



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4
JUNE 2003

ARGS CALENDAR

Mark Your Calendars Now! The next issue comes in June. Also check for late-breaking current events at the Alaska Rock Garden Society Website at: <http://www.args.org/> or call our voice mail at 566-ROCK (7625)

June 21, Saturday, and June 22, Sunday, 12:00-5:00 PM—ARGS Rock Garden Tours {see page 3 and 4}

June 27, Friday, 6:30-9:30 PM—ARGS Presentation at Wilda Marston Auditorium at the Z.J. Loussac Library: David Hale will speak and show slides on Alpines of the Southern Andes. There is a \$10 admission fee to cover expenses.

June 28-29, Saturday & Sunday - ARGS Flower Show and Plant Sale at Alaska Botanical Garden “Garden Fair”

July 8-13, NARGS Annual Meeting. “Rush to the Rockies” hosted by the Rocky Mountain Chapter, Breckenridge, Colorado. Jane Flannery, registrar (303) 841-5860 or janesgarden@worldnet.att.net.

July 17-23 - NARGS Expedition: Plant Exploration in Northeastern Oregon. Contact Tom Clark at 253 Batchelor Street, Granby, MA 01033 USA, by email at tclark@mtholyoke.edu, or by telephone at 413-467-2714.

August 3, Sunday, 10 AM - Seed Collecting Trip at Arctic Valley.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CARMEL TYSVER

Dear ARGS Members,

It looks like its going to be a busy summer. Hope everyone is ready to take advantage of the activities that the board has planned for this summer. The season started off with the Sear’s Mall Garden Show. ARGS had a booth where we sold plants and talked gardening. Sally Arant was selling primulas and Verna, Kathleen and Carmel had alpine plants to sell. Next the Northway Mall hosted a garden show; I was surprised at how many people stopped by, as there was not much advertising except by the vendors. We shared a booth with the Native Plant Society and the Wildflower Garden Club, no plants for sale that week-end.

The 17th of May was the first plant sale of the year. It was held at the home of Sally K as in the past. I think we had more plants this year and more members participating. I am writing this before the next plant sale that will be held at Re-

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(Tysver Continued from page 1)

cluse Nursery over the Memorial Day Weekend. Hope to have as good or even better turnout than last year. We also have the booth at the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair so dig and pot up those plants.

As a member of ARGS there is one other area that needs your help and input. The Rock Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden! The garden was build by the members and is to be maintained by the members. Since the building of the garden the interest of members has decreased. That needs to change. Starting the first Thursday of June and each Thursday Verna will be at the garden at 7 pm to work on the garden. This is a time to get the garden in tiptop shape and to learn.

When I sent out a questionnaire most people asked to have a tour of member's gardens. So, ask and you will receive, we are having garden tours June 21 and 22. On Saturday, June 21st there will be a tour in the Valley. There will be a total of six private gardens and the biggest of all rock gardens, Re-cluse Nursery. Then on Sunday, June 22nd the tour will be in Anchorage. Five of our members have volunteered to open their gardens. Look for an article with addresses and directions in this newsletter. If this is well attended we can look at doing this again next year.

I have been talking to David Hale and he is very excited to be coming to Alaska the end of June. David and his wife, Donna, will arrive on June 26th and speak at the Wilda Marston Theater at the Loussac Library on Friday, June 27th at 7 p.m. His talk is titled "Alpines of the Andes". He sent a photograph of Chile to use as advertisement for the garden fair and if the slides are anything like that one it should be a fantastic show. He will also be at the garden fair speaking without the slides and has agreed to help judge our first "Plant Show". Remember we are planning on a good display and of course all of our members will bring at least one plant. The schedule is on the web site.

July and August are quiet months unless someone lets me know where they want to go. We have had an offer of a cabin in the Thompson Pass area; does anyone know when would be a good time to gather seeds in that area? Give me your input and I'll contact the cabin owner as to a date.

Hope everyone is having a great spring and did not loose too many plants with the late frost.

