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FEBRUARY 16: MEMBERS' SHARE

Join us at 1:00 p.m. on February 16th in the Whetzel Room (404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University) for our Members' Share Program. We will open the program with a video documenting the 1997-1998 building of Andy Goldsworthy's Storm King Wall.

Following this "kick-off" we invite you to share a few photos from your garden, others' gardens either public or private - that you were awed by, a fabulous natural area you visited (preferably rocky or floriferous), or even a photo of a mystery plant you would like help identifying. Carol Eichler is coordinating our contributors (carolithaca@gmail.com or 607-269-7070). Let her know by Feb. 8th if you plan to participate and what you want to share (suggested time limit of 5 minutes please) and the pictoral format such as slides, digital photos, DVD, prints/photo album, etc.). Our tech "whiz" Craig will follow-up with each contributor to work out any logistical details.

Optional bring-your-own bag lunch and social time starts at Noon. Drinks provided. Goodies always welcome for sharing.

Following the program everyone is invited to visit the Goldsworthy sculpture at Cornell's Newman Arboretum (if we can drive there; the road may be closed for the winter).

FROM THE CHAIR

Carol Eichler

With the excitement of the extended Board meeting January 19th to set plans (which like the start of a new gardening season is full of enthusiasm, hopes and dreams) for the coming Chapter year, I wanted to share with the rest of you what to expect for 2013.

This issue announces our February program, which has become something of a tradition for our members to share personal photos and commentaries. Beyond that, this newsletter includes the 2013 program plans from our Program Coordinators, John and Nari, on the speakers they have lined up for the remainder of the year.

Besides our program meetings we are looking at options for day trips, a spring overnight trip, workshops, and the member picnic in August. Since these are very much in the early planning stages, please take time to respond to the survey in this issue so we have a better sense of where your interests lie and what ideas you might suggest.

You can be sure that plants are at the heart of most of our activities. You can count on the free, members' seedling exchange in April, participation in the May plant sale sponsored by Cooperative Extension, and the Members-Only sale in August, as well as Plant-of-the-Month sales and, thanks to the generosity of our members, door prize plants.

Other ideas we focused on were how to grow our membership, how to make our library of gardening books more accessible, how to connect more with NARGS, our "parent" organization, and how to involve more of our membership so our Chapter continues to flourish.

Looking at the year in a nutshell is both exhilarating and exhausting. Whether you realize it or not, we have a truly amazing and dedicated group of people (our Responsible Persons) who make it happen. Don't be surprised if we ask you to give us a hand.

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2013 so you don't miss out on the benefits of membership, which are described below. See you on February 16th!

Carol

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Mary Stauble

The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you're a lifetime member (and we do have a few of those), your 2013 membership is due (Individual@\$10, Household@\$15, Business with business card listing@\$25). While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: discounted prices on our plants-of-the-month, 25% discount on May plant sale purchases, participating in the members-only plant sale in August and participating in the April members-only seedling exchange to name four – any one of which can easily recoup the cost of your dues. Plus, you become part of our network of eclectic gardeners eager to become better ones.

So why delay? Print and complete the 2013 Membership form here (http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf). Please note that there are several new questions this year. Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu

THANK YOU, TERRY!

In our last issue we put out a call for someone to step and be in charge of Member Hospitality. We are happy to welcome Terry Humphries to this position. Talk about dedicated: Terry lives in Barneveld, NY, which means it takes her over two hours to get to meetings. We really appreciate her passion for rock gardening and her willingness to volunteer.

WHAT GARDENS WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT AND WHEN?

Help us out here; please contact Carol with your preferences



Left: One of the Innisfree inspiring "Cup" Gardens

DAY TRIPS:

We are always looking for great gardens to visit for day trips (these can include members' and non-members' gardens). Since our members come from a large geographical area, who better to ask about the best gardens and gardeners in your neighborhood, than you? Again because our membership comes from near and far to attend our meetings, we like to make sure we focus these trips in different areas from year-to-year. Last

year we took two all-day outings - one to Rochester gardens and nurseries and the 2^{nd} to Stonecrop Garden on the day of its annual rock garden plant sale. While each of these trips involved considerable driving, we literally packed a lot into each trip (you should have seen how loaded with plants our cars were!).

