



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XXXIX ✧ Spring 2015 ✧ Number 3 ✧

## **Upcoming Programs The Annual Plant Sale! The Leonard J. Buck Garden Far Hills, New Jersey**

**Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Lecture at 1 p.m.

Speaker Joe Gyurian, Horticultural  
Consultant, Rutgers New Jersey  
Agricultural Experiment Station,  
Cooperative Extension of Somerset  
County, presents  
'Attracting Pollinators to the Garden'

**Sunday, April 26, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Lecture at 1 p.m.

Kathleen Podgalsky, Gardener,  
Leonard J. Buck Garden presents  
'Where Did Your Garden Grow?'

**Installation of the South Rock  
Garden , Laurelwood Arboretum,  
725 Pines Lake Dr W, Wayne, New  
Jersey 07470**

**Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. start**

**Bring your favorite trowel & a lunch**

**Members Only Soiree**

**Saturday May 16, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**See Page 3 for details!**

**Urgent! The Watnong Chapter needs a Secretary for the Executive Board.** The primary responsibility is to attend board meetings (one hour before our regular meetings) and take notes to be distributed to the board members prior to the next board meeting. Can you help? Contact Mike Wilson (see page 9).



Speaker Paul Trader speaks with Watnong member Ann Wiss at our March 15 meeting.



Christina Renna and Scott Bowerbank, lucky Winners of the door prize book *The Serious*

*Gardener- Rock Gardens*, by New York Botanical Gardens, donated by speaker Paul Trader at the March 15 meeting.

## **Plant Sale Preview (In Which I Name Names) By Melissa Grossmann**

What can you hope to bring home from the plant sale this year? There will be wildflowers from Arrowhead Alpines: *Trillium erectum*, *T. luteum* and *T. grandiflorum*, *Hepatica acutiloba*, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, and *Dodecatheon media*.

Last year there was a *Primula* shortage, which we have tried to avoid this year. We've ordered *P. japonica*, *sieboldii*, *denticulata* and several fun hybrids.

There will be some rock garden plants with which you may not be familiar. *Acinos alpinus*, *Dianthus pavonius*, *Dianthus simulans*, *Orostachys furusei*, *Phyteuma scheuchzeri* and *Scutellaria alpina* 'Moonbeam' are worth reading about before the sale.

I am very picky about hellebores, so I am happy that we have finally been able to get some of the great new ones from a wholesale source. You can expect to find 'Merlin', 'Golden Lotus' and 'Peppermint Ice', and others.

In the woody plants department, since I'm a tree person, I am most excited about *Halesia diptera* var. *magniflora*. I think that it's the best of the Halesias, and it is rarely available. We also expect to have *Stewartia koreana*, a plant worth planning your garden

around. Of course, there will also be miniature, dwarf, and small shrubs for troughs and rock gardens. Something for everyone, and every garden!

## **NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER**

**Our Annual Plant Sale, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, needs you!**

Martha Podilchuk has once again graciously agreed to serve as volunteer coordinator, and has these time slots to be filled:

Thursday (4/23) 9-1:00

Plant sale set-up

A few people able to lift flats/pots

Friday (4/24)

Plant sitter - one person for either shift 10-1 or 1-4

Saturday (4/25) 12-2:30

1 cashier

2 plant advisors

1 plant sitter (holding pen)

Saturday (4/25) 2:30-5:00

1 cashier

1 plant advisor

1 plant sitter (holding pen)

Sunday (4/26) 12-2:30

1 plant advisor

1 plant sitter

Sunday (4/26) 2:30-5:00

1 plant advisor

1 plant sitter

Volunteers can text/call Martha on her cell, 908-507-6487, or e-mail her at [marthapod@comcast.net](mailto:marthapod@comcast.net).

