ADIRONDACK CHAPTER
North American Rock Garden Society
Green Dragon Tales

November 2026

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DATE :

Terry Humphries, Program Chair

Flowers of the Western Cape, SA
Carol Eichler of Ithaca, NY

At our November meeting, we will finally get to see pictures from our own Carol Eichler's fabulous NARGS trip: *Flowers of the Western Cape, South Africa, August 21 – September 4, 2025.*

Carol writes:

"Little did Carol realize when she signed up for the NARGS tour to Africa's West Cape offered in August 2025 that she was about to meet 7 of her new best friends. The plants and countryside were pretty amazing too. Altogether, this trip-of-a-lifetime became one big magnificent adventure into unknown territory. This presentation can only begin to scratch the surface of her experience, but you will see photos of lots of cool plants from this a major floristic "hot spot" of the world. Nearly three quarters of the species there are endemic to the West Cape and are under increasing pressure to survive in the wild."

About the presenter: Carol needs no introduction to our Chapter. Over the last 25 years, she has held nearly all the positions of responsibility and currently serves as chair of plant sales and

frequent contributor to the Green Dragon newsletter. Carol also serves on the NARGS national board of directors, currently as secretary.

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We will meet at Cornell Cooperative Extension
615 Willow Avenue Ithaca, NY

As is our tradition, we will hold a dish-to-pass lunch prior to our program. Arrive 11:30-ish for set-up, lunch will begin at noon. This is our last official program for 2026 and probably our last meeting in the Whetzel Room for some time, though note we will be participating with the seed packaging for the NARGS seed exchange on December 6th.

From the Chair

John Gilrein, Chair

It's a beautiful week of Indian summer this week, time to do some late season planting. I have been outside enjoying what the Fall garden has to offer, and though it's no longer prime garden/flower season, there are some great plants showing off during all (or most) of the month of October. Cyclamen are such easy plants, with the possibly exception of C. purpurascens, which is a summer bloomer. I'd say purpurascens is still pretty easy, but might be at it best with some summer watering. *C. hederifolium* and *coum* are summer dormant, tolerate root competition easily and are very happy being shaded by deciduous trees & shrubs or winter dormant herbaceous plants. *Hederifolium*, in the standard varieties, have ivy-shaped leaves, but some varieties have sagittate leaves (arrow shaped), and the leaves may be either multitoned green with a Christmas tree pattern, or silver, with flowers in varying shades of pink or white and often fragrant. *Coum* has round leaves, and similar to *hederifolium,* the leaves vary from solid green, Christmas tree patterns, or silver. When these 2 species are happy, they will self-sow and create a colony. If there's any down side to growing cyclamen, it's that the fall planted corms will not show any growth until the following year.

Two more highlights of the October garden are *Aster tartaricum*, Tartarian aster *and Isodon effusus*, trumpet spurflower. *Tartaricum* is a tall lavender flowered aster, somewhat shorter in variety 'Jindai' and likes to spread rhizomatously. For me, I like to remove the outliers and keep it within its intended space. It's my best source for indoor boquets at this time of year. *Isodon effusus*, syn. *Rhabdosia longituba* (what I bought it as) or *Plectranthus.* Isodon is an easy perennial, about 30 inches tall that likes partial sun. It's from Japan, hardy to Zone 5 or 6 (depending on the rating from the source), and blooms with profuse (possibly hundreds) of narrow, violet colored tubular flowers, one of the jewels of the fall garden. Some sources are Plant Delights, Far Reaches, and Dancing Oaks.

I hope you have enjoyed your gardening adventures of this year. Please join us at our November meeting and luncheon (Saturday November 14 at Cooperative Extension) and our seed packaging workshop (Sunday December 6 at also at Cooperative Extension).

Plant of the Month:

Marlene Kobre, POM Coordinator
Please check your email for an update of the treasures that will await you!

Membership

Mary Stauble, Membership Coordinator

This is just a reminder that our membership year runs the calendar year. So, starting January 1, 2027 everyone's membership will have expired, and we all will need to renew. Rates are $15 a year for an individual and $20 for a household. There will be an announcement in the January/February 2027 newsletter. The renewal form is at **http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf**. Contact Mary Stauble at **mes2@cornell.edu** if you have any questions.

News from NARGS National

By Carol Eichler, *Recording Secretary, NARGS*

My garden season is winding down with more inside activity than outdoors, these days. (However, I realize that may not be the case for NARGS members who are more southerly or far-westerly.) To avoid severe gardening withdrawal, accompanied by the darkest time of the year, I'm trying to line up indoor gardening projects.

One of the more anticipated activities is the NARGS winter webinar series – one coming up soon on November 21st and the other one on February 6th. Both promise a full day of presentations by experienced gardeners and both address gardening situations – no matter where you live and for all types of gardens. While I'm shy on details, the titles are most tantalizing. First up, "The Living Rock Garden: from Dry Ridges and Meadows to Moist Retreats—Microhabitats for Plants and Wildlife." Then in February, "On the Rock Garden Precipice—Meeting the Challenges of Extreme Growing Conditions – dry, cold, wet/humid, and shade." Check the NARGS website where more information will be posted.

I admit these webinars can make for a pretty intense day of computer time with only quick breaks, in addition to a lot of information to absorb. Fortunately, the talks are recorded so it allows registrants to view them on their own time.

The NARGS webinars may be one of NARGS best kept secrets so please let your gardening friends know about them. If they aren't a NARGS member, they get a great package deal by registering for the webinar - it includes a discounted NARGS membership.

I want to plug the NARGS video library archives. We have accumulated quite a collection of past webinars (I counted 16) since 2020. With the Covid-19 shutdown, Tap Root was billed as our virtual AGM. If you paid to view any webinar, you can revisit it as many times as you wish. If you didn't initially register for one of them, you can still do now so to watch them.

Watching them – again - is high on my list of arm-chair gardening activities for this winter. Sixteen videos should help fight any winter doldrums of January and February.

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 **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, **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 $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 February 2027.