



# *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)

## Rock Gardens of the Czech Republic

By Elisabeth Zander

Back in the 1990s our NARGS Berkshire Chapter meeting in March was canceled due to a snowstorm. The speaker from the event had already flown into the area. The roads were passable by late morning. So our chapter chair at that time, Cliff Desch, decided to bring our speaker Zdenek Zvolánek (fondly known as “ZZ”) for lunch. And there was nothing else to do. Cliff had met ZZ early during his career while visiting Czechoslovakia (remember there was still an Iron Curtain). They reminisced while I made burritos, including vegetarian ones for ZZ. I was thrilled to hear talk of life and gardens before the fall of 1989 and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. And dreamt of someday actually going to see all those fabled places. In the meantime, as the Berkshire Chapter newsletter editor, I published the letters of Vojtěch Holubec, a researcher at the Czech Gene Bank, on his seed collecting trips to Mongolia and Turkey, to name but two. “He got around” is an understatement. (Should you not know him, you can find his seedlist and travels at <https://holubec.wbs.cz/>) Turns out the Czechs have a long, rich history of gardens and in particular rock gardening.

In 2003 when I had the opportunity to travel abroad, Praha (Prague) was on the top of my list. Vojtěch and I had become friends. He set up a tour of the fabled gardens, which I welcomed with glee. He had



just moved to a new house and constructed an amazing mountainscape in which to house his rare seedlings. He related that his neighbors were dumbstruck upon seeing a crane lifting large tufa river rock boulders into the yard. And the resulting design was stellar to my mind. It included some of the





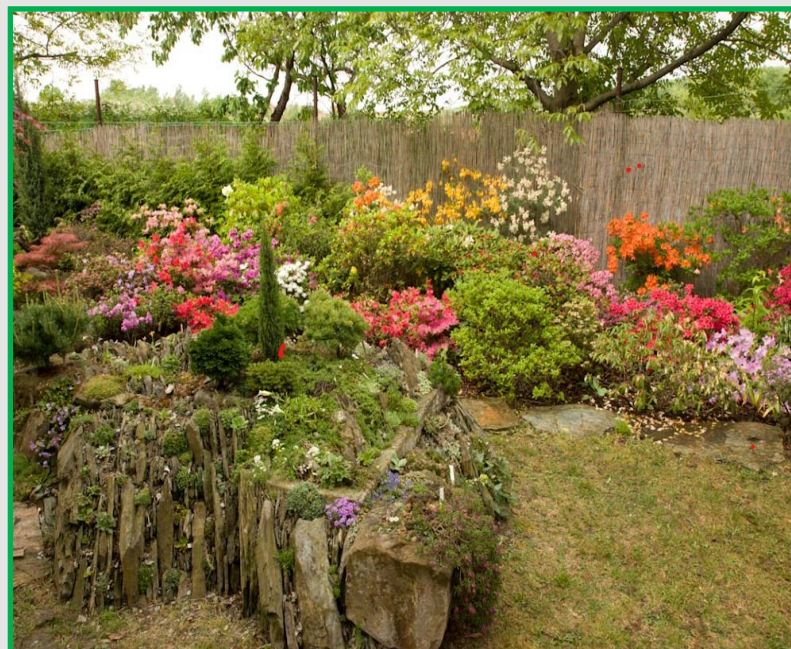
choicest plantings I have ever seen. It didn't hurt that his son grafted witches' brooms. Everything was in scale. And amazing.



And, of course, we drove down to visit Zvolánek in Karlik at his hillside quarry garden. (Joyce Carruthers, his partner, made us a delicious chicken dinner.) More ideas wrote themselves in the open pages in my mind. Seeing so many daphnes in one place gave me new confidence. And the mix of plantings was so rich; it was a jewel

box whatever way I looked. I met my first acantholimon. And I saw more and more saxifrages growing out in the open. Not only were there rare alpiners from the Chinese East and Mongolia, but I saw penstemons and zauchnerias from our American West.

ZZ also took us to the Moravian region of the Czech Republic to see cyclamen in the wild. On the way, we stopped by to see the rock garden he constructed for his brother at the "pink palace". There was a collection of large stone trough plantings that made it seem easy for anyone to grow alpiners.



We also stopped by the garden of Milan Halada. Here we found huge mats of acantholimons mixed with daphne, saxifraga and hardy gesneriads. My confidence was mounting.

