



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XLV ✧ Fall 2021 ✧ Number 6 ✧

## Upcoming Programs for Watnong Members Only!

**Fall Speakers, via Zoom 10:30 a.m.**

**November 20, Mark Garland**  
**‘Wildflowers of Washington’s**  
**Olympic Mountains’**

**New! Winter Speaker**  
**February 19, 2022**  
**Jay Akerley, ‘Rock Garden Plants**  
**of Canada’s Wet Coast’**

spectacular floral displays and meet many of the flowers found in these meadows during this illustrated program. Some may seem familiar — there are several genera found there that are represented by related species in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Please join us!

## Our November Speaker

Mark Garland is a Cape May based naturalist who worked as a naturalist at Olympic National Park early in his career.

The Olympic Mountains are a coastal range in the northwest corner of Washington state. The range’s unusual geology and high annual precipitation combine to nurture exceptional subalpine meadow wildflower displays in summer, and the isolation of these mountains has resulted in the evolution of several endemic species. See



**The maple-leaved bugbane, *Actaea acerina*, in bloom for the first day of fall. Photo by Hilary Clayton.**

## NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

The Haggerty Center at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum remains closed. Rather than try to hold our annual meeting via zoom, membership chair Sid Jones and Treasurer Don Grossmann have prepared reports for this newsletter, which appear below and on page 3. Committee Chair Noel Schulz has arranged Zoom speakers for a new virtual winter meeting in February; it's uncertain yet whether we might meet in person in March.

### **Please mark your calendars!**

February 19, 2022, 10:30 a.m., Jay Akerley, will speak on the Flora of western North America

If you weren't able to attend the last two lectures, Don Grossmann has made them available on YouTube:

1. "Water Garden Features" by Arnie Friedman - October 17, 2021  
<https://youtu.be/j1kyYJbucqQ>

2. "The Betty Ford Alpine Garden" by Delainey Williams - September 4, 2021  
<https://youtu.be/yplNlutzlY8>

### **Dues are due!**

2022 dues are due 1/31/22. They remain at \$10 per person, or \$15 per mailing address. Since we won't be meeting in person, please make your check payable to Watnong Chapter NARGS, and mail it to Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ

07869. Do you have a friend or neighbor who discovered gardening during the pandemic? Consider gifting them a membership to the Watnong chapter while sending in your dues for '22!

### **Membership Report: 10/27/21 By Sid Jones**

#### **2019 Membership**

91 Paid Memberships:

31 Family, 60 Individual  
12 New Members  
9 Inactive/resigned, etc .  
Total Members: 126  
Dues received: \$1065

#### **2020 Membership**

80 Paid Memberships

27 Family, 53 Individual  
2 New Members  
14 Inactive/resigned, etc.  
Total Members: 107  
Dues received: \$980\*  
\* includes extra donations

#### **2021 Membership**

69 Paid Memberships

33 Family, 36 Individual  
4 New Members  
12 Inactive/resigned, etc.  
Total Members: 102  
Dues received: \$855

**For the chapter's five-year financial summary, prepared by Treasurer Don Grossmann, please see page 3.**

NARGS Watnong Chapter		Five Year Financial Summary				
		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>Revenue</b>						
	Membership Dues	\$445	\$635	\$1,160	\$1,100	\$2,355
	April Plant Sale Profit - Net	\$0	-\$200	\$5,235	\$3,891	\$3,053
	August 2021 Plant Sale Profit	\$393				
	November 2019 Plant Sale Profit			\$100		
	Donations from Individuals	\$400				
<b>Expenses</b>						
	Administration	-\$28	-\$54	-\$46	-\$129	-\$264
	Bus Trip - Net	\$0	\$0	-\$82	-\$400	-\$653
	Hospitality	\$0	-\$60	-\$809	-\$823	-\$1,974
	Insurance	-\$327	-\$327	-\$327	-\$327	-\$327
	Newsletter	-\$150	-\$219	-\$298	-\$258	-\$325
	Program	-\$650	-\$689	-\$1,810	-\$3,023	-\$2,038
	Rent	\$0	-\$175	-\$175	-\$175	\$0
<b>Donations</b>						
	Blackburn Scholarship			-\$500	-\$500	-\$500
	National NARGS			-\$500		-\$500
	Laurelwood			-\$200		-\$1,475
	New Jersey Historical Garden Foundation*	-\$250				
	Master Gardeners of Bergen County*	-\$200				
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>		-\$368	-\$1,089	\$1,748	-\$645	-\$2,648
<b>Checking Account Balance - End of Year and as of 10/26/21</b>		\$10,893	\$11,261	\$12,350	\$10,602	\$11,246
* Donations made in lieu of speaker fees						

