



The Trillium

newsletter of
the Piedmont Chapter of the
American Rock Garden Society

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Some Uncommon Plants Recommended for a Southern Garden

by J. C. Raulston

The collection of plants at the NCSU Arboretum in Raleigh, North Carolina includes more than 6,000 different species and cultivars of plants from at least 45 countries. The arboretum location is USDA Hardiness Zone 7, at an elevation of about 400', with an annual rainfall of 43 inches. Here we evaluate plants for heat and cold hardiness, esthetic appeal, drought tolerance, disease resistance and other qualities in order to choose the best selections for the landscapes of the southeastern and mid-Atlantic states. Promising plants are promoted through the nursery trade through a plant introduction program. The plants have been acquired from almost every imaginable source: commercial nurseries, seed exchanges and cuttings from public and private botanic gardens and arboreta, and seed from native plants in wild stands on various collecting trips.

Those plants that are superior and are better adapted help to enrich the landscape and provide a basis for more diverse, more environmentally sound gardens across our region. Listed below are a variety of uncommon plants evaluated in trials at the NCSU Arboretum that have a wide variety of landscape uses. I have selected a range of plants including herbaceous perennials, ground covers, deciduous and evergreen shrubs, vines, and trees and conifers. While some of these plants are new and difficult to obtain in some regional nursery markets, they all have some ornamental feature that commends them for more widespread garden use.

Acanthopanax sieboldianus 'Variegatus'— Variegated five-leaf aralia (Araliaceae). This plant was chosen for the beauty of its white-variegated foliage and great tolerance to unfavorable conditions and difficult urban environments. It is tolerant to drought, shading, soils varying from sand to clay and acid to alkaline. It has no major insect or disease problems, and though it can reach 7' in height, it can be easily controlled by heavy pruning. The stems have short spines and when sheared can be an excellent pedestrian barrier. Adapted probably for zones 4-8.

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Gardening Among Skyscrapers

by Bobby J. Ward

When Lawrence (Larry) Thomas gardens, he doesn't worry about voles or rabbits or deer because none will nibble, chew or trample even the commonest of plants in his garden. Indeed the only quadrupeds that concern him and occasionally divert his attention are two docile Burmese cats that share his apartment and garden terrace eleven floors up overlooking clangorous First Avenue in midtown Manhattan. His is a 13' by 40' east-facing terrace garden with bubbling fountain, troughs, potting benches containing alpine, and handsome ceramic pots that he threw himself while teaching ceramics at nearby Marymount Manhattan College.

While most gardeners would consider the environment that Larry gardens in to be alien and even inhospitable and would doubtless balk at the very suggestion of growing trees and alpine eleven stories up, he is clearly undaunted by the challenge. Since he moved to his apartment in 1966, he has made meticulous observations to successfully micro-manage and accommodate the special water, temperature, light and shading requirements for his collection of at least 250 plant cultivars. His alpine collection, for example, is carried through the winter with a top covering to protect the plants from rain and snow; otherwise these potted plants receive no further protection from the winds of New York City.

His perennials include hostas (resourcefully shaded beneath the seat of a terrace chair), and some choice specimens of *Iris prismatica*, and a lovely white semi-double *Aquilegia clematiflora*. The terrace also sports dwarf conifers, an 11-foot Bhutan pine [*Pinus wallichiana*], *Stewartia pseudocamellia* and a *Rosa* 'Wind Rush' [David Austin] whose soft yellow echoes the cream color on petals of a nearby vigorous Russell hybrid lupine grown from seed he collected in New Zealand.

His collection of alpine and rock plants is staggering. Among them are *Lewisia coryledon*, *L. columbiana* 'Alba', *L. tweedyi*, the carpeting *L. triphylla*, and the candy-striped *L. sierrae*. His penstemon collection consists of 8 western U.S.

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Uncommon Plants, continued from page 1

***Ardisia japonica* 'Chirimen'**—Japanese ardisia (Myrsinaceae). A need always exists for good ground cover plants for use in landscape plantings. This relatively unknown species grows as an evergreen carpet in moist woodlands of Japan, Korea, and China. The Japanese have selected many cultivars of varying size, foliage color and hardiness. 'Chirimen' has proved to be the hardiest and more dependably evergreen for us. It grows 3-4 inches in height in dense solid green mats with white flowers in spring followed by bright red berries in the fall. Propagation is by tip cuttings or division of the clumps any time of the year. Grow it in zones 7-9 under shady conditions with moist, well-drained soils.

***Hosta yingeri*—Yinger's hosta** (Liliaceae). A new species of hosta resulting from our 1985 expedition to Korea. It is named for Barry Yinger. The leaves are thicker and more glossy than most hostas.

***Hydrangea* 'Pia'** (Hydrangeaceae). This is a beautiful dwarf, dense growing cultivar which will eventually reach 2' in height. It has 4" diameter inflorescences of many pink to purple flowers (color depending on soil pH) in early summer. An excellent compact plant for shady areas. Zones 5-8.

***Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Rotundiloba'**—Fruitless sweetgum (Hamamelidaceae). This fruitless sweetgum was discovered in the wild in North Carolina in 1930 and has existed in arboreta collections since that time. In addition to never producing fruit, it is also distinctive in having rounded lobes on the leaves rather than the normal pointed "star" shaped leaves.

***Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'**—'Little Gem' Southern Magnolia (Magnoliaceae). This is a compact form with leaves and flowers about one-half to one-third normal size, maturing at about 10' wide 20' in height in 25 years. Plants bloom heavily from early summer to frost even when just a few feet in height. This plant was collected by Warren Steed at his North Carolina nursery in 1960. Adapted for zones 6-9.