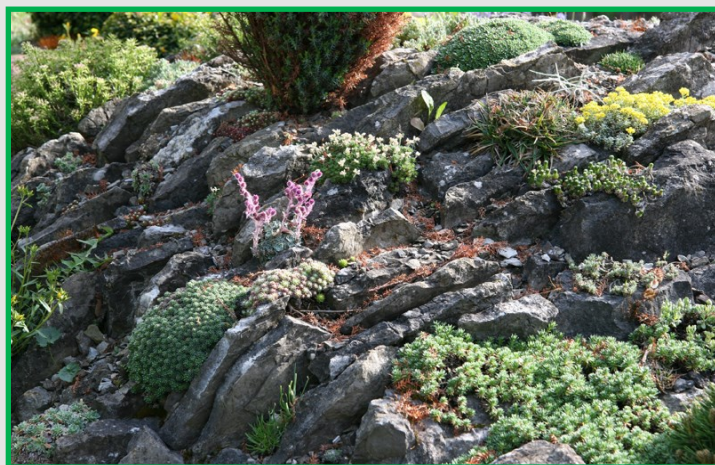
Most exciting and provoking at the same time was the "old" garden of Jirí Papoušek. My mind was burned after seeing what might be done with crevice gardens. From saxifrages to rhododendrons--everything he grew was perfect, small and in scale.

It was on this trip that I first saw *Physoplexis comosa* grown in a trough on tufa that looked





quite at home with neighbors of saxifages along with *Primula allioni* and ferns. Yes, I thought, I can do this.



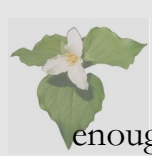
Keep in mind this was on a hot July day. In between gardens, we visited the zoo. Imagine my surprise when I saw a whole hillside of *acatholimon* in bloom. I became determined to grow it myself.

In subsequent years I visited Czechia (alternate name for Czech Republic) again and again. At the First Czech International Rock Garden Conference held in Beroun, we visited many of these gardens and more. And it was my first visit to the Skalnicky (Czech for “rock gardens”) May Plant Sale. Yes, I had my permit, got my phytosanitary, and then bare rooted many a plant for the trip home.



When we returned for Skalnicky's third conference there were yet more gardens and plants new to me. The new culture of crevice gardens seized me completely. And I shall never forget the plant sale in the stable area of the historic Pruhonice Castle filled with tables of the rarest alpiners. There were crowds around them, all mobbing the approach. But I did not reach for any of the *Stellera chamaejasme*. It was





enough just to see them propagated *en masse* for dispersal. Some day, I hoped, I might be ready to try them.

Overall the conferences left me with a growing ambition to try new plants and planting techniques. Upon my return from each trip, I put in new beds of different influences. What a gift. 🌿



### ANNOUNCEMENT

NC State has revised the mask mandate policy to fall in line with the UNC system's policy. Effective on Monday, March 7, face covering will no longer be required in most indoor locations including classrooms and other instructional settings. This includes our [McSwain] auditorium. Although face coverings will no longer be required in most campus spaces, all university community members are encouraged to continue wearing them indoors, especially in instructional settings."

Current CDC guidelines will be followed.

**Save the Date, Saturday, April 23, 2022!!**

Lasting Impressions'

**Open Garden Art & Plant Sale.**

Join us at 4904 Hermitage Dr, Raleigh,  
9am-4pm, rain or shine.

Mark your calendar, come enjoy the spring garden,  
15 local artisans, and lots of great plants!

Beth Jimenez & Amelia Lane, partners,

Lasting Impressions



President's Message:

## Rock Garden Manifesto

By Panayoti Kelaidis

“...discern /Upon the rough gray wall a rare wall fern” -- John Shade

Why on earth would rock gardening require a manifesto? Whose barricades would we want to storm, anyway? Admit it: what really appeals to all of us is the wonder of plants—rock plants especially of course—those enchanting little waifs that thrive where bold, brash perennials would fear to tread! As the poet John Shade “discerns/Upon the rough gray wall a rare wall fern” we are fascinated by the frequent partnership of rock and plant whether moss campion embracing a speckled granite boulder on Mount Evans, paintbrush bursting into scarlet flame in a crevice in Canyonlands, or *Asplenium ruta-muraria* festooning a rustic wall in the Lake District. And we strive to create habitats in our gardens where we can replicate these vignettes.

In Britain, most rock gardeners replace rock with a clay pot—and grow all manner of rock plants to a size and glory most can never attain in nature. To wander through a British rock garden show must approximate the ecstasy the devout believe they'll experience daily in Paradise for eternity (not sure I'd be able to put up with it that long and may be better suited for the other place as a consequence).

There are perhaps a dozen journals published around the world dedicated to rock gardening—and most focus on single plants, or plant genera (although you often find travelogues about trips to remote mountains to see alpine in habitat as well). The photographs contained in these journals often show plants—gorgeous plants, often rare and unobtainable plants—growing contentedly in pots or by themselves in a garden. The North American Rock Garden Society's *Quarterly* has had a few of these images as well—not to the extent of European societies, however.

If you've been lucky enough to watch any of this year's NARGS Webinars (you can always sign up to do so, by the way: they're available ongoingly on the *Quarterly* web pages) you'll notice that none of the three this year feature alpine on rocks or in pots. What's afoot?

