

# *The Trillium*

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

This spring, as the covid-virus kept us from venturing out, members were invited to share their garden experiences with us. We've had a very generous and exciting response with a lot of variety too. This issue is an all member effort, with contributions from new members who recently joined us. We hope you will enjoy! All photos are by the authors unless otherwise noted.

## Serendipity and Encouragement

By David Pulman

In November 2018, I had had enough of half a dozen disease ridden nondescript shrubs and just ripped them out. No idea what I was going to replace them with. Every time I left the garage this bare patch of dirt would face me down.

In February 2019, my kind-hearted neighbor Anna DeConti, invited me to Chapel Hill Garden Club to listen to a talk on crevice gardening.

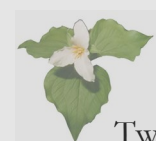
Now stone was a feature of the history and geography of the places where my wife and I grew up. Ancient Ireland, Celtic and Roman Britain, Stonehenge, Hadrians Wall, The Giants Causeway, cobblestones, dry stone walling. We had an empathy with stone and it's almost spiritual quality. I had already dabbled in stone, building five stone garden sculptures. Closer to home, we were fond of an exceptional Irish rock garden, designed, built and planted by my father-in-law, with a wonderful collection of rock roses.

Listening to Jeremy Schmidt (Hortco: PDN) talk about stone and the wonder of a crevice garden, sealed it for me. It wasn't too long before we were talking seriously about the creation of a crevice garden on the sad piece of dirt opposite the garage. We were fortunate in that our garden already had a good natural "rock backbone" with plenty of impressive natural stone so the installation of a crevice garden was very sympathetic to the garden design.



Jeremy introduced me to Cyndy Cromwell who was kind enough to walk me through her crevice garden and show me the art of the possible. Her kindness was followed up in a similar manner by Sandy Horn who introduced us to the harmony of "little trees" in a crevice garden setting. Both Cyndy and Sandy introduced us to great plant people who could help provide plants that would bring Jeremy's magic to life. Along with my knowledge of PDN, Esther Wrightman (Wrightman Alpines) and Bruce Appeldoorn (dwarf conifer nursery) were incredibly helpful to get us started with an alpine collection.





Twelve months after Jeremy and I started working on the design brief, two crevice gardens have been installed and planted. I cannot describe the excitement of inspecting the growth progression and flowering of our first seasons planting - so many miniature beauties! Knowledge and experience are being gained on a daily basis - mistakes have been



made! We are already in the first phase of plant relocation. We are getting more fun than we could ever have thought - great stress relief in these difficult times. Clare and I have discovered

a new shared hobby - kneeling side by side finger picking weeds from crevices. Who would have thought it!



Through a smidgen of impetuosity, serendipity and the encouragement of a host of nice people we now have our own rock garden, an additional dimension to our gardening passion. This has been 12 months in the execution but 40 years in the making since I cast eyes on an Irish rock rose collection. Lots of fun ahead. ❧

See more of David's work on page 3.

## Welcome Another New Member: Tracy Trippiedi

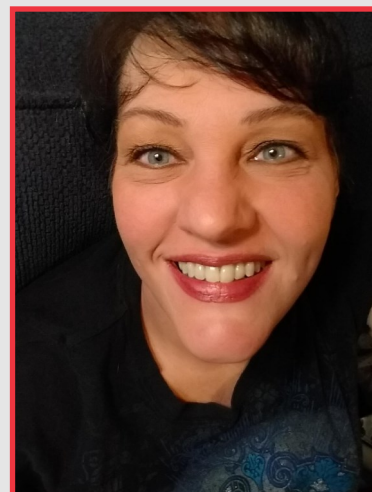
I joined the Piedmont Chapter to be around like-minded individuals and explore MORE about horticulture in general. I have a passion for herbs (Rosemary-fave), many flowers (lilac and peony-faves). Currently herbaceous is my plant preference.

I currently live in an apartment, but will be keeping my hydrangea and starting a new herb garden. And I am open to creating new smaller rock gardens that include fairy themes.

My gardening challenge is 1. How to propagate Rosemary from seeds or cuttings and keep them alive. and 2. Learning about smaller plants to incorporate into the fairy theme, at least until I move back to a larger home.

