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Visit our blog: [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com)

November/December 2017

## **NOVEMBER 11 DISH-TO-PASS AND TALK: 29 BRITISH GARDENS IN 15 DAYS: LESSONS LEARNED**

*Bill Stark*

NOTE: This meeting will be held at the Tompkins County Cooperative Extension Offices, at 615 Willow Av. Ithaca. There are no oven or stovetop burners available, however there is a fridge and wall outlets for crock pots if needed. There is a small, slow microwave in the interior office, if absolutely necessary.



Hidcote. Photo by Bill Stark

The first order of business on November 11<sup>th</sup> is our annual dish-to-pass luncheon beginning at noon. Besides your dish, please bring your own service. Beverages will be provided. Arrive early to help with set-up.

Following lunch Mary Stauble and Bill Stark will present the program. Here's what they wrote about their presentation: We drove 1,534 miles in southern England and Wales and visited 29 Gardens and 10 archeological sites because we needed to resolve design

issues for the Lansing garden that we're building. We focused on gardens that contained rock, ravine, water, ruin, and grotto features - but we also visited famous gardens like Sissinghurst and Hidcote.

By viewing many gardens in a short time, we were able to contrast how different designers handled similar challenges. We could see why Longstock Park Water Gardens

were so magical while another water garden using similar plant material was not. We also focused on garden construction. Some of our photographs of the beautiful crevice garden at Wisley included a tape measure so that we'd have a record of the thickness and spacing of the stones. We recorded how the Wisley designers closed off the ends of their crevices, the hole size in their tufa rocks and how nearly every garden room at Hidcote uses a different flooring material. We photographed crumbling garden features so that we could look inside and see how they were built.



Longstock Water Garden in Hampshire. Photo by Bill Stark

We'll show plenty of pretty photos such as the long border at Great Dixter, but rather than present a travelogue, we'll use our photos to discuss garden design and construction.

For directions to Cooperative Extension go to this website: [CCE Tompkins County map & directions \(http://cctompkins.org/about-us/map-directions\)](http://cctompkins.org/about-us/map-directions). There is parking on-site or on the street.

## FROM THE CHAIR

*John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair*

What an autumn we have had so far this year! I know a few of you who live in cold spots have had a hard frost, but here in the hills outside Syracuse we have only had a mild frost, and as a result there are still a few tomatoes and squash around to be picked. Of course the plants are pretty tired by now, so productivity is off.

Terry Humphries and I had an adventure on Friday October 20 picking up the speaker for our October meeting, Yasemin Konuralp and her husband Cemil. We stopped at Catskill Native Plant Nursery in Kerhonkson (between Kingston and Ellenville, NY). This is an excellent nursery offering a good selection of native plants, trees and shrubs, and a few rock garden plants.

The other interesting stop was Anne Spiegel's home in Wappinger's Falls (outside Poughkeepsie). Anne Spiegel was a speaker at one of our meetings years ago. Ms. Spiegel is blessed with a natural outcrop of hard, grey sandstone, which includes some ridges and valleys, and is a perfect site for a naturalistic rock garden. She replaced the native soil with a stony rock garden soil mix, added tufa in some areas, and added thin rocks to create crevices in others. Planted in this fantastic rock garden were many small and unusual rock garden and alpine plants, far too many for us to fully explore in the 45 minute tour. It's a goal for us to have a garden tour there someday. (See photos of the month for a preview)

The October talks included slides of bulbous and alpine plants of Turkey, which is a botanical hotbed of plant diversity at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. It was interesting to see quite a few plants which many of us are growing, including *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) and *Geranium psilostemon* (Armenian cranesbill), and *Rhododendron ponticum*, introduced to the United Kingdom and now invasive there.

Though some of the perennials are tired and ready for their winter rest now, there are still a few at their peak of bloom. Most noteworthy is *Aster tartaricus*, a tall lavender flowered daisy, and of a more manageable height is the shorter cultivar 'Jindai'. Also blooming are some late monkshoods, *Aconitum*. I'm sorry I can't report the species of the nice deep purple monkshood that looks so good near *Aster tartaricus*. Both are easy to grow in full or partial sun if you need to add some late bloomers to perk up your October landscape.

John Gilrein, Chair

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Heads up folks! The ACNARGS board has decided that we need to increase our dues by \$5 starting in 2018. The dues have remained the same for at least 24 years. We are paying more for speakers now and our plant sale income has decreased since then. So...for 2018, individual membership will be \$15/year, household membership will be \$20/year and business membership will be \$30/year. Lifetime memberships remained unchanged at \$150 for individuals and \$225 for a household.

