

# Newsletter

Jaime Rodriguez, President; (907) 357-2747 email: [Jaime@matnet.com](mailto:Jaime@matnet.com)  
Verna Pratt, Vice Pres/Program Chair; (907) 333-8212; email [akrafts@alaskakrafts.com](mailto:akrafts@alaskakrafts.com)  
Florene Carney, Secretary/Newsletter Ed.; (907) 376-5390 email: [snowfire@mtaonline.net](mailto:snowfire@mtaonline.net)  
Mary Moline, Treasurer/Membership (907) 333-4419; email [moline@alaska.net](mailto:moline@alaska.net)  
Mark White, Seed Exchange (907) 279-1660; email [mewwhite@ptialaska.net](mailto:mewwhite@ptialaska.net)

## Coming Events

**Mark your calendars for all the exciting events coming up this Spring and Summer:**

March 15, 2008:	Teena Garay at Regular ARGs Meeting. MTA in Palmer
April 12, 2008:	Sears Mall Garden Show
April 26, 2008 :	Harry Jans / Anchorage 7 <sup>30</sup> p.m. Lecture Room Grant Hall. "Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World" (Tibet)
TBA	Harry Jans/Valley "Growing Alpines in the ' Hills' of Holland" (Watch the Daily News for time and location)
May 3, 2008	ABG Rock Garden Clean Up
May 17, 2008:	Plant Sale @ Sally K's
May 24, 2008	Plant Sale @ Snowfire/ Valley Garden Club Sale @ Burchell School
May 31, 2008	Wildflower Plant Sale @ Sally K's
June 7, 2008	Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale
June 21st & 22nd, 2008	Alaska Botanical Garden Fair
July 19, 2008	State Garden Club Convention, Palmer Coyote Gardens Open Garden & Arts Festival at Fairgrounds

## Harry Jans is Coming to Alaska!

April 26th—UAA Grant Hall Lecture Room, 7:30 p.m. (\$10.00 donation to help pay for the hall)

Harry Jans will be touring on the NARGs Speakers Tour this year and Alaska is fortunate enough to be on his travel list. Harry has been a rock gardener for more than 25 years, founding member of the Dutch Rock Garden Society and its president for six years. Member of four AGS Expeditions including ACE 1994, SQA 2000, Iran Expedition 2003 and Tibet in 2005. AGS Tour leader to various provinces in China in 1997, 1998, 2001 and 2006, Tibet 2005 and Ethiopia and Kenya in 2006. He organized and led tours to China, Italy, Holland, Germany, England, Scotland, USA and Canada. His topics while in Alaska will include "Growing Alpines in the *hills* of Holland" and "Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World" (Tibet). To learn more about Mr. Jans go to [www.jansalpin.es.com](http://www.jansalpin.es.com)

If you haven't heard one of the worlds great plant explorers speak, don't miss this opportunity—it's a chance of a lifetime!

## From the President

By Jaime Rodriguez, President

Reality is weird. That is the theme of the news from the president this month. Here are some examples of what I mean. I lost all of my snow cover three weeks ago, and have been living with life threatening glare ice on my driveway until the rain washed it away yesterday, while Les Brake in Willow still has four feet of snow on his garden. I found a blooming viola in my rock garden today. The official first bloom of 2008 opened on March 6th! Then there was the momentarily distressing obituary in today's Anchorage Daily News, announcing the death of Julie Ann Riley. Before you all have the same heart clench I did, let me assure you it is a different Julie Ann Riley than the one who is so important to the Alaska gardening world. The pineapple express that is teasing us with dreams of an early break-up compels me to remind everyone to plan on digging something from your rock garden and growing it in a container for display during the Botanic Garden Fair in June. I am going to try to dispel any remaining weirdness by planting more seeds. See you at the March meeting.



## Dwarf Campanulas and Their Relatives

At the ARGS Regular February Meeting Verna Pratt gave a program on "Campanulas and Their Relatives" that was all the things you hope for from a speaker. She encouraged us to try new varieties. Told us how to grow them from seeds - they need light to germinate. Water them from below and if you have to store them the best way is in the refrig in silica. She discussed doing cuttings in the early spring to propagate them. Verna showed us how to recognize the varieties and suggested we check out two books: "Dwarf Campanulas" by Graham Nichols and "Campanulas, A Gardener's Guide" by Peter Lewis and Margaret Lynch.

