



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rockgarden Society

Green Dragon Tales

April 2004

Adirondack Chapter

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Letter from the Chair

Well, true to form, March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb and now we are enjoying April showers. The gardens at my new house are bursting with spring bulbs, crocus, daffodils, tulips, and snowdrops. It has been such a pleasure to know that the previous owners were avid gardeners too.

I am very excited about our April speaker, Carlo Balistrieri. Anne Klingensmith and I toured the rock garden at the New York Botanical Garden last spring and it was well worth the day trip. Similar to our own Wurster Garden the NYBG rock garden consists of: bog, scree, moraine, traditional English, and crevice garden areas. It also has a central dry creek bed, troughs, and wooded areas that give it even greater diversity. The chapter is planning a tour to the NYBG in May. See any board member if you are interested.

Not only am I excited about Carlo's visit, but also about the Annual April Seedling Sale. This event is in its 3rd year and it has grown each year. I encourage everyone to bring seedlings for the sale. They do not have to be alpine seedlings. Many members have shade gardens, perennial gardens, water gardens, bulb gardens as well as rock gardens. If you haven't germinated seeds, don't hesitate to dig seedlings/small plants out of your gardens for this sale. They are welcome too. Remember the location change for this month's meeting. It will be at Cornell Cooperative Extension. See Upcoming Chapter Meeting for address and directions.

Please remember to pay your membership dues to Carol Eichler and also to hand in a membership form. It is very important that

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Upcoming Chapter Events

April

April 17: Carlo Balistrieri, Curator of the Rock Garden at [NYBG](#) and author of "[Complete Idiot's Guide to Rock & Water Gardening Illustrated](#)"

"Behind the Scenes in the Rock Garden at the New York Botanical Garden "

Followed by the annual seedling sale:

Have you had great success starting a plant and do not know what to do with all those seedlings?

Have you had lousy luck starting that special plant from seed? Well, the April meeting is the place to be for both cases. Members will be bringing in seedlings of plants that did well for them for all of us to buy. One plant for 75 cents, 3 for \$2.00 are deals that can't be beat. There will be some larger plants too - bargain priced individually. It is sure to be a good time with lots of interesting seedlings to try in your garden. This sale is for all who attend the meeting, member or not.

See you there,

Tom

Reminder: The April Meeting will be at Cornell Cooperative Extension on [615 Willow Avenue](#) in Ithaca.

May

May 15: Annual Plant Sale at Ithaca High School.

This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, so go out in your gardens as soon as the snow is gone and see what treasures you can donate. Dig them up early and pot them up with commercial potting soil (no garden soil is allowed!) The Chapter will once again provide potting soil. You can pick it up at the April meeting, or check with Tom (Robinia@lightLink.com or 607-273-2865) about picking it up from him.

May 22: Day Trip to the NY Botanical Garden

If you are interested in taking a day trip to the rock garden at the New York Botanical Garden on this date, please get in touch with the Program Chair, Anne, at (aecling@lightlink.com or 607-256-9308) We will car pool and will need drivers. There may be people who want to find a place to stay overnight. Michelle and Anne visited this garden last year and guarantee that you will see many splendid plants as well as return home with ideas for ways to improve your own garden.



June and July

June 19th : Ithaca Garden Tour

David Mitchell, Robin Bell, and Roseanne and Joe Moresco have graciously agreed to open their gardens to the Adirondack Chapter. We will split the tour with a brown bag lunch at the Wurster Garden and have a weed pulling party there as well.

July 10th Chapter Picnic at the Yeagers. Please note that this meeting is on the 2nd Saturday of the month.



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we get the membership form as it updates us on your address, interests and availability to host or be a speaker. It is also the paper trail [receipt] for your payment. Upon payment of your dues you will receive the new Membership Handbook.

Thanks especially to David Mitchell for the layout and design of the handbook. It is really a great resource for members.

See you on the 17th.

Michelle

New to NARGS – A Member's Response

I would hope that the Adirondack Chapter can help nurture those of us who are new to rock gardening.

I have been gardening seriously since we built our house 6 years ago. We had a road on our property before the house was built with concrete and black top strewn everywhere. The surface soil had been trucked away. The land I selected for the rock garden was compacted, on a gradual slope, in a full sun unprotected windy north-facing area with perfect drainage with a sandy soil base on top of shale, riddled with resident chipmunks, ground hogs, and mice. So, to start the rock garden, I worked with a local excavating contractor and I directed as he drove his bobcat and scooped up the rubble, piled it up, then covered it with a truckload of soil. He then placed the decent big rocks that were strewn about into a crescent shape with the bobcat. I had 9 tons of small stones trucked in, and we spread them around a little above and below the crescent. I have planted trees and shrubs at the back of the crescent. After 6 years of killing weeds, hauling in more rocks, and letting the soil settle, I am starting to plant rock garden plants, alpines within the crescent and bigger plants on the fringe.

I have joined NARGS and both the British and Scottish societies, bought several books on rock gardening and read them. The new NARGS book, *Rock Garden, Design and Construction*, which I just received, is going to be a big help.

