



ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

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May 2022

Letter from the Chair

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

It's gorgeous out and it's spring planting season. I hope you can try something fun or new in your garden this year. And since we're meeting at our plant sale on May 14, we're having a Plant of the Month! It's sempervivums, which we all know and most of us have, but there are so many different cultivars with different shapes, colors, and then some with added webbing, so you can bring a new one home!

Here's an update on what to expect in the coming year. Craig cleared all the chapter books and supplies out of his office on Thursday, in preparation for major renovations in the Plant Science Building. I picked up those supplies. Thanks Craig, for years of hauling all that stuff back and forth and storing it for us. Plant Science, as a result, will not be available for in person meetings in 2022. Some of the chapter books will be available at the plant sale for purchase; it's a great opportunity to buy some barely used books. Since we haven't met in person for ages (other than plant sales), if you borrowed a chapter book, please return it to Carol Eichler [ceichler@twcny.rr.com] at the plant sale or make special arrangements.

We're planning to meet in person in the fall of this year at Ken Post Lab classroom (KPL). I've worked on reserving the room, but Cornell functions trump our use. We'll be able to use the room with the condition that this would change based on use by the university or COVID issues. Read your newsletter and stay informed about the meeting location. Though the Zoom meetings are easy, and save us all from driving, some people don't seem to want to join the Zoom meetings. I'd love for anyone who avoids Zoom to tell me (email or in person) the reason.

Many thanks to BZ Marranca for serving as the chapter treasurer for many years. And thanks also to Marlene Kobre for signing on as the new treasurer.

The Wurster Garden continues to be maintained by the chapter, thanks to Carol Eichler who has coordinated a team of volunteers a few times this spring for spring clean up and just recently a planting party. We appreciate your work in keeping up this garden. The Wurster Garden is a testament to how one can have a nice rock garden with minimal input of labor, compared to a more intensive perennial garden.

Happy Gardening!

May 14 is Members' Plant Sale

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

Although our spring has been on again/off again, regardless of the weather we are holding a spring plant sale – member only - on Saturday, May 14. Because covid is still very much with us, we will play it safe and keep this sale limited to our members. You can join or renew your membership at the sale. Why not bring a friend and treat them to a membership? Our plants sales fill many purposes – sharing, socializing, learning about new plants, but it's good to keep in mind it is also a significant source of income for the Chapter Please come prepared to buy plants.

Covid precautions: We will follow the Tompkins County Department of Health covid guidelines. Currently TCHD continues to “urge mask wearing for all individuals while indoors and around others, as well as other precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19.” Since we will be outdoors, to mask or not to mask is up to you but consider we will be outdoors. We do, ask for the consideration of others, that everyone attending be vaccinated.

Limiting the sale to our members will keep the sale small and presumably much safer from covid infection. An added benefit is that it will be more relaxed and give us more time to spend with each other – something that's been lacking with our zoom program meetings.

We have reserved the same large pavilion at Myers Park, near the marina. (snow blizzard or flooding notwithstanding). Unless you are a resident of the Town of Lansing, you will be charged admission of \$7 per car.

Volunteers: Thank you to those who answered the call for helping with set-up, cashiering, and clean-up. I could still use 1 or 2 more people to assist with clean-up.

Afterwards, we'll enjoy a bring-your-own bag lunch with beverages and dessert provided and an optional tour to Bill and Mary's garden nearby. See the schedule below.

Here is the schedule

- May 6: Last date to submit what plants you are donating to John Gilrein (basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu)
- May 9: Advance plant list sent out
- May 14: 9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing
- 10:30 a.m. Sale begins no earlier than 10:30 but may be closer to 11; local protocol will be observed (masking/social distancing)
- 12:30 p.m. S Sale concludes (approximately); Bring-your-own bag lunch optional 1:30 p.m. Clean-up (if we run ahead of schedule, clean-up and tour will also be earlier)
- 2:00 p.m. Tour the Stauble/Stark gardens at 232 Cedar Cove Rd., Lansing (time approximate)

Donating Plants You do not need to donate plants to participate in the sale. We need buyers too! Now is the time, if you haven't already started, to pot up plants to donate to the sale. To minimize the spread of jumping worms, remember to bare-root each plant before potting up into a soil-less potting mix. (If you do not have jumping worms in your garden, we also suggest bare rooting and planting again before transplanting. Label your plants in advance please.

