

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
SPRING NEWSLETTER, May 2026



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

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

****SATURDAY, May 23: Spring meeting and Plant Sale, at Barb Chamberlains's Garden, Dexter**

MEETING: Noon – ca. 2:30 PM
GARDEN TOUR: Noon – 1:30 at Barb Chamberlains's
8157 Walsh Rd., Dexter, MI 48130
BAG LUNCH: At your convenience while touring the gardens
PLANT SALE: 1:30 PM

Questions, email me: reznicek@umich.edu

Upcoming events – We're looking for a garden to host the fall meeting and plant sale. Let Jacques Thompson (rockroper@icloud.com; 734 434 7654) know if you'd be willing to do this.

Fall meeting Claire Cockcroft from Seattle will be coming at the end of September to speak to our chapter.

We'll keep you posted about both these events as soon as things are formed up!

NARGS ANNUAL MEETING, North American Rock Garden Society, 2026 Annual General Meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada June 25-28. Check website (https://crag.ca/high_and_dry/) for more details.

News from NARGS May 2026

Carol Eichler

It's always exciting to create a new garden. A new garden represents a fresh start in which maybe I am wiser and won't repeat mistakes I've made from the past, only to make new mistakes of course. This year I have two new gardens to plant and I've very excited.

One is a very small rock garden at my home – my 3rd rock garden – and each very different. At the AGM in Cheyenne last year

I was inspired by one style at the demonstration rock gardens at the Colorado State Horticulture Center in Ft. Collins. I felt compelled to build another rock garden, this time a crevice garden using tightly-fit blocky stones, each not much bigger than my fist as seemed suited to the size of the planting bed. Altogether the bed measures a mere 6 x 3 feet. Small as this space is, there's room to fit 50 – 75 plants, maybe more (more than my current inventory anyway).

The second new garden is an off-location one, actually a public garden, that is an extension of our 25-year-old rock garden located in the city of Ithaca. Since I've been the lead tender of that garden all these years, I have been responsible for its longevity. So I feel it's not too much of a stretch to call it my rock garden #4. Two years ago, our Chapter took the leap to convert an adjacent water feature, long neglected and now too shady to support water plants, and replace it with a woodland garden.

It has been quite an undertaking required first draining the pond and adding fill, adding topsoil and more topsoil and finally to plant it, which we just did this last week-end. We had help from Master Gardener Volunteers to haul several cubic yards of fill and topsoil

over the course of the last 2 years. Finally we were prepared to plant a selection of fancy ferns from where else? - Fancy Fronds Nursery.

The rock gardeners in us couldn't resist but to turn this planting area into another rock garden for the shade. While this is still a work in progress with more ferns to plant and other shade lovers to add such as cyclamen, primulas, and sanguinaria, this new garden is well on its way to reality. I've attached a rather bad photo of our accomplishment so far. If not for the stones, it wouldn't look like much yet. Most of the ferns are still dormant. I cannot wait to see this garden unfold.

Now if only I could just get those extra hands to come work in my gardens...!



Wet and cold – it’s spring in Michigan!

Tony Reznicek

This newsletter is mostly to announce the spring plant sale – but of course, May is a great time for rock gardens. So here are a few items for your enjoyment....



Androsace villosa just opening



Colchicum hungaricum “Valentine”



Chamaebuxus unguiculata (*Polygala Chamaebuxus*)



Fessia (Scilla) greilhuberi



Iris lacustris

Please send address and contact information changes to:

**Linda Gates,
7880 Ernst Road
Manchester, MI 48158**

Do include your up-to-date email address.

Thank You.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Send \$20.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:
Linda Gates
7880 Ernst Road
Manchester, MI 48158

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: _____

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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FIRST CLASS