



# Newsletter

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## Events for Spring 2011

**All Meetings are scheduled for Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. and Regular Meeting at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.**

- January 15 Valley, MTA Building, Palmer  
 "Those Other Nice Mustards for Your Garden (not weeds)"  
 By Jaime Rodriguez
- February 6 Anchorage, Cooperative Extension, (1675 C St. at the SE Corner of 16th & C. Entrance off the Parking Lot in Back)  
 "Kodiak Flowers" Stacy Studebaker  
 Stacy has a new book out "Wild Flowers and Other Plant Life of the Kodiak Archipelago"
- March 19 Valley, MTA, Program TBA
- April 2 Anchorage, Allen Bradshaw, NARGS speaker. Cooperative Extension, (1675 C St. at the SE Corner of 16th & C. Entrance off the Parking Lot in Back)
- April 16 "Garden Day" at the Sears Mall. 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
 A volunteer Sign-up sheet will be available at the February and March meetings. If you have a specific time to volunteer, call Verna @ 333-8212.
- May 14 Clean-up of the Rock Garden at ABG 1:00
- May 21 Plant Sale, Anchorage 9:00-4:00  
 @ Sally K's, Old Harbor Rd. Off Muldoon
- May 28, Plant Sale Valley 9:00-4:00  
 Snowfire Gardens at 3379 S. Inlet Vista Circle  
 Off Mi. 5.2 Fairview Loop Road.

## From the Retiring President

Jaime Rodriguez

My dear gardening friends, it is with great gladness I turn the reins of this fine group over to Carmel Tysver, who will serve as your President for the next two years. Our By-Laws require that no one serve more than two consecutive terms as President. It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as President, and I look forward to my new role as Past President and Program Scheduler.

The rest of our Board of Directors remains unchanged for the next term, Verna Pratt continues as Vice-President, Madge Olson as Treasurer, Jamie Smith as Secretary and Florene Carney as Newsletter Editor.

It is surprising to me that four years has gone by so quickly. I am struck by how excited I remain over the new tufa beds at the Botanical Garden, and I remain committed that ARGs plan another international seed collecting expedition in the next couple years, though on a smaller scale than the China expedition.

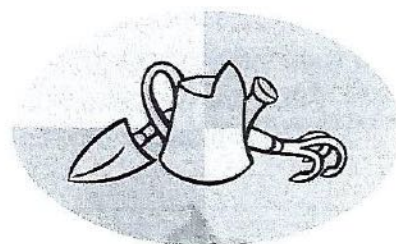
Our membership has been holding steady, and we continue to look into ways to increase participation. Verna has done a great job planning an excellent set of programs for this spring, starting with our January meeting featuring plant profiles of other nice mustards (We've already done *Drabas*, and yes, there are other nice mustards!). Our meeting times in February and April will deviate from the regular schedule. Both months we will be meeting the first Sunday of each month to accommodate special out-of-town speakers. On February 6th, Stacy Studebaker, the field biologist for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge will be giving a presentation about the Flora of Kodiak and South Central Alaska. Then on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alan Bradshaw of Alplains will give a presentation on High Western Alpines.

I give my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to those who served with me the past four years. It is a joy to be one of you.

## From the Incoming President

Carmel Tysver

As the new President for ARGs I want to thank Jaime for the great job for the last 4 years. The next meeting we will be planning the programs for the year and would like the input of our members as to what they would like to hear about in the way of programs, where they would like to go to collect seed this year, selecting plants to order for the new Tufa Garden at ABG as we have a \$1,000 grant from NARGs to spend. These are a few of the topics I have but I am sure there are many more. See you at the January meeting.





*Wildflowers*  
and other Plant Life  
of the Kodiak Archipelago  
By Stacy Studebaker

## Stacy Studebaker is coming February 6th!

“Kodiak Archipelago’s Natural Rock Garden—The Kodiak Late Glacial Refugium”

Coming from Kodiak, with a not to be missed program, Stacy Studebaker is well qualified to talk on this topic as she is Field Botanist for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and author of “Wildflowers and Other Plant Life of the Kodiak Archipelago—a Field Guide for the Flora of Kodiak and Southcentral Alaska”.

Stacy has researched, documented, and photographed the flora of coastal Alaska since 1973, and has made her home on Kodiak since 1980. She will share her passion for photography and the flora of Kodiak in her presentation that will highlight some of the most remote and rocky plant habitats on the southwest end of Kodiak island known as the Kodiak Late Glacial Refugium which is located in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The exposed ultramafic ridges of this area were missed by the most recent ice age that blanketed the rest of the island. The hardy plants that adapted to live there have formed a unique plant community.

Stacy will also show us how she works in remote locations of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge documenting the floral diversity for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, who manages the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Following her presentation, Stacy will have plenty of her new field guides on hand for a book signing.

