

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
FALL NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2021

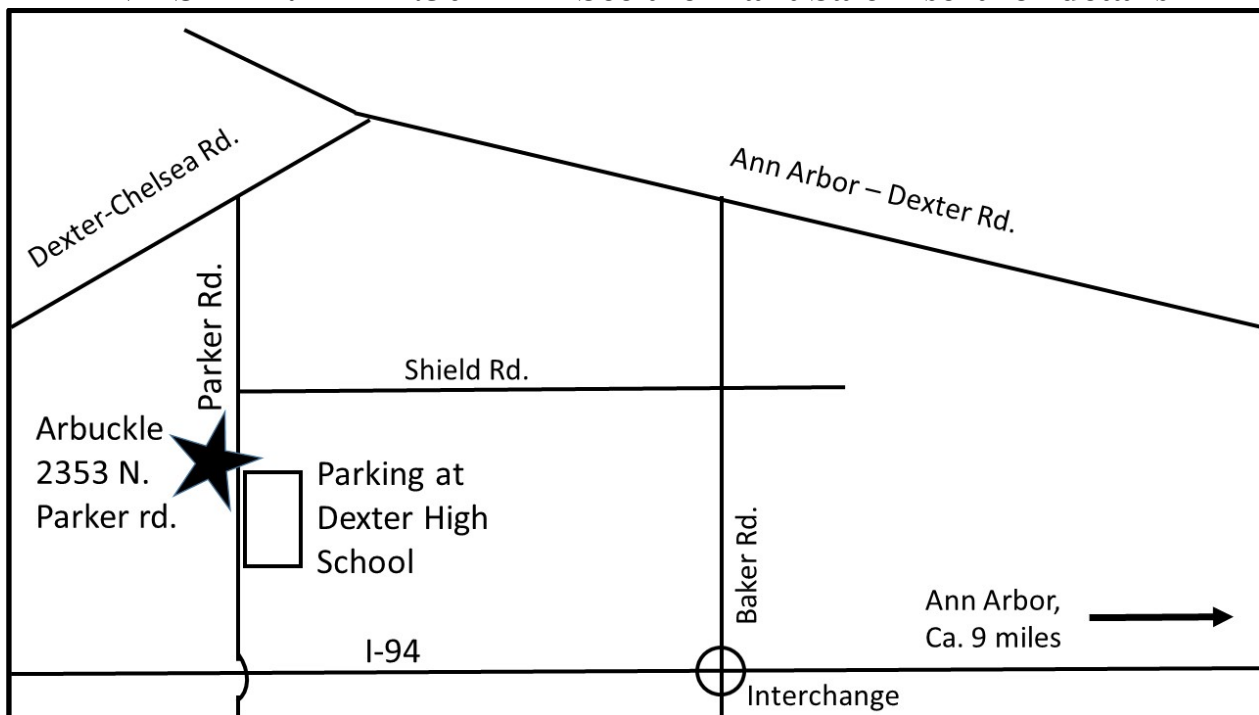


CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

You can always check our website for information: <http://glcnargs.com/>

****SATURDAY, Sept. 11: Fall Meeting, Plant Sale, & Garden Tour**
Our fall meeting will be hosted by Andy Arbuckle and Carla Bayha

- MEETING:** 11:00 AM – ca. 3:00 PM
PLACE: Andy Arbuckle’s garden, 2353 North Parker, Dexter
– See the map below and the plant sale insert
BAG LUNCH: While touring the gardens
PLANT SALE: 1:30 PM – See the Plant Sale insert for details



We'll keep you posted on forthcoming meetings – planning is still difficult because of continuing uncertainty about obtaining venues. More details will be in our usual timely postcards or newsletters

NARGS ANNUAL MEETING 2022: will be held in Ithaca, New York, June 14-16, on the campus of Cornell University

**Notes from our President
Julie Caroff**

Thanks to Holly Pilon!

The Chapter is immensely grateful to Holly for her term as President. More than simply shepherding the Chapter, she worked hard to update the bylaws and revamp our organizational structure. This was detailed and time-consuming, but so very essential. And she did all this through COVID; in addition to making sure we had a regular schedule of programs and meetings! Thank you Holly!

At this fall meeting, we will have a very brief business meeting just before the plant sale, where we will vote on the new board. As the terms have to be staggered, I'm just going to assign one, two or three year terms. We will have a very brief business meeting just before the Fall Plant Sale to vote on the new Board. The Chapter members proposed for the Board are:

3 year term: Linda Gates, Bonnie Ion, Tony Reznicek

2 year term: Don LaFond, Holly Pilon
Jacques Thompson

1 year term: Andy Duvall, Andrea Urda Thompson

New Officers:

Julie Caroff –President

Sean Zara – Vice President

Patrick Ion – Secretary

Colleen Mitchell –Treasurer

The Chapter By-laws provide for up to 9 Board members, so we have a spot for one more member. If you

are interested in applying, please let me know at julia.caroff@icloud.com.

