



The Trillium

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

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

Botanizing in the Adirondacks and in North Carolina

By David White

This past spring, I agreed to make a presentation at our chapter's January meeting about the NARGS tour to the Adirondacks this past June. This tour immediately preceded the NARGS Annual General Meeting in Ithaca, NY. The tour visited three very different areas: the Chaumont Barrens near the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, Whiteface Mountain in Adirondacks State Park, and two bogs in the central part of the state. The botanic diversity of these three areas made for a great tour.

However, rather than writing about this tour in *The Trillium*, I'd like to tell you about two wonderful botanizing trips I took with my wife in North Carolina this past May. The first trip was to Great Smoky Mountains National Park during the North Carolina Native Plant Society's (NCNPS) annual 'spring fling' the first weekend in May. The second trip was in late May and visited the Kitty Hawk Woods Reserve located on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

The NCNPS 'spring fling' is an annual event that goes to different areas in the NC mountains each spring. This year's event included a several full-day hikes on Saturday and half-day hikes on Sunday.



Showy Orchis

Each of the hikes was led by a botanist who has exceptional knowledge of the flora in the area. The Saturday hike that I went on was led by Gary Kauffman, Botanist with the U.S. Forest Service office in Asheville. The hike followed the Bradley Trail, starting at Smokemont Campground (elevation 2,200 ft asl), and found an amazing diversity of woodland plants, including Showy Orchis (*Phacelia fimbriata*), Yellow Fairybells (*Prosartes lanuginosa*), and Shining Firmoss (*Huperzia lucidula*).



Yellow Fairybells

However, the highlight of the trip was a short 'hike' into a rich cove that was within 50 yards of U.S. Highway 441 a few miles south of the Tennessee-North Carolina border.



Shining Firmoss

The primary plant in the cove was a carpet of Fringed Phacelia (*Phacelia fimbriata*) – a white-flowered annual. All but one of the other plants in the cove were white flowered, including White Baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda*), May Lily (*Maianthemum bifolium*), Dwarf Ginseng (*Panax trifolium*), Star Chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*), and many others. The one exception was a single flower of the red-petaled Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum* var. *erectum*) growing near a number of white-petaled Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum* var. *album*). The plant's common name refers to the dark red color of the plant's ovaries, not to the color of the flower petals.



Fringed Phacelia

the town of Kitty Hawk and adjoins Albemarle Sound. The reserve totals 1,890 acres and is managed by the Coastal Management Division of the NC Department of Environmental Quality. Of this total, 461 acres are in a conservation easement owned by the town of Kitty Hawk. This area consists of relict sand dunes forming a series of ridges and swales that are covered by deciduous and evergreen forest. Among the plants we found in bloom during our visit were:

- Redring Milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*), which is supposedly common in the southeastern U.S. but that I had never previously seen,
- The best-looking specimens of Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculata*) that I have ever seen, and
- Grass-leaved Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes praecox*), one of the less common ground orchids found in North Carolina in the coastal plain.



Red Trillium

In closing, if you aren't a skilled botanist, I encourage you to upload Seek by iNaturalist to your cell phone. It makes botanizing in unfamiliar areas lots of fun! Hopefully, my presentation on my June tour of the Adirondacks will also be fun. ☞



NARGS trip to Switzerland June, 2022

by Richard and Amelia Lane

On June 18, 2022, after eight hours in the air Richard and I arrived in Zurich, Switzerland and the beginning of our NARGS botanizing trip to the Swiss Alps. We worked our way through immigration

and customs, then headed to the hotel for a short nap. Then off we go for a three-hour tour of old Zurich in 95 degree sunshine! It was a tough way to start our NARGS trip, but it made the train ride to Wengen, a car free village in the Swiss alps, and cooler temperatures, a joy! We would spend the entirety of our trip based in Wengen, going on hikes in the surrounding mountains and valleys.

