

ADIRONDACK  
CHAPTER

*North American Rockgarden Society*

# *Green Dragon Tales*

*September 2003*

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## ***Letter From The Chair***

Thank you, thank you, thank you everyone! What a great selection of plants at this year's August plant sale! I believe this was the most diverse selection we have had in several years. To mention just a few - this is not at all a full list: Debby Lapman brought in some real treasures from her nursery - Bedlam Gardens, Rosemarie Parker brought in several different varieties of Anemone she had germinated. George Erdman donated New Zealand plants, Robin Bell brought in very large, lush *Arisaema ringens* that ended up going on the auction table. Jerry Yeager donated a large, and several smaller clumps of *Sarracenia purpurea*. Ken Walkup provided a super selection of *iris*, Pat Curren also donated *iris* and *euphorbia*. Art Tremble brought in a collection of *Sempervivums*, and so did someone else, but I didn't see who brought them in. Toni Wilkinson donated a lovely delicate species *columbine* that was hotly pursued at the auction table. Ross Bliss sent in plants even though she couldn't attend. Nina Lambert donated several *allium* plants and a gorgeous *Roscoa* that got snapped up quickly for the auction table. Rick Lowenstein contributed several specimens of dwarf *Thalictrum* which were anxiously pursued as well as a true alpine *Primula*. I saw Billie Jean Isbell carry in a box of plants that I didn't get a chance to look at. Roseanne Moresco potted up some great *cacti* from her garden. Scott and David brought in some super shrub selections and *Arisaema* seedlings and tubers. There was so much more I couldn't keep up with it all! I know I have not mentioned all of the contributors or their contributions, but please know that your donations were greatly appreciated and led to a fantastic Chapter sale.

Don't forget to bring your seed donations to the chapter meetings in September or October. The Chapter will be a seed donor to the NARGS Seed Exchange this year. Seed especially in demand includes: arisaema, trillium, shortia or other native woodlanders. Seed especially popular includes: campanula, dianthus, allium, penstemon, primula, gentiana, any dwarf garden varieties. Common annuals, noxious weeds, hosta, daylily and most tender perennials are not accepted. This will be an opportunity for us as a chapter to receive seed back from the seed exchange, which we can then germinate and sell. Please contribute if you are able.

The Chapter has offered to help with this year's NARGS seed exchange, sorting and packaging seed. We did this 2 years ago as a chapter project and many members helped out. We will be planning work sessions again between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please let me or another board member know if you are interested in helping out.

*Michelle*

## ***Green Dragon Tales***

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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: [sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)  
or  
Susanne Lipari, ed.  
3991 Route 228  
Alpine, NY 14805

**\$10.00 annual membership** due on January 1. Send a check payable to Adirondack Chapter, NARGS, to:

Arthur Trimble, **Membership**  
39 Songbird Lane  
Rochester, NY 14620

### **CHAPTER CONTACTS**

Chair: Michelle Jones Ham  
[mejonesham@nyseg.com](mailto:mejonesham@nyseg.com)  
607-733-7034

Program Chair: Anne Klingensmith  
[aekling@lightlink.com](mailto:aekling@lightlink.com)  
607-256-9308

Treasurer/Secretary: Carol Eichler  
[cme24@cornell.edu](mailto:cme24@cornell.edu)  
607-387-5823

Membership: Arthur Trimble  
[Atrimbl1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Atrimbl1@rochester.rr.com)  
585-271-7820

Executive Members at Large:  
-Jerry Yaeger  
[jay7@cornell.edu](mailto:jay7@cornell.edu)  
607-844-9462

-Roseanne Moresco  
[jtm3@cornell.edu](mailto:jtm3@cornell.edu)  
607-257-6198

Plant Sales: Tom Myers  
[Robinia@lightLink.com](mailto:Robinia@lightLink.com)  
607-273-2865

Editor: Susanne Lipari  
[sel3@cornell.edu](mailto:sel3@cornell.edu)  
607-387-9308

## **Seed Donations Wanted**

Members of the Adirondack Chapter -NARGS or non-NARGS members- do you have seeds of rock garden or native plants you would like to donate to the Chapter for submission to the NARGS Seed Exchange?

Our goal is to send at least 20 packets (belonging to at least 5 different genera) of seed to the seed exchange as an Adirondack Chapter submission. This offers all Chapter members an opportunity to participate and for the Chapter to receive 35 packets of seeds from the exchange as a donor. These seeds could then be germinated and grown on by volunteers and sold at the Chapter seedling/plant sales. Seed for the NARGS Seed Exchange is due to arrive at the intake manager's on November 1, 2003.

