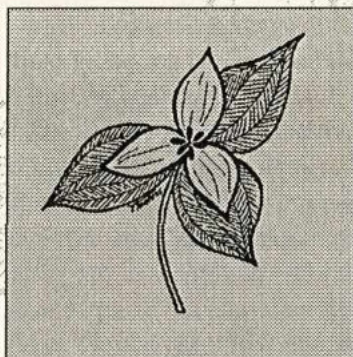


The TRILLIUM



*The Newsletter of the Piedmont Chapter
of the North American Rock Garden Society
Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

**November-
December, 1995**

Vol. 5, No. 6

October rains from Hurricane Opal soaked the soil just after I planted some of the seedlings from our September sale. None of them washed away, and they are thriving now in fall's cool nights and clear days. I look forward to seeing them grow in the year ahead and to starting some new seedlings of my own after the NARGS seed exchange catalog arrives at the end of the year.

It is not too soon to begin thinking about starting seeds for next year's sale and for our gardens. This last issue of *The Trillium* for the year includes an article by Elisabeth Harmon about increasing one's success with seeds. She uses outdoor tables for starting seedlings, and her contribution to this issue focuses on instructions for building a germination table of one's own.

Other contributors to this issue are Loren Russell and Bobby Ward, who offer some reflections on the end of summer and the onset of autumn.

The speaker for our November 18 meeting will be Dr. James Waddick, a well-known plantsman who has traveled and collected plants extensively throughout Asia. He will

A name is a name is a name

When you pick up your name tag at each meeting, you are doing more than picking up a name tag. Our chapter treasurer, Bob Wilder, uses the name tags to keep track of who attends the meetings and who has paid their dues. When you don't return your name tag, he has to make a new one. Please remember to return your name tag to the reception table at the end of each meetings. It's especially easy to forget in all of the excitement over our speaker, the plants to be sold, and the refreshments. But remembering saves time and supplies.



discuss rock garden plants from China. Dr. Waddick's travels were sponsored by the Iris Society, and he has co-authored a Timber Press book entitled *Iris of China*. An excerpt from the book is reprinted in this issue of *The Trillium*.

Dr. Waddick also will present a lecture on bamboo as part of the Friends of the Arboretum lecture series at North Carolina State University on November 16. (Details are on last page of this newsletter.)

Remember that we won't have a meeting in December, but we have much to anticipate in January. Piedmont chapter member Nancy Goodwin will speak about little bulbs, including the small daffodils, at our next meeting on January 20.

Earlier that same week, on January 17, chapter member Roy Dicks will present "An Evening with Beverley Nichols" at North Carolina State University. Roy has been involved in local theater for many years, and he has collected all of the books written by Beverley Nichols, an English writer who contributed much to gardening literature. Roy will perform a reading of classic gardening and plant information from the writings of Nichols.

That should give us something to look forward to as the year ends and sunlight wanes, and gardening slows almost to a standstill.

Barbara Scott, Interim Editor
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From China to our gardens

by James W. Waddick

Chinese iris have been known to science since 1776 when *Iris lactea* was first described, but from Russian, not Chinese materials. The first Chinese species to be described was *Iris japonica*, but this too was described from Japan, probably from material originating in China. The first truly native Chinese iris—*Iris maackii*—was described to the West in 1880. By an odd coincidence, that species is still all but unknown. A strange combination of events has led to the odd fact that although many species of *Iris* native to China are known in cultivation, very few Chinese irises have been introduced into cultivation from plants collected in China.

Perhaps the most widely grown of all Chinese irises is *Iris tectorum*, yet it is commonly known as the "Japanese Roof Iris." This species was probably introduced to Japan from China centuries ago. First described and introduced from Japan, this iris has been associated with Japan ever since. The most Chinese of Chinese irises in cultivation are the 40-chromosome Sino-Siberian irises, gathered incidental to the rhododendron and other woody plant collections of the Victorian era. Starting in 1891, all the Sino-Siberian species were described and named within 20 years except for the more recent and still problematic *Iris dykesii*.

