



2013 Annual Meeting in the Blue Ridge Mountains Asheville, North Carolina

by David White

The Piedmont Chapter of NARGS hosted the 2013 Annual Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society in Asheville on May 2-5. The meeting focused on the flora of the Blue Ridge and included two days of field trips to various locations to the southwest of Asheville, three evening speakers, a guided tour of the gardens at Biltmore Estate, open garden events at six private gardens in Asheville and Hendersonville, plus the opportunity to buy and bid on plants provided by 15 different nurseries and arboreta. The weather was cooler and wetter than normal, but a great time was had by all of the 155 attendees at the conference. Tim Alderton's presentation at our chapter's October meeting will document the botanical wonders enjoyed during a couple of the field trips.



Photo by David White

Primula meadia (formerly Dodecatheon meadia)

during the field trips. In addition to Piedmont Chapter members, significant help was also provided by Mary Lou Kemp (Chair of the Southern Appalachian Chapter) who provided local support during conference planning and execution, Carolyn White (David White's wife) who coordinated the loading of buses (a.k.a., crowd control) each morning, and the group of wonderful tour guides that Tom Harville recruited to lead the field trips (Adam Bigelow, Ken Borgfeldt, Randy Burroughs, Tom Ferguson, Gary Kaufman, Kathy Matthews, Larry Mellichamp, Shawn Oak-

Chapter members who helped with the meeting included David White (overall meeting coordination, webmaster, and hotel, bus, and food vendor liaison), Tom Harville (field trip planning and staffing), Elsa Liner (plant vendor coordination), Bobby Ward (evening speakers and private garden liaison), Bobby Wilder (registrar and treasurer), Amelia Lane (table decorations), and Tim Alderton, Charlie Kidder, and Marlyn Miller (plant sales), plus Mitzi Hole, Mary McClure, Graham Ray, Lynda Waldrep, and several of the previously named as bus captains to make sure no one got left behind



Photo by David White

Trillium undulatum (Painted Trillium)



ley, James Padgett, Dan Pitillo, Ed Schwartzman, Nina Shippen, Susan Sunflower, Chris Ulrey, and Jean Woods).

After the Annual Meeting concluded on Sunday, a smaller group of 26 was treated to an overnight tour on May 6-7 along the Blue Ridge Parkway between Asheville and Banner Elk. This tour was led by Dr. Larry Mellichamp, with logistical support from David and Carolyn White. Larry shared his amazing wealth of botanical and environmental knowledge with all of those on the tour.

One of the reasons for our chapter to host the Annual Meeting was to show off the flora and scenic beauty of North Carolina's Blue Ridge. Another was the opportunity to make a financial profit that would boost our chapter's bank account. We succeeded at both! Many of the attendees came early and/or stayed late to enjoy their visit to the state. On the financial front, we cleared approximately \$9,000 from the six days of activities. Of the total, the two largest contributors were the registration fees from the Annual Meeting and the post-meeting tour, with smaller amounts coming from the optional guided tour of the Biltmore gardens and from plant sale revenues. ❧

Private Gardens Visited on May 5

The Gentling Garden by Charlie Kidder

The weather for our May 5 garden visits in the Asheville and Hendersonville areas could only have been worse if it snowed: blustery wind, rain squalls and temperatures in the low forties. Yet these only put a damper on my visit to the garden of Peter and Jasmin Gentling in the most literal sense. As Peter led a few other Rock Garden



Photo by Charlie Kidder

Peter Gentling gamely--and graciously--leads visitors around the garden.

While hardly a pleasant day, the gray skies and rain actually enhanced the colors and textures of the foliage.



**Peter and Jasmin Gentling's Blue Briar Cottage,
Home of William Jennings Bryan and
Summer White House for Herbert Hoover**

Photo by Charlie Kidder

Society members around, Jasmin provided me with a quick tour. Juggling my camera and umbrella, her warnings to "watch the slippery surfaces" were well heeded. As the pictures hopefully convey, the Gentling garden is a symphony of wonderful textures and colors, not only among the plants, but in the home and rock walls, as well. The one overarching feeling I came away with from my all-too-brief visit: connection. The Gentlings have been tending this 15-acre property since 1971, and as its only gardeners, they are indeed intimately connected to it. I could sense the joy the garden has given them, as well as to the many that visit. The garden is open by appointment, and Jasmin encouraged me to come back. I could tell that she really meant it. 🌿