OVERNIGHT TRIPS:

We also plan overnight trips from time-to-time. Last year a small group went to the lower Hudson River area to visit the New York Botanical Garden, Innisfree, Wave Hill, and Storm King Art Center. Each place offered a distinctive approach to gardening with stone.

There are many options for gardens to visit within a day's drive from Central New York. This year this is what we are considering:

Philadelphia area to include as possibilities Chanticleer, Mt. Cuba, Winterthur, Tyler Arboretum, Japanese Garden at Fairmont Park, Bartram's Garden, private rock gardens if this can be arranged via Delaware Valley Chapter, and a nursery stop. Add another day to visit the new Barnes Museum (not a garden).

2) **NYC** area to include Stonecrop (4/27 plant sale a possibility), NY Botanical Garden, Wave Hill, Ft. Tryon Park including the restored rock garden, Heather Garden and the Cloisters Gardens. These are all in reasonably close proximity. Using connections to the Hudson Valley Chapter some private rock gardens may be possible too.

Approximate dates April 26, 27 or 26, 27, 28; OR May 10,11,12 (\pm 1 day for flexibility of the trip planner). These dates have been selected so as not to conflict with NARGS National Conference yet timed (weather cooperating) to catch rock gardens at their spring peak in these warmer zones.

Time only allows us to take only one of these trips. (Note next year we are likely to schedule a trip to the Connecticut/Berkshire area.) Which one most interests you? For folks familiar with these areas, what else should be included in our "must-see" list of gardens and nurseries to visit?

Please contact Carol Eichler before Feb. 28th by email or phone (or catch her at the Feb. program meeting) to indicate your interest in going, destination preference, willingness to help, and to offer additional ideas and comments. She has visited some but not all of the suggested gardens listed.

JOIN THE NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

The North American Rock Garden Society, fondly known as "National" or NARGS for short, is a separate entity with its own benefits, so join today. NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials. Annual dues in the U.S. and Canada are \$30, payable in U.S. funds. VISA/Mastercard accepted. Benefits of membership include: *Rock Garden Quarterly* with articles on alpines and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen and ink drawings; annual seed exchange with thousands of plant species; study weekends and annual meetings in either U.S. or Canada; and book service to members. Join online or write:

Bobby J. Ward, Executive Secretary NARGS P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604, USA

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Bobby Ward, NARGS Executive Secretary

NARGS membership number: NARGS has recently begun using a membership number for members to access certain NARGS features online. That number is printed on the mailing address label of the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, above your name. If you don't have your membership number and need it before you received the next issue of the *Quarterly*, email a request to **nargs@nc.rr.com** with "Membership number" in subject line. There is a space inside the front cover of the winter issue to record your membership number.

Rock Garden Quarterly: You will receive the winter (January) 2013 issue by late December. The **digital edition** (free to members *and* with extra pages) will be online by January 1. To access the digital edition, you will need to use your NARGS membership number and email address.

NARGS Seed Exchange: The annual seed list will be posted on the **NARGS website** on December 15 and you may order seeds directly online using only your email address. Details are given on page 399 of the fall (September) issue of the *Quarterly*.

NARGS Election & Voting: The winter (January) 2013 issue of the *Rock Garden Quarterly* describes the online voting procedure for electing NARGS 2013 officers and board members. You may vote online between February 1 - 15, 2013, using your last name and NARGS membership number. (Members who do not have access to a computer and are unable to vote electronically may request a paper ballot from NARGS, PO Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619.)

Other developments:

Digitization of back issues of Rock Garden Quarterly: Thanks to financial support from NARGS donors, back issues of the *Quarterly* and its predecessor publications have been scanned and will be available for searching, viewing, and downloading through the new NARGS Web site, now under development.

