



# The Trillium

newsletter of  
the **Piedmont Chapter** of the  
**North American Rock Garden Society**

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Summer 2001

## *A bewildering array of plants...*

### **"Alpines 2001" Rock Garden Conference Report**

by John Good

This conference (held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from June 28 till July 2, 2001) was surely the most thrilling and informative event ever staged for alpine gardeners. I say this with some confidence because this was the fourth international conference I had attended, starting in 1971 in Harrogate (U.K.). The Edinburgh conference was sponsored by the Alpine Garden Society and the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

The features which made the conference so memorable, for me at least, were the wide range of topics covered by the lecturers, the excellence of all the speakers, and the quality of the slides presented for our delectation. Add to that excellent organization led by Ian Bainbridge, who was the conference director, and the advantages of a university campus (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh) which specialises in conferences and where facilities were excellent and the food very good.

Regarding the content of the programme, I would be surprised if anyone in the audience has visited all the exciting places shown, and I am certain that nobody, including the speakers, had grown anything approaching all of the plants shown, since quite a few are not, and in some cases never have been in cultivation!

In the first lecture on Thursday evening (June 28) Ron McBeath, who has traveled extensively in the Himalayas gave us a mouthwatering view of new

"Alpines 2001" continued on page 2

## *Book Review ...*

**Bulbs for Warm Climates.** By Thad M. Howard. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. 276 pp, 179 color photographs. Hb \$60. ISBN 0-292-73125-6; paperback \$29.95. 0-292-73126-4.

by Bobby J. Ward

For several decades Thad Howard has been a stalwart member of the International Bulb Society, where he has offered professional articles and presentations on collecting, cultivating, hybridizing, and growing of bulbous plants. His travels in Texas, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, and Argentina have resulted in the discovery of at least 35 new species. Many have been named by him and others named in his honor, such as *Polianthes howardii*, *Habranthus howardii*, *Allium howardii*, and *Hymenocallis howardii*. The most recent issue of *Herbertia*, the publication of the IBS, continues to record the on-going fruits of his botanical labors. In it he details the discovery of three new species of *Milla* (Mexican star) and an article by a different author describes a newly discovered Aztec lily, *Sprekelia howardii*, collected by Howard in Oaxaca, Mexico. The Society honored Dr. Howard in 1970 with the Herbert Medal, its highest award for his contributions to advancing the knowledge of bulbous plants.

Continued on page 8

See page 10 for our stellar lineup of speakers and their topics at the NARGS Piedmont Chapter programs for 2001-2002. Speakers are Doug Ruhren, Edith Eddleman, David Rankin, Carl Schoenfeld, Paul Jones, Dick Lighty, and Fred Case. Renew your membership today.

Chinese plants for our gardens. What is more, he grows most of them in his Scottish nursery! Among many memorable slides was one of Farrer's 'Lampshade poppy' (*Meconopsis integrifolia*) growing as a roadside weed, and the diminutive, beautiful and growable *Primula fasciculata*. This tiny pink-flowered member of the Farinosae (Aleuritia) section, which grows in boggy ground at very high elevation (5000 m) in nature, spreads quickly in the garden into a clump which can easily be divided after flowering. I divided my plant which I planted last year this evening and produced 10 good tufts.

The second morning (June 29), which was devoted to American alpine and appropriately chaired by Joyce Fingerut, President of the North American Rock Garden Society, started with a lecture by Baldassare Mineo, owner of the renowned Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery (SRPN) in Medford, Oregon. As well as showing us many beautiful plants, including stunning *Ranunculus escholtzii* and delectable *Dodecatheon uniflorum*, he also included some historically interesting slides, among which were pictures of the founders of SRPN, Boyd Kline and Marvin Black in the field. Next to entertain and enthrall us was Verna Pratt who made Alaska seem the most alluring place on earth. For alpine enthusiasts it probably takes some beating, especially those among us with sore backs and aching knees brought on by decades of gardening. Where else can you see coastal and high alpine species concentrated into only a few hundred metres of elevation? Plants which particularly enticed me were the rightly named *Erigeron grandiflorus*, and snow-peeping *Ranunculus niveus* whose flowers lost nothing in purity when compared with the driven snow. I suspect that it will be boom time for hotels in Alaska next summer! The session ended with Graham Nicholls, a leading British grower and nurseryman who specialises in North American alpine, talking about their cultivation. Nobody could have done the job better and although Graham complained about his short time allocation, we all learned an awful lot in 30 minutes. In particular Graham urged us to try unlikely plants outside in the garden as he had experienced many pleasant surprises.

