

**NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
New England Chapter
November 17, 2018**

Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Nov. 17, 2018

**The Presbyterian Church in Sudbury *
330 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA**

Schedule

10:30 am and after ~ arrive and socialize

11:15 am Annual Meeting: Business presentations

11:45 am Catered luncheon ~ or bring your own

1:00 pm Matt Mattus, *Botanizing in Yunnan and Western China*

If you wish to sign up for the catered luncheon of sandwiches, a hot dish,
salad and dessert at \$15 please notify Vivien Bouffard

vbouffard55@msn.com by Nov. 13th.

You can pay Ernie Flippo at the meeting.
If you prefer to bring your own lunch that's fine



*directions at end of the newsletter

11:15 Morning Session *Annual Meeting*



1:00 Afternoon Session *Matt Mattus 'Botanizing in Yunnan and Western China'*

As one of the world's richest floral regions, Yunnan and the borderlands of the Tibetan Autonomous Region, remain of immense interest to botanists and alpine gardeners. Home to some of our most cherished garden plants, the region remains a hotspot for primula, androsace and meconopsis species, not to mention arisaema, rhododendron and corydalis. Matt will share with us his stunning photos from this NARGS TOURS trip (this past June 2018) which promises to deliver at least an hour of high-elevation Himalayan escapism.

map of the journey through Yunnan



overview



detail

Note from the Chair

Our final meeting of 2018 will be on the 17th and we'll be wrapping up the season in style with Matt Mattus' presentation on his NARGS trip to China. I think my favorite meetings are the ones where someone from our chapter presents. It's great that our people get to go to place like Newfoundland (thanks for the article, Rosemary) and Yunnan and that they are so generous in sharing their experiences with us. Remember that when you take your next vacation! Consider taking lots of plant photos, coming up with a narrative, and putting together a little travelogue for sharing!

Our annual meeting also includes a nice lunch for those so inclined, this year including both sandwiches and hot food

(eggplant parmesan; more if the numbers permit) and dessert for the amazing price of \$15. Please let me know by **November 13** if you would like to participate. (You should have received an earlier email from me about this; please let me know if you did NOT as my email has been wonky.)

We'll be talking about future events at the meeting, but for those who aren't able to be there, I'll just mention that the spring schedule is coming together. We aren't settled on a topic for the February meeting yet, but Elisabeth Zander will be speaking on creating and working on her rock garden in March and our own Cheryl Monroe will speak on species clematis at the April. Both

are experienced, excellent speakers who will bring lots of substance to their presentations. May will bring our Rare Plant Auction and it would be nice to have a morning speaker for that meeting as well. Suggestions are welcome.

See you on the 17th.

Vivien

Note from the Vice-Chair

It takes a strong will to garden in New Hampshire. As I mentioned previously, it is a constant struggle against the influx of hungry visitors. Some years I've needed to pick up a multitude of crab apples from the ground before the final fall mowing. Not this year. Every apple was gone even before a handful had dropped. My veggies disappeared from the lower garden, including prickly zucchini. I'm told, one possibility is to fight with scare tactics or with fencing. Growers Supply sells deer netting at about \$400. for 350' so that's out. On a smaller scale, my upper herb garden is already surrounded by chicken wire against the groundhog. While I prefer my rock garden to be on the wild side those locations always end up on or near deer paths. Perhaps this is the time to build some troughs. To regain confidence, I hope to visit other gardens. Maybe Delaware or maybe even Alaska!!

Please send encouragement,

Leslie



late old fashioned chrysanthemums

Where Alpines Meet the Sea: Newfoundland



In July I participated in the NARGS Annual General Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, and then the post-conference trip to the limestone barrens of the province's Great Northern Peninsula. It was spectacular! Seeing the plants of Newfoundland has been on my wish list for years, after hearing chapter member, George Newman, talk about the botanizing he has done there. The trip was led by Todd Boland, horticulturist at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. Some may remember Todd's talk a few years ago to our chapter. He has literally "written the books" on the flora of

Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and the other maritime provinces. His "Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland" and "Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador" were essential guidebooks, but better yet was simply following Todd around through his favorite plant habitats, trying to absorb a fraction of his knowledge. All the photos shown here were taken in the wild except, of course, for the troughs in the botanical garden. Plants in Newfoundland have to be tough enough to withstand the cold (Zone 3b-4a) and long winters, but it's also the windiest place I have ever been, bar none.

