

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4

September 2001

Calendar

Mark Your Calendars Now! The next issue comes in November. Also check for late breaking current events at the Alaska Rock Garden Website at:

<http://www.args.org/>

September 15, 2001 2 PM Regular Meeting. Hypertufa Construction. At Florene Carney's house on Fairview Loop Road. Look for the signs or call (907) 376-5390 for directions. This meeting will be a continuation of construction of troughs for the rock garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden. There will be progress reports on the NARGS Annual General Meeting which ARGs is sponsoring and this summer's fund raising efforts. It is also a good time to turn in your seeds for the seed exchange.

October 20, 2001 2 PM Regular Meeting. Report on the International Alpine Garden Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland by Verna Pratt. Mat Su College, Bldg. JKB #124.

November 17, 2001 2 PM Regular Meeting. Member's slides and Pictures. Coop Extension Service, Anchorage. Members are invited to bring slides and pictures of gardens and plant materials to share at the meeting. A good way to share your own and others ideas on new plants and garden design.

(Continued on page 4)

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|---|
| Rocky Mountains Expeditions Report by Bobby J. Ward | 2 |
| Bulbs of North America | 2 |
| NARGS Seed Exchange 2001 | 3 |
| ARGs Seed Exchange 2001 | 3 |

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From Our President, Florene Carney

The summer has flown by and even with all the rain in July, rock gardens are springing up all over South Central Alaska. The 2002 Committee continues to meet and make progress for the Annual General Meeting next spring, when we will host some 400 people from all over the world. Alaska is setting the pace in many areas of rock gardening be sure you are a part of the program.

Many of our members do not actually have a rock garden, but love the plants and the camaraderie of the group. I propose that next spring we host a plant show especially for those members who don't have a rock garden, but with everyone joining in. Start thinking about what plants you'd like to pot up and grow to show off next spring. Rhonda Williams has agreed to help with a

(Carney Continued on page 2)



(Carney Continued from page 1)

mid-winter program on preparing for a plant show, so we will all know exactly what to expect for last minute preparation. The important thing is to start now potting up and wintering over your favorites. There will be a President's Award for the "Best of Show" and prizes and gift certificates for other categories. If you want to get a head start check the NARGS web site at www.nargs.org and click on "links" at the top of the page. Both the Scottish Rock Garden Society and the Alpine Garden Society have reports on plant shows along with photos that will brighten your day. Wouldn't it be fun if every member brought along a plant to display? Let's do it!

Ruby Mountain Expeditions Report

Bobby J. Ward, Chair NARGS Expeditions

I am pleased to report that the first NARGS Expedition to the Ruby Mountains of Nevada has been successfully completed. The group met in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 29, 2001, with some of the participants going on a warm up hike in the Wasatch Range to Catherine's Pass outside Salt Lake City. From there the group traveled to Wendover, Elko, and Ely, Nevada, before returning to Salt Lake City on August 4. The group became familiar with the geography, geology, and flora of the Basin and Range Province in and around the Ruby Mountain area of Nevada. There were hikes into Lamoille Canyon, Liberty Pass, the Humboldt Range, Great Basin National Park, the Snake Range, the Schell Creek Range, and other locations including Lehman Caves and the Mt. Wheeler Glacier.

Floral highlights included *Phlox pulvinata*, *Ivesia baileyi*, *Astragalus kentrophyta* var. *tegararius*, *Stenotis* (*Haplopappus*) *acaulis*, *Haplopappus stenophyllus*, several *erioigonums*, *drabas*, *Petrophytum caespitosum*, *Primula parryi*, *Gentiana calycosa*, *Sedum lanceolatum*, *Mahonia repens*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *Erigeron watsonii*, *Castilleja nana*, *Ivesia baileyi*, *Epilobium latifolium*, *Monardella odoratissima*, *Linum kingii*, *Parnassia fimbrata*, *Penstemon humilis*, *Silene acaulis*, *Argemone munita*, *Hulsea algida*—and more, including the ancient bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*).

The participants, from eleven states and provinces, hiked approximately 25 miles and drove just over 1,000 miles on the expedition. The excellent advanced plan-

ning by Bill and Cathy King and the botanist on tour (Stuart Winchester) added immensely to the pleasure of this first expedition.

Look for a botanical report in the spring issue (2002) of the NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly.

[Editor's note— Our own Kate Gordon was one of the participants who enjoyed the expedition. Hopefully she will share some of her highlights with us during the slide and photograph sharing meeting in November.]

