



Discovering Ecuador's Highland Alpines and Orchids

By Jerry Yu

The sunrises in Southern Ecuador are a blink and you'll miss its phenomena. From the craggy rim of a mountain ridge comes the red blazing ball of the sun's light, painting the balmy layers of mountain clouds bright shades of tangerine and scarlet. The equatorial location and the height of the Andes

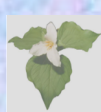


make sunrises and sunsets a quick and punctual affair: 6am every day. Yet I had little difficulty making this appointment with bright eyes, as almost every weekend I was awake, on my way to another rainforest or mountain, eyes glued to the window of my car for the blurs of orchids and bromeliads zooming by on the highway. My guides soon anticipated the pleas of ¿Paramos? (Can we stop?) every time I caught a glimpse of something unique. As the 8th most biodiverse country in the world, with 26 unique habitat types, Ecuador is a paradise of botanizing, where every hill and valley is a whole new world to explore. Let me introduce you to just a few.

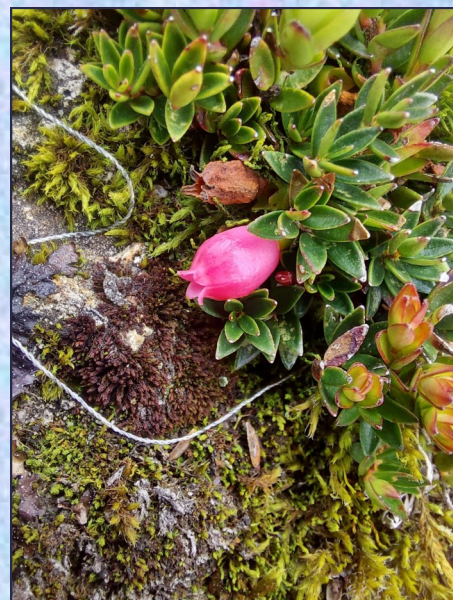
Para-Magnificent!

The highest montane habitat that I saw in Ecuador was the Páramo. With panoramic views, paradoxical plants, and pristine lakes, the Ecuadorian Páramo is a perfect place for alpine enthusiasts to drink in the beauty of the high mountains. I had the luck to visit 2 locations of Páramo in my time in Ecuador, El Parque nacional Cajas and near Saraguro, and it was a joy to observe the similarities and differences between the plentiful flora that drape themselves on the rocky slopes, forming a deep





black soil that is a sure sign of careful conservatorship of nutrients by the living tapestry. A what a tapestry it is! Dense mounds of *Plantago rigida* and *Azorella* spring emerald green from a grassy backdrop of muted tans, perfect cushions that reveal themselves to be rock solid. Creeping mats of *Disterigma empetrifolium* crawl across bare rocks, exposing large (for their size) hot pink berries. Dense singular green rosettes of *Valeriana rigida* and *Eryngium humile* charm with their blooming centers of pale pinks and whites. Here you can see gentians of all forms and sizes, from the tiny, teal blue flowers of *Gentiana sedifolia* to the nodding purple stars of *Gentianella* to the bright red and yellow flower orbs of *Gentianella hirculus*, a diminutive species native only to Parque el Cajas. You might even stumble across *Anticolea something*, an aster relative that bears a striking resemblance to lycophytes like *Selaginella* or *Huperzia* seen filing identity theft paperwork nearby. Boldly emerging from this tapestry are the bronzed rosettes of various *Puya* species, their flower



spikes towering over the diminutive landscape and your head. Above them rise small thickets of the few species of shrub that can survive in this zone, from the iconic pinecone like flowers of the Chuquiragua (*Chuquiraga jussieu*) to the glowing, orangey peeling bark of the *Polylepis patua*. The leathery, cycad-like clumps of *Lomariocycas* and bushy *Diplostephium* round

out this shrubby transition forest the height of your waist, as we transition ever seamlessly into our next habitat.