What plants should you bring? That is a hard question to answer but we suggest you offer plants that you value that are not so common that they are likely to already be in our gardens. Also, while you may be able to bring

20 of something, don't. With such a limited "customer-base," think small quantities.

If you are not planning to attend, feel free to donate plants and arrange for a fellow member to bring them. OR drop them off at David Mitchell's downtown Ithaca house, at 402 Esty Street.

Plant of the Month Too! Yes, plant-of-the-month is back and will be offered. These plants (see separate article) will have a set price.

Submit your Plant List by May 6th To help eliminate the frenzy and crowding that typically occurs at our sales, we will send out a Plant Sale List in advance. Study this and build your wish list. John Gilrein will be compiling a list of plants for sale. We will want to know quantity, Plant name - Latin, Common name, type of plant (that is rock garden/trough, perennial, tree/shrub, houseplant, etc. Don't fret if your list is incomplete; it is meant merely to facilitate smooth operation of the sale. Late additions can be talked about at the sale.

Setting up Day of Sale: Set-up always seems to take a long time so we will begin at 9:00 a.m. Anyone arriving early to help will be given "plant donor priority" status. As with last year, we have reserved Pavilion B, which is a large, roofed pavilion. (see map), near the large playground.

Plants will be arranged alphabetically by Latin name (if known) or common name on tables so labeled. As you arrive, we ask that you to your plants on the appropriate table. Any special plants or large specimens you bring should be placed on the bid table.

Sale Begins (no earlier than 10:30 a.m.) and Procedure When you arrive, remember to sign-in. Like we've always done, we will open the sale "grab" to a limited number of people at a time, giving priority in the 1st two rounds to those who donated plants or who helped with early set-up. The sale will now start to resemble past years, allowing 2 plants per person in Round 2, 3 plants in Round 3, until eventually the sale is open to all for an unlimited number of plants.

Set-up always seems to take longer than we expect but we will aim to start no earlier than 10:30. The more helpers we have, the sooner we can start. Set-up takes a long time; the sale happens quickly. We may pause periodically to allow time to highlight special plants and for a mid-sale browsing break.

Auction Table: Extra special plants will be placed on the auction table for a silent auction. We will take some time to talk about items on the bid table. Your number on the sign-in sheet is also your number for the bid table. The bid table is open until last call when the silent auction is closed.

Since we are planning to liquidate our Chapter library, we will be offering books for sale at both the auction table and most likely a table with individual priced books.

Pricing Simplified To keep pricing simple and to save time, prices will be determined by pot size: 2-inch pot = \$2, 3-inch pot = \$3, 4" pot \$4, etc. We will use colored pricing sticks for plants in pots that we feel are under- or over-priced based on pot size. Hopefully this won't complicate things! With bargain prices, I hope no one will complain. Compared to plants at a commercial nursery, our plants are bargain-priced.

Checking out: We hope to streamline check-out this year. Out of consideration for the cashier (who wants to fully participate in the sale too), you will not be able to check-out and pay until the auction has closed. You can help speed up check-out by calculating what you owe in advance. We will supply notepaper for you to jot down your items. You can use the calculator on your cell phone to determine your total. By the way, we are looking for a cashier this year. Could that be you?

After Sale Lunch and Clean-up After paying for your plant purchases with the cashier, it's time for lunch! Bring your own lunch, your own water to stay hydrated. We will provide dessert and beverages.

An Optional Garden Tour To top off the day, after clean-up Mary Stauble and Bill Stark have invited us to tour their garden. They live a short drive away at 232 Cedar Cove Rd., Lansing. Since our visits in 2019 and 2021 there have been significant changes. The rock garden should be blooming away!

How to get to Myers Park and the Pavilion Getting to Myers Park is a bit complicated because the Route 34B bridge over Salmon Creek is closed. Bill Stark has supplied these directions: Ignore the detour signs that are posted and stay on 34B. Continue on 34B (north or south) until you reach the barricades at the bridge and then take Myers Road, which crosses Salmon Creek west (downstream) of the main 34B bridge and then loops back to 34B. The entrance to Myers Park is at the stop sign on Myers Road next to the railroad tracks (at the bottom of the hill). This short detour will only take a couple of minutes. The official detour will take about 45 minutes. Yikes!

To get to Pavilion B, near the playground, take the one-way road in the park that loops around to this shelter. The Park has no GPS coordinates that I could find.