We checked into the Hotel Bellevue and from our balcony was this spectacular view of the snowcapped mountains. It was hard to abandon our balcony and the view, but we ended the afternoon with a walk in the hills above

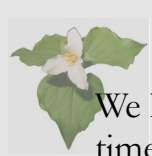


Wengen, enjoying the lovely meadows and beautiful views.

Julia Corden, from Brightwater Travels in England, was our principal guide, with Todd Boland from Newfoundland, as the assistant guide. The plan was to travel each day by train and/or cable car to a different valley or environment to seek out and observe the plants. The transportation system in Switzerland is excellent and punctual, giving us easy access to the numerous locations we planned



to hike. Sunday started our daily five-mile hikes. Each consisted of meadows full of flowers, trails through the edge of woods looking for flowers in their woodland home, and spectacular views of the surrounding views. We purchased our lunch at a local bakery on our way to the train in the morning and ate on the trail amongst the flowers and mountain views.



We hiked on well marked trails, stopping MANY times to see and photograph plants. We hiked through farms with cows playing their “bell” symphonies. You could even buy cheese from refrigerated tiny huts along the way. The scenery along each hike was filled with waterfalls, wooded forests, boulder strewn open areas, gentle fields, and the most amazing meadows filled with red, yellow, vivid blue, orange, purple, pink and white flowers. And then there were the rock crevices filled with tiny plant jewels. There were natural rock and crevice gardens everywhere we hiked.! So many ideas to bring home and try in our own gardens!

Julia had given us a list of approximately 260 plants that we should see. Each evening we went over the list, checking off the ones we had seen that day and comparing notes on what we saw.



The variety of plants, the multiple colors we saw in the meadows, and the lushness of the meadows was astounding! Better than any picture could convey!

We traveled with friends from our own Piedmont chapter, friends met on previous trips, and made new friends. We highly recommend the NARGS trips to everyone, plant nerd or not, for the opportunity to visit another country, meet the people, and share your love of nature. ✨

Welcome New Piedmont Chapter Member: Betty Spar,

a long time and very active member of NARGS!!



Actually, this is my fifth NARGS chapter. I do move around. I've been a member of the Hudson Valley, Manhattan, Potomac Valley, Santa Fe and now the Piedmont Chapter; all my close NARGS friends belong to Piedmont. I have served NARGS in many ways: president, vice president, at-large board member, nominating chair, book review start-up, and AGM procurer. Actually after five AGM chapter persuasions, Nova Scotia will be my swan song.

I have been privileged to serve with some of the best rock gardeners going back to 1989 in the TH Everett Rock Garden at NYBG. Trained by Bob Bartolomei, I love propagation the best. I would say it gives me the most joy. My favorite herbaceous plant is the papaver, in fact the whole family. I am also in awe of the *Eritrichium nanum*, and I still remember seeing it in situ both in the rockies and the dolomites. Yet, to me a field of *Galanthus elwesii* alive in the desert.



I now live in the Sonoran desert environment, zone 9b. After six years I continue to push the horticultural envelope growing plants from zones 7 on to 11. We won't discuss my failures. But I never give up. 'Little Gem' and my white lilac are hanging on. I've learned to love cactus in its many architectural forms and the floral display is smashing. It is HOT here. I am continually challenged by the angle of the sun as well as the ambient heat. Just about all of my plants have accompanying nurse plants or rocks beside them. Frank Cabot once told me that gardening is a process; it never ends. It is forever. Hope to see you in Truro next June. ❧

New Member: Jay Yourch



New members are invited to tell us a bit about themselves, and encouraged to respond to questions that may help introduce them to us. Here are Jay's responses.

Why did you join the Piedmont Chapter? I don't have a rock garden and probably never will, so I resisted joining for a long time, but I wanted to support a local group that brings in such great speakers.

What is a favorite plant and why? Favorite plant: American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) for its year round grandeur.

Do you have a woody or herbaceous plant preference? Woody plants are my passion.

Something people would be interested to know about you or your garden. I'm working on a mountains-to-sea arboretum along



a creek that flows through our backyard. I've bred *crinum*s and *zephyranthes*.

What would you like to learn about rock gardening? See first answer!