## Cooperative Extension Office in Anchorage Has a New Location

Don't find yourself at the wrong location.

The February 6th and April 2nd Meetings are both in Anchorage at the Cooperative Extension Offices. Be aware that the Offices have moved and can now be found at 1675 C St. The building is at the South-east corner of 16th and C Street and the entrance is off the parking lot in the back of the building. Look for the ARGS sign.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* *Don't wear perfume in the garden- unless you want to be pollinated by* \*  
\* *bees.* \* *- Anne Raver* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Notes From the Garden

By Carmel Tysver

Wish I had bits of news from our members as I think this could be an interesting way to share and communicate. Maybe next newsletter I will get some input besides my own.

At a meeting last fall Jamie asked if anyone grew or knew of a plant that had a flower like a Scabiosa but the leaves were elliptical and smooth edges and up to 12 inches long. He said he thought the writing on the label was mine but he could not find the plant listed as spelled anywhere. My plant was also blooming and I had very recently looked it up. The plant is *Succisa pratensis* with a common name of Devils Bit. It is not a plant for the rock garden as it gets flower stems up to 2 feet tall. The plant I have increases in size every year and I like have something that blooms so well in the fall. I have not found a nursery that sells it and I started mine from seed several year ago and not sure where I purchased the seed.

This is the time of year I start thinking about ordering plants and what seeds to start. There are several plants I want to find as the first trough for the new trough garden is in place and waiting for plants. I definitely want to find another *Dicentra peregrine* or one of the other small *Dicentra*.

Cont'd Page 5

## Notes From the Garden (Cont'd.)

Most of the nursery website does not have their 2011 catalog on line. One place that is an exception is Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery which not only have it catalog available to browse they have a 10% discount if a order is sent to them by the end of January. Beaver Creek Greenhouse puts their catalog on line in the fall so I would think ordering from them at this time of the year would be good. Another favorite nursery is Edelweiss Gardens in Oregon whose website still says 2010. Everything I have ever ordered from here has lived and survived. Wrightman Alpines has their 2011 catalog on line and another reason to order from them is that if we order as a group they donate free plants to ARGs which we use in the rock garden at ABG. Verna is the contact person for purchasing from them. These are a few of the alpine and rock garden nurseries out on the web. Please pass along your favorites.

I have filled another page by myself but I hope that next newsletter I'll have some input from our members. Happy Growing!

### Plant Profile:

#### *Aethionema oppositifolia*

*Following the topic of the January Meeting "Those Other Nice Mustards for Your Garden," Our profile is on one of the more prized varieties, that will grow in our gardens.*

Family: Brassicaceae

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4a: to -34.4 °C (-30 °F)  
Height: under 6 in.

A compact mound of opposite, evergreen, blue-green, smooth, rubbery leaves are covered with pale pink flowers in early spring. This unusual stonecress is native from Turkey to Lebanon, and has been growing well for a decade in Wasilla. It prefers sandy, gritty soil in full sun. It is propagated from cuttings or seed - though the seed need stratification to germinate.



*Aethionema oppositifolia*, a choice member of the mustard family

## Second Annual Plant Swap a Huge Success!

The Second Annual Plant Swap was an even bigger success than the first year. There was a wonderful variety of plants to swap and everyone went home with something special.

## April 2nd NARGS Speaker Tour Is Sending Alan Bradshaw with a talk on "Western High Alpines"

Alan Bradshaw will be joining us on April 2nd to talk about Western High Alpines. Alan started ALPLAINS in 1989 partly out of his frustration in trying to find certain rare plant seeds. Originally employed as a software engineer, he found himself devoting more and more time to the collection of seeds, first grown in his gardens on the eastern plains of Colorado and then from wild flora of the western United States. Small seed lists in the early 1990s were followed by his first color catalog in 1994. From then his business steadily grew until widespread drought in the early 2000s nearly forced him into bankruptcy. By 2005, the business had recovered enough to allow Alan to again issue color catalogs. Growth has been steady ever since and his 2009 catalog contains seed of over 1000 different rare and unusual plant species. Including a large selection of cactus seed from the collection of Jeff Thompson. Alan also traveled to the Chilean Andes in 2001 and brought back seeds of several rosulate violet species and many other Andean gems. Today, Alan still remains "Dedicated to the Preservation of Wild Flora and Dissemination of the Harvest."

We look forward to welcoming Alan to Alaska and hope you will all join us for this exciting program.

### North American Rock Garden Society

Join today. NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials. Annual dues in the U.S. and Canada are \$30, payable in U.S. funds. VISA/Mastercard accepted.

Benefits of membership include: Rock Garden Quarterly with articles on alpines and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen and ink drawings; annual seed exchange with thousands of plant species; study weekends and annual meetings in either U.S. or Canada; and book service to members.