How to get to Bill and Mary's from Myers Park It takes 10 minutes to drive from Myers Park to our garden: Ignore detour signs. As you drive out of the park, turn left after the railroad tracks onto Myers Road and drive up the hill to 34B. Turn left on 34B north and drive about 5 miles. Turn left onto Algerine Road (after the fire station) and drive towards the lake about 1 mile. Turn right onto Cedar Cove Road. Cedar Cove is a gravel road with a small sign set back about 12 feet — so it's hard to see. Take right forks on Cedar Cove until you see our sign "232 Cedar Cove" at the top of our driveway. Our house has a patina green metal roof. There is a parking area at the top of the driveway. Enter the garden between the two large rocks on the driveway that are in front of the house.

The Return of Plant of the Month

Marlene Kobre, Plant of the Month

It feels right to celebrate the return of Spring with the return of our POM Program made possible by the return of an in-person gathering of members for our May plant sale. The POM offering for May 2022 includes a tantalizing range of cultivars from the genus *Sempervivum*, whose name means "forever alive" — and for good reason, given its tolerance of extreme temperatures and drought. Its tufted succulent leaves form colorful rosettes that reproduce by offshoots that can spread into a mat given enough sun and well-drained soil.

The rosettes are usually bi-colored, often in shades of red, burgundy, purple, green, even yellow and gold in more recent hybrids. The hue often changes with the seasons, with some cultivars at their best even in winter. In mid-late summer the mature rosettes will produce their star-shaped flowers, exotically colored in shades of red, yellow, and pink, perched at the top of thick succulent stems. Sadly, the plants are monocarpic, meaning the rosettes die after flowering; more happily they leave behind many next-generation rosettes to ensure your semps are indeed "forever alive."

It's not often that such remarkable beauty is so easily cultivated. They require only a gritty, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. Some people grow them in coarse sand, and you can plant them in the ground, in troughs, or in individual containers as a way of showcasing the subtle beauty of so many of the cultivars.

Please Note: The plants came bare-rooted, and some were single rosettes while others were already forming clumps. That's why they are planted in different sized pots. But all are named cultivars. To simplify our check out process we are pricing all of them at \$3, a bargain even for a single rosette. Leaving them in their pots for a while longer will help to ensure they have well-established roots.

NARGS Annual General Meeting Update

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

We're closing in on the last few weeks before NARGS members from throughout the US, Canada, and perhaps beyond, converge upon Ithaca for the annual general meeting. Our guest speakers - Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson from Far Reaches Farm and Botanical Conservancy in Washington State and Eleftherios Dariotis, plantsman and nursery owner from Greece – are well-known within the gardening community for their plant explorations and botanical knowledge. Locally, our resident expert on native plants and an explorer in his own right, F. Robert Wesley, will speak about the native orchids of New York State, of which there are many. These speakers were selected especially to resonate with our theme, "Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration."



Ten of our members have registered to attend (and we still have space available if you still want to register). We're up to 45 Chapter members who have agreed to volunteer. Volunteers are invited to attend our talks and I hope many will take advantage of this. All members are invited to attend the Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon plant sales (seven local and out-of-town specialty nurseries) and book sales.

This is a rare opportunity to attend a national NARGS meeting without the expense of travel. This meeting is right here on our own turf (the last time we hosted was twenty years ago). Come see what it's all about!

NARGS Annual General Meeting 2022

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration Program Itinerary for Registrants as of 1/31/2022 with approximate times

Tuesday, June 14

8:00 – 3:30	Pre-AGM motor coach tour to 3 Syracuse area gardens (add-on to registration fee is \$55 which includes lunch and transportation by coach); we have capacity for 50 people so we <u>may</u> be able to open this trip up to non-registered people
2:00 - 6pm	AGM check-in officially opens, Robert Purcell Community Center
3:30 – 5:30pm	Plant sale and book sales, 7 vendors represented, Multi-purpose Room, Townhouse Community Center **
5:00 – 6pm	Reception and cash bar
6:00 0 7:00pm	Dinner at Morrison Hall
7:00 – 9:30pm	Evening Program, Multi-purpose Room, Appel Community Center ## Welcome by ACNARGS & Cornell Botanic Gardens Talk #1 F. Robert Wesley, Cornell Botanic Gardens on NYS Native Orchids Talk #2 Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson of Far Reaches Farm