***Morus bombycis* 'Unryu'**—Contorted mulberry (Moraceae). We obtained this dramatic deciduous tree from an Asian rare plant collector in California in 1981 and took several years to trace down a name for it. The leaves are large, shiny, and attractive; the real beauty of the plant is when the bare twisted corkscrew branches are silhouetted against the winter sky. Zones 5-9.

***Nandina domestica* 'Alba' and 'San Gabriel'**—Heavenly bamboo cultivars (Berberidaceae). 'Alba', the white or yellow berried heavenly bamboo is an old cultivar with pale whitish-yellow fruit and green foliage. 'San Gabriel' has greatly reduced leaflet blade tissue creating a very delicate and lacy effect on shortened plants. Zones 6-9.

***Ophiopogon juburan* 'Variegata'**—Variegated ophiopogon (Liliaceae). An exceptional broadly variegated foliage which belies the fact that it is an *Ophiopogon*. It has been slow to multiply since we collected it in Korea in 1985.

***Pinus taeda* 'Nana'**—Dwarf loblolly pine (Pinaceae). Our collection at the arboretum at NCSU arose from seedlings from a "witches' broom" found in the wild. The slow-growing seedlings eventually have dense rounded crowns. It is perhaps

one of the most beautiful and useful potential landscape plants for Southern gardens, but it is difficult to produce (side-veneer grafting on seedling loblolly understock). Zones 6-9.

***Poncirus trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon'**—'Flying dragon' trifoliolate "orange" (Rutaceae). A unique and dramatic Japanese cultivar of this hardy "orange" species which has curved and twisted stems and beautifully curved thorns. A deciduous shrub reaching 8-9' with age that bears white flowers in spring and showy yellow "orange" fruit in autumn. The branches can be cut and used fresh or dried for floral arrangements.

***Rosa* 'Petite Pink'**—'Petite Pink' rose (Rosaceae). This rose is a cultivar discovered on a old plantation on the Cape Fear River in Wilmington, NC. It produces a low, dense suckering shrub about 2' tall, covered with pink flowers in early summer. The foliage is delicately cut, shiny, and quite handsome. There is a need for a good tough commercial ground cover for us in difficult sunny areas to dilute the overwhelming use of junipers. This plant is the heir-apparent.

Syringa oblata dilatata—Korean lilac (Oleaceae). Yes, the plant that northerners miss most when they move south are the wonderful lilacs since most of them will not take the heat. The best one for the south from our trials which blooms early in the spring and takes our tough soils.

***Styrax japonicus* 'Sohuksan'**—'Sohuksan' snowbell (Styracaceae). A deciduous flowering tree from Korea with much larger foliage and flowers than any other cultivars now existing. Flowers within a given cluster may have 2 to 7 petals rather than the standard 5 which may indicate the selection is a polyploid resulting in the increased size.

***Viburnum awabuki* 'Chindo'**—'Chindo' viburnum (Caprifoliaceae). A broad-leaved evergreen shrub-tree from the Korean expedition with superior red fruit to the species in the current nursery trade. Excellent plant which has the potential to replace red tip photinia as a border shrub.

This list of plants presents only a few of the many promising plants which have been evaluated in trials at the NCSU Arboretum. Perhaps the most appealing part of the gardening world to me is the knowledge that after I garden for 90 years or more, there will still be an enormous unexplored fascinating world of wonderful new and different plants to observe and learn about. Often observing how or why a "new" plant fails in a garden can lead to the knowledge of how to successfully handle it in a repeated trial. To be sure, there is a great amount of truth in the philosophy expressed by the great plantsman, Sir Peter Smithers, when he said, "Every plant is hardy until I have killed it myself."

Plan—and plant—for a better world.

[J. C. Raulston is professor of horticultural science at N. C. State University and is the Director of the NCSU Arboretum. He is the 1991 recipient of the American Rock Garden Society's Marcel LePiniec Award given for increasing the richness and diversity of plant material available in our landscapes and gardens].

Gardening With Ivies

by Richard W. Hartlage

It's summertime now and herbaceous perennials are filling every nook and cranny of our mid-summer gardens while the exuberance of late evening gardening is marred only by the incessant squeal of the water hose. Overlooked and generally underappreciated at this time of the year are the evergreens that brighten our winter gardens after frost has denuded all deciduous vegetation. Among the variegated evergreens that I use in my garden are the ivies—either for a bold effect or to brighten an otherwise dull spot where a plant with showy flowers might not otherwise succeed. I find the ivies indispensable for both of these reasons, especially during the dull days of winter.

When I speak of ivies, *Hedera helix* (Araliaceae) and its varieties is what first comes to mind; but this is only one species in a genus of five to nine species depending on the authority you choose. The members of the genus *Hedera* have the interesting characteristic of having two distinct forms: juvenile and adult. The juvenile stage is the familiar self-clinging vine and typically has leaves with more lobes than the adult. The adult form has self-supporting woody stems and is more shrub-like in appearance; unlike the juvenile form, the adult produces flowers and fruits. The green-flowered umbels of the adult ivy are not the sort of flowers to bowl one over, but they do make an interesting textural change in the garden during their normal flowering season in late summer and early autumn. The fruit can, however, be quite lovely in late winter when the berries have ripened to a black, an orange or a yellow depending on the species or variety. Adult ivies are great additions to any garden, but unfortunately it's nearly impossible to find sources for them. This is because of the great difficulty in propagating the adult form as compared to the extreme ease of the juvenile form.

