

# *The Trillium*

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

## Getting Together Again—Piedmont Chapter Picnic 2021

By Charlie Kidder

On May 22 more than fifty Piedmont Chapter members and guests had the chance to come together for our first in-person meeting since February 2020. On that warm but pleasant Saturday, Gail Norwood welcomed us to Belvedere, her garden near Carrboro.



Photo by Kirtley Cox

Gail's garden centers around a gazebo where visitors can relax and look out over most of the garden. In French, a gazebo is known as a "belvedere", a word borrowed from Italian meaning "beautiful view". The gazebo is a replica of the Waller Gazebo in Williamsburg, Virginia, Gail's hometown, and she named her garden Belvedere, in part to honor her Parisian-born mother.

At the rear of Gail's colonial style home, a full-sun garden features roses in wonderful color combinations with plants such as clematis. A short distance away you'll encounter the Garden House,





Photo by Kirtley Cox

a recently renovated structure that is now a She-Shed where Gail works.

Continuing on, you enter the main portion of the garden, primarily growing in the high

shade of loblolly pines. Plants such as hostas, hydrangeas, ferns and phlox provided a restful mix of color

and texture. Smaller garden nooks gave us several places to sit and enjoy our picnic lunches.



Photo by Charlie Kidder

In addition to enjoying the garden and the company of fellow gardeners, the Picnic Committee—

Cyndy Cromwell, Suzanne Edney, Amelia Lane, Jim Hollister and Elsa Liner—also provided other diversions. An informal plant swap allowed

members to bring-a-plant, take-a-plant. All of us were given raffle tickets as we arrived, and the winners took home prizes from Plant Delights Nursery, Camellia Forest Nursery, Piedmont Feed and Garden Center, and

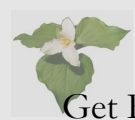


Photo by Bobby Ward



Photo by Kirtley Cox





## Get Rooted Nursery.

Picnickers were also able to pick up some complimentary garden goodies. Packets of seeds from the NARGS Seed Exchange were available, as were *Aquilegia* seeds from Gail's own plants.



Photo by Kirtley Cox

Suzanne Edney provided copies of her book *Life Lessons from the Garden: 52*



Photo by Bobby Ward

*Weeks of Observations at Elderswood*, full of charming drawings and thoughts on her garden in Apex. Gail Norwood also provided copies of an artistic map of her garden.

A challenging quiz allowed us to test our horticultural knowledge, even when plants were merely mentioned in other contexts, for ex-

ample, a song by "Smashing Pumpkins". (The correct answer to that question was

orchids, not pumpkins, by the way.) Googling the answers was strictly forbidden; fortunately no phones had to be confiscated from the attendees. The winners: in first, Suzanne Edney and Marty Howard; in second place, Jim and Anita Hollister; and tied for third, Vivian Finkelstein and Scott Zona.



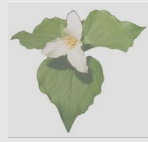
Photo by Charlie Kidder



Photo by Kirtley Cox

It was a wonderful event, giving us a chance to reconnect with friends that we hadn't seen face to face in over a year. Many thanks to the Piedmont Chapter Picnic Committee, and especially to Gail Norwood for hosting us! ♪





# NARGS or nargilé? Which way North America?

by Panayoti Kelaidis

Those of us trying to publicize the North American Rock Garden Society experienced a bit of a shock a few months ago when we discovered that the tag #NARGS was already being used on Twitter and elsewhere for smoking on the hookah. I knew the word “nargilé”—since that word is used in Greek (ναργιλέ) for the hookah (I had a notorious uncle, born in Ottoman Crete, who smoked a water pipe) —but I had no idea it had been contracted to “nargs” thereby obfuscating our marketing efforts. We persisted with “NARGSRocks” and hopefully will eventually smash the water-pipers...so to speak.

But this coincidence has nudged me into some philosophical speculation: are there REAL-**LY** that *many* hookah enthusiasts in America who are so enamored of their water pipes that they hashtag Twitter, Instagram, and their like with OUR Society initials? Would that many North Americans even really “get” what a “nargs” was? Most people must know “Hookah,” but “nargilé?” or its contraction “nargs”? This has presented a bit of a challenge for me.

I quit smoking cigarettes forty years ago—and I still recall a time with the smell of smoke actually sort of appealed to me, and I relished the seemingly pleasurable sensation of the smoke corroding my lungs. It took a long time to really get over the sweetness of the memory, but somewhere along the line I developed the response many of us have of surprise and slight repugnance at seeing a cigarette in someone’s hand—or worse—between their lips. I have to restrain myself when I watch people I like start to smoke: I really would like to grab the thing and stamp it out like Smokey the Bear...but I’m sufficiently wise to know that doesn’t work.

