



## Tales from the Crypt: The Extinct Plants of North America

by Wesley Knapp

Species extinction is a permanent event that we as a conservation community strive to prevent. Yet, preventing extinction is the lowest bar for conservation success we can set. As we proceed through the Anthropocene (the current geological age we live in, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment) the extinction rates of plants and animals are expected to increase, and some biodiversity hot-spots are projected to become centers of extinction. Though speculation is common about increased extinction rates in the future, we have yet to quantify the current extinction rates of plants and most animals.

This study represents the first effort to quantify the extinction rate of the vascular flora of North America, north of Mexico. We compiled our data on potentially extinct species by querying plant conservation databases, searching the literature, and vetting the resulting list against a large group of botanical experts from across North America. Because taxonomic opinion can vary widely amongst experts, we developed an Index of Taxonomic Uncertainty (ITU). The ITU scale ranges from A to F, with an ITU score of A indicating unanimous taxonomic recognition and an ITU score of F indicating taxonomic recognition by a single author. The ITU allowed us to evaluate extinction rates under standardized taxonomic considerations.

Currently, our data suggest 78 plants are globally historic or extinct from our study area, since European settlement. As many as 5 of which may be extant in conservation gardens or arboreta, of which one is overseas. The disparity between western and eastern North America extinction events may be a result of survey effort before widespread settlement. The majority of extinct plants were potentially single site endemics and many occurred in areas not recognized as a biodiversity hot-spot. Given the paucity of plant surveys in many areas of North America, particularly prior to European settlement, the actual extinction rate of vascular plants is undoubtedly much higher than this study indicates. The number of plants that went extinct before being documented by science is impossible to quantify, but it is plausible that hundreds of single site endemics went extinct before they were described. The fact that many extinct plants occurred in habitats not recognized as biodiversity hotspots has significant implications for current conservation efforts. If limited conservation resources focus only on biodiversity hotspots, it is likely that the extinction of single site endemics will continue into the future. We recommend further research, particularly taxonomic and field, on single site endemics to ensure their protection into the future.

Project Phoenix is the next and potentially most ambitious aspect of the extinction work. Some of the species believed to be extinct have seeds remaining on the herbarium specimen. Our goal is to resurrect a number of these extinct species using advanced propagation techniques, such as embryonic rescue. To be successful in our attempts requires a unique collaboration among academic institutions and conservation gardens. Partnering herbaria at academic institutions (New York Botanical Gardens, etc.) will provide the last remaining seeds. Valerie Pence, of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, will lead the propagation. Partnering conservation gardens (Mt. Cuba Center, etc.) will provide the critical knowledge and facilities to acclimatize and grow these previously extinct species. ↻



# Of the White House, Glass Houses, and Rockeries

By Marta McDowell

As a long-time member of the Watnong Chapter of NARGS and a self-described garden history geek, I am always on the lookout for new material on history of rock gardening. Thus, when setting out to write a chronicle of American gardening as seen through the lens of the White House, my antennae were up for any mention of rock gardening in the records. But if you peruse the index of the book—eventually published as *All the Presidents' Gardens*—you will nary find an entry for “garden, rock.” Alas, it seems that 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has never had an alpine garden, although the property has been cultivated for every president since John Adams arrived in 1800.

There was one alluring whisper that I could never adequately pin down. In the great complex of glass houses that connected to the west side of the White House between the 1850s and 1902, it seems that there was a rockery or rockeries. During Chester A. Arthur’s term of office, an 1885 newspaper described, “The doorways of the White House corridor and State dining-room open into the beautiful palm house, where amid coral rockery and graceful grottoes, tall palms of many varieties are arranged in the most artistic manner, and present a very attractive picture.”



