

The Trillium

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Piedmont Chapter
North American Rock Garden Society
Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, NC
<https://www.piedmontnargs.org>
www.facebook.com/piedmontNARGS

A Whirlwind Tour of Bay Area Gardens

By Mariel Tribby

From 2014-15, I took care of an interesting array of gardens at Missouri Botanical Garden. Much of my time and interest centered around the Bavarian garden, a rock garden featuring alpines. However, I also had shrub borders, a perennial border and gardens around two historic buildings: the Sachs Museum building and the Herring House. I enjoyed working in the cottage garden-style beds around the Herring House, even though it required shearing a low boxwood hedge!

The Herring House underwent a renovation in 2016, which included a renovation of the surrounding beds. The designs for the garden were inspired by the work of Gertrude Jekyll, a British horticulturist and garden designer and Edwin Lutyens, an architect and garden designer. Jekyll and Lutyens collaborated on many house and garden designs from the late 1890s into the 1930s. In my upcoming presentation to the Piedmont Chapter, I will cover Jekyll's design style and how we interpreted it in the garden renovation.

After Jekyll's death in 1932, many of her plans and correspondence were given to the University of California, Berkeley as part of a bequest from Beatrix Farrand. These drawings and documents were key to our research into Jekyll's garden designs. In December 2015, my colleague Jennifer Smock and I flew to San Francisco to visit the Environmental Design Archives at Berkeley. One day was mostly taken up with photographing and photocopying documents from the archive, but we also fit in visits to several public gardens.



Entry to University of California, Berkeley Botanical Garden

From the airport, we drove straight to Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden Park in Berkeley. Its 10 acres were filled with California native plants, organized by biogeographic regions. Here we got our first look at



Dudleya shining among rocks at Tilden Park



giant sequoia trees. We also encountered a diversity of Dudleya; the silver foliage of some of the species was very striking against the rocks. Another notable genera on display was Arctostaphylos, the manzanita. These shrubs to small trees have attractive bark and the urn-shaped flowers of Ericaceae. I was fond of the prostrate species, including *Arctostaphylos pungens* subsp. *ravenii*, a federally-endangered species. One plant is known to occur in the wild at the Presidio, a large park in San Francisco. The species was discovered by Peter Raven, President Emeritus of Missouri Botanical Garden. Another prostrate species, *A. uva-ursi* × *patula* caught my eye in the Sierran granite outcrop garden. Regional Parks was a great introduction to the flora of California!



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* x *patula

The next day was our appointment at the Environmental Design Archives. We spent the morning and part of the afternoon taking photos and marking pages for copying. When our work was done we took a short trip to the UC Botanical Garden. Situated above the campus in Strawberry Canyon, it focuses on plants from around the world as well as California natives. It was fascinating to see large succulents growing outside which would not be hardy in Missouri. I was particularly struck by large South American plants, including *Puya raimondii*. As we explored the garden, the sun began to set and the plants glowed in the softer light.



Puna Raimondii

Our third and final day was even more jam-packed. We headed to Golden Gate Park with our sights set on visiting three gardens...in the morning. Our first stop was San Francisco Botanical Garden. The largest of the gardens we visited, its 55 acres were divided into geographic, taxonomic and themed gardens. I particularly enjoyed walking the boardwalk through the Ancient Plant Garden.



Ancient Plant Garden



**Aloe arborescens succulent garden
San Francisco Botanical Garden**

and themed gardens. I particularly enjoyed walking the boardwalk through the Ancient Plant Garden. It was not hard to imagine dinosaurs walking among the tree ferns, Gunnera, giant horsetail and cycads. The Succulent Garden was another favorite. *Aloe arborescens* was beginning to bloom in both red and yellow. A third intriguing garden was the Gondwana Circle. It had recently been installed with the purpose of displaying plants that grow today in regions once part of Gondwanaland, which was the southern half of Pangaea. Gondwanaland



included India and continents in the southern hemisphere, and the plantings included plants from South America, South Africa and Australia.

Just to the north of the Botanical Garden is the Japanese Tea Garden. When we visited the ginkgo trees were in full fall color among the neatly pruned shrubs and large conifers. The numerous vistas in the garden were enhanced by topography. After the tea garden, we continued west in the park to get a quick glimpse of the ocean. We stumbled upon the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden. A Dutch windmill anchors the western side of the garden with large display beds laid out at its base. We saw a few poppies blooming there, but the beds come to their peak bloom in early spring.



