

THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

March 2023



Happy Spring everyone!

OK, so the flowers do not look like this yet, but they soon will. The last two snows wrought havoc on the woody plants in my yard. I was trying to decide how to trim a dwarf arctic willow. The snow load broke many branches and I ended up trimming more severely than my original plan. On the bright side, the willow has been trimmed. Joy's Snow Drops are in bloom. The species tulips are not far behind. Inside the house, the orchids are in full bloom. My Thanksgiving cactus also was a Christmas cactus, and now will still be blooming as an Easter cactus. As some of you know, I have an interest in carnivorous plants. The pinguicula are breaking their winter bud and now are growing. The Utricularia subulate has a nice flush of yellow flowers.

Even as the plants are awakening, the Wi-IL Chapter continues to wake up from the covid doldrums. March 30th we will host the Bainbridges. See Ed's article for the place and time. We are starting later than last time in the hopes that more of the members that work will be able to attend. Damon will again be Zooming the talk for those of you who prefer not to drive at night.

Also, our very own Ingrid Jordon-Thaden will be presenting pictures from her expedition to Alaska on Saturday April 15. The time will be 1 PM at the West Ag building (8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona). This is where we have met before for talks and seed sorting. Hope to see you soon – Dave Collura

WI-IL Chapter Meeting

7 pm Thursday March 30, 2023

Olbrich Botanical Gardens-Evjue Commons

'The Art and Practice of Crevice Gardening'
by Drs Carole and Ian Bainbridge

The presentation will start promptly at 7pm, come at 6:30 to socialize and meet Carole & Ian Bainbridge from Scotland. They are here on a NARGS sponsored Speakers Tour.

(There is construction on Atwood Ave, so follow the directions which were emailed earlier)

This meeting is also available by zoom at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89209796173?pwd=KzdQRjFsUmo0ZUFpUWdFSU9wVW4xZz09>

Drs Carole and Ian Bainbridge are both keen rock gardeners from south-west Scotland.

Ian's career was in nature conservation and ecology; he was Chief Ecological Adviser to the Scottish Government, and Head of Science at the Scottish nature conservation agency. Carole came from a horticultural family, and followed a biology doctorate with a career in business, including in the European Commission. She subsequently retrained in garden design, and ran her own design company for 20 years.

Since their retirement, they have been working on their Galloway garden, started from scratch in 2010, after they moved from Edinburgh after 31 years. The garden has rock, boulder, scree and crevice beds, a stumpery and a pond, and more traditional shrub and herbaceous beds including a New Zealand bed.

Carole and Ian have been involved with the Scottish Rock Garden Club for more years than they like to admit (over 40). Both are past Presidents of the Club, they have been the Editors of the Journal 'The Rock Garden' and organized the 2001 International Rock Garden Conference in Scotland. They currently run the Seed Reception element of the Club's large seed exchange, and Carole sits on the Club Council.

Both Carole and Ian are members of the Royal Horticultural Society Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee; Carole is its Scottish Secretary.

Over 40 years they have travelled to all six continents in search of alpinines. They have been on three visits to Patagonia; and several to North America. There have been many trips to European mountains, and they have visited China and New Zealand.

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Before



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from Ed Glover

The Alpine Rock Garden at Allen Centennial Garden on the UW-Madison campus is maintained by a volunteer group which have adopted the name 'Rockheads'. We meet every Thursday morning during the gardening season and work from 9-12. We are lucky to have the ability to make modifications to the garden and select the plants to grow there in addition to helping with the regular maintenance of the garden. This season we will have a half-time garden intern during the summer to help us. There are two projects which we hope to work on this year, an expansion of the trough collection and an

Ed Glover at glover@oncology.wisc.edu

We completed a project last fall of removing a conifer which had grown too large for the space and renovated the area by adding more native limestone and a collection expansion of the crevice garden.

Anyone is welcome to participate in this volunteer effort. You are welcome to come whenever you are able to help. Last year there were volunteers who attended almost every session and others who came once or twice. All help is appreciated and we have an enjoyable time working together to make the rock garden the wonderful asset it is to ACG.

If you would like to join our volunteer effort, please contact of new plants. We look forward to seeing the results this spring.

After



A TRIBUTE TO IZA GOROFF

1936-2020

Iza Goroff, a long time member of the Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter of NARGS passed away in February, 2020. Covid was ramping up and our social activities were winding down and a simple notification of his death was communicated but we never properly acknowledged his contributions to our organization.

Iza joined the WI-IL Chapter soon after it was organized in 1969 so he had been a member for over 50 years. For many years Iza was the face of the Chapter, attending most every activity and serving as Chair four times over four decades. He was very generous with his extensive knowledge of alpine plants and made numerous presentations to the Chapter and other organizations. Whenever plant questions arose at meetings, Iza was one of the first to be consulted due to his interest and knowledge in all kinds of plants from conifers to orchids.

