

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

FALL NEWSLETTER, September 2002

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

** meeting details below**

****SATURDAY, September 21. Fall garden tour and plant sale:**

MEETING: 11:00 am - ca. 3:30 pm
PLACE: Eileen & Richard O'Melay, 5085 North Oakvale Ct.
Wyoming, MI 49509 [see map]
BAG LUNCH noon
PLANT SALE: 1:30 - Plant sale begins

****SATURDAY, October 19. Fall meeting**

MEETING: 11:00 am - ca. 2:30 pm
PLACE: Livingston County Conservation Club, 6060 E M36,
Hamburg MI 48139 [see map]
PROGRAM: 11:00 - Business meeting
noon - Pot Luck lunch
1:00 - Phyllis Gustafson:
*'Gardens of the Pacific Northwest with an
Emphasis on Crevice Gardening'*

****FRIDAY-SUNDAY, January 24-26. 2003 Eastern Winter Study Weekend**

This will be our winter meeting this year, and will be a wonderful event. If you have never been to a winter study weekend before because they were far away, make sure to come now, when it is in your backyard. You will hear wonderful lectures and meet gardeners from all over.

See the brochure enclosed with your newsletter, and send in your registration now. Also see inside for volunteer opportunities. Come help out!

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS — see your Quarterly for details

Western Winter Study Weekend: "Treasures of the Plant Hunters" February 28 - March 2, 2003
Vancouver Airport Conference Resort, 10251 St. Edwards Dr., Richmond, British Columbia
Information: Moya Drummond, registrar (604) 738-6570

Annual Meeting "Rush to the Rockies" July 8-13, 2003
Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, Colorado
Information: Mary Komodore, chair (303) 526-1054

Eastern Winter Study Weekend 2003 News

Our chapter is up to bat next for the eastern winter study weekend, and there is lots to do!

Propagation of Plants for the EWSW2003 Meeting:

We would like our Chapter's Sale Table at the EWSW2003 meeting to have a nice selection of our members' plants for sale. Those of you propagating plants should report as soon as possible to Betty Blake at (517) 467-2354, 11200 Killarney, Onsted, MI 49265 (email: Blakegarden1@aol.com). Even though there may be some failures of your propagations before the sale it is important that we know what is happening with your efforts. We need to know in advance what people hope to bring. We can always cross plants off the list if they don't work out, but we do need some lead time to get them into the computer.

We need this information for two main reasons. We hope to have all our plant identification labels printed so that they look uniformly professionally presented and we also need a list of species for the State Plant Inspection Officer, Stan Kuchta. New State Regulations require that any plants not provided by certified Nurseries need to be inspected (there are apparently some infestations here in Michigan that other states would prefer not to have). The State Inspector will come twice. Once during the week prior to the meeting when we have amassed all our chapter's plants in one place for labelling. The inspector will have to check them so that they can be certified to go to other states and if everything is properly potted and labelled, the first inspection will hopefully take only an hour to an hour and a half, especially if we have a list of the plants with latin names. The second time will be at the meeting to provide out of country attendees with Inspection Certification for Customs Regulations. We will have a number of people from Canada attending, so this will be important in our case.

With regard to plant inspections, although certified Nurseries do not need to be reinspected they need to provide us with copies of relevant paperwork (i.e., licensing, copies of up to date inspections, etc.).

All of our members' plants must be potted in a sterile medium, i.e., in prebagged mixes like Metromix, or Sunshine Mix. Sterile mixes can also be created using materials like milled sphagnum peat, sterile (bagged) sand, Turface, Vermiculite, Perlite, etc., -- you get the picture. We can help you out with this if you need it. However, you should have no garden soil in your pots for any of the plants you donate because they will be taken to a number of other states. It would also look nice if the pots were all top-dressed with fine gravel like chicken grit (available at such places like the Dexter Mill or other farming CO-OPs). If you have any questions regarding propagation please contact Tony Reznicek.

Suitable plants:

Because this meeting will be held in the winter and empty pots are pretty dull fare, ideal plants for the sale will be things with evergreen foliage or rosettes. Many rock garden plants are evergreen so this should not present problems. Our theme for the meeting is woodland and shady rock gardens which for many are difficult to design. When selecting plants to propagate try to look through your garden especially for shade-loving plants with evergreen foliage to propagate for us. Good candidates include *Hepatica*, *Isopyrum*, *Polygala paucifolia*, *Cornus canadensis*, *Linnaea borealis*, and small evergreen woodland sedges, among others. Also a few choice things will be better than lots of common things so don't forget to include any other of your choice rock garden treasures that you think you will be able to make look good for the sale in January.

