



# THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

A Rock Garden Newsletter

March 2012

**2012 Schedule**

April 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Great Activities Ahead  
Page 2

**Chapter Updates**

Dave Collura-Chair  
Ann Munson awarded



Page 3

**What is NARGS?**

What's a rock garden?  
And why should we care?

Page 4



**Steve does more than travel...**



Adonis

Page 5

**History repeats itself**



Old ideas germinate anew

Pages 6

**And repeats itself**

Gentians give me the blues

Pages 7



## Favorite Plants for Wisconsin & Illinois

Saturday, March 17th @ 1PM

Plant Recommendations from Members

Dane County Extension, Madison WI

As far as your editor is concerned there is no better way to learn about choice plants to grown in my garden than from those who have loved them and grown them. I can be confident that their recommendation have been tested by time in the same general climate. Though our members live a wide range of situations by having the time to discuss their favorites and asking questions directly we might just find some new gems we hadn't been considering. And it's a great way to get to know fellow rock gardeners and their gardens.

The format of the meeting is quite simple. Members willing to participate take turns sharing their noteworthy plants. To get started take a mental trip through your own garden and remember plants that you particularly love and that you think others would too. Maybe it's an early season gem or a shade lover that few know about. It could be a very common plant that you just wouldn't be without in your own garden. Make your own list & describe how you grow them. If you have slides or digital images bring those along. Five would be nice but ten would be twice as nice.

So maybe you're saying to yourself "I don't have anything to share". Or "What pictures?" Even if all you grow are a few annuals in pots on your porch you have something share. That's what our group is about: Gardeners sharing with gardeners. Not to keen on public speaking? Make a list of a few things with some personal notes and share it in written form. Send it to me at least a few days ahead of time & I'll make copies. No pictures? Try the Internet. Let me know and I'll find pictures to share at the meeting. The success of this meeting depends on us.

## ABOVE THE SNOWLINE

*As I was gearing up to get this edition of the newsletter out to you, I was looking for some notes I made earlier on an event. I keep most of the Rock Garden information in file boxes and was looking through them when I got seriously sidetracked. I have nearly one full box of old newsletters and mailings dating back to the early 1970s. The chapter was former in 1969 so this goes back to the beginning. As I wandered through the past I stopped fairly often to read an article. Then another and another. It was really fun to discover what members were hearing and learning. As the current editor I realized that a lot of effort had gone into these pages. And it struck me that even though nearly forty years old the topics were still fresh & relevant. "Too bad I'm the only one reading this." Whack! (the sound of my hand hitting my forehead) Why not share some of these with the current generation of rock gardeners?*

*There are three in this edition. I chose them for various reasons. The plant portrait was chosen to be a comparison with Steve Lesch's timely article on Adonis. It's in fact the earliest plant portrait in the files. I asked Iza Goroff if he knew the author & he speculated that it might be Timmy Foster. Sure wish they'd been signed. The line drawings are nice. Prepare to see more of these. The other two are directly related. Waid Vanderpoel was a serious seed grower and shared some of his process back in 1978. It was the very first article other than a plant portrait I could find. I know some may have known Waid. But like most I knew him only by reputation. So Ed Glover pointed me to the memorial article that Jack Ferreri wrote that highlights his achievements with regard to the chapter. There is, in fact, an entry in Wikipedia that adds more about his business and family. Wish I'd known him. I was very impressed with the organization of his germination process. Wouldn't it be fascinating to look through his germination records and to see his gardens and especially his troughs. I will look to see if I can find some pictures in old issues of the Rock GArden Quarterly. I'm sure I saw some there. But if you have any slides please share them with us at the next meeting.*

*Cheers... John, rockeditor@mac.com*



## WI-IL Rock Garden 2012 Meeting Schedule

check the meeting locations!!!

### Member Plant Recommendations Sharing Favorite Plants

**March 17th @ 1PM**  
**Dane County Extension, Madison**

The growing season is rapidly approaching. It's time to plan ahead. Remember we have the preseason buying opportunity next month at the Flower Factory. This popular member participation exercise has been a regular on our meeting schedule.

