

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

FROM OUR PRESIDENT CARMEL TYSVER

Dear Members,

It is a new year and most of the nurseries have put their catalogs on line so guess where I spend some of my time each day. If you are ordering rock garden plants please take a look at [Wrightman Alpines](#). They will donate a plant for the Alaska Botanical Rock Garden, which our organization built and maintains, for each \$50 spent as long as we only send them one order. Madge Oswald has again graciously offered to coordinate the orders. Her email address is johnmadge@chugach.net. I have found lots of plants in the catalog I want but I need to figure out where I can put them. Having down sized the garden I have to be a little surer of plant size and space.

The endowment fund we have started is only a few hundred dollars from having enough money to receive a \$10,000 matching grant. This endowment fund is to make sure that the rock garden at the ABG is maintained in the future. The reason it was started is we're all getting older and having issues kneeling and bending and we want this garden to continue on for years after our days in the garden are over. So please if you have not donated to the fund send a check for whatever you can afford to help get that grant.

The rock garden is 20 years old this year and I think we should throw a party. As one person said we could have cake and Kool-Aid. This will take some planning and help and hopefully some of the members will step up and help with both the planning and serving.

Hope everyone is checking the website: www.akrockgardensociety.org. There were a couple glitches lately but if people will point them out to me I can have them changed in a day to two. Our next meeting will be March 17th at the MTA building in Palmer. So wear your green.

Carmel Tysver

Chapter Chairperson

garden@gci.net 907-727-7645

MARCH 17TH ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY MEETING

March 17th

Board meeting begins at noon

Regular membership meeting at 1:00pm

Location: Matanuska Telephone Association, 480 Commercial Drive. Palmer, AK 99645

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CALENDAR

February 15, 2018: ARGS will place a group plant order from [WRIGHTMAN'S](#). Send your order to Madge. Plants will be shipped in early May. Money will be collected at pick up. Email to: johnmadge@chugach.net or mail to 12001 Audubon Dr., Anch. AK 99516.

April 15, 2018 - Sears Mall. If we don't have many plants yet, we can still set up our table as 'educational'. Florene will create brochure for a possible mini-retreat at SnowFire Gardens. Rock gardening information can be provided as well as small troughs for sale. And, of course, a brochure explaining what the Alaska Rock Garden Society is all about as well as a membership sign-up form.

March 3, 2018: [Alaska Botanical Garden Spring Conference](#). ARGS will have a table. We will have copies of all Verna's books, note cards and the famous diggers. Gina and Madge will be at the table. Stop and say hi. (**Rates increase Feb. 17th!**)

May 19, 2018: Anchorage. Meeting in combination with Clean-Up at Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG)

Summer, 2018: Garden tours. ARGS is looking for rock gardens for summer tours. Large or small, nominate yours or a friends. This is a great learning opportunity for everyone.

Summer, 2018: 20th Anniversary party for the Rock Garden at ABG.

August, 2018: Field Trip?

Join Us!

We have about six meetings per year, plus Plant Sales, Field Trips and a Seed Exchange. Our meetings are generally on the third Saturday of the month, Fall, Winter, and Spring, and rotate between the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. To join, apply at: <http://www.akrockgardensociety.org/>.

Individual Membership \$15.00 US

Family Membership \$20.00 US

Membership is for the calendar year so renew now if you have not already done so!

ARGS ENDOWMENT. ARGS started collecting money for an endowment for the Rock Garden at ABG last March. The endowment is managed by The [Alaska Community Foundation](#). The intent of the endowment is to let the funds grow. The funds will not be used for many years. Present and future ARGS members will determine how funds are used. Some uses of funds include the purchase plants to replace dead plant, purchase plants for research for hardiness, and general upkeep and maintenance.

ARGS would like to ensure that the Rock Garden at ABG will continue to be an important part of Alaska. We want a place where our children and grandchildren can appreciate the beauty and learn about the plants.

Seed money from our savings was the start of the fund. The money that had been raised for seed expeditions was given back to the club by that group. A donor offered to match any other donated monies up to \$10,000.

The members got busy! Individuals donated proceeds from plant sales, one sold her tufa rocks, one sold troughs. The Pratt family donated Verna's personal troughs for resale. Wildflower Garden Club generously gave \$1,000.

\$8,914 has been raised to date. To take advantage of the matching funds, we need an additional \$1,086!

Donations can be made directly to The [Alaska Community Foundation](#) or to ARGS, PO Box 244136, Anchorage 99524.



Where Alpines Meet the Sea

NARGS Annual Meeting, St. John's, Newfoundland, July 6-8, 2018

Hosted by the Newfoundland Chapter



Welcome to Newfoundland, the far east of North America! Eastern Newfoundland is a land of botanical extremes: boreal forest of balsam fir, black and white spruce with associated northern woodland plants; a multitude of bogs and fens where grow a multitude of orchids and insectivorous plants; and rocky barrens of the coast which house wind-swept contorted trees and plants of an alpine nature more in common with high elevations of the New England Appalachians. We have the largest population of North Atlantic summering humpback whales, some of the largest seabird colonies of eastern North America, and are along the passing route of icebergs calving off glaciers in Greenland. This NARGS venue provides participants with a chance to visit one of the most hauntingly beautiful regions of North America. Newfoundland is truly where alpine meets the sea.

