

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
WINTER NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2022



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

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

****SATURDAY, March 12: Winter meeting**

PLACE: Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

–see the map at right

Noon: GLC-NARGS Board Meeting (note, no food or drink allowed in the auditorium – sorry)

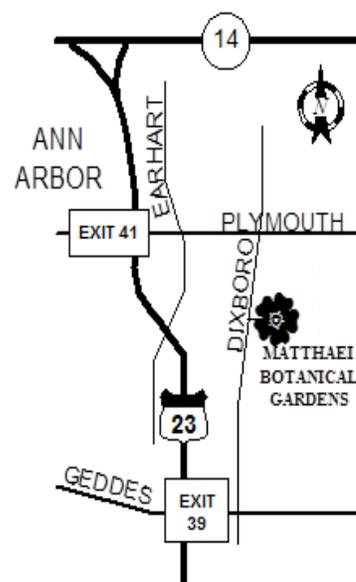
1:45 PM: Brief membership business Meeting

2:00 PM: Program

Vince Russo and David Hinch

Cold-Hardy Cactus for the Garden

Note: masks will be required for this meeting.



****SATURDAY, June 11: Spring meeting and Plant Sale**

This meeting is later than usual to accommodate peak flowering of hardy cacti. We'll be visiting two gardens, Vince Russo's and Bob Swartz's. All the details will be in our spring newsletter.

****Sunday, October. 1:** We're working on the fall, but please note one date now.

We have invited Karen Perkins of Garden Vision Epimediums to speak to us.

Many of you will have gotten her lovely catalogues. Put this date on your calendar (note that it is a Sunday) for sure as she will have plants for sale.

We'll have all the details in the fall newsletter.

NARGS 2022 Annual Meeting – **Alpine Visions: Exploration and Inspiration- Ithaca, NY. June 13 – Friday June 17.** Check the Quarterly or the NARGS website (<https://www.nargs.org/event/alpine-visions-exploration-and-inspiration-ithaca-ny-2022>) for details.

Letter from the President

Hello GLC Members,

Buds are fattening, some witch hazels are blooming and snow drops aren't far behind. Along with the burst of activities that Spring brings to our gardens, our Chapter is bursting with events and activities for this year, starting with packaging the SeedEx surplus round in March. Packaging will take place in Tony Reznicek's garage. Please see the schedule in the newsletter and let Holly Pilon know which sessions you would like to attend. If you haven't participated in a SeedEx packaging session, please do because the experience is so enjoyable, with lots of discussion of plants and good company.

March will also feature a talk on Cold-hardy Cactus by our very own Vince Russo and David Hinch of the Michigan Cactus and Succulent Society. Mark your calendars for March 12 at 2 pm in the Auditorium of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Cold-hardy Cactus is a theme for this year, with our Spring Sale to be held at Vince Russo's garden on June 11, just when his cactus collection should be in bloom. It's been a while since we had a meeting in Macomb County, where we have members with some wonderful gardens, including Bob Swartz, whose garden will be on tour the day of the sale.

April may bring a Zoom talk from one of the international speakers from the NARGS tour. Please watch your email for an announcement in the next few weeks.

Once the weather improves, we'll be back to work on the Azary garden, refining the rebuild which we finished in the fall, then selecting and planting the plants. This project is so much fun that I hope each of you has a chance to participate in at least one work day.

On a far more somber note, as I'm writing this, news keeps coming about the horrific attacks on Ukraine. Let us fervently hope that with flowers, Spring brings peace.

Julie Caroff

Notes from the treasurer

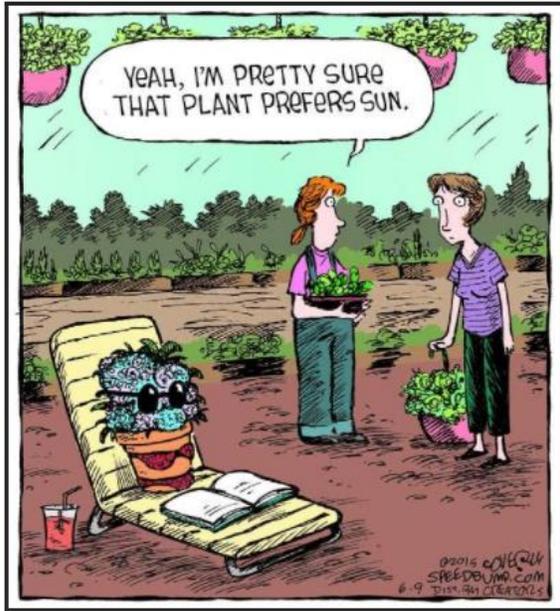
The GLC-NARGS members are wonderful folks! Thank you for brightening my day with your notes and emails!