### Flower Factory Pre-Season Sale

**April 14th @ 1PM**  
**The Flower Factory, Oregon WI**

Can't wait to buy new plants for your garden? By special arrangement the chapter will be able to visit and purchase plants a week before the nursery actually opens. Thanks Dave & Nancy! And not just alpines! Save your pennies!

### 'Bulbs & Spring Flowers'

**Glenn Harold**  
**April 28th @ 1PM**  
**Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee WI**

Glenn is a former professor of Horticulture at Illinois Central College. The will be the 2nd gathering in April and note the change of venue.

**TBA**  
**May 19th @TBA**

At this time we are hoping to plan a May meeting even with the two in April. If you have any ideas they would be appreciated as always.

### Tour of Epic Systems grounds

**June 16th TBA**  
**Verona WI**

Just west of Madison, Epic Systems' extensive rural complex is a model of high tech architecture landscape. They also have sizable grounds with interesting gardens including a gravel garden. A staff horticulturalist will guide us.

### tentative - Workday & tour Rotary Gardens

**SUNDAY July 22nd TBA**  
**Janesville WI**

We plan to spend the morning working in Rotary's rock garden, to bring a sack lunch, and get a personal tour by Horticulturist Mark Dwyer in the afternoon.

### Annual Member Plant Sale

**September 15th @ TBA**

Our annual fall, member's only, chapter plant sale. If you are willing to host this event please contact Dave Collura, chair.

### Conifers

**Dave Wanninger**  
**Song Sparrow Nursery**

**October 13 @ 1:00PM**  
**Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee WI**

The meeting includes the chapter's awards, business meeting, and elections.

### Fall Potluck

**November 17th @ Noon**  
**Dane County Extension, Madison**

Annual Chapter Pot Luck and a new tradition a program presented by widely travelled Steve Lesch of one of his trips to parts unknown.

### NARGS Seed Sorting

**December 1st or 8th @ 9:30AM - 4:00PM**  
**Dane County Extension, Madison**

The gathering of the chapter to help the North American Rock Garden Society sort, package, and distribute seeds of plants both wild and cultivated, both common and rare. And pizza too.

## Chapter Award

### ANN MUNSON

#### NARGS CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD-2011

The Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter is proud to present Ann Munson with the 2011 NARGS Chapter Service Award. Ann joined the Chapter in 1997 and immediately began sharing her garden and knowledge with Chapter members. Ann has been very supportive of the activities of the Chapter, presenting programs and hosting garden tours at her home. Plant sales, trough workshops and pot luck dinners have all been hosted at her lovely home and garden. In 2001-2002 Ann served as Vice-chair of the Chapter and from 2005-2007 she was Secretary. She also took on the job of coordinating our seed-packing effort for the NARGS Seed Exchange one year. Ann has been our unofficial 'Host' at our meetings since we started holding them at the Dane County Extension Building; coming early to open and set up the room. This included making coffee, setting up the projector, etc.

Her cheerful and efficient service to the Chapter make her a deserving recipient of this award.

## Garden Expo 2012

In our 18th year of participating in the Madison Garden Expo, the WI-IL Chapter once again hosted a crowd-pleasing display including a table-top rock garden and trough collection which was organized and constructed by a veteran team of John Mather, Ed Glover, Jane LaFlash and Shari Voss. Of course, the star of the show was the collection of blooming alpines kindly provided by David & Nancy Nedveck at the Flower Factory.

We had a super crew of members who volunteered to staff the booth to answer questions and make the public aware of the benefits of membership in NARGS and our Chapter. We did get a couple of new members and sold some books which helps to defray our costs.

One of my favorite parts of working at the Garden Expo is the time spent visiting

with other members and I look forward to it each year. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time to work at our booth: Ann Munson, Barb Wetzel, Damon Smith, Dave & Joy Collura, Jack Ferreri, Deb Wopat, Kit Schmidt, Larry & Jan Phelps, Lois Anderson, Jane Barnett, Jerry Berg, Iza Goroff, Jean Halverson, Lois Kinlen, Brad & Laurie McDowell, David & Carole Pine, John Mather.

