



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rockgarden Society

Green Dragon Tales

June 2003

June Program

We have two activities planned for June:

Garden and Nursery Tour to Rochester on June 14th.

Check out the program below and let the Anne know if you want to participate, if you can drive, how many seats you can offer, or if you need a ride. Please also let her know if you are driving from Binghamton, Ithaca or Syracuse. There is a lot to fit into this day, so we will leave Ithaca early, probably 7 am.

Descriptions of places we plan to visit are as follows (not in order – we still need to work that out.)

Judy and Gerry Samolis – In a rural setting, see semps, troughs, and tufa plantings as well a great combination of rock gardens, conventional vegetable and flower gardens, fountains, and a pool.

Roz Bliss – Almost turf-free front gardens with raised sand and gravel beds in full sun. Rear shaded gardens,- many troughs, and new tufa slope.

Letter From The Chair

Greetings all! What exciting news – our May plant sale raised \$2,264 and recruited 2 new members! Thanks to all members, who donated plants or worked at the sale. This was a great success and will benefit our members next year by bringing outstanding speakers/programs to the Chapter.

Being a warm weather nut, I had hoped for a warmer spring, but this cool, wet weather has prolonged the bloom of many of the spring-blooming alpines. This is also great weather for planting and after the plant sale, hopefully, many of you may have much planting to do.

Many members will soon be traveling to Connecticut on a garden/nursery tour. Look for a summary of the tour in the next issue. June offers several choices of activities for interested members. A garden/nursery tour in the Rochester area on June 14th and a cutting workshop by Dr. Nina Bassuk on June 21st. Both are great opportunities for members to broaden their gardening knowledge.

How did you like the Membership Handbook in last month's *Green Dragon*? It was step one in putting together a comprehensive handbook to provide new and existing members with pertinent information relating to the Chapter. Look for an updated version later this year to include information on: Chapter Membership, Plant Sales, Garden Tour Etiquette, Hosting a Speaker, Chapter Picnic, Rock Garden Resources, Membership Listing, Chapter Constitution & Bylaws, NARGS Membership and more.

Please join me in welcoming Susanne Lipari, George Erdman, Marcia Meigs and Toni Wilkinson as the new editorial board of the *Green Dragon* and expressing appreciation for their

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Green Dragon Tales

is the newsletter of the Adirondack Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

NARGS Editors may reprint **unaltered** articles in their newsletters. Cite the date, publication, and author and notify the *Green Dragon* editor.

Contributors, please submit materials by the 15th of the month preceding publication to:

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\$ 10.00 annual membership

due on January 1. Send a check payable to Adirondack Chapter, NARGS, to:

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Letter from the Editor

Debbie Shanahan has decided to leave the hard work of publishing the *Green Dragon* to an editorial board. We thank Debbie for her dedicated work in creating and publishing the *Green Dragon* for the past eight years.

I am grateful that as editor, I don't have to step alone into Debbie's shoes. Helping me to fill them will be my trusted editorial board: George Erdman, Marcia Meigs, and Toni Wilkinson. We all hope that you, the members of the Adirondack Chapter, will be eager to send us articles, comments, pictures and internet links to fill the pages. This is YOUR newsletter.

The biggest change will be that the *Green Dragon* will move to the web. It will live at the Chapter website. You can read it there or download it to your own computer and, of course, you can print it out to read in the sun, the shade or behind the wood stove. Since this will greatly reduce the cost of distributing the *Green Dragon*, we strongly encourage you to use this electronic version. Those of you without internet access can request a paper copy to be mailed to you, just as in the past! However, the electronic version will have several benefits:

- * Colored color photos to go with the articles. Paper versions will arrive without photos.
- * More flexible use of space. Since the old *Green Dragon* used to be done by a professional printer, the layout was limited to an even number of pages, which forced the editor to either shorten the articles, or to put in filler pieces.

*Rapid delivery at greatly reduced cost to the chapter.

*The *Green Dragon* will be accessible to people interested in rock gardening when they visit the Chapter website, and that may very well bring in new members.

We hope you will all use the *Green Dragon* as a forum. You can help by contributing articles, comments, and information:

- * New member portraits.
- * Plant portraits.
- * Brief book reviews.
- * A portrait of your garden or one you have visited.
- * Creative solutions to difficult gardening problems.
- * A scientific article.
- * Great websites to visit and why.

The editorial board is looking forward to a flood of contributions – from whole articles to short notes – from the membership.

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Cruising the Web

While sitting up late at night, watching winter snowfalls cover the garden, I had lots of time to cruise the web and enjoy thoughts of spring....well, when I wasn't mentally groaning at the thought of all the work.

My wanderings generally start when I read about a new website mentioned by one of the rock garden gurus on Alpine-L(I am not a serious rock gardener but this list is an absolute must for anyone who dreams of being one...Click on "Join" at <http://listserv.surfnet.nl/archives/alpine-1.html>) or when I look up a plant or website on that premier search engine for anything in your life about which you want to learn more...www.google.com.

