

# GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)

SPRING NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2013



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CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS \*\*meeting details below\*\*

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## **\*\*SATURDAY, MARCH 16: SPRING MEETING**

**MEETING:** 11:00 AM – ca. 3:30 PM  
**MORNING EVENT:** 11:00 AM – Visit University of Michigan Herbarium to tour collections by noted Plant Explorers– see map insert

**LUNCH:** 12:15 PM – Catered lunch at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium – see map insert.  
Note that if you have time, you can tour the conservatory for free [and remember the gardens now has a parking fee].

**AFTERNOON EVENT:** Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium  
– see map insert

**PROGRAM:** 1:30 PM Peter George  
*The Evolution of My Garden, or Why My Garden Proves that there is No Such Thing as Intelligent Design*

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## **\*\*SATURDAY, MAY 11: SPRING GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SALE**

**MEETING:** 11:00 AM – ca. 3:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Duvall Nursery; Andy & Carol Duvall, South Lyon  
– see map insert  
11:00-ca. 1:00 tour the gardens and nursery

**BAG LUNCH:** While touring garden  
**PLANT SALE:** 1:30 PM

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### **Mark Your Calendars:**

Saturday, September 21, 2013: Fall Meeting and Plant Sale.  
Details about the Fall Meeting and Plant Sale will be in the Fall Newsletter.

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### **UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS:**

May 2-5, 2013, Asheville, North Carolina. *Exploring the Flora of the Blue Ridge*. Visit <http://www.nargs2013.org/index.php> for details -- there is still time to register!

## Is there life outdoors yet?

Tony Reznicek

Few rock gardeners can wait patiently for spring, but after last year's absurd spring and summer, I am actually glad that we still have snow and cold weather, as I write this in late February. Before the most recent snow storm, I already saw hellebores, *Adonis*, and snow drops showing color, so it won't be long – but I'm still hoping for a small delay.

After this recent snowstorm, I can also reflect on the advantages of rock garden plants. The wet snow we had on February 26 made a mess of some plants – Along one side of our place, we have two large white pines; lovely trees, but with weak and brittle limbs that are uniquely designed for flattening shrubs growing under them and around the periphery of their branches. One branch reached out while falling, loaded with ice and snow, to lop off the top foot of a Japanese umbrella pine. Another took out one of the main stems of a Florida star anise in a sheltered spot near the house. Both injuries much worse than the piece of eaves trough that the falling limbs also took out! Don't plant white pines in your yard unless you enjoy cleaning up large limbs after storms once they get larger!

It is in storms like this that you also realize the importance of careful pruning to remove weak crotches, double trunks, etc. I had several small trees split in half where I had neglected this, and limbs of a few shrubs broken where I had left dense, twiggy growth that I was going to remove, but had not gotten to yet! Keep up to date with pruning!

It's also clear that there are some plants that just naturally resist snow and ice damage very well. My hardy Himalayan Cedar, *Cedrus deodara* 'Karl Fuchs' bends gracefully like a tree used to heavy mountain snows should, and even some broad leaved evergreens are so flexible that they do not snap. Just don't plant them under or near large white pines! I've not yet found any shrub or tree that resists huge snow-laden branches crashing down on them!

But I don't think that I've ever had a rock garden plant killed by having a tree limb fall on them, though if they fell just right, pointed end down, I could imagine it. But your chances are good! So

keep in mind that the best way to avoid winter damage to your garden is to plant more rock gardens!

## Meeting Notes – Fall Meeting, Nov. 10, 2012 and Winter Potluck, Jan. 19, 2013

Libby Greanya

### November 10, 2012 MINUTES

The meeting at Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium was called to order by President Bonnie Ion at 1:35 pm.

Treasurer's report on the fall plant sale (which was at Clarence Owens garden in Jackson on September 15, 2012): despite somewhat low attendance, the fall plant sale netted \$735 and \$90 in dues for a total of \$825.00 (Note that the spring plant sale netted \$1,200).

Our speaker was Rex Murfitt, from Victoria, Canada, who gave two talks, a primary one on *Rock Garden Plants Suitable for Eastern North America, with an Emphasis on Saxifrages*, which showed many plants, often in in troughs and a second one which was a primer on *How to Landscape and Plant Troughs*.

Rex has written books on both these topics, and so it was a great pleasure to hear about these plants and see nice "how to" photos from a real expert. [The books are: **1999** - *Creating and Planting Garden Troughs* (with Joyce Fingerhut) re-issued in paperback in 2011 by B. B. Mackey Books. **2005** - *Creating and Planting Alpine Gardens: How to Build Small Rock Gardens and Work with Alpine Plants*. B.B. Mackey Books.]

The January 19, 2013 potluck and meeting will be at Matthaei. Our very own members will present garden vignettes of their choice.

The slate of officers for 2013 will be:

President: Patrick Ion

Vice President: open position

Treasurer: Susan Reznicek

Secretary: Libby Greanya

Newsletter Editor: Tony Reznicek

Parking fees are now in place at Matthaei (to make parking across the U of M Campus uniform per Tony Reznicek). If any member desires, Susan Reznicek can reimburse for their parking expenses. Note that there is no longer a charge for the Conservatory.