Do you have a gardening challenge? Many challenges: shade, deer, rabbits, voles, and tree root competition

Thank you for joining our chapter and taking the time to tell us about your garden interests. 🌿

New Member. Logan Clark

Logan's response to Amelia Lane's request for information:

Thank you for getting me set up with everything. I'll answer the questions that seem most pertinent. I'm very new to rock gardening, but I am very excited to learn more. I did a lot of research on rock outcrops in the Appalachians during my graduate studies and would love to make my own bed to mimic that community one day.

My favorite plant: This is a loaded question and one I can't easily answer, but if I had to say it'd be the genus *Liatris*. I wrote my thesis on *L. helleri* and have had a soft spot for the genus ever since.

Plant Preference: I prefer herbaceous by far.

About me/garden: I've rented all of my adult life and had to thin my potted plant collection out during a move so I don't have a garden proper unfortunately. I get my fill mostly from work at JLBG and a few *Sarracenia* I keep. Outside of plants I have a deep interest in music. I've played multiple instruments since I was 10 and continue to do so in my free time.

What I'd like to learn about rock gardening: How to design them to utilize different aspects & moisture regimes to allow for the most plant diversity in ways that are best suited for our ecoregion. 🌿



*October 22nd, Open Garden at Bristol Briar, Raleigh
home of Jeremy Schmidt & Meghan Fidler*



Photo by Jim Putnam



Photo by Bobby Ward



Photo by Bobby Ward



Photo by Bobby Ward



November 19th visit to Montrose, Nancy Goodwin's home in Hillsborough, when snowdrops were in full bloom.

What a lovely afternoon we had at Montrose! I felt so lucky to tour the stunning snowdrop display and to spend a little time with its legendary creator. Nancy commented that we had come at the peak time this year - blooms were fully open and the afternoon light was wonderful. Cyndy invited all who attended to share photos of the splendid display.

Cyndy Cromwell



Photo by Cyndy Cromwell

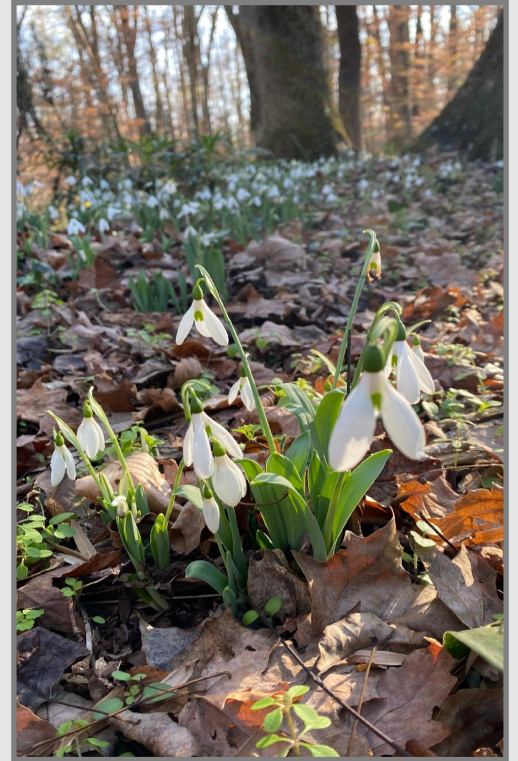


Photo by Gail Beasley



Photo Bobby Ward

Nancy Goodwin digging snowdrops for Bobby Ward in 2008



Photo by Gail Posey



Photo by Cyndy Cromwell

Snowdrops at Montrose

By Bobby J. Ward

For 45 years, Nancy Goodwin has gardened in Hillsborough, North Carolina, at Montrose, where keen gardeners come to see the woodlands, a tropical garden, hellebore slope, dianthus walk, *Metasequoia* garden of cyclamen, several constantly evolving four-seasons gardens, and much more. The pride of late autumn at Montrose is an ever-expanding woodland with drifts of snowdrops. The pendulous white flowers are a beguiling sight as scores of thousands spread along winding paths in late November, which Nancy says “marks the change from fall to winter” for her. The carpets of flowers in the aptly named Snowdrop Woods are the result from years of Nancy and Montrose’s staff patiently dividing plants and replanting them five or six inches apart.