I grew up in a rural area where I studied horticulture and animal husbandry. My plants won ribbons at the fair and I was on the judging team in FFA. I have always been around gardening from my grandma and mother to my own gardens of all sorts. My favorites were my bulbs and my rock/pond gardens.

I raised chickens, pigs, and sheep for sale to larger companies. I was a Girl Scout and a Girl Scout Leader. Currently, I work in healthcare. Thank you for including me in your club! ❧





## Garden Sculptures—David Pulman's home



### Meg's True North

Heat treated Pennsylvania blue stone.

4 pillars chamfered N, S, E, W.

Base of recycled glass with a copper whimsy.

Tribute to Meg, our passed Norwich Terrier.



### Manhattan

Repurposed patio stone



### Table Top

Repurposed patio stone



### Giants Causeway

Handmade concrete replica of the wonderful basalt extrusion in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. Adorned with both meaningful and nonsense slate whimsies.



### Evolution

6 elements – Creation : Ancient : Industrial : Serendipity : Digital Dystopia : Chaos.

Repurposed field stone, walling and Chapel Hill grit. Constructed in free form by three different artisans.



## Plant Profiles by Jerry Yu

**Botanical Name:** *Narcissus* "Kedron"

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Category:** bulb

**Primary Uses:** Unusually fragrant *Narcissus*

**Dimensions:** 7"-18" usually 12", flowers up to 3/4" wide

**Culture:** Very adaptable, needs part to full sun (5+ hours), would prefer well drained soil

**Bloom time:** a middle bloomer, which depending on the whims of NC weather means late February to early April.

**Color:** very orange. The coppery cup is further emphasized by orange bubble gum colored outer petals

**General Attributes:** One of my top 3 *Narcissus*, this plant is spectacularly fragrant; at peak bloom, a drift of these completely obscured the scent of the neighboring osmanthus bush. You can usually expect 2 flowers per stem, and multiple stems per bulb. My main planting is in a slightly shadier spot, and here the leaves of the plants form a green waterfall on which float the beautiful orange flowers. In a slightly sunnier position, the plant is more compact and flowers held on stronger stems closer to the leaves. 'Kedron' is a 1974 American hybrid bred by Willis Wheeler. It is in Division 7 or the Jonquilla class, denoting parentage from *N. jonquilla* and *N. apodanthus*. These 2 species are the most common source of *Narcissus* oil, which is used in many perfumes.



**Botanical Name:** *Erysimum* × *hybrida* Winter™ Orchid

**Family:** Brassicaceae

**Category:** short lived perennial

**Primary Uses:** Nicely colored early bloomer

**Dimensions:** 20" x 20"

**Culture:** Likes humusy, well-drained soil and part sun. Can take full sun if treated as an annual

**Bloom time:** An early spring bloomer, roughly contemporary to double narcissus and Trout lilies. Will bloom for at least a month.

**Color:** Yellowish orange flowers slowly shift from the veins first to a pinkish violet

**General Attributes:** The Cheery Flowers of this plant represent my triumph in perennializing these short-lived plant. Every year, the spring surplus at Big Box stores almost invariably includes this plant, usually discounted to just a few dollars. The Siren's song of price often drew me in, and I tried my hand more than once with this plant. However, as soon as our heat came the *Erysimum* would almost always wilt and die stem by stem, leaving a dried husk. On my third attempt, I chose to place this plant in a

morning sun location, and it has thus far thrived, with side shoots becoming side blooms and so on. This flower is also fragrant though the scent is not overpowering. ♪

# Notes from the Margaret Reid Wild Flower Garden – Spring 2020

By Amy Mackintosh

Spring is always a special season in the Margaret Reid Wild Flower Garden and Spring 2020 was particularly glorious. The garden's native woodland plants flower in long progression between February and June with three bloom peaks. The spring ephemerals – trout lilies, bloodroots, spring beauties, windflowers, toadshade trilliums and more – start off the season in late winter. The reproductive strategy of these small plants on the deciduous forest floor is to complete most of their life cycle before the trees leaf out when the sun reaches ground level and pollinators can find them. The earliest usually start emerging in early February depending on weather; with this year's warm winter we spied the first trout lily bud near the end of January, with more species emerging as February and March progressed.

