

# The Trillium

Piedmont Chapter  
North American Rock Garden Society  
Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, NC  
[www.facebook.com/piedmontchapterNARGS](http://www.facebook.com/piedmontchapterNARGS)

## A Call for Fall Alliums

by Kenton Seth

The most exciting things are those you don't know much about- a thing that is colorful and cheery and you tell your friends about it, but have few answers when they ask deeper questions. It's like a young romance, with all that heady, shallow obsession before you find out she breeds fighting ferrets in the basement and deals in black-market pogs.

2017 put me on a course to have a brush by with fall-blooming Alliums, and in writing an article I want to share what little I have found and stir up information from others as well as inspire a following so I'm not the lone obsessor around here.

Well, to begin with, it's been seed exchange season. I've grown and killed and not even managed to germinate so many hundreds of packets of seeds from Seed Exes. They're great. But one genera which has paid off has been Allium- they don't "sell out" soon on the list, they germinate reliably, grow easily in a home nursery, mature to flower in a year or two or three, and all have been easy in the garden, and finally, they easily make enough seed, which is easy to collect, to donate back to the exchanges. Not what I can say for most. So Alliums, conveniently topping the alphabetical seed lists, get my attention because of the promise of satisfaction. If you missed the NARGS seed exchange, remind me to cry a little for you and shame you into participating next year; it's easy! But the Allium love goes deeper this year for me.

It started with a grocery-bag clump of fresh diggings from Lauren Springer-Ogden, who was moving house- you know that kind of heirloom plant gift. They usually grow because they are locally suited. Anyhow, it was a species I'd not heard of, *Allium koreanum*, and she said it was good. I trust her taste, and forgot the name immediately. But when the golden leaves fell on this plant's new home at my house, and it woke up from under those covers, stretching its fists of plump pinkness in October, I was besotted. I called Lauren up to be reminded what its name was, like an excited teenage girl in love after seeing a new boy at a dance. With the name, that was the first



Photo by Kenton Seth

**Agave montana  
with Allium virgunculae var. kiiense  
Juniper Level Botanic Garden**



time I found little info on fall-blooming alliums as a group. But I thought- how useful, how fantastic is it to have a bulb which tends to be even more reliable than all the classic fall bulbs- and which stands up a bit higher from fallen leaves? I was addicted at first sight.

In research, I found a *Colorado Gardener* article by Marcia Tatroe on Alliums, and what's more, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS recently hosted Mark McDonough's talk on Alliums, which I

was very sad to miss because I was working in North Carolina. But ironically, I was working at the attached beneficiary institution of Plant Delights Nursery, called Juniper Level Botanic Garden. As Grounds/Research supervisor Jeremy and I finished a section of our crevice project, owner and famous international plant-hunter Tony Avent was all over the new area like flies on stink: he started planting immediately - perhaps less out of urgency to have a project looking done for the then-upcoming NARGS AGM which happened there, but out of sheer boyish excitement, in my opinion. Out came loads of funky plants from his greenhouses, and behind a recently planted glorious *Agave montana*, I saw the sparkle of yet another Allium in bloom- and this time in October! A

Photo by Kenton Seth



***Allium virgunculae* var. *kiense*, *koreanum*  
JC Raulston Arboretum**

walk with Bobby Ward at the JC Raulston Arboretum revealed this surprising gem again- you can find *Allium kiense* in the Plant Delights online catalogue. I know I will.

An excited newbie, I am aware of only three of the fall alliums: *virguncula* var. *kiense*, *koreanum* (which was given species status in just 2004) and *thunbergii* (of which a cultivar 'Ozawa' is grown). I know that there are more out there and hope I find I am not alone, perhaps rubbing shoulders of another truly besotted slave like myself, upon finding the next one. They are a cold pink- the color of nothing else in fall- like pink highlighter on boring newsprint! And they are Alliums- so easy! And they are bulbs- they can be mixed with others! Get addicted, my friends, but please don't order all the seeds before I get a chance.



*Kenton Seth gardens in Grand Junction, Colorado and is a master crevice installer.*



Photo by Kenton Seth

***Allium koreanum*, Kenton's garden,  
Grand Junction, Colorado**



# My First Time: A Subjective Report on the 2017 NARGS AGM

## *Rock Gardening in the South: Past, Present and Future by Nancy M. Crumley*

I've always been rather wary about attending a NARGS Annual Meeting, feeling intimidated by all the "authentic" rock garden people and fearing I would be revealed as the imposter I feel myself to be. Other factors contributing to this wariness included the time of year (spring or summer, invariably) and cost (flights, hotel, registration fee).

