



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Connecticut Chapter January/February 2013

PRUNING TECHNIQUES FOR WOODY PLANTS

Saturday, February 16, 2013 11am

Avon Free Public Library
281 Country Club Rd., Avon

Kevin Wilcox

This is an interactive slide presentation on pruning trees and shrubs, and questions are encouraged.

Kevin Wilcox is proprietor of Silver Spring Nursery in Bloomfield where he grows and sells ornamental woody plants. He studied Nursery Management at S.U.N.Y. Cobleskill and has been a nursery professional for almost thirty years.

Directions: from center of Farmington, go west on Rt. 4 for 1.7 miles; turn right onto Brickyard Rd. (which turns into Harris and then W. Avon Rd.) for 3.6 miles; turn right onto Country Club Rd., .2 miles; destination on right. From Rte. 44 in Avon, turn south onto Old Farms Rd. (opposite Simsbury Rd.) for 1.3 miles; turn right onto Country Club Rd. for 1.3 miles; destination on left.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 9, 2013 10:30am
Tolland Agricultural Center

Betty Ann Addison from Gardens of Rice Creek in Minneapolis, MN will give two presentations: *Landscaping with Rock and Alpine Plants* and *Breeding Hardy Rhododendrons*.

Saturday, April 13, 2013 (rain date April 20) 10:30am
Home of Jeana Richo, Bethany, CT

Dan Richo will lead a workshop on *Creating Lightweight Troughs from Styrofoam Boxes*. Visit nearby Broken Arrow Nursery after workshop.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy and Healthy New Year, 2013!

The spell of warm weather, now gone, saw the emergence of snowdrops near my back door. In my greenhouse, the jasmine is in full bud and there are two buds on my bird of paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*), seeds that I planted years ago. Robins devoured the fruit of a viburnum in my front yard. And in New York's Central Park in early December, I saw clumps of snowdrops and native witch hazel in full bloom. Now arctic cold, in effect as I write, makes one wonder what the result will be on plant life.

The Hartford Flower Show in February will not see information about NARGS. No display will invite people to join us. However, our March speaker, secured by Maryanne, will be an opportunity for us to advertise the Connecticut Chapter and the great programs planned for the year. The 2013 Annual Meeting of NARGS to be held in Ashville, North Carolina from May 2-5 will explore the flora of the Blue Ridge in the Southern Appalachians. Maryanne and I will join the exploration.

~Ginny



The honey scented *Hamamelis vernalis*, the vernal witch hazel, began blooming this year in mid-December. *Photo by M. Gryboski*

A PLANT PORTRAIT: VIOLET

By Angela H. Fichter

Violets are such unassuming plants. After all, what do you call a very shy person? A shrinking violet. That is why I was so surprised years ago by a comment super-gardener Dick Redfield made to me. I was showing him a special violet I had purchased. He bent over to look at the little colony that had grown up around my original violet and said, "Violets are *so* promiscuous." Somehow I had never thought of these delicate flowers as over-sexed, but anyone who has grown them can tell you they seed in like crazy. Unlike other flowers that form their seeds from the remains of the flower itself, most violets grow their seeds in separate seed capsules that grow under the leaves. In fall if you look at the common purple meadow violet that is in our lawns, and lift the leaves, and pull away the soil, you will see white stems with seed capsules. Some of the yellow violets set their seed directly from the flower, as do the pink violets.

You can get such a variety of blossom color. There are tiny pinkish-lavender types, white violets with faces of purple lines, purple ones with dark purple lines. Some violets have arrow shaped leaves; others have burgundy colored leaves. In certain woods are small white ones that are very fragrant. The first spring after we moved to Scotland I discovered freckled ones in our lawn. They are white with purple polka dots. Not long after my discovery, Burpee came out with that variety for sale. We are so lucky to have so many wildflowers here in Scotland, including those naughty violets.



NEWS FROM NARGS NATIONAL

- The January Book of the Month, **The Gardener's Guide to Cactus: The 100 Best Paddles, Barrels, Columns, and Globes** by Scott Calhoun, published by Timber Press, is reviewed on the NARGS web site. Go to www.nargs.org and click on 'Book of the Month'.
- The **Rock Garden Quarterly** is now published in an expanded digital edition as well as in hard copy.
- The annual seed list has been posted to the NARGS web site and seeds can now be ordered online by members of the national organization.
- A new NARGS web site is under development and is being upgraded with improved user interface. It should be completed during 2013.
- Back issues of the **Rock Garden Quarterly** and its predecessor publications have been scanned and will be available for searching, viewing and downloading through the new NARGS web site.
- If you are not yet a member of the NARGS national organization, consider joining. Make checks for \$30 payable to North American Rock Garden Society and mail to: NARGS, P.O.Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604; or go to the NARGS web site and click on 'Membership Form'.

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Consider writing an article of any length for this newsletter. A portrait of a plant that you fancy; a description of the wildflowers you discovered while on a hike; a favorite method for growing or propagating; the possibilities are endless and any effort is greatly appreciated.

NARGS CT CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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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.

**EXPLORING THE FLORA OF THE
BLUE RIDGE**

NARGS will be holding its 2013 Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, from May 2 through May 4. The conference includes evening speakers whose presentations include *Geology of the Southern Appalachians*, *Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge*, and *The Southern Blue Ridge: Crucible of Life*. Day time guided field trips to The Southern Highland Reserve, Panthertown Valley, Graveyard Fields, Devil's Courthouse, DuPont State Forest and other sites are also scheduled. Exceptional private gardens will be open post-conference.

Early registration deadline is March 2. For a complete description, go online to www.nargs2013.org.

(Ginny Gingras and Maryanne Gryboski are driving to the conference and there is room for two additional passengers. Please contact Maryanne if you are interested in joining them.)

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 2012

Beginning Balance:		
Webster Checking A/C		\$4750.16
Income:		
Dues	\$ 380.00	
Fundraising	<u>422.50</u>	
		702.50
Expenses:		
Newsletter	< 78.37 >	
Programs	<u><1388.73 ></u>	
		<1467.10>
Ending Balance		\$3995.56

Sally Katkaveck

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Annual membership runs Feb. through Jan. 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.

NARGS CT Chapter 2013 Membership Dues - \$10

Send this form along with check payable to **CT Chapter, NARGS**
CT NARGS, 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:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Presenter | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Host/Hostess | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Article |

Comments: _____