Storing plants until the meeting:

Plants should be dormant, but not frozen in their pots. Both Jacques Thompson and Tony Reznicek will be pleased to store your plants in their pit houses, which offer ideal conditions. Contact them in October.

Volunteering for the EWSW2003 Meeting

It is time for a call to all arms. We need volunteers for the following categories:

PRE-MEETING ASSISTANTS

Stuffing Registration Totebags & Packets:

2-3 Assistants

Putting Nametags Together:

1-2 Assistants

Sign Making:

- with calligraphic ability or Computer Graphic ability, 1-2 Assistants

Speaker's Aides: Take care of speakers - make sure that they have all they need e.g., slides in carousels, laser pointers, places to sit near front of room, glasses of water, make sure they are in room before lecture, etc.

Assistants: 1 Friday evening, 2 Saturday morning, 2 Saturday afternoon, 1 Saturday evening, 2 Sunday morning

MEAL ASSISTANTS

Set Up Before Meal:

Centerpieces, Signage for dishes served, Coasters for tea/decaf, Stickers for Door Prizes. Assistants: 5-7 Friday Dinner, 7-10 Saturday Lunch, 7-10 Saturday Dinner

After Banquet Cleanup: - remove any centerpieces left, stickers for Door Prizes, etc. 3-5 Assistants Saturday Evening

Pre-meal Security at Doors: Assistants: 4 Friday Dinner, 4 Saturday Lunch, 4 Saturday Dinner

DOOR PRIZE ASSISTANTS

Assistants: 2 Friday evening, 2 Saturday morning, 2 Saturday afternoon, 2 Saturday evening, 2 Sunday morning

POSTER DISPLAY ASSISTANTS

Set Up: - work with those participating & make sure we have available all they might need to have. 2 Assistants Friday 9am-3pm

Take Down: - work with those participating & help make sure garbage bins are available & that they can get stuff back to their vehicles. 2 Assistants Sunday noon-2pm

VENDOR SALES ASSISTANTS

Set Up: - cover tables with Kraft paper, and if necessary, arrange them as Vendors need them, and set up carrying boxes and bags. 2-3 Assistants Friday 8-9 am

Take Down: uncover tables and clean up as much of the mess as possible 2-3 Assistants Sunday noon-2pm

CHAPTER SALES TABLE ASSISTANTS

Pre-Meeting Labeling and Preparing of

Plants for Sale: - (1-2 weeks prior to Sale) –

a) typing into computer the names of plants people will bring - 1-2 Assistants, b) Putting computer printed out stickers onto pot labels and putting name labels into pots & price labels into pots 1-2 Assistants, d) Putting pots into trays ready for transport to Hotel - 1-2 Assistants

Set Up: - arrange pots on tables and check to make sure all have prices. 1-2 Assistants Friday 9am-3pm

Sales Table: - answering questions, bagging, collecting price markers for cashier.

Assistants: 1-2 Friday afternoon, 2-3 Saturday morning, 2-3 Saturday afternoon, 1-2 Sunday morning

Take Down: - clean up as much mess as possible and take left over plants to vehicles. 1-2 Assistants Sunday noon-2pm

SILENT AUCTION ROOM ASSISTANTS

Set Up: arrange items, signage, clipboards, pens, etc. 1-2 Assistants Friday 9am-3pm

Silent Auction Room Security: - work with Organizer & be present while room is open Friday, Saturday morning & afternoon, & Sunday morning, collect clipboards at 9:30 am Sunday morning, make sure correct person pays for and gets items. 1-2 Assistants alternating shifts as above

Take Down: clean up as much of mess as possible. 1-2 Assistants Sunday noon-2pm

We will have the Volunteer Sign-up Sheets for people to fill out both at the upcoming September Meeting as well as the October Meeting. Should you be unable to attend either of these meetings, but are interested in Volunteering for any of the categories please contact:

Susan Reznicek, Chair EWSW2003
890 Wickfield Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-1227
(734) 996-0692 FAX: (734) 647-5719
Email: reznicek@umich.edu

