



Newsletter

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Coming Events

Mark your calendars for all the exciting events coming in the Winter Months:

November 15, 2008: Regular Meeting, Cooperative Extension in Anchorage. "Penstemons—those you love and those you hate" Bring a photo or information to share.

December 13, 2008 : ARGS Christmas Party at Carmel Tysver's 2030 Patriot Circle in S. Anchorage. 2:00 p.m. Potluck - bring a holiday snack to share.

January 7, 2009: "Evergreens for the Rock Garden" by Mark White. Mark will be driving up from Soldotna so has asked that the meeting be in Anchorage. Cooperative Extension.

February 21, 2009: Valley at MTA Meeting Room —"Douglasias and Drabas"

Notes from the September Meeting

Secretary, Florene Carney

The September meeting was called to order on September 20, 2008 at 2:10 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension in Anchorage. President, Jaime Rodriguez announced that the Western Winter Study Week-end will be held March 13—15, 2009 at the Lloyd Center in Portland. The theme will be "Revitalizing the Rock Garden" This will also be the National Convention since the Calgary Group decided that they could not hold the National Convention as planned. Several of the local members are planning to go to Portland for this event. There was discussion on the programs for the coming months. Jaime presented a wonderful program on "Small Bulbs for the Rock Garden"

Members who attended this meeting were excited to be able to take home several bulbs to plant in their own gardens.

From the President

Jaime Rodriguez

I'm sitting here watching the second snowfall of the year at my house, and the dull roar of "NOT READY!!!" has faded into a resigned whimper. Both the Homer garden Club and the Central Peninsula Garden Club have asked me to speak on "Rock Garden Construction" in the next several weeks. I'll be speaking in Homer on Sunday, October 26, and on Tuesday, Nov. 4 in Kenai.

Les Brake and the friends of Coyote Gardens have sent a contribution \$260 to be used for the next seed collecting expedition of ARGs. Where should we go next?

Next year NARGs will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. Since the NARGs Annual 2009, Calgary meeting has been canceled, the NARGs annual business meeting has been moved to the Western Winter Study Weekend in Portland, Oregon. This WWSW will be held on March 13-15, 2009. Because the meeting will be in March, all proposed awards and business reports need to be prepared earlier.

The Norman Singer Endowment Fund was begun by him on the occasion of the 50th year of the American Rock Garden Society. "The Fund is intended to be a resource in support of special, one-time projects that advance the art and science of rock gardening." Many projects have been supported - from publications, rock garden construction and preservation, public education, and seed collection.

I would like to encourage anyone with an appropriate project to apply. An application form and the guidelines are available on the NARGs website. Also, please note that the application deadline is January 16 due to the early date of the Annual Meeting.

This November is time for a new round of elections for ARGs officers. Past President Carmel Tysver is heading up the nominating committee. The nominations are due for our October meeting. Mary Moline has served brilliantly for many years as our Treasurer, and must step down. If you are willing, or know of someone who would be good for the position, please contact Carmel as soon as possible.

Valley Garden Tour

Although plagued by rain, the three gardens on the Valley Garden Tour this summer were delightful.

Susan Lemagie's new gardens inspired with three berms with alpines, a rock wall with conifers, a moist shady perennial bed, a sunny dry perennial bed and a nice view of still water and a meadow. Although lovely now, this garden also offers anticipation of what it will be in a few years.

Corinne & Rick Reintjes Dragonfly Estates Garden: Corrine says of her gardens, "It's a one acre property with assorted garden areas. Very hardy, wind tolerant plants, water features, fruit trees, and whimsical garden art." Corrine has built this garden with great thought and care. She particularly loves blue-flowered plants. A beautiful, restful garden.

LeEllen Baker's Rock Garden: This rock garden tumbles from the Baker's house down to Lake Lucille. It contains large rocks and beautiful pathways and a myriad of exquisite plants that have been tenderly cared for. This garden was beautiful all summer and certainly an inspiration when we visited.

Thank you to all the people who worked hard to make this such an enjoyable day for visitors, in spite of the rain!

ARGS at the Alaska Science & Engineering Fair

The Alaska Rock Garden Society (ARGS) will present one award at each level for research or experimentation in the field of Botany or Horticulture. The ARGS Prizes for 2009 will be:

- \$50.00 for the Elementary School category
- \$50.00 for the Middle School category
- \$50.00 for the Senior High category

This is the second year that ARGS has sponsored prizes for the Fair. If you would like to help with the Science Fair and serve as a judge call Carmel Tysver. To see the Alaska Science & Engineering Fair Website go to <http://www.alaskasciencefair.org/SpecialCategories/ARockGardenS.htm>

Plant Tags that Worked!

Florene Carney & Rhonda Williams

This last spring as I helped clean up the Rock Garden at the Alpine Garden Grill (Recluse Gardens) I noted that the tags that Rhonda had used two years ago are still very clear and easy to read. It looked like they were written in heavy pencil on the square metal tags hanging from a single stand stuck in the ground. When I called Rhonda to question her about it she said that she had written those using the softest graphite she could find. I went to Blaine's Art Store in Anchorage, and they helped me find a couple that I am experimenting with in my own rock garden. I am still not sure if the style tags she used, with the single stand, which allows the tag itself to swing in the wind and keep the sign from being blasted head-on by the ice crystals and sand is the biggest factor or if it is just the graphite pencil she used. I have both kinds of tags that I'm trying with the soft graphite pencil and will keep you posted. If you have tried something that really works for marking your plants, please share your information with us.

