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November 2021

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**NOVEMBER 20, 1P.M. VIA ZOOM: JENNY WAINWRIGHT-KLEIN ON THE SCHLACHEN – A BOTANIC GARDEN HIGH IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS**

*Terry Humphries, Program Chair*

2 ways to join us: November 20 “live” on zoom. Look for the link in your email Wednesday EVENING 11/17/21. Be sure to download any documents (slide and/or plant lists) that will be attached to the announcement.

Or, with the speaker’s permission view the recorded program. The recording will be available to any Chapter member who places a request to Terry Humphries [terryehumphries@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphries@gmail.com) and you can watch her presentation at a time of your own choosing. The October program, Claire Cockcroft on Asiatic primroses, is likewise available.



Mark your calendar for a very special speaker on November 20, the weekend before Thanksgiving. I think we are in for a real treat! Jenny Wainwright-Klein is coming to us “live” from Germany! If you need convincing, the photos here will persuade you.

She has been working for 28 seasons in the Schachen Alpine Garden of the Munich Botanic Garden. She is the

supervisor of both the alpine propagation unit (since 2000) and of the Alpine Garden itself.



Blockhaus and gardens

The Schachen Alpine Garden is a satellite garden of the Munich Botanic Garden, at 1850 m (6069 ft.) in the Wetterstein Mountains, 120 km (75 miles) south of Munich. Opened in 1901, the garden is home to a large and ever growing collection of alpine plants from around the world. The mission of the Alpine Garden is to inspire enthusiasm for the beauty and diversity of the alpine flora and to deepen understanding about the unique alpine environment.

On one hectare (2 ½ acres) over 1,000 plant species from different mountain regions are grown. Besides the Bavarian Alps, the Carpathians, the Caucasus, and Himalayas are represented there, as are alpiners from the Arctic and North America, and the Drakensberg and Maloti Mountains of South Africa. Even plants endemic to New Zealand and Patagonia thrive in the Schachen. The cool, moist summers are particularly suited for the cultivation of plants from the summer monsoon areas of the Himalayas, with *Meconopsis* and *Primulas* serving as main attractions for visitors in July.



*Meconopsis x sheldonii*

Jenny grew up on the Zambian Copperbelt and was interested in nature and plants from an early age. There were no plant nurseries where she lived and everything for her parents' garden was grown from seed or cuttings. She qualified as a horticulturist in Cape Town, South Africa in 1985 and left soon after for the United Kingdom with plans to visit the wonderful landscaped gardens of Europe. For two years she worked in the tropical Orchid unit at the Royal Botanic Garden Kew, where she met her husband and moved to Germany with him in 1990.

In 1992 she started work in the Rock Garden (Alpinum) of the Munich Botanic Garden and discovered a fascination for alpiners. Now, almost 30 years later, she is in charge of propagating plants and overseeing cultivation of all plants at the Schachen Alpine Garden.

Over the last 17 years Jenny has taken part in 9



And the dramatic garden setting with two peaks Hochblasen and Alpsitze in the background

seed collecting expeditions; one to Georgia and eight to Lesotho. The collecting expeditions to Lesotho have resulted in a new Lesotho area in the Alpine Garden as well as in the Munich Botanic Garden. She is a complementary member of the Meconopsis Group, a life member of NARGS and a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. She has given talks to various local Bavarian plant groups, Alpine Garden Society (AGS) groups in England, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, as well as to the Meconopsis Group in Edinburgh and at the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

*Editor's Note: We're still Zooming. Don't be shy; give it a try. We're here to help. And we actually spend some time chatting following our program. It's the next best thing to being together.*

## FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

As I write this on October 26, there's at least a little bit of flooding in the area and it's still raining, though lightly. I hope it's not affecting any of you. This has been one of the wettest summer and fall seasons, hard to remember back to March of this year when it was dry and sunny. Let's hope for more sun in 2022! Partly the result of so many cloudy days, I have not had a frost yet and still have houseplants outside (but not for long). In Bloomingdale, NY (near Saranac Lake) however, the temperature dropped to around 20 degrees F. early on October 24.



*Impatiens namchabarwensis*  
tender annual seedling

I've done too much traveling to get my 2021 bulb order planted, but there's still time. I don't know if I'm gravitating to bulbs as a rock gardener, but I seem to order more of the small species tulips, like *T. linifolia*, and dwarf narcissi, like *N. fernandesii*. The bulbs don't care about the weather when they're planted, but I would like a nice dry day.