Some 30 members of the Piedmont Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society had a privileged, private tour of the snowdrop woodlands on a recent Saturday afternoon in November.

At Montrose, the must-see autumn snowdrops are botanically *Galanthus elwesii* var. *monostictus* (formerly *G. caucasicus*, a now obsolete name), a variety Nancy acquired years ago from a local farm feed and seed store. This snowdrop is native to southern Turkey and has broad, glaucous (blue-gray) leaves. Testing the bulbs around different parts of the garden and mindful of the conventional wisdom that snowdrops will not grow and regularly return in the South, Nancy discovered they grew best in deciduous woods with good clay-loam soil and where there is adequate moisture and late autumn and winter sun while the plants are in growth. So vast is the Montrose woodland collection of var. *monostictus* it is considered the largest cultivated collection in the world.

What are snowdrops?

There are about 20 recognized species of snowdrops in the amaryllis plant family, consisting of a bewildering hundreds of named cultivars, many having been derived from chance seedlings or by natural hybridization, particularly where mixed species grow together. The geographical distribution of snowdrops ranges from the Pyrenees to western Europe south to Sicily, to the Caucasus Mountains of Iran, and to the Caspian Sea. Most species are found in deciduous woodlands where there is adequate moisture during the snowdrop’s growing season.

Snowdrops first appeared by name in the 1633 edition of Englishman John Gerard’s “Great Herbal or General History of Plants,” which notes that they “are maintained and cherished in gardens for the beauty and rareness of flowers and sweetness of their smell.” The name “snowdrop” refers to the similarity of the flower to white, tear-shaped pendant earrings, which were illustrated widely in sixteenth and seventeenth century Dutch and Italian paintings. Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist and taxonomist applied the botanical name for the plant, *Galanthus*, deriving it from the Greek *gala*, for milk, and *anthos*, for flower, thus giving it the rather poetic translation as “milk flower.” Snowdrop aficionados are called galanthophiles and because of their near manic devotion, they cringe at those with an untrained eye who say, “But all snowdrops look the same.”

Other Montrose snowdrops

In the Carolina piedmont at Montrose, the first fall-blooming snowdrops are *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, whose specific epithet honors Queen Olga of Greece, where the species was first discovered. Queen Olga was the grandmother of the late Prince Philip of Great Britain. Its elegant flowers with flared,



pointed petals appear in September or October before long, narrow leaves fully emerge, the flowers displaying a rather naked appearance. The flowers pop up when other autumn bulbs, such as cyclamen, crocus, and sternbergia, come into flower as the daylight hours shorten and the nights become cooler.

Another early blooming snowdrop is *Galanthus peshmenii* and like *G. reginae-olgae* also blooms before its leaves emerge. It was only officially described in 1994 and had been earlier believed to be a form of *G. reginae-olgae*.

By early December, after a few nights of light frost, most deciduous trees leaves have fallen, providing more sunlight in the garden. Then *Galanthus plicatus* 'Three Ships', a rare form discovered in a garden in the United Kingdom in the 1980s, makes its appearance. The name, heralding the impending cold nights of the holiday season and the longest nights of the year, comes from the traditional Christmas carol "I Saw Three Ships (Come Sailing In)." It is a short, stubby snowdrop, perhaps four inches tall, and because of its scant height, heavy rains can spatter grit, muddying the petals of the large, beautiful round flowers.

Galanthus gracilis is easily recognized because its narrow leaves are twisted giving a somewhat corkscrew appearance. It blooms in mid-to-late winter and grows in a variety of habitats. Probably the snowdrop that is most familiar to Piedmont gardeners is *G. nivalis*. It is the species that is easily available at local garden centers in the fall and is the most widely cultivated snowdrop in the world because it has the largest natural distribution. It typically ends the snowdrop blooming season by late March.