Some of the world's great garden irises are native to China, but little actual Chinese material has contributed to cultivation in the West. Widely grown irises in the Japanese and garden Siberian groups as well as *I. japonica*, *I. confusa*, *I. tectorum*, *I. laevigata*, *I. lactea*, and *I. ruthenica* originate from non-Chinese sources. Extremely few irises in cultivation are from verified Chinese collections. Except for the Sino-Siberians, there would be practically none.

Professor Zhao's publication of the genus *Iris* in *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinica* and the conclusion of the Cultural Revolution increased Western knowledge and understanding of China's great iris flora. New collections of iris are being made both by Chinese field scientists and Western visitors. These collections of herbarium material, seeds, and living plants are making their way to herbaria, botanical gardens, arboreta, and individual gardeners in the West. As living materials are brought to the West, we will learn how to cultivate, propagate, and distribute them. Some may be excellent additions to the garden palette while others will remain difficult or oddities of scientific or collectors' interest only.



My travels to China in spring of 1989 and subsequent exchanges of seeds and plants were the first and largest concentrated effort to introduce Chinese irises into Western cultivation. Seventeen species of living plants were distributed to gardens in the United States, Canada, and France. Seeds and plants of additional species have had wider distribution through the Species Iris Group of North American seed exchange program.

Some noteworthy new introductions from China have already suggested a high potential for additions to our gardens. The most widely grown of the beardless species groups are probably the Siberian irises. Until now the garden hybrids have been based on only the two 28-chromosome species, *I. sibirica* and *I. sanguinea*. With the addition of a third species, *Iris typhifolia*, we may soon have a major new contribution to the gene

pool. This species was first brought to flower in the West in England in late 1989. Even without flowers, other characteristics are worth noting. The foliage is quite thin and slightly twisted for an elegant foliage effect. This is the most northerly of Chinese Siberian irises, and its hardiness may add to the northern range of iris growing. The flowers are blue-purple, and there are no known variations in color, form, or stature. Since *I. typhifolia* has a possibly large distribution along the Amur River, as more material of other collections is introduced, we may see more variety introduced later.

Seeds and seedlings have been distributed to hybridizers in the United States, England, France, and Germany. Within the next few years, garden hybridizers will make crosses with modern hybrids. Perhaps we will have an entirely new race of Mongolian iris hybrids that will come in a range of colors, have graceful foliage, and be hardy throughout North America and across northern Europe.

On the southern end of this spectrum is the yet-to-be-introduced *Iris phragmitetorum*. This species is also thought to be a 28-chromosome Siberian iris. It may be more heat tolerant than the other Siberian irises. This iris and its hybrids may contribute Siberian iris that can be grown in southern locations in the United States and southern Europe.

Another small group of iris species that contains some widely grown species and cultivars is the series *Laevigatae* or water irises. Cultivars of *Iris ensata*, *I. laevigata*, and *I. pseudacorus* grace gardens around the world. *Iris maackii*, which has not yet been introduced, offers another new element to water gardens. This iris is a large-flowered yellow iris allied to *I. pseudacorus*. From the description, it appears to be quite similar to the latter, but the vegetative parts are modest and more suited to small gardens and

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ponds. It has potential for crossing with both *I. laevigata* and *I. ensata* to produce yellow-flowered hybrids in these lines. Attempts to hybridize the latter species with the European *I. pseudacorus* have proven frustrating at best. Although the chromosome number or compatibility remains unknown, this is at least the only yellow-flowered Asian water iris.

For the rock gardener, Chinese iris have barely been tapped. *Iris mandshurica* is a tightly clumping, bright yellow iris perfectly suited to hot dry rock garden situations. This will be a cheery addition to northern gardens. The closely related *Iris tigridia* will not only have the same rock garden value, but also an extra bonus. The striped and mottled color pattern may be of value as it is introduced into the bearded iris gene pool. There are a number of hybrids among the sections Regelia, Onocyclus, and Iris. Irises of the section Pseudoregelia generally have not been used, but they have also not been available for hybridizers. *Iris tigridia* makes impressive clumps, and some color variations have been noted in the wild from blues through purples.