But when I learned of the meeting to take place in Raleigh--Durham in mid-November, I was intrigued. November is a less demanding time for me, traveling to Raleigh is affordable, and I could combine the trip with a Thanksgiving visit to my mother in Asheville. The presenters sounded interesting and the field trips tempting. I decided to bite the bullet!

While packing, I called Lola to ask if I should bring any "dressy" clothing to the conference. She assured me that blue jeans were the order of the day, even for the Saturday night dinner, which was welcome to my ears, and instantly made me feel more relaxed about the whole venture.

Overall, I didn't know what to expect. In addition to the wariness referred to above, I wouldn't know a soul except Lola and Steve, and I can be pretty shy, especially in situations where so many others know each other well.

This turned out to be not a problem whatsoever! Every single person I encountered was friendly and open — delighted to be there and easy to talk to. Plant people love to talk to other plant people, it's as simple as that.

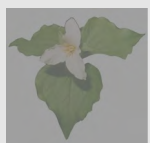
The optional pre-meeting garden tours began bright and early Friday morning, November 17. We were organized into two vans, each equipped with drinks and snacks. Within moments of departure, I had distributed copies of our recent MCNARGS newsletter to all interested parties and was happily engaged in conversation with a NARGS member from Canada, a retired doctor who is chair of his chapter.

Our first visit was to Plant Delights Nursery/Juniper Level Botanic Garden. I've always wondered why this odd name, but never seem to get around to asking, so it's still a mystery to me. Anyway, we were greeted by the one-and-only Tony Avent, who gave us a brief history of the nursery and a quick primer on Piedmont soil and climate, and announced that this year they found their first dinosaur bone on the property! The group was free to explore whatever part of the gardens we wished, and some of the greenhouses were open for plant shopping. Many of us followed on the heels of Tony, who gave a tour of the newly-constructed crevice garden (still in the works) and nearby sunny gardens. Of all the information flowing from Tony, I will share this nugget: the best writing implement for plant labels is a DecoColor pen. Never fades!



Photo by Steve Whitesell

**New Crevice Garden at Plant Delights Nursery**



At some point I wandered off, finding myself in the carnivorous plants garden where none other than Larry Mellichamp, who had bred and propagated many of these plants, was holding forth.

After chatting awhile, I wandered away again, finding my bliss in the shade garden, where I scrutinized all manner of ferns, grasses, ground-covers and other plants both known and unknown to me (the “unknown” category included *Dentaria maxima*, several kinds of arachniodes and what I now realize are rare species of disporopsis). My intense pleasure in exploring this garden confirmed, if I didn’t know it already, that shade gardens are “my thing.”



Photo by Nancy Crumley

**Larry Mellichamp and the Carnivorous Plants at Plant Delights Nursery**

On the trip back to the Sheraton for lunch, I chatted with my seatmate Erin, who gardens in northern Massachusetts and New Hampshire and again experienced that instant connection that happens between gardeners.

I will insert here that our hosts, the folks from the Piedmont Chapter, were organized down to the smallest detail, and they displayed southern hospitality to an almost unbelievable degree. Truly impressive and greatly appreciated!

At lunch, I learned that it is perfectly acceptable and even expected at a NARGS gathering to simply plop yourself down where you see an empty seat; you will be welcomed by your tablemates and are free to jump right into the conversation. The folks I sat with were from Philadelphia, Portland (Oregon) and rural New Hampshire respectively, and we gabbed as if we’d all known one other for years.

After lunch, I officially registered for the meeting, receiving my information packet and name badge, then we departed for the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a conservation garden whose guiding mission is “to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.”

At the NCBG we were greeted by a friendly phalanx of horticulturists and garden guides and were split up into manageable groups, mine being led by Dan Stern, Director of Horticulture. Most interesting to me were the local habitat gardens – Piedmont, Sandhills, Coastal Plain and Mountain – connected by a boardwalk, and featuring regional plants growing in communities, as they do in nature. I was thrilled to



see patches of *Chrysogonum virginianum* in bloom (it looked different from the chrysogonum I am used to) and was drawn to the variety of ferns (southern maidenhair, southern wood ferns, and others). I also loved the towering loblolly pines. Another highlight of the NCBG was the impressive Carnivorous Plant Collection.

