



# Newsletter

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## Coming Events

### Mark your calendars for all the exciting events coming up:

January 17, 2009: Regular Meeting of ARGs. Will be held at Cooperative Extension in Anchorage. Mark White will present a program "Consider Conifers". He will have recommendations for both the rock garden and using conifers in the landscape. The Wrightman's Catalog will be available to review.

February 21, 2009: 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting. 2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of ARGs will be held in the Valley at MTA Meeting Room — "Androsaces and Douglasias"

## Editor's Notes

Florene Carney

This Newsletter belongs to all members of the Alaska Rock Garden Society. Anyone can write an article for it and you are encouraged to do just that. If you have had a great success with some plant, or a terrible failure – write about it so that the rest of us can learn from your experience. If you saw a wonderful rock garden that the rest of us would like to hear about – write about it so the rest of us can enjoy it through your eyes. If you went to Winter Study Week-end – write about it. If you found a new nursery – write about it, we'd all love to go there. If you heard of a new slug control or a way of fertilizing or topdressing – write about it!! This is the place to share your garden with other people who have the same passion. The more YOU write, the more this Newsletter belongs to the entire membership. So sharpen your pencil and send something to me right away! If you choose to use snail mail my address is:

Florene Carney  
3379 Inlet Vista Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654

If you choose to send by email; [snowfire@mtaonline.net](mailto:snowfire@mtaonline.net)

I hope the next Newsletter is full of things sent in by the membership!!!

## From the President

Jaime Rodriguez

Happy New Year to the greatest group of gardeners I know! I am excited to report that a revitalized website is now available at [www.args.org](http://www.args.org). I hope you will all begin making use of it. There is a current calendar of upcoming events, maps to meeting locations, archived newsletters, and even a couple of new features. Please vote in the online poll of where we should go on our next seed collecting expedition. There is also an online forum of sorts where you can post questions to other members, or share information you have found. Just click the red "Visit Our Message Board" button and add a new post. There is room for the website to grow, but it needs your help. Please email me pictures of your gardens for the photo galleries.

The power point presentation on Rock Garden Construction has been the hit of the fall and winter seasons. It was presented to the Homer garden Club in October, the Central Peninsula Garden Club in November, and The Mat-Su Master Gardeners in January. The Kenai group has scheduled a repeat of the presentation for March 17, 2009.

I'd like to remind everyone that the NARGS Annual Meeting will be taking place during the Western Winter Study Weekend in Portland, Oregon, March 13-15. The theme is "Revitalizing the Rock Garden." Our new Treasurer, Madge Oswald has received the national stipend to attend her first national meeting. Member Amelia Walsh will be receiving a stipend from our local Chapter. We look forward to their reports.

Lastly, I am sure you are all as grateful as I am that we had good snow cover before the cold snap hit. I planted so many new, never tried before plants last summer I am eager to see how they survive. Thanks again to Mark White, Rosemary Kimball, and the other volunteers who help make our chapter seed exchange. I look forward to seeing everyone in Anchorage at the next meeting.

Jaime Rodriguez



## Wrightman's Catalog Order

Verna will be collecting orders from members to combine for one big order to Wrightman's. Catalogs will be available at the January Meeting and members can give Verna their orders. Prices run from \$5 to \$10 per plant and are nice plants. Members who ordered last year were pleased to get bonus plants that could be used at the Botanical Garden. Verna would like to have all orders by March. This is an opportunity to order some of the plants that you have been yearning for, but couldn't find locally.

## Seed Exchange

Mark White

As in the past the diversity of seeds from our contributing members is amazing. A special thank you to the following Donors is in order.

Les Brake  
Teena Garay  
Walter Mayr  
Verna Pratt  
Corinne Reintjes  
Jaimie Rodriguez  
Kathy Swick  
Mark White

All Donors will be given first choice off the seed list. Please list up to (15) choices with (5) alternates and send via mail to:

Mark E. White  
35680 Glacier Avenue  
Sterling, Alaska 99672

Or

[mewhite@ptialaska.net](mailto:mewhite@ptialaska.net) E-mail

In either case mail a Return Address Label and a Check for \$3.00 to cover postage, envelopes, etc. made out to:

Mark E. White and mark Seed Exchange.