Sometime late in the fall, Tony Reznicek will present a program on "Plants I have killed" – hopefully in person – but possibly through zoom. We'll alert you with a timely email/ mailing once we have the details in hand.

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens MBGNA is open to the public now only in a limited capacity and engaging a limited number of volunteers. This "cap" will remain in effect until September when they hope to return to pre-pandemic levels of volunteerism.

With that in mind, the renovation of the Marie Azary Rock Garden should be able to start up again after hopefully not too long after Labor Day. This will allow us to meet, assess what materials/equipment and labor are required, and prepare a timeline for a completion date about the end of October. Naturally, we'll keep everyone in the loop about volunteering and workdays.

This delay will have the added benefits of getting past the summer heat, acquiring more tufa, and an ability to have more volunteers participate.



Paeonia willmottiae fruit – almost as showy as the flower!

A few funky August flowers
Tony Reznicek

Late August is more or less the purview of annuals and large, sun-loving perennials, but rock gardeners typically don't garden much with either – after all, there are virtually no annuals and few larger plants in alpine areas. So in our climate anyway (unlike some summer monsoon area of the western US), late summer is a green zone. But here and there are a few small perennial that do fit into the rock garden and do bloom now.

Some are bulbs, although the main bloom of fall bulbs is yet a few weeks away. Here are a few small ones.



Barnardia japonica



Caloscordum nerinefolium

Caloscordum is a strange onion relative, not showy but eye-catching if you stare at it long enough. The flower (see inset) is a nice color.



Acis autumnalis

**GLC NARGS Business Meeting,
Saturday, 23 January 2021
Patrick Ion**

[This was a ZOOM meeting hosted by Patrick Ion and Tony Reznicek which guided the Chapter through COVID and a number of other changes. You can see we accomplished much of what was set forth!]

After allowing the participants to congregate with the usual pleasantries and adjustments to their personal channel settings, Chair Holly Pilon opened the meeting for business at 13:05.

Holly remarked that this was a meeting to provide updates on GLC activities and concerns, and to allow the annual Treasurer's Report to be read and commented upon. As such, since there were no elections to be held the question of a quorum for the meeting was moot.

Treasurer's Report:

Bonnie Ion's Treasurer's Report for 2020 had been circulated to the email list by Tony Reznicek. It shows a completely satisfactory financial position. The question was raised whether the chapter was holding too much cash in the bank for a non-profit. It was pointed out that GLC's Not-for-Profit status is well established and duly registered with the State of Michigan, and that our reserves are in no way out of line with what is acceptable. We are acquainted with examples of Not-for-Profits in this town that run several times our finances; for instance, high school band associations. There are requirements for extra filings by organizations that show budgetary flows much greater than GLC's, but

we have filed what is correct for our business level. There was some confusion over the filing of a State Sales Tax form last year that led to a small late fee payment, although GLC owed nothing in sales tax. Since the 2016 Gala here we have been in very sound financial shape.

Matthaei Botanic Gardens:

Chair Holly has been in regular contact with Mike Palmer of MBG. He tells us that a new Director, Anthony Kolenic, will take the reins in March. The MBG will be doing no new rentals for the foreseeable future. All changes will depend on the results of the COVID responses. We are all locked out of the fenced area but can visit the outer grounds and trails as marked. In particular, there is no chance to work on the rebuilding of the Azary Rock Garden that GLC wishes to accomplish.

Upcoming Events (as also noted in our home page list of events):

A Crevice Gardens course is being offered by the national NARGS on February 6; it will run from 11AM to 5:30PM EST. This is a presentation that requires signing up for \$25 for members; \$50 for non-members); but there is a bargain offer of sign up plus a NARGS annual membership for \$50. Presenters will include Paul Spriggs, whom we just had the pleasure of hearing, as well as Kenton Seth and others.

There will be a Penn State Webinar, "Winter Blues and Garden of Greens", on Feb 20 with a \$25 registration fee. Presenters will include Todd Boland of Newfoundland, Joseph Tychonevich (Rock Garden Quarterly Editor) et al. Tony Rez-

Reznicek has already sent out a brief note about this promising program.

NARGS Annual Meeting

The NARGS Annual Meeting in Durango, CO, is still ON as a physical (as of today). The NARGS President says a lot of activities will be outside such as meals and lectures. It is highly recommended to arrange one's own rooms, and, since there will be no buses, to rent a car. Joan Cooper pointed out that federal travel regulations have just been updated and may change again, so that it is advisable to check upon travel constraints in buying tickets or making reservations.

