



A HIGHER STATE – NARGS 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

By Amelia Lane

Our annual meeting was held in Denver/Steamboat Springs, June 22-27. Two hundred and fifty members attended from the US and five other countries. Our chapter was represented by Cyndy Cromwell, Tim Alderton, Nancy Doubrava, David White, Richard Lane and myself.



David White visiting the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens

We arrived in Denver and went straight to the Denver Botanic Gardens for a tour of the alpine collections by Mike Kintgen. It is a wonderful display of rock and plants; buns, cushions, clusters, and creepers! So many interesting textures and colors!! Dinner was held under a huge tent and then we heard two interesting speakers; Mike Kintgen, curator of the DBG alpine collection and Kenton Seth, who built the crevice garden at the JCRA!

Photo by Tim Alderton

On Thursday we drove to Steamboat Springs, stopping at Loveland Pass to view the alpinines – stunning- and on to Vail for a visit to the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens - more fantastic rock gardens!- and finally to

Steamboat Springs! Our speakers that night were Nick Courtens from the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens and Johan Nilsson speaking on “Bulbs and alpinines from Turkey and Iran at Goteborg Botanic Garden” in Sweden. Both gave very interesting talks and Goteborg will go on my garden travel list!!

Friday morning we enjoyed a sumptuous breakfast at the Yampa River Botanic Park and toured the gardens. They have a most impressive rock/crevice garden filled with buns, alpinines, and creepers! The rest of the day was tours of five private gardens and business meetings. In the chapter chairs meeting we discussed ideas for promoting membership, publicizing our chapters, and



Yampa River Botanic Park's Crevice Garden

Photo by Tim Alderton



encouraging communication between chapters. On Friday evening we were treated to a talk by Kelly Norris, Director of Horticulture at the Des Moines Botanical Garden. Kelly, a young horticulturist, spoke on “Wandering the Wild Lands – Modern work in America’s Heartland”, exciting and creative!!



Greenville Mine hiking group

Photo by Tim Alderton

Saturday and Sunday brought hikes, easy, moderate, and difficult. You could choose alpine meadows, aspen stands, sagebrush shrublands, coniferous forests, open ridges, and beautiful views of the Yampa Valley.

Our closing banquet was on Sunday evening with Marcela Ferreyra from Argentina speaking on Patagonia. Informative and fantastic!! Her explanation of the climate and growing conditions held me spellbound!! And then of course, the pictures of those tiny and stunning plants growing in the harshest conditions were icing on the cake!! Another trip for the garden travel list!!

To finish the conference, there was a trip north of Steamboat Springs to Mike Kintgen’s rock and crevice garden at his parents’ home. So many plant beauties and ideas to borrow and try in our own gardens.



Photo by Tim Alderton

Getting closer to *Penstemon strictus* on the Greenville Mine hike

The whole conference is an opportunity to meet other gardeners and share ideas on plants and gardening in general. Every area is different in weather and plants that do well, but the love of gardening is universal.

Our next general meeting will be July 2018 in Newfoundland. And looks to be as exciting in its own unique way as Colorado. ☺