I will send out an email reminder in January and there will be an announcement in the February newsletter. If you have questions please contact me at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu).

## PLANTS-OF-THE-MONTH: A FEW BULBS

John Gilrein

If you did not attend the October meeting and will be at the November meeting (coming up very soon), there are a few bulbs left from the October Plant-of-the-Month, mostly *Allium christophii*, with 1 *Allium atropurpureum* and 1 *Allium carinatum* ssp. *pulchellum*, which I will bring. See the October "Green Dragon" for more information about these bulbs.

## RULES FOR NAMING PLANTS

Rick Rodich

Used by permission of the author

The rules for naming plants in the natural world are governed by the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN). This code was written by the International Botanical Congress, and is periodically reviewed. The most recent Code is the Melbourne Code (2011).

These are the basic ranks, arrange in descending order, so that each species is assignable to a genus, each genus to a family, each family to an order, etc.

kingdom  
 division (phylum)  
 class  
 order  
 family  
 tribe  
 genus  
 section  
 series  
 species  
 variety  
 form

Excepting certain unusual situations, every plant has a named designation for all boldface categories. Other categories may or may not be designated. Rules allow for additional sub-rankings (subdivision, subclass, suborder, etc.) and further unspecified rank separations. To identify a plant, the required minimum is genus and species. When known, the use of lower ranks (variety, form, etc.) is encouraged as it removes ambiguity. Take for example, Alpine poppy, *Papaver alpinum*:

*Plantae* (kingdom)  
*Tracheophyta* (division)  
*Magnoliopsida* (class)  
*Ranunculidae* (subclass)  
*Ranunculanae* (super order)  
*Papaverales* (order)  
*Papaveraceae* (family)  
*Papaveroideae* (subfamily)  
*Papavereae* (tribe)  
*Papaver* (genus)  
*alpinum* (species)

This long taxonomic chain puts the plant neatly in place, relating it to all other plants. It tells us, for instance, that it is in the *Papaveroideae* subfamily. The genus *Meconopsis* also happens to be a member of the subfamily *Papaveroideae*, and so they are related at the subfamily level. The Iceland poppy (*Papaver nudicaule*) is more closely related to Alpine poppy (*Papaver alpinum*), being of the same genus.

To merely botanically identify the Alpine poppy in literature, or to a friend, one need not memorize this long list of Latin. All that is required is the genus and species names: *Papaver alpinum*.

## Additional Rules

Rank		Abbreviation		Taxon Name	
(plural if irregular) not capitalized, not italicized	Usual suffix	Abbreviation (pl) not capitalized	Implicit or Explicit **	Capitalized?	Italicized?
kingdom				Yes	Usually
division or phylum	phyta			Yes	Usually
Subdivision or subphylum	phytina			Yes	Usually
Class	opsida	cl.		Yes	Usually
subclass	idea	subcl.		Yes	Usually
order	ales	ord.		Yes	Usually
suborder	ineae	subord.		Yes	Usually
family	aceae	fam.		Yes	Usually
subfamily	oideae	subfam.		Yes	Usually
tribe	eae	tr.		Yes	Usually
subtribe	inae	subtr.		Yes	Usually
genus (genera, genuses)		gen.	Implicit	Yes	Always
section		sect.	Explicit	Yes	Usually
series (series)		ser.	Explicit	No	Usually

species (species)		sp. (spp.)	Implicit	No	Always
subspecies (subspecies)		subsp. (subspp.)	Explicit	No	Always
variety		var., v.	Explicit	No	Always
form		f.	Explicit	No	Always
cultivar		cv., or name in single quotes	Explicit	Yes	Never
x			Either	No	Never
notho (a prefix)		n	Explicit	like taxon	Always
affine*	aff.		Explicit	like taxon	
confer*	cf.		Explicit	like taxon	

\*\*Implicit - the rank is assumed and not written. \*\*Explicit - the rank is not assumed and is written. Example: *Achillea millefolium* subsp. *lanulosa*. The genus and species ranks are implicit. (The words "genus" and "species" are not written) The subspecies rank is explicit. (The word "subsp." is written.)

\*affine and confer are subjectively used. Their subtle difference is meaningful when both are used by the same author, but probably best viewed as identical from author to author.

Other words commonly used to identify species:

ex – [Latin] out of, from. Often used to denote parentage or geographic location of said taxon.

