

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

**VOL 29
ISSUE 3**

March, 2025

COMING EVENTS:

**Saturday, March 15, 2025, ARGS
Membership Meeting, at 1:00 PM
via ZOOM**

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From the President, March 2025

Greetings from my home in Palmer, where the growing seedlings that require potting up are taking ever increasing territory from my living room and kitchen. I'm delighted to report that after more than two years of frustration and confusion, I have succeeded in creating a YouTube account and Channel for the Alaska Rock Garden Society. Soon we will be able to share links to past programs with our members, so if there were Zoom presentations you missed in the last couple years, the videos will be available to watch and re-watch. Another exciting development is the creation of a new Hike Committee, chaired by Todd Bradley. The club will be hosting more frequent, casual hikes, every other week this summer to do botanizing on local trails. I'm putting the final touches on my presentation for next Saturday with an overview of The Genus Saxifraga. This will include how the genus is structured into subsections, with a good bit of eye candy of some of the prettiest ones from Europe and Asia. Then in April we will hear from local naturalist Forrest Baldwin about our native Alaskan Saxifrages.

The mild weather the past few weeks has me eager to begin gardening outside. Having been bit by early weather teases in the past, the only clean up I feel confident doing now is the cutting of Cottonwood saplings. Happy gardening!

Jaime Rodriguez

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ARGS Program, March 15, 2025, 1 p.m. via Zoom

Overview of the Genus Saxifraga: European and Asian Beauties



Jaime Rodriguez is the owner of The Alpine Garden Nursery in Palmer, Alaska. He is one of the founding members and the current President of the Alaska Rock Garden Society. He is also the author of the chapter *Rock Gardening in the North* in the book *Rock Garden Construction* by the North American Rock Garden Society published by Timber Press.



Do you recognize this plant?



A miniature tuft of silver-gray grassy leaves with early summer flowers in bright violet. Usually open in the middle with flowers circling around.

Welcome New or Renewing Members:

Claire and Jack Holdaway

Membership for the Alaska Rock Garden Society is the calendar year.

Renewal information can be obtained on the ARGS website at:

<https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/membership.html>



for



This year, the national meeting of the American Primrose Society will be held in Juneau!

APS National Show and meeting May 16 - 18, 2025 Juneau, Alaska

Hosted by the Juneau Chapter of the American Primrose Society and Jensen-Olson Arboretum, holder of the Nationally Accredited™ Collection for the Genus Primula



Keynote speaker:
Amy Wagenfeld PhD, OTR/L
Blending occupational therapy and accessibility into landscape design

Primula display and judging •
plant and seed vendors • Primula
dividing workshop • Garden
tours • and more! \$75 Registration

Coincides with the Southeast Alaska Master
Gardener Conference
(combined registration information to come)

**For more information contact Pat
Hartman, Juneau chapter President,
patricia.hartman4@gmail.com or Gin-
ger Hudson, JOA manager, gin-
ger.hudson@juneau.gov**





Save the Dates:

ARGS Plant Sale at Alaska Botanical Garden, Saturday, May 10th

The Alaska Rock Garden Society plant sale is held the same day as the ABG spring sale. Come find us by the rock garden and join us for spring cleanup, if you wish!

Snowfire Garden Annual ARGS Plant sale will be Saturday, May 25th. We'll be starting at 10:00 am and going til everything is gone or 4:00 pm. Vendors can come at 8:00 am to set up or the evening before. Come tour the garden, visit with other plant enthusiasts, and pick up a few plants to fill out your summer garden. See you there!