There has been another current that has run through rock gardening from its hoary well-springs in Britain, Central Europe and before that even in China and Japan: the early practice of rock gardening was really about landscape: creating a vignette not of a few plants and a rock, but a scene you might find on the Alps or



***Asplenium trichomanes* at Radebaugh Garden**





in East Asia—some of those fantastically stacked mountains. Often as not, a stream winds through and there's a waterfall. Rock gardening as we practice it is a late born child of the Romantic Movement which glorified nature and attempted to replace the squalor of the Industrial Revolution by bringing the Alps piecemeal into burgeoning suburbs of London or Prague. A millennium or so before that, Chinese bureaucrats dreamed of capturing something wild and rugged in their cloistered gardens, while the cities and farms were obliterating all traces of wilderness over thousands of square miles of East Asia.

Theoretically, you could grow alpine in a highly formal, “modernistic” style—tuck them into crevices of otherwise rigidly rectilinear walls or rigid, mid-century modern quadrants. Dwight Ripley—one of the supreme gardeners of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—did just that at his last house on Long Island. But almost all of us try to create free-form, naturalistic constructs around our highly rectilinear built spaces. Much of the charm and fascination with our art is how we go about fitting our round garden spaces in the square holes of Civilization.

Meanwhile, humanity has replaced so much of the globe with those built spaces—farms, cities, suburban and exurban waste spaces that the Romantic “nature” of the past has become restricted to remote mountains in distant places, to rapidly shrinking prairies, woodlands and postage stamp parklands and token forgotten corners subject to development at a moment's notice. Douglas Tallamy's powerful premise is that we can transform our suburban and urban gardens back to something resembling the natural ecosystems that we've displaced.



***Castilleja integra* at APEX in Colorado**

That way the fantastic array of native insects that eschew our sterile lawns and pesticide infested gardens can return, along with the birds that depend on them. Tallamy's gained some traction, and his philosophy makes great sense in the Eastern hardwood forest—which can regenerate surprisingly quickly if homeowners can be de-programmed from bluegrass lawns.

Even in wooded areas, not everyone wants to live among towering trees. I am always struck how sparse and treeless neighborhoods often are in California or the Pacific Northwest: in cloudy and rainy climates people often yearn for sun. Likewise, those of us who live in arid or semi-arid climates may not want to have our landscape revert entirely to treeless prairie or gravelly desert pavement.

That's where rock gardening comes in. The contemporary rock gardener's home landscape is often a mosaic: most of us have portions—often large portions—dominated by native vegetation. In my case, I have a miniature patch of shortgrass prairie—not unlike what would have grown where my



garden is now. But most of us have trees—and often these are not native. We do so for shade, for their beauty in different seasons—and for rock gardeners because we love to grow the woodland plants that grow in tree shade. Lots of us have desert-like corners—sometimes under the eaves of roof overhangs on the hot sides of the house where we may grow cacti and other xerophytes. And so our gardens transform into a sort of microcosm of the temperate world. This is not altogether unnatural: nature is a master of microenvironments. I know a spot in Baca County, Colorado, where cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is massed along Tecolote Creek, a shady rock face is festooned with thousands of two foot fronds of Venus hair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris* var. *modesta*), and on the hill above a sparse rocky pasture is studded with eight-foot Walking stick chollas (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*). Not many homeowners will go that far with our microclimatic manipulation—although most of us would like to try!

May I suggest that rock gardeners are of course hobbyists who love to grow small plants in rock gardens for the sheer aesthetic joy it brings us. But rock gardening is more. Our hobby is a serious laboratory where we conduct pretty ambitious research on an enormous spectrum of wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Much of this research finds an outlet in our amazing Seed Exchange, but also as we learn to adapt wild plants to our urban settings—we are also forging landscapes that are much closer to natural processes than your clipped lawn, sheared juniper and yew foundation plantings.

I'd like to suggest our gardens in and of themselves are manifestos celebrating the science of horticultural experimentation as well as the art of garden design. And the Quarterly bulletin of NARGS and chapter newsletters are a voice for a vibrant community: These are timely bulletins and lifeline communications among gardeners who are working to create harmony between what's left of the truly wild and the ever-expanding juggernaut of Civilization.

Panayoti Kelaidis

(P.S. as I type this, this summer's NARGS Annual General Meeting ("Alpine Visions") is nearly half sold out, barely a week from the time registration opened: if you want to attend I'd sign up quick!

I have done seven presentations on plant travels for Denver Botanic Gardens you are welcome to watch for free at your convenience at this URL: <https://www.botanicgardens.org/our-impact/trips-travel>. They include my plant focused travel to China, Greece, Turkey, Georgia (Caucasus), Tibet, New Zealand and Central Asia). 🐉



Cypripedium hybrid at an English show in Kent, 2017



## Piedmont Chapter NARGS Speakers & Events Spring 2022

Saturday, March 19, 2022  
(via Zoom and 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”**

April 23, 2022  
Field Trip VOA Site  
Washington, NC

Spring PICNIC  
Saturday, May 14  
Garden of Jim and Anita Hollister

## Membership Form

### Piedmont Chapter—NARGS

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

#### Membership Options:

Circle one.