Bulbs of North America

A book by the North American Rock Garden Society

Edited by Jane McGary

Fourteen authors with original text

Foreword by Brian Mathew

Chapters include *Allium*, *Amaryllidaceae*, *Brodiaea* alliance, *Calochortus*, *Erythronium*, *Fritillaria*, *Lilium*, Southern *Iridaceae*, and regional contributions on the bulbs of the Northwest, Southwest, and eastern North America.

Bulbs of North America authors: Mark McDonough, Jim and Georgie Robinett, Alan Meerow, Parker Sanderson, Jane McGary, Frank Callahan, Molly Grothaus, David King, Edward Austin McRae, Loren Russell, Mary Irish, Colston Burrell, and Mike Chelednik.

North America is home to approximately four dozen bulbous genera, many of which are native to the Pacific Coast. Among these are some very popular rock garden plants, such as *Calochortus*, *Erythronium*, and others, including *Calydorea*, *Hypoxis*, and *Muilla*, are not as well known outside specialist collections. Amateur botanists and horticulturists, particularly those with an interest in alpine and rock gardens, and travelers planning a field trip to choice plant-viewing sites all over the continent, will be inspired by this first-hand account of native North American bulbs.

Approximately 312 pages, indexed, 101 color photos, 4 line drawings, 2 maps, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$34.95 retail. Published by Timber Press. Available to NARGS members at a substantial discount: **Order copies now at \$25 each till December 31, 2001 (free shipping).**

NARGS Book Service

RR 5, Box 5820, Mohnton, PA 19540

(610) 775-9084 [voice and fax]; nargs@voicenet.com

[email]. Janet Slater, NARGS member in charge



NARGS Seed Exchange 2001

Overview: Donors send seed to the Intake Chapter at the address given on the Seed Donation Form: M.K. Ramm, 234 Crawford Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278, USA). Here the seed is cataloged on a computer database, which is used to produce the Seed List. Each donor is assigned a Donor Number.

After the last date for acceptance of seed (November 1, 2001), the seed is sent to the Packaging Chapter. The finished packets are then sent to the Order-Filling Chapter, which receives the order forms and sends the seeds out. Orders are then filled from early January to late February; after that the surplus seed is sent to NARGS chapters for distribution to their members.

Advantages of Participating: Donors are defined as members who contribute at least 5 different taxa. Donors receive 35 packets of seed, while non-donors receive only 25. Furthermore, orders from donors are filled before those from non-donors. Finally, donors receive the recognition and gratitude of their colleagues!

Collecting Seed: Collect seed in your garden and while viewing plants in the wild. Do not collect seed in areas where this is forbidden, such as national parks and certain other preserves. Clean the seed by removing it from capsules, discarding debris and chaff. If the seed is enclosed in a fleshy fruit, remove as much moist material as possible. Collect and send in a reasonable amount of seed. (except under very unusually circumstances, 5 seeds—too few; 5,000 too many. NARGS members could cover the whole Northern Hemisphere with a specific plant from the amount of seed some donors send in.)

Packaging Seed for Donation: Please use paper or glassine (not plastic/polythene) envelopes; suitable envelopes may be purchased from the NARGS Bookstore. PRINT IN VERY CLEAR GOOD-SIZED LETTERS the botanical name, collection site (if wild), and your surname on each envelope. The donor's name is necessary.

Be sure that the seed envelope does not leak! Very small seed should be wrapped in a piece of waxed paper or foil before being placed in the envelope. Enormous amounts of seeds leak out of packets that are not properly sealed. If any seeds are unusually moist, particularly aroids and peonies, enclose them separately in plastic to prevent the moisture from ruining the rest of the seeds.

Seed Donation Form: This form is used by the cataloguer to enter your donation into the computer. If you do not have a blank donation form, please enclose a clearly written or typed list of the seeds you are sending. You do not need to fill out all the parts of the form. Only the botanical name and the wild collection site (if any) are necessary.

Sending the Seed: Mail your donation to the address on the Donation Form as early as possible to help the cataloguer. Donations from the US should be mailed by October 25. No item can be added to the catalog after November 2. Seed that arrives too late to be listed will be sent out as substitute items and distributed to chapters.

Late Donations: If you are sure you will send seed after November 1, you may send a list to the Intake Manager for inclusion in the catalog and mail the seed at any time up to December 1st. This special service may be used only for late-ripening or wild-collected seed; it is not intended to provide donor numbers to procrastinators!

What to Send: The most frequently ordered items in the Seed Exchange are small, highly ornamental alpine plants, especially those collected in the wild. Very unusual items, especially from temperate climates, are also much desired. American members in particular are urged to collect more seed of alpine plants in the wild.

