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CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

Green Dragon Tales

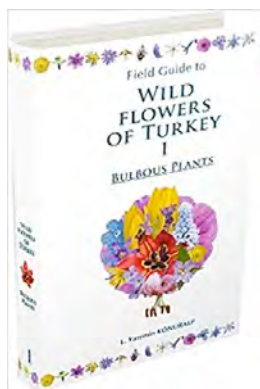
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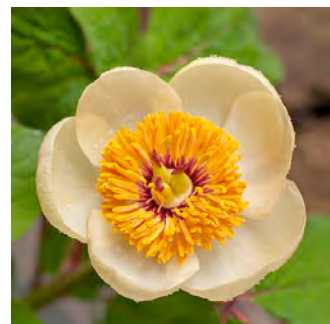
October 2017

OCTOBER 21: YASEMIN KONURALP



Our October speaker, Yasemin Konuralp, lives in Antalya, Turkey and is the owner of the tour operating company, [Runner Tourism](http://RunnerTourism.com). Over 28 years of trekking and photographing as a professional tour leader, she developed an interest in the wildflowers of Anatolia and began to learn about them. Over the years she has built up considerable knowledge about the endemic wildflowers of the country, together with a large collection of photographs.

Yasemin will cover topics both cautionary and hopeful as she provides two talks, "Bulbs of Turkey" at 11 am and "Alpines of Turkey" at approximately 1 pm. Note, there is a home football game on the Cornell campus at 3 pm so plan to arrive early for the best parking availability and better yet, stay for both presentations.



In April 2013, she published her first field guidebook, "[Wildflowers of Turkey Volume I - Bulbous Plants](#)." A primary driver for her book is the urgent need to prevent the disappearance of native plant species in Anatolia, by providing a wildflower field guidebook for both travelers and locals. She believes people will actively support and promote the protection of natural species when they have better knowledge about the flora of Turkey.

In Turkey, wildflowers are suffering from the bulb hunters. The country has long been famed for its bulbs, having the richest variety of bulbs in the world, with great numbers

of Orchid, Fritillary, Crocus, Colchicum and Cyclamen. This natural wealth mirrors the general richness of Turkish flora, which totals 11,466 species, of which 3,649 are endemic plants. This diversity stems principally from country's geographical position, sandwiched between the steps of Central Asia, the deserts of Syria, the cold afforested mountains of Central Europe, and the Mediterranean to the west.

Mass collecting of flowers of Turkey started as early as the 17th century. By the turn of the 20th century, commercial collectors from Europe were scouring the hills and the mountainsides of Anatolia in search of new and exciting bulbous plants. Local people were paid to help in this collecting. At the height of the trade, some 71 million bulbs were exported in one year - including over 11 million Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*), 10 million Grecian Wind-flowers (*Anemone blanda*), and a staggering 30 million Snowdrops (principally *Galanthus elwesii*).



Turkey has already lost some of the endemic species and some of those remaining are endangered. Yet there has been some recent success in preserving endangered species. *Galanthus elwesii* was just about to disappear, but with the help of alert botanists and naturalists, people were encouraged to grow these bulbs in their gardens rather than collect them from the wild. We now once again find colonies of these plants growing naturally in the wilderness.

Our meeting will be held in the Whetzel Room, Room 404, on Tower Road, Cornell University. Map at the end of this newsletter. Bring your own bag lunch at noon for socializing between the two talks. Refreshments to share are appreciated.

FROM THE CHAIR

John Gilrein, ACNARGS Chair

Coming to the October meeting is a speaker from Turkey, Yasemin Konuralp, who is a botanist, author, and a trip guide. We are fortunate to be in the Northeast, relatively close to many other NARGS chapters, and to enable us to get an international speaker through NARGS.

Now that most of the hard-work gardening is done for the 2017 season, it's a good time for assessing your garden and thinking about editing. By editing I mean removing plants that are not performing satisfactorily, moving them to a better location, or resolving their cultural problems to improve performance.

