



# Growing Interests

Watnong Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society  
✧ Volume XXXIX ✧ Winter 2015 ✧ Number 1 ✧

## Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, February 14, 2015, 10 a.m.**  
**Frelinghuysen Arboretum**  
**Judy Glattstein will present**  
**'Little Bulbs for Rock and Woodland Gardens'**

**Sunday, March 15, 2015, 10 a.m.**  
**Frelinghuysen Arboretum**  
**Paul Trader presents**  
**'Principles of Integrated Pest Management for the Home Landscape'**

**Bring a friend, your favorite winter branch or blossom, a warm beverage, and a snack to share.**



Some of the speakers at our Annual Meeting, November 15, 2014: from left, Frank Goodheart, Mike Wilson, Sid Jones, Mary Masilamani, and Noel Schulz. Photo by Albert Martin.

## Our February Speaker

Judy Glattstein has been a popular instructor for many years at The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY, teaching certificate level and required classes for the School of Professional Horticulture, as well as personal enrichment classes. She also taught at Rutgers Gardens, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, and continues to speak at their annual Home Gardeners School program. She has lectured across the United States and abroad to garden clubs, horticultural societies, and professional organizations on a wide variety of horticultural topics. She also served as curator for *Buried Treasures: The Nature and Art of Bulbs* exhibition in the William D. Rondina and



*Eranthis pinnatifida*, photo by Judy Glattstein

Giovanni Foroni LoFaro Gallery at the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden. She is the author of many garden books, among them *Bulbs for Garden Habitats*, published by Timber Press, and *Flowering Bulbs for Dummies*, published by IDG Books.

Judy will present 'Little Bulbs for Rock and Woodland Gardens'. In her own words: Lumpy brown packages buried underground that conceal a rainbow of flowers, bulbs are the clever method plants have developed to allow them to survive hard times, be they winter cold or summer drought. They are hardy, tender, and flower in spring, summer, fall, or winter. Native to the arid steppes of central Asia, the Mediterranean region, South African Cape - and the forests of North America, bulbs are a wonderful addition to any garden. Fall bulbs, small bulbs, rock garden bulbs. Judy's lecture will explore a diversity of familiar and less well known bulbs to beautify and enhance our gardens.

Please join us, and bring a friend!

## **NEWS FROM THE WATNONG CHAPTER**

**Annual dues for 2015 are now post due!** If you haven't paid yours yet, send them to **Sid Jones, 123 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869**. Checks should be made payable to **Watnong**

**Chapter NARGS.** Dues remain at \$10 per person or \$15 per family.

## **The Laurelwood Arboretum South Rock Garden Project Update**

Several members indicated an interest in helping to choose plants for the Laurelwood project. Any interested members may meet with Pam Wilson after the February 14 meeting to help compose a plant list for the design. Please consider if your plant selections are hardy in New Jersey both in winter, when we don't always have reliable snow cover, and in summer, where hazy, hot, and humid weather is all too often the norm. Are any of your selections aggressive spreaders that might quickly spread out of control, or self seed all over the place? These are NOT the plants we want! Most of our choices will need to be short, tough, and well behaved. They must like sun, and a few- those at the bottom of the garden- will need to be able to take wet feet in the winter and spring. Where might the plants be purchased, or can they be obtained through division, cuttings, or seedlings? Please have your selections on paper with sources, or email them to Pam at [doubledaywilson@icloud.com](mailto:doubledaywilson@icloud.com).

**Save the date! Meetings are scheduled for 2015 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on:**  
**Saturday, February 14**  
**Sunday, March 15**  
**Saturday, September 12**  
**Sunday, October 18**

**Saturday, November 14.**

**The plant sale will be held April 24 and 25, 2015, at the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills.**

**We do not yet have a date or host for either the Soiree or summer picnic; if you'd like to share your garden, or coordinate the party, please contact Mike Wilson.**

**A big THANK YOU to Roxanne Hilz, and her assistant Wing Yee Pavlosky, who coordinated the luncheon for our Annual Meeting.** Thanks also to members who presented their garden adventures with us: Joanne Knapp, *Native American Primroses*, Sid Jones, *Travels in Africa*, Noel Schulz, *Hikes in Glacier National Park*, Mary Masilamani, *Singapore Botanic Garden*, Frank Goodheart, *Gardening in a Forest*, Albert Martin, *Vacation as a Volunteer Naturalist*, Hilary Clayton, *Nicaragua's Elfin Forest*, Mike Wilson, *Uzbekistan's Food Security Conference*, and Bob Iglesias, who shared some of his very unique experiences growing prehistoric plants.