Upgrade of NARGS Web Site: A new NARGS Web site is under development and is being upgraded with improved user interface. We expect the site to be completed during 2013. All of this involves work by many people and the financial support of NARGS members. You might like to consider the following, all of which can help NARGS further develop and maintain what it is doing:

NARGS Gift Membership: Consider giving a one-year membership gift to a friend or family member. NARGS will send the recipient in your name a beautiful gift card, with an illustration of *Dodecatheon hendersonii* by Tanya Harvey. Membership is \$30 in the

U.S. and Canada and \$35 overseas. Mail to NARGS, PO Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619. Or email nargs@nc.rr.com.

Purchases through Amazon.com: NARGS is an **Amazon.com** Affiliate, which means that when you link to **Amazon.com** through the **home page**, NARGS receives a 6% royalty. Simply go to the link, click on the **Amazon.com** banner or "Books" on the lower, left-hand side, and anything you buy on that visit to **Amazon.com** will earn NARGS 6%.

Financial Donation to NARGS: Perhaps you'd like to make a year-end donation to NARGS in honor or memory of someone, such as a gardening friend or family member, to support the Norman Singer Endowment Fund, the Seed Exchange, the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, or the NARGS General Fund. If so, you may make a donation on the **NARGS Web site**: using the "donate" button near the top of the page. Or you may donate by check, payable to NARGS, and mail to NARGS, PO Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619. In the U.S., NARGS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your donation may be tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Thanks to all who have supported NARGS with a financial donation and/or service to the society in various ways.

ASHEVILLE, NC: Annual General Meeting of NARGS

The 2013 AGM will explore the flora of the Blue Ridge Mountains of the southeastern U.S. and will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, at the Doubletree Biltmore Hotel. The Blue Ridge and Asheville are wonderful places to visit and we hope you will join us at the meeting! The AGM will begin on the afternoon of Thursday, May 2 and conclude on Saturday evening, May 4. Additional activities being planned include a guided tour of the gardens at the Biltmore Estate on the morning of May 2, visits to a number of private gardens on May 5, and a two-day post-conference tour of the Blue Ridge Mountains north of Asheville on May 6-7. The additional activities are not included in the registration for the AGM and are dependent on the number of persons who sign up for these activities. Details are on the **AGM website**. Deadline for early registration is March 2.

BLOGS: GARDENING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Kathy Purdy

A blog is a specialized website, where regular updates are displayed with the newest at the top. The earliest blogs were typically journal-like, but many today more closely resemble magazines in content and appearance. The ability to comment on written entries sets blogs apart from other kinds of websites. There is usually a sidebar where favorite blogs and other websites of the blog author are listed.

WHY READ BLOGS?

Garden blogs are personal accounts of the gardener interacting with his or her garden. "When you read someone's blog on a regular basis, there is a bond formed, and you feel as though you are re-uniting with an old friend," explains **Prairie Rose**, describing her visit to FaireGarden (below). Thanks to the internet, these friendships can be international in their reach. How wonderful, also, to see roses and narcissus blooming in winter--in Texas.

HOW TO START?

Winter is the perfect time to read garden blogs, as there isn't much going on outside. I plan to highlight one garden blog a month for your consideration. You can also check out who's linked to **Garden Bloggers' Bloom Day**, which I've mentioned in a previous issue. Also check out my **garden blog directory**, where I mention several other directories, as well. And when you find a blog you like, check its sidebar for others.

HOW TO KEEP UP?

How do you know when your favorite blog has a new post up? You could bookmark it and check manually, but there are two better ways. If the blog offers it, you can subscribe by email, and receive notice in your inbox when a new post has been published. Or you can use a feed reader (Google Reader is one such reader) to subscribe to the blog's rss feed, which is indicated by this icon: Once you have a feed reader, subscribing is usually as easy as clicking a button. The feed reader will collect the latest from all the blogs you subscribe to in one place.

