



NEWSLETTER

**VOL 28
ISSUE 2**

March 2024

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, March 16, 1:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

**Program: ARGS Field trip to
Mount Healy - Presented
by Jaime Rodriguez
Material Options for
Troughs - Presented by
Rob Staniland**

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From the President:

Spring is coming like a freight train. We have survived the hundred days of January, the sixty days of February and the foolishness of another time change. I am elbow deep in the craziness that is seed sowing and plant starting. I'm losing square footage of living room to tables of seedling trays by the day. I was looking through some old garden notes the other day and found some climate records that show I usually lose my snow cover from late February to mid-March. Not this year. There are parts of my garden that still have three to four feet of snow. The warmest areas are starting to be exposed, causing spikes in my spring fever. I trust you are as eager as I am. Before we know it, it will be time to harden off this year's starts and then "blink" the May plant sales will be upon us.

**Happy Gardening.
Jaime Rodriguez**



Join ARGS via ZOOM, this Saturday at 1:00

Recap of ARGS Mount Healy Field Trip

Last August, five club members spent the first weekend of August collecting seeds in three areas of the Alaska Range near Mount Healy. Jaime Rodriguez, current president and trip coordinator, will describe this beautiful late summer expedition.



Above: Seed Collecting in *Eritrichium* field



Right: *Bupleurum tiridatum*

The Discussion Continues About Material Options for Trough Construction

Guest speaker, Rob Staniland will discuss alternative materials for trough construction.



Do you recognize this plant?

This photo was taken at the Alaska Botanical Garden where this plant was thriving in a large shady area. Please see page 5 for a plant profile written by Florene Carney.

Welcome new members:

Brent Howell—lifetime member

Charlys Kempton

Please let us know your updated email address so we can stay in touch! Membership for the Alaska Rock Garden Society is for the calendar year. Renewal information can be obtained on the ARGS website at:

<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.



Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for 2024!

If you know someone who may enjoy our club, please share sign up information or invite them as your guest to a club event.



ARGS Calendar of Activities and Meeting Dates for 2024

*Society meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Dates for events and field trips are approximate and additional information will be sent to members.

Saturday, January 20— General Membership Meeting, Jay Akerley, Rock Garden Microclimates — Sea to Sky

Saturday, February 17—General Membership Meeting, Marilyn Barker, Plants of the Bering Glacier region

Saturday, March 16 – General Membership Meeting, Jaime Rodriguez, Report on 2023 Seed Collecting Expedition to Mt. Healy, and Rob Staniland, Light Weight Trough Planters

Tuesdays, March 19, 26, April 2, 9 Rock Gardening OLE Course VIA ZOOM with Florene Carney, Jaime Rodriguez and Kathy Swick, Tuesdays 1:00—2:15 PM

Saturday, April 20 –General Membership Meeting, Panel Discussion “Coping With Challenges in the Rock Garden”

Saturday, April 17 - Rock Garden Construction by ARGS President Jaime Rodriguez at Wild-flower Garden Club meeting, Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage, 10:00 AM

Saturday, May 11 or 18	- Clean-up at ABG Rock Garden in Anchorage
May TBD	- Clean-up at Palmer Visitor Center Rock Garden
May 11	- ARGS Plant Sale at Alaska Botanical Garden
May 25	- ARGS Valley Plant Sale at Snowfire Gardens

June Field Trip: Bird Ridge, Turnagain Arm, Bog Plants

July Field Trip: April Bowl, Hatcher Pass, Bog Plants

July TBD Rock Garden Visits

August Garden Art Fair in Palmer

Saturday, September 21 - General Membership Meeting - Plant Exchange and Social, Elks Hall, Eagle River

Saturday October 19 - General Membership Meeting - Nominations of Board Members

Saturday November 16 - General Membership Meeting - Elections of Board Members

No General Membership Meetings are held in December



Plant Profile

By Florene Carney

Cypripedium guttatum, the spotted lady's slipper^[2] or Alaskan lady's slipper,^[3] is a species of orchid found on three continents. It is native to Belarus, Russia (European Russia, Siberia and Russian Far East) as well as China (Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Tibet, and Yunnan), Korea, Mongolia, Bhutan, Alaska (including the Aleutians) and northern Canada (Yukon and Northwest Territories).¹



This Lady Slipper grows well when you can duplicate its needs. I grow it on the East side of our house in partial shade. The soil is loamy, loose, and rich. They grow shallow, so roots are just under the topdressing of finely chopped birch and aspen leaves (about two inches). I have them planted with the giant Hosta, Sum and Substance. The cypripediums tend to die back after blooming and the hosta grows out at just the right time to cover the yellowing leaves. In the fall I cover the entire bed with a fresh layer of leaf mulch to take it through the winter.

Look for them on the Sale Table at ARGS Plant Sale, May 25, 2024 at Snowfire Gardens.

There will also be small bags of leaf mulch available for sale along with the plants.



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 ?
ENJOYED A 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/>