The first wave of blooms usually segues in mid-April to the mid-spring “peak peak” of native azaleas, wild geraniums, crested iris, blue phlox, Atamasco lily, coral honeysuckle, arrowwood viburnum to name but a few. This wave was also early this year, coming into bloom in the first week of April. Just as all the mid-spring flowers opened, the weather put on the brakes, slowing down the progression so we had a lovely long “peak peak” that in turn transitioned to the third of spring bloom peaks which was also extended by cool weather, stretching the sequence farther into May than usual. The Catawba rhododendrons, mountain laurel and a variety of white flowers – maple leaf viburnum, fly poison, fringe tree, native mockorange among others – are stars of this wave, along with pale lavender-blue showy skullcap and the varied greens of ferns that fill the moister parts of the forest floor.

This year's shelter-in-place orders gave us the opportunity to spend more time in the garden this spring, observing some of the lesser known plants, learning and making new discoveries.



***Erythronium americanum* stolons**

For several years we have been noticing strange white noodle-like growths that emerge from one of the mossy paths with both ends in the ground. This spring a visitor helped figure out that these were probably the stolons of *Erythronium americanum*, an uncommon trout lily species in this area.

The Reid Garden is filled with trout lilies in spring, but the vast majority are *Erythronium umbilicatum*. A few years back we had noticed a patch of late blooming trout lilies in one area (not where we first noticed the stolons) and eventually realized they were *E. americanum*. Looking more carefully



***Cardamine dissecta***

at this patch we found stolons there also. However the stolons in the path are on the other side of the garden, separated by a slight ridge. So we still have a mystery as to how they got there. Guessing there are immature *E. americanum* in this area so will be keeping an eye out for future flowers.



***Erythronium americanum***

On a NC Native Plants Society –Reid Chapter field trip in February, the leader pointed out the differences between Slender and Cutleaf Toothwort (*Cardamine angustata* and *Cardamine concatenata*). The two species are both quite variable and have a lot in common, and I haven't yet figured out which are which in the Reid Garden. I think most are probably *C. angustata*. But alerted to the differences I discovered yet another species in the garden –Dissected Toothwort - *C. dissecta*! It's in a rock garden area de-



veloped by my father so I presume he introduced it to the garden. Unfortunately neither he nor Margaret Reid kept records of provenance.

Another genus deserving of more notice is the *Uvularias* – Bellworts or Merry Bells. Their flowers are not particularly showy, but they are worth growing for foliage alone. We have at least three species in the garden – Sessile-leaved Bellwort (*U. sessilifolia*), Mountain Bellwort (*U. puberula*) and Perfoliate Bellwort (*U. perfoliata*). According to internet



***Uvularia perfoliata* flower**



***Uvularia sessilifolia***



***Uvularia puberula***

descriptions the first two are distinguished primarily by whether they have smooth stems or slightly hairy stems – a very subtle difference. But in June, at



***Uvularia sessilifolia* flower**

least (when I started trying to identify them), *U. puberula* has much glossier leaves, making it easily recognizable against *U. sessilifolia*'s matte finish. Perfoliate Bellwort is easy to distinguish from these two; its leaves and flower stems both pass through the leaves. *U. grandiflora* does too, but I haven't found that species in the garden so haven't had to parse out the distinguishing features.

Solomon's Seal and False Solomon's Seal (let's call it Solomon's Plume) are similar to the Bellworts in foliage.

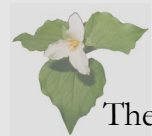


**Solomon's Seal**

The Solomon's Seal species native to North Carolina is divided into two varieties. In the Reid Garden we have the short variety, *Polygonatum biflorum* var. *biflorum*. This is common in the Piedmont. The flowers and fruit hang along the stem under the leaves. On Solomon's Plume the flower spray and berries are at the end of the stem. Both are lovely plants for the woodland garden. Solomon's Plume is showier, both in flower, and again in fall when the berries turn red and the leaves turn yellow. The foliage is attractive throughout the spring and summer, decorating the ground layer in shady woods.



**Solomon's Plume**



There are so many interesting plants deserving of more notice in the Reid Garden. I will end with one of my favorites in late spring, the showy skullcap (*Scutellaria serrata*). Several native species of skullcap have attractive lavender-blue flowers, but *S. serrata* holds its own even when not blooming. It forms a neat rounded clump of green serrated leaves about 12"-24" high with a bluish cast that contrast beautifully with the chartreuse ferns that grow around it in our floodplain garden. In late April the lavender blue flower spikes stand above leaves, further complementing the color scheme at a time when most of the garden has progressed to green.