**The Circular Conservatory Fountain, circa 1889**

The collection of the White House Historical Association holds a single photograph dated 1889, showing the interior of one of the conservatory’s connecting rooms. A circular rockery fountain is its central feature, with a single jet misting the stonework walls of the basin. Ferns, mosses, and other plants cascade among the moist rocks. The fountain looks to be about three feet high, lower than the display benches that are just visible in the brightness of the next room. As steam heat kept in the conservatory warm, it’s likely that the fountain’s pump was also propelled by steam. (Four fulltime laborers were employed to shovel coal for the conservatory boilers.)

The fountain room in the photograph appears to be a transitional space, either between the main house and the conservatory or between two of the glass houses that made up the

conservatory complex. The corners of the room are filled with potted traveller’s palms (*Ravenala madagascariensis*, family *Arecaceae*) and what looks like *Ficus benjamina*. A climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) is trained on wires over the archway. In the space beyond—sadly overexposed—an agave spikes out of a cast iron pedestalled



**Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Eli the parrot in the White House**



pot, and specimen plants are lined up on benches. The strappy leaves of large numbers of *Amaryllis* occupy the space under the bench on the right.

The White House head gardener at the time was Henry Pfister, a Swiss-born, European-trained horticulturist who immigrated to America in his twenties and came to Washington with the President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes. (Pfister served eight presidents, up to and including Theodore Roosevelt.) He was an expert hybridizer of *Amaryllis*, naming many cultivars after members of successive First Families. In 1894, he sent this “what’s in bloom” inventory to Gardening magazine:



**Henry Pfister, the White House Head Gardener from 1877-1902, watering cinerarias in the conservatory**

“The *Amaryllis* are a gay sight. Rosa Bonheur, Mrs. F. Houk, vittata, majestica and a host of other hybrids fill a long bench intermixed with ferns. Ixora coccinea six months old from the cutting is in bloom. Hibiscus rosa sinensis with young plants of Gardenia citriodora and forced plants of the blue flowered hardy plant Baptisia australis make a telling display. The large variegated leaved periwinkle (Vinca) is used in 5--inch pots as a hanging plant for the fronts of the stages, and it’s quite easy to have it in flower at this time. A double flowered bramble, Rubus rosaefolius is grown extensively in pots and forced for early flowering.”



**The Conservatory Complex at the White House, circa 1890**

In addition to the display houses, Henry Pfister and his team maintained a rose house, a violet house, and an orchid house. The conservatory complex supplied the cut flowers for the house as well as bedding plants for the grounds. The gardeners were responsible for the elaborate pattern bedding outdoors and the flower arranging, including construction and delivery of the many bouquets sent from the White House in lieu of social calls.

So perhaps Pfister simply didn’t have time for the maintenance requirements of a rock garden, and settled for the indoor rockeries instead. ♪



## ***Marta McDowell Sharing Warren Manning's "Rockeries"***

*In researching the origin and uses of the word "rockery," I happened across this article by American landscape architect, Warren Manning. He submitted it to The Canadian Horticulturist in 1893 from Brookline, Massachusetts, where, among other things, Manning worked in the landscape architecture firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and his sons and successors, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Junior. With that training, Manning later established a successful practice of his own. While you may disagree with him on some points---the proper placement of a rockery, perhaps, or, the inclusion of *Berberis thunbergii* in his plant list--- it is representative of a point-of-view at the end of the nineteenth century. I hope you find the article as interesting and informative as I did. Note that capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and nomenclature are as given.* ---Marta McDowell

### **Rockeries**

by Warren H. Manning

From The Canadian Horticulturist Volume 16, 1893 pp. 357-358

If a neighbor should dump, without orders, a pile of stones and dirt on the grass in your front lawn, you would be offended; if he should arrange these rocks in a circular well-like mound with the dirt in the centre, you would wonder at his stupidity in thus wasting his time. Under such circumstances, you would probably consider the affair a blemish, and order its removal at once. Are the rockeries we ordinarily see any more useful or ornamental than what has just been described? They may be small and of common stones, or they may be large with many curious stones, and they may have some plants, but, if so, they are such wretched dried-up, burned-out, starved specimens that one only approaches them as they would a half-famished and ragged child of the city—out of pity and curiosity, not to admire. The same plants may be thriving in other parts of the grounds, and with the exception of the rockery the whole place may be in an attractive and thriving condition. You may say that these are misplaced and poorly constructed examples, and this may be true; but it is also true that the best constructed and most carefully cared-for rockeries, in all kinds of soil, do not begin to be as attractive as those that are seen, and that we read about, in European gardens. You will surmise that there is something in our climate responsible for this. If you compare the meagre flora, of a distinctly Alpine character, of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, with the extremely rich and varied flora of the Swiss Alps, you will have striking evidence of this.