One of my observations from this year's gardening is regarding *Impatiens namchabarwensis* (blue impatiens) – see photo. It's an exotic annual with blue violet flowers. I ordered this in 2020 as a plant, and it grew in a pot but wasn't impressive. The pots with the dead plants were held over winter in the basement and self-sown seedlings appeared in the pots when I moved them outside this spring (annual impatiens like the native *I. capensis* and exotic *I. glandulifera* are aggressive seeders, so perhaps it's not surprising that *I. namchabarwensis* successfully reseeds itself as well. Two plants in pots again did OK this year but were not impressive; the seedling I planted late in the ground was much happier. This is an easy plant; my lesson is I think I need to plant this in the garden, rather than a pot.

When you receive this month's Green Dragon, the opportunity to send in seeds to the NARGS Seed Exchange has passed, but you can get extra seed packets by packaging seeds with us this year in December (see the article to follow). If you're currently a NARGS member, you can order seeds starting December 15. And be sure to note this month's meeting day of



A red maple seedling  
growing among mosses on  
Catamount Mountain

Saturday November 20 (the third Saturday in November).

I hope you have what you need to keep you comfortable and occupied this winter, whether that's good books, a lot of firewood, nursery catalogs, or garden photos to help plan next year's planting.

## SEED PACKAGING COMING UP IN DECEMBER

John Gilrein

Like every year for the past several years, our chapter will be packaging seeds for the NARGS Seed Exchange (SeedEx). We'll be doing 100 taxa, the same as last year. What's a taxa? For the purposes of SeedEx, it's one item on the list of seeds available. It could be as simple as *Cyclamen hederifolium*, and include all the seeds in the exchange from that species. Or it could be more complicated, with *C. hederifolium* broken into 3 separate taxa like *C. hederifolium* pink flowered, *C. hederifolium* white flowered, and *C. hederifolium* silver leaved, as each of the 3 would be listed and ordered separately. Last December, 2020, we had 12-14 volunteers packaging our portion of the seeds, and we did this working remotely, though we did connect for an hour or 2 to package seeds together joined by Zoom. Thanks to the volunteers from our chapter, packaging our portion of the seeds was much easier.

How we'll do our seed packaging this year is not as clear. Some of us would like to do this in person, and we're interested in using KPL Classroom, as we have done several times in the past. We are not sure if this would be available (and if so, proof of vaccination may be required). If we do this in person and KPL is NOT available, we would need another site in/near Ithaca. We may have to do the seed packaging remotely, the same as last year. Last year, most people in Ithaca who worked on this picked up seeds and supplies from David Mitchell's downtown Ithaca house, and dropped off the packaged seeds there after completion. People far from Ithaca got their portion in the mail.

If you're available to help with this year's seed packaging, would you please drop me an email: [jgilrein@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jgilrein@twcny.rr.com). And I would also like to know if you prefer to sort seeds in person, or do this remotely. NOTE: volunteers who work on packaging seeds who are NARGS members qualify for an extra 10 packages of seed in the SeedEx (i.e. you can get 35 packets rather than just 25 packets). We'll send out an email message in the future to keep everyone informed on how this will work this year. Stay tuned!

## FOLLOW-UP ON JUMPING WORMS

Here's an interview with Dr. Josef Gorres of the University of Vermont on Thomas Christopher's website. Dr. Gorres discusses current research to control the numbers of jumping worms.

Podcast: [meeting-the-threat-of-asian-jumping-worms](#).

## NEW SHERIFF PATROLLING HIS TERRITORY



If only this kitty would eat the jumping worms. Photo by Maria Christian

## NEWS FROM NARGS:

### WOODLANDERS STUDY DAY NOVEMBER 13

Elisabeth Zander



NARGS Rocks, a virtual Zoom webinar format, presents *In the Shadow of Stone: Woodlanders in the Rock Garden* on November 13, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. EST. Bridget Wosczyzna and Elisabeth Zander will host.

Need a refresher on soil basics? Cynthia Jones is a Pacific Northwest gardener/plant collector who focuses on Asian woodlanders and garden design. Though a confirmed shade gardener, her soil is sharp-draining glacial till, driving the need to adapt to soil conditions in a way that supports the plants she grows. Her talk, *Gardening with Sharp-Draining Soil: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, will cover the bases.

