

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
WINTER NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2023



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

You can always check our website for information: <http://glcnargs.com/>

****SATURDAY, April 8: Spring Meeting!**

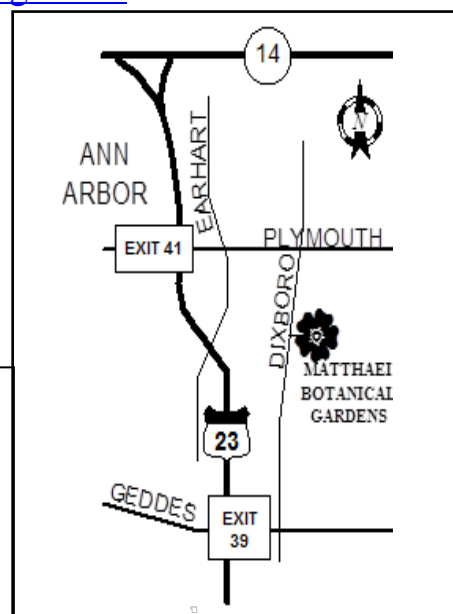
PLACE: Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

Due to a morning event, we are in the auditorium only after lunch
Lecture programs by Ian and Carole Bainbridge:

2:00 PM: World of Bulbs

4:00 PM: A garden from scratch: development of our
Galloway garden since 2010

Drs. Carole and Ian Bainbridge, from southwest Scotland, are keen Rock Gardeners, active for many years in the Scottish Rock Garden Club in various capacities. For over forty years they have travelled extensively around the world in search of alpine plants. Since their retirement, they have been working on their Galloway garden, started from scratch in 2010, after they moved from Edinburgh after 31 years. Ian's career was with the Scottish government working in nature conservation and ecology. Carole followed her degree in biology working in various positions including the European Commission. She eventually retrained in garden design and had her own company. We are very fortunate to have two talks from such knowledgeable and world travelled gardeners!



TWO BUS TRIPS!! – see next two pages for full information to sign up:

1. SATURDAY, May 13: Spring meeting, Plant Sale, & Garden tour

We'll be visiting Benedict's Nursery, in northern Indiana. If you have been there, you will know it is a major destination for display gardens and great plants. So be prepared to be amazed – and get some super plants above and beyond our normally spectacular spring sale!

2. WEDNESDAY, June 28: Bus Trip to Walter's Gardens and other special gardens

This will be a special trip to visit a horticultural Mecca right here in Michigan! See the next pages for full details on this exciting trip.

NARGS 2023 Annual Meeting – 2023 Nova Scotia NARGS Conference and AGM: Rocks, Plants, Habitats. June 8, 2023 - June 11, 2023 TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA. Check the Quarterly or the NARGS website:

(<https://www.nargs.org/2023-nova-scotia-nargs-conference-and-agm-rocks-plants-habitats>) for details.

Bus Trip to Benedict's Nursery: SATURDAY, May 13, 2023. Spring meeting, Plant Sale, & Garden Tour. See also the plant sale insert

The Fall 2022 NARGS Quarterly had this fabulous article, [A Conversation With Esther Benedict | North American Rock Garden Society \(nargs.org\)](#). Esther is one popular lady and was also a featured National NARGS speaker in February 25 2023 (<https://www.nargs.org/nargs-rocks-whats-new-rock-gardening-video> -- NB, you'll need your ticket to view this).

The chapter has decided to subsidize the cost of the bus charter if at least (40) members sign up for the low, low price of \$20/member. Your check will be returned if the bus is full. Bus tip will be collected separately on the bus.

7:30 am	Bus arrives at Meijer to start boarding/loading plants for the sale
8:00 am	Depart Meijer Ann Arbor, 5645 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
8:30 am	Depart Meijer Jackson, 3333 N. Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI 49202
11:00	2:00 Benedict's Nursery, Nappanee, IN; Open Garden and Nursery Visit
1:00	GLC-NARGS plant sale & Auction
2:00	Depart
4:30 pm	Arrive Meijer Jackson, 3333 N. Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI 49202
5:00 pm	Arrive Meijer Ann Arbor, 5645 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

The bus has plenty of space available to bring your spring sale donations and we will make sure to not leave any plants behind!

