

THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

April 2014

April 12 meeting will be at 1:00 P. M. at

Flower Factory. David and Nancy Nedveck once again have invited our members to visit their nursery a week before opening to the general public. Members are encouraged to share comments about a favorite plant. 4062 County Rd A, Stoughton, WI 53589.

Please note. We still need a vice president. If you can support our chapter by filling this office or have any questions, please check with [Debbie Wopat](#) or another officer.

My notes for this winter say “-20 on January 6, the coldest spell in the past 18 years.” Then “It’s February 10 and the temperature will drop to -15 tonight.”

Fortunately, snow fell early and we have had a 6-8” covering all winter in southwestern Wisconsin. Just a reminder that global warming is a trend, not a local forecast.

GARDEN EXPO

The Garden Expo in early February is always a great opportunity to visit with other gardeners and dream about what we will do when the snow melts. Thanks to Ed Glover who has coordinated our club’s booth from the beginning when there was a table, several chairs and a few troughs. He organizes setting up the display on Friday, the dismantling on Sunday and coordinates the volunteers.

From Ed: Our 20th year of exhibiting at the Garden Expo was a great success due to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with setup, staffing the booth and dismantling the exhibit after the Expo.

Here is some information on attendance from the Expo:

2014: Fri-3,885, Sat-9,870, Sun-5,142, Total--18,897
2013: Fri-3,532, Sat-10,139, Sun-4,372, Total--18,043
2012: Fri-2,658, Sat-11,419, Sun-6,119, Total--20,196
2011: Fri-3,910, Sat-10,185, Sun-6,886, Total--20,981
2010: Fri-2,814, Sat-10,391, Sun-5,391, Total--18,596

Attendees this year were treated to 329 exhibitor booths, 150 seminars and stage presentations, and appearances by *Around the Farm Table’s* Inga Witscher, national gardening expert Melinda Meyers, WPR’s Larry Meiller, and celebrated author Jerry Apps.

If anyone has suggestions for future years, bring your ideas to our next meeting; NOW is the time to start planning for next year. Again, many thanks. Ed.



(I had to use my camera to take pictures so please excuse the picture quality. Editor Jean)

MEETING DETAILS

The display of hypertufa and Styrofoam troughs always draws attention as visitors compare the weight of the two different constructions and consider where they could include one in their landscape. Instructional flyers were available at our booth for both types of troughs.

The Flower Factory generously loans plants for our troughs and displays. Visitors admired anything that was blooming, touched the hard, tight saxifrage rosettes and marveled at the variety of foliage among the other plants.



The “planted” area above included a crevice garden. The triangular planter below can be seen on the table in the background. John and Olive Thomson bought the planter in Iowa many years ago and Olive loaned it to Ed. Ed said it has been outside for a number of years. The simple but interesting design caught the attention of many visitors.



Jerry Berg reproduced this trough and donated it for auction at our March meeting, after we viewed the slides of Dave and Joy Collura’s trip to Scotland. So nice to see growing and blooming plants as well as the Scottish countryside.

Left over seeds from the NARGS seed exchange will probably be available at the April meeting. Remember our fall plant sale when you are growing seeds or dividing your plants.

Horicon Marsh September meeting. There will be a boat tour of the marsh and watch for e-mails about signing up.

Iza Goroff and Jerry Berg, two of our long time members, are compiling a history of the beginnings of our chapter.

NARGS national meeting will be in Michigan next May.

Raffle items? If you have a book or other garden related item that can be donated? Items are raffled each hour during the seed sorting meeting in December. Ed Glover said he watches used book stores for suitable books, on the premise that they deserve a good home.

In addition, members have brought plants and other items to the monthly meeting for a raffle or auction, depending on the demand for the item. If you have an uncommon plant that is blooming, it may provide more revenue for our treasury than waiting until the fall plant sale.

The triangular trough built by Jerry ended up in David Nedveck’s hands with \$21 added to our treasury. Jerry agreed to make a few more.