Because of the myriad of leaf textures, sizes, colors, and growth habits from which to choose, the juvenile form of ivy offers a range of opportunities for our landscapes. If it is a green-leaved backdrop you want on a wall or across the ground, there are many ivies to choose from. *Hedera colchica* 'Dentata' is probably the most vigorous with leaves up to five inches across but more typically four inches wide. Persian ivy, as it is commonly called, offers a lush and tropical look and is the choice if you need to cover great expanses. It's probably not hardy much farther north of zone 7. On the other hand, *Hedera helix* 'Baltica' is an old and said-to-be particularly hardy strain. It was a favorite of Beatrix Ferrand, an American landscape gardener who practiced from 1890 to 1940. She covered many a Georgian mansion, Tudor study hall and dormitory with this plant. Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, and the campus at Princeton are two well-known examples. 'Baltica' has small to medium bluntly lobed leaves that bronze to a deep plum in winter emphasizing further the somberness of the season.

Himalayan ivy, *Hedera nepalensis*, is a plant new to me but one much admired by many gardeners. It is a strong growing plant with leaves described as "lanceolate and obscurely lobed." The leaves on the plants, I have seen, are acuminate triangular with a few deep serrations. The leaves point to the ground giving it a rather pleasant effect reminiscent of falling water. Himalayan ivy is listed as being less tender than English ivy; however, I have seen it doing well at the gardens at Wave Hill in Bronx, NY.

For a solid gold leaf in an ivy, I would choose *H. helix* 'Buttercup.' Its new growth of butter-yellow fades to chartreuse and ultimately to a yellow-green as the leaves age. I grow 'Buttercup' on the front of my house with the fastigate (upright-growing) plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia fastigiata*) and the black pussy willow (*Salix melanostichys*). Because the catkins of the black pussy willow are black with red stamens, this combination of ebony and scarlet against a yellow-green of the ivy is quite striking. For complement, the addition of the rich green of the plum yew offers stability to the scene.

An ivy I do not grow myself, but one for which I have great fondness is *H. helix* 'Gold heart.' This ivy has small to medium-sized leaves with a clear yellow center and is made more endearing by its red stems and leaf petioles. I have seen this plant used to add a bit of brightness to the dense shade of willow oaks and maples. I'd personally like to try 'Goldheart' vertically in combination with deciduous hollies that are laden with winter berries or perhaps in combination with the satiny scarlet stems of red twig dogwoods. All that would be needed in such a setting would be a light blanket of snow to etch the picture indelibly in my memory.

A more bold-textured, golden variegated ivy is *Hedera colchica* 'Sulfur Heart' also known by the pseudonym 'Paddy's Pride.' It is a softer yellow than 'Goldheart' and has central variegation on the leaves that range in size from some three to five inches. Edith Eddleman has used this cultivar quite effectively at her home in Durham by growing it up one of the massive willow oaks in her front garden. The sulfur leaves brighten the darkness and distant interior of the oak canopy.

On the north face of my house, I have planted another bold-leaved ivy, *Hedera algeriensis* 'Gloire de Marengo' (formerly listed as *H. canariensis*) which is commonly called the variegated Algerian ivy. It is a larger-leaved species than *H. helix* and is also a bit more tender, probably not hardy much further north of Raleigh. Each leaf is marbled in a silvery gray and dark green with an edging of creamy white. On either side of this ivy, I have planted the climbing hydrangea *Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*. The ivy's creamy white foliage is a stunning accent to the white flowers of the hydrangea in summer and a striking contrast to its bare terra cotta-colored stems in winter. Moreover, I have planted yellow-berried nandinas [*Nandina domestica* 'Alba'] and pink-flowering *Camellia japonica* in front of this sumptuous backdrop. This additional planting has provided interest in the early months of the year.

'Glacier' is a white-margined variety of *H. helix* which appears as a pale steely gray when seen from a distance. Bob Wilder, in his woodland garden in Apex, NC, has a beautiful ribbon of this ivy snaking its way some 15 to 20 feet up an old hickory tree. The sight evokes images of a narrow rise of smoke knifing through a still air. You may also see 'Glacier' in the White Garden at the North Carolina State University Arboretum in front of the gazebo directly across from the visitor's entrance.

There are suitable ivy candidates for the rock garden, too. *Hedera helix* 'Gnome' has small bluntly-lobed leaves ranging in size from one-half to one and one-fourth inches. 'Gnome' is slow growing and forms a dense evergreen mat. 'Midget' is another English ivy of diminutive stature but of finer texture. Nancy Goodwin describes it in her Montrose Nursery catalog

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as follows: "This is one of the smallest cultivars of English ivy with usually three-lobed leaves, having the central lobe narrow and one-half to three-fourths inches long. Growth is extremely compact and slow, forming a mound that increases by several inches each year. Its foliage becomes reddish in winter." One need not have a rock garden to enjoy either of these ivies because they can be used with equal success in the woodland garden among ferns and foam flowers.

Also of interest is the tree ivy *x Fatshedera lizei*, a bi-generic hybrid between *Fatsia japonica* and *Hedera helix* var. *hibernica*. The growth habit of the tree ivy (or ivy tree) is upright with usually non-branching stems and bold glossy green foliage. As accent plants in the shady garden, it is at its best. However, it prefers a protected location at zone 7 since its hardiness, probably inherited from one of its parents (*Fatsia*), can be a problem. Tree ivies are root hardy and even after a mild winter, I like to cut the plant to the ground to encourage fresh new growth. While the most common form is green-leaved, there is a form with leaves streaked and mottled with cream ('Variegata'), a curly-leaved cultivar with a penciling of white around the edge ('Pia Variegata'), and one whose leaves are sulfur-variegated ('Medio-picta'). The latter is growing behind the bench in the Elizabeth Lawrence memorial garden at the North Carolina State University Arboretum.

