

The Trillium

Piedmont Chapter
North American Rock Garden Society
Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, NC

NARGS Annual Meeting, June 14 - 17, 2007 An Appalachian Mountain Refuge Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia

Now just so you know, that's K-NANE' not the Biblical pronunciation. This is a year-round resort that caters to snow skiers, runners, botanists, and civil war re-enactors, to name a few. The accommodations were basic, five buildings with a lodge where the meetings were held. The food was just OK, but we really weren't there for a gourmet experience—it was for plants!

I did have an ulterior motive for attending this meeting. I'm more of a native plant nut and am relatively new to the botanical realms, so this location in the Appalachians was perfect for me. I would get to see plants that I had never seen in the wild, many that I had never seen at all and I would be surrounded by folks that knew what they were. I think my fellow travelers, Lynda Waldrep, Marlene Kinney and Diane Laslie went for pretty much the same reasons. Bobby Ward was there doing his NARGS Board thing and Ruth Bierhoff was harassing people into buying raffle tickets (actually helping old friends).

Thursday night after dinner, we enjoyed a slide presentation on the history of the area and some of the flora that we would see. The pictures of the early 1900s were awesome. Imagine stands of 14' diameter spruce trees, then imagine fires that raged over the denuded landscape, burning down to the bedrock, consuming dry spruce needles that were up to 6' deep? It was very sad to see, but on the other hand, all that wood built many homes and businesses. What we are seeing now is the reforestation process.

On Friday morning I got up early and we were off to Dolly Sods Wilderness area. You don't just happen to drive into this area. It takes an effort and about an hour's driving time from the lodge. The weather was coolish and the visibility was limited - we could only see the end of the bus! The fog did lift and we got to see many wonderful plants. I saw *Cornus canadensis* in the wild for the first time. Other old friends were: an old *Cypripedium acaule*, *Rhododendron prinophyllum* (=rosea), and *Kalmia latifolia*. A high-



Fog in the Canaan Valley bog

light was seeing the *Heuchera alba* in full bloom, which only grows in a small area among the boulders. We made a total of four stops, the last being a path that took us thru the woods and over boggy areas. In one of the bogs we saw many of

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Cornus canadensis

what was tentatively identified as *Zigadenus elegans*. Pity they weren't blooming. When we got back, some folks went



Cypripedium acaule

off on another local foray but I had to go to the plant/book sale area. That evening's talk was more about the formation of the local area.

Saturday morning I skipped the local walk and looked one last time at the plant vendor area before an 8:30 load up. This trip took us to Blackwater Falls where we saw the most gorgeous *Viburnum lantanoides* (= *alnifolia*). It's ridged, iridescent leaves, some 6 inches across, stopped everyone on their walk to the falls. Too bad it won't reach that size and beauty here in our area. We made two other walks on trails close to the Blackwater Conference Center. Returning fairly early, some of us went to see the craft vendors at the civil war reenactment area and to walk around another



Rhododendron prinophyllum

nature trail. We saw the US endangered *Euphorbia purpurea*, but the rest of the walk turned into a green blurrrr



Kalmia latifolia

as we whizzed thru the woods so we could get back for supper and the keynote speaker Bill Cullina, who was entertaining and informative.

Sunday morning heard another Cullina talk about plant propagation. It really was interesting to listen to someone who has tried so many different techniques and products while trying to reproduce native plants.

I have to say that the conference was all I expected and more. As a first time participant, I got to meet a bunch of really neat plant minded folks and see interesting flora and learn a lot of new, to me, plant stuff. I really enjoyed the trip and would highly recommend it to any member.

☞ Tom Harville



Heuchera alba



Viburnum lantanoides

Excerpts from June 21, 2007 Piedmont Chapter Board Meeting, B. Wilder's home, Raleigh.

Present: Kirt Cox, Dave Duch, Tom Harville, Todd Lasseigne, Marlyn Miller, Marian Stephenson, Bobby Ward, David White, Bobby Wilder.

Bob Wilder gave a treasurer's report: the chapter has \$9959, down from \$12,540 at last reporting in August 2006. The reasons for the drawdown are decline in receipts from monthly plant sales and higher-than-normal expenses for chair to attend annual meeting (two years meetings were combined in the current report, compounding the apparent one-year decline).

Bobby Ward and Tom Harville reported on the NARGS annual meeting in Canaan Valley, West Virginia, which

160 members attended, including six from the Piedmont Chapter.

Bobby Ward presented a list of proposed speakers for 2007-2008; they are Tom Krenitsky, Stefan Bloodworth, Ellen Hornig, Tony Avent, Todd Lasseigne, Peter Korn (NARGS traveling speaker), and Tom Stuart. The board approved them.