**Some Chapter business news** from the Annual Meeting: Treasurer Caroline Ford reported that our opening balance for 2014 was \$21,435. Membership dues were \$590 and the Plant Sale profit was \$4802, bringing our total income to \$5392. Our total expenses were \$2722: \$4780 for hospitality, \$1050 for programs, \$322 for insurance, \$94 for administration, \$125 for the newsletter, and \$350 for two years' rent. We

donated \$1676 to the Laurelwood Arboretum. Our net inflow was \$994, giving us a balance of \$22,249. Value of plants to Buck Gardens is \$386; our bank balance as of 11/14/14 was \$22,815. Sid Jones gave a membership report: in 2014, we had 108 members, which makes Watnong one of the largest chapters in NARGS. Still, we'd be happy to welcome new friends, and welcome suggestions to improve our outreach and increase membership.

**Marta McDowell has agreed to share the recipe for the cookies she brought to the Annual Meeting!** The recipe is from Carolyn Lydon, formerly the Director of Horticulture at the Reeves Reed Arboretum, hence the cookie name.

#### **Carolyn's Cookies**

½ pound (2 sticks) butter

1 cup brown sugar

Salted saltines (don't use unsalted!)

Large bag chocolate chips (Marta likes dark chocolate)

1 cup chopped nuts

Line a jelly roll pan (small cookie sheet) with parchment paper and layout crackers in a single layer. On stove, melt butter and sugar in a small pan and bring to boiling. Boil 3 minutes. Pour on top of crackers. Put pan in oven for 10 minutes. Take out and turn oven off. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top of cracker layer. Put back in oven for one minute. Spread chocolate with a spatula and sprinkle nuts on top. Press nuts into cookies (I use a flat spatula).

Cool and refrigerate overnight, then break up into pieces in the morning and store in the fridge. These freeze well, too!

Marta has made variations with graham crackers, peanut butter chips, and different kinds of nuts. The recipe is easy, but beware- the results are addictive.

**The Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum will sponsor a lecture with Fergus Garrett of Great Dixter on Saturday, February 14, at 3:30 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit [http://www.arboretumfriends.org/images/2015-1Winter/Fergus\\_Garrett\\_and\\_Great\\_Dixter.pdf](http://www.arboretumfriends.org/images/2015-1Winter/Fergus_Garrett_and_Great_Dixter.pdf)**

## **NEWS FROM NARGS**

**Thank you to all of the Watnong members who served as seed packers for the NARGS Seed Exchange:** Marta McDowell, Alice Wade, Lainey & John Beavin, Terrie Reid, Melissa Grossmann, Sid Jones, Mary Masilimani, and Michael, Hilary, and Adeline Clayton. Our assigned taxa were packaged and shipped to Phase III by December 13.

**The NARGS Annual Meeting will be sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter in Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 7 to 10, 2015.** See page 13 - 15 for details.

Albert Martin would like to remind everyone of the **NARGS Photo Contest**.

Capturing a beautiful picture of the transition from winter into spring can be challenging, and rewarding. In the Fall 2014 *Rock Garden Quarterly*, NARGS announced the rules for the 2015 photo contest. The submission deadline is April 15, 2015. There are six "classes": 1) The Rock Garden in Winter, 2) Portrait of a Plant in Cultivation, 3) Portrait of a Plant in the Wild, 4) Natural Scene with Plants, 5) Close-up or Macro of a Single Plant, and 6) North American Native Plant in the Wild or in Cultivation. The classes should be self-explanatory. For more information, see the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, Volume 72, No. 4, page 306.

