A.

To reach Laura, click the "Contact Us," next to the "Log in" button. For help with our NARGS Seed Exchange, select Seed Exchange.

The Seed List with this year's offerings will again be posted on the website a few days before the opening bell, which will give you ample time to browse and peruse your favorites (and research the more recondite). The Seedex will be open for orders on December 15, 2022. At that time, go to the "Current Seedex" link under the Seeds menu to view the seed list and log in to place your order. If you have a problem with your login, or need to change your listed email address, contact our Executive Secretary Bobby Ward and he

will assist you. To reach Bobby, click the “Contact Us,” next to the “Log in” button and select membership.

The Delaware Valley Chapter will once again respond to your requests for seeds through the month of January, and the Great Lakes Chapter has volunteered to handle the orders in the Surplus Round in March for a third year. Let’s give them all a Big Cheer!

We understand and appreciate that the running of the Seedex relies on many helping hands, beyond those mentioned in these reports. We are grateful that so many members (and friends) offer their time and their help in packaging seeds, filling orders, posting shipments here and abroad, and carefully tending to the myriad tasks that make up this smoothly operating benefit to NARGS members. Many, many thanks to you all – we appreciate all your hard work!

A very important reminder to our members in Australia:

Because a phytosanitary certificate is now required for all seed entering Australia, we will need to send all the seed orders under that phyto in a single shipment to one Consignee – someone in Australia who will receive all the orders and then re-mail them to the individual members. If a single packet of seeds within the entire shipment is not on BICON’s Included list, or requires some treatment for entry, the whole shipment will be refused and returned to NARGS. The phyto will have expired and we cannot afford to re-inspect and resend them. So please carefully check the list of allowable taxa:

<https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0/ViewElement/Element/CaseScientificNames?caseElementPk=240501>

(there is also a link from our Seedex web pages), as well as all other import requirements, before requesting any seeds in your order, as a single packet can jeopardize all the orders for members in Australia. We will do our best to check, but we rely on you to take care of each other. And, as with all members in countries that require a phyto for imported seeds, we will not be able to accept your orders in the Surplus Round.

Joyce Fingerut

Director, NARGS Seed Exchange



## NARGS Traveling Speakers Program

With travel opening up as the pandemic recedes and with a continuing donation from our generous, but anonymous donor, NARGS chapters are once again able to enjoy hearing speakers from afar at meetings this year. Our current schedule is listed below, and we expect to announce more speakers as plans develop. Check the NARGS website for updates.

2022

Western Region & Northeast Region:

Kaj Andersen, Bangsbo Botanical Garden, Denmark

- Tuesday, September 27, Santa Fe, New Mexico. New Mexico Chapter
- Friday, September 30, Durango, Colorado. Cosponsor: Durango Botanical Garden
- Sunday October 2, Grand Junction, Colorado. Cosponsor: Chinle Chapter of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America
- Wednesday October 5, Vail, Colorado. Cosponsor: Betty Ford Alpine Garden
- Saturday, October 8, Denver, Colorado. Rocky Mountain Chapter
- Wednesday, October 12, Ithaca, New York. Adirondack Chapter
- Saturday, October 15, Berkshire Botanical Garden, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Berkshire Chapter
- Sunday, October 16, New York area, Tri-State meeting (NYBG)

Southeast/Mid-Atlantic Region:

Linda Cochran, Port Ludlow, Washington

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this tour will happen virtually. Check with your local chapter for details.

Midwest Region:

Harry Jans from The Netherlands (Late September and early October)

Great Lakes, Minnesota, and Illinois-Wisconsin chapters

2023

Southeast/Mid-Atlantic Region:

Todd Boland, Research Horticulturist at Memorial University of Newfoundland

- Saturday, March 18, Raleigh, NC. Piedmont Chapter
- Date to be determined. Potomac Valley Chapter
- Date to be determined. Four Seasons Garden Club
- Saturday, March 25. Delaware Valley Chapter
- Sunday, March 26. Allegheny Chapter

Contact the listed NARGS chapter or sponsoring organization for times and locations of these presentations. Information about Traveling Speakers also will be posted on the NARGS webpage as well as in this Bulletin Board as plans are finalized.

Rosemary Monahan, Chair Speakers Tour

To contact Rosemary, click the "Contact Us," next to the "Log in" button and type "Speakers Tour" in the subject line.

## Upcoming NARGS Webinars

**November 19, 2022:** Geophytes (Bulbs, species peonies, and more)

**January 14, 2023:** Small Woodies (Ericaceous plants, conifers, and more)

**February 25, 2023:** What's New in Rock Gardening (Building a moveable mountain, propagation techniques, and more)

**Check the NARGS website for details and how to register.**

## NARGS Book Service

The NARGS Book Service has received a fresh influx of books from a member's storage shed. These are books that were rescued when the original Book Store was discontinued. So, these are new oldies but goodies.