ASHEVILLE MUST-SEES

Kathy Purdy

Garden bloggers have an annual meeting called the "Fling," and last year's, which I attended, was in Asheville. Here are my personal recommendations of things you don't want to miss. THE GENTLING GARDEN



Photo courtesy Diana Kirby http://sharingnaturesgarden.blogspot.com/2012/05/mountainside-garden-delights-gardeners.html

I was very happy to see that the garden of Peter and Jasmin Gentling was on **your itinerary**. A series of levels, some with steps, some with gently sloping walkways, gives the main structure to this garden. It is filled with choice treasures, as Peter is an avid collector and was friends with J. C. Raulston, who gave him slips of many choice plants that never made it into commerce. Beyond the cultivated garden, which is probably several acres, there are paths leading into the woods. I found this garden far more rewarding to visit than the Biltmore Estates. Try to follow Peter around; just about every plant comes with a story. Follow the links on **this page** to blog posts and photos about this garden.

B.B. BARNS GARDEN CENTER

There will probably be plenty of opportunities to purchase plants at the annual meeting, but don't miss **B.B. Barns** before you leave Asheville. In addition to an extensive selection of plants, they also have a spacious gift shop with unusual garden art and a wide variety of containers. You owe it to yourself to check it out!

THE HOP ICE CREAM CAFE

I hate to admit it, but **The Hop** has more flavors of ice cream than Pat Mitchell's ever did, all made on the premises, often featuring local ingredients. If you have a dietary restriction, The Hop almost certainly makes an ice cream that will accommodate it.

FRENCH BROAD CHOCOLATES

The **French Broad Chocolate Lounge** was walking distance from my hotel, so it's a good thing I didn't stop there until the last night, otherwise I'm sure I would have put on several pounds visiting it every day of my stay.

WAMBOLDTOPIA



Named after the street it is on, **Wamboldtopia** has been transformed by stone: stone walls, stone arches, stone walks, stone stairs. It evokes a fantastical world, with ceramic insets and free standing creations by Damaris Pierce and multi-patterned masonry by Ricki Pierce. This is a private residence and you will need to contact them at the website before you depart for Asheville to arrange a visit. Check out these **links to more posts** for more photos and information.

12 BONES SMOKEHOUSE

Gardeners cannot live on ice cream and chocolate alone, so make sure you get at least one meal at **12 Bones**. It is known for miles around as the best place to get ribs.

FAIREGARDEN: BLOG OF THE MONTH

Kathy Purdy

Fairegarden is a steeply sloping garden in southeast Tennessee. Frances, mistress of the garden and author of the blog of the same name, favors the naturalistic style of gardening popularized by Piet Oudolf. Her southern climate permits her to garden nearly year-round, which means something is going on in her garden while ours are buried in snow. Take a look at her recent post on **winter interest**--which would be autumn interest for us, perhaps--and note the links at the bottom to more posts on that topic.

Though not a rock gardener, Frances enjoys making **hypertufa troughs** and **balls**, as well as **many free form items out of concrete** and other materials. She is not afraid to experiment in her creations for the garden or with the plants themselves. I learned from her **that daffodils could be safely transplanted in the green**--even before blooming, if need be. Her close observation of plants while weeding enables her to find self-sown garden plants. Frances' stand of **pink muhly grass** is familiar to fellow garden bloggers the world over. It was created, in part, by muhly seedlings she found while weeding. Even though she gardens in a different climate, you are sure to be inspired by Frances of Fairegarden.

LOOKING BACK AT 2012: THE ANNUAL REPORT

Carol Eichler

Since I was preparing a report for NARGS National, I had to gather summary information. I thought our membership might like to see this report as well. It was a busy year for us!