## Allen Centennial Gardens Rock Garden Volunteers

This year we are organizing a group of volunteers to work in the rock garden at Allen Centennial Gardens on a somewhat regular basis. In past years the work there has been done mostly by a student intern and myself. The garden is big enough that a little more labor and expertise can really make a big difference in the quality there. Garden Director, Ed Lyon, is very supportive of our efforts to make this garden one of exceptional quality, and we have the freedom to update the garden and the plant materials as needed.

Some projects we plan to work on this year include:

- Continuation of the planting of the newly renovated Moraine Area
- Expand the Czech Crevice Garden and add plants
- Add new troughs and update plantings in the existing ones
- Update plant labels

Of course, there will also be the usual maintenance of weeding, deadheading, etc. So far, our little group includes Ann Munson, John Mather, Jane Barnett and myself. We are tentatively thinking of getting together on Wednesday mornings, but the timing can be flexible and we will try to have some weekend work parties which will be easier for out of town volunteers to attend.

If you are interested in helping our efforts in any way, please contact me, Ed Glover, at [glover@oncology.wisc.edu](mailto:glover@oncology.wisc.edu) or 608-445-4556

## Meet the new Chair

My history with Rock Gardening started at the Denver Botanic Garden. Joy and I were on our way to visit my brother in Colorado Springs.

We were ahead on our arrival time so we stopped at DBG. During our third walk through the rock garden a "worker" came over and teased us.

"Why don't you get your sleeping bags and stay overnight?" This person turned out to Panayoti. He and his crew invited us to join NARGS. They also told us about a pretty good chapter in Wisconsin. (His wife Gwen was from Wisconsin.)

We joined the WI-IL chapter around 1998. Ed Berginc called us and came over with a welcoming plant. Getting to the early meetings was difficult because of scheduling conflicts with work. Our first National convention was in Minneapolis, followed by 2 trips to Colorado and one to Newfoundland. My home rock garden started with a sand bed that Iza recommended. Allium and cacti are welcome in my yard.

I structured part of a water feature for alpines. Future plans include a crevice garden. Our back yard has a lot of shade where Joy enjoys Genus Hosta. The sunny part of the yard has dwarf evergreens, alpines and a planted goldfish pond. I also garden inside with orchids, cacti and aquatic plants. Plants, books, and the people that enjoy them are important to me. Maybe that is why the NARGS Book Service called on me to be its volunteer keeper.

I am looking forward to the next 2 years as Chair. Please feel free to contact me anytime with ideas/concerns with our chapter.

Dave Collura

[jdsongraham@aol.com](mailto:jdsongraham@aol.com)

262-789-1394





## NARGS NEWS

Editor's Note: I might not have published these essays in part because they address only the non NARGS members in our society. BUT, as I read them I realized that they pertain to our local chapter as well. Read these so that if you get that curious look when mentioning "rock gardens" you have better explanation and a good preface for promoting our group.

### What is NARGS?

by Peter George, President

Ever since I joined NARGS in 1996, I have observed that many members (and even more non-members) have an extremely narrow, and therefore fundamentally mistaken, concept of what the organization represents. A lot of people think of NARGS as an "alpine plant" society. Others believe that if something grows more than a foot tall, it's "not a NARGS plant." I have heard that chapters in the South and the Midwest are convinced that their members cannot grow "rock garden" plants, so they increasingly view themselves as garden clubs focused on hardy "perennials." Of course, this leads to fewer and fewer chapter members joining NARGS or, having joined in the past, keeping their memberships active.

So, what's the truth about NARGS and rock gardening?