Chapter Officers 2001-2002

Please feel free to contact your officers if you have any questions or comments

- President: Don LaFond
11836 McGregor Road
Pinckney MI 48169
(734) 426-5452
plantjunkies@aol.com
- Vice President Rosalie Meiland
2630 Kimberly
Ann Arbor MI 48104
(734) 761-3639
meilandr@umich.edu
- Treasurer: Meroë Kaericher
8171 Brookville Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-5386
mkaericher@alum.mit.edu
- Secretary: Laura Serowicz
15411 Woodring
Livonia, MI 48154
hepatica@twmi.rr.com
- Newsletter Editor: Tony Reznicek
890 Wickfield Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 996-0692
reznicek@umich.edu

Please send address changes to our Treasurer, Meroë Kaericher

Spring Programs —2002

by
Laura Serowicz

The April 13 Meeting featured Panayoti Kelaidis, Curator of Plants at the Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). Panayoti has traveled the world searching for botanical treasures, trying them out in both his home garden and at the DBG to see if they are (as the title of his talk states) ‘Hardy in Denver.’ He started out by giving us an overview of the wide variety of gardens at DBG. Among the many gardens shown were: Formal Garden, South African Plaza, Cutting Garden, French Kitchen Garden, Drop-Dead Red Border, Insectivorous Garden (‘Flytrap Feast’), Japanese Garden, Sacred Earth (features plants that play an important part in the

lives of the Native Americans of the Southwest), Wildflower Treasures (features troughs designed by Gwen Kelaidis with each trough representing a different ecosystem in Colorado including the rocks and plants specific to that region), and Plains Garden (represents a short grass prairie, which is control-burned every 2-3 years). The Rock Alpine Garden was constructed with over 1000 tons of rock and simulates various high altitude habitats. DBG also maintains the Mt Goliath Alpine Unit, which at 12,000 ft is believed to be the highest garden on earth. In an area that was a parking lot, they constructed a Czech-style Crevice Garden. Mt Goliath (which is in the Mt Evans Range) also has hiking trails that go through a variety of sub-alpine and alpine areas. [Visit www.botanicgardens.org for more information on DBG.]

For a plant to be ‘Hardy in Denver’ it needs to be able to survive Colorado’s extreme climate conditions, which, because of its intense high elevation sun has cold winters with lots of snow that usually melts quickly (so snow cover is unreliable) and hot dry summers. Panayoti began our whirlwind tour of exciting plants with a selection of overlooked American treasures. Many plants native to other parts of the Americas have proven to be growable in Colorado even though their native habitats may not suggest that they would be hardy there. He began with *Agave neomexicana* from Alamogordo, New Mexico, which has proven it’s hardiness in Denver and has even flowered for him (it takes about 21 years to bloom, not 100 years as it’s common name, ‘Century Plant’, suggests). Many of the Californian native buckwheats, *Eriogonum pharnaceoides*, *E. niveum*, *E. kennedyi* and *E. bicolor*, make fine plants for the garden. A penstemon relative, *Keckiella corymbosa*, a deciduous subshrub native to Northern California, has red blooms all summer. A couple of native Clematis that deserve a spot in the garden are *C. fremontii* from the prairies of Kansas & Missouri (6-12” tall, urn-shaped flowers) and *C. tenuiloba*, on which Panayoti has counted 114 flowers (great for tormenting friends, he says). The western native composite, *Townsendia* (*T. exscapa*, *T. incana*, and *T. sp.* ‘Jeannie’) blooms from February through to frost and does very well in a trough, but doesn’t last in the garden. Many cacti, especially those native to New Mexico have proven hardy and are good in a trough. Some of the hardy cacti and succulents Panayoti grows include: *Maihuenia poeppigii* (native to Chile), *Coryphantha echinus* (moisture tolerant) and *C. orcuttii* v. *koenigii*, *Mammillaria wrightii*, *Echeveria strictiflora*, *Hesperaloe parviflora* and *Yucca nana* (12-14”high). Two other

American native plants deserving space in the garden are *Nemastylis geminiflora* (Iris relative, with 2 ½" blue flowers that last for 3-4 hours in the middle of the day) and *Oxytropis multiceps* (Locoweed, makes a wonderful trough plant, just coming on the market now).

