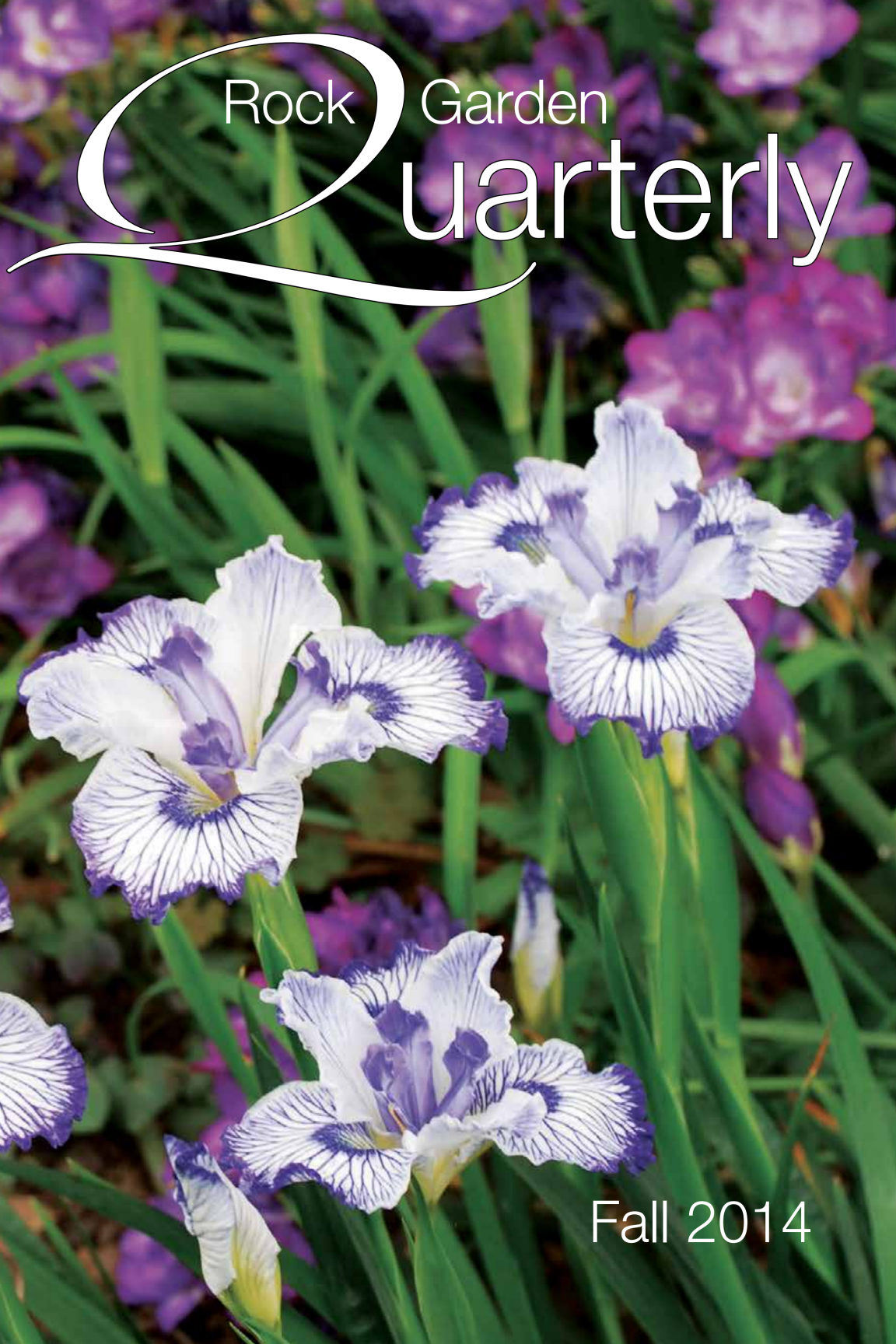

Rock Garden
Quarterly
Fall 2014

NARGS



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The Annual Meeting in Santa Fe brought together almost a hundred NARGS members from across the world. Here, during a visit to Robin Magowan and Juliet Mattila's spectacular three-summers-old garden overlooking the city, NARGS newly-elected President Matt Mattus (right) is pictured with Award-of-Merit-winner Robin Magowan.

Next year's meeting, Back to Alpines, will be in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in May, and outline information can be found on pages 294-295, while the Call for Nominations for the 2015 election is on page 352.

CONTRIBUTORS

All illustrations are by the authors of articles unless otherwise stated.

Phyllis Gustafson ran a small seed-collecting business specializing in Northwest natives, worked with native plants in the nursery trade, and has been active in gardening and plant exploration in Oregon and other climates around the world. Phyllis lives and gardens in Central Point, Oregon. She is joint author of *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*.

Lola Lloyd Horwitz gardens in Brooklyn, New York, is active in the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS and has chaired the Nominating Committee for NARGS. In earlier years she used her fingers at the piano, as both teacher and performer, but now finds her fingers more often dirty than clean.

Panayoti Kelaidis is Senior Curator at Denver Botanic Gardens and a lifelong rock gardener particularly interested in plant collecting. Panayoti combines unconventional rock gardening with an eclectic range of plants and a formidable globe-trotting lecture program.

Baldassare Mineo has been in love with gardening since the age of eight. As managing owner of Siskiyou Rare Plant Nusery in Medford, Oregon, he helped solidify its standing as the premier alpine and rock gardening nursery in the U.S., a reputation that extends abroad. Baldassare is the author of *Rock Garden Plants: A Color Encyclopedia.*

Kathleen Sayce lives and gardens on Willapa Bay, on the south coast of Washington state. An ecologist and life-long gardener, she gravitated to rock gardening and joined NARGS after realizing that the summer-dry, winter-wet conditions in her garden were like some deliberately created rock garden regimes. She grows bulbs, Pacific Coast iris, and ferns along with native shrubs and perennials. Secretary for the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris, Kathleen has a website at <users.reachone.com/columbiacoastplants/>.

Dave Toole lives in Invercargill at the southern tip of South Island, New Zealand. An active member of the NARGS Forum, he regularly speaks to local groups around the South Island on subjects such as Trilliums, Bulbs From Seed, and Field Trips Into The NZ Mountains. Dave also presented at the 2010 Scottish Rock Garden Club Discussion Weekend as well as being the Travelling Speaker around Scotland.

Steve Whitesell is a longtime NARGS member and a landscape architect in New York City with a strong interest in seeing what other members have created in their home gardens. He has a small garden in Queens as well as a larger one in upstate New York.

Front cover: *Iris* 'Finger Pointing' – Garry Knipe

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ROCK GARDEN QUARTERLY

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From the Editor

WHILE PLANTS ARE at the heart of our society, people play a vital part. Writers provide accounts of travels, groups of plants, methods of growing, or observations on the nature of rock gardening. Allied to them are the workhorses of the society itself. Chapter chairs, program secretaries, and treasurers are just a small part of the distributed network of groups that rock gardeners might attend, alongside show-and-tell organisers, refreshment organisers, projectionists, fieldtrip organisers, newsletter editors and writers. At the centre, the continental level, NARGS has its own superstructure of people: officers, directors, and managers, who provide services for every member: seed exchange; website with its forum, online archive of pictures and publications; annual meetings in conjunction with local chapters; this publication. But the most vital group of all are the plant explorers and seed collectors, nursery owners and propagators, who provide us with our raw material.

Boyd Kline who died in June was one of these, his death a sad loss to all who had known him, been on fieldtrips with him, or bought plants from him. Boyd had a great influence on North American rock gardening and therefore on us and our gardens, bringing the plants of the mountains of the Oregon-California border country to rock gardeners through Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, that he established and ran with Lawrence Crocker. It is always sad to lose such members of our community but they leave a mark as those who have written about him make clear. It is fitting that he and Lawrence were the joint inaugural winners of NARGS Marcel le Piniec Award for their contribution to "extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners." This award is just one of the NARGS awards which may be given. They highlight the work of those involved in the activities of the society and the wider rock gardening world and this issue of the *Quarterly* provides details of this year's awards and profiles of those who received them. With this year's meeting so late in the summer, this issue also has details of the much earlier (May) meeting in Ann Arbor next year (p. 294) and the associated election (p. 352) with initial nominations needed by November 1.

One award which concerns the *Quarterly* itself is the Charlesworth Prize for the best article in the previous year. It is named for Geoffrey Charlesworth who bequeathed a fund for the prize. This year the voting (in which your editor plays no part) was tied and the prize is awarded jointly to Don LaFond for his article "I Really Hate Cows or Why Vegetarians shouldn't visit Wyoming" and Dieter Zschummel for his two-part article on southeastern Tibet "Dongda La: A Treasure House of Alpines." They will share the $200 prize and each receives a certificate decorated with Lori Chips's illustration of *Gentiana acaulis*, one of Geoffrey Charlesworth's favorite plants. Congratulations are due to them, and to those who received the other awards presented at the

Annual Meeting in Santa Fe over the U.S. Labor Day weekend with Labor Day itself on September 1.

With Russian imperialism resurgent perhaps, it is interesting to reflect that exactly one hundred years ago, on September 1, 1914, the Russian city of St. Petersburg was renamed Petrograd by the Russian government of Tsar Nicholas II. Later, of course, it was to become Leningrad, and more recently with the fall of the USSR, St. Petersburg again. I had, until checking the facts, assumed that the renaming to Petrograd had been the work of Bolsheviks after the Russian Revolution, but not so: it was the imperial Russian government that took the action.

War had already overwhelmed Europe in the weeks since the end of July as the European powers were forced to take sides, followed by Japan and others. The United States had declared itself neutral on the same day, August 4, that Britain declared war and then within three days had soldiers dying in battle. With Russia too at war with Germany, and having suffered a crushing defeat at the Battle of Tannenberg in the last days of August, the Russians felt that "burg" was too German, and that "grad" was a more fitting suffix for a Russian city. Poignantly, on the same day as that renaming, at about 1 p.m., Martha, the last passenger pigeon, died in Cincinnati Zoo. The total numbers of these birds in North America were estimated as 3 to 5 billion birds into the 1860s. Fifty years later the passenger pigeon was history.

So, more recently, were the whooping crane and the Californian condor threatened, but these flagship species were retrieved from the dustbin of extinction. Not so the Carolina parakeet, the last of which was to die out in early 1918, again in Cincinnati Zoo, despite efforts to prevent the species becoming extinct. Hunting, habitat loss, and climatic change, long- or short-term, whatever its cause, can each have a catastrophic impact on individual species.

With only around 10,000 species of birds in the world, individual extinctions are highlighted. Likewise with mammals with only 5,400 species. The most dramatic near-extinction in North America is clearly that of the bison which was reduced to just 541 individuals before efforts at conservation started the long reverse. But with plants the situation is much less easy to quantify.

There are something like 20,000 plant species in North America, about 4,200 of them endemic. About 10% of the species in the United States are endangered or rare. It is estimated that, between 1800 and 1950, by which date some older members of NARGS were roaming the fields, hills and woodlands, around 90 North American plant species became extinct. This might not sound dramatic but a further survey in the 1990s suggested that another 475 North American plant species might well have become extinct by 2000. This trend is likely to continue.

The plants at greatest risk are those with very small or fragmented ranges. Like island species, they can be very susceptible to abrupt change of conditions and are at enormous danger from collectors. Xerophytes

with their bulbs, corms or tubers, are at terrible risk. While some species are at little risk from collectors, there are *Calochortus* and *Erythronium* species that are much rarer. Pacific Coast Irises, which Kathleen Sayce writes about in this issue, include species that could be at risk. There are penstemons, eriogonums, phlox, and delphiniums that are rare. The list goes on.

Rock gardeners obviously enjoy so many of these plants but the very activity we participate in can threaten their continued existence in the wild. Collecting seed of rare species may be just too much of a strain on a population already under threat. While conservation organisations work on projects to preserve individual species, and maintain or improve habitats it may be that climate change will provide an even bigger challenge. And then the issue of collection could become much less simple. Perhaps it will become necessary to translocate populations of plants from threatened ecosystems to ones that might provide a new "ark." For plants in specialized habitats, in islands surrounded by the hostilities of agriculture or building, the threats are real.

The specialized rock gardener can provide valuable help in such projects but too rarely do we hear of such. Botanic gardens are increasingly unwilling to take material into their collections from private individuals without a paper trail of provenence ... and anyway whch institution wants to become the botanical equivalent of Cincinnati Zoo.

In *Moby Dick*, Melville in discussing the impact of whaling on whale populations, wrote that whales would not die out "until the last man smokes the last pipe." Of course, he might have said the same about the passenger pigeon or the Carolina parakeet.

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GREAT LAKES CHAPTER • ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

NARGS 2015
BACK TO ALPINES

The Great Lakes Chapter invites you to join us for the 2015 Annual General Meeting May 7-10 at Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Garden Tours: The Ann Arbor area is home to extraordinary rock gardeners and we will have two days of bus tours to selected gardens. In early May, expect to see rock gardens and shade gardens in peak flower plus our late spring bulb show. The bus tours will also include visits to a sand barren and rich hardwoods to showcase local native plants of interest to rock gardeners. There will also be open gardens on Sunday, May 10.



Porophyllum Saxifraga on tufa



Iris lacustris f. albiflora



Viola pedata in a southern Michigan sand barren

Programs:

We will have three evening speakers plus workshops at the gardens visited on the bus tours

Keynote Speakers:

- **Ger van den Beuken** – ***Growing High Alpines at Sea Level or Below***
  Ger is an internationally known Dutch rock gardener, experienced with growing and propagating choice alpines, especially *Daphne*, and the use of tufa.
- **Tony Reznicek** – ***The Michigan Landscape and Gardening in It***
  Tony is Curator at the University of Michigan Herbarium, expert on the Great Lakes region flora and sedges, and an avid gardener, used to battling the climate and local fauna.
- **Malcom McGregor** – ***Rock Gardening – or What's a Heaven For***
  Malcolm is a popular lecturer known to us all as Editor of the Quarterly, and as an expert on and author of a comprehensive book about Saxifrages.

Vendors: There will be a large sales area with classic and choice rock garden plants, Great Lakes region native plants suitable for rock gardens, companion plants, orchids, books, and quantities of tufa. If you would like to pre-order a quantity of tufa, please contact Michael Greanya (mfg10@comcast.net).

Post Conference Field trip: 5 hours north, in the "Straights" region, are natural limestone and dolomite rock gardens, both open and forested, and limestone shores and sand dunes. The forests are famous for shows of *Trillium grandiflorum*. The trip will be May 10-12, and space will be limited.



Natural crevice garden in northern Michigan



Trillium grandiflorum in northern Michigan

Accommodations: Weber's is a family owned hotel, restaurant, and conference center renowned for its fine food and local atmosphere. Weber's has given us a very favorable room price of $99 (plus tax) per room per night. Ann Arbor is a cosmopolitan town with a number of attractions, so consider staying a few days before or after the meeting.

More information and booking details in the next issue.



Boyd Kline among *Fritillaria gentneri*

Boyd Catey Kline, Jr., 96, passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2014. He was a co-founder of Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery.

Curt Kline

DAD WAS BORN in Williston, North Dakota, and, at the age of 3, he and his parents, Boyd Kline, Sr., and Hallie, moved west. Five years later they ended up living in Oregon, near Grants Pass. As time passed, they ended up living in Medford, with his dad working in sawmills and pear orchards and building their first house.

