# GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

**SPRING NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2005**

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

****SATURDAY, APRIL 9: Spring Meeting**

**MEETING:** 12:00 noon - ca. 2:30 pm

**PLACE:** **Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium**

**PROGRAM:** 12:00 - **bag lunch with good company**

1:00 - ***Propagating by grafting, cuttings, and seeds workshop***

Presenters will be Dick Punnett, Don LaFond, & Tony Reznicek. Get a head start on propagating your favorite plants. There will be lots of opportunity for questions.

****SATURDAY, May 14: Spring Meeting and Plant Sale**

**MEETING:** 11:00 am - ca. 3:30 PM

12:00 noon – bag lunch

**PLACE:** **Tony & Susan Reznicek's 890 Wickfield Court, Ann Arbor (see map enclosed)**

**Plant sale 1:30 pm**

## Mark Your Calendars:

****Our Fall meeting and plant sale will be Saturday, September 17th in keeping with our policy of having it always on the third Saturday.**

**Reserve the date on your Calendar. We'll send out details with the fall Newsletter.**

**UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS –** see below and your Quarterly for details.

**Annual Meeting** - "Newfoundland and Labrador: Rock Garden of the North Atlantic" July 14-17, 2005. St. John's, Newfoundland

This ought to be a great meeting. The alpines in Newfoundland are diverse, and they occur basically at sea level, so are easy to see and maybe more growable.

# Fall 2004 meeting reports by Laura Serowicz

## November 13, 2004: Nicola Ripley "Plants in the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, especially native Colorado plants"

Nicola Ripley, Director of Horticulture and Research for the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens (BFAG) [*www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org*] in Vail, Colorado, was originally from England, where she did research on arctic and alpine plants for her masters degree in ecology. She worked for the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology working on alpine plants in Snowdonia in North Wales. It is a coastal area and much closer to the Arctic Circle and even though the mountains are only 3-4,000 feet at the highest, the tree line is much lower, so they have a lot of alpine plants. She applied at the Denver Botanic Garden, but by the time Panayoti Kelaidis got her resume the position was filled, so he passed her resume on to Marty Jones at the BFAG and she started there in a part time position.

The Gardens were started about 17 years ago by a number of volunteers. Vail was a very new community and the town gave them some land to start a small botanic garden to show people what garden plants would grow at their elevation (about 8200 feet) and the first garden built was a perennial garden. They went on to build a huge rock garden which was on the tour for the NARGS National Conference in 2003. It is quite a small site, about 3 cultivated acres, sitting within a city park, but those cultivated acres are almost all rock garden. The majority of the garden is native alpines, with some alpines from other areas and the newest area will be an international alpine garden. The garden is limited in trees that will grow at that elevation. It is right about at timberline, in the Spruce/Fir zone, so they grow lots of blue spruce, bristlecone pine, limber pine, and Engelmann spruce. They have not experimented much with trees but there are probably Siberian conifers that should do well for them. When they built the rock garden Jerry Morris who is very active in the American Conifer Society, donated a conifer collection. Jerry is very interested in grafting brooms from conifers and he had named conifers in honor of Gerald Ford and Betty Ford, and even one in honor of Nicola [an Engelmann spruce]. They have a collection of about 40 brooms/dwarf conifers, some of which are really quite spectacular. They get seed from Chris Chadwell, Holubek, Euroseed, etc. - most of the seed sources we're familiar with. They have a lot of success with the seeds, which as many of us know, is not a question of getting the seeds to germinate, but getting them to actually work in the garden. Many of the plants also come from growers like Mt. Tahoma Nursery [*www.backyardgardener.com/mttahoma*].

The garden has just 5 on staff, with most of the garden maintained by volunteers. The background to the garden is the Gore Mountain Range, so it's a pretty nice setting, the highest peaks on the Gore Range are 12,500 to almost 13,000 feet. The key to why they are able to grow a lot of the plants they do is because they don't get much frost. As the temperature starts to dip in the fall they get early snows that cover the ground before it freezes. This keeps the ground from freezing under the snow blanket. So even though they are USDA zone 3-4, they can grow some things that are zone 5 or 6.

Nicola's talk took us through the seasons in the garden, showing some of the plants they grow - the ones they are more successful with and those that they are not. She started the talk with spring in the gardens, which starts there in late April to early May with the first bulbs. The highest part of what they call the international crevice garden comes into bloom early in the spring. This was their first attempt at doing a Czech-style crevice garden, Nicola is now very enthused about this style, where all the rocks are aligned vertically rather than horizontally. One of the reasons it is so successful is that it gives the roots a very long root-run to grow in and improved drainage.

They grow a lot of bulbs, including many *Fritillaria*: *F. nigra*, *F. michailovskyi, F. meleagris, F. imperialis* and a number of other species. They get a lot of their frits from Paul Christian Rare Plants [*www.rareplants.co.uk*] in England, but Nicola doesn't grow very many from seed. They are growing an increasing amount of species tulips, like *Tulipa polychroma* and *T. turkestanica* (*T. biflora*) from Turkey, and the tulips really enjoy the dryness of the garden. One of the problems is they bloom so early in the spring that there is nobody there but her to enjoy them. As a public garden that is something they need to take into consideration with the plants they grow.

