

WISCONSIN-ILLINOIS NARGS

THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

April 2016

Spring is here and we gardeners alternate between admiring our newly emerged plants, eradicating weeds that seem to grow well over winter when everything else is dormant and deciding what plants we are still missing. Our April meeting will provide a great opportunity to consider more plants!

We will meet April Saturday, April 9th at the Flower Factory Nursery, 4062 Cty Road A, Stoughton, WI , starting at noon. Once again, David and Nancy Nedveck have invited the Chapter to the nursery for early shopping; their public opening will be on April 16th.

Bring a bag lunch and we will gather in the barn to have lunch and socialize. This will be followed by a program presented by Gary Wittenbaugh from Oelwein, IA. Gary is a well known expert on conifers and has served in leadership positions in the American Conifer Society. His program is titled 'Conifer Companions' and Gary's thought on this is "The best companion for a conifer is another conifer!"

Following Gary's program, the nursery will be open for shopping.

Note: Allen Centennial Garden will have a Hypertufa Trough Workshop, Saturday April 16. If you are interested, click [here](#) for more information and registration.



March meeting

Steve Lesch shared a portion of the beautiful slides of his family's most recent trip, to South Africa. There will be more wonderful slides to be viewed at a future meeting. He explained to the group that the slides we were viewing were of one of the oldest landmasses existing and that the area was very botanically diverse. Many slides were of the Drakenberg Mountain range (perhaps translating to dragon's town). Included in this section of South Africa are the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens encompassing 1300 acres divided into different eco systems. Many thanks to the Lesch family for their love of travel and to Steve for sharing photos of these gorgeous plants.

In the business portion of the meeting our president, Ed Glover, thanked everyone who helped with the Garden Expo. Next month's meeting will be hosted by the Flower Factory. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy before we listen to Gary Wittenbaugh speak about conifers. Also upcoming is a May work day at the Rotary gardens. We will be updated on the time and date. Another Work day has been scheduled for June 18th at Allen Centennial Gardens. Bring a sack lunch to be consumed at Steve Lesch's nursery. We also receive a discount there and a donation is made to the local chapter. So again stuff your pockets full of big bills and be ready to spend!

Ed Glover informed us that Joy Fingerhut of the NARGS National division has requested that our chapter take on the distribution part of the seed orders. We would need a place to set up tables and the inventory of seeds for 4-5 weeks (December-January) where they would remain undisturbed except for volunteers filling orders. A motion was made that we take on this task and it passed.

There were 2 beautiful specimens of: Adonis amurensis donated by Jean Halverson. They were auctioned off and sold quickly.

Lynn Groeschel, Secretary

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### Not Enough Bulbs

Once daffodils and tulips start blooming, the rush is on with overlapping bloom periods of iris, daylilies, lilies, peonies, etc. But the early bulbs are special, their cheery blossoms signaling that spring is here. I seem to decide each spring that I need more bulbs, yet manage not to buy much in the fall (maybe the thought of planting 30-100 bulbs isn't attractive at that time) and so the cycle continues.

I decided I need cultivars of Iris reticulata and more species tulips. I'm especially fond of Tulipa batalinii and tarda and want to experiment with some other species. I have had some cultivars in the past, don't know if they are marginally hardy, didn't like where they were planted, were eaten by critters or something else happened. Anyone have favorite cultivars or other information on their care?

My plan this year is to peruse the bulb catalog this week while the weather is too wet and chilly for outside work and place an order as soon as possible. Hopefully I won't be too shocked when the order arrives in the fall and needs to be planted.

The perfect spot to plant the bulbs often turns out to be the site selected a previous year and some crocus, daffodil or tulip gets disturbed or sliced into. I haven't decided how to mark areas where I want more bulbs. One gardener said she planted annuals where she wanted more bulbs but I don't buy many annuals. Other considerations are a popsicle stick which will just disintegrate if it isn't found in the fall or taking pictures of areas. Or just follow the usual procedure of digging carefully to try to avoid damaging bulbs already in an area.

Jean Halverson

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Upcoming Meetings

- May-Dates to be determined We will have two meeting opportunities
 - A workday at the rock garden at Rotary Gardens in Janesville followed by lunch provided by the Chapter
 - A tour of Barb Wetzel's amazing garden in Barrington Hills, IL
- June 18 Allen Centennial Garden workday. We will have a volunteer workday in the rock garden at [Allen Centennial Garden](#). Bring a bag lunch to eat in the gardens afterward. Then we will travel to Steve Lesch's [Landscape Designs](#) nursery for a tour and shopping. Steve graciously gives a discount on the price of plants and donates a percentage of sales to the Chapter.
- June 22-27 NARGS Annual meeting in Steamboat Springs, CO
- July and August—no meetings planned
- September 17 Plant Sale at Jean Halverson's garden in Dodgeville, WI. This is our fundraiser for the year, so pot up those extra seedlings and divisions to bring to the sale
- October 15 A fall hike in the Southern Kettle Moraine. Damon Smith grew up in SE Wisconsin and has spent a lot of time in the Kettle Moraine. He will lead us on a hike to see the interesting plants, geology and fall foliage.
- November 19 Noon-Pot Luck and Annual meeting at Dane Cty Ext Offices-1 Fen Oak Ct, Madison, WI. Our Annual Meeting will include Awards and election of officers after a delicious pot luck lunch. The program will be 'Travels With Steve' as Steve Lesch continues his trip to Africa
- December 3 9-4 Seed Sorting-Place to be determined. We will hold our annual workshop to pack seeds for the NARGS Seedex. There will be pizza for lunch and door prizes throughout the day.



Winter aconite. Notice the pale yellow flower, which will hopefully form a colony. And native Hepatic acutiloba in one of its blue forms.

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Editor Jean Halverson

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Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Dues are \$10 per year. Please clip this form and send it along with your check (payable to WI-IL NARGS) to: Jean Halverson PO Box 101, Dodgeville WI 53533

2016 Chapter Officers

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