



ADIRONDACK
CHAPTER

North American Rockgarden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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Adirondack Chapter

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**October 18, 2004: Jim Jermyn will
give 2 presentations**

Our October meeting will be an exciting one. We have the privilege and pleasure of hosting a speaker from the NARGS Speakers Bureau, Jim Jermyn. He will give **two talks**, one at **11 am** and one after lunch at **1 pm**. The topics will be "The Challenge of Growing Himalayan Plants" and "Northern Italy and the Dolomites, a Gardener's Paradise". Jim has told me that both talks will contain information about how we can grow plants from these regions. We have ordered a few copies of his book from the NARGS bookstore that will be for sale.

Please note change of time!

Jim Jermyn is the author of [The Himalayan Garden: Growing Plants From the Roof of the World](#), published by Timber Press, a noted authority on Asian plants, and a frequent traveler to spots of particular botanical interest. He's currently the Show Manager for Gardening Scotland and has led tours to Japan and the Dolomites. He trained at Hertfordshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture; worked for Will Ingwersen in Sussex and at Jack Drake's Inschriach Nursery in Aviemore, Scotland; and trained for a year at Munich Botanical Garden, including 10 weeks with Dieter Schacht in the Schachen Garden in the Bavaria Alps.

Anne Klingensmith

Preview to November

November 15: Annual Meeting. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting and enjoy good company and good food.

New to NARGS - New to Rock Gardens

Let me state up front, I do not have a rock garden (though I often think about having one). Lots of factors seem to keep me from taking the big step. My primary reason is because I feel there's something very intimidating about rock gardens - knowing where or how to begin - from the work of moving stone to the expense, from concocting special soil mix to finding (and keeping alive) plant material. It's a new, unfamiliar way of gardening.

So, thinking there may be other Chapter member beginners feeling as I do, I'd like to dedicate a regular column in the "Dragon" for beginners, addressing some of the "how-to's" and basics of rock gardening. I'd like this column to be interactive and I'm counting on some of our experienced members to help supply, if not answers, at least advice in the category of "what's worked for me."

What draws us all to rock gardens? Is it not the new, different, and challenging aspects? I like Robin Bell's explanation (which hopefully I'm not misconstruing here). He explains his "hook" this way. The word in gardening circles - generally regarded as true - is that rock gardeners are the best gardeners. Since he regarded himself as a pretty good gardener, he felt compelled to become a rock gardener. Ah, the peer pressure!

For myself, I was attracted to the gardeners. I find our Chapter members to be among the most knowledgeable of gardening groups. And I wanted to learn from them. I concluded that rock gardening - combining stone with little plants (and not intended as a definition) - seems to bring a new depth to gardening as well as a lot of joy. Are you ready to commit?

Carol Eichler
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I welcome ideas for future articles. Let me know your burning questions about rock gardening and I'll try to address them here.

A letter from an (almost) new member

This past July marked my first full year as a Chapter member. Peg ross and I joined after taking a rock garden class at Baker's Acres taught by George and Michelle.

Recently I commented to a group of members of long standing that apart from my interest in rock gardening the thing that attracted me most about the Chapter was the friendliness shown me as a newcomer. I came on my own to the first meeting I attended and knew nobody there except for Michelle and George, whom I knew from the workshop. I was in-

troducted to other members and made welcome from the beginning.

This comment drew a mixed reaction - surprise and pleasure. Surprise, because it seems that the friendly welcome extended to me has not always been the norm, and pleasure that I noticed the effort and commented on it.

If new membership is a goal, then this effort is certainly well worth it. Since Peg and I joined, five more gardeners from our small community have become members and several more have expressed interest in joining in the future. Being the "new kid on the block" is often not pleasant, especially in an established group, and I want to express my appreciation to all of you who have made me feel welcome.

Alice Davis

The editorial team of the Green Dragon would like to get more letters about your experiences as a (new) Chapter member.