In England, owing to the great amount of moisture, delicate rock plants can not be grown successfully in the open border, so the rockery is provided to give suitable conditions as regards drainage, exposure, etc. A large number of these same plants can be grown, with little trouble, in a well-drained open border here, and the only advantage that rocks can give is to raise them a little above the surface to make the drainage more perfect. In a rockery they would be burned and dried out in summer, or thrown, or frozen, out in winter.

It is hardly advisable to construct a rockery in any case merely for the sake of having one; the only reason for it would be that there was not a spot on the grounds on which the conditions were favorable, that could not be used to advantage for anything else—like a steep, moist, rocky slope, a broken ledge, or a worked-out bit of quarry, or a cool, shady glen in the woods.

A rockery never should be placed in the centre of the lawn, and seldom where it is fully exposed to view across the lawn from important windows of the house. In the construction of a rockery, the



most favorable conditions should be provided for the growth of the plants to be used in it. Good deep pockets of soil should be made, and advantage should be taken of any naturally moist spot, or water should be provided. A variety of exposures should be secured, as well as soils. Of course, if it is intended to display a lot of curious rocks, soil will not be required, for such a display can be made to better advantage without plants to interfere.

In planting a rockery, the greatest care should be taken not to introduce very weedy plants with underground stems, for if such a plant once gets a foothold the chances are that the rockery will have to be pulled down to exterminate them. Probably ferns, as a class, are better adapted to a rockery in shade than any other; but in a more open situation such plants as the following will be found to succeed without being too weedy.

Phlox subulata and vars. P. stellaria P amœna, achillea tomentosa, æthionema grandiflorum, alysum saxatile, Arabis albida, armerias, asperula, campanula carpathica, cerastiums, dianthus, erysimum pulchellum, geraniums, gypsophilla repens, iberis, lotus corniculatus, myosotis, papaver alpinum, sedums, sepervivums, silene, stellaria, thymus, tiarella, veronica rupestris, V. amethystine, vinca minor, violas.

Of shrubs the following are excellent:

Daphne oneorum, juniperus procumbens, cytissus purpurea, berberis thunbergii, Lonicera Albertii.

It is probable that in this list are some kinds not hardy in Canada, and this should be kept in mind in selecting from it.

Warren H. Manning  
Brookline, Mass. ☞

*Note: Members of the New York Botanical Garden Plant Information Office and Horticulture Department identified the following plants in the photograph of the rockery fountain. The large-leaved plant on left is Alocasia macrorrhiza. There is an Agave species in the urn. The ferns on the fountain appear to be Adiantum and Pteris, while the climbing fern on right is probably Lygodium japonicum.*

**Upcoming Activity  
for the Piedmont Chapter  
Saturday, April 7**

**Chapter Plant Sale  
at Raulston Blooms event.**

Pot and label your plants, and volunteer to help on the day of the event.

Charlie Kidder, Plant Sale  
chair. chas36kid@gmail.com

**Piedmont NARGS  
Spring 2018**

April 21, 2018

**Marta McDowell**  
“All the Presidents’ Gardens”  
Chatham, NJ

May 19, 2018

**Annual Potluck Picnic and  
Garden Visiting**  
Michael Papay’s Garden



## Icy Blue Rapture

By Michael J. Papay

We are not entirely unaware of the prevailing winds of earth once paid far more attention to by the sailors of yore. Christopher Columbus made himself famous by his skillful use of the winds. The routes he established in 1492 across the ocean blue are the same ones used by today's modern vessels – and for the very same reasons.