Now is a great time to capture special moments in your garden in winter! Take out the camera, and snap away!

## **FROM THE WATNONG CHAIR**

Dear All,

I hope all of you had a pleasant and safe holiday season. So far the winter season does not compare to last year, and has been fairly average. Unfortunately, we are lacking last year's snow cover to protect and insulate our delicate plants. It is convenient to not have the snow cover, but I also miss it enough to go visit my friend's cabin in the Adirondacks near Whiteface Mountain to do some winter hiking.

I am sure many of you, like me, are thinking about the upcoming growing season, and are now starting to make wish lists of plants you may want to

add to your garden. Please keep in mind that we have a wonderful plant sale every year, and some of those plants that we yearn for may be available at the sale. In purchasing plants for your garden at the sale you are not only helping to support the chapter but you are also receiving a healthy, well grown plant that is ready to go into your garden.

If you don't have plans for your garden yet, we have two spring programs that may inspire you. Judy Glatstein will be our February speaker, and she will show us a variety of bulbs and how to utilize them in your garden. That same afternoon, the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum are sponsoring a lecture and presentation with Fergus Garrett of Great Dixter, to stimulate you with even more garden ideas. No matter how careful we are with our plant selection and culture, sometimes we still have unwanted pests. In March, Paul Trader, another instructor from NYBG, will discuss Integrated Pest management and review the current organic pesticides that are available, along with the effectiveness of each product for common disease and insect problems.

In addition to all of that, it's time to be planning the South Rock Garden at the Laurelwood Arboretum. We will be setting a date to plant the garden in late spring probably sometime in May. It promises to be a busy and productive spring season for all of us!

Regards,  
Michael Wilson

## Highlights of Our Annual Meeting, November 2014

### Native American Primroses

By Joann Knapp

Joann's slides pictured six native American Primroses that she photographed while she and Fred were hiking into rather remote areas with other dedicated plant people. Starting in the North Eastern United States, she showed Bird's- Eye Primrose, *Primula mistassinica*, growing on the slick ice-scraped sides of the St. John's River in northern Maine. With its tiny pale pink flowers, the diminutive Birds-Eye Primrose survives in this harsh environment along with its far more famous companion, the Furbish Lousewort, *Pedicularis furbishiae*.

In South Park, on the outskirts of Fairplay, Colorado, in a Nature Conservancy property inhabited by "loose stock", as well as Cotton Grass and *Dodecathion pulchellus*, grew *Primula egaliksensis*, a tiny lavender- pink primrose.

Directed to the area by a local truck driver, the Knapps were admiring this tiny disjunct population of rare primroses while unbeknownst to them, they were being surrounded by very large and rather intimidating range cattle who were expecting food.

On the Pesman Trail on Mt. Evans in Colorado, *Primula angustifolia* grew on the rocky slopes with other enchanting

alpines such as *Sedum*, *Eritrichium*, and *Hymenoxys*.

Despite prior guidance from California native Ted Kipping, the Knapps' first search for *Primula suffrutescens* along Frog and Winnamucca Lakes Trail in Northern California was without success. Luckily, a later NARGS annual meeting out of Lake Tahoe had scheduled a hike into the area primarily to see this rare Primrose and the Knapps finally got to see and photograph this "rare but locally abundant" bright, shrubby, rosy pink primrose.



*Primula parryi*; slide by Joann Knapp, photographed by Albert Martin

Another NARGS annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, featured hikes into the Wasatch Mountains. This was a new habitat for the Knapps and provided their first sighting of *Primula parryi* growing on limestone rock near Bald Mountain.

During a six week retirement vacation to Alaska spent with friends Verna and Frank Pratt, the Knapps spent a day in Arctic Valley, outside Anchorage, where they were delighted

to find, tucked into the low growing landscape, *Primula cuneifolia* with its bright pink flowers and toothed leaves. On a trip sponsored by the New England Wild Flower Society, the Knapps had also admired this circumpolar plant in the Slovak High Tatras.

