



The Trillium

newsletter of
the Piedmont Chapter of the
American Rock Garden Society

Vol. 1, No.4

Chapel Hill-Durham-Raleigh, N.C.

September, 1991

Autumn Crocuses

by Richard W. Hartlage

When the genus *Crocus* (Iridaceae) is discussed, the spring-flowering species are the ones most often recalled. The bold-flowering Dutch hybrids of *Crocus vernus* are ubiquitous in spring and the snow crocuses (*C. chrysanthus* and *C. sieberi*) of late winter are also quite common. However, they are fairly recent introductions to the world of gardening compared to the most well-known member of the genus, *Crocus sativus*, the saffron crocus which has been cultivated from at least the Bronze Age (3500 B.C.). This crocus is one of 30-some autumn-flowering species in a genus containing 79 taxonomically-recognized species. My personal introduction to the world of crocuses came from combing through bulb catalogs several years ago and finding *C. sativus* and *C. speciosus* for sale. On a whim I ordered them, and it was these two crocuses that introduced me to this varied and infinitely interesting genus.

Since that first season of my introduction to what are probably my favorite group of plants, I have tried, usually with success, many more crocuses. *Crocus kotschyanus* (formerly *C. zonatus*) is reportedly one of the first to flower in the autumn garden. Late September is its expected cue; but reports of late August are not altogether uncommon. I have tried multiple times with this species but cannot seem to get it established. *C. kotschyanus* [from the Austrian botanist Theodor Kotschy] flowers before its leaves appear with buds opening into strap-like petals of lavender-pink veined with amethyst. Elizabeth Lawrence wrote that she grew this crocus with great success in both her Raleigh and Charlotte gardens. I plan to try again.

Crocus speciosus follows on the heels of *C. kotschyanus* coming into bloom the first two weeks of October. I recall quite well the first season I grew this plant: the corms arrived in late August. I chose a sunny spot, prepared the soil by forking in some compost and a handful of 10-10-10 to a depth of eight or so inches, planted the corms and watered them. The first bud appeared in the beginning of October. With great excitement I watched it unfold, and the others that soon followed. The flower stood on long perianth tubes, some 5 to 7 inches, without a single leaf. (I have found that roughly half of the autumn

Continues, see Crocuses, page 2

Summer and Fall Blooming Natives for the Rockery

Part I: Shade Plants

by Kim Hawks

While our Southern rock gardens are awash with color in the spring, utilizing native herbaceous plants can provide summer and fall color and will insure interest for at least six additional months. Many of our native wildlings adapt quite readily to the rock garden in sunny or shady exposures. This article is a discussion on herbaceous, shade-loving plants that mature to 2' or less; they are a few of my favorites that I have lived and gardened with here in the Piedmont.

Although many tend to think of the summer shade garden as predominate shades and textures of green, there are several natives that offer color in addition. Of course, wild bleeding heart [*Dicentra eximia*] is a given. The fern-like foliage is a nice foil for the flushes of arching pink flowers that hang beneath the flower stalks. If flowers are deadheaded, flowering is fairly continuous. False Solomon's seal, [*Smilacina racemosa*] bears a panicle of white flowers in spring and the flowers transform to showy clusters of berries that hang heavy on the fruiting stalk, causing it to gracefully arch downward to the ground. The berries are first shiny coppery-brown with reddish-orange speckles in the summer and transform to bright orange-red in the fall. The attractive stems are angled in a subtle zig-zag manner and stand approximately 1 1/2 - 2'.

Tradescantia rosea var. *graminea* is an appropriate spiderwort for the rockery of 2' with distinctive grass-like foliage and very narrow dainty flowers of purplish-pink. This species blooms throughout summer with a fresh batch of
Continues, see Natives, page 5

Next Meeting and Seedling Sale

Saturday, September 21, 1991, 10:00 a.m.