Need examples of what plants thrive that every gardener should consider? David Culp, creator of the gardens at Brandywine Cottage in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, will speak on *Woodlanders in the Rocks*. David has a gravel driveway in high shade, full of self-sown beauties, and will cover woodland treasures that are wonderful additions everyone should consider for their shady rock garden.

Interested in "that special plant"? Michael Vaughn is an obsessive plant collector with an eye for unusual mutations. He's been collecting and growing for two decades and has a vast collection of the rare, unusual, and variegated. His talk is *Sun or Shade – It'll Grow*.

Does your garden have a spot where there is just not enough light? Todd Boland, our NARGS vice president from Newfoundland, is an expert on dealing with shade. His talk, *Dwarf Ferns for the Shaded Rockery*, will provide a little more insight into the foliage and texture of ferns.

Do you fancy those special bulbs? A southeastern Pennsylvania gardener, Bridget Wosczyzna, focuses on arisaema, woodland ephemerals, and South African, Greek, and Turkish bulbs. Her talk, *On the Edge: Companion Bulbs for the Rock Garden and Woodland*, will discuss small bulbs that work in the rock garden AND the woodland/woodland edges.

Are you familiar with some of the 2,000 Asian plant introductions made by horticulturist Barry Yinger? His former nursery, Asiatica, supplied plant geeks for over twelve years with interesting rarities. Though currently residing in Tanzania, Zoom will allow him to speak to us on *Plants I've Loved and the Ones That Loved Me*.

Tickets are \$25 for current NARGS members. Non-members may join NARGS and receive a discounted rate for this online program. Go to [nargs.org](http://nargs.org) to register. The talks will be recorded for viewing again and again.

## MORE WORDS FROM NARGS

*Panyoti Kelaidis, NARGS President*

### A Perfect Rock Garden Gem: *Escobaria leei*



Before

There are those who say cacti don't belong in rock gardens. Those who say that have obviously not traveled the North American West where countless outcrops are adorned with cacti. The mountain ball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*) rarely grows below a mile in elevation, and grizzly bear cacti (*Opuntia erinacea* v. *ursina*) hobnob with the oldest Bristlecones in the White Mountains at timberline. And let's not even talk about the legions of alpine cacti that grow so abundantly for thousands of miles along the spine of the Andes in South America. Perhaps the clincher in the deal has to be *Escobaria leei*—surely the most irresistible, utterly charming tiny morsel of a cactus any rock gardener worth their salt ought to covet!

After, 6 years later



After, 6 years later



Variation

From the photos I've included you can see a black, high-fired ceramic container that Sandy Snyder (a talented rock gardener in Littleton, Colorado) planted with this cactus in 2014. You can see the "after" picture of the same container six years later in full bloom: it won top honors at a cactus show—and everyone who sees it wants it! I was apparently so unsubtle in my admiration of this that Sandy gave that container to me in 2019 when she was

downsizing and moving to a new house. That container, by the way, resides outside where it's subjected to the full force of Colorado's changeable and pretty vicious climate (occasional highs over 100F in the summer and lows down to -20F in winter) and it coasts through just fine. Full disclosure: once Sandy got settled in her new home, the container and cactus went back to her!

I wrote a blog post about this cactus almost a decade ago that shows another champion specimen you might enjoy checking out (<https://prairiebreak.blogspot.com/2012/07/all-american-treasure-for-4th-of.html>).

The taxonomic status of Lee's cactus is a bit of a botanical game of mirrors: it was long known as *Coryphantha leei*. To the dismay of gardeners, the genus *Escobaria* was segregated from *Coryphantha* based on distinct morphological criteria. Recent DNA studies suggest merging the genera again [you may choose to groan or smirk at this]. Lee's cactus has been subsumed by the rare, and slightly larger, *Escobaria sneedii* by some botanists—an even rarer taxon that grows on a nearby mountain range in New Mexico: they do have a strong resemblance...so *Escobaria sneedii* var. *leei* is understandably used by some gardeners. There are, however, taxonomists who've lumped both of these with a half dozen or other species together (including *E. duncanii*, *E. orcuttii*, *E. albicolumnaria*).

Kelly Grummon's nursery full of *E. leei**E. leei* in John Bayard garden, Denver

The less said about that the better! For the time being, it's pretty widely known and loved as *Escobaria leei*. Since it has a distinct range and distinct morphology (two criteria that define a species) let's stick with that name for the nonce!

