

# WISCONSIN-ILLINOIS NARGS

## THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

October 2016

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### October 15 meeting

Our October meeting will be a fall hike in the [Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit](#). Damon Smith grew up in southeast Wisconsin and has spent a lot of time in the Kettle Moraine. He provided the following information about the schedule and advice for the hikes to see interesting plants, geology and fall foliage. It promises to be a fun and informative meeting.

Several of the places we'll visit are state park fee areas, so cars parked in the lots at those spots will need state park stickers or risk getting a ticket.

We'll start the trek at the Southern Unit headquarters on Hwy 59 between Palmyra and Eagle. [Here's a link to the Google map](#) showing that area. Cars can be left here without a state park sticker, and people can buy state park day passes (\$8/car) if they want or carpool, use the bathrooms, look at the maps and check out the exhibits in a small museum. It opens at 9:00, so anyone who wants more time to go through the museum can arrive before the trek starts to do that. There's also a short self-guided nature trail adjacent to the headquarters, and a network of trails, some of which provide access to good examples of oak/hickory forest, vernal pools, kettle ponds, etc.

From there we'll go a short distance north to the Scuppernong prairie and springs, then either east to the Bluff springs area with a couple of stops along the way, or south to have a look at the Lulu lake and Lake Beulah areas.

If the weather's nice we can have lunch wherever we end up, or back at the DNR headquarters, or if it's a cold or windy day, at the shelter at the Nordic Trails trailhead on Kettle Moraine Drive (county road H).

Participants should wear sturdy hiking/walking shoes or boots that they wouldn't mind getting wet, especially if they want to go into the fen or any of the wet prairie areas. Almost all of the trails will be nearly level or cover only modest inclines which should be easily navigable for all of us, although access to the Bluff Creek fen starts with a slightly steep scramble down from the road to the creek, and the Scuppernong prairie has no trail into it.

In addition to sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing, people should consider bringing binoculars, hand lenses, and any field guides that they like. I will have my own, but sometimes it's nice to have more than one. The weather has been good for mushrooms recently, and we may see migrating warblers, hawks, and waterfowl.

After lunch, I will take anyone who's interested in more strenuous hiking to other more difficult to reach areas, possibly including Bald Bluff, the Bluff Creek spring complex, Young Prairie, and the Beulah Bog.

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### May Study Weekend

Our chapter will host a Wisconsin Spring Garden Gala Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, in Madison. There will be lots to see and do and the following is in the latest NARGS bulletin. Thanks to Lois Kinlen and Jane LaFlash for leading the committees involved with this.

- FRIDAY night meet-and-greet at The Flower Factory, Wisconsin's premiere hardy plant nursery ... featuring the midwest's largest selection of perennials, hostas, and ornamental grasses ... plus a large hoop house devoted just to alpiners. We're working to have a talk on secrets of plant propagation
- SATURDAY tours (some group, some self-directed) currently in planning:
  - o University of Wisconsin-Madison Allen Gardens, with a great scenic rock garden right in the heart of one of the nation's most beautiful college campuses
  - o Madison's Olbrich Gardens, featuring 16 acres of display gardens (including a rock garden) and the large indoor Bolz Conservatory
  - o University of Wisconsin Arboretum, a jewel of the city, with enormous plantings in the 35-acre Longenecker Horticultural Garden and several others, including dwarf conifers and several world-class woody plant collections
  - o Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, encompassing 20 acres with 24 different gardens and 4,000 plant species
  - o Private rock gardens
  - o Nursery visits. It is hoped to arrange tours to another one or two nurseries
- SATURDAY evening speaker will be Joseph Tychonievich – A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph earned his BS in horticulture from Ohio State University. He went on to work for Shibamichi Honten Nursery in Saitama, Japan; wrote a book, Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener (Timber Press, 2013); and spent two years working at the famed rare plants nursery Arrowhead Alpines. His latest book, Rock Gardening: Reimagining a Classic Style, will be published by Timber Press this November.

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### Fall Plant Sale

The weather was beautiful for the plant sale! Thanks to everyone who donated plants, especially David and Nancy Nedveck who always bring nice plants from Flower Factory. I hope you enjoyed touring my

garden. As I was cleaning the areas that did get cleaned before the meeting, I wondered if a grass-free lot was a good move. It seemed like it when I moved here four years ago. And if any of you visit this July or later, I hope retirement will mean the full lot is neat!

Several items received a lot of attention. Ram's horn willow (*Salix Babylonia* 'Crispa') has tightly curled leaves and gets up to 15' tall if I remember correctly. Of course, it grows easily from cuttings and my trees are 3 years old. They came from a tree that originally came from the late Marilyn Sachtjen, an avid gardner and longtime member of our chapter. I'll root cuttings for our next plant sale.

The seed heads of Clematis 'Arctic Queen' form a dense golden ball and was especially eye catching in the sunshine. Since this plant is so attractive, both in bloom and in seed, I'll try layering it.

Thanks again for visiting my garden. Jean Halverson



### Upcoming Meetings

- November 19 Noon-Pot Luck and Annual meeting at Dane County 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.
- January—no meeting
- February 10-12 Garden Expo We'll have a booth as usual

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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**

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