



Newsletter

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Coming Events

- September 19, (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting –
 Anchorage—Cooperative Extension Office
 Plant Exchange. Bring a plant (or more) to swap for others.
- September 20, (Sun) 2:00 p.m. ABG Rock Garden Fall Clean-up
- October 17, (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting - Palmer
 “Plants on the Edge: A floristic inventory of the Bering Glacier Region.”
 Marilyn Barker (speaker)
 A 10 year study of the very large receding glacier located between Cordova
 and Skagway.
- November 21, (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Regular Meeting—Anchorage
 “Plants for your Troughs” - Florene and Verna
- December 12, (Sat) 1:00 p.m. Christmas Party!!!
 Potluck at Carney’s Snowfire Gardens—Wasilla
 Chinese Auction—bring gift worth \$10.00 or less

September 19th Meeting is a Plant Swap At the Cooperative Extension Office in Anchorage

This time of year we all have a few plants left over from the summer sales and there are a few holes in our gardens where we would like to have some new and exciting plant that we haven't grown before. Bring your extras and trade them to another member for something you'd both like to have. Haggling is allowed!

Bring a plant (or more) to swap for others. Preferably ones that can go right out into your gardens. Be sure to come even if you don't have a plant to share. Bring slides, pictures, CD's, and information on the plants you are bringing.

From the President

Jalme Rodriguez, President

How can it already be the middle of September? Seeds are ripening faster than I can collect them, and old sowings that were scheduled to be dumped after three years of waiting have decided to sprout. We will miss Nancy Beck and Dave Taplin, as they continue their journey in the lower 48, and are excited by the prospect of building a new Tufa garden at the ABG later this month, from the materials we got from Dave and Nancy.

We had a brief visit from Stan and Dona Ashmore this summer. They are prospering in their Mexican vineyards. Stan brought us some exciting news about our *Meconopsis* collection from 99 Dragons. The *Meconopsis* Group has determined that our collection in 2000 is probably the only true *Meconopsis betonicifolia* in cultivation. What has been labeled *M. betonicifolia* in the past is actually *M. baileyi*. In light of this important result from our expedition to China, I would like to start collecting information from growers who have plants from that trip. If you are growing anything that originated from the ARGS China Expedition, please let me know what you have and as much information about each plant as you can share.

It is also time for us to really begin planning another expedition. It has been ten years since the China trip. We have a commitment from Dan Hinkley that he would be willing to travel with us again. I expect the board will be discussing this at our next several meetings. We have funds that are dedicated to a future expedition, and that amount continues to grow.

I will be speaking in Kenai on October 23 and 24 for the Central Peninsula Garden Club. Friday evening they have asked for a repeat of the Rock Garden Construction and Good Rock Garden Plants lecture, and on Saturday afternoon I'll be doing the workshop on propagating from cuttings.

I hope your fall gardening is as satisfying as I am having. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings and swapping stories about this extraordinary summer.

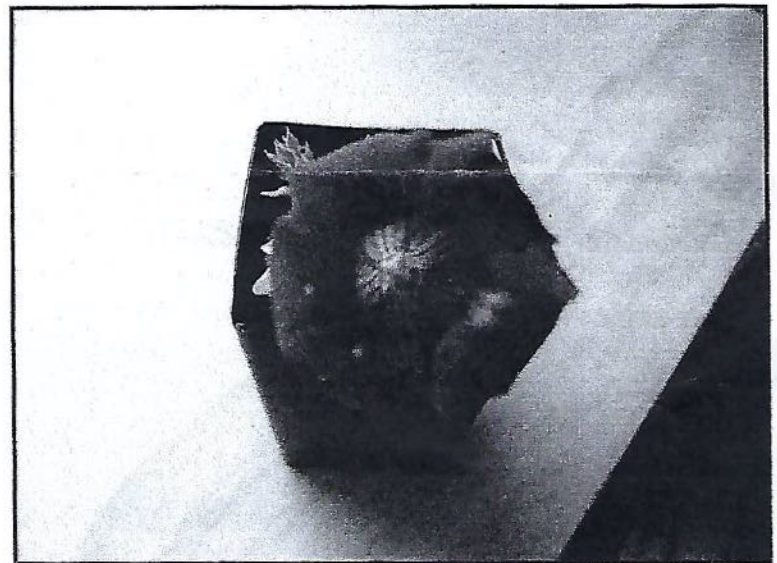
Gentiana acaulis

By Carmel Tysver

Carmel is a founding member of the Alaska Rock Garden Society, Past President, and frequent contributor to the Newsletter.