## African Safari

### Photo & Text By Sid Jones



I selected this photo as my favorite from my presentation, because it is an example of the visual experience of a safari drive in both East and Southern Africa. First there is the focal point, in this case the male impala, with the sun reflecting off his horns. He is standing in typical plant growth: grasses, low broadleaf plants, and the seed heads of *Leonotis*, probably *L. leonurus*, which is an introduced garden plant in Europe and N. America. The haze is typical of early morning in East Africa in September. In the background are Acacia trees, a herd of Thomson's gazelles and low hills. This is the essence of a safari in Africa for me. Of

course there are many rare and endangered species of mammals and birds to see, spectacular scenery and fascinating people to encounter. A close-up of a cheetah does not deliver the experience of Africa as this photo does.

Marty and I were lucky enough to visit Botswana in 1971, visiting her sister and brother-in-law who were in the Peace Corps. We fell in love with what we did and saw then, and have taken three additional safaris in recent years. I wanted to share our enthusiasm with Watnong members. Most people think of exotic animals when they think of an African safari. We have seen many, some of which we had never heard of--the Aardwolf, for example. A safari will take you far beyond animals. The birds are astounding, the scenery gorgeous, and the plant life new and different. The diversity and complexity of African culture, ethnicity and language are both overwhelming and exhilarating. We think the best way to experience all these aspects of Africa is via small group travel (10-15 people), utilizing small camps and lodges in or near National Parks, with opportunities to visit villages, schools and markets.

## **Hikes in Glacier National Park**

### **Photo & Text by Noel Schulz**

I spent seven days hiking at Glacier National Park in Montana with my

brother this past August. We stayed six nights at Many Glacier Hotel on the east side of the park, and one night at Lake McDonald Lodge on the west side of the park- we booked this lodge for our last night in the park for convenience to the airport in Kalispell.



**The Grinnell Glacier**

This was my fourth visit to Glacier, my favorite of the national parks. We hiked from 8 to 13 miles each day, with elevation gains of 1,200 to 2,500 feet each hike. These hikes either started from our lodging or were a short drive away.

We started our hikes early in the morning, 7:30 a.m., to avoid the crowds. We chose trails for the dramatic views of mountains, valleys, lakes and jagged terrain, chance of seeing wildlife, rock formations, flora, and desire to see the last of the glaciers. Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, and Grouse greeted us on the trails. Some of the wildlife can become a nuisance - a Golden Mounted Ground Squirrel searched our bags for food! I was happy not to come across

any Grizzly Bears, which can attack if threatened.

If you have an opportunity to visit Glacier National Park, I recommend hiking to Ptarmigan Tunnel, the Highline Trail from Logan Pass, and the Grinnell Glacier Trail. The views and wildlife on these trails are unforgettable.



**Singapore Botanical Gardens**  
**Photo and Text by Mary**  
**Masilamani**

Several years ago my husband and I spent two sixteen hour layovers in Singapore while traveling between

Newark and Chennai (formerly Madras), India. On our way to India, Changi Airport was decorated for Christmas, and on the way back the decorations were all for that day's Chinese New Year's holiday. Orchids and other flowers are planted throughout the airport's large shopping area and other public spaces and little children delight in the Koi ponds.

The highlight of our visit was the Singapore Botanical Gardens Orchid Garden, where orchids were used as bedding plants. The Gardens are a quiet, peaceful haven in a modern, fast-paced city, and the orchids were gorgeous, especially as bedding plants. Connections from Changi Airport to the gardens are easy, and English is one of Singapore's four official languages, so there's no language problem finding your way around. When I had the film from the trip developed I realized that one photo of a dignified local couple strolling through the gardens expresses much of why we love gardens and plants.