Individual: \$15

Household: \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second person name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail to : **Bobby Wilder, 2317 Elmsford Way,**

**Raleigh, NC 27608**

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

## Special Member Discount on Fabulous Bulbs!

Russell Stafford of Odyssey Perennials and Odyssey Bulbs

Is offering a discount to members!

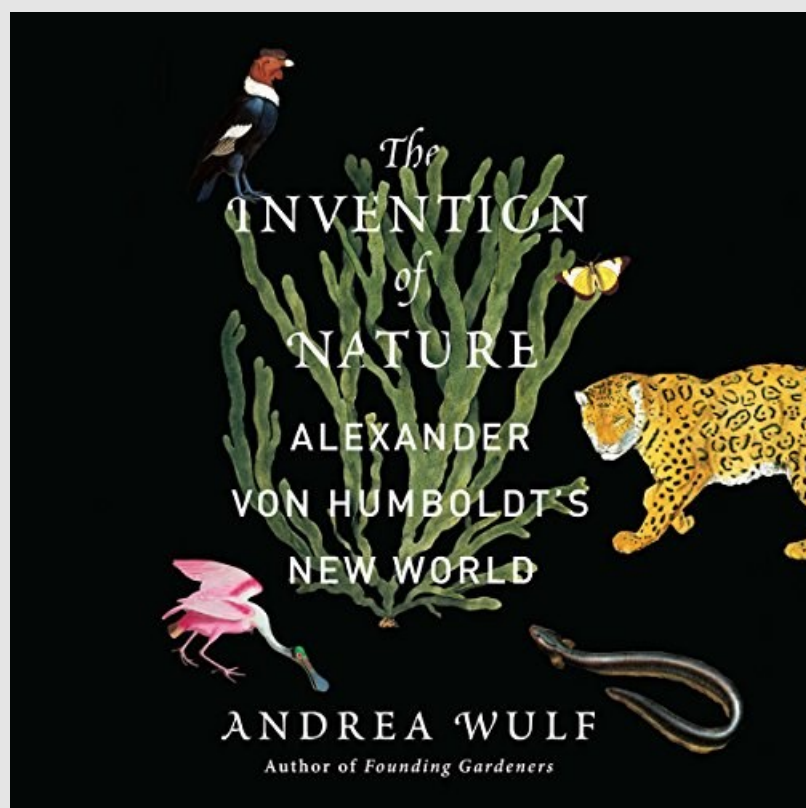
NARGS members (national or local) receive a 10 percent discount at  
Odyssey Perennials ([odysseyplants.com](http://odysseyplants.com)).

**The discount code is NARGS10.**

You'll also find the code in their ad in the next *Rock Garden Quarterly*.

Odyssey's offerings are rare and/or select, so a 10% discount is most welcome indeed.  
While this offer is open to local chapter members, please consider a membership in NARGS as well.  
To join, visit the website, [nargs.org](http://nargs.org)





I recently read a stunning book by Andrea Wulf entitled *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World*. I had previously read Ms. Wulf's excellent and also recommended books entitled *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*, and *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession*. Her works are meticulously researched and her writing lively and entertaining.

It took me a while to get to this book on Humboldt. I didn't recall hearing much about him, and the "invention of nature" is quite a claim. But once I dug in it was hard to put down. This guy was one of the most famous men in the world at the time of his death in 1859. He had a towering intellect, and was a scientist, adven-

turer, geographer, author, and naturalist. He palled around/rubbed shoulders with the likes of Johann von Goethe, Sir Joseph Banks who traveled with Captain James Cook (see *Banksia* and *Lady Banks*), Simón Bolívar, Thomas Jefferson, chemist Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac and King Frederick William III of Prussia who was his benefactor. He influenced Americans such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. Charles Darwin frequently referenced Humboldt in his *Voyage of the Beagle*. Humboldt recognized early the consequences of deforestation and man's recklessness. His vision of nature transcended himself and became part of the public conscience. He should be considered the spiritual father of today's environmentalists, ecologists, and nature writers.

Why isn't he better known today? A few reasons have been guessed at. He was the antithesis of the specialist. His interests were broad and since he saw all of nature related, he did not confine his writings to a particular discipline. Also he was greatly influenced by the romantics and wanted to make his readers feel what he felt about the wonder of nature. Finally anti-German sentiment after the World Wars probably took its toll on this Prussian. In 1869, the 100th anniversary of his birth, Humboldt's fame was so great that cities all over America held large festivals to celebrate. More species are named after Humboldt than any other human being, and dozens of places bear his name including the Humboldt Current, Humboldt Park in Chicago, Humboldt Peak in Colorado, etc.

