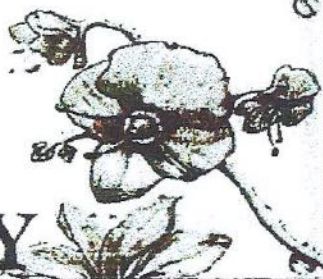


# ALASKA ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

MARCH, 1999

### CALENDAR

March 14th, Sunday, 3 PM Asia 2000 planning meeting at Jaime's house in Wasilla, 450 Hyer Road. Call 357-2747 for directions.

March 20th, Saturday, Anchorage Cooperative Extension classroom.

1:15 PM, Board Meeting

2 PM Regular Meeting "Rock Garden Construction"-No yard is too small. Verna Pratt will cover General Construction starting with flat ground. Jaime Rodriguez will cover how to utilize a natural slope or use a rock wall. Sally Arant will explain how to use a shady or semi-shady area to make a successful rock garden.

April 17th, Saturday, Mat-Su College,

1:15 PM Board Meeting,

2:00 PM Regular Meeting, "Plants for the Rock Garden" Do you have favorite plants that work well for a Rock Garden? If so, be prepared to share this information at the meeting. Slides, photos, seed catalog pictures, or just names are all appropriate. If your list is

*(Continued on page 4)*

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### GARDENING ON THE INTERNET BY JAIME RODRIGUEZ

I confess. I love the Internet. There was a day several weeks ago when the temperature at my house read -43 degrees Fahrenheit and my truck was frozen dead in the driveway when the Internet gave me hope. I was reading messages from gardeners in Britain and the Pacific Northwest telling about their blooming Snowdrops and that the Daffodils were showing their noses. At least it is Spring somewhere. For those of you who are new to Cyberspace, or haven't yet conquered your fear of computers, there are some amazing garden sites that may entice you to give the Net a try.

*(Continued on page 6)*





### 1999 CALL FOR EPHEMERAL SEEDS

This year several groups are participating in an exchange of seed with short viability. When seed of this type goes through the seed exchange and dry storage it germinates poorly. Appropriate candidates are members of the Ranunculaceae: Aconitum, Adonis, Anemone, Eranthis, Glaucidium, Helleborus, Hepatica, Ranunculus, Thalictrum; and the genera Asarum, Colchicum, Corydalis, Cyclamen, Dicentra, Dryas, Erythronium, Galanthus, Hacquetia, Hylomecon, Jeffersonia, Lysichiton, Salix, Sanguinaria, Shortia, Stylophorum and Trillium.

This list is not exhaustive, but please restrict offerings to species with known short viability or those which exhibit dramatic differences in germination when sown promptly. If you have seeds to offer, please fill out the form below and mail it in now - the deadline is March 15. The list will be published in a spring newsletter, letters, or e-mails along with the procedure for obtaining seeds.

**Some guidelines for submission:**

- \* A modest offering is advised. If you submitted one or two last year, increase it a little. Try to offer up to half a dozen species, but no more.
- \* There tend to be many offerings of some taxa. If you have a copy of last year's list, choose items that were not offered or were offered by only one or two donors. If you don't have last year's list, keep the one that comes out this year for reference. I have last years list available for sending.
- \* Diversity is one of our goals. Last year we were short in Colchicum, and Epimedium and there is never enough Shortia.
- \* Don't offer items from your garden that you haven't seen flower and fruit. Wait another year.

\* Don't be afraid of crop failure. If there's no seed, drop a postcard to the requester and save the request for next year.

When the list is published, these are the directions that will be given to requesters: To request seeds, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the donor. (If the donor is across an international boundary, obtain International Reply Coupons.) Write the species name on the return envelope. If you are requesting more than one species from a donor, send the appropriate number of envelopes, though multiple forms of the same species are safe for a single envelope. You are responsible for appropriate packaging and sufficient postage.

Submission form:

#### Ephemeral Seeds for the 1999 Exchange

Your Name & Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Genus, species and form Collection Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:

Nancy Swell  
505 Baldwin Road  
Richmond, VA 23229  
or e-mail [swell@erols.com](mailto:swell@erols.com)

**Deadline is March 15**






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## P.S. PLANT SAKURASOH

### BY LES BRAKE

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I'm slowly but surely getting lost down the primrose path, and one of the loveliest primroses I have encountered is *Primula sieboldii*. In addition to its sublime beauty, it is one tough plant. The mean and nasty wipeout winter of '95-96 knocked thousands of plants from my garden, but both plants of *P. sieboldii* came through unharmed. I was very surprised; with its lettuce-like leaves and delicate blossoms I figured this primrose would be on the tender side. No. It is hardy, surviving forty nights of below zero temperatures with no snow cover.