I just read Joseph Tyconievich's book *Rock Gardening* and he states he does not always edit as much as he could. I'm in the same situation, in that I find sometimes it's hard to dig up and discard a plant and put in something more suited to the conditions in that site. At times I just have to think about the editing for a while before I talk myself into discarding the plants. I don't like trashing them (composting), but there are some plants that are not interesting enough to go to a plant sale or be door prizes.

Around this time of year I see a lot of crabapple trees that are looking ratty and bare due to foliar diseases, and I think I would want to edit those out in my landscape. Maybe others would value the showy spring bloom worthwhile enough to tolerate the unsightly trees at the end of the season. The main editing I need to do soon is to remove some tall perennials to make room for expanding the rock garden, so it's a worthy goal.

If you're more of a plant collector than a creator of a great display garden, then editing is not as important. But if you want a great display garden to set a scene or impress visitors, then editing is critical. Currently there is a huge selection of native and exotic plants for almost every planting site (except for maybe under tall spruce trees), so one can usually find a replacement for an underperforming plant.

Hope to see you in October,
John Gilrein, Chair

PLANTS - OF - THE - MONTH : ASSORTED BULBS

Marlene Kobre, POM Coordinator

As many of us have probably learned the hard way, planting perennials later in October can be risky business because they are susceptible to heaving during early frost and thaw cycles. So for the October Plant-of-the-Month I've stuck with our tradition of offering a selection of bulbs (ordered from Van Engelen/Scheepers) that can still be safely planted. Three of the choices are members of the *Allium* genus and two are rock garden Iris cultivars.

ALLIUMS

Allium is the Latin name for garlic, which helps to explain why these plants, also known as Flowering Onions, are resistant to disease and to deer, rabbits, and rodents, while also attracting beneficial pollinators. Their flowers bring bold forms and colors into the late spring garden and can be used in arrangements cut or dried. After the flowers fade their architectural presence often persists in the dried seed orbs. In our garden the birds enjoy using the taller ones as perches on which they swing gracefully even as late as September.

Van Engelen says they require full sun (though they perform pretty well in our garden with a half day of sun) and a rich, well-drained, neutral soil. Plant the larger bulbs 6"-8" deep and 8"-10" apart, and the smaller bulbs 4" deep and 3"-4" apart.

Allium atropurpureum (circa 1800)



This is the allium we saw in Deborah Banks' garden when we visited in June, and most of us were smitten by it. Scheepers describes the flowers as dense, 2"-wide umbels with flat bottoms. Each umbel is comprised of merlot florets with darker eyes. Scheepers also recommends planting them in "substantial" clusters for the best effect, which was amply illustrated in Deborah's garden. Zone 4. Height: 24"-34". Blooms May/June.

A. atropurpureum paired with
Physocarpus in flower at
Deborah's garden. Credit: C.
Eichler

Allium carinatum ssp. *pulchellum* (circa 1810)



Allium carinatum
ssp. *pulchellum*
Credit: Wikimedia

The 2" to 3"-wide flowers are reddish-violet, bell-shaped, and gracefully pendulous. This would be enough to recommend it, but the blooms are even more distinctive because each displays florets that sit on top of protruding anthers. This is one of the smaller, somewhat later-blooming allium. Zone 5. Height: 16". Bloom time: June/July.

Allium christophii (circa 1884)
Aptly known also as the Star of Persia, this long-lasting allium displays 8" - to 10"-wide, loosely formed globes of amethyst florets with a starry metallic cast and green eyes—bringing an extra-terrestrial aura to the garden. Zone 4. Height: 18"-24". Blooms May/June.



Allium christophii
Credit: Hortipedia

ROCK GARDEN IRIS

The standards on these early April bloomers are actually inner petals that stand upright, and the falls are outer petals opening downward, exposing the petals' spines, which often have contrasting colors. Though small in stature, they create a welcome dramatic effect in the rock garden not long after the snow recedes. They should be planted 4" deep and 4" to 5" apart, and are also said to be good for forcing.

Iris histrioides 'Katharine Hodgkin'

Hybridized by E. B. Anderson, this award-winning iris has blue-green standards and paler falls with yellow blotches. Grows 4" to 6" high. In the Spring 2017 issue of *The Quarterly*, Alan McMurtrie says Anderson's hybrid inspired him to begin his own odyssey dedicated to hybridizing *Iris reticulata* (affectionately known to insiders as "retics").