**Nicaragua's Elfin Forest**  
**Text & Photos by Hilary Clayton**

My husband Michael and I visited Nicaragua July 8 – 16, 2014. Nicaragua's population is about 6 million people; about a fifth of the country is protected as a national park, biological reserve, or nature reserve. We spent our visit in the Pacific Lowlands region, where

temperatures are between 80-90F year round, 40- 60" of rain fall annually, and day length ranges within 51 minutes of 12 hours all year 'round. Usually, early July is the start of the rainy season, but rains were delayed this year. Given the timing of our trip, we weren't expecting to see much in the way of tropical blossoms, but we were pleasantly surprised to find plenty of color. It was difficult to tell whether we were seeing native or naturalized plants; the climate allows for good growth of plants native to India, Africa, China and Nepal. As always, travel is a great educator; on this, my first visit to a tropical climate, I gained real appreciation for the struggle begonias and jasmines have in the conditions I can provide them with.



**The 'elfin forest' on Mombacho Volcano**

One of our 'nature' excursions of the trip was to the Mombacho Volcano Nature Reserve. Our tour drove up into the park, to a hiking loop through the cloud forest on Mombacho Volcano, elevation 4400 ft. The volcano is considered dormant and last erupted in 1570. The Orchids within the cloud forest were past bloom, but the trees

literally dripped with ferns and bromeliads- our guide estimated a large tree might hold over fifty species.



**A closer view of the orange spots at left: the Hummingbird Orchid, *Epidendrum radicans*, still in bloom in July.**

The most unexpected part of our tour occurred when we suddenly emerged from the trees onto an open hillside. Our guide described the area as an 'elfin forest'- continuous high winds keep the growth low. I've topped tree line while hiking many times, but never expected to do so in a tropical climate!

## **What I did on my Summer Vacation**

**Text and Photos by Albert Martin**

This is the story of my summer vacation as a volunteer naturalist for the Appalachian Mountain Club at one of AMC's "high huts", the Mizpah Hut, in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

AMC takes very seriously its self-imposed obligation to educate hikers about nature. AMC hires a naturalist to work in each of their huts and buildings

open for guests. These naturalists are employees of AMC and, as such, cannot work more than 40 hours per week. To fill in the gaps, AMC actively recruits volunteers. I am one of those volunteers.



My job as a volunteer naturalist at Mizpah Hut is to meet and greet the hikers as they come into the hut in the afternoon; answer any and all questions they might have; and make certain that the hikers are prepared for whatever they may encounter on the trails.

After dinner I give a 45 to 60 minute talk about nature, on any subject that I choose. I give a shortened version of the talk I presented to Watnong a few years ago, *The Plants of the Alpine Zone*. How can you not love a job like that! Plus, after all the hikers have left the hut, I am free to roam, and I did.

On the third day of my shift, an AMC guided tour of the alpine area stayed at Mizpah. I looked forward to meeting the group and listening to the stories of their discoveries in the Alpine Zone. Just after dinner I gave my little spiel about how wonderful my

upcoming talk would be, and closed with a teaser about *Potentilla robbinsiana*.

You may recall from previous lectures at Watnong meetings that the tiny flower, *Potentilla robbinsiana*, Robbins' Cinquefoil, was brought back from almost certain extinction by the AMC. AMC' work has inspired other nature organizations to attempt reestablishment of other endangered species in their former habitats. Unfortunately, during the 2014 hiking season, *Potentilla robbinsiana* apparently went MISSING! The AMC tour group, including the two naturalists, exclaimed that the flower was nowhere to be found.

Well, not exactly. The flower's true habitat is off limits to hikers. AMC had constructed a "viewing garden" next to the trail, and it was these plants that were missing. I searched for more information; it took over a month to get the story.

Per Mr. Doug Weihrauch, AMC staff ecologist: He had been up to the Lakes Hut and located the viewing garden. As of late summer 2014, two of the original plants were still growing there. None of the naturalists at AMC's Lakes of The Cloud Hut had known where these plants were. As of late fall 2014, he was debating whether or not AMC should plant a few more plants in the viewing area. If he chooses to plant more plants, they will be supplied by William Brumback and New England Wildflower Society. I plan to talk to all the naturalists during this year's upcoming training. I want to be certain

that the location is known by AMC as an institution, not just by a few of the employees.

That is my summer vacation story. I worked as a naturalist at AMC's Mizpah Hut, hiked the trails around the hut, helped re-locate *Potentilla robbinsiana*, and discovered that the White Mountains continue to hold surprises for me. How can you not love a vacation like that?