Siebold's primrose is an essential addition to a primula collection because it blooms in early summer, extending the primrose season and thereby acting as a bridge to mid- and late summer primroses. Colors range from pure white, pale lilac, pink, deep rose, to magenta. Flowers often have a different color on the reverse of the petals, for instance, a white face with a pink back. *Primula sieboldii* wants rich, moist soil; morning sun and afternoon shade or dappled light. Plants can get quite large— a foot in diameter isn't uncommon— so allow plenty of space between plants.

Bloom period lasts about three weeks. To complement the lovely blossoms and maintain interest in your planting once bloom has passed, plan on adding dark purple pansies ("Beaconsfield" is a good choice) and a silver specked *Pulmonaria* or two. In a recent planting I also included a few plants of *Iris setosa* var. *nana*, the dwarf form of our native iris. The purple flowers will look smashing with the pinks and whites of the primroses, and the spikey leaves will add contrast to the rounded mounds of *pulmonarias*.

*Primula sieboldii* has a couple of common names. The first, snowflake primrose, is quite appropriate

because the fringed and feathered flowers truly resemble snowflakes, moreso than any plant I've seen with that descriptive name. Also, like snowflakes, each seed-raised plant will bear unique flowers; no two plants are alike.

The second nickname comes from Japan, homeland of *Primula sieboldii*, where it is known as "sakurasoh" or Cherry blossom herb because it resembles drifts of cherry blossom petalfall. *Sakurasoh* has been intensively cultivated in Japan for three hundred years, and over five hundred forms have been selected and named.

Paul Help (195 North Avenue; Westport, CT. 06880) is an American devotee of sakurasoh, and he was so smitten by this prim that he founded the American Sakurasoh Association. Annual dues are \$25, and members receive periodic newsletters, a minimum of one packet of seeds, and occasional surprises in the mail. Two days before Christmas I received a package of several named cultivars of *Primula sieboldii* from the generous Paul Held, as well as a bonus pack of seeds. One final selling point is that Paul has about ninety named cultivars which he sells only to A.S.A. members.

A few selections are available from two West Coast nurseries: A Plethora of Primula at 244 Westside Highway in Vader, WA. 98593 (catalog - \$2.00); and Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery at 2825 Cummings Road in Medford, OR. 97501 (catalog- \$3.00). Choice seeds may be obtained from the legendary Barnhaven Primroses at Langerhouad, 22420 Plouzelambre, France (catalog-\$2.00 U.S. currency notes).

Alaska's nurseries should be offering this valuable addition to our hardy plant list. Ask for it. *Primula sieboldii*, the cherry blossom primrose, deserves to be in every Alaska garden.







# CALENDAR

*(Continued from page 1)*

extensive, it might be nice to have handouts, but not necessary. This should be fun and educational for all of us. A great way to welcome spring.

April 25th, Work Party for the Rock Garden at the AK Botanical Garden, Call Verna at 333-8212 for details.

May 1st, Work Party for the Rock Garden at the AK Botanical Garden

May 22, Plant Sale at Sally K's.

May 29, Plant Sale in Wasilla with the Valley Garden Club

June 11-13, Field Trip to Denali Park, Healy

June 24-27, NARGS Annual Meeting, Banff, Alberta, Canada "For Alpines Divine Come to Banff in '99".

June 26-27, 1999 Garden Fair at the Alaska Botanical Garden. Major Plant Sale.

July 17, Recluse Gardens in Wasilla, Regular Meeting

August, Panayoti and Gwen Kelaidis, date, time and place TBA

August 21, Seed Collecting

January 2000, Eastern Winter Study Weekend, Syracuse, NY

February, 2000, San Francisco Airport, "Wild, Wild West"

July 26-28th, 2000, NARGS Annual Meeting, Mt. Rainier, WA

Summer 2001, NARGS Annual Meeting, Western Pennsylvania

Summer 2002, NARGS Annual Meeting, Alaska



## Integrated Pest Management of Alaska

Organic, Non-toxic ways to control greenhouse and garden pests: aphids, white flies, spider mites, thrips, etc....

## Integrated Pest Management

IPM Technician Rocco Moschetti

By appointment

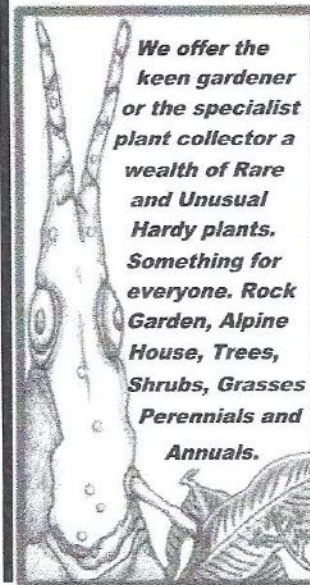
373-2964 or 232-6280

email: ipmofak@matnet.com



## RECLUSE GARDENS

**373-0925**



*We offer the keen gardener or the specialist plant collector a wealth of Rare and Unusual Hardy plants. Something for everyone. Rock Garden, Alpine House, Trees, Shrubs, Grasses Perennials and Annuals.*