Totten Center, N.C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC

Program: Suzanne Edney

Landscaper, Author & Gardener

**Rock Gardens: Looking through
the Designer's Eye**

(Crocuses, continued from page 1)

crocuses bear their leaves separately after flowering). The flowers of *C. speciosus* opened to form a star-like cup of pure violet, each petal (or tepal as they are properly known) was filigreed with dark purple veins. The open flowers proudly exhibited a large, many branched stigma of golden yellow or bright orange, in striking contrast to the violet petals. *Crocus speciosus* more than surpassed my expectations because it bloomed profusely for a month or more, and later produced an odd flower or two into November. Having grown it now for four years, I have learned that, due to its height, it benefits by having some low perennial planted with it for support. I have planted the alpine strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*, over my crocus corms and find the two quite complementary. The strawberry flowers and fruits are pleasing both to the eye and the palate through most of the summer. When fall arrives, the crocus make its appearance through the mound of lush foliage.

Closely related to *C. speciosus* is *C. pulchellus*, which flowers slightly later, near the end of October. It has a similar flower to *C. speciosus* but the petals are more rounded. A paler blue with less intricate veining gives the flowers a "cooler" appearance. *Crocus pulchellus* is further distinguished from *C. speciosus* by having a deeper golden throat and white anthers as opposed to yellow or orange. Albino forms also exist and from time to time are seen listed in specialty bulb catalogs; however, the form most often offered is 'Zephyr', a variety with larger flowers of pale more grayish blue and more obtuse petals. Native to Turkey and Asia Minor, it is completely at home in the rock garden and is lovely in combination with gray and blue-leaved sedums for a subtle effect.

The saffron crocus, *C. sativus*, has the richest history of any members of the genus, or probably of any cultivated plant for that matter. It is a sterile tetraploid plant currently thought to have been derived from a selection *C. cartwrightianus*, the wild saffron of Greece. The latter blooms at the same time as the saffron crocus although it has smaller flowers with a wider range of color spanning from white to deep violet.

Crocus itself takes its name from the Greek for saffron. The saffron crocus is thought to be the *karkum* mentioned in the Song of Solomon (4:14); Pliny the Elder wrote of the medicinal attributes of the drug in the first century A.D. So highly valued was it as a drug, as well as a dye and for cooking, that in the 14th and 15th centuries entire volumes were published on its potential curative abilities; to adulterate saffron (lard was sometimes used) was punishable by death. Linnaeus, by the 18th century, had classified the known crocus species of his day as subspecies of *C. sativus*.

Saffron is no longer used as a drug due to its questionable medical attributes; as a dye, it has been replaced by less expensive synthetic or other natural substitutes. While still grown today for use as a cooking spice, its cultivation is limited due to the required labor-intensive harvesting associated with the hand picking of the stigma, the source of saffron.

A shy bloomer but worth the effort, the flowers of the saffron crocus are rich medium-purple with darker strips radiating from the throat from which the scarlet stigmata, branched into three filaments, grows to fall lazily across the

petals. It's season is late October and early November. *Crocus sativus* [meaning *cultivated*], unlike most other crocus species, does not close its flowers in the evening or on cloudy days. This may not always be a virtue because the fragile flowers can be seriously damaged even during a moderate rain. Its shyness to flower does demand more attention. A planting depth of 6" to 8" is essential.

Late October brings my favorite of the autumn-flower crocuses, *Crocus goulimyi*. Goblet-shaped flowers of a silvery lavender are produced in profusion for nearly a month. Foliage and flowers emerge together in tufts producing a dozen or more flowers where once a single corm was planted. The flowers are produced in succession, with new flowers covering the withered old ones. This crocus multiplies fairly rapidly; thus, you may want to dig and divide the clumps often. You can then spread them to empty spots throughout the garden.

One of the loveliest species for the autumn garden is *C. banaticus*. It's known by two more poetic, though taxonomically incorrect, pseudonyms: *C. iridiflorus* which describes the ability to mimic members of the genus *Iris*; and *C. byzantinus* which tells us of its homeland. *C. banaticus* is named for Banat in northern Romania. The outer petals of the flowers range from pale lavender to rich bluish-purple and are about two inches in length. The inner petals (or segments, as they are sometimes called) are considerably smaller (about an inch) and are silvery-lavender. As the flower ages in *C. banaticus*, the outer segments fall to a horizontal position and later are held pendant as opposed to the inner segments remaining upright. The effect is the appearance of an iris.

