



*Tatroe Rock Garden*

# **CURIOUS GARDENERS**

## **The Newsletter of the New England Chapter of NARGS**

### **September 2017**

## **-2017 Calendar- Programs this Fall**

**September 9, 2017 - **Saturday** Memorial Congregational Church  
26 Concord Road Sudbury, MA**

**10:30 am** Welcome – coffee, tea and cookies.

**11:00 am** *Marcia Tatroe, A Rock Garden for Four Seasons*

**12:00 noon** Lunch (bring your own) chat, check out our show & tell. Board Meeting

**1:00 pm** *Marcia Tatroe, Rock Gardening in the Land of the Extremes*  
(rock gardens that withstand drought)

**plus ANNUAL SALE of SEEDLINGS and PLANTS**

**October 21, 2017 - **Saturday** Memorial Congregational Church  
26 Concord Road Sudbury, MA**

**10:30 am** Welcome – coffee, tea and cookies.

**11:00 am** *Stephen Schneider, Arnold Arboretum, Director of Operations*

**12:00 noon** Lunch (bring your own) chat, check out our show & tell. Board Meeting

**1:00 pm** *Stephen Schneider, Arnold Arboretum, Director of Operations*

**November 18, 2017 - **Saturday** Memorial Congregational Church  
26 Concord Road Sudbury, MA**

**10:30 am** Welcome – coffee, tea and cookies.

**11:00 am** ***ANNUAL MEETING***

**12:00 noon** Buffet sandwiches or byo lunch. Board Meeting

**1:00 pm** *Michael Levin from Bonsai West, Growing Hardy Bonsai*

### **Note from the Chair**

One of the few things I don't like about working in academia is that our busy season starts now and runs through September, arguably the best month of the year in New England. No early fall vacations for the Registrar's Office! It's been a great summer, though, no complaints, though the rain has been missing Norwood for the past month and the garden is very dry. As always, it's interesting to see what is sulking and what is sailing triumphantly through to the end.

The cooler temperatures mean fall can be a great time to plant. It's not particularly a good time to buy plants at garden centers (although one does find the occasional bargain) but your local NARGS chapter has got you covered! Our September 9 meeting will feature not only Marcia Tatroe (see article elsewhere in this newsletter), but our annual Seedling Sale. Please bring 1) yourself; 2) a generous assortment of seedlings, divisions, bulbs, whatever you think will interest our members; and 3) one or more friends who need to be introduced to the Chapter and who will enjoy the chance to acquire plants at dream prices. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our other circles and encourage unsuspecting gardeners to broaden their horizons with plants they've never heard of. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Vivien



*Asclepias  
with seed  
pods*

### **Note from the Vice-Chair : writing from Fremont, NH**

Thank goodness the garden has not needed much watering this year. However, my many squash plants are suffering from a lack of pollinators. The hydrangeas have attracted some insects in August but will the pumpkins have time to grow? *Primula cortusoides* is reblooming out of season but deer have munched on many other delicacies. Our vegetable garden has been protected from the deer by mylar balloons but turkeys are unfazed by balloons, dogs and people. I am still seeking a spot for a 'real' rock garden. The very best spots lie in deer paths. *Picea 'Silberlocke'* has been completely devoured and an old crabapple lures in hungry beasts to my perennial garden. For the present movable troughs and containers will have to satisfy. Wildlife has thrived this year and neighbors are reporting a wandering bear. It's time to think about moving indoors to sort through seeds. (Leslie Milde)

# SEPTEMBER MEETING Saturday 9,2017



**Memorial Congregational Church  
26 Concord Road Sudbury, MA**

Our speaker in September is Marcia Tatroe. She writes the monthly "Mountain Garden Checklist" for Sunset Magazine and is a frequent contributor to *Colorado Gardener* and other gardening publications. Her photography and gardens have been featured in numerous books, magazines and nationally televised gardening shows. She lectures throughout the West focusing on garden design, rock gardening, xeriscape, and native plants. In her most recent book, *Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West*, she advocates using drought-tolerant and native plants and indigenous materials to create a gardening aesthetic unique to this region. Her garden was

awarded Habitat Hero status by the Audubon Rockies in 2015 as an outstanding suburban wildscape.

## Morning Session 11:00 am: *A Rock Garden for Four Seasons*

Spring brings an explosion of flowers to the rock garden. With a little bit of planning, summer, autumn and winter can be every bit as appealing. See how choosing a plant palette that offers more than a pretty face can extend the beauty of the rock garden to all four seasons.