Wednesday, June 15

8:00 – 4:00pm	All Day Field Trips to 2 private gardens and a nature walk in one of our gorges, lunch and transportation provided
4:30 – 6:00pm	Plant sale and book sales, Multi-purpose Room, Townhouse Community Center **
6:15 - 7:30pm	Catered dinner w/cash bar, Multi-purpose Room, Appel Community Center with evening

8:00 – 9:00pm program to follow
Evening Talk #3 Keynote Eleftheris Dariotis, same room ##

Thursday June 16

9 - 10:00am Talk #4 Sue Milliken & Kelly Dodson, Far Reaches Farm ##
11 – 12:30pm Self-guided tours at Cornell Botanic Gardens with docent on hand to answer questions
12:30pm Free time, lunch when you wish, and dinner “on-your-own”
7:00 – 9:30pm Reconvene for evening program
Talk #5 Eleftheris Dariotis ##
AGM Officially Ends

Friday June 17

10:30 – 4:00pm Optional “On-your-Own” visits to ACNARGS members’ gardens

Additional items for the schedule: preview of *The Crevice Garden*, book by Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs, NARGS annual meeting and awards, sneak peak at the 2023 NARGS AGM in Nova Scotia

** Open to all 2022 ACNARGS members
Open to all ACNARGS AGM volunteers

Because we have now booked a much larger auditorium for the talks, we are able to open all the talks to our volunteers. You are welcome to attend as many as you wish. There are five talks altogether – two by Eleftherios Dariotis, two by Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson, and one by F. Robert Wesley.

Bagging the “Baggy Method” of Seed Germination

Carol Eichler, Plant Sales Chair

In the January issue of *Green Dragon* I wrote about Robert Pavlis’ YouTube channel “Gardening Fundamentals.” Altogether he has recorded over 200 gardening videos on various topics of which no less than 32 are about techniques for growing plants from seed.

I got very excited about his baggy method for seed germination. It seemed a very efficient way to first place seeds on a moistened paper towel, place in a plastic bag, provide a moist, cold period as needed, and then as the seed germinates – before your eyes, you plant the young seedlings. With this method, one could easily package and store 25, 50, 100, or more in a space no bigger than a shoebox.

I tried his technique and am not a believer. At least, I would not suggest it for extra tiny seeds as is the case for many tiny rock garden plants. Maybe I just ran out of patience but I got no germination and many of the seeds deteriorated (were they too fragile or maybe they weren’t viable?).

I ended up planting out into pots after all. It was no easy task separating the seeds from the paper towel and in some cases I kept the seeds on the towel and planted the whole thing. I’ll see how that turns out (I’m not optimistic).

I can see this method might work for much larger seeds like those for the vegetable or traditional flowerbed. I’ve used this method to perform germination tests on old seed for example. But, at least from my one (bad) experience, I do not recommend this method for seeds of rock garden plants. Oh well, it sounded easy and a bit too good to be true.

I’d love to hear if any of you have had success with this method.

Teasing Out the *Iris reticulata* Issue

By Pat Curran

My iris picture in the most recent newsletter was misidentified as *Iris reticulata*. It's actually *Iris histrioides* 'George' which has naturalized nicely at my house.

I have planted many *Iris reticulata* over the years and have only about three plants surviving. They flower well the first year and then persist only slightly as foliage. However, they do appear to be partially deer-resistant. Years ago, before Nigel installed our deer fence, I had a planting of the early 'snow crocus' species crocus completely consumed by some herbivore, which skipped over the *Iris reticulata* growing with it. Since crocus need their foliage to form a new corm for the next season (they do not have a persistent 'bulb'), my crocus planting went from 60 to 3 the following spring.

That newsletter also featured a picture of *Iris histrioides* 'Katharine Hodgkin'. I have heard from several members that this is persistent for them and also spreads somewhat. It is also a good forcer. I force a lot of different spring bulbs every winter for blooms in February and March and have had good luck keeping the foliage growing in a sunny cool window. Later on I transplant the bulbs into the landscape, and they generally rebloom the following spring. Crocus, hyacinths, daffodils, and various 'minor' bulbs are all easy forcers. Tulips require more cool rooting time and brighter light to prevent legginess, but the species and the shorter hybrids will usually force well.

I googled a little and was surprised to find that both of these iris cultivars are actually hybrids. Supposedly they need really good drainage. Well at my house, 'George' is seeding into a quite moist/damp pathway, so I don't think it's that fussy. It may not produce much seed this year, due to that sudden cold snap March 28-30 when I had overnight lows in the mid-teens that blasted the petals at least.