Perhaps some of you are reluctant to try ivies for your own garden for fear your property will be consumed by some variegated monster. While it is true that *Hedera helix* and its relatives can be vigorous (some varieties are more vigorous than others), all can be easily kept in check with a bit of snipping here and there during the summer months. Some of you might fear that the ivy will get out of hand and damage mortar and brick work or wood siding on your house. While it's probably not wise to grow ivy on a wood-structured house, you may allay your concerns and remain content by using ivy in a variety of ground cover possibilities. I believe wholeheartedly in taking advantage of the self-clinging habit of ivy because, for me, mason walls in particular can be enriched into a lush and sumptuous backdrop with the addition of ivy. Too, old trees take on a primeval feel when their trunks are cloaked in it. As evidenced by the range of available cultivars and when used advantageously, a gardener can easily add diversity and a bold personal statement with the judicious use of ivies in the right location in the garden.

Suggested Ivy References

American Ivy Society. 1975. Check-list of cultivated *Hedera*. West Carrollton, Ohio.

Rose, Peter Q. 1980. Ivies. Blandford Press, Ltd. Poole, Dorset [England].

Phillips, Roger & Martyn Rix. 1989. Shrubs [chapter on ivies]. Random House, New York.

You may want to become a member of the American Ivy Society for \$15 per year. The society is located at P.O. Box 520, West Carrollton, Ohio 45449-0520. Membership includes receipt of the *Ivy Journal* three times a year.

[Richard W. Hartlage is head gardener at Chatwood in Hillsborough, NC and is also a garden designer. He is co-curator of the winter garden at the NCSU arboretum and lives in Raleigh, NC]

Getting Ready for the Piedmont Chapter's Fall Seedling Sale

by Richard Hartlage

As chairman of this year's fall seedling sale for the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS, I would like to remind you of it, explain what it is, and encourage you to start preparing for it now. The seedling sale this year will be held on Saturday, September 21, 1991 after our speaker's program that begins at 10:00 am. Our chapter holds this sale annually to promote the exchange of interesting, rare, unusual and/or hard-to-find plants among chapter members. The sale is also a profit-making venture for the Chapter since all plants are donated by its members and the receipts go to our treasury.

Here's how it works: in planning for the sale, each of us should propagate from seed, cuttings, division, etc., a half dozen or so of plants we think that are garden worthy and deserve wider use among our fellow chapter members. Bring these plants individually potted to the September meeting (making sure each plant is clearly, correctly and separately labeled). The plants will be priced according to size and rarity—but generally between \$ 0.50 and \$2. For some plants that are extremely hard-to-find or unusual, we may mark them at up to \$5. Those of us who have brought contributions of plants to the sale will be allowed to "shop" first and choose two plants before the rest of the chapter members are allowed into the sales area. Therefore, it pays to contribute plants to the sale. Last fall's sale brought \$ 581 to the chapter.

This is an opportunity to hone our propagation skills, support our Piedmont Chapter, share with our fellow gardeners, and, of course, obtain new plant treats for our gardens. I look forward to your wholehearted participation. See you at the Totten Center at the NC Botanical Garden on September 21, 1991. If there are questions, feel free to give me a call at 832-4673.

Piedmont Chapter of ARGS Board Members 1991-1992

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Raulston Wins ARGS' LePiniec Award

Piedmont Chapter member Dr. J. C. Raulston received the American Rock Garden Society's Marcel LePiniec Award at the society's annual meeting in White Plains, NY on May 10, 1991. Raulston, who is the Director of the North Carolina State University Arboretum, received the award for increasing the diversity and availability of plants in our landscapes and gardens.

The following is the citation from the ARGS given to him with the award:

The Marcel LePiniec Award, 1991

J. C. Raulston

by Bobby J. Ward

In the 1940s, a wheat farm on the prairies of Oklahoma was the world of nature that J. C. Raulston first explored, and a childhood fascination with flower and seed catalogs was his introduction to the lore and lure of plants. As loving director-caretaker for the eight-acre North Carolina State University Arboretum, J. C. even now has maintained his wonderment and has vastly expanded the arboretum's plant collection to some 7,000 taxa from at least 45 countries since its opening in 1976. Through teaching, research, extension service, and a plant evaluation program, he has single-handedly galvanized horticulture and the plant nursery industry in North Carolina. Further, his continuing emphasis on special, non-native plants that are potentially adaptable to culture in this country has influenced and inspired others far beyond the borders of the Southeast. In short, he has catapulted the arboretum from a secret garden into a center of national renown.

Some of the plants that J. C. has introduced to nurserymen and the gardening public through the North Carolina State University Arboretum are species from a Korean collecting expedition in 1985 with Barry Yinger who was then with the U.S. National Arboretum. These include *Patrinia scabiosifolia*, *Scilla scilloides*, *Styrax japonicus* 'Sohuksan', *Vitex rotundifolia*, *Viburnum awabuki* 'Chindo' and *Hosta yingeri*. Some species that the arboretum has highly promoted and strongly advocated include the evergreen ground cover *Ardisia japonica* 'Chirimen'; *Nandina domestica* 'San Gabriel' and 'Alba'; *Rosa* 'Petite Pink' (Scotch rose) and 'Snow Carpet'; *Prunus mume*; *Delosperma nubigenum*, various cultivars of *Hippeastrum* and the now ubiquitous fastigate Leyland cypress *Cupressocyparis leylandii*. Two unusual introductions by the arboretum include *Liquidambar styraciflua* var. *rotundiloba* (a seedless sweet gum) and *Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Fantasy' (a selected red bark crape myrtle from one of the five plants in the arboretum that originated from a Japanese collection distributed by the U.S. Arboretum in the 1950s). During the last decade under J.C.'s helmsmanship, nurserymen have been the beneficiaries of some 200,000 propagation cuttings annually and a staggering 45,000 plants representing over 250 taxa from distributions through the arboretum.

