

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

February 2026

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Members Share: FEBRUARY 21, 2026, AT 1 PM

Terry Humphries, Program Chair

We are meeting in 404 Plant Science. Brown bag lunch starts at noon.

We will kick off the 2026 program year as usual, inspiring one another with ideas, experiences, plants and botanical travels offered by our members. Please participate in the presentations by offering photos of your gardens or places you have visited. Be open to sharing your propagation techniques, design ideas, favorite public gardens and most treasured plants for a few minutes at Members Share!

As in the past, Craig Cramer is coordinating the AV details. He always makes it easy for anyone who has great images to share.

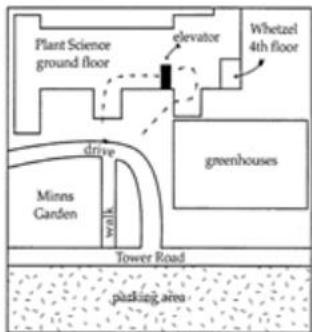
Either pop your images into a PowerPoint presentation or put your photos in a Folder/Directory so that they are easily sorted by file name in the order that you want to show them. For example, you could rename your files 01rock-garden-spring.jpg, 02rock-garden-summer.jpg, 03rock-garden-fall.jpg, etc.

Craig would like you to send your presentation files to him ahead of time to avoid any glitches. If your file is too big to send as an email attachment, just connect with him and he will send you a link to easily get your files to him.

For planning purposes: please let us know your intention to make a short (10-15 min) presentation. Send a brief email to Craig Cramer: cdcramer@gmail.com AND to Terry Humphries: terryehumphries@gmail.com. If you already know the AV format you will use, let us know that too.

DEADLINE for Submissions is February 15. Presentations sent later can still be squeezed in if time allows. It will be great to see everybody, and let's have a great show

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



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

Just a reminder, we ask all attendees to be fully vaccinated.

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

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, Chair

Now in the depths of winter, you can't do much gardening, except for maybe a few things with your houseplants – repotting, taking cuttings, etc. It's an ideal time to think about new plants for the year; ordering new plants online early is the best way to get what you are looking for. I'm always hoping that some of the new plants I buy will succeed and also be a source for plants to donate to our plant sales. Some sources for unusual and interesting plants are mail order nurseries Dancing Oaks, Edelweiss, Far Reaches, and the in-person plant sale at Stonecrop on April 25. I feel like sometimes "my eyes are bigger than my stomach" when it comes to buying mail order plants. In April the plants start arriving in droves and then it can be a bit overwhelming.

Speaking of Stonecrop Gardens, you can have a virtual visit by checking out one of the videos shot at Stonecrop on YouTube. I would highly recommend visiting this garden for the Alpine Plant Sale April 25 or on another one of the days it's open. The Alpine Plant Sale includes about a dozen vendors who come in from NY, CT, and Indiana. Stonecrop has its own inventory of plants and troughs for sale if you can't attend on April 25.

Here are a few points of optimism: the days are getting longer, Christmas roses have started blooming (likely inspired by the January thaw), and the spring cyclamen will start blooming in February. Hope to see you this spring

NEWS FROM THE WURSTER GARDEN

Carol Eichler, Wurster Garden Coordinator

Winter is the time for planning. We are expanding our gardens at Cooperative Extension to include a shaded, woodland garden, site of the former pond, adjacent to the Wurster Rock Garden.

Last spring we planted some lesser-known shrubs along the property line/chain link fence. I'd like to continue that idea this spring to "fill the pond" with lesser known ferns and a smattering of forbs for color accents. Can I interest you to help plan this garden? Contact Carol <carolthaca@gmail.com>

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

Please welcome new member Ted Stetler from Syracuse. He is the founder and owner of Marcellus Nursery in Syracuse.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who renewed your membership for 2025! It's time to renew for 2026! The ACNARGS membership year runs the calendar year. So, unless you've already renewed or you're a lifetime member, your 2026 membership is due now (Individual @\$15, Household @\$20). If you have not renewed, you will see a reminder message in the email announcing the newsletter.

Print and complete the 2026 Membership form now: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf> or you can save a stamp and renew in person at our February meeting. Questions? Contact Mary at mes2@cornell.edu

While it's true that our meetings are free and open to everyone, there are advantages to becoming a member: mainly our members-only plant-of-the-month at discounted prices and our May and August member-only plant sales. Any of these can easily recoup the cost of your dues. And ... you can never have too many plants!

We hope to see all of you in 2026!

SPRING GARDEN TRIP

John Gilrein, Trip Planner par excellance

Once again, we're planning a spring trip around the Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale on Saturday, April 25, which includes public gardens and one plant nursery. You're free to partake of any part of the trip you like, or the whole works. It's not an insignificant expense as it involves over 500 miles of driving, hotel stays for 2 nights, meals, and buying plants (unless you are super strong willed!).