The Margaret Reid Wild Flower Garden is a 1.5 acre woodland garden surrounding a private residence in western Raleigh. When Margaret Reid and her husband built their house in 1945 their friends thought they were moving to the country. Mrs. Reid became interested in native plants as she saw them being destroyed by nearby development. She reached out to her husband's colleague at NC State University, B.W. Wells, to learn more, and thus started a long friendship and shared explorations of local habitats and plants.



***Scutellaria serrata***

Margaret started rescuing plants from development sites in Raleigh and surroundings and creating habitats within her garden where they would feel at home. Wanting her garden to continue beyond her lifetime so children could always see a hepatica, in 1992 she donated a conservation easement to Triangle Land Conservancy, ensuring the property around the house would remain garden in perpetuity.

I started volunteering in the garden in the early '90s and have been involved with its stewardship since then. Margaret Reid died in the spring of 1996 and Triangle Land Conservancy retained Benson Kirkman and me to write a management plan. A few weeks after we started Hurricane Fran struck and we spent the next year mobilizing volunteers to help with cutting and removing the many fallen trees. My parents, Robert and Julia Mackintosh, who were considering retirement from running Woodlanders Nursery in Aiken, SC, decided this would be an opportunity to move to Raleigh and undertake a garden restoration project. They purchased the property and for almost 20 years stewarded the garden, restoring Fran damage and adding their own touches, such as a boardwalk through the floodplain, a circular bog garden, and a small garden pond in place of a stump hole from one of the huge oaks that Fran felled.

My husband and I are the current owners and keepers of the property. We feel very privileged to wake in this garden every day and to extend Margaret Reid's legacy by continuing its care and sharing it with others.





## A share from a member recalling the discovery of a treasure...

By Trish MacPherson

Years ago I found in my woods, a tiny little plant with a single green leaf with what looked a green stem growing out of the leaf. There are many of them and they come back every year for a while and then disappear. After much research I determined that this is a most unusual looking fern (the rod is the fertile frond) in the Family Ophioglossaceae. It looks most like *Ophioglossum vulgatum* or Southern Adder's Tongue.



*Ophioglossum vulgatum*



This year while weeding once again out of boredom with staying at home, I found what looked like the same single green leaf, with a stem coming out, but this time, to my amazement, there was a flower at the end. This turns out to be an orchid (Family Orchidaceae), *Malaxis unifolia*, or Green Adder's Mouth. If you just glanced down, they would look the same, and maybe that's why the names are so similar, and why I missed the orchid, and two nearby ones where I have walked many times. Both are no more than 4 inches tall, and the orchid is supposed to be in boggy areas, but there is no mistaking that flower. Discoveries like this make it so much easier to stay home. A month later, while weeding in a different area, I found 2 more! 🍀

## July 11, 2020 Workshops

Beth and I are holding workshops with a limited number of participants (5) this summer. Our basement studio has plenty of space for working with masks and gloves while enjoying a fun and creative workshop!



### Saturday, July 11, 9am: Hypertufa Trough Workshop

Hypertufa troughs are versatile planting containers made to mimic the old English stone livestock watering troughs. They are lightweight, offer excellent drainage, can be used in the garden or deck or patio year-round. What a wonderful way to highlight your special plants!

You will learn to mix the ingredients, build your form, and create your trough. All materials are provided and you will take your finished trough home with you.

**Cost: \$85; maximum class size: 5 participants**

### Saturday, July 11, 1pm: Hypertufa Birdbath Workshop "NEW"!

Create a contemporary style hypertufa birdbath approximately 14" square with a shallow area perfect to hold enough water for all types of feathered friends to drink. This birdbath can be placed on the ground or elevated by placing it on a plant stand of your choice and will add a wonderfully sophisticated look to that perfect spot in your garden.

You will learn to mix the ingredients, build your form, and create your birdbath. All materials are provided and you will take your finished trough home with you.