## First Afternoon Session 1:00 am: *Dryland Rock Gardening*

Deserts and High plains are filled with little treasures that need very little water to thrive in even the driest climate. Discover how Colorado rock gardeners build gardens dedicated to these xeric cushions, mats, and buns using tricks borrowed from permaculture and water engineering to maximize every drop of water, whether from rainfall, snowfall or irrigation. This presentation proves these techniques can be beautiful as well as practical.



*Tatroe garden multi seasonal*

## Second Afternoon Session 2:00 am: **ANNUAL SALE of SEEDLINGS and PLANTS**

Every September our Chapter holds a seedlings and plant sale for the benefit of our treasury, which pays for speakers, room rentals, and other expenses. Members bring in seedlings from the abundance of this year's garden experiments. Because the seedlings are small and are favorably priced it is a great opportunity to fill in the blank spots of your garden. This year we may be able to offer a few larger plants available at auction.

## How to Prepare your Seedlings for the Plant Sale

Plants for the seedling and plant sale should be potted and individually labeled with the plant's botanical name and variety or cultivar, if applicable. A short length of slat from vinyl window blinds works well as labels, if you have them available. At the top of each label, **please write the first letter of the genus** name; this makes it much easier to sort plants into alphabetical groupings. Please try to make your labels legible.

We recommend you arrive between 10AM and 10:30AM if you're donating plants to the sale. This will help us get everything set up before our meeting begins.

## Rules for purchasing seedlings

When our plant sale begins, donors will get first choice (one plant per ten donated). We will then open the sale to all other members. Most plants will be priced at \$1 each; when sales slow to a crawl at that price, we'll go to \$.50, then to \$.25, and finally to \$0. This year we may auction off a few special things, such as some larger or rarer plants depending upon the donations.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SET UP. If you're able to help with this, please e-mail Vivien [vbouffard55@msn.com](mailto:vbouffard55@msn.com)

*Andrews/Pratt Rock Garden at the start 4/9/17*

## Update on the Helga Andrews /Verna Pratt Memorial Rock Garden at the Acton Arboretum

Sue Whitman has been busy at the Andrews/Pratt Memorial Rock Garden at the Acton Arboretum. Several people have contributed a variety of plants that are now getting established in the pockets and crevices of the ledge. Plants are definitely taking hold. On my visit this morning (8/26/17) there were low growing asters, campanulas, sedum and allium in bloom. Other specimens include, sanguinaria, geranium, epimedium and an assortment of iris cristata. Coarse gravel has been spread throughout to help with moisture retention and discourage weeds.



*Plantings 8/ 25/ 2017*

Sue says that Nancy Moore is encouraging us to lift more plants from Helga's garden to undertake some fall plantings. Let's pitch in.

## NARGS-New England Chapter Membership and Dues

**Membership** in NARGS-NE is \$10.00 a year payable January 1 to Ernie Flippo, 264 Wales St., Abington, MA 02351. Payment may also be made in person at the first meeting of the year.

**Local Chapters:** –There are thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Chapter events include lectures, an email newsletter, garden visits, field trips, demonstrations, and plant sales. These friendly gatherings provide a wealth of information; offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners in your region. Our Chapter meets 6 times a year (February, March, April, September, October and November), publishes a newsletter in email format, and organizes garden tours in May and June.

**National Organization:** We encourage you to join the national NARGS organization. [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) Dues are \$30.00 a year. Benefits include a seed exchange, a quarterly publication, and an on-line web site featuring an archive of past publications, a chat forum and a horticultural encyclopedia. NARGS national also conducts winter study weekends and holds their Annual Meeting in interesting places.

### Reminder: BE GREEN Bring Your Own Mug

#### Directions to Memorial Congregational Church, 26 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA

(across from Goodnow Library)

**from Route 95/128 and the East:** Take Route 20 West through Weston and Wayland into Sudbury. At the first light in Sudbury turn right onto Concord Road. The church is 2 houses on the right. Turn onto Church St, parking is just up the hill in front of Ames Hall.

**from Route 27 and the North:** Follow Route 27 south into Sudbury. At the traffic light in Old Sudbury Center turn right ( south) onto Concord Road. Follow Concord Road approximately 1 mile and turn left onto Church Street. Parking and the entrance to Ames Hall is up the hill on the left.

#### *Chapter Officers for 2017*

Chair: Vivien Bouffard: [vbouffard55@msn.com](mailto:vbouffard55@msn.com)

Vice-Chair: Leslie Milde: [meribushes@gmail.com](mailto:meribushes@gmail.com)

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The Newsletter of the New England Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is published 3-4 times a year. In 2016 expect February-March, April-May, September-October, November issues and occasional notices of special events.