Most of the plants in the gardens are Rocky Mountain natives and they also start to bloom very early. *Pulsatilla* (*Anemone*) *patens* is

almost like a bedding plant in the top part of the garden. The early bloomer, *Penstemon hallii* is one of her favorite penstemons - very easy and adaptable in the rock garden. It's a nice, almost shrubby little penstemon, native to the mountain ranges of Colorado above timberline, and easy from seed. *Lewisia tweedyi,* native to the Cascade Mountains grows especially well for them in the crevice wall, although their best specimen is flat on the ground in the alpine rock garden. *Arenaria obtusiloba* grows very well for them and is native to Colorado in the alpine zone. They also have an area with plants of the western European Alps, such as *Douglasia vitaliana* which blooms about the same time as Drabas in the spring and looks similar, it has a yellow flower and is very easy to grow, almost weedy. They have a very nice dark blue-purple form of *Pulsatilla halleri* in an area where they are trying to keep it separate since pulsatillas hybridize easily. *Gentiana verna*, the spring gentian, forms a blue carpet in the Alps garden in the spring. They also grow a lot of gentians because gentians and edelweiss (*Leontopodium*) are the most asked for plants by visitors in the gardens. *Gentiana acaulis* is a crowd pleaser, so they grow a lot of it and it grows very well for them. The blue flowers of *Aubrietia gracilis* subsp. *scardica* completely cover the plant. Although they're not the aristocrats of the rock garden world, they certainly put on a nice show and please the visitors, so they grow about a half dozen *Aubrietia* species. One group of plants Nicola is increasingly interested in is the primroses, and especially the high elevation Himalayan *Primula* species. She thinks they can grow them better than most people and she's trying to get the BFAG board of directors interested in a lot of the difficult plants that other botanic gardens can't grow very well. *Primula macrophylla*, *P. nivalis*, and P. *sinoplantaginea* are some of the Himalayan primulas they are able to grow in their new Himalayan garden. They also grow the easy European ones like the pale yellow oxlip, *P. elatior* and the violet-flowered *P. elatior* subsp. *meyeri*. The Denver Botanic Garden gave BFAG its *P. viallii* because they could not grow them well, they just cooked in Denver but in Vail they are very easy and a crowd pleaser. One of the things in their favor is that they have very intense sunlight during the day but very cool temperatures at night, almost like being in a florists cooler, so a lot of the plants stick around longer with the flowers staying fresher. Also the crisp air and ultraviolet light at that elevation makes the colors more intense. *Primula marginata* is another one from the Alps that does well for them, the margins of the leaves are white. *Primula auricula* (*P. acaulis*) with the leaves being quite farinose (covered in a meal-like powder), can grow outside there, where all the books say "in the glass house," "under glass," or "cover in winter," but because they are so dry at the gardens they seem to do very well outside.

A lot of plants we struggle with here that have furry leaves, which is an adaptation for alpine plants, like *Draba* spp., *Veronica bombycina*, the furry *Asperula* spp., etc., but they can grow very well because they have very free draining soil and the sunlight that they need, so they don't rot. *Primula halleri* is one of the alpine ones, which is a little different from the birds' eye/farinose type primrose, and is a nice, very easy one to grow. Back up in the alpine garden, is *Iris mellita*, (possibly *I. suaveolens*), with dark purple flowers, this came from a small grower on the west coast, Fred Held of Nature's Garden, who has sent Nicola some really good, large-sized plants over the years.

Summer (July-August) is a very pretty time in the garden when the perennial borders are coming into their own, it's also when most of their visitors come. Midsummer (end of July/beginning of August) is when the snow is just about gone and when the wildflowers really are at their peak. They grow some indian paintbrush (*Castilleja*) in the garden both from plants and from seed, the collected seed is just scattered in situ, even in the dryland montane garden. The rosy indian paintbrush, *C. rhexifolia*, comes in a full range of colors almost white to an intense red, because they hybridize with each other. A white one, *C. occidentalis*, which also hybridizes with them produces an amazing effect when you're out in an alpine meadow and there are blankets of them in all shades, all around. The fringed gentian, *Gentianopsis thermalis*, they collect and grow mostly from seed. Nicola tries to keep Rocky Mountain thistle, *Cirsium scopulorum*, in the garden, but has a hard time keeping the volunteers from pulling it, because it looks like a weedy thistle. It produces a spectacular woolly bloom and although it is monocarpic, it produces a lot of seed. They grow the alpine sunflower, *Hymenoxys grandiflora* (*Rydbergia grandiflora*), also known as old-man-of-the-

mountain because of its hairy leaves. It is a very pretty alpine, as is it's smaller cousin, *Hymenoxys caespitosa* [the consensus from our group was that they can't grow them here].They grow a lot of the western phlox, like *Phlox pulvinata*, *P. condensata*, *P. hendersonii*, *P. kelseyi*, and *P. hoodii*. After much moaning from the audience that we can't grow the western phlox here, Nicola confessed that they've got some cushions of *P. condensata* that they'll be ripping out this year to make way for better things [that caused even more moans]. They've got a Saxifrage garden that's on a slope and includes *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, but unfortunately the chipmunks have undermined the bed. They also grow a lot of lewisias at BFAG, including *Lewisia rediviva*, which is spotted around in the rock garden. *Lewisia nevadensis* and *L. pygmaea* are very common on the alpine tundra in Colorado, and they grow a lot of them there, along with some of the western cascade lewisias. They are easy and grow everywhere, but *L. tweedyi* needs a well drained location, since spring rot is their biggest problem. *Lewisia cotyledon*, which should be the easiest of them all, she has a hard time with, but that may be because she doesn't give it enough space in the rock garden and grows it in more of