Our Web site describes NARGS as an organization "for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials. It encourages the study and cultivation of wildflowers that grow well among rocks, whether such plants originate above tree line or at lower elevations." I looked up "saxatile" and found that it means "growing on or living among rocks." We all know what alpine means, and no one can misunderstand "low-growing." Thus, we are an organization of people interested in per-

ennial plants that grow well among rocks and that are relatively short. That sounds pretty inclusive to me, and it certainly doesn't in any way imply that the plants must be alpine, or tiny, or even particularly rare. It certainly does include plants that are native to every region of the world. For example, I grow townsendias native to Kansas, campanulas native to Turkey, epimediums native to China, a Calceolaria native to South America, and alpine plants from the Alps, the Rockies, the Caucasus, and the Adirondacks among others. I have lime lovers, ericaceous plants, and plants that ask only for some sun, some water, and a bit of soil. I also grow all over my property tall plants, such as Echinacea and asters and bushy plants like Buddleja. So what am I? Well, my major interest is growing plants that like to live among rocks, which makes me a rock gardener as far as I'm concerned.

Why are so many people convinced that drabas are real rock garden plants and that epimediums are not? Or that salvias and hellebores are forbidden because they are not included in some mythical list of approved "rock garden plants"? Far too many of us seem to think that, because the British named their organization the Alpine Garden Society, this limitation somehow applies to us. It does not. We are the North American Rock Garden Society, and our approach to what we love and what we grow is inclusive, not exclusive. We understand with absolute clarity that many gardeners cannot grow *Astragalus utahensis*, but that almost all of us can grow *Gentiana acaulis*, or *Penstemon ovatus*, or *Sedum kamschaticum*. And those, among literally thousands of rock garden plants, can be grown in all climates, at almost all altitudes, and on virtually every continent.

Furthermore, for most of its history, NARGS has published a journal that has focused on plants that far too many of us may have considered inappropriate for rock gardens. Before sitting down to write this, I pulled out two old issues of the NARGS publication at random, just to see what they contained. The spring 1991 issue was dedicated to primulas, and the

lead article is entitled "Primulas for the Southeast," by Nancy Goodwin. Nancy is from Hillsborough, North Carolina, a part of the United States not commonly associated with rock gardening. The second issue I selected was the fall 1985 issue, which featured an article called "Native Plants of Vermont." Anyone who is not familiar with the botanical wealth of New England, and who subscribes to the narrow view of what a "rock garden plant" is, will be surprised to learn that the article focused on what we call "woodland" plants, including *Claytonia caroliniana*, *Erythronium americanum*, *Trillium erectum*, *Asarum canadense*, and *Asplenium ruta-muraria*. Are these rock garden plants? Some would say they are not, but I vigorously disagree, and – more to the point – so does the NARGS journal.

So please, let's keep NARGS as inclusive as possible. To be sure, we are not simply a garden club (we are not interested in growing vegetables, annuals, roses, etc.); but neither are we an elite group of the wealthy and powerful who want to keep their organization small and exclusive. We are a large, geographically diverse body of people who simply love gardening with rocks. Let's focus on that, and work a bit harder to find commonality in purpose; by doing so, we will strengthen our organization and enhance its ability to provide valuable services to rock gardeners.

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### Why Join NARGS?

by Peter George, President

My previous commentary, "What is NARGS?", seems to have drawn some favorable attention – but it still leaves open the question, "Why should Chapter members join NARGS?" Before discussing the specific benefits of NARGS membership, I need to briefly address the critical, but often poorly understood, relationship between NARGS and its Chapters.

Today we have 38 Chapters that are active in some manner and that provide some direct benefits to their members.

Each of these Chapters organized itself and requested NARGS recognition, which means that the Chapter founders recognized some real benefit from NARGS to the Chapters. Today, for example, NARGS provides Chapters with prominent and well regarded speakers through its Speakers Tours. In the past four years alone we've shared with our Chapters people such as Josef Halda, Peter Korn, Harry Jans, Pam Eveleigh, Cliff Booker, Alan Bradshaw and John Grimshaw, and we have Jim Locklear, Fritz Kummert and Nick Turland scheduled for the next two years. The opportunity for members to learn from these men and women is a real bonus to the Chapters.