Lunch will be provided.

Get a friend to join the chapter so that they can come along with you on this fun trip! It would be a wonderful Mother's Day gift if you are looking for ideas!

Make your check out to GLC-NARGS, mail to Colleen Mitchell, 3995 Monks Road, Pinckney, MI 48169. In the memo spot on your check please indicate SPRING SALE BUS TRIP.



Two views of the beautiful gardens at Benedict's Nursery!

Bus Trip to Walter's Gardens and other special gardens: Wednesday June 28, 2023.

Walters Gardens was founded in 1942 and has now grown to 1,500 acres, producing almost 20 million perennial plants per year. Over 100 new varieties developed by their team of hybridizers. Recently a bog garden has been added to their displays. <https://www.waltersgardens.com>

We will be visiting a very special private garden shortly afterwards! Prepare to be amazed!

Garden Solutions develops and hybridizes sempervivums, ajugas and sedums. Their motto is Unique is a prerequisite. Rare is a requirement. Beauty is fundamental. Typically Garden Solutions is only a wholesale nursery and does not open their display gardens. They will be providing some plants for sale (cash/check only). Check out their website which includes their catalog, a great picture of their display garden is on the first page of their 2023 collection catalog. <https://gardensolutionsplants.com>

Those that sign up for the bus trip will cast their vote to stop at either WW Greenhouses or Romence Gardens.

WW Greenhouses is a retail nursery provides an opportunity to purchase plants that we fell in love with at Walters Gardens. <https://wwgreenhouses.com>

Romence Gardens is also a retail greenhouse. Their website indicates a selection of rock garden plants (and they have ice cream!) <https://romencegardens.com>

Schedule:

8:00 AM	Depart 9365 Spencer Rd, Brighton, MI 48114 (park & ride I-96, E of US23)
10:00 AM	arrive Walters Gardens; box lunch at Walters Garden
12:25 PM	Private garden
2:15 PM	Garden Solutions, Hudsonville, MI. 49426
4:15 PM	Romence Gardens ... OR...WW Greenhouse (bus trip attendees to decide)
5:30 PM	Depart
7:30 PM	Return 9365 Spencer Rd, Brighton, MI 48114 (park & ride I-96, E of US23)

GLC-NARGS members: Bus trip \$20/person; non-members \$30/person; GLC-NARGS annual membership is \$20/couple.

Signup preference will be provided to GLC-NARGS members through the end of March.

Make your check out to GLC-NARGS, mail to Colleen Mitchell, 3995 Monks Road, Pinckney, MI 48169. In the memo spot on your check please indicate JUN 28 BUS TRIP. Deadline is May 30. Your check will be returned if the bus is full. Bus tip will be collected separately on the bus.

For the box lunch at Walters Gardens; please check your email from Colleen (March 11) for the listing and prices or ask me (reznicek@umich.edu) or Colleen (nofhell@aol.com) to forward it to you. It is ok to provide one check for both bus ticket and lunch selection. It is also ok to drive separate and order a box lunch.

Letter from the President

Julie Caroff

Hello Chapter Members,

2023 is off to a great start for our chapter. We just completed the SeedEx surplus round, thanks to Lisa Oxford, Holly Pilon, Tony Reznicek and chapter members, who braved the cold, which was made much easier by Libby and Mike Greanya's loan of the ultimate space heater. SeedEx is one of the most important benefits of NARGS membership, giving members access to many rare plants that are otherwise unavailable and helping with the preservation of these plants. The third consecutive year that the chapter processed the surplus round, we were able to provide this extra year thanks to Lisa Oxford stepping forward to be the coordinator, and Holly Pilon's mentoring.

