



Where Alpines Meet the Sea
NARGS Annual General Meeting 2018
Newfoundland Chapter, St. John's, July 6-8, 2018

As most of you now know, the Newfoundland Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will be hosting the Annual Meeting in 2018. Please refer to the Fall edition of *The Rock Garden Quarterly* for previous details about this meeting. The following is additional and updated information about the meeting, along with the registration fee, what the fee includes, the program, and a registration form you may fill in and mail if you do not have access to the internet. However, if possible, we encourage you to register by the online system at <http://bit.ly/2n8f834> where you can pay via credit card. The link will also be on the NARGS website.

Booking flights

For American attendees, there are no direct flights into St. John's from the USA. You will have to fly to Toronto, Montreal or Halifax then onwards to St. John's. While there are several flights per day into St. John's from those airports, they are mostly late afternoon through the evening hours. For those attending the official opening of the meeting on Friday evening, July 6, you may need to fly into St. John's on July 5. From the UK, there is one direct flight per day into St. John's from Heathrow and Gatwick, both arriving early afternoon, so it is possible to book your arrival for Friday, July 6. Please remember that the airport code for St. John's, Newfoundland is YYT. Make sure you do not accidentally book a flight to Saint John, New Brunswick (it has happened before!) whose airport code is YSJ.

Car Rentals

Most of the standard car rental agencies are available at the St. John's airport. However, as July is high tourist season, it is recommended that you book a car rental ASAP rather than risk there not being any vehicles available.

Hikes – 3 levels

Our field trip hikes will take place Saturday, July 7 and Sunday, July 8. While these hikes were described in the Fall 2017 Rock Garden Quarterly, there have been slight changes compared to what was previously published. On the registration form (both online and printed) you can select two tours from the following three offerings.

Tour 1 – Easy – these walks will take place on relatively level ground utilizing mostly gravel pathways; some steps are involved. The venue for these walks will be a combination of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden (www.mun.ca/botgarden) and Cape Spear National Historic Site (www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/spear), the most easterly point in North America. Each venue is about 1 kilometer in length.

Tour 2 – Moderate – these walks will be over uneven ground with an uphill hike along a gravel road. The venue for these walks will be a combination of the Hawke Hills (the highest elevation on the Avalon Peninsula), a site renowned for *Diapensia*, *Loiseleuria* and a plethora of clubmosses, and a fen where we will look for orchids and various insectivorous plants. The Hawke Hills portion will be about 3 kilometers round trip (1.5 kilometers uphill then 1.5 kilometers downhill), while the fen is about 1.5 kilometers round trip with some ups and downs. This tour will occupy the longest time as there is a bit of a drive to the sites.

Tour 3 – Moderate-Difficult – this venue is slightly more strenuous than tour 2. This tour will be a combination of the North Head Signal Hill coastal trail (www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/nl/signalhill) with some 300 plus steps (we will do most of them downhill!) and the natural area trails at the MUN Botanical Garden, where we will see *Kalmia* barrens and boreal forest wildflowers. The North Head trail is about 2.5 kilometers in length with stunning views of the "Narrows," the entrance into St. John's harbor. The Garden nature trails are about 2 kilometers with much more gentle hills.

Accommodations

A suite of rooms has been held at Macpherson College residence located on the Memorial University of Newfoundland campus. Each room has two separate bedrooms, each with a single bed, and a

shared bathroom, at a cost of \$60.00 Canadian per bed per night, taxes included. These rooms will be held until June 1, 2018.

For those opting to stay at other locations, there are two hotels located reasonably close to the University.

Gov'ner Inn – 389 Elizabeth Avenue (709-726-0092) (less than 1 kilometer away, about 15-minute walk)

Holiday Inn – 180 Portugal Cove Road (709-722-0506) (about 2 kilometers away)

Reservations must be made directly with Memorial University or alternate hotels. If distance is not an issue, there are plenty of other hotels within a 10-15 minute drive.

To book at the University, go to www.mun.ca/conferences/bookings/nargs2018.php and enter promotion code NARGS2018. Payment is due at the time of booking by Visa or MasterCard. For more information or if you have any questions, please email stay@mun.ca.

Attendees staying at the University residence will require parking permits if you have a car. Permits can be purchased from their desk upon check-in. It is an extra \$4 per day per space. When you arrive at check-in, the University will collect payment for parking and issue you the permit.

A map of the University campus is available here https://www.mun.ca/campus_map/

Macpherson College residence is located in Cluett and Shiwak Halls, situated near Burton's Pond at the east side of the campus. Check-in is located on Livyers Loop, beneath the pedestrian overpass.

For delegates staying off-campus, free parking is available in lot 15 (located on either side of Burton's Pond Road, in front of Cluett and Shiwak Halls) after 5 pm on Friday, July 6 and all day Saturday and Sunday. Before 5 pm on Friday, you will have to use metered parking.

Registration and Meals

If possible, please register online at <http://bit.ly/2n8f834>. The link will also be on the NARGS website. If you do not have access to a computer, you may fill in the attached form and mail in your registration fee.

The conference registration fee is CAD 495 or USD 415. Registration for the conference will close as of June 1, 2018

For those who require breakfast on Monday morning, July 9, you may pay an additional US\$8 or CAN\$10. This option will be offered on the registration form.

Cancellation

There is a \$25 cancellation fee until May 1, 2018. Unfortunately, after that date, there are no refunds except under extraordinary circumstances.

What the registration fee includes

The price of the conference fee includes access to the speakers' presentations, field trips, and the following meals: opening dinner banquet on Friday, July 6; breakfast and box lunch on Saturday, July 7 and breakfast, box lunch and the closing dinner banquet on Sunday, July 8. Please note the optional breakfast on July 9 IS NOT part of the registration fee. See note above under Registration and Meals.

Plant Sales

Unfortunately, there is a ban on the export of soil from Newfoundland due to several soil-borne potato-specific diseases present in the province. Our apologies that there will be no plant sales at this meeting.

What to Bring

No place in North America has a climate as variable as St. John's. The sun might be "splittin' the rocks" and 25°C (80°F), or it can be "mauzy" - rain, drizzle and fog and 10°C (50°F), so bring layers, rain clothes, and umbrella. Whether sunny and warm or rainy and cold, wind is almost guaranteed. If you plan to do the orchid bog/fen tour, you will need waterproof boots. Sturdy hiking boots are fine for the other planned hikes. A day pack is recommended as a place to store extra layers of clothes as well as the boxed lunch. Newfoundland is well known for its mosquitos and especially blackflies. If the weather is windy, they are not likely to be a problem but should the wind be light, be prepared! This is especially true for the bog/fen walk. Fly repellent is highly recommended.