Each year NARGS sponsors both a Regional and a National meeting, providing the sponsoring Chapters with the financial wherewithal to proceed confidently with the meeting, as well as providing financial guarantees that provide security for the Chapters when they contract with hotels, banquet halls, etc. Again, these meetings are of real benefit to both NARGS members and non-members, since most of the recent meetings have not required NARGS membership for registrants.

NARGS also provides a Web site that each Chapter can use to promote itself, advertise its programs, etc. In short, NARGS provides the Chapters with a variety of valuable resources that make their job of attracting and retaining members much easier.

For individual members of NARGS, the benefits are quite straightforward. First, membership includes a subscription to the NARGS "Rock Garden Quarterly." Under the editorship of Malcolm McGregor the Quarterly has become an informative, interesting, and beautiful magazine, providing members with articles, photographs and commentary that enhance our lives as rock gardeners. Frankly, the Quarterly alone is worth the \$30 per year NARGS membership dues.

A second major benefit is the NARGS Seed Exchange. Each year we offer hundreds of species, including many that are

wild collected, to our members at a very modest cost. This year the SeedEx is going electronic, so members will be able to order online for the first time. My garden has over 40 species that I've grown from NARGS seed, and many of my friends in NARGS have had even more success growing choice seed while adding beauty and sometimes even rarity to their gardens.

Third, NARGS is reviving its Tours and Expeditions Program, offering our members the opportunity to explore many rarely visited botanical wonderlands at a very modest cost. We expect to have our next trip in late spring or early summer in the Pacific Northwest.

Finally, we are developing the NARGS Web site into a portal through which all kinds of rock gardening information will be made available to members. We will be implementing dozens of technological initiatives that will enhance our gardening expertise and will provide members (including, importantly, members who are unable to attend meetings) with access to programs, photographic databases, streaming video of workshops, the entire library of ARGs/NARGS's past quarterly publications (searchable too!), and many other benefits.

I do understand why some of our Chapter members don't want to join NARGS. Some have no real interest in rock gardening; some can't afford the \$30; and some simply don't care about the benefits. But I think that, for most chapter members, NARGS membership is certainly worth the money, and I hope you agree. We're more accessible than ever, more responsive, and more interested in what you want. So please join us and share your thoughts with me and the other NARGS officers. And please visit the Web site at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org).

[Peter George, the current NARGS president, lives and gardens in Massachusetts.]

Contact me at [petergeorge@verizon.net](mailto:petergeorge@verizon.net) for comments and questions.



## Adonis

by Steve Lesch

a plant portrait

Adonis is a genus comprising about 20 species of annuals and some rhizomatous perennials, of which only two perennial taxa are commonly cultivated. Adonis amurensis and Adonis vernalis. Adonis belongs to the Ranunculaceae-Buttercup Family, and as with most members of the buttercup family, rabbits and deer typically leave them alone.

Adonis was a beautiful youth in Greek mythology, and therefore the God of beauty and desire. He was the lover of Aphrodite. Adonis was killed by wild pig/boar sent by a jealous Artemis. Supposedly Adonis' blood stained the Earth and caused the annual Adonis aestivalis to bear red flowers.

Adonis annua is an annual from Europe that has established itself in Eastern and Central of Texas. It has red flowers with black centers and is good for sandy open prairie soils. I don't know of anyone growing it successfully in Wisconsin.

Our discussion is centered around Adonis amurensis and the cultivar 'Fukuju Kai' that I have growing in my garden. This species is native to Japan, Korea and Manchuria, growing on scrubby hillsides.

These two have performed wonderfully in my garden. They are both growing close to each other, under the shade of a near 70-year-old Gleditsia-Honeylocust 'Moraine'. Since the Honeylocust leafs-out later than most other trees, my





Adonis receive very light shade when it is flowering and foliage growth.

My alkaline soil conditions are approximately 60% sand, 30% loam and 10% clay, being part of the penultimate moraine on the near West side of Madison. Drainage is therefore not a problem. However, they are planted not far from a downspout to ensure adequate spring moisture. I have never added additional water in the spring. I mulch annually, typically using chipped hemlock or twice shredded aged oak bark.