Perhaps you have heard of “The Roaring Forties” of the near Antarctic zone where mariners, scientific explorers, tourists and icebergs are heaved relentlessly about by waves of almost unimaginable size. At the opposite end of the planet, the Arctic counterpart is the “Polar Vortex” - a jet stream that blows continually around the globe. When it is strong, the Polar Vortex hinders the movement of cold air out of the Arctic to lower latitudes. Although it may seem counterintuitive, the warmer the Arctic becomes, the weaker becomes the Polar Vortex, and no place on the planet is now warming faster than the Arctic. One consequence of this is also counterintuitive – winters of lower latitudes may now receive more cold from the north as it bursts past the weakened polar vortex. And so we have our modern woes of winter.

Although Raleigh, North Carolina, did not this winter set a record for the coldest temperature reached, it did set a record for duration of cold: 201 hours of continuous freezing temperature - based on National Weather Service reports from Raleigh-Durham International Airport. While Raleigh was submerged in this cold, Anchorage, Alaska, was fairly basking in unseasonable temperatures with highs hovering around 45 F. The unremitting cold that had leaked south and that eventually hit the greater Raleigh area laid waste to large portions of my succulent collection. There is a bright side, however.

A breeder of plants has at least two goals in mind for the seedlings fostered: attractive plants that are good doers in the garden. A winter like the one we just had performs a necessary job for the horticulturalist – the cut. The non-hardy plants are culled by the cold.

When the weather warmed after our record spell of cold, it was heart wrenching to walk around my garden assessing the damage and removing the stricken plants. As I made my rounds chucking plant corpses into the wheelbarrow, I ruefully recalled three specimens of one of my precious agave hybrids planted out last year. I had not taken the time to protect them. Two were itty-bitty things, a larger one was only pint-sized. I resolved not to be too upset as I approached them for inspection. As my gaze beheld them, I could not believe my eyes. “This is not possible” I thought. “I am deceived somehow. They cannot be perfectly healthy and alive.” I bent down, inspecting them one by one, feeling their leaves with my fingers. “Remarkable” I exclaimed. “They appear totally unharmed by the cold.” Amid all the carnage of all the other mature plants of many genera and species, I was not willing to accept that these young plants had somehow survived unharmed. I resolved to re-inspect them, and day-by-day, my disbelief melted away in the face of the indisputable truth. The agave hybrid I had created in 2016, and later named ‘Blue Rapture’ for its attractive icy blue leaves, had proven itself on its maiden winter in the garden. It might just as well have been named for its resistance to

cold. And so it is that amidst the somber aspect of my garden where winter had struck hard, an icy blue gem remains to shine. *Agave* 'Blue Rapture' gladdens my heart and my garden dreams.



**Agave 'Blue Rapture'**

I am pleased to say that if you are so inclined, you can purchase *Agave* 'Blue Rapture' from Plant Delights Nursery. You see, since Tony Avent provided the pollen from *Agave flexispina* that allowed me to hybridize my *Agave ovatifolia*, I gave Tony all of the resultant hybrid seed, the seedlings of which he recently released for sale. ↻

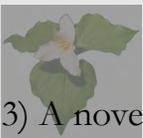
## **Potluck Spring Picnic, Sat. May 19, 2018** **Mike Papay's Garden**

Address: 39 Shaddox Dr., New Hill, NC 27562 Attendees are welcomed from 10:30am - 3pm.

**PARKING:** Four cars can easily be ensconced near the house. Our driveway is about 200 feet long and can accommodate any number of cars that have drivers experienced in going in reverse. The remainder should park along Shaddox Drive *on our side of the road* opposite our neighbor's lovely Horse Pasture.