***Galanthus plicatus* 'Three Ships'**

Moving and Dividing Snowdrops

There are two methods for moving snowdrops. Nancy Goodwin's foolproof method has been to dig an entire clump of snowdrops while in growth, being certain to include the long roots, put them in water so the roots will not dry out, and replant immediately into a separate hole. She advises that if you are giving them to friends, wrap the clump of bulbs and dirt in a damp paper towel. "Just don't let the roots dry out," she warns, "and do not damage the roots." Nancy has given me *monstictus* in bloom and I have found they continue to bloom as if they have never been disturbed. But they must be thoroughly watered after planting.

John Grimshaw, of the United Kingdom, co-author of "Snowdrops: a Monograph of Cultivated *Galanthus*," gets good results by moving snowdrops when the bulbs are dormant. "But the critical thing is not to desiccate the bulb—it should be dormant, not dry." Alternatively, move the clump as it dies down and when the bulb is fully fattened-up. He agrees that moving them in the green, as Nancy does, "is fine, if serious care and attention is paid afterwards, but is deleterious if not."

Here in the South, most snowdrop are available in late summer and autumn, frequently when the bulbs are dry, and the result is that gardeners find little success. However, if you can get bulbs earlier



just as they are going dormant, your likelihood of regrowth is considerably improved. Also, if bulbs can be obtained that have been carefully dug and stored and not allowed to dry, the success also will be greater.

Conservation

The largest selection of snowdrops is in the United Kingdom, where there are snowdrop viewings, parties, and open gardens to celebrate their blooming. Regrettably many of them are unavailable to U. S. gardeners because over-collecting has severely depleted natural populations, thereby resulting in international trade restrictions. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) lists snowdrops as a “vulnerable” species, requiring permits for exporting and importing. ❧



A New Snowdrop: ‘Elizabeth Lawrence’

by Bobby J. Ward

A new cultivar of snowdrop, *Galanthus*, honors the U.S. southern garden writer, Elizabeth Lawrence, who lived in Raleigh and Charlotte. The snowdrop is *Galanthus reginae-olgae* ‘Elizabeth Lawrence’.



Photo by Timothy Calkins

***Galanthus reginae-olgae* ‘Elizabeth Lawrence’**

The naming has been published by Timothy (Tim) Calkins of Reston, Virginia, in the November 2022 issue of the on-line electronic publication ‘International Rock Gardener,’ issue no. 155. The journal is published by the Scottish Rock Garden Club and edited by Margaret and Ian Young of Aberdeen, Scotland; and Zdeněk Zvolonek of Dobrichovice, Czech Republic. A link to the complete article as well as all back issues to 2010 of the IRG can be found here: www.srgc.net. The journal is free; no log in required and the journal can be downloaded.

According to Calkins, *Galanthus* ‘Elizabeth Lawrence’ blooms in the fall just as do most *G. reginae-olgae*. It has a green tip on the petals and is extremely vigorous grower, easily producing off-sets. The original seeds were collected by Tom Mitchell in the Taygetos Mountains of Greece, and the seeds were grown by John Lonsdale of Pennsylvania; John was a recent speaker at our

Piedmont Chapter. Tim Calkins purchased from Lonsdale a pot of the snowdrop from the Mitchell collection in the spring of 2019, and it bloomed in the fall of 2019, 2020, and 2021—increasing in number of flowers and bulb offsets. By September 2022, Tim has 70 bulbs and a total of 20 flowers from the single plant purchased from Lonsdale.

Because of its petal markings and its great vigor, Calkins proposed to Lonsdale to give it a cultivar name, suggesting 'Elizabeth Lawrence' to honor her and the contributions she made to southern garden writing in several books and newspaper columns, the latter for *The Charlotte Observer*.