*Potentilla robbinsiana*

## Garden Visitation Abroad By Ruby Weinberg

Visiting superb gardens abroad can be, for many of us, some of the most exciting experiences in our lives. However, we who love plants may find it difficult to leave home during our growing season. Why not then, consider a few weeks' trip any time from September to November to the southern hemisphere country of South Africa? Happily, this is the time of the year-spring down under- when airfare from New York to Johannesburg is usually at its lowest. It is also the season when many parts of South Africa are awash in color.

Although it has been quite a few years since Martin and I conducted our own private tour of this country, we will never forget the flora that we encountered... an amazing mixture of native wildflowers and cultivated varieties. In spite of its political problems the country boasts may botanical preserves as well as private gardens of exceptional beauty. While the year round climate in most parts of South Africa is considerably milder than here in New Jersey, thus severely limiting the South African natives that we can grow, it is invigorating to discover how much floral beauty there is in the world. Given at least six months before your trip, you can bone up on some of the cultivated and wild species that grow there as well as the large number of magnificent gardens in which they are displayed. Your public library may contain several books on the topic, a few of which are 'Garden Beauty of South Africa' by Sima Eliovson and any of Una Van Der Spuy's books on gardening in her country. A good travel agency specializing in South Africa should be able to suggest more recent books on this topic.

Planning such a trip means deciding where the best natural scenery is, as well as the greatest number of exceptional home gardens. My two part article in Dig-itmag.com, [http://www.dig-itmag.com/features/pleasures\\_story/561\\_070C/](http://www.dig-itmag.com/features/pleasures_story/561_070C/), describes our detailed itinerary for this trip, and includes a description of the world famous

Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden plus several other botanical preserves. South Africa has about ten! It also includes a summary of several magnificent private gardens that we visited. Long before leaving home, I wrote to some of these garden owners and asked for permission to visit. For example, a letter to Mrs. Oppenheimer about her estate, Brenthurst, in Johannesburg, assured us that her famous garden is sometimes open to the public. Her landscape designer, Beth Still, brought us there in her car for two days of visitation. Amazingly, observing our intense interest in ornamental plants, she also took us to see several other superb gardens in the Johannesburg area. Her hospitality was unforgettable.

If you are able to drive on the left side of the road, as Martin does, then you may not need to book your car rental with a South African agency here in the states. Go directly to them in the area you want to explore.

From Johannesburg, we flew east in a small plane staying at several safari camps where we got to observe many of Africa's wild beasts. However, as exciting as it was, safari trips are not an essential part of a garden tour!

Returning to Johannesburg, we then flew southwest to Cape Town where we had booked a rental car and hotel reservation. A word of caution: if your arrival at the airport destination is at night, it may mean night driving- which is best avoided. It can be all too tricky,

possibly dangerous, in an unknown area in an unfamiliar automobile. Rather, have your car delivered to you at your hotel the next morning.

The most important part of our trip included several days of visiting the world famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden as well as various- and magnificent- private gardens in the Cape Town area. Quite a few are vineyard estates with the houses in a style called Cape Dutch. Eventually, we found ourselves driving east along the coast on a road called The Garden Route- scenic, but not especially floral! Near the end, we returned our rental car and flew to the city of Durban on the east coast.

The Durban Botanical Garden contains a fantastic variety of Cycads, Palms, water lilies, Orchids, as well as many other kinds of rare plants. It deserves as much visitation time as you can give it.

Above is merely a condensation of our entire itinerary which included visits to a historical society, cheetah preserve, ostrich farm, whale watching area, etc. Altogether, it was a trip of five weeks duration- almost a record length for any of our travels. However, even if you can spend far less time in South Africa, American garden visitors will surely find its native flowers to be remarkable. And the trip is certain to quell your curiosity about many other aspects of this country.

No description of our travels would be complete without a mention of a

genus that truly takes our breath away. It is the country's national flower called the Protea! Several species, both wild and cultivated, may be found in bloom in the country's springtime. They are of unsurpassed beauty.