In the wild, *Esobaria leei* is restricted to 15 sites in the Guadalupe mountains on the border of New Mexico and Texas (I believe largely within Carlsbad Caverns National Park). It grows at the edge of shallow limestone outcrops mostly on steep slopes in nature. Large parts of the Park where it grows have suffered forest fires in recent years: I doubt these have affected Lees' cactus—which grows so low in open sites. I could be wrong, there. It may have escaped fires, but how will it cope with climate change?

If you look carefully at the picture of seedlings grown by Kelly Grummons (coldhardycactus.com) you will see the fantastic variation in size and color that exists in cultivation. Kelly has selected more miniature forms as well, which he offers (from time to time) on his website. *E. leei* is grown and sold by many other nurseries across the USA and Europe. I make a point of sending large quantities of its abundantly produced seed to the NARGS seed exchange: it's surprisingly easy to grow from seed under lights at home.

Fortunately, this cactus tolerates much cooler conditions and colder climates—and is being grown by hundreds if not thousands of gardeners around the world. It would be tragic if one day this and so many other plants were to only persist in gardens, due to destruction of their natural habitat, or other unspeakable agencies.

NARGS will be hosting a series of three Webinars over the next few months. The importance and contribution of succulents to rock gardens will be a focus of the second Webinar this winter on January 15, hosted by Rod Haenni, a long-time member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS and vice president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Six speakers will explore the use of succulents from all corners of North America. I will be surprised if this plant doesn't crop up at least once during that Webinar! Do check the NARGS website for more information. One more great reason to join NARGS!

## STIPENDS FOR JUNE 2022 AGM

*Carol Eichler*

For the planners the Ithaca-hosted 2022 annual general meeting (AGM), Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration, June 14 -16, 2022 is coming right up. If you are interested in helping, it should already be on your calendar. If you are interested in attending, don't delay in registering. Registration will open January 31, 2022. With a limitation of 150 attendees, we have reason to believe spaces will fill up quickly, like they did in March, 2020, when covid forced us to cancel.

As before we are offering stipends for the AGM, open to our Chapter members. The purpose of the stipend is to encourage as many of our members as possible to attend. We believe the Chapter will benefit in the long term by increasing interest, knowledge, in rock gardening and in involvement with Chapter activities. The ACNARGS Board voted back on Oct. 20, 2018 to set aside up to \$3,000 from our reserves to subsidize Chapter members wishing to register for the 2022 NARGS Annual General Meeting. Ultimately Chapter funds will be reimbursed by any profit realized.

### Chapter Stipends!

We plan to follow the Chapter's and NARGS' past stipend policies with a subsidy of \$300 per individual, available on request by application. A stipend recipient must register for the AGM and then will be reimbursed for \$300 of the registration fee, which is set at \$450. To attend a NARGS AGM you must be a NARGS member, meaning to join could cost you an additional \$40. Should we receive more than 10 worthy applicants, the ACNARGS Board will consider increasing the amount in the stipend fund.

Who's eligible to request a stipend?

We will follow past guidelines of NARGS' AGM stipends. That is:

- anyone who has never previously received a stipend to attend a national AGM (either annual meeting or study week-end).

And

- has been/is a member of ACNARGS in both 2020 and 2021.

And

- is a member of NARGS; the individual can join at the same time as they register.

As a stipend recipient, what are the expectations?

Stipend recipients are expected to volunteer to help with the AGM and to volunteer for the Chapter. See below for examples of volunteer needs for both the AGM and the Chapter; the applicant may make further suggestions, if there is a special interest. Altogether a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer time is required.

How does one apply?

Applicants must submit a letter to Chapter Chair John Gilrein requesting the stipend. Once an award has been granted, this will necessitate follow-up conversations with the ACNARGS Chair (John Gilrein) and the AGM Volunteer Coordinator (Carol Eichler) to secure specific commitments.

Deadline for applying January 1, 2022:

Applications will be accepted until January 1, 2022 and should be submitted to John Gilrein (basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu), ACNARGS Chair, who will submit all applications to the Review Committee.

Review of applications

A Review Committee will review the applications and make a recommendation to the Board for a vote. No applicant for a stipend should be part of the Review Committee. Decision and notification of stipend recipients will be notified by January 15, 2022, before registration is expected to open.