Our final destination of the day: the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Elegant and very well-endowed (in several meanings of the word), this garden is within the Duke University campus and thus is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. As I look through my photos from the visit, I note my attraction to the ferns, unknown groundcovers, mahonias and trees with unusual bark.

The AGM officially began at 7 p.m. with a reception featuring “Carolina Classic hors d’oeuvres,” including delicious shrimp ‘n’ grits, for which I returned for seconds and thirds. Again, I experienced the now-comfortable-to-me NARGS custom of inserting oneself wherever one sees fit, and in that way, met more folks from Philadelphia (Delaware Valley Chapter), with whom I hit it off spectacularly. I had expected to be clinging to Lola, but that didn’t happen!

We reconvened in the hotel’s auditorium, where warm welcoming remarks were followed by a talk by Tony Avent and his associate Jeremy Schmidt (*Outfitting Urbanite: A Journey Into Recycled Rock Gardens*) on their creation of a crevice garden out of recycled concrete [from the foundation of an abandoned house on the Plant Delights property], offering up details about the materials, soil mixtures used, and the many plants that flourish in this rocky, alkaline environment.

A word about the meeting room, which is called an auditorium but perhaps could be described as a combination auditorium, classroom and UN General Assembly hall. Each spacious row of seats includes a table/desktop, making note-taking wonderfully comfortable.

Saturday was jam-packed with talks and activities – we got our money’s worth! Three morning presentations were followed by a luncheon; then two more talks, silent and live auctions, book sale/signing, a reception, dinner, the awards ceremony, and then several more talks.

The morning program began with an absorbing presentation by the charming Bobby Ward (once just a name to me, now embodied!): *A Brief History of Rock Gardening, People, and Places*. Loaded with historical information, Bobby also offered personal anecdotes about friends/rock gardeners of the recent past, many now gone, and the gardens they created and cultivated. A few fun facts: Europe’s oldest rock garden (in London’s Chelsea Physic Garden) was constructed from volcanic rock – brought as ballast from Iceland by plant explorer Sir Joseph Banks – as well as stones left over from the 1772 reconstruction of the Tower of London. Norman Singer and Geoffrey Charlesworth met at Bletchley Park during World War II while working as code breakers. And there is an official “NARGS Hymn” (aka, “The Alpine Gardener’s Lament”), composed by Frank Cabot. Thank you, Bobby Ward, for a fascinating and moving presentation.

Next, Andrea Sprott, Garden Curator of the Elizabeth Lawrence House & Garden in Charlotte, spoke about Elizabeth Lawrence’s rich career as garden designer, writer and plantsperson, and the rewards and challenges of restoring Lawrence’s garden. I love this quote, apparently something Lawrence sometimes told visitors: “You haven’t really seen my garden; you’ve only seen it today.” She also famously said, “The cultivation of rock plants is the highest form of the art of gardening.”





At lunch I sat next to a landscape architect formerly from the northeast but now living in the Asheville area and was so fascinated by her that I proceeded to elicit much of her life story (the conversation continued the next day on the bus); again, it was unexpected and wonderful to find how easy it was to fall into conversation with every NARGS person I met; or was it just my good luck to encounter what felt like a lifelong friend everywhere I turned?

The next speaker, Joseph Tychonievich, was a revelation. Wondering what this young whippersnapper could possibly have to offer, I found myself hanging on his every word, as he recounted tales from his recent book tour (*Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style*) and offered countless helpful tips about plants and gardening. Joseph says, “Find plants that love your conditions and GO NUTS with them.” His slide show included a photo of our own Michael Riley’s rooftop garden! He’s smart, experienced, opinionated, funny, and one of the most enjoyable speakers I’ve ever heard. A memorable quote from his discussion of succulents: “Prickly pears are jerks.” Joseph also offered a compendium of great ideas about how local chapters can engage and attract members, many of which I plan to share with my fellow MCNARGS board members.

*Note:* Adored black cats were a running theme among the speakers. Can I conclude that rock gardeners also tend to be impassioned cat lovers? Discuss.