Curiosities in the garden include:

- 1) Swaths of Mexican Poppy (*Hunnemannia fumarifolia*) and South Carolina Poppy (*Argemone alba*) amongst crowds of Rain Lilies (*Zephyranthes* sp.) accompanied by dwarf palms (super dwarf *Sabal minor* from the Florida Panhandle region) and Scrub Palmettos (*Sabal etonia* and *Sabal miamiensis*).
- 2) Two Palm Alleys with long views, one of *Trachycarpus fortunei*, the other of native *Sabal* species.



3) A novel adaptation of crevice gardening in reverse designed for cacti and small succulents, accompanied by unique planters floating above this garden on artistically decorated columns - one of a kind.

4) Cute Succulents in Artistic Shell Planters - also one of a kind.

Our 3 acres is 50% woods and 50% gardens. The woodland is dear to us for it harbors native wildflowers and wildlife. Ensnconced around the woodlands are three clearings that were once pastures but now house the gardens.



#### DIRECTIONS (from Raleigh)

To reach 39 Shaddox Dr., New Hill, North Carolina:

- 1) US 1 south to Pea Ridge Road
- 2) Pea Ridge Road north 2.4 miles to Shaddox Drive
- 3) right onto Shaddox Drive - **immediately** on the left is our property (in the woodland opposite the pasture).

Bring a folding chair and potluck dish to share with other chapter members. The Chapter will furnish cold drinks, water, and picnic-ware. ☞

## Microponics: Hydroponics on the Windowsill without Pumps

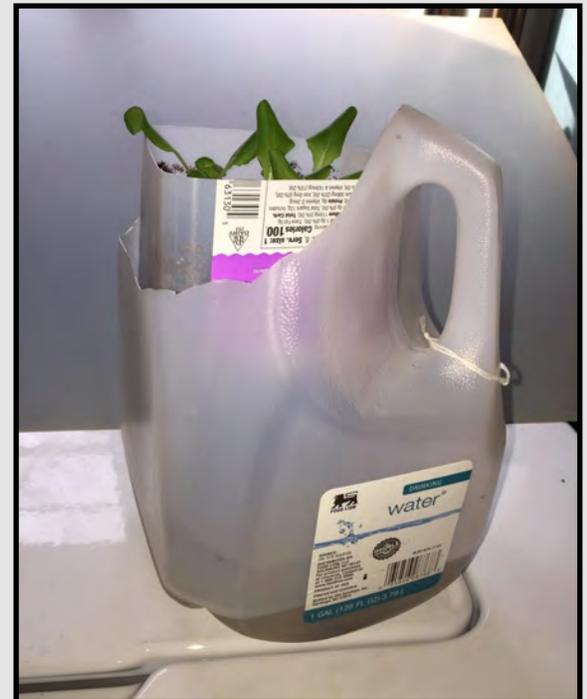
by Maurice Farrier

Steady watering, an art lacking in most of us, is required to grow plants indoors. Capillary watering provides that. It helps, too, that the low water level is visible in the reservoir. This device will consistently water salad greens growing on a sunny windowsill, patio, porch, or deck. Four inches of growing mix above the high-waterline are required for oxygenated root.

Harvest the lettuce by snipping off the lower larger leaves and allowing the central small upper leaves to grow. Other short-lived greens (such as Chinese cabbage, corn salad, kale, mustard, bak choi, and spinach) and herbs might prove to be interesting under your growing conditions. They are better enjoyed as “baby greens.”

How to do-it-yourself “Salad on a Sunny Sill”: Two recycled plastic containers are needed—a one gallon and a half-gallon. A one-gallon container that is nearly clear (such as water, iced tea, or non-organic milk) is useful but one that is opaque is not because the water level is not easily visible.

To make the shelf/reservoir, cut away the spout and top of the corner opposite the handle of the one-gallon jug, leaving



One-half gallon jug inverted in one gallon jug

All Photos by Bobby Ward

the handle intact. To make the insert, pierce the cap several times. Cut off the top eight inches and retain; invert. Set the insert in the shell/reservoir.