The summer 2018 NARGS meeting will take advantage of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Conference Facility. Accommodations will be avail-

able in Macpherson College, opened in 2013, whose private rooms offer modern and comfortable accommodations. Dining areas and lecture theatres are within a couple of minutes' walk from the College. One of the main highlights from this meeting will be a visit to the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, an informal garden with 13 themed gardens including rock gardens, crevice garden, alpine trough display, and alpine house.

Our guest speakers hail from the coasts of eastern and western Canada as well as Scotland. The plants discussed will be alpine plants that can tolerate months of snow and overall wetter climates, with examples from the wild and how they perform in the garden. Day trips will introduce participants to the plants of the eastern Newfoundland coastal barrens and peatlands. Book sales and author signing for the field guides "The Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador" and "Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland" will be available. Before the conference there will be open gardens. Consult the Winter issue of NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly for more details. To register visit the NARGS website at <https://nargs.org/news/2017-12-11/registration-open-newfoundland-meeting-and-post-conference-tour>

The conference registration fee is CAD \$495.00 Canadian or USD \$415. Registration for the conference will close as of June 1, 2018. 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 closing dinner banquet on Sunday July 8.

For any questions contact Todd Boland at todd.boland@warp.nfld.net



Plant Profile

Daphne arbuscula

Submitted by Florene Carney

Daphne arbuscula is a species of flowering plant in the family Thymelaeaceae.

Daphne arbuscula, endemic to the limestone cliffs of the Muran River valley in Slovakia is comfortable on tufa. Four forms of it are grown at Wrightman's Nursery, that Josef Halda collected many years ago. The best attribute of *D. arbuscula* is its ability to withstand extreme cold and retain its dark green color - as dark as any yew.

To the delight and surprise of many local rock gardeners, the *D. arbuscula* lives here and thrives in the right location. At Snowfire Gardens we have two varieties growing in the upper end of the big rock garden. One has been there for eight years and the other for four or more. LeEllen Baker has been growing one in her garden on Lake Lucille for even longer. Both varieties we have bloom early, right after the Drabas and Thlaspi. They are usually at least in bud at our annual Open Garden and Plant Sale on Memorial Day Weekend. Interestingly, we don't have them growing on tufa or even a limestone soil, although I think I threw a chunk of tufa in the hole when I first planted them. They are on a fairly steep bank, with good drainage and face southeast, so get morning sun but miss out on the hot afternoon sun should we have such a thing. The first variety we got is *D. arbuscula* 'Muran's Castle', the second looks almost the same with very slight differences in color and unfortunately the tags are gone so it's a guessing game. Wrightman's Alpines has a nice selection of *Daphne*'s and some great pictures. Take a look and consider adding this delightful plant to your collection.



Daphne_x_'Schlyteri'



Daphne_cneorum_verlotti_x_d._arbuscula

Photos from [Wrightman Alpines.com](http://WrightmanAlpines.com)



January 20, 2018 Alaska Rock Garden Society –
Board Meeting at Central Lutheran Church in Anchorage

President:	Carmel Tysver	Present
Vice President:	Florene Carney	Present
Secretary:	Jamie Smith	Present
Treasurer:	Madge Oswald	Present
Past President:	Jaime Rodriguez	Absent
Program Chair:	Florene Carney	Present
Newsletter Editor:	Charles Utermohle	Present
Website Coordinators:	Jaime Rodriguez	Absent
Member-at-Large	Debbie Hinchey	Present
Membership Chair	Gina Docherty	Present

Old Business:

Carmel:

Member-at-Large Position: Fran Durner has resigned as Member-at-Large, so we will need to find someone to fill the position. Will ask during Membership meeting. (At the Membership Meeting, Debbie Hinchey and Gina Docherty volunteered to be our new Members-at-Large. Thank you, Debbie and Gina!)

Treasurer Position: Madge has agreed to stay on as our Treasurer, as she doesn't feel this is a good time for someone new to take over. There's just too much going on with the fundraisers for the Endowment Fund, plant sales, etc. Board agreed unanimously. Thank you, Madge!

Endowment Fund: 'A Day in the Garden' fundraiser. Alaska Botanical Garden will advertise, but they want a percentage of our intake. We may need to find another location, as our intent is to raise funds for the Endowment Fund. If we pay ABG the percentage, it would cut into those funds. A discussion followed in which several suggestions were made. We also took into consideration a couple other groups were going to hold hands-on classes during the summer where folks could learn how to make the troughs. We decided to take a different approach: Madge suggested getting together at her place to make several troughs. We would then plant up a few of the troughs to sell at plant sales. Other troughs would be left empty and sold as 'Make your own trough' kits.

New Business:

Madge:



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Credit card use at plant sales: Madge will check on the 'Square' credit card use for plant sales and link to our website. Carmel requested Madge check to see if it's possible to link TWO to our account.

