



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Connecticut Chapter January/February 2017

JANUARY MEETING RESCHEDULED

Sunday January 22, 2017 1pm
In the garden of Leslie Shields
25 Johnson Ave., Plainville 06062.

Kevin Wilcox

Pruning Demo: Opening a Tree Canopy

Dress for the weather. Facilities are not available; please make necessary stops before arriving.

Directions: from I-84, take Rte. 72 west toward Bristol. Take exit 1 Rte. 177/N. Washington St. and turn right at end of exit. In about .6 mile, turn right onto Johnson Avenue.

MARCH MEETING

Sunday, March 26, 2017 11am
Tolland Ag. Center, Vernon, CT

Joseph Tychonievich

Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style for Today's Garden

Joseph earned his BS in horticulture from Ohio State University, went on to work for Shibamichi Honten Nursery in Saitama, Japan, has been a repeated guest on public radio's food show **The Splendid Table**, spent two years working at Arrowhead Alpines and was named by Organic Gardening Magazine as one of "...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens."

Joseph is the author of **Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener**, **The Complete Guide to Gardeners**, and **Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style**.

His presentation includes a survey of gorgeous rock gardens from around the world, the techniques and methods specific to creating and maintaining a rock garden, and profiles of some top rock garden plants.

Directions to TAC: From I-84, take exit 67. If traveling eastbound, take left off the exit; if traveling westbound, take a right. Turn right at the light at Rte. 30. TAC is on the right, past the Rockville Bank.

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CT Hardy Plant Symposium: Saturday, March 4th
Charlie Nardozi, nationally recognized garden writer and radio and TV personality: *Foodscaping with Hardy Plants*; Andy Brand, nursery manager and 25 year veteran with Broken Arrow Nursery: *After the Flowers Have Faded: Plants with Fabulous Foliage*. For additional info see www.cthardyplantsociety.org or email Leslie Shields: selchiel@comcast.net.

CT Master Gardener Symposium: March 18th
Julie Moir Messervy: *Landscaping Ideas That Work*; Bill Cullina: *From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave: Serene and Sensuous Plants for the Garden*. And more. For complete info see www.ctmga.org.

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Galanthus 'Hogget's Narrow' is an autumn bloomer in Ernie's garden.

Ernie Cavallo, who spoke on *Galanthus* last February, suggests we celebrate the new year by throwing some Bulbstone or its equivalent and lime if we have acid soil on our snowdrops. The reward ... we just might see the noses of snowdrops poking through the soil.

FLOWER POLICE

By Angela Hawkins Fichter

Years ago I lived in Burlington, CT. One day I noticed a small ad in the newspaper about an event at the North Canton Methodist church. News was given of a plant sale at the church and strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream, plus hamburgers, hot dogs, and a tag sale. In other words, heaven. The plant sale notice was intriguing because it said the plants were dug up from church members' yards. Other church plant sales I had attended were stocked by local nurseries, who gave a percent of their profit to the church. This meant you only saw what a nursery had in stock, a nursery that you may have already frequented. This was going to be an adventure for me, the flower addicted gardener. I went alone. After all, why would my two year old son or my husband care about flowers?

When I got to the church at the opening time of the sale, I had to somehow find parking as the church parking lot was getting full. The lawn of the church had wooden picnic tables everywhere. Plants of all types, some of which I had never seen before, were on top of the tables, on the benches of the tables, and big ones underneath the tables. Gardeners were poring over these treasures. This sale was my introduction to wild yellow violets. Aha! Naturally I had to have one. As I picked up a good looking one in bloom I was admonished by a church member. "No one is allowed to touch the plants until the church bell rings at 12 noon." A bit tight I thought, but I obeyed and wandered around the tables, making note of the ones I wanted to buy (and at very reasonable prices may I add). At noon the church bell rang. Ten minutes later the tables, benches, and underneath the tables (plants like lilies, peonies or roses) were empty. I had five plants in a cardboard box. After paying I then enjoyed the strawberry shortcake and glanced at the tag sale.

The next year I went armed. I brought my husband and a box for him, and my three year old son and a box for him.

We arrived at least fifteen minutes before opening time to find a place to easily park. I researched every plant in every place in the churchyard and made a list of every plant I wanted. I assigned each family member which plants to grab when the church bell rang at noon, and not before. The three year old got an assignment of two plants near each other on one table. The husband got an assignment of five plants on a table or bench. The other twenty plants were for me to grab at noon. A war plan was devised so that the far flung plants and those under the tables were left for me to grab. Meanwhile, the church flower police circulated the crowd and admonished visitors not to put plants in their boxes or even touch them until the noon bell.

We compared our gains at 12:10 PM. We got the two my son was assigned, four of the five my husband was assigned, and I forget how many I got of the twenty on my list because I then settled for other flowers still around the churchyard. Followed by yummy strawberry shortcake.

Unfortunately, the following year was our last because we moved to Scotland on Thanksgiving, 1983. That year my four year old son was assigned five plants, all of which he won, and my husband was promoted to six plants, and I got who knows how many. These gains were planted first in Burlington, then dug up and moved to Scotland in the fall. The plants moved before we did because, after all, you have to have priorities in life.

Having been in Northeast Connecticut since 1983, I have attended a number of plant sales, some sponsored by flower clubs and some sponsored by churches. These sales display striking, unusual, inexpensively priced plants, dug from members' yards. I will not divulge my secrets for getting the greatest amount of flower loot other than to say it helps to act like a detective and get to know the parking areas and the rules of the sale and how strictly they are enforced. Of course, it is illegal to bribe the flower police. I assure you that my success at these sales has nothing to do with the facts that I was born and raised in New York and that I practiced law for years in Connecticut.

NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAIR: Ginny Gingras / 21 Timber Ln. / Vernon, CT 06066 / 860.875.9865 / ginnygingras2013@gmail.com

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Annual membership runs February through January. Membership includes the newsletter, visits to members' gardens, plant sales and auctions, workshops, and access to top notch speakers.

Use the form below to renew your membership for one or more years at the rate of \$10 per year. Also, consider giving a gift membership to a gardening friend or relative: a one-time introductory gift membership is only \$7.

And while you are at it, don't forget to renew your membership in NARGS or join if you are not already a member. You will receive the NARGS **Rock Garden Quarterly**, have access to the seed exchange, and full access to the NARGS website which is a wealth of plant information. Membership is \$40. Make checks payable to **North American Rock Garden Society** and mail to: NARGS, P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604; or go to www.nargs.org and click on 'Membership Form'.

Renew now while you're thinking of it!

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to Angela Fichter on the loss of her husband, Robert, on November 25th.

Our condolences go to Barbara van Achterberg on the death of her mother, Jean Bromer, on November 25th.

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

Beginning Balance:		
Webster Checking A/C		\$3327.50
Income:		
Dues	\$360.00	
Fundraising	<u>128.21</u>	
		488.21
Expenses:		
Programs	< <u>232.57</u> >	
		< <u>232.57</u> >
Ending Balance		\$3583.14

Sally Katkaveck

NARGS CT Chapter 2017 Membership Dues - \$10

Send this form along with check payable to **CT Chapter, NARGS**
To: Sally Katkaveck, Treasurer, 82 Ashford Rd., Ashford, CT 06278

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Gift Membership: _____

Sending the newsletter digitally saves money. All e-mail addresses are confidential and are not shared.

CT NARGS needs your time and talents. Please consider volunteering for:

____Programs Coordinator ____Workshop Leader

____Program Presenter ____Garden Host/Hostess ____Newsletter Article

Comments: _____

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