**Gondwana Circle
San Francisco Botanical Garden**



Japanese Tea Garden

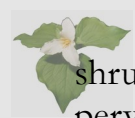
cisco. I was impressed by the orchid collection and interpretive signage. Potted plants lined pathways and small seating areas, creating a very intimate experience.

From the park, we headed north and stopped for pictures in the Presidio with the Golden Gate Bridge. We crossed the bridge to our last stop on the trip, Muir Woods National Monument. This is the closest old-growth coastal redwood forest to San Francisco. What struck me most here was seeing the many layers in the forest: fallen trees and herbaceous plants at ground level, a diversity of

After an extremely windy visit to the beach, we looped back to our final destination at Golden Gate Park, the Conservatory of Flowers. The Victorian conservatory is reached by walking across a lawn with large seasonal display beds. On one side of the stairs leading to the entrance, pansies bloomed in a floral clock. On the other side, plants were used to spell out "1915 PPIE." Inside the conservatory we found an exhibit commemorating the 1915 PanPacific International Exposition in San Francisco. This world's fair took place despite the disastrous Great Earthquake and Fires of 1906 which destroyed 2600 acres of San Fran-



**Seating area with orchids in
Conservatory of Flowers**



shrubs and mid-sized trees, epiphytic ferns growing on branches and the huge trunks of Sequoia sempervirens extending upward to form the canopy layer.

Though it has been several years since this trip, I remember the feeling of wonder I had seeing all that could grow in the Bay Area. It seemed an almost perfect climate, one which I hope to return to in the future! 🌿

Piedmont Chapter, NARGS Speakers & Events, Fall 2021/Spring 2022

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Fall Picnic

Jeremy Schmidt / Meghan Fidler's Home

1109 New Castle Ct

Raleigh, N.C. 27603

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Field Trip, 10:00 a.m.

Jason Lattier, director

Caine Conservatory, High Point University

One University Parkway

High Point, N.C. 27268

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Piedmont Chapter Plant Sale & Garden Walk

JC Raulston Arboretum

Raleigh, N.C.

Saturday, October 16, 2021 (via Zoom)

Adam Black

Millican, Texas

"Distinctive Texas Native Plants Ideal for Rock Gardens in the Piedmont"

Saturday, November 20, 2021 (via Zoom)

Paul Spriggs

Victoria, British Columbia

"A History Of Crevice Rock Gardening"

Saturday, January 15, 2022 (in person)

Tim Alderton

Raleigh, N.C.

"Native Plants - Durango, Colorado Area"

Saturday, February 12, 2022 (in person)

Scott McMahan

Atlanta, Georgia

"Plant Exploration with a Purpose"

Saturday, March 19, 2022 (in person)

Elisabeth Zander

Goshen, Connecticut

"The Spectacular Gardens of the Czech Republic"

Saturday, April 16, 2022 (in person)

Scott Zona

Hillsborough, N.C.

"Salvia: A Natural History"

SAVE THE DATE!!!

May 2022

Spring Picnic TBA

Give a gift of membership in the Piedmont Chapter—North American Rock Garden Society

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

Membership Options,: Individual:\$15 Household: \$20

Name: _____

Second person name: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Make Check payable to: **Piedmont Chapter, NARGS**

Mail to : **Bobby Wilder, 2317 Elmsford Way,**

Raleigh, NC 27608

Visit <https://www.piedmontnargs.org/> to learn more
about the Piedmont Chapter



Changing Perceptions of Southern Rock Gardens: Experiences at Peckerwood Garden *

By Adam Black

When I mention rock gardens to casual gardeners here in Texas, the response is always “Oh, I love cacti and agaves.” When I then try to explain how I aim to mimic the overall look of a northern rock garden, with a variety of miniature, compact perennials, dwarf shrubs, and other small plants with the growth habit of alpine plants, there is then the knee-jerk reaction that those plants will never take the Texas heat. If I try to detail further how there are so many small plants native to Texas, the South, and



Peckerwood's first rock garden, featuring *Dicentra eximia* 'Dolly Sods' in the foreground.

from other hot, humid climates of the world which, when properly planted among well-positioned rocks, can create the same effect, I usually have totally lost them. To most people, a rock garden in the South only means xeric, succulent plants and can be nothing more.