Next up was Larry Mellichamp, on *Bog Plants to Know and Grow*. In a splendid presentation laced with dry humor, Larry offered a tremendous amount of information about these plants – how to grow them, flowering companions, the rich variety of species that exist. Worldwide, there are 670 kinds of carnivorous plants, and North and South Carolina have more different species (18) than any other location in the world. According to Larry, they are easy to grow as long as you can provide sunny, moist, low-nutrient and, usually, acidic conditions.

The last speaker of the afternoon was Tim Alderton, on *J.C. Raulston: The Man, The Garden and the Plants*, which whet the appetite for the following day’s visit to the JC Raulston Arboretum. And yes, it’s correct that while his name was J.C. Raulston, the spelling of the arboretum is without periods. Proof-readers, be aware!

The live auction: Tony Avent’s auctioneering skills are remarkable. Is there a word for that crazy speed-talking auctioneers do? If not, there should be. [*Editor’s Note:* it’s called the “auction chant.”] I found myself yakking on the side with Larry Mellichamp about our mutual love of *Spigelia marilandica* (the auction included a *Spigelia* cultivar called “Little Redhead,” which Larry won), and I commanded him to come visit New York City after he expressed surprise to learn that people in Brooklyn have gardens!

Actually, nearly everyone I met throughout the weekend was fascinated by the concept of gardening in New York City. The general impression seems to be that the only gardening taking place in the city happens on terrace and rooftop!

The book sale/signing followed, and luckily I had left my checkbook in the room, so I could only afford Joseph Tychonievich’s slender softcover, *The Complete Guide to Gardeners: The Plant Obsessed and How to Deal With Them*, which, by the way, is hilarious. The pre-dinner reception is a complete blur in my mind but the



dinner itself memorable, not so much for the food but for the fact that I sat flanked by four men (two on each side) and, for possibly the first time in my life, got an inkling of how Scarlett O'Hara must have felt, though instead of flirting and exchanging banalities, we were all talking a mile a minute about plants and gardening. The NARGS Awards presentation followed, and then we all trooped back to the auditorium for the evening talks, but not before I had corralled the MCNARGS attendees for a group photo.

John Grimshaw on *Winter Gems: Snowdrops and Other Delights* was quite enjoyable. It was useful to hear about plants in addition to expensive, rare snowdrops, that look “fresh and good” between November and March, including the horrifyingly-named *Clematis cirrhosa* ‘Freckles’ and many charming *eranthis* cultivars.

Three more presentations followed and yes, it was 9:30 p.m. before they even began. These talks were fifteen minutes each and all were gems – Anna Leggatt on *Yunnan: A Plant Hunter's Paradise*, John Grimshaw, *An Autobiography in Ten Plants* and Hans Hansen on *Mangaves*.

I would be remiss if I did not mention how much I enjoyed meeting NARGS President Betty Anne Spar. By now it is probably getting irritating to hear how pleasant everyone was, but really, Betty is just the nicest of the nice. We have in common that we both worked at CBS News in previous lifetimes, albeit decades apart; I loved hearing her stories about being one of the only women in the newsroom back in the '60s.

Another takeaway from the weekend: I was deeply impressed by the relationships and camaraderie I observed among those one might call the “superstars” of NARGS – Tony Avent, Panayoti Kelaidis, Larry Mellichamp, Bobby Ward – with one another and with the “regular” people within the membership. There appears to be an ongoing and generous interchange of knowledge, resources, research and, of course, plants, not only between individuals but among one another's professional enterprises – botanical gardens, nurseries, arboretums, universities. But also this: at the end of the day, the superstars are gardening geeks and plant fanatics, just like the rest of us.


Sunday was devoted to garden tours. A return trip to Plant Delights meant I could spend more time exploring the complexities of the shade garden and visiting the greenhouses (only some were open to us), where I was particularly taken with the number of *sarcococca* species and diverse array of hellebores. Lunch (served by our wonderful Piedmont Chapter hosts!) at the JC Raulston Arboretum was followed by an all-too-brief visit around the garden with its many rare trees and



**Rooftop Crevice Garden at the JC Raulston Arboretum**

Photo by Nancie Crumley





shrubs, a magical “Lath House” and rooftop crevice garden. Once again I was transfixed by the unusual-to-me mahonias, various arachniodes, sarcococcas, groundcovers (*Alpinia japonica*!) and a charming *Vernicia fordii* (Tung Oil Tree). Three cheers for excellent plant labels!