Double genus abbreviations – listing multiple taxa of the same genus may be done in the usual manner or by designating the (assumed) genus with the capital first letter and lower case first letter, followed by specific epithets.

Examples – usual manner: *Lilium concolor*, *L. davidii*, *L. pumilum*, *Primula veris*, *P. scotica*. Examples - double genus abbreviation: *Ll. concolor*, *davidii*, *pumilum*, *Pp. veris*, *scotica*.

Hybrids are designated with the multiplication sign, “x” or “notho.”

x – pronounced “cross” so as not to be confused with “ex” (see above). When designating a single taxon with a single epithet, it indicates the plant is a cross of 2 or more species. The correct symbol is the multiplication sign, although the use of the letter “x” is allowed. The multiplication sign is placed directly in front of the epithet being modified (without a space). However, when using the letter “x”, it can cause spelling confusion, so a space is used with the species epithet. Moreover, the use of the cross sign (or the letter “x”) is not mandatory, since the epithet is specific to a particular hybrid, and therefore understood. Example: *Acer freemanii* is the name given to the cross of *A. rubrum* x *A. saccharinum*. Correct designations are *Acer x freemanii*, *Acer freemanii* and *Acer xfreemanii* (using the multiplication sign instead of the “x.”)

If a cross of 2 or more genera is designated, the cross sign is placed directly in front of the genus name in all cases. This is because the cross sign is always in lower case, while the genus name is always capitalized, so there cannot be any spelling confusion. Example: *xSorbaronia fallax*.

*notho* - though rarely used, hybrids may also be designated by preceding the taxon name with *notho*.

Additional (optional) rank divisions:

Sub - a prefix adding to an existing rank to indicate a subordinate division of the said rank. Example: subfamily is a rank that further divides the rank of the family.

infra – a prefix added to an existing rank to indicate a subordinate division of the said rank. Characteristics that warrant an infra ranking are less pronounced than that of a sub ranking.

super - a prefix added to an existing rank to indicate a superordinate division of the said rank.

More useful definitions

conspecific – the same species. Example: *Scilla scilloides* and *Barnardia japonica* are conspecific.

epithet – the actual word in a plant’s botanical name or ranking. Examples: *Crocus vernus* belongs to the family Iridaceae. “Crocus” is the generic epithet, “vernus” is the specific epithet, “Iridaceae” is the familiar epithet. When the type of epithet is not given it is assumed to be the specific epithet.

in situ – [Latin] in position. 1. Used in botany to mean “in the place (position) where it occurs naturally.”

Example: a photo of *Primula veris* in situ is a photo of the plant in the wild. 2. In horticulture sometimes used to indicate “in the ground” as opposed to “in a pot”.  
 Example: *Asclepias tuberosa* seeds do better when planted in situ.

ex situ – [Latin] out of position. 1. Used in botany to mean “not in the wild” or “cultivated” in a garden). 2. In horticulture, sometimes used to indicate “not growing in the ground.” Ex situ could mean growing in a pot, in a glass of water, in a moist paper towel, etc.

sensu lato - [Latin] adverb. Abbrev: s.l. - in a broad sense; including more than is normally accepted. Especially describing taxa as including other taxa that is considered distinct. Example: *Pyrus sensu lato* includes pear, apple, quince, mountain ash and related forms.

sensu stricto – [Latin] adverb. Abbrev. s.s., s.str. – in the strict sense; referring to the nominate taxon or nominate subordinate taxa or indicating the exclusion of taxa sometimes united with it.

species novum – [Latin] new species. Example: *Tulipa ivasczenkoae* is a species novum, since it has recently been discovered.

autonym – If a species is further divided into a subspecies and/or varieties, when the subordinate type(s) is renamed, then the type that is not renamed is automatically given the same rank name as the species.

Example of autonym: *Lilium davidii*. When this species was designated to have a variety *willmottiae*, then all members of the species that are not variety *willmottiae*, are automatically designated to be var. *davidii*. *davidii* is an autonym.

taxon (taxa) – a taxonomic group of any rank. Examples: *Rosaceae*, *Primula*, *seiboldii*, *Primula seiboldii*

viz. – also; “viz”. abbreviation for videlicet. A Latin contraction of “videre licet”, meaning “evidently, clearly, it may be seen”. The words “namely”, “that is to say” or “as follows” could be substituted in modern English.

#### Order of nomenclature

Technically in alphabetical order. Female (C), and male (X) designation symbols may be added after the taxon. Ex: *Aquilegia caerulea* X x *A. canadensis* C.