To choose to spend a day following J. C. Raulston around is to exhaust oneself from the sheer magnitude of his energy. His travel calendar and speaking engagements are consistently

over extended. Also, he often tallies up more flight mileage than some airplane pilots. He never boasts of his many visits to botanic gardens, arboreta or horticultural production areas even though they have included all 50 U.S. states, 55 countries and some 600 public gardens. In his horticultural peregrinations, J. C. has driven at least 35,000 miles throughout North Carolina to teach university extension evening classes to landscape and nursery professionals. Therefore, his car is often generously filled with plants (and associated soil) scooped from the gardens, backyards and perhaps errant side trips of various plant pilgrimages. By his own account he has his faults: he procrastinates; he hurriedly chooses junk foods, including popcorn, while galloping between classes; he is an undaunted computer klutz; and he loves *Theobroma cacao*—not strictly the plant itself but rather the heavenly desserts made from it.

Last year, J. C. attained one of those typically unrelished decennial birthday milestones, and at a surprise celebration, which utilized landscape flagging as decoration, students, former students, and friends recited a catalog of the occasions when J. C. has touched their lives as teacher, advisor, listener, and dispenser of sage advice. Although a horticultural scientist by formal training from undergraduate work at Oklahoma State University through graduate work at the University of Maryland, this Renaissance man is as equally comfortable at the theatre, an art exhibition, or a symphony as he is in quest of the sole remaining species of *Cercis* that is not in the arboretum's collection.

We are fortunate—indeed rich—to be contemporaries with such an indefatigable plantsman, teacher, and friend who is an aesthete in both nature and art. For these reasons, the American Rock Garden Society is pleased to present to Dr. J. C. Raulston the Marcel LePiniec Award for unrelentingly contributing to the diversity of plant material in our gardens and landscapes.

Rock Garden Being Developed at State Fairgrounds

Tony Avent, landscape director of the North Carolina State Fair since 1978, has plans to develop a rock garden on an unused portion of the fairgrounds. He is looking for volunteers—and suitable plants—to assist in the undertaking. He is interested in donations of dwarf shrubs and small non-invasive herbaceous perennials for sun and shade. Tony would like to begin work on the project this summer (preferably in July) to have the garden in place for the State Fair which takes place in mid-October. Tony says that the garden will be open to the public on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and for special events. The State Fair and the Wake County Men's Garden Club plan to provide new permanent fencing on the north and south ends of the garden in 1992.

Piedmont Chapter member Norman Beal at (919) 231-2167 has volunteered to coordinate with Chapter members the making and maintenance of plant labels for the rock garden. Contact Norman to volunteer your assistance. Contact Tony at work at (919) 733-0778 if interested in helping out or in donating plants.

A Kaleidoscope of Spring Color Celebrated at ARGS Annual Meeting in White Plains

The annual meeting of the American Rock Garden Society held on May 10-12, 1991 in White Plains, NY was memorable for its tours of gardens, many of which were at their peak with glorious spring colors. The annual meeting, hosted this year by the Hudson Valley Chapter of ARGS, was fully subscribed, with many members turned away more than a month prior to the start of the meeting. Some local members were asked to give up registration and tour space for out-of-towners.

Opening the three-day get together was the keynote dinner address on Friday night. It proved to be an exhausting, two-hour marathon slide presentation by George H. Newman of New Hampshire, who showed beautiful views of natural rock garden plants in northern New England and on eastern Canada's Gaspé Peninsula and Newfoundland. Included in his "A Passion for Wildflowers" presentation were slides of rare flora few of us will ever see in the wild ourselves. They consisted of vegetated limestone barrens, bogs and sea cliffs and altogether containing plants alphabetically from *Allium schoenoprasum* var. *sibiricum* to *Zigadenus glaucus*. Then, undaunted by the continuous stream of attendees that had been ducking out of the darkened room and seemingly oblivious to the fact that the audience had been seated without a break since dinner at 7:00 pm, Mr. Newman launched (despite audible groans) into a score and a half of additional magnificent scenes of plants on the Arctic's Baffin Island in northern Canada, finishing resolutely just before 11:00 pm to a nearly empty room. Mr. Newman's passion-for-endurance plant lectures needs a bit of pruning and/or weeding.

Marion Jarvie provided the dinner presentation on Saturday evening on the "Best of the West" which consisted of fine views of a breath-taking collection of alpenes and high desert flora of the western intermontane states and California. Her loving presentation was well-paced, direct and thoroughly enjoyable. Ms. Jarvie, of the Ontario Rock Garden Society of ARGS, included handsome photographs of *Lewisia*, *Penstemon* and *Primula* and a mountain goat or two for good measure.