Let's hear your experiences with these bulbous spring irises.

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantcollections/plantfinder/iris_histrioides_george--george_reticulata_iris

Iris histrioides 'George' | Chicago Botanic Garden

George Reticulata Iris (*Iris histrioides* 'George'): is among the first of the very early spring flowers to come into bloom in the Chicago area. George is actually a hybrid between *Iris reticulata* and *Iris histrioides* and combines the early flowering of histrioides with the robust vigor of the reticulata parent. The flowers are composed of three upright petals known as flags and three petals that hang down, known as falls. The dark purple falls contain a blotch of white edged in yellow, known as a nectar guide. www.chicagobotanic.org

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=256220&isprofile=0&gen=Iris>

Iris 'Katharine Hodgkin' - Plant Finder

Culture. Easily grown in average, consistently moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Soils should be moist during the spring growing/blooming season, but needs to become relatively dry during the summer dormant season in order for the bulbs to set buds for the following year. www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Plant an Oak

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

A recent YouTube video by Doug Tallamy inspired me to write this article. Doug Tallamy is an entomologist and professor at the University of Delaware, and a promoter of native plants. He's also the author of several books including *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope* and *The Nature of Oaks*. There's a very convincing video on YouTube he did regarding planting native oak trees to support native birds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAJccYWtTak>. Why oaks? Oak trees support the greatest variety of caterpillars of any native tree, which our native birds harvest to feed their young. Even birds that primarily consume seeds feed their young caterpillars, and one bird family can consume thousands of caterpillars.

I have long been a fan of oak trees, so I'm not a completely unbiased promoter. There are around 90 species of oaks in the US, with the highest diversity in the southeast and southwest, including large trees and shrubby ones as well. Our local oaks are divided into two groups, the red oaks (whose leaves have pointed lobes with bristle tips, e.g. *Quercus rubra*/red oak) and white oaks (whose leaves have rounded lobes and lack bristles, e.g. *Quercus alba*/white oak); the distinction is helpful mostly related to identification. Oak trees tend to be deeply rooted and generally have a strong branching structure, which is more resistant to wind damage and splitting. They are more compatible with gardens than some common trees, like Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) renowned for shallow roots and lifting sidewalks. Most oaks are taprooted and don't do well with transplanting, except when young (*Quercus palustris*/pin oak is an exception). My favorite book for tree identification is *The Sibley Guide to Trees*.

Some of characteristics of oaks may affect where you would plant them. A large oak will drop many acorns below the canopy; acorns are good food for wildlife, but these may drop over a period of several weeks. Oak leaves are sturdier than maple leaves and more resistant to packing into a dense mat; this is good for woodland plants, but the leaves do sail around in the wind. My red oak doesn't drop all its leaves at once (I prefer to mow them into the lawn rather than raking). Some oaks are tardily deciduous (swamp white oak, shingle oak), with the many of the leaves not falling until spring. I like seeing the old leaves remaining on the trees in shades of tan to rust. The video in the link suggests that this trait developed to deter browsing.

All of our oaks in New York, except those found in the pine barrens, are large trees which may grow over 100 feet tall; some can live for hundreds of years. White oaks growing in an open meadow can grow broader than tall with huge limbs the size of tree trunks, a result of not competing for sunlight. Though oaks prefer growing in sunny conditions, our oaks will grow well with partial sun. All the oaks I include are hardy to at least USDA zone 4. Though attracting caterpillars may sound like a problem, most of the caterpillars supporting our local birds are not present in large numbers and you may not even notice caterpillar damage on your trees (I have several large oaks and haven't been aware of problems with caterpillars).

Though the native oaks in the table below are adaptable trees, I'd suggest not planting an oak in a habitat at odds with its natural one, i.e. don't plant a chestnut oak in a seasonally wet meadow, and don't plant a pin oak on a dry sandy ridge. Pin oaks and scarlet oaks prefer acidic soils, the other oaks tolerate a wider range of soil pH. Oaks are sometimes considered slow growing trees; red oaks grow moderately quickly, some of the others grow more slowly. Some exotic oaks also grow well here but they may not be as beneficial for native wildlife. Oaks will also hybridize with other species; I'm not sure if there are native hybrids that are equally beneficial for wildlife.