Place ¼ teaspoon of slow-release fertilizer (Osmocote® from Home Depot or Lowes Home Centers) in the insert. Fill with Miracle Grow® cactus-palm-citrus mix (available as above). Turn out into a bucket, mix thoroughly, and return to the insert. Tap it down on a firm surface and top off to within ½ inch of the rim with mix from the bag. Set it in the shell/reservoir.

Water gently until it appears in the reservoir. Level the surface if needed. Place up to four seeds on the surface at each of five stations (center and four corners). Cover lightly (1/8 inch or less) with mix. Many lettuce seeds need some light to germinate.



**Speckled Bib lettuce on the left ,  
Buttercrunch lettuce on the right.**

the corners and eat them when young and tender as lettuce becomes bitter when old. Harvest the center plant as desired. ❧

So far, acceptable lettuce cultivars are Buttercrunch, Little Gem, Speckled Bib, Tennis Ball, and Tom Thumb. A few are locally available; but nearly all are available from Johnny's Selected Seeds, Pinetree Garden Seeds, or Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. ❧



**Buttercrunch lettuce  
growing in microponics  
set up on windowsill**

Raise the water level in the reservoir to 2.5 inches (3 inches maximum) and refill as needed. Set on a sunny windowsill.

When seedlings are 1 to 1.5 inches tall, thin them to one plant per station. When they begin to crowd each other, snip those in



**Maurice Farrier, Ph.D.**

## Lasting Impressions' 12<sup>th</sup> Annual **OPEN GARDEN & ART SHOW**

Saturday, April 28, 2018 9 am-4 pm — 4904 Hermitage Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612

Stroll the garden and enjoy local artists of pottery, jewelry, bird houses, botanical art, metal sculptures, glass, hypertufa, and concrete garden sculptures presenting their art in the open garden. Explore the sale of locally grown and proven plants for your own garden.

Amelia Lane & Beth Jimenez, Lasting Impressions, partners

[www.lastingimpressionsleaves.com](http://www.lastingimpressionsleaves.com) and on facebook

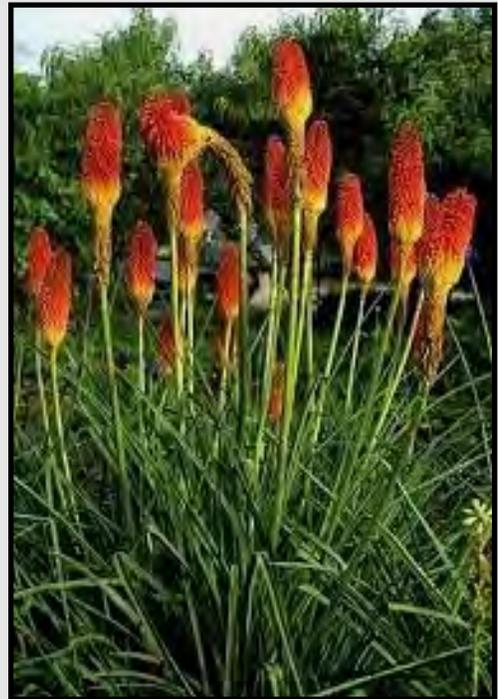


## My Love Affair with *Kniphofia* by Tom Krenitsky

We have all gone through phases in our gardening lives when a particular plant or group of plants captures our fancy. That phase is somewhat analogous to romantic love. We are so taken with the object of our desire that we lose objectivity. Of course, with time we come to realize the shortcomings of the object of our passion.

So went my love affair with *Kniphofia*. My first encounter was the big and brash 'Lola'. Since I garden in the country on once cheap farmland, I had plenty of sunny places with depleted soil. 'Lola' quickly became a favorite since it thrived under these harsh conditions. When it bursts into bloom around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it makes an impact even at a distance and echoes the holiday fireworks. The orange and yellow flower spikes are not what one would call subtle. The common name 'red hot poker' derives from such forms of the genus. 'Lola', but not all of her kin, thrives on Carolina piedmont clay with its periodic drought and deluge. It does not fade or wilt in the heat of summer. To add to all this, if you want whole swaths of them, all you need do is dig a clump in spring or fall and break it up into pieces. In a season or two, the clumps are huge again. 'Lola' is also quite tall. The flower spikes can reach 5 feet. Thus far, deer and rabbits do not browse on 'Lola' and some of her kin but I would not venture to make this a general statement. Different populations can have different diets and sometimes eat different things on different years. For example, I grew crinums for years without having them browsed. They are members of a generally toxic group of plants. Last year, my crinums were badly browsed. This might eventually prove to be the case with kniphofias as well. It is said that starving animals will eat anything and if there are ample quantities of any one thing, they are more prone to adapt to it.