You may want to work with a travel agency in arranging your several flights, renting a car, registering at some of the major hotels, etc. Unfortunately, the agency that helped us with some of these decisions, the African Desk, appears to have gone out of business. However, I have a full color brochure from The Audley Way, 77 North Washington Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston, MA 02114, [www.audleytravel.com](http://www.audleytravel.com), and it sounds like they could be of immense help to you in planning your trip.

## WATNONG CLASSIFIEDS

### HYPERTUFA TROUGHS



### BUNNY FERN FARM

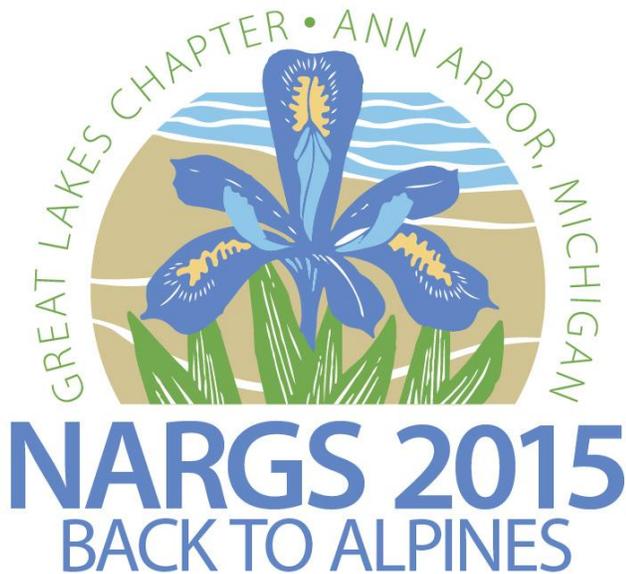
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## BACK TO ALPINES – OUR UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETING



The last time our Chapter was on the docket for a National Meeting was 2003 – when we conducted a successful Winter Study Weekend. This time, we are “on” for the Annual Meeting, and we have a great program outlined. Our venue will be Ann Arbor’s own Weber’s Inn.

This will be a superb chance to see and hear great speakers and see great gardens, to say nothing of buying super plants, tufa, troughs, and books!

We hope as many of you as are able will take advantage of this meeting. It is also a rare chance to meet and talk with Rock Gardeners from all over the US and Canada together in one place. We need support from our membership – and feel free to pass this Newsletter to gardening friends who may be interested. If you are local, you can attend while staying at home, and just take advantage of Weber’s fine dining and facilities. If you are out of town, we have negotiated a very favorable rate of \$99 per night (plus tax).

A brief DRAFT outline of our events is below:

### **THURSDAY, MAY 7**

4:00 – 5:30 Dinner on own

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

5:30 – 6:30 PM: Evening Reception (hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes & Auction

7:00 PM: Introductory Remarks [brief program after this commenting on past inspirational gardeners of the Chapter that we have lost recently – including Betty Blake, Fred Case, Leila Bradfield, Dick Punnett]

7:30 PM Evening program – **Tony Reznicek** – *The Michigan Landscape and Gardening in It*

8:30 – 11:00 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

## FRIDAY MAY 8

7:00 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Bus tours of local gardens and natural areas

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

5:30 – 6:30 Evening Reception (hors d'oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes & Auction

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM **Ger van den Beuken** – *Growing High Alpines at Sea Level or Below*

9:00 PM **Ger van den Beuken** – *Argentina & Chile in 50 minutes* - for dedicated gardeners 10:00 – 11:00 PM  
Sales area & Silent Auction open

## SATURDAY MAY 9

7:00 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Bus tours of local gardens and natural areas

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open; Silent Auction Bids end 5:30 PM

5:30 – 6:30 Evening Reception (hors d'oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes, & Auction & Silent Auction wins

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM NARGS Awards, etc.

8:30 – 9:30 PM – Malcom McGregor – *Rock Gardening – or What's a Heaven For*

Malcolm is a popular lecturer known to us all as Editor of the Quarterly, and as an expert on and author of a comprehensive book about Saxifrages.