Bob Wilder has agreed to home host Ellen Hornig and Tom Stuart. Bobby Ward will home host Peter Korn. As Peter will be arriving from Sweden and will need U.S. acclimatization (his first trip here), he will be arriving three or so days early and would like to see local gardens, native plants, arboreta, etc. Day hosting assistance may be needed from board members. Lunches and/or dinners for speakers will be arranged closer to their visit.

Bobby Ward will contact Karen Wiley-Eberle at the N.C. Botanical Garden to reserve the speaker dates on its calendar, as well as digital projector requirements (three speakers).

Tom Harville reported on nominations: David White as chapter chair and Patricia Scolnik as new board member. David has accepted; Tom will contact Patricia and asked her to serve. All other currently serving board members will continue with Bobby Ward serving as programs chair. The nominations will be voted on by the general membership at the September 15 meeting.

Kirt Cox will relieve Bobby Wilder of the responsibility for name tags at meetings.

Marian Stephenson presented a schedule for publication of The Trillium newsletter. Possible writers and articles for future issues were discussed.

The board agreed to ask Amelia Lane and Beth Jimenez to offer another trough-making workshop for our members. Bobby Ward will contact them and set a date.

Kirt Cox has agreed to head the fall seedling sale at our September 15 meeting, seeking help from Tom Harville and other board members. He needs eight sales tables. Bobby Ward will inform our contact at the N.C. Botanical Garden on the table requirements.

The board agreed to have its spring picnic visiting members' Charlotte-area gardens, based on an earlier invitation. Bobby Ward will contact and set a date. The board agreed to rent a bus to take members and provide a picnic lunch. Elsa Liner will be asked to assist in bus arrangement. Members will pay some part of the expense of the bus rental and the chapter will pay a part. Members fee to be set after Elsa Liner reports on the cost. (Suggest limit of

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one bus—probably a maximum of forty members).

David White suggested to invite members of the Southern Appalachian Chapter of NARGS to attend the Charlotte-area gardens picnic. Bobby Ward will contact the Chapter chair once a date has been selected.

Gwen and Maurice Farrier will be asked again to serve as refreshments/hospitality at our chapter meetings.

The board voted to make the following donations this year:
N.C. Botanical Garden, \$500 designated to the capital building fund plus renewal of national membership in NARGS.

JC Raulston Arboretum, \$200.

Sarah P. Duke Gardens \$100 designated to the H.L. Bloomquist Native Plants Garden.

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, \$100, plus renewal of national membership in NARGS.

A list of upcoming NARGS national meetings was handed out, noting vacancies in future years. The chapter has previously hosted Winter Study Weekends in 1990 and 1999 and an annual meeting in 2004. It was suggested that if a future meeting be hosted that it be held outside the Triangle as there has been sufficient exposure of local gardens. It was also noted that some chapters co-host with another chapter. No interest was expressed in hosting any near-term meetings.

The idea of annual year-end, banquet dinners for chapter members was discussed as was held for the chapter's twentieth anniversary. No interest was expressed in holding future ones. It was suggested that, rather than annual dinners, we might hold them on five-year anniversaries.

Bobby Ward reported that the JC Raulston Arboretum applied for a small grant for its scree/rock and roof garden from the Norman Singer Foundation of NARGS. The request was rejected. Funds were approved for rock gardens in Michigan, Newfoundland, and Toronto.

Membership decline in our chapter, NARGS national, and other gardening/horticultural organizations was discussed. It was pointed out that our chapter needs more Internet presence and/or other visibility that would encourage new members. It was suggested that the board have a future brainstorming meeting focused on membership and Internet visibility and invite Chris Glenn, who currently updates our chapter's page on the NARGS national Web site.

Recorded by Bobby Ward, Chair.

Piedmont Chapter Programs 2007/2008

September 15, 2007

Tom Krenitsky, Gardener
Chapel Hill, N.C.

"A Few of My Favorite Plants"

October 13, 2007

9:30 a.m.

Hypertufa Trough-making Workshop (Raleigh)

Taught by Amelia Lane & Beth Jimenez

Registration & fee (\$40) required (contact Bob Wilder)

Limited to eight persons. All materials supplied.

October 20, 2007

2:00 p.m. NOTE SPECIAL MEETING TIME.

Stefan Bloodworth, Curator/Horticulturist,

Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, N.C.

"Fall Interest in the Native Garden"

November 17, 2007

Ellen Hornig

Seneca Hill Perennials, Oswego, N.Y.

"Notes from a Northern Garden"

January 19, 2008

Tony Avent

Plant Delights Nursery, Raleigh, N.C.

"Mow No Mo': The Wonderful World of Ornamental Grasses"

February 16, 2008

Todd Lasseigne

Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, Kernersville, N.C.

"Japanese Plantsmanship and Nurseries"

March 22, 2008

(note it's fourth Saturday)

Peter Korn

Nurseryman and Extreme Gardener

NARGS traveling speaker, Eskilsby, Sweden

Title to be announced

April 19, 2008

Tom Stuart

Gardener, Croton Falls, N.Y.