The highlight of the annual meeting and the real reason many attended was the tour of gardens and the opportunity to see and photograph the flora with fellow passionate *saxophiliacs*. The weather complied fully on both of the tour days and provided bright cloudless—albeit warm—skies. Bussing some 400 attendees around would seem, at first blush, to be a nightmare; but the Hudson Valley Chapter planned ahead and organized well, and the tours and bus assignment rotations went off without incidents. The Chapter even elicited the help of local geologists to prepare an interpretive geological description of each of the gardens on the tour. This was a nice, informative, and quite unexpected complement to the other material provided on the plants and gardens themselves.

Shade Garden (Garden of Harold and Esta Epstein "La Rocaille," Larchmont, NY)—Highly touted and promoted was the garden of the President Emeritus of the ARGS. While described as a shade garden, currently the tree limbs have

been heavily pruned high up, thereby giving day-long bright light and direct sun in the early morning and possibly late afternoon. The nearly fifty-year old, acre-and-a-half garden of octogenarian Epstein is crammed with probably the finest private collection of Japanese plants in the U.S. Outstanding features include a 35-year old climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*) and *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* growing on the trunks of two oaks in the front yard. Others aspects include the largest *Enkianthus* sp. in the U.S., a *Hakonechloa macra* 'Variegata' and *Arisaema sikokianum* (Japanese Jack-in-the-Pulpit), and a nice collection of species of *Epimedium*.

The New York Botanical Garden (T.H. Everett Rock Garden, Bronx, NY)—Curator Robert Bartolomei is continuing the work in this rock garden designed and installed in 1932 by its namesake. The garden is currently under going renovations, including a new bed for plants that require acidic and moist conditions. In bloom were striking *Primula japonica* (Japanese primroses) along the bank of a stream that dissects the garden. Volunteers from the Manhattan Chapter of the ARGS are assisting in renovations of the garden beds.

Wave Hill (Garden by Marco Polo Stufano, John Nally and Madeleine Kieve, Riverdale/Bronx, NY)—The 19th century residence of Teddy Roosevelt, Mark Twain and Arturo Toscanini overlooks the Hudson River across from the New Jersey Palisades. The gardens include plants from throughout the world and consist of a flower garden, herb garden, monocot garden, aquatic garden, and "wild" garden. While over-all the gardens of Wave Hill were not in their peak blooming condition, an outstanding feature was a pink (!) *Viburnum* 'Pink Sensation'.

An Outcrop Garden (Garden of Midge and David Riggs, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY)—Hidden in a residential setting, this is a an island-of-serenity garden for the Riggs' work-in-progress rock garden. It consists of sand beds, troughs, raised beds, pit bed, "cooled and heated" sun porch-alpine house, a trickling waterfall, and a massive black granite outcropping around which their garden is laid.

Stonecrop (Garden of Frank and Anne Cabot and Caroline Burgess, Cold Springs, NY)—A 40-acre hilltop estate with some 6 acres of gardens, including perennial borders, an enclosed garden with a series of square and triangular beds, a pit house of dwarf bulbs, stream garden, rock ledge and pavilion, pond garden and raised stone beds. Caroline Burgess, formerly with Rosemary Veery, now manages the estate's nursery and sales area and has a strong voice with the Cabots in the ever-changing face of the estate. Stonecrop is a delight to visit; it has a spacious, open feeling with plenty of room to wander and wonderful plants to discover at every turn.

A Ledge-Cliff Garden (Garden of Anne Spiegel, Wappingers Fall, NY)—This has been a mammoth one-woman project of digging, excavating and removing wagonloads of yellow clay to expose a subsurface of glacially marked cliffs and ledges that receive a brutal northwest-facing wind. Spanning some 20 years (10 in the planning and 10 in the excavating), she has created a backyard garden of scree with a path that ambles around the glacial Ice Age fissured rock for display of her plants. —BJW

Paul D. Jones Presented Piedmont Chapter Service Award

by Nancy Goodwin

[At the annual spring picnic and business meeting of the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS, held this year on Saturday May 18, 1991 at Montrose Nursery in Hillsborough, NC, member Paul Douglas Jones was awarded a chapter service award by chapter member Nancy Goodwin and chapter chairman Bob Wilder].

It is a pleasure to describe the person whom we honor today. He is an enthusiastic charter member of the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS. He is a dedicated leader serving on the executive board for most if not all of its existence. He has done almost every job related to this organization: propagated plants, given one or more superb programs, organized the garden tours, brought refreshments and served as our chapter leader. He is also on at least one national committee [Alpines '96].

He has received national recognition for his work on the Japanese garden at Duke University. He is a literate scholar, making an enormous contribution to the woody plants section of Elizabeth Lawrence's unpublished manuscript *A Rock Garden in the South*.

He has a fine nursery which is becoming more and more famous for its unusual, beautifully grown plants. His talent for propagation was talked about with reverence long before I met him.

We are lucky to have Paul Jones in our organization.

[Nancy Goodwin is the recent author of "Primulas for the Southeast" in the Spring 1991 issue of the Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society. She continues to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the ARGS.]

Piedmont Chapter Financial Report

Edith Boyer, Treasurer of the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS, has provided the following financial report to the Chapter:

Balance carried forward as of 5/5/90\$ 2075.

Expenses through 5/14/91

printing, speakers' expenses, rental, etc\$2430.

Income through 5/14/91

Interest on account	204.
Plant sales	1589.
Local memberships	670.
Miscellaneous	163.
1989 Winter Study Weekend profit	3896.

Balance as of 5/14/91\$6167.