**Open Daily 10-6  
880 Recluse Circle  
Wasilla**

**Parks Highway to  
Church Road (R)  
2 blocks to  
Mystery (R)  
1 block to  
Recluse (R)**





## NARGS NATIONAL AWARDS COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

May we have your help? The NARGS National Awards Committee is soliciting candidates for the various national awards:

### AWARD OF MERIT

Established in 1965, this award is given to persons who have made outstanding contributions to rock and alpine gardening and to the North American Rock Garden Society. In addition, the recipients will be people of demonstrated plantsmanship. The recipient must be an active member of the Society.

### MARCEL LE PINIEC AWARD

Established in 1969, this award is given to a nurseryperson, propagator, hybridizer or plant explorer who is currently actively engaged in extending and enriching the plant material available to rock gardeners. This may be a joint award if two people have worked closely together. The recipient need not be a member of NARGS.

### EDGAR T. WHERRY AWARD

Established in 1973, this award is given from time to time to a person who has made an outstanding contribution in the dissemination of botanical and/or horticultural information about native North American plants. The works must be scientifically sound, but may be written for popular readership and do not have to be specifically about rock garden plants. Generally, the award recognizes a body of work or a lifetime of literary effort rather than a single work (see the Carlton R. Worth Award). The recipient does not have to be a member of the Society.

### CARLTON R. WORTH AWARD

Established in 1985, this award is given to an author of distinguished writings about rock gardening and rock garden plants in a book or in magazine articles. Special preference is given to material published in the NARGS Bulletin. The recipient does not have to

be a member of the Society.

### MARVIN E. BLACK AWARD

Established in 1990, this award is given to a member of the Society who excels at promoting membership in NARGS; organizing study weekends, national and international meetings. They should also be involved in such activities as planning trips to study plants and to meet other plant people. The emphasis shall be placed on a member who has helped other people to reach their potential in the plant world. The recipient must be a member of the Society.

Any member of the society can nominate a person. Nominations for the Award of Merit must be accompanied by a letter stating why this person deserves the award. List outstanding services to the Society, comment on the person's plantsmanship, and - if appropriate - refer to any published articles or books on rock gardening authored by the nominee. Nominations for the Marcel Le Piniec Award and the Marvin E. Black Award must be accompanied by a letter stating why this person deserves the award and listing the specific activities that qualify them for the award. Two seconding letters should also be sent to me. Although only two seconding letters are required, it simplifies the Awards Committee task if more letters are sent to get a better profile of each candidate. -

*(Continued on page 6)*

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(907) 258-2679





*(Continued from page 1)*

The sites that first got me hooked were related to plant and seed exchanging. Gardener's greed can be pacified at many different sites. There is something for every level, from sharing the extra seeds left over from your packet of Snapdragons, to hunting for rare collectibles. There are sites dedicated to your favorite flowers, from roses to orchids and everything in between. The GardenWeb Exchange Forums will put you in contact with people all over the world who share seeds and plants. Discussion groups like Alpine-L will put you in touch with a world wide group of experts who are very generous with answering questions and helping newcomers.

Outside of the Alaska Rock Garden Society Home pages and The North American Rock Garden Society pages, I have a couple of practical favorite gardening sites. The first is the seed germination database at Asle Serigstad's Homepage. Asle is from Norway, and has been keeping records of his own seed starting success for many interesting species. He tells you what he has done that has succeeded in getting different seeds to grow.

The other site is the Plant America Plant-Link Search engine, that will do an internet wide search for information about specific plants. You can search by botanical name or by common name.

Here is a short list of my favorite garden related web pages to get you started:

North American Rock Gardens Society:

<http://www.nargs.org/>

Alaska Rock Garden Society:

<http://www.matnet.com/~Jaime/content/ARGS1.htm>

GardenWeb Home Page:

<http://www.gardenweb.com/>

GardenWeb Exchange:

<http://www.gardenweb.com/forums/exchind/>

Plant America Home Page:

<http://plantamerica.com/>

*(Continued from page 5)*

No supporting letters are needed for the Edgar T. Wherry Award or the Carlton R. Worth Award, only a letter outlining the specific books and/or articles written by the nominee that qualify them for the award.

Nominating letters may be sent to me. I will distribute these to the committee.

Who in your chapter qualifies for an award? Let us know. Please put a notice about this in your next newsletter. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Paulette D. Zabkar  
2176 Ben Franklin Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Phone: (412) 364-5820

Note: All nominations must be received by March 20, 1999.