This past March while in the Portland area for WWSW (Western Winter Study Week-end) we visited with a friend that used to live on the Kenai. She has a small nursery at her home and had lots of sedums. When we asked where she purchased them she said Edelweiss Perennials which is a whole sale nursery. She thought that if we called and told them she recommended them they might let us visit. Time was tight as it always is when we go to one of the weekends so we never called. When we got home I looked up the nursery on the internet and was impressed at the selection they had so I decided to try and order, just a few things. Needless to say \$120 later I had an order emailed to them. It came in great condition at the time I requested. Here is a photograph of *Gentiana acaulis* Hybrid 'Holzmann' in bloom still in the pot. It is not in a trough and is blooming for the second time. Definitely a site I will be going to for an order again next year.

Gentiana Acaulis Hybrid 'Holzmann'
Looking down the throat of the blossom.



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

Or write: Bobby J. Ward, Exec. Secretary NARGS, P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604, USA

2009 Garden Tours Anchorage

This year our garden visits were in Anchorage. Two separate dates were chosen and all the gardens were wonderful! If you missed seeing the collection of gardens this year, you missed an opportunity to see some of the best of Alaska's rock gardens. Thank you to all the garden owners who invited us into their special spaces!

Sunday, June 7, 1—4 P.M.

Garden #1—Verna and Frank Pratt

An exquisite garden with many facets. Beautiful alpine plants, a year-round greenhouse on the roof, garden beds, berries, and a host of native plants as well as water features. The rock gardens are reminiscent of the high mountains of Alaska and the plants are perfectly placed for best growing conditions. This is a garden that inspires the most sophisticated gardeners. Thank you Frank and Verna!

Garden #2—Jane & Bob Baldwin's Garden:

This garden is a Primula Lover's Paradise! Jane is obviously a collector and has turned even her carrot beds into Primula beds. This was prime time to see the garden as there were hundreds of flowers in bloom. It was an opportunity to see the many varieties and colors that Primulas come in. All well grown and beautiful. Thank you Jan and Bob!

Garden #3—Kathy Swick's Garden

Kathy's garden was a wonderful surprise. It is located right next to a residential street that in some areas would be called a "hell strip". In this case it is a little chunk of heaven. Kathy has carefully built a rock garden of small exquisite little plants that is perfectly planted and meticulously labeled. It is definitely a jewel in her neighborhood and an inspiration to all gardeners with only a small space. Thank you for inviting us in, Kathy!

(Review of Garden Tours Cont'd on Page 7)

NARGS no longer will automatically distribute printed seed lists to all its members.

NARGS national members who would like to receive a printed copy of the Seed List - either because of no computer, or slow internet connections - must request a copy from the Seed Exchange Director by November 15, 2009:

Joyce Fingerut
537 Taugwonk Road
Stonington, CT 06378-1805
860.535.3067
alpinegarden@comcast.net

Thank you -
Joyce

**“Plants for Troughs” will highlight October Meeting
Saturday October 17 at MTA Meeting Room in Palmer**

Verna Pratt and Florene Carney will present a program on plants that work well in troughs. There will be a power point program and hand outs. .
Meeting will be at the MTA Meeting Room in Palmer.

**“Plants on the Edge: A Floristic Inventory of the Bering Glacier
Region. Marilyn Barker, speaker at Cooperative Extension in Anchorage (Carlton
Trust Building at the corner of Northern Lights & Lake Otis)**

Meeting will be in Anchorage at the Cooperative Extension Office.
This will be a can't miss meeting. Marilyn will have photos to share and a wealth of information about the Bering Glacier region. This will be an opportunity to see a section of Alaska that not everyone gets to enjoy.

December is Time to Party! Join us for a “Snowfire Christmas”

Grab a gift of \$10.00 or less, a dish to share and head out to Carney's at 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, (off Mile 5.2 Fairview Lp. Rd. in Wasilla . Call 376-5390) This will be a fun time to talk about the years gardens, what we are planning for next year and relax before the Holidays.

Rock Gardens Everywhere!