Happy Gardening
Carmel

**June 1 through August at 7:00 PM
every Thursday—
Standard, weekly maintenance time for the
Alaska Botanical Garden Rock Garden**

PLANT SHOW FOR ALPINE AND ROCK PLANTS BY FLORENE CARNEY

It's time to start really concentrating on a plant or two for the Big Plant Show to be held at the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair. Registration will be the first morning of the Fair, June 28th. There will be ribbons and gift certificates awarded for the winners and a couple of special awards too.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

Best Plant Grown from Seed: Amateur/Professional

Best Plant Not Showy, But Well Grown: Amateur/Professional

New, Rare, or Difficult Plant: Amateur/Professional

Foliage Plants: Amateur/Professional

Woody Plants: Amateur/Professional

Best Trough: Amateur/Professional

Best Plant Grown from Seeds of the ARGS China Expedition: Open

Best Plant of an Alaskan Native Species: Open

Greenhouse or Alpine House Grown Plants: Open

**Any species having three or more plants entered in the show will be judged as a separate category, i.e., *Primulacae*, *Campanula*, *Saxifraga*, etc.

BEST of SHOW: Award for most points of show. Points will be cumulative toward the "Best of Show" Award. Must be an ARGS Member to qualify for this award.

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD: Judges' choice of best plant in show. Rarity, showiness, and difficulty of cultivation will be top considerations.



ROCK GARDEN TOURS JUNE 21ST AND 22ND, 2003

You asked to have open gardens and in response the weekend of June 21 and 22 instead of meeting there will be open gardens. The time will be from 12 noon to 5 pm unless stated otherwise by the gardener. Please respect the gardeners by not arriving before the opening time. They want the garden to look its best and there are usually last minutes chores to do. Dogs and small children should not be taken to someone else's garden, no matter how well behaved you think they are. All gardeners like to talk about their garden and plants and I am sure everyone likes talking about their design and plants so enjoy the open garden days.

To encourage those who do not live in the valley to make the trip, here are some short descriptions of what awaits intrepid travelers on the June 21st.

Susan Lemagie's Rock Garden is a very classic style in an exquisite setting. This is the most established garden on the Valley tour. Susan has lovingly coaxed it from a scantily clad toddler into a robust and glorious adult. As plants spread and she added new selections the garden has matured and grown into one of the most beautiful examples of classic rock gardening you could find. The setting is on Lazy Mountain and if you turn your back on the rock garden and look out to the south - as the song goes, "On a clear day you can see forever."

The Rock Garden at Recluse is a bold stroke of artistic landscaping. Jeff Williams built the rock garden using huge boulders and an unrestrained hand. Rhonda planted it with an artistic style and a wealth of plant knowledge. Together this team has put together an awesome display, which includes a large waterfall and a trough house, not to mention rare and different plants that Rhonda is always experimenting with.

The Bornman's Garden was also designed and planted by Rhonda and Jeff and it too is a bold and inspiring garden. Viewed from the driveway this stunning garden with a high waterfall and long streambed, first intrigues you with its design and then pulls you in to have a closer look at the small plants preferred by the owner. Although relatively new, it is settling in and promises to be one of the best around.

Dorothy Smith's Rock Garden was designed and built by Al and Nancy Williams last summer. It is a moderate sized garden with a delightful water feature. This garden is a wonderful example of what can be done in a more urban setting to put the encroaching city at bay. At this point design and location will be the key interest of this garden. Although new the plantings give promise of a lush future right in the middle of town. Exquisite is a description that comes to mind as you view this garden.

Snowfire Garden, created by Doug and Florene Carney, with the help of Al and Nancy Williams and occasional advice and many plants from Rhonda and Jeff Williams is somewhere between the classic and the bold. Designed to make you feel like you are walking the sheep paths in the high mountains of Alaska, this garden is now in its fifth summer and starting to settle in. Tucked into a sweep of lawns and flowing down to a small pond and waterfall the setting is serene and relaxing. The property has two rock gardens; one by the driveway is a more classic style while the main rock garden at 80+ feet long has some larger boulders and plants that are starting to reach their stride. Walk the pathways and you will experience the joy of finding little plant treasures tucked into a crevice here and perched on a ledge there.

Jaime Rodriguez's Rock Garden. Tucked into the hillside behind his home this rock garden is a work of art in progress. Jaime is carving a niche out of the hillside and filling it with plants only a true collector would try. A knowledgeable plant person Jaime has combined border flowers with rock garden plants in an imaginative and most creative way. A work in progress, this garden improves every year.