Troughs (see Endowment under Old Business): Madge will get ingredients for troughs in May. As many of us as can need to help make the troughs. Trough kits would include instructions, a bag of soil, and a bag of top dressing. A selection of rock garden plants to choose from could be made available, possibly some rocks as well. These kits would be sold at plant sales. The price for trough kits still to be determined. Already planted troughs would be available, with suggested price of \$100-150 each. Plant sales would include: the ABG plant sale, Florene's Plant Sale in May, and possibly the Wildflower Club plant sale.

Wrightman's Order: Madge will do the order. The **DEADLINE** to get your order to Madge is **FEBRUARY 15th**! [See details on page 2 of this newsletter.]

Endowment Fund: The Savings account that was set up for the endowment fund will be closed. There's only \$600 in the account, and the bank charges \$5.00/month for maintenance fee. The funds will be moved into the current/active Endowment Fund.

20th Anniversary of ARGS Rock Garden at ABG is this year: Madge suggested we have a celebration party at the garden to honor Verna Pratt who put so much work into getting the garden started, and maintained until her passing. We need to look for an energetic, take-charge person to pull it together - someone with experience! Several names were mentioned by Madge, Carmel, and Gina. Each will check with their suggested persons, then report back at our next meeting.

Carmel:

Carmel related to us that she received a letter from Robin from ABG wanting access to the Endowment Fund, information on how much is currently in the fund, when would ABG have access to the funds, etc. Carmel's reply to Robin 'set her straight' that this is not funds for ABG, but for Alaska Rock Garden's garden at ABG. The funds will be managed by the Alaska Rock Garden Society, not ABG.

DATES:

March 3rd: [Alaska Botanical Garden Spring Conference](#)

Stay tuned for information regarding additional programs and workshops! Don't forget to check our website, also!



POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

President: Carmel Tysver; (907) 727-7645;
garden@gci.net

Vice-President: Florene Carney; (907) 376-5390;
snowfire@mtaonline.net

Secretary: Jamie Smith; (907) 376-7863;
topgun@mtaonline.net

Treasurer: Madge Oswald; (907) 345-5144;
johnmadge@chugach.net

Past President: Jaime Rodriguez; (907) 357-2747;
jrtinker@mtaonline.net

Members-at-large: Debbie Hinchey
Gina Docherty

Membership: Gina Docherty

Newsletter Editor: Charles J. Utermohle; (907) 231-5460; Thule@alaska.net

CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Alaska Rock Garden Society is a diverse group sharing an appreciation for rock gardening. Help make the society valuable to you by contributing suggestions for presentations, articles, plant sales, and field trips.

The newsletter is always looking for meaningful content on rock gardening in Alaska. Send your articles and/or pictures to the editor at Thule@alaska.net. Events related to other gardening will also be posted as space allows.

ARGS WEBSITE:

[HTTP://
WWW.AKROCKGARDENSOCIETY.ORG/](http://www.akrockgardensociety.org/)
CHECK THE [ARGS CALENDAR](#) FOR
CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS.

ARGS FACEBOOK:

[HTTPS://M.FACEBOOK.COM/
ALASKAROCKGARDENSOCIETY/](https://m.facebook.com/alaskarockgardensociety/)

Join NARGS

Join the [North American Rock Garden Society](#). Benefits include a subscription to the Rock Garden Quarterly, seed exchange, garden book purchases at a discount, study weekends, and annual meetings, as well as other benefits. Membership in the Alaska Rock Garden Society is separate from NARGS, the national organization. Membership is \$40/year (plus \$10 for additional members). Register online at <https://nargs.org/join>. The NARGS website is at www.nargs.org.

FREE MONEY - NARGS LINK TO AMAZON

Have you ever purchased an item online through [Amazon.com](#)? Most of us have. Are you a regular shopper at [Amazon.com](#)? Many of us are. Have you ever shopped at [Amazon.com](#) through the [NARGS](#) website link? Very few of us do. Do you know what the NARGS [Amazon.com](#) link is? Every time an individual (NARGS member or non-member) goes to the [NARGS.org](#) website and then clicks on the link to [Amazon.com](#), the [North American Rock Garden Society](#) earns a commission on each item purchased. The commission varies based upon the item purchased and typically ranges from 4% to 18%. You make your purchase just as if you had gone to [Amazon.com](#) directly, and there is no additional cost to you. It is free money to [NARGS](#). Make your next [Amazon.com](#) purchase by starting at [NARGS.org](#). It is a winner for us all! Here is how to financially support [NARGS.org](#) through [Amazon.com](#).

Go to the [NARGS.org](#) website.

There is a black banner with a link to [Amazon.com](#). Click on that link and the next web page is the [Amazon.com](#) site. (Mozilla Firefox does not provide the link.) Shop as you normally do.

Shop at [Amazon.com](#) through [NARGS.org](#) web link!

Where Alpines Meet the Sea
NARGS Annual Meeting, St. John's, Newfoundland,
July 6-8, 2018.
Hosted by the Newfoundland Chapter
Contact: Todd Boland at todd.boland@warp.nfld.net

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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WHERE ALPINES MEET THE SEA
NARGS 2018



NEWFOUNDLAND CHAPTER • ST. JOHN'S JULY 6-8, 2018