



# Newsletter

**North American Rock Garden Society**  
*Connecticut Chapter September/October 2017*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Sunday, September 3, 2017 11:30am  
Tolland Ag Center, Vernon, CT



**Marcia Tatroe**

### **Four Seasons in the Rock Garden**

Spring brings an explosion of flowers to the rock garden. With a little bit of planning, summer, autumn and winter can be every bit as appealing. See how choosing a plant palette that offers more than a pretty face can extend the beauty of the rock garden to all four seasons.

Marcia Tatroe writes the monthly "Mountain Garden Checklist" for *Sunset Magazine* and is a frequent contributor to *Colorado Gardener* and other gardening publications. Her photography and gardens have been featured in numerous books, magazines and nationally televised gardening shows. She lectures throughout the West focusing on garden design, rock gardening, xeriscape, and native plants. In her most recent book, *Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West*, she advocates using drought-tolerant and native plants and indigenous materials to create a gardening aesthetic unique to this region. Her garden was awarded Habitat Hero status by the Audubon Rockies in 2015 as an outstanding urban wildscape.

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.

## OCTOBER TRI-STATE MEETING

Sunday, October 22, 2017 10am  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
1395 Planting Fields Road  
Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY

### **Yasemin Konuralp**

Yasemin Konuralp is a botanist from Turkey; she will give two presentations at this meeting: *The Bulbs of Turkey* and *The Flowers of Turkey*.

The meeting will be held in the Conference Center at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay, NY, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The first talk will start at 11:00am and the second will be given after a one-hour lunch break at 1:15pm.

In addition to the two talks, there will be a plant sale featuring choice plants offered by several vendors and a book sale featuring titles from the collections of the late Larry Thomas and Tom Stuart. Attendees will receive free admission and parking when they mention the rock garden society meeting to the attendant at the entrance gate.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch. There is a snack bar on the grounds, but service can be slow. Please mark the date on your calendars for a fun and informative day with fellow rock gardeners.

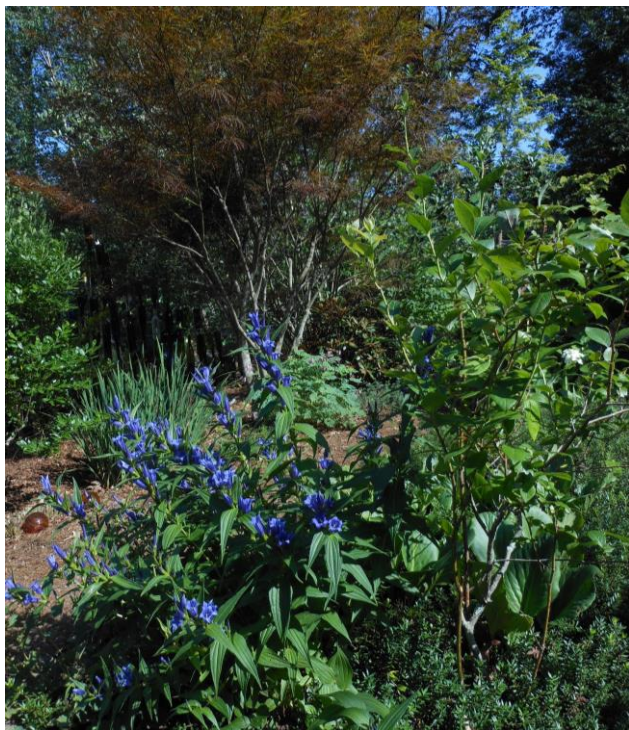
## July Annual Picnic Meeting

By Barbara van Achterberg

The weather was beautiful, although slightly chilly, at the potluck lunch, meeting and sale in the garden of Maryanne Gryboski and John Kochiss in Franklin. We appreciated the cool breeze after the bad heat wave that preceded it.

The lunch was delicious. Rock gardeners are good cooks as well as good growers. This was the largest turnout that the Connecticut Chapter had seen for a long time.

After lunch we were treated to a tour of Maryanne's extensive gardens. The front wall got built two years ago from rocks found on the property. Waist-high boxwood was grown from cuttings. *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, full of buds, was fifteen feet high while *Lilium superbum*, which the lily-leaf beetles don't seem to bother, reached eight feet. In the shade was a large mat of *Asarum shuttleworthii* grown from a small division from Sandy



Steinberg's garden. There is an extensive grass garden created to attract butterflies and planted with little bluestem and butterfly weed. John mows a path through it once a year.

A vegetable garden has enough sun for a few vegetables as well as some perennials. The stroll garden, which demands strolling through its winding paths without shortcuts, has a great purple color of *Gentiana asclepiadea*, a Japanese maple with two flushes of different leaf shape, and several wonderful dark blue hydrangeas called 'Royal Purple'.

The sale of the generous donations on the plant table had to wait until after the business meeting. Maryanne and Ginny had put their heads together and reported that in 2017's two previous meetings, only three and five people had attended. In addition, Ginny is ready to give up her presidency, Maryanne her newsletter, and there is no program chair. Here are the three options that were presented as well as a suggestion (the river cruise, emailed from Judy King).

1. Finish 2017 calendar year. Do not collect dues for 2018; reimburse anyone who has paid into the future. In summer of 2018, have a dinner meeting (at a restaurant such as Cavey's in Manchester or a buffet cruise on the Connecticut River) to spend down the treasury. Donate any remaining monies to NARGS national. Close chapter.
2. Finish 2017 calendar year. Do not collect dues for 2018; reimburse anyone who has paid into the future. Spend down treasury as in option 1. Close chapter but continue to have an annual picnic in a member's garden.
3. Finish 2017 calendar year. Do not collect dues for 2018; reimburse anyone who has paid into the future. DO NOT spend down treasury. Have garden walks if/when members wish to open their gardens; if contacted by other chapters to piggyback on speakers, do so until chapter funds run out.

*Continued next page*

### 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

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Joyce Fingerut made a motion that these three options be posted in the next newsletter to be voted on by the membership in November. We would email or mail in our vote.

Because it was so late after the lunch, tour and business meeting, the plants were sold quickly for \$5.00 each, first come, first served, then \$4.00, \$3.00 and \$1.00. Every plant found a home, and Sally collected the cash for the treasury.



There had not been enough parking at the top of the driveway, so John Kochiss kindly took us, our plants, folding chairs and coolers from the large cul-de-sac parking area at the end of Eager Road up the driveway when we arrived and back down when we left. Thank you, John.



NARGS Connecticut Chapter  
Maryanne Gryboski, Editor  
88 Eager Rd., Franklin, CT 06254

## **2017 NARGS Annual General Meeting Rock Gardening in the Southeastern U.S. Past, Present, and Future November 17-19, 2017**

The 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NARGS will be held in Durham, North Carolina, and is being hosted by the Piedmont Chapter. The AGM will explore the past, present, and future of rock gardening in the southeastern and mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S.

The AGM will include a welcome reception and presentation on Friday evening, November 17; a full day of presentations on Saturday, November 18; and tours to three gardens in the Triangle area on Sunday, November 19. Additional activities include an optional pre-conference, two-day guided tour of botanically interesting natural areas in North Carolina's Coastal Plain on November 15 and 16, and visits to several gardens in the Triangle area on November 17. Details on the meeting as well as an on-line registration form are available on the meeting website ([www.piedmontnargs.org](http://www.piedmontnargs.org)).