**Thank you, Don!**

## HELP IT GROW FOR YOU

From Marta McDowell, in time to give us great blooms next year:

### **Ernie Cavallo's Annual Fertilization Plan for Snowdrops/Galanthus**

**On Christmas Eve** before the rains came, I give every clump in my garden a small handful (1 tablespoon) of BulbTone and granulated lime. I urge you to do the same.

**On Valentines Day** I give the clumps a splash (1/4 cup) of half strength liquid tomato fertilizer. That's the tricky one

because there is often snow on the ground. Go ahead be bold.

**On April Fool's Day** I sprinkle the clumps with super phosphate and super potash and granulated lime (1 teaspoon of the 3 mixed in equal proportions). Try it, your snowdrops will like it.

## NEWS FROM NARGS

Sent as separate attachments with this newsletter are the first two of a regular monthly plant portrait by NARGS president Panayoti Kelaidis, for October and November. Enjoy!

On Saturday, November 13, NARGS presents a virtual event:

**In the Shadow of Stone: Woodlanders for the Rock Garden.** Find all the details, including speaker line-up here: <https://www.nargs.org/nargs-rocks-woodlanders-buy-ticket>

There is a special price for NON-NARGS members!! For just \$50 you can join NARGS **and** attend the virtual conference (a \$25 value).

**You will be required to join at regular NARGS membership rate (\$40) when clicking on “ORDER HERE.” However, you will receive a discounted ticket to the event in your checkout cart.**

The **Main round of seed ordering** will begin December 15th, with a preview of the seed list a few days earlier. If you have not joined or need to renew your membership, now is the time to do so!

If you prefer to place your seed order by mail, **send a request for the print copy of the Seed List** and order form by December 1 to Joyce Fingerut, via email at [alpinegarden@comcast.net](mailto:alpinegarden@comcast.net) or to 537 Taugwonk Road Stonington, Connecticut

06378-1805 U.S.A. Be sure to include your postal address.



**Save the Dates: June 14–16, 2022 is coming!**

**By Carol Eichler, Adirondack Chapter**

We're going to try again! We're hosting 2022 NARGS Annual General Meeting to be held June 14-16, 2022. The theme is similar to last time but with minor modifications: **Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration.** Cornell Botanic Gardens will again co-host with us. To quote Yogi Berra, if our program feels like “déjà-vu all over again”...well, in a way it is! The enthusiasm for the 2020 AGM that we were forced to cancel was so overwhelming that we're willing to give it another shot and we've tried to retain much of the original itinerary. That's why you may see some resemblances, yet with some important differences too.

All rock gardens start with a vision, often one inspired by what we've seen in nature. Therefore, we are emphasizing the "exploration" side of our theme. The experience of seeing plants growing in their native habitat can be revelatory, even inspirational. So you will see us welcoming a new line-up of plant explorers as our speakers and we hope you'll be as excited about them as we are.

The 3-day meeting will be based on the north campus of Cornell University, voted one of the most beautiful U.S. college campuses. Many of our activities will occur in the Robert Purcell Community Center or nearby. Residence hall lodging, if you want to stay close to the action, is offered literally steps away from this building.

