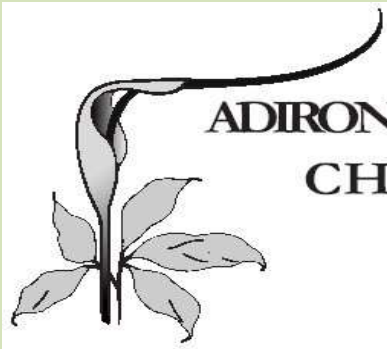




ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

September 2026

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 1PM (BROWNBAG LUNCH AT NOON)

Terry Humphries, Program Chair

"The Biodiversity and Origins of the Alpine Plants of North America"

Joseph Kleinkoph, PhD Candidate, Cornell University

In 404 Plant Science (see map below)



Thanks to diligent sleuthing and tracking by Ellen Lane and Craig Cramer, last spring we learned about the Marx Lab at Cornell University. The lab started in 2025 with the aim of identifying the processes that drive biodiversity across space and time in natural ecosystems. Their poster, describing an on-campus talk about alpine plant life "above the trees" sounded intriguing, and some of us wanted to learn more about the Marx Lab and their research about the evolution and ecology of alpine plants.

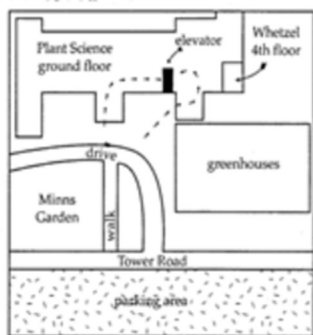
The lab's long-term goal is to "bridge themes from ecology and evolution and develop actionable scientific tool for predicting and managing future changes to plant ecosystems".

Their fascinating work identifies interesting biological patterns to help us understand how the complexities of nature arose and to attempt to predict responses for the future. They use cutting edge tools, field research, museum collections genomic data, and phylogenomic tools to understand why diverse communities exist in extreme environments, particularly alpine "sky islands."

For our September meeting, we will have Joseph Kleinkoph tell us about the lab's work. Joseph is an enthusiastic PhD candidate advised by Dr. Hannah Marx at the L.H. Bailey Hortorium

herbarium. He is broadly interested in exploring when, where and how plants adapt to alpine and arctic environments. He is especially excited about exploring these questions through *Erigeron*, a species-rich and charismatic genus of daisies that is well-represented in many habitats.

Our regular meetings are held in Room 404 Plant Science, 236 Tower Road on the Cornell Campus.



Currently, the west wing of the Plant Sciences Building has been shut down for renovations. Other than having those hallways walled off, everything should look pretty much as it did last time you were here. Remember the elevator to the 4th floor and then exit right down the long hallway. You will be facing the Whetzel Room.

Just a reminder, we ask all attendees to be fully vaccinated. Additionally, we will be following CDC, NYS, and Cornell covid protocol, which at this time does not require masks though you may choose to do so. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

I hope you've had a good summer, in spite of the challenges of heat, drought, and insects that make summer interesting. We didn't have an excess of any of those, and no surprise ground nest of yellow jackets to raise the awareness of me, the lawn mower.

Our August plant sale was a success and another enjoyable event and we netted around \$500 in sales. Attendance, and following that the volume of plants, was lower than normal. I heard about some of the conflicts some members had; we missed you and hope you be there the next time. Still there were good plants and camaraderie.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our off-cycle October meeting on **Friday October 9**. We'll have 2 talks from fern experts Judith and Felix Jones from Fancy Fronds nursery in Washington State. I have always received great plants from Fancy Fronds and had good success with their plants, so I think that reflects well on the nursery (and them). Show up for one or both talks. For our September meeting, we'll have a free plant to give out to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of our chapter.



One of the joys of August, when many perennials are done blooming, is the oreganos. There are some I would consider standard garden perennials – like the old variety 'Herrenhausen' or newer 'Rotkugel'. I found 'Herrenhausen' to be too spready and culled it. The rock garden oreganos are relatively short non-spreading perennials, and they're easy to grow in rock garden conditions (a sunny site with very



well drained sandy or rocky soil). Varieties include ‘Kent Beauty’, ‘Amethyst Falls’, and ‘Barbara Tingey’, among others. Hardiness ratings are normally Zone 5 or 6, though I believe these are winter hardier when given the excellent drainage they prefer. I find the varieties I have to be reliably perennial and they tolerate the vagaries of summer (humidity and dryness) with aplomb (my rock garden receives very little supplemental water in summer, other than the newly planted plants). Kent Beauty is even sold as a summer annual for containers, which I haven’t tried, but it might put on a great show with a rich potting mix. Note it’s unlikely to survive winter in a container with such a rich moist soil mix. I believe ‘Kent Beauty’ can be rooted from a cutting, but I only tried this once.



Hope to see you this fall!

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome new member Joan Adler of Cayuga Daylillies fame - she is also a Master Gardener.

If you haven't yet renewed for 2026 it's not too late - you already know the many benefits including Plant of the Month. We still have 3 meetings left this year! The mail-in form is at www.acnargs.org/join.pdf or you can join at our September meeting. Membership is for the calendar year; dues are \$15 for individual and \$20 for household. If you have any questions, email me at mes2@cornell.edu.

PLANT OF THE MONTH :

David Mitchell, Fox Run Nursery

For September we are offering two selections from members David Mitchell and Michael Loos’s developing nursery, Fox Barn Plants, *Edrianthus tenusifolius* and *Androsace sarmentosa* ‘Chumbyi’.