9:30 – 11:00 PM Sales area open

## SUNDAY MAY 10

10 AM – 5:00 PM: On your own – Open Garden Tours, Nursery visits, etc.

12:30 PM – Departure of Post Conference Trip

## OUR SPEAKERS:

### **Tony Reznicek** – *The Michigan Landscape and Gardening in It*

Tony is Curator at the University of Michigan Herbarium, expert on the Great Lakes region flora and sedges, and an avid gardener, used to battling the climate and local fauna.

### **Ger van den Beuken** – *Growing High Alpines at Sea Level or Below & Argentina & Chile in 50 minutes*

Ger is an internationally known Dutch rock gardener, experienced with growing and propagating choice alpinists, especially Daphne, and the use of tufa.

**Malcom McGregor** – *Rock Gardening – or What's a Heaven For* Malcolm is a popular lecturer known to us all as Editor of the Quarterly, and as an expert on and author of a comprehensive book about Saxifrages.

**VENDOR LIST** (Still tentative): Arrowhead Alpines, Benedict's Nursery, Duvall Nursery, Don LaFond's Troughs, Great Lakes Orchids, White Raven Books, Wrightman Alpines, and our Chapter will also have a table or two – and lots of tufa!

**THE GARDENS** we will be visiting with the bus tours are all local, keeping driving time to a minimum. Plus, we will have **POST CONFERENCE TOUR**, May 10-12. The post conference field trip will be to the "Straits Region" of Michigan, about 280 miles north of Ann Arbor, with stops on the way there and back. The focus will be on natural rock gardens and rock garden plants in the wild. We will look at shaded and sunny rock outcrops, rocky, gravelly, and sandy beaches, and open communities back of the beaches, plus a stop to see large stands of trilliums, and brief stops for other selected items including sand dunes, and, if time allows, jack pine barrens. It will be early for large scale bloom, but we should certainly see bloom in many species with some nice displays. This is limited to 24 people.

**REGISTRATION:**

We would prefer if you register through the NARGS website [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) but if you do not have computer access, please fill out this form with check payable to “NARGS – Great Lakes Chapter” and mail it to:

**Libby Greanya, Conference Registrar,  
2204 Vandemere Dr., Jackson, MI 49201 USA**

Keep in mind that you need to be a NARGS member to register (though you can join on this form or online if you are registering online). If more than one member of a household is registering for the meeting, please complete a registration form for each person. If you will be accompanied by a guest who will **not** be attending the trips and programs, but wishes meals, please also fill out an additional form for them. Thanks.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State /Prov.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal/Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vegetarian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes / No**

**Any other special dietary requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration (enter amount on space to the right)**  
**Registration US\$290 (US\$325 after March 20, 2015)**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**1-year NARGS membership (if not a member):**  
**US\$30** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest** (meals only, include another Registration Form with their name, etc.): **US\$120** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-Conference trip, May 10–12:** US\$235 per person, double occupancy; US\$295 per person single occupancy (cost covers transportation, lodging in St. Ignace, box lunches, and refreshments. Breakfast and dinner will be as a group, but at local restaurants.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[NOTE: Sorry, no refunds after April 20]

**GETTING A ROOM AT WEBER’S**

Our host hotel is Ann Arbor’s own Weber’s Inn (Weber’s Restaurant and Boutique Hotel). Weber’s is an Ann Arbor institution, a family owned hotel, restaurant, and conference center renowned for its food and local atmosphere. Rooms are available at a special NARGS rate of \$99.00 per night. Please contact the hotel directly, before March 20, 2015, and use the Code: MAR050715 when registering. Toll Free Number: (800) 443-3050, Local Number: (734) 769-2500.

The address is Weber’s Restaurant and Boutique Hotel, 3050 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

[www.webersinn.com](http://www.webersinn.com)

**Please send address changes to our Treasurer, and please include your up-to-date email address.**

**Thank You.**

Susan Reznicek, 890 Wickfield Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227

(734) 996-0692

[reznicek@umich.edu](mailto:reznicek@umich.edu)

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**THE WATNONG CHAPTER  
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