Cloudy Caress

Directly under the páramo, an elfin forest arises. Freed somewhat from the coldness that stops woody encroachment of the páramo, a forest of *Polylepis*, fluffy pink melastomes, and finally *Persea* (cousins of avocado) forms an ever rising canopy. Freed from the restriction of 2 dimensions, the tapestry of herbs and ferns now rises to coat every nook and crevice of the trees. Here, every tree is a world in itself, home to mosses, high mountain *Pleurothallis* and *Bulbophyllum* species, *Elaphoglossum* and parasitic *Utricularia*. I encountered this habitat type in 2 major places, the cloud forests in the province of Azuay driving towards





Parque Nacional Podocarpus, and the countryside around Yacuambi as I returned to Cuenca, where I stayed. Some highlights to catch across this region are the laffy taffy pink flowers and new growth of



many shrubby and recumbent *Macleania* (tropical blueberry) species. *Anthurium flavolineatum*, whose dark maroon flower with electric yellow stripes suggest gothic teen rebellion, also beckons. various species of terrestrial *Elleanthus* also begin to appear along roadsides, shocking one with dense racemes of lavender and rose gold flowers. Another common and cool denizen of the cloud forest is *Tillandsia complanata*, whose



profusion of cherry red flowers held under the bromeliad resemble a wreath for Christmas lights. This altitudinal belt in Ecuador is extremely variable and subject to human disturbance, with dense cloud forest intermingling with pasture and pampas. In these drier spots, be on the lookout for *Oreocallis grandiflora*, a cousin to *Protea* with large inflorescences of peaches-and-butter flowers. *Trichoceros antenifer*, the Andean Fly Orchid, is another delightful terrestrial orchid with fuzzy zebra striped yellow and chartreuse flowers that I was delighted to discover. As we continue our descent, the trees continue their ascent, with spiky trees ferns of the genus *Cyathea* emerging from the understory. Billowing mustard flowers of the treelike *Calceolaria* the graceful slender vines and strawberry matcha inflorescences of *Bomarea edulis* welcome us into the rainforest region of El Oriente.

It's Raining Aroids





About 4 hours from Cuenca, we finally plunge into the rainforest region of Ecuador. My foray in Ecuador's rainforest was localized in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe, around El Panguí and Parque Nacional Podocarpus. The lush valleys, glittering waterfalls, and ubiquitous rainbows attest to the profound influence of rain to this area of Ecuador. The rainbows deserve special mention: In my 4 days in El Oriente, I saw 5 rainbows, 2 of which were double rainbows. The multicolored spectrum of the rainbows echoes in the flora, where flowers, fruits, and leaves of all colors can be found. First, pink. An incredibly common species in this region of Ecuador is *Sobralia rosea*, the Rosy Sobralia Orchid. With magenta-lipped flowers the size of your fist, the stunning appearance of legions of 5-to-7-foot-tall clumps of *Sobralia rosea* signal your entry through nature's checkpoint into rainforest ecoregion.



Below, foamy drifts of popsicle orange *Eleocharis aurantiacus* added to the exuberant tone. Glamorous photo-ready lips beckon from the forest, thanks to *Palicourea tomentosa*, and transform into cerulean berries. Its cousin, *Palicourea guianensis*, brightens the forest with bright golden sunbursts. The delicate, finger-sized cream and violet flowers of *Utricularia jamesonii* are more delicate than any orchid and emerge pixie like from the trunks of trees. Yet the breathtaking wonder of the rainforest is most present in the ten thousand cubed hues, values, and chromas of forest green. Absolutely ubiquitous, the hundreds of species of *Anthurium*, *Philodendron*, and *Monstera* put our houseplants to shame in their riotous lushness and variation. Emerging a delicious red, the wide, heart shaped leaves of *Philodendron pastazatum* and *Philodendron mamei* become splashed with silver ion in the shade. The first to emerge from disturbance, these species are the ditch weeds of the region. Giant heart shaped *Anthuriums* peek out from the roads, with leaves you could towel yourself in and bright red inflorescences that droop down. Given their rapid, lush growth in their native homes, combined with our demand for a slice of the jungles, it is no wonder why aroids have become a high margin crop of the country's nurserymen.

