



July/August 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

- August 23, 2025: Members-Only Plant Sale
- From the Chair
- White Pine Camp update
- 2025 NARGS & ACNARGS Calendar
- Calendar of Garden Events
- Contacts

PLANT SALE

Carol Eichler, Plant Sale Coordinator with David Mitchell and Michael Loos

Where will you be on Saturday, August 23rd? I hope you'll be attending the ACNARGS members-only plant sale. (By the way we had a great turnout for our May sale) I will be into my 4th day in South Africa, but the sale must go on! David Mitchell and Michael Loos have agreed to run the sale this year in my absence. Don't expect big changes; we're planning to run the sale more-or-less the way we've run it for years.

Plan now to pot up any extra gems from your garden or seedling pots. We're back at Myer's Park in Lansing, in our usual picnic shelter. Expect to see some special, limited-in-number plants and be prepared to buy plants – at our prices, how can you afford not to?

David and Michael need your help with set-up and take down. Please contact David directly at david_mitchell_14850@yahoo.com if you are able to volunteer. Following the sale, we'll hold our dish-to-pass lunch, which is another tradition. Casseroles and cookies (and Mary Stauble's pound cake) may be calling but let's all pitch in to clean-up so that we can enjoy lunch together. The chapter will provide beverages. Remember to bring your own table setting!

Here's the schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. Set-up begins at Pavilion B at Myers Park, Lansing
- 10:00 a.m. Plan to arrive if you are bringing plants (labelled please) and place them alphabetically by Latin name
- **10:30 a.m. Sale begins** (and no earlier but it might be a bit later if need be). Generally everything is set up before 10:30 so you have time to browse and determine your strategy for obtaining the plants you most covet.
- Time TBD: Sale concludes (generally around 11:30), and cashier opens to take your payment. Then...
- **EVERYONE PITCHES IN TO CLEAN-UP** (please) and set-up for lunch
- 12:00 p.m. (approximately) Dish-to-Pass is announced, if we finish earlier, we eat earlier!

And the Advance Logistics:

- Begin to pot your plant donations
- Remember to use soil-less potting mix (not garden soil or what is labelled as top soil). Chances are we all have jumping worms. But if you think you do not, we suggest taking the extra measure to bare root any plant purchases before setting them out in your garden (and dispose—not compost—the removed soil.
- Label your plants in advance please.

Day of Sale Logistics: As you arrive, sign in. Then we ask that you place the plants that you bring – first in the staging area and then on the appropriate tables, which will have signage so plants will be in roughly alphabetical order by Latin name. Our sale procedure will be essentially the same as previous years (which I won't go into here; if need be, refer to past newsletters).

Silent Auction Table: Of course, very special plants will be placed on the bid table. With our pricing system maxing out at \$7, anything priced above \$7 automatically goes to the auction table. The auction will be open throughout the sale for some friendly bidding competition.

Directions to Myers Park and the Pavilion: Take 34B (whether approaching from the north or south). Before the bridge over Salmon Creek, turn onto Myers Road, towards the lake. If you miss the turn, this road forms a loop so it intersects 34B again after you cross the bridge. The entrance to Myers Park is ahead at the stop sign on Myers Road. You will cross the railroad tracks. Pavilion B is located near the marina with ample parking available. If you are not a Lansing resident, you may have to pay an entrance fee.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

Spring 2025 Garden Tour

Here's a summary of our garden tour weekend April 25-27, 2025. We started Friday at the private garden of Anne Spiegel in Wappinger's Falls, NY. Anne is a NARGS member, a long-time rock gardener, and has a large outcrop of greywacke sandstone. The very large rock garden is sited on and around the outcrop. In addition to the rock garden, there were several planted troughs. 90 minutes was barely adequate for a tour here and much was in bloom the last weekend of April – daphnes, primulas, hellebores, phlox and more. A mature well-developed rock garden like this is surely a delight.

The second stop of the day Friday was ad lib. Many of us (maybe a dozen or so) went to Oliver Nursery in Fairfield, CT, which was a bit of drive. Oliver is better than your average nursery; it includes some rock garden plants and very nice troughs made by Lori Chips.

Our tour was planned around the annual Alpine Plant Sale at Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, NY. Stonecrop was formerly one of the homes of Frank Cabot (who was also the owner of Au Quatre Vents in Quebec), now a public garden. This plant sale is quite a lure for hard core gardeners. The small (\$5) admission fee gives one access to the plant sale and all of the public garden, including the alpine house, greenhouses, and conservatory. The plant sale includes a dozen vendors, who sell alpiners, perennials, woodland plants, trees & shrubs, troughs, and tufa. Vendors include Esther Benedict (modestly priced alpiners), Jay's Conifers, Broken Arrow (woody plants), Lori Chips, and others selling troughs and tufa. Stonecrop has a lovely woodland garden that is near peak blooming at the time of the sale. Some of the other delights include lithodoras (blue flowered borage family plants) and exotic corydalis in the greenhouses. Many of us attended the

plant sale as a day trip in the past (yes, it makes for a long day); lately it has been part of a weekend adventure.

Saturday afternoon we had a very special garden tour at the country home of Bunny Williams in Falls Village, CT. Ms. Williams is a NY City based home designer. We had a private tour with the head gardener, Robert. This is a large hillside property with a large woodland garden, vegetable garden, greenhouse, studio, as well as a home. A garden tour with the gardener is a much better experience than without, and Robert was most generous with his time (we exceeded our planned time for the tour). We even had a delightful meeting with the owner in the conservatory, which was timed beautifully with the little downpour that afternoon. We were even graciously offered a few cuttings from the greenhouse!



Sunday some of us went to the White Garden in Westchester County, NY. This garden was part of the Garden Conservancy open days – pay a fee, get a ticket in advance. This was a very large country property that was mostly wooded. Amazingly, there are reputedly a million daffodils (narcissi) planted in the woods here, many of which were blooming. The garden included some native woodland plants, a pond with an island reached by a steppingstone bridge, a collection of Japanese maples, a sculpture garden with busts (interesting to try to guess who the subjects were). The advertised rock garden was not really a rock garden in my definition, but I wasn't surprised.

Some people stopped at Catskill Native Nursery (Kerhonkson, NY) on the way home for a few last-minute purchases.

Altogether, a pleasant weekend of socializing with fellow gardeners, buying plants, and seeing gardens. We appreciated the camaraderie, the generosity of other gardeners, not to mention obtaining more choice plants for our gardens.

WHITE PINE CAMP

Susanne Lipari, Master Weeder

While the maintenance of the rock garden at White Pine Camp is no longer an official NARGS project, our Chapter still does twice yearly maintenance. It's a long but lovely 5-hour drive from Ithaca. We are given the use of one - this time even two – cabins in return for a day of weeding and planting. This time, David Mitchell and Michael Loos organized the trip (thank you both!), and Susanne Lipari and Rosemary Parker and her husband were along for the work session. Thank you to Rosemary's husband, Sol, for his help in spite of not being a gardener (those paths needed weeding, too and he did it expertly!)

The weather was somewhat cloudy with some moments of drizzle, and we were warmly welcomed by the swarms of mosquitos calling the Adirondacks home. But we left the garden looking much better and ready for the summer's visitors. We noted that after almost 20 years of planting new treasures, it does not look like the garden is very full – probably a testament to the poor soil and long winters the garden must contend with.



NARGS & ACNARGS UPCOMING 2025 PROGRAMS

NOTE: As of now, we are meeting in-person at Cornell in the Whetzel Room and not recording the sessions.

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
selj@cornell.edu

2025 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 selj@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 \$40 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, selj3@cornell.edu. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be September 2025.