There are hobbies, there are pastimes, there are mildly irritating habits like smoking cigarettes (or hookahs) and....and then there is rock gardening.

I like to think that our “hobby” is different. Special. And here is a sort of summation of my philosophy: at it’s very best—at a great estate or a hoary botanic garden (or especially in the small gardens of talented home owners) --a rock garden is a breathtaking work of art equal in my eyes to any painting or statue. I should repeat that last sentence again. To create a naturalistic slope, berm or corner that resembles a magical picture of an alpine scene or woodland dell is really a magical thing! But even those of us whose gardens are not quite there yet— “works in progress,” rock gardens are not “just” attempts at fine art, they are veritable scientific laboratories where we grapple with the mysteries of plant physiology and struggle to understand the ecology of plant interaction. We grow and come to know dozens, hundreds perhaps even thousands of



plants from around the world and often go on sorties to see and appreciate them in nature. That's something that I believe is noble and worthy.

In the Anthropocene, where humans are still destroying thousands of acres of wild habitat daily, I believe our “hobby” represents a sort of waking up and almost a bold act of protest! I, for one, see my rock gardens as an attempt to redeem, understand and ultimately preserve that which we are inadvertently still so rapidly eroding. I don't think of rock gardening as “just a pastime.” For me it's an act of inquiry into the natural world and a profound effort to bring Civilization and Nature into harmony. What other endeavor encompasses the world of Art and that of Science so elegantly? With the threat of climate change, I fear our gardens may become little arks of genetic resources to boot—something I hope we can avert.

Speaking for myself, my rock garden has been a solace and source of strength in this trying time of COVID. I pity those who don't have a garden.

That said, it's fun, good exercise, gets one out into the fresh air and best of all if you are active in a chapter or join N.A.R.G.S., you become part of an amazing community of diverse, engaging and, yes, sometimes eccentric gardeners! I have been an active participant in N.A.R.G.S. for fifty years (yes, even when I smoked!). I have come to know and become dear friends with hundreds of rock gardeners in practically every state and province of North America (and far beyond): I have stayed in many of your homes and many of you have visited mine. Indirectly, because of N.A.R.G.S. I even pursued rock gardening as a profession—and have worked in a public garden forty years (yes, I quit smoking when I started at Denver Botanic Gardens). I can't imagine life without #NARGS (and I don't mean a hookah!).

I dream of a day when “nargs” will come to mean N.A.R.G.S. and not hookah. So please use #NARGSrocks in social media till then! Better yet, be sure to join (<https://www.nargs.org/faq/how-do-i-join-nargs>) Unlike Herbert Hoover, we won't promise a “chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage”: rock gardening isn't necessarily for everyone. But everyone really ought to at least have a trough or two, don't you think? ❧

*[Panayoti Kelaidis is the president of the North American Rock Garden Society and co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Chapter. He is Senior Curator and Director of Outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens.]*




## NARGS...and the Piedmont Chapter

By Charlie Kidder

Those of you who are new to the Piedmont Chapter and perhaps even some who have been members for a while might wonder about our relationship to the national organization, the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). NARGS is the umbrella organization for the approximately three dozen local chapters across the United States and Canada. I have to say “approximately”, since in a recent message from the President, the NARGS website gives the number as 38. It’s quite possible that I can’t count well, but also chapters do come and go; currently two are listed as inactive. One may belong either to NARGS, a local chapter, or both. The relationship between NARGS and the chapters is somewhat informal. There are very few rules that set forth what a chapter can, or cannot, do. Members’ gardens are not inspected for rock garden purity, nor are their conversations monitored. So, what are some reasons for joining NARGS if you are already a member of the Piedmont Chapter?

In no particular order of importance, one is that the \$40 annual dues provide a subscription to the *Rock Garden Quarterly*. This excellent publication comes to you in hard copy and is also available online. I enjoy the *Quarterly* for its excellent mix of how-to articles that can be applied to most gardens, as well as exploration/travel pieces that take you to remote natural “rock gardens” that few of us will be lucky enough ever to visit in person. And even though this is the North American Rock Garden Society, many NARGS members live outside North America but share an interest in all floras. *The Quarterly* is edited by Joseph Tychonievich of Indiana.

NARGS Annual General Meetings are held in various locations across the United States and Canada and are open only to members. Meetings generally span three days, not including any visits to private gardens or pre-and post-meeting field trips. Meetings feature renowned local speakers and experts on the regional flora. This year’s meeting will be held in Durango, Colorado, August 4 – 8, 2021, a beautiful part of the country.

Finally, NARGS members are able to participate in the Seed Exchange (SEEDEX), in which participants swap seeds of many rare and unusual plants. Several thousand taxa are typically available through the exchange. Membership in the Piedmont Chapter is certainly important, but also becoming a member of NARGS will broaden your horticultural horizons, both to plants as well as to the people who grow them. You can join on [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org).      