If you don't have room for a full size oak tree, you could consider coppicing an oak: let it grow to 10-15 feet tall, then cut it down to close the ground, and let the shoots grow into a shrub (this has worked for years in a relative's hedgerow). The Ithaca area is a good place to see oak trees, both those growing naturally and trees planted by the city, which has quite a good tree planting program. In addition to supporting caterpillars, other insects, and birds, oaks also feed plenty of other wildlife including squirrels, turkeys, ducks, and bears. Fall color of trees is variable, depending on the health of the tree, habitat, and rainfall. The last three trees in the table have more muted fall color in the yellow-tan-brown range.

Tree Name	Group	Habitat	Fall Color
Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	red	Normal to dry	brick red to scarlet
Black oak (<i>Quercus velutina</i>)	red	Dry to normal	yellow brown to reddish brown
Scarlet oak (<i>Quercus coccinea</i>)	red	Dry to normal	brilliant red
Pin oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>)	red	Moist to normal	deep red to bronze
Shingle oak (<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>)	red	Normal to dry	red-brown to yellow-brown
White oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	white	Normal to dry	brown to wine-red to orange-red
Burr oak (<i>Quercus macrcarpa</i>)	white	Normal to moist	golden to yellow-brown
Swamp white oak (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>)	white	Moist/wet to normal	yellow, bronze, red-purple
Chestnut oak (<i>Quercus montana</i>)	white	Dry to normal	orange-yellow, yellowish-brown

Oaks are easy to raise from acorns, but you should either expect to plant many extra acorns or protect them from the voracious wildlife. White type oak acorns tend to be taken more quickly by the critters than the red type acorns, due to a lower tannin level. Or you can buy seedling trees. Some mail order sources are Chief River Nursery in WI, Musser Forests in PA, and Reeseville Ridge Nursery in WI. A good local source for potted trees is White Oak Nursery near Canandaigua, NY; White Oak grows in small quantities, so best to order ahead online. Shipping potted trees is expensive, so a better option may be to drive to the nursery (need to schedule this in advance) for pickup (information about the nursery is available on the website whiteoaknursery.biz).

Visit an Ontario Plant Hot Spot!

By Anna Leggatt, Ontario Chapter (reprinted with permission)

Many of us travel round the world, looking at alpine and other wildflowers. We visit gardens and learn about plants we would like to grow in our own gardens. Many places have magnificent scenery and we can go on safaris, bird expeditions and other nature trips.

Covid has interrupted many of our travels plans. Twice vaccinated + a booster with careful mask wearing does not guarantee you will escape sickness. It may be expensive to be ill away from home and travel restrictions slow us down.

Visit Ontario instead! (and perhaps obtain an Ontario tax credit on any accommodation). There are many wonderful places that you may have overlooked, or have said "One Day."

Arctic flowers? Yes, - [Ouimet Canyon](#), the Grand Canyon of the North has arctic alpine flowers, growing 1000 km further south than would be expected. It is near Thunder Bay. There are some exciting finds, though the canyon floor is not accessible. I am always happy to find mats of *Linnaea borealis*, the Twin-flower.

Carolinian species? [Backus Woods](#) in Norfolk County, is recognized by UNESCO as a site of Global Importance and is part of the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. The older growth forest is home to some of the oldest trees in Ontario. It is a bird watchers delight! There are over 221 provincially rare species including many that are at risk. Tulip Trees (the tallest trees in Canada, east of the Rockies) and Sassafras are at home as well as Flowering Dogwood.

Prairie Wildflowers? The [Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve](#) near Windsor is one of my favourite destinations in July/August. Look at wetlands and the Black Oak Savanna. There are over 160 provincially rare species of plants and animals, some endemic. There is a controlled burn every few years to prevent the establishment of weed trees. Massassagua rattle snakes have been re-introduced. Are they still there? My favourite plant is *Aureolaria laevigata*, the Yellow False Foxglove. It is a hemi-parasite so I had no luck with seeds.

Trilliums? One of my favourite places is a spring hike in [York Regional Forest-Hall Tract](#). There is a network of trails and old logging roads. You will find all the usual Southern Ontario woodland species, plus some that are uncommon, rare or endangered. One path (off McCowan) takes us down to a small stream and then up and round. I once found the endangered *Panax quinquefolius* (Ginseng). I am afraid someone else did

too - it has vanished. *Mediola virginiana*, the wild Cucumber Root, grows on shaded banks. This is interesting but not a wow plant. I like the mats of small pink *Polygala paucifolia*, the Fringed Polygala or Gaywings. I also found a patch of the rare, red-fruited *Actaea pachypoda* f. *rubracarpa*. The species with white berries is called "Dolls' Eyes". All are poisonous.