Tim Calkins proposed the name 'Elizabeth Lawrence' because he had been influenced by Lawrence's writings, particularly in *The Little Bulbs*, *Gardens in Winter*, and *A Southern Garden*. "For all the joy her writing has brought me, I am grateful for the chance to pay tribute, in a small way, to her inspiration," Tim wrote in the article naming the snowdrop. ❧

**Look for the book signing
at the meeting. Come
early to get yours.**

Membership Form **Piedmont Chapter—NARGS**

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

Membership Options: Individual: \$15
Circle one. Household: \$20

Name: _____

Second person name: _____

Street _____

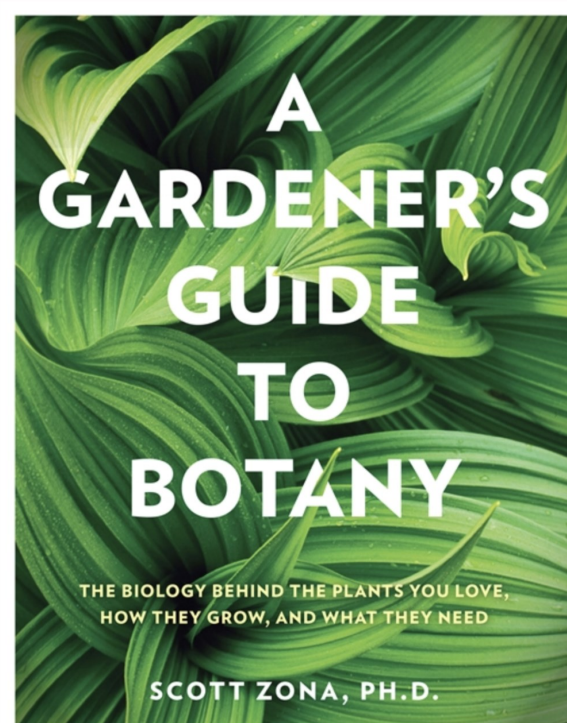
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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

Mail to : **David White, 3 Ontario Court, Durham, NC 27713**

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



NARGS Webinars

January 14, 2023

Small Woodies (Ericaceous plants, conifers, and more)

February 25, 2023

What's New in Rock Gardening
(Build a crevice garden in a container, propagation techniques, and more)



Fern Table Workshop

Saturday, March 11, 1-3 pm
5304 Deep Valley Run, Raleigh

Come have fun constructing your own fern table with Cyndy Cromwell and Amelia Lane! If you're not sure what a fern table is, please check out Richie Steffen's YouTube video to see how he put together a fantastic fern table for the Elizabeth C. Miller Garden.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeVBjB33Ec8&t=2s&ab_channel=HardyFernFoundation

Participants will be using plants and natural materials to create a charming year-round display, perfect for a shady garden, balcony or deck.

We will provide the base of doubled-up flats, a moisture retentive soil mix and a few ferns and other plants, mosses, cones and lichens.



In place of flats, participants may opt to bring their own sturdy board, tray, or other base. Do keep in mind the ultimate weight of your project when finished. Plants and damp soil can be very heavy, and you will need to get your project home!



Participants should also gather a selection of small ferns, plants, mosses, stones, cones, logs and lichens. It is fine to dig starts from your own or a friend's garden - they should fill in quickly as we move into spring. You may want to purchase one or two high impact ferns as a focal point. Companion plants could be peacock mosses, small scale creeping plants (sedums, eg), native gingers, tiny hostas, Labrador violets and mini daffodils.

Participants are limited to 8. To register, please email Cyndy Cromwell, [cyndycrom/ at/ gmail /dot/ com](mailto:cyndycrom@gmail.com). Cost is \$5 to cover provided materials, payable the day of the workshop. 🌿



Piedmont NARGS Speakers

Spring 2023

January 21, 2023

(mini talks—15 minutes each)

David White: Adirondacks NARGS Pre-Conference Tour

Tim Alderton: Voice of America Field Trip

Amelia Lane: NARGS Swiss Trip

Scott Zona: “A Gardener’s Guide to Botany”
And book signing by Scott

February 11, 2023

Hsuan Chen

NCSU Horticultural Science

Raleigh, N.C.

Topic: “What’s the Fun about Plant Tissue Culture?”

