

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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May 2024

This Month:

Memorial/Garden Party

ABG Garden Cleanup

Spring Plant Sales-
May 11 Anchorage
May 25 Wasilla

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From the President:

May is a significant month for gardeners. For those who missed it, May 3 is International Naked Gardening Day. It also happened that same day NARGS held a zoom meeting of all Chapter Chairs, mercifully appropriately garbed. There were 28 of us in attendance, and it was great to renew old friendships and put living faces on names.

NARGS is recruiting candidates for 3 new board members starting in 2025. Please contact the NARGS Board to nominate someone or to volunteer. They are also looking for a new treasurer and a new recording secretary beginning 2025, as well as a new webinar organizer. Contact Elizabeth Zander for more information.

For our chapter members who are not already NARGS members, NARGS annual dues are increasing by \$5 beginning July 1, 2024. NARGS is also adding options to pay for 2 year and 5 year memberships.

In 2023 NARGS had 1935 regular memberships, of which 1700 received the NARGS quarterly via mail. Two hundred memberships accessed the publication online. There were 120 household memberships, bringing the total number of people to 2052 members. This does not include 152 institutional memberships, mostly botanical gardens and one seed company.

Continued on next page.



NARGS is looking for Chapters to assist with the annual Seed Exchange. It is one of the favorite benefits to members. The huge effort has been broken into different sections that each require a dedicated group to complete. One request that impacts all of us is for each Chapter to train their own members in seed collecting, especially from rare and desirable plants from our own gardens, or arranging with members to collect from their gardens when seeds are ripe.

The New England Chapter is donating \$10k to the traveling speaker program, another one of the benefits of being a NARGS Chapter. We look forward to the 2025 roster of speakers, and hopefully Alaska can host a speaker.

Both NARGS and the Alaska Rock Garden Society are in a rebuilding phase, recovering from the impact of Covid-19. Locally, we are still impacted by the loss of Verna Pratt and more recently, Carmel Tysver. Our Chapter received an invitation from Carmel's husband, Neil, to a Memorial Garden Party for Carmel on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at their home, 2030 Patriot Circle, Anchorage, AK 99515 from noon until 9pm. Please RSVP to 907-727-5110. (Please see invitation below.)

On a happier note, Plant Sales are just around the corner. The first will be at the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Plant drop off can be arranged with Will Criner at ABG on Friday afternoon, or very early on Saturday. The sale opens at 9am for ABG members, and runs from 10am-4pm for the general public. We will be set up on the path and lawn next to the rock garden as in years past. We will need a good number of volunteers to help set up and run the sale. If you want to help, please notify Madge at 907 345-5144 or me at 907 355-2462.

Our second plant sale will be on Memorial Weekend, Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Snowfire Gardens in Wasilla. The details and need for volunteers is similar to the earlier sale.

After months of preparation and work, our website is getting a major facelift this week. Once our domain switches to the new server we will have an easier time of updating our calendar, posting newsletters, and adding new content. The transfer has been made, but it can take 72 hours to update. Keep checking for updates at the address below:

<https://www.akrockgardensociety.org>

Once the change happens, it may take a few more days to get the calendar updated with 2024 events. Between now and then, you will find me at the top of my hill in the nursery, getting plants ready for the sales.

Happy gardening.