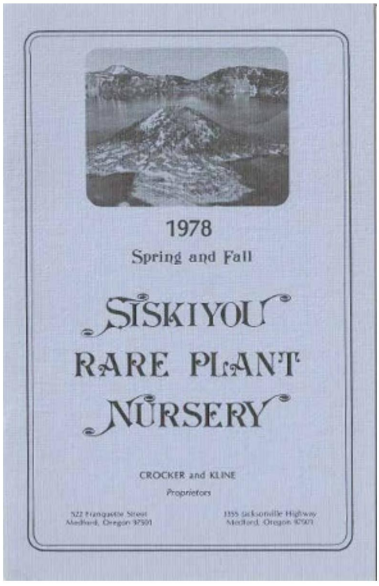
After high school, Boyd worked at various jobs, many connected with the pear orchards and, in 1937, at the age of 20, he went to work at the Medford post office. Thirty-five years later Dad retired from the post office as an assistant postmaster in Central Point.

In 1937, Dad met Lila Lay and, in 1938, they were married. In 1944, Dad joined the Sea Bees and ended up in Hawaii, working at the Navy post office. Along the way, Dad's love of plants got the best of him and he, along with fellow postal worker Lawrence Crocker, started the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. In 1964 they issued their first mail-order catalog and thus was born one of the most well-known rare plant nurseries in the world. Under the tutelage of Marcel Le Piniec, a French horticulturist transplanted to southern Oregon, the founders were inspired to begin propagating and shipping out rare native plants of the Siskiyou Mountains. The first catalog listed 125 formerly unavailable

species. The first year their customers bought everything they had grown.

Reaching the age of retirement, in 1978, the two men sold the nursery. It has since changed hands again but is still in business in Talent.

Dad was preceded in death by Mom, who died in 2000, and his brother Lawrence, who died in 1931, and also two sons-in-law, Burle Welburn and David Saxbury and a grandson, Andy Welburn. He is survived by his sister Mary Prentice, Wyoming; daughters, Sandra Welburn (Burle), Medford and Kathy Maxwell (Shelby) of Central Point and son, Curtis (Susan), Medford; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Dad was laid to rest at the Siskiyou Memorial cemetery. In honor of his wishes, no services were held.

A Great Man, A Good Friend

PHYLLIS GUSTAFSON

MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE have been members of the Siskiyou Chapter of NARGS. We have recently lost one of the greatest – a 1970 founding member – Boyd Kline. He was the "go to" man for advice about field trips and where in the wild to find whatever plants you wanted to see. This was not just for the members here, but anyone from North America and plantspeople from anywhere in the world that wanted to visit the Siskiyou Mountains of northwestern California and southwestern

Boyd Kline (right) with Josef Halda in June 2006 (Phyllis Gustafson)



Oregon. His eyes would light up if a trip to see some special plant was even mentioned. He continued to enjoy these trips, the last few years with his son Curtis, until just this year. Boyd always enjoyed the chance to find new plants on new roads, in new places. With a little more time after selling the nursery, he also enjoyed showing his garden, greenhouse, and seed pots to anyone who was interested.

The Kline place was easy to find on Franquette Street, the yellow house dwarfed by the biggest redwood tree in Medford. Boyd planted this tree by the new house he had built when Curt was born.

In the early spring along the front fence you could see a whole group of local erythroniums. They dropped their seed and with time this has become a large, mixed group of hybrids. *Cyclamen coum*, in all its variation, bloomed through the lawn and the south side gardens with the first rhododendrons.

By the west side fence in mottled sunshine were rows of lilies--lilies from around the world, lilies from seed, or received from friends, sometimes even lilies found on the bench at a local discount store. He was an active member of the Lily Society and wrote articles for its publications. With the lilies were many peonies, some big hybrids but also many species grown from seed. In this area were hybrid seedlings from a large Japanese maple tree. He potted these finely cut-leaf, miniature trees, and then gave most away. In other raised beds, not far away, were a variety of *Fritillaria* and *Calochortus* that he also collected with passion.

Embothrium coccineum, at the entrance by the garage to the back garden, was prized both for its flaming red color and the fact that he grew it from seed. It was bedfellows with *Cyclamen repandum*, usually not hardy in our climate but both happy in his chosen locale.

Plants and seeds ordered from nurseries in the eastern United States and Europe filled his garden. *Daphne jasminea*, both the larger and smaller forms, were surrounded by rooted shoots in later years. These favorites were not grown in our area until he supplied plants to our members.

Boyd with Steve Doonan

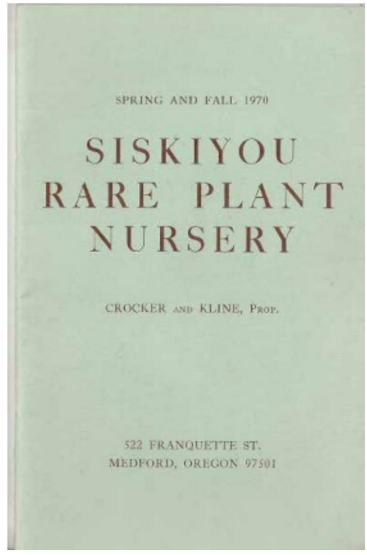


In front of the greenhouse were native trilliums with

odd characteristics. He and Lawrence Crocker found hybrids of *Trillium rivale* and *T. ovatum*, which seldom occur since they usually grow at different elevations. Boyd started making his own crosses with his ever-ready little paintbrush. These have never made it to market but were fun just to see that it could be done. Seed was also collected from a single *T. rivale* originally found in the wild that they named 'Purple Heart'. With strong growth habits and the white flower dotted deep red in the center it has never been surpassed. Another he introduced was pink 'Del Norte', now in many NARGS gardens.

Other unusual but now well-known plants introduced by Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery included *Asarum hartwegii* 'Silver Heart', large silver stripes in the center of leaf; *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, the easier to grow Umpqua form (now *K. fragrans*) grown from seed and cuttings and now available worldwide. *Phlox adsurgens* was one of Boyd's favorite plants. 'Wagon Wheel', is easiest to grow and 'Red Butte' with the deepest red color was also offered.

Silene hookeri is beautiful but not easy to grow. This has fine-haired leaves in a ground-hugging cluster, five-petaled flowers, each petal divided into four lobes. In the Smith River drainage, Boyd found a deep-red-flowered plant but realized there were differences. First mentioned in 1907 it had never been described as a new and distinct species. Some of us in 2004 thought it should be named for Boyd but in the same year it was published as *Silene serpentinicola* by T. W. and J. P. Nelson from Eureka, California. They had worked on it for years. Boyd just continued looking for extensions of the existing known sites. A small amount of seed has been distributed to NARGS members.


SPRING AND FALL 1970

SISKIYOU
RARE PLANT
NURSERY

CROCKER AND KLINE, PROP.

522 FRANQUETTE ST.
MEDFORD, OREGON 97501

Each year Boyd and Lawrence Crocker traveled through a section of the West starting with California and working north. They mapped and dated finds of interesting plants and tried to get back at the right time to gather some seed. They got advice from friends and customers about possible future travels. Boyd made it to the Rocky Mountains at least twice. He fell in love with the high places. He also went to Mexico twice with Frank Callahan to see and collect seed of some of the interesting oaks and calochortus.

Boyd's trip of a lifetime occurred in 1978 to Kashmir with Barry

Starling from England and Reuben Hatch of Vancouver, Washington. He came back with an intense interest and desire to grow many of the fantastic plants they saw. His stories and pictures have beguiled us ever since.

I made a life-long friend after going on a field trip to Mount Eddy with Boyd leading the way. About a dozen members showed up and as we started to climb the others became slower but Boyd just kept up a fast pace. I was young and able, barely, to stay with him wanting to learn the plants. He carried a large cloth sack over his shoulder and as we moved along he said, "I want to share something with you." I thought he meant a special plant. The steepness near the top did not slow him down. When we reached the top he opened the bag. Out came a small cantaloupe. A while later, a few others arrived but meanwhile we had eaten the whole cantaloupe, and "planted" the seed. A secret we laughed about ever since. My life-long friend is gone; I miss him, as do the other members of Siskiyou Chapter.

With Fond Memories

Baldassare Mineo

BOYD KLINE WAS my dear friend and brilliant mentor. Indeed it is the end of an era with his passing, certainly here in the West, and also to all his friends and contacts worldwide. If you met him, you would probably agree that Boyd should be remembered as the friendliest nurseryman, always generous with plants and information. Boyd loved horticulture with rare intensity, and his enthusiasm to acquire and attempt to grow all kinds of plants was contagious.

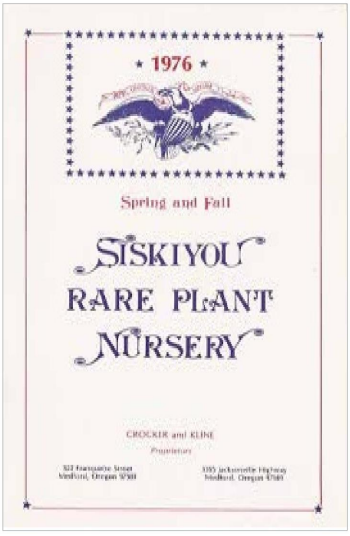
Boyd and Lawrence Crocker started Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery fifty years ago this year in 1964. Their nursery was a success from the moment they started. In 1978, Boyd's wisdom and enthusiasm combined to convince my partner Jerry Cobb Colley, and me to buy Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, relocate from our home in California to Medford, Oregon, and move and rebuild the nursery on acreage just outside of town. People always laugh when I tell them about the day Jerry and I knocked on Boyd Kline's door and asked if we could buy a few plants. Before our visit was over, instead of buying a few plants, we bought all of them!

It was early in 1978, and Jerry and I were told by our gardening friends in Morro Bay, California, that since we were traveling north to Oregon, we must stop in Medford and visit Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. Boyd answered his door with his customary big smile and a sparkle in his eye. Before he even knew anything about us, he welcomed us and enthusiastically began giving us the nursery/garden



Boyd Kline (right) with partner Lawrence Crocker during the heyday of the nursery

tour. I had never seen such a lush, intensely planted landscape. Every plant was unfamiliar, and Boyd began showing us some of his favorite plants in bloom. Besides the garden full of flowering rhododendrons and dogwoods, there were trilliums, hepaticas, lewisias, erythroniums, and hundreds of other rare plants. Focusing on the flora of the surrounding Siskiyou Mountains, Boyd educated us that this region was famous as a botanist's paradise. It was a geologically ancient area where more rare alpine flowers and lowland rock plants are found than anywhere else in the world. Wow! What a first visit this was, incredibly mind-expanding and inspiring.



Within thirty minutes of our arrival Boyd was beaming with delight. We didn't know it yet, but he had already decided that he had found the two guys who should buy the nursery. He explained that the other half of the nursery was across town at Lawrence Crocker's home. The two of them

had started this nursery fifteen years earlier in their retirement from the local post office, where they both had worked. Plant collectors worldwide made them an immediate success. The nursery grew much too fast for their liking and energy level, and was too much work for them; but they were loyal to their mail-order customers and they vowed to keep working hard until they could find the right buyer. They had considered several different folks who were interested, but somehow Boyd was quickly convinced we were the right two guys. "After all," he said, that "two old guys have been running this business; you two younger guys should buy it, move it to at least three acres of land, and you could make a good living." He was right, of course. Boyd even had a scale drawing of how the new location should be laid out!

Boyd sent us to meet Lawrence Crocker, whose garden was a sprawling oak-shaded landscape, where he was responsible mostly for growing ferns, saxifrages, bulbs, and woodland plants. Soon Lawrence was on the phone with Boyd, agreeing that we were the "right guys." After spending a week with our new "professors," Jerry and I were ready to accept the generous invitation to change our lives, and to become the next custodians of Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery!

Many hours of learning and experiencing every aspect of the "job" under the patient and fatherly tutelage of Boyd and Lawrence would follow, intensely for the first several years and continuing until Lawrence passed on in 2002. Through the years, I continued to appreciate Boyd's help in the nursery as well as in the packing room until the newest owner, Dale Sullivan, took over in 2005.

Most mind-blowing and remarkable were the hundreds of miles we traveled together through the mountains of the West hunting for seeds and cuttings of the rarities our knowledgeable mentors knew so well. The devotion, patience, and personal generosity that Boyd and Lawrence gave their nursery – "their baby" – and their customers were also abundantly given to Jerry and me. Our "professors" were always available to help us, guide us, and advise us. Such genuine, caring, kind men are rare and they warmly instilled in us their gratitude to be working with and sharing an endless world of botanical treasures. Though both are gone now, Lawrence and Boyd will always be two of the most important men I have ever known.

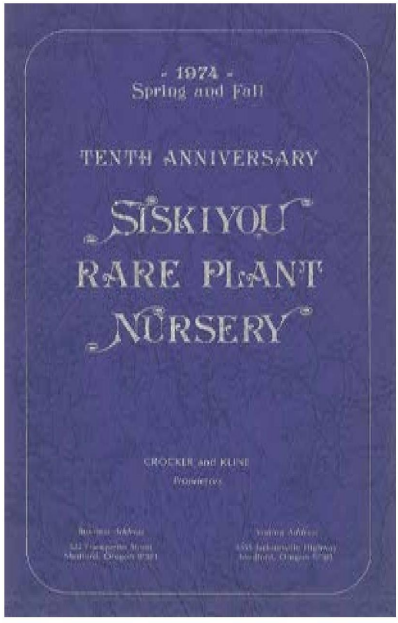
A Mentor with a Gentle Heart

Panayoti Kelaidis

I HAVE HAD more than my share of mentors, beginning with my brothers-in-law (and of course my parents), and Paul Maslin. Although over the course of years I probably only spent a sum total of a few

weeks with Boyd Kline, his influence on me is surely equal to any others that I've had. I was in my late teens when I first requested a catalog from Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. I don't know how Boyd and Lawrence divvied up the new prospects, but I ended up with Boyd. I wanted Lawrence (who did the ferns and woodlanders and bulbs). Of course, Boyd did bulbs too (I didn't know that back then) and was much the more assertive of the two: if he decided he liked you, you got his full attention. and that made quite a difference in my life.

I have often said I am a graduate of the Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery correspondence school of horticulture. I ordered from the nursery spring and fall for many, many years. I memorized their catalog – researching every new plant that showed up every year. I think I ordered almost everything they offered at one point of another – all of which seemed to grow and a surprising number have become rock garden classics. So much of what Boyd and Lawrence did was unprecedented at the time, and just plain "dandy" (a term Boyd liked to use). Every order I would get, there would be a long and chatty note from Boyd, in his gorgeous script, asking after this or that (I guess I sent similar chatty notes when I ordered). And there would be an ungodly number of "Bonus" plants.



I would like to convey something of the man: his folksy, cheerful way. His omnipresent smile, his boundless energy and positive vibe. His phenomenal grasp of plants, nature, people. His gentle heart.

In late June of 1977 Boyd drove out to Colorado and he, Paul, and I spent a raucous week or so careening through the Rockies. At camps here and there Boyd would regale us with stories about Marcel Le Piniec and the other great Siskiyou plantsmen, of his life in the Postal Service, and his real life at the Nursery. He took tons of slides, which he put into a program that he gave at an American Rock Garden Society (not yet NARGS) study weekend – spreading word that there were plants and horticulture in Colorado.