Allen Centennial Gardens (see meeting schedule at end of newsletter for May 10 meeting volunteer opportunity.) This UW campus garden appreciates any help from our rock garden chapter. [Ed Glover](#) sends out an e-mail when a work day is planned. Please contact him if you can occasionally help.

They also have a [Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens](#) and information about this and events as they celebrate their 25th anniversary are on their Web site. They have a great poster!

Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville is the other public garden our members help maintain. They also rely on [volunteer support](#) and Iza Goroff will coordinate our June trek to this garden to weed and plant in one of the rock gardens. More information on this meeting is also at the end of this newsletter



Anemone nemerosa “Vestal” Anemone ranunculoides

Some of our chapter's older newsletters included plant portraits and the information about two of the plants is reprinted below. The newsletters don't list the author(s) of the portraits.

Anemonella thalictoides "Schoaf's Double Pink"

This plant is a genetic mutant of the single flowered *Anemonella thalictroides* of our northern North America woodlands. It was found in a small graveyard in Owatonna, MN, around 1945 by Mr. Oscar Schoaf. He brought the plant home to his garden and started to propagate it. After several years of dividing and replanting the tubers, he had sizeable patches of this delightful plant. Mrs. Louise Koehler of Bixby, MN, saw the plants in flower and received two plants from Mr. Schoaf. She also propagated it and put it into cultivation. It is mainly to her that we have this charming mutant in our gardens.

The plant grows best in a shaded woodland type condition, in acid to neutral soil. Since the stamens and pistils have been formed into petals, the plant is sterile and the only means of increase is by division. After a division of the tubers and replanting, the leaf bracts rise from the crown of the tuber the next spring. New tubers are formed in the growing season and if left undisturbed, they will increase the size of the plant to a great extent. The flowers last up to a month and some plants are very heavy with bloom. Some will also flower again in the fall. They retain their leaf bracts until fall. The plant grows to about six inches high.

There are two definite color varieties of *A. thalictroides* "Schoaf's Double Pink" and maybe even a third color form. A white double form of *A. thalictroides* has been around for many years and it is correctly called *A. thalictroides favilliana*.

H. Lincoln Foster called for naming the plant *A. thalictroides* "Schoaf's Double Pink" in the July, 1966, issue of the bulletin of the ARGS.

(Editor Jean--There is a fully double light pink form called "Cameo" as well as several green flowered forms, all very lovely. The tubers on some of these plants form a very tight cluster and are difficult to separate into viable plants. Cameo has done well for me for many years. Two green forms didn't survive long, probably because the mail order "plants" were actually tiny individual tubers and didn't store enough "food" for the next season.)

Saponaria pumilio

This plant comes from central Europe. It prefers a scree treatment for good growth—a dry, limestone rocky surface for the foliage to rest upon in full sun. Many branching arms spread out over the rocky surface, forming a tight mass of green soft needle-like foliage never over a half inch high. It may spread out as far as a foot in all directions from a central taproot.

It starts to flower in late May or early June, completely covering itself with bloom of a good soft pink that totally hides the foliage. The flowers touch each other, becoming a tight mass of pink only two and a half inches above the rocky surface. It will remain in flower for up to weeks. The flowers are at the terminal of the stem, sometimes two or three buds to a flower stem. When open, the flowers are about an inch across. As with plants that flower so profusely, it sets few fertile seeds. The best method of increase is by cuttings of non-flowering stems while the plant is in flower. These strike easily.



Saponaria pumilio was crossed with *S. caespitosa* to create *S. x olviana*, a fine hybrid resembling *S. pumilio*. *S. x olviana* creates brown woody stems for winter rest while *S. pumilio* retains green stems for winter rest.



WI-IL Rock Garden 2014 Meeting Schedule

MAY Saturday 3rd at Noon at Tom Horner's 25706 Malchine Rd, Waterford WI 53185

Garden Tour Tom's garden features a number of areas including a pond, rock garden and woodland plantings. He has been growing Magnolias for a long time. One of his seedlings was named "Crescendo" and is now for sale by Klehm's [Song Sparrow](#) Farm & Nursery. Members are invited to bring a bag lunch and come early to enjoy this lovely setting.

