

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
SPRING NEWSLETTER, MAY 2022



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

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

***SATURDAY, JUNE 11: Spring Meeting, Plant Sale, & Garden Tours In Sterling Heights**

MEETING: 11:00 AM – ca. 3:00 PM
PLACE: Bob Swartz (3601 Devonshire, Sterling Heights, MI)
& Vince Russo (13843 Bathgate Sterling Heights, MI)
11:00 – ca. 1:00 tour the gardens
BAG LUNCH: At your convenience while touring the gardens
PLANT SALE: 1:30 PM – at Vince Russo's

Note: We usually have a map for people, but your newsletter editor is not only behind with getting things done, but there is some construction in the area so using your GPS navigation or your phone, will alert you alerted to the best route on that day. Go to Bob's first, and Vince's is only about 10 – 15 minutes away, and you can get instructions at Bob's on current conditions. Street parking is ample at both houses.

To get to Bob's if using a road map: There is apparently lot of road reconstruction on 16 mile road between Ryan and Dequindre so there can be a bit of backup on Ryan Rd. as well as 16 mile. Most of us will be getting there using I 696 and I 75, exiting onto Big Beaver Road. Bob Suggests going north to 17 mile road before Ryan Rd., and then go E to Ryan and come down Ryan from 17 mile to Bob's. His house is on the north side of Devonshire, just E of Ryan, very easy to locate. Hope that's clear! If you run into trouble, give me a call – 734-996-0692.

Fall plant sale: We're still working on that; all details will be in the fall newsletter, and we'll also let people know with an email or mail notice as soon as details are worked out for this, and other projects.

***SUNDAY, OCTOBER. 2:** While we're still working on the fall, please note one date now. We have invited Karen Perkins of Garden Vision Epimediums to speak to us. Many of you will have gotten her lovely catalogues. Put this date on your calendar (note that it is a Sunday) for sure as she will have plants for sale. We'll have all the details in the fall newsletter.

President's Notes
Julie Caroff

Throughout the Lower Peninsula, our members have beautiful gardens filled with rare, interesting and well-grown plants. On Saturday, June 11 we will have the opportunity to visit the Macomb County gardens of members Vince Russo and Bob Schwarz. Our spring meeting and plant sale will be at Vince's garden, where we will see his collection of cold hardy cactuses. Earlier this year, Vince gave a presentation to our chapter on cold hardy cactuses with photos of his collection. If you didn't have the chance to hear his presentation, there is a video on the GLC website that you can watch for a preview of all the beautiful plants we will see in his garden in June. Bob has donated rare, beautiful plants to our auctions and sales over the years. His garden will be open to visitors on June 11, too.

The SeedEx is one of the major benefits of our chapter's affiliation with NARGS. For the past few years, our chapter has handled the surplus round. We are in need of a member to step forward as coordinator of the surplus round. Holly Pilon has served in this position for several years. She has prepared outline of the position and is willing to help the new coordinator. Without a volunteer coordinator, there will likely be no surplus round next year. Please consider the position and volunteer!

Happy gardening,
Julie

Check out Juno Iris
Tony Reznicek

Every spring is different, and for gardeners, it's always exciting, baffling, and sometimes disappointing, as spring evolves. This year, the cool weather made for some slow weeks for things unfolding. But here are some highlights from the April Juno Iris bloom. These like the same conditions as cacti and other hardy succulents – full sun, good drainage – so offer a burst of bloom before the hardy succulents come on. Not only

do Juno Iris have lovely colors, but the foliage looks so different from other Iris that people are always surprised. This lovely blue is new, and bloomed for the first time this spring.



Iris aucheri 'Indigo'

Junos come in the same range of colors as other *Iris*, and for starting out, the easiest and best is *Iris bucharica*, a nice yellow. It's a good increaser.



One of the largest Junos is *Iris magnifica*. It looks like a cornstalk coming out of the ground, and it is also easy, though not as good an in-

creaser as *Iris bucharica*. Here is a nice white form I got some years back from Janis Ruksans



Iris magnifica 'Virginity'

Some Junos have unusual color combinations that can be intriguing or ugly, depending on your point of view. Next is an easy *Iris xwarslind* hybrid whitish with yellow, a bit peculiar, but interesting. These hybrids are easy. The plant in the picture is 12 years old. Juno hybrids generally are good performers. A nice color combination is found in *Iris vicaria x microglossa* 'Marjaneh' with blue and yellow.

Finally, though you see fantastic tiny Junos pictured in bulb literature, these have all been very difficult for me – so go for slightly larger Junos – all (except *I. magnifica*) still under 12 – 15 in tall. There are lots.



Iris vicaria x microglossa 'Marjaneh'

Please send address changes to:

**Colleen Mitchell,
3995 Monks Road,
Pinckney, MI 48169, USA**

**Do include your up-to-date email address.
Thank You.**

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, USA

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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