The afternoon session on this second day was kicked off by Peter Erskine, a former Alpine Garden Society (AGS) president, talking about alpine in the southern Andes. Just as we had all decided to de-camp to Alaska for our holidays, if not the rest of our lives, Peter persuaded us that the other end of the

continent has equally tasty morsels to entice us. In a talk full of fascinating information about the terrain, climate and soils, Peter showed us many plants which most of us would, if not die for, then certainly suffer a lot of pain for. Among these were the gorgeous and oh so tricky rosulate violas, such as *Viola vulcanica* which is so well matched to the colour of the scree on which it is growing that it is very easily overlooked when out of flower. We were told that the gorgeous rhodophialas, among which I particularly fancied *R. andicola* with its bright pink, upward facing chalice, should be kept moist in summer and not dried off as I, and perhaps you have done in the past with disastrous results. Peter is an oxalis enthusiast and showed slides of several species including a number of *Oxalis loricata*, a cushion-forming species with white to pale pink flowers veined in a darker shade. This difficult species has a toe-hold, no more, in cultivation.

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to the alpine plant show, which was located, along with the nursery stalls, in a good hall close to the lecture theatre. The number of plants exhibited was, of course, fewer than it would have been had the conference been held, as previously, in the spring. But many plants which are not often seen were presented to us by members of the AGS and Scottish Rock Garden Club who had pulled the stops out to put a range of lovely plants on the benches. I shall not describe the show in detail; it would take too much space and it will in any case be reported in the conference proceedings in due course. Suffice it to say that the premier awards of a Farrer and a Forrest medal for the best plant in the show went to Ian Kidman for a wonderful plant of *Campanula zoyskii* filling a nine-inch pot. The day ended with a memorable visit to the Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh), hosted by the Regius Keeper, Professor Stephen Blackmore. The RBG, as it is affectionately known, is a holy place for all keen alpine gardeners. As well as seeing the rock garden and the fabulous alpine house we were taken behind the scenes to see the propagating areas and trial glasshouses not normally open to visitors.

The third morning (June 30) of the conference was devoted to the exploration of alpine in the wild in Asia and at home in our European gardens. Kenneth Cox, representing the third generation of his family to hunt for plants in China and grow them in Scotland, gave a stunning lecture with tales of daring-do in high places, following in the footsteps



of Kingdon-Ward as described in his [Cox's] book *The Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges*. At times the slides reminded one of those taken by Arctic explorers, so severe were the weather conditions on the high passes of southeast Tibet which must be crossed if the best and rarest alpine rhododendrons, which are the Cox's obsession, are to be found. But Kenneth showed many other mouthwatering plants in addition to his beloved rhodos, including a primula which is truly one to die for, namely *P. falcifolia*. When the slide of this staggeringly beautiful primula, which enticingly is not in cultivation, came up on the screen, there was a sharp communal in-drawing of breath. The large, fully-rounded, lemon-yellow flowers, 3 cm across and borne on stems only 15 cm high were a sight to behold.

Next came David Rankin [Editor's note: David Rankin, on the NARGS Speakers Tour, will speak at the NARGS Piedmont Chapter meeting in Chapel Hill on November 10, 2001] from Edinburgh who gave a very informative and thought-provoking talk on the old chestnut of why ericaceous plants in general and rhododendrons in particular can in general not be grown successfully in limy soils. He presented good evidence to show that in the wild ericaceous plants frequently grow in soils replete with lime and suggested that in many instances at least it is shortage of manganese which prevents their satisfactory growth in high pH soils in which the manganese, if present, is 'locked up'. Lime-induced chlorosis, can in such cases be reversed by application of fertilisers containing 'sequestered' managanese. The last lecture of the morning was a real eye-opener for most of us. Finn Haugli, Director of the Tromso Botanic Garden in northern Norway gave us a splendid talk on the cultivation of Asian alpine in this far northern (Lat. 70 degrees N) outpost of alpine gardening. It was staggering to see informal drifts of a wide range of meconopsis species and cultivars growing together as if they were on some Himalayan hillside. Finn told us that *M. delavayi*, which is barely in cultivation in Britain, and which is one of the gems of a truly aristocratic genus with its short-stemmed purple flowers lit by brilliant yellow anthers, is firmly perennial outside without protection in Tromso. Equally happy were a range of rare and beautiful primulas, such as *P. involucrata* with yellow-eyed, white flowers on tall but dainty stems over crowded compact leaves. Apparently this primula has a wonderful scent, but how many of us will ever be able to experience it in

our gardens. Clearly, if you have the right climate and soils, and good horticulturists, you can make the alpine meadows of the Himalayas come alive in your garden.