Special note needs to be made of *Iris sichuanensis* since it has the largest flowers of this section. From a short distance, the size and color of the flower is reminiscent of the unrelated *I. tectorum*. In the wild, it exhibits a variety of shades of color from purple to reddish purple. Whether this species can be hybridized with the other bearded iris remains to be seen.

For the woodland garden, *Iris speculatrix* and *I. proantha* remain challenges of sorts. The exact growing conditions of *Iris speculatrix* are not yet clear. It may be suited to high bright shade as well as to open exposed locations. On the other hand, *Iris proantha* is definitely a woodland plant. Both species are small but charming and have a definite appeal for the temperate woodland garden.

Iris anguifuga is certainly an iris for collectors. I have not seen this in flower, but drawings of the flower make it appear less than spectacular. It appears easy to grow, however, and may be suited to some climates more than others. It belongs to a distinct division within the genus and offers the adventurous hybridizer new material for totally new possibilities. I am intrigued by the thought of crossing a summer deciduous iris with an evergreen iris such as *I. foetidissima*. Drawings of the flowers have a passing similarity both to *I. foetidissima* and the smaller spuria irises. The newly introduced plants are slowly becoming established in cultivation and will offer new challenges to species iris growers and hybridizers.

Future prospects. Almost half of all Chinese native iris species are poorly known in cultivation, and even more are not known from plant materials

For the rock gardener, Chinese iris have barely been tapped.

originating from Chinese native sources. Fortunately, recent introductions from various native sources have brought more Chinese materials to the West than ever before. In addition, Chinese scientists are making great progress in initiating and conducting field work to collect new materials for basic research. Field research in China has had many difficulties, including hazards beyond the challenges of travel in remote areas. Encouragement is needed to support the efforts of Chinese and Western scientists to investigate the basics of identification and distribution, and indepth studies of karyotypes, physiology, and genetics. In coming years, there will be even more Chinese material of more

Chinese species than in the past 100 years.

Still more intriguing for the long term is the prospect that everyone will benefit as China becomes more aware of its native iris species and as living material of these iris comes into Western gardens. Chinese iris researchers will undoubtedly discover new species as well as unravel the continuing mysteries of distribution, biology, and systematics. Western gardeners will have new opportunities for horticulture and hybridizing. With the increased interest in wide species crosses—hybrids between species of different sections and series within the genus—new Chinese introductions may provide the basis for a wider range of garden irises than now exists.

I believe it is essential that Western and Chinese gardeners and scientists cooperate to bring these new discoveries to light and make new material known and available around the world. Traditional methods of propagation have led to advances in tissue culture, for example, and this new technology may be needed to propagate new iris finds quickly and in large enough numbers to introduce them widely to gardens.

This book is part of that effort to introduce Chinese irises to the West, but it is only a small part of all that has gone before and an even smaller preview of what may come ahead. Professor Zhou Yu-tang will be represented in the official English edition of the *Flora of China*. He has begun work on a popular book on Chinese irises, and he continues to contribute scientific articles to both Western and Chinese journals. Other Chinese scholars and students have begun to write in Chinese journals about their iris flora. In addition to increased Chinese research and scholarship, sporadic articles in Western journals have described collections and observations in China that have included irises. More has

been written on Chinese irises based on real experiences in China in the past 10 years than in the previous 80 years.

Historically China has kept its doors closed to Western ideas and materials. The Cultural Revolution caused some severe restructuring in China, set back many studies of long-term scientific interest, and devalued science itself. Yet during recent decades, the prospects for science in China have developed at a greater rate than ever before in this century. Scientists who have disdained field work are now going out across the country observing and collecting data and materials at an ever-increasing rate. Introduction of modern techniques, greater communication with the West, and the encouragement of scientific study will produce comprehensive research on all aspects of the Chinese flora. Surely new discoveries will follow.