The leaves of *C. banaticus* appear after flowering and are much wider than is typical of other crocuses. This width probably relates to its being native to woodland habitats where it likes rich soil and a more even moisture to thrive.

As the progression of bloom continues, November is the cue for two diminutive species that lack nothing in charm: *Crocus ochroleucus* and *C. medius*. The former produces a creamy-yellow flower with a yellow throat which stands stiffly upright. The flowers emerge with foliage and are most effectively used en masse because of their size. A friend of mine has a drift of 200 or more under an old crape myrtle. The latter, *C. medius*, was a favorite of garden writer Elizabeth Lawrence. In her book, *Gardens in Winter*, she describes it as "mauve within and silvery without and has a dark star in the throat." Its intricately branched style is a more consistently deep orange than the earlier flowering *Crocus speciosus*. The flowers of *C. medius* are produced without leaves and may continue to the middle of December.

The best white crocus of the autumn-flowering forms is *C. niveus* which is native to Greece. It is said to flower in November but usually flowers in early October for us here in Carolina; it is medium in size and pure white with a rich yellow throat containing deep orange stigmata. The leaves of *C. niveus* are produced along with the flowers. However, it is slow to increase and thus its flowers are appreciated all the more.

Fall crocuses take up little room and can be tucked in the front of the perennial border, between shrubs and in the dry shade of deciduous trees. They are also stellar performers in a

rock garden. With an annual top dressing of an even-balanced fertilizer or one formulated specifically for bulbs that is typically applied in August or September, crocuses will flower for years. Their ease of culture and the generous dividends they provide suggest that they deserve to be included in every garden. Crocus flowers offer a subtle and delicate relief from the wide-spread vibrant colors of fall asters that generally dominate the seasonal landscape. The softness of fall crocuses are a harbinger for the delicacies that the winter garden promises.

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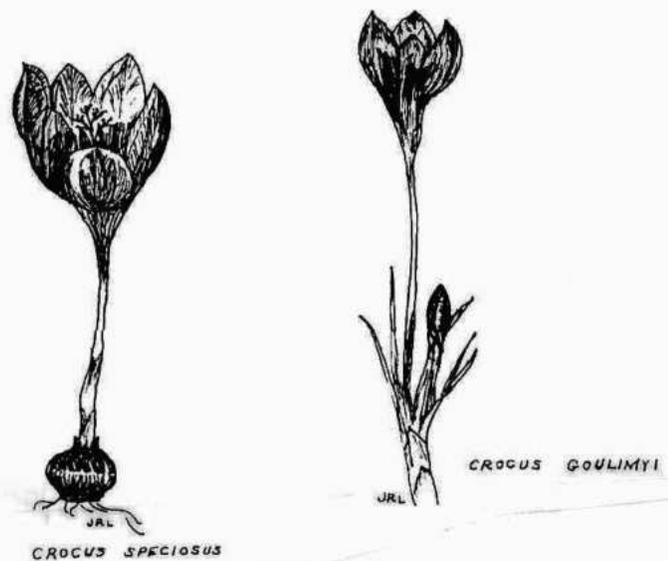
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Mathew, Brian. 1983. *The crocus: a revision of the genus Crocus (Iridaceae)*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.

Phillips, Roger and Martyn Rix. 1989. *Bulbs* [edited by Brian Mathew]. Random House, New York.

Some sources for fall crocuses are **Wayside Gardens**, Hodges, SC 29695-0001; **John Scheepers, Inc.**, RD 6, Phillipsburg Rd, Middletown, NY 10940; **White Flower Farm**, Route 63, Litchfield, CT 06759; and, **McClure & Zimmerman**, 108 W. Winnebago, P.O. Box 368, Friesland, WI 53935.

[Richard W. Hartlage is author of "Spring Crocus for the Rock Garden" in the March, 1991 issue of *The Trillium*. He is head gardener at Chatwood in Hillsborough, NC and is co-curator of the winter garden at the N.C. State University arboretum. He is also a garden designer and lives in Raleigh.]