(Rock Gardening Tours continued from page 3)

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO OPEN ROCK GARDENS

Saturday, June 21, 2003, from 12 noon to 5 pm

Palmer: Susan Lemagie

From the Glenn Highway turn onto the Old Glenn Highway, from Anchorage turn right at the second stop light. Follow the road to the turn to Lazy Mountain, past the Matanuska River. Go to the T in the road turn right. Go to the end of the road, Susan will have a sign at the end of her driveway.

Palmer-Wasilla Highway: Jaime Rodriguez – 450 Hyer Road

The house is a small, white A frame chalet with blue trim. The driveway has an Y. There is lot's of parking up the hill to the right. The garden is behind the house. From the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, turn south onto the Hyer Road, go approximately 1 mile. Go past the Llama farm at the bottom of the hill. Turn left into the driveway just before Lower Road. Be careful, it is a hairpin turn up a steep, bumpy driveway, from a blind "S" curve. From the Parks Highway, turn north onto Hyer Road, if there is still construction it will be under the bridge. Go approximately 1 mile. Go past Wild Bill's billboard jungle. Lower Road will branch off to the right, in the middle of a wide "S" curve to the left. Driveway is immediately after the Lower Road turnoff. Do not follow the curve, but go straight up the driveway.

Wasilla: Dorothy Smith

From the Parks Highway light at Mainstreet, at the 7-11, turn north and proceed to the next light at Nelson. Go through the light staying due north. The garden is at the first driveway on the right past the light. The house is tan with a green door. The Mat-Valley Federal Credit Union is across Nelson from the house.

Wasilla: Florene and Doug Carney – 3379 Inlet Vista Circle

From the Parks Highway light at Mainstreet, at the 7-11, turn south onto Knik Road. Cross the railroad tracks, stay on the Knik Road for approximately 2 miles, and then turn left onto Edlund Road, just past the Coffee Couple Espresso Shop. Follow Edlund to the T at Fairview Loop. Take a left and go down the hill to Inlet Vista Circle. Go left to the cul-de-sac. Snowfire Gardens are right between the Amish Buggy Wheels.

Wasilla: John Bornmans – 6250 Schrock Road

Parks Highway go 1/2 mile past Spenard Builders and turn right onto Church Road. Go approximately 4 miles to the stop sign. Turn right onto Schrock Road go approximately 1/2 mile and driveway is on the right. Plenty of parking.

Sunday, June 22, 2003, from 12 noon to 5 pm

Anchorage: Ruth Lavrakas – 2667 Wesleyan Drive

From Northern Lights turn North onto Wesleyan Drive. It's the 5th house on the East Side of Wesleyan.

Anchorage: Bob and Nicki Neilson – 4938 Mills Drive

Open at 1 pm, please! From Northern Light turn South onto Wesleyan Drive. Turn left onto Mills Drive. It is the second house on the right, and easy to recognize from the caged in apple trees on each side of the driveway.

Anchorage: Verna and Frank Pratt – 7446 E. 20th Avenue

From Muldoon turn West onto 20th Avenue. Their home is on the Southwest corner of 20th Avenue and Chandalar Drive. Verna will not be available but the garden will be open and Mary Moline has agreed to be there to host.

Anchorage: Neil and Carmel Tysver – 2030 Patriot Circle

South on Minnesota to 100th. Turn left onto 100th, do to the stop sign, it's a 4-way stop, turn left. Go to the circle, go 3/4 of the way around the circle to Washington. Go 2 blocks, turn right onto Constitution, and go 2 blocks turn left onto Patriot Circle. House is in the Cul-de-sac.

Anchorage: Loretta Wieler – 12760 Pintail

From the Seward Highway go 1 mile up Huffman Road. Turn right onto Pintail, by Grace Brethren Church, drive 1 1/2 blocks. Tan and white trailer on the right hand side of the road. The gardens are at the back of the property.