Our correspondence flew more rapidly and the bonus plants proliferated, and my knowledge of alpines and steppe plants ballooned

through this mail-order bromance: it is hard to express the magic that I would feel when I'd see the hefty box on the porch, and unpack the fragrant plants, one by one – lovingly grown, lovingly packaged and delivered with such promise. And then would come months of study, observation and delectation…plants traced to Peter Davis expeditions in Turkey, obtained from Kath Dryden, and all the greatest plants people of the day in Europe; the choicest alpines from the Himalaya, steppe plants from the Caucasus, Mediterraneans and all manner of western Americans; *Tradescantia longipes* from the Ozarks (descendants of which Mike Kintgen just propagated at Denver Botanic Gardens). Let's not begin, or I shall never stop…

A few years later he and Lawrence sold the nursery – to my horror. I was out there the year they did so, and met Baldassare Mineo and Jerry Cobb Colley, who mollified me with their enthusiasm, and subsequently took the nursery to new heights, albeit in a different way. Boyd assured me it was for the best – he'd done it long enough. And besides he could now concentrate on plant exploration.

Boyd took an ambitious expedition to Kashmir that resulted in another fabulous presentation (and a huge collection of *Paraquilegia grandiflora* seed some of which I grew). The correspondence dwindled since the packages no longer came through his hands although Baldassare and Jerry were now communicating regularly with me. The years passed: I visited Medford several times over the decades, and we took a fieldtrip to O'Brien, in the Siskiyous very near the Californian border, and a few nearby spots, and I wandered the magical precincts of the home on Franquette Street I had wondered about so many times… chockablock full of treasures.

Around this time Boyd's wife won a million dollar lottery. This didn't seem to change things appreciably, but we all wondered if it would.

Part of the nursery behind the house



I got occasional notes from Phyllis Gustafson reporting on Boyd's health, and word from Baldassare. I called a few times. I even got a warm letter and email pictures from Curt, his wonderful son. Boyd was busy all this time, exploring

locally, growing plants and having a good time with his family. Our communications tapered off.

I intended to go back and visit recently: Paul Bonine has offered to show me the Siskiyous, and I must go there with him or Sean Hogan – two avatars of the younger Boyd if there ever could be. I don't know if I have sufficiently underscored that over the course of a few decades, with very little in the way of face time, Boyd effectively delivered the equivalent of a Ph.D. in Horticulture for me: at least that is what it has provided for me professionally in terms of career path.

I shall return to Medford one day, and when I do I shall certainly drive by the home on 522 Franquette – and would like to visit his grave. I shall certainly marvel at the lofty *Sequoiadendron* in the front yard, planted the year his son was born. Incidentally, that's the same year I was. It's a very big tree today.



EDITOR'S NOTE. Boyd Cline, who co-founded Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery in Medford with Lawrence Crocker in 1964, was a vice-president of the North American Rock Garden Society, and he and Crocker received the first Marcel Le Piniec Award from NARGS in 1969, awarded by Lincoln Foster "for enriching and extending the plant material available to American rock gardeners."

Anyone wishing to read some of Boyd Kline's writing might like to have a look at these articles in the *Rock Garden Quarterly* (and its predecessors) :

"Saga of the Red Buttes," vol. 22 no.4, p.97

"Exploring the Himalayas of Kashmir" (with Edward Huggins), vol. 37 no.3, p.107

"Some Western Treasures," vol. 39 no.4, p.185,

"Calochortus: Why not try them?" vol. 48 no.1, p.25

They can all be found in the online issues on the NARGS website.



Photo Contest 2015

The last issue of the Quarterly featured some of the great pictures in last year's contest.

Send in your pictures, share your enthusiasm with others—and perhaps win a gift membership for a friend.

CLASSES

Class 1: THE ROCK GARDEN IN WINTER - NEW
This new class can feature an individual vignette or a more general pictures - it doesn't have to be your own garden but please identify the owner. Hint: Frame your image carefully to exclude unattractive and unintended objects ... or move them!

Class 2: PORTRAIT OF A PLANT IN CULTIVATION
Image focused on a single plant, group of flowers, or small group of the same plant in the garden, or in a container (pot, trough or other container).

Class 3: PORTRAIT OF A PLANT IN THE WILD
Image focused on a **single plant** in its native habitat. Ideally, the entire plant should be visible, not just a flower, which is more appropriate to class 5.

Class 4: NATURAL SCENE WITH PLANTS
Image including both wild plants and their surrounding habitat and scenery. This need not be high mountain scenery. Please identify the site. Hint: This is not the same as class 3, and should not foreground a single plant specimen; the emphasis should be on the general scene. Depth of field is a strong consideration.

Class 5: CLOSE-UP
Close-up image (macro or otherwise) of **single flowers** or other plant parts.

Class 6: NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE PLANT
Image may be of any North American native plant in the wild or in cultivation.

In addition to the fame, and the gratitude of the editor, you can win a year's NARGS membership as a gift to a new member of your choice. Entries should be submitted as digital images on CD. Photographs will be archived for future publication. All published photos are credited, and copyright remains with the photographer. Entering the contest grants NARGS permission for one-time use of all images submitted.

INSTRUCTIONS for ENTRIES

Digital images may be submitted in JPG or TIF format. Other formats may cause problems. Submit all your images on one CD or memory stick, with each image file renamed (if possible) with the subject and your initials (e.g., *Phlox hoodii JM.jpg*). If you are entering several classes, it is very helpful to make a separate folder for each class.

Include a text document listing your entries by class, with plant names fully spelled out and any other information you feel should appear in a caption when the photo is published. Please submit this list on paper and also put it on the CD or memory stick as a ".doc", ".docx" or ".pages" file.

You may enter a maximum of ten images in each class but you are freee to enter as few as you want. If you just have one perfect picture do send it in.

The deadline for entries is

April 15, 2015

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR **NOW**

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO :

Bobby Ward, NARGS Executive Secretary,
PO Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604.

Judging criteria are technical quality, aesthetic appeal, adherence to parameters of the class entered, and suitability for publication. Different judges are recruited each year by the editor and remain anonymous.

Pacific Coast Irises:
a Glorious Challenge for Rock Gardeners

Kathleen Sayce



THE BEARDLESS IRISES of Series *Californicae*, often popularly called Pacificas or Pacific Coast Irises (PCIs), are known for widely diverse flowers, being extravagant as to flower shapes, colors and patterning. Some of them are too large for the rock garden but some are very much in scale with what many rock gardeners look for.

Species in the series (part of the Beardless Iris section *Limniris*) hybridize easily with each other. Modern hybridizers may work with clones that are forty to fifty generations removed from wild species, and the range of modern flowers is simply spectacular. New patterns appear every year. Plants often flower in the second year, so determined hybridizers can quickly select desired forms.

There's a downside to the floral glory of Pacific Coast Irises, which is "impatience" with conditions they do not like (read "die"). Native to the West Coast of North America, the species (there are twelve of them) grow naturally from the San Bernardino Mountains in southern California to southwest Washington in the Cascade Range, and they and the hybrids are commonly grown from southern California to southern British Columbia, Canada, west of the Cascades. Outside this region, they are often seen as too fussy, too delicate, or too difficult to bother with, no matter how wonderful the flowers. This has not prevented gardeners in other areas from continuing to try to grow them, and this article focuses on ways to succeed (or attempt to succeed) with them outside the home range.

Members of the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris (SPCNI) grow them in Europe, British Isles, Australia and New Zealand, and the society formerly had members in Mexico and South Africa who also grew them. By comparing climates, gardeners in temperate parts of Chile should be able to grow Pacific Coast Irises, as should gardeners who live a few thousand feet above sea level in otherwise too-hot areas, including east to southeastern



Iris chrysophylla, Siskiyou Mountains, Oregon

U.S., the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Greece, and other countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Lowland China may be too hot, but higher elevations may work, likewise in Japan, and even Hawaii, up a few thousand feet from sea level.

PREFERRED GROWING CONDITIONS

Pacific Coast Irises are not wetland plants. They do not like wetland soils, standing water in summer or winter, daily watering, or being submerged in water.

Pacific Coast Irises prefer acidic soil with excellent drainage, some moisture from fall to spring, organic amendments including compost, biochar (biologically activated charcoal) and mulch, cool roots, good air circulation, and full sun to part shade to full shade, depending on summer heat. The rule on shade and heat is that the hotter the summer is, the deeper the shade should be. They flower from late winter to late spring or early summer, depending on latitude and temperatures, and are green but dormant, their roots inactive, from summer into early fall. Where winters are cool, roots are inactive again, whereas in moderate winter areas with ample moisture, such as the maritime Pacific Northwest and British Isles, established plants may have active root growth almost all year.

TRANSPLANTING

Pacific Coast Irises can be lifted, divided, and transplanted safely only when in active root growth. This is easy to check: Scrape away the soil at the base of the plant and look for white roots. If the roots are brown or dark, they are dormant. If they are white and one to four inches long, the plant is in active growth, and it can be moved. If roots are shorter, place the plant in water in a well-lit airy spot until the roots have grown to an inch long.

Plants native to the West Coast are usually best transplanted in fall. By transplanting them in the fall, Pacific Coast Irises have the cool damp months of winter to establish. Photosynthesis by existing leaves supplies energy, with extensive root growth underground. The benefit of fall planting is equivalent to two years of growth after spring planting.

A division of Pacific Coast Iris ready for transplanting, with active white roots clearly visible



THE PACIFIC COAST IRIS SPECIES

The genus Iris has 200+ species and is subdivided into sections and some of those are subdivided into series. There are twelve species and several subspecies in series *Californicae*.

Iris bracteata – 20-30 cm – white to pale yellow – Klamath & Siskiyou Mountains.

Iris chrysophylla – 20 cm – white or cream – Cascades in Oregon, Klamath & Siskiyou Mountains.

Iris douglasiana – 70 cm plus – white, yellow, lavender, to purple - always coastal, California to southern Oregon.

Iris fernaldii – 20-45 cm – typically pale yellow or cream - limited in coastal central California.

Iris hartwegii - 10-30 cm - typically pale yellow or cream – Sierra Nevada valleys and mountains of southern California.

Iris innominata – 20-25 cm – rich yellow – Siskiyou Mountains, Oregon.

Iris macrosiphon – 15-25 cm – cream to yellow, lavender, or purple - widespread in northern California.

Iris munzii – 75 cm – lavender to purple – small area in Sierra Nevada foothills.

Iris purdyi – 30 cm – cream – northern Coastal Range, California.

Iris tenax – 30 cm – lavender to purple, rose, blue, yellow, pink, white - Cascades in southern Washington, Oregon Coast Range and Cascades, and also small population in Californian Klamath range.

Iris tenuissima – to 30 cm – cream – northern California.

Iris thompsonii – typically lavender to purple – Siskiyou Mountains in Oregon and California, Klamath Range in extreme northern California.

Most modern Pacific Coast Iris hybrids are derived from multiple-species garden crosses, starting with species growing around the San Francisco Bay area before WWII, and *Iris innominata*.



SPCNI member Pat Spiers on a Siskiyou fieldtrip in southwest Oregon examining a group of *Iris innominata*

You may find that Pacific Coast Irises are available in your area only in the spring, so that you have no other option but to plant in that season. Remember to check the roots to see if they are alive (white). If they are white and in active growth, then go ahead. If you commit to this, however, you are also committing to regular watering that summer, especially in a warm summer climate.

In a hot dry climate, it is better to prepare the soil in spring and plant then, than to wait out a long hot summer with them in pots. Plants can be held over the summer in cool shade, though I have taken them gently out of their pots in late spring to early summer, and planted them successfully. I have also killed Pacific Coast Irises by holding them in pots in locations that were too hot by midsummer, and I live in a cool summer area, zone 8 on the south coast of Washington in the Pacific Northwest.

For young plants, and newly transplanted plants, regular watering



in dry summers is important for the first couple of years with watering needed each week initially, and then biweekly to monthly. For most nurseries and gardens along the West Coast, this means that fall or spring are the only times when Pacific Coast Irises can be shipped. Nursery by nursery, each business knows what works for its plants. Sometimes this is in spring; most often it is in fall. Seedlings and young plants are tougher than older plants, so during the first year or two they can be kept in pots and moved with good odds for survival. Older plants are more floriferous, but easily die for a number of reasons, which is why mature flowering three- to five-year-old plants are rarely for sale. One grower in southern California grows them in large pots with very good drainage, using a mix that is about 45% perlite. His plants can be transplanted in spring or fall and usually thrive. He starts new divisions out in 85% perlite in small rose pots, and adds more compost to the mix as plants go up in pot sizes.

They dislike having hot roots. If their roots get too hot during active growth, they check out quickly. This precludes them being shipped out of country as bare-root starts, because they cannot tolerate the indoor wait of days to several weeks or more for inspection at customs offices. International shipping that involves custom inspections must be of seeds, not plants. Seeds are





Iris douglasiana (top)
Iris innominata (center)
Iris tenax (below)





Iris tenax in Saddle Mountain State Park, Oregon

tough, can be kept for several years, and germinate fairly easily. See the SPCNI website <www.pacificcoastiris.org> for more information on starting seeds, transplanting, and gardening.

EXTENDING INTO OTHER CLIMATES AND ZONES

The astute reader will note that the home range of Pacific Coast Irises encompasses horticultural zones 10 to 7, with small dips into zones



11 and 6 and even 5. But what about the rest of the world? Solid zone 5 and colder zones are a challenge, as are warmer zone 10 and 11 areas. This brings us to the heart of this article: Pacific Coast Irises thrive in the right spots, and die quickly when too cold, too hot, too humid or too dry. So how are gardeners in other zones to succeed? Let's deconstruct the growing conditions and climates that they prefer to see how this range can be extended.

COLD WINTERS

Winters in zones 6, 5, and colder are usually fatal for most of these irises. While some species (*Iris chrysophylla*, *I. innominata*, *I. tenax*, *I. thompsonii*) grow at high elevations in the Cascade, Siskiyou and Coast Ranges where they often spend winters under snow, dry cold conditions must be avoided. Loose open mulches, such as pine needles, and adding extra snow over beds helps to insulate plants from dry winter cold. Below zone 5 plants cannot survive, and containers that can be moved may be the only way to keep plants alive.

A gardener in Boise, Idaho, with dry cold winter conditions, piles extra pine needles on her Pacific Coast Iris beds and then adds snow whenever it falls, to provide added insulation and keep the plants dormant and well protected during the coldest weather. The coldest weather often comes without snow cover, so she plans on starting new plants from seed if no snow falls that winter. Boise also has long, dry hot summers; she waters in summer by checking the weather in Seattle, Washington. If it's raining in Seattle, then she waters. If not, then she waits. She also plants her irises in well-shaded beds. *Iris douglasiana* and selections from this species have generally done well for her from year to year, with the occasional complete replacement of plants following severe winters.

The Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado, has grown Pacific Coast Irises for many years. The plants are shaded by large rocks and trees, and are in well-drained soils, to get the cool root-runs they prefer. This garden is at 5,400 feet elevation on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. Denver is in zone 5b, with dry warm summers and cold, snowy winters.

Containers have been used with success in colder climates, kept in cool greenhouses for the winter. The containers must be large, so that plants grow in them for several years. Size helps the roots stay cool, summer and winter; and the planting material needs to be porous and well-drained. While in the greenhouse, plants should not be allowed to completely dry out, or bake during a clear sunny period. Most Pacific Coast Irises tolerate light frost, so large container plants go back outside as the weather warms up into the low 40s. Several gardeners in cold-winter areas of Europe have grown them in containers, outside spring through fall, inside in a cool greenhouse, late fall through winter into early spring.