Before I moved to Texas to assume the role of director of horticulture at the amazing Peckerwood Garden just northwest of Houston,

Texas, I gardened in a similar Zone 8b climate of north Florida. The few southern rock gardens I was exposed to in my travels that influenced me were still rather northern, in no less than zone 7b. I enjoyed Atlanta Botanical Garden's rock garden; but most initially captivating for me was Tony Avent's first scree garden next to his original house at Juniper Level Botanic Garden. Among the many intriguing plants I had never seen before were things that I had already grown successfully in Florida but were better displayed in this situation. Soon, the JC Raulston Arboretum installed their scree garden,

while more extensive scree trial gardens sprang up at Juniper Level Botanic Garden. Some of the plants used were even favorites native to the Florida sandhill scrub floral communities of my southerly stomping



The Mexican cycad *Dioon angustifolium* with various agave and cacti species.

grounds, including *Conradina* spp. and other scrub mints, *Amsonia ciliata*, *Liatris* spp., and *Spigelia gentianoides*. I, therefore, surmised that similar gardens could be created in Zones 8-9 in the coastal plain with proper plant selection.

Beyond the obscure genera I tend to grow, I soon learned from a few small experimental rockeries, crevice gardens, and scree gardens around my Florida property that I was having great success with culinary herbs that were considered difficult to impossible in the area's wet summers, including lavender, creeping thyme, and other species of Mediterranean origin. This prompted me to try other ornamental plants from summer-dry climates and further inspired Jonathan Lubar to install a small scree mound in the bulb garden he maintained when he volunteered at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville, Florida. This resulted in surprising successes with some South African geophytes as well as long term success with *Delosperma cooperi*, which is readily available in the region yet typically dies quickly in the average garden.

It quickly became apparent that the type of gravel used made all the difference for many plants, especially those from areas that didn't naturally experience as much summer rain and ambient humidity as they were subjected to in the southeast. Gardeners in north Florida, the Gulf Coast of Texas, and points between tend to gravitate towards the readily available "pea gravel" or "Chattahoochee gravel" for their cactus and succulent gardens, which is available in several grades and is composed of round,



A new species of *Conradina* from the sandhills of northern Florida excels in scree gardens.



Agave 'Mr. Ripple', a favorite collected by John Fairey and Carl Schoenfeld.

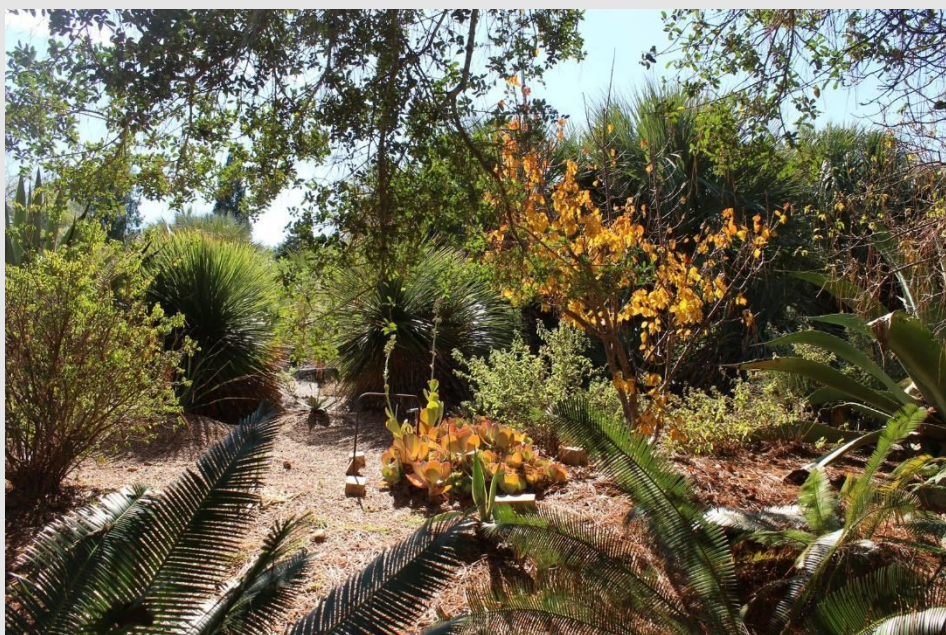
hugging shrubs.

