



## THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

September 2019

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### September meeting

Plant sale time is here again; check your garden for treasures that can be shared. We will meet Saturday, September 14, at 11am at ACG, 520 Babcock Dr in Madison, lunch at noon and plant sale at 1. From Ed Glover: *We are happy to invite WI-IL members to visit the rock garden at Allen Centennial Garden on the UW-Madison campus and this time we are not asking you to work! Our summer intern Tori Lopez, and Garden Apprentice Ryan Drake plus the Rockhead volunteers have the garden in good condition.*

*There are always things to do but we want you to come and enjoy the garden, maybe get some ideas for your own garden and give us suggestions for things you would like to see at ACG. Bring a bag lunch and we will eat in the gardens and then have our annual plant sale in the staff work area in the back.*

The following lots will be available for free parking: Crewhouse circle Lot# 35 north of the garden, Tripp Hall Lot# 34 to the east past the dorms and the Steenbock ramp across the street although you still have to pull a ticket to enter and leave.

### NARGS award

Allen Centennial Garden (ACG) received the 2019 Frank Cabot Garden award, given to a public garden that excels in furthering the purpose of NARGS to educate and demonstrate aspects of rock gardening. This is a special accomplishment since usually large gardens earn this award. The summer issue of the Rock Garden Quarterly contains Ed Glover's article about ACG, including beautiful pictures. Following are excerpts from Ed's article.

The garden was constructed in 1989 with over 20 tons of beautifully featured limestone, which had weathered on a local farm for over 100 years plus 8 tons of sandstone. Tom Vanderpoel, a NARGS and Wisconsin-Illinois (WI-IL) Chapter member, designed the garden and oversaw its construction. The inclusion of a rock garden was proposed by Warren (Professor Emeritus of Horticulture) and Alberta Gabelman, WI-IL Chapter NARGS members, who planted and faithfully maintained the garden for 14 years.

Two main goals of the rock garden are to show visitors a variety of methods of growing

alpine rock plants here in the Midwest and to display a large variety of those plants from easy to challenging. Since 2003 we have renovated many areas of the garden and added new features to meet these goals. The garden currently includes scree, moraine, tufa beds, a dry stream bed, a sand bed and pavement for xeric plants, a raised bed, a collection of troughs, and the most recent addition of a crevice garden.



ACG crevice garden, photo by Ed

John Mather, who worked with Drs. Dennis Stimart and Warren (Buck) Gabelman, professors in the UW Department of Horticulture who planned ACG, added the following concerning the ACG evolution and Ed's role in it.

To have a rock garden at the time was quite unique. (Unfortunately still so). I believe Buck was responsible for the area being originally divided into various sections meant to represent and show plants of various world-wide alpine regions. It was a novel idea but one that was very difficult to implement.

Once the garden was completed Buck, along with

his enthusiastic wife Alberta, managed the garden choosing plants and implementing ideas with the help of the seasonal garden staff. After Alberta's passing and Buck's retirement, things changed. While he was no longer there, Dr. Gabelman kept his commitment by funding a summer intern exclusively for the rock garden.

Ed Glover had had an interest in the garden from the beginning and had been doing some volunteer work. After the Gabelmans left, the garden suffered from not only a lack of interest and focus but primarily from a lack of leadership. This was a situation made for Ed. We all know how much he loves rock gardening and has a very deep knowledge, both things that the garden needed to survive the neglect. The garden was on his route to and from his work place and he could see what was happening. At first he basically did tasks needed like weeding. Over time I think the garden director saw his value and encouraged it. At some point they worked out an informal arrangement that Ed would be the leader on the rock garden. It relieved the director from having to spend time on the area and it was a gift for both.

Once he was given free rein, Ed dove in and attacked the major problems of the garden. He recruited and organized chapter volunteers {"rockheads"} to help. He became the de facto supervisor of the rock garden intern. He not only taught them but worked side by side after work or even during lunch breaks.

Ed is the true mastermind of the rock garden. It has been a work of love even surpassing his own garden at home. Under his leadership the garden has been carefully developed and enhanced.

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