We're starting at Wave Hill, Bronx on Friday, April 24 and staying in Brewster to be close to Stonecrop. The Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale is Saturday April 25 which includes about a dozen vendors. Stonecrop also has extensive gardens to see, including a beautiful woodland garden in bloom, rock garden, and plants under glass (conservatory, greenhouses, alpine house). The next stop is Oliver Nursery in southeastern Connecticut. From here, we're heading to Spring Valley, NY for lodging.

On Sunday April 26, we're going to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and the Leonard J. Buck Garden, both in northern New Jersey. The Watnong Chapter of NARGS is having their plant sale at LJ Buck, another attraction for us. After LJ Buck we return home with our plants.

This is always a fun trip to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow gardeners and see well-planned gardens.

If you are interested, or just want to see the itinerary, email me [jgilrein@twcnny.rr.com] and I'll forward the itinerary with details. If you can't do the whole trip, it's very worthwhile to go to Stonecrop for the day (April 25) to attend the plant sale and see the garden, but it does make for a long day.

NEWS FROM NARGS NATIONAL

By Carol Eichler, *Recording Secretary, NARGS*

In my book, January is all about seeds. (Actually, it started with the opening of the NARGS Seed Exchange in December). I am anxiously waiting for my order to arrive! With the website rebuild, I know Elisabeth and her team were working overtime to get the Seed Exchange ready to open more-or-less on time. They deserve a huge round of applause from us!

I know there are people who pre-select their choices and hit the order button as the clock strikes midnight on the official start of opening day of the sale. But there's no need to get up in the middle of the night. There always seems to be a good selection available even through the 2nd round of orders. If you haven't tried growing plants from seed, the Seed Exchange is a very low-cost way to try your hand. The seed is by no means limited to rock garden plants but be warned some seeds are "reluctant" to germinate (in other words, don't blame yourself). Believe me, I've gotten very spoiled by the price of \$20 for 25 packets (or 35 if you were a seed donor).

I should also mention there's a NARGS webinar coming up on February 21 on various propagation techniques for all levels of interest and experience. Don't miss it!

The NARGS seed exchange has an international reputation for the diversity and quantity of the species offered. Since there are records of past seed exchange lists, I was curious to check out this year's offerings as compared to past years. Not surprisingly, with a steady decline in NARGS membership, we are also seeing a steady decline in what's offered. This year the total is 1,922 species, an impressive number but 300 fewer than last year. Wild collected species numbered 380 of that total. Ten years ago – in 2015 – the species offering was 2,583 but twenty years ago – 2005 – the offering was over 5,000! I was also curious about where the NARGS donors come from. With a little manipulation I found that of the 171 donors this year, 143 reside in the US, 7 in Canada, and that leaves 21 international donors.

Let's applaud all those generous donors as well as those individuals and chapters who participate in the various stages of the Seed Exchange

While I donate seeds, I admit I could be a more conscientious collector. This is such a valuable benefit of NARGS and it needs to stay vibrant. So, let's try to commit to becoming better seed donors – and that commitment begins with me

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:
cce.tompkins.org

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

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

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

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

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

2026 ACNARGS BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

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

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

Program Coordinator: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Currently rotating amongst "Responsible People"

Treasurer (aka CFO): Marlene Kobre

Plant Sales Chair: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

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

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: vacant

Newsletter Editor: Susanne Lipari sel3@cornell.edu

Wurster Garden Coordinator: Carol Eichler

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

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

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

ABOUT US – ADIRONDACK CHAPTER NARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 6 program-speaker meetings, the Green Dragon newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, occasional overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, two plant sales a year, and frequent plant giveaways. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners.

The public is always welcome. Chapter membership starts at \$15 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), invitations to our garden day trips, opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales.

ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$45 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication focused on rock gardening, and an online website featuring a wealth of information including current and archived Quarterlies, recordings of past study days and more. NARGS National also holds its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens and take field

trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

GREEN DRAGON TALES

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

NARGS Annual Meeting



The **Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS)** is excited to announce we will be hosting the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) Conference and AGM on June 25-28, 2026. Activities will include a variety of excellent speakers, guided hikes in the Kananaskis valley to view native alpines, tours of CRAGS members' gardens, visits to public gardens with alpines, and a plant sale. NARGS membership is a prerequisite of attending.

Speakers include Vojtech Holubec (Czech Republic), Jay Akerley (Kamloops, BC), Todd Boland (St. John's, Newfoundland), John Noad (Calgary) and Stephanie Ferguson (Calgary). Full details are on the CRAGS website (www.crags.ca/high_and_dry). Registration opens on February 2nd, 2026.



the hikes takes us to this alpine meadow:



A CRAGS member's impressive garden:

One of