This summer Verna Pratt, Kathy Zins, Florene Carney, Jaime Rodriguez and Marilyn Barker finished up a new rock garden at the Palmer Visitors Center. The old rock garden was torn apart last year and stripped of the plants that could be saved. New soil was hauled in and Don Carling from the City of Palmer hauled in a wonderful selection of rocks. Plants were donated by several ARGs members and the fun began. Rocks were placed, plants were dug in and top dressing put on. Name stakes for plants were provided and filled in. A project that started last summer was taken up again this spring and finished by mid-August. In the end it felt like a job well-done. The City of Palmer plans to provide a plaque giving credit to The Alaska Rock Garden Society for their work and donations of plants.



Taking a break at the Palmer Visitor Center Rock Garden

Verna Pratt, Florene Carney, Marilyn Barker, and Kathy Zins take a break from placing rocks, planting and top dressing the new rock garden.

A Job Well Done!

The newly finished rock garden at the Palmer Visitors Center will be a show place by next summer.



2009 Garden Tours - cont'd Saturday, July 25th 1-4 PM

Two exceptional gardens were presented on this tour. The weather held for most of the time although a few visitors were caught in a downpour at the end of the day. It was worth the effort to see both of these beautiful hillside gardens.

Madge & John Oswald's Garden

Even in the midst of a complete remodel of the house and part of the garden, this garden had a lot to show. The rock gardens are built up with slate walls and sprinkled with delightful "found items". It is obviously a garden that is lived in by the entire Oswald family. The outdoor fireplaces and several seating areas invited the guests in to take a closer look and enjoy visiting about the latest plant acquisitions. The vegetable garden sits close enough to be enjoyed by the cook even though it is fenced to keep the moose at bay. Perennial borders around the deck were in full bloom and lovely. We are hoping they invite us back after all the renovation is complete because it promises to be even more wonderful then! Thank you Madge and John for having us over!

John & Amelia Walsh's Garden:

This beautiful rock garden is like seeing Alaska with a taste of Italy thrown in. Dahlias and potted plants greeted the visitors when they arrived at the front of the house. As we travelled around to the back we were greeted with immaculate pathways leading through huge, beautifully planted and well kept rock gardens. Streams run through the rock gardens in several places, a hidden pond was revealed and a huge waterfall was the finale as you left the grounds. At every turn were beautiful and sometimes whimsical art pieces and beautiful plantings. A wonderful treat in every respect. Thank you John and Amelia for inviting us!

ARGS Gets Tufa for Botanical Garden!

We are sad to report that Nancy Beck and Dave Taplin will be moving to Oregon. The one bright spot in their leaving is that ARGS was able to purchase their tufa rock collection. A group of avid rock gardeners including Verna Pratt, Doug and Florene Carney, Madge Oswald, Carmel Tysver, and Dave and Nancy met at their home and moved the rock to the Alaska Botanical Garden where it will be made into a special "tufa garden". The soil was also moved by volunteers on the Day of Caring. The plan is to put the rocks in place and get it ready for planting on September 20th. If you'd like to learn more about building a rock garden, this is an excellent opportunity.



NARGS 2010

Romancing the Rockies *The Marriage of Plant and Stone*

Exploration and field study of the "edaphic factor": how does limestone or granite substrate influence the flora and biodiversity?

July 11-14, 2010
Denver & Salida, Colorado

Join the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS for a trip to the **undiscovered** Colorado that is every bit as beautiful as—but somehow more pristine and authentic—than the famous resorts that grab headlines. The meeting is scheduled to coincide with the peak of the alpine season: come dance with *Eritrichium* and primulas on the very backbone of America!

Information at www.rmcnargs.org and more to follow.

Donation Instructions for Seed Exchange 2009

Mark White

Please make a copy of the Donation Form included in this newsletter; complete the form in Block Capitals in alphabetical order by Botanical name with common name in (parentheses) and legible.

Include the completed form with your donated seed.

Make sure the seed is clean and free of chaff, grit, etc. Seal the envelopes and mark with your last name and the Botanical name on each envelope. If you don't know the full name of the plant please include as much detail as possible.

To qualify for Donor status you must send in a minimum of 5 different varieties of seed, preferably suited for the rock garden. Preference will be given to those who send seed in early as we mark the incoming seed as to date received. We will accept seed until December 1, 2009. At that time we will complete the list of donated seed, package the seed, and be ready for shipment after the first of the year once the list has been sent to the membership.