A growing pool of reports suggests that some species of Chinese iris may be reaching endangered population levels. Some of the difficulty in introducing iris in cultivation may be due to population growth and expansion of urban areas. *Iris phragmitetorum* was collected in what is now Kunming city, the capital of Yunnan province. *Iris kobayashi* can no longer be located in known urban sites in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, and *Iris*

sanguinea yixingensis is apparently gone from Jiangsu Province, its only known location. While *Iris lactea* expands its range, others are surely receding. To date the Chinese government has been very mindful of its conservation responsibilities, but no iris have been included in official plans. This is due in great part to the lack of concrete information.



As a student and observer of the irises of China, I eagerly anticipate the events and plants that will be coming. China has been known for its great civilization, huge populations, massive construction, and wondrous accomplishments. I am sure the irises to come will be worth the wait and equally enthralling.

James W. Waddick is a member of NARGS who gardens in Kansas City, Missouri.

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e-mail to orders@timber_press.com)

Frost report

by Bobby J. Ward

I thought all of you would like to know the earliest and latest and the average frost dates for the Raleigh-Durham area according to the climatology office at N. C. State University. For Raleigh-Durham from 1948 to spring 1995, the average date for the first autumn frost is **October 28**. The earliest historical date for the period for frost is **October 3**, and the latest historical date for frost is **November 17**.

The average date for the last spring frost is **April 12**; the earliest last date for spring frost is **March 16**. The latest historical date for the last spring frost is **May 9**.

This information is free from N. C. State University at 515-3056; the office is "peopled" from 9:00 a.m. to noon only, Monday through Friday. *Piedmont chapter member Bobby J. Ward gardens in Raleigh, N. C. e-mail to biblio@nando.net*



1996 Events of interest to members of NARGS

January 5 - 11, 1996. International Conference. Hosted by the New Zealand Rock Garden Society. "Southern Alpines '96." Christchurch, New Zealand.

February 2 - 4, 1996. Eastern Study Weekend. New England Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society. "Growing Pains." Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framingham, Massachusetts.

March 1 - 3, 1996. Western Study Weekend. Victoria Rock and Alpine Garden Society (VIRAGS). "Challenge 75." Empress Hotel, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. This meeting also will be a celebration of the Victoria Rock and Alpine Garden Society's 75th Anniversary.

July 11-13, 1996. NARGS National Annual Meeting. Wasatch Chapter, NARGS. "Utah Flora '96." Cliff Lodge, Snowbird, Utah.

To Autumn

I

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the mossed cottage trees,
and fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
to swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
and still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

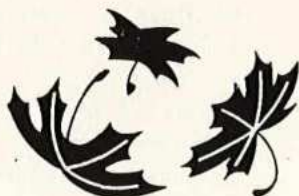
II

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
They hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while they hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady they laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

III

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou has thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden croft;
and gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats, September 1819



Blue Ridge Autumn

by Bobby J. Ward

I spent the week of October 2nd through 8th in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Ashe County in North Carolina. It is the part of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina located adjacent to the Virginia border. There had been no frost yet (now expected, however, in a day or two), and the autumn coloration of oaks, maples and other hard woods had not yet reached its peak. Judging by the coppery, dull coloration, there isn't likely to be the bright oranges and yellows of previous years. The locals says it is due to the wet June, the dry July, and the wet-again August from tropical storms that came through. My own stay coincided with Hurricane Opal's passage through the area.

The usual *Solidagos* and other expected autumnal plants were in bloom. I found two plants that I wanted to pass on information about to others:

The first was *Gentiana decora*, the decorative or comely gentian, at an elevation of 3,300 feet. There were a few scattered plants in glorious bloom at the edge of the woods along a path to the house and on property behind the house. They survived Opal, as did I, and I staked a few plants to collect seed later. There is a closely related, even hybrid form, found in Ashe County named *G. clausa*, and I spent some time identifying it to be sure I was looking at *G. decora* and not *G. clausa*. It is a handsome plant with up to 10 to 12 clusters of deep blue flowers with light stripes in a compact cyme. Bees were flying to the flowers, prying open the petals, and crawling inside. Quite fascinating to watch.