"Rock Garden Ferns"

Spring Picnic

Charlotte-area gardens by bus

Details to be announced

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Piedmont Chapter, NARGS

Please take this opportunity to renew your Chapter membership. It is very helpful to the Treasurer to receive membership renewals as soon as possible, preferably by August 1. Thanks.

Circle one:

Single Membership \$15 / Year

Household Membership \$20 / Year

You can pay dues for multiple years. Circle below the number of years paid.

One year ____ Two years ____ Three years ____

Please print clearly:

NAME #1 _____

NAME #2 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ State/Zip _____

Email _____

Are you a member of N American Rock Garden Society?

Circle one: Yes No

Membership in NARGS is: \$30/year. You may include it in your check and it will be sent to NARGS secretary.

Checks made payable to: Piedmont Chapter, NARGS

Mail to: Bobby Wilder, Treasurer

2317 Elmsford Way, Raleigh NC 27608

Phone: 919-755-0480 Email address: wilder@nc.rr.com

Chapter Annual Fall Plant Sale

Our September 15th meeting and plant sale will soon be upon us, so it's time to get your contributions divided and potted up. Good plants of all sizes, shapes and seniority are needed. We encourage you to pot up your contributions early, so they will have some time to establish, rather than waiting until the day before.

Bring plants in clean pots and label each pot; we don't have time to do it that morning. Remember to have the labels complete, accurate and legible.

We will start setting up when the Totten Center opens at 9:00 am, and will be eagerly accepting plants at any time between then and the start of the sale. The program starts at 10am with the sale beginning immediately afterwards. Remember that contributors will lead the way at the start of the sale.

For more information, contact me at 919-489-7892 (H) or by email (kirtley@ncrrbiz.com).

☞ Kirt Cox

Successful Rock Garden Picnic

The annual Piedmont Chapter potluck picnic was held On May 19 at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. As usual, good food and fellowship abounded and club members brought a large number of plants for the plant swap.

An added treat was a tour of the recently installed scree garden as well as other sections of the arboretum by scree garden curator and Piedmont Chapter member Charlie Kidder. Many of the plants in the scree garden were donated by J.C. Raulston members, and were planted by Piedmont Chapter members. The plants in the scree garden are examples of plants suitable for xeriscaping, since after establishment they received little or no irrigation and depended only on rainfall for their moisture.

For those who were unable to attend the picnic, visit the arboretum scree garden to see how well some plants can grow without constant irrigation.

☞ Dave Duch





Piedmont Chapter Meeting
September 15, 2007
10:00 a.m.

Tom Krenitsky
Chapel Hill, NC

**“A Few of
My Favorite Plants”**

The Trillium, Newsletter of the Piedmont Chapter
The North American Rock Garden Society
1422 Lake Pine Drive, Cary, NC 27511

Place
Stamp
Here

First Class Mail

Mail label

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobby Ward, Chair

Bobby Wilder, Treasurer

Marian Stephenson, Past Chair

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Kirt Cox

Dave Duch

Tom Harville

Todd Lasseigne

Marlyn Miller

David White

TRILLIUM EDITORS:

Dave Duch and Marian Stephenson

OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Sept. Plant Sale Manager: Kirtley Cox
Refreshments: Gwen and Maurice Farrier

September Meeting Election

The nominations to be brought before the membership for a vote are:


David White, Chair
Bobby Ward, Programs Chair
Patricia Scolnik, member-at-large.

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

The North American Rock Garden Seed Exchange needs to be reinvigorated, and we are the ones who can do it. How many of us have collected seeds for the exchange and simply lost them or forgot to mail them in? I certainly have! In an effort to set the new standard for chapter seed donation, we will be receiving seeds you have collected at the September and October meetings. These seeds will be mailed in a bundle to the seed exchange. We will make a tally and present our report to NARGS so that other chapters can follow in our footsteps.

Please follow these simple steps in your seed collection. Clean the seed by removing it from capsules, discarding debris and chaff. If the seed is enclosed in a fleshy fruit, remove as much moist material as possible. Most people place the seeds in paper envelopes, but glassine works just as well. If you have very small seed, please put them in folded wax paper or foil before placing them in the envelope. Then, print in clear letters: the botanical name, collection site (if wild), color, and your name on each envelope. Be sure that the seed envelope does not leak. If any seeds are unusually moist, particularly aroids and peonies, enclose them separately in plastic to prevent the moisture from ruining the rest of the seeds.

Fern spores should be packaged into individual envelopes. The spores are so small that they are impossible to repackage. Spore packets should be small enough to fit inside the glassines used for distribution, about 1" or 2 cm square.

Finally, please avoid sending seeds of noxious weeds or common garden annuals. Although this is a rock garden society, members do appreciate seeds of uncommon trees or shrubs. They especially love seeds of native woodlanders such as trillium. Happy collecting!  Walter Pharr