Coming up in the next few weeks is the lecture by Ian and Carole Bainbridge on April 8, which is part of the NARGS lecture series. Members, you do not want to miss these lectures! Many thanks to Bonnie Ion for reviving our participation in the lecture series and to Don and Mary LaFond for hosting the Bainbridges.

Seats on the bus are filling up for the trip to Esther and Robert Benedict's nursery for the spring meeting and sale on May 13. For those of us who have been to their nursery, its wonders need no mention. And, if you haven't been to the nursery and haven't signed up, don't wait! The destination is full of Alpine marvels, the bus trip is always fun, and the Benedicts are delightful hosts.

And, there is one more chapter event that you don't want to miss: the June 28 trip to Walters garden. Thanks to the efforts of Colleen Mitchell, we have a chance to see the gardens and facilities of one of the country's leading wholesale perennial suppliers. Even more exciting, we are having the opportunity to visit a very special private garden.

Plus, we will stop at two more nurseries where we can buy plants, which we will want

to do after seeing Walters Nursery. If you haven't reserved your seat on the bus yet, please email Colleen because these seats are filling up quickly too.

I'm seeing signs of spring after what always seems to be an endless Michigan winter. What a joy it is to begin to return to our gardens.

Happy spring,

Julie

The Azary Rock Garden

We made great progress last summer and fall with the Azary Rock Garden re-build. It's going to be, we suspect, the largest public tufa garden in the US. But we're not quite done. We have a very small amount of layout left to do, some clean-up, plus we need to plant. Here is a beginning list of plants for people to help us obtain. That's a hint...

For planting among the tufa:

Androsace sarmentosa, maybe *A. villosa*
Arabis bryoides
Armeria 'Victor Reiter'
Campanula betulifolia
Campanula cochlearifolia
Coluteocarpus vesicaria
Daphne (any small ones)
Delosperma congestum
Dianthus simulans
Dryas sp. (dwarf ideally)
Dwarf *Phlox subulata* (e.g. 'Betty,' Herbert')
Erigeron compositus
Erodium chrysanthum
Erodium x 'Natascha'
Eunomia oppositifolia
Genista pilosa 'Vancouver Gold'
Gentiana – any "acaulis" types
Geranium 'Purple Pillow'
Globularia incanescens
Gypsophila repens (dwarf form)
Iberis saxatilis
Patrinia triloba
Physoplexis comosa

Phyteuma sp.
Potentilla porphyrantha
Pterocephalus depressus
Pulsatilla spp. (for the dry top)
Sempervivum sp. to seal erosion faces
Silene uniflora 'Compacta'
Tetraneuris herbacea
Viola (dwarf)

A few later blooming things:

Inula ensifolia 'Compacta'
Symphyotrichum ericoides 'Snowflurry'
Veronica spicata 'Nana'

Bulbs:

Allium flavum 'Minus'
Allium thunbergii 'Ozawa' (and white clone)
Crocus (small ones)
Iris reticulata types (a few)
Narcissus "More and More"
Tulipa – small species?

For the shaded tufa:

Asplenium trichomanes
Astilbe crispa 'Lilliput'
Astilbe simplicifolia
Athyrium filix-femina 'Minutissima'
Haberlea spp.
Primula marginata cultivars
Primula – other appropriate species
Ramonda myconi
Selaginella sanguinolenta
Selaginella wallacei
Thalictrum kiusianum
Woodsia obtusa

Plants to seed onto the tufa (just to start):

Aquilegia small species
Centaurium scilloides
Draba spp.
Erinus alpinus
Lesquerella, *Physaria*, and other mustards
Linaria alpina
Penstemon arenicola
Townsendia parryi

Another round of the seed exchange done!!

This was our last year taking care of the second round of the seed exchange for NARGS – one year more than our initial commitment. But we finished up on Sunday, March 19, after filling about 260 orders over a few weeks, then dividing the remaining seed up amongst all the chapters and packing up. The big garage was colder than usual, as a cold spell seemed to settle in for the duration of the seed exchange – after a mild February!