Volunteers for set up Thursday, April 23, should note that the start time has been moved forward to 9:00 a.m. Thursday volunteers are asked to park in the lower lot at The Leonard J. Buck Garden, the lot closer to Route 287. As in past years, lunch will be provided. On Saturday and Sunday, all volunteers are asked to park on Belcher Lane, the side street off Layton Road, alongside 287. Drivers may drop off passengers at the main lot. If anyone requires shuttle service to/from Belcher Lane, please contact Melissa Grossmann. Donuts, bagels, and lunch will be provided for volunteers.

Plants donated by members are very important to our profit margin! You can drop off your donations at The Leonard J. Buck Garden between April 11 and 23, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m. Please pot your donations as soon as possible, to allow them to be well settled into their pots before the sale. Plant donations must also be accurately labeled. Please, please do NOT donate any invasive species! If you'd like a receipt of the value of your donations for tax purposes, contact Melissa Grossmann at [donmliss@msn.com](mailto:donmliss@msn.com), or at 908-604-8060.

**All members can help our profit margin by remembering to bring your own box for plant purchases.**

**Our Annual Members Only Soiree will be held Saturday, May 16 from 4:30 to 8:30p.m. at the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center.** Please bring a chair with a cup holder, and an appetizer or dessert. Your dish should be ready to serve, and accompanied by any necessary serving pieces.

**RSVP to Debi Graf by Saturday, May 2,** at [dgrafathome@aol.com](mailto:dgrafathome@aol.com), or 201- 919- 0749.

This should be a beautiful time of year to visit the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center. Originally known as "Merchiston Farm," it was the home of William and Martha Brookes Hutcheson from 1911 to 1959. Bamboo Brook's 100 acres include fields, woodlands and a formal garden designed by Mrs. Hutcheson, one of the first women to be trained as a landscape architect in the United States. Debi is planning a 5:30 dinner, followed by a tour of the grounds at 7 p.m. Morris County Parks gives the address as 11 Longview Rd, Far Hills, New Jersey 07931.

**Directions: From the south:** From Exit 22B on I-287 North take U.S. Rt. 206 north about 4.9 miles to the traffic light at the intersection of 206 and County Route 512 (Pottersville Rd.). At the light go left on Route 512 for about half a mile and angle right onto Lisk Hill Road. This is a small road, easily missed. After a short distance, at a T intersection, turn right onto Union

Grove Road. Proceed about 0.3 miles to a fork and bear left onto Longview Road. At 0.5 miles you will see the entrance to Willowwood Arboretum on the left. Bamboo Brook OEC is about 0.5 miles farther still on Longview Road, also on the left.

**From the north:** Traveling south on Rt. 206 from the traffic light at Main St. and Rt. 206 in Chester, proceed 3.65 miles to Spring Lake Drive on the right. Follow Spring Lake Drive for 0.35 miles to a left on Bamboo Lane. Follow Bamboo Lane to a T at Longview Drive. Turn right and follow Longview for .6 miles to the Bamboo Brook entrance on the left.

**Upcoming Watnong Programs:**  
**September 12- to be announced**  
**October 18- Joyce Fingerut , "Spring in the Mountains of Central Asia"**  
**November 14,-Members Only Annual Meeting, Donald Leopold, "Native Plants of the Northeast"**

**Time to think about being a seed donor!** Although we're still excited to see each tiny flower that braves the early spring cold, your garden will soon be in full bloom. Consider spending a few minutes now preparing for the days when those blooms are finished and precious seeds may be available. A pail of brown paper lunch bags and a Sharpie or pencil tucked in the corner of your garage or potting shed makes for quick collection of seed pods in the busy early summer. You'll have until late October to clean and package them

for the NARGS seed exchange. Donors receive an extra ten packets, and quick order processing!

**The Watnong Chapter now has an on-line presence!** To check on scheduled meetings and more, visit the NARGS website, [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org), and look for 'Local Chapters' under the tab 'About Us'. The site is available to everyone, regardless of membership at the national level.