Volunteering Opportunities

Some examples of Conference volunteer tasks are: Meet & Greet at registration desk, bus monitors, audio/visual liaison, plant sale assistants, chase car drivers, conference bag stuffers, and more. Some examples for ACNARGS volunteer tasks include: Meeting room set-up and clean-up, write for the newsletter, help with the plant sales, be a greeter at meetings, organize a garden tour, work at the Wurster rock garden, and more.

## **CORNELL BOTANIC GARDENS :**

### **CONNECTING PLANTS AND PEOPLE**

*Emily Detrick, the Elizabeth Weaver Director of Horticulture*

*Reprinted by permission from the Fall 2021 Rock Garden Quarterly*

*Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.*

From the top of Conifer Slope, with Cornell University campus behind you, the land gently falls away at your feet to offer sweeping views of the gardens below. Lush beds of vegetables and fruits are visible at the base of the steep terrain. From there, your eye travels northeast for glimpses of elegant stonework through the birches in the Winter Garden, the orderly edge of the historic Robison Herb Garden and the deep shade of the Groundcover Collection, then down the colorful annual trial beds lining the driveway to the verdant Bioswale Garden that filters stormwater before it enters Beebe Lake. Towering in both the foreground of the slope and the far background of your view atop Comstock Knoll are majestic white pines (*Pinus strobus*), their feathery fascicles of five needles sighing with the wind that rises off the lake to create waves of cool green against blue sky.



*Student interns working on Conifer Slope.  
Photo: Justin James Muir*

For the people of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the white pine is a powerful cultural symbol. The tradition holds that the Peacemaker came among the original five warring Haudenosaunee nations to enact a lasting union by laying out a new way of thinking, a new law and order. As a gesture to continue this practice, the Peacemaker asked them to bury their weapons under a white pine tree, whose five needles per fascicle represent the five original members of the Confederacy. Known as the “Great Tree of Peace,” its branches, cones, trunk, needles, and roots all carry deep significance to the Haudenosaunee people.

White pine is native to the eastern United States, dating back about 10,000 years in the Great Lakes region. Today, only 0.65% of their original density remains. Habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species continue to erode global plant and animal diversity – and they are simultaneously leading to the loss of the world’s cultural diversity. As of



*Bioswale in autumn. Photo: Robert Barker*

2018, nearly 7,000 languages were still spoken worldwide, 50% of which are endangered. Languages are disappearing at a rate of one every three months, faster even than most estimates of extinction risks to plants and animals.

To maintain biodiversity, it is not enough to solely focus on the effects of environmental threats on plants and animals. It is essential that we also consider the impacts of plant endangerment and extinctions on the human cultures that depend on them. Loss of cultures and languages results in lost knowledge of the plant world, uses of plants, and traditional ecological knowledge. Understanding – and celebrating – the link between human culture and biodiversity is necessary for the conservation of each.

How does a garden make a difference?

Cornell Botanic Gardens fights the loss of biological and cultural diversity through increasing awareness of “biocultural diversity.” As our Executive Director Christopher Dunn states, “the world demands that we engage with communities and peoples to save plants and their habitats. We are committed to raising awareness, inspiring action, and sowing messages of hope.”

Our mission is to inspire people - through cultivation, conservation, and education - to understand, appreciate, and nurture plants and the cultures they sustain. Advancing this mission helps us realize our vision: a world in which the interdependence of biological and cultural diversity is respected, sustained, and celebrated. This philosophy guides our programs, collaborations, living collections, plant conservation, and stewardship of thousands of acres of diverse natural areas across Tompkins County, New York.

Connecting conservation, curation, and culture

When you first set foot in the Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center at the heart of the cultivated gardens, you enter a bright, airy foyer with cool stone walls and large glass cases that house rotating exhibits. Our current exhibit, *Ash Trees: A Story of Relationships, Loss, and Hope* illustrates how the invasive pest emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) has upset the intricate relationships ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) have with the world around them. Ash trees provide shade for understory plants, habitat for nesting birds, and food for over 150 species of butterflies and moths that in turn support birds and other animals, including humans.

Just as importantly, ash trees are significant to many Indigenous communities in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada including the Haudenosaunee. People in these communities use splint from black ash trees to make baskets, a fundamental way knowledge is transferred about plants, tradition, and culture to the next generation. This relationship with ash trees is vital to sustaining their closeness to the land and ancestors.