Photo by Tim Alderton

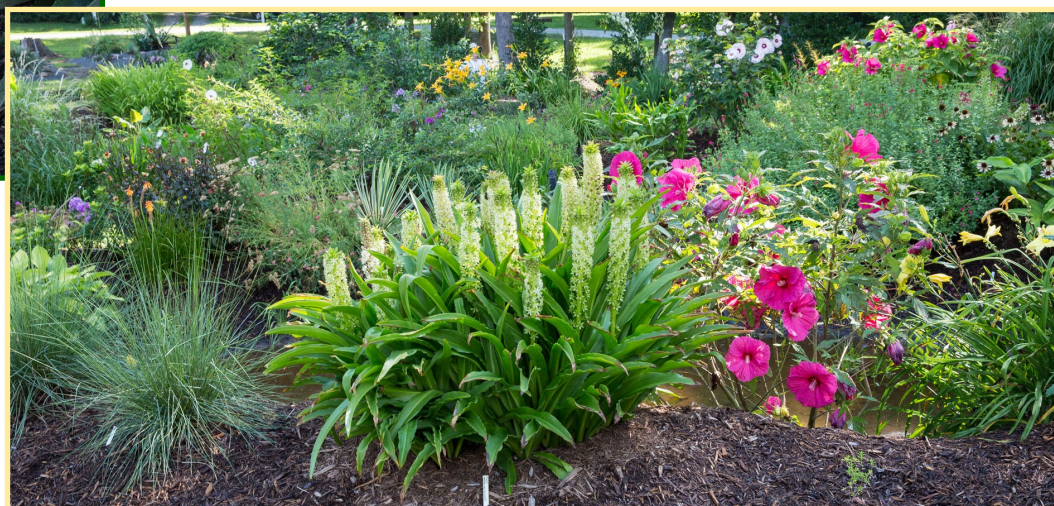
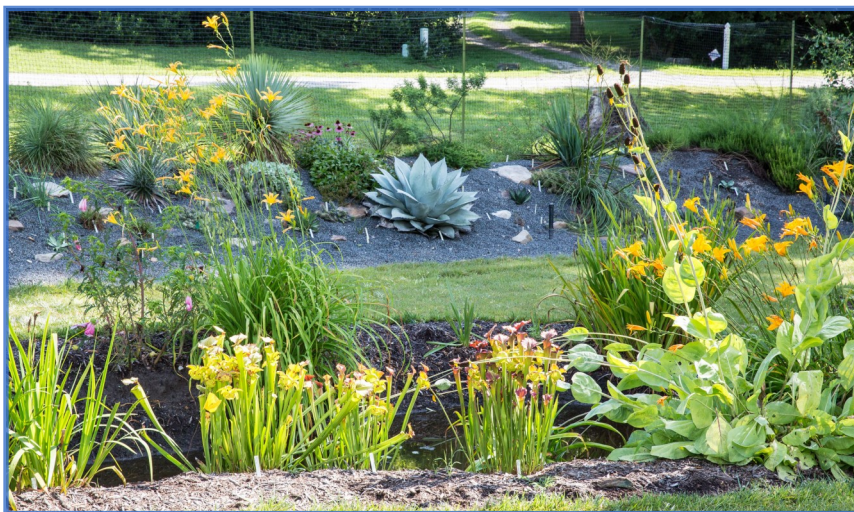
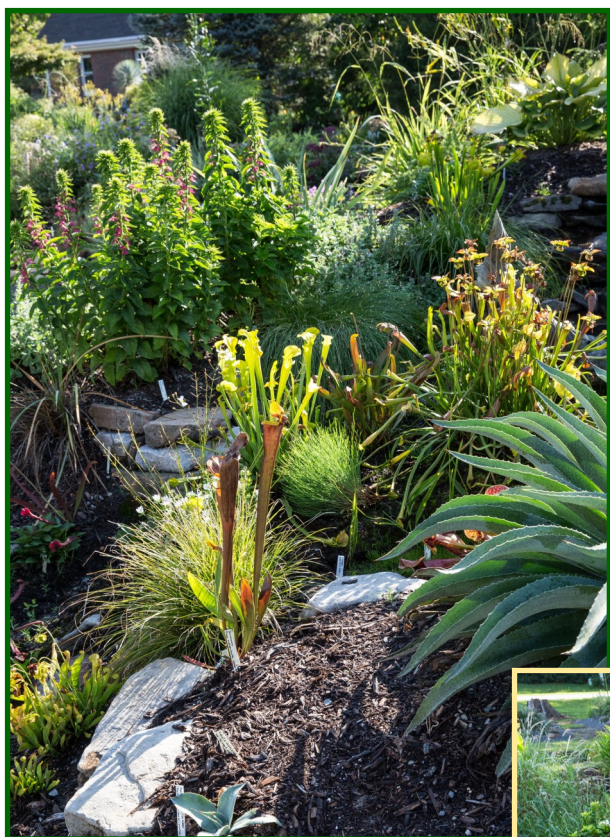
Cyndy Cromwell admiring a polemonium



Spring Picnic at Plant Delights Nursery, Juniper Level Botanic Garden, May 21



Tony Avent Leads a Tour of His New Garden



*All Picnic photos are
courtesy of Kirt Cox.*



June 11 Tour of Mike Papay's Garden

Photos of his fantastic garden by Charlie Kidder.



Piedmont Chapter Program Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

September 17, 2016

Michael Papay

“Cactus: More Native Than You Think”

New Hill, NC

No October Program

Thursday, November 3, 2016, 7:30 pm

(note special date and time)

Liberto Dario

NARGS Traveling Speaker

“The Botanical Paradises of Greece”

Peania, Greece

November 19, 2016*

Annie “Mossin’ Annie” Martin

**“Enhancing Your Rock Garden with
Year-round Green Mosses”**

Pisgah Forest, NC

**Note: A moss dish garden workshop will be available after the lecture at \$20/person if we have a 10 person minimum. More about this later..*

January 21, 2017

Members’ Gardens Program

Members share vignettes of their personal gardens. Contact Bobby Ward to reserve a space. Length of 7-10 minutes only is suggested.