This was a very good read, and I highly recommend it. You are welcome to borrow my dogeared copy. ♪



# *Salvia* Natural History: An Introduction

By Scott Zona

*Salvia* is a genus with something for everyone. Highly diverse in foliage, habit, and flower color, *Salvia* is garden-worthy on many levels. There are species for pollinators of all types, edible species for the herb garden, hardy shrubs and tender annuals, plants for foliage and plants for flowers – there is a *Salvia* for all occasions. That the genus is so diverse is not surprising: With over 1000 species, it is one of the ten largest plant genera in the world. Add to that number the various cultivars and hybrids and you have a protean genus with nearly limitless horticultural potential.

My own interest in *Salvia* began at my former garden in Miami when I bought a plant described in a catalogue as a “hummingbird magnet.” The plant was *Salvia miniata*, and true to the grower’s claim, it attracted the ruby-throated hummingbirds that overwinter in Miami. As my *Salvia* collection expanded, I began appreciating the diversity in the genus, quite apart from their ability to feed hungry hummingbirds. This remarkable genus piqued my curiosity, and soon, I was developing research projects to answer questions raised by these plants. My interests focused on pollination biology and systematics.

## Geography

*Salvia* is a cosmopolitan genus with species spread across the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, but some parts of the world are richer in *Salvia* species than others. Two hotspots for *Salvia* are the eastern Mediterranean/western Asia and Mexico. The poorest regions for *Salvia* are

Australia, Malesia, and the Indian subcontinent. *Salvia* never reached Polynesia or Hawaii (but was later introduced by Europeans).



***Salvia miniata*** is a tropical species that was my gateway species to this fabulous genus.




***Salvia yangii***, Russian Sage, was formerly known as *Perovskia atriplicifolia*.

Photo by F.D. Richards

## The Generic Limits of *Salvia*: The Lumpers Take the Field

The rise of DNA data has led to many changes in botanical classifications to bring about a taxonomy that recognizes natural groups, i.e., a classification that reflects our best estimate of the evolutionary history. A genus should not contain unrelated species, and likewise a genus should contain all the descendants of the most recent common ancestor. Proposed hypotheses of *Salvia* species relationships based on shared DNA have produced some startling results. The most controversial is this: several smaller genera (including two that are well known to gardeners) are embedded within the *Salvia* family tree. This means that the classification of *Salvia sensu stricto* (in the strict sense) does not include all the descendants of its most recent ancestor species. Species that should be in *Salvia* are classified in other genera. To make the classification of *Salvia* more natural, botanists have two options. They can continue to recognize segregate genera (such as *Ros-*



 *marinus* and *Perovskia*) and break up *Salvia* into several genera that are equivalent to *Rosmarinus* and *Perovskia*. This option would require hundreds of name changes. Or they could expand *Salvia* to include the small, segregate genera, a move that requires only a dozen or so name changes. Most botanists agree with the latter option, so now *Rosmarinus*, *Perovskia*, and three other small, obscure genera (*Meriandra*, *Dorystaechas*, and *Zhumeria*) are rolled into *Salvia sensu lato* (in the broad sense).

## Pollination

To appreciate the extraordinary pollination mechanism of *Salvia*, you have to tear into a flower and get at the stamens. The number of stamens in *Salvia* is two, whereas its relatives have four or five stamens. In *Salvia*, the two anther sacs that typically make up an anther are separated by a long connective. The connective pivots like a seesaw on the end of the short, stubby filament. The outermost anther sac is fertile and contains pollen. The innermost sac is usually sterile and is modified into a paddle-like structure. When an animal probes the flower for nectar, it pushes on the two paddles, causing the connectives to pivot and the fertile anthers swing down and dab pollen onto the visitor. This lever mechanism has changed in several ways in various lineages of *Salvia*, but its efficiency may have spurred a burst of evolution within the genus.

Pollination in *Salvia* is generally taken on by either birds or bees. Often, we can predict the pollinators just based on the shape and color of the flower. In the Americas, hummingbirds are pollinators extraordinaire and are closely associated with the red flowers with small lips, but in southern Africa, sunbirds (family Nectariniidae) take on the role of pollinator and have influenced the shape of flowers there. The flowers of bee-pollinated species are generally blue and have large lower lips. In the Americas, evolution has shifted back and forth between bird and bee pollination.



***Salvia uliginosa***, Bog Sage, is a typical, bee-pollinated *Salvia*.

await careful observations and measurements. A species from Texas, *S. whitehousei*, is said to have fragrant flowers (unheard of in *Salvia*!) and is possibly butterfly pollinated. At least two species have upside-down flowers: *Salvia jurisicii* has upside-down flowers on erect inflorescence

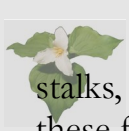
There are several noteworthy departures from hummingbirds and bees. In Southern California, *Salvia mohavensis* is pollinated by the Delhi Sands Flower-Loving Fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*), a long-tongued fly that is the only fly on the Endangered Species list in the USA. Other flies have been documented as pollinators of two “bee-pollinated” salvias in Turkey, *S. virgata* and *S. verticillata*. My own work has documented moth pollination—the first report for *Salvia*—in *S. arborescens*, a species from the Dominican Republic.