Notes from the October Meeting

Secretary, Florene Carney

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by President Jaime Rodriguez at the small meeting room at the MTA Building in Palmer. Jaime announced that the December program will be a Christmas Party at the home of Carmel Tysver in Anchorage at 2:00 p.m. on December 13, 2008. The January Program will be on Evergreens for the Rock Garden. Carmel will check with Mark White, who has many lovely specimens in his gardens. There was discussion of who the group would like to have as major speakers for the next couple of years. ARGS is eligible for a NARGS Speaker again in 2010. Among the people suggested were Kristl Walek, Roger from Beaver Creek Nursery, Panayoti Kelaidis from the Denver Botanical Garden. Mark White has agreed to do the Seed Exchange again. Jaime announced that he will be in Homer and Kenai for the next two week-ends doing a program on Building a Rock Garden.

Mary Jo Burns presented a wonderful program on "Hardy Primroses".

Carmel had a car load of dahlia tubers to share that came from Teresa Peich, who is moving outside and wanted to share them.

Thanks to all!

The

Slug Control Experiment (or Cheap Slug Control)

Florene Carney

Last Spring while browsing through one of the garden magazines I read about a slug control that I really questioned. The writer recommended taking the lint out of your dryer trap and rolling it into ropes and placing it around your most treasured plants to keep the slugs away. "Yeah, right!" was my first reaction. Then after I thought about it for a while I thought, why not give it a try? There is no cost involved. When I dry towels or flannel shirts I have a pile of lint in the screen, so why not?

I started saving the big batches of lint that cover the dryer screen and rolled it into ropes. The slugs love the hostas so I started there. Each hosta got a ring of lint around the base. I patted it against the ground and made sure that it didn't have a break in it. I was nervous that it would look shabby, but when I backed away you could hardly notice it (I didn't use the lint gathered from the red robe my Mom loves – too red!) Surprisingly, most of the lint turned out to be one shade of gray or another. Some more blue, some lighter, but all of it disappeared pretty quickly under foliage or blended in with the soil. I didn't re-apply all summer and by fall I only had one hosta that had any kind of slug hole in it and I think that was because some of the leaves had grown over and rested on a rock and the slugs used that as a bridge. Even that one only had a few spots! I am going to try it on many other plants next year. I hope you will too and report back whether you thought it was a success or failure. It didn't kill the slugs – I still go on the rampage periodically with a spray of clear ammonia and water or a dose of Sluggo, but for plain old protection I'm hoping that I'm really onto something here.

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

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

Western Winter Study Week-end

Revitalizing the Rock Garden

presented by

Columbia-Willamette Chapter—North American Rock Garden Society

Portland Oregon

March 13-15, 2009

Will include the 2009 National NARGS Annual General Meeting

Do you want to make a new garden, or make an old rock garden new and exciting again? The 2009 NARGS Western Winter Study Weekend will offer a full slate of lively, informative, varied talks and exhibits, a pleasant venue, early spring gardens and wildflowers, and a great sale.

To learn more about this meeting go to <http://www.nargs.org/meet/west09home.html>

Eastern Winter Study Week-end

“Some Like It Hot”

Gardening in times of climate change

Presented by

The Potomac Valley Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

Reston, Virginia

There's a lot of talk about global warming these days—is it happening or are we seeing nothing more than the normal fluctuation of temperatures when we get a series of mild winters or droughty summers? And if it IS happening, what sorts of changes might we expect to contend with in our gardens, and how can we adapt to these changes? As rock gardeners with a fondness for alpine we seem to be facing a warming planet and less reliable winter snow cover, which may render some of our favorite plants even more difficult to grow. This meeting hopes to address some of these issues and remind us of plants that should thrive in a warmer world. Join us to hear speakers from a wide range of backgrounds give their views on what to expect.

To learn more about this meeting go to www.nargs.org/meet/eastern

Election of Officers

Carmel Tysver

At the November Meeting the Membership will vote on the Slate of officers. The following slate is presented by the Nominating Committee:

President	Jaime Rodriguez
Vice President	Verna Pratt.
Secretary	Jamie Smith
Treasurer	Madge Oswald

Nominations will be open from the floor before the official voting. These positions are very important to the success of the Club. The entire membership is thankful to the people who give their time and energy.

*All in favor
Amelia - made motion*

Seed Exchange

The ARGS Seed Exchange is a wonderful opportunity to get seeds for those special plants you have seen in other gardens, but could never find on the market. Those who send in seeds get first choice and usually some extra seed at the end.

Mark White has once again agreed to be the Intake Manager for the ARGS Seed Exchange. Please put your cleaned seeds in an envelope. In the upper right hand corner of the envelope PRINT your name, the plant name (botanical name is preferable but common if that is all you know) and whether it is wild or garden collected. Put all your seed packets in a padded envelope, so the seeds don't get smashed and send to Mark. He would like to have all the seed by December 1st and the list will go to ARGS members in the January Newsletter. Mark hopes to have all seed distributed by February 1, 2009.

Mail your seed as soon as possible to: (Cut out and use as a mailing label, if you want)

Mark White
35680 Glacier Ave
Sterling, AK 99672

Thank you, Mark!

When the world wearies, there is always the Garden
 - Unknown

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 ARG S to: Alaska Rock Garden Society, PO Box 244136, Anchorage, AK 99524-4136

ARG S 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: () _____ - _____

ARG S 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

Postage paid 2008
Carmel & Neil Tysver
2030 Patriot Circle
Anchorage AK 99515-2503

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Newsletter

November Meeting of The Alaska Rock Garden Society

- *November 15, 2008*
- *1:00 p.m. Board Meeting*
- *2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting*
Cooperative Extension Office, Carlton Trust Building at the corner of Northern Lights & Lake Otis

Program will be "Penstemons—Those you love and those you hate" Bring information, pictures and stories to share.