Growing conditions that can help them survive cold include enhanced drainage, with gritty, low-fertility soil, and placing plants on a slope so that water drains away. In winter snow areas, don't cut the leaves back in fall. Leave them on until early spring to help insulate the plants during winter. Excellent drainage is especially important in summer irrigation gardens. They do not like much water at all in summer, so it is important that their roots have every chance to shed excess water.

Plants to try in colder winter areas include *Iris douglasiana* and clones selected of this species. This is the toughest species in the series *Californicae* and 'Canyon Snow' is a selected form of it. 'Pacific Rim', a complex hybrid, is another tough plant that usually does well in gardens are both selections that have proven to be durable compared to other species and hybrids.

If you also have humid summers, then good air flow is very important. Don't bury Pacific Coast Irises among shrubs in deep shade with poor air circulation.

DRY, HOT SUMMERS

Periods of very hot weather occur on the southern West Coast of the U.S. in zones 9–11. The basic change made by many gardeners in southern California is to plant Pacific Coast Irises in deeper shade with good air circulation.

Shade, with sunlight only for a short period in the morning, is a good solution for areas where daytime temperatures in the hottest period of the summer are usually in the 80Fs to 90Fs. As with colder climates, well-drained acidic soil, additional organic materials and deep loose mulches help insulate the roots to keep them cool. Where hotter still, full shade and weekly watering may keep the irises alive until they establish well, which may take 2–3 years. Thereafter, they should thrive with watering every two weeks during the dry season.

Containers for Pacific Coast Irises in hot climates must be insulated to keep roots cool. Styrofoam fish boxes are a good solution, especially if

larger boxes are used so that plants can grow for several years without being disturbed. A gardener on San Francisco Bay uses half barrels, where the irises grow undisturbed for several years. They get summer water every few weeks, and the barrels plus soil have enough mass that plants do not overheat. He places the barrels so that they get sunlight for the morning, and are in shade through the hottest times of day.

Minerals in the water may build up to intolerable levels in warm summer regions. They prefer acidic soil, after all, not caliche. As wells draw down, mineral content can increase dramatically. A grower in southern California uses pHacid, an irrigation and soil water acidifier, as a soil spray and watering amendment, to help move minerals through the potting mix, which improves plant survival where carbonates, sodium and minerals are a problem.

A member of SPCNI lived in the Central Valley, California, where late summer temperatures regularly went above 100 F, and grew her plants under citrus trees in full shade. The citrus trees were watered every few weeks by flooding, and the irises thrived for decades with this treatment.

HUMID, HOT SUMMERS

The one climate combination that Pacific Coast Irises cannot stand is high heat and high humidity. In this summer combination, try rain guards in summer to keep rain off the plants. The rain guard can provide shade too. Plant in well-drained soils in deep shade with good air circulation (a difficult combination sometimes), with at most a little early morning sun. Avoid hot spots in the garden, aim for deeper shade at the hottest time of day. Or move up into the mountains a few thousand feet, where conditions are cooler and less humid, and try again.

SPCNI had members in Mexico City, Mexico and in the Drakensburg Mountains of South Africa who both had success for many years. Elevation helped, both lived above 5,000 feet; their plants had both shade and summer irrigation. If you garden in a humid, hot summer area, but at higher elevation, give them a try. Your microclimate might be moderate enough that they can survive.

THE BACK UP PLAN

Save seeds every time your plants sets them. No matter how successful you may be with Pacific Coast Irises one year, save seeds for the inevitable day when all your plants die from unforeseen weather events. Seeds can be stored in a refrigerator for several years (clean and dry, in plastic bags, for up to 5–7 years), so this is simple protection. Some gardeners in hotter summer and colder winter climates plan on regrowing their own plants from seeds every three or four years. This



Iris 'Pacific Rim'



Iris 'Canyon Snow'



Iris 'Now Showing'



Iris 'Untitled'

Iris 'San Ardo'

Iris 'Clarice Richards'





way, they get a couple of years of flowers and seeds from each plant, and keep some plants flowering in the garden year after year. This is treating them like short-lived perennials, yes, and in some climates, this is the best that can be achieved. After a few generations in your garden, by repeating the cycle again and again, you may see improved tolerance for local conditions. Remember that seeds are the result of sexual reproduction, so seedlings will not be exact genetic replicas of their parent plants.

A SELECTION OF PACIFIC COAST IRISES TO TRY

Not all Pacific Coast Iries can tolerate the same range of conditions, cold to hot, moist to dry. Some species and hybrids are well known to be tougher than others. Modern hybrids have been bred to be compact plants with flowers held above the foliage. But these are not the toughest in the garden, even on the West Coast. For sturdy plants in climatically difficult areas, start with selections known to be durable, and if you succeed with these, then get a few of the more brilliantly colored hybrids, and see how they do.

Iris douglasiana is the toughest species among the *Californicae* irises. Growing from southern Oregon to southern California, Douglas iris lives along the coast, where it can take wind, salt, drought, heavy rain in winter, and snowfall. Foliage is evergreen; flower color varies widely, and flowers are on multi-bud stalks and held upright. There are vigorous strains available, often with foliage to 30 inches (75 cm) tall. The flowers are species-like, with fairly narrow petals and limited color ranges, but your first goal is to get any Pacific Coast Iris to thrive in your garden; after that you can try showier modern hybrids. *Iris douglasiana* is a potential first choice for hotter and colder sites, especially if growing in containers, and for areas with summer humidity.

Iris 'Wilder Than Ever'



'Canyon Snow' is a white-flowered selection of *Iris douglasiana* made at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden several decades ago. It emerged quickly as a tough plant for southern Californian gardens, and it remains in cultivation today. 'Canyon Snow' is a good first choice for both cold winter and warm summer gardens.

'Pacific Rim' is remarkably tough once it is established, with a medium blue plicate pattern on white flowers. It tends to be a dominant parent in breeding.

'Clarice Richards' is a hybrid developed by Richard Richards in southern California. It performs well in hot locations, and should be considered by anyone in these climates. Also try it in colder climates, as it does well in the Pacific Northwest.

Others to try in hot areas include: 'San Ardo', 'Untitled', 'Now Showing', 'Wilder Than Ever' and 'Garden Delight'.

Iris bracteata, *I. innominata* and *I. tenax* grow at higher elevations in the Pacific Northwest, and should be tried in colder areas. These species require excellent drainage, unlike *I. douglasiana*, which is more tolerant of heavy soils. In the wild they may spend months under snow cover. At the very north end of its range, *I. tenax* grows at elevations of around 3,000 feet in the Cascades in southern Washington. This population is under snow most winters. For colder climates, this species is definitely worth trying, but note that it, like the other species mentioned here, need excellent drainage.

Although seeds of *Iris hartwegii* are not often available, seeds from the southern California plants, which live at high elevation, are worth trying in colder zones as these plants may spend winter under snow (in years when there is snowfall in southern California). It flowers better with winter to spring moisture and hangs on in prolonged drought, which unfortunately has been underway for several years in its native habitat. It grows in my own garden on the south coast of Washington, in sand, and even flowers every few years.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Pacific Coast Irises have been selected for flower form, color and patterning for more than fifty generations. Upright flower stalks and sturdy plants have also been selected. The changes in flower form during these generations of selection have been startling. Petals are wider, ruffled, more open, or flatter. Color ranges from very dark purples and near reds to whites are now common. Signals have developed halos of other colors. Veining can be striking, with almost no signal, and veins throughout the falls. Edging of falls may be narrow to wide, of contrasting color. Standards and style arms may be the same color, or contrasting, held upright or at a low angle, with ruffles, or edging.

However, there has also been trend towards smaller plants, which has led to a reduction in plant vigor. Retention of vigor may be important for gardeners outside the West Coast so, it may be necessary to go back to larger older hybrids, and to species, in less than optimal climates.

WIDE CROSSES

A few hybridizers have worked on wide crosses, typically between *Californicae* and *Sibiricae* series. For a recent summary of wide crosses see the Spring 2014 issue of *Pacific Iris*, available from SPCNI. The goal of wide crosses is to produce colorful plants that can withstand hotter, damper and colder climates. To date, while the colorfulness goal has definitely been achieved with Cal-Sibes and other wide crosses, the other goals have not, generally because the 40-chromosome Siberian irises that cross most easily with Pacific Coast Irises are not from colder climates.

These crosses are sterile. To get around the sterility, some hybridizers induce polyploidy by using chemicals (colchicine, Surflan) on germinating seeds, with some success. Dr. Tomas Tamberg, Germany, has done this for several decades. The field remains open for new hybridizers to take up the task of producing hardier plants by making wide crosses with genetically compatible irises of other sections.

Iris 'Garden Delight' from Matilija Nursery, Moorpark, California



Many rock gardeners are good propagators, so the basics of starting Pacific Coast Iris seed and growing seedlings to transplanting size are easily achieved once their growth cycle is understood. The next step, of creating a garden climate that they can thrive in is also possible, so



Iris 'Finger Pointing'

long as attention is given to soils, drainage, shade and watering. If you do grow Pacific Coast Irises, please think about reporting back to the author and SPCNI on your success. One of the main goals of the society is to promote the cultivation of these irises around the world, and we'd love to learn that gardeners in the Midwest, Northeast, central Atlantic Coast, the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and Chile, to name just a few areas, are finding ways to succeed with Pacific Coast Iris.

SOURCES

SEED SOURCES:
To start Pacific Coast Irises from seed, see the SPCNI website, which has several pages on cultivation. All of these seed exchanges are for members only, and ship seeds outside the United States.

SPCNI Seed Exchange <www.pacificcoastiris.org>
This seed list is open in late fall each year, and usually closes around the end of the year. Past years' offerings are listed for reference. This list has the widest range of species and hybrid PCI seeds, and only offers seeds of *Californicae* irises.

SIGNA (Species Iris Group of North America) Seed Exchange <www.signa.org>
This seed list is open in winter each year, and seeds remain available for several months. Past years' offerings are listed for reference. This list offers seeds of Iridaceae species from all over the world.

NARGS Seed Exchange <www.nargs.org>
This seed list is open during winter each year, and includes a few PCI selections in most years.

PLANT SOURCES
There is an extensive list of nurseries on the SPCNI website at <www.pacificcoastiris.org/gardeniris_nurseries.html>

PHOTO CREDITS
Photos by the author except:
Lewis and Adele Lawyer (*I. innomiata* p.327, *I.* 'Clarice Richards')
Ferrell (*Iris douglasiana* p.327)
Richard C. Richards (*Iris* 'Canyon Snow')
Ken Walker (*Iris* tenax p.327, *I.* 'Pacific Rim', *I.* 'San Ardo', *I.* 'Now Showing', *I.* ' Wilder Than Ever')
Garry Knipe (*Iris* 'Finger Pointing')

Wild group of *Iris tenax* and *I. innominata* and, predominantly, hybrids between the two. Siskiyous, southwest Oregon



Awards

The following society awards have been made this year:

Award of Merit. Established in 1965, this award is given to persons who have made outstanding contributions to rock and alpine gardening and to the North American Rock Garden Society. In addition, the recipients will be people of demonstrated plantsmanship. The recipient must be an active member of the Society.

Daniel Dillon
Robin Magowan
Bill Adams
Ben Burr

Marcel Le Piniec Award. Established in 1969, this award is given to a nursery person, propagator, hybridizer, or plant explorer who is currently actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners. This may be a joint award if two people have worked closely together. The recipient need not be a member of NARGS.

David Salman
Steve Hootman

Carleton R. Worth Award. Established in 1985, this award is given to an author of distinguished writings about rock gardening and rock garden plants in a book or in magazine articles. The award may also be based on an Editor's body of work for a Chapter Newsletter. The recipient does not have to be a member of the Society.

Abbie Zabar

John Watson and Anita Flores de Watson

Linc and Timmy Foster Millstream Garden Award. Established in 2006, this award is for an outstanding contribution to the North American Rock Garden Society for creating a superior garden. This is not a competition, but recognizes great gardens of members across the various styles and regions of the United States and Canada. There are four categories: Container Garden, the Alpine Rock Garden, the Woodland Garden and the Special Garden. Any of these gardens must be a private garden to eliminate unfair institutional advantages.

Judi Dumont - Special Garden

The paintings in the next pages, among the profiles of award winners, are by Lori Chips. They are chosen specifically for the individual awards and are used on the various award certificates presented to the award winners to honor the award winners and the pepople after whom the awards are named. The image for the Award of Merit is *Dodecatheon pulchellum*, *Saxifraga* x *elisabethae* 'Millstream Cream' (right) is for the Linc and Timmy Foster Millstream Garden Award, *Kalmiopsis fragrans* for the Marcel Le Piniec Award, and an image of *Aquilegia scopulorum* for the Carleton R. Worth Award. Lori completed two further images for the Edgar T. Wherry Award and the Marvin E. Black Award but neither of these was awarded in 2014. She also painted *Gentiana acaulis* for the Geoffrey Charlesworth Prize discussed on page 291.



Robin Magowan - Award of Merit

Peter F. George

Robin Magowan, a longtime member of NARGS, began his affiliation as a member of the Berkshire Chapter, where he served as Program Chair for over a decade. He wrote regularly for the chapter newsletter and has also had several articles published in the *Quarterly*. His prose and poetry have appeared in book form, in literary magazines, as well as in articles for several horticultural and other magazines and journals. He was constantly reworking his garden in Salisbury, Connecticut – which was already legendary – in an effort to meet his high standards for design and plantsmanship. He hosted several chapter functions at his garden and was always willing to open it to visitors of all kinds. And he was tremendously generous with his plants, supplying the Berkshire Chapter with hundreds of seedlings and well-grown specimens for the chapter's monthly plant sales.

When Robin moved to Santa Fe three years ago, he took with him his commitment to NARGS and to his new garden. He helped found the New Mexico Chapter of NARGS, which will host the 2014 Annual General Meeting in only its second year of existence. It is fitting that Robin be presented with the NARGS Award of Merit at this event, in his new town, with the members of his new chapter there to applaud him. It is a recognition that is well deserved and long overdue.

Daniel Dillon - Award of Merit

Bobby J. Ward

Daniel Dillon has performed an exemplary role as the website administrator for the new NARGS website. In this unpaid role, Daniel manages and carries out design changes, assigns access permissions, adds and changes content, and works with the designers, originally Monarch Digital, in fine tuning, problem solving, and helping switch over from the old to the new website.

For the past year Daniel has worked closely with me in resolving issues with the new NARGS website as I maintain NARGS membership records, renewals, and email communications to our membership. During this time I became keenly aware of his knowledge and skills and his understanding of the "big picture" overview of the website, as he trained me in how to use it. I appreciate Daniel's ability to handle my questions, his ready availability in resolving issues, and his trouble-shooting skills. But perhaps, more importantly, I have been fully impressed with his demeanor in calmly assisting without any hint of frustration toward me or others who were learning the idiosyncrasies of the new website. Aside from working with me during the evolution of the website, Daniel assisted other NARGS managers in helping set up the on-line ordering for the NARGS seed exchange, the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, chapter newsletters, and the software for the annual meeting.

Ben Burr - Award of Merit

Lola Lloyd Horwitz

Rock gardeners bring any number of qualities to NARGS. Some are happy learners with little time to spare from jobs or family while others are seasoned gardeners able to devote themselves fully to their passion and to NARGS activities. NARGS is seeking as many variants of rock gardeners as possible. One person who is driving that search is Ben Burr.

