



## ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

*North American Rock Garden Society*

# Green Dragon Tales

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

May-June 2017

## MAY 20: PLANT SALE – OUR BIG FUN FUNDRAISER

*David Mitchell, Plant Sale Chair*

It is time to pot up your divisions for the May plant sale. Potting plants up a few weeks ahead of the sale helps to ensure they will recover from being dug and look their best. Please use only soilless potting mix and remember to label every pot, preferably in advance with Latin name if possible and common name if applicable. Our sale is not limited to rock garden plants. Please consider sharing divisions of valued perennials, ground covers, shrubs, and trees and don't forget to consider sharing both shade and sun-loving plants. The most common plants are hard to sell. If have plants to spare, rare or unusual plants, rock garden plants, woodland plants and spring wildflowers, as well as deer resistant plants are especially appreciated by our customers.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your help to make it a success. Please do what you can by either donating plants and/or your time during setup and during the sale. Our buyers enjoy interacting with us, since many of them are eager to learn more about the plants we offer and which ones may be appropriate for their gardens.

The May plant sale will return to the Ithaca High School, 1401 N. Cayuga St., on May 20. Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Set up is Friday around 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. Arrive early Saturday to drop off plants and help complete the setup. Our booth will be located indoors in the new gymnasium.

My driveway is available for drop offs any time before the day of the sale if you can't make it to the high school Friday or Saturday morning. The driveway is on the Washington Street side of the corner of Washington and Esty Streets (402 Esty Street). My phone number is (607) 342-3660 should you have any questions about the sale. Tompkins

County Cooperative Extension can be reached at (607) 272-2292 or visit the plant sale website, [2017 Spring garden fair & plant sale](#).

## FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

Thanks to all of you who donated plants at the April meeting for both the seedling exchange and the auction! It's nice to be able to exchange some plants without cash transactions (seedling exchange) and we made a few bucks on the auction.

For the Garden Fair/May 20 plant sale at the Ithaca High School, I hope you'll be able to participate and donate plants and help work the sale. I missed my "fix" selling plants last year at our sale (kid was graduating from college in Laramie), but I won't this year. We're encouraging digging of donated plants early, but if you're confident you can get a vibrant plant potted up a week before the sale, that's OK too. The Garden Fair is also a great opportunity to see lots of vendors in one spot where you can purchase annuals, vegetable plants, shrubs, and woodland plants. Not to mention the great plants at our booth! I still have many of the unusual plants I bought at the ACNARGS booth years ago, some of which I have not seen in the trade. Remember members receive a 25% discount on plant purchases from our tables.

Please welcome our new Plant-of-the-Month (POM) Coordinator, Marlene Kobre, and thanks Marlene for taking this on. It was fun being the POM person, but it's good to have some new enthusiasm for the role. We welcome feedback about the POM, hoping everyone will be kind about it, including suggestions for future POMs (I have gotten a few suggestions) and information about what did well and what did not. One of our goals for this member benefit is experimentation/expanding our horizons, so that introduces a bit of risk, either of tremendous successes or of failures. I have some POMs that have thrived for years, as well as some that died. One could view this as no pain, no gain, and I hope you will at least enjoy trying! Every great gardener has killed many plants.



*Dicentra cucullaria*,  
Dutchman's Breeches

Lately I have been seeing a lot of information about planting native plants and planting to benefit native wildlife. With the many invasive plants and the increasing development of natural areas, our native wildlife is at increased risk of decline due to loss of food sources and loss of habitat. Everyone is familiar with the decline in the population of the monarch butterfly. We are the Rock Garden Society and not the Native Plant Society, and I'm not suggesting you replace your kousa dogwoods (Asian) with *Cornus florida*, or replace your Japanese maples with *Acer pennsylvanicum* (striped maple). But it's good to be aware of invasive alien plants

(Norway maple, European buckthorn, Tartarian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, among many others), and eradicate or discourage these plants from growing in your landscape.

A commonality among these invasives, and many others, is that they readily spread by seed and lack natural controls (I'm not sure about Norway maple, but deer avoid the other three). Try to be aware of non-native plants that are benign, or perhaps beneficial in spite of their foreign provenance (dill and parsley can support black swallowtail caterpillars, which become butterflies). Benign alien plants don't try to take over your garden or woods.