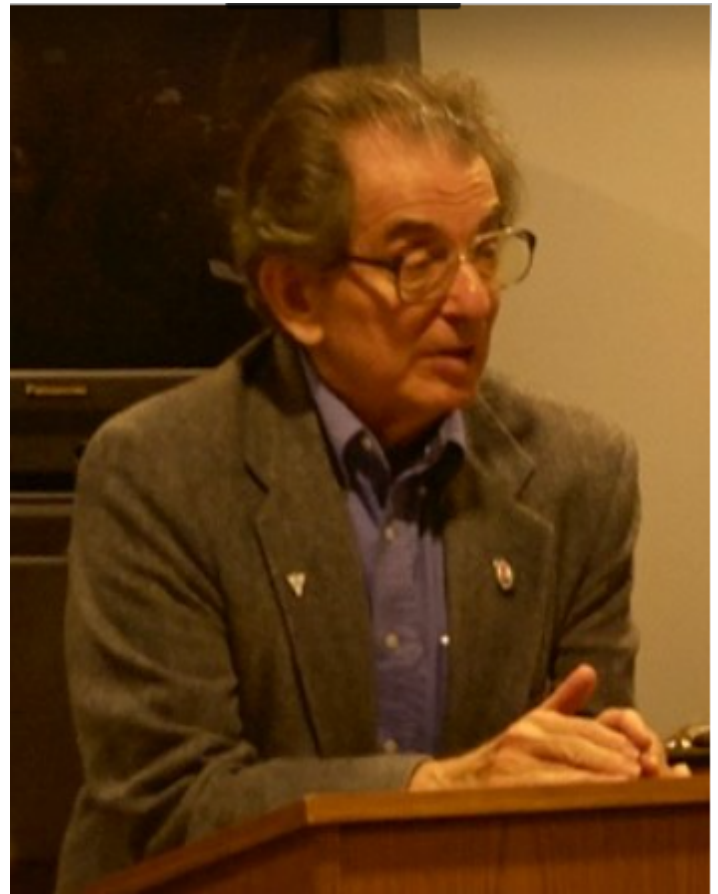
Iza was also very active in the North American Rock Garden Society, serving several terms on the Board of Directors and numerous committees. He was a regular attendee at Annual Meetings and Winter Study Meetings. In 1997 Iza started the Plant of the Month feature on the NARGS website using his own superb photos and plant descriptions and that feature continues today.

Iza was honored for his contributions to the WI-IL Chapter in 1995 with the Chapter Service Award and by NARGS in 2005 with the NARGS Award of Merit. That citation is reprinted below.

Even more than these extensive contributions to NARGS, the WI-IL Chapter and the gardening world, Iza was just a dear friend and a kind and thoughtful person. He was often the first to greet visitors and new members to meetings and make them feel welcome.

Even today when attending Chapter meetings I almost expect Iza to walk through the door (often fashionably late!) wearing his sport coat with a NARGS pin prominently displayed on his lapel.

by Ed Glover



Iza Goroff

2005 NARGS Award of Merit

Iza Goroff has been a stalwart member of the North American Rock Garden Society and the Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter for nearly 35 years. Iza became a member of the WI-IL Chapter soon after it was founded in 1969 and has been a leader and a firm supporter of its functions ever since.

As Chairperson of the chapter in 1973-75, 1982, 1998 and now again in 2005, he organized a varied and high caliber selection of programs and tours which left all of the members yearning to learn more about rock gardening. Through the years Iza has always been willing to provide programs for chapter meetings and each one has been presented in a professional, yet engaging manner. He has made presentations on rock garden construction, plant propagation, alpines in their habitats, and gardens of note around the country. Many garden clubs and civic organizations have also had Iza speak to them on the joys of alpine gardening. He has been elected a Director of the Rotary Gardens in Janesville, WI where he manages the rock garden as one of his many volunteer projects. For a number of years he presented rock garden training for the Rock County Master Gardener program there.

He is a consummate supporter of NARGS and the WI-IL Chapter, often bringing new members to meetings and encouraging others to participate in our activities.

Upcoming meetings

On the national level, Iza served on the ARGS Board of Directors for two consecutive terms from 1980-86 and is now finishing his 2002-2005 term as a NARGS Director. Iza is a regular attendee of Winter Study Weekends and Annual meetings and has served on a number of committees during his 35 years of membership; including Finance, Awards, Nominating and Internet. The Plant of the Month feature on the NARGS website was Iza's innovation and he has faithfully contributed his own high quality photos and well written plant descriptions and cultivation directions each month since February 1997. He was also one of the contributors to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden *Handbook on Rock Gardening*. Twice he has authored articles for the *Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society*.

Iza has constructed several ambitious rock gardens in both Illinois and Wisconsin which really showcased the artistry of rock garden construction. These gardens were filled with a vast collection of choice plants ranging from bog lovers, rhododendrons and high alpenines; all grown to perfection.

In a recent message to WI-IL members in our newsletter, Iza stated that "This organization has been the most important in my life." Likewise, Iza is one of our most loyal and important members. He is also an extraordinarily kind, thoughtful and energetic individual who has had a great positive impact on the lives and gardens of many members.

For his many years of service to the WI-IL Chapter and the North American Rock Garden Society, we are proud to present Iza with the 2005 NARGS Award of Merit.



April 15 Ingrid Jordon-Thaden has offered to show us her Alaska expedition picture

May, possible visit to Esther Benedict's nursery in Indiana

June 8 – 11 The NARGS annual meeting is in Truro Nova Scotia, June 8-11.

June 24 The Milwaukee area has garden visits and the Collura's will host a brat fry lunch that day.

July 8 th we visit Steve Lesch at his LDI Nursery at 10 AM.

September 16 We will hold our annual plant sale at Lynn Groeschel's home in Wisconsin Dells.

October 21 is open so far (maybe Panayoti, or I will have NARGS Nova Scotia pictures/report).



Gentiana septemfida is one of the easiest Gentians to grow. It is less particular about soil and siting than other Gentians. It grows well in half shade to almost full sun, although it would not thrive in intense, hot sun.

The flowers range in color from a lavender blue to a dark true blue, some with a distinctive white throat. Petals have noticeable fringing (plicae).

Gentiana septemfida is frequently available from nurseries. It is usually propagated by seed, but good forms may be multiplied by cuttings taken before flower buds form in late May or early June.