Saturday, March 11, 2023 1-3 pm

Amelia Lane and Cyndy Cromwell

Fern Table Workshop—see information page 10

March 18, 2023

Todd Boland

Memorial Univ. of NF Bot. Garden

NARGS Traveling Speaker

St. John’s, Newfoundland
Topic: “Spring Alpines of the Spanish Argonian Pyrenees”

March or April

Date to be determined

Spring Botanizing Trip to White Pines

Nature Preserve, Chatham County, N.C.

Details to be announced

April 15, 2023

Jay Sifford

Landscape Designer

Davidson, N.C.

Topic: “Making Garden Magic: Designing Gardening Spaces”

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Spring Picnic

Rain date May 7

Kyle and Mary Sonnenberg garden

“Sunny Mount”

Southern Pines, N.C.

Details to be announced

Our January Speakers

Four members of the Piedmont Chapter of NARGS will give brief talks at the January 21, 2023, meeting.

David White will talk about the NARGS-sponsored spring wildflower trip to the Adirondack Mountains of New York, prior to the annual meeting in Ithaca.

Tim Alderton will describe the field trip and some of the native plants our members saw at one of the old Voice of America sites near Washington, N.C.

Amelia Lane will describe the NARGS-sponsored spring wildflower trip to the Bernese Oberland region of the Swiss Alps.

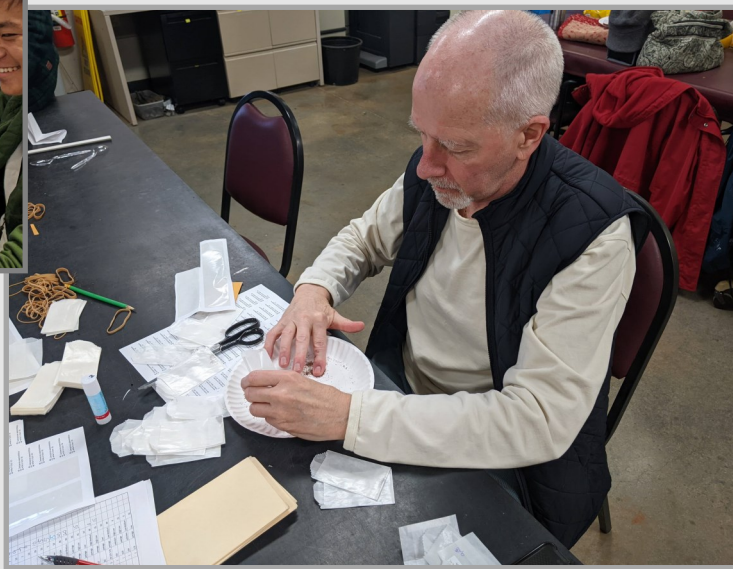
And Scott Zona will describe his new book, “A Gardener’s Guide to Botany: the Biology Behind the Plants You Love, How They Grow, and What They Need.” Copies of Scott’s book will be available for sale and signing. ♪

December 2022 SeedEx Seed Packing Done in Two Days!