Iris histrioides
'Katharine Hodgkin'
Credit: Craia Cramer

Iris reticulata 'Eye Catcher'

This iris is one of the stunning results McMurtrie has achieved, and it took 10 years to bring it to market. The white flower has ink-blue starbursts on the standards and the falls combine yellow stripes with indigo spots. Grows 5" to 7" high.



Iris reticulata
'Eye Catcher'
Credit: nargs.org

To fans of *Iris reticulata* I recommend McMurtrie's article (p. 154 in the Spring 2017 *Quarterly*). It's technically challenging and might tell you more than you ever wanted to know about the genetic complexities and marketing challenges hybridizers face, but it's worth it just for the photos—especially the one of 'Eye Catcher' on p. 157.

TWO POST SCRIPTS

First, I apologize for an error in my previous POM article. I misspelled the name of one of the *Erodiums* as *chrysanthemum*.

It should have been chrysanthum. Since it was September, I must have had chrysanthemums on my mind.

Second, I will welcome your suggestions for future POM offerings and for ways of improving the program.

POM TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Carol Eichler, Editor

Imagine this scene. You just returned home from an ACNARGS meeting with a new Plant-of-the-Month in-hand and you're all excited to plant it, not to mention to see it bloom come next spring. If it lives that long, that is!

I admit I've killed a lot of plants (POM's included) but maybe, just maybe I've learned something from my mistakes. So what can be done to increase the likelihood of that plant's survival? Here are 4 critical considerations.

First, choose your purchase wisely.

Frankly I'm more of an impulse buyer so I need to follow my own advice. What took me time to realize is that, as a rule of thumb, plants grown in a pot (hypertufa trough or anything weather worthy – I've used deep, but cheap plastic pots successfully) should be hardy to at least 1 USDA zone colder than where you live.

Second, location, location, location.

Make sure you know where your plant will grow best. Often the label offers this information or look up the information on the internet. Many rock garden plants like full sun but some would prefer afternoon shade when the sun is at its most intense. A well-placed stone can provide this and thus creating a micro-climate – or in the case of a trough, moving it to a more favorable location. Some plants like their crowns to be dry so pay attention to planting to the right depth (growing point at soil level). One trick I've used is to snuggle thin, flat stones up against the crown (essentially acting as an extra layer or mulch) for an extra layer of protection from wetness.

Keep an eye on your plant to assess how it's taking to its new location – and consider moving it, if it's not thriving. Troughs are great for manipulating light exposure but do remember to water them as needed, and sometimes during hot periods that means daily.

Third, plant into a lean, well-drained soil mix.

“Bare root” the plant by washing off the potting soil from the nursery and untangle the roots as best you can. You don't have to be especially gentle about this. Trim any damaged or especially long roots and dig the planting hole as deep as the roots are long. Backfill your planting “soil” mix (see the article on scree for some suggested recipes).

Lastly, don't underestimate the importance of timing

These little plants can easily fry in a day. So wait to plant on a cloudy, cool day. I always water the plant in thoroughly, making sure the soil settles in around the roots, mulch with grit or pea gravel, then cover the plant with an upturned plastic pot (make sure there's a hole in the bottom).

Usually my plant is well on its way to establishing in its new home after only 2-3 days and the cover can be removed.

And one more word of wisdom. Record your planting. For me this seems to be a losing battle to keep up. Since my memory is terrible, I am now making what I hope will be a weather-proof label from cut up mini-blinds and then sticking the label near the plant in addition to recording it on my computer (I use an Excel spreadsheet). I've given up on trying to note its location in the garden, because I do move plants around. However, when the plant blooms, I take a photo as an additional identifier.

THE SOIL IS THE THING: MAKING SCREE

From Eva Gallagher, "Secrets of the Scree," A Rock Garden Handbook for Beginners Edited by Jack Ferreri, NARGS publication, 1999

Editor: As a rule, rock garden plants like well-drained soil, something which rarely occurs naturally in our own gardens, so we modify our planting medium to attempt a creation of the environment that our special plants prefer. We use the term "scree" quite often yet don't define it. I recently came across this article about scree and think it can be helpful to both beginning and experienced rock gardeners.