Gardener "Down Under" Writes of Her US Visit

Australian Sue Templeton, whom some of our Piedmont Chapter members met at the annual ARGs meeting in White Plains, NY, writes us from Lavington, New South Wales that she has been experiencing a mild winter. There had not been severe frost with one month of winter having gone by when she wrote us in late June. A few winter evenings she stayed out a couple of hours after dark because the weather was so pleasant. Sue is a garden columnist for Albury's *The Border Mail* newspaper and is a landscape designer. She joined our Piedmont Chapter of ARGs at the White Plains meeting. We look forward to Sue sending us additional gardening news to share with our members.

Her "summer" visit in the US included attendance at the ARGs annual meeting, visits in MA, DC, NC, SC and CA. A column she wrote upon her return to Australia entitled "US Gardens Are in Good Shape" described her nursery and garden crawl and noted the problems gardeners in the Northeast have with deer. In her CA visit she was impressed with the shaping of trees and hedges: "It seems every house must own one of those motorised trimmers to shape hedges." Sue said that "many trees were grown as standards and looked fantastic, such as oleander (*Callistemon*). I think in Australia 90 percent of the time we put in plants and let them choose their shape, whereas in America they shape their permanent plants. Perhaps it is because large plants make up the bulk of their gardens so they give more attention than we do."

One of her passions is salvias and her US visit allowed her to see species not growing in Australia. Her NC visit included a stop to visit our salvia aficionado Richard Dufresne in Greensboro. Sue was impressed by the "adopt-a-highway" maintenance system, the move to plant wildflowers on roadsides and said, "there is an increased interest in gardening [in the US] as there is in Australia and an exciting future for all interested in gardening is assured." -BJW

Rock Garden Plants Still Needed at State Fairgrounds Garden

As reported in the July issue of *The Trillium*, Tony Avent of the NC State Fair has begun development of a rock garden at an unused portion of the fairgrounds. He is looking for volunteers—and suitable plants—for the garden. In particular, he is interested in donations of dwarf shrubs and small non-invasive herbaceous perennials for sun and shade. Tony and Norman Beal have already begun work. Give Tony a call at (919) 733-0778; or Norman at (919) 231-2167 to volunteer your time or plants. They would like to have the garden completely installed by mid-October. So give them a call now.

The Garden Path

by Suzanne S. Edney

Fletcher Steel, a landscape architect at the beginning of the 20th century, kept copious files of letters and communications with his clients over years of garden building. Through the written word he was able, at times, to develop certain insights into the wants and needs of his employers. Early in my career as garden designer, I unwittingly adopted this method of communication when I was unable to physically present a plan to a client. Explanations of certain modes of thinking when designing various parts of their gardens required explanation.

When I was invited to write this article on garden paths, I quickly realized that covering the broad range of variables (such as space, placement, proportion, purpose, surface choices, construction methods and client needs) would require many individual essays. In the interest of brevity and usable information on the subject of garden paths, I have chosen to include from my files some of the notes and communications with my own clients. By sharing five notes on vastly differing pathway designs, I hope to touch upon some of the thought processes that I went through when designing other people's pathways.

Dear B&V, By changing the earth path (through the trees to your front door) to a 4'-wide deck ramp, a number of problems on your site can be solved. The tree roots that are so heavily trampled from foot traffic will be protected by the deck while its construction will have little impact on the roots. The new deck path will easily join to the concrete drive and only a 6" step down will be necessary as opposed to the 12" drop that now exists. As a controlled and easily traversed surface, it will funnel people toward the entry deck where it widens generously before stepping up to the covered porch. Visitors should feel that they have entered an open tree house with the view of your lovely hill side garden before passing through the front door of the house. Since the deck will be stained to match the wood siding of the house, it will heighten the feeling of the deck as part of the house. I also like keeping the deck path narrow to allow the slope to the left to be a small detailed rock garden—an early reminder of your excellent green thumbs. I envision your displaying a portion of your garden sculpture collection in this out door hallway. Night lighting can be quite dramatic, especially if you choose to hang lights from the tall trees to cast 'moonlit' shadows on the deck.

Dear G & D, We discussed the plan for the widening of the front walk with the simple addition of brick pavers on either side. The pavers should be laid in sand or granite screenings side by side and perpendicular to the cement edge. This places the walk in perfect scale with your two-story colonial house and repeats the brick surfaces on the front steps and on the foundation.