With time, I decided that although 'Lola' was spectacular blooming alone at the end of a vista, it did not easily blend with other things blooming at the same time. Some colorists claim that there are basically only two categories; pink-friendly colors and orange-friendly colors. 'Lola' blooming in a bed of pink petunias makes the point. As a consequence, I explored the genus further. The hybridizers have been busy and kniphofias of colors in the pale yellow to orange to red range and various sizes are now available. Also there are late spring bloomers, summer bloomers, fall bloomers and even some that claim to be re-bloomers. I am particularly fond of a vigorous clear yellow blooming form that is a little smaller and earlier than 'Lola'. Unfortunately, I've lost its name if it ever had one. I am not as fond of the widely available 'Eco' series since they do not thrive on my acidic clay. West coast mail order nurseries offer many of the British hybrids and I have not grown them long enough to comment but I suspect that none will be as tough as 'Lola' which was discovered in a Texas ditch. Tony Avent grows the attractive *Kniphofia rooperi* but it has failed on my poor soil. I've recently grown some kniphofias from seed and some seed grown strains are of-



**Kniphofia 'Lola'**

Photo from Plant Delights Nursery  
Note: this plant is not available at this time.



ferred in the trade. Of course, these have the potential to result in variation that can be selected to suit different conditions and tastes.

One of the shortcomings of the genus is that the foliage looks as though it will be evergreen until the first really cold winter weather arrives and then, alas, it turns from a good green to brown. This does not seem to hurt the plant since the next spring they bounce back with great vigor. The only real maintenance that they require, besides the usual weeding, is cutting off the spent bloom stalks that persist for a long time and are not attractive. In my experience, as a group, kniphofias do not thrive in the shade.

If you have a problem area with sun and bad soil, the right *Kniphofia* might prove to be the solution, but be mindful of potential color clashes. ❧

## Welcoming New Chapter Members—

Brief interview with Jenna Bachman, new member.

I am somewhat new to the area and I joined the NARGS Piedmont Chapter so that I could stay involved in the plant world and more specifically the rock gardening world by meeting people nearby that also have the same interests and so that I can be involved in the rock gardening community directly. It seems like a great way to educate yourself, have fun and meet great people.

I spent a summer gardening at the Betty Ford Alpine Garden (Vail, Col.) as an intern and there I really took to the many different kinds of *Eriogonum*. I'm also a huge fan of gentians, both alpine and not. A plant I hate is pesky Japanese stilt grass!

I don't currently have my own garden, and I'm not a fan of the way labels look although I know their function is very important for records as well as other people's learning. If I had to choose I would choose herbaceous plants, as most of my favorite plants are herbaceous perennials.

One thing I am wondering is if NARGS does any kind of volunteering or outreach as a group? ❧

## After March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Tour: The Harville Garden 104 Birklands Drive, Cary

Tom Harville gardens for many reasons. “Enjoyment: I can’t think of anything I would rather do than watch Trillium open in the spring. Therapy: every evening I unwind by walking around the yard and watch things change. Beauty: Yellow Lady Slipper—enough said. Wildlife: our yard is a Certified Wildlife Backyard Habitat. Heritage: most of the plants in my yard have been rescued from sites that are being developed. Curiosity: I love to find something coming up and watch it develop and then be able to identify it. The garden, high on a hill, is designated a NC Native Plant Habitat by the NC Native Plant Society. It features rooms in the landscape—places where you can tuck away, unobserved and watch the world go by. Winding paths through the “rooms” reveal diverse treasures – intimate spaces, views, water features, special plants, and whimsy. BTW, the section to the right of the driveway is classified as a Post Retirement Procrastination Project. ❧