Besides the negative effects of pea gravel, I never liked the appearance of it in a rock garden. Instead, I wanted to mimic the erosional features I saw in the mountains – irregular, jagged chunks of

river-polished quartzite in mixed hues of brown, copper, orange, and white. I had always observed that this glassy-textured gravel kept conditions far too wet where the gravel and underlying soil interfaced. I believe this contributed to an unwanted humid microclimate around the plant, rather than the desired reflected heat which would help bake the foliage dry when the sun came back out after a summer thunderstorm and extinguish any humid conditions trapped in the dense crown of the ground-



rocky scree, as opposed to consistently rounded pebbles. Though the scree gardens in North Carolina used expanded shale, this was difficult to find in Florida. The gray granite gravel we had available there offered a similar look but was quite heavy and expensive to import from northern Georgia. I lucked out with one supplier offering a load of half-inch (1.27 cm) granite for a tremendous discount as it had been minimally “contaminated” with other nearby piles of contrasting types of gravel, an effect that I found to appear even more natural. Furthermore, it reflected heat well, and the generally flat granite chips formed somewhat of a shingling crust that repelled the penetration of excess water. It allowed the root systems to



Glowing autumn foliage on *Prunus mume* adjacent to *Dasyllirion*, *Dioon*, and other xeric plants exemplifies the juxtapositions of John Fairey’s design.

stay cool and adequately moist in summer, yet not excessively wet and cold as a layer of pea gravel unfortunately would. I was pleased to learn when I moved to Texas that expanded shale is readily available here, much cheaper than granite, and providing the same aforementioned benefits that the granite gravel had produced, while also being lighter.

Peckerwood Garden is a remarkable public garden that began as the private collection of artist and plant explorer John Fairey. Together with Carl Schoenfeld, they co-founded the famous Yucca Do Nursery which operated for many years next door to Peckerwood as an outlet for the diversity of



Among John Fairey’s signature designs are expansive gravel pathways tying together the xeric plantings in the rear with the shady woodland..

exciting plants they were collecting during their 100+ trips to the dry deserts and lush montane forests of northeastern Mexico. Yucca Do moved to another location a number of years ago and, sadly, closed recently. Our non-profit foundation now owns John’s original garden plus the adjacent site of the original nursery for the garden to gradually expand into. In rehabili-

tating the old nursery side of the grounds, we found a bed with perfect topography and spare rocks to modify into a small trial rockery, combining the conditions of a traditional rock garden with scree and crevice garden features.

Those who have visited Peckerwood Garden are struck by John Fairey’s award-winning landscape design that utilizes plants so unfamiliar to the region, or to any garden worldwide. The garden

pushed the limits further with a great juxtaposition of xeric gardens transitioning into contrasting woodland assemblages using floral textures to their greatest advantage. The dry gardens, essentially



Light factors heavily in Peckerwood's design, with low evening sun casting dramatic amber glow and dark shadows.

scree gardens due to their topography and gravel mulch, are where John features his many important wild collections of agaves, yuccas, and other woody lilies along with xeric trees, palms, and other complementary, exciting plants from around the world. In addition to architectural macroflora, the signature feature of these dry gardens is pea gravel. Despite my thoughts about pea gravel, I mean this in no way to be a criticism of John's choice. The gravel harmoniously defines the magic of his landscapes so well, perfectly creating the

impact John so effectively set out to make. Combined with the topography modified for drainage, it is of no detriment to the plants he has chosen. He is not trying to grow the species I was aiming to grow, and the entire visual effect is remarkably striking.

Peckerwood's mission includes continued growth of our collections for plants of conservation importance, as well as seeking new, adaptable plants that can diversify area landscapes should they survive our trials in the harsh extremes they face in Texas. I view the rockery I set up near Peckerwood's office as a way to broaden visitors' minds to gardening tactics and plant palettes that southern gardeners can utilize for diversity and satisfaction. It is effectively building upon the impactful results of John's creation, and with our expanding educational mission, offering tremendous value.

It has been almost three years since our trial rock garden was installed using warm-climate analogs that grow in clumps, cushions or are otherwise small-statured, alpine-esque species that would be lost in a typical garden bed. I intentionally made sure to exclude the predictable cacti, agaves, and other species expected of a Texas rock garden, and otherwise featured so well in John's dry gardens. Included are things that I already knew would prosper, while also trialing many species for the first time. As far as failures, some were surprising, and some were not. We did trial some interesting things donated by other gardens and collectors that originated from higher, cooler elevations that I was skeptical would survive our hot summers, and in most cases, they didn't. Other things I feel do stand a chance here based on their natural tolerance to heat and cold may have perished due to other reasons. These will be trialed again if the opportunity arises.