Programs [program notes later]

Jennie Wainwright-Klein will do a Zoom presentation on her garden on Saturday March 20 at 10:00 EST. Hers is the spectacular Schachen Alpine Garden in Germany, only open from June to September, when it is accessible. The garden is a satellite garden of the Munich Botanical Garden.

The reason for the early meeting time is the 6-hour time shift between EST here, UTC - 5 hours, and CET in Germany, UTC + 1 hour. [She was supposed to address us as a visitor last April.]

Surplus Seed Exchange:

The GLC has agreed to handle the Surplus Seed Exchange distribution for NARGS this year. There are usually 200–250 packets to be handled but this year more interest has been shown in the seed exchange. The Siskiyou Chapter is processing the main round and will accept orders up to January 31; fulfillment be-

gins February 1. This means that it will be about 2 months before GLC needs to be doing processing. Tony Reznicek has offered his house and garage as the location for the GLC operation. Details will depend on the local weather at the time.

Some international orders need customs forms but no phytosanitary certificates are needed, which is a welcome simplification. Some supplies will come from national NARGS but GLC will buy some supplies and be reimbursed by national. There are 3 sections of seed choices: 1st choice; preferred 2nd; 2nd choice. Seeds remaining after the surplus distribution are divided and mailed out to chapters; this is where the packets we've all seen circulating at our meetings come from.

Aside from volunteers to pull, package and mail packets, there are two essential specialist roles to be filled. They are Order Receiver and Order Coordinator. Both positions require skill in dealing with spreadsheets, and access to a modern computer and printer. Most of the work can be done at home. These individuals will have to get special access to the NARGS web site.

Chair Holly asks that all volunteers send their names to her. Volunteering gets you an extra 10 packets at the next Seed exchange (2022). The processing will presumably take place at the end of March or beginning of April.

Elections:

Holly remarked that her term as Chapter President ends with May and she will not seek a further term. She points out that recently the GLC has done accomplished a lot of fun-

damental tasks: GLC is no longer just an Association but has Bylaws and Liability Insurance; there is duly constituted Board of Directors, though it needs to perhaps be more active, and the not-for-profit and state registration statuses are in proper order. There is more the GLC can turn to doing: for instance, the Azary Rock Garden project is still pending.

Holly emphasized that it's been interesting and fun being President. It was rewarding to get to know people, if sometimes a bit hectic. She said "Think about being president; there's no election today though".

Members who wish to be candidates for other offices, such as Treasurer or Secretary, should let Holly know if they wish to be considered.

Open Garden and Plant Sale:

There was no known case of illness that resulted from the Plant Sale last fall at Andy Duval's. We seem to have carried out a very successful event safely.

In May we need a location for an outside event with room to mask up and spread out. It was suggested that maybe we could consider two days and more than one site, both for visits and plant sales. Libby Greanya pointed out that this year, unusually, there are two Saturdays between Mother's Day and Memorial Day, namely May 15 and May 22; she favors May 15 as there is a Jackson event on May 22.

The notion of doing another Gala like 2016's was floated again. Jacques Thompson reminded us that alternating over Winter Events with the Wisconsin Chapter had been the

recent rule. Holly will contact them and discuss inter-chapter meetings.

At 14:02 Holly adjourned the meeting with the injunction to all "Thanks you and keep smiling!"

Letter from our New Treasurer Colleen Mitchell

Thank you for your support of the Great Lakes Chapter of NARGS - North American Rock Garden Society. Your membership dues have helped us to achieve some important goals. We appreciate your membership and participation in the chapter.

Due to covid-19 and the inability to meet, the Board waived a year of membership fees in 2020.

The fall plant sale will be hosted by Andy Arbuckle and Carla Bayha in Dexter, Michigan on September 11, 2021. We look forward to seeing you at the sale and your dues can be renewed then.

Or you can renew by check – send a check via mail payable to GLC-NARGS. Address: Colleen Mitchell, 3995 Monks Road, Pinckney, MI 48169. Membership Fees are \$10 per household per year.

Many thanks go to Bonnie Ion who has supported GLC-NARGS for several years as treasurer. Especially in regards to paving the way with a financial review format and filing the appropriate tax documents; and a smooth transition of the treasurer role.

Thank you and happy gardening!
Sincerely,

Colleen Mitchell
GLC-NARGS Treasurer
734 717-3279
nofhell@aol.com

A few more nice plants in bloom this weekend:



***Lobelia siphilitica* 'Mistassinica' – dwarf, mounding habit and easy to grow**



***Roscoea auriculata* – the last flower *Oenothera fremontii* – nice silvery leaves**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:
Colleen Mitchell
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS
3995 Monks Road
Pinckney, MI 48169

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>

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