If you would like to donate seeds, please bring them to the September or October meeting. They will be submitted to the seed exchange from the Adirondack Chapter Membership. If members do not have glassine envelopes for their seed they should bring them in any well labeled envelope to be re-packaged in some extra glassine envelopes Michelle will bring to the Chapter meetings.

More information - especially on how to collect, prepare and label the seed - will be available at the upcoming meetings.

*Michelle*



## **October Meeting**

Jim Jermyn, our October speaker this year, will give **two** talks on **October 18th** in room 404 Plant Science on the Cornell Campus. The titles will most likely be:

***“The Challenge of Growing Himalayan Plants”***  
and  
***“Northern Italy and the Dolomites - A Gardener's Paradise”***

Jim Jermyn is the author of a recent Timber Press book, ‘The Himalayan Garden - Growing Plants from the Roof of the World’ which is fantastic as far as I have read. He will bring signed copies to sell. You can read a review of this book in the NARGS Quarterly (Fall 2001, page 292). He comes to us via the NARGS Speaker's Bureau all the way from Great Britain.

*Anne*

### **The Plants for Life “mop-up” sale**

will be on September 20, 2003 from 11 AM to 1 PM (to accommodate the changed time of the Chapter meeting and to give the many Chapter members, who work and donate to the sale, another chance to pick up some treasures). Most of the left-over plants will be sold at 50% off the original price. We have a different venue for this event, too: The sale will be at the Cornell Plantations “Test Garden” on Forest Home Drive across from Flat Rocks. To get there, follow the signs to the “Arboretum”, but instead of entering the Arboretum, turn left towards the bridge. Just before the bridge, turn right and take the 2nd driveway to your right.

## September Program....

....different place, different time, unusual subject,

### “Soil Is Not Dirt”

and pH testing by Joann Gruttadaurio, Senior Extension Associate, Cornell University

Our September program will be on Saturday, **September 20th** from **1-2:30 pm** at the **Kenneth Post seminar room** at Cornell (right next to the room where we usually hold our August sale).

We will be able to bring soil samples for texture analysis and pH testing. So, if you’ve ever wondered whether a trough or garden area really has suitable soil for those lime-loving or ericaceous plants, here is your chance to find out. Besides general information about soils and pH she will offer specific recommendations for changing pH where that is desirable.

The standard technique for collecting a soil sample is to take many small samples from one garden area at 6"-8" depth and combine them in a plastic container. Joann says that 2 cups of soil will be enough to test pH and analyse texture. (might be hard to get 2 cups of sample out of a small trough) We do not need to limit ourselves to one sample each but please don’t arrive with 10 samples and expect to have all of them analyzed.

If you have questions about this program, call or email Anne Klingensmith 607-256-9308, [aekling@lightlink.com](mailto:aekling@lightlink.com)

Anne

## Plant Portrait

### *Anthyllis vulneraria*

On our trip to Stonecrop, Erica was on a rock outcropping near the waterfall and asked me “Oh, what is that lovely clump of red flowers there along the pathway?” It was *Anthyllis vulneraria*. I knew because I have grown it from seed donated by Caroline Burgess, director of Stonecrop, obtained through the NARGS Seed Exchange.

Seed is very easy to germinate in warm temperatures, lightly covered with turkey grit. The seedlings emerged in about a week and grew on strongly, forming multi-leaved clumps in just a few short weeks.

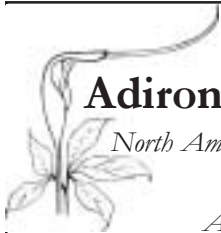
The leaves are a crisp apple green. The first leaves to develop are elliptical, while those that grow as the plant matures are deeply divided. If started indoors early enough these perennial plants may flower the first year.

And they are glorious in bloom! Bright red clusters, with a blush of yellow along the tips of each blossom. In my garden, the plant grows to about 4" in height. Even planted in lean scree, by year 2 flower stalks jut out from the plant both horizontally and vertically nearly hiding the foliage in their abundance. Then come the seed heads, papery white and wispy enough that the dark seed is visible through the protective film. Seed is easy to collect, but the papery pod should be removed before sending it into the seed exchange. The plants grow and spread each year forming dense clumps. Where happily situated they will self-sow moderately. Really nicely enough to lift a few for the plant sales.

Michelle



*Anthyllis vulneraria*, a yellow form, growing in Susanne’s garden. Grown from seed collected at the Botanic Garden of the University of Tuebingen, Germany



## **Adirondack Chapter**

*North American Rock Garden Society  
Susanne Lipari  
3991 Rt. 228  
Alpine, NY 14805*

*First Class*

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