A *pinus clausa* broom seedling glowing in the late evening sky.



I have been amazed at a selection of fringed bleeding heart, *Dicentra eximia* 'Dolly Sods' that comes from the shale barrens of West Virginia and is offered by Plant Delights Nursery. In near-full sun it held luxurious lacy blue-green foliage and was blooming non-stop from spring through at least early August, at which point it abruptly died back. Poking around underground, it appears to have died outright rather than simply going dormant. Having lasted so long into the summer in such wonderful shape, I don't think this was simply a heat-related issue, so this will be one we definitely will try again.

Though it hasn't flowered yet, *Achillea sibirica* subsp. *camtschatica* has been quite a surprise. The species and varietal name clearly convey its frigid origins of the Kamchatka Peninsula of eastern Siberia, the same latitude as Alaska. The foliage is quite attractive, in no way resembling the more commonly known yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*. Another surprise from temperate Europe that hasn't flinched over the summer is the pasque flower *Pulsatilla vulgaris* subsp. *bogenbardiana*. It will be even more exciting if it actually flowers this spring. As with a number of cautiously trialed plants, I do have this one situated on the north side of a strategically positioned rock where it stays slightly less scorching hot than it would experience in direct sun. Another European that seems quite unexpectedly tolerant of full sun and hot temperatures is *Linaria vulgaris* f. *peloria*.



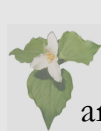
Linaria vulgaris f. *peloria* seems amazingly adaptable to the hot Texas sun.

Surprising not for its tolerance to our region but instead due to its foliar beauty is *Hypericum geminiflorum* var. *simplicistylum*, a Taiwanese St. John's-wort donated by its collector, Mark Weathington of the JC Raulston Arboretum. The oval leaves emerge red, transitioning to purple and then to dusty blue, all bundled in a neat, compact clump. With the foothold it's gotten over the last half of the year, it will surely embellish its beauty next year with showy yellow flowers typical of the genus. There is a whole world of interesting hypericum species, native and exotic, waiting to be better utilized for their ornamental potential, many of which fit in perfectly to a rock garden.

Other dwarf woody plants include my miniature compact selection of the Florida Sand Pine (*Pinus clausa*), grown from seed collected from a witch's broom. The interesting prostrate mat of *Dalea capitata* 'Sierra Gold', a Mountain States Nursery introduction, forms a soft-textured groundcover with gold flowers in late summer and looks especially attractive flowing between and spilling over strategically positioned rocks.

Several geophytes are doing well in the rock garden. From Argentina, *Nothoscordum sellowianum* is a favorite winter highlight, forming a dense patch of short thin leaves that more resembles a clump of dark green moss. When it flowers, the green is almost completely obscured by a mass of dark yellow flowers resembling miniature crocuses. Though in quite a different situation than naturally found, two species of trout lilies, my Florida panhandle collection of *Erythronium umbilicatum* and my east Texas collection of *E. rostratum*, are flourishing so far. Typically found in forest understory, they would otherwise get overlooked in our woodland garden while here they can be better showcased in their own pockets among taller, shading rocks.

Among some interesting Mediterranean plants doing well are several germander species, most showy being two ashy-white fuzzy species, *Teucrium polium* and *T. gnaphalodes*, both donated by Denver Botanic Gardens. I'm excited that two species of *Globularia* (aka globe daisies) have established well and



are starting to form mats of rosettes composed of delicate spoon-shaped leaves. It will be nice if they produce their vivid blue flowers next year. Dwarf cranesbill (*Erodium* x *variable* 'Bishop's Form') developed a very neat, tidy mound and produced its delicate pink flowers, making me want to track down the two-parent species of this hybrid.

Losses among Mediterranean plants include several *Veronica* species, and most disappointing were *Draba hispanica* and *Plocama calabrica*, two that I was enamored with in Denver Botanic Gardens' collections and optimistic they would survive if sited properly based on their natural conditions. I am not giving up on these yet! Speaking of Denver Botanic Gardens, their exceptional rock garden has been a tremendous inspiration and got me addicted to the genus *Eriogonum*. We are growing a few Texas natives well, including the silvery *Eriogonum tenellum*, but I hope to find some of the alluring species from further west that will adapt to our conditions.