Submitted by Edith Boyer, Treasurer
May 18, 1991

Skyscraper Gardening, continued from page 1

species (including *Penstemon hirsutus*, *P. hirsutus pygmaeus*, *P. davidsonii*, *P. linarioides coloradoensis*, *P. teucroides* and *P. crandallii*). Others species include an assortment of *Sedum* and *Sempervivum*, *Daphne*, porophyllum saxifrages, ten or so *Primula* species, and his speciality—campanulas, of which he has grown over 50 species from seed.

Because he annually receives seed from 5 or 6 exchange programs, he has a vast planting program. This winter he planted some 300 styrofoam coffee cups with seed; by mid-May, 75 of these had germinated. He typically holds planted seed cups for three years in this staging program. However, a *Raoulia australis* germinated this spring after 4 years of patient waiting by its caretaker. His potting mixture for the bulk of his plants consists of 1/4 top soil, 1/4 peat, and 1/2 quartz grit (no. 3 gravel—"chicken grit"). He usually sprinkles grit on top of each pot to give it a finished look.

Aside from starlings and house finches that forage his garden for nesting material and an occasional errant slug that is brought in on soil, Larry has few pest problems. When white flies, spider mites or aphids do strike, he resists using pesticides because of his two cats. Currently he is testing a dilute water solution of cooking oil and dish washing detergent.

Larry has been gardening on this terrace since 1966. Four years ago the building owners decided to re-tile the terrace; thus, a horticultural accumulation of some 20 years was dismantled and mature trees had to be hacked up and plants carted down elevators while the terrace was emptied of its contents. Although the terrace was empty for a year, it was not re-tiled and Larry began "replanting" it; therefore, his current garden is three years old.

Three years ago he founded the Manhattan Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society and he has served as its continuing chairman and newsletter editor since that time. Currently the chapter has 53 members—including both terrace gardeners and "earth" gardeners in Manhattan. The chapter has donated time in assisting curator Robert Bartolomei in preparing and planting alpine in the rock garden at the New York Botanical Garden. Activities of the chapter include a members' spring garden tour, plant and seedling sales, and speakers' program. In the fall, this active chapter will host a tri-state meeting of gardeners from the Connecticut, Hudson Valley, Long Island, and Watnong (NJ) chapters of the ARGS.

Two years ago, Larry began exhibiting plants grown on his terrace. His most recent winners at the annual meeting of ARGS in White Plains, NY include a silver bowl for *Rhododendron kiusianum* 'Komo Kolshan' as the best ericaceous plant; a red ribbon for *Helichrysum virgineum*; and the H. Lincoln Foster Award (a pewter bowl) for a collection of three American genera consisting of a handsome *Penstemon davidsonii*, a pan of *Lewisia pygmaea*, and a striking *Iris prismatica*, the latter having bloomed from seed he sowed five years ago.

Because of his intense enthusiasm, controlled exuberance and the attentive, loving-care he provides his plants, Larry Thomas clearly stands tall—and grows tall—among ARGS members. —BJW

ARGS Piedmont Chapter Program Announced for 1991-1992

Piedmont Chapter Chairman Bobby Wilder has announced plans for our 1991-92 speaker's program. All meetings will be held at 10:00 am on a Saturday at the Totten Center of the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, NC. The list of speakers and their topics follow :

September 21, 1991

Suzanne Edney

Cary, NC

Landscape Designer and Mixed Border Curator
at the NCSU Arboretum

"Rock gardens: Looking through the Designer's Eye"

November 9, 1991

Geoffery Charlesworth & Norman Singer

Sandisfield, MA

Authors, lecturers, and gardeners extraordinaire

"Gardening Without Help"

January 18, 1992

A panel of Piedmont Chapter members
moderated by Ed Steffek

**"Options for Rock Garden Plant
Culture in the Southeast"**

Featuring:

Tony Avent Growing in pots and garden
beds

Paul Jones Raised beds

Sandra Ladendorf ... Scree beds

Doug Ruhen Dry stone walls and screes

Ed Steffek Berms

Betty Wilson Large boulders

March 21, 1992

Panayoti Kelaidis

Denver Botanic Garden, Denver, CO

"Phlox and Penstemons for the Rock Garden"

*Mark your calendars now for these
outstanding upcoming speakers.*

Brief Notes from ARGS Annual Board Meeting and President's Announcements White Plains, NY on May 10-11, 1991

Piedmont Chapter Chairman Bob Wilder attended the board meeting of the ARGS. Following are a few of the notes of actions taken by the Board:

1) Report from Gwen Kelaidis on the *Bulletin* of ARGS including topics planned for the next eight issues. The indexing of articles will be completed in 1992.

2) Seed-exchange committee recommendation to increase price of seed packets to \$0.50 a packet. A 50/50 split of earnings will go to the National ARGS and the local chapter (up to \$2,000) hosting the seed exchange.

3) Sandra Ladendorf announced the formation of a new ARGS chapter: Gateway Chapter in St. Louis. Two chapters ceased their activities: Pikes Peak and Southwestern.

4) A new national membership list for ARGS will be mailed to members this summer.

5) New slate of officers voted into office: Three-year terms for Phyllis Gustafuson, Steve Doonan, and Ernest O'Byrne; Recording secretary for two years, Irma Markert; Treasurer for two years, Robert Mills.

6) Awards given on Friday and Saturday night; citations and photos will run in Fall *Bulletin*.

Want to Advertise in *The Trillium* ?