There are several alvars in Ontario with which have a characteristic limestone flora. [The Carden Alvar Provincial Park](#), near Kirkfield is exciting for birdwatchers, botanists and photographers. 230 bird species, 450 plants, and 140 butterfly/dragonfly species have been recorded. Many are specifically adapted to this area with thin soils above limestone. Look for the endangered loggerhead strike, *Lilium philadelphium*, the Wood Lily, *Geum triflorum*, Prairie Smoke and *Castilleja coccinea*, Paintbrush. Kirkfield is on the Trent Canal. You may be amused to see swallows nesting in the lift-lock.

Then Orchids! There are many places to visit. [The Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival](#) in June and [Purdon Bog](#) are two. Attend our March Meeting (or the recording) for Orchids of Purdon.

Look for books and Guides. Ontario Field Naturalists, Conservation areas, Ontario Nature all have good resources.

Read *110 Nature Hot Spots in Ontario: The Best Parks, Conservation Areas and Wild Places* by Chris Earley and Tracy Read to nearby find places to visit.

Then tell us about your finds! Have fun!

Membership

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome new member **Cindy Reiss** from Rochester, NY! It looks like her garden has been featured in *Fine Gardening* Photo of the Day! Take a look here: [Cindy's garden](#)

Make sure you are renewed for 2022 if you want to attend the plant sale this month and buy more plants! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year - Individual @\$15, Household @\$20, Business with business card listing @\$30. Print and complete the 2022 Membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf> or renew/join at the sale. Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu.

Upcoming 2022 ACNARGS Programs

NOTE: Due to COVID we will hold live meetings online via Zoom. Terry Humphries, terryhumphres@gmail.com, will invite members by email with a link to the meeting.

May 14: Members' Plant Sale, Myers Park, Pavilion B, Lansing NY (see article for details); set-up begins 9 a.m., sale begins at ~11 a.m. followed by lunch and optional visit to the Stark/Stauble garden nearby.

June 14-16: [NARGS Annual General Meeting](#) hosted by ACNARGS

August 20: Members' Plant Sale, Myers Park, Pavilion B, Lansing NY

Dates TBD 2023: NARGS Annual General Meeting hosted by Nova Scotia Chapter

Calendar of Select Events & Programs

[Chrys Gardener Tour of Ireland, June 19–29, 2022](#)

[Cornell Botanic Gardens](#) events

[Cornell Cooperative Extension](#) gardening resources and information

[Finger Lakes Native Plant Society](#) monthly meetings

[Hardy Plant Society](#) monthly meetings

[Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club](#)

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to David Mitchell at david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com

About ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 5 program-speaker meetings, the *Green Dragon* newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, two plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. 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 \$15 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 at www.acnargs.org/join.pdf.

Members are welcome to join our Google Group email "ACNARGS_Member_Forum". Find out how to join at <https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205?hl=en>

About NARGS National

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$40 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication focused on rock gardening, and an online website 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.

2022 ACNARGS Board Members and Contacts

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

Chair: **John Gilrein**, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: **Terry Humphries**, terryhumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: **Could this be you?**

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer:

Plant Sales Chair: **Carol Eichler**, carolithaca@gmail.com

Plant Sales Committee Members: **Michael Loos**, **BZ Marranca**, **David Mitchell**

Plant of the Month: **Marlene Kobre**, mkobre@ithaca.edu

Membership: Seeking someone to do this. **Could this be you?**

New Member Hospitality: **Graham Egerton**

Newsletter Editor: **David Mitchell**, dwm23@cornell.edu, alternating with **Carol Eichler**. **Looking for a new editor!**

Calendar: **Pat Curran**, pc21@cornell.edu

Webmaster, Program Tech: **Craig Cramer**, cdcramer@gmail.com

Planning Committee for the NARGS AGM: **Carol Eichler**, Chair. **John Gilrein**, **Terry Humphries**,
and **Marlene Kobre**

Book Order Manager: New position. Looking for a volunteer!

Webmaster, Program Tech: **Craig Cramer**, 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 David Mitchell,

david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com.

The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website <http://www.acnargs.org>