



Logo of *Bedrock Gardens*,
Lee, New Hampshire

CURIOUS GARDNERS

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

November 2016

**Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Nov. 12, 2016
Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge,
680 Hudson Rd, Sudbury, MA**

Schedule

10:30 am and after ~ arrive and socialize

11:15 am Annual Meeting

11:45 am Catered luncheon ~ or bring your own

1:00 pm Jill Nooney

“Making a Garden and Where that Can Lead 30 Years On.”

If you wish to sign up for the catered luncheon of sandwiches, salad and dessert at \$15 please notify Ellen Hornig at hornig@oswego.edu by Nov. 6th.

You can pay Ernie Flippo at the meeting.

If you prefer to bring your own lunch that's fine,





Bedrock Gardens

When we announced our Fall Schedule in the September issue of *Curious Gardeners*, a cheer of approval came from our members because many had visited Bedrock Gardens and had been enchanted. As the highlight of our Annual Meeting we present a chance to hear directly from Jill Nooney how the venture grew from small beginnings to a multi-component ensemble.

Bedrock Gardens is certainly a creation that profits from the virtue that its owners Jill Nooney and Bob Munger have lived on this “farm” for 36 years doing most of the development themselves. Over time the owners have been susceptible to the same enthusiasms for dwarf conifers, ornamental grasses, architectural elements, and sculptural ornaments that have enticed all of us. In many hands such collecting would lead to a Fibber McGee’s closet, but in Jill and Bob’s hands their artfulness has led to a flowing whole. Watch for the sculpture accents throughout the garden photographs. They are Jill’s assemblage constructions. *Fine Garden Art* is her enterprise which offers her sculpture for the garden.

You can get a sneak preview of the creative plantings at Jill’s website www.bedrockgardens.org. And yes, in addition to a pinetum, the Tea House beside a vernal pond, a parterre garden, etc. there is a rock garden.



no doubt, a rare moment on the garden swing



ornament in the Funnel Garden

But we won’t give away all the surprises. Be sure to SAVE November 12th for this special event. And bring a friend.

Notes from the Chair

First and foremost, I'm delighted to announce that Vivien Bouffard has agreed to become the new chapter Chair. OK, she hasn't yet been officially elected, but it's an open secret. As of this writing there are other elections that are far murkier, but I trust you members will come to our annual meeting on November 12 and ratify Vivien's ascent.

I also want to thank Sue Whitcomb and Hilde Kneissl for volunteering to handle refreshments at our meetings. Thank you, Sue and Hilde!

A few notes about things that still need doing. First, 15 people have signed up for lunch at our annual meeting. If you have not done so, and wish to add your name to the list, please e-mail me at hornig@oswego.edu **BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6** so that I can order appropriate quantities. Lunch will consist of deli sandwiches, salads, desserts and appropriate beverages.

Current sign-ups received: Helen du Toit, Connie Grabow, Roy and Helen Herold, Ellen Hornig, Diane and Ray Huling, Hilda Kneissl, Marilyn Beaven, Jane Lewis, Rosemary Monahan and Stefan Cover, Sally and John Perkins, Rachel Ross.

Second, I have, perhaps unwisely, again committed the chapter to packaging seeds

for the [NARGS seed exchange](#). We'll be doing 100 taxa, and packaging will take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas at my house (212 Grafton St, Shrewsbury MA), on days to be determined by people's willingness and ability to participate. Please contact me if you're able to volunteer. We always have a nice time, sitting around the dining table and chatting while our fingers do the work.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting programs sketched out for spring 2017 (some details still TBD). In February, our own Jan Sacks and Marty Schafer will speak, followed by a group discussion of how we handle edges/borders in our gardens. In March, we're cooperating with Tower Hill to bring well-known writer, plantsman and speaker Joseph Tychonievich to Tower Hill to give two talks. In April we'll enjoy a talk by John Trexler, member and former director of Tower Hill, in the morning, and have our annual Rare Plant Auction in the afternoon. Our May tour will take us to the garden of Mary Ann Streeter and to Long Hill estate in Beverly, MA. More details will follow in the first newsletter of the New Year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on November 12!

Note from Sue Whitcomb

re: The rock garden in the Acton Arboretum in honor of Helga Andrews

I just wanted to update you on the rock garden at the Acton Arboretum. Our site preparation is coming along well. We have a new, better bench and steps and our guys are working on the patio area when they find time in between their other duties. It looks great. Soon I will look into soil mix in preparation for our intended planting start next spring. We are hoping for donations of unusual but relatively easy rock garden plants from such family groups, as phlox, epimedium, trillium, gentians, dwarf iris, unusual violas, etc. There are both sun and shade areas so it should be fun. I will keep you posted in early March.

Note from Betty Ann Spar

Dear NARGS-NE Chapter,

I am serving as chair of the NARGS Nominating Committee and I need your help in a couple of things.

First, I need six persons from among the NARGS membership to serve with me on the Nominating Committee to help select a slate of candidates for the 2017 election. Will you yourself volunteer or find someone in your chapter that will help me in this important assignment? I need your help/suggestions on this as soon as possible.

Second, we need worthy candidates to run for two-year terms (2017-2019) in the following positions:

President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and three Directors. The NARGS By-Laws describe these positions and responsibilities here: <http://www.nargs.org/laws>:

The election schedule is printed in the current (fall) issue of "The Rock Garden Quarterly," pages 302-303, although the ratification of the election results listed as May 2017 is likely to take place online by the directors as there will be no Board meeting at the Madison, Wisc., NARGS Study Weekend in May 2017.

Won't you give this request serious consideration and help me and NARGS in recommendations for the Nominating Committee and candidates to fill these important positions.

Thank you.

Betty Anne Spar
NARGS Vice President
Email: bettyannespar@gmail.com

NARGS-New England Chapter Membership and Dues

Membership in NARGS-NE is \$10.00 a year payable January 1 to Ernie Flippo, 264Wales St., Abington, MA 02351. Payment may also be made in person at our meetings. We will begin collecting 2017 dues at the November Annual Meeting.

Local Chapters: –There are thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Chapter events include lectures, an on-line 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, and organizes garden tours in May and June.

National Organization: We encourage you to join the national NARGS organization. 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.

Directions to Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

**680 Hudson Road,
Sudbury, MA.**

from Route 95/128 and the East: Take Route 20 (Boston Post Road) West through Weston. Turn right onto Rt. 27 and follow this into Sudbury. Stay straight on Hudson Rd. and go about 3 miles to Winterberry Lane on the right. The Parking/building is 0.4 miles in on the left.

from Route I 495: Take Exit 26 to Rt. 62 for 6.5 miles as merges with Sudbury Rd and go another .5 miles on Hudson Rd. On the left is Winterberry Lane and the parking/building is .4 miles in on the left.

Chapter Officers for 2015

Chair: Ellen Hornig: hornig@oswego.edu

Vice-Chair: Ellen Weinberg: weinbergellen@gmail.com

Past Co-Chairs: Rachel Ross: h.rachel.ross@comcast.net

Helen du Toit: NJGarden@aol.com

Secretary: Rosemary Monahan: rosemonahan@comcast.net

Treasurer: Ernie Flippo: fortknox4rocks@gmail.com

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The Newsletter of the New England Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is published 4-5 times a year, February, March, April, September, and November, as the spirit moves.



Bedrock Gardens