*The Caucasus and its Flowers* by Holubec and Krivka. A coffee table book. Pictures with descriptions of plants. Hardcover, 390 pages. Originally 96 Euros, now \$30. 10 copies.

*Handbook on Troughs* by NARGS. Paperback 76 pages. \$7 each, or 10 for \$35 for NARGS Chapters. 139 copies.

*Lychnis and Silene in the Garden* by James L Jones and NARGS. Paperback, 84 pages. Pictures and descriptions. \$5. 15 copies.

*A History of the American Rock Garden Society* by Marnie Flook. Paperback, 206 pages. The history of what is now NARGS from 1934 to 1995. \$5. 5 copies.

*Utah Wildflowers – A Field Guide to Northern and Central Mountains and Valleys* by Richard Shaw / Utah State University Press. Paperback, 218 pages, plants arranged by colors. Describes plants and growing conditions and characteristics. \$10. 4 copies.

*Northwest Penstemons* by Dee Strickler. Hardcover, 191 pages. 80 Species native to the Pacific Northwest. Detailed descriptions / drawings / pictures / maps. \$15. 6 copies.

*Bulbs of North America* by NARGS. Hardcover, 251 pages plus 50 pages of pictures. 8 groupings of plants and 3 geographical groupings. \$17. 7 copies.

*Wisterias, a Comprehensive Guide*, by Peter Valder. A 1995 hardcover. 159 pages. \$16. 1 copy.

*Rock Garden Design and Construction* by NARGS. Hardback 316 pages. A collection of monographs by various authors. Principles / materials / types / structure / regional styles. \$15. 73 copies.



*Key to the Genus Penstemon and its related Genera in the Tribe Cheloneae* by Robin and Kenneth Lodewick. A 1999 paperback, 136 pages. A key with 14 groups. \$5. 1 copy.

*Plants of Waterton-Glacier National Parks and the Northern Rockies* by Richard Shaw and Danny On.

Paperback, 160 pages. Field guide with plants grouped by colors. \$5. 2 copies.

Prices include postage (which is being paid by a NARGS donor). Sorry, but mail-order sales in the U.S. only.

Questions? Contact Book Service Volunteer, Dave Collura. To reach Dave, click the "Contact Us," next to the "Log in" button. And put "Book Service" in the subject line.



## **Congratulations to VIRAGS**

Congratulations to the Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society that has just celebrated its 100th anniversary. It is the oldest continuous rock and alpine garden society in North America. VIRAGS is located on Victoria Island, British Columbia. Check out the society on Facebook (Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society) and on Instagram (@virags\_pics). Or [www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com) .



## **NARGS Tours & Adventures Committee Call for Volunteers**

The NARGS Tours and Adventures Committee is looking for new members. Ideally, we'd like to have a team of three to five NARGS members who love to travel and would be interested in helping with the planning and execution of the NARGS trips.

The amount of time and tasks required for each tour will vary.

We are currently discussing tour options for 2023 and beyond. The four basic tasks of the committee are to:

- Brainstorm tour ideas and assess their feasibility,
- Work internally or with tour companies to plan the trips,
- Oversee the marketing and registration processes, and
- Provide backup for other committee members to make sure each tour is successful.

The NARGS Tours Committee was formed in 2016 with the objective of generating income to support NARGS programs. Just as important, it provides an opportunity for members to view plants in their native environments, visit exceptional gardens, and interact with other gardeners.

Prior to the shutdown of travel due to COVID-19, the committee-coordinated tours went to Italy, China, Scotland, Greece, Newfoundland, and Wyoming. Tours planned for 2020 and 2021 that were delayed by COVID-19 include the Adirondacks of New York and the Swiss Alps that happened this past June and a tour of Argentine Patagonia planned for this coming December 2022.



If you enjoy tour planning and would be interested in getting involved, send an email containing a short description of your interests as well as any questions that you have. To reach me, click the "Contact Us," next to the "Log in" button and select "Tours."

--David White, Tours & Adventures

## **Tri-State NARGS Meeting**

**Sunday, October 16, 2022**

**New York Botanical Garden (The Bronx, New York)**

Cosponsored by the Manhattan and the Hudson Valley chapters of NARGS and the NARGS Traveling Speakers Program

Open to all NARGS members---free of charge but registration is required: see [mcnargs.org](http://mcnargs.org) for details.

After a COVID-19 hiatus, the annual Tri-State Meeting is back! It will be held on Sunday, October 16th at Ross Hall at the New York Botanical Garden.