Join on-line at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)

Or write: Bobby J. Ward, Exec. Secretary NARGS, P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC

## A Work Party Sets Plants into Tufa Garden at ABG

Once again an inveterate group of rock gardeners gathered to work magic. They planted the plants purchased with the grant (that Carmel Tysver wrote to NARGS) and then top-dressed the entire garden. This promises to be a show garden once the plants begin to really grow. Carmel Tysver, Verna Pratt, Elaine Wardell, and Florene Carney spent a rainy afternoon, perfect for transplanting, setting in the plants, cleaning up the area and making great plans for next summer.

## Wrightman Alpines Order

Verna reports that she only received one Wrightman Alpines catalog this year. She encourages members who wish to be involved in the group order to go online at [www.wrightmanalpines.com](http://www.wrightmanalpines.com) and select your plants. She will be taking orders at the next couple of meetings and will send the order at the end of March. You may also contact Verna by email at the address at the beginning of this newsletter.

## Latin for Garden Lovers

By Pliny the Sourdough

I've been thinkin' for a while that you-all might like to know what those Latin words are that are part of plant names, so I'm gonna be writin' a dab each edition of this Newsletter on somethin' to help you know what's intended. This issue we're talkin' a lot about mustards, so here's to do with the color of mustards. They're generly white or yellow, 'cassionally you'll see a pink to purple one. So here's the deal:

White -	<i>alba</i>
Golden yellow -	<i>aureus</i>
Deep yellow -	<i>luteas</i>
Pale yellow -	<i>flavus</i>
Purple -	<i>purpureus</i>

There are more variations, but this'll give ya a start on knowin' what's what.

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 \* *If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.* \*  
 \* *-Marcus Tullius Cicero* \*  
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## Seed Exchange 2010-2011

Mark White

Welcome to another fine seed selection from the following Donors:

Teena Garay  
Debbie Hinchey  
Kathy Zins  
Carmel Tysver  
Joyce Glaze  
Les Brake  
Mark White

Please consider being a donor next year and add to the diversity of our offerings.

### SEED EXCHANGE ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

The above donors will have 1st choice as to selection of up to 20 seed packets; non-donors 15 seed packets. Please try to order in alphabetical order your requests as it is easier to fill.

Substitutes or alternates at the bottom of the order sheet are welcome.

Take a lined sheet and add your Name, Address, E-mail address & or Phone #, then list your requests. Place in an envelope and address to:

ARGS SEED EXCHANGE  
Mark E. White  
35680 Glacier Avenue  
Sterling, Alaska 99672

Please include \$3.00 to cover costs of mailing & envelopes; checks may be made out to: Mark E. White

\*Please include a personal Mailing label for the return seed packet.\*

Please have your order returned to us by the end of January. We will plan to fill your order and return to you by February 15th.

We will do our best to send your full order but please keep in mind that many of the items are of a small quantity. THANK YOU!



Variety	Donor	Description
1 Aconitum sp.	Teena Garay	2'; purple
2 Allium aflatunense ex. 'Purple Sensation'	Debbie Hinchey	3'tall w/purple 4" ball of flower
3 Allium aflatunense ex. 'Mount Everest'	Debbie Hinchey	3'tall w/white 4" ball of flower
4 Allium 'Purple Sensation'	Kathy Zins	3'; purple, summer blooming
5 Allium sp.	Carmel Tysver	2.5' tall; purple
6 Allium sp.	Joyce Glaze	36" tall; purple flowers
7 Allium sp.?	Debbie Hinchey	20" tall; 2" diameter flower head; probably A. senescens supsp. Montana
8 Allium unifolium	Kathy Zins	6-8'; pink
9 Amaryllis 'Minerva'/'Red Lion'	Debbie Hinchey	Indoor flowering plant
10 Androsace carnea ssp.	Kathy Zins	4"; rose, spring
11 Androsace carnea ssp. Laggerii	Kathy Zins	3"; pink w/gold eye; spring blooming
12 Angelica gigas	Les Brake	6-9"; dark purple-red; bee attractant
13 Angelica taiwaniana	Mark E. White	4-6"; biennial, large umbels of cream flowers above large leaves
14 Aruncus aethusifolius	Kathy Zins	8"; short Goat's Beard; creamy white plumes; summer/fall blooming
15 Cerenthe major	Joyce Glaze	24"; purple, Annual
16 Clematis fusca	Joyce Glaze	58" tall; purple, cute
17 Clematis macropetala 'Jan Lindmark'	Kathy Zins	8-10"; mauve, down facing; spring-fall blooming
18 Clematis tangutica 'Radar Love'	Teena Garay	12-15"; bright yellow flowers
19 Clematis 'The President'	Kathy Zins	8-10"; purple w/red/pink stamens; summer/fall blooming
20 Codonopsis sp.	Debbie Hinchey	3'tall; white w/blueish tint; small basal clump; not invasive
21 Delphinium sp.	Kathy Zins	5-6"; poppy blue; summer blooming
22 Dianthus 'Diane'	Kathy Zins	3"; bright pink, mat-forming; spring/summer blooming
23 Dianthus 'La Bourbouble'	Kathy Zins	2"; pink, mat-forming; spring/summer blooming
24 Dodecatheon pulchellum	Kathy Zins	12-15"; pink, dark pink; shooting stars; spring/summer blooming
25 Draba brunifolia	Kathy Zins	tiny, tight 1/2" buns
26 Erigeron glauca	Teena Garay	8-10"; pale mauve with yellow centers
27 Eryngium 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost'	Teena Garay	2'; silver blue
28 Eryngium amethystinum	Joyce Glaze	36" tall; blue
29 Gentiana lutea	Mark E. White	3-4'; aka Yellow Gentian
30 Gentiana sp.	Carmel Tysver	red
31 Gentiana verna	Les Brake	6"; blue
32 Glaucidium palmatum	Joyce Glaze	30" tall; pink
33 Inula orientalis	Joyce Glaze	32" tall; yellow
34 Iris chrysographes	Teena Garay	10-20"; velvety deep purple
35 Iris delavayi	Teena Garay	18-24"; blue-violet