If you can include some native plants in your garden to feed butterfly larva, pollinators, nectar lovers, and seed eaters, you can help the native wildlife, and maybe you'll benefit by seeing hummingbirds in your *Monarda didyma*, spicebush swallowtail caterpillars on your *Lindera benzoin*, or goldfinches eating your *Echinacea purpurea* seeds. Our native oaks are one of the best plants to feed caterpillars, which are a major food supply of native songbirds. Even seed-eating birds like chickadees will consume many caterpillars (some of these would be very small, not the size of tobacco hornworms) and feed them to their young. I'm not advocating having ragged, insect ravaged trees, but with healthy oaks and a healthy songbird population, the insect damage might not be noticeable.



*Dodecatheon meadia*,  
Shooting Star

How can you incorporate some native plants? Of course it's easy, if you have a lot of land where you can plant them. There are a lot of native plants that work well in a perennial garden. If you have a less well-tended corner of your yard, you can plant natives you might not want in your perennial border. A small native shrub thicket would work well in a corner and could be a bit of a screen; some good choices would be *Sambucus racemosa* (red elderberry), *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush), *Rhododendron periclymenoides* (pinxter azalea), *Corylus Americana* (hazelnut), and *Rubus odoratus* (purple flowering raspberry). You can have some non-native ornamental plants and still work in some native plants. Your local library will likely have at least one book on encouraging native wildlife.

Hope to see you on May 20 at our plant sale, and on June 17 at our Franklin, NY area garden tours.

*John Gilreán, Chair*

## FRONDS AND ANEMONES: DO YOU HAVE THEM?

Over a span of 50 years, Bill Plummer has written articles on native plants and related subjects, mostly dealing with plants or birds on his property. In his recently published book *Fronds and Anemones*, he puts all these writings into one collection, expressing his joy in nature and gardening.

Bill, who has been a member of ACNARGS for many of those 50 years, relates how the garden and the gardener have evolved over time. He offers his views on a wide range of topics – paths, stone walls, pruning, weather, gardening excursions and everything in between.

## JUNE 17 ACNARGS GARDEN TOUR

Deborah Banks, Ellen Lane, Carol Eichler

Editor's note: For photos see "Photos-of-the-Month" on the last page

You won't want to miss this fantastic day trip/tour of gardens with much thanks to Deborah Banks who lined up the gardens and Ellen Lane for arranging further details. Though previously described as an "Oneonta tour," the gardens are more accurately located in the rural Franklin area.

### Important Notes as you make your preparations:

1. we are minimizing lunchtime to maximize garden time so please remember to bring a bag lunch
2. allow enough time to arrive promptly by 9:30 (~92 miles and ~2 hours driving time from downtown Ithaca to the first garden)
3. remember the rules of garden etiquette by arriving on time and departing with the group; pets are strictly "off-limits"
4. we are traveling on country roads and some of them are hard to spot; caravanning is suggested and Deborah has offered to lead the way; GPS is highly recommended and enter the address with village as listed below (or you may end up in no-man's-land)
5. plan on having at least one cell phone in your car and carry Deborah's cell phone number with you in case you "get lost" (607-708-0323)
6. carpooling is suggested but organized on your own
7. this is a members' only tour but you may bring a guest
8. RSVP to Ellen Lane by June 15 (607-257-3129 or [ellenelizlane@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenelizlane@yahoo.com)) if you plan to take the tour so we can let our hosts know about how many people to expect
9. Lastly, print out this itinerary and bring it with you!

### Itinerary

9:30 am, Totem Farm, Don Statham's garden, 581 Rathbun Hill Road, East Meredith, NY. Don Statham is a garden designer and artist. His four-acre garden at Totem Farm has expanded outward from the old farmhouse and ice house, and includes a big leaf room, a moon garden, a young lilac walk, a pond walk, a patterned meadow walk and more. It is all defined by fences, stone walls and hedges and connected by paths and stone stairs. This garden has been on many garden tours and is featured on Don's blog, [DonStathamBlog.com](http://DonStathamBlog.com).

Directions to Totem Farm (depending on your starting point, adjust accordingly): From Ithaca, take NY-79 and then NY-206 toward Oneonta. Get on I-88 East and take exit 15 for Davenport/Oneonta. Merge onto NY-28/NY-23/Lettis Highway toward Davenport/Delhi. After .19 mile, turn Left onto NY-23. Drive for 4.63 miles and turn Right onto Prosser Hollow Rd, at traffic light. Travel .64 miles and take slight left onto Rathbun Hill Road. Note: This is a rough gravel road in places. Don's place at 581 Rathbun Hill Road is on the right. Parking will be in the field just past the house (or along the road if the field is too wet). We'll put streamers or a sign for it.