Dear C&G, Part of my job as designer for you is to entice visitors to your front door. The length of your front walk (60') creates special problems. My suggestion is to break up the long walk as well as to use forced perspective to make the distance seem shorter. As you enter the path from the driveway, the

width will be 4'. After walking 25' the path will be bisected with a circular court where a bench and planters could provide welcoming color. The path continues on the far side of the circle but becomes 5' wide up to the front steps. By using fine-textured plants at the drive end and large leaved plants near the entry steps the foreshortening of the path will be enhanced. Viewed from the driveway the pathway to the front door will seem much closer than it actually is.

Dear S & E, Because it will always be difficult to grow grass as a path into the wood land, I suggest using a path of Tennessee flagstone to make the transition from the lawn (meadow) to the hidden pond terrace at the back. There is a dramatic change in feeling upon entering the cool shade of the woods from the open meadow of lawn and using stone as your paving material will greatly enhance the rustic look as well as tie in the rock garden bordering the pond.

Set in granite screenings and properly crowned, the stone path will aid in controlling the slight erosion problems there. The edges of the path should be left irregular to give homes to small ferns, cyclamens, hosta, sarcococca, epimediums, and other woodland plants. You'll see the path varying in width to accommodate garden viewing positions as well as bench placements. The end of the path is hidden from view as you enter from the meadow so that the pond terrace will come as a total surprise. By limbing up the specimen dogwood there will be a further feeling of a controlled woodland which you desired.

Dear L&P, The arbor-covered path from the deck to the detached workshop garage will serve a very useful and immediate function. The garden border will now be well defined and the walk through the arbor ties the strong architectural element of the 480 sq. ft. deck to the garden as well as balancing the gazebo addition at the far side of the deck. The arbor over the new wide service path truly enhances the facade of the workshop-garage. By covering the path, instant shade will be provided, (where there is none to be found as yet) and you'll have a place to grow the climbing roses that you love so much. The swing that hangs at the end will be a strong drawing card for visitors. Think of future hours spent swinging under a bower of fragrance while gazing at the new rock garden.

Just as an entrance gate ought to "welcome" and extend an invitation into a garden, a garden path should lure and tempt a visitor. It should invite a further stroll. It should be a path to explore what's around a corner, or what's hidden behind a rock where the path leads and takes an unexpected turn. A path, in short, should beckon and invite circumspection; it should urge you to "stay a spell."

Recommended References

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- Karson, Robin. 1989. *Fletcher Steel: Landscape architect.* Harry H. Abrams, Inc. / Sagapress, Inc. NY.
- Lovejoy, Ann. 1991. *Garden paths.* Horticulture magazine. August-September, 54-59.

(Natives, continued from page 1)

flowers opening each day. Our native sedum species have much to offer for the rockery. Their ability to withstand dry periods makes them most suitable for our inevitable dry summer spells. Wild stonecrop [*Sedum ternatum*] is a species that is right at home in shady rockery. The small succulent leaves form an attractive mat to nook between rocks, and in early summer the foliage is literally covered with small white star-shaped flowers. This 4" sedum can be grown on damp rocks and is a valuable shade-loving groundcover.

There are several native selections for shady areas that offer interesting textured foliage and varying shades of green that are suitable for the rock garden. *Selaginella apoda* is a personal favorite that gives the feeling of moss. However, I find this family of plants is a bit particular about its cultural requirements. Consistent shade is a must. Patches of sun, especially mid day are hard on selaginellas. Give it a spot in constant shade, perhaps on the north side nestled beneath a large rock, water in times of drought and you will most likely be successful with this delightful texture treat. The feathery foliage hugs the ground and spreads slowly.

The ginger family also offers much for the shade gardener. Canada wild ginger [*Asarum canadense*] is winter dormant, but offers attractive 6" velvety heart-shaped leaves that carpet the ground. The flowers are barely visible in the spring and you have to search them out as the 'little brown jugs' are nestled beneath the leaves. *Hexastylis shuttleworthii* var. *harperi* or large-flowered rhizomatous wild ginger is a really fine plant recently discovered and identified. One of its features is that it is strongly root-suckering and makes beautiful colonies. It grows near streams in quite moist leaf mold with a low pH. The foliage is like the Shuttleworth species except a tad smaller and more refined to the eye. The attractive foliage is shiny and is frequently mottled with intricate whitish patterns. Bob Solberg has a fine specimen in his spectacular hosta display gardens, and he says people beg for this plant. Though it is constantly present, it is never a bore and holds interest year round, even when it is competing with other flowers in bloom. I've never seen it flower so can not comment on the flower size.