Sandy Harwood, Mark Weathington, Nancy Doubrava, Jerry Yu

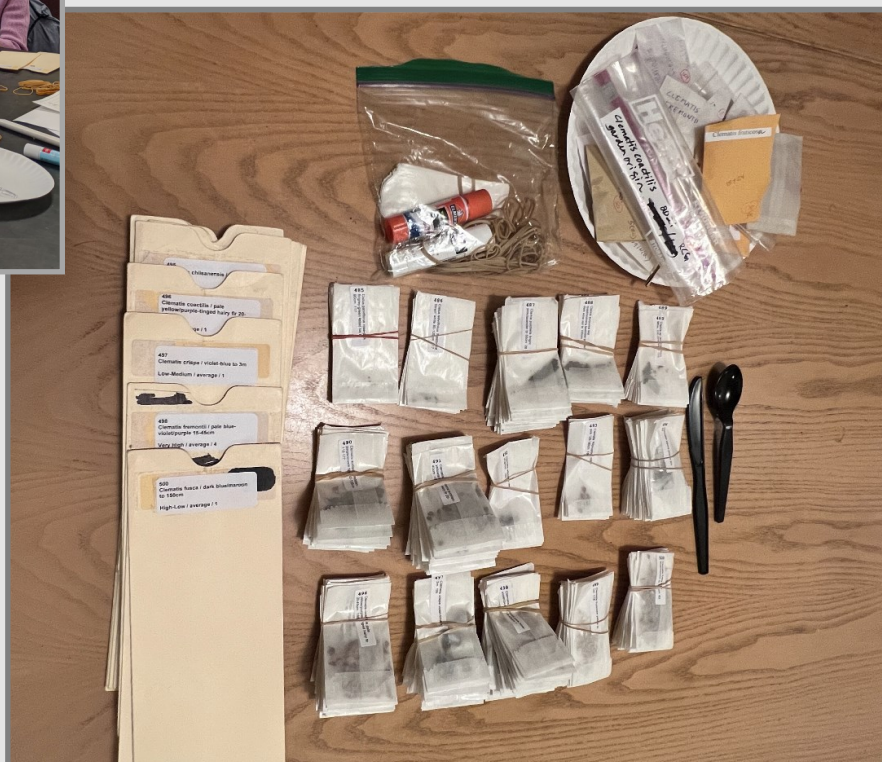
3 Photos by Cyndy Cromwell
lower one by Bobby Ward



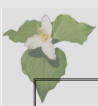
Wayne Stephenson



Viv Finkelstein, Tim Alderton and Janice Swab



Completed and ready to send to next chapter for fulfillment



NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

Saturday, January 21 , 2023

**McSwain Center at the Raulston Arboretum
Meeting in person and via ZOOM**

10:00 a.m.

David White: Adirondacks NARGS
Pre-Conference Tour

Tim Alderton: Voice of America Field Trip

Amelia Lane: NARGS Swiss Trip

Scott Zona: “A Gardener’s Guide to Botany”
And book signing by Scott

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cyndy Cromwell, Chair
Amelia Lane, Immediate Past Chair
Bobby Ward, Vice Chair/Program Chair
Membership Chair
Elsa Liner, Secretary
David White, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Tim Alderton, 2020-2023
Jim Hollister, 2020-2023
Ralph Whisnant, 2023

THE TRILLIUM

Marian Stephenson, Editor
Distribution manager
Bobby Ward, Quality Review Editor

OTHER SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

Plant Sale Manager: Tim Alderton
Plant Sale Chair: Jim Hollister

Message from the Chair

Cyndy Cromwell

In the quiet time after busy holiday celebrations, a new calendar year begins, and Piedmont Chapter members have lots to look forward to in 2023!

Our January 21 meeting will be great fun, with member presentations by Amelia Lane, Tim Alderton and David White on trips to Switzerland, the VOA site in eastern North Carolina and the Adirondacks. These wonderful trips were all sponsored by NARGS or the Piedmont Chapter, another reminder that travel with like-minded people – we want to see ALL the plants! - is one of many benefits that come with your NARGS and Piedmont Chapter memberships.

Also in January, Scott Zona will be debuting his new book, *A Gardener’s Guide to Botany*. I think I need this book, and maybe you do too! All the usual booksellers online accept orders, and copies will also be available for sale at the meeting.

I do hope you will make time to attend the February 11 meeting in person. In the morning, there will be a wonderful program by NC State’s Hsuan Chen, all about the fun and fascination of tissue culture. Then, after our meeting, there will be a memorial event at the Arboretum to honor Bobby Wilder, details to follow soon.

March and April bring more exciting programs, a botanizing trip, plant sale time, then a wonderful May picnic to round off the year. Please check the website, piedmontnargs.org, and your emails for information and details on all we are doing this spring!

Briar Garden visit in October? Never fear, Jim Putnam’s HortTube Channel has posted a wonderful video from that day:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pZmGVeL7Gk&ab_channel=HortTubewithJimPutnam