Mary Masilimani would like to inform everyone of the upcoming **Native Orchid Conference to be held in Gorham, New Hampshire, June 1-4, 2015.** Field trips that time of year are likely to include some Alpine flowers as well! More information is available at <http://www.nativeorchidconference.info/conferences.html>.

The deadline for submissions for our next newsletter is May 1, 2015.

## **NEWS FROM NARGS**

Janet Novak, the Program Chair of the Delaware Valley Chapter of NARGS, would like to invite Watnong Chapter members to a talk by NARGS tour speaker, Dieter Zschummel, Thursday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Plymouth Meeting, a few minutes off the Pennsylvania Turnpike north of Philadelphia.

Dieter's talk will be "**In the Land of Dionysia and Imperial Crown: Plant**

**Exploration in Iran."** The Delaware Valley Chapter expects this will be an exciting talk, and wants to make it available to NARGS members in the region. They would also enjoy meeting members of the Watnong Chapter.

More details are on the Delaware Valley Chapter website, <http://www.dvcnargs.org/events>.

**The NARGS Annual Meeting will be sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 7 to 10, 2015.** Visit [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) to register. Registration forms appeared on pages 14- 16 of Growing Interest Winter 2015 Newsletter.

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear All,

Spring is finally upon us: it is time to roll up your sleeves and get out working on the garden. And while you are doing so, consider lifting and dividing a few perennials. You can donate extras that you might otherwise discard to the plant sale. Or, maybe you need to pull out those thugs and buy a few new plants. Again, the plant sale provides the opportunity to help fill the garden of another.

I will be at the plant sale with my wish list in hand. I know I always get to chat with most of you at some point in the day, and it's one of the reasons I look forward to our annual plant sale. Perhaps while we are chatting, someone

will decide to fulfill the Secretary position that is desperately needed for the executive board.

If you can't make it to the plant sale, hopefully I will see you at the Soirée or picnic. Our fall schedule of speakers is being finalized, and we have a few gems coming to visit our Chapter. I am looking forward to hearing from Joyce Fingerut and Donald Leopold.

As much as we're all looking forward to the snowmelt and spring, I'm happy to put it off for just a little bit longer. Just ask anybody who works in horticulture about springtime and you will soon realize that their private lives get put on hold. So, as I write this on the last weekend of March, I am heading north to the Tug Hill Plateau in New York to play and snowshoe just one more time. They still have 20 to 30 inches of snow; let's be grateful that we are seeing bare ground.

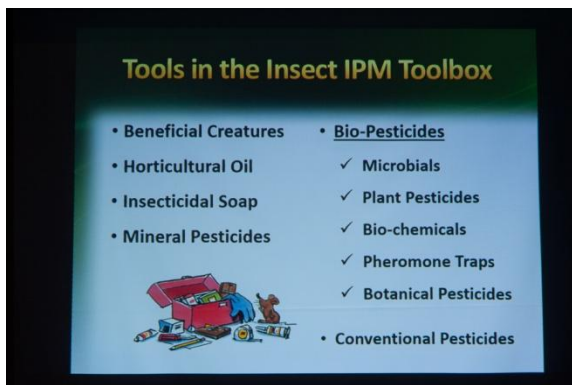
Regards,  
Mike

## **Our March Speaker: Paul Trader Presents Integrated Pest Management By Albert Martin**

Our March lecture covered Integrated Pest Management (IPM), as explained by Paul Trader, retired Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County, New York. IPM is a systematic



approach to managing pests, which focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pests with minimal impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms. The toolbox is large. The aim is not to eliminate all pests, but to live with them and limit their damage while not polluting the environment with chemicals.



The basic tools are beneficial creatures, various oils and soaps, biopesticides and conventional pesticides. All were discussed in detail. His hope is that when we as gardeners are faced with an insect infestation, we will think about using some of the tools discussed in the lecture, rather than pulling out the can of insecticide and spraying indeterminately.