Mountain lover [*Paxistima canbyi*] is a low ericaceous evergreen plant with opposite 1" leaves, serrated on the edges. In the fall, the foliage turns a pleasing bronze color. This plants lends itself well to shearing if you desire a more formal look in the garden. Partridgeberry or *Mitchella repens* produces small Christmas-red berries that carpet the ground in the winter landscape. The tiny evergreen leaves provide a fine textured groundcover of deep green for year-round interest. Another common name is twinberry, so-called for the curious fact that a pair of flowers forms one berry because of their united bases. The effect is rather subtle and is best displayed creeping over and around rockery that is fairly visible. The oil of winter green, *Gaultheria procumbens*, is used to flavor chewing gum and various medicines. The leaves and the berries taste of wintergreen when chewed. The low 2-3" leathery evergreen leaves of wintergreen make an attractive groundcover with red berries adorning the leaves during winter.

Bearberry [*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*] is not indigenous to our particular area but can be successfully grown in light shade in moist, well-drained soils. It is not particularly fond of clay soils, so soil amendments are in order if you garden on clay. The evergreen foliage is dense and sprawls along the ground. It reminds me vaguely of some of the dwarf vaccinium species except it is not quite as dense. It produces small white tinged-pink flowers along the stems in spring that develop into bright red berries for the fall and winter garden. It looks super spilling over hillocks or over a rock wall. Fragrant ladies-tresses [*Spiranthes odorata*] 'Chadds Ford' offers a delightful vanilla-like fragrance that is very pleasing. The small waxy-white, slightly translucent flowers spiral gracefully around 15 - 18" stems late summer through fall. The flowers are not phased by the early frosts and light freezes of late fall. Plant in light or high shade in a moisture retentive soil. Fragrant ladies-tresses prefers neutral to slightly acid soils with traces of calcium available through rockery.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention ferns for the shady rock garden, so, that is what I will do; only acknowledge them. There are numerous wonderful native ferns available to gardeners. However, I will leave that as a separate article, perhaps, for Jane Welshmer or Roger Boyles of our chapter to write.

[Kim Hawks and her husband Bruce are proprietors of Niche Gardens, a wildflower nursery in Chapel Hill, NC. Kim is the recent author of "Starting Native Perennials from Seeds" in the July/August, 1991 issue of Fine Gardening magazine.]

Want to Advertise in *The Trillium* ?

On a trial, one-year basis, *The Trillium* is now accepting advertising *only* from Piedmont Chapter members 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 November, 1991, issue is **October 15, 1991**. Acceptance, rejection, and/or placement of any ad will rest solely with the editor. Contact the editor if interested.

Obituary

Our condolences to chapter member Sandra Ladendorf on the death of her mother in mid-July.

Crocus Drawings

The Trillium thanks chapter member Jack R. Lamm of Apex, NC for contributing the crocus drawings to accompany Richard Hartlage's article.

Plan Now for the Piedmont Chapter's Fall Seedling Sale

by Richard Hartlage

I want to remind you again of our chapter's fall seedling sale. As chairman of the sale for the Piedmont Chapter of ARGs, I would like to 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 to support chapter activities (speakers, newsletter, etc.).

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. *It would be very helpful to me if those of you bringing seedlings would come early, say around 9:30 am.*

What to bring to the seedling sale? Well, I plan to bring along a little leafed form of the false climbing hydrangea (*Schizophragma hydrangeoides*), a small ground cover rose 'Snow carpet', some *Pulmonaria*, and whatever is ready from my seed-grown stock. I hope you'll look around your potting area and gather up some plants to share with your fellow gardeners.

I look forward to your wholehearted participation. See you at the Totten Center at the NC Botanical Garden on, Saturday, September 21, 1991. If there are questions, feel free to give me a call at 832-4673.