**Cost: \$70; maximum class size: 5 participants**

**To Register:** Make a check payable to Lasting Impressions  
Send to :Lasting Impressions, 4904 Hermitage Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612



If you have questions, email Amelia Lane and Beth Jimenez, [lastingimpressionsleaves.com](mailto:lastingimpressionsleaves.com)



## Fall Bulb Sale

Our chapter is having our second “Bulb Bonanza” this fall!! We have ordered 1600 bulbs from Van Engelen Flower Bulbs, enough for lots of you to try some unique and beautiful specimens in your garden. Thanks to Elsa Liner, David White, and Cyndy Cromwell for researching and helping make our selections.

You may purchase bulbs (limit 2 bags) beginning in mid October. More details will be available in September.

You will get five each of eight different bulbs – 40 bulbs per bag!- for \$20!!

Amelia Lane



*Allium karataviense*



*Allium siculum bulgaricum*



*Ipheion uniflorum* ‘Rolf Fiedler’



*Narcissus* ‘Thalia’



*Narcissus romieuxii* ‘Julia Jane’



Anemone Giant Blue Poppy



*Fritillaria meleagris* Alba



*Iris reticulata* ‘Clairette’



# A Tribute to Alan Galloway (1960 – 2020): Loss of an Aroid Legend

by Tony Avent

We are saddened to announce the passing (May 12, 2020) of one of our closest friends, plantsman Alan Galloway, age 60. In addition to serving as an adjunct researcher for Juniper Level Botanic Garden, Alan was a close friend and neighbor, living less than two minutes from the garden/nursery.



Photo by Bobby Ward

Alan was a native North Carolinian, who grew up on a farm in Brunswick County, NC, where he developed his love for plants and the natural world. After graduating from UNC-Wilmington with a Computer Science degree, and working for his alma mater for two years, he made the move two hours west to Raleigh. There, Alan worked at NC State University in IT administration and management for 30 years, until retiring in fall 2018 as Director of IT Services.

Starting in 1999, Alan would save up his vacation time from his day job at NC State, and spend 3-4 weeks each fall, trekking through remote regions of the world where he felt there were still undiscovered aroid species to find, document, and get into cultivation. From 1999 to 2018, he managed 21 botanical expeditions around the world, that included the countries/regions of Cambodia, Crete, Hong Kong, Laos, Mallorca, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Alan routinely risked life and limb on his travels, whether it was getting attacked by a pit viper in Thailand, barely missing a land mine in Cambodia, or tumbling down a mountain and almost losing a leg in Laos.

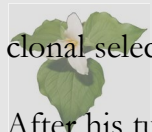
I had the pleasure of botanizing in Crete, Thailand, and Vietnam with Alan, which was an amazing experience, although not for the faint of heart. Alan was a tireless force of nature, but was not one to suffer what he viewed as stupidity or laziness. Although he was very respectful of people from all walks of life, he also regularly burned bridges to those whom he found incapable of meeting his meticulously high standards.

Alan was botanically self-taught, but his obsessive compulsion led him to become one of the world's leading experts on tuberous aroids, specializing in the genera *Amorphophallus* and *Typhonium*. To date Alan is credited with the discovery of 30 new plant species. He was working on describing several more plants from his travels at the time of his death.

Not only did Alan's botanical expeditions result in new species, but also new horticultural cultivars of known species. Two of the most popular of these were *Leucocasia* (*Colocasia*) 'Thailand Giant' (with Petra Schmidt), and *L.* 'Laosy Giant'.

As a scientist, Alan was both meticulous and obsessive. It wasn't enough for him to observe a new plant in the field, but he felt he could learn far more growing it in cultivation. He would often work through the night in his home research greenhouse studying plants and making crosses, so he could observe seed set and determine other close relatives.

Alan was overly generous with his knowledge, believing that sharing was necessary for the benefit of both current and future generations of plant scientists. Without his expert understanding of crossbreeding tuberous aroids, we would never have been able to have such incredible success in our own aroid breeding program. Seedlings from his crosses were then grown out and observed, often resulting in a number of special



clonal selections.

After his tuberous aroids went dormant each year, all tubers were lifted from their containers, inventoried, and carefully cleaned for photography and further study. Visiting his greenhouse during tuber season was quite extraordinary.

In his amazing Raleigh home garden and greenhouse, Alan maintained the world's largest species collection of *Amorphophallus* and *Typhonium*, including two plants named in his honor; *Amorphophallus gallowayi* and *Typhonium gallowayi*. Alan's discoveries are now grown in the finest botanical gardens and aroid research collections around the world.