The afternoon session of the third day continued the cultivation theme, starting with a wonderfully informative lecture by Harry Jans on 21st Century gardening and growing techniques. Harry showed slides of many famous European gardens, including several examples from the Czech republic, which Harry considers has the finest alpine gardens in the world. He particularly emphasised the importance of paying meticulous attention to growing conditions, based on knowledge of the wild habitats of the plants concerned. Many of us who have battled to grow *Jankaea heldreichii* and *Paraquilegia grandiflora*, with little or no success, have difficulty in banishing the green-eyed goddess from our thoughts when seeing Harry's slides of them flourishing and seeding abundantly in his tufa walls in Holland. Harry is a consummate grower of all high alpine, including dionysias which flourish in his hi-tech alpine house; a true example to all who would aspire to attain his high standards. A series of practical workshops followed, which seem to have been much enjoyed by one and all. Unfortunately each delegate was only able to attend one workshop so I can only comment on the one on crevice gardening led by my good friends Zdenek Zvolanek from the Czech Republic, the doyen of crevice garden design and construction, and our very own Panayoti Kelaidis. I was particularly interested in this workshop because Zdenek and his partner Joyce Carruthers were kind enough to build a crevice garden for me last year and to give me instruction in this deceptively demanding form of rockwork construction. Needless to say it is giving me great pleasure and suiting many high alpine. Z & P emphasised the importance of making the crevices as deep and narrow as possible, to mimic those in nature, and the need to really ram the soil down to ensure that there are no air gaps. Zdenek had brought a set of large polystyrene 'slates' all the way from the Czech Republic to demonstrate the technique; an indication of his dedication to the art.

After dinner Robert Rolfe, than whom there is no more knowledgeable alpine gardener in the world, gave an eagerly anticipated talk on new plant introductions. Robert is not, you may be surprised to hear, a regular speaker, and claims to dislike the role. But in an hour and a half he hardly glanced at

his notes while describing about one hundred plants, many or perhaps most of which we mere mortals have never heard of. He often threw in a collector's number too, in case we were doubtful about which form of the particular plant he was showing us! Many of us in the audience were totally exhausted at the end of Robert's talk, but full of admiration for his scholarship and enthusiasm. Particular plants which caught my eye as they flashed before me were *Daphne calcicola*, a beautiful yellow species from China, *Saxifraga alpigena*, an extremely compact porphyry sax. from Nepal with glistening white flowers over tiny lime-pitted leaves, and the beautiful white form of *Jeffersonia dubia*.

I had a very late night on Saturday night/Sunday (July 1), returning to my room replete with malt whiskey as the blackbirds were ushering in the dawn chorus. (It is important to make the most of the people at these infrequent gatherings, as well as the plants!) Anyway, I had little problem staying awake through a series of wonderful talks on bulbs. First on was Rannevig Wallis, one half of a very effective husband and wife team who grow wonderful bulbs in their garden in South Wales. The Wallis's have traveled extensively in search of bulbs and we saw a rich variety from around the Mediterranean. I particularly coveted the autumn-flowering snow-drop *Galanthus fosteri*, which apparently likes a sunny position, the diminutive *Romulea nivalis* from Lebanon with yellow-centred lilac flowers, and the earth-hugging *Biarum davisii* whose hooded flowers Rannevig likened to a gaggle of pygmy monks with their hoods up!

Next was Chris Grey-Wilson, AGS Bulletin Editor, whose talk was brought forward [moved up] because he had to leave the conference early to arrange for his imminent departure to China. Chris gave us an erudite and entertaining talk on the flowers of Greece which included photographs of many desirable places to visit, as well as plants. Particularly appealing to me were the delicate *Viola graeca* from Olympus with flowers rather like those of *Viola pedata*, a compact form of *Lamium garganicum* with beautiful rosy flowers and *Campanula andrewsiana*, a limestone crevice plant with plentiful tubular flowers of a rich, dark violet. Jimmy Persson from the Gothenburg Botanic Garden came next and we were treated to another swathe of slides of beautiful bulbs which have been tamed in Gothenburg. We learnt that *Fritillaria latifolia*, the stunning *Colchicum szovitsii* and *Crocus tournefortii*

all do well in the open garden, although the flowers of the crocus are easily damaged by rain and wind so it is kept under cover.