Alaska Rock Garden Society

Plant Sale & Open Garden Snowfire Gardens

May 24th

10:00 to 4:00

3379 S. Inlet Vista Circle
Wasilla (off Fairview Loop Rd.)



ARGS Calendar of Activities and Meeting Dates for 2025

***Society meetings are the third Saturday of the month and are held at 1:00 PM via ZOOM unless otherwise indicated. Dates for events and field trips are approximate and when available, additional information will be sent to members.**

**Saturday, January 18— General Membership Meeting, Paul Spriggs —
My Rock Garden: Gardening on the Dry Side of Victoria Island**

**Saturday, February 15 —General Membership Meeting, Todd Boland—
Plants of the Beartooth Mountains**

**Saturday, March 15 – General Membership Meeting, Jaime Rodriguez—
Overview of the Saxifrage Family Including European Treasures**

**Saturday, April 19 – General Membership Meeting, Forrest Baldwin—A
Talk on the Genera *Saxifraga* and *Micranthes* in Alaska**

**May Activities - Clean-up at ABG Rock Garden in Anchorage
- Clean-up at Palmer Visitor Center Rock Garden
May 10 - ARGS Plant Sale at Alaska Botanical Garden
May 25 - ARGS Valley Plant Sale at Snowfire Gardens**

June, July, August Field Trips, Pop Up Garden Visits - Time and Locations will be sent through our Crevice bulletin

**Saturday, September 20 - General Membership Meeting, In Person -
Plant Exchange and Social, Elks Hall, Eagle River**

Saturday October 18 - General Membership Meeting

Saturday November 15 - Last General Membership Meeting of 2025

No General Membership Meetings are held in December



Plant Profile by Florene Carney

Did you guess the plant from Page 3? *Edraianthus pumilio* is probably the most outstanding species of *Edraianthus*, a miniature tuft of silver-gray grassy leaves. This Silver Dwarf Harebell flowers in early summer with up-facing lavender bells at the growth tips. Grows 3 inches (7.5 cm) high, 5 inches (12.5 cm) wide. Cultivate in sun or light shade in scree.



Alaska Rock Garden Society Board Members, Jaime Rodriguez and Kathy Swick both grow this variety as well as *Graminifolia* and *Montenegro*. It works well in a trough or crevice garden. I grow it in the driveway rock garden in scree but am thinking I'll give on a try in one of the troughs.

Wrightman's Alpines has it listed in their catalog and seeds are listed from some of the Alpine Garden Societies.



POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

President: Jaime Rodriguez

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary : Dorte Mobley

Treasurer: Madge Oswald

Past President: Florene Carney

Membership: Charles Utermohle

Programs: Kathy Swick

Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Friedman

Palmer Visitors Center: Jaime Rodriguez

Librarian/ABG Rock Garden: Kathy Swick

Technology Upgrader: Charles Utermohle

Sunshine Committee: Dorte Mobley

Hike Committee: Todd Bradley

ENJOY OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, WORKSHOP OR FIELD TRIP?

Then Become an ARGS Member!

We have about six meetings per year, plus plant sales, field trips and workshops. Our meetings are generally on the third Saturday of the month, Fall, Winter, and Spring, and may be via ZOOM or a Hybrid format with an in person at the Elk’s Club in Eagle River and ZOOM. To join, please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a check payable to ARGS at 12001 Audubon Dr., Anchorage, AK 97516 or join on the web at <https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/membership.html>

- Individual Membership \$15.00
- Family Membership \$20.00
- Canada Membership: \$20.00 US
- Overseas Membership \$25.00 US

Membership is for the calendar year and includes all issues of the newsletter and Crevice Bulletins for that year. The ARGS Newsletter is published 4-6 times per year and our bulletin, CREVICE is published to announce special news or events. We invite your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter. Please contact Bonnie Friedman, email Bonnief@gci.net

Seeking your input: If there are any program topics or activities you would like to see in the next year, please contact Kathy Swick, our program coordinator.



NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

If you are not already a member, considering joining the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). You can enjoy the Rock Garden Quarterly, featured plants and books of the month, photo galleries, blogs of interest to rock gardeners, and information about upcoming events. Go to www.args.org/join and give yourself the gift of national membership.

WWW.AKROCKGARDENSOCIETY.ORG

Webmasters: Open

ARGS is on FACEBOOK at:

<https://www.facebook.com/alaskarockgardensociety/>