To add to the atmospheric photos by Charlie Kidder on the tour day, we offer additional photos by Helen Yoest who visited the garden during a different weather day! Thanks Helen for sharing. 🌿



Entrance to the House

Photo by Helen Yoest



Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar

Photo by Charlie Kidder



Spigelia marilandica (Indian pink)

Photo by Helen Yoest

NARGS Millstream Awards



Ev Whittemore and Joe and Beverly French's gardens, tour gardens at the annual meeting, were both awarded the NARGS Millstream Awards--for outstanding gardens.

The Ev Whittemore Garden by Bobby Ward

Over more than 30 years, Ev Whittemore, with her late husband Bruce, has designed, constructed, and stocked a series of gardens in the Penrose area of western North Carolina. The gardens have been inspirations for all rock gardeners who have had the privilege to visit them. These have involved screes, troughs, greenhouses, hypertufa mounds, bogs, and woodland borders—and all have been constructed from scratch.

Although Ev is now gardening on her own, her enthusiasm and her passion is undiminished. It is for the totality of her gardening over a succession of gardens for which this Millstream nomination is awarded. The current garden, called Tall Pines, comprises just over one acre and it consists of raised beds and scree; dry land plants under temporary cover; troughs and other containers; woodland; sloping hillside of phlox; hypertufa mini-mountains, and bog and wetlands for carnivorous plants.



Photo by Bobby Ward



Photo by Bobby Ward



Joe and Beverly French Garden by Bobby Ward

The French's garden is an exemplary 15-year-old garden located in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The house and garden sit in a quiet, woodland neighborhood. Plantings of phlox, dianthus, iris, azaleas, and dwarf conifers and other rock garden plants are brought together in a design that shows great care and enthusiasm. The overall balance of plantings around a bridge, stream, waterfall, pond, rocks, and upon a raised-garden bed adjacent to the house bring a Japanese aesthetics to this contemporary rock garden in the Southern Appalachians. The small pond--bordered with rocks, hostas, dwarf azaleas, water iris, and native ferns--contain stepping-stones and floating ducks that "feed" among nymphaea water lilies. Surrounding the garden are white- and pink-flowering dogwoods, pruned-to-shape native cherries, hemlocks, scattered plantings of dwarf pines and Alberta spruces, and a collection of bonsai.



Photo by Joe French



Photo by Bobby Ward



Photo by Bobby Ward

Joe French Leading a Tour

More pictures from the meeting...



Photo by Helen Yoest

Peter and Jasmin Gentling in their garden.



Photo by Bobby Ward

Chapter member Richard Dufresne, one of the meeting vendors, sharing his salvias and beautiful botanical art with participants.



Photo by Bobby Ward

Whittemore Scree bed

July 2012 Board Meeting

Report on the 2013 NARGS Annual Meeting in Asheville. With 155 registered and 15 guests, the meeting was considered a success. It generated income of about \$62,000 which, after expenses that included a \$900 donation to NARGS parent organization, netted about \$9,000.

Financial Report: We have \$17,010.82 now in checking account, compared with \$6,310 last July. We are in good shape thanks to the profitable annual meeting, an increase in plant sales of \$2400, \$700 in new memberships and the frugal use of funds during 2012-2013.

2013-2014 Chapter Officers: Having served as chair for 6 years, David White will step down at the September meeting. A slate of nominees was approved by the board and will be presented to the membership for approval. Nominations from the floor will be invited at the September meeting.

Slate of nominations:

Chair: Charles Kidder
Programs: Bobby Ward
Treasurer: Bob Wilder
Secretary: Marlyn Miller.

Proposed 2013-2014 Budget:

We will again donate \$600 as a gift to the JC Raulston Arboretum and give annual membership to NARGS to the Arboretum and Chris Glenn who posts the meeting announcements and newsletter on the NARGS website. Honoraria for speakers was established.

Monthly Meetings: Bobby Ward presented the schedule of speakers for 2013-2014. See on page 7.