I will use January 31, 2009 as the cutoff date and after that we will fill the orders and have ready to return the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February; Donors first and then everyone else.

## Seed Exchange Seed List

1	Name	Description	Donor
2	<i>Aconitum delphinifolium</i>	2'; purple; Diamond Ridge, Homer, AK; wild collected	Teena Garay
3	<i>Allium aflatanense</i> ex. 'Purple Sensation'	20-30"; violet-purple flowers above strap-like leaves	Jaimie Rodriguez
4	<i>Alyssum montanum</i>	4"x1-18"; bright yellow flowers in spring	Jaimie Rodriguez
5	<i>Androsace carnea rosea</i>	4"x12"; pink/red flowers above needle type foliage	Verna Pratt
6	<i>Antennaria alpina</i> v. <i>medea</i>	5"x12"; white to gray flowerheads; square leaf set	Mark White
7	<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	5"x12"; white to gray flowerheads; ground cover	Mark White
8	<i>Aquilegia jonesii</i> x <i>saximontana</i>	6"x4"; white-centered blue flowers above blue-gray foliage	Verna Pratt
9	<i>Aquilegia</i> 'Pink Fantasy'	8"-12"; pink & white	Verna Pratt
10	<i>Aquilegia rockii</i>	magenta; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
11	<i>Aquilegia siberica</i>	20"-28"; bright blue	Verna Pratt
12	<i>Arenaria norvegica</i>	white, 5-petaled flower above ground hugging foliage	Jaimie Rodriguez
13	<i>Aruncus aethusifolius</i>	8"; white	Verna Pratt
14	<i>Aruncus</i> sp. Aff <i>rivularis</i>	3'; cream; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
15	<i>Astrantia major rubra</i>	24"-28"x15"; maroon flowers above bright green leaves	Jaimie Rodriguez
16	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	6"-12"; blue-violet	Walter Mayr
17	<i>Clematis</i> (behind house)		Mark White
18	<i>Cremanthodium reniforme</i>	18"; yellow; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
19	<i>Cremanthodium</i> sp.	yellow; sunflower type flower	Jaimie Rodriguez
20	<i>Digitalis lanata</i>	15"-24" creamy white with purple veining	Jaimie Rodriguez
21	<i>Digitalis lutea</i>	30"-36"; creamy yellow	Jaimie Rodriguez
22	<i>Dodecatheon dentatum</i>	6"-9"; white shooting star	Jaimie Rodriguez
23	<i>Draba densifolia</i>	1" yellow, Alaska native	Verna Pratt
24	<i>Draba</i> sp.	2"-3"; yellow, possibly <i>Draba alpina</i>	Verna Pratt
25	<i>Echinops</i> sp.	Globe Thistle	Corinne Reintjes
26	<i>Eryngium</i> ex. 'Blue Hobbit'	12"; blue, globe-like flower	Jaimie Rodriguez
27	<i>Eryngium giganteum</i>	3'-5'; silvery to blue	Jaimie Rodriguez
28	<i>Eryngium planum</i>	2'-3'; steel blue	Jaimie Rodriguez
29	<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	8"-20"; aka Chocolate Lily, wild-collected	Verna Pratt
30	<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	6"-12"; pink, purple, white checkered flowers	Jaimie Rodriguez
31	<i>Gentiana pumila delphinensis</i>	2-4"; blue, early summer blooming mat-forming	Kathy Swick
32	<i>Gentiana verna</i>	6"; medium blue, upward facing flowers	Les Brake
33	<i>Gentianopsis</i> sp.		Jaimie Rodriguez
34	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	8"-10"; white with green veining above grass-like foliage	Jaimie Rodriguez
35	<i>Heuchera rosea</i>	6-10" pink, small leaves	Verna Pratt
36	<i>Incarvillea mairei</i>	12"-18"; magenta	Jaimie Rodriguez
37	<i>Incarvillea zhongdianensis</i>	2'; pink; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
38	<i>Iris chrysographes</i>	2'; deep purple ARGS2000	Teena Garay
39	<i>Iris delavayi</i>	2'; lavender/white	Teena Garay
40	<i>Iris setosa alba</i>	2'; white; Nome, Ak	Teena Garay
41	<i>Lychnis alpina</i>	6"; rose/mauve flowers; smooth textured foliage	Walter Mayr
42	<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	36"-48"; red-orange; aka Maltese Cross	Walter Mayr
43	<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>	12"-15"; pink	Walter Mayr
44	<i>Meconopsis quintiplinerva</i>	8"; purple	Teena Garay
45	<i>Mertensia asiatica</i>	8"; blue	Teena Garay
46	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	2"; blue; Homer Spit, Homer, AK; wild collected	Teena Garay
47	<i>Nomocharis pardanthina</i>	24"-36"; pink blotched with purple flowers; lily family	Les Brake
48	<i>Penstemon hallii</i>	4-6"; blue-violet campanulate flower, mat-forming	Kathy Swick
49	<i>Penstemon procerus</i> 'Nisqually Cream'	2-6"x1'; creamy white, mat-forming, bright glossy leaves	Kathy Swick
50	<i>Penstemon procerus</i> 'Tolmei'	4" pink & white	Verna Pratt
51	<i>Penstemon speciosus kennedyi</i>	2-4"; bright blue purple; ex Ratko 2004-388	Kathy Swick