Unofficially this AGM, like those of the past, provides a great way for NARGS members (enthusiastic gardeners all) with an annual opportunity to share our gardening experiences, to renew friendships, and to form new ones. Together we will share our own plant explorations, inspirations, and visions.

**What to Expect:** daytime field trips, evening talks (line-up below), plant sales by choice vendors, plus an optional pre-AGM tour to visit three exceptional private gardens in the Syracuse area.

### **Speakers**

**F. Robert Wesley**, botanist at the Cornell

Botanic Gardens, is one of our area's foremost experts on native plants of New York State. He spoke at Taproot 2020 about the native plants of the Finger Lakes gorges and the flora of the Chaumont Barrens alvar preserve. This time he will speak about the rich diversity of native orchids in New York State.

**Eleftherios Dariotis** (aka Liberto Dario, the moniker he gave himself for use on his Facebook page) is a horticulturist, botanist, and plant explorer from Athens, Greece. He owns a small nursery and bulb business, travels extensively around the world to study and photograph plants in their native habitats, and leads plant tours, including a NARGS Tour to Greece in 2019.

**Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson** are the owners of Far Reaches Farm in Port Townsend, Washington, whose extensive collection of plants is spectacularly unfocused and a plant collector's paradise. They are also founding directors of Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy, a non-profit whose mission is the acquisition and conservation of vulnerable plants of wild and cultivated origin that are new or rare in North America. They travel the distant corners of the world to acquire and conserve horticulturally and botanically important rare plants, learn about them, and teach what they know.



## Field Trips

While these field trips will probably have less relevance to our members, we are planning a field trip on Wednesday, to include a guided walk to one of our renown gorges – either Upper Treman gorge or Upper Buttermilk Falls gorge, visits to two choice private gardens (the Stark/Stauble garden and Kobre/Denson garden), and a lakeside lunch on the shores of Cayuga Lake (Myers Park). On Thursday, we visit the Cornell Botanic Gardens plant collections with their docents on hand to answer questions. Free time in the afternoon allows our registrants to further explore the Gardens and Arboretum, or to venture to other on- or off-campus attractions.

## Additional Activities

There will be NARGS awards, election of officers, and the annual report, plant sales, book sales and signings. On Thursday evening there will be a banquet and open bar, and post-AGM on-your-own tours of ACNARGS members' gardens.

## Schedule

The meeting schedule will be posted on the NARGS website ([www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)) in the forthcoming Winter 2021/22 *Quarterly*. We will also publish it in our newsletter and our own website.

## Registration

As a registrant, you will have the advantage of full access to ALL the AGM activities. You are required to be a member of NARGS to register (still a bargain at \$40). Ready to sign up? Online registration will open about mid-January 2022. At that time, further information and the registration link will be posted on the NARGS.org Home Page under Events, listed as Annual Meeting and Tours 2022. The registration fee of \$450 payable by credit card will be due at registration. We are limited to a maximum of 150 registrants and we know, from the last time (when covid lockdown and Cornell shut down forced the June 2020 cancelation) that those spaces had already filled by mid-March.

## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



If you would like to place an ad here, send copy to the Newsletter Editor, [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com). Deadline for the winter newsletter is January 10, 2022.

### **2021 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS**

Co-Chair	Roxanne Hiltz	973-361-6680	roxanne.hiltz@gmail.com
Co-Chair	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Vice Chair	Brian Coleman	973-325-3453	bell.coleman@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Secretary	Debby Zweig	201-230-7725	zweig@hotmail.com

### **2021 WATNONG COMMITTEES**

Membership & Distribution	Sid Jones	973-366-7241	rsj40jr@icloud.com
Programs	Noel Schulz	201-445-6445	noelschulz@verizon.net
Program Committee	Debby Zweig	201-230-7725	zweig@hotmail.com
Digital Projector	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Publicity	Martha Podilchuk	908-507-6487	marthapod@comcast.net
Plant Sale	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
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**THE WATNONG CHAPTER  
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