**Saturday, March 10**

**Hypertufa Trough Workshop: 9am- 12 noon**

Create your own hypertufa trough that resembles an old English stone planting trough. You will put together a form, mix the ingredients, and make a unique planting trough for your patio or garden. All materials are included and you can take your trough home with you. The workshop is 9 am-12 noon and the cost is \$85.



**Garden Mushroom Workshop: 1pm - 3pm**

You will shape and make your own special mushrooms to add whimsy to your garden. Create the shape that you want in either one large mushroom or 5 petite ones! All materials are included and you can take your mushrooms home with you. The workshop is 1 pm-3 pm and the cost is \$100.



Preregistration is required. Payment may be sent to Lasting Impressions, 4904 Hermitage Dr., Raleigh, NC.

Please let us know if you have questions about either of the workshops. Beth and I hope you can join us for one or both of these creative and fun workshops.

Amelia Lane & Beth Jimenez, partners

**Attention! Important Upcoming Chapter Activity**

**Saturday, April 7 Chapter Plant Sale at Raulston Blooms event.  
Pot and label your plants, and volunteer to help on the day of the event.  
Charlie Kidder, Plant Sale chair. [chas36kid@gmail.com](mailto:chas36kid@gmail.com)**



**Plant Profile** by Amelia Lane

Botanical Name: *Buxus harlandii* 'Richard'

Family: Buxaceae

Category: Shrub

Primary Uses: low hedge, in decorative pot; accents

Dimensions: 2-3 ft tall and wide at maturity

Culture: Well drained soil, bright light or semi-shade

Bloom time: early spring but blooms are small but interesting!

Color: Green year round.

General attributes: This boxwood is Boxwood blight resistant and leaf miner resistant. Leaves are bigger than English boxwood and a bright glossy green, making a more distinct appearance. A very useful slow growing shrub for the woodland garden as an accent, low hedge, or planted in a pot. It also roots easily from stem cuttings.

## NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

JC Raulston Arboretum

9:30 Gathering Time 10 am Program Begins

**March 17, 2018**

“Extinct Plants of North America”

**Wesley Knapp**

N.C. Natural Heritage Program  
Asheville, NC

## Message from the Chair

Amelia Lane

Let’s just say it is spring!! At least for today and tomorrow. You all know how fast the weather can change at this time of year, so enjoy these wonderful days and the new shoots and blossoms that it brings!!

Have you been digging around in your garden trying to find those hopeful shoots of plants you put in last fall? I have done a fair amount of that myself!! It is also a great time to be dividing and potting up some of your extra plants for our plant sale on April 7 at Raulston Blooms.

Last year we had super participation from our members making our sale a real success and I look forward to seeing all the interesting plants you bring in. I will have labels available at our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for anyone who wants them.

We are having a most interesting speaker, Wesley Knapp, from the NC Natural Heritage Program, at our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. I do hope you can come and hear him. And as a bonus, Tom Harville, a long time member of our chapter, is opening his fantastic spring time garden to us following the meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Tom’s address is 104 Birklands Dr., Cary, NC. See Tom’s garden description on page 11 of the newsletter. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate spring ephemerals and native wildflowers. And don’t forget our April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with Marta McDowell speaking on her book “All the Presidents’ Gardens.” A fascinating topic.

There are so many fun gardening events in our area this time of year. Nursery Open Houses, new plants arriving at nurseries, workshops to attend, projects in our own gardens, and new friends to make in the garden. I get so excited in the spring, but try to remind myself to stop and smell the *Daphne*, admire the whiteness of the bloodroot, and listen to the humming of the bees.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the JCRaulston Arboretum!!” ❧

### Goodies to Share



March R—T

April W—Z

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