February 11, 2017 (note special date)

Tim Alderton

“Wildflowers of Northwestern Colorado”

JC Raulston Arboretum, NCSU

March 18, 2017

Annabel Renwick

**“Creating a New Ecosystem: the Development
of a Piedmont Prairie”**

Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Durham, NC

April 15, 2017

Matt Mattus

[President of NARGS]

Topic TBA

Worcester, MA

May 20, 2017

Spring Picnic

Garden of Helen Yoest

Raleigh, NC



Changes Coming: Chapter Plant Sales

Starting at our September meeting, we will be selling fixed-price plants that members donate, rather than auctioning them as we have done in the past. The fixed-price plant sale will be a feature of each of our meetings and will be in place of, rather than in addition to the traditional "annual September" plant sale. An exception may occur for a plant of particular merit which will be auctioned.

The price of plants will be set by our Plant Sales Committee, in consultation with the donor if necessary, with prices available before the sale begins. As they say, "the decision of the judges will be final".

If you wish to donate plants, please have them at the meeting early, exact time TBD. We hope to sell most of the plants before the actual meeting begins.

Watch for more details in the next issue of *The Trillium*. As always, we appreciate the kind donations of our members, but please remember: unusual plants, of respectable size and well presented, are most appreciated. Charlie Kidder ☞

Plant Sales Committee

Recognizing that our plant sales have diminished over the years, we are trying a new approach. A team of Charlie Kidder, Kirt Cox, Elsa Liner and Tim Alderton will coordinate and price plants for sale before our monthly meetings begin, beginning in September. They will also explore having

Join the Plant Rescue Team

We find locations that will be destroyed and with the permission of the owners, go in and rescue desirable plants. If you would like to have your name added to the notification list, email tomhar@bellsouth.net.

If you have questions, go to http://ncwildflower.org/native_plants/faq for more information. Tom Harville ☞

A Tangled Bank

Everyone knows what a rose garden is: bushes in tidy rows that burst into color on cue. The garden I inherited is nothing like that – a hodge-podge of plants randomly scattered. Marge stuck in a Japanese maple when it outgrew her porch, and now its limbs hide the ferns I put in by a big flat rock. By that rock Glen dug in some green-and-golds he had no room for at home. And way back somebody planted a bear paw hellebore whose off-spring now roam all over the place, crowding out the may apples, heuchera, and Canadian ginger. Even the epimedium I put in ran over and overran some red-leafed oxalis.

So, it's a garden to none but who examine closely. Unless you are awake, you'll miss its gifts. Lacking order, every plant you spot is a surprise. "Look, an autumn fern!" And you must consider each plant for itself alone. "My goodness! That lavender, despite its name, blooms yellow!"

Laurence Avery
Chapel Hill

Photograph Your Garden Now

Next January, 2017, we want to have a program of members' gardens and their favorite plants or just areas of the garden you're happy with. Whether graceful, riotous, whimsical or staid, plan now to share your garden with our members.

Take the time to photograph your garden treasures this summer to share in a 5—8 minute Show and Tell session next January. ☞



NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

JC Raulston Arboretum

**9:30 Gathering Time & Plant Browsing
10 am Program Begins**

September 17, 2016

Michael Papay

**“Cactus: More Native
Than You Think”**

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OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Sept. Plant Sale Manager: Tim Alderton

Refreshments: Maurice Farrier

Bring Goodies to Share

If your last name begins with the letters below, please consider bringing something to share.

Sept A—C

Jan J—Me

Nov 3 D—Fi

Feb Mi—P

Nov 19 Fi—H

March R—T

April W—Z



Photo by Matt Mattus

Some of young attendees at the NARGS Steamboat Springs meeting.

Message From the Outgoing Chair

Charlie Kidder

This coming September I will pass the Piedmont Chapter Chair position on to Amelia Lane. Amelia embodies the adage, “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person”. Amelia heads up the Mixed Border volunteers at the JCRA, partners with Beth Jimenez in their company *Lasting Impressions*, as well as being a wife and mother and probably engaging in many other activities I’m not yet aware of. We are extremely fortunate to have her assuming the Chair position.

I want to thank all the Chapter Board members for their considerable work in the past three years. I also want to thank *all* Piedmont Chapter members for just being members. Without your support, the Chapter would not exist, plain and simple. In that regard, I always think of what Larry Mellichamp, retired from UNC-Charlotte, said to me when he spoke to the chapter a couple of years ago. “That was a great group. You wouldn’t find half a dozen people like that in Charlotte!” High praise, indeed. (And apologies to any Charlotteans in our chapter. But I guess you’ve forsaken the Queen City for richer horticultural pastures in the Triangle.) ☺