Pollination biology has been studied for only a few species. Hundreds more



***Salvia grewiaefolia*** has bird-pollinated flowers.





stalks, and *S. nutans* has right-side-up flowers on dangling inflorescences. How do pollinators work these flowers?

## Seed Dispersal

Upon maturity, the ovary of *Salvia* becomes a smooth, dry, four-lobed fruit that fragments into four, single-seeded nutlets. The nutlets of *Salvia* are small, on the order of 0.5–4.0 mm long. The nutlets function as seeds and are sometimes called “seeds” in the literature and in conversation. The fruit coats of many species release mucilage upon contact with water. I shall refer to nutlets as seeds throughout this article.

The dispersal of seeds allows plants to colonize new habitats, escape predation and competition, persist over potentially long periods, or regenerate populations following disturbances, droughts or killing frosts. It is a critical part of a plant’s lifecycle. I recently reviewed the dispersal of *Salvia* seeds and found that, despite having no visible means of dispersal, many *Salvia* species disperse for short to medium distances. I noted several dispersal mechanisms: dispersal by water (hydrochory), wind (anemochory), animals (zoochory) or simply by gravity (). Ant dispersal of the seeds (myrmecochory) is known from several desert-dwelling species, along with dispersal by the plant itself via springy pedicels. This latter method of dispersal, called ombrohydrochory, occurs when raindrops strike the calyces containing the seeds. The raindrop depresses the calyx briefly, and then, as the droplet is shed, the pedicel springs back to a neutral position, catapulting the seeds from the calyx. My own experiments using *Salvia roemeriana*, a species endemic to Texas woodlands, showed this springboard mechanism to be highly effective. Water drops (dispensed from a wash-bottle ca. 150 cm above the plants) dispersed seeds an average of 35 cm, but occasionally as much as 109 cm, from the plant.



***Salvia roemeriana*** has springy calyces that fling out the nutlets (“seeds”) when struck by raindrops.



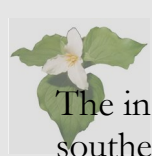
Rosemary, formerly ***Rosmarinus officinalis***, is now correctly known as ***Salvia rosmarinus***. Of course, the common name is unchanged.

The mucilaginous seeds may be a mechanism of dispersal (sticking the seeds to animals) but are more likely to have an anti-dispersal function. The mucilage sticks the seed to the soil, preventing removal by predators or subsequent rainfall.

## Human Uses

*Salvia*, being a genus of aromatic plants, has several species that have been used as fragrances or flavorings. Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) is probably the most important species in this regard, but others, such as true Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and Greek Sage (*S. fruticosa*) are valuable additions to the kitchen garden. White Sage, *S. apiana*, from western North America, has been used as an incense or “smudge” herb by Native Americans and is still harvested for this purpose.





The infamous *Salvia divinorum* is the only species known to be hallucinogenic. It is from the highlands of southern Mexico and Guatemala, where it has been semi-domesticated. It is not known from the wild. Neither *S. divinorum* nor its active constituent, Salvinorin A, has an approved medical use in the United States, and *S. divinorum* is not controlled at the federal level under the Controlled Substances Act. Some states have criminalized its possession and distribution.

Chia seeds are the nutlets of *Salvia hispanica*. The fruits release a mucilage from the fruit coat when put in contact with water. Chia mucilage is beneficial to the human gut microbiome, and the seed endosperm is rich in fats and protein. The species has been cultivated since pre-Columbian times and has enjoyed a resurgence of popularity in recent decades.

## Salvia for Gardens

*Salvia* species are most useful as ornamental plants. The annual species, *S. splendens*, has been used as a bedding plant for decades and is still a popular choice at garden centers. *Salvia farinacea* and *S. argentea* are other popular species. Our native *S. lyrata* has lavender blue flowers and will self-seed in gardens. A cultivar with wine-red leaves is available.



***Salvia koyamae*** has yellow flowers, an unusual color for the genus.

*Salvia guaranitica* is a tropical species that has tuberous roots that can resprout in spring. Semi-hardy species, such as *S. mexicana*, *S. involu-crata*, or *S. greviiifolia*, may survive outside in protected sites. These species, along with the many tropical ones, are easily rooted from cuttings and overwintered indoors until the last frost. ♪

There are many hardy species and cultivars available based on *S. microphylla* and *S. gregii*. These are small, woody shrubs with bright red, pink or white flowers that attract hummingbirds. *Salvia koyamae* from Japan is a low-growing, herbaceous perennial that spreads by rhizomes and has showy yellow flowers.



