



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XLII ✧ Summer 2018 ✧ Number 5 ✧

## Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, September 15, 10 a.m.**

**Frelinghuysen Arboretum**

**Speaker Jessica Walliser, 'Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden'**

**Sunday, October 21, 10 a.m.**

**Frelinghuysen Arboretum**

**Speaker John Lonsdale, 'Fall Bulbs-Untapped Treasures'**

**Please bring a friend, your favorite warm beverage, and a finger snack to share!**

## OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Jessica Walliser co-hosts "The Organic Gardeners" on KDKA-Radio in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is a former contributing editor for *Organic Gardening* magazine and a regular contributor to *Fine Gardening*, *Urban Farm*, and *Hobby Farms* magazines. Her weekly gardening columns for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* have been enjoyed by readers for over eight years. Her fourth book, *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to the Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control*, was released by Timber Press in January of 2014, and was

named one of the Top 12 Gardening Books by *Martha Stewart Living* magazine in March of 2015. It was also awarded the American Horticultural Society's Book Award.

The former owner of a 25-acre organic market farm, Jessica received her degree in Ornamental Horticulture from The Pennsylvania State University. She's taught a diverse array of gardening topics for over 20 years and is a former faculty member of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

She is author of the Amazon best seller *Good Bug, Bad Bug: Who's Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically*, and blogs weekly for both [Savvygardening.com](http://Savvygardening.com) and [HobbyFarms.com](http://HobbyFarms.com).

As owner of Ironweed Apparel, Jessica is working to unite fashion and gardening at long last by providing gardeners with hip, funky urban farming and gardening tee shirts that let you grow in style.

Jessica lives and gardens northwest of Pittsburgh with her husband and son, six chickens, two cats, two hermit crabs, and billions and billions of very good bugs.

Please join us, and bring a friend!

## NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER

Many thanks to Dorothy Wright and Melissa Grossmann for their coordination of the annual soiree at the Rudolph W. Van Der Goot Rose Garden at Colonial Park. Watnong member Judy Glattstein has kindly offered this link to share her photos of the evening:

[Soirée at Colonial Park Rose Garden](#)

The annual picnic was cancelled, and although the cancellation email stated that the picnic was cancelled 'due to lack of interest', your editor feels that doesn't tell the whole story; we are an organization of busy people with diverse interests and responsibilities.

Attendance at the soiree and picnic has been dropping over the past few years, and while the board can guess at the reasons, some feedback from the membership would be very helpful. Please consider answering these questions at a survey site: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfunTWwcShBBgcd3napOhP\\_747aiS--1peHtdMj9mESrJID4g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfunTWwcShBBgcd3napOhP_747aiS--1peHtdMj9mESrJID4g/viewform?usp=sf_link), (this form will not record your email address) or you can answer these via e-mail to [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com), or print and drop your answers at the sign in table at our next meeting

1. Was the soiree too far away? How many miles away from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum would you

be willing to travel for events?

2. Was the date and time difficult?

Are weekends better than weekdays?

3. Does the location influence your decision to attend? Would you be more or less likely to attend if an event was held in a public garden, private garden, or a members' backyard? In a related thought, would you be less likely to attend if an event was held in a garden we'd already visited?

4. Is the social or horticultural aspect of the event of greater importance to you?

5. What would encourage you, or make it easier to attend, work sessions for the rock garden renovation at the Laurelwood Arboretum? If you haven't ever attended a work session, why not?

Please take a moment to share your thoughts with us.

**We are still a NARGS Chapter without a Chair!** Please consider if you would be willing and able to:

- Conduct the general meetings of the chapter.
- Conduct board meetings- at least once a year, at the Chair's discretion – currently we meet five times a year, an hour before our regular meetings.
- Oversee the committees of the Chapter: Program, Membership, Newsletter, & Plant Sale.
- Act as liaison to the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, to schedule our meetings.
- Attend the annual Plant Sale and other Chapter events, if possible.

- Represent the Chapter for all business conducted by the North American Rock Garden Society.

Your Chapter needs you! Please consider stepping up to lead.

### Save the dates!

With thanks to Program Chair Noel Schulz, here is the fall 2018 Watnong Chapter Speaker list:

10/21/18, John Lonsdale, Edgewood Gardens, 'Fall Bulbs- Untapped Treasures'

11/17/18, Hubert Ling, Native Plant Society, 'Shade Gardening: Native Wildflowers & Ferns'

## NEWS FROM NARGS

**The annual Tri-State Meeting** for 2018, sponsored by the Manhattan and Hudson Valley Chapters, will be held Saturday, October 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Ross Hall at New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

The speaker is Vojtech Holubec. His first talk will be 'Tian Shan -- Celestial Mountains, land of burning sun and cooling ice'. From Vojtech's new book, the talk will show the whole Tian Shan, from its western ridges in Uzbekistan over Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, on to its ending in far-off Xinjiang China. These mountains have vast glaciers, yet are

surrounded by several large deserts. The beauty and diversity of Tian Shan will be displayed in photos of the principal ridges and their plants, and the talk will include general information on the region useful for growing these alpine beauties.

The second lecture will be 'Southwestern China -- Yunnan, Sechuan, Qinhai, heaven of alpine flowers'. Southwestern China is thought to have the highest diversity of alpine plants in the world, with Yunnan and Sechuan alone having more than two-thirds of Chinese flora. The talk will focus on late summer and autumn in some of the ridges richest in diversity, with particular emphasis on *Gentians* in full bloom. In Vojtech's words: "The diversity is so rich that you cannot walk, only move on your knees with a camera!"