"A scree is created by the continual freezing and thawing of water in rock fractures, which create smaller and smaller rocks from the cliffs and bedrock of the mountain—boulders into talus, talus into scree, (rock that is less than fist-sized and down to the size of crushed gravel), then to fine gravel and eventually to sand. If you have ever hiked across a scree slope, you will know how loose this substrate is, as your foot will slip and sink. In flat areas, it may be more settled, but it is still not enriched by any organic matter or clay, ingredients that are necessary to start the transformation of sand into soil. The scree, then, is very free draining, well-aerated (roots need oxygen, too!), and poor in nutrients."

To imitate scree:

"In his book *Rock Gardening*, H. Lincoln Foster recommends one part loam, two parts humus (peat, leaf mold and/or compost with a lacing of sheep manure and bone meal) and twelve parts coarse gravel.

"The Siskiyou Nursery catalogue has this recipe for a lean scree: equal parts of coarse sand, gravel (both of which are free of silt) and leaf mold/peat.

"Robert Bartolomei, [past] curator of the rock garden at New York Botanical Garden, recommends a "mineral mix" made from equal parts of river bed gravel, coarse sand (such as is used for septic tank beds) and Turface (the red calcined clay that is used on sports fields). The Turface plays an important role as it is porous and absorbs not only water, but nutrients. He has used this with great success in his beds at NYBG.

"The easiest scree of all to build is composed of 100% pure limestone gravel—again IA, 1/4-1/2 inch in size [some call this pea gravel]. Fill the bed to a depth of one to two feet and that's it—you can start planting and looking forward to success after success. Skeptics take heed of the famous experiment done by noted British alpine gardener Will

Ingwersen and described in his book *The Dianthus*. He filled a large planter with washed limestone chippings, (sieved through a 1/4" sieve) and planted it with several different alpine species of *Dianthus*. Most "formed tight, hard and very characteristic cushions and flowered more freely than ever before." It takes courage to entrust your gems to pure stones and so some recommend first putting in a 10cm (4") bottom layer of "goodies"—humus, rotting sods, or other nutrient-rich material.

Editor's Note: Rock gardeners can discuss ad infinitum the subject of their favored soil mix. There is probably no perfect mix and some materials are more readily available than others. These include builders' sand (not play sand), pea gravel, chicken grit (starter mix), fine vermiculite, peat moss, Turface, or Perlite (the latter being the least of my preferences). Don't quote me but for my troughs I tend to use whatever I have on hand to accomplish a well-drained and lean medium. For my new rock garden I used 100% builder's sand but of course if the roots go deep enough they will eventually make contact with my clay soil.

WURSTER R.G. : THRIVING IN SPITE OF OUR NEGLECT

Carol Eichler, editor

Spring got away from us and we never scheduled a work session at Wurster this year. I was anxious to see the performance of the bulbs I had planted the previous fall so I did visit several times beginning in April to catch the any early display. But it's really mid-May when the garden really wakes up in and puts on a spectacular show.



Stopping by, of course I couldn't resist some casual weeding as I'm sure others did as well. But that was it. No maintenance to speak of. Can you imagine what this kind of "neglect" (or should we call it "tough love") would do to your perennial border?

We recently scheduled two work sessions in August and September, cutting back, restraining some of the more assertive plants, and weeding, though most of the weeds seemed to be along the

edging. In fact, some of the weeds were the result of our over-vigorous self-sowing plants. Still David hauled away an astonishing amount of plant material for the compost.

While I'm not advocating for such neglect of a rock garden, this year illustrates by example the low maintenance quality of rock gardens. A lean, and well-drained soil discourages weeds from taking hold and leaves you more time to enjoy the garden!

Many thanks to our workers in alphabetical order, in addition to me: John Gilrein, Ellen Lane, David Mitchell, Harold Peachey, and Wendy Sherman. We always welcome helpers and working in the garden is a great learning tool.