BOOK REVIEW: ALPINE PLANTS OF NORTH AMERICA BY CARMEL TYSVER

I recently had the opportunity to read the book **Alpine Plants of North America**, An Encyclopedia of Mountain Flowers from the Rockies and Alaska, by Graham Nicholls with Rick Lupp as a Consulting editor and the forward by Bobby Ward, published in 2002 by Timber Press. Graham Nicholls is a plantsman from England who is so passionate about the plants from the Rockies of North America that his nursery in Timsbury, Somerset focuses on American alpinists. For many Alaskan gardeners Rick Lupp of Mt. Tahoma Nursery is known for having a great nursery for ordering alpine plants each spring. Then those of us who are also members of NARGS, Bobby Ward is a familiar name as he has been active in NARGS for years and is the current president.

The plants are listed in alphabetical order by botanical names followed by the family name and several common names. There is then a discussion of the plant followed by a listing of species describing where the plant is found by State and elevation as well as other useful information such as color and bloom time. There is then a paragraph on Propagation and Cultivation for each plant. I just opened the book to *Epilobium* and was very surprised to see all of the alpine species, some look like a plant that would be fun to grow in the garden, but then I remember its common name, Fireweed. Maybe not! And yet I am intrigued.

The photographs are in color and show both a close up of the flower and a view of the plant in their natural habitats. Really helpful to see if the plant is in scree, among boulders or in a mossy area. The pictures of Alaskan plants were taken by plants people from Alaska so we can be sure they are correctly named, as is the site of the photograph. I am sure this is a book I will turn to when looking up plants especially when reading seed lists.

One area I found disappointing was the lack of plants listed as from the Canadian Rockies. As most of us in Alaska spend time in Canada it would have been nice to have that area included. Reading the book it feels like something is missing as it covers the Rockies in Alaska and the Western United States leaving a huge void.

At \$49.00 the book is expensive but I think it is worth reading and having available as a reference book for people interested in Alpine plants.

SEED COLLECTING TRIP TO ARCTIC VALLEY

Verna Pratt will be leading a seed collecting trip at Arctic Valley on Sunday, August 3rd. Meet at Fred Meyers, Muldoon and DeBarr (The DeBarr entrance closest to Muldoon Road) at 9:15 AM for car pooling. Regroup at Arctic Valley Ski Lodge at 10 AM. There is a \$5 parking fee for those without a seasonal Arctic Valley Parking Pass. We will walk up the Valley by the Chair Lift. There are nice flowers there in August, and we will gather seeds at the top. Plan on all day. Bring seed-collecting materials, lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and clothing appropriate to the weather (if there's a breeze, it can be COLD up there). For more information, visit WWW.ARGS.ORG or call the ARGS hotline at **566-ROCK (7625)**

WELCOME NEW ARGS MEMBERS!

JANET ANDREWS
LAVONNE "BONNIE" BERGER
PATTI DONLEY
MARCIA HAMILTON
SHARON KLOTZ
PEGGY PIPER
ROBIN RAINWATER
DOT WALTERS



ARGS PLANT SALE AT ALASKA BOTANICAL GARDEN FAIR JUNE 28TH AND 29TH

The last ARGS plant sale occurs at the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair on Saturday, June 28, from 9 AM to 6 PM and on Sunday, June 29th, from 10:00 AM to 4 PM. The Club has Space #3. Members wishing to help set up or bring plants can start on Friday, June 27th, from 3 PM to 6 PM.

The following suggestions have worked well this summer and are worth emphasizing again.

It is not too late to organize your plants for the sale. All plants must be tagged (usually one color for plant ID; and another color for seller's ID and Price) prior to opening. Tags will be available for purchase. The Seller ID/Price tags will be collected by the cashiers at checkout. Sellers should be at the sites early Saturday or better by setting up on Friday evening. All of the items should be tagged and ready to sell by opening time. If you are not a seller, please do not arrive before 9 AM. There will be no sales or viewing opportunities before the opening and you will hamper making this a well organized and enjoyable event. Sellers should return by 4 PM on Sunday to retrieve any left over items. Accounting closeout will occur later and you will be mailed your portion of the sales. Unretrieved items will Sellers should also contribute the flats that cans of soft drinks or beer come in. LOTS of boxes. Vehicle access to the botanical garden is tightly controlled during the fair and close-in parking is scarce, so get all of your supplies and plants organized before the opening crush.