Most often this technicality is ignored, and the female is placed first regardless of alphabetical order (or designation). Technically (although not in usual practice), such order should be discarded.

## NEWS FROM NARGS : SEED EXCHANGE COMING UP

Our Chapter will again be participating with seed packaging for the NARGS Seed Exchange. We will circulate a sign-up at the November meeting so we can notify you when we schedule work sessions in December. With a seed list upwards of 4,000 genera and donors from around the world, our Chapter is but a small part of a large group of

volunteers participating in this labor-intensive process involving collecting, packaging and distributing the seeds. NARGS' Intake Manager receives all the donations, catalogs them into a database and then packages and ships them out to the Seed Packagers. With our Chapter doing 200 genera, one can only imagine how many different Chapters and individuals are involved in this phase alone.

The timeline as of this printing is for seed ordering to begin on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. You must be a member of NARGS National to order plus if you participate in our packaging session(s) qualifies to order 35 packets, rather than the usual 25. There is a \$15 fee to order seeds, which only partially defrays the full cost of the Exchange.

Plan to join us in December as we come together for packaging and socializing!

## UPCOMING 2017 ACNARGS PROGRAMS

*Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the renovated Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*

Nov.11: Mary Stauble and Bill Stark (note change in program) "29 British Gardens in 15 Days - Lessons Learned"

Nov. 17-19: NARGS Annual Meeting, Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Registration is still open. Info [here](#).

Dec. TBD: Chapter work days to package seed for the NARGS Seed Exchange

Dec. 15: NARGS Seed Exchange ordering begins

And planning ahead for 2018 and 2019:

June 13-29, 2018: NARGS-sponsored botanical tour to Yunnan China. Info [here](#).

July 6-8, 2018: "Where Alpines Meet the Sea," NARGS Annual Meeting in St. John's Newfoundland, Optional post-conference trip: July 9 – 15. Info forthcoming in the *Winter 2018 Rock Garden Quarterly*

May 3-5, 2019: "Rooted in Diversity," NARGS Study Weekend in the Philadelphia area, sponsored by Delaware Valley Chapter NARGS

As we learn more details of these meetings they will be included in future newsletters, our blog, [acnargs.blogspot.com](http://acnargs.blogspot.com), and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.



## CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to Carol Eichler at [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Cooperative Extension Programs, located at 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 607-272-2292. Unless otherwise stated, classes require pre-registration and have a self-determining sliding fee scale. More info at [www.ccetompkins.org](http://www.ccetompkins.org)

Nov. 18: 6th Annual Leaf Swap Pick-up Day and Compost (up to 5 gal.) Giveaway. Free

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Meetings from 7-8:30pm at the Ithaca Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo & Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St. & up the stairs). More info at [www.FLNPS.org](http://www.FLNPS.org)

Nov 15 – Mark Witmer – shrubs for birds

Plus FLNPS Walks meeting at different times and locations.

Cornell Botanic Gardens (formerly Cornell Plantations) fall lecture series. Unless otherwise noted held at Statler Auditorium on the Cornell campus at 7:30pm.

Nov. 8: Adapt and Thrive: Creatively Living in a Climate Changed World by Alizé Carrère, National Geographic Explorer & Cultural Ecologist

## ABOUT US - ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 6 program-speaker meetings, the Green Dragon newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, and 3 plant sales a year. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners. The public is always welcome.

Chapter membership starts at \$10 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>.

## ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication, and an on-line web site featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS National also conducts winter study weekends and holds its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens, and take field trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

*If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!*

Chair: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Program: Terry Humphries, [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com)

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

Treasurer: BZ Marranta, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu). Seeking a Co-Chair for 2018 to work alongside David...Why not you?

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranta, Carol Eichler

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, [basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu](mailto:basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)

Membership: Mary Stauble, [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu)

New Member Hospitality: Nari Mistry, [nbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:nbm2@cornell.edu)

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Calendar: Pat Curran, [pc21@cornell.edu](mailto:pc21@cornell.edu)

Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, [cdcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cdcramer@gmail.com)

## GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Jan/Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Carol Eichler, [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com). Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be our January/February, 2018 issue (look for it in your e-mailbox late January or early February). The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website: [www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org)

For Photos-of-the-Month: See next page

## PHOTOS-OF-THE-MONTH: ANNE SPIEGEL'S GARDEN

Anne Spiegel's Rock Garden  
Referenced in "From the Chair"  
Photos by Terry Humphries