For this happy wanderer, looking up something like *Corydalis* 'Blue Panda' can lead to hours of viewing photos, cultural requirements, nursery sources, comparative prices, botanical exploration, books, vendors, etc. etc.

I will try to come up with a trio or so of sites which I have found especially rewarding or interesting to present to you in each newsletter. Suggestions are also most welcome(arisaemaq@aol.com).

For me, it is particularly enjoyable to revisit, periodically, some of the wonderful websites maintained by gardeners who specialize in unusual or numerous species of plants. These sites are upgraded regularly with even more photos and plant descriptions.

Dr. John Lonsdale's fantastic site at <http://www.edwoodgardens.net/index.htm> is first to come to mind. Not only does he have some 1800 photos of the rarest species he grows in his gardens, but you can use the photos as postcards, choosing your own background colors, etc. I just wish I had such a set up for photos... simply the most advanced yet easy to use site imaginable for this computer neophyte.

Considering that John has only been gardening on his site in Exton, Pennsylvania since 1995, he has to be the most incredible gardener, as well as photographer I have ever come across. Chinese plants, double hepatica cultivars, montane rarities, bulbs, and many others will inspire you.

John particularly delighted me by telling me that the fancy double Japanese hepaticas, many of which sell for hundreds of dollars and which I have craved for some years now, did not do well for him due to rot and other problems. It is always comforting to a gardener with large numbers of losses to hear of an expert's losses!

I will close by putting in a plug for my favorite bulb dealer, Russell Stafford, whose catalogue at <http://www.odysseybulbs.com> is due to come out as I write this. He promises, among other lovelies, to have hard-to-find *corydalis* such as *C. buschii*, *C. malkensis*(I refuse to get into discussions of whether this is *C. alexeenkoana* or *C. caucasica alba*),

Looking forward to July:

The **summer picnic** will be held this year at Susanne Lipari's. This is traditionally a social event, and along with a dish to pass luncheon, you will also get to tour Susanne's garden, where you will see perennials, a few rock garden plants, and (if my memory serves me), laboratory glassware in a garden setting, quite unique.

Bring a dish-to-pass, plate, cup, cutlery for yourself, and maybe a folding chair. We will gather at 11 am, eat, talk, and be merry. Please join us.

Directions from Binghamton, Syracuse and Ithaca:

Go to Rt. 13 in Ithaca, take Rt. 79W towards Watkins Glen. In Mecklenburg, take Rt. 228 S (left) in the direction of Odessa. Go 2.4mi. When you see a silo on the left side of the road, you made it. The driveway is across the road from the barn with the silo.

Directions from Elmira:

Take Rt. 14N towards Watkins Glen. Once through the town of Horseheads, there is a stop light just before a church and a CAT equipment rental place. Go right to the 4-way stop sign. Turn left onto Ridge Road. Stay on that until Odessa. Turn right onto Main St.(Rt. 224) Rt. 228 N turns off to the left at the end of the village. Stay on Rt. 228 app. 6 miles until you pass a huge farm machinery graveyard on your left. Go past it until you see the silo on your right. The house is across the road from the barn and the silo.

Susanne Lipari
3991 Rt. 228.
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in short.....

Apologies

We would like to apologize to members who were not included on the membership list recently distributed by our outgoing editor. Sometime in the fall we will be publishing a corrected version of the membership list and will be distributing it along with a comprehensive Adirondack Chapter Handbook. This handbook will contain information about how the Adirondack Chapter and NARGS work and will contain a comprehensive list of resources:

nurseries, gardens, reference books, and online resources. This will become our welcome to new members as they join, and will help make the global rock gardening community more accessible to all of us.

We would also like to apologize to members who do not have email. Sometimes due to time and budget constraints we organize things (like the chapter plant sale) with email communications. If you do not have a friend in the chapter who receives email and can keep you informed, please speak to one of the board members and we will do our best to inform you of activities that you are interested in.

Anne Klingensmith
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May Plant Sale results

Once again, the Chapter members came through with lots of fabulous plants for the big sale at the Ithaca High School.

We raised \$2,264 and recruited 2 new members. A terrific day thanks to many contributors and many, many plants!

Carol Eichler
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Plants for Life 2003

September 13, 2003

As you are out there gardening this spring and summer, moving plants, dividing, discovering seedlings, please remember to pot up some of your treasures to donate to Plants for Life 2003. All money raised goes to the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance (IBCA), an organization which supports women (and men!) with breast cancer and their families with education, support and advocacy. Plants for Life is in its third year and has been able to make a noticeable contribution to IBCA. Your generous donation of plants will make this year's sale even bigger and better. For donations or to offer your help with the sale, call

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607-387-9306
plantsforlife@hotmail.com

Some information on submitting material for the Green Dragon.

Approximately 250 words fit into one column. This leaves room on the page for a title as well as name and contact info at the end. (Your word processing program most likely has a "word count" feature in the "tools" menu.) Please submit articles early enough to allow time for editing and for you to approve the edits. Unless it is a time sensitive contribution, we may save a submitted article for a later edition. Please submit by email if at all possible!

Images: preferably .tif format.