SOME CHOICE ALLIUMS

Mark McDonough

Reprinted by permission from the author

The genus *Allium* is now estimated to encompass 800 - 1000 species, making it the largest genus of monocotyledon species. Hundreds of species are suitable to the rock garden, valuable both for providing color in hot summer months and fall when few other bulbs are in evidence, and for their relative ease of culture. It is difficult to narrow down a selection to just ten species. However, my selection is made on the basis of hardiness and reliability, dwarf stature, range of growth form, and extended season of bloom. Adding just a few *Alliums* to the rock garden or trough can add considerable interest and floral appeal, possibly leading to an alliaceous addiction. Let's proceed, with the species listed in no particular order or preference.

1. *Allium meteoricum* - A dwarf, refined species from Greece, Albania, and what we used to know as Yugoslavia. Like a tiny *A. pulchellum*, but with filiform foliage that remains prostrate and evergreen through the New England winter. Open umbels of perky bright pink flowers on 6" - 8" stems in July. Individual flowers are narrow tubes slightly pinched at the ends, with flared tips. Best grown in a trough where its small dimensions can be appreciated. Easy to grow in well drained sandy soil, although sometimes shy to flower. Doesn't produce much seed.
2. *Allium przewalskianum* - This desirable dwarf species from China is gaining popularity. While easy to grow in well-drained sandy sites, the plants seem to fizzle out after a few years and should be maintained from seed-grown replacements. Makes clumps of narrow grayish foliage springing from bulbs covered with shaggy, reddish-orange, reticulated bulb coats. Purple flower globes appear in summer on 8" - 9" stems, distinctive on account of the stamens that bend at right angles above the flat florets.
3. *Allium paniculatum* - A highly variable entity with a large distribution over most of Europe, North Africa, and Asia. Often a tallish, slender plant to 20" or more, dwarf forms are also common. The only way to get some of the dwarf forms is to continually select *Allium paniculatum* from seed lists. The dwarf forms are most often obtained as misnomers when selecting other species from the seed exchanges. Typically, the dwarf forms are gregarious growers, making dense clumps of flaccid, grassy foliage. In midsummer they flower rather profusely with informal jumbles of dangling bells, able to produce bouquets of bloom on 6" - 8" stems. The common color theme is white heavily stained with red or reddish brown, but there are all sorts of interesting variations such as pale yellow stained with brown (rather sordid in some clones), tan or parchment colored, pink, pinkish-brown, or white stained with green. My favorite selection is one I named *A. paniculatum* ssp. *fuscum* 'Jerry,' one of the best dwarf reds. It grows to about 10" tall, with a myriad clusters of white bells stained with red held on white pedicels, giving an overall effect of a unique, pale carnosus pink color.
4. *Allium sibthorpiianum* - One of the smallest species that looks terrific growing in a trough. Originally received as "Allium species from Turkey", this species is unmistakable on account of the unique raised "ribs" on the bulb, only apparent

during certain periods of the plants growth cycle. In flower it resembles *A. paniculatum* in miniature, but with delightful clusters of silvery pink bells on decumbent 3" stems in summer. Fertilized flowers become deep raspberry rose. Quickly retreats into dormancy after flowering, the dwarf basal foliage resprouting in autumn and remaining healthy all winter. This species has recently become a "regular" in the seed exchanges.

5. *Allium kurtzianum* - This species from Turkey can be found in horticulture misidentified as *Allium olympicum* (originally identified as *A. olympicum* before the epithet *A. kurtzianum* was first recognized in 1983). This is an attractive dwarf species with grayish leaves and 3" - 5" silver stems that lie flat on the ground. When grown on a slope, the prostrate growth always faces downhill! Often two fragrant hemispheres of silvery pink blooms appear per bulb, peppered with yellow anthers. Flowers in July, then goes dormant afterwards. Readily hybridizes with *Allium flavum* ssp. *tauricum*, producing beautiful hybrids with semi-decumbent, intensely silver stems, and lively pink flowers. Grow *Allium kurtzianum* in a trough to appreciate its small proportions and prostrate growth habit.
6. *Allium flavum* ssp. *tauricum* - Familiar to most rock gardeners, *Allium flavum* is a pretty species with informal bursts of bright yellow flowers in July, typically on stems 10-14" tall but possibly up to 18". The subspecies from Turkey, *Allium flavum* ssp. *tauricum*, is the one to look for. It is much smaller in stature, sometimes nearly prostrate, and frequently semi-decumbent to erect up to 12" tall. The common color theme is a pastel blend of pale yellow overlaid with pink, but almost any color is possible. After a decade of growing seed from selected color forms, a whole range of enticing cultivars has emerged. Some of these have been singled out, named, and propagated with the anticipation they'll be available through a commercial one day. The following should whet your appetite:

'Cinnamon' - A robust plant with thick stocky silver 10"-12" stems and firm, curved gray foliage, building up into a multi-stemmed clump. Large many-flowered clusters of smoldering burnt red-orange flowers. Unlike any else you've seen!

'Hot Molasses' - Shorter than the preceding, with dark, molten red-orange flowers in smaller clusters.

'Caramel' - Stocky plant to 8"-10". The silvery leaves and stems are a nice backdrop to the warm caramel tan flowers with violet stamens.

'Lemon Cooler' - A good clumping plant with 8"-9" stems topped with ample clusters of lovely pale lemon flowers. Green foliage.

'Pink Parasol' and 'Pastel Parasol' - These siblings are terrific for a trough or small-scale rock garden. Quickly forms prostrate, many-stemmed clumps of wiry green foliage, and multitudes of miniature poms of fresh pink and near white respectively. The stems only reach 3" tall.

'Truly Faded' - Intense silver stems are thick and stocky, reaching 10" tall. Large, many-flowered clusters of an odd madder-rose color. Intriguing!

7. *Allium togashii* (also spelled *A. togashii*) - From Japan, this delightful late flowering miniature species came to me from a variety of reliable sources, including Kew. Bulbs cluster into tight clumps, making flaccid, grassy tufts of flat, linear leaves in spring and summer. The foliage quickly withers away in late summer leaving naked 6" flower stalks topped with lollipop balls of pale pinkish-white. Depending on the

clone, flowers may appear from late August through October. A tall, late flowering form is particularly robust and easy to grow, reaching 12" in height and flowering well into the autumn. Seed set is low.

8. *Allium daghestanicum* - The true plant is nearly impossible to come by because everything in cultivation is misidentified. My plants came from a reliable source and key out to the true species, a high altitude species from the Caucasus. The caespitose clusters of narrow bulbs attached on tough fibrous rhizomes need good drainage to prevent rot. Produces attractive thread-like green leaves that are firm and wiry, with airy clusters of light pink flowers on arching 10"-14" stems in August. The plants have a light, wildflower look about them. One of my personal favorites.
9. *Allium callimischon* ssp. *haemostichum* - This tiny species is hard to come by in this country despite being well known and frequently grown in England. From low coastal elevations in Mediterranean areas, it is surprisingly hardy with prostrate, wiry, thread-like leaves that remain evergreen all winter. A fall blooming Allium, this species gives the appearance of drying up and going dead by midsummer, leaving behind spiky, twig-like spears. In September and October, the 3"-4" dead spears spring back to life and erupt into whimsical sprays of open, bell-shaped, white flowers, accented with blood red spots, red anthers, and a dark red eye. Unfortunately the flowers are ill-scented, but they're so delightful to look at that the plant is forgiven. This is a wonderful miniature species suitable for trough culture.
10. *Allium cupani* ssp. *hirtovaginatatum* - This species and several subspecies are widespread throughout the Mediterranean countries and are rather variable, posing difficult taxonomic complexities. My plants came from high mountainous areas of Turkey, from the MacPhail & Watson expedition. Not a great beauty but an intriguing little plant, with hairy, stiff, spear-like foliage to 6" tall in spring and summer. Like the preceding species, it goes dormant for a short midsummer period. The sheathed buds atop twiggy, dead-looking stems are so thin and narrow that they're easily overlooked. Suddenly in late summer these erupt into modest few-flowered sprays of tiny, tubular pinkish white flowers. Easy to grow and keep, I recommend this little species for cultivation in a trough where its small dimensions and odd growth cycle can be appreciated.