For additional information, visit the NARGS website at:
<http://www.nargs.org/>

ARGS SEED EXCHANGE 2001

The ARGS Seed Exchange is fast approaching and as seed is being harvested now in our gardens, please consider becoming a donor in our exchange. Over the last few years our donors have consisted of ten people who have contributed to the exchange and I would like to see this increase considerably.

Donors will now receive five extra packets including the 15 they now receive as well as being the first to have their orders filled. If there are more donors, then more seed packets can be had.

Please send clean, labeled seed to: Rhonda Williams, PO Box 872592, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 373-0925; e-mail: recluse@mtaonline.net



Calendar

(Continued from page 1)

December—No meeting.

January 25-27, 2002, Eastern Winter Study Weekend. Noah’s Ark: Conserving Plant Diversity. Potomac Valley Chapter, Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, Falls Church, Virginia.

February 22-24, 2002, Western Winter Study Weekend. Rocking on the Rogue. Siskyou Chapter, Red Lion Hotel, Medford, OR.

June 11-14, 2002, NARGS Annual General Meeting, Sheraton Anchorage, Anchorage, Alaska. Our chapter’s number one goal for next year to showcase our plants and expertise. Organizational meetings will occur one hour before the general meeting for those interested in helping. Contact Jaime Rodriguez at (907) 357-2747 or jaime@matnet.com to offer your assistance in whatever capacity you are able. A key component to the success of the conference will be the field trips with knowledgeable guides. Additional guide training is planned for this winter and spring. Contact Verna Pratt at (907) 333-8212 or akkrafts@alaskakrafts.com to put on the list for future training sessions.

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.

\$300 Stipend to Attend National NARGS Meetings

Each year NARGS offers each chapter an opportunity for one of its members to attend a national meeting by applying for a \$300 stipend. The recipient must be a NARGS national member and have never attended a national meeting before. (Attendance at a chapter-sponsored national meeting is exempted from the latter qualification.) Upcoming meetings are the Eastern and Western study weekends described above and the annual NARGS meeting in Anchorage.

For information and to apply, contact our chapter chair Florene Carney at (907) 376-5390.

Calendar Items of General Interest to the ARGS Membership should be sent to the Newsletter Editor at thule@alaska.net.

ARGS Newsletter Dates

| | <u>Submission date</u> | <u>Mailing Date</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Feb/Mar issue | January 15 | February 1 |
| Apr/May issue | March 15 | April 1 |
| Summer issue | May 15 | June 1 |
| Sept/Oct issue | August 15 | September 1 |
| Nov/Jan issue | October 15 | November 1 |



Positions of Responsibility

President: Florene Carney, HC 31 Box 5212, Wasilla, AK, 99654. (907) 376-5390; e-mail: snowfire@ak.net

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

Secretary : Kate Gordon, 7500 Beacon Hill Drive, Anchorage, AK, 99516. (907) 346-1603; email: kgordon@gci.net

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

Membership: Thais Thomas, P.O. Box 93003, Anchorage, AK 99509. (907) 243-1666; e-mail: Thomas_Thais@msoil.asd.k12.ak.us

Program Chair: Annie Nevaldine, 4960 E. 5th, Anchorage, AK, 99508, (907) 333-2100; e-mail: anealdine@corecom.net

Newsletter Editor: Charles Utermohle, 5021 Southampton Dr., Anchorage, AK, 99503, (907) 561-1662 email: thule@alaska.net

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

Archives: Marcia Hamilton, P.O. Box 870344, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 746-3296; e-mail: mlh@matnet.com

2002 Committee: Chair- Jaime Rodriguez (907) 357-2747, Florene Carney (907) 376-5390, Harry Deuber (907) 276-5571, Kate Gordon (907) 346-1603, Debbie Hinchey (907) 278-2814, Sally Karabelnikoff (907) 333-8237, Frank Pratt/Verna Pratt (907) 333-8212, Rhonda Williams (907) 373-0925

Welcome New Members!

Kris Abshire
Beth Amberg
Steve Beardsley
Erin Botens
Jeff Doll
Bonnie Landis
Mary Ott
Patrick & Deb Ryan
Beth Schroer
Judy Stanek
Kate Wood

WWW.ARG.S.ORG

Webmasters: Kate Gordon and Frank Pratt.
Contact them at webmaster@args.org

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 ARG.S to :

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 and includes all issues of the newsletter for that year. Back issues are available at \$1 each. The ARG.S Newsletter is published 5 times per year. We invite your contributions. Please contact Charles Utermohle, editor, 5021 Southampton Dr., Anchorage, AK, 99503, (907) 561-1662 email: thule@alaska.net

**Alaska Rock Garden Society
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6

ARGS Newsletter **Volume 5, Issue 4** **September 2001**

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. If the year after your address is not 2001 or later, your membership has expired!