*Updated and reprinted from a 2014 Trillium issue.*

*Just a reminder....it's time to renew.*

**Membership Form: Piedmont Chapter—North American Rock Garden Society**

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

**Piedmont Membership Options**, check one: Individual = \$15 Household = \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**North American Rock Garden Society dues:** Individual = \$40 Household = \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing member: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Piedmont Chapter offers a 50 % reduced first-year membership rate of \$20 for one-year NARGS (national) dues to new members. This is a one-time only offer. Renewing memberships are not eligible for this .

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(second name if household membership)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this corrected information:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

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

Mail check to : **Bobby Wilder, 2317 Elmsford Way, Raleigh, NC 27608**

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


**Excerpts from the Saturday June 13, 2021  
Virtual Meeting of the Piedmont Chapter Board**

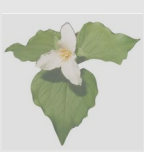
David White reported that our total assets have decreased over the past year from \$20,054 to \$17,751. A consensus was reached that we should maintain sufficient funds to operate for 3 years i.e., \$18,000. Several ways to increase income were discussed. The possibility of raising dues from \$15 to \$20 was viewed favorably, but was tabled until later - when input from the membership chair would be available.

The possibility of a fall plant sale will be explored by Jim Hollister and reported to the board in the next few weeks. [*See page 9 for information on this member activity.*]

The bulb sale last year was quite popular so we intend to have another one this year Amelia Lane will spearhead this activity. [*See page X for information on this.*]

Bobby Ward gave an update on the speakers he has lined up for the next season. The board approved them unanimously.

Marian Stephenson discussed *The Trillium* timetable and mentioned her intention to reprint some especially interesting and informative articles from past issues. 



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

**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

**Saturday, September 18, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**Mariel Tribby**

Missouri Botanical Garden  
Saint Louis, Missouri

"Gardens Inspired by Gertrude Jekyll & the  
Cottage Garden Style"

**Sunday, October 3, 2021**

Fall Picnic

**Jeremy Schmidt and Meghan Fidler's Home**

1109 New Castle Ct  
Raleigh, N.C. 27603

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

4.30 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 in the 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)**

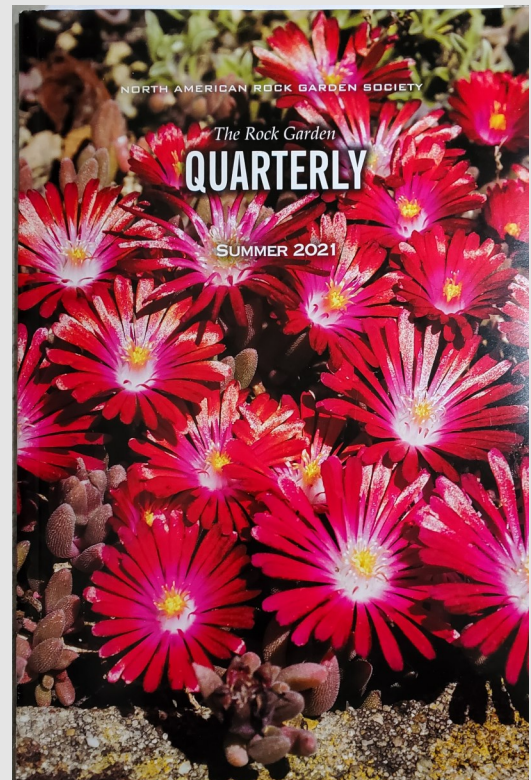
**Scott Zona**

Hillsborough, N.C.

"Salvia: A Natural History"

**May 2022**

Spring Picnic TBA







## Get Ready for the Tuesday Evening, October 12, 4:30-7:30 pm Plant Sale at the JC Raulston Arboretum

James Hollister, Plant Sale Chair

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a fall plant sale in conjunction with the JCRA's October Evening Garden Walk. The arb intends to open in the evening for one Tuesday a month, and they have graciously offered us the opportunity to have a Pop-Up sale as part of that experience. The Raulston Blooms plant sales have always been a big part of our income, allowing us to keep dues low, and still have great speakers and make annual donations to the Arboretum. As you know we have missed a couple!

We have some ideas to simplify the process and to help it go smoothly. One is to go with a two-tier pricing system where small pots will be one price and large pots at another. Now I suppose if someone is donating a 300 year old bonsai we could make a special price, but otherwise we will have two prices based on pot size.

The other change will be to have all donations brought to the Arboretum on the day of the sale rather than stock-piling plants on site over a period of several days. You may want to consider joining forces with another member to limit traffic, but I think this should be manageable.