Conclusion

These habitats are but a snapshot of the diversity I was able to witness in southern Ecuador. With its incredible biodiversity, hospitable people, and perfect weather, Ecuador is a plant lover's paradise I have fallen in love with. If anything in this article has piqued your interest, you can look here for guides, recommended to me by Sra. Ana Loja of the Universidad de Cuenca, who arranged many of these trips. So, pack your bags and venture into this world of picturesque vistas and captivating ecosystems; Southern Ecuador beckons with its untamed beauty and botanical marvels.

I am thankful to Dr. Helen Kraus, Dr. Adrienne Tucker, Dr. Maria Elena Cazar Ramirez, my coworkers at the Orquideario de la Universidad de Cuenca, Sra. Ana Loja, and my guides, Sra. Adriana Ortega and Sr. Alvaro Palacios, for organizing and planning my travel and research in Ecuador.



Rocks and Little Conifers

By Sandy Horn

Depending on the scale you want to achieve in your rock garden, miniature and dwarf conifers can add texture, color, and year-round interest, providing stability in the ever-changing array of perennials and annuals that are more common denizens of such environments. Furthermore, many rock gardens provide the perfect environment for conifers, many of which thrive in the sharply-draining soils rock gardens often possess. Additionally, rock gardens offer a venue where small conifers that might escape notice in the typical garden can be displayed to best advantage. Still, these small treasures are underutilized in rock garden settings.



Cyndy Cromwell's Rock Garden

Small conifers are not the traditional denizens of rock gardens, and there are several reasons why this is the case. First, many rock gardeners aren't familiar with conifers, their culture, and their variety. They may not even be aware that there are conifers that stay small enough to be good choices for the limited space many rock gardens have to spare. Second, small conifers can be hard to find and are sometimes expensive. This article will explore these concerns and hopefully alleviate them.

About Miniature Conifers in General

The American Conifer Society designates a tree as "miniature" if it grows only an inch or so per year. A dwarf conifer may grow up to 6" per year. Depending upon the size of your garden, either or both may be a perfect fit. It's all about space and scale. In this article, the focus will be on miniature conifers, but almost everything here can be applied to dwarf conifers, as well, with these exceptions: dwarf conifers are somewhat easier to grow and many are readily available in good garden centers and nurseries.

It is true that miniature conifers can be difficult to grow. Their root systems will be small at first, not so different from many rock garden perennials, so they initially require a bit of coddling until established. While it's possible to choose only easy-to-grow plants for the rock garden, some of the most beautiful and desirable plants require more attention and care, but once established, miniature conifers, like desirable rock garden perennials, can be tough and resilient.



JCRA Conifer Garden



Sandy Horn's Rock Garden

For those of us who collect conifers, the words “well-draining soil” are close to sacred. Conifers, regardless of size, don’t tolerate “wet feet”, albeit with a few exceptions. Bald cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*) and dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) are much less picky than most in that regard, but I am unaware of any miniature cultivars in those species. Pines (*Pinus*), spruces (*Picea*), and firs (*Abies*) will quickly die in soggy soils, as will many other genera of conifers. Well-draining soil is a characteristic of many rock gardens, a welcoming

habitat for conifers. So what else do conifers need?

Some conifers need cooler nights and lower humidity than they can find in much of the Piedmont. This is where a bit of research can be very helpful. For instance, even though pines are endemic in the Piedmont, not all species of pines can grow here. The big, commercial nurseries don’t make it easy to find out which is which. Even though it’s common for the tags they supply to



Ostrava Serbian Spruce

provide a USDA hardiness zone designation, in most cases the zone provided only refers to the coldest

zone in which a plant can survive outdoors. In fact, survivability is often determined by the length and intensity of a region’s hot season as much as by its cold season. Take a little time to find a species’ natural range. If it’s far to the north, it’s probably not a good choice for your garden unless you live at some appreciable elevation.