## Seed Exchange Seed List Page 2

52	Name	Description	Donor
53	Phlomis sp.	15"; lavender; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
54	Phyteuma scheuchzeri	10"; blue-violet, spiky ball-shaped clusters	Verna Pratt
55	Phyteuma scheuchzeri	10"; blue-violet, spiky ball-shaped clusters	Jaimie Rodriguez
56	Papaver orientale nana 'Allegro'	14"-18"; bright scarlet flowers	Walter Mayr
57	Potentilla eriocarpa CC4627	2"-3"; bright buttercup, carpet forming	Mark White
58	Potentilla megalantha	6"-13"; sulfur yellow; strawberry-like leaves	Walter Mayr
59	Primula auricula 'Valley Sun'	6"-8";	Jaimie Rodriguez
60	Primula chungensis	24"-36"; pale orange flowers	Verna Pratt
61	Primula denticulata	14"-18"; drumstick primrose	Jaimie Rodriguez
62	Primula florindae	15"; orange or red	Teena Garay
63	Primula florindae	15"; yellow	Teena Garay
64	Primula hallerii	6"-9"; pale mauve flowers	Verna Pratt
65	Primula nivalis	15"; lavender	Teena Garay
66	Primula secundiflora	15"; magenta; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
67	Primula sikkimensis	18"; yellow; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
68	Primula vialii	15"; pink	Teena Garay
69	Pyrethrium sp.	24-30" magenta	Verna Pratt
70	Rheum alexandreae	3'; yellow	Teena Garay
71	Rheum palmatum	3'; red or cream	Teena Garay
72	Rodgersia sambucifolia	3'; cream; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
73	Salvia patens	18"-24"x9"; true blue flowers	Jaimie Rodriguez
74	Sanguisorba	tail red	Jaimie Rodriguez
75	Schivereckia poddica	grey green low-growing foliage white flowers	Mark White
76	Soldonella carpatica	6" lavender	Verna Pratt
77	Thalictrum delavayi var. decorum	4'; lavender; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
78	Trollius pumilus	6"-10"; yellow above shiny tuft type foliage	Walter Mayr
79	Tulipa tarda	6"; yellow flower with white tips	Verna Pratt
80	Tulipa tarda	6"; yellow flower with white tips	Jaimie Rodriguez
81	Verbascum epixanthinum	2'; yellow	Teena Garay
82	Viola crassa	2"-5"; yellow with dark veining	Walter Mayr
83			

