

2019 -2020 Potomac Valley Chapter NARGS Events Calendar

Programs are Saturdays at 10am (coffee at 9:30 am), unless otherwise noted.

December 7, 9:30am to 4PM **PVC Helps with NARGS SEED-Exchange Packaging**,
Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring R., Alexandria, VA 22312 (You know who you are!)

2020 Events

January 18, Sandy Horn --“*Conifers for the Rock Garden*”
US National Arboretum 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington DC 20002

The **Southeast Regional Director for the American Conifer Society** and a **member of the Piedmont Chapter of NARGS**, Sandy Horn combines both her passions in this talk – conifers and rock garden plants. Beginning with the construction of a new rock garden installed this past summer in her North Carolina garden, Sandy shares all that she considered to make it the perfect home for conifers and other rock garden plants. Learn about the cultivars she chose and the conifers most likely to succeed here in the Mid-Atlantic. In addition to Sandy’s new rock garden, she will show us her mature conifer rock garden, conifers growing in the immense crevice garden at Plant Delights Nursery in Raleigh, NC, as well as several other fantastic rock gardens that incorporate conifers as major features. Be inspired to try these plants in your own garden. **TOUR of the US National Arboretum Gotelli Conifer Collection to follow Sandy’s talk, with USNA horticulturist (TBD)**

February 15, Jeremy Schmidt--“*For Those About to Rock: Do-it-yourself Solutions for Gardening with Boulders, Crevices, and Everything In-Between*”
Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902

Jeremy A. Schmidt is the Research and Grounds Supervisor at Plant Delights Nursery/Juniper Level Botanic Garden in Raleigh, NC, (2008-present) and owner of a small business, The Horticulture Company. In the past three years, Jeremy has stacked over 1 million pounds of stone in specialized garden beds, supporting more than 3,000 taxa. Find out how his extensive hands-on experience with stone led him to innovate radical techniques for organically amending soil and creating garden spaces—notably, fighting compaction with compaction. For more than two decades, Jeremy has studied and documented plant populations in their natural ranges and in planted situations, especially the genus *Trillium*, and he advocates for plant conservation through horticulture. By incorporating stone into the garden, he creates living art and botanical diversity in the landscape. When not in the garden, Jeremy is likely fishing on his boat.

Jeremy earned a bachelor’s degree in Landscape Horticulture from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (2005) and gained curatorial and research experience at Longwood Gardens (2006).

March 22, SUNDAY 12:30pm, Todd Boland --“*Spring Wildflowers of Utah’s Mighty Five Great Parks*,” Green Spring Gardens multi-purpose room (big auditorium) **NOTE DAY AND TIME are different than usual,** 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312

Utah’s Mighty Five Great Parks” include Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands and the Arches National Parks. While hot and dry in summer, they are a flowering wonderland in the month of May and home to a multitude of dry westerner “alpines” along with cactus and succulents. If you are interested in a xeric rock garden, then this talk will provide you with many ideas of what to grow.

Todd lives in St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada, where he works as the horticulturist at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden. He is chair of the Newfoundland chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). He also maintains the NARGS “Plant of the Month” feature and is the administrator of the image galleries on the NARGS website. Todd has spoken to gardening groups across North America as well as in the UK and New Zealand. He has published 6 botanical guides to the flora of Atlantic Canada and most recently published his first gardening book *Perennials for Atlantic Canada*. When he is not in his garden, he is bird watching, a hobby that allows him to visit many exotic parts of the world.

April 18, Place TBD, Jim Hughes - "*Bonsai Principles Applied to Conifers in Troughs and Rock Gardens*"

PVC member, Jim Hughes recently found himself talking with other members about growing and maintaining conifers in troughs and rock gardens. Growing them in a trough can be challenging even for the experienced gardener. Keeping them proportional to the trough or the rock garden is an ongoing task.

Jim moved to Maryland in 1995, partly to escape Zone 3 gardening in Minnesota, but also to pursue his love of bonsai. As a **Former Curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum**, Jim keeps coming back to principles learned and practiced in his work. His talk details these principles and practices, which he has been using for more than 30 years to grow and maintain conifers in containers. Using bonsai from his own collection, Jim will also demonstrate his techniques and leave you with the practical knowledge to cultivate conifers in your troughs and rock gardens.

April 25-26, **FONA Plant Sale**, US National Arboretum

May 16, **Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale**, Members provide the plants to sell!!

May 23, **PVC Plant Exchange**, home of Ed Aldrich, 7820 Yorktown Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308