Almost the first quarter of the lecture was devoted to beneficial creatures, starting with those that may not at first sight appear to be beneficial. Birds, bats, snakes, frogs and mice should all be welcome in the garden, because they eat garden pests. Paul advocates gardening to attract beneficial creatures

to your garden. Birdfeeders are an easy way to bring beneficial birds, as well as color and sound to the yard. Growing the right plants will attract other beneficial creatures. Herbs, especially dill, fennel, caraway, borage, and hyssop, and flowers, in particular alyssum, flowering buckwheat, black-eyed susans, dwarf sunflowers, yarrow, cornflower, and bachelor buttons, and ornamental grasses all attract desirable insects, birds, and mammals to the garden.

Lady beetles, for example, are well known to protect a garden. Lacewings reproduce five or six times per season, and attack soft-bodied insects in larval stage, while living on pollen & nectar in the adult stage. Syrphid flies eat aphids, controlling those pests. As adults they also eat pollen and nectar, thereby becoming pollinators.

Larger beneficial insects are praying mantids, predatory mites for spider mite infections, and daddy longlegs spiders. Mantids will eat almost any insect, good or bad. Spiders eat many insect pests, but will not control pests all by themselves. Underground helpers include beneficial nematodes, which attack larvae, caterpillars, grubs, maggots and some adult insects. The website for more information is: [www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05573.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05573.html). Cornell has a website that gives good information about the beneficial insects: [www.biocontrol.entomology.cornell.edu](http://www.biocontrol.entomology.cornell.edu). The guide currently contains

individual pages of over 100 natural enemies of pest species; Cornell envisions continual expansion of the list.

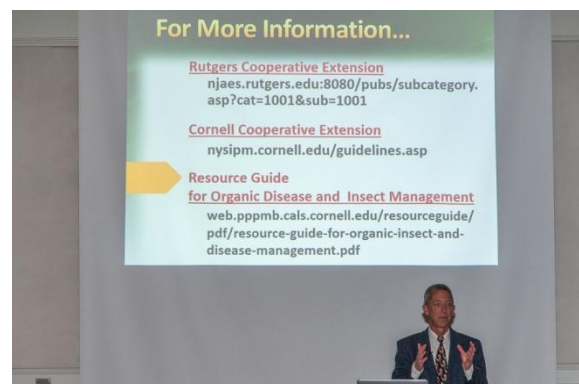
Moving from beneficial insects to insecticides, Paul listed three types: horticultural oils, insecticidal soap and mineral pesticides. Horticultural oils are highly refined petroleum oils. They smother aphids, scales, mealybugs, leafhoppers, white flies, mites and eggs. Check the label before applying, since they can induce phytotoxicity on certain trees either during dormant or growing season. Insecticidal soaps control soft-bodied insects. They work on contact, leaving no residual effect. However, they should not be made at home using store-bought soaps. Those soaps can have additives, which can cause problems when used in the field. Insecticidal soaps may also cause phytotoxicity to certain plants and trees. Paul listed two mineral pesticides: iron phosphate for slug control and diatomaceous earth, which is the fossilized shells of aquatic hard-shelled algae. It works by piercing the skin of soft-bodied insects.

Microbials are specific bacteria, fungi, virus, and protozoans that are very specific to the target. Biochemicals are naturally-occurring substances that control pest by non-toxic mechanisms. Examples are pheromone traps and botanical insecticides, such as pyrethrum, rotenone and neem.

IPM also has tools and suggestion for disease management: start with resistant varieties, provide good air circulation and avoid crowding. Prune to remove diseased portions; water early in the day so that the water does not sit on the plant overnight. He recommended some web sites for additional information: the University of Connecticut plant database, [www.hort.uconn.edu/plants](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants), and Cornell's recommended vegetable varieties for gardeners in New York State:

[www.gardening.cornell.edu/vegetables/vegvar.pdf](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/vegetables/vegvar.pdf).