Let me know if you want your phone number and email address listed with the article, or if you want neither for privacy reasons. Chapter officers will be listed with full contact information.

in short.....

Iris in the Rock Garden

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I've had some success the last couple years with bulbous iris in the rock garden: *Iris danfordiae*, *I. histrioides*, and *I. reticulata*. All bloom here in my cold Zone 5 garden the first two weeks of April, accompanying crocus, eranthis, galanthus, and the early narcissuses, like *N. pumilis* and the cultivar Tête-à-Tête. I've posted to the chapter's homepage (<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~gerdman/nargs/nargs.htm>) a series of pictures with running commentary. Just follow the aggravatingly spinning signs that mark the path Our Gardens>George Erdman, and enjoy.

George Erdman
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C. nudicaulis, *C. seisumsiana*, and *C. vittae* in stock. As well as other erythroniums, he will also have *E. sibiricum*, one of the most beautiful members of the genus.

Being so fond of colchicums, I expect I will no doubt find a new one or two on his list, in 2002, of some thirty sorts. I was thrilled to find *Colchicum hungaricum albiflorum*, a Spring blooming, diminutive charmer, in bloom this Spring.

Happy cruising,

Marcia Meigs
Arisaema@aol.com

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support of the Chapter in volunteering to take on editorship of the newsletter!

Have you visited the Chapter Website lately? Please do visit. George Erdman has done some updates recently. If you have pictures that you would like posted to the website, please contact George and discuss the possibility with him. We would like to see more members' gardens or favorite plants featured. The web address is

<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~gerdman/nargs/nargs.htm> .

Happy Gardening,

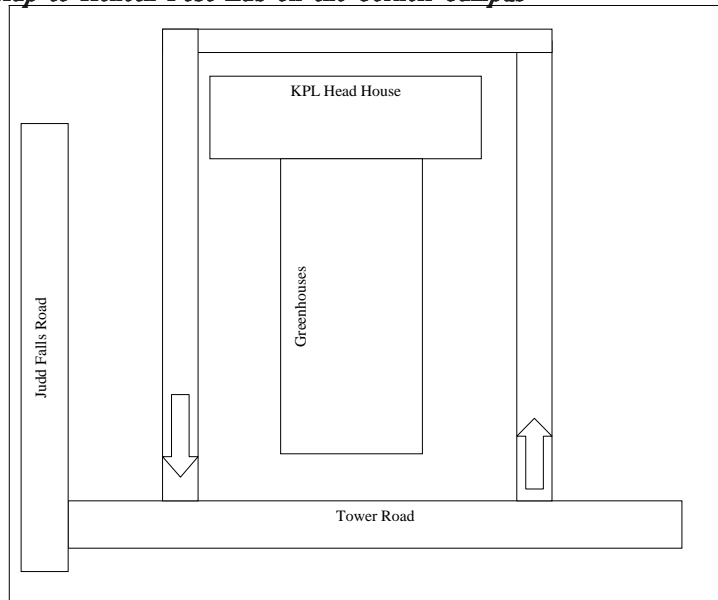
Michelle

Please let Art (Atrimbl1@rochester.rr.com) know your curren email address. This is the last issue of the *Green Dragon* to completely arrive by mail. The next issue will be sent electronically to those who can receive it. Please let Art know if you need a paper copy in the future!

Remember to sign up for the Cuttings Workshop on June 21. Call or email Anne at aekling@lightlink.com 607-256-9308.

Only a few spaces left!

Map to Keneth Post Lab on the Cornell Campus



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Charmaine Babineau – Mature shade garden with tiny treasure in troughs and tropicals in pots. Home and garden flow seamlessly together with views from inside and out.

Oriental Garden Supply Nursery – Al has more Japanese Maples than anyone, anywhere around – also bamboo and dwarf evergreens and fabulous rocks.

Palmiter Nursery – one of the areas oldest perennial and show gardens with an extensive collection and variety of plant material. Troughs and many other containers are waiting for

your creative touch. Everything you could want for rock or cottage gardens - this home nursery has gardens of great beauty and style – bring a truck!

An optional nursery for the way home – **Bristol's** is one of Rochester's newer nurseries and is growing by leaps and bounds. They have been attentive to rock gardeners and their needs and have a lot of nice material of interest, with the largest selection of tufa rock available in this area and a recently established tufa rock wall planted by Betsy Knapp.

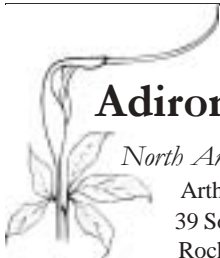
Cutting Workshop June 21st

Dr. Nina Bassuk will teach us how to take and root cuttings. The workshop will take place from noon to 3 pm at Kenneth Post Greenhouse (the location of our August plant sale) on the Cornell University campus. We will start out in the lab, then go out, rain or shine, to get cuttings, and return to the lab.

Participants limited to 20, there are a few spots left. Fee-\$8.

(See map on page 5 for directions to KPL)

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Adirondak Chapter

North American Rockgarden Society

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First Class

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