Number of Chapter Members as of 12/31/2012: 74 Number of NARGS Members as of 12/31/2012: 30 (41% of our Chapter membership)

Activities:

For your Chapter, please indicate which of the following activities or programs applies to you:

- Yes: Periodic Chapter Meetings: if yes, how many per year: 7
- Yes: Newsletter: how many per year: 8
- Yes: Web Site: http://acnargs.blogspot.com
- No: Field Trips to see plants in their native habitat
- Yes: Garden Tours (day trips to Rochester and Stonecrop)
- No: Awards Program (though we did present 1 Chapter Service Award to Robin Bell)
- Yes: Plant Sales (1 public, 1 members-only, 5 Plant-of-the-Month sales)
- No: Seed Sales (actually a free seedling giveaway and free seed giveaway NARGS surplus)
- Yes: Guest Speakers (5 including 1 National guest speaker)

In 2012 we also

- maintained a public rock garden (Wurster Memorial Garden)
- held a hands-on workshops on hypertufa construction (quite a few participated)
- took an overnight working trip to NY Botanical Garden's Rock Garden and to visit other gardens
- gave presentations to 2 garden groups
- helped with the NARGS seed exchange (Phase IV of the 2011-2012 and Phase II of 2012-13)
- sponsored a public lecture through Cornell Plantations fall lecture series

2013 PROGRAM PLANS

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 Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (see map on the last page).

February 16: Member Share.

March 16: John Gaunt of **Greentree Garden Supply**, speaking on "Know Your Soil: Know What Your Plants Want" Plant of the month: Auricula primrose

April 20: Tom Stuart will speak on "Ferns in the Garden, from *Adiantum* to *Woodsia*". We will also have a seedling swap which is free to members; a charge will apply to non-members. This meeting will be in the Kenneth Post Lab on Tower Rd on the Cornell University campus. As usual, brown bag lunch at noon; program starts at 1pm. Plant of the month: Ferns.

May 18: look for us at the Ithaca Garden Fair and Plant Sale at the Ithaca High School. Members get a 25% discount! Plan on volunteering for part of your visit.

August 17: Members-only plant sale and picnic.

September 21: Matt Mattus on non-hardy bulbs.

October 19: Harvey Wrightman

November 9: Don Leopold

Details as we learn them will be included in future newsletters, our **blog** and our **Facebook page**.

CALENDAR OF GARDEN EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

Master Composter Volunteer Training, Wednesdays Feb. 13 through May 8, at TCCE (application deadline is Jan. 28)

Annual Forest Owner Winter Seminar, Sat. Feb. 9. 9am-12 noon, Spencer Van Etten High School

Epic Saga of the American Chestnut, Akiva Silver, Wed. Feb. 20, 7pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society meeting, Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor

Seedy Sunday - Community Seed Swap, Sun. Feb. 24, 11am-3pm, TCCE

Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening, Thurs. Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, TCCE (this class will be repeated on April 16)

CNY in Bloom, Feb. 28-March 3, 2013, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse

MARCH:

CNY in Bloom, Feb. 28-March 3, 2013, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse
Native Plants Conference, March 1-2, Ithaca, see Plantsmen Nursery website for details
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Fair, Sat. March 2, 12-3pm, Boynton MS
Winter Worm Composting Class, Sat. March 9, 10am-noon, TCCE
Veggie Gardening Beyond the Basics, Thurs. March 14, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, TCCE
Community Beautification Training, Tues March 19, 6-8:30 pm at TCCE
Grow Your Own Spuds – Everything you always wanted to know about
potatoes, Wed. March 20, 6-8 pm, Chrys Gardener, TCCE
New York and California Flora: Strangers, or Far-Flung Cousins? Dan Segal, Wed.
March 20, 7 pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor
Plantasia Garden & Landscape Show, March 21-24, 2013, Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY
Ireland, Gardeners' Paradise, Sat. March 23, 2:00-3:30 pm, Chrys Gardener, TCCE, travel slide
show open to the public (\$3 donation helps support the Horticulture Program)
Fruits for the Home Gardener, Thurs. March 28, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, TCCE