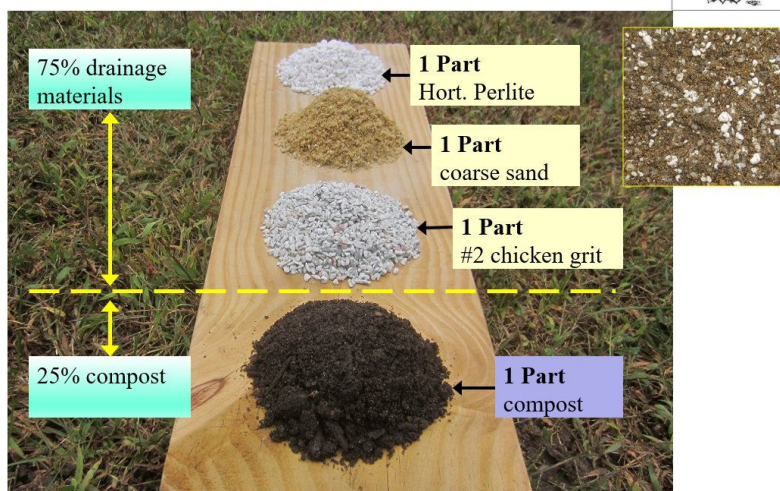
But the trips wasn't all plants, all the time – just 95% of the time. We also went to L'Anse-aux-Meadows, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is the only authenticated Viking presence in North America, dating back to the year 1000 AD. Some of us (including me) spent a lot of time gazing out at the ocean, where dozens of humpback whales were feeding on capelin, a small fish in the smelt family. A total highlight of the trip was going out on a boat to see whales and icebergs in "Iceberg Alley" along the eastern side of the northern peninsula. The icebergs break off the ice sheet in Greenland, and float in the ocean currents for two years until they reach Newfoundland, melting all the while. We also saw a bald eagle 'chick,' caribou, moose, and sea otters (although I didn't see the latter). All in all, this trip was something I'll remember forever. I'm grateful to NARGS for sponsoring trips like this one so that we can see plants in their natural habitats where they grow best – join now if you're not a member of the national organization! And maybe see you on the NARGS trip to Scotland next year?

Rosemary Monahan

Note from the Editor: Sempervivums, reviewed

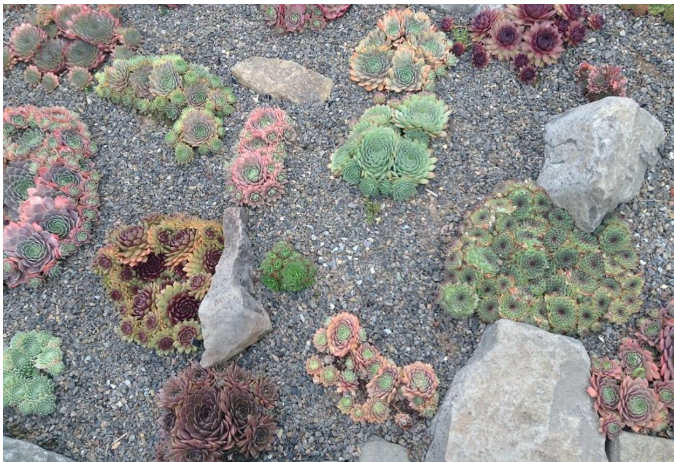
Semps: **Cultivation Basics**

Mark's Semp Soil Mix - Recipe



Mark McDonough's presentation last month had so many tips about growing hens and chicks that I asked Mark if we could reprint some of his images in this month's newsletter. So here for your garden reference is (1) the image which describes Mark's soil mix recipe of perlite, coarse sand, #2 chicken grit and compost. In addition, below are (2-6) four planting schemes which illustrate some design possibilities for "semp" landscaping and the wonderful spring colors of the new "semp" hybrids, all from the garden of

Tony Stoehr, Canby, Oregon, NGA Sempervivum Forumist. *Images courtesy of Tony Stoehr.*



Reminder: BE GREEN Bring Your Own Mug

***Directions to The Presbyterian Church in Sudbury 330 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA**

The Presbyterian Church in Sudbury is located in the town center of at the intersection of Route 27 and Concord Road next to the Town Hall. There is ample parking in the rear. The entrance to the lower meeting room is in the rear with easy access from the parking lot

NARGS-New England Chapter Membership and Dues

Membership in NARGS-NE is \$10.00 a year payable January 1 to Ernie Flippo, 264 Wales St., Abington, MA 02351. Payment may also be made in person at a meeting.

Local Chapters: –There are thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Chapter events include lectures, an email newsletter, garden visits, field trips, demonstrations, and plant sales. These friendly gatherings provide a wealth of information; offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners in your region.

Our Chapter meets 6 times a year (February, March, April, September, October and November), publishes a newsletter in email format, and organizes garden tours in May and June.

National Organization: We encourage you to join the national NARGS organization. www.nargs.org Dues are \$40.00 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication, and an on-line web site featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS national also conducts winter study weekends and holds their Annual Meeting in interesting places.

Chapter Officers for 2018

Chair: Vivien Bouffard: vbouffard55@msn.com

Vice-Chair: Leslie Milde: meribushes@gmail.com

Past Chair Ellen Hornig: hornig@oswego.edu

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The Newsletter of the New England Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is published 3-4 times a year. In 2019 expect February-March, April-May, September-October, November issues and occasional notices of special events and reminders.