The second plant was spotted by a friend visiting for the weekend, and it proved to be *Campanula divaricata*, also at elevation 3,300 feet. It is a smallish flower and a plant that was quite easy to overlook as it spread along a wooded ditch bank on a state gravel road. He later had its identification confirmed at the N. C. State University herbarium.

The monarch butterfly migration started a day after the passage of Hurricane Opal, and individuals winging southwestwardly could easily be seen. I also saw a menagerie of woodchucks, gray and red squirrels, goldfinches, purple finches, phoebe, deer, turkeys, rabbits and ladybugs, lots of orb weaver spiders, and noisy crows.

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Piedmont chapter member Bobby Ward is on sabbatical as editor of *The Trillium*. He made the above post to the ALPINE-L on-line discussion group on October 15, 1995. e-mail to biblio@nando.net



An outdoor germinating table

by Elisabeth Harmon

When you get to sowing up into the hundreds of packets of seed, it's a good idea to let nature shoulder a little of the burden. That is, as long as nature keeps the "varmints" out. My solution has been crudely constructed tables. I keep two of them for germination, and another two for first year seedlings. As long as you don't introduce slugs or millbugs inadvertently from some Trojan horse, the only other pests seem to be squirrels and errant seeds on the wind. You may foil these by placing screens, held down by bricks, on top.

My germination tables are right outside my back door so as not to have too far to tramp through the snow, which in turn seems to cement the pots and tables in place until the thaw. But they are also under a mature grove of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, that spray seed from November on. Screens are a must.

Because the tables are moveable, I do just that: move them around the yard depending on the time of year, germination rates, and sun conditions. The tables with ungerminated pots remain on the north side of the grove. (I keep pots for three years.) They are checked daily in spring, with newly sprouted plants whisked off to a sunnier table with their kindred. They remain there until winter when they are plunged into a sand bed covered with plastic.

Actually there are two "sprout" tables. One is for sun lovers such as astragalus, onosmas, and the like. I also keep meconopsis (in my pots) on the capillary matting of the APS system. The other table is more light than sun, for primulas, violas, and so forth. When I anticipate being away, both tables are moved to the shade. They have weathered 80-plus mph winds (which ripped off part of my roof), probably because they were sheltered by buildings or trees, or position. You may also put the legs in cement. If you live in an area with banana slugs, then encircle the legs with strips of wide copper foil.

The APS seedstarter system is a "wonder" that is available from the Gardener's Supply Co. (128 Intervale Rd., Burlington VT 05401-2804, 1-800-863-1700). They started selling the Accelerated Propagation System (APS) about ten years ago. I have used it to grow gentians, saxes, primulas, haberleas, briggias, and ramondas in vast quantities. Not only do most of the seeds sprout, they thrive! The system consists of a styrofoam growing tray (24 cells that are 2" x 2", or 40 cells that are 1.5" x 1.5"), a styrofoam pegboard platform that doubles as a method of removing all the seedlings at once and a way to pack in the soil, a styrofoam water reservoir, a plastic liner, capillary matting material, and a clear greenhouse cover. It lasts for years. You may also buy parts. I believe there is also a windowsill version now.

The best feature is that the seeds always have just enough moisture. While I have experienced problems with green slime on ramondas after a year or so under lights, this probably could be avoided with better techniques. Some people report a dislike because they feel they must unearth all the seedlings at once. I simply reach my finger under and pop out the husky seedling. It doesn't seem to interfere with the capillary action for the remainder. Sometimes I even refill the cell and start more seed. My biggest problem, of course, is finding homes for all the progeny so that I have enough APS trays to start my veggies and annuals.

The following describes just one method of construction for a germination table. Don't be put off. Use whatever materials suit you. (Note: wire does take some special tools.) Scavenge. Maybe someone is throwing out a picnic table!