***Salvia argentea*** is a biennial species that is most appreciated for its foliage.



***Salvia nemorosa* 'Spring King Mini'** is an ornamental herbaceous perennial.





## New Member Profile: Jeremy Schmidt

*Why did you join this chapter?*

I joined because Cyndy threatened bodily harm if I continued to delay...Bobby Ward may have, too.

*What is your favorite plant?*

It is unfair to ask me what my favorite plant is...how could I ever possibly choose just one?

*Would you be willing to open your garden sometime?*

Many Piedmont members experienced the Bristol Briar last fall, and I hope the local chapter can enjoy it again soon!

*What do you hope to learn as a member in the chapter?*

I want to learn/teach everything y'all I know about rock gardening

*What is your biggest challenge to overcome in gardening?*

My main gardening challenge currently is lack of degree days and day hours.

We welcome you to the chapter.



## Invitation to Open Your Garden for Members to Visit

Our Chapter would like to start a tradition of casual visits to members' gardens beginning this spring. These would be visits at your convenience when you think there is something in your garden that you would like to share – the peak time for your garden, or some particular plant or feature – rather than more formal visits that you've prepared for long in advance.

These visits can be scheduled in advance or on short notice so long as there is adequate time to notify members by email, and ideally in *The Trillium* as well, and pass along any description of your garden, parking instructions, or photos you would like to provide. This would take at least a week. Several visits have already been scheduled and you will find information about them elsewhere in this issue of *The Trillium*. Elsa Liner and Amelia Lane

## First Open Garden Visits This Year!!

We are happy to announce that two members have been willing to open their gardens to members of the Piedmont Chapter!

It is a great opportunity to enjoy a casual visit in the gardens with other interested gardeners.

Suzanne Edney and Sandy Horn have offered to their gardens for April dates.

See following pages for details.





**Sandy Horn's Garden**  
**210 Dry Ave., Cary 27511**  
**April 16, Noon until 5:30**

Parking on street; take whatever pictures you like.

I've been gardening in Cary for about 15 years, and I'm still a "trial and error" gardener. What you will see are the plants that have succeeded, either because of or despite my efforts. The front yard is sunny, and that's where you'll see the rock gardens I've installed, over the years.

I have a little under half an acre, and I've learned that I need to stick to dwarf and miniature trees, when I add to the landscape. The backbone of my collection is conifers, of which I have hundreds, and Japanese maples, of which I have about 80 cultivars, but as space for trees (even little ones) becomes more and more limited, I'm becoming increasingly fascinated by perennials. Since I have everything from full sun to full shade, I have a lot of fun with that new obsession.

Mid-April is probably my favorite for enjoying the beauty all these brave plants have to offer. The maples should be leafed out and showing their brilliant spring colors, and you may be surprised at the beautiful coloration of the conifers, this time of year. Some of the shade perennials will be blooming, too. Almost every plant in the collection is labeled.

While I might not be the most attentive gardener, I hope you will enjoy the plants as much as I do.

**Suzanne Edney's Garden: OLDERWOOD**  
**1004 Kelly Road, Apex 919-302-4761**  
**Sunday, April 24, 10am-4pm**

Olderwood is named for a family name and for NC Piedmont native trees such as Loblolly Pine, Tulip Poplar, Sassafras, and Sweetgum that are 100+ years of age.

There are 2+ acres of gardens along the mostly green woodland rambles including moss paths and garden, a Fern Walk, a Slovenian Style woodland edge above a stacked stone wall, A newish HUGLEKULTURE garden and whimsical surprise destinations.

Suzanne has populated the understory for 30 years in a style dubbed as "cottage." Plants mingle in ebbs and flows on a gentle western slope 300' long. Now a private garden (Olderwood began as a trial garden) it is rich with ideas for sustainability, easy design elements and plants from all over the world living in harmony with many native species.

There is limited parking, so people should carpool to Suzanne's garden if possible

**Directions to Suzanne's Home**

From Route 64 take the Kelly Road exit head north away from Beaver Creek Commons shopping center go approximately 1/4 mile My mailbox will be on the left: 1004 Kelly Road.

Coming that way it will be advisable to turn your blinker on when you see Lake Marsha court on the left because you will be going into a left blind curve where my mailbox is. I am the last mailbox on the left before Jenks Road.

Coming from Jenks Road: cross over Jenks from green level Church Road to Kelly Road I am the first driveway on the right.

LEAVING MY DRIVEWAY: Do not get out into the road until there is no movement of cars from the left especially as they tend to speed up to 45 miles an hour by the time they are at the end of my drive-



## Book Sales Offered

NARGS has arranged for its chapters to buy newly published titles from Filbert Press, a leading UK horticultural publisher, at discounted prices. *A Field Guide to The Plants of Armenia* is the first title offered.

JUST Published January 2022!

