

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

President's Corner

Florene Carney

Hope you all had a great New Year and are recovered from our Big Shaker! Now is a good time to review what happened in your garden last year and look forward to what you can do in the coming year to meet your garden goals.

We have an exciting year ahead. January brings us Kathy Swick, who has been slaving over her hot computer to bring us a program on Penstemons. Kathy's gardens are exquisite, and she is definitely a local expert in the field. In February Teena Garay will come up from Homer and do a program on "Starting From Seed". Teena's garden in Homer is a show place. She traveled with our group to China and is a wealth of information. In March we have scheduled a slide show on "How to Build a Rock Garden" and will have some local experts on hand to answer questions. We are asked to do this program every year by new Rock Gardeners. If you already have a rock garden, please come and help answer questions and join in the discussion so that all of us can benefit from your expertise.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Meeting on January 19th. Our new location, at the Elks Club in Eagle River, is working out well. A nice central location with enough room for everyone! We are doing some new things in our regular program that we think will be fun and informational. We have a new Librarian! Kathy Swick is going to put together a selection of books that can be checked out by members at a meeting and returned the next month. If you have a book that you would like to review but don't want to add it to your library this might be just the ticket to check it out and review. We are starting out with just a few but will add more if the program catches on. We will also be doing a Dollar Auction to raise funds for a scholarship for someone travelling to a Study Week-end. Bring your dollars, its lots of fun! Each meeting we will have a Plant Profile or an informational moment on "Latin for Gardeners". At the end of each meeting we have Forum, which is time to get with other gardeners and ask questions, share knowledge and find out what is happening in our ARGs Community. Our goal is for you to leave each meeting feeling informed, inspired, and excited to get back to your garden.

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CALENDAR

- January 19th:** **Welcome new members!**
Kathy Swick, “Penstemons” - Kathy has a beautiful little rock garden right in the middle of Anchorage and is an expert plants-person. Botanical Latin—Dorte Mobley – 2 pm, Elks Lodge in Eagle River 17111 N. Eagle River Loop Rd.
- February 16th:** Teena Garay – “Starting from Seed” - Teena went to China with the ARGS group, has a beautiful garden in Homer and is knowledgeable in all areas. Botanical Latin—Dorte Mobley — 2 pm, Elks Lodge in Eagle River 17111 N. Eagle River Loop Rd
- March 16th:** ”How to Build a Rock Garden“ Slide show and possible demonstration – a panel of four people will be available to answer questions and add information as the program progresses. Profile: Aster Alpinus — 2 pm, Elks Lodge in Eagle River 17111 N. Eagle River Loop Rd
- April 20th:** Midtown (formerly Sears) Mall Garden Show
- May 11th:** Clean-up at ABG
- May 18th:** Anchorage Plant Sale at ABG
- May 25th:** Plant Sale at Snowfire Gardens
- June:** Rock Garden Tours – Valley – June 15th or 16th
 Clean-up Rock Garden at Palmer Visitor Center TBA
- July:** An Evening in the Rock Garden at ABG
 Rock Garden plants for sale, demonstration on planting troughs – date TBA

August 17th: **Field Trip: A Day at Hatcher Pass**

If you have an idea for a program get with any Board Member and we will work with you to do it or try to find an “expert” to present that program. We’d love to hear from you!

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 of 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. With your help we were able to reach that goal!

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



Helping Penstemons Survive in Alaska



By Kathy Swick

Where are they native?

How many kinds are there?

Which ones are easy to grow?

Where can I buy plants or seed?

What kind of soil do they require?

Which ones are in Alaskan gardens?



Saturday, January 19, 2019, 2 p.m.

**Eagle River Elks Lodge,
17111 Eagle River Loop Rd.**



**ARGS Membership Meeting 11/17/2018 Elks Lodge, Eagle River AK****Synopsis of meeting:**

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. Florene announced Officer Nominees: President, Florene Carney; Treasurer, Madge Oswald; Secretary, Jamie Smith; Membership, Gina Docherty.

Kristina made motion to accept nominees as presented. Charles seconded the motion. UNANIMOUSLY accepted.

Secretary's Report: Jamie Smith reported on the Board Meeting held 10/25/18. Minutes were read and approved.

New Business:

Seed Exchange: Debbie Hinchey reminded everyone to get our seeds to her ASAP. It takes a while to process them before they are ready for sale. Bags are available for those donating seeds.

Membership Committee: Gina Docherty announced seven (7) new members have already joined. Forms are still available, and she will work with Charles about possibly including them in either the Newsletter or The Crevice – or both.

Sunshine Committee: Florene Carney announced she added the Sunshine Committee to send out cards to members for special occasions such as birthdays, illnesses, etc. It currently needs a Chair. Dorte' Mobley volunteered to Chair the committee.

Library: Florene also announced we have a Library! Kathy Swick is our new Librarian, and Florene presented her with the Librarian Supply Package to help her get started. We are currently accepting donations of books PLUS working up a budget to purchase new books. This will be a Mobile Library, with books available at the meetings for check out.

Garden Tours: Dorte' Mobley is working on contacting gardeners in both the Valley and Anchorage, asking if they're interested in being on one of our tours. She will coordinate dates with them, and report back to membership.

The meeting then moved into the Pulsatilla Plant Profile presentation, followed by Debbie Hinchey's photo and commentary presentation of her trips to various rock gardens.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.



ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2019
2:00 P.M.
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AGENDA

- I. Welcome**
- II. Secretary's report and approval of minutes of last meeting**
- III. Treasurer's Report**
- IV. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Installation of Officers**
 - B. Seed Exchange – Debbie Hinchey**
 - C. Membership Drive – Gina Docherty**
- V. New Business**
- VI. Botanical Latin - Dorte' Mobley**
- VII. Dollar Auction**
- VII. Program: "Penstemons", Kathy Swick**
- VIII. FORUM – Discussion of any topic the group is interested in.**
- IX. Reading of proposed changes to Constitution, By-laws, and Standing Rules**
- X. Reminder: Next Meeting will be on February 16th. Teena Garay will do a presentation on "Starting from Seed".**

"We build gardens with altitude"



I recently saw this wise saying and thought it perfectly fits Rock Gardeners. We are in love with plants, rocks, designs, whimsy and aren't afraid to experiment. Consequently, we have occasional failures. My mantra is: "If I haven't killed a plant three times, I haven't given it a fair trial." Some would call it failure. Obviously, it is just Opportunity!

Each time I know what conditions that plant doesn't like and can adjust and try again with a little more determination and wisdom.

Ferns are the Plant of the Year for 2019

Better Homes and Gardens has announced that Ferns are the Plant of the Year for 2019. If you grow a fern in your garden or rock garden bring a picture or description, preferably both, to the next meeting and share it during the Forum portion of the meeting.

Wrightman's Alpine Catalog Order

Be sure to submit your order from the Wrightman's Alpine's Seed Catalog to Madge Oswald before February in order to receive choice plants before they are sold out.



POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY (PENDING APPROVAL)

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

Vice President/Program Chair: Dorte' Mobley

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@mtalonline.net

Membership: Gina Docherty

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

Seed Exchange: Debbie Hinchey

Librarian: Kathy Swick

Palmer Visitors Center Garden: Jaime
Rodriguez; (907) 357-2747;
jrtinker@mtalonline.net

ABG Rock Garden: Madge Oswald; (907) 345-
5144; johnmadge@chugach.net

Sunshine Committee: Dorte' Mobley

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.

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!

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ROCK
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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JANUARY 2019

**ARGS Memberships are for the calendar year.
Please renew now if you have not already done so for 2019.**