As part of the NARGS Speakers Tour, our speaker will be Kaj Andersen. Kaj and his wife Minna have been instrumental in developing the crevice garden at the Bangsbo Botanical Garden, Tufa and Crevice Garden in Denmark, originally designed and created in cooperation with Zdeněk Zvolánek and Joyce Carruthers.

Kaj will give a morning and an afternoon presentation, and his first talk will focus on the Bangsbo Tufa and Crevice Garden. There will be a break for lunch, for wandering around the many and varied gardens at NYBG (and especially the rock garden), and for buying plants from the great vendors who've confirmed they'll be offering their special plants there. Kaj's afternoon talk will be on Dutch alpine gardens.

We hope you'll join us at the first Tri-State Meeting in three years!

Easily accessible by car or public transportation. Please check the website of the Manhattan Chapter ([mcnargs.org](http://mcnargs.org)) for all the details.





**Czech Rock Gardeners Society**  
*Spolek českých skalničkářů*

## **4<sup>th</sup> CZECH INTERNATIONAL ROCK GARDEN CONFERENCE** **5 – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Prague**

**At the Congress and Educational Center of the Silva Tarouca Research  
Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening, Průhonice  
CZECH REPUBLIC**

### **Registration Now Open**

We invite world rock gardeners to the Conference with interesting lectures and exploration of the best local rock gardens, including the May 2023 Show of the Prague Rock Garden Club situated in the medieval baroque parts of Prague.

#### **Lectures:**

Oleg Belyalov (Kazakhstan), excellent photographer, a victim of Covid – movie AlaTau, commented by Vojtěch Holubec;

Sajad Alipour (Iran) - Iranian alpine plants, the missing link in the world's rock gardens;

John Mitchell (Scotland, UK) - From wild to cultivation at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh

Harry Jans (The Netherlands) - High Alpines on the Equator in Ecuador and Peru;

Martin Hajman (Norway/Czechia) - Plants from all continents in the arctic-alpine rock garden in Tromsø;

Zdeněk Zvolánek (Czechia) – Amazing Flowers from Dinaric to Kurdistan Alps;

Jiří Papoušek (Czechia) - Alpines cultivation in the tufa wall;

Vojtěch Holubec (Czechia) – Alpines of W. China and Tibet;

**Garden visits:** Stanislav Čepička, Milan Halada, Vojtěch Holubec, Jiří Papoušek, Jiří Pospíšil, Zdeněk Zvolánek, Vladimír Staněk, and the May 2023 Show of Czech Rock Garden Club.

**Conference fee:** €539; after 1st Jan 2023 €589.

**More information and registration** is available on our website: [www.czrgs.cz](http://www.czrgs.cz)

**And on social media:**

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CZRGs2023>,

Instagram- [https://www.instagram.com/czrgs\\_2023/](https://www.instagram.com/czrgs_2023/)

**Contact:** [conference@czrgs.cz](mailto:conference@czrgs.cz)

## Rock, Alpine, and Allied Garden Societies

Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia: [www.agc-bc.ca](http://www.agc-bc.ca)  
Alpine Garden Society (U.K.): [www.alpinegardensociety.net](http://www.alpinegardensociety.net)  
American Conifer Society: [www.conifersociety.org](http://www.conifersociety.org)  
American Penstemon Society: <https://penstemons.org>  
American Primrose Society: [www.americanprimrosesociety.org](http://www.americanprimrosesociety.org)  
American Rhododendron Society: [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)  
British Cactus & Succulent Society: [www.bcss.org.uk](http://www.bcss.org.uk)  
Cactus & Succulent Society of America: [www.cactusandsucculentsociety.org](http://www.cactusandsucculentsociety.org)  
Cyclamen Society: [www.cyclamen.org](http://www.cyclamen.org)  
Dutch Rock Garden Society: [www.nrvwebsite.nl](http://www.nrvwebsite.nl)  
Dwarf Iris Society: [www.dwarfiris.org](http://www.dwarfiris.org)  
Eriogonum Society: [www.eriogonum.org](http://www.eriogonum.org)  
Flemish Rock Garden Society: [www.vrvforum.be](http://www.vrvforum.be)  
Fritillaria Group (U.K.): [www.fritillaria.org.uk](http://www.fritillaria.org.uk)  
New Zealand Alpine Garden Society: [www.nzags.com](http://www.nzags.com)  
Pacific Bulb Society: [www.pacificbulbsociety.org](http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org)  
Rock Gardeners Club Prague: <https://skalnickari.cz/>  
Scottish Rock Garden Club: [www.srgc.net](http://www.srgc.net)  
Species Iris Group of North America: <http://www.signa.org/index.pl?Intro>  
Victoria Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society: [www.virags.com](http://www.virags.com)

### Of Additional Interest

Norman Deno's "Seed Germination Theory and Practice" (1993): <https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/41278/PDF>  
International Rock Gardener: [https://www.srgc.net/international\\_rock\\_gardener.asp](https://www.srgc.net/international_rock_gardener.asp)  
Ian Young's Bulb Log Diary: <https://www.srgc.net/bulblog.asp>  
Hardy Plant Society (various groups in the U.S.)