Dave King's short talk on western American bulbs in the wild came next. In a conference where the quality of the slides was generally very good, although sometimes marred by less than satisfactory projection, Dave's stood out, every one being outstanding. You may not be surprised at this when I tell you that he has over 1000 slides of American fritillarias in the wild and as many or more of calochortus. Dave is a perfectionist and rightly gets the credit for it. Among the gems he showed I was particularly smitten by the rightly named *Fritillaria glauca*, the wonderful yellow-flowered *Erythronium multiscapoideum* and by several slides from a single field of *Calochortus venustus* which revealed a paintbox of colours ranging from almost pure white, to white with red blotches, to pure pink, to deep scarlet. David illustrated other examples of variation in particular species, which made his lecture particularly interesting to those of us who grow plants from seed and want to know what the range of variability is that we might hope to choose from.

After tea Ian Young, current President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, gave us a most informative talk on the challenge of growing bulbs. Ian is a human dynamo and his enthusiasm is infectious, especially when he is passing on so much wise advice based on his own considerable experience in growing and showing bulbs. Ian advised us that the exact nature of the compost is less important than its drainage characteristics, which must be perfect. Also, he prefers to liquid feed his bulbs rather than relying on the compost to provide the bulk of their nutrient requirements. He also advised us to plant bulbs closely together in pots; they seem to 'prefer' it and grow better in company. Our after-dinner speaker following the conference banquet was Sandy Leven, Ian's immediate predecessor as President of the SRGC. As an Edinburgh man born and bred, Sandy was keen to tell us how great Scotland's capital is and how many of the great and the good it has produced. His disdain for Glasgow, the nearby industrial 'capital' of Scotland was encapsulated in a joke he told, which is worth retelling here. A table and four chairs standing on the pavement in Edinburgh indicate a bistro; the same thing in Glasgow indicates an eviction!

The final day (July 2) of the conference was devoted to plants from the Southern hemisphere. I



have to admit that I missed most of the first lecture, having had another late night, but it was the only thing in the whole conference I missed so I do not feel too bad about it. Anyway, Joe Cartman gave what I heard was a very good lecture on cultivating New Zealand plants. This was followed by an outstanding lecture from Steve Newall, also from NZ, on new introductions from that small but prolific home of alpine plants for our gardens. Steve's style is all his own, his lecture being delivered in T-shirt, shorts and flip-flops and with a laid-back style that belied his dedication and wealth of knowledge. This man will spare no effort in hunting down rare plants and collecting seed to enable us to have a go at growing them. Having been keen on NZ plants for many years I made a long wish-list from the slides that Steve showed. High on this list are *Chionohebe* (*Pygmaea*) *glabra*, a snowbank plant with tiny white flowers dotted over a rock hard cushion, the form of *Celmisia semicordata* known as ssp. *aurigans*, with its beautiful golden pellicle coating the upper surface of the enrolled leaves, and a special forget-me-not, *Myosotis arnoldii*, with clusters of large blackish-brown flowers over silvery-hairy leaves.

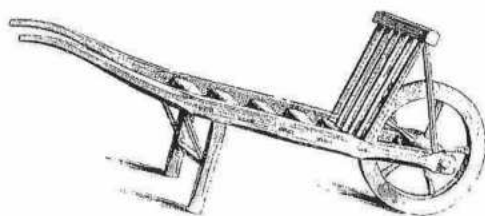
The final lecture on new Zealand plants was by Alan Furness who gardens in Northumberland and is one of the best growers in the UK. He has a particular interest in NZ plants and holds the National collection of *celmisias*. All the plants shown were growing in the open garden, which is a credit to Alan's gardening skills but also, as he freely acknowledged, to the free-draining but water-retentive nature of his soil. There seem to be few NZ rarities that Alan cannot grow and in most cases he seems to have exceptionally good forms. Examples were *Celmisia lyallii* which had enormous snow-white flowers each with several rows of ray florets, and a compact form of the South Island Edelweiss, *Leucogynes grandiceps*. Alan also made the point that not all Spaniards (*aciphyllas*) are 'fierce', illustrating a nice plant of *Aciphylla pinnatifida* with soft foliage.