The final stop was the eagerly-anticipated Montrose, where Nancy Goodwin did not disappoint. We were all impressed by her spry energy and her deeply-knowledgeable and loving dedication to her woodland paradise of snowdrops, cyclamen and hellebores.

In closing, I can sincerely state that I loved every minute of the AGM. I’m deeply grateful to the Manhattan Chapter for providing a stipend to cover the registration fee. I strongly encourage other members to join NARGS and to attend a future AGM. Be sure to inquire about the stipend, available to first-time MCNARGS attendees. Go for it!



*This article was originally published in the January/February issue of The Urban Rock Gardener, Manhattan Chapter, NARGS and is reprinted here with permission. Nancy Crumley is a member of the board of the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS.*



Photo by Nancy Crumley

**Snowdrops at Montrose**

## Lasting Impressions’ 12th Annual OPEN GARDEN & ART SHOW

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

Stroll the garden and enjoy local artists’ 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.

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## **Plant Profile** by Elsa Liner

**Botanical name:** *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'

**Family:** Betulaceae

**Category:** Deciduous multi-stem shrub/small tree

**Primary uses:** Specimen/Focal point

**Dimensions:** 10-15 ft h x 10-15 ft w

**Culture:** Sun/pt sun, average moisture, wide range of soil pH

**Bloom time:** spring

**Color:** large, light yellow male catkins, small insignificant, red female flower

**General attributes:** Common names are contorted

filbert and Harry Lauder's walking stick. This is a four-season plant, with the primary interest in winter when the branches are bare and the gnarled conformation of the plant can be seen. Snow on the branches creates an especially beautiful effect. As for the other seasons, in spring there are long, light yellow male catkins dangling on the contorted branches before they leaf out. In summer, the contorted structure is covered with round/heart-shaped leaves, giving the plant a crepe-like texture. In autumn, the leaves turn a nice yellow.

This is a slow growing, long-lived plant. I planted one beside my front door many years ago and it grew to point that it was obscuring the front door. Reluctant to remove it completely, I selected a few stems and pruned it back to a small tree form, which I like even better than the shrub form. The contorted cultivar is commonly propagated by it onto a species rootstock. This often results in the rootstock sending up straight suckers, and so to maintain the plant's appearance, it is important to be on the lookout for these and remove them. The only cultural problem has been Japanese beetles. These don't come every year and have been few enough to be controlled manually. ❧



## **Autumn**

by Laurence Avery

A cold blow this morning, and it's raining leaves – bright yellow from the red buds, russet from the maples, splotched brown from white oaks.

People exclaim over the parade of autumn foliage, but a better time for me is later in the season after the parade is over and hardwoods are bare.

In spring and summer the air fills up with leaves, blocking sight lines. I can't see the neighbors, or the shapes of things. Then come the trunks of trees with a tangle of bare limbs silhouetted against the sky –

the only orange now, the flames snapping in the fireplace – the trees suggesting the tangle of the living natural world. Prometheus suffered, Aeschylus says, for rescuing us from Zeus,

who aimed to exterminate the human race, rescued us with the gifts of fire and understanding. Sitting by the fire at night, I delight in roaming at will.

❧

Editor's note: "*Autumn*" is from a forthcoming book entitled *Seasons*

# NARGS Wyoming Tour

by Tim Alderton

All photographs by Tim Alderton

In late June of 2017 Chris Glenn, Nancy Doubrava, Cyndy Cromwell and I went on a Wyoming adventure with the NARGS tour to the Yellowstone region. Our trip started in Denver with a cross country ride north and west across Wyoming to Cody. The ride offered spectacular views of the varied landscape of grasslands, rock outcrops, soda lakes, and mountains changing as we traveled. A few stops along the way gave us a little taste of what was to come from the flora treasures of Wyoming. A quick botanizing stop outside Rawlins introduced us to the small pink flowered *Penstemon laricifolius*. Another at a rock outcrop near Split Rock gave us the opportunity to see flow-



***Penstemon laricifolius***



***Eriogonum pauciflorum***

ering *Lewisia rediviva* growing in pockets of earth on the rock surface. Upon arriving at the Thomas, the Apostle Retreat Center, our lodging for the next four nights, botanical treasures were found growing on the dry hills around the center. Steppe flora covered the rocky soil of the hills. *Eriogonum pauciflorum*, *Erigeron*, *Oxytropis besseyi*, *Lygodesmia juncea*, *Eremogone hookeri*, *Artemisia*, *Cryptantha celosioide*, and *Stenotus acaulis* were only a sample of the diverse flora.

