

OCTOBER TRI-STATE MEETING

Sunday, October 20
New York Botanical Garden
Ross Hall

Speaker:
Chris Gardner



Gentiana arethusae (Silk Road)



Iris lycotis (Silk Road)



Trollius lilacinus (Silk Road)



Tschihatchewia isatidea (Silk Road)



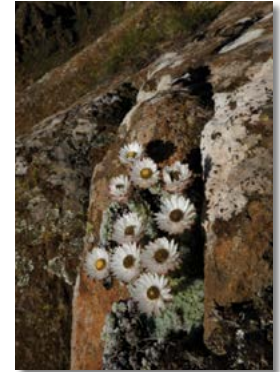
Nerine bowdenii (Drakensberg)



Drosanthemum speciosum (West Cape)



Brunsvigia bosmaniae (West Cape)



Helichrysum milfordiae
(Drakensberg)

Co-sponsored by the Manhattan and Hudson Valley chapters of NARGS and the NARGS Traveling Speakers Program, the annual Tri-State Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 20 at Ross Hall at the New York Botanical Garden.

Our speaker will be Chris Gardner, part of the NARGS Speakers Tour. Chris is a horticulturist, naturalist, semi-professional photographer and tour leader (through his company Vira Natura Tours). He will give two presentations. His morning talk will be on “Flora of the Silk Road.” There will be a break for lunch, for wandering around the many gardens at NYBG (including, of course, the rock garden), and for buying plants from the great vendors who will be offering their special plants in the adjoining building. Chris’s afternoon talk will be on “Flora of South Africa (Western Cape & Drakensberg).”

The New York Botanical Garden is easily accessible by car or public transportation. We hope to see you there!

NARGS and NARGS chapter members are invited, but registration is required. Go to <https://www.mcnargs.org/>

FLORA OF THE SILK ROAD

The Silk Road is a spectacular region that spans the vast alpine belt of Asia from Turkey to China, reaching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Tibetan Plateau via the endless steppes and mountains of Central Asia. My talk recounts the preparation of our book *Flora of the Silk Road*, as we traversed the varied (and at times troubled) lands and cultures that lay along this 5,000-mile route. I will discuss the key floral elements and how they feature across the region. While flowers form the backdrop, with a multitude of irises, anemones, foxtail lilies, bulbs and orchids, I will also talk about how these floral elements change in their composition and significance as we move from sun-bleached steppe to monsoon-swept East Asia.



Chris Gardner

CHRISTOPHER GARDNER is a lifelong plant enthusiast and naturalist. Originally from Essex, England, he gained a BSc in Horticulture from Reading University and spent fifteen years as a professional horticulturist and garden designer. His fascination with travel brought him into contact with the flora, wildlife and cultures of many exotic countries and twenty years ago he began giving botanical and wildlife tours. He has guided and arranged over two hundred botanical tours in thirty countries all over the world.

Chris has been accorded the distinction of having a flower named after him, *Bellevia chrisii* – a species he discovered while leading a tour with his wife Basak in the Anti-Taurus mountains of Turkey. At the same time his photographic interest and ability has grown, leading to the publication, with Basak Gardner, of the acclaimed *Flora of the Silk Road* (May 2014). A follow-up volume, *Flora of the Mediterranean*, followed in 2019.

FLORA OF SOUTH AFRICA (WESTERN CAPE & DRAKENSBERG)

One of the botanically richest places on Earth, South Africa is a land of contrasts. I will focus on two very diverse areas: the Western Cape and the Drakensberg, with their opposing climates and thus very different habitats, yet sharing commonalities in geology, flora and fire. The flora of the Western Cape will feature a dazzling array of bulbous plants, proteas and heaths that comprise the rich *fynbos* and *renoster-veld* shrublands. Drakensberg is a beautiful region but the landscapes and sweeping majesty take some beating and the journey continues beneath a constant backdrop of razor-toothed ridges swathed in grasslands where a different suite of geophytes and striking herbaceous plants take center stage.