Ben might have been devoting his years since retirement entirely to the garden that he and his wife Frances have cultivated in Bellport, Long Island, but has instead taken on the role of co-designer and repairman of the NARGS website since 2011. He has worked closely with Daniel Dillon – also a volunteer – to make the website as easy to navigate, informative for both expert and novice, and as attractive as possible. He is all too aware that someone surfing the web has to be captured through a tantalizing picture or an erudite article.

Yet our website has to satisfy the "already-converted" NARGS member as well. Answering these needs has not been easy. If Ben

thought his job was over after the hours he spent digitizing every issue of *Rock Garden Quarterly* ever published, he was wrong. As an example, this year's Seed Exchange had to be reconfigured to operate with the new website. Suffice it to say, that every time I have spoken to Ben either on the phone or in person he is invariably calm and pleasant, never betraying the frustrations of his work.

When he has time to garden I can only guess, but a visit by the Manhattan Chapter to the Burrs' garden in June 2012 indicated that they seek not only perfection of details, but also bold experiments with rare, seed-grown species. If they choose to grow a plant they will go to great lengths to supply it with whatever cultural requirements are needed. This makes for a wonderfully diverse yet structurally unified garden, impossible to fully describe here.



Ben Burr has given countless hours to the NARGS website, to Manhattan Chapter's website, to the future of NARGS through his search for candidates for the Board of Directors and Administration Committee, and to his "official" job as Recording Secretary on the AdCom.

In addition, he is a modest yet expert rock gardener and fern propagator and someone who is quick to share a plant and give encouragement to other rock gardeners.

Bill Adams - Award of Merit

Peter George

Money is always at the top of the list of important issues for nonprofit organizations, mostly because they almost never have enough. And managing what they do have is a huge challenge, because people with the expertise required to oversee the unique financial complexities of the nonprofit world are hard to find. NARGS is very lucky to have Bill Adams as its Treasurer, and we've benefited over the past few years from his willingness not only to perform the basic tasks of Treasurer, but also to work on virtually every important issue we have faced during my tenure as President. He serves on the NARGS Administrative Committee, participates in all areas of finance, assists chapters in planning regional and national meetings, prepares our budget, manages our portfolio, and assists me in any area in which I need help. In short, Bill has been one of the foundations of the organization. And this is not to mention that alongside his financial work for NARGS Bill is also the proprietor of Sunscapes Nursery and a stalwart of specialist plant genus societies.

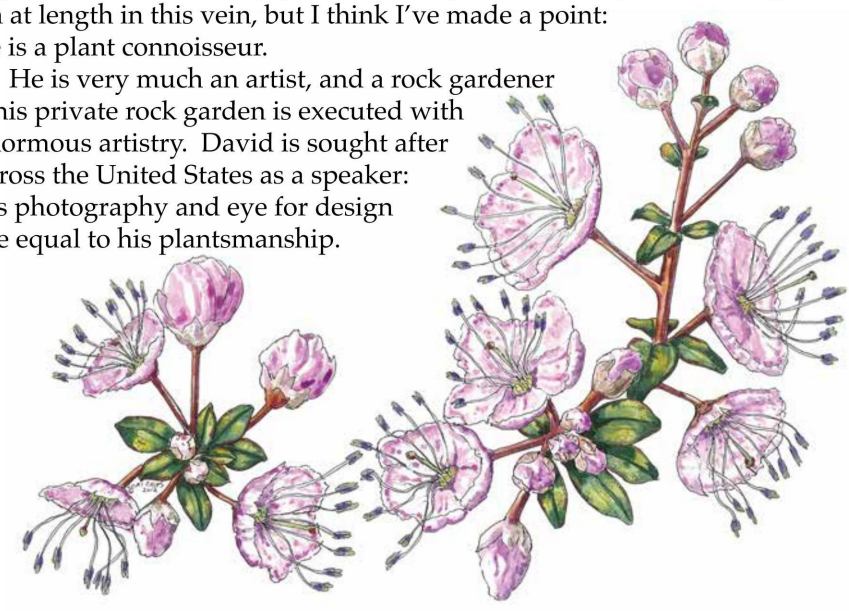
David Salman
Marcel Le Piniec Award

Panayoti Kelaidis

I have known David for nearly two decades, and have come to know him and his work quite well. He has had an enormous impact nationally and internationally. As the originator of High Country Gardens (which he oversaw for 19 years) David propagated and distributed untold numbers of plants across North America. A surprising proportion of these plants are classic alpines and rock garden plants. Many of these plants had never been sold commercially before – especially the western American penstemons and other natives that he offered.

Although his reach through High Country Gardens has been vast, David's real passion is for seeking, selecting and breeding new plants. He has developed dozens of superior cultivars: *Delosperma* 'Lesotho Pink' is one such selection – one of the very best in that genus. He has created numerous selections of *Agastache* (a genus he was first to market nationally—at least our western *Brittoniastrum* section): my favorite of these is 'Ava', named for his wife. He has found some remarkable plants both in Africa and western America that are novel and truly exciting: *Hirpicium armerioides* has been collected by others, but David's form is much the most compact and hardiest, and is the one being most widely grown nowadays. He has an eye for special plants: I have grown many forms of *Stachys lavandulifolia*, but David's selection is much more vigorous and more easily grown than any other once again. I could go on at length in this vein, but I think I've made a point: he is a plant connoisseur.

He is very much an artist, and a rock gardener – his private rock garden is executed with enormous artistry. David is sought after across the United States as a speaker: his photography and eye for design are equal to his plantsmanship.



In addition to his many accomplishments, I have found David to always have time for a question. He is enormously supportive of other plantspeople: he has been one of my very closest professional collaborators: in fact, he's become a good friend, and one I know I can count on.

Awarding David the Marcel Le Piniec Award will bring luster to the award, and acknowledge one of the giants of contemporary American horticulture.

Steve Hootman
Marcel Le Piniec Award

RICK LUPP

I have known Steve Hootman since he first went to work for the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden, in Federal Way, near Seattle, in the early 1990s. Steve started at the garden as a gardener but soon made his way to Co-Director of the garden and eventually to the position of Director. One of Steve's first major accomplishments was convincing the board of directors of the garden that increasing the genetic diversity of the botanic garden`s collection should be a top priority. Steve soon undertook plant-hunting trips around the world to accomplish this goal.

Steve's first plant hunting trip was in 1985, and I still grow some excellent garden plants from Steve's collection of 1995. These include *Lonicera crassifolia, Primula moupinensis* and a wonderful shrubby form of *Sorbus sargentiana*. He also collected many *Rhododendron* and related genera.

Since then, Steve has made many collection trips which have resulted in *Rhododendron* and other plants new to cultivation As well there have been new collections of plants originally collected by earlier plant hunters thus accomplishing his goal of increasing the genentic diversity of the plant collection at the Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden.

Steve has also become an accomplished lecturer who has made presentations to groups around the world. I have had the pleasure of hearing Steve speak and his programs are always very interesting and full of plants new to me and most other plant lovers. I also greatly enjoy the annual yearbook which Steve produces for the Rhododendron Species Foundation members. Steve's work has made him the most deserving person I can imagine for the Marcel Le Piniec Award.

Details of Steve's expeditions can be found at:

<rhodygarden.org/cms/our-plants/expeditions/steve-hootman-expeditions/>

John Watson and Anita Flores de Watson Carleton R. Worth Award

Malcolm McGregor

The writings of John and Anita over many years have helped change the rock gardening world's view of South America. Their recent articles about rosulate viola evolution for the *Quarterly*, just the latest of their important writings, provide valuable information that will help rock gardeners understand the very varied ways in which these plants are adapted to their specific environments and provide clues to future approaches to their cultivation. This unprecedented three-part study under the general title "Fire and Ice: Rosulate Viola Evolution" in issues 70.4 ("Part 1: The Stage is Set"), 71.1 ("Part 2: The Drama Unfolds") and 71.2 ("A Merry Life and a Short One") included the first full consideration of the annual species, some of which can be grown and flowered, that have been neglected in most writing.

Alongside the three-part series on the evolution of these plants, the authors also described three new species in the *Quarterly* in parallel with these articles: *Viola* x*blaxlandiae*, *Viola rossowiana* and *Viola beckeriana*.

John also wrote an appreciation of the late Kim Blaxland (from Pennsylvania) and her work on North American violets in the summer 2011 issue of the *Quarterly*. It was this article which led John and Anita to propose the series of articles on the rosulate violas listed above. This was a major undertaking for the *Quarterly* as it also was for John and Anita, and I feel it is to their credit that they kept up with the demanding timetable time over those many months when they also had plant trips of their own and visitors to contend with.

Their contributions to the literature about plants is not confined to these contributions to the *Quarterly*. In the past John (often with Anita) has written extensively about the South American flora including major contributions to the Alpine Garden Society's *Encyclopedia of Alpines* (1993), and a major series of fifteen articles for the Alpine Garden Society's *Bulletin* (1974-1978). But, beyond the plethora of written material, they have also been responsible for major introductions of South American plants into cultivation through their mail-order business, Flores and Watson Seeds. Together with their writing, they have made the South American flora one with which we have some familiarity and which has now led to southern South America being one of the most fashionable places to visit for the serious alpine plant

enthusiast, with multiple annual trips to different parts. Few writers can claim such a major influence and this award is some small recognition of this.

Abbie Zabar
Carleton R. Worth Award

Peter F. George

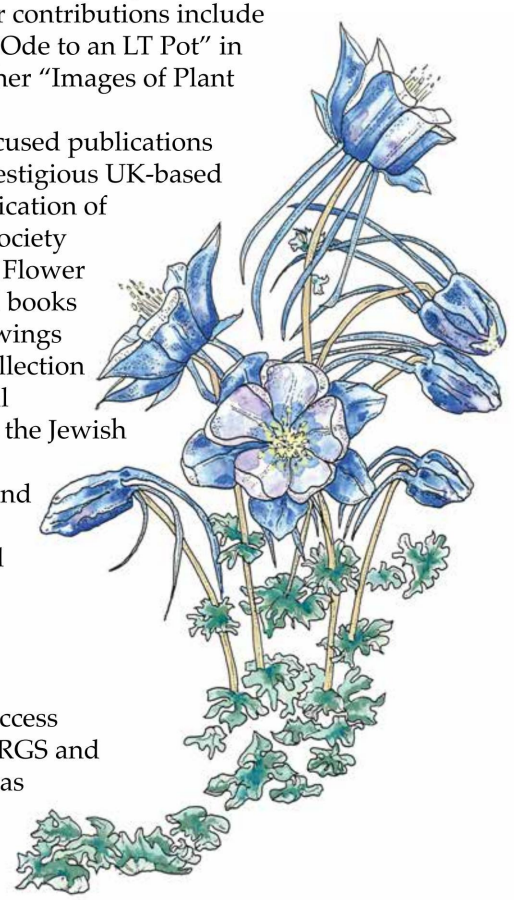
There must be a dozen or more members who write articles for their chapter newsletters and the *Quarterly*, and there may be a few who provide illustrations for either or both, but I know of only one person who does both. And she's been doing this for the newsletter, *The Urban Gardener*, of her own chapter, the Manhattan Chapter, as well as others including the Berkshire Chapter.

Abbie Zabar is a wonderful writer and a gifted illustrator. Most recently in the *Quarterly* her contributions include her memorial to Larry Thomas, "Ode to an LT Pot" in the winter 2013/2014 issue, and her "Images of Plant Sales" in the spring 2014 issue.

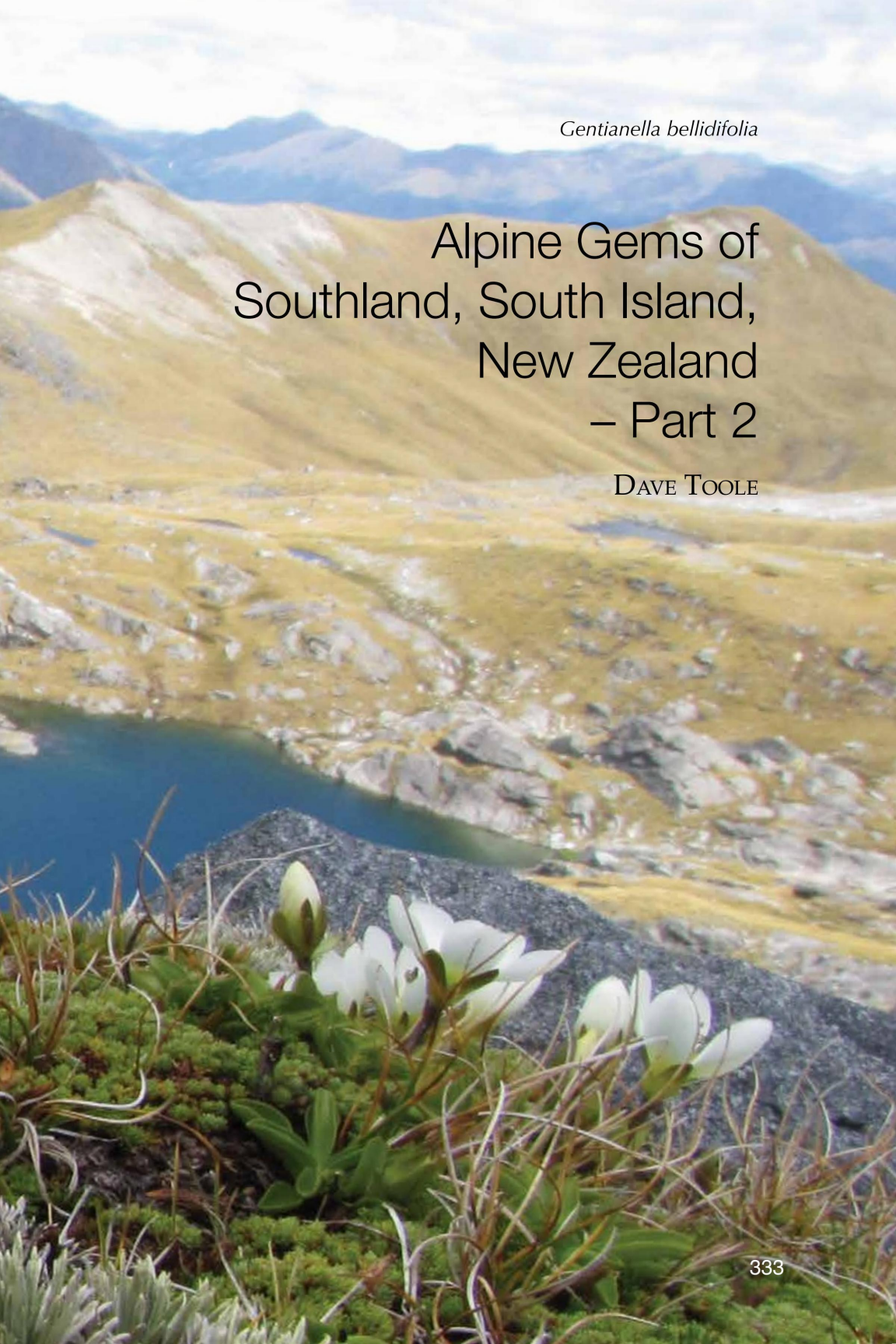
She's provided other plant-focused publications with her work: recently in the prestigious UK-based *Hortus*, and *Green Scene,* the publication of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society which sponsors the Philadelphia Flower Show; and has illustrated several books and written one herself. Her drawings are also part of the permanent collection of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburg, and the Jewish Museum in New York.

In short, she's a resource beyond measure for NARGS, and her contributions are cherished by all who read her words and view her pictures.

This award is based upon her body of work over the years, which have contributed to the success of the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS and its wonderful newsletter, as well as to NARGS as a whole.