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

David Salman, High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Glenis Dyer, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire, U.K.  
Larry Mellichamp, Charlotte, North Carolina

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(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685) 1. Publication title: Rock Garden Quarterly. Publication number: 1081-0765. 3. Filing date: Sept. 1, 2022. 4. Issue frequency: quarterly. 5. Number of issues published annually: four. 6. Annual subscription price: \$40.00 (USA, Canada), \$45.00 (overseas). 7. Address of known office of publication: NARGS, c/o B.J.Ward, 214 Ashton Hall Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609-3925 / P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh NC 27619-8604. 8. Address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: NARGS, c/o B.J.Ward, 214 Ashton Hall Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609-3925 / P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh NC 27619-8604. 9. Names and addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher: NARGS, c/o B.J.Ward, 214 Ashton Hall Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609-3925 / P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh NC 27619-8604. Editor: Joseph Tychonievich 1629 Sunnymede Ave, South Bend, IN 46615-1327. Managing editor: None. 10. Owner: North American Rock Garden Society, c/o B.J.Ward, 214 Ashton Hall Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609-3925 / P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh NC 27619-8604. 11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders: None. 12. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. Publication title: Rock Garden Quarterly. 14. Issue date for circulation data below: July 1, 2022. 15. Extent and nature of circulation. A. Total number of copies: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1815; No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 1871. B. Paid Circulation (1) Mailed outside-county mail subscriptions stated on form 3541: average during preceding 12 months, 1696; issue nearest filing date, 1759. (2) Mailed in-county subscriptions stated on Form 3541: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. (3) Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS distribution: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. (4) Other classes mailed through the USPS: average during preceding 12 months, 115; issue nearest filing date, 100. C. Total paid and/or requested circulation: average during preceding 12 months, 1811; issue nearest filing date, 1859. D. Free distribution by mail and outside the mail: (1) Outside-country: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. (2) In-Country: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. (3) Mailed at other classes through the USPS: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. (4) Distributed outside the mail: average during preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. E. Total free distribution: average preceding 12 months, 0; issue nearest filing date, 0. F. Total distribution: average preceding 12 months, 1811; issue nearest filing date, 1859. G. Copies not distributed: average preceding 12 months, 4; issue nearest filing date, 12. H. Total: average, 1815; issue nearest filing date, 1871. I. Percent paid and/or requested circulation: preceding 12 months, 100%; issue nearest filing date, 100%. 16. Electronic Copy Circulation A. Paid electronic copies: average during preceding 12 months, 166; issue nearest filing date, 149. B. Total paid print copies plus paid electronic copies: average during preceding 12 months, 1977; issue nearest filing date, 2008. C. Total print distribution plus paid electronic copies: average during preceding 12 months, 1977; issue nearest filing date, 2008. D. Percent paid (print and electronic): average during preceding 12 months, 100%; issue nearest filing date, 100%. 17. Publication Statement of Ownership required, will be printed in the Fall 2022 issue of this publication. Date: Sept. 1, 2022. Bobby Ward, Executive Secretary; Joseph Tychonievich, Editor.





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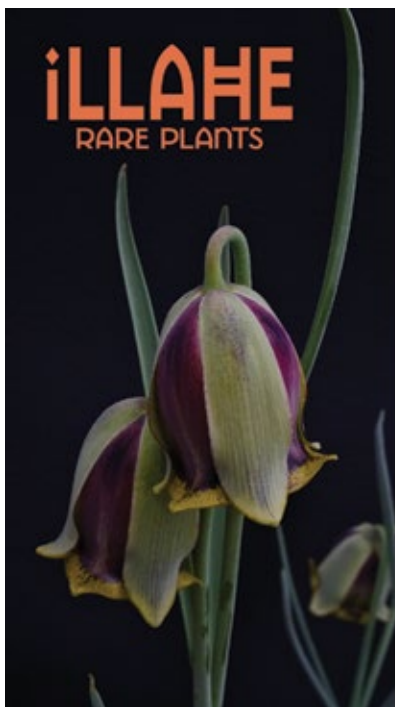


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**Back Cover: *Gentiana acaulis*, photo by Rosemary Glos.**



ISSN 1081-0765  
USPS No. 0072-960