36	<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>	Teena Garay	3'; yellow
27	<i>Lathyrus maritima</i>	Teena Garay	beach pea; wild-collected
38	<i>Lewisia tweedyi</i>	Mark E. White	3-6"; cream-apricot
39	<i>Ligularia stenocephala</i> 'The Rocket'	Joyce Glaze	62" tall; yellow
40	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Joyce Glaze	3-5' tall; white
41	<i>Meconopsis grandis</i>	Joyce Glaze	36" tall; blue
42	<i>Meconopsis</i> sp.	Joyce Glaze	36" tall; white
43	<i>Mertensia asiatica</i>	Teena Garay	4-12"; sky blue
44	<i>Nomocharis pardanthina</i>	Les Brake	24-36"; pink w/blotches
45	<i>Oomphalades</i>	Joyce Glaze	10" tall; blue
46	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Teena Garay	2'; red
47	<i>Papaver</i> sp.	Carmel Tysver	4" tall; Kurile Islands, Japan
48	<i>Papaver</i> sp.	Joyce Glaze	6" tall; pink; reseeds
49	Penstemon 'Chocolate Drop'	Joyce Glaze	16" tall; chocolate
50	Penstemon 'Red Rocks'	Joyce Glaze	14" tall; red
51	Peony ex. 'Ex' Jana's'	Debbie Hinchey	similar to P. veitchii; 5" bright fuchsia-color; single; crepe-paper like
52	<i>Potentilla eriocarpa</i> CC4627	Mark E. White	1"; mat forming; with typical yellow flowers
53	<i>Primula auricula</i>	Joyce Glaze	8" tall; red w/white eye
54	<i>Primula nivalis</i>	Teena Garay	4-12"; violet purple
55	<i>Pulsatilla</i> sp.	Joyce Glaze	14"; blue
56	<i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i> rubra	Mark E. White	4-8"; deep red
57	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> var. <i>tangutica</i>	Teena Garay	36-48"; red panicles
58	<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i> 'Alpine Glacier'	Kathy Zins	small rosettes
59	<i>Saxifraga</i> sp.	Carmel Tysver	1" tall; pink; early
60	<i>Saxifraga x urbium</i> nanum	Kathy Zins	flat, dark green rosettes, 1-1/4" across
61	<i>Sedum rubrotinctum</i> ?	Kathy Zins	6-8"; green with reddish-brown tips; yellow flowers
62	<i>Sisyrinchium litorale</i>	Debbie Hinchey	8" tall; blue-eyed grass; Alaskan native
63	<i>Symphyanthra hoffanii</i>	Teena Garay	12-18"; white
64	<i>Tacetum</i> 'Robinson's Red'	Joyce Glaze	36" tall; red
65	<i>Veronica</i> sp.	Kathy Zins	6-7"; pink, summer blooming
66	<i>Veronica</i> sp.	Kathy Zins	6"; light blue, summer blooming
67	<i>Viola corsica</i>	Teena Garay	6-8"; deep blue
68	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	Mark E. White	3-6"; blue violet

Alaska Rock Garden Society  
Seed Order  
January 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Plant No.	Plant Name

Send with a check for \$3.00 and a personal mailing label to: Mark White  
35680 Glacier Ave.  
Sterling, Alaska 99672

**We're on the Web**  
**www.args.org**

Alaska Rock Garden Society  
PO Box 244136  
Anchorage, AK 99524-4136



## Newsletter

**January Meeting is in the Valley. Meet at MTA at 2:00 p.m. to hear about "Those Other Nice Mustards For Your Garden" by Jaime Rodriguez.**

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