Panayoti then showed some of his favorite European treasures, starting with the common *Dianthus alpinus*, of which he says he can never have enough. Next, he showed three alpine *Lamium* from Turkey and Greece, *L. eriocephalum*, *L. armenum*, and *L. garganicum ssp. inflatum* (the first two tend to be short-lived, but do self-sow). *Polygala vayredae* makes a spectacular groundcover and does better for him than *P. chamaebuxus*. A couple plants from Greece and Morocco, *Pteroccephalus perennis* and *P. depressus* are long blooming, with Scabiosa-like pink flowers. *Draba rigida* and *Saxifraga longifolia* are two plants that he has growing together and considers them the best of their genus, even though *S. longifolia* is monocarpic and dies after blooming.

Panayoti next covered a vast range of plants native to Asia. Native to the Caucasus in Central Asia, *Paeonia tenuifolia* and *P. mlokosewitschii* are suitable for the large rock garden, with the Iranian form of *P. mlokosewitschii* 'to die for.' *Arisaema candidissimum* is "the" *Arisaema* to have in the shady rock garden; usually emerging around June 10-15 for him. Panayoti grows many species of *Acantholimon* but says they would like more water than he gives them in Denver. *A. venustum* is the most beautiful one with 1" flowers, *A. glumaceum* is long blooming. Among the Asian Irises he grows are; *Iris* × *Warlsind*, a Juno cross with corn stalk like leaves; *I. 'Dushanbe'* from Tajikistan; *I. nicolai*, a Juno from the high alps of Central Asia; and *I. lactea*, which is the most abundant, wide spread Iris in Central Asia. The Juno Irises need scree conditions and don't need to be watered. Several *Corydalis* do well in Denver, including *C. persica*, *C. solida 'George Baker'*, *C. shanginii*, and *C. nobilis*, seeds sown fresh take 3-4 years to bloom. Only 5-6" tall, *Origanum* × *suendermanii* is one of the most beautiful Origanums, with blooms lasting 3-4 months in late summer to fall. *Ajuga chamaepitys* subsp. *glareosa* is a cute long-blooming *Ajuga*, very unlike the common bugleweed, with yellow flowers and woolly leaves. *Glaucium acutidentatum* has a stunning orange and red flower from late April through to summer and, unlike other horned poppies, appears to be perennial. A bit large for the rock garden, *Acanthus balcanicus* (syn. *A. hungaricus*) and *A. dioscoridis*

are very growable anywhere in Denver and much hardier than most references state. And from Turkey, *Sedum pilosum* is one *Sedum* that Panayoti loses but Betty Blake grows well, it even self-sows.

Panayoti next introduced us to plants from Africa that he has successfully grown in Colorado, the main requirement for many (especially the succulents) is protection from wet winters. *Anacampseros rufescens*, a succulent from 8,000 ft up on the Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa, so it is hardy as long as it is protected in the winter with a pane of glass. It blooms all summer, but Panayoti says 'do not blink', because the pink flowers last a very short time. *Stomatium beaufortense* and *S. agninum* are also hardy succulents; they bloom at night or on a cloudy day. *Ruschia* is one of the largest genera of South Africa; *R. putterillii x hamata* and *R. pulvinaris* are two that Panayoti grows. Among the long-blooming succulents he grows are; *Chasmatophyllum musculinum*, *Rabiea albipuncta*, *Aloinopsis spathulata*, and *Othonna cf. capensis* ('Little Pickles'). Of the 30 species of *Gladiolus* found in South Africa, *G. oppositiflorus* var. *salmoneus*, with it's salmon colored flowers, is one worth obtaining. Panayoti has tested several *Gazania* in Denver, *G. krebsiana 'Tanager'* and *G. linearis* are two of the best. *Kniphofia northiae* from bog areas in nature is one of the largest *Kniphofias*; with wide-leaved rosettes and reaches over 6 ft tall, blooming in May.

Panayoti ended his slide presentation with slides of *Castilleja scabrada* in a trough and *C. integra* at DBG, which prompted a discussion of their cultural requirements. *Castilleja* are partially parasitic and need an appropriate host plant for at least their first year, but seem to be able to grow anywhere after that. But they are nitrogen hogs, so need to be fed like annuals. In closing, Panayoti also stressed that plants from dry regions grow there because they have to (that's where their seed landed), but most prefer more water. And finally, "rock gardening is about exploration," and Panayoti took us on quite a trip!