Judi Dumont, the coordinator for the Tri-State, would appreciate donations of special plants and books for the auction and raffle held at the meeting. If you would like to contribute auction or raffle items, please contact her at [judi.dumont@gmail.com](mailto:judi.dumont@gmail.com).

### NARGS Seed Ex Distribution

Watnong members may recall that for the past few Decembers our chapter has worked with Phase 2 of the NARGS Seed Exchange, packing seeds. In spite of the fact that we don't have a chapter chair, we are one of the largest and most active chapters of NARGS, and for 2019 and 2020 we've been asked to

handle the main distribution of seeds to members instead.

The main distribution of seeds begins in late December with the receipt of packaged seeds from the various chapters. Seed orders arrive via e-mail and paper mail, and orders are fulfilled throughout the month of January and into February. This year, the Sierra Chapter filled 596 orders in 16 work sessions, with the help of 19 volunteers overall, far fewer orders than in years past, when orders reached 1500 or more.

The Leonard J. Buck Garden will allow us to use the Jordan House. We'll be able to use the Jordan House every day of the week, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We'll decide which days of the week to meet based on which days have the most volunteers available, with a bit of flexibility to allow for uncertain weather. Currently the plan is to meet two days during the week and one or both days on the weekend. In order for the Watnong chapter to fulfill this critical role in the seed exchange, we will need a team: for example, someone to handle the computer work, printing out the electronic orders and entering the mailed-in orders, plus keeping stats on orders filled, which can be done at or after the work sessions. Another person can handle the logistics of the seeds: setting up the boxes of packets, keeping them tidy as the stocks are depleted, making additional packets as needed. A third (or more!) person can oversee the mailing of the filled orders by addressing the shipping envelopes,

filling out customs forms for Canadian/overseas members' orders (this can be done online), and toting filled orders to the post office, which also can be done outside the work sessions.

General volunteers, who come for a few hours at a time, can handle the filling of the individual orders. These volunteers don't necessarily have to be NARGS or chapter members; the staff at The Leonard J. Buck Garden has helped in the past, and has expressed a willingness to do so again. We anticipate sessions to set up the space in mid- late December, a start to the distribution in early January, and a completion by mid-February.

**If you would be interested in helping to run the seed distribution, please contact Hilary Clayton at 908-781-2521 or [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com).**

## IT GREW FOR ME!

### *Lilium superbum*

#### **Photo and text by Sid Jones**

This is a story about a benefit of gardening by benign neglect. In 1998 I purchased five bulbs of *Lilium superbum*. They were planted in a partially shaded location on sloping ground. They struggled and struggled, seldom exceeding four to five feet in height with a few flowers, but after a few years they were all dead.

and have similar sun exposure. The lesson to ponder: don't be too aggressive in weeding and mulching. You never know what may decide to be happy for you if you provide a nursery for seeds and seedlings!

## OUT AND ABOUT

Three local gardens will open as a benefit to The Garden Conservancy on Saturday, September 8, 2018: The Sterling Garden, 110 Bartley-Flanders Road, Flanders, The Hay, Honey Farm, 130 Stevens Lane, Far Hills, and Stone House Garden, directly next door to The Hay Honey Farm. Admission is \$7 per garden. For more information visit <http://www.opendaysprogram.org>

## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



### Coopers Hollow Farm

specializes in native plants with people-pleasing qualities; pollinator friendly and ecologically beneficial. We offer selections of flowering perennials and shrubs, understory trees, shade grasses for dry to wet areas, ferns, and ground covers. Smaller sizes are available for mass plantings. Coopers Hollow is a NJ



About the same time I discovered some lily seedlings in another bed about 15 feet away from the spot where I had planted my purchased bulbs. In 2018, about 15 years later, I have one clump of *L. superbum* with 19 flowering stems, plus some too young to flower, and a second clump of three flowering stems. On July 21 there were over 100 flowers open at the same time, plus more buds. The tallest stem is at least ten feet high. There is very little difference in the growing conditions at the two spots. Both are undisturbed by grading and consist of the soil present when we moved to our house in 1970 plus compost added randomly over the years. They are near the top of a slope

registered nursery located in Bernardsville, using only organic practices (not certified). We are open by appointment only. For requests and availability, contact: [CoopersHollowFarm@yahoo.com](mailto:CoopersHollowFarm@yahoo.com)

If you would like to place an ad here, send copy to the Newsletter Editor, [hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryh.clayton@gmail.com).

Deadline for inclusion in our Fall Newsletter is September 16, 2018.

### 2018 WATNONG CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair	Please Consider	Your Name Here!	
Vice Chair	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Treasurer	Don Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Secretary	Debi Graf	201-919-0749	DGRAFatHome@aol.com

### 2018 WATNONG COMMITTEES

Membership & Distribution	Sid Jones	973-366-7241	rsj40jr@icloud.com
Programs	Noel Schulz	201-445-6445	noelschulz@verizon.net
Program Committee	Brian Coleman	973-325-3453	bell.coleman@verizon.net
Program Committee	Lainie Beavin	908-537-4448	beavin@embarqmail.com
Digital Projector	Michael Wilson	862-397-9339	miwilson@ramapo.edu
Publicity	Carolyn Iglesias	973-763-3275	mushroomhouse1@optonline.net
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Jim Avens	908-234-2677x 22	javens@scparcs.org
Plant Sale Co-Chair	Melissa Grossmann	908-604-8060	donmliss@msn.com
Newsletter	Hilary Clayton	908-781-2521	hilaryhclayton@gmail.com



**If you print this newsletter, please recycle it when you're finished.**

**THE WATNONG CHAPTER  
NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY  
c/o The Leonard J. Buck Garden  
11 Layton Road  
Far Hills, NJ 07931**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**