Miniatures result from witches’ brooms and chance mutations that develop on species trees or on full-



Juniper Level Rock Garden Yew



sized or dwarf cultivars. Once collected and cultivated to determine whether the smaller-growing plants are viable and reasonably stable across generations, they are registered and named. They are almost always propagated by grafting. While miniature conifers may appear expensive at first glance, consider that a 10" tall miniature may have taken as much time and effort to grow as a 5' tall tree.

In order to enable gardeners to grow conifers outside their native ranges, many conifer cultivars, whether miniature or not, are grafted onto rootstock that is better adapted to local conditions. In particular, firs (*Abies*), most of which struggle in the Piedmont area, have a much better chance of success when grafted onto *Abies firma* (momi fir or Japanese fir) rootstock. Since firs are such beautiful trees, highly sought after by Southern gardeners, grafting compatible species of firs onto *Abies firma* rootstock is becoming far more common. My recommendation is to seek such grafts when adding firs to your rock garden.



Abies firma graft

Why Conifers Belong in Rock Gardens

While there are a number of deciduous conifers—bald cypresses, dawn redwoods, ginkgos, larches (but never mind the larches, since they don't do well here)—most conifers hold their foliage year-round. Many change color from season to season, too. Growth habits vary widely from spires to cushions, from carpets to architecturally abstract forms. Conifers add color, form, and variety to any garden.



Gold Cone Juniper

Where to Find Miniature and Dwarf Conifers for Your Garden

Miniature conifers are rare, and few are widely available at garden centers, although there are exceptions. Fortunately, there are several sources in the vicinity, as well as a number of West Coast mail-order nurseries where these little treasures can be obtained. JC Raulston Arboretum has occasional plant sales and auctions, often including rare, small conifers. They have a lovely collection of miniature conifers in a rock garden setting for those who want to see them *in situ*. We are also fortunate to have two of the best small conifer specialty nurseries in the U.S. nearby in western North Carolina. Both propagate many rare dwarf and miniature conifers.

Bruce Appeldoorn (Appeldoorn Landscape Nursery, 1251 Jonestown Rd., Bostic, NC 28018) offers a vast collection of miniature and dwarf conifers as well as maples and many other

trees. He propagates and grows most of his stock, among which are some cultivars available nowhere else. Michael Balogh (Mountain Meadows Landscaping & Nursery, 40 Elkins Branch Road, Weaverville NC 28787) also propagates many of his conifers and offers a beautiful selection of dwarfs and minia-



tures. Last time I was there, he also had some of his son's steel sculptures for sale, as well. Both of these plantsmen are extremely knowledgeable and forthright about what's likely to work in your garden, so you'll come home with trees that have a good chance of success.



Fatima Spanish Fir

beyond Oregon. While it might not be wrong for trees grown in Oregon, it might not be right if the same tree is grown in the Piedmont. As illogical as it seems, both Oregon's west coast and the Piedmont of North Carolina are considered USDA Heat Zone 7 for the most part, even though they have entirely different climates. The Oregon plant tag may indicate that the tree will grow in Zone 7, but trees that grow well in Oregon face a different climate here. A tree that grows three inches a year in Oregon may grow 6" a year in North Carolina. This is why doing one's research is important, and having local expertise is a treasure.

Talking with Bruce or Michael about the likelihood that a little fir (grafted on *A. firma*) will make it in my garden in Cary is priceless. They are well aware what that tree will be facing, and their expertise gives me and the tree a great advantage. While Appeldoorn's and Mountain Meadows are both at some altitude, they are considerably closer to our climate on the Piedmont than Oregon is. Trees purchased from local growers,

When there's something I want that I can't get from Bruce or Michael, I sometimes order trees from Conifer Kingdom, too (www.coniferkingdom.com). They're based in Silverton, Oregon, and have an amazing inventory. One of the most renowned conifer propagators in the U.S., Larry Stanley, is now associated with this company. They are quite expensive, but discounts are often available.