On a trial, one-year basis, *The Trillium* is now accepting advertising from Piedmont Chapter members *only* who want to announce their services of plant nursery materials, landscaping and design, and horticultural or other gardening-related services. The cost of the advertising is \$25 for running in 5 consecutive issues of "The Trillium" for an ad that is business-card size (2" x 3.5"). Only camera-ready copy (business card is acceptable) advertising will be accepted. The first ads, if any, will be accepted for the September, 1991 issue of *The Trillium* and will additionally run in the following four issues. **Deadline** for submittal of an advertisement for the September, 1991, issue is **August 1, 1991**.

Note to potential advertisers: The Piedmont Chapter of ARGS has 144 paid members. The newsletter is sent to an additional 28 other ARGS chapters in the US and Canada, to the executive board of ARGS, and to prospective new members in the area. The Piedmont Chapter has members in NC, VA, NJ, CT and Australia. A typical printing of *The Trillium* is 200 copies.

The decision on acceptance and placement or rejection of any ad will rest with the newsletter editor. Contact the editor if interested.

Members' Bulletin Board

Need a plant, cutting or seed? If you are a member of the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS, share your request with fellow members. The chances are good that one or more members have what you're looking for. *The Trillium* will publish your request *free*.

Piedmont Chapter Welcomes New Members

We welcome to the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS the following new members who have joined us since March, 1991:

Beatriz Spier
4906 Pine St.
Wilmington, NC 28403
392-5114

Chet Spier
3513 Wilshire Blvd.
Wilmington, NC 28403
392-0641

Roy C. Dicks
P.O. Box 19811
Raleigh, NC 27619
781-3291

Catherine J. Knes-Maxwell
1525 Euclid Rd.
Durham, NC 27713

Grace Pilaftion
1430 Woodland Dr.
Durham, NC 27701
682-9030

Harriet S. Stubbs
601 Blenheim Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27612

Margaret E. Frantz
108 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
933-9106

Ray Traylor
10504 Parsley Court
Raleigh, NC 27614
848-7762

David Smith
Wake Perennial Farms, Inc.
2788 Highway 42
Willow Springs, NC 27592

Michael Homesley Smith
1500-B Mary Frances Place
Raleigh, NC 27606
851-6495

Matilda Parker
12801 Durant Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27614

G. Ray Noggle
501 E. Whitaker Mill Rd.
Apt. 205-A
Raleigh, NC 27608

N. T. Goodchild
3900 Hazel Lane
Greensboro, NC 27408

Annie Caulkins
4015 Songbird Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Chris Yetter
401 W. Whitaker Mill Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608
821-1063

Jesse & Rosemary Hawks
Rt. 1, Box 154-B
New Hill, NC 27562
387-8528

Sue Templeton
369 Boomerang Dr.
Lavington, NSW 2641
Australia

Wendy S. Peterson
8019 Grey Oak Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27615

Meredith Spangler
400 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Paul & Ruta Stankus
7 Litchfield Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Rob & Sheila Roszell
121 Redbud Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Stephen & Rhonda Burns
5 Hitching Rack Ct.
Durham, NC 27713

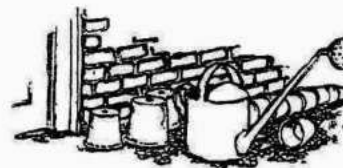
Barbara Dix
1401 Loniker Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27615
847-7666

Mary Whittier
402 Lyons Rd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
942-5041

Mike Fultz
2013 Wake Forest Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608

Don Deal
P.O. Box 19471
Baltimore, MD. 21206

Linda K. Anderson
632 E. Franklin St.
Raleigh, NC 27604



The Back Page...

Chairman's Comments by Bob Wilder

In the fall of 1985, the Piedmont Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society held its first meeting. A group of national members led by Sandra Ladendorf, Nancy Goodwin, and Edith Boyer organized the meeting which included a plant sale. I did not know such an organization existed. Fortunately I read an article in the Saturday morning issue of the *News & Observer* inviting interested persons to attend this meeting. I attended the meeting and was introduced to a new world of plant lovers. We were required to join the national organization to be a member of the local ARGs chapter. It was not long thereafter that I received my first issue of the national *Bulletin* of the ARGs which announced the Alpines '86 conference being held in Boulder, CO. There were several hundred plant lovers at that meeting from all parts of the world discovering the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Due to the terrific organization, planning, and execution by that local chapter, I experienced nearly a week of sheer delight. I was hooked. Since 1986, I have climbed Mt. Hood in Oregon, hiked the mountains around Lake Tahoe in California, experienced the wonders of Millstream (Lincoln Foster's garden) and this past May, 1991, I visited Stonecrop (Frank Cabot's wonderful garden near White Plains, NY). There have been many other private and public gardens to delight the senses.

The annual meetings and the annual eastern and western study weekends of ARGs provided these opportunities. Then there has been the pleasure of new friends from all corners of the US. I think of them as annual friends since we see each other once or twice a year. Some such as Judy Glattstein and Panayoti Kelaidis have presented us with inspiring programs. Gwen Kelaidis has upgraded our national bulletin to a superior ranking with the introduction of color. There have been many delightful and informative winter study weekends. Then, there is the ARGs seed exchange program with seeds from ARGs members from all parts of the world. These offer a chance to introduce new plants to our gardens.

What is the point of these ramblings? Quite simply that you, too, can become addicted to the joys of membership in the American Rock Garden Society. Membership in our local Piedmont Chapter has grown considerably this past year. The national ARGs organization needs the same kind of growth to prosper. Join today by sending \$25 to Jacques Mommens, Executive Secretary ARGs, P.O. Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546.

May you discover the real value of twenty-five dollars.

Bobby J. Ward
American Rock Garden Society
Piedmont Chapter Newsletter Editor
930 Wimbledon Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609



First Class

Mailed July 1, 1991