

# HUDSONIANA

March 2016

## CALENDAR

**Sat., March 12**

**Kim Eierman – 10 a.m. - Gardening Inspirations from the Smoky Mountains at Lyndhurst Carriage House**

Members with last names beginning from L thru Z please bring breakfast item to share

The Smoky Mountains boast some of the healthiest ecosystems and greatest biodiversity in North America. Learn how the beauty and the ecology of the Smoky Mountains can be modeled in your own landscape-- and with many of the same plant species. Boost your own garden ecosystem with these gardening inspirations from the Smokies.

**Sat., April 9**

**9 a.m. – Rock Garden Clean up – Lyndhurst  
raindate – April 10**

**Sun., April 17**

**1 p.m. – Workshop - Alpine Sand Box Demonstration and Construction at 144 Mercer Ave, Hartsdale  
raindate – Sunday, April 24**

**Sat., April 23**

**Stonecrop Alpine Plant Sale, Cold Springs, NY**

**Sat., May 7**

**Lyndhurst Plant Sale**



Kim Eierman is the Founder of **EcoBeneficial!**, a horticulture consulting and communications company, dedicated to improving our environment by promoting ecological landscaping and the use of native plants.

Kim is a Certified Horticulturist with the American Society for Horticultural Science and earned a certificate in Horticulture from the New York Botanical Garden. She teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Rutgers Home Gardeners School. Kim is also an Adjunct Professor at Westchester Community College's "Go Native U" administered by the Native Plant Center.

Kim is an active speaker on many ecological gardening topics, presenting to green industry conferences, garden clubs, nature centers, Audubon Society chapters, beekeepers, and other organizations interested in environmental improvements. Kim also provides horticultural consulting to homeowners and commercial clients.

In addition to being an Environmental Horticulturist, Kim is a Master Gardener, a Master Naturalist, an Accredited Organic Landcare Professional and a Steering Committee member of The Native Plant Center. In her prior life, Kim worked on Wall Street.

**Chapter Notes**  
**By: Don Dembowski**

This winter with its bouts of above-normal temperature has left me with a persistent case of spring fever. One good thing is that often I've been able to dig in the thawed soil. Taking a clue from a crew that transplanted small winter-dormant trees for us, I've come to think that this is a good time to transplant trees and shrubs—before their roots start up growing again. Four daphnes were moved recently and are doing well, so far.

A few harbingers of spring have made their appearance here. After being transplanted several years ago, *Helleborus thibetanus* is finally in flower again.



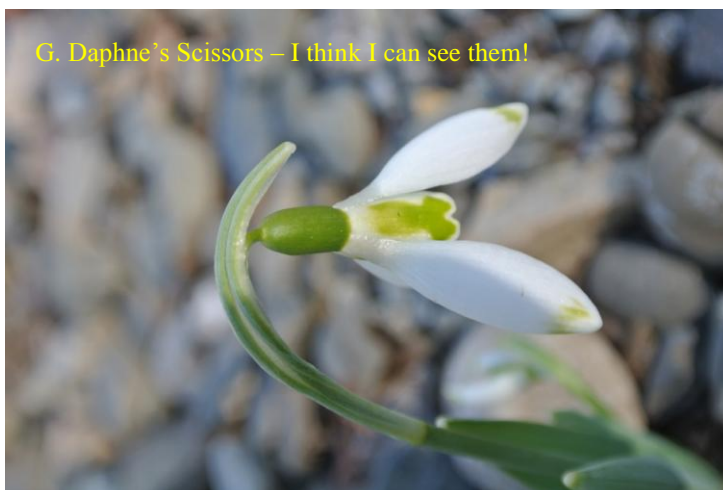
A number of snowdrops are up already, including some special ones from Ernie Cavallo's offerings:



G. 'Lady Elphinstone' is a double with yellow inner parts



G. 'Spinlestone Surprise' has a yellow pedicel



G. Daphne's Scissors – I think I can see them!

Two early daphnes that came from John Bieber are also in flower:





I just found that Quackin' Grass Nursery has a compact form of *Daphne genkwa* that has been named after John. A fine tribute. It looks great, but is sold out for this year.

### February 13, 2016 Meeting Notes

By: Jane Moyer

Our February chapter meeting coincided with one of the coldest days of the winter. Normally I would feel like hibernating on such a day, so it was nice to have an excuse to get out and get together and hear about plants. And these were plants found on the other side of the world in South Africa where it is now late summer.

Our speaker was Ernie deMarie. Ernie has a lot of knowledge about many plants, but his favorite plants seem to be ones from South Africa. We saw a climate/garden zone map showing what diverse areas there are...even in temperate South Africa. By extension, this translates to many kinds of plants. Ernie seems to love seeking out plants thriving in the colder areas of South Africa and trying to introduce them into his own garden in Briarcliff Manor. Anything he can grow from seed is fine...if it gets the right conditions and is a perennial that's fine...if it isn't cold hardy enough but self-sows like mad, that's also fine.

The first genus we saw was *delosperma* (ice plant). *D.* 'Fire Spinner' was very showy with blooms that were orange/lavender/red; *D.* *congestum* with yellow flowers is the most hardy; some *delosperma* bloom in spring and some in summer; many need drainage. *Gladiolus papilio* species has hooded flowers and tends to be quite hardy, even tolerating heavier soils; *G.* *papilio* 'Ruby' is a gorgeous magenta/red color; *G.* 'Atomic' is a variety with smaller flowers and

grows to only 2-3 feet high. *Kniphofia* (tritoma, red hot poker) flower heads are composed of many long, tubular flowers in orange/red/yellow; *K. caulescens* (4' high) has narrow leaves; *K. northiae* quite wide leaves and will rot if it gets too much water; and *K. albescens* has almost white flowers.

*Eucomis*, commonly called pineapple lily, has thick fleshy, wide leaves with a flower spike that reminds one of a pineapple. Ernie propagates these from seed so he has a reserve stock, and told us you could cut the leaves in half and propagate that way. We saw pictures of *crocosmia*, *zantedeschia*, *pelargonium*, *gerbera*, and *amaryllis*. Ernie grows lots of deciduous *Agapanthus campanulatus* (not the California ones) which he digs and protects in winter. *Berkheya* (African thistle) *zeyheri* flower stem is about 2' high with yellow to orange daisy-like flowers; *B. radula* grows to 3'; *B. cirsiifolia* has yellow-centered white flowers on a 9' stem. The last pictures were of *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, formerly known as *Asclepias physocarpa*. This milkweed has dangling, individual flowers and a large, greenish fruit. Ernie reports that deer do not like this plant. He cuts the 2" round fruit and harvests many seeds which of course he uses to produce next year's plants. Thank you, Ernie for taking us on such an interesting plant tour of South Africa.