*A Field Guide to the Plants of Armenia*

Tamar Galstyan

paperback/ 592 pages/ 6 x 9", full color photos

Filbert Press (UK publisher)

<https://www.ipgbook.com/a-field-guide-to-the-plants-of-armenia-products-9781999734589.php>

NARGS Chapter Price: \$30 (regularly \$55) 46% OFF!

Minimum order per chapter: 4 copies

Allow 2 months for shipping

Please submit orders by April 1, 2022.

### HOW THIS WILL WORK:

Each chapter designates one person to manage book orders. He/she is responsible for gathering orders and monies; placing the order through NARGS website per the instructions on the following page; receiving the chapter book order and distributing books to members. Cyndy Cromwell is the contact person for the Piedmont Chapter.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MAY NOT ORDER SINGLE COPIES DIRECTLY FROM THE NARGS BOOK STORE.

NARGS is only able to offer the discounts by meeting a minimum order per chapter and combining orders. Going forward, minimum orders and discounts will be determined by title and may vary.

After paying via the website, Bobby Ward emails Dave Collura (NARGS bookstore manager) that you have placed an order and paid. Dave arranges for the books to be shipped (via Filbert's US distributor) to your chapter book manager. Shipping time for Plants of Armenia will take up to two months as book are coming from the UK and the book was just published.

There are several more books "in the pipeline" (depending on how well this pilot program devolves). A discounted, pre-publication offer for Crevice Gardens by Paul Spriggs and Kenton Seth, to be published in the US in August 2022 <https://www.ipgbook.com/the-crevice-garden-products-9781739903909.php> will go out to chapters this spring for summer delivery of the book. A pre-pub offer will mean you won't have to wait as long for books to arrive!

## Sandra Ladendorf Obituary

By Bobby Ward

I have learned that Sandra Ladendorf died in 2019. She was a co-founding member of the Piedmont Chapter of NARGS in 1985 with Edith Boyer and Nancy Goodwin. She and Nancy had been urged to organize a Piedmont Chapter by Norman Singer, who at the time was secretary of the American Rock Garden Society (as the society was then named). Sandra served as Piedmont's first chapter chair and then served on the national board of the ARGS as board member, vice president, and then president, the latter from 1990 - 1992. She organized the successful ARGS Eastern Winter Study Weekend, hosted by the Piedmont Chapter in January 1990.

Sandra wrote a book, published by UNC Press (1989), titled "*Successful Southern Gardening*," and she wrote a Saturday garden column for several years for the Raleigh News & Observer, often in the same issue with Tony Avent's columns.

I learned of Sandra's death from her daughter, Dianne, who had asked me a few years ago to send all NARGS correspondence to her mother at the daughter's address in Littleton, Colorado. Sandra died in Salinas, California, where she and her late husband Ray had owned a home for many years, after moving from Chapel Hill.





## NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting Saturday, March 19, 2022

**In-person meeting, but the speaker, in Connecticut, will be zoomed to the JCRA meeting room for attendees and members .**

**(Saturday, March 19, 2022  
(via Zoom and in person)**

**Elisabeth Zander**  
Goshen, Connecticut

**“The Spectacular Gardens of the  
Czech Republic”**

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To get in touch with questions and comments about our chapter or the newsletter, please email us at [piedchapter@gmail.com](mailto:piedchapter@gmail.com)

## Message from the Chair

Cyndy Cromwell

This spring promises to be a busy one! More and more folks are attending meetings in person, while some still prefer to participate via Zoom. It's wonderful to be able to offer both options, and I'm so grateful to JCRA's Chris Glenn, who makes it happen!

The March and April meetings feature fascinating talks by NARGS past President Elisabeth Zander, on Czech Republic gardens, and our own Scott Zona, on *Salvia: A Natural History*.

Spring is a wonderful time to see friends' gardens! Amelia Lane and Elsa Liner have set up some lovely member garden visits, so check out the details in this issue of *The Trillium*.

A botanizing trip to eastern North Carolina is scheduled for Saturday, April 23. We'll be led by Clay Carter of Washington, NC, as well as JLBG's Zac Hill and JCRA's Tim Alderton. Please plan to carpool - look for details and directions in your email soon.

April winds up with our big plant sale at Raulston Blooms on Saturday, April 30. We really appreciate Plant Sale Chair Jim Hollister, who is organizing all the details. Jim will be reaching out soon with opportunities to help. If you are thinking of donating plants, the time is **now** for digging and dividing those babies that have outgrown their spaces in your garden. It has been three years since we've been able to participate in this fun event and it will be great to be back! I hope you'll be able to share plants, help with setting up, manning our booth, or cleaning up after. Attending Raulston Blooms and checking out the cool plants donated by chapter members is also most appreciated!

The May picnic this year is at the garden of Jim and Anita Hollister. Their property in Apex features choice woodies and perennials, lovely hardscaping and rock gardens installed by our own Jeremy Schmidt.

**You'll want to save the date -  
Saturday, May 14, rain date, May 21. ☞**