

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
SPRING NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2015



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

****SATURDAY, September 19, 2015: FALL MEETING**

MEETING: 10:00 AM – ca. 2:00 PM
PLACE: Hamburg Township Library and Senior Center

– see map insert

Two programs by well-known Czech rock gardener Jiří Papoušek in the Library

10:00 AM: Business Meeting

10:00 AM: *Building Crevices and other Czech Gardens*

Catered lunch: 12:00 Noon in the Senior Center next door

1:00 PM: *Small Daphnes and their Cultivation*

NOTE: even though this event will be in Hamburg, it is a home football game (12 noon start time) in Ann Arbor, so you might want to take note of that for planning your drive.

****SATURDAY, October 3, 2015: FALL PLANT SALE**

MEETING: 11:30 AM – ca. 3:00 PM
PLACE: Rimmer & Susann DeVries, 215 E. Henry Street, Saline

– see map insert

11:30 – ca. 1:00 tour the garden

BAG LUNCH: While touring the garden

PLANT SALE: 1:30 PM -- See the Plant Sale insert for details

The date of this year's Fall Plant Sale has been pushed back from our usual 3rd week in September, to Saturday Oct. 3rd. This was so we could co-sponsor Jiří Papoušek, from the Czech Republic, who will be presenting two talks to our group on Saturday Sept. 19th – our normal plant sale day. If you are interested on reading more about our upcoming speaker, check out the May 2013 installment of the International Rock Gardener on line:

<http://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2013May301369920930IRG41May.pdf>

So now everyone has an extra two weeks in which to gather up your treasures for the Plant Sale. This year we are in for a treat, as we will be making an overdue return visit to the garden of Rimmer & Susann DeVries in Saline MI.

Saturday, January 16, 2016: Winter Pot Luck.

Details about the Winter Potluck will be in our usual timely winter postcard.

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS:

There are apparently no Winter Study Weekends planned for next year, but the 2016 NARGS Annual Meeting will be June 23-27th at Steamboat Springs, Colorado – this should be fantastic!

Our May Annual Meeting

Well, we survived the annual meeting intact! Whew! I think it is fair to say that the meeting was enjoyed by those attending. We even heard from those that did not attend but from what they heard wished they had. I do have some inside information, having sent out a questionnaire to see what people thought could be improved, and what everyone liked, so from the responses, Weber's and the food provided were satisfactory to well-liked. To meet the budgets constraints [in the hotel contract we were committed to spend a certain amount each night] we had to add in the costs of wine / iced tea served at the table to fulfill the cost contract. This added merriment and was well-received by all. People liked the Buffet service.

The Speakers Ger Van den Beuken, Malcolm McGregor, and Tony Reznicek were enjoyed by almost all [there is always a few who would have done things differently]. Despite our efforts to make sure everyone could see the slides – providing 3 screens – a few still had difficulties. Some even complained that the center screen showed better pictures and they all should have been of equal quality. The center one was a new state of the art one recently purchased and borrowed from the University of Michigan Herbarium. The others belonged to the Hotel. Well you can't please everyone all the time and we certainly couldn't buy two other new ones!

The Plant Sales were a hit – especially our Chapter Table, with its native plants and Japanese plants ordered special from a Japanese Nursery through the valiant efforts of Jim Wilkins. All the Vendors, I hope, made a profit. Don's Troughs all sold but three and the Benedict's were overheard saying that they should try to get to more Annual Meetings. For our members that could not attend, we sold the left-over plants from our Chapter Table (plus any new ones brought in) at a steep discount in a regular Chapter Sale a week later, which not only sold out, but made a little over \$3000 at this second sale. Though the books are not formally closed yet, with all our Chapter Sales and our other fundraising (the Silent Auction, the Lottery for the double trilliums, etc.), it looks like we may actually make a small profit despite attendance being a little less than our "break-even" point. Hooray! We

managed a meeting (perhaps the first in a little while?) that will not need subsidies from NARGS.

People liked the Lottery and the Door Prizes and the way that winners of Door Prizes were randomly selected by name so more people had a chance to win. People also liked our choices of Gardens and Natural areas to visit – the bus tours actually worked as efficiently as planned – and they liked the demonstrations in each of the Gardens.

The Post Conference Tour sold out within the first two weeks after it was posted so we expanded it to take another van load but logistically that was the absolute limit of what we could do, so we still disappointed some who would have liked to go. Sorry, but the motels we had committed to and the sites themselves could not take more.

I know people realize that there were a great many Volunteers who worked very hard at this meeting – it was a tremendous team effort, and I especially want to thank the Program Committee who stuck through all the planning meetings and carried this to fruition. I would personally also thank the Program Committee for the gift to me of the Iris tile. It will truly be a prized memory for me of what we accomplished giving inspiration for future organizers of Annual Meetings.

Susan Reznicek

Susan A. Reznicek, Chairperson
NARGS 2015 Annual Meeting

An Update to Last Year's Late Summer in the Rock Garden.

Tony Reznicek

One thing that I noted in the brief article on late summer bloom in the rock garden in last year's fall newsletter was, in commenting on *Heterotheca jonesii*, that I was trying a new hybrid of it with *H. villosa*; the reason being that while *H. jonesii* is a wonderful plant, with its mat forming habit and tiny silvery-gray leaves, it is quite susceptible to rot in our comparatively wet climate, so is not long lived. So how did the new hybrid perform? So far so good. It came through the hard winter beautifully and, while more of a gray-green cushion than a flat silvery-gray mat, is incredibly floriferous over a long time, as hybrids can be. It is a compact and

beautiful mounding flowering machine, pretty much blooming from July into September.

(<http://www.lazyssfarm.com>), Far Reaches Farm (<http://www.farreachesfarm.com>), and Plant Delights (<http://www.plantdelights.com>).



Heterotheca jonesii × *H. villosa* July 18, 2015

It is a terrific plant for the summer rock garden, but without any good nursery source. I'll work on reproducing it – cuttings should be possible.

Another plant blooming now, not really a rock garden plant but too interesting to ignore, is a woodland gesneriad from China that I've now had through several winters and can pronounce hardy, at least through most winters. This is *Hemiboea subcapitata*. We are all familiar with the rock garden gesneriads, which are mostly rosette plants with evergreen leaves, but this is a larger woodlander to a foot high with large glossy opposite leaves that is colonial from underground rhizomes – I don't know the full extent of the spread, but it could be a few square feet fairly quickly from what I can see. It dies back to these rhizomes in winter, and comes up in late spring to bloom in Michigan in August, maybe sooner in a brighter site. My setting is quite dark, with ferns. Big leaves aside, the flowers on this plant are large and spectacular.

It seems to propagate easily, and sources in the recent past have been Lazy S'S Farm Nursery

Hemiboea subcapitata, Aug. 24, 2014 and (flowers) Aug. 13, 2013



Please send address changes to our Treasurer, and please include your up-to-date email address.

Thank You.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

National Organization:

Name: _____

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Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:
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Send \$30.00 dues (check payable to NARGS) to:
Bobby Ward
Executive Secretary
North American Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619

OR pay in person at the next GLC meeting

We strongly encourage people to join both the Great Lakes Chapter, and the National Organization.

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
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FIRST CLASS