The final session of the conference began with a fine lecture by Panayoti Kelaidis on new introductions from South Africa. Panayoti has had a special interest in the flora of this amazingly biodiverse area for quite a while now and is growing many species in the Rock Alpine Garden at Denver Botanic Gardens. He proceeded to tantalise us with a bewildering array of exciting, mostly very colourful plants, many of which were new to the majority of us. Familiar, however, was *Delosperma cooperi* and it

was nice to see it in the wild, also *Crassula sarcocaulis* which I have grown for many years in my wet North Wales garden. Why does it do so well in a place which is so different from its mountain home in the Transvaal? Among the many bulbs illustrated one which sprang out of the screen was *Moraea alpina*, an iris relative from the Drakensberg Mountains with dark violet flowers having the inner tepals blotched with a white-ringed yellow eye - lovely! Finally, before the close of the conference there was time for an Antipodean question time in which delegates showed their considerable interest in and enthusiasm for Southern hemisphere plants. Certainly the flora of Southern Africa seems likely to take a more prominent place in our gardens and on the showbench as we learn more about the hardiness of individual species and their requirements in cultivation. Perhaps global warming will make them even more attractive to northern gardeners - any bets on a South African corner outside in the Botanic garden at Tromso by 2011?

The presidents of the SRGC and the AGS rounded off the conference by thanking all concerned in its organization for laying on such a memorable event. Gift-wrapped oblong boxes handed to key people were whispered to contain bottles of very special old malt whiskey from one of Scotland's oldest and finest distilleries. A fitting present no doubt, and perhaps an inducement for these stalwarts to play a part in the organisation of the next conference in 2011. Hopefully I'll see some of you there.

[John Good lives in North Wales (zones 8-9), U.K. He is a professional plant ecologist with interest in arctic alpine flora and ecology of native trees and woodlands. Good is currently writing a book for the Alpine Garden Society on alpine plant ecology. This report on Alpines 2001 was originally published on July 7, 2001 on Alpine-L, the Electronic Rock Garden Society, on the Internet. Its address is ALPINE-L@NIC.SURFNET.NL. Used by permission of the author; slightly adapted by the Editor of The Trillium.]



Soon to be available . . .

## **Bulbs of North America**

A book by the North American Rock Garden Society

Edited by Jane McGary

Fourteen authors with original text

Foreword by Brian Mathew

Chapters include Allium, Amaryllidaceae, Brodiaeae alliance, Calochortus, Erythronium, Fritillaria, Lilium, Southern Iridaceae, and regional contributions on the bulbs of the Northwest, Southwest, and eastern North America.

**Bulbs of North America** authors: Mark McDonough, Jim and Georgie Robinett, Alan Meerow, Parker Sanderson, Jane McGary, Frank Callahan, Molly Grothaus, David King, Edward Austin McRae, Loren Russell, Mary Irish, Colston Burrell, and Mike Chelednik.

Approximately 312 pages, indexed, 101 color photos, 4 line drawings  
2 maps, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$34.95 retail. Published by Timber Press.

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**Planning for the Piedmont Chapter's  
Fall Seedling Sale--  
September 15, 2001**

by Tom Sutton

Well, it's getting closer to that time of year again. Soon, we will be sharing stories of our gardening adventures over the past year, and enjoying the unique camaraderie that only fellow gardeners can appreciate. And, as usual, we will kick things off with our Fall Seedling Sale at our chapter meeting on September 15. Sometimes I think the word 'Seedling' is a little misleading. Actually, larger plants usually bring a higher price, which is more beneficial to our Chapter.

So, if you haven't already done so, why not take a few minutes to identify the perennial that needs dividing, or repot that seedling into the next larger container, and set them aside for our sale. The efforts taken today will do much toward keeping our Chapter viable and strong.

*A few guidelines: please bring plants in clean pots. And, please label clearly each potted plant. Don't pot them up the day before the meeting; plant or transplant ahead to give them time to establish themselves.*

If you would like to help with our sale this year, please give me a call at 919-550-0226, or email me at Tommy08@excite.com. Volunteers are needed to help set up on the morning of the plant sale.

We can sure use the help. Thanks again.

**Join NARGS**

Join the **North American Rock Garden Society**. Benefits include a subscription to the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, seed exchange, garden book purchases at a discount, study weekends, and annual meetings, as well as other benefits. (Membership in the Piedmont Chapter is separate from NARGS, the national organization.) Membership is \$25/year.