11:00 am, Green Banks Garden and Bring your own Bag Lunch, 255 White Hill Road, Oneonta, NY. Deborah and Alden Banks' rural property has large garden beds of perennials and shrubs, a shade garden and a large vegetable garden. There are also trails through the woods, a lilac hill, two ponds and a creek. Alden maintains an organic vegetable garden, grows hops for his personal beer brewing, has bees and grows shiitake mushrooms on logs under the spruce trees behind the barn. Bring a brown bag lunch to eat at the picnic tables near the shade garden. Only 30 minutes has been allotted for lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Directions to Green Banks: From Don's house turn Right onto Rathbun Hill Road. In .67 miles, turn Right onto County Route 10. Drive for 2.96 miles to stop sign in Meridale. Turn Right onto NY-28. Go for 3.23 miles and turn Right onto Coe Hill Road. This turn is just after Houghtaling Hollow Road. We'll put streamers at the corner; it's easy to miss. Drive 1.25 miles on Coe Hill to the fork. Stay straight to go up the hill onto White Hill Road. Deborah and Alden's place is the first one on the left, on past the small barn. Park along the left side of the road.

1:00 pm, Sondra Freckelton's garden, 331 Epps Road, Oneonta, NY. Sondra is an artist with a beautiful rural property that fronts the Ouleout Creek. Numerous museums, galleries and traveling shows throughout the United States have exhibited Sondra's watercolors. She has had solo exhibits at major galleries in New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. Sondra's extensive garden bordering Ouleout Creek in Delaware County has been featured on many garden tours over the years, including the Garden Conservancy's Open Garden Days. The main feature at this time of year will be the many old roses and Japanese peonies, which should be in full bloom. There are stream-side plantings stretching from the vegetable garden with its grape-covered arbor and benches to the classic gardens around the house and terrace and on past the wildflower garden back to the woodland.

Directions to Sondra's garden: Go back down White Hill and follow Coe Hill Road back to NY-28. Turn Right on NY-28 and follow it for 1.46 miles. Turn Left onto Epps road. We will mark this corner with streamers. Go SLOW on Epps Road; it's a small rough road and speed limit is 20. Follow Epps Road past the farmer's house; and go past the lane on left. Road becomes one-way loop at the SLOW sign near barn; stay to the left to follow the loop past Sondra's barn and past the house. Park in designated area.

2:30 pm, Jane and Jerry Hebbard, 500 Otego Road, Franklin, NY. Jane's gardens overlook the Ouleout Valley and include perennial gardens, an entry garden, an organic vegetable garden and a sensational terraced alpine garden built by Jane with rocks from their land.

Directions to Hebbards: From Sondra's, go back on Epps Road to NY-28. Turn Left onto NY-28 and follow it for 4.35 miles to NY-357. Turn left onto NY-357 and follow it for 5.35 miles to the outskirts of Franklin. Turn Right onto Otego Road. Follow it for .5 miles, across bridge and up the hill. Jane and Jerry's place is on the Right. We'll put streamers at end of driveway. Park along the road. As you walk up the driveway, you first pass the vegetable

garden then perennial gardens along the side of the hill. Go along the back of the house to the far side to see the alpine garden.

4:00 pm, Botanical Treasures, 10 Maple Street, Franklin, NY. Diana Hall has an English-style garden and potager. An archway leads to a secluded garden behind the house. Her shop Botanical Treasures offers unusual and beautiful plant containers in all sizes and styles.

Directions to Botanical Treasures: Go back down Otego Road and across the bridge to NY-357/Main Street. Turn Right and go .34 miles into town. After you pass the little mini-mart/gas station and Water Street, the next street on your right is Maple Street. Park anywhere along Maple Street. Diana and Lee are at 10 Maple Street, the last house on the right. Diana's signboard for Botanical Treasures will be out front. Her garden starts at the street, including the potager garden next to the driveway, and also is in back of the house. The Botanical Treasures shop is in the barn.

Directions Home: Take Maple Street back to NY-357/ Main Street and turn Right. Drive 7.31 miles and merge onto I-88 West. Then head your car towards home!

## **JOIN OR RENEW NOW: SAVE 25%!**

*Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator*

Please welcome new member Jane Couch who joined at our April meeting. Jane is a landscape architect in Franklin, NY.

If you have not renewed for 2017, you should do it now so you'll get a 25% discount at the Ithaca Plant Sale! You can renew at the sale or via mail. The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Your membership status is reported to you in the email with the newsletter link. Contact Mary Stauble at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu) if you have any questions.

## **AMERICAN CONIFER SOCIETY COMES TO SYRACUSE**

After 10 years the American Conifer Society National Meeting is returning to Syracuse August 17-19. Their interests overlap with those of rock gardening, enough so that we've rescheduled our August meeting to give our members the opportunity to attend the ACS meeting if they so choose. This meeting is structured much like NARGS annual meetings with talks in the evening and garden visits during the day. Attendees are a mix of home gardeners and nursery professionals – a fun, unpretentious group and you will learn and see a lot.

