

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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January, 2025

COMING EVENTS:

**January 18, 1:00PM, ARGS ZOOM
Program, Paul Spriggs, My Rock
Garden**

**January 25, 8:00 AM, NARGS Rocks,
Virtual Event, Plant Propagation “From
the Ground Up”**

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Happy New Year! The Board of the Alaska Rock Garden Society is looking forward to a new year of gardening activities including presentations by nationally known and local speakers. A description of some of the 2025 offerings can be found in this January Newsletter .

It's Time to Renew Your ARGS Membership!

Please remember that membership for the Alaska Rock Garden Society is for the calendar year. In a few short months, it will be time again for members to renew. Renewal information can be obtained on the ARGS website at:

[https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/
membership.html](https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/membership.html)

Annual memberships are just \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. ARGS strongly encourages use of on-line renewals by eliminating surcharges for using your credit card. Please see more information about the society and membership on page 5 of this newsletter.



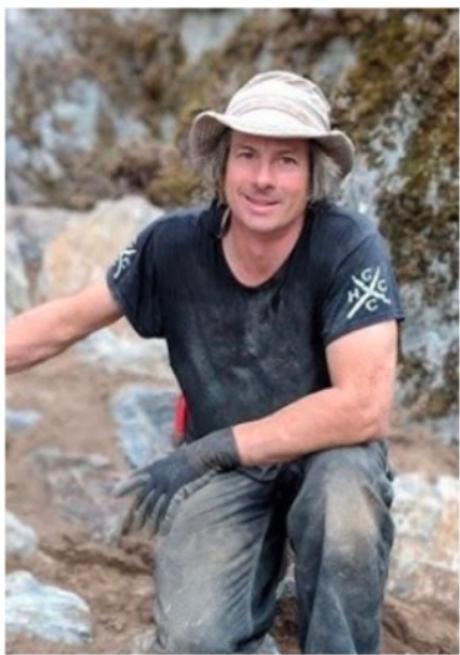
PAUL SPRIGGS, GUEST SPEAKER

ARGS ZOOM PROGRAM, Sat., Jan. 18, 1:00 p.m.



My Rock Garden: Gardening on the Dry Side of Vancouver Island

Victoria, B.C. is one of the driest, and mildest cities in all of Canada thanks to the rainshadow effect cast mostly by the Olympic Mountains. These factors contribute the easy cultivation of a wide range of Rock and Alpine plants. This talk will focus on Paul's personal; rock garden, which he has been developing for the past 25 years



Paul Spriggs has been rock gardening for roughly 27 years and building crevice gardens for about 20 years. He is an avid plant explorer, photographer, mountaineer, owner of Spriggs Gardens Landscaping company, and past President of the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society. He has a passion for all wild plants especially those of dwarf stature and collects and cultivates them at various gardens in his hometown of Victoria, BC, Canada. Paul has learned the craft of crevice garden building directly from one of its innovators, Zdenek Zvolanek, of the Czech republic, and in the past decade and a half, has built many gardens in public parks and private homes that range in size from small feature troughs, to large installations involving many tonnes of stone. Paul is passionate about spreading the word of this style, through speaking to garden clubs all over the world, and by giving workshops for those keen on learning the finer points of this developing art form. He is co-Author (with Kenton Seth of Colorado), of the first North American book on Crevice gardening, entitled *The Crevice Garden. How to make the perfect home for plants from rocky places*, released in 2022.



NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

NARGS Rocks: Plant Propagation - From the Ground Up

This study day is a unique opportunity to connect with horticultural experts, gain valuable propagation techniques, and gather inspiration for your own gardening projects—all from the comfort of your home!



Speakers:

Bob Osborne, Jamie Ellison, Mark Akimoff, Jay Akerley

It's A Virtual Event

Get your [tickets](#) now! Join us on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at noon **12 PM EST/ 11 AM CST/ 10 AM MST/ 9 AM PST** via Zoom
(go to nargs.org buy page and click the image "Have Your Ticket" on the morning of the conference)

Cost is \$25. for members. Not a member? Don't worry; there is a discounted price for those who join NARGS.



Schedule

Jamie Ellison and Jay Akerley Host

	12:00 EST Opening Notes
12:05 to 12:50	Bob Osborne “ <i>Conifer Grafting and the Search for New Cultivars</i> ”
12:50 to 12:55	Jay Akerley and Bob Osborne for Q&A
	12:55 to 1:00 Break
1:00 to 1:50	Jamie Ellison “ <i>Low Tech Propagation for the Small Backyard Nursery</i> ”
1:50 to 1:55	Jamie Ellison and Jay Akerley for Q&A
	1:55 to 2:00 Break
2:00 to 2:50	Mark Akimoff “ <i>Rooted in Beauty: The Art and Science of Bulb Propagation</i> ”
2:50 to 2:55	Jamie Ellison and Mark Akimoff for Q&A
	2:55 to 3:00 Break
3:00 to 3:50	Jay Akerley “ <i>Making the Most of the NARGS Seed Exchange</i> ”
3:50 to 3:55	Jamie Ellison and Jay Akerley for Q&A



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, Forest Baldwin—A Complete Survey of Saxifrage Native to Alaska

May Activities

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

June, July, August Garden Visits, and Field Trips, Time and Locations TBD

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



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 Garden: Jaime Rodriguez

Librarian/ABG Rock Garden: Kathy Swick

Technology Upgrader: Charles Utermohle

Sunshine Committee: Dorte Mobley



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.

**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.

WWW.AKROCKGARDENSOCIETY.ORG

Webmasters: Open
ARGS is on FACEBOOK at:
<https://www.facebook.com/alaskarockgardensociety/>