

ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

**VOL 28
ISSUE 5**

**September
2024**

Coming Events:

**September 21, 1:00PM ARGS
Annual Plant Swap and Seed
Exchange**

**October 3, 6:30PM NARGS
Traveling Speaker on ZOOM**

**October 19, 7:00PM Membership
Meeting, ZOOM and IN Person**

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From the President:

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I'm basking in relief having finished my 36th Alaska State Fair, and a bit panicked because Fall arrived early and it feels as if Winter is coming like a freight train. While I am frantically working at putting my nursery to bed for the season, I am excited we are starting up our Alaska Rock Garden Society regular meetings. Our September in person Plant and Seed Exchange meeting is one of my favorites. See the article later in the newsletter for details. We have a fun set of programs on tap for the rest of 2024, and some very exciting guest speakers for 2025. I look forward to swapping stories, plants and seeds with you in a couple weeks.

Happy Gardening!

Jaime Rodriguez



SO MANY SEEDLINGS! WHICH ONES TO BRING?

SOCIAL GATHERING AND ANNUAL PLANT/SEED SWAP

Saturday September 21, 1:00 p.m.

Eagle River Elks Club, 17111 North Eagle River Loop Road

At this event, members generally bring 4 plants to share. After we catch up with each other's summer activities, we draw names and take turns picking a plant until all of them find homes. If you don't have plants or seeds to share, please come anyway—you will be included in the plant share. If you are a new member, this is a good opportunity to meet the group informally and take home your first plant. The lending library will also be available to current members. Spend an afternoon with plant nerds!

How the Swap Works:

The plant swap portion is essentially a "bring one/take one" situation. We ask you to limit yourself to bringing four plants to swap. It is OK to bring a SMALL number of extra giveaway plants, so that even people who have no plants to bring can go home with something, but keep it reasonable or you will have to take your unclaimed plants back home. The plant swap depends on the numbered sign-in sheet. We draw numbers out of a basket to see who goes first. After each person selects a plant to take, they draw the next number until everyone present has gone. We do four rounds of this until the plants are chosen, or people are done selecting. Do not feel bad if you have few or no plants to swap. There are usually too many extras, so everyone who wants plants will go home with something.

The seed exchange is easier. Bring your own container of labeled seeds you have collected. While the plant swap is occurring, we can browse through each other's seed collections, and grab a pinch of things we want to try. This part of the event is more casual. We ask everyone to be generous and considerate. When specific seed is in short supply, make sure other's have a chance.



In October we will have not one, but two, programs for your leaning and enjoyment. Esther Benedict will be visiting several NARGS chapters in the Pacific Northwest. One of those chapters has invited ARGS members to attend her program on Propagation via Zoom. I saw her speak at a NARGS workshop—very inspiring and very apt.



NARGS Traveling Speaker: Esther Benedict

BONUS ZOOM PROGRAM on Propagation, OCT 3, 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of NARGS

Bio: I live on a small farm in northern Indiana with my husband, Robert. I am a self-taught gardener, gleaned information from books, magazines, trial and error, and many wonderful people who are willing to share their knowledge. Robert and I enjoy seeing plants in their natural habitat, and visiting botanical gardens, nurseries, and private gardens. We belong to the Great Lakes Chapter of NARGS.

Bio Esther Benedict, Continued next page...



I grew up with gardening. Every year, my mom would let each child pick something exotic or fun from the seed catalog. I can remember vegetable spaghetti, peanuts, Indian corn, gourds, cotton, cacti, and giant watermelons. Rock gardening came much later, after marriage and buying a property. While raising a family, the gardening was centered around veggies and annuals, but then I started branching out into seed starting and perennials. I saw a brief article in a gardening magazine about rock gardening and one of the sources mentioned was Trenoll Nursery near Trenton, Ohio. We visited there and I was introduced to alpines by the owner, Dorothy Parker. I made a sizable purchase and, as we were leaving, Dorothy stuffed a grocery bag in my arms. It was half full of NARGS quarterlies, each full of pictures of incredible plants that I never dreamed existed... I was hooked!

I enjoy seed starting and propagating and found out I could not only support my hobby but also expand it by turning it into a business. Sometimes it is a fine line between the two.

OCTOBER PROGRAM PREVIEW

**Constructing
my Crevice
Garden**

**by Todd
Bradley**

Oct. 19, 1 pm

**Details in next
newsletter.**





Plant Profile by Florene Carney

Do You recognize this plant?



Single Delight, Shy Maiden

Moneses uniflora

Family: Wintergreen/Pyrolaceae

Habitat: Woods throughout most of Alaska except the North Slope, the Aleutian Chain and western coastal areas.

Blooming Time: June and July

Description: A small plant with a rosette of small, light green, roundish leaves (about 1/2") with shallow teeth. The flower is on a leafless stem 2 1/2 to 4" high and has 5 pointed waxy petals. It has a protruding ovary and faces downward. The capsule is round with protruding stigma.

A delightful little plant that I spent a lot of time searching for at plant sales and on line only to one day find it creeping into the rock garden by the driveway – coming out of the woods behind. A true treat from Mother Nature. The rocks are placed around it to prevent it being stepped on.

Welcome New or Renewing Members:

Carolyn Brown

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.





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

July Field Trip: April Bowl, Hatcher Pass Bog Plants

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

Thursday, October 3— Bonus Zoom Meeting with NARGS Traveling Speaker, Esther Benedict, 6:30 PM

Saturday October 19 - General Membership Meeting, In Person and Zoom, Todd Bradley, Constructing my Crevice Garden

Saturday November 16 - General Membership Meeting

No General Membership Meetings are held in December



NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

The North American Rock Garden Society, or NARGS, connects rock garden enthusiasts in many ways, from publications to exclusive events, local and national meetings and workshops. Lectures include leading botanical specialists and their annual seed exchange is world renown.

NARGS tours offer extraordinary opportunities for botanizing trips lead by expert guides to hard to access botanical hotspots.

The blurb below was prepared and sent by Panayoti Kelaidi, NARGS Past President, with a request to distribute in chapter newsletters.

Well, it is still raining today and our days are getting much shorter, so it can't hurt to daydream, can it?

How about an early Christmas present?

It may still be toasty summer, but spring can come sooner than you think! Early December in Patagonia is peak season for flowers like Rosulate Violas, Patagonian Petunias and the brilliant red Chilean Fire Tree (Embothrium coccineum), not to mention Scarlet Gorse. Join Panayoti Kelaidis (Senior Curator of Denver Botanic Gardens) and Marcela Ferreyra (leading botanist of Patagonia and author of a shelf full of books about this region) on a trip early in December. Do check out the trip description in the link provided—and join us on a trip of a lifetime!

BOTANICAL WONDERS OF ARGENTINE PATAGONIA WITH DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

DECEMBER 3-16, 2024

The website for Botanical Wonders of Argentine Patagonia: <https://www.botanicgardens.org/our-impact/trips-travel>





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

**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.



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/>