Mark McDonough is widely known as "the onion man". More allium info and lots of photos of these alliums and more on his website: plantbuzz.com.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

There are no new Chapter members to report. However, if you haven't already done so, why not consider joining our parent organization, NARGS? It's easy to join online at www.nargs.org for only \$40 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. Plus, your membership connects you to gardeners worldwide whose extensive gardening knowledge extends to rock gardens and beyond.

To our Chapter members: A membership directory is published electronically every year in September. For those who receive a paper copy of the Green Dragon, you will

be mailed a printed directory. The latest directory was distributed last month. To respect our members' privacy we do not post the directory online.

NEWS FROM NARGS: TIMBER PRESS DISCOUNT

As a Chapter member of NARGS, you can now enjoy a 35% discount when shopping on the Timber Press website. Like NARGS, Timber Press works to connect gardeners with the information they need to grow healthier, more productive plants. This publisher is home to authors such as Piet Oudolf, Michael Dirr, Tracy DiSabato-Aust, Ruth Rogers Clausen, and NARGS' own Joseph Tychonievich. Timber Press publishes books on subjects from garden design to growing vegetables, from building green roofs to creating, yes, rock gardens. There is no expiration date to this offer, so use it as often as you like. It's easy. Go through the portal at [NARGS](#) and use the coupon code "NARGS" at checkout.



UPCOMING 2017 ACNARGS PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars! Unless otherwise specified, all local events start with a brown bag lunch at noon with the program following at 1 pm, and take place at the renovated Whetzel Room, 404 Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Oct.21 Yasemin Kon, author of *Wildflowers of Turkey*. Talks at 11am and 1pm with bring-your-own bag lunch/break in between.

Nov. 1: Deadline for donations of seed to be received for processing

Nov.11: Mary Stauble and Bill Stark (note change in program) "29 British Gardens in 15 days - Lessons Learned"

Nov. 17-19: NARGS Annual Meeting, Raleigh-Durham, N.C. Registration is still open. Info [here](#).

Dec. TBD: Chapter work days to package seed for the NARGS Seed Exchange

Dec. 15: NARGS Seed Exchange ordering begins

And planning ahead for 2018 and 2019:

June 13-29, 2018: NARGS-sponsored botanical tour to Yunnan China. Info [here](#).

July 6-8, 2018: "Where Alpines Meet the Sea," NARGS Annual Meeting in St. John's Newfoundland, Optional post-conference trip: July 9 – 15. Info forthcoming in the Winter 2018 *Rock Garden Quarterly*

May 3-5, 2019: "Rooted in Diversity," NARGS Study Weekend in the Philadelphia area, sponsored by Delaware Valley Chapter NARGS

As we learn more details of these meetings they will be included in future newsletters, our blog, acnargs.blogspot.com, and our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/acnargs>.

CALENDAR OF SELECT GARDEN EVENTS

To have a garden event in your area listed send all pertinent information to Carol Eichler at carolithaca@gmail.com

Cooperative Extension Programs, located at 615 Willow Av., Ithaca. 607-272-2292. Unless otherwise stated, classes require pre-registration and have a self-determining sliding fee scale. More info at www.ccetompkins.org

Oct. 4, 5:30-6:30pm: Native Plants for Pollinators at Tompkins County Public Library. Free (donations accepted). No registration required.

Oct. 12, 6:30-8:30pm: Introduction to Permaculture Design with Sean Dembrosky of Edible Acres (edibleacres.org).

Oct. 18, 6:30-8pm: Impacts of Invasive Plants on People and Wildlife

Oct. 19, 5:30-6:30pm: Winterizing Your Garden

Nov. 18: 6th Annual Leaf Swap Pick-up Day and Compost (up to 5 gal.) Giveaway. Free

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society Meetings from 7-8:30pm at the Ithaca Unitarian Church annex (corner of Buffalo & Aurora, enter side door on Buffalo St. & up the stairs). More info at www.FLNPS.org

Oct 18 - Allen Nichols – American Chestnut Foundation –chestnut recovery status

Nov 15 – Mark Witmer – shrubs for birds

Plus FLNPS Walks meeting at different times and locations.