Many thanks to Lisa Oxford for setting up the scheduling and sign-up of volunteers, Lisa Quiggle for getting the orders ready, Colleen Mitchell for doing the mailings, and Holly Pilon for orienting people, helping with mailing, and general organization. Special thanks also to Mike Greanya for loaning us a powerful propane heater that allowed us to proceed with fingers mostly thawed. Volunteers who helped fill orders in the cold were: Michael Bradley, Julie Caroff, Susan Haddock, Bonnie Ion, Patrick Ion, Linda Gates, Mike Greanya, Pat Karl, Don LaFond, Colleen Mitchell, Holly Pilon, Lisa Quiggle, Tony Reznicek, Jacques Thompson, Bev Walters, Guerin Wilkinson, and Deb Yeary. Thanks everyone!

No Matter the weather, it's now officially spring – so what's in bloom

Tony Reznicek

Late March is typically when you can first go out into the garden and see a lot of things in bloom. Of course, if you work at it, there are *Galanthus*, *Hamamelis*, and *Helleborus* selections that can bloom essentially all winter long, if all goes well. But generally, the first spring bulbs start in late February, so now, several weeks later, we can go out and see snowdrops and *Eranthis* species in full bloom, the *Crocus* that the chipmunks did not eat last year (and the rabbits now), see

reticulata Irises starting up, the earliest Squills, *Leucojum vernum*, *Adonis*, spring *Cyclamen*, and a few other precocious things.

This is not the blaze of plants we see in April, but enough to put on a sweater on sunny days and enjoy. So here is a medley of pictures taken on a few sunny days recently, mostly of things a bit beyond the usual snowdrops, crocus, and ordinary winter aconite.



Chrysosplenium macrophyllum



Porophyllum saxifrage almost out



Another "almost out:" *Ypsilandra thibetica*

The above three pictures are pretty non-traditional March bloomers, but almost always are in bloom by the very end of March.

Some funky winter aconites:



Double *Eranthis hyemalis*



Eranthis pinnatifida flower – blue anthers!!

Some *Cyclamen coum*



Pale flowered and darker – the differing leaf patterns are great.

The earliest squill, with a difficult to spell name



Scilla mischtschenkoana

An early and short *Cardamine* – but forming a dense cover (maybe too dense...)



Cardamine quinquefolia

The first few *reticulata* *Iris*



Top *Iris* 'Eye Catcher' *Iris* 'Katharine Hodgkin'

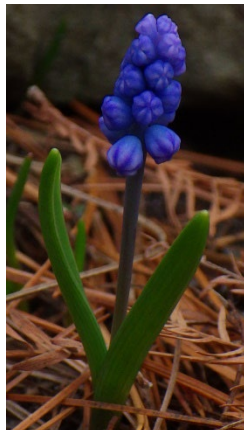
Finally, *Adonis* – you can't have too many, but they are hard to establish, and most are sterile hybrids.



Adonis 'Beni Nadeshiko'



Adonis 'Chichibu beni'



Leucojum vernum and *Muscari azureum* (the latter interesting but tiny – no, miniscule!)



Adonis 'Fukujukai' – the fastest increaser



Adonis multiflora – the only fertile species I've been able to establish



Helleborus thibetanus



A new *Hamamelis* planted just last year –
Hamamelis japonica 'Tsukubana Kurreani'
(‘Shibamichi Red’)
A non-fading red flowered cultivar!

Please send address and contact information changes to:

**Colleen Mitchell,
3995 Monks Road,
Pinckney, MI 48169, USA**

Do include your up-to-date email address.

Thank You.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Send \$20.00 per year (check payable to Chapter) to:
Colleen Mitchell
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS
3995 Monks Road
Pinckney, MI 48169, USA

OR pay in person at the next GLC meeting

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

National Organization:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Send \$40.00 dues (check payable to NARGS) to:
Bobby Ward
Executive Secretary
North American Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619

OR pay through the NARGS website:
<https://www.nargs.org/join>

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