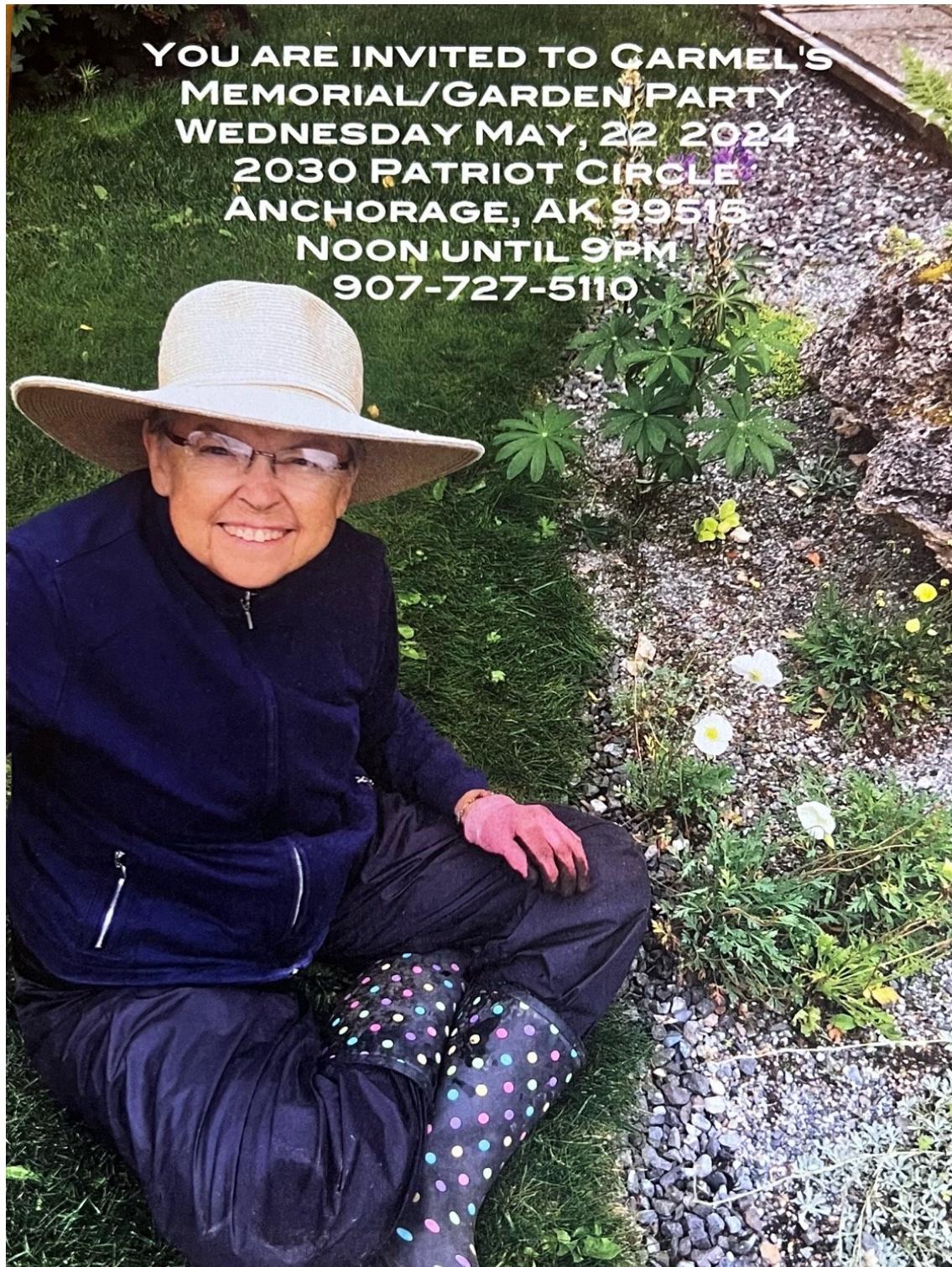
Jaime Rodriguez



ARGS Board members, Charles Utermohle, Kathy Swick and Bonnie Friedman met on May 6, at the Alaska Botanical Garden to clear winter debris from the rock garden beds.



For those of you new to ARGS, Carmel Tysver was a beloved founding member of the Alaska Rock Garden Society, serving in the role of president and other club officers for many years. In addition to having a career in nursing, was active in many organizations such as Master Gardeners and the Anchorage Garden Club.





Plant Sale!

Alaska Rock Garden Society

Saturday, May 11

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Alaska Botanical Garden

4601 Campbell Airstrip Road—uphill from
the intersection of Tudor & Baxter Roads

Alaska Rock Garden Society

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY

ROCK GARDEN & TROUGHES

at the Alaska Botanical Garden
4601 Campbell Airstrip Road

Sat. May 11, noon-2 pm
or anytime during the plant sale
Stop by the plant sale and spend a few
minutes helping out with cleanup!

Many hands make light work, please join us. |





Alaska Rock Garden Society

Spring Plant Sales May 11 & 25



Saturday, May 11, 10am-4pm
at the Alaska Botanical Garden

Saturday, May 25, 9am-4pm
at Snowfire Garden, Wasilla

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

Plants for rock gardens, troughs, and perennial borders, herbs, exotic plants, and tools.



Do you recognize this plant?



Please see page 8 to find out the name of the plant and more.

Welcome new and renewing members:

**Janice Troyer
Leesa Wingo**

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

Saturday, April 20 –General Membership Meeting, Panel Discussion “Coping With Challenges in the Rock Garden” - Presented by ARGS Board Members

Saturday, May 11 - Clean-up at ABG Rock Garden in Anchorage
May 2 - 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: Early to Mid-July Turnagain Arm Bog Plants

July Field Trip: After July 4, April Bowl, Hatcher Pass Bog Plants

July TBD Rock Garden Pop Up 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

Gentiana sino-ornata, commonly called showy Chinese gentian, is a species of flowering plant in the family Gentianaceae, native to western China and Tibet. Interestingly, the Latin species name also translates as 'showy Chinese'. It is a perennial with trailing stems to 20cm in length, bearing narrow leaves and solitary, terminal, rich blue, funnel-shaped flowers up to 6cm in length, with white stripes within.

This plant is an autumn classic; reliable and easy to grow in a border, wall or container, and a winner of the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit (RHS AGM). It, however, does not like alkaline soil!

Position: Full sun, partial shade

Soil: Almost any soil, grows well in South Central Alaska (but doesn't like alkaline soils or water)

Flowers: Late August (here in South Central Alaska, flowers in September)

Other features: Grows well in South central Alaska gardens

Hardiness: H 3 to 5 - Hardy in most places throughout the UK even in severe winters (-15 to -10 ° C), Appears to be Fully hardy

Habit: Trailing

Foliage: Deciduous

Height: 5 - 15 cm (0.15 - 0.5 ft)

Spread: 10 - 45 cm (0.3 - 1.5 ft)

Time to full growth: 2 to 5 years

Plant type: Herbaceous Perennial



Often blooms right through the snow in fall. Photo by Florene Car-



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/>