Materials List

One 4' x 4' length of half-inch strength or better plywood (for table top)
Four 2" x 4" studs cut in 3.5-foot lengths (for legs)
Two 1" x 4" studs in 5-foot lengths (for bracing)
Four 2" x 6" studs in 10-inch lengths (for brackets)
Heavy mill plastic (and staple gun)
Optional-hardware cloth, hinges

For those of you who are not carpenters, purchase a 4' x 8' sheet of

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plywood and have the lumber yard split it for you. (Makes two tables; you will need them eventually.)

Cut the 2x6's into brackets by sawing them on the diagonal to make four sets (eight individual brackets). Screw the brackets (10-inch side up), two to a leg, at right angles (one inside, and butting the other) at the height you want the table (about 3 feet). Never screw into end grain! Repeat for each leg. Position the plywood on top and screw onto the brackets. If you want to sink the legs in cement, make them 4.5-feet and figure on burying each leg a foot in the ground. Screw the 1x4's into two adjacent legs, one high and one low, forming triangles, for bracing. Cut plastic to overlay the plywood. Staple on the underside. If you desire, staple hardware cloth above the plywood, around the outside of the top. Also you might want to frame hardware cloth to fit the top and hinge it. Or just use old house screens. Happy seed sowing!

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Elisabeth Harmon is a member of NARGS who gardens in Watertown, Connecticut. She made the above post to the ALPINE-L on-line discussion group on September 27, 1995. e-mail to EBHarmon@AOL.COM



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Last seeds o' summer

by Loren Russell

The Oregon Coast Range, separating the Willamette Valley (where I live) from the coastal strip, has a quite impoverished flora, especially from the rock gardener's point of view. Douglas fir grows magnificently everywhere, and not much grows with it. There are pockets of greater diversity, certainly. Saddle Mountain, just south of the Columbia and about 15 miles inland, is famous for its wildflowers. It holds one or two endemics, a number of good Olympic Mountain specialties, and a wonderful form of *Lewisia columbiana rupicola* that has contributed greatly to the forms in cultivation.

Closer to Corvallis, the trees close in. We have Mary's Peak, at only 4,000, towering over everything for miles. It has nice meadows and a small summit rock garden, with only widespread species aboard. This year I'm sending out seed of *Lilium columbianum* from Mary's Peak, but little else.

A more interesting site, only 50 road miles away to our northwest, is Fanno Bog. This is an open wetland, approximately 200 acres of hummocky ground at about 3,000 feet. This is a locality that rewards visits at several seasons. Early, there is *Erythronium elegans*, though in small numbers. I try to help out with a little bee-on-the-stick work, since pollination has been poor here. Other nice spring plants include the odd slink-lily, *Scoliopus hallii*, a deep-pink form of

Pyrola asarifolia, and millions of bog anemone, *A. oregana* var. *felix*. But the real show is in early August—hard to see, because fire closures make the site inaccessible except in relatively wet years like 1995. Across the bog, the contours are striped with the purple of *Gentiana sceptrum* in wetter zones—and goldenrod in the drier areas.

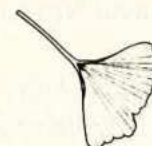
I try to help out with a little bee-on-the-stick work, since pollination has been poor here.

Well, this sets the question: Do I drive 100 miles just to get the gentian, a good wet garden species and a good form? Until this year, I didn't bother. But, for the first time in recent memory, our fall rains came on time at the end of September. So why not go mushrooming to Fanno Bog? I did, and for the past week, we've been dining on yellow chanterelles. At a guess, I have several ounces of *Gentiana sceptrum* seed, some for the seed exchanges and some for my seedbank.

Best wishes, and you all better get your seed in to the NARGS seed exchange!

©1995 Loren Russell

Loren Russell gardens in Corvallis, Oregon, the "home of really rotten college football." He made the above post to the ALPINE-L on-line discussion group on October 8, 1995. e-mail to loren@PEAK.ORG



Refreshments & Hospitality:

Gwen Farrier
4205 Arbutus Drive, Raleigh, NC 276912
(919) 787-1933

Connie Buchanan
634 Arbor Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

From the chair

After the awful summer, many gardeners lost a lot of their enthusiasm along with dying plants. I hope the recent rains and cool weather have gone a long way to restoring faith in the miracles of nature! I know I can't seem to find enough hours for all the gardening I need and want to do.