Verna's slide show was enough to send us all to the seed catalogs and Alpine Nurseries searching for the special little jewels that appear to be hardy here. The Campanulas discussed in Verna's program were: *C. rotundifolia*; Common Harebell/Bluebells of Scotland; *C. rotundifolia*, Mt. Jotunheimer; *C. aurita*; *C. lasiocarpa*, Mt. Harebell; *C. uniflora*, one-flowered harebell; *C. chamissonis* 'oyobeni'; *C. carpatica*, 'Blue Clips', 'White Clips', *Cochlearifolia* 'Elizabeth Oliver', *C. 'Bumblebee'* (an accidental cross, by bee, of *C. lasiocarpa* and *C. piperi*; *C. porscharskyana* 'Stella'; *C. portenschlagiana*; *C. Birch Hybrid*; *C. Saxifraga*, and *C. tridentate*. The family members of the species included: *Symphyandra*, *Edrianthus*, *Wahlenbergia*, *Cyananthus*, *Phyteuma*, *Physoplexis*, *Jasione*. Many of these plants are living here now, but trying new varieties will be a lot of fun. At the end of her talk Verna shared books and additional pictures and held a discussion of what other folks are growing. Thanks for a great program, Verna.

## Plant Sales (watch the paper for times and locations)

- May 17, 2008:** Plant Sale at Sally K's. Old Harbor Road, Anchorage
- May 24, 2008:** 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Snowfire Garden Plant Sale and Open Garden/  
Valley Garden Club Plant Sale, Burchell School 9:00 a.m.
- May 31, 2008:** Wildflower Plant Sale at Sally K's
- June 7, 2008:** Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale

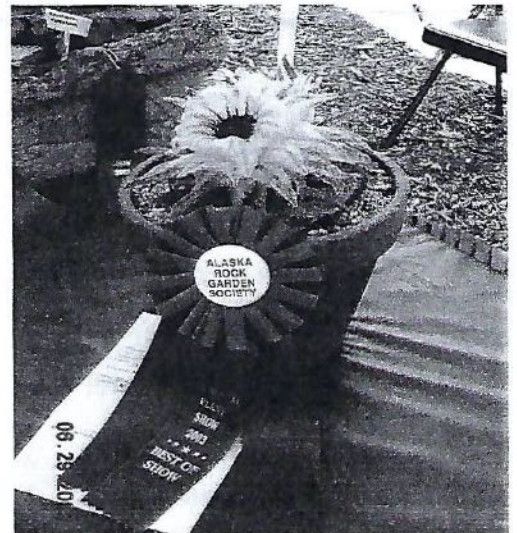
## Garden Visits Are Being Planned

Garden visits for the current year are being planned for the Valley. There are many beautiful gardens that we should all see and enjoy. If you know of one call Verna so she can add it to the list she is compiling. Part of the joy of having a nice garden is being able to share it with fellow enthusiasts so don't be shy!

Verna can be reached at: 1-907-333-8212

## Plant Show at ABG

If there is enough interest the Plant Show will be held again at the ABG Garden Fair. Start thinking about which of your unusual, special, well-grown, or rare plants would be good to include in this event and make a plan to have it ready to take to the Garden Fair on June 21st and 22nd. The public loves this event and it is great fun for the folks who do participate. Check the NARGS web site for some advice on how to prepare your plant for show.



## ABG Rock Garden Clean-up

Rock Garden clean-up at the Alaska Botanical Garden will be May 3rd, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.. Bring small garden tools to help clean up debris and any plants that you would like to put in the garden. The ABG Rock Garden was built and is maintained by the Alaska Rock Garden Society and is a show piece when it is in shape. You can learn a lot by working with Verna on this project. Don't miss the opportunity!

## Western Winter Study Weekend

### “Plant Treasures for the New Millennium”

Beautiful gardens, inspiring speakers, plant sales, and great garden conversations were the order of the day for the four intrepid Alaskans who met in Vancouver to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Western Winter Study Weekend. It was an opportunity to learn about new plants that have been discovered while meeting old friends and making new ones all who share the passion of plants.

Starting with a walk in the University of British Columbia Lohbrunner Alpine Garden with Brent Hine, who is the Curator, the programs never lagged. We had an opportunity to take “A New Look at Old Standbys” with Hans Roemer, a German now living in Canada, followed by a lesson in “Sowing, Growing and Showing: An Alpine Triathlon” presented by Jim Almond, from the UK. We closed out the first day by checking out the displays, sales, and the Silent Auction tables.

The second day opened with Phyllis Gustafson tutoring us on “Growing Western Plants for a New Century” followed by Gwen Kelaidis discussing “Garden Design”. Between coffee breaks and a break for lunch there was more fun with Philip MacDougall touring us through “Tasmania, Berried Treasure”; Panayoti Kelaidis showing beautiful photos of “Plants of Natal”; Linda Verbeek enthusiastic about “Orchids around the World” and to finish off the second day there was the opportunity to visit three wonderful gardens in Vancouver and then on to the Banquet to visit old and new friends and see the keynote presentation by Henrik Zetterlund, horticultural botanist from Gothenburg Botanical Gardens, on “Iran, Searching for Dionysia, New Bulbs & the Meaning of Life”.