## January 19, 2013 MINUTES

After a four star potluck and sharing Chadwell seed, the meeting was called to order by President Patrick Ion at 1:05 pm.

Minutes from the November meeting were read. Motion to accept the minutes by Elaine Rappley. Second by Colleen Weiss. Minutes accepted.

Patrick will complete and submit the Annual Chapter Report to NARGS.

Tony Reznicek encouraged everyone to join the national organization and to vote for our own Don LaFond who is running for a position on the Board of Directors 2013-2016. Note that you need your membership number to vote which is on the outer wrapper of your Rock Garden journal (or can be obtained from NARGS).

Our speaker for the March 16, 2013 meeting will be the President of NARGS, Peter George. The meeting will also include visit to the University of Michigan Herbarium (about a 10 minute drive from Matthaei) for a private tour. Tony will guide you through some of the plant collections of the famous plant collectors/botanists including many names that you will recognize. Among the plants that Tony will have out for people to see will be original specimens collected by Reginald Farrer, George Forrest, Augustine Henry, Joseph Rock, and others – mostly from China.

There was discussion about early spring garden tours for bulbs. Some garden bulbs are very early (for example, Rimmer's bulbs are often done by March 10). The idea of attending the Ontario Chapter meetings was brought up but transport of plants across the border is, of course, problematic.

Patrick encouraged people to send him photos for our website. Note that if those photos contain people, there needs to be a written release for them to be posted! (The release forms are widely available on the internet and are simple). Photos of plants do not require release forms unless the plant is particularly "testy" that day.

Jacques Thompson volunteered to fill the position of Vice President!

Forty people present for the vignettes presentations! (48°/sunny weather was perfect). Vignettes were presented by Rimmer DeVries, Michael Greanya, Don LaFond, Tony Reznicek, & Jacques Thompson.

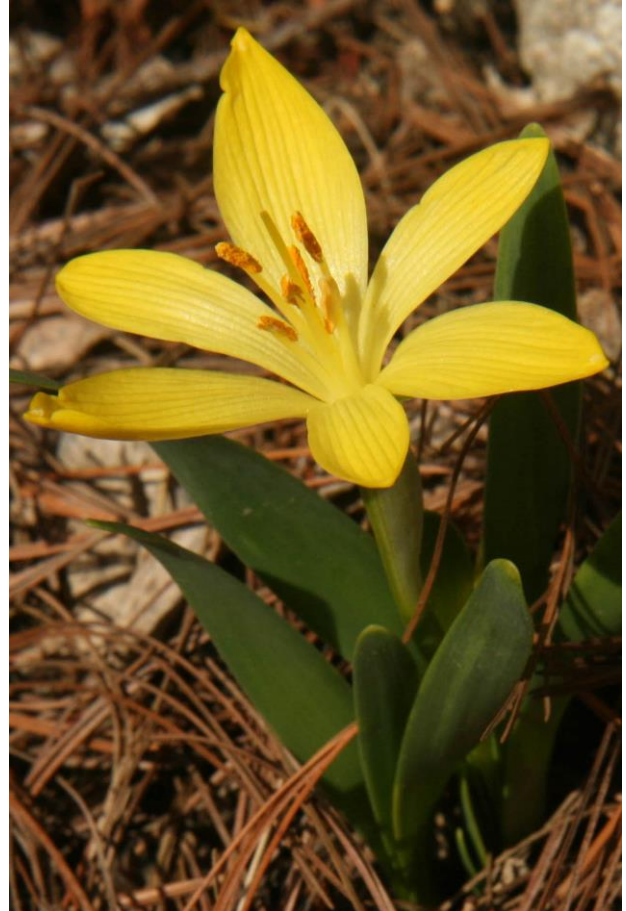
Motion to adjourn the meeting by Don LaFond. Second by Elaine Rappley. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm

## Our New Website:

For those of you that have not checked it out yet, please look at our New Website:

<http://glcnargs.com/home.htm> You can find all the information about upcoming meetings, past newsletters, more photos, links, and lots of interesting and informative material. It's great to have this, and please thank Patrick Ion for building it up. If you have comments, helpful suggestions, and photos, please let him know.

Up and coming soon, in a garden near you.....



*Sternbergia fischeriana* in bloom March 11, 2012. This spring blooming species is easier than the fall blooming ones because the leaves do not come up in the fall and thus avoid winter damage.

**Please send address changes to our Treasurer,  
and please include your up-to-date email address.  
Thank You.**

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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

**Great Lakes Chapter:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

**National Organization:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:**  
Susan Reznicek  
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS  
890 Wickfield Court  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227

**Send \$30.00 dues (check payable to NARGS) to:**  
Bobby Ward  
Executive Secretary  
North American Rock Garden Society  
P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619

**OR pay in person at the next GLC meeting**

We strongly encourage people to join both the Great Lakes Chapter, and the National Organization.

**GREAT LAKES CHAPTER  
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**FIRST CLASS**