Saturday 10th, Noon -volunteer opportunity [Allen Centennial Gardens](#)

**University of Wisconsin-Madison campus
[UW Family Gardening Day](#)** is an event for families to visit the facilities of the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences to learn about plants & gardening in a hands-on experience. The Rock Garden of the Allen Centennial Gardens needs volunteers to talk with adults & children about rock gardening. Kids will be able to take home a plant. Contact [Ed Glover](#) for more information.

JUNE Saturday 7th, 9:00 AM to Noon (rain date 6/14) [Rotary Botanical Gardens](#) 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville WI 53545 Rock Garden Work Party, lunch provided Shopping trip to Alpine Gardens, Monroe WI

The WI-IL NARGS chapter supports area rock gardens by providing volunteer work parties to tackle labor intensive tasks. No experience is necessary. Come, get dirty, socialize, and learn a bit about the plants.

After a provided lunch, we will head west to Alpine Gardens just outside Monroe WI. This tiny nursery specializes in succulents and especially Sempervivums. The owner, Charlotte Nelson, is an enthusiastic & knowledgeable plantswoman. And the plants are very affordable.

September Saturday 20th, 10:00AM [Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge](#) W4279 Headquarters Rd, Mayville WI 53050

Annual Chapter Plant Sale Dave and Joy Collura's cottage 23mi east of Horicon

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1941 to provide an undisturbed sanctuary for a number of migratory birds and waterfowl including the redhead duck as well as to provide opportunities for people to connect with nature through many wildlife dependent recreational activities such as wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretation, fishing and hunting.

This will be followed by lunch at Dave and Joy's cottage and our annual plant sale. Members provide the plants so you know they are not only tried-and true but all proceeds go to the chapter.

October

Wednesday 15th, 7:00PM joint meeting with the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#) Visitors Center 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison WI 53704 Mark Kintgen, Senior Horticulturalist Denver Botanic Gardens, topic to be announced

Mike Kintgen oversees the Alpine Collection and nine gardens including the Rock Alpine Garden, and South African Plaza at the [Denver Botanic Gardens](#). He currently gardens in both Denver and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The two different climates allow him to experiment with a wide range of plant material. Mike is a popular speaker in areas around Colorado on the topic of rock gardening, and botanic travel. He has lectured as far away as Sweden and Argentina on Denver Botanic Gardens and its current focus on steppe and high elevation floras found in semi-arid regions around the world.

November

Saturday 15th, 1:00PM [Dane County Extension](#) 1 Fen Court, Monona WI Annual Chapter Meeting including Travels with Steve

Steve Lesch, owner Landscape Design
The chapter gathers in November for a potluck lunch and socializing (we have some amazing cooks!) followed by our annual meeting to review the previous year, elect new officers and make plans for the following year.

After the business meeting, Steve Lesch (owner of Landscape Design) shares a presentation about the travels his extended family make each year. These are always unusual places that contain interesting plants and geography. Always a fun day.

December Saturday 6th, 9AM to 4PM [Dane County Extension](#) 1 Fen Court, Monona WI Annual Seed Sorting & Packing for NARGS

The gathering of the chapter to help NARGS sort, package, and distribute seeds of plants both wild and cultivated, both common and rare. Another fun day with pizza and beverages provided as well as hourly raffle drawings.

Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Dues are \$10 per year. Please clip this form and send it along with your check (payable to WI-IL NARGS) or cash to: Brad McDowell, 1535 Speedway Road, Verona WI 53593

2014 Chapter Officers

Chairperson - Debbie Wopat, N5760 Hill Rd, Rio, WI 53960, (920) 992-3109, ddwopat@gmail.com

Vice-Chairperson -

Secretary- Damon Smith, 218 DuRose Terrace, Madison, WI 53705. (608) 335-0336, damonsmith56@hotmail.com

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