The terminal flowers emerge in early spring, typically in March, and are very whether tolerant, not only with most forms of precipitation, but also temperatures down around 10°F. The intense buttercup-yellow, 2 inch diameter flowers are composed of numerous petals, sometimes more than 20. The petals often have a bronze blush on the backside. I have not noticed any fragrance. The flowers are also very persistent, often lasting more than two weeks! 'Fukuju Kai' is a beautiful semi-double form with sulfur-yellow blooms that open just a bit before the typical species.

Adonis foliage is twice compound, giving it a very ferny threadlike composition. The foliage is green in this species where as 'Fukuju Kai' foliage emerges bronzed with more of an olive green color.

I planted them about 1 inch deep and then mulch them with about a half an inch of bark.

Every autumn I apply PLGF, a fertilizer I formulated and have produced for sale at [Landscape Designs Nursery](#). PLGF is a time release fertilizer dependent upon the

soil's bacterial activity which is based upon moisture and temperature.

Steve Lesch is a long time member of the society and owner of [Landscape Designs Nursery](#). He leads us annually on "Travels with Steve", a virtual trip, at our fall potluck.

## Perennial Advice

### A New Series of Articles from Past Newsletters & Mailings

Editors Note(#2): Take a look at the my column, *Above the Snowline*, to learn how this came about. Elsewhere you will find the first in a rather long series of brief plant descriptions.

The following brief outline are notes taken from a talk give by Waid Vanderpoel in 1978. It is the oldest detailed article I could find in the copies of chapter newsletters. I do not know who actually wrote this. I think it demonstrates that little has changed when growing seeds at home. I also chose this because Waid Vanderpoel was a very influential and important member of the group. To find out more about him read the following memorial article written by former editor Jack Ferreri in 2003.

I would love to see his "notes" and all of his troughs. Perhaps someone could share old slides at our next meeting.

Take from the speech by Waid Vanderpoel (1978)

### Growing Rock Garden Plants from Seed

The enclosed list is a partial record of plants that I tried to grow (sadly the list is missing from the files). The ratings; germination, growing inside, transplanting outside and adaptation, I rate 1 through 4. A four is a total failure and unfortunately there are a fair number of fours at different stages. It really doesn't make any difference if the first stages are reasonably successful if you don't get it out in the garden and growing, it's a failure.

I've been growing things for 16 years and I've kept detailed notes. I keep track of exactly when every plant comes up, to the best I can measure. During the growing season I look over my plants every

single day I am home and see what's come up.

What I tell you is based on my experience I don't say it's right and if the ratings aren't good it isn't right. However if the ratings are pretty good you can know it works.

My first two years I attempted to grow alpiners seeds in soil. I learned a good deal about damping-off, making a mess in the kitchen trying to sterilize the soil and then I read about growing seeds in sterile growing medium with no soil. I have never again used soil.

I have an above-ground basement with a lovely south-east corner window. A 3' x 5' formica-topped table gives me an ideal location for my growing activities. I grow all of my seeds on this table with help of a small television table next to it. I try to grow 65 up to 125 species and varieties each year.

Try each kind several times. Some of the seed exchanges offer pretty small packages and if you don't succeed it may not be the technique, it may just be the seeds.

As I said I don't use soil I've been using a standard mixture of 2 parts peat, 2 parts perlite, and 1 part vermiculite with pea gravel as a top dressing for things like Penstemons, over the planting mixture.

For containers I use aluminum baking pans. They come in various sizes and last forever. Don't use brite steel, it will corrode. Plastic seed containers are OK but they eventually go down hill and crack up. Plastic containers from yogurt, cottage cheese, etc., with holes punched in them will last for 2 or 3 years.