My thanks, along with those of the Board, to Donna Maroni, who has agreed to be the chapter's director for the upcoming seed exchange that starts late in 1996. Donna already has her "captains" chosen; they are listed on the next page. Congratulations to Donna on her quick organization, and many thanks to those who have so readily agreed to assist her.

The flower show building at the state fairgrounds in Raleigh and the Totten Center in Chapel Hill have been suggested as headquarters for the actual work of filling orders. The Board has voted to help pay Donna's expenses to attend the winter study weekend, where she will room with Elisabeth Harmon, the 1994/1995 seed exchange director, and get firsthand training on the actual mechanics of the exchange.

The magnificent September program showed the people and high places of China through the eyes of Paul Jones. The November one will continue with "Rock Garden Plants from China," which is something not to be missed.

See you on November 18.

Norman Beal, Chair
Piedmont Chapter, NARGS

seed-ling *n.* a young plant grown from seed

Our chapter treasurer, Bob Wilder, reports that the September seedling sale added \$363.00 to the treasury. This is about one-third of what our sale in September of 1994 yielded—\$914.50.

What could have contributed to the decreased sales figure? Perhaps we had fewer plants to sell (or less variety in what we did have to sell). Perhaps we simply had less money to spend this year.

To make up for the difference and to keep our treasury healthy, remember to bring something for the plant auction that closes each meeting. Tony Avent's auctioneering provides entertainment as well as information—the more he has to sell, the more we get to listen to his spontaneous characterizations of plants and their origins.

Also, begin thinking about next year's September seedling sale. Let's try and make the 1996 sale more profitable than the 1995 sale, and better even than 1994. When you order seeds from the NARGS seed exchange this year, consider setting aside some of your seedlings to raise for our September sale.

On October 4, Elisabeth Harmon of Watertown, Connecticut, who coordinated the 1994/1995 NARGS seed exchange, posted some interesting information to the ALPINE-L on-line discussion group. She provided the names of the seeds that donors requested most often from the 1994/1995 seed exchange.

These are the seeds you probably *won't* be able to get from the seed exchange. But if you are growing any of these plants, please consider collecting some seed for the seed exchange. And save some seeds to start for our seedling sale next year. If you are growing something that you think is comparable to any of the plants on the NARGS most-wanted list, bring some seedlings or cuttings to next year's September sale.

Most-wanted non-wild-collected seed

Arisaema backii
Corydalis cashmeriana
Paraquilegia anemonoides
Aquilegia jonesii
Arisaema candidissimum
Arisaema nepenthoides
Geranium argenteum
Aquilegia jonesii
Paraquilegia grandiflora
Arisaema ringens
Arisaema purpureogaleatum
Corydalis flexuosa
Narcissus cantabricus
Aquilegia jonesii
Aster coloradoensis
Anemonella thalictroides
Tecophilaea violiflora
Arisaema limbatum
Clematis columbiana
Dicentra peregrina

Most-wanted wild collected seed

Campanula zoysii
Arisaema purpureogaleatum
Kelseya uniflora
Viola cotyledon
Androsace tapete
Paraquilegia grandiflora
Phlox bryoides
Arisaema yamatense
Campanula morettiana



Update—1996/1997 Seed Exchange Order Fulfillment

The roster is now complete for the seed exchange order fulfillment committee for the 1996/1997 NARGS seed exchange. Whenever necessary, the committee members will call on volunteers to help them with their tasks. Such details will be worked out as we learn more about the actual seed exchange order fulfillment process. The names of the committee members and their responsibilities are as follows:

Director—Donna Maroni. Oversees committee operations, orders supplies, and oversees order fulfillment meetings. Telephone (919)929-8863, Carrboro, N. C., e-mail to dmaroni@email.unc.edu

Volunteer Coordinator—Willy Pilkington. Recruits volunteers for order fulfillment meetings. Telephone (919)833-1209, Raleigh, N. C.

