

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER**  
North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)  
**SPRING NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2016**



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**CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS** \*\*meeting details below\*\*

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**\*\*SATURDAY, MAY 14: SPRING MEETING & PLANT SALE**

**MEETING:** 11:00 AM – ca. 3:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Barbara Haman's  
841 South Lakeshore Road, Port Sanilac – see map insert  
11:00-ca. 1:00 tour the garden  
**BAG LUNCH:** While touring the garden  
**PLANT SALE:** 1:30 PM -- See the Plant Sale insert for details

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**Mark Your Calendars:**

**Saturday, September 17, 2016:** Fall Meeting & Plant Sale.  
Details about the Fall Meeting & Plant Sale will be in the Fall Newsletter.

**Saturday, October 22, 2016:** We are pleased to have the famous rock gardener Peter Korn, from Sweden come to talk to us. His gardens are fantastic, and we'll have a real treat with this program. See:  
<http://www.botanicgardens.org/blog/peter-korns-garden> for a preview.

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**UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS:**

**The Colorado national Meeting is full! It's great that it got such a super response. They really know how to put on a meeting in Colorado, so it will be very exciting.**

**We'll have a great contingent there from the Great Lakes Chapter, so I hope to see a number of you.**

## From the President

### Jacques Thompson

First and foremost has been the completion of several issues remaining from the National AGM that our chapter hosted last May. A final budget has been reached, and a check has been sent to the NARGS treasurer as our support of the National Organization. Also a check has been issued to the State of Michigan to cover the Sales tax, interest and late fees resulted from our Chapter Sales Table at the AGM.

A very good deal of work was put forth by Patricia Bard and Julia Caroff, into researching and presenting a report to the board on redesigning the GLC website. However it was decided that for the time being our current website is very functional. The issue has been one of a lack of input/ interest. So before we spend a significant amount of money to create a new website, the consensus is to see if there is sufficient interest in a Chapter website prior to redesigning our current one.

Finally, the success of the two National Events that the GLC had hosted (the AGM last year and the Eastern Winter Study Weekend in 2003) along with all of our Chapter Plant Sales, has swelled our treasury to the point that we feel it is prudent to spend some of those resources. A suggestion that was raised at the January meeting, and one which seemed to best hold with the ideals spelled out in our Chapter's Bylaws, "to promote the awareness and practice of Rock Gardening..." was to make a donation of financial support to Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Discussions between the GLC board and MBG have resulted in a proposal that we feel is well worth the memberships' support. The proposal is for our club to make a donation of \$ 2000.00 to MBG which will be applied towards the cost of a Summer Intern who would be dedicated to caring for both the Marie Azary Rock Garden and the Great Lakes Garden, (both of which are located at MBG) one day/each week. This intern will be at MBG from May thru August. This proposal will

require a vote by the membership and it will be a part of the brief business meeting held prior to our Spring Plant Sale this May 14th.

I look forward to seeing many of you there!

### *Corydalis bracteata*, among others

#### Tony Reznicek

Well, since I am a bit late getting out the newsletter due to some unexpected out of town commitments and general end-of-term business, I have the opportunity to note one of the latest blooming of the tuberous *Corydalis* species – long after *C. solida* in white, pink, purple, and even red has faded, the unique yellow flowers of *C. bracteata* show. It is a disconcerting species, not coming out of the ground until the early species are done blooming – and every year I wonder if it has been eaten by voles – and then it appears (so far).

Besides the color, the flowers of this species are very large, so it makes a striking show. Naturally, availability is an issue. In years past, Janis Ruksans would offer it. But overall, these tuberous *Corydalis* present problems with availability. They almost never show up at our plant sales – who wants to buy little ugly potatoes with no idea what the plant looks like? And then they do not tolerate drying as well as standard bulbs.



*Corydalis bracteata*

So while we are on the subject of *Corydalis*, here are a few more to whet your appetite for ending early spring with a bang:



*Corydalis cava* 'Alba'

I like *Corydalis cava* because it is also late, just about as late as *C. bracteata*, but with dull purplish flowers (the more attractive white form shown here) with dark, entire bracts below each flower in the inflorescence – that stand out in the garden more than in this picture.

Finally, while on the subject of later flowering *Corydalis*, here is *Corydalis buschii*, a sort of a tuberous species – but where the tubers are so narrow and elongate, most people would call them rhizomes. This is an Asian woodlander even more susceptible to drying in shipping, so is best treated as a perennial, shipped in a pot. But the nice pink color and colonial habit is most interesting -- though mine got eaten by voles or some

other voracious creature a couple years ago, and I have to re-start my patch.



*Corydalis buschii*

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On a sad note, one of our members, Heidi Jacobus, passed away February 4, 2016. We'll miss her.

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**Note: Due to time constraints, we'll have our meeting minutes in the Fall Newsletter**

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

Susan Reznicek  
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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

**Great Lakes Chapter:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:  
**Susan Reznicek**  
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS  
890 Wickfield Court  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227

OR pay in person at the next GLC meeting

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

**National Organization:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$40.00 dues (check payable to NARGS) to:  
**Bobby Ward**  
Executive Secretary  
North American Rock Garden Society  
P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619

OR pay through the NARGS website:

<https://www.nargs.org/join>

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER FIRST CLASS**

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