### In Memoriam: Waid Vanderpoel

Waid R. Vanderpoel, a long time member of the WI-IL Chapter and NARGS who was renowned for his naturalistic trough gardens, died at the age of 81 on August 25th in Barrington, IL. Waid was a real pioneer in growing western American alpiners in the Midwest. He traveled extensively throughout the mountains of the west to see the alpiners in their natural habitat and to collect seed. From these seeds he grew the plants to perfection and placed them in large troughs in such a manner

that one was transported to the alpine tundras of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah when viewing them. Each trough in his large collection was dedicated to a specific geographical area and he designed each one to look as natural as the areas he had traveled. They were not limited to the American west, he also had troughs which mimicked the mountain tops in the Alps, Pyrenees, etc.

Waid was very active in the local and national rock garden societies. He served as the Chairman of the WI-IL Chapter, presented numerous educational programs to members and was a generous contributor to the plant sales.

At the national level he served on the Board of Directors of NARGS and also on the Financial Advisory Committee. He regularly attended national meetings and was a generous contributor to the seed exchange. His articles on trough gardening have appeared in the Quarterly and in the NARGS Handbook On Troughs along with numerous photos of those wonderful troughs in his Illinois garden.

-Jack Ferreri 2003



## Gentiana asclepiadea

a plant portrait from the past

- **Common Name:** Willow Gentian
- **a plant portrait:** Mountains of Central & Southern Europe
- **Range:** US: Ithaca NY, North Bend, Seattle WA, Scarborough ME
- **Site:** Grows naturally in half-shade or shady woodlands
- **Soil:** Rich, moist, normal vegetable loam, slight lime condition, gritty

- **Use:** Background planting, crevice in wall or the marsh garden. Adds good summer color.
- **Habit:** Grows to 24 inches under ideal conditions, Too tall for much except background plantings.
- **Flower:** Showy, deep azure blue trumpets. Tubular flowers are borne in groups of two to three in the axils of the leaves, from July to September. Throats of the flowers are sometimes purple spotted.
- **Foliage:** Pale green, narrow, willow-like leaves.
- **Culture:** Easy. Seed is freely set. Freeze and sow in containers of fine loam mixed with sand or sow seed as soon as ripe in pots of light soil, placed in a shaded cold frame. Seeds should be sprinkled on the soil surface and a little soil sprinkled over them. Seeds germinate very slowly, 3 months or more. The plants should be ready to set out in the garden by September. Gentians cannot be grown in shallow soil that dries up quickly. A moist root-run is essential to all of them. Ample moisture is essential throughout the summer. They need conditions as similar to nature as possible. They prefer open areas with free movement of moist air. Always keep a few seedlings on hand in the cold frame as Gentians seldom live very long.
- **Propagation:** Division of roots in March, however Gentians bitterly resent being disturbed. Once established, crowns increase slowly and should be left untouched.



Editor's Notes (#3):

For an incredible number of images of this plants beautiful flower follow this link to a [Google Image Search](#). You will find that there are both white and pink flowered varieties. The later is available from seed from [Jelittos](#). Jelittos has this information on germination. The sowing must be kept warm (about +18 to 22°C) [about 64 to 72°F] and moist for the first 2-4 weeks. After this period the sowing must be kept at a cold temperature (between -4 and +4°C) [between 25 and 39°F] for another 4-6 weeks. It is not so important if the temperature is higher or lower during the cooling period, but the cooling period has to be prolonged because the synthesis of the germination inducer, e-acid, slows down or comes to a standstill. It is beneficial to [cover the sowing with snow](#) during the cooling-period. The temperature below it usually keeps in the optimum range of -4 to 0°C [25 to 32°F]. The sowing is kept moist, and the melting snow helps to destroy the shell, which is advantageous for the germinating seedling. After this cooling-period the sowing may not be immediately exposed to high temperatures. The most effective temperatures are between +5 to 12°C [41 to 54°F], even if germination has started. The best location for this sowing, even in March, April and May, is the open field, the cold frame or a cold greenhouse.

**Membership Renewal Form**

(check the newsletter label for your renewal date)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**City, State, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are \$10 per year. Please clip this form and sent it along with your check (payable to WI-IL NARGS) or cash to: Brad McDowell, 1535 Speedway Road, Verona WI 53593**

**2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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*Vice-Chairperson vacant??,*

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