The May 11, 2002 Spring Meeting began with a short business meeting in which a few items were brought up for discussion. The question was raised whether it was worthwhile to have the potluck lunches at the meetings since most people don't show up until later for the talk and plant sale. Since the plant sales are our only source of revenue for bringing in speakers (and we have had a great selection of speakers lately) it was decided that the minimum price for plants at the plant sales should

be \$2.00. The change in price will be announced for the fall plant sale. New officers were voted on for chairperson and vice chairperson; Don Lafond is now the chair and Rosalie Meiland has rejoined the chapter and has agreed to be the vice chair. Meroë Kaericher and Laura Serowicz remain as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Our speakers for this meeting were Bob and Rannveig Wallis. He is a Biochemist and she is a Biology teacher and owner of 'Buried Treasures' Nursery in Wales, which specializes in unusual bulbs. (And yes, they do ship to the U.S. - see end of these notes for address) They've traveled the world to view the native habitats of their chosen obsession, because they believe that seeing them in the wild helps in knowing how to grow them in the garden. They use clues from the native habitats, and try to find places in their garden in western Wales that match those conditions. This is not always easy considering the Welsh climate, mild and wet with no extremes in temperature. Many of the plants they grow do best in bulb frames or a bulb house, where they can control the watering, which is critical for the success of many bulbs. The name of their talk was appropriately named "Bulb Habitats: The Wild & The Willing".

Rannveig and Bob's travels have taken them to the bulb-rich countries of Greece and Turkey, Spain and Morocco, and also to California. These are areas where many bulbs grow on scree slopes or in crevices, on open grasslands and pastures between mountains and trees or in the woodlands. Some thrive in a Mediterranean type climate, with no extremes in temperature and where the warm coastal waters provide a mild winter and a summer that is hot and dry, just the right combination for *Narcissus tazetta*, *N. cantabricus* and *N. gaditanus*. Others depend on the fast running waters of early spring snow melt when there is no competition for moisture, food or pollinators; such as *Eranthis cilicica*, *Colchicum brachyphyllum*, *Narcissus bulbocodium*, *Muscari racemosa*, and *Scilla siberica*. Many of the bulbs have very specific seasonal water requirements like a dry summer for Juno Irises, *I. persica*, *I. stenophylla* or dry summer and winter for *I. acutiloba* *I. paradoxa* ssp. *mirabilis* and *I. urmiensis*. In some cases, the plants have been reduced to just a few native habitats, some because of human development, and others because of overgrazing. They've found several of the *Fritillaria* from Turkey such as *F. acmopetala*, *F. alfredae* subsp. *glaucoviridis* and *F. assyriaca* subsp. *melanathera* growing among bushes where the goats cannot get them. Rannveig and Bob also

showed slides of *Fritillaria pluriflora* filling a meadow in California, because the owner of the pasture keeps her cattle out until after the *Fritillaria* have gone to seed. Some bulbs grow in shallow scree, where underneath the top 6" layer of rock scree is a substrate of mud which the bulb roots in and thus remain cooler than the surface temperatures. Other scree bulbs, such as *Fritillaria glauca*, set lots of bulblets that then travel down the mountainside along with the rocks, so that there may be large swaths of color down slope. Volcanic ash and pumice provides the right conditions for *Allium breviscapum*, with its flowers sitting right on the ground, and *Allium shelkovnikovii*. A few other bulbs of interest included: *Fritillaria recurva*, which takes a few years to flower, after which the main bulb dies but leaves behind small rice-grain size bulblets, *F. striata*, which is sweetly scented (unlike foxy scent of many others), *F. biflora*, which grows along the coast of California, where the mists keep it from getting too hot and dry. They've found several species of Narcissus, including *N. poeticus*, *N. assoanus* and *N. cuatrecasasii*, growing in rock crevices, where the only precipitation is from snow melt in spring. *Fritillaria michailovskyi* has much better markings in the wild than those in general cultivation. *Bellevallia forniculata* forms dense colonies, turning hillsides in Turkey a bright blue when in bloom. Much of observing bulbs in the wild is a matter of just the right timing to catch them during their brief bloom time, which often depends on when snow melt occurs that year. That Rannveig and Bob have been fortunate enough to witness these treasures in their natural habitat is a testament to their love of species bulbs. If you are interested in their bulb list, the address is: Buried Treasure-Rannveig Wallis, Llwyn Ifan, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen, U.K. SA32 8BP

The May 26 meeting in Saginaw featured Tim Roberts, who has traveled extensively, collecting and photographing alpine plants. Tim's father was the owner of Holden Clough Nurseries in England. Tim and his brother took over the family business 20 years ago and have designed and built many English-style rock gardens. He has gained a lot of knowledge and experience observing the plants in their native habitat and in various gardens, and gave a very informative talk. One thing that he really emphasized was that most alpine plants need lots of water, and should be watered every day. Often rock gardeners mistakenly think that, because alpiners require sharp drainage and don't like their crowns wet, they should treat them more like xeric plants.