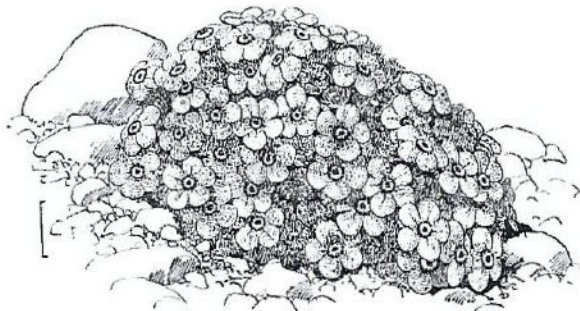
## February brings the excitement of Androsace and Douglasia

The February meeting of the Alaska Rock Garden Society will be all about Androsace and Douglasias. If you aren't familiar with either of these plants you are in for a treat. Low to the ground and hugging the rocks they make a mat of green that will catch your eye even when not in bloom. In bloom they will take your breath away! As a warm-up to the February meeting go to [www.androsaceworld.com](http://www.androsaceworld.com) and have a look. Many of this genus grow in our Alaskan gardens and are a boon to any rock garden.

For further research check on the book "The Genus Androsace", by George Smith and Duncan Lowe. When I checked it could be purchased from the Alpine Garden Society and periodically Timber Press. I think a couple of the local libraries have it or you can ask for an inter-library loan.

At Snowfire Gardens you will find: *Androsace chamaejasme* (from Nome); *A. "Millstream"* from the NARGS Seed Exchange; *A. sempervivoides* from Siskiyou; *A. carnea*; *A. darwisica*, from Recluse. We experiment with them every opportunity and have had some nice surprises. Many other Alaskan Rock Gardeners have other varieties. Don't miss the opportunity to find out more about these most desirable plants, share information with other rock gardeners on what they are growing, and add them to your "want list".

The Douglasias are just as desirable and grow here as well. Make a list of the ones you grow and bring it to the meeting to share with the rest of the group.



God Almighty first planted a garden; and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures.

-Francis Bacon  
Essays, of Gardens

**Tell Us What You Want**

**This is YOUR rock garden society. We would like to be responsive to your needs and desires. What topics would you like to see addressed at our monthly meetings? Please address all comments, suggestions, etc. to Verna Pratt, Program Coordinator, 7446 E. 20th Ave., Anch. AK 99504, 907-333-8212**

**Join or Renew Your Membership (Now is the time to renew for 2009)**

To join the Alaska Rock Garden Society, fill out the form below and send, along with a check payable to ARGs to: Alaska Rock Garden Society, PO Box 244136, Anchorage, AK 99524-4136

ARGs Membership: New \_\_\_; Renewal \_\_\_; w/o Changes \_\_\_; w/change \_\_\_  
Dues: \$15 US—Individual, \$20 US-Family/Canada, \$25 US—Foreign

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARGs may share its membership list with like-minded, non-profit organizations. If you DO NOT want to receive these notifications, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership is for the calendar year**

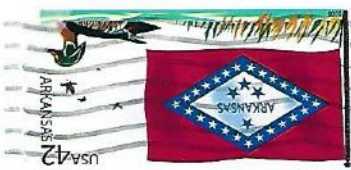
We're on the Web  
www.args.org

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2009

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Newsletter



## January Meeting of The Alaska Rock Garden Society

**January 17, 2009: 2:00 P.M.**

**Cooperative Extension Office in Anchorage** (*Carlton Trust Building at the corner of Northern Lights & Lake Otis*)

The January Meeting of the Alaska Rock Garden Society will be held at the Cooperative Extension in Anchorage. The Regular Meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. Guest speaker, Mark White of Soldotna will "Consider Conifers" in a power point program. Mark, an avid gardener, ARGS Seed Exchange Chair and long-time Alaskan will discuss conifers in the rock garden as well as borders.

We look forward to seeing all of you at this meeting!