We appreciate each of your efforts to collecting seed from your garden and in the wild (make sure you're collecting from appropriate areas). Look around your garden and I think you will be surprised of what you might have that could be shared with the membership.

(Form on Page 10)

2009 Alaska Rock Garden Society Seed Exchange Donation Form
Garden and Wild COLLECTED SEED

Name:	Address:
E-mail address:	

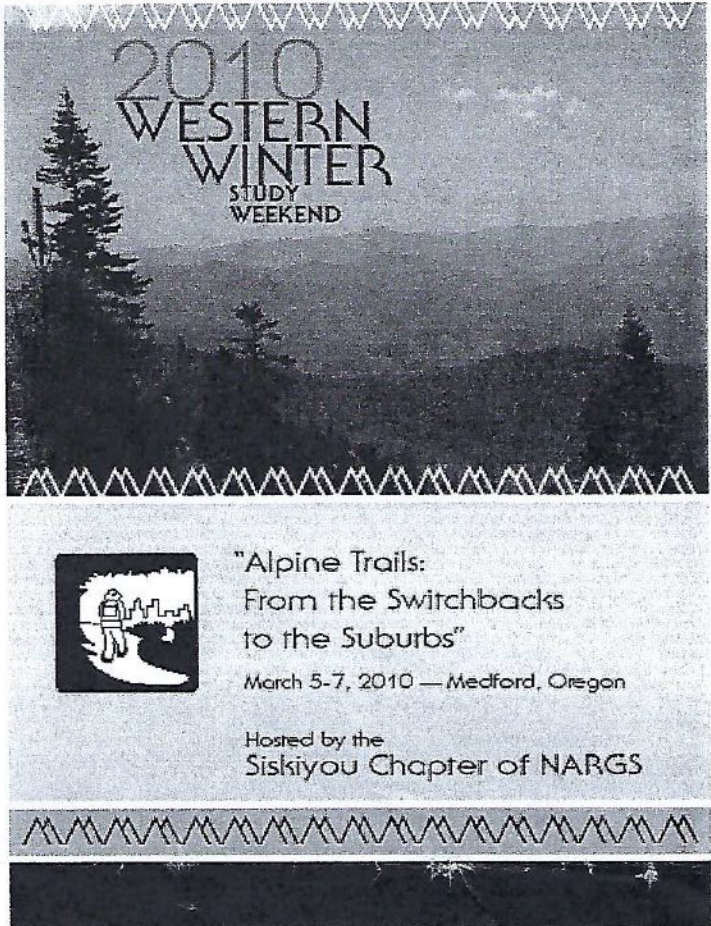
****TYPE or PRINT**** (legibly) botanical names & place Common name in parentheses on this list and on each of the separate envelopes..

Send **CLEAN, DRY** seed in paper, plastic or glassine envelopes.


Your **last name** must be on **ALL** envelopes.

List Collected Seed <u>ALPHABETICALLY</u> by Botanical Name (Common name in parentheses). Please note if WILD collected.	Height (in)	Color
Send Seeds to: Mark E. White ARGs SEED EXCHANGE, 35680 Glacier Ave., Sterling, Alaska 99672		

Start planning now for this exciting week-end! The Winter Study week-ends are a wealth of information and sharing.



2010
WESTERN
WINTER
STUDY
WEEKEND



"Alpine Trails:
From the Switchbacks
to the Suburbs"
March 5-7, 2010 — Medford, Oregon
Hosted by the
Siskiyou Chapter of NARGS

Contribute to NARGS Image Library

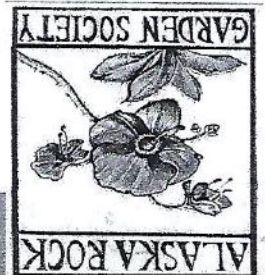
NARGS is creating an image library and calling on members from all chapters to contribute. The first project will be to scan the 35mm slides from the NARGS Slide Library. "Please notify all your members that we need their photos. All photos will be accepted. If they are in a non-digital format (35mm or negatives) contact me to schedule a time when they can be scanned," writes John Serowicz, who is heading up the library. For more information, see <http://acnargs.blogspot.com/2009/08/contribute-to-nargsimage->



We're on the Web
www.args.org

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

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



Newsletter

September Meeting is in Anchorage at the Cooperative Extension Office. September 19th at 2:00 p.m. Plant Swap!

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