Membership Renewal Time for Piedmont Chapter of ARGs

For the majority of you, it's time to pay your \$5 membership dues to the Piedmont Chapter of ARGs. *Some of you who are new members and have joined since January, 1991 will have your membership extended.* However, for others, members' dues are payable now. You are urged to pay prior to the September 21, 1991 meeting in order to attend the lecture and participate in the members' seedling plant sale. Clip the form in this newsletter and mail your \$5 check now to our treasurer Marguerite MacIntyre, 900 Stagecoach Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. You may also want to give a membership gift to a friend at the same low price of \$5.

Piedmont Gardeners Are Fine Authors

This past spring and summer have been busy for Piedmont Chapter members of ARGs in that a number of them have had articles appear in national publications. For example, recent issues of *Fine Gardening* magazine have contained articles by chapter members. In the May/June (1991) issue J. C. Raulston penned an article on "Redbuds: Clouds of spring color from small ornamental trees." The following issue of *Fine Gardening* (July/August, 1991) contained three articles by our members: the first by Kim Hawks called "Starting native perennials from seeds: Tips on collection, storage, and germination"; the second, by Suzanne Edney was entitled "Enclosing the garden: Privacy and interest on a small lot [at her former Cary, NC home]"; the third, by Rob Gardner was called "Some moisture-loving plants." The September/October (1991) issue of (you guessed it) *Fine Gardening* contained an article by Edith Eddleman on "The last and the first"—an article about perennials. Perhaps the magazine should be retitled *Fine Triangle Gardening!*

Other recent contributions by our members to national publications include an article on "Primulas for the Southeast" in the *Bulletin of the American Rock Gardening Society* (Spring, 1991) by Nancy Goodwin. Edith Eddleman contributed the foreword to the new edition of UNC Press' *A Southern Garden* by Elizabeth Lawrence. And, finally Nancy Goodwin and Edith Eddleman contributed articles in the new Brooklyn Botanic Garden publication on bulbs [The Bulb Book]. Edith wrote two articles entitled: "Tender bulbs for Southern gardens" and "Crocus, narcissus, tulips, and lilies for Southern gardens." Nancy penned an article called "Cyclamen for garden use."

Our congratulations—and thanks—to our chapter members for sharing their gardening and writing skills with a national audience.

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.

Our September Speaker: Suzanne Edney

Suzanne Edney is a landscape designer having recently moved to a new garden (and home) in Apex, NC. She is co-curator of the mixed border and the trainer for tour guide volunteers at the N.C. State University Arboretum. Suzanne is the author of "Enclosing the Border" in the July/August, 1991 issue of *Fine Gardening* magazine. She is also the author of "The Garden Path" on page four of this issue of *The Trillium*.

Appreciation to Edith Boyer

by Sandra Ladendorf

Enthusiasm and dedication have been hallmarks of our Piedmont Chapter membership from the beginning. It is time to express our appreciation of one outstanding member, Edith Boyer. Since 1985, no one has been more faithful, hard-working and reliable than Edith, one of our chapter's founding members.

Edith has been a member of the national American Rock Garden Society for some years. She, Nancy Goodwin, and I were delighted to discover that we shared the same passion—a fascination with rock gardening and alpine plants. We decided to encourage other Piedmont gardeners to join in the fun.

What newcomers to our chapter may not realize is that Edith has served as treasurer throughout these first years. She has quietly and cheerfully attended almost every meeting, taking our dues, providing the name tags, helping with hospitality and greeting newcomers. She also has provided thoughtful counsel at every Board meeting.

While you do see her acting as money manager at every meeting and plant sale, you probably do not know that, behind the scenes, she also handled the mailing of every newsletter until our change of editors this year. That was a job that grew apace. Raleigh chapter members convenient to Bobby Ward are now doing that folding and mailing. And, the checkbook has just been handed to Marguerite and Alan MacIntyre.

Enjoy your well-deserved respite from board meetings, money matters, and mailings, Edith. You have done a terrific job of starting and developing a solid chapter. Thank you for your many contributions.