Proper labeling is a must! All plants in pots must have a label identifying them by their correct scientific name, and a good description of height, color, bloom time, and soil requirements. Another label of a different color is used for your name and the pricing. Without this it becomes confusing for all involved, leaving you to face the prospect that you may end up selling some of your product, but not be able to receive the money for your efforts. Provide the treasurer of the sale with a list of what you have brought, complete with pricing and your phone number!

Your product should be disease and insect free! It is simple professional courtesy to do the very best to manage these two aspects. No one wants to purchase an infested plant only to take it home and face the possibility of wiping out their greenhouse. This is looking to be a banner year for insects because of the mild winter. Don't endanger the botanical garden with unhealthy plants!

If you are bringing a lot of product, take a little extra time to do some marketing! Wind, weather, and rain proof signage will increase your sales! People love to see and read about your plants, providing this to them will help them make the decisions to buy your product over others. Beautiful, healthy plants in a clean, acceptable container will translate to more sales for you!

Lastly, please be considerate to your fellow sellers. ARGS has reserved this prime, but limited, space for its members. It may not be possible to display all of your plant material at once without encroaching on space for other members. Plan ahead for restocking rather than monopolizing the communal space. Also make arrangements to have your plants picked up right after the sale on Sunday at 4 PM.

Sellers should coordinate coverage of the booth so that all individuals have an opportunity to shop the fair, listen to speakers, and to visit the first Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Show for Alpine and Rock Plants. If members have questions, they can contact Mary Moline at 333-4419.

The plant sales add another dimension to the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair. Everyone should plan on attending. Your purchases help support both ARGS and the botanical garden. The fair provides excellent educational opportunities, entertaining speakers, new plants, and showcases the rock gardens. Plan on contributing to the success and vitality of the Alaska Rock Garden Society by contributing the best quality of plants, helping maintain the existing rock gardens, and through participating in the first ARGS plant show.



POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

President: Carmel Tysver, 2030 Patriot Cir., Anchorage, AK, 99515. (907) 522-3490; email: garden@corecom.net

Vice-President: Jeff Williams, PO Box 872592, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 373-0925; e-mail: recluse@mtaonline.net

Secretary: Jaime Rodriquez

Treasurer: Mary Moline, 9601 Copper Dr., Anchorage, AK, 99507 (907) 333-4419; email: moline@alaska.net

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Program Chair: Rita Jo Schoultz, PO Box 15226, Homer, AK, 99603-6226, (907) 235-4969; e-mail: ritajo@alaskahardy.com

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Seed Exchange: Rhonda Williams, PO Box 872592, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 373-0925; e-mail: recluse@mtaonline.net

Expedition Coordinator: Jeff Williams, PO Box 872592, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 373-0925; e-mail: recluse@mtaonline.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.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RENEWED FOR 2003!

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 \$25/year. Send payment to Jacques Mommens, Exec. Secretary of NARGS, PO Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546 or register online at <https://www.nargs.org/info/smembership.html>. The NARGS website is at www.nargs.org.

WWW.ARGS.ORG

Webmaster: Frank Pratt
Contact them at frank@alaskakrafts.com

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, and receive this newsletter, send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a check payable to ARGS.

Individual Membership \$15.00 US
Family Membership \$20.00 US
Canada Membership: \$20.00 US
Overseas Membership \$25.00 US
Membership is for the calendar year.

The ARGS Newsletter is published 5 times per year. We invite your contributions. Please contact Charles Utermohle, editor, 5021 Southampton Dr., Anchorage, AK, 99503-6964, (907) 561-1662 email: thule@alaska.net

Alaska Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 244136
Anchorage, AK 99524-4136



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ARGS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4 JUNE 2003

NEW MEMBER AND RENEWAL FORM

ARGS Membership: - New - Renewal: - W/O Changes or - W/Changes
Dues: \$15 US - Individual, \$20 US - Family/Canada, \$25 US - Foreign

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP+ 4: _____ - _____

Telephone: (____) ____ - ____ E-mail: _____

ARGS may share its membership list with like-minded, non-profit organizations. If you DO NOT want to receive these notifications, please check the box -

Send form and payment to:
Alaska Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 244136
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-4136
Membership is for the calendar year.
Send inquiries about dues to moline@alaska.net.