In our gardens and arboretum, we celebrate the link between biological and cultural diversity by cultivating and interpreting diverse living collections of plants. Our collections feature plants that thrive in our region's current and changing climate and soil, demonstrate resiliency, and, where possible, even help mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. Multifaceted horticultural displays that offer both aesthetic inspiration and function – such as stormwater management – along with accessible interpretation inspire people to positively impact the health of their communities and local ecosystems. Outdoor interpretive books in the Young Flower Garden share cultural legends and lore of deeply symbolic flowers such as tulips, peonies, irises, and roses. While inhaling the

sensory delights of the Robison Herb Garden, visitors learn about each plant's use and cultural significance through intensively researched interpretive labels.

Additionally, from the gorges that cradle the Cornell campus to bogs, glens, meadows, old-growth forests, and wildflower preserves, we steward over 3,600 acres of biologically diverse landscapes that represent the full range of ecological communities found in the Finger Lakes region. Our natural areas staff and volunteers protect dozens of locally, regionally, and globally rare plants including the American globeflower (*Trollius laxus*) and fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*) through *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation in collaboration with the Center for Plant Conservation and the Smithsonian Institute.

In our accessioned collections, we grow 12 taxa that are classified as globally rare, vulnerable, or endangered, such as Virginia round-leaf birch (*Betula uber*), one of the most endangered of North American trees, and *Quercus oglethorpensis*, another endemic species of the southeastern United States that is threatened by land use changes, competition, and blight. We collaborate with other botanic gardens to collectively preserve maples (*Acer* spp.) and oaks (*Quercus* spp.) as part of nationally accredited, multi-site groups within the National Plant Collections Network. Genetic material from plants in our collections is available for taxonomic studies, evaluation, breeding, and other research. These *ex situ* conservation efforts help to safeguard these species from extinction.

### Partnering with Indigenous communities

In June in the Pounder Vegetable Garden, the emerging tendrils of beans twine elegantly upwards on arching trellises. Sown by Steven Henhawk (*Gayoghó:nq'*),



*Students harvesting bean  
in the Pounder Vegetable Garden*

instructor for Cornell's first Cayuga Language course, these heirloom beans grown by his family for generations will provide not only a living laboratory for students to learn the language and culture of the Cayuga people, but will provide hundreds more seeds that will be "rematriated" back to Haudenosaunee community members.

Through partnerships with Cayuga and Tuscarora faculty members, the Pounder Vegetable Garden has been home to traditional Cayuga plantings since 2016, including tobacco, sunflowers, corn, beans,

and squash. We work closely with Cornell's American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP) to develop demonstrations, interpretation, and programs such as our Fall Lecture Series, which brings diverse speakers and storytellers to the stage to weave the connection between art, lore, food, and plant science.

In 2019, Sean Sherman, James Beard Award-winning chef and founder and CEO of The Sioux Chef, shared his research and insights on indigenous food cultures at the annual Audrey O'Connor Lecture. An Oglala Lakota born in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Sherman co-wrote the acclaimed cookbook, "The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen." After noticing that Minneapolis boasts restaurants from all over the world, "but nothing from the land on which we're standing," he was inspired to conduct years of research into indigenous

food cultures. He discovered that the best way to reconnect with those traditions is through learning more about plants.

In his lecture, “The Evolution of the Indigenous Food Systems in North America,” Sherman explored the regional differences among various indigenous cultures from around the continent, noting that each area’s geography – coastal, swamp, desert, forest – led to distinctive approaches to food. Indigenous foods play a central role in protecting biodiversity, by raising awareness of native plants and their value as foods and to the ecosystems they support. By protecting and using these vital plants for nutrition, we also conserve the cultures that traditionally have relied upon them.

Sherman’s visit to Cornell was co-sponsored by the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program and the Cornell Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future; organizations that also share an understanding of the importance of indigenous food systems to the health of people and the planet.

At Cornell Botanic Gardens, we bring these connections to life through our Cultures and Cuisines program, a partnership with local chefs featuring food from the gardens. Rich, layered meals connect participants to not only unique flavors and creative combinations, but also the history, cultivation, and use of lesser-known edible plants such as the ancient grains amaranth, quinoa, and chia.

Cultivating a new generation of environmental leaders through stewardship, co-creation, and sense of place

Perhaps the most important effort we can pursue is to ensure the fight to sustain biocultural diversity will be carried on. Cornell University students are both our audience and our allies. We strive to create space for many levels of experience in the gardens and natural areas, from NatureRx to rigorous research and everything between. Former Botanic Gardens intern Alex Schaefer reflected “as the summer unfolded, the internship became an embodiment of creative liberation, a source of imaginative passion, and a landmark of personal and enlightened growth.”