Edrianthus tenusifolius is a low-growing perennial bellflower in Campanulaceae from the Western Balkans. Hardy to zone 4, it grows 4 to 6 inches high and 9 to 12 inches wide. The leaves are compact and grassy. Violet-blue bell-shaped clusters of flowers appear in June through July. Grow in full sun or part shade in well drained rock garden conditions. It will seed around if it is happy.

Androsace sarmentosa 'Chumbyi' is a low-growing Himalayan perennial in the Primulaceae. Hardy to Zone 3, grows from 2 to 4 inches high and 8 to 12 inches wide and beyond as it spreads by stolons like a strawberry plant. Blooms in June through August with flowers that are a purple-pink with a yellow eye held above the rosettes. Grow in full sun or part shade in well drained rock garden conditions. Propagate by cuttings or seed.



In addition to Plant of the Month, Fox Barn Plants will bring a few quantities of the following:

Acorus gramineus 'Minimus Aureus'
Aethionema capitatum
Aethionema grandiflora
Antennaria alpina
Antennaria rosea v *pulvinata*
Centaureum scilloides
Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana'
Dianthus moravicus
Dianthus simulans
Dianthus tymphresteus
Draba compacta
Dracocephalum renati
Erodium sp
Heterotheca jonesii

Hypericum olympicum f *uniflorum*
 'Citrinum'
Iris cristata 'Eco Little Blue Bird'
Onosma echioides
Penstemon rupicola
Petrocoptis pyrenaica
Potentilla villosa
Saponaria caespitosa
Saponaria pumilio
Saxifraga sp.
Scutellaria baicalensis
Scutellaria orientalis
Silene flos-cuculi (dwarf form)
Townsendia leptotes 'Jeannie's Purple'

NEWS FROM NARGS NATIONAL

By Carol Eichler, *Recording Secretary, NARGS*

It's the time of year, as our growing season winds down, to start thinking about the NARGS Seed Exchange, right? For many National members, especially those who live overseas, this is one of the main reasons for joining our organization, since they do not have access to a local chapter. Of a membership close to 2,000, about 600 of us order seeds and even fewer donate seeds, in total close to 2,000 genera. I'd like to see all these numbers increase. But in fact, they have been decreasing.

I want to suggest that we make a commitment to the Seed Exchange to reverse this trend. That can be done in a number of ways. If you haven't participated before, the first step is to order some seeds. Try your hand at growing from seed – it can be rewarding and in any case it will be a learning experience. I will write more about growing from seed in a future article.

Perhaps you're ready for the next step – to start collecting seeds and donating them to the Seed Exchange. While we should be collecting seed throughout the season, it's a little late for that now (reminder to self: start collecting early in the season). But there is opportunity to collect seed now. The summer Quarterly included an insert with instructions for donating seeds (or it can be found

on the NARGS website [here](#)). Keep in mind the deadline to mail in your seeds is October 15th. Maybe your chapter could make this a group activity.



If you donate seeds, make a commitment to donate more seeds this year (that would be me). I've tried a new technique this year that falls into the category of "seems like this should work." For several reasons (being busy with other things being my primary "excuse"), I invested in some organza bags like you can buy at craft shops. Jewelry or party favors often come in them. I attach them to seed heads to contain the seeds, lest they scatter, until they fully ripen. This takes the pressure off me to "catch" the seeds before they are released. Check

out my photo.

When I get around to it, I will process them – that is to say, clean and prepare them to be mailed in by October 15th of course. Cleaning seeds is quite another topic and one I must say is less than perfect and often tedious. Here's another opportunity to make this a group activity.

At the June Chapter Chairs+ meeting in Calgary, it was suggested that NARGS coordinate a project that will encourage strengthening the Seed Exchange. I think it's fair to say you can watch for new developments on that front...coming soon.

CALENDAR OF SELECT AREA GARDEN EVENTS

For the latest information, visit the websites of these gardening organizations.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information: ccetompkins.org

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings – a hybrid of in-person and zoom: <https://flnps.org/> Recordings of past programs are available to view online.

Cornell Botanic Gardens: <https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/explore/events/>

Habitat Gardening in CNY, local Wild Ones Chapter: <https://www.hgcny.org/>

Liberty Hyde Bailey Garden Club: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/LHBGC/>

To have your garden event listed send all pertinent information to Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu

2026 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

Chair (aka head honcho): John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program Coordinator: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: Would you like to help? Share your speaker suggestions!

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer (aka CFO): Marlene Kobre

Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

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

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: vacant

Newsletter Editor: Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu

Wurster Garden Coordinator: Carol Eichler

Wurster Volunteers: Elaine Caso, Ellen Lane, Sheila Stone; Others always welcome! Contact Carol Eichler if you wish to be added to the email list.

Book Order Manager: New NARGS program to offer NARGS' members select books at deeply discounted prices. New Chapter position. Looking for a volunteer!

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

ABOUT US – ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NARGS

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, occasional 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), invitations to our garden day trips, 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.

ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$45 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication focused on rock gardening, and an online website featuring a wealth of information including current and archived Quarterlies, recordings of past study days and more. NARGS National also 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.

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Jan./Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec. Submit articles no later than the fourth Friday of the month preceding the monthly publication to Susanne Lipari, sel3@cornell.edu. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be October 2026.