After returning from what proved to be his last expedition in fall 2018, he suffered from a loss of energy, which he attributed to picking up a parasite on the trip. It took almost eight months for area doctors to finally diagnose his malaise as terminal late stage bone cancer, during which time Alan had already made plans and purchased tickets for his next expedition. I should add that he made his travel plans after being run over by a texting pickup truck driver, and drug under the truck for 100 feet through the parking lot of the nearby Lowes Home Improvement, which ruined his kidney function.



Photo by Tony Avent

***Amorphophallus kachinensis* x  
*konjac*.**

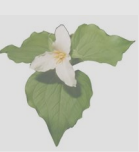
Alan was certain, albeit too late, that his cancer came from a lifetime addiction to cigarettes, which he was never able to overcome. Over the last 18 months, it's been difficult for those of us who knew Alan to watch him lose the vitality and unparalleled work ethic that had been his trademark. Despite his loss of physical ability, his trademark independent/stubborn nature would still not allow him to even accept help driving himself to chemo infusions and blood transfusions, which he did until he passed away. Alan was also never one to complain or bemoan his circumstances, only continuing to accomplish as much as possible in the time he had remaining.

After the initial shock of his diagnosis, Alan systematically began distributing massive amounts of his ex-situ conservation aroid collection to gardens and gardeners around the world, since he also believed that sharing is the most effective means of plant conservation.

One of his hybrids that Alan had shared and asked us to keep a special eye on was his cross of *Amorphophallus kachinensis* x *konjac*. We talked with him last week and shared that the first flower was almost open, and he was so excited to see his baby for the first time, but by the time it opened early this week, it was too late. So, here is the photo of his new cross, seen for the first time that would have made him so proud.

Not only has Alan been a good friend for over 30 years, but he has been extremely generous in sharing with us at PDN/JLBG. Over 1500 plant specimens in our collection came directly from Alan. It still seems surreal that we have lost such a vibrant soul that has been so important to expanding our body of knowledge about the botanical/horticultural world. Farewell, my friend...you will be sorely missed.

We will be coordinating with his niece April and her husband Mark to plan a celebration of Alan's life, which will be held here at PDN/JLBG at a future date, which we will announce when it is set. 🌹



# Spring Observations During the Pandemic

By Charlie Kidder

In normal times I have plenty of time to work in my garden and to visit other gardens and natural areas, as well. Now that the latter activities are severely curtailed I've had more time to take a closer look at my own garden. Allow me to share a few pictures of what I've seen. Pandemic or not, nature continues to amaze. A note: to keep the number of pictures to a (somewhat) reasonable number, I've omitted flowers, sticking to foliage and bark. Also, I hope my taxonomic identifications are correct, but I haven't stressed about it too much. ☞



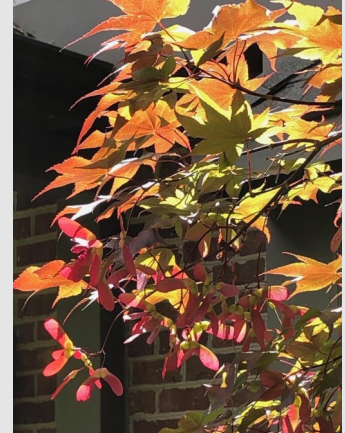
*Ilex vomitoria*  
**'Virginia Dare'**



*Epimedium* with new foliage  
(and a peek at the flowers)



*Pinus palustris* with candles  
and blue sky



*Acer palmatum*



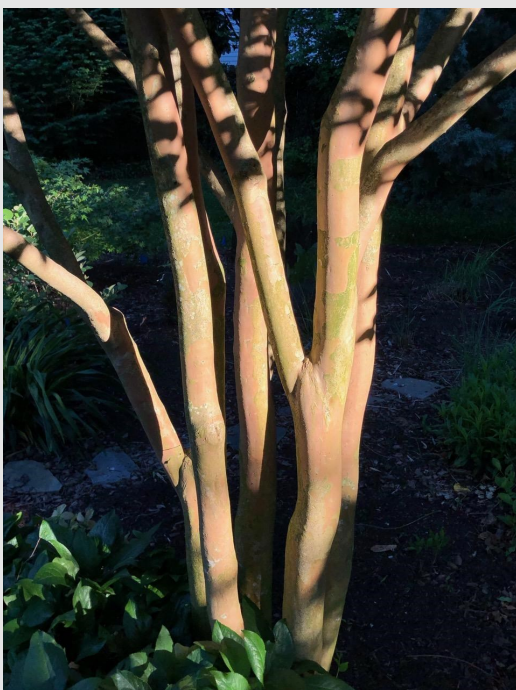
*Magnolia tripetala* shadow



*Aesculus parviflora* flushing out



*Vaccinium* sp.