Gentianella bellidifolia

Alpine Gems of Southland, South Island, New Zealand – Part 2

Dave Toole



Chionohebe ciliolata subsp. *fiordense*
Myosotis pulvinaris





THE MAIN DIVIDE in Fiordland separates the drier eastern ranges from the very wet western ones. In Part 1 of this article in the previous issue, travel was from the coast around Dunedin up to the main divide. On the western side we find extremely wet habitats with rainfall that can reach almost 300 inches a year!

At the divide, on exposed wind-swept ridges, cushions such as *Myosotis pulvinaris*, *Raoulia hectorii* var. *mollis*, *Chionohebe ciliolata* subsp. *fiordense*, and a very dwarf form of *Gentianella bellidifolia* keep each other company. These are beautiful cushion plants with similar growth habits and often grow into each other to such an extent that at flowering time when foliage is obscured, identification can be great fun.

Across the main divide into the wetter western peaks the glaciated U-shaped valleys are such a feature. *Dracophyllum menziesii*, a low-growing shrub with pineapple-like foliage, up to about a metre in

Dracophyllum menziesii





Opposite: *Aciphylla crenulata* with large circular leaves of *Ranunculus lyallii* and yellow flowers of *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera*





Ranunculus lyallii

Bulbinella gibbsii var. *balanifera*



height clothes the valley floors and the extensive herb fields can be a spectacular sight when the deep yellow blooms of *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera*, the bold, stiff, spire-like stems of *Aciphylla crenulata* and the white flowers of *Ranunculus lyallii* on stems up to 1 metre (40 inches) tall are in full flight.

Further on up the slopes, stable rock is the habitat of one of the vegetable sheep, although this one, the trailing subshrub





Yellow spikes of *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera* with large circular leaves of *Ranunculus lyallii* with scattered *Dolichoglottis*



Aciphylla congesta

Haastia sinclairii var. *fulvida*, with its black-tipped bracts and pale yellow tomentum, does not make the woolly mounds of some of the others. Another plant here is *Aciphylla congesta*, which is commonly known as the snowball speargrass because of its crowded white flowerheads.

Up high, in and along the banks of running water, *Ranunculus sericophyllus* thrives. Not a large *Ranunculus* species by New Zealand standards, I find its deeply cut foliage, in combination with its bright



Haastia sinclairii var. *fulvida*

Ranunculus sericophyllus



yellow petals to be most attractive. Its stunning creamy colored hybrid with *R. buchananii* also grows nearby but I have never been lucky enough to catch it in flower. Fingers crossed for this next season maybe.

The near continental climate of the interior covers a number of ranges of northern Southland and is home to a great variety of plants. The new season's growth of *Dracophyllum uniflorum* var. *frondosum*, about 60 cm high (24 inches), gives almost an orange tinge to the alpine environment moderated somewhat by some outstanding large silver plants of *Celmisia semicordata* subsp. *stricta*.

Celmisia semicordata subsp. *stricta*



This really is *Celmisia* country where some of the 50 species which reach the alpine zone reside, especially *Celmisia verbascifolia*, which is common with its midrib and petiole sometimes varying to purple.

If time is on your side you can spend many hours, as I often do, searching for a number of different hybrids that occur thereabouts or visit a low isolated peak named Mount Prospect where you find *Celmisia traversii*, with most plants having a distinct brown edge to their leaves and wonderful velvety brown indumentum on the underside of the leaves.

Dracophyllum uniflorum var. *frondosum*





Celmisia traversii

Elsewhere, in one small area, the rare *Celmisia philocremna* can be located. It has a preference for cool exposed rock bluffs and a number of years ago, I was lucky enough to be in a group of enthusiasts that found a small population outside its previously reported location. Almost succulent looking with thick slightly recurved leaves and large heads for the size of the plant, its flowers are well away from the hard cushion.

The green growths of *Raoulia buchananii* are also frequent in and

Celmisia philocremna





Celmisia verbascifolia

around these bluffs and I love the way the tight cushions mould to the shape of the rocks they are slowly enveloping. The temptation to reach out and stroke them is so overwhelming.

The distinctive *Aciphylla spedenii* is there as well on the rock; however it is not recommended that you get too close as the leaves end in a very sharp tip, hence the common name of "speargrass".

Aciphylla spedenii





Raoulia buchananii



Caltha obtusa

On most northern Southland Ranges, below snow banks and in wet hollows in spring or early summer, the ground can be covered in places by the white sessile blooms of *Caltha obtusa*. One of the first alpines to flower, the most impressive plants I ever came across were in grazed areas seemingly enjoying the run off from manure where sheep congregated overnight out of the prevailing wind.

Inhabiting steep extensive mobile screes where one quickly learns to sidle at a low angle to gain height, because to do otherwise means one step up equals two steps back , there are a number of specialized plants. These include the unusual-looking alpine chickweed *Stellaria roughii*, which sometimes carpets the rock floor so much so that it's difficult to avoid stepping on it, and *Ranunculus pilifera* with its bright yellow flowers. I understand this buttercup has a growth pattern eventually reaching 1 metre across. That must be some sight as the plants I have come across have always been a lot smaller.





Stellaria roughii

Ranunculus pilifera





Celmisia spedenii

On ultramafic mineral-deficient soil, the localized grey-silver rigid clumps of *Celmisia spedenii* are plentiful. A couple of years ago a friend and I found a small number of rogue yellow-flowering plants which caused great excitement, but unfortunately on a return visit ten days later their petals had faded to the normal white colouring.

Finally in this survey of Fiordland plants I want to pick out a *Myosotis* species which is known unofficially as *Myosotis* sp. 'Mossburn' after the area in which it is found. This small alpine gem has white flowers typical of so many of the New Zealand *Myosotis*; however its extremely hairy foliage is certainly reason alone to try to locate and photograph it.



Mysosotis sp. 'Mossburn'

Although I have roamed the "hills" of the southern part of the South Island for over 30 years, I never tire of the anticipation and then the thrill of "field tripping" each season. New Zealand alpines might not have the flower power of gems from other lands but in my opinion, their myriad of foliage and form more than makes up for that.

For those of you interested in learning more about the alpine flora and fauna of New Zealand, the recent publication *Above The Treeline* by Alan F. Mark is very highly recommended by the author. It received a very favorable review in the Fall 2013 issue of the *Rock Garden Quarterly*.

Call for Nominations for 2015 for NARGS Officers and Directors

NOTE: The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2014

The NARGS Nominating Committee announces its call for nominees for the 2015 election of three directors and two officers: Treasurer and Recording Secretary. It is up to all members to consider whom they might nominate. Self-nomination is also acceptable.

Please refer to the By-Laws at <nargs.org/laws> to read a description of the duties of officers and directors.

TREASURER & RECORDING SECRETARY

Candidates for these positions stand for a two-year term (2015-2017). They may be re-elected for a further term to a maximum of four years in the position. New candidates are needed for both posts as the current Treasurer was elected in 2011, re-elected in 2013, and is not eligible for re-election, and the current Recording Secretary does not intend to stand for re-election.

DIRECTORS

Directors serve for three years. Every year three new directors are elected as three directors have completed their term. Directors cannot be elected for two consecutive terms.

The mission of the Nominating Committee members is to select candidates for the positions of directors and officers who want to serve, have the qualifications to serve, and who fulfill as much as possible the need for geographic diversity between the continuing board members and the new members. Geographic diversity can not always be achieved.

We will accept names submitted by any current member of NARGS for these five positions. To help the Nominating Commitee make its decision about which candidates to put on the slate, please provide the following information for each nominee:

1. Name, chapter (if applicable), e-mail address, and position for which each person is nominated.
2. Bio of nominee (100 words or less, written by nominee)
3. Picture
4. Note of acceptance from (new) nominee indicating a willingness to be one of the above officers of NARGS (two-year term) or a NARGS Director (three-year term).
5. Your own reasons for nominating the person.

Note: The bio and picture will be used for publication in the Rock Garden Quarterly if such nominee is on the final slate. All the above is for use by the Nominating Committee.

The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2014.

Nominations should be emailed to Lola Horwitz (acting chairperson of the Nominating Committee) at <llhorwitz@gmail.com>.

They can also be posted to Lola Horwitz, 446 6th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215 USA.

Timetable

The Call for Nominations is Stage 1 of the election process outlined below:

STAGE 1: Timetable & call for nominations are published in Fall 2014 Quarterly. Nominations deadline to Nominating Committee by November 1, 2014.

STAGE 2: Nominating Committee agree on slate to be published on website on December 31, 2014.

STAGE 3: From the floor nominations January 1-31.

STAGE 4: Combined list of candidates to be published in Spring Quarterly (deadline February 1 for dispatch March 20)

STAGE 5: Election online April 15-30 prior to early May AGM.

STAGE 6: Announcement of election results at Annual Meeting in early May 2015.



Two Views of Judi Dumont's Garden

Linc and Timmy Foster Millstream Garden Award for Special Garden

Steve Whitesell

WALKING DOWN A shaded street of brick rowhouses in Brooklyn in June, no special perceptual gifts are required to identify the house occupied by a skillful gardener. Judi Dumont's house announces itself through

sheer profusion of bloom, abundant, effusive, overwhelming. Further investigation reveals the stellar cast of this curbside production and the perfection of their maintenance. *Rosa* 'Spirit of Freedom' arches over the garage door, each cane already pruned in anticipation of a second flush of bloom. A range of cast stone containers, chosen to harmonize with the warm golden brick, spill over with *Daphne* x *hendersonii* 'Fritz Kummert', *D.* x *thauma* 'Reginald Farrer', *D. cneorum* var. *pygmaea*, *D. cneorum* x *arbuscula*, various choice penstemons, including *Penstemon nitidus*, several smaller campanulas, sedums, *Houstonia caerulea*, and a small sampling of dwarf annuals to extend the bloom season. Spring annuals have been traded out for summer annuals, with careful consideration of color and scale.

Troughs were added shortly after Judi joined NARGS, just before the Manhattan chapter hosted the 2006 Eastern Winter Study Weekend. There is a discreet drip irrigation system, but plants are checked daily and hand-watered as required. Everything rewards the eye and speaks to the gardener's skill, devotion, and rigorous aesthetic ideals.

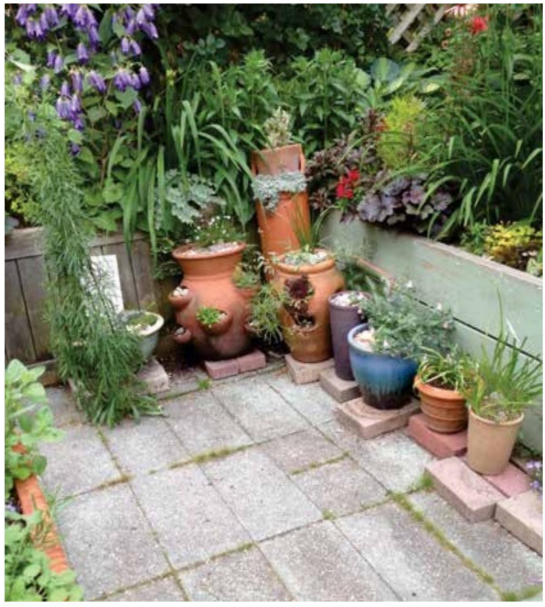
I have arranged to meet fellow Manhattan chapter member Abbie Zabar here on a sunny Thursday afternoon. Judi and Abbie are already outside when I arrive, engaged in a contented exchange of information. Abbie has seen the garden, awarded the NARGS Millstream Garden Award for a Special Garden this year, before but this is my first visit. We linger in front a few minutes, admiring well-considered plant combinations and requesting the identities of many unfamiliars. "Would you like to see the back garden?" she asks.

Judi's affinity for the Arts and Crafts movement is evident from the wall colors, decorative objects, and pictures on the walls as we proceed through the house, but the real evidence of her obsession greets us at the threshold to the deck where we can survey the garden from an elevated vantage. The garden is small, perhaps 20 feet x 40 feet, including the paved areas, but generous by Brooklyn standards.

The first impression is of sheer floral profusion. Colors are generally restricted to cool blues, pinks, garnet reds, lavenders, and deeper purples, with some warm salmons. Yellow is primarily represented by foliage and seasonal floral interest is extended through the careful use of glaucous, maroon, golden, and variegated foliage, and contrasts in foliar textures. It is the height of the rose, clematis, and campanula season and each genus is represented by several species, hybrids, and cultivars, particularly the latter. Garnet-red *Clematis viticella* 'Madame Julia Correvon' is juxtaposed with similarly colored, but slightly smaller flowered *C. viticella* 'Kermesina', the narrow-petaled pink flowers of *C. integrifolia* 'Savannah', and the deep, almost navy blue bells of *C.* 'Roguchi'. *Astilbe* 'Rheinland' in peak bloom reinforces the cool color theme. Contrast is provided by the pink-shaded glaucous foliage

of *Sedum cauticola* 'Lidakense' and silver-variegated foliage of *Phlox paniculata* 'Norah Leigh'. Bright coral-red *Lonicera sempervirens* 'Major Wheeler' climbs the open lattice fence and a variety of purple-leaved *Eucomis* species and cultivars, including *E.* 'Tiny Piny', *E.* 'Dark Star', and *E.* 'Twinkle Stars' enliven the picture. Rich blue-purple *Campanula* 'Kent Belle' and *C. punctata* 'Sarastro' provide an additional color jolt. Copper-colored *Solenostemon* cultivars fill the space recently occupied by an assortment of *Allium* species and cultivars and other spring-flowering bulbs whose foliage has matured and died back. The density of planting and the skill of the gardener assure horticultural interest from earliest spring to late fall. We have chosen to visit at a particularly profuse bloom moment, but it is clear several such moments occur throughout the growing season.

The raised beds are fronted with horizontal boards stained a pale blue-green approximating the color of oxidized copper, a color that beautifully complements the floral and foliar colors and is repeated in the concrete paving stones. Woody plants are pruned high to admit light, permit dense underplanting, and serve as support for clematis. Shrubs include yellow-fruited *Viburnum dilatatum* 'Michael Dodge', the red-fruited variety *V. dilatatum* 'Asian Beauty', *V. plicatum* 'Summer Snowflake', *Rosa* 'Aloha' and *R.* 'Parade'. *Syringa* 'Josee' was removed after suffering damage in Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and a number of *Hydrangea macrophylla* cultivars left when it became clear there was a severe space crunch and something had to go. The woody plant palette is necessarily restricted to small plants like the pale yellow-flowered *Rhododendron* 'Wren', a hybrid between *R. ludlowii* and *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy'.



Seats are provided for rest and admiration, but clearly Judi rarely allows herself lengthy period of downtime. The results of constant pruning, weeding, and evaluation are very apparent. Holes and openings resulting from the removal of ripening bulb foliage or pruning faded bloom stalks are quickly filled with new plants. The result is a highly staged display garden composed of a number of carefully

composed vignettes, garden pictures to pause over, inventory the rich diversity of contributing plants, and admire the subtle juxtapositions of color, texture, and form that create strong impressions. The garden is quite obviously in a near-constant state of flux and it is evident that plants are frequently moved, discarded if they don't perform to a high standard, or retired in favor of new floral acquaintances, evolving garden themes, and a spirit of experimentation. A pervasive calm on the surface, characteristic of most well-maintained, horticulturally adventurous gardens, barely conceals the gardener's restlessness in her quest for knowledge and aesthetic improvement.