Cornell Botanic Gardens (formerly Cornell Plantations) fall lecture series. Unless otherwise noted held at Statler Auditorium on the Cornell campus at 7:30pm.

Oct. 12: Plants, Magic and Molecules: The Search for New Cures from Old Remedies by Cassandra Quave, Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Human Health, Emory University School of Medicine and Curator of the Emory University Herbarium. Note location G01 Gates Hall

Oct. 23: Park Rx America: Prescribing Parks to Prevent and Treat Chronic Disease by Robert Zarr, Staff Pediatrician, Unity Health Care and Founder, ParkRxAmerica.org

Nov. 8: Adapt and Thrive: Creatively Living in a Climate Changed World by Alizé Carrère, National Geographic Explorer & Cultural Ecologist

ABOUT US – ACNARGS

We are an all-volunteer organization and one of thirty-eight NARGS affiliated chapters active in North America. Our annual Chapter activities include 6 program-speaker meetings, the Green Dragon newsletter, web and Facebook pages, garden visits, overnight garden trips, hands-on workshops, and 3 plant sales a year. Our meetings are informal, friendly gatherings that provide a wealth of information and offer a source for unusual plants, plus the opportunity to be inspired by other gardeners. The public is always welcome.

Chapter membership starts at \$10 a year based on the calendar year. Membership includes these benefits: newsletter sent to you electronically (or option by mail for an extra fee), opportunity to travel on our planned overnight garden trips, annual membership directory, and plant sale discounts and member only sales, including Plant-of-the-Month sales. Download a membership form here: <http://www.acnargs.org/join.pdf>.

ABOUT NARGS NATIONAL

NARGS National is our parent organization: We encourage you to join (online at www.nargs.org) for only \$40 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 its Annual Meeting in interesting places where attendees have the opportunity to visit gardens, and take field trips, often to alpine areas, as well as hear talks by outstanding plants people from around the world. More recently, NARGS is offering botanical tours each year, both within the US and abroad.

RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE/2014 BOARD MEMBERS

If you want to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you!

Chair: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Program: Terry Humphries, terryehumphries@gmail.com

Program Committee Members: Could this be you?

Secretary: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

Treasurer: BZ Marranca, mmm10@cornell.edu

Plant Sales Chair: David Mitchell, dwm23@cornell.edu. Seeking a Co-Chair for 2018 to work alongside David...Why not you?

Plant Sales Committee Members: Michael Loos, BZ Marranca, Carol Eichler

Plant of the Month: John Gilrein, basecamp@alum.syracuse.edu

Membership: Mary Stauble, mes2@cornell.edu

New Member Hospitality: Nari Mistry, nbm2@cornell.edu

Newsletter Editor: Carol Eichler carolithaca@gmail.com

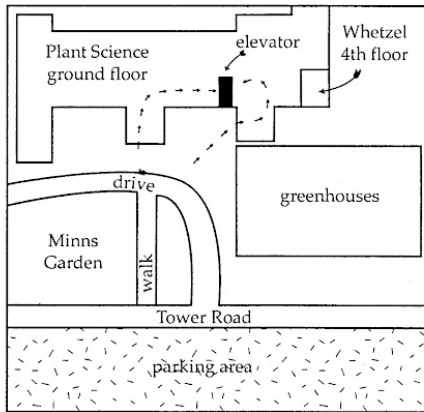
Calendar: Pat Curran, pc21@cornell.edu

Webmaster, Program Tech: Craig Cramer, cdcramer@gmail.com

GREEN DRAGON TALES

Published eight times a year (Jan/Feb., March, April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept., Oct. Nov./Dec.). Submit articles by the fourth Friday of the month preceding publication to Carol Eichler, carolithaca@gmail.com. Note: The next issue of *The Green Dragon* will be our

November 2017 issue. The newsletter is always posted and printable each month on our website: www.acnargs.org



Map: Whetzel Room,
Cornell campus

PHOTO OF THE MONTH: SPECIES PEONY



Species Peony in seed, perhaps even showier than its spring flowers. Credit: John Gilrein