



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Connecticut Chapter May/June 2016

THREE OPEN GARDENS IN CENTRAL CT

Sunday, May 29, 2016

The gardens of three CTNARGS members will be open to the club on Sunday, May 29th. Each garden is open for only a two hour period and times are staggered so please note availability for each garden. This is a leisurely, go-at-your-own-pace garden stroll and not a structured tour. Facilities are not available so please plan accordingly.

12 noon - 2pm: The garden of **Judy King and Stephen Gryc**, 19 Tanglewood Rd., Farmington, 06032. Exit 39 off I-84 onto Rte. 4; go 4.3 miles and take right turn at traffic light onto Knollwood (just past the railroad overpass); 1/2 mile go right on Maplewood and 1st left on Tanglewood.

1pm - 3pm: The garden of **Leslie Shields**, 25 Johnson Ave., Plainville, 06062. From King/Gryc garden, continue west on Rte. 4/Farmington Ave. to center of Unionville and take left onto Rte. 177/S. Main St.; go 4.8 miles and take left at light on Northwest Dr.; 2nd right on Perron and then 1st right on Johnson Ave.

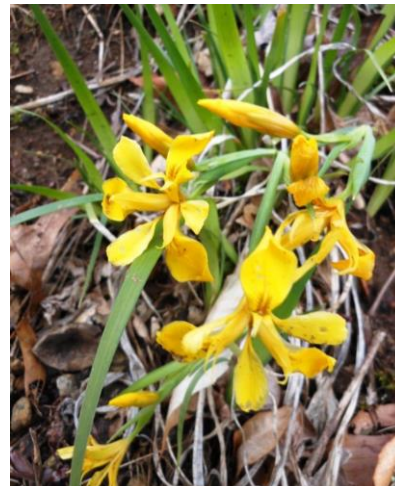
2pm - 4pm: The garden of **John Marchacos**, 134 Circlewood Dr., Berlin, 06037. From Shields garden, retrace path to the light on Northwest and take left onto Rte. 177 and then left onto Rte. 72E (highway) toward I-84/New Britain to Rte. 9; when Rte. 9 splits, bear right on 9S toward Middletown. Take exit 22 to Rte. 372/Mill St.; turn left onto Worthington Ridge and quick right on Mill. Go 1.1 mile to right on Savage Hill Rd. and then 1st right onto Circlewood.

NEWS

Elections will be held at the CTNARGS annual meeting in July. Current officers have held their posts for much too long and the chapter needs new faces to step into these roles. Barbara Van Achterberg is willing to continue as Secretary and Sally Katkaveck will continue as Treasurer if no one wishes to accept that position. However, the following posts need to be filled: **President** - chair meetings and act as liaison with the national organization; **Vice-president** - act as Program Chair. Please forward your intentions or any questions to Maryanne Gryboski.

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Joyce Fingerut informs us that the **NARGS Seed Exchange** is alive and well; chapters have been found to handle the first round of the Seedex for the near future. Many thanks to those members who offered to help should we have taken on that task.



Iris koreana, blooming this year for the first time in the Gryboski garden.

On the Lookout for Pests and Pathogens

Maryanne Gryboski

Two sizable colonies of *Arisaema sikokianum* showed signs of rust in my garden. I immediately began digging them out for trash pick-up and dashed off an email to the Ag Experiment Station. Here's what I learned:

Jack-in-the-pulpit rust (*Uromyces ari triphylli*) is specific to that host plant only, so other genera will not be affected by this rust fungus. The soil does not need to be treated or removed. The fungus survives on plant material only, so **proper sanitation** of infected plant material is sufficient (removal from the site and disposal). Rust spores travel via wind and rain and they could be coming into the garden from surrounding areas. If plants become infected, you do not need to remove the entire tuber; cutting off the upper portion is sufficient and the tubers will sprout again next year. This can, however, weaken the plant and cause its demise if repeated annually.

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This is also the time to begin checking small-leaf rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas for leaf and flower



galls caused by the fungus *Exobasidium*. Pick off the fleshy distorted galls (see photo, left) and dispose of them now before they develop a white bloom caused by the fungal spores.

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And finally, it's lily leaf beetle time (*Lilioceris lili*). I've begun to see pairs doing the "birds and bees" thing so start checking your lilies on a regular basis and squash those beautiful scarlet insects before they do their damage. Don't forget to check the underside of leaves for small orange eggs and if you see dark globs, put on gloves – no bare hands for me – and remove the larvae that are hiding out in the frass.

From Our Gardens



Jeanna Richo sends this photo of a swamp pink, *Helonias bulata*, growing in her bog. Notice the pitcher plants in the upper corners keeping it company.

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Purchased many years ago by Joan Mencil at a Chapter sale as a rooted cutting, this rhodo has grown into a beauty. It is believed to be the Gus Mehlquist introduction *Rhododendron* 'April Mist'. Knowledgeable rhodie folks are encouraged to weigh in on the identification.



NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

VICE-CHAIR: Position open

SECRETARY: Barbara van Achterberg / 359 Silver Hill Rd. / Easton, CT 06612 / 203.261.2156 / bvanachterberg@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Sally Katkaveck / 82 Ashford Rd. / Ashford, CT 06278 / 860.974.2563 / sallybillkat@charter.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Maryanne Gryboski / 88 Eager Rd. / Franklin, CT 06254 / 860.822.6589 / strollgarden@aol.com

PROGRAMS: Please talk to one of the officers if you are interested in the Programs Chair position.

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