Several pots of various sizes are clustered on the paving stones below the raised bed. There are a number of bog plants including several sarracenias, *Gentiana autumnalis* 'Caroline County', *Salix repens* 'Iona', *Helonias bullata*, and tender *Pinguicula moctezumae*.

A narrow passage to a basement door is flanked by a series of large pots containing select *Hosta* varieties and a substantial *Arisaema sikokianum* in peak bloom. *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola' adds textural contrast and additional bright foliar color to a dark narrow walk.

The represented taxa must number well into the hundreds and dormant bulbs and geophytes could swell that number substantially. In spite of the great density of planting, there is visual unity and no serious disease or insect infestations are evident. Developing problems are clearly identified and dispatched at their onset, seen and dealt with on Judi's daily rounds. Until a couple of years ago, two large Norway Maples, the bane of many gardeners, cast an increasingly dense shade and their roots competed for limited growing space in the raised beds, but now their decomposing roots have provided a boost of fertility to the sunny garden.

Twenty years of gardening in Brooklyn have been a challenge, especially after considering the near-blank canvas that met her on moving to the house. Judi was initially inspired by a Heronswood Nursery catalog she acquired that made her wonder "What are all of the Latin names, anyway?" Twenty years of investigation have satisfied many of her original queries, but begged countless others. Future experiments and refinements are being considered.

Lola Lloyd Horwitz

I HAVE MADE more than a few visits to Judi Dumont's brownstone garden, during which time it has undergone changes and additions, all at Judi's hand with the help of her husband Bob. I recall during the first few visits that there were two neighboring Norway maples immediately beside her small backyard which caused Judi no end of frustration and started her on the path of gardening in raised wooden containers

although even those were not impervious to the unstoppable roots of the maples.

However, during those years of fighting with the maples, she developed the art of layering, succession planting, and vertical gardening. In addition, in 2006, she joined the Manhattan Chapter of NARGS which opened up new possibilities for her limited garden space: troughs and all the wonderful plants that could be grown in them. My guess is that her years of growing plants in large wooden containers gave her an edge when she moved on to troughs.

Her house, like the majority of those on her block, has a large front porch and no soil between the sidewalk and house. Yet the architecture is such that it affords her several levels of display for her troughs and different-sized containers. She estimates she has 20 troughs, but if you include strawberry pots, ceramic pots, and Larry Thomas long toms in front and behind the house, then the number would be well over 30. The troughs suit the stoop-porch-entryway area due to their color and stone-like construction. Also, the small plants can be examined from very close up as one mounts the steps to the front door or approaches the garage which is below the porch. This is not a display that calls out to the average passerby. Their eyes would light first on the rose billowing from a container just below the porch, but for rock gardeners it is a singular use of surfaces to display the plants we love.

Among her NARGS seed-grown plants are *Aquilegia flabellata*, *A. saximontana*, *A. chaplinei*, *Degenia velebitica*, *Gentiana acaulis*, *Pulsatilla halleri*, *Penstemon nitidus* and *Cyclamen purpurascens*, some of which are



grown behind her house. She is fond of campanulas and has acquired quite a number in addition to sempervivums, a few lewisias, arenarias, and various additions from our chapter sales, and many mail-ordered treasures. (As I write this, we are both looking for assurances that our trough plants are alive after the bitter early months of 2014.) Judi's own comment about her front area is: "I'm always on the lookout for alpines that are not impossible to keep alive in our climate without too much coddling, and can take sun or dappled sun and will actually flower."



After entering and passing through the beautiful interior, the visitor exits the kitchen onto a small deck where the mix of containers, vines and miniature bogs occupies one's attention, unless it is summer and the colorful plantings in the raised beds below grab one's eye first. This garden is such a contrast to the troughs out front. Only a very serious gardener (meaning a rock gardener), takes on such a varied collection of plants each with their particular needs. Happily, parallel with her increasing interest in rock gardening was the demise and removal of the neighbor's aggressive Norway maples in 2010 and 2012. The containers for her rear garden were rebuilt, staged for better viewing (lots of help from Bob) and painted a lovely blue. Her deck off the kitchen was rebuilt with the aim of extending her container garden



and affording an intimate space for people to sit (not the gardener, from what I observe) while admiring the show below, only six steps down.

These raised beds catch the most sun and hold bulbs, perennials, vines and plenty of annuals to carry the garden from spring through fall. They vary in depth from 12 to 20 inches deep, have no bottoms, and are lined on the sides and bottoms with weed blocking fabric. A lovely combination in late summer is *Phlox* 'Norah Leigh' intertwined with *Gentiana* 'True Blue'. In front of the beds is a collection of mixed containers and a few troughs. She has managed to fit a bench in a shady corner below the deck for visitors as they view the scene.

Brownstones come in different configurations. Judi and Bob's has a long corridor of increasing shade next to the extension that houses the kitchen and the chilly winter plant-storage room above. If this weren't an urban garden we would call it the woodland due to the prevalence of woodland plants minus the trees. Judi's choices feature those with beautiful foliage, whether they are ephemerals, early flowering shrubs, perennials or annuals for summer and fall. Despite it being a narrow space, there are plenty of vines twining all over the fence, one being the native honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens* 'Major Wheeler'), a favorite of hummingbirds. My favorite is *Clematis viorna* growing on one side of the deck.

My last visit was the first when I experienced her early spring flowers, so I observed Judi's method of succession planting in the rear garden: many of the bulbs are grown in plastic pots (hidden below soil level) so that they can be lifted for the addition of summer annuals. Others are ephemerals like *Corydalis solida* which will give way of their own accord. I could also see more construction detail than at any other time of year. The larger viburnums and rose at the back are in ground level soil while 95% of the other plants are in raised wooden containers with a little walkway between. By June most of these details disappear from sight with the abundance of growth. All the visitor sees is a delightful and interesting space tended by someone who will rise quite early in order to have a few hours in her garden before heading out to her full-time corporate job in Manhattan.



2013 Financial Review Report

Peter George, President
North American Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 833
Petersham, MA 01366

Dear Mr. George:

I have examined the NARGS financial records for calendar year 2013 maintained by the Treasurer, William Adams. The records include the following:

year-end Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement

year-end account reconcilements for each of the NARGS bank accounts

year-end reconcilement of the Investment Account

samples of several disbursement records

After reviewing these financial records, I find that the year-end Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement accurately represent the financial status of the North American Rock Garden Society as of December 31, 2013. All bank accounts and the investment account have been properly reconciled and are accurately recorded in the financial statements. The examination of a sample of disbursements found that the appropriate documentation and/or authorization was obtained to support the disbursement.

In conclusion, the review found no issues of concern.

Sincerely Yours,

Randy Tatroe

17156 E. Berry Place
Centennial, CO 80015

Treasurer's Report

Introduction and Summary

Included with this report you will find a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013 and a Profit & Loss Statement for year ending 12/31/2013.

As of 12/31/2013, all Bank Accounts and Investments have been recorded into our QuickBooks accounting system and all accounts have been balanced to the appropriate year end statements.

Below, I have listed those areas of Net Income and Net Expense that have a significant impact on our operations:

NET INCOME (US$)	**2013**	**2012**
Memberships	55,146	68,368
Donations including President's Discretionary Fund	20,897	9,045
Interest	3,398	7,946
Advertising	2,335	2,823
Book Service	2,757	1,175
Seed Exchange	548	
NET EXPENSE (US$)		
Seed Exchange		2321
Bank Fees	2,061	1,040
Speakers Tour	3,766	8,925
Internet Services		7,437
Website Development	35,471	19,878
Website Hosting & Admin	5,498	7,062
Quarterly		
Contract Services	20,940	20,224
Prep, Printing & Postage	44,192	44,773[1]
Grants/Awards	7,312	6,862
Administration		
Executive Secretary	14,857	16,344
AdCom	1,137	3,497
Other	1,103	2,601

[1] Adjusted for prep/printing & shipping (issue 71/1)

The activities of NARGS in 2013 resulted in a significant loss. The areas primarily responsible for this loss are as follows:

Our total income of $94,943 fell by 8.6% ($8,925) primarily due to lower membership and investment income. Fortunately, a significant bequest from the Danner Estate ($18,630) helped to offset what would have been an even larger decrease in total income. It is good to note that in 2013 the Seed Exchange produced a net profit.

Our total expenses of $145,829 increased by 7.4% ($10,002) due primarily to the increased expense required to complete the development of the new NARGS web site. In 2014 it is anticipated that web site expenses will be considerably lower. Also of note is a significant reduction of the cost of the Speakers Tour.

Respectfully submitted July 15, 2014
Bill Adams, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET at December 31, 2013 (US $)

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		287,147.46
Cash in Banks	162,147.46	
Investments	125,000.00	
TOTAL ASSETS		287,147.46
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
EQUITY		
Unrestricted (retained earnings)		175,870.71
Restricted Funds		162,163.08
Norman Singer Endowment Fund	149,431.87	
Robert Senior Award	1,275.72	
Carleton Worth Award Fund	3,337.78	
President's Discretionary Fund	3,594.50	
NET INCOME		(50,886.33)
TOTAL EQUITY		287,147.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		287,147.46

PROFIT & LOSS - January through December 2013 (US $)

INCOME			
CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT		76,042.67	
Memberships	55,145.97		
Donations & Special Requests	20,896.70		
EARNED REVENUES		18,899.89	
Interest	3,397.46		
Advertising	2,335.00		
Book Services	1,854.96		
Book Royalties	901.97		
Seed Exchange	9,927.39		
AGM & Study Weekends	483.11		
TOTAL INCOME			94,942.56
EXPENSE			
GRANTS, STIPENDS and AWARDS		7,312.25	
Stipends	900.00		
Grants - Singer Endowment	4,500.00		
Awards	1,912.25		
BANK FEES		2,060.98	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE		17,086.33	
AdCom	1,127.04		
Executive Secretary	14,856.58		
Legal & Filing Fees	25.00		
Insurance	862.00		
Supplies	61.73		
Promotional Materials	153.98		
PROGRAM SERVICES		119,369.33	
Book Service	122.45		
Seed Exchange	9,379.00		
Speakers Tour	3,766.10		
Internet Services	40,969.32		
Quarterly	65,132.46		
TOTAL EXPENSE			145,828.89
NET PROFIT (LOSS)			–50,886.33

NARGS Bulletin Board

From the new President to the members

I have the great privilege of writing to you today as your new NARGS president. I have always viewed it as one of the pinnacle plant societies - the place where so many plant enthusiasts end up - with great history, traditions and heritage - and it is obviously a privilege and a responsibility to take on this role.

These are times when plant societies are experiencing momentous challenges - many accompanied by dire predictions of upheaval, collapse and even the threat of closure. But enough of the doom and gloom - I can't help but take a more optimistic approach - after all, it's what I do during my day job - in simple terms, I spend my time thinking about what toys kids are going want to play with in this new age. More formally, I work as a futurist and innovator at the toy and entertainment company, Hasbro - and there are many things NARGS can learn from a large corporation. I plan on exploiting all of my consultation skills to help uncover creative ways to invigorate our society.

I want to focus on only a few issues at first, key questions if you like, and the answers to many of our problems may not be what we all expect them to be. Perhaps membership does not need to grow in numbers, but rather grow in quality. The answer may not be that we must increase membership dues once again, but to slash them in an innovative way to attract more regional members to join. What if the society did not focus on attracting younger members to join - what if the answer is to encourage more informed and experienced people to become active?

These are issues many companies face, from retail to manufacturing. Often, the solution is analogous to what we first believed should be the answer, sometimes it's something we just hadn't thought of beforehand.

We should remind ourselves that we are a resilient group of people. We have adapted and changed as .... as photographers did when digital photography took over, as columnists did as our daily newspapers disappeared and online blogs became the order; and today we may not all tweet about it, but an increasing number of us share our garden delight on Facebook with nary a thought.

So what does the future of NARGS look like to you?

More importantly, what are you going to do about it? The time is going to come, sooner that we think, when a decision will need to be made about things like the future of the printed Rock Garden Quarterly, about the hiatus of Winter Study Weekends, about speaker tours, and our Annual Meetings. They could be improved, they could become better, and they also could disappear if we do not address them.

There are real practicalities here, which we cannot ignore. Membership numbers are half of what they used to be ten years ago. Printing costs have not risen with our change to full-color printing but costs per head have. Membership has fallen while at the same time more people are looking to their local chapters in which to be active rather than joining the parent society of NARGS. These are many of the same issues facing all plant groups today.

The subtext to every issue is the same for us as for everything else in our hyper-connected world - the internet. With more and more people chatting and sharing on Facebook and the like, a society like ours has to offer people something that they can't get elsewhere.

Amidst all of this stormy weather, my vision for the future of NARGS remains bright. Over the next few months, I will consult with our leadership team, and with all of you that I meet or get in touch with, on how we can adapt and change in informed and smart ways. First of course, we must focus on the most concerning issues head-on, those related to finance and membership, to at least stop the serious hemorrhaging.

As it grows more relevant with its now re-designed website and full-color *Quarterly*, NARGS can begin to look at return on investment and how to add more value to benefits, many of which are 'free' on social media sites. I want to look not just at how we can recruit new or younger members, but at how can we maintain our membership base, and then look to our local chapters and adjacent groups to once again become more integrated with this parent society called NARGS.

If NARGS can learn how to navigate through this period of change, it has the ability to position itself as a model other plant societies can follow. It may even grow into a meta-organization, a concept that will deserve more attention during my presidency.

In New York, the disused elevated railroad tracks of the High Line – which property owners were lobbying to have torn down – are now a shining example of innovative urban planning and one of the greatest public garden spaces - a garden in the sky that is now being seen as a

model for other cities. NARGS needs such boldness in looking at its future.

To get there, our society needs great leaders, certainly, but most importantly it needs you - a membership base with fearless ambition and optimistic hope. At the very least, it needs members like you who really care. Success will come if every one of you does something, even as small as encouraging a more collaborative discussion, sending me an idea, or helping other members become comfortable with change. If you are feeling there might be a case for optimism then you could always stand for election - I did.

I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future, and please, share your ideas and concerns with me. I am only an email away.

Sincerely,

Matt Mattus
President
<mmattus@charter.net>

2014 Election Results

President: Matt Mattus* - 146 votes

Vice-President: Betty Anne Spar* - 144 votes

Directors (in order of votes)

Panayoti Kelaidis* - 132 votes
David White* - 107 votes
Brian Carson* - 106 votes
Dave Brastow - 93 votes

The candidates marked with an asterisk * have been elected.

Don't forget, NARGS wants you !

Call for Nominations for 2015 for NARGS Officers and Directors runs till November 1

Check out page 352

Retiring President's Final Message

I attended my first rock garden meeting in 1996, knowing absolutely nothing about rock gardening at that time. Nothing! It was the NARGS Berkshire Chapter's annual luncheon meeting, and I ended up sitting at a table with Geoffrey Charlesworth, Norman Singer, and Fred Case, all completely unknown to me. To this day I am amazed at how kind and engaging these men were, and how their gentle but forceful encouragement brought me into the NARGS fold.