*Lagerstroemia* trunk



*Cercis canadensis* var.  
*texensis* 'Oklahoma'



*Acer palmatum* trunks



## A Bit of Earth

By Gail Norwood

This spring when the quarantine began, I listened to the audiobook of the children's classic *The Secret Garden*. Somehow, I had missed reading it to my two daughters when they were growing up and I was curious about the plot. I quickly found it a worthy companion while I tended my garden. I especially embraced the references to the beauty and joy of caring for and spending time in a garden that you love.

In the story, an orphan is sent to live with her uncle on a large estate in England. A few weeks after her arrival, he summons her to his office.

He begins, "Is there anything you want child? Do you have everything you need?"

She answers meekly, "Might I have a bit of earth, sir?"

"A bit of earth?" he repeats. "What do you mean?"

"To plant seeds in, yes sir, a garden. I want to make things grow, to see them come alive."

He then thinks to himself (or sings it in the Broadway rendition):

"A bit of earth.....

She wants a little bit of earth

She'll plant some seeds.

The seeds will grow, the flowers bloom

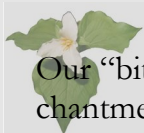
Their beauty just the thing she needs."

He declares, "You can have as much earth as you want. Take it child, and make it come alive."

Hearing these words instantly touched my inner gardening child. As a little girl I can remember feeling drawn to the garden. I enviously perused seed catalogs unable to believe that flowers such as those pictured were possible. Before I was ten, I had already sown tiny seeds between the shrubs that lined our house. I experienced the satisfaction of watching the seeds germinate, transforming from green sprouts to radishes and lettuce! It is a feeling I have enjoyed my whole life. I know you can relate.

People like us also desire a "bit of earth". We long for it; we need it. We know deep down we are connecting with Nature and God and tapping into something majestic. It is almost as if we are being allowed a tiny glimpse into the hereafter. We recognize our little "bit of earth" as a living thing. We feel privileged to partner as stewards and caretakers with Mother Nature.

These moments of wonder can be subtle and random. We may notice the light through the day and see the garden changing as luminous accents and shadows shift. Soft morning sunshine melts into stunning evening glory when the low setting sun comes gleaming through the trees creating a brilliant glow. Pure white azalea blossoms stand out on the backdrop of the brilliant Carolina blue sky, demanding a moment to savor the beauty. Perhaps best of all is the thrill of discovery when you see at last a newly opened blossom. Having patiently watched the buds form and swell, how gratifying it is to glance down while passing by and see the glorious bloom again for the first time in a year!