Oregon is home to the big conifer nurseries: Conifer Kingdom, Eshraghi, and Iseli are the best known. If you check the tags on conifers at your local garden center, you'll find that most of the conifers come from Iseli or Eshraghi wholesale nurseries. I have many of their trees in my garden and am very grateful to these nurseries for providing me with such wonderful plants. However, there are some things that bear thinking about when you buy plants from the northwest Pacific coast.

Because they are so large, the information printed on the plant tags from these West Coast nurseries has an out-sized impact far be-



Moseri Australian Pine



even those in western North Carolina, have the benefit of growing in a similar, if not identical, climate and are therefore better acclimated to it. The fact that they're also considerably less expensive is a bonus. Call ahead, if you're visiting either nursery. Both are near Asheville, but be advised that you'll want to spend a couple of hours at each nursery—at least, I always do.

Finally, if you find you have an affinity for conifers, as I do, you may want to attend some functions of the American Conifer Society. The national conferences always have extravagant auctions of rare and unusual conifers. Their website address is conifersociety.org

Welcome A New Member — Debra Davis

From an email interview of Debra by Amelia Lane ...

1. Why did you join the Piedmont Chapter?

After looking at many garden club options in the local area, I liked the fact that the Piedmont Chapter had a focus on rock gardening. (I have quite a lot of rocks in my landscape). It also looks like you offer quite a bit of learning opportunities across a range of topics that I am interested in.

2. What is a favorite plant and why?

It's impossible to narrow it to a favorite. I love roses, camellias, hydrangeas and so many others. I am becoming more interested in incorporating native plants in my landscape and learning more about rock gardening.

3. Do you have a woody or herbaceous plant preference?

My garden is primarily comprised of perennials. I love to see plants return in the spring.

4. Something people would be interested to know about you or your garden?

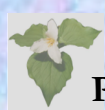
My garden is adjacent to UNC Chapel Hill and is part of a very popular walking/running area, so has frequent visitors.

5. What would you like to learn about rock gardening?

I'd love to learn plants that do well in rock gardens in the area. I'm very interested in creative ways to use those plants in the landscape and rocky areas (such as rock walls, rocks along my waterfall, rocks/boulders in the general landscape).

6. Do you have a gardening challenge? Yes! Aren't there always challenges? Deer, rabbits, & NC heat to name a few. I also will need to amend my soil this year, so inexpensive sources for that would be welcome.





Piedmont NARGS Speakers/Events Fall 2023/Winter 2024

September 16, 2023

Jerry Yu: “Discovering Ecuador’s Highland Alpines and Orchids”

Plus 15-minute talk by **Amelia Lane:**
“The International Czech Conference”

Plus Open Garden at Jay Yourch’s Home
5973 Dunbarton Way, Raleigh, NC
Saturday, September 16 noon- 5:00pm
Sunday 17th rain date

October 21, 2023

Sandy Horn: “Conifers for Rock Gardens”

Plus 15-minute talk by **Tim Alderton,**
“Hardy Gesneriads at the Raulston Arboretum”

November 4, 2023

Jon Roethling: “Reynolda Gardens:
What Was Old Is New Again”

January 20, 2024

Zachary Hill: “Unusual Native Plants of
the U. S. Southeast”

Plus 15-minute talk by **Tracy Thomasson:**
“Critters in the Garden: the Good and the Bad”

February 10, 2024

Tim Alderton: “NARGS-Sponsored
Argentine Patagonia Trip, December, 2023

Plus 15-minute talk by **Jim Jahnke** on
“NARGS Extension Trip to Southern
Patagonia, 2022”

March 16, 2024

Paul Spriggs (NARGS Traveling Speaker):
“A Grand Tour: Experiencing the
Rock Gardens of the Czech Republic”

April 20, 2024

Scott Zona: “Turning Rocks into a
Rock Garden”

Plus 15-minute talk by **Cyndy Cromwell:**
“NARGS Nova Scotia Annual Meeting,
June 2023”

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 : Cyndy Cromwell, 5304 Deep Valley Run,
Raleigh, 27606

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

Sustainable Garden Seminar

Learn the basics of sustainable
gardening through the example in
Bee Better Naturally's Teaching Garden with Helen
Yoest.