Send payment to Jacques Mommens, Exec. Secretary of NARGS, P.O. Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546.

**Obituaries:**

Jack R. Lamm

The Piedmont Chapter of NARGS notes with sadness the death of one of his members Jack R. Lamm, 79, of Raleigh on June 2, 2001. Jack was one of the early members of the chapter and was a recipient of the Chapter's Service Award. His survivors include our chapter treasurer, Bobby G. Wilder. Bobby wishes to thank the chapter membership for its notes and expression of sympathy during Jack's illness and death.

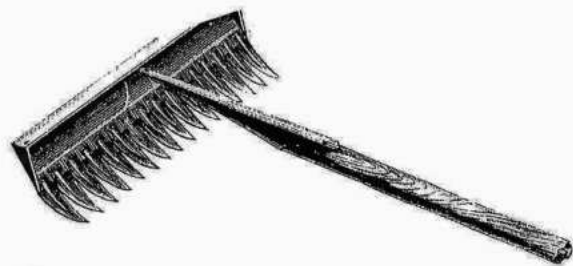
Norman Singer

The Piedmont Chapter notes with sadness the death of Norman Singer, 80, of Sandisfield, MA, on July 14, 2001. Norman served as NARGS national president from 1992-94 and at the time of his death was NARGS President Emeritus. His survivors include his companion, Geoffrey Charlesworth, the current chair of the Berkshire Chapter of NARGS. Both Norman and Geoffrey have given presentations to our chapter. It was at Norman's "nagging" that the Piedmont Chapter was founded in 1985.

**\$300 Stipend to Attend  
National NARGS Meetings**

The NARGS national organization offers each chapter an opportunity for one of its members to attend a national meeting by applying for a \$300 stipend. The recipient must be a NARGS national member and have never attended a national meeting before. (Attendance at a chapter-sponsored national meeting is exempted from the latter qualification.)

For information and to apply, contact our chapter chair Marian Stephenson at (919) 942-5820.





Howard, retired from veterinary practice and now living near San Antonio, has compiled his extensive knowledge on monocotyledonous geophytes in a recently published and much anticipated opus, *Bulbs for Warm Climate*, the documentation and culmination of a 45-year interest in plants by this prolific bulb, and seed hunter of the 20th century. The book is touted as a guide to bulb growing throughout USDA zones 8 and 9, and it concentrates heavily on the growing conditions that Howard knows best—the alkaline soils, rainfall, and hot weather of central and southern Texas, an area that receives some frost each year. Many of the plants he describes easily grow in USDA zone 7 in the Upper South. However, the conditions of the American West Coast region may not accept some of the zone 8 bulbs that Howard grows.

The book is an alphabetical listing by plant family from Agavaceae (agaves and yuccas) to Zingiberaceae (*Hedychium* and other gingers). Included are the familiar Amaryllidaceae, Iridaceae, and Liliaceae and the less well known Anthericaceae (*Echeandia*) and Tecophilaeaceae (Tecophilaeae). Within each family, various plant genera and specific epithets are described, some in generous detail, others listed with minimal expansion. Some genera are provided with cultural and growing conditions as well as botanical detail. Howard provides excellent treatments of the Texas alliums and *Nothoscordum* (false garlic), *Tigridia* (tiger lily), *Hymenocallis*, *Crinum*, and *Milla*. There is also liberal attention to bulbs rarely addressed by other authors: *Alophia*, *Calydorea*, *Cypura*, *Cypella*, *Chlidanthus*, *Haylockia* and *Pyrolirion*, for example. Howard is most knowledgeable about the rain lilies, *Zephyranthes* and *Habranthus*, and there is much valuable information in his book to be learned. However, the considerable depth and breadth of his knowledge about this group of plants is not fully demonstrated, nor is there sufficient detailing of his extensive hybridization work.

Howard's collecting trips are well known in the IBS circles and his anecdotes and reminiscences have been shared at after dinner gatherings for years. It is a pity that these wondrous stories and plant hunting trips are oddly missing from *Bulbs for Warm Climates*; perhaps their omission is the result of an editor unfamiliar with the subject or one worried with increasing publication costs. They would have added immensely to the completeness of this

book.

The book contains an excellent glossary, a detailed index, and sources for mail order of bulbs. Howard's book fills a much needed gap for those interested in bulbs that merit wider attention, particularly the long neglected American bulbs, which are his forte. It should be a welcomed addition to your nightstand.