APRIL & MAY

Citizen Pruner Training, Mon. April 1, 8, 15, 7-8:30 pm, and Mon. April 22, 5:30-7 pm, at TCCE, see Earthkeeper for details

Spring Into Gardening! Sat. April 6, 9am-5pm, DeWitt Middle School, Ithaca – one day-event: registration includes choice of 5 workshops, box lunch, soil testing, and children's activities

Gardens 4 Humanity Training, April-May, dates and locations TBA. For more info, contact Josh Dolan at **sapsquatch7@gmail.com**

Getting Started with Vegetable Gardening, Tues. April 16, 6:30-8:30 pm, Pat Curran, TCCE (this is a repeat of the Feb. 28 class)

Prairie Restoration, Hal Gardner, Wed. April 17, 7pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor

Earth Day, Sun. April 21, 12-5pm, Ithaca Farmers' Market

Compost Fair & 4-H Duck Race, Sun. April 28, 12-4pm, TCCE

Monthly meeting, topic TBA, Wed. May 15, 7pm, Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, Unitarian Church Annex, 2nd floor

Lilac Festival, Rochester NY, early to mid May, 2013 dates not available yet

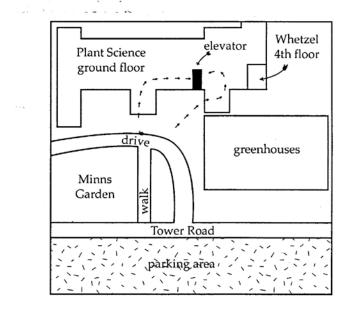
Garden Fair Plant Sale, Sat. May 18, 9am-2pm – SAVE THE DATE!!! AC-NARGS will have plants for sale, and members get a 25% discount.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2013 BOARD MEMBERS

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you! Chair: Carol Eichler, **carolithaca@gmail.com** Program: John Gilrein, **basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu** Program Committee Members: Nari Mistry, **nbm2@cornell.edu** Secretary: Mary Stauble, **mes2@cornell.edu** Treasurer: BZ Marranca, **mmm10@cornell.edu** Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, **dwm23@cornell.edu** Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, **basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu** Membership: Mary Stauble, **mes2@cornell.edu** New Member Hospitality: Terry Humphries, **terryh@workingsolutionsrome.org** Newsletter Editor: Kathy Purdy, **kopurdy@gmail.com** Newsletter Assistant: Pat Curran, **pc21@cornell.edu** Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, **cdcramer@gmail.com**

HOW TO GET THERE: MEETING ROOM MAP

This is on the Cornell University Campus.



Please welcome new member Rhoda Maurer to ACNARGS!

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Kathy Purdy, **kopurdy@gmail.com**. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be in March 2013.

SURVEY: WHAT WORKSHOPS WOULD YOU LIKE?



Here is an easy way to contribute to our Chapter. Help us decide what workshops we should try to schedule over the next year or two.

We try to hold a minimum of 1 hands-on workshop each year. To help us in planning, please rank in order of your interest **from 1-10 ALL 10** of the suggested workshop ideas below.

We are willing to offer as many workshops as we can find people to teach and people to organize them.

Above: Ruth Hopkins building a sculptural planter at last year's trough building workshop.

- A. Indicate with a circle any workshops you would be willing to teach.
- B. **Underline** a workshop you would be willing to organize (setting date and place, publicize and coordinate registration, assemble required materials, etc).
- C. If you have no interest in a particular workshop, mark with "N."

Traditional trough building	Fishbox-type trough building
Propagation by cuttings	Gardening with tufa demo
Improving your garden photography	Building a stone wall
Propagation from seeds	Planning & planting a trough
Soil mixes 101	Other (indicate)
Build a rock garden in a day	

Your Name

Please return to Carol Eichler by 2/28/2013

- A. email carolithaca@gmail.com
- B. snail mail: 1562 Taughannock Blvd Ithaca, NY 14850
- C. in person at the Feb. 16 meeting