Over a three- hour instruction morning, learn water-
wise techniques, mulching, and plants to sustain
your garden fully.

Saturday, October 21st, 2023

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

\$75.00 registration fee

Register here:
<https://www.beebetternaturally.com/shop/>

*The Bee Better Naturally Teaching Garden
won the City of Raleigh's Sustainable Garden Award in 2015.*



Piedmont Chapter NARGS Board Meeting August 20, 2023--Via Zoom

Present: Tim Alderton, Cyndy Cromwell, Sandy Harwood, Jim Hollister, Charlie Kidder, Amelia Lane, Ruth Little, Kyle Sonnenberg, Marian Stephenson, Char Thomann, Bobby Ward and Jay Yourch

Sandy Harwood called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Minutes from the January 7, 2023 meeting were approved.

Membership: Ruth Little has transferred the information to Google Sheets to allow for sharing.

We have 20 members who have not yet renewed, 2 who elected not to renew, 2 new members and 2 deaths for a **total of 92 members**.

Dues are collected July through September but can be paid anytime, with the option to renew for multiple years. (post meeting communication from Ruth)

Ruth will keep up with name tags and will put a sticker on new members tags.

Amelia sends out new member packets along with a questionnaire for information and photo to be included in newsletter profiles.

Treasurer: Cyndy Cromwell provided a report that included the past three years and noted that our balance is ~ \$23,000.00. (see attached report) A discussion ensued regarding maintaining a high balance. Jim Hollister will investigate options for managing this balance.

Post meeting decision: \$15,000.00 will be transferred to a high yield money market savings account at Truist, our current bank.

A motion was made that this year we donate \$3000.00 to JCRA, earmarked for the Intern Program and \$3000.00 to JLBG. The motion passed.

Members will be informed of these donations.

Fund Raising: Jim Hollister would like an apprentice to help with the Plant Sale.

We will not have a bulb sale this year.

Newsletter: Marian Stephenson has contacted speakers requesting an article for the newsletter. She will also include memorials to our recently deceased members, new member information, plant profiles and event notifications submitted by members and pertinent information from the Board meeting, including donations mentioned above.

Marian announced that this will be her last year as Newsletter editor. She has been the editor since 2004.

Programs: Bobby Ward shared the speaker schedule. (See below) Our policy is that local speakers are paid \$150.00 and out of town speakers are paid \$250.00. Speakers are allotted 50 minutes for their presentation and 10 minutes for questions. This year he has added a 15-minute talk to the programs featuring local speakers. Currently we do not pay travel expenses for the NARGS traveling speaker but do need to provide accommodations and dinner by home hostess or hotel/restaurant.



As a thank you to the 15-minute speakers, we will include them in the luncheon with the main speaker.

The picnic and any nature hikes are not yet on the schedule. Jay Yourch expressed an interest in having a fall event at his garden, the picnic or an open garden day. A decision will be made and published in the newsletter.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer Report

