



Ottawa Valley Rock Garden & Horticultural Society

A Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society

N E W S L E T T E R

OVRGHS Upcoming Events

Contact: specialevents@ottawarockgarden.ca

Meetings will be online, via Zoom, once a month on a Saturday, until further notice. Formal start is at 1:30, "doors open" at 1:15 unless otherwise indicated. Nonmembers free unless otherwise noted below, then \$5 – e-transfer to treasurer@ovrghs.ca.



November 13th, 2021

The Floral Beauties of the Anza-Borrego Desert

Presenter: Anna Leggatt

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in California: five hundred miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and many miles of hiking trails. This is one of Anna's favourite destinations and she and her husband have managed to have their trips coincide with two or three Super-Blooms at the park.



February 12th, 2022

Patagonia – Road Tales

Presenter: Elisabeth Zander

A couple of years ago, NARGS past president Elisabeth Zander got the opportunity to botanize in Argentina with an international group of horticulturalists and found the cream of the crop of alpine plants.



March 12th, 2022

Rock gardens and gardens in Germany

Presenter: Alison Place

Details to come

OVRGHS, founded in 1992, has a focus on growing alpine and native plants. New members are always welcome.
We offer monthly meetings, newsletters, workshops, garden tours, field trips, plant sales, and an annual seed exchange.
Find us on the web at: www.ottawarockgarden.ca or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ovrghs/>

*OVRGHS is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 2, the Rideau Basin,
& an affiliated chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society.*

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Co-Presidents' Message

This year is finally coming to a close and although the border with the States opened on November 8th, for most of us this doesn't change much. The Neatby building is still not open for in-person meetings and we're sure a lot of us, after almost two years of hardly meeting anyone in person, will find it difficult to change when the doors do open. Thankfully, we still have Zoom and this month's meeting on November 13 will feature Anna Leggatt and her talk on the 'The Floral Beauties of the Anza Borrego Desert' also known as Super Blooms. This presentation will follow our Annual General Meeting to be held at 1:30 pm. To have a vote at the AGM you must be a paid-up member so if you haven't paid your membership dues yet there is still time. Remember with a minimum membership of 50 we receive a \$1000 grant from the government of Ontario so every membership counts. Instructions are available on our web site -

<https://www.ottawarockgarden.ca/membership>.

We're hoping to complete our annual Seed Exchange, thanks in large part to Dorothy Tol, in the same manner we did last year. Unfortunately, this will mean no in-person seed sorting, missing out on our get-together and especially those after-Christmas munchies. The good thing though, is that we'll get our seeds about a month sooner than normal which means those ephemeral seeds will be more likely to germinate rather than just sitting dead in their pots. This year we are including some surplus seeds received last April from the Ontario Rock Garden & Horticultural Society. They have been stored in my freezer in the basement and should be as viable as when they were received.

Although this message has been a combination of some good news and some bad news, we wanted to end on a happier note by wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. We have much to be thankful for and live in one of the most wonderful countries in the world. Next year certainly looks brighter and if you're like us you can't wait to get back to your regular in-person meetings, some winter seed sowing, the perusing of plant catalogues and gardening web sites and the start of a new growing season.

Best wishes,

Rob Stuart & Steve Marsh
Co-presidents



Winter sowing (mini greenhouses are under the pile of snow) (photo by Nora Lee)

Seed Exchange Update

As noted previously, the Ottawa Rock Garden Seed Exchange is being conducted this year in a similar manner to last year. Note that some dates have changed. You will need to check the website. (link at the end.)

All donors were asked to send their lists of seeds by October 31st to Dorothy Tol, using the email seedex@ottawarockgarden.ca. Dorothy is putting a complete list together.

This list of OVRGHS seeds, as well as a second list of seeds (see below), will be emailed out to all club members early in the week of November 8, 2021.

Request OVRGHS Donated Seed

Every member interested in requesting seeds, please print out the Request Form, (21 OVRGHS Seedex request form versions: [.pdf](#) or [.docx](#)) and indicate which seeds you would like. Send your completed request to seedex@ottawarockgarden.ca.

Request Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society (ORGHPS) Donated Seed

This year we have some extra seed available. These are surplus seed received last April (2021) from the ORGHPS. They have been stored in Rob Stuart's freezer since then to ensure viability. To request these seeds, fill out a separate copy of the seed request form, links above, and send to Rob Stuart president@ovrghs.ca.

The complete set of instructions and corresponding dates are available on <https://www.ottawarockgarden.ca/seed-exchange>. Check that site for the deadline for seed requests, etc.