*Bulbs for Warm Climates* is available through the NARGS Book Service.

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## Summer's Garden Weeds

by Bobby J. Ward

The grass family (Poaceae) and the aster family (Asteraceae) contribute a little more than a third of the most noxious weeds, according to the Weed Science Society of America. The sedge family (Cyperaceae) accounts for about 6 percent of the most pesky and much-scorned plants. Thus these three families provide nearly 50 percent of the world's worst weeds, despite the fact that these families also contribute some of the most important, highly valued plants. Members of the Poaceae, for example, include wheat, rice, corn, oats, and sugarcane.

The name "weed" is from Old English weod and Anglo-Saxon wiod, a general all-purpose word for herbs, grass, or weeds. A "weed" is not a botanical or horticultural designation. Which plants are weeds depends on one's viewpoint. Emerson said in 1878 that a weed is "a plant whose virtues have not been discovered."

Weeds have moved authors to include them among their botanical conceits. There are several references to weeds in the writings by William Shakespeare. In *Love's Labour's Lost*, he notes "He weeds the corn and still lets grow the weeding." (I, i, 96) And later, "To weed this wormwood from your fruitful brain." (V, ii, 857).

He even includes a bit of gardening advice: "Now 'tis the spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted: / Suffer them now, and they'll o'ergrow the garden / And choke the herbs for want of husbandry." (2 *Henry VI*, III, I, 31).

We should take Shakespeare's advice about spring weeding—and enjoy a weed-free summer garden.



**A Symposium Celebrating  
the JC Raulston Arboretum's  
25th Anniversary**

**2001: A Plant Odyssey**

September 28-29, 2001

Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convection Center (Research Triangle Park), 4700 Emperor Boulevard in Durham, NC (off Page Road - Exit #282, Interstate 40).

Registration: \$125 for Arb members; \$135 for non-Arb members.

Mail to: 2001: A Plant Odyssey  
The JC Raulston Arboretum  
Depart. of Horticultural Science  
North Carolina State University  
Box 7609  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7609

Entering the 21st Century, we now stand looking back over the past 100 years to the "Golden Age of Plant Hunting," a period when so many of our fine garden plants were introduced by the classic plant hunters - an era, supposedly, never to be repeated. Yet, at the close of the 20th Century, and continuing today, we have embarked on a new age for plants, wherein the pace of new introductions, whether from collecting expeditions or breeding and selection programs, has perhaps never been faster. The new millennium represents a most exciting period for all who love plants.

Symposium attendees will also receive a pass into the **Moonlight in the Gardens** at the JC Raulston Arboretum following the Friday night dinner and lecture.

**About the Speakers:**

**Jenks Farmer** - Plantsman, author, photographer, owner of LushLife Nursery, Columbia, SC, and Curator of Arcadia, a private, 13 acre, 1930s garden in Columbia, SC. Mr. Farmer will be speaking about combining newer, trendy plants with older, more familiar ones in an effort to introduce gardeners to new plant materials without giving up the past.

**Harlan Hamernik** - Owner of Blue Bird Nursery, Inc. <[www.bluebirdnursery.com](http://www.bluebirdnursery.com)>, Clarkson, NE. Blue Bird Nursery is one of the most notable and eclectic nurseries in the country. Mr. Hamernik will be speaking about his current plant collection and new plants he will soon be introducing. He has traveled extensively both within the U.S. and abroad. He will be coming to us fresh from an early fall trip to Tibet.

**Pamela Harper** - Author, plantswoman, lecturer, photographer, and owner of the Horticultural Slide Library of Seaford, VA. Her horticultural interests extend over the whole range of hardy ornamental plants, and her articles and photographs have appeared in many American and English horticultural publications. "Time Tested Plants," her latest book, is a season by season discussion of the very best plants grown in her Virginia garden.

**Sean Hogan** - Co-owner of Cistus Design <[www.cistus.com](http://www.cistus.com)> in Portland, OR. A nurseryman, designer, and plantsman extraordinaire. He will be speaking on a range of plants that are new to us and very exciting - plants from around the world that are suitable to our climate. He is the Director of Collections at the Hoyt Arboretum and is a co-curator of the Chinese Garden, both in Portland, OR.

