

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2004

FROM OUR PRESIDENT CARMEL TYSVER

CALENDAR

You will notice that there is a new look to this newsletter! The executive board met and decided to try a new approach to try and get the members to attend the meetings and become more involved in your organization. One of the items we decided to try is a monthly newsletter, much smaller in size, so that all of the members can be informed of the latest information each month.

The next change is the meeting locations. Instead of looking for a site every month and trying to remember if the meeting is in the Valley or Anchorage we decided that all of the meetings would be in Anchorage. We're hoping to find a place that will be available the third Saturday of each month, September through April, except for December when we will have a Holiday Party. Along with the change of location it was decided to change the meeting times to 11am and have a potluck with each meeting giving members more time to talk and share ideas. We thought that everyone could bring their own beverage, hot water will be available, and this can change is there are enough ideas as to what people would prefer. Plates, napkins and flatware will be provided.

The board will meet at 10 am each month. The members need to remember that all board meetings are open to members to share their thoughts and ideas. We want ARGS to have a very active membership.

So to put all of this into effect, the next meeting will be on October 16th at 11am at the Cooperative Extension Building, Room 130, in Anchorage. We will have to find another location for November, as the room is already booked. Then the December meeting will be at Recluse 2 on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. Jeff promises it will be highly decorated for the Holiday Season.

I hope to see everyone there for our October meeting. Remember we are always open to new ideas and thoughts. November is the month we will be electing new officers and there will be plenty of chairmen needed to keep the organization going for another two years. the Protocol Interface. In this section you may want to check out the "Search the Protocol Database" for information that seems quite good, but may not have been in published in the journal

Carmel

October 16
Board & General
meeting

November 20
Board & General
meeting

December
Christmas gather
ing and meeting at
Recluse Garden
Center Details
TBA.

Be sure to check the web
site for up to date events.

WWW.ARGS.ORG

NEXT MEETING OCT 16TH

MEETING DETAILS ON PAGE

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Favorite Plant

It's always a dilemma as to what to choose. I always say my favorite plant is what ever is blooming as the time of the question. At this time of the year I would choose Gentian's as I still have several blooming. Several of the gentians that usually bloom later have already bloomed this year, probably due to our warm wonderful weather this past summer. The two that I am still picking blooms from are *G. septemfida* and *G. simo-ornata*.

G. septemfida is a plant I have had for years and has proven very hearty. When I first planted it in the rock garden the moose kept thinking it was something it may want to eat and pulled it up every night. So, every morning I would replant and even after weeks of this activity it survived. *G. septemfida* is originally from the Caucasus area. It grows in moist soils in both alpine and wooded areas. I have found that they grow very well in my peaty soil and even in the rock garden where I have amended the soil to drain better than the rest of the garden.

G. sino-rata is also in the rock garden. The plant originated from the Chinese mountain grasslands and scrubs, usually moist. Easily propagated by divisions and layering. *G. sino-ornata* has a large flower for the size of the stems. There are many cultivars available with colors from pure white to fairly dark blues.

This column should be for everyone and if you can't write a short article on a favorite plant, how about listing your top ten favorites. It would be interesting to see how many different plants are being grown in Alaska in rock gardens or troughs.

Carmel

Seed Exchange Reminder!

Please send in your donations for the 2005 ARGS Seed Exchange.

It looks like a really good one for this year and if the donations are plentiful again we will be offering donors a choice of 25 seed packets. Non donors receive 15.

The last date for excepting donations is Nov.22 this year with the list coming out in December for an early Xmas Present!

Send all cleaned seed to :

Rhonda Williams
P.O. Box 872592
Wasilla AK 99687

OCTOBER ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY MEETING

October 16th

Board meeting begins at 10am,

Regular membership meeting at 11am. Potluck to follow

Location

Conference room 130 At the Anchorage Cooperative Extension office in the Carlton Trust Building at the corner of Northern Lights & Lake Otis.



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: Debbie Hinchey

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

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Bob Southwick, P.O.Box 2126, Palmer, AK, 99645, (907) 745-3201 email: bsouthwick@interfacefire.com

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

WWW.ARGS.ORG

Webmaster: Bob Southwick
bsouthwick@interfacefire.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 Bob Southwick, P.O.Box 2126, Palmer, AK, 99645, email: bsouthwick@interfacefire.com

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



JOIN OR RENEW!

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.