Our first full day in Wyoming took us into Yellowstone National Park. *Penstemon* species greeted us throughout the park. Short pale pink *Penstemon deustus*, large purple clumps of *P. fruticosus*, and blues of *P. cyaneus* along with *P. procerus*. Soft yellow spurred blossoms dangled from the wiry stems of *Aquilegia flavescens* in a long swath along the road looking down to Yellowstone Lake. The



***Aquilegia flavescens***



***Wyethia helianthoides***

find of the day *Wyethia helianthoides*, a large white flowered daisy of an otherwise yellow flowered genera, grew at a picnic area across from the Yellowstone River. Aside from the flora, views of Yellowstone Canyon and the lower falls, Yellowstone Lake with the Teton Mountains in the distance, geothermic springs and mud pots, and of course the wildlife. Our first wild American bison, bighorn sheep, and moose showed themselves that day.



Day two in Wyoming took us east into the Bighorn Mountains. On a dry mountainside near Lovell we found more penstemons mostly in shades of blue aside from the pink of *P. laricifolius*. White cups with yellow centers of *Calochortus nuttallii* grew alongside multiple colors of castilleja. Our first stop with tundra, Medicine Mountain, revealed carpets of alpine wildflowers like *Eritrichium nanum*, *Douglasia montana*, and miniature *Dodecatheon pulchellum*. A visit to the Bighorn Medicine Wheel presented us with thousands of soft blue *Pulsatilla patens* ssp. *multifida* in full bloom. A new dusting of snow still covered the ground in areas. The highlight of the stop though were mounds of *Kelseya uniflora* growing on sheltered cliff faces. A walk around the Medicine Wheel, a sacred Native American site visited for thousands of years, provided a spiritual respite with views of the mountains and valleys for hundreds of miles.



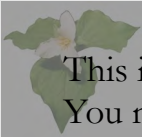
***Kelseya uniflora***

A free day on our own filled the third day. Chris, Cyndy, another woman on the tour, and I rented a car and headed back to Yellowstone for further hunting of plants, animals, and sites. One stop presented us with the golden bells of *Fritillaria pudica* growing in the sandy soils in a small flood plain along a stream. Further on a group of stopped cars brought us to a halt as well. Peering through the brush, two young grizzly bears foraged several hundred feet from the road ignoring the crowd of onlookers. Our next big stop, Old Faithful and the geyser fields in the upper geyser basin. Old Faithful erupted twice in our time there surrounded by thousands of blue *Gentianopsis thermalis*. Other vents and geysers grew carpets of bright yellow *Mimulus guttatus*. Driving on sites included a wet meadow of pink elephant headed *Pedicularis groenlandica* mixed with tall shuttle cocks of *Dodecatheon pulchellum* with a few *Platanthera dilatata* var. *albiflora*. Where we only saw one *Wyethia helianthoides* two days before, an entire hillside was painted white with the 5" inflorescences. Starting back toward Cody a herd of hundreds of bison stopped the flow of traffic in the Hayden Valley. Rare trumpeter swan paddled by in a small lake as we waited on the road to clear.

The final day in Wyoming took us north on the Beartooth Highway. Several stops through the day gave us the chance to see dry steppe, mesic montane, and wind-swept tundra conditions. The plant highlights of the day included *Amerorchis rotundifolia* with pink flowers in the shape of little dancing ladies, flooded meadows with white *Caltha leptosepala* near needled leaves of *Phyllodoce empetriformis* in one of the southern most populations only starting to come into bud as the snow retreated. One of our final botanical stops gave us the opportunity to see clumps of *Saxifraga oppositifolia* covered in pink blossoms and a disjunct population of the diminutive soft yellow *Pedicularis oederi* with the next closest population in northern British Columbia. A scenic ride took us in to southern Montana for an ice cream cone in Red Lodge before we returned to Cody.