*Heasley Rock Garden in June 2019*

Like an ecosystem, our internship program is evolving. Our new Learning by Leading (LxL) program is a network of student-led teams — supported by Cornell Botanic Gardens' staff and resources — that are passionate about environmental issues, skilled in collaboration and communication, and capable of adapting to and overcoming challenges.

Learning by Leading students are actively developing sustainable landscapes, horticultural enterprises such as plant sales that support our mission, and connecting to broader audiences through programs. One example is the new Garden Stories initiative, which invites visitors to share personal stories of their special connections to plants in the gardens, recorded via digital media to be shared more broadly with the community.

Perhaps it will be this next generation of environmental leaders who propel our rock garden forward. Like houseleeks (*Sempervivum tectorum*, whose botanical name literally means “live forever” and “on rooves,”), this garden has weathered many storms. Leek, and spelling variants such as *leac*, is an old Anglo-Saxon word for plant. Perhaps the original “house plant,” succulent *Sempervivums* were grown by the Romans atop their thatched dwellings and believed to ward off lightning strikes and fire, a tradition that persists today among some Welsh communities to preserve the health and prosperity of a household.



*Rock Stars in the garden: Mary Squyres, Linda Uhl, and Marlene Kobre*

This small but enduring rock garden (which you can read about in the Fall 2019 Quarterly) is underfunded and struggling but is sustained by the generous energy of several local NARGS Adirondack chapter volunteers who join me weekly to weed and plant when we can. It is a labor of love that has strengthened bonds between us, the plants, and each other. We are currently seeking a donor to rename, expand, and renovate this garden so that we can preserve the existing collections and grow it into a demonstration that better supports our mission, enriches our programs, and connects people to alpine plants, ecology, and culture.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER : LOOKING AHEAD

Mary Stauble

This is a reminder that our membership year runs the calendar year. So starting January 1, 2022 everyone's membership will have expired and we all will need to renew. Rates are \$15 a year for an individual/\$20 for a household. Hopefully we will be able to hold our plant sales and exchanges and members-only Plant-of-the-Month subsidized sales in 2022. I will send out an email reminder in January and there will be an announcement in the January/February newsletter. If you have questions please contact me at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu).

The renewal form is at <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>. Contact Mary Stauble at [mes2@cornell.edu](mailto:mes2@cornell.edu) if you have any questions.

## ACNARGS UPCOMING 2021 PROGRAMS

NOTE: Due to covid our meetings will take on a different format for the foreseeable future. We will hold live meetings via Zoom for now. For those of you unfamiliar with Zoom, contact Terry Humphries [terryehumphres@gmail.com](mailto:terryehumphres@gmail.com) for assistance.

November 13: NARGS Study Day: *In the Shadow of Stone: Woodlanders in the Rock Garden*. Numerous presenters starting at 12:30 p.m. Fee charged. See article this issue.

November 20: ACNARGS speaker program

December 15, 2021: Ordering for NARGS Seed Exchange opens. Preview of the 2021-22 seed list will be available a few days before.

December TBD: Our Chapter packages seed for the NARGS Seed Exchange. Details TBD.

December TBD: NARGS Seed Exchange ordering begins

January 15, 2022: NARGS Study Day on Cacti and Succulents. Fee. More info coming.

## CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

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

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Online class information: <http://ccetompkins.org/gardening>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society monthly meetings via zoom. <https://flnps.org/>

Cornell Botanic Gardens: Verdant Views virtual programs; no on-site events at this time; visit Cornell Gardens at home: <https://cornellbotanicgardens.org/explore/events/>

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

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to David Mitchell at [david\\_mitchell\\_14850@yahoo.com](mailto:david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com)

## 2021 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

*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: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

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

Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler [carolithaca@gmail.com](mailto:carolithaca@gmail.com)

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranta, David Mitchell

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

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu  
New Member Hospitality: Graham Egerton  
Newsletter Editor: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu and sometimes Carol Eichler.  
Looking for a new editor!  
Calendar: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu  
Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

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## **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, 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 [our Zoom subscription limits participants to 100]. 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.

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## **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 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.

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## **GREEN DRAGON TALES**

Normally published eight times a year (Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec., during covid we've been publishing monthly. Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to David Mitchell, [david\\_mitchell\\_14850@yahoo.com](mailto:david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com)  
Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be December 2021.