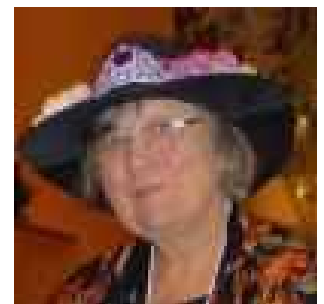
Our November 13th Presentation: The Floral Beauties of the Anza-Borrego Desert

Presenter: Anna Leggatt

Anza Borrego State Park is one of Anna's favourite destinations in the late winter and early spring. She and her husband always hope for a great wildflower season and have managed to have their trips coincide with two or three Super-Blooms over the years. According to the [Washington Post](#), one super bloom took the state of California by storm back in 2019—covering fields with floral touches that could even be seen from outer space; these clusters of flowers usually only pop up every ten years.¹

They love to see the sheets of colour - purples, whites and yellows. Nevertheless, individual flowers are always fascinating as well. Seeds can remain dormant for years, even giving the locals a surprise. Anna has always wanted to see *Hesperocallis undulata*, the desert lily. There are great cacti and fascinating shrubs as well as many annuals to see. Seeing road-runners and the big-horns is always a bonus on their travels. The scenery is so fascinating that they find there is plenty to see even in a dry year.

Anna Leggatt has a BSc. in Botany from London University, a Diploma in Nature Interpretation from Humber College and a Diploma in Horticulture from Guelph. She is a former high school teacher of Botany and Chemistry. She has worked in various capacities for many different horticultural groups. Anna has written articles for several well regarded publications. She is a past chair of the Ontario Rock Garden Society, former editor of the



¹ Nashia Baker, What is a superbloom and where can you see one? Marthastewart.com, February 14, 2020.

ORGS newsletter, past Director of North American Rock Garden Society and much, much more. She won the NARGS Marvin Black Award in 2017, a Silver Award from GARDENCOMM in 2016 and various prizes for photography. She is basically a mad gardener, gardening in a comparatively large garden in Toronto with lots of shade and mink, deer, rabbits, and groundhogs. Anna loves shrubs, bulbs, rock gardening, wildflowers, Japanese effects, working with stone and changing her garden design. She says she wants to grow vegetables. However, the deer and groundhog would like them as well.

Join the meeting from 1:15 pm, Formal start 1:30 pm

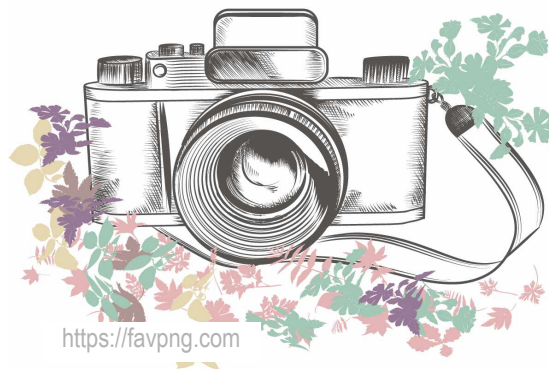
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95122661817?pwd=NTB6N0FyWU9XMW5TTkFuNG14ZDBTd09>

Meeting ID: 951 2266 1817

Passcode: 295277

2021-22 Photo Competition



Hopefully you have been clicking away all season. Check the new list of classes and see if you can fit in some more photography. Submit your entries to our dedicated and indefatigable photo competition organizer, Zandra Baines. She will accept entries NOW and up until the deadline.

7 Classes aimed at knowledge building:

Pollinators, Blooms through the season, Troughs, Leaf, flower and seed, Construction of a rock garden.

[See Details at this link!](#)

Entries accepted up to December 30, 2021

!!! Everyone, Vote for YOUR Favourites at the February Meeting !!!

November Plant Profile

Daphne × medfordensis ‘Lawrence Crocker’

By Steve Marsh

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? It is often hard to know how plants will perform in Ottawa’s climate conditions. Zandra and I have grown a few different Daphnes in our garden as well as other plants that we thought would do well but did not. It is always good to know from fellow rock gardeners in the area how well particular plants have grown.

After growing Daphne ‘Lawrence Crocker’ now for over 10 years we can happily report that this Daphne is almost always a winner in our conditions. We have grown this Daphne in both a trough and in our small crevice garden. The one in the trough is the oldest at a little over 10 years now and has almost taken over the whole trough but is smaller than the one in the crevice bed.

This Daphne is on the larger end of the very small rock garden Daphnes but it is a slow grower. It often will bloom twice. The first bloom in early June and a second with fewer flowers later in the summer. It also fills the area surrounding it with a lovely odour.

Where can you obtain one? Judy Wall was selling them this past year in the spring plant sale. Also Wrightman Alpines has sold them for a number of years by mail order. Some members are also growing them from cuttings so if you are in need of one please send an email to president@ottawarockgarden.ca to enquire about getting a cutting.



Daphne 'Lawrence Crocker' in Steve and Zandra's garden (Photo by Steve Marsh)



Fall chokecherry (Photo by Josie Pazdzior)

**Fall photos for your
enjoyment**



Bracket fungus and Hepatic acutiloba leaf
(Photo by Nora Lee)

We welcome photos and stories for the newsletter, especially from recent events of the society. Next deadline will be 2 weeks before our next virtual or in-person meeting.

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