Now, 18 years later, I'm concluding my term as President of NARGS – a completely unexpected culmination to the most interesting and pleasurable period of my life. In the course of those 18 years my children grew into adults, my grandchildren were born, I started and grew a very successful business, and I'm within a few years of retiring comfortably and leaving the business to my three partners, one of whom is my oldest son. My garden has grown, and although it's overwhelmed by weeds this summer, it is a joy for me to walk out of my home office every day when there's no snow on the ground and simply walk around the beds, taking in the beauty and recalling when and how each plant came to join the others in the garden. So much of what I have today came from chapter plant sales, from seeds I bought from Alan Bradshaw's Alplains, Ron Ratko, or one of the Czechs, from Harvey and Irene Wrightman, from Don Dembowski or Garden Vision (Karen Perkins and Darrell Probst), and from too many seed collectors and rock garden mail order companies who are no longer in business. The NARGS seed exchange has been an important source, and at least 20 percent of my garden is filled with plants I grew from seed that I got from the SeedEx. The garden is, then, the product of the education, encouragement, and plant materials I've obtained from many, many people over almost two decades, and I can't thank all of you enough for everything you've done for me. My efforts to serve NARGS reflect that appreciation, and hopefully I've been at least modestly successful at returning the favor, and also at helping other gardeners grow a few more choice plants.

As I exit as President, I feel compelled to candidly examine what I'm leaving behind. Some is good, some not so good; but overall we should remain positive and work aggressively to fix the problems before we fade into history, as so many other organizations have over the past 75 plus years.

The most obvious challenge we face is membership, which has declined from 4,500 members in 1999 to about 2,300 today. The NARGS leadership has reviewed these figures many times during the course of my presidency, trying to understand why so many people have left the organization and why we have failed to replace them. I believe the primary reason is both obvious and deeply frustrating. NARGS has 39 chapters in the United States and Canada that officially consider themselves part of NARGS. Most of them have been in existence for at least a decade, some for much longer than that. Those chapters have over 3,400 members. In the year 2000, more than 60 percent of chapter members were also NARGS members; today, that percentage has dropped to less than half. During the same period, chapter membership has been stable, and in some cases has grown. Why is chapter membership slightly up, while NARGS membership is way down?

During the past few years the NARGS editor, Malcolm McGregor, has produced a beautiful, informative, and entertaining publication, which is available electronically as well as in paper. The Seed Exchange has been automated, making choosing and purchasing seed from NARGS extremely simple. The website has been totally recreated, and although still a work in progress, it's a huge upgrade from what we had four years ago. The Speakers Tour is hugely successful, and our chapters are enthusiastic about the speakers and their programs. And finally, our Annual General Meetings have been well received and have been quite successful in taking our members to new locations and offering interesting and unique programs and speakers.

So again, why the drop in membership? In my opinion, the major reason we've lost members is because our chapters are no longer advocates for NARGS membership. As the chapters age, their membership, often "second or third generation" members, don't have any understanding or appreciation of NARGS, and are often not even aware that NARGS exists. The chapter leaders have no incentive to promote NARGS – the chapters get all the benefits of NARGS affiliation without having to support and promote NARGS. And on top of that, the chapter leadership apparently has a disincentive – they seem to fear that asking their members to do anything more than attend chapter meetings would alienate them completely. In short, we have hundreds of chapter members who are interested enough in rock gardening to belong to a chapter, but not enough to join NARGS. That is our challenge, and I am hopeful that during the next couple of years we'll find effective ways to motivate our chapters and their leadership to get their members to join NARGS, to all our benefits.

Meanwhile, it has unfortunately become necessary to consider raising the cost of membership in order to reduce (or eliminate) the current deficit, which is slowly bleeding us to death. I am actively looking at ways to incentivize the chapters to increase NARGS membership, and by the time you read this it's quite possible that one or more ideas will have been approved at the Board of Directors meeting in Santa Fe. We will also heavily promote the Amazon.com affiliate program and aggressively pursue contributions from our members to put ourselves back on a sound financial foundation.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank everyone for giving me the unique and life-changing opportunity to lead NARGS for the past three years. It has been a joy, and I will never forget the experiences I've shared with so many of you, nor the friends I've made and the plants I've grown as a result of this special experience. Our organization will continue to grow if we all recognize the value it offers each of us, and its positive impact on the part of our lives not spent on family and work. And for many of us, the hours we spend gardening are the times that make the rest of our lives so much more pleasant.

Thanks and best wishes to all of you!

Peter George
<petergeorge@verizon.net>

Seed Exchange

I certainly hope that this was a pleasant summer for you: vacationing, gardening, and relaxing. It would be an added bonus if the weather cooperated to shine and rain on your gardens in just the right proportions, so that you were able to grow all the plants you enjoy.

We hope, too, that you have been conscientious and generous with your seed donations. The Seed Exchange is a benefit that is based on the contributions by our members for our members, so your participation is critical. If you live in the U.S., you still have time to send your seeds by **November 1** to:

Laura Serowicz
15411 Woodring Street
Livonia, MI 48154-3029
U.S.A.
<seedintake@mi.rr.com>

If you live in Canada or overseas, you can also meet the deadline by mailing your seeds by October 15, or send your list of donations to Laura immediately if you must mail slightly after that date.
If you are planning to donate late-ripening seeds, you may send a list of those seeds right now; but the seeds themselves **must reach Laura no later than December 1.**

The 2014-2015 Seed list will appear on our website on December 15, and you will be able to request seeds through our electronic ordering system at that time. Although the orders will not be filled until January, they will be filed as they are received, so a quick response will still gain you an advantage. Donors' orders will be filled before non-donors', so if you want a share of the rarer seeds (always in short supply), consider becoming a Donor by contributing at least five packets of seeds. Those 5 packets will net you an additional 10 choices on your order, so it's a fine investment.

If you plan to order online, please be sure that Bobby Ward, at **<nargs@nc.rr.com>**, has your current email address. This is necessary if you have changed your email account lately or have not used the electronic ordering system in the past. To log in, you will need to have your own username and password.

If you do not wish to order online, you must request a print copy of the Seed list by sending me your name and complete mailing address no later than December 1:

Joyce Fingerut
537 Taugwonk Road
Stonington, CT 06378
U.S.A.
<alpinegarden@comcast.net>

Do it now, while you are thinking of it.

Printed orders received by mail are filled according to the date they are sent (by postmark), so there is no penalty for orders that arrive through the posts (which can be delayed for any number of reasons).

We are all very grateful to the officers and members of the Piedmont and Rocky Mountain chapters who will be filling our seed orders next January through March. It will mean a lot of organization and work for them, but they'll bring so much pleasure to so many NARGS members... and we thank them!

--Joyce Fingerut

NARGS Speakers Tours 2015

I am pleased to announce the Spring West Speakers Tour 2016 speaker is Sven Nürnberger, alpine horticulturist at Palmengarten in Frankfurt, Germany. Possessing a broad background in perennials and landscape design, Sven specializes in the alpine flora of the Southern Hemisphere. His education and professional career includes experience at various nurseries including, Frankfurt's Palmengarten and Heidelberg Botanical Gardens. He regularly hikes in the European Alps, and has horticultural experiences in Scotland, the Caribbean, and the Falkland Islands. In 2009, he rejoined the Palmengarten as head gardener responsible for the alpine section and has designed and implemented several new perennial plots and borders, completely rearranging the Palmengarten's historic rock garden and creating a new Asian-Himalayan rock garden. He is an active member of the German Perennial Plants Association and a regular contributor and consultant for 'Garten Praxis', Germany's leading monthly horticultural magazine.

The Fall East 2016 speakers has not yet committed, but will no doubt have done so by the time you read this, so please visit the NARGS website for updated information. Send requests for the 2016 Speakers Tours by the end of July 2015.

Harold Peachey
<hlpeachey@gmail.com>

Life Members

The following recently became a NARGS Life member:

Abbie Zabar (New York)

Marcia Meigs
Adirondack Chapter Award for Service

While it's true that gardeners are passionate about their gardens, I know no one more passionate about her garden than Marcia Meigs of Ithaca, New York. Her rural garden is a mix of woods and open meadow where she's focused on the plants she loves most – tree peonies, hellebores, and spring ephemerals – all of which flourish under her care.

Her woodland garden is generally at peak during our annual spring plant sale each May and the funds we generate from this event, the largest source of revenue for our Chapter, is due in no small part to her generous donations to the sale. She always works long hours at our sale, sharing her knowledge of plants and their cultivation requirements. The quality cultivars that she offers have without a doubt improved the quality of many area gardens – and that's a wonderful legacy.

Because she realizes a garden is meant to be enjoyed, Marcia readily invites others to visit and rarely does anyone leave without being given a choice plant.

Marcia joined NARGS in 1975. She has served on our Board and was involved with the Winter Study Weekend held here in 2000. Some national NARGS members may know her since she's an active Forum participant (and probably other garden chat sites as well).

For all these reasons the Adirondack Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society wishes to recognize Marcia Meigs with a Chapter Service Award.

Submitted by: Carol Eichler, Chapter Chair

New Members

Welcome to all those who joined between May 1, 2014 and July 24, 2014.

Baker, Suzanne, Rush Creek Growers, W4727 770th Ave., Spring Valley, WI 54767
Bluestone, Elana, Daily Zen Gifts, 8624 W. 71S Circle, Arvada, CO 80004
Bourey, Lisa, Lisa Bourey Consulting, 616 Ford Dr., Durango, CO 81301
Canfield, Jeffrey B., POB 625, Littleton, NH 03561
Clausen, Will, 9397 La Perouse Ave., Juneau, AK 99801
Fong, Margaret, 2827 Seventh Ave. NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1B1, Canada
Harley, Steve & Loretta Koehler, 101 W. Archer Pl., Denver, CO 80223
Heise, Alice K., 145 Iradell Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Hillmann, Mary, 715 Wood Duck Ln., Caldwell, TX 77836

Levy, Joann, POB 1809, Sutter Creek, CA 95685
Pedersen, Dale, POB 40, Graham, WA 98338
Rewolf, Egnaro L., 2039 E. 32nd St., Tucson, AZ 85713
Rutishauser, Faye, New Horizons Nursery, 5157 Ashlee Way, Erda, UT 84074
Sachtjen, Donald W., 2497 N. State Rd. 157, Bloomfield, IN 47424
Scotti, Marsha, 25 Sharon Dr., Moosic, PA 18507
Spriggs, Paul, 1320 Rudlin St., Victoria, BC V8V 3S1, Canada
Stephenson, Bob & Patricia, 2920 S. Grant St., Englewood, CO 80113
Stronks, Theo, 16 Julianastraat, Aalten CD 7121, The Netherlands
Wessells, Arcangelo, 132 Florida St., Vallejo, CA 94590

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The following recently became NARGS patrons:

Patricia Highberg (Vermont)
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NARGS Donations

Donations between May 1, 2014 and August 1, 2014 - $6,870

Applied to the NARGS general operating fund, Seed Exchange, *Rock Garden Quarterly*, and Speakers Tour in memory of Boyd Catey Kline, and general fund in memory of Boyd Catey Kline.

Daniel Holden Adams (New York)
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Carol Eichler (New York)
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Robin Magowan (New Mexico)
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Russell D. Stafford (Massachusetts)
Bobby Ward (North Carolina)
Arcangelo Wessells (California)

Jim McKenney
Potomac Valley Chapter Award for Service

It is with great enthusiasm (though it cannot match the plant enthusiasm the nominee exudes) that Freddi and I nominate Jim McKenney, a long-term stalwart member of the Potomac Valley Chapter (PVC), for the Potomac Valley Chapter Service Award. His chief claim to "worthiness" is that he has been THE non-stop editor of our *PVC Bulletin* since 2000 (almost 15 years)!!! During this span Jim has moved the *Bulletin* from a 'word document' to a full-fledged, fully shared, electronic version that he has made accessible to all NARGS members through the local Chapter listings on the NARGS website. The *Bulletin* format has been continually revised and includes information on events and editorial comments as well as plant articles. As such it is the "go to" place for members to seek information as to what is going on in the Chapter. The *Bulletin* has been produced on time with quarterly (4) issues per year. This Bulletin for the past several years has been replete with color photographs, but more importantly has been consistently infused with Jim's own articles (many of these are from a blog site he operates). These articles always reflect his erudite and enthusiastic approach to gardening and plant appreciation. They are full of detailed, hard to find, but fascinating factoids about special plants. Very often his informational writings are backed up with personal experiences many of which occurred in his own tiny urban garden! It is partially through this reflection of plant knowledge that Jim has sort of become our chapter "Mr. Google." Whenever we need verification of what a plant's true identity should be or simply want info about a plant, we generally ask him to get the full story rather than trying to see what Google presents. In closing, Jim McKenney has not only "just been" our PVC *Bulletin* editor "forever" but has been one of those so important enthusiastic, knowledgeable members that helps glue our Chapter together. Jim's writings are not exclusive to the *Bulletin* but may also be found in other gardening venues as well. Thus, the Chapter Service award, given to those who excel in providing excellence in written materials for both the Chapter and NARGS members, is well deserved by Jim McKenney in 2014.

Prepared by Dick Hammerschlag
Immediate Past President, Potomac Valley Chapter

We have learned of the death of the following NARGS members:

Joseph F. Zeabart, Terre Haute, Indiana

Neville Lusmore, Upper Framilode, Gloucester, U.K.

Norman T. Beal, Sanford, North Carolina

New Chair for NARGS Book of the Month Reviews

This website feature was the brainchild of Grazyna Grauer former President of NARGS. It's been successful for a number of reasons but mostly for the dedication of Jeremy Franceschi and Hannah Berkowitz who actually put the review on the NARGS site. I merely coordinate and assign books.

Jan Jeddeloh of the Columbia-Willamette Chapter will be taking over as Chair and I hope we will all give her the support she needs to continue this fun activity. Ben Burr will handle the work formerly done by Hannah and Jeremy.

I especially wish to thank some of the following reviewers for never saying "No:" Frances Burr, Steve Whitesell, Bob Bartolomei, Jody Fetzer, Holly Shimizu, Malcolm McGregor, Hugh MacMillan, Priscilla Williams, Lori Chips, Gail Klodzinski, Paul Bowdren, Susan Stiles, Maryanne Gryboski, Panayoti Kelaidis, Robin Bell, Kathy Purdy, Andrew Lawrence, Peter George, Carol Bordelon, Christine Flanagan, Carol Eichler, Bobbie Lively-Diebold, Linda Yang, Jeff Cox; and a special thanks to The American Horticultural Society and the various chapter newsletters who have allowed us to reprint reviews.

Betty Anne Spar

Retiring Chair, NARGS Book of the Month

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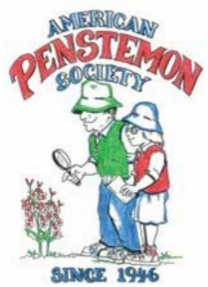
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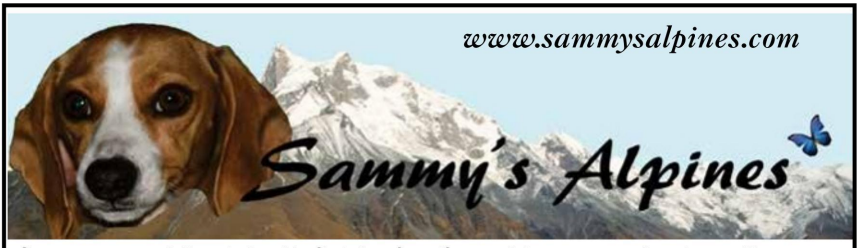


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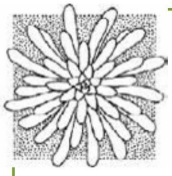
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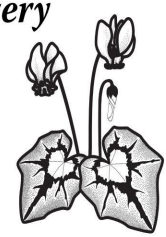
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The officers of the North American Rock Garden Society consist of a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. The officers are elected by the membership.

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