Fall Plant Sale: Kirt Cox will manage the September plant sale which will be advertised in several local newsletters such as Triangle Gardener. Members are urged to contribute plants for this event to support budget needs. If plants to be offered are known in advance, members are asked to email the list to Kirt Cox as soon as possible—**by Sept. 2 at the latest**—so the plant list may be announced by email and in The Trillium to boost interest in the sale.

Trillium: Marian Stephenson plans 5 newsletters: Summer, Sept, Oct/Nov, Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr.

Piedmont Chapter Membership Renewal Form

Please take this opportunity to renew you Chapter membership. It is very helpful to the Treasurer to receive membership renewals as soon as possible, preferably before Sept 1.

Circle one: Single membership \$15/year
 Household membership \$20/year

You can pay dues for multiple years. Circle the number of years paid. One year Two years Three years

Name # 1 _____

Name # 2 _____

Address _____

City/ State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone: _____

Member of the North American Rock Garden Society? Y N
Membership in NARGS is \$30.00 a year. You may include it in your check and it will be sent to the NARGS secretary.

Checks made payable to Piedmont Chapter, NARGS
Mail to: Bobby Wilder, 2317 Elmsford Way, Raleigh, NC 27608

NARGS Rock Garden Speakers 2013-2014

Sept. 21, 2013

Adrienne Roethling
"Xeric Scree Gardens"

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden
215 South Main Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Oct. 19, 2013

Tim F. Alderton
JC Raulston Arboretum
"Spring Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge"
Raleigh, NC

Nov. 2, 2013—**Note different meeting date**

Ian Young, NARGS Traveling Speaker
"Bulbs in the Garden"

How we use bulbs in the garden to create interest and colour for as many months as possible - concentrates on the use of bulbs rather than their botany. **AND**

"Inspired to Rock"

The gardens and places that inspired me to grow rock garden plants and how I interpreted them into our garden.
Aberdeen City, Scotland AB15 7UL United Kingdom

Jan. 18, 2014

David Parks
"Camellia Collecting in China"
Camellia Forest Nursery
620 NC Highway 54 West
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Web site: www.camforest.com

Feb. 15, 2014

Kelly D. Norris
"The Smaller Bearded Irises and Their Companion Plants"
Horticultural Manager
Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
Des Moines, IA 50311

Mar. 15, 2014

Kenton J. Seth
"Lessons in Plant Hunting from the Caucasus" **AND**
"Crevice Garden Demonstration"
Grand Junction, CO

April 19, 2014

Leah Chester-Davis
"The Horticultural Legacy of John L. Creech"
NCSU Extension Communication Specialist
Davidson, NC

May Picnic—time and place to be announced

Participate in the Annual Plant Sale Support the Chapter

Plan now what you want to bring to the sale. Bring plants in clean pots with a label in each pot. We don't have time to do it that morning. Please have labels complete, accurate and legible.

Pot them up now for root development and make a list of items early to email to Kirt at kirtley@nc.rr.biz.com If you will have more than one type of each, note how many of each. We will make a plant list available in advance if members supply them.

RECEIVING PLANTS AT 9 AM

For more information, contact Kirt at 919-489-7892(H) or by email.

NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

JC Raulston Arboretum

Start time of 9:30 for social hour

Lecture begins at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 21, 2013

Adrienne Roethling
"Xeric Scree Gardens"

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden
Kernersville, NC 27284

The Trillium, Newsletter of the Piedmont Chapter
The North American Rock Garden Society
1422 Lake Pine Drive, Cary, NC 27511

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First Class Mail

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OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Sept. Plant Sale Manager: Kirtley Cox

Refreshments: Gwen and Maurice Farrier

FOOD GOODIES TO SHARE

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

Sept. A-C

Feb. O-S

Oct. D-F

Mar. T-Z

Nov. G-K

Apr. All please share

Jan. L-N

May Picnic



Photo by Bobby Ward

Table center pieces
for the Saturday night Banquet
made by
Amelia Lane and Beth Jimenez.

Lasting Impressions

Hypertufa and Concrete Leaf Workshops

Saturday, July 27th

Hypertufa: 9am-noon, \$70, all materials supplied.

Concrete Leaf: 1pm-3pm, \$60 all materials supplied.

**There is room in both workshops for
more participants.**

**Participate in one or both workshops and
take home your creations that day!!**

**To reserve a space, contact Amelia and/or Beth at
lastingimpressionsleaves.com**