Two tools for biological control were discussed: *Bacillus subtilis* and chitosan. *Bacillus subtilis* is a naturally-occurring bacteria commonly found in soil, water and decomposing plant material. It disrupts pathogen growth, while being "relatively benign" to humans, other mammals, and birds. Chitosan is a plant growth enhancer, which boosts a plant's ability to defend itself against fungal infections. Both are readily available under various trade names.



Paul's presentation was helpful to all gardeners attending, regardless of the size of one's garden, and a great way to prepare for the coming year.

## OUT AND ABOUT

**Two Watnong member gardens will welcome visitors through the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program on Saturday, April 25.**

**Woodlove, Garden of John and Lainie Beavin 103 Green Oaks Road Glen Gardner, NJ will be open from 12 noon until 4 p.m.** Admission is \$7. From Lainie and John: "Our garden, predominantly shade with native and naturalized wildflowers and bulbs, consists of a series of garden rooms and woodland paths over six acres enclosed in a double deer fence. It was created from a woodland over a thirty-five-year period while building our stone house. Like all gardens, it is still in progress. There are perennial gardens, ferns, hosta, clethra, and daylily collections, inviting benches, a hypertufa "room", a pergola, an attached greenhouse, a tiny frog pond, and garden steps between levels. In 2004, Ivan the Terrible flooded through the property. To remedy this, there is now a 150-foot stream with a waterfall to carry the run-off terminating in a frog pond. Please stop

for light refreshment on the breezeway. We look forward to welcoming you."

**Directions to Woodlove:** From I-78, take Exit 17. Go north on Route 31 for 5.6 miles to fourth traffic light at Glen Manor Drive. Turn right onto School Street and then turn right onto Main Street (about 0.1 mile). Take first left onto Hill Road. After 1.1 miles, turn left onto Spruce Run Road, which ends in a "T" 0.8 mile later. Turn right onto Red Mill Road; go 0.4 mile and bear right. Go 0.5 mile more and turn right onto Green Oaks Road. The driveway is first left; gate will be open. The driveway is a circle; bear to right around circle and park behind last car, off to right.

**Also open April 25, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., is The Hay Honey Farm, 130 Stevens Lane, in Far Hills.** Admission is \$7. The Hay Honey Farm is located roughly between Willowwood Arboretum in Chester Township and The Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills. Why not make April 25 a day of garden visits and garden shopping?

**Directions to The Hay, Honey Farm:** From I-95/New Jersey Turnpike, take I-78 West. Then take I-287 North to Exit 22B (or Exit 22 if coming from north). Stay on Route 206 North. At fourth traffic light, turn right onto Holland Avenue. At end, turn left onto Peapack Road. Turn right onto Willow Avenue. Go 1 mile and turn left onto Branch Road. Follow signs to garden.



## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



### BUNNY FERN FARM

16 Acken Rd, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
 120+ Species of Native & Tropical  
 Ferns raised from spores or divisions  
 Visits by appointment only.  
 908-903-1441

### 2015 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

|            |                |              |                         |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Chair      | Michael Wilson | 973-328-3723 | miwilson@ramapo.edu     |
| Vice Chair | Sid Jones      | 973-366-7241 | sidjones@verizon.net    |
| Treasurer  | Caroline Ford  | 973-993-9426 | Carolineford7@gmail.com |
| Secretary  | Position Open! |              |                         |

### 2015 WATNONG COMMITTEES

|                           |                   |                  |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Membership                | Sid Jones         | 973-366-7241     | sidjones@verizon.net                         |
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| Plant Sale Co-Chair       | Melissa Grossmann | 908-604-8060     | donmliss@msn.com                             |
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| Newsletter<br>Photography | Albert Martin     | 908-403-0029     | AlbertMartin@<br>AlbertMartinPhotography.com |
| Newsletter                | Hilary Clayton    | 908-781-2521     | hilaryhclayton@gmail.com                     |

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**THE WATNONG CHAPTER  
NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY  
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Far Hills, NJ 07931**

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