***Pedicularis oederi***



This is just a sampling of the hundreds of plants we saw on the tour. You need to visit to get an idea of the full flora and fauna of the area. The majestic landscape also was not to be missed. Whether you go see it in person, come travel with Chris, Nancy and me as we re-live some of our memories from this NARGS tour. 🐾



Piedmont chapter participants



## Where Alpines Meet the Sea

NARGS Annual Meeting, St. John's, Newfoundland, July 6-8, 2018

Hosted by the Newfoundland Chapter

Welcome to Newfoundland, the far east of North America! Eastern Newfoundland is a land of botanical extremes: boreal forest of balsam fir, black and white spruce with associated northern woodland plants; a multitude of bogs and fens where grow a multitude of orchids and insectivorous plants; and rocky barrens of the coast which house wind-swept contorted trees and plants of an alpine nature more in common with high elevations of the New England Appalachians. We have the largest population of North Atlantic summering humpback whales, some of the largest sea-bird colonies of eastern North America, and are along the passing route of icebergs calving off glaciers in Greenland. This NARGS venue provides participants with a chance to visit one of the most hauntingly beautiful regions of North America. Newfoundland is truly where alpines meet the sea.

The summer 2018 NARGS meeting will take advantage of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Conference Facility. Accommodations will be available in Macpherson College, opened in 2013, whose private rooms offer modern and comfortable accommodations. Dining areas and lecture theatres are within a couple of minutes' walk from the College. One of the main highlights from this meeting will be a visit to the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, an informal garden with 13 themed gardens including rock gardens, crevice garden, alpine trough display, and alpine house.

Our guest speakers hail from the coasts of eastern and western Canada as well as Scotland. The plants discussed will be alpines that can tolerate months of snow and overall wetter climates, with examples from the wild and how they perform in the garden. Day trips will introduce participants to the plants of the eastern Newfoundland coastal barrens and peatlands. Book sales and author signing for the field guides "The Trees and Shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador" and "Wildflowers and Ferns of Newfoundland" will be available. Before the conference there will be open gardens. Consult the Winter issue of NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly for more details. To register visit the NARGS website at <https://nargs.org/news/2017-12-11/registration-open-newfoundland-meeting-and-post-conference-tour>. The conference registration fee is **CAD \$495.00 Canadian or USD \$415**. Registration for the conference will close as of June 1, 2018. The price of the conference fee includes access to the speakers' presentations, field trips, and the following meals: opening dinner banquet on Friday July 6; breakfast and box lunch on Saturday July 7 and breakfast, box lunch and closing dinner banquet on Sunday July 8.

**\*\*For any questions contact Todd Boland at [todd.boland@warp.nfld.net](mailto:todd.boland@warp.nfld.net)\*\***

### Piedmont NARGS Spring 2018

March 17, 2018  
**Wesley Knapp**  
"Extinct Plants of North America"  
N.C. Natural Heritage Program  
Asheville, NC

April 21, 2018  
**Marta McDowell**  
"All the Presidents' Gardens"  
Chatham, NJ

May 2018  
**Annual Picnic /  
Garden Visiting(TBA)**



## NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

JC Raulston Arboretum

9:30 Gathering Time 10 am Program Begins

February 10, 2018

**Tim Alderton,  
Nancy Doubrava,  
Chris Glenn**

**“Plantsman Tour of Wyoming”**

### Goodies to Share



Feb Mi—P

March R—T

April W—Z

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### OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Plant Sale Manager: Charlie Kidder

Refreshments: Maurice Farrier

## Message from the Chair

By Amelia Lane

### NARGS Award for Service Goes to Chris Glenn

Chris joined the Piedmont Chapter in 2010. Since then he has been responsible for advertising and promoting our monthly meetings to the public, our members, and J C Raulston Arboretum members through the local newspaper, gardening publications, and the Raulston's social media sites.



Photo by Bobby Ward

Starting in 2010, Chris has been in charge of the audio visual portion of our meetings, coordinating with speakers to ensure that their presentations run smoothly and professionally. Having a successful presentation is such an important part of a meeting for our members, visitors, and new members. He also serves as a liaison between the Piedmont chapter and the Raulston Arboretum, our meeting place. Chris is always willing to help facilitate scheduling and room arrangement plans.

For the 2017 AGM, hosted by our chapter, Chris was in charge of the use of the Raulston's audio visual equipment and ensured the success of the AV portion of each presentation. His expertise with the technicalities of the audio visual equipment added greatly to the overall success of the meeting.

Chris' enthusiasm for the Piedmont Chapter, his dependability and willingness to serve, and the quality of his work are an asset to our Chapter. We are pleased to recognize his efforts. ❧