The itinerary includes Thursday night dinner with keynote speaker Robert Fincham, a founding ACS member, plant propagator extraordinaire and author, giving a talk titled "Something New Is Not Always Something Better."

Friday excursions include Sycamore Hill Gardens, [Dianne Bordoni's Gardens](#), and the Mango Gardens. That evening [Christie Dustman](#), an award winning garden designer in the Boston, Mass. Area, will give a presentation on using conifers in your gardens.

Saturday morning begins with a presentation by the famous (or infamous) tag-team of Janet Macunovich & Steven Nikkila on "Planting When the Roots Aren't Right". Lunch will be catered by [Jolle's French Bistro](#), at the TENT at Sycamore Hill. A sponsored wine tasting and pour will feature wines from the Finger Lakes Region. Saturday will also feature visits to Topiary Gardens, the gardens and nursery of Diana Smith, and the gardens of C.J. Ryan & Eileen Murphy.

Click here to [Register Online Now](#)

Saturday evening brings the silent and live auctions, including a rare offering from the famous Dennis Dodge Collection (held in reserve just for this meeting), followed by Sunday morning's tailgate sale where a number of vendors will be present (finally an opportunity to purchase plants).

For an additional fee you can register for *Conifer College—Central New York Style!* (see [Conifer College Details](#)) It requires special registration and fee that concludes with a grand finale [Dinner Cruise](#) on Skaneateles Lake.

## **NEXT ACNARGS MEETING: SUNDAY AUGUST 27**

Our annual members' only sale and summer picnic has been rescheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> (yes 4<sup>th</sup>) Sunday (yes Sunday) of August – August 27. Mark your calendar NOW. We will hold this meeting at the Upper Entrance to Treman State Park. This is NOT where we met last year. The next newsletter – our July/August issue - will not be sent out until early August and will serve as an additional reminder.

## **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.*

May 19-20: Spring Gala Week-end (a NARGS Study Week-end), Madison, Wisconsin, sponsored by Wisconsin-Illinois NARGS Chapter. More info in this newsletter and at [Spring Gala Week-end](#).

May 20: Our big Plant Sale fundraiser as part of CCETC's Garden Fair

June 17: ACNARGS garden tours, Franklin area near Oneonta

Aug. 27: ACNARGS Picnic and Members' Plant Sale at Upper Treman State Park. Note the meeting is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of August. Mark your calendar now.

Sept. 16: Ken Hull, Native Orchids

Oct.21 Yasemin Kon, author of *Wildflowers of Turkey*

Nov.11: Mary & Steve Squyres: "Following the Secret Lives of Plants: snooping on your garden [with help from technology]"

Nov. 17-19: NARGS Annual Meeting, Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Save the date. Info [here](#).

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)

May 10: Using Native Plants in Your Garden - It's For the Birds! sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 6:00-8:00 pm.

May 20: Garden Fair and Plant Sale, sponsored by Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County

May 20 & 21 (tentatively, depending on weather): Tree Peony Festival at Linwood Gardens, Pavillion NY. And May 27-28, June 3-4. <http://www.linwoodgardens.org/>

June 10: Onondaga County Open Days sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. 3 ACNARGS members' gardens are featured: Donna Kraft, Dianne Bordoni and Louise Lutz

Aug. 17-19: American Conifer Society national meeting in East Syracuse. [Info here](#). Save the date

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Plant Walks meet at different times and locations. Topics vary from wildflowers to lichens to winter twig ID. For more information, call Anna Stalter (607) 379-0924 or Susanne Lorbeer at (607) 257-0835.

## 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, 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, they have begun sponsoring botanical tours each year open to members only

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2017 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 Marranca, [mmm10@cornell.edu](mailto:mmm10@cornell.edu)

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, [dwm23@cornell.edu](mailto:dwm23@cornell.edu). Thanks to the members who offered to help this year!

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

Plant of the Month: Marlene Kobre, [mkobre@ithaca.edu](mailto:mkobre@ithaca.edu)

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

New Member Hospitality: Nari Mistry, [rbm2@cornell.edu](mailto:rbm2@cornell.edu)

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## 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 combined July/August 2017 issue coming out in early August. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website: [www.acnargs.org](http://www.acnargs.org).

*(There's one more page you won't want to miss)*

**PHOTOS - OF - THE - MONTH**



**June 17  
Tour  
Preview**

Totem Farm



Green Banks  
Garden



Botanical Treasures,  
Diana Hall