Piedmont Chapter Financial Summary	2020-21 6/30/2021	2021-22 6/30/2022	2022-23 6/30/2023
Assets – Truist checking account	\$18,641	\$20,411	\$22,429
Income	\$2497	\$9299	\$6401
Dues	\$1295	\$1987	\$1594
Plant sales	\$400	\$4708	\$2759
Plant auctions	\$0	\$743	\$615
Bulb sales	\$800	\$1860	\$852
Donations	\$0	\$0	\$350
NARGS book sales	\$0	\$0	\$229
Bank interest	\$2	\$2	\$2
Expenses	\$1910	\$2732	\$2933
Programs (speaker costs)	\$1125	\$1550	\$1752
NARGS membership subsidies	\$60	\$110	\$20
Bulb sales	\$663	\$1072	\$840
Miscellaneous: website, plant tags, checks	\$61	\$0	\$91 (new checks)
Other: Picnic, NARGS books	\$0	\$0	\$230
Donations	\$2000	\$4700	\$1450
JCRA	\$2000	\$2500	\$1000
Other	\$0	\$2200: High Point U JLBG Foundation	\$450: Bobby Wilder Endowment Montrose Foundation

Message from our Plant Manager

Hi all,

You will recall hearing me, in my role as plant sale chair, encouraging you to participate in our plant sale to earn money to support our ability to provide excellent speakers and to support the causes we contribute to. You are certainly well aware of the wonderful speakers we have for our meetings, but I think we have been a little remis in keeping you informed of some of the other causes your chapter is supporting.

Over the period of the past 3 years The NARGS Piedmont Chapter has donated over \$8,000 to various local horticultural organizations such as the JC Raulston Arboretum, The Juniper Level Botanic Garden Endowment, The Bobby Wilder Endowment, and the Montrose Foundation. For this coming year, the board has committed an additional \$3000 to the JLBG Endowment and \$3,000 to the JCRA. The gift to the JLBG Endowment will help in the transition of JLBG to being a fully integrated part NC State and help to provide the income needed to ensure that the Juniper Level Botanic Garden at JC Raulston Arboretum will reach its full potential. The gift to JCRA will be directed toward the intern program which gives talented students the experience of working in a major botanic garden and helps to provide for a more beautiful garden for us to enjoy.

So, you should feel good about your organization's part in building a stronger horticultural presence in Piedmont North Carolina and you should be thinking about what plants you want to contribute to next year's plant sale. Stay cool and keep planting.

Jim Hollister

NARGS Piedmont Chapter Meeting

McSwain Center at the Raulston Arboretum

10:00 a.m.

September 16, 2023

**Jerry Yu: "Discovering Ecuador's
Highland Alpines"**

plus a 15-minute talk

by Amelia Lane

**"The International Czech Rock Garden
Conference, May 2023"**

Goodies to Share

If your last name begins with a letter below, we encourage you to consider bringing a goodie to share with others



Sept A-C	Feb M-P
Oct D-F	March R-S
Nov G-H	April T-Y
Jan J-L	May Picnic

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jim Hollister

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Chris Glenn

Kyle Sonnenberg

Jay Yourch

Newsletter Editor: Marian Stephenson

Friends Remembered

Gail Norwood died July 11 in her Chapel Hill home. Gail's pride and joy was her backyard garden that she named "Belvedere". Her garden was featured on garden tours and in magazines. A very gracious hostess, Gail welcomed the Piedmont chapter members on two occasions - picnics in the lovely garden at Belvedere in May, 2020 and May, 2021.

Will Hembree, our February 2020 speaker, described his adventure with his father as they hiked all of the Appalachian Trail. Will died in a accident July 26, 2020. He was only 30 years old.



Spigelia marilandica 'Ragin Cajun'

Photo from Plant Delights webpage

WANT TO BE AN EDITOR?

If you enjoy desktop publishing, making posters, or just creating visual arts, you may want to consider becoming the editor of the Piedmont Chapter newsletter, *The Trillium*.

Marian Stephenson is planning to step down from the job she's enjoyed for 19 years and would like pass the baton to the next lucky person. Willing to finish her 20th year, yet happy to pass the job along sooner, she is inviting anyone interested who may want to know more about the job to contact her.

There is excellent support for this chapter service from board members and chapter members, so the job is quite manageable.

Marian Stephenson -
marian4836@yahoo.com