So... start thinking about getting some plants together for the sale. As a general rule, if you enjoy a plant in your garden, then it would make a great plant to pot up and donate to the sale. If you are trying to rid your garden of an invasive beast, let's keep those to ourselves.

More comments on labeling, and logistics will follow as we get closer to the date. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, you can contact me at [hollijm@gmail.com](mailto:hollijm@gmail.com). ✍

### We Have New Members

In spite of the pandemic or perhaps partly due to it, we have had 9 new members join the Piedmont Chapter NARGS since March 2020. Three have already been introduced in earlier issues of *The Trillium*, but here is the entire list. When we can be face-to-face again, please welcome these new members.

|            |           |                |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Maggie     | Cole      | Cary           |
| Tracy*     | Trippiedi | Raleigh        |
| Maureen    | Hammond   | Clayton        |
| Sabra      | Kelley    | Asheville      |
| Karen      | Geiser    | Clayton        |
| Sieglinde* | Anderson  | Fairview       |
| Mark*      | Mc Clure  | Durham         |
| Patrick    | Finn      | Durham         |
| Laura      | Whitehead | Southern Pines |

### Thank You, Chris Glenn

Our fall meetings via Zoom will be recorded and available on the JCRA website for those unable to attend these virtual meetings. Chris Glenn, our talented IT guy, has managed to modify the system to allow Zoom access for remote participants while simultaneously recording the program during the in-person event.

So, beginning in January, we will have a choice to attend in-person or to observe the program in real time via Zoom. It's great to have this choice, which may help folks feel comfortable and confident as they enjoy the speakers Bobby Ward had lined up for us.

Thank you, Chris.



## Chapter Bulb Sale

Our chapter will be having a Bulb sale this fall. There will be five types of bulbs: Allium Purple Sensation, Crocus Orange Monarch, Corydalis Beth Evans, Ixiolirion, and Narcissus Starlight Sensation.

Each bag will have a total of 40 bulbs and sell for \$30. The bulbs will arrive in October and we will begin taking orders in September.

Thanks to our members Wayne Stephens, Elsa Liner, and Cyndy Cromwell for helping make the bulb selections this year!! Amelia Lane



Allium Purple Sensation  
24-36" Late spring blooming,  
multiplier.



Crocus Orange Monarch  
4" Early spring



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



Ixiolirion  
15". Deer and rodent proof.



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

All images from Van  
Engelen Nursery  
webpage.





## NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

**Saturday, September 18, 2021, 10 am  
(via Zoom)**

**Mariel Tribby**  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
Saint Louis, Missouri

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cyndy Cromwell, Chair

Amelia Lane, Immediate Past Chair

Bobby Ward, Vice Chair/Program Chair

Bobby Wilder, Membership Chair

Elsa Liner, Secretary

David White, Treas,

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Tim Alderton, 2020-2023

Jim Hollister, 2020-2023

Ralph Whisnant, 2023  
t

### TRILLIUM EDITOR

Marian Stephenson

Bobby Wilder, Distribution Manager

Bobby Ward, Quality Review Editor

### OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Plant Sale Manager: Tim Alderton

## Message from the Chair

Cyndy Cromwell

As June of 2021 draws to a close, things are looking brighter and brighter for our chapter. The May picnic marked the Piedmont Chapter's first in person get together in over a year, with member Gail Norwood offering wonderful hospitality in a beautiful setting. The fifty or so in attendance had a lovely day catching up with old friends and getting to know some of our newer members. Thanks so much to Gail, our board members and all who helped make the day special. There are a few pictures posted at the website, more photos and complete coverage in this newsletter.

Meetings will remain virtual through 2021. Beginning in 2022 we'll be meeting in person again. For those unable to attend, there will be a concurrent live stream, sure to be appreciated by the growing number of chapter members not within driving distance. Thanks to Bobby Ward's nimble planning, the lineup is pretty amazing, as usual. The complete list of programs is in this newsletter and on the website.

We have three in person events planned for the fall, so far. First, last February's speaker, Jason Lattier, will lead a tour of the Caine Conservatory at High Point University for chapter members on Saturday, September 11. A substantial portion of Alan Galloway's aroid collection is housed at High Point and this is a rare opportunity to tour the collection with the director.

Next up, Jeremy Schmidt and Meghan Fidler will host our first ever fall picnic at the Bristol Briar on Sunday, October 3. Don't worry about studying – no quiz this time!

Finally, we'll be selling plants from our gardens again, at the JC Raulston Arboretum on Tuesday evening, October 12 from 4:30-7:30pm. Plant sale chair Jim Hollister is busily planning for this exciting opportunity to be part of an upcoming event at JCRA. Look for details coming soon on contributing plants and participating in setup, sales and takedown. In the meantime, you may want to think about what needs digging and dividing in your garden – looking forward to seeing all your pass-along treasures soon!