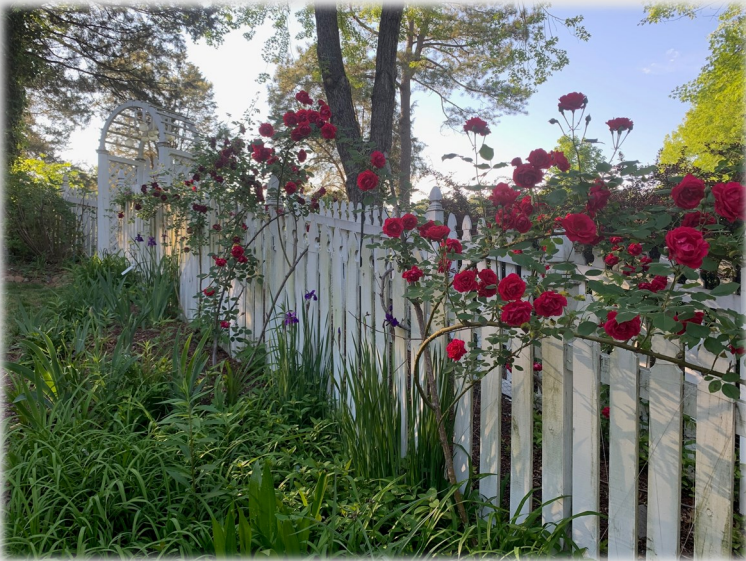
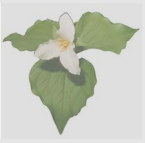
Our “bit of earth” evolves splendidly in spring with pure enchantment. During the other three seasons we are treated to many treasures, but the rare beauties that appear in spring deserve our singular attention. Their ephemeral nature causes me to carelessly forget their names each fall and winter and affectionately relearn them each spring as they emerge. What a joyful surprise it is to see their little faces appear once again, reminiscent of an old friend! At long last, we feast our eyes on the tiny blossom under the Mayapple, the striking elegance of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit taking form, the delicate beauty of the Lily of the Valley or the vibrant colors of the Primrose. All our senses are engaged as spring arrives, bringing us more fully into the experience. We are lured by the early sweet fragrance of the Clematis Armandii soon followed by the delightful lilac that perfumes the air and is gone all too soon. Velvety lambs ear unfolds, as roses and barberry sport their thorns. Birds calling and woodpeckers pecking join with a fountain or stream to create a medley bringing pure delight to our ears. Fresh baby carrots, green English peas and early sorrel leaves remind our taste buds of these seasonal culinary delights we have missed since last spring.

Each year I stand in awe as witness to the incredible sequence of bloom that is a miracle unto itself. Who could have arranged the parade more beautifully than our own Divine Gardener? When early azaleas fade and cheerful pink blossoms wither to brown, we sense a sad regret. But right on cue, the late azaleas open up with new colors that draw our eyes closer. We lose one treasure and gain another. Our attention hops around the garden like a little bunny. We embrace each phase as it surges, then fades, and appreciate the majesty of it all the more. Just as the heady fragrance of the heavenly magnolia blossoms decline, the sweet gardenias open up to take their place. Instead of dwelling on what is lost, we look to the new creation, a stunning manifestation of the eternal lesson. Season after season we witness our “bit of earth” awakening to growth and blooming, then fading into dormancy or death. Thus, the garden becomes the ultimate teacher of loss and renewal, death and rebirth.

***The Secret Garden*** offers us a perspective into the wonder of discovering a garden and the promise it holds through the eyes of a child. Perhaps some of us who make it through life holding onto this childlike wonder are the lucky ones who get to work the soil, appreciating what a blessing it is to do so and never considering it a chore. We learn lessons from our ornamental and vegetative friends that serve to fortify us each day. Especially in these uncertain times our little “bit of earth” serves as a place of peace, refuge and nourishment for the soul. 🌿

## Photos of Gail Norwood's Chapel Hill Garden—Spring 2020







## NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

JC Raulston Arboretum

**9:30 Gathering Time—10 am Program Begins**

**September 26, 2020**

**Cyndy Cromwell, Nancy Doubrava  
and David White**

**“Fall Bulbs of Greece NARGS Tour”**

## Piedmont NARGS Speakers

**Fall 2020/Spring 2021**

September 26, 2020

**Cindy Cromwell, Nancy Doubrava and David White**

**“Fall Bulbs of Greece NARGS Tour”**

October 24, 2020

**Joseph Tychonievich,**

Williamsburg, Va.

**“Confessions of a Plant Nerd”**

November 21, 2020

**Janice Swab**

Raleigh, N.C.

**“Sailing from Canada to Greenland: Arctic Warming in  
the Northwest Passage”**

January 16, 2021

**Dick Tyler**

Clarksville, Va.

**“Hellebores: Homeland to the Present”**

(plus hellebore plant sales)

February 13, 2021

**Brandon Huber and Jason Lattier**

NCSU and High Point University

**“The Aroid Collection of Alan Galloway”**

March 21, 2020

**OPEN**

April 17, 2021

**Jeremy Schmidt and Meghan Fidler**

Raleigh, N.C.:

**“The Bristol Briar: From Space to Place”**

[the development of their garden south of Raleigh]

## Goodies to Share

If your last name begins with a letter below,  
we encourage you to consider bringing a  
goodie to share with others.



Sept A-C

Feb M-P

Oct D-F

March R-S

Nov G-H

April T-Y

Jan J-L

May Picnic—maybe

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