I have extensive plantings around the house, trees, a grape arbor, raspberries, many containers, a big mixed border of shrubs and perennials, a failed orchard (the deer ate the 26 trees one night!), an herb garden, a meadow of wild flowers and weeds, and my husband has a pond with a waterfall, an enclosed vegetable garden, and a cutting garden. I hope to have a shade garden in the future when the rock garden is more established. By far the most difficult garden to construct is the rock garden!!!!

I have traveled quite a bit (I was a travel agent for six years for starters) and have seen wonderful rock gardens, my favorites being in Scotland.

From my experience, most people have extensive experience in other types of gardens before coming to rock gardening. This means when they get to rock gardening, they are good to excellent gardeners. So, the new-to-rock-gardening gardeners are opinionated. There are alpine purists on

the one hand and those who think that any plant growing among rocks looks good. And those are just the extremes in rock gardening ideologies! I think as new rock gardeners we must decide where we stand on what constitutes a rock garden on our own property and be ready to defend our decision! That is what I have come to believe after six years of wrestling with the challenge of building my garden.

I look to the NARGS members to help me learn to be a rock gardener through the programs, plant exchanges, selling of purchased plants at meetings, trips to gardens, and in talking with members.

Judy Fogel



AC NARGS Joins Community Foundation

Our Chapter has now set up a fund called the Adirondack Chapter North American Rock Garden Society Fund with the Community Foundation of Tompkins County!

Members attending the February meeting, with a show of hands, gave their unanimous support to setting up this fund. Following the meeting, the Board made the decision official with their unanimous vote. We have placed over \$17,000 into this fund and made the decision to make \$2,000 available immediately for grants to the membership. Jerry Yaeger is in the process of establishing a committee to set guidelines for applying for these grants. The Board has recommended that grants be of two kinds:

◆ The first would be one-time individual awards to further one's own personal knowledge. An example of such an award would be to apply for a stipend to attend a regional Winter Study

Weekend or the NARGS annual meeting.

◆ The second type of award, still applied for by an individual "for the greater good," would be geared towards a broader, educational objective. Examples of this type of award might be to help finance the construction of a public rock garden or to invest in a NARGS seed expedition, for which the seed would be shared by our membership.

With both types of awards, our belief is that, since the purpose of these awards at their core is educational, our Chapter will also benefit in many ways – through the enrichment of our collective knowledge about rock gardening and the sharing of this knowledge with others– both inside and outside the Chapter.

In establishing this Fund, the Chapter has made a transforming decision. With an annual budget of approximately \$4,000, the AC

NARGS Fund is expected to offer awards each year in the range of \$1,000 (given current investment earnings of the Community Foundation). That equals – you do the math– a 25% increase in our "sphere of influence." Imagine the possibilities, stay tuned as guidelines are developed, and dare to think creatively about how you might want to apply for a grant!

By joining the Tompkins County Foundation, the Chapter has gained the benefits of a tax-deductible charitable organization. (We are a 501(c)(4), not the required 501(c)(3). Donations to the Chapter can now be made through the

Community Foundation of
Tompkins County
309 N. Aurora St.
Ithaca NY 14850
607-272-9333

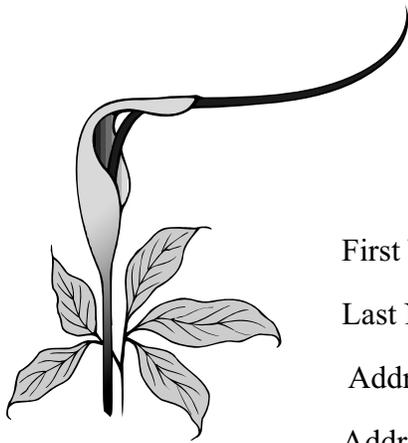
www.communityfoundationofc.org

The Chapter will have full access to these donations.

Carol Eichler

Remember to renew your membership!
Use the form on the next page or go to
<http://www.acnargs.org/> and follow the link "Join"
to download the form from the Chapter website.

Time to renew your membership!



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rockgarden Society

Membership Form 2004

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City : _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date:

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

email: _____@_____

new member

renewal

Individual life time

family membership

family life time

nursery

Have you joined NARGS national?

Is your garden open for visitors?

Would you like to help? (Please circle below and/ or give details)

Hospitality: Host a picnic Host a speaker Provide transportation Make phone calls

Newsletter: Write or solicit articles draw pictures provide photos

Events: be a speaker (subject) _____ suggest a speaker (who?) _____

other suggestions _____

Would you like receive the Green Dragen (our newsletter) as

paper copy

as a PDF file attached to an email

an email providing you with a link to an online version of the Green Dragon

Please remember that you can always print out the electronic version of the newsletter if you prefer not to read it while sitting at your computer. Sending it electronically is easier and cheaper for the chapter and makes it possible to include color photos and links to great garden sites, which will not be available to those who receive the paper version.

Please fill out and include your check for \$10.00 for an individual, \$150 for individual life time, \$15 for a family, \$225 for a family life time, and \$25.00 for a one year nursery membership and send to:

Art Trimble, 37 Songbird Lane, Rochester, NY 14620