But Tim explained how in their native habitat, alpines grow where their roots have a consistent source of water, from underground streams or from snow melt on the mountains. The deep root runs help cool the plants from the intense mountain sun and helps cool the rocks surrounding the plants that soak up the heat from the sun. He uses a perforated pipe down through his tufa cliff and runs water in that, which then goes through the soil deep in his bed, imitating a mountain stream in the plants native habitat. Tim also recommends the following method for planting right on tufa; drill a 3/4" holes in the rock and then lower a seedling or rooted cutting into the hole, add some sand, water it in, add more sand, and then place stone chips around their neck. He has also planted up tufa by sprinkling or blowing seed onto the rock; it may take years for the seed to germinate and grow, but is a good method for getting certain plants to take hold. And it's a lot of fun when it does finally show up; trying to remember what it was that you seeded. When Tim is traveling he will sometimes take a bit of the plant that he cannot collect seed for; e.g. for *Saxifraga* 3-4 rosettes, and puts it in a small Ziploc bag, breathes into the bag or adds a little sphagnum moss or water and then zips it closed. That generally gives the specimen enough moisture and air to keep it alive until he gets someplace that he can pot it up.

Tim's talk was on 'Alpine flowers of the Pyrenees in Spring and Summer,' and he took us on a tour from east to west-central Pyrenees. He has visited the Pyrenees nine times, mostly in early June, (but he also had slides from July and August) when the mountains come alive with color. Many alpines bloom just as the snow melts so they have plenty of water for their short blooming season, and don't have to compete for water or pollinators when the other alpine plants and grasses take over. Many of the plants of the Pyrenees are familiar to rock gardeners, as many have been in cultivation for years. Tim's favorite plants are *Saxifraga* and *Androsace*, which he finds in abundance in the Pyrenees. He has been able to study the same plants for years, and has estimated that some of the plants may be 50 to 75 years old! Another interesting fact about the Pyrenees is that it is quite common for one slope to be limestone while the opposite slope is

acid. Thus, in a relatively small area, there is a great variety of plants with differing cultural needs. And there are also some plants that are not fussy about PH and grow on both acidic and alkaline, such as *Linaria alpina* and *Silene acaulis*. Some of the plants from the Pyrenees that Tim finds do well on tufa include; *Petrocallis pyrenaica*, *Draba tomentosa*, *Ramonda myconi* (he blew the seed on tufa, took 4-5 years to bloom), *Saxifraga x lhommei* (natural hybrid of *S. longifolia* & *S. paniculata*), *Globularia repens*, and *Androsace ciliata* (endemic to Pyrenees. Among the other *Androsace* found there are *A. villosa* (limestone crevices & among the grasses which provide it shade), *A. vandellii* (a challenge to grow, grows on the under hang of rock), *A. carnea ssp. laggeri* (likes acid, moisture, grows on the shady side of rock, *A. pyrenaica* (grows in granite cracks, and *A. cylindrica* (very locally occurring). Some of the large rosettes of *Saxifraga* he's found include *S. aretioides* (which he estimated to be 30-50 years old growing on bare rock) and *S. media* (which was 50-75 years old, clinging on a limestone cliff with very long root runs in the cracks). Tim also had slides of *Saxifraga x luteo-purpurea* (hybrid between *SS. media* & *aretioides* with various colored flowers), *S. longifolia* (wonderful leaves, huge flower head, alas, it's monocarpic, so collect the seed), *S. cotyledon 'Pyramidalis'* (pyramid shaped flower head), and *S. bryioides* (acid soil, yellow flowers, but shy to flower in cultivation). The Pyrenees are also rich in the following: *Ranunculus parnassifolius 'Nuria'* (with red venation, which gives the white flowers a pink cast), *Caltha palustris* (quite common there), *Helleborus foetidus* (in limestone alpine pastures), *Orchis mascula* (in damp spots), *Rhododendron ferrugineum* (quite common in moist alpine meadows), *Erythronium dens-canis* (in bloom the week after snow melt, needs super-phosphate to get good flowering in garden), *Narcissus poeticus* (alpine meadows lush with them), *Dactylorhiza sambucina* (alpine meadow orchid, deep pink and yellow varieties) and *Primula hirsuta x P. integrifolia* (natural hybrid with cut in petal). With the Pyrenees so botanically diverse you can see why Tim Roberts goes there year after year.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter)

to:

Meroë Kaericher
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS
8171 Brookville Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-5005

or pay in person at the next GLC meeting

National Organization:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

Send \$25.00 dues (check payable to NARGS)

to:

Jacques Mommens
Executive Secretary
North American Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 67
Millwood, NY 10546

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

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
North American Rock Garden Society
Newsletter Editor, Tony Reznicek
890 Wickfield Court
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227

FIRST CLASS

DIRECTIONS to the September 21 Meeting:

Eileen & Richard O'Melay, 5085 North Oakville Ct., Wyoming, MI (616) 249-0067

Wyoming is just south of Grand Rapids, off US 131. If coming from the east, go onto US 131, either south from I-96 or north from I-94. Exit at 54th Street and go west to Burlingame. Turn right (north) and follow Burlingame. Just past 52nd Street on your left is Oakvale. Turn left (west) onto Oakvale and then take the first right onto N. Oakvale Ct. The O'Melay's garden includes extensive, colorful rock gardens, a number of troughs, and with a pleasant waterfall and pond.

DIRECTIONS to the October 19 Meeting:

Livingston County Conservation Club, 6060 East M-36 Hamburg, MI

The Club is north and west of the center of Hamburg and is on M36. From US-23 take M-36 to the west. Go about 4 1/2 miles to the Conservation club on your left. M-36 winds a lot, so watch for the signs.

Phyllis Gustafson is well known to NARGS members and to our chapter. She is an excellent speaker and her topic "Gardens of the Pacific Northwest with an Emphasis on Crevice Gardening" should interest all of us. Gardeners can grow marvelous things in the Pacific Northwest, and so we can look forward to a wonderful selection of plants and garden scenes. Phyllis is well acquainted with the gardenworthy native flora of the Pacific Northwest, and has been long active in NARGS in various capacities. This meeting is a re-scheduling of our September 15, 2001 meeting.

PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS for September 21:

If you are a newcomer to our group, you will be surprised at the diversity, number of rarities, and size of our two yearly plant sales. They are one of the best things about being a chapter member, and offer the opportunity to get wonderful and unusual plants at very reasonable prices. And the sale is very important to the chapter, as it raises the funds for our excellent speaker program. But because of the size of the sale, we do need to have people try to follow certain rules to make the sale run smoothly and quickly.

At home:

- 1). Please pot or repot plants at least a week to ten days before the sale. Otherwise, the plants may look tired and ragged.
- 2). Please select appropriate plants for the sale. Interesting and unusual alpines, woodland plants and small woody plants are ideal. No large, common woody plants, annuals, common perennials, and tropicals, please.
- 3). Before you bring the plants, label each pot, with the name of the plant [scientific name, if known, and cultivar or variety, if known]. On the back of the label put your name and the year. This allows people both at the sale or later to ask you about the plant. It also helps us when setting up the sale to talk to you if, for example, you have missed putting a price on the plant.
- 4). We ask people to price their own plants, and you can price your plants at home, if you would like, but please use a separate label for the price. The price labels are pulled out of the pots by the cashier to expedite adding up the total.

At the sale:

- 1) If you have not priced your plants at home, please use the chapter price labels provided to price each pot. Prices range from \$2 to \$6.50, but mostly are within the \$2 to \$4 range. Set your plants as close together as possible on the selling tables. You should try to get your plants to the sale a half-hour or so before the sale starts to get them set up and priced, if necessary.
- 2) Ask Rosalie Meiland to look at your plants. For every 10 plants you bring, you are given one Red Label. Each Red Label entitles you to one "First Pick." This means that those who did not bring plants must stand back and wait for those with Red Labels to make their First Picks. The time for First Pickers to make their choices is limited to 3-5 minutes depending upon the number of First Pick labels given out. Keep in mind that you still have to pay for the plants.
- 3) Tell Rosalie if you have brought plants that you think might be of "Auction Quality." These are normally either exceptionally rare and desirable plants not available commercially, plants available only at a very high cost, or large, well-grown specimens of highly desirable plants. She will inform our almighty auctioneers who pass judgement as to which and how many plants to auction. For each of your plants chosen for auction, you will get an additional Red Label.