**Todd Lasseigne** - Assistant Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum and Ph.D. candidate in Horticultural Science at NCSU. A Southern-born and raised plantsman, whose plant knowledge is best described as "encyclopedic." He has worked and studied in Great Britain at Kew Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh. He will be sharing exciting new discoveries from his plant travels this summer to Japan and the Republic of Georgia.

**Moonlight in the Gardens**

The JC Raulston Arboretum is pleased to invite you to our Second Annual "Moonlight" in the Garden event co-hosted by Southern Lights of Raleigh. You'll have the opportunity to see the beautiful gardens of the JCRA complimented by the artistic lighting talents of John Garner. We will offer tours and light refreshments on both Friday and Saturday evenings, September 29 and 30, 2001. The N.C. Board of Landscape Architects has approved this event for one hour of continuing education credit.

**2001-2002 Program Speakers  
for Piedmont Chapter of NARGS**

September 15, 2001

**Doug Ruhren**

Belmont, N.C.

"Great Bulbs That Deserve Wider Use"

October 20, 2001

**Edith Eddleman**

Durham, N.C.

"The Vertically Challenged Garden—  
Short Perennials for the Border"

November 10, 2001

**David Rankin**

NARGS Speaker's Tour

"Following Forrest and Farrer—Flowers of  
Limestone Mountains"

**Note Special Date**

January 19, 2002

**Carl Schoenfeld**

Hempstead, Texas

"New Plant Introductions for Southern Gardens"

February 16, 2002

**Paul Jones**

Hillsborough, N.C.

"Exploring the Botanical

Riches of Kham: An Plantsman's Odyssey in  
Eastern Tibet."

March 16, 2002

**Richard "Dick" Lighty**

Kennett Square, Penna.

"Spice for the Gardener—Variation  
in Native Plants"

April 20, 2002

**Fred Case**

Saginaw, Mich.

"North American Terrestrial Orchids"

All Piedmont Chapter NARGS programs are held  
at 10:00 a.m. on a Saturday in the Totten Center,  
N.C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Speakers arranged by Mike Chelednik,  
Programs Chair

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**Past Chair:** Barbara Scott, 1321 Chaney Road, Ra-  
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**Piedmont Chapter of NARGS  
Positions of Responsibility**

**Refreshments & Hospitality:** Gwen and Maurice  
Farrier, 4205 Arbutus Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612; (919)  
787-1933.

**Fall Seedling Sale:** Tom Sutton, telephone (919)  
550-0226; and Donna Maroni, telephone (919) 929-  
8863.

## The Back Page ....

### Chairman's Comments

by Marian Stephenson

I am really enjoying this brief respite from humidity and high temperatures in the middle of July. The rain earlier in the week was a gift to us weeders as well as to our gardens. I felt so good to be out weeding without being beaten by the heat. And, it's a lot easier to stay out as long as need be when the day feels so good you don't want to stop and go in.

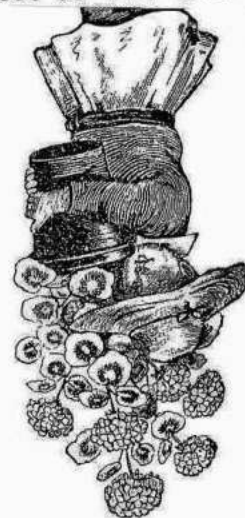
The summer is going by so fast I feel a sense of urgency to get to all the projects I've promised myself I'd do. In May, I discovered eight clematis seedlings that volunteered on my sunny bank. By the time I lifted them, they were about 18" long and needed support structures. Voila! A new project on my hands. Using my husband's technical advice and his handy-dandy tools, I made eight very free-form cedar supports - trellis would be an overstatement for these "natural" forms - for the clematis. It was so satisfying to make them and I think they're beautiful! Continuing the construction stuff, I completed a twirling copper structure started and put aside three years ago. Seeing it up and working makes me wonder why I let it go so long! So, the summer goes by.

On the Chapter side, several of our members began the planning for the annual meeting that we will host in 2004. I will continue to welcome you in working with us to make this a success.

Looking ahead, the Piedmont Chapter has a fine line-up of speakers for Fall, which I think you'll enjoy. I look forward to seeing you in September and I'd like to encourage you to bring a plant or several for the September plant sale. It's always exciting to see what is offered - and one can always find something to take home. Until then, take care and enjoy life.

### First Class Mail

Mailed July 20, 2001



Bobby J. Ward  
Editor, The Trillium Newsletter  
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