Trainer—Joan Wall. Introduces volunteers to the order fulfillment process, verifies that orders are properly processed. Telephone (919)644-7189, Hillsborough, N. C.

Treasurer—Bobby Wilder. Receives orders, manages finances (deposits checks, pays for supplies, and so forth). Telephone (919)781-2255, Raleigh, N. C., e-mail to wilder@nando.net

Mailer—Bobby Ward. Dispatches processed orders. Telephone (919)781-3291, Raleigh, N. C., e-mail to biblio@nando.net

When one of the committee members calls you to help, you will have an opportunity to participate in an important event for the Piedmont chapter and for NARGS. A little of your time and effort will help to make the order fulfillment process a fun task rather than an overwhelming chore. Let's do everything we can to make our part in the seed exchange for 1996/1997 a success.

NOTICE: Book prices

Tom Stuart reviewed two books of exceptional merit about ferns in the September-October issue of *The Trillium: Ferns for American Gardens* and *The Encyclopedia of Ferns*. Both books are available through the NARGS bookstore for only \$48, rather than the \$60 customary retail price. This is welcome news, particularly in view of Judith Jones's presentation about ferns at our October 21 meeting.

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Who are we?

The Piedmont Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) is located in the Triangle area of North Carolina, which includes Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh, North Carolina. The chapter meets on the third Saturday of the following months: September, October, November, January, February, and March. Each meeting includes a brief business session, a presentation by a speaker, and a plant auction. Except as noted, meetings are held at 10 a.m. in the Totten Center at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, N. C.

The chapter's regular activities also include a seedling plant sale to members at its September meeting, a spring garden tour (which usually occurs in April or May), and an annual spring covered-dish picnic and meeting (which customarily occurs in May). The chapter also publishes *The Trillium*, a newsletter which is distributed to all members on the first of July, September, November, January, and March.

The annual membership fee for the Piedmont Chapter is \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a household. (Household memberships receive a single copy of *The Trillium*.) To join the Piedmont Chapter or to renew memberships, send a check for the appropriate amount to the chapter treasurer, Bob Wilder, at the following address: 1213 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, N. C. 27607.

The North American Rock Garden Society has an annual membership fee of \$25, which includes a subscription to the quarterly *Bulletin*, an annual seed exchange, opportunities to attend national meetings, and NARGS book store purchases at reduced prices. To join the national society, your check for \$25 made payable to "NARGS" can be sent to the Piedmont Chapter treasurer, who will forward it to the national executive secretary.

A list of the chapter's board members and their addresses is provided on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Please contact a board member if you have questions about the chapter or if you wish to make comments about its activities.

Piedmont Chapter Upcoming Meetings. Chapter meetings are held in the Totten Center at the UNC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, N. C.

November 18, 1995, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

Rock Garden Plants from China *James Waddick, Kansas City, Missouri*

Members whose last names begin with the letters **R through Z** should bring refreshments to the meeting.

January 20, 1996, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.

The Little Bulbs *Nancy Goodwin, Hillsborough, North Carolina*

Members whose last names begin with the letters **A through H** should bring refreshments to the meeting.

Highlights of the Friends of the NCSU Arboretum lecture series. Lectures are held in 3712 Bostian Hall, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N. C. NARGS members are invited to attend.

October 26, 1995, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.

Plant Explorations *Sean Hogan*

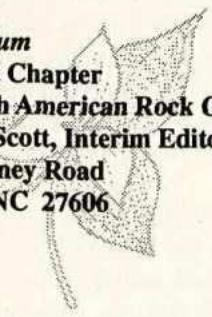
November 16, 1995, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.

Bamboo—Wild and Cultivated *James Waddick*

January 17, 1996, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

An Evening With Beverley Nichols *Roy Dicks*

The Trillium
Piedmont Chapter
The North American Rock Garden Society
Barbara Scott, Interim Editor
1321 Chaney Road
Raleigh, NC 27606



FIRST CLASS