It has been a while since we have had any luncheons. In conjunction with the spring sale at the Russo Garden on Saturday June 11, the Board has approved providing pizza. Please send me an email (nofhell@aol.com) as to whether you plan to attend and your pizza topping preference. We will plan to have pizza arrive around 11:15am and will reserve two slices for those who have RSVP'd. After 11:45am unclaimed slices will be available to all. I'll send an email to those who have RSVP'd two weeks before the spring sale as a reminder.

Thank you to the GLC-NARGS Board and the Russo's for hosting lunch on June 11. Really looking forward to the spring sale, especially after Vince's hardy cacti Zoom with NARGS in January. Awesome presentation Vince!

If I can assist in any way (email address updates/changes, snail mail vs email, comments to the Board), please let me know. Some members have mentioned that gardens are too far of a drive for them; that can be easily remedied if you would like to host the spring or fall sale. :) Please let me or a Board member know if you have a garden to suggest.

Happy Gardening!
Colleen Mitchell



Volunteer for the seed exchange!
Holly Pilon

The surplus seed round ordering starts on Tuesday, March 1 and we will have our first work day on Saturday, March 5, from 1-4 pm at Tony Reznicek's. His address is 890 Wickfield Court, off Pontiac Trail in Ann Arbor. Our workday schedule after the 5th goes as follows:

- Tuesday and Thursday, March 8 & 10, 1-4pm
- Wednesday March 9, 6-8pm
- Sunday March 13, 1-4pm
- Tuesday and Thursday, March 15 & 17, 1-4pm
- Wednesday, March 16, 6-8pm
- Saturday, March 19, 1-4 pm
- Tuesday, March 22, 1-4 pm or possibly later.

All orders must be in by March 20th, so hopefully we can finish up on the 22nd. But it is possible we might have to have another workday if there are many orders left and to pack up all the remaining supplies. Any remaining seeds not sold will be divided up among requesting chapters(yes we will be a chapter asking for seeds). We will be working indoors and if the weather is cold, the garage doors will be closed so please wear a mask. Also the chapter won't

be providing food or drink so if you would like a beverage bring your own. Because the weather has been so up and down, if anyone can bring a space heater to help keep us warm, please do so. Last year we filled about 210 orders so there will be lots of hands needed. As an incentive, if you are a member of the national chapter, you are eligible for ten extra packets when you order seeds in the 2023 sale in January. Let me know if you are coming = plantscape_design@yahoo.com Any questions, email me or Tony (reznicek@umich.edu).

Some people have already volunteered, thank you, but you are all welcome. If you can't make it for the entire work session, come as long as you can. I hope to see a lot of you over the next few weeks.

Admiring plants in February
Tony Reznicek

About this time of year, thoughts shift from worries about deep cold killing marginally hardy plants to wandering about the garden to see what has survived, and most especially, what might be coming up to bloom. Things actually in bloom are just beginning – but this year, my *Hamamelis xintermedia* 'Orange Peel' did not get damaged (the plant is hardy, but the flower buds freeze at about -15). It's just opening. Below follow some pictures of things in the yard, taken today (Sunday, Feb. 27).





Hamamelis xintermedia 'Orange Peel'

Snowdrops will not be far behind this witch hazel – just another few warm sunny days will get some opening, as also the winter aconites, Asian *Adonis*, and *Helleborus niger*. In all of these, these except the *Hamamelis*, flowers are contingent on the snow melting off to really “pop.” And then the *Crocus* will start – spring will be in full swing!

Though cold sensitive (killing at ca. -5), flower buds on the big evergreen *Mahonia bealii* look like they have survived. It’s silly for me to grow this plant – even the stems are hardy only to about -10, so periodically kill to the ground. But this year, maybe I’ll see flowers.

Winter foliage survival has also been good. Some plants always look terrible after the winter, like *Arum dioscoridis*. But recover. Others, if they are severely damaged, do badly, especially woody species. Interestingly, in *Illicium floridanum*, 2 year old leaves look like they died over winter,

but last year’s leaves look great. I need to watch this to see if it is consistent.



Galanthus woronowii



Eranthis hyemalis (up against the house)



Adonis 'Fukujukai'



Mahonia bealii



Arum dioscoridis winter foliage

The hardiest cholla – *Cylindropuntia davisii* (I think – could not check the tag; you’ll have to come to the March talk and find out!) always looks good – and weird sticking above the snow. It’s hard to beat cacti for just plain oddness in a winter garden scene in Michigan, as well as beauty in summer. We’ll get a lot more information March 12!



Illicium floridanum



Cylindropuntia davisii

Please send address 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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FIRST CLASS