Plant America Plant-Link Search Engine:

<http://www.plantamerica.org/palink.htm>

Asle Serigstad's Home Page:

<http://home.sol.no/~asles/>

Rock Garden Resources (With instructions for subscribing to Alpine-L:

<http://www.peak.org/~parsont/rockgard/>

Next Month – More websites shared by other AKRGs Members.







## POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

**President:** Verna Pratt, 7446 E. 20th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99504. (907) 333-8212; e-mail: verna@alaskakrafts.com

**Vice-President:** Rhonda Williams, PO Box 872592, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 373-0925; e-mail: recluse@mtaonline.net

**Secretary :** Florene Carney, HC 31 Box 5212, Wasilla, AK, 99654. (907) 376-5390; e-mail: snowfire@micronet.net

**Treasurer:** Jerry McEwen, 1408 W. 10th Ave., Anchorage. AK, 99501. (907) 276-2359

**Membership:** Thais Thomas, P.O. Box 93003, Anchorage, AK 99509. (907) 243-1666; e-mail: Thomas\_Thais@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us

**Program Chair:** Annie Nevaldine, 4560 E. 5th, Anchorage, AK, 99508, (907) 333-2100; e-mail: anevaldine@corcom.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Jaime Rodriguez, P.O. Box 871394, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 357-2747; e-mail: jaime@matnet.com

**Seed Exchange:** Teena Garay, P.O. Box 2653, Homer, AK, 99603. (907) 235-2150; email: garay@xyz.net

**Archives:** Marcia Hamilton, P.O. Box 870344, Wasilla, AK, 99687. (907) 746-3296; e-mail: mlh@matnet.com

**2002 Committee:** Chair- Jaime Rodriguez (907) 357-2747, Doug Tryck (907) 345-2148, Frank Pratt (907) 333-8212, Rhonda Williams (907) 373-0925, Sally Karabelnikoff (907) 333-8237, Allen Dietz (907) 338-4821, Harry Deuber (907) 276-5571

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

CAROL ROSS  
SUSAN HANIES  
YVONNE GOLDSMITH  
GEORGE LYLE  
ERMA S. MACMILLAN  
CECE HARRINGTON  
PEGGIE REYNOLDS  
KARLA KOLOSH  
ANN STOKES  
ROBERT L. DANIELS  
PATRICIA LEARY  
COLLETTE MACH  
GREG WILLIAMS

### Join Us!

We have about six meetings per year, plus Plant sales, Field Trips and a Seed Exchange. Our meetings are generally on the third Saturday of the month, Fall, Winter, and Spring, and rotate between the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. To Join, and receive this newsletter, send your name, address, Phone number, e-mail address and a Check payable to ARGS to :

Individual Membership \$10.00

Family Membership \$ \$15.00

Canada Membership: \$20.00 US

Overseas Membership \$25.00 US

Membership is for the calendar year and includes all issues of the newsletter for that year. Back issues are available at \$1 each. The ARGS Newsletter is published 6 times per year. We invite your contributions. Please contact Jaime Rodriguez, editor, P.O. Box 871394, Wasilla, AK, 99687; (907) 357-2747. e-mail: jaime@matnet.com

IN WILDNESS IS THE  
PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD.  
HENRY DAVID THOREAU





## DID YOU FORGET?

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership in January and February. According to our records, there are still 51 overdue from January, 7 for Feb, with 43 coming due in March. Please take a look at your address label on this newsletter. Your renewal date is posted in the upper right corner. If you see an orange sticker instead of a date, it means that this is your last newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed the benefits of membership ( this newsletter, discounts at lectures, seed exchange, plant sales, etc.) and will renew right away. To renew send your name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address and a Check payable to ARGs to our Membership Chairperson:

Thais Thomas  
 P.O. Box 93003  
 Anchorage, AK 99509.  
 (907) 243-1666.  
 e-mail: Thomas\_Thais@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us .

## ARGS Newsletter Dates

	<u>Submission date</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
January issue	December 15	January 2
March Issue	February 15	March 1
May issue	April 15	May 1
July issue	June 15	July 1
September issue	August 15	September 1
November issue	October 15	November 1

*Congratulations to our Chapter Vice-President, Rhonda Williams!*

Four of her paintings have been accepted for publication on the cover of the NARGS Quarterly. Look for them next year. Just another good reason for all of our Chapter members to consider joining the North American Rock Society, our parent organization. Annual U. S. dues of \$25 can be sent to:

**NARGS**  
 PO Box 67  
 Millwood, NY 10546  
 Make checks payable to North American Rock Garden Society.

**Alaska Rock Garden Society**  
**P.O. Box 3481**  
**Palmer, AK 99645**

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 PLACE  
 STAMP  
 HERE

**SPRING IS  
 COMING!**



**SOW THOSE  
 SEEDS!**