Sunday dawned brightly on Pam Eveleigh discussing “Primulas from the Himalayas”; Jim Almond tutoring us on “Alpines and Bulbs from Seed” and Panayoti Kelaidis delighting us with “New Introductions”. The formal programs closed with Henrik Zetterlund guiding us through “Eastern Turkey, New and Familiar Bulbous Plants”. As we left Vancouver we were treated to more wonderful gardens in South Surrey and Langley.

In between there were workshops and drawings for door prizes and continual talk of things that had been tried and things we all dream of trying next. The Alaskan travelers also visited the VanDusen Botanical Garden and the Nitobe Memorial Garden. A wonderful experience for all who attended.

You don't want to miss the next Winter Study Weekend which will be held in Portland, Oregon March 13, 14, and 15, 2008. The theme will be “Revitalizing the Rock Garden”. Write it on your calendar now!

Alaskans attending the Winter Study Weekend were: Carmel Tysver, Anchorage; Florene Carney, Wasilla; Rosemary Kimbell, Sterling, and Sue Kent of Soldotna. All brought home some choice Alpine plants to add to their collections and a lot of great ideas for ways to improve their gardens.



*Rosemary Kimball, Florene Carney, Sue Kent, and Carmel Tysver (seated) among the flowers at a garden in Vancouver.*

## Sears Mall Garden Show

The Sears Mall Garden Show will be April 12th. Set up will be at 8:30 a.m. and the Show will open at 10:00 a.m. And close at 7:00 p.m. Join Verna and other intrepid gardeners at this fun event. It's the first program of the spring garden season and a great time to visit with other gardeners about their plans and dreams and sell a few plants at the same time. If you don't have anything to sell, give Verna a call about when you can help out and possibly buy something from one of the folks who do have something on the sales table.

## Seed Exchange

Thank You! to the following Donors for their participation and support.

Teena Garay  
Rosemary Kimball  
Walter Mayr  
Verna Pratt  
Mark White  
Kathy Zins

Although we're short on Donors the quality and variety of the Donations is super! If the description is blank it is because the Donor did not mark it and I was unable to find out any further information.

Please review and note your selections; **20 for Donors and 15 for everyone else**. I will plan to fill all orders the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> and send all orders by March 17<sup>th</sup>. I will not hold any seed over so you can expect to receive more than what you are requesting. A \$3.00 check to cover return postage made out to Mark White with a note for ARGS seed, and a pre-printed address label from you are appreciated. Any monies not used for return postage or envelopes will be turned over to the Treasurer later this year.

As in the past I will give favor to the Donors in filling their requests first. Some of the donations are very slim (as few as 5 seeds) especially any that are marked with (CC for Chris Chadwell/England). Be adventurous as there are some great selections!

If you wish to send your selections via E-mail that is fine with me and you can drop a check in the mail at your convenience. I will send you a reply that I've received your request.

[mewwhite@ptialaska.net](mailto:mewwhite@ptialaska.net)

Mark E. White  
35680 Glacier Avenue  
Sterling, Alaska 99672

(907) 260-1609

Verna hopes to have any seed that is left over from the Seed Exchange available at the Sears Mall.

NOTE: You will find the seed list is on the following pages.