Piedmont Chapter Welcomes New Members

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

Mrs. Caroline Ball
Rt. 6, Box 472
Henderson, NC 27536

Charlie Layman
2708 Legion Ave.
Durham, NC 27707

Steve Ellington
9350 South NC 87
Graham, NC 27253

Bill Neal
P.O. Box 684
Carrboro, NC 27510

E. F. Hamer
P.O. Box 541
Carrboro, NC 27510

Bunny Schroerer
21 Shady Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Robert Hill
1501 Moreland
Durham, NC 27707

Robin Walsch
817 Nancy St.
Durham, NC 27701

Piedmont Chapter of ARGS Board Members 1991-1992

Chairman: Bob Wilder, Route 6, Box 145, Apex, NC 27502; telephone (919) 362-7115

Past Chairman: Paul Jones, 622 Stagg Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278; telephone (919) 732-8656

Vice-Chairman: Ed Steffek, 3333 Alabama Avenue, Durham, NC 27705; telephone (919) 471-4008.

Treasurer: Marguerite MacIntyre, 900 Stagecoach Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; telephone (919) 968-6868.

Publicity: Paul Jones, 622 Stagg Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278; telephone (919) 732-8656

Board Member-at-Large: Sandra Ladendorf, 123 High Hickory, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; telephone (919) 942-1734.

The Trillium Newsletter Editor: Bobby J. Ward, 930 Wimbledon Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609; telephone (919) 781-3291.

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SPECIALTY PLANTS

Unusual shrubs, trees, grasses, perennials and dwarf conifers for the landscape garden or for bonsai

Fall Season Opening Sale
Saturday, September 14
9:00-3:00

Also open Wednesdays, 1:00-5:00
September 18 through November

From I-40 Exit #263 (New Hope Church Road), drive west across Old NC 86 to Borland Rd. Turn right and continue 1.3 miles to nursery on your left.

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Dwarf conifers et al.
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hillsborough nc 27278
919-732-8656
Paul Jones, Proprietor

The Back Page... Chairman's Comments by Bob Wilder

The summer season is near an end, having given most of us plenty of rain and an extra amount of heat. Weeds and grass have overproduced. How about your seedlings and cuttings? Don't forget to set aside a share for our annual September plant sale on the 21st. We hope to have it out doors this year to avoid the crowded conditions of the past years. Please cooperate with Richard Hartlage by getting your plants there early—and properly labeled. Contact him at 832-4673 for any additional information you need.

Membership dues of \$5 are due no later than September 21 to be eligible to participate in our Piedmont Chapter activities. Take 5 minutes *now* to send in you dues if you did not respond to the notice in your July newsletter. Please note that Marguerite MacIntyre is our new treasurer; she will be assisted by Alan on the computer. See the insert in this issue that you can simply fill out and mail to Marguerite.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Edith Boyer for her devoted service as treasurer for the past 5 years. Edith told me recently that she would like to turn over the responsibilities to someone else. Thank you, Edith, for the hours of labor in collecting dues and plant sale revenues, preparing newsletters for mailing, and guidance at board meetings plus all the other activities I may not have listed.

It is also appropriate at this time to offer our thanks to Kay Maltbie for her service as publicity chairman this past year. Thank you, Kay. Paul Jones has agreed to take over this responsibility. I believe he is going to organize a committee that will be representative of the areas our membership covers. I call upon the membership to offer assistance to Paul by giving your time and making unique suggestions. We need to increase the turnout at the nurseryman's day sale next spring. It is our final fund-raising activity of each year.

I believe our program this year will be very inspiring. Program planning for the future is ongoing. Let me hear from you. Do you have a mini-program to present? Let me hear from you. We will continue to have our "show and tell" and plant auctions at the November, January, and March meetings.

Upcoming annual national meetings of ARGS will be held in Guelph (Toronto) Canada (1992); Vail, Colorado (1993); and N.C. mountains (1994). Join the national ARGS today! Bring along an extra check to the September meeting. Our treasurer will assist you in joining ARGS national.

May your garden grow in size and beauty in 1992.

Bobby J. Ward
American Rock Garden Society
Piedmont Chapter Newsletter Editor
930 Wimbeldon Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609-4356

First Class



Mailed September 3, 1991