I have long been fascinated by xeric ferns and selaginellas, and have been building up a collection of our native Texas and southwestern *Cheilanthes*, *Pellaea*, *Astroblepis*, and others, along with the mat-forming *Selaginella* species that look amazing as a backdrop for more structurally interesting plants. Unrelated but also from the southwest, Arizona to be exact, is a dwarf pipevine, *Aristolochia watsonii*, with its low carpet of elongated purple leaves veined with chartreuse patterning. Another small-statured relative from Europe, *Aristolochia sempervirens*, has made a tidy, compact evergreen mound of emerald leaves occasionally punctuated by its otherworldly flowers. When either species is in bloom,



we have observers on their knees, both begging us to share, as well as simply to get close enough to best appreciate their alien form!

Plenty of southeastern native plants have requirements and appearances that lend themselves well to this style of rock garden. Among those from the Southeast doing well are various forms of *Viola pedata* (bird's foot violet) along with various species of phlox, penstemon, scutellaria, baptisia, and silene. The dwarf shining blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) from Florida produced a few fruits, and many other denizens of the southeast's sandhill scrub habitats offer tremendous potential. Two Florida native members of the aster family that I am very fond of are *Garberia heterophylla* and *Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*, which are slated to be planted shortly.

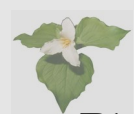
This article just scratches the surface of the interesting plants we are trialing in these growing conditions, and there are many additional options I am eager to try. I hope this style of gardening will encourage others in the southern United States to experiment with rockeries

Aristolochia sempervirens was a surprising success.

for aesthetic enjoyment, even if they choose to include cacti and agaves.

**Editor's Note: This article by Adam Black was originally published in the NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly, Spring 2019, vol. 77, no. 2. Adam's article won the NARGS Geoffrey Charlesworth "Best Paper of the Year" award for 2019 for an article published in the Quarterly. In honor of Peckerwood's founder, John Fairey, the garden was renamed The John Fairey Garden in 2020. Fairey died in March 2020 at age 89. At the time Adam wrote the article he was employed at Peckerwood Gardens in Hempstead, Texas. Adam is currently self-employed as a botanical/horticultural consultant.*

Reprinted by permission of Adam Black.



Plant Profile by Amelia Lane

Botanical name: *Lilium formosanum*

Common name: Formosa Lily, Candelabra Lily (the dried seed pods are vertical!)

Family: Liliaceae

Category: Bulb, Perennial

Primary uses: back of the border or bold accent in the garden

Dimensions: 4-8' tall

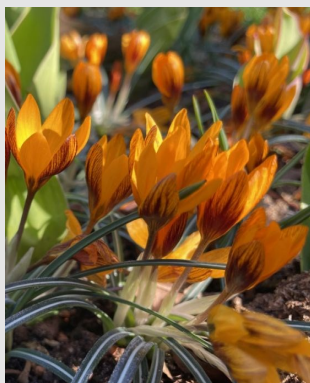
Culture: Full sun to part shade; zone 7b; blooms best with regular moisture during the summer and well-drained soil during the winter.

Bloom: White bell shaped, downward facing. Blooms in August.

General information: These are a delightful accent in the heat of August. They produce MANY seeds, so you always have some to share. 🌿



Allium Purple Sensation
24-36" Late spring



Crocus Orange Monarch
4" Early spring



Narcissus Starlight Sensation
2-14" 5 flowers per stem. April/ May



Ixiolirion
15". Deer and rodent proof.



Corydalis Beth Evans
4-5" Deer proof. May/ June

Bulb Sale Reminder

Following our September 18, 2021, zoom meeting, I will begin taking online orders for bulbs.

To order, please email me at amelia.lane@gmail.com.

Payment should be made by check, Made out to Piedmont Chapter NARGS, send to David White, 3 Ontario Ct., Durham, NC 27713.

Each bag will have 8 each of five different bulbs for a total of 40 bulbs at \$30.

We will have 62 bags to sell.

Limit 2 bags per person.

HAPPY BULBING!!!!!!

Amelia Lane 🌿



October Piedmont Chapter Plant Sale at the JCRA —Are You Getting Ready?

Jim Hollister, Plant Sale Chair

I hope you caught the article in the last Trillium announcing a fall plant sale. You can always refer to it on the website in the archives.

Brief recap: We will have a fall plant sale on Tuesday October 12th at the October JCRA evening garden walk. This will take place from 4:30 to 7:30. The Arb will publicize the event including the fact that there will be a Piedmont NARGS plant sale.

So... we need plants. Each individual pot needs a label (a section of venetian blind can work well) with scientific name, and optional additional info such as common name, size, sun/shade, wet/dry, bloom color, vigor...

A nice picture can be worth a thousand words. Ideally laminated or covered with a baggie. One per taxa. 4 inch or so... big enough to see. (optional)

Logistics: I plan to be there by 1:30 to start setting up and accepting plants. We will be in the circle drive by the Bobby G. Wilder Visitor Center. If you drive around the circle, we can help you unload. All plants need to be delivered on the day of the sale.

If you are interested in helping please send me an email: hollijm@gmail.com

The other thing that you could do is talk this up. Mention to friends and remind them closer to the event. Maybe include in neighborhood newsletters or websites. We have not done this Tuesday evening kind of thing before, so I don't know what to expect exactly, but the more we can get the word out, the better.

Thanks, and bye for now. Jim 



Phemeranthus calcaricus blooming
in front of *Bigelowia nuttallii*.

Plant Profile by Jim Hollister

Botanical name: *Phemeranthus calcaricus*

Common name: Limestone Fameflower

Height: 8 to 10 inches

Light Requirements: sun


Soil Moisture: dry, moist

Soil: I have it in a fairly rich mix of compost, Permatil and garden soil in my crevice garden

Bloom Time: Planted seeds from NARGS seed exchange in February. Had blooms starting in June and sporadically thereafter. Blooming now.

Bloom Color: rose-purple flowers

Hardiness Zone: 6, 7

This at-risk US native has been a treat. Nice succulent rosette base followed by 8" tall wands of rose-purple flowers. This is its first year, and I would consider it a winner even if it does not come back next year, but I expect it to. 



NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

Saturday, September 18, 2021 (via Zoom)

Mariel Tribby

Missouri Botanical Garden

Saint Louis, Missouri

**“Gardens Inspired by Gertrude Jekyll
& the Cottage Garden Style”**

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t

Jim Hollister, 2020-2023

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OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Plant Sale Manager: Tim Alderton

Plant Sale Chair: Jim Hollister

Message from the Chair

Cindy Cromwell

I write this still on a Rocky Mountain high after returning from a wonderful NARGS conference in Durango, Colorado. These annual get togethers in lovely settings are one of the many reasons you might consider joining our national parent group.

The highlight for me is getting to know some of the extraordinary folks who belong to NARGS. I had a lovely chat with the scientist who first described that familiar scourge, mulberry weed, hiked to over 12,000 feet with Mike Kintgen of Denver Botanic to see one of the few Colorado natives left on his list, *Ranunculus macauleyi*, and reconnected with several folks I know from a memorable NARGS trip to Yunnan, China in 2018.

All this is heady stuff for a strictly amateur gardener, but available to you as a NARGS member. In addition to annual meetings and travel opportunities – now coming back after the pandemic pause - the seed exchange allows you to grow plants from seed collected from all over the world for a nominal price. Membership also includes a beautiful publication, the NARGS Quarterly, containing informative and authoritative articles accompanied by gorgeous plant photos.

Our chapter subsidizes half of your first-year membership, so the initial cost is only \$20. For more details and to join, please get in touch with Bobby Ward or me.

For Piedmont Chapter members, September is shaping up to be busy. On September 11, we'll visit the Caine Conservatory with Director Jason Lattier and then Paul Ciener Botanic Garden in Kernersville. The following Saturday, September 18 we'll hear from Missouri Botanic's Mariel Tribby on gardens inspired by Gertrude Jekyll's cottage garden style. Meetings will continue to be online through 2021, then in person and online beginning in January, 2022.

September is a fine time to dig and divide garden treasures and Plant Sale Chair Jim Hollister will happily accept your extras. We plan to sell plants as be part of an upcoming evening event this October at the JC Raulston Arboretum. I hope many of you will be able to participate in this first-time opportunity. Look for emails with details on all these events soon. 