## Seed List

	A	B	C
1	<i>Aconitum maximillium</i>		Teena Garay
2	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Stainless Steel'	lt. blue; 5-6'; Monkshood	Kathy Zins
3	<i>Androsace</i> sp.	white; 2-3"	Verna Pratt
4	<i>Anemone multifida</i>	pastel yellow	Teena Garay
5	<i>Anemone</i> sp.	3"; Denali State Park	Teena Garay
6	<i>Angelica</i> sp.	white; umbels; 30"	Kathy Zins
7	<i>Aster</i> ? <i>diplostephioides</i>	CC5715; rockery	Mark E. White
8	<i>Aster</i> sp.	CC5531; rockery	Mark E. White
9	<i>Aster</i> sp.	lavendar; delicate/airy; Mt. Eddy, California	Teena Garay
10	<i>Bistorta</i>	CC5790; rockery/open location perennial	Mark E. White
11	<i>Cassiope</i> sp.	CC5862; peat garden	Mark E. White
12	<i>Clematis tangutica</i>	yellow flowers followed by silver seed head; vine to 15'	Mark E. White
13	<i>Cremanthodium campanulatum</i>	yellow	Teena Garay
14	<i>Cremanthodium reniforme</i>	chocolate; 8"	Teena Garay
15	<i>Delphinium</i> sp.	White w/black eye; 5-6'	Kathy Zins
16	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.	pink; light center; 24-30"; fragrant	Kathy Zins
17	<i>Dodecatheon</i> sp.	magenta/pink; 10-16"; Shooting Star	Kathy Zins
18	<i>Dryas sundermanii</i>	cream; 3-4"; hyb. of <i>D. octopetala</i> & <i>D. drummondii</i>	Verna Pratt
19	<i>Eschscholzia caesipitos</i>	Sundew	Teena Garay
20	<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	chocolate; 8"; Chocolate Lily	Kathy Zins
21	<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	12-16"; Checkered Lily	Verna Pratt
22	<i>Geum glaciale</i>	yellow; 4-5"; Glacial Avens-AK native	Verna Pratt
23	<i>Hesperis</i> sp.	white/violet mix; 3-4"; fragrant; Sweet Rocket	Kathy Zins
24	<i>Incarvillea zhongdianensis</i>	pink; 12" trumpet-like flower	Teena Garay
25	<i>Iris pumila</i>	10-12"; Dwarf Bearded Iris	Verna Pratt
26	<i>Iris setosa</i>	purple; 16-24"; Wild Iris/Wild Flag	Kathy Zins
27	<i>Iris tauricola</i>	yellow; 8"; Dwarf Bearded Iris	Verna Pratt
28	<i>Lavatera</i> 'Mont Blanc'	white; annual	Teena Garay
29	<i>Lewisia tweedyi</i>	apricot	Walter Mayr
30	<i>Lilium pumilum</i>	coral red; 1-2'	Mark E. White
31	<i>Lychnis x arkwrightii</i> 'Vesuvius'	orange/red; bronze/maroon foliage; 18"	Kathy Zins
32	<i>Meconopsis integrifolia</i>	pastel yellow; 12"	Teena Garay
33	<i>Mertensia maritima asiatica</i>	blue; 2-3"	Verna Pratt
34	<i>Papaver alboroseum</i>	pale pink; 3-4"; Pale Pink Poppy-AK native	Verna Pratt
35	<i>Papaver anomalum</i> 'Alba'	white; 12"	Teena Garay
36	<i>Papaver atlanticum</i>	orange; 6"	Teena Garay
37	<i>Phlomis rotata</i>	CC5775; high alpine	Mark E. White
38	<i>Polygonatum</i> ? <i>cirrhifolium</i>	CC5729; open location perennial	Mark E. White
39	<i>Potentilla atosangvinea</i>	12"	Teena Garay
40	<i>Primula florindae</i>	yellow; 36" nodding flower	Rosemary Kimball
41	<i>Primula secundiflora</i>	magenta; ARGS2000	Teena Garay
42	<i>Primula sikkimensis</i>	yellow; 12"; light fragrance	Teena Garay
43	<i>Primula waltonii</i>	maroon; 12"	Teena Garay
44	<i>Pterocepalus hookeri</i>	CC5864; rockery	Mark E. White
45	<i>Rhododendron setosum</i>	CC5718; dwarf shrub	Mark E. White
46	<i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i>	cream; 4"; Prickly Saxifrage-AK native	Verna Pratt
47	<i>Semiaquilegia ecalcarata</i>	mauve; 12-18"; nodding flowers	Kathy Zins
48	<i>Silene</i> sp.	pink; 30"	Kathy Zins
49	<i>Sisyrinchium</i> 'Lucerne'	blue w/yellow eye; 10-12"	Kathy Zins
50	<i>Soldanella lungovensis</i>	pinkish/lavendar; 5"	Verna Pratt
51	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	light green; 15-18"; Fringe Cups-AK native	Verna Pratt

## Seed List, contd.

	A	B	C
52	Thalictrum aquilegifolium	white; airy; Meadow Rue	Kathy Zins
53	Thalictrum delavayi var. decorum	lavendar; 4'	Teena Garay
54	Trollius ledebourii	orange; 24"; multi-petalled blossom	Walter Mayr
55	Trollius pumilus	yellow; 12"; clump-forming glossy basal leaves	Walter Mayr
56	Viola crassa	yellow; 4-6"	Walter Mayr
57	Viola pedatifida	blue-violet; 3-6"	Walter Mayr
58			
59			
60			

### 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

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**

Carmel & Neil Tysver  
2030 Patriot Circle  
Anchorage AK 99515-2503

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



Newsletter

## March Meeting of The Alaska Rock Garden Society

**March 15, 2008**

**2:00 p.m.**

**MTA Building**

**480 Commercial Drive, Palmer**

*Commercial Drive is the 3rd Street on the right after the entrance to the Alaska State Fairgrounds. (MTA is at the end of the street on the right -look for the MTA logo.)*

**Teena Garay will present the program "Plants from the ARGS 2000 Trip That Survived and Other Uncommon Plants Grown in Homer"**

*Teena is an outstanding plantswoman and gardener. She was a member of the 2000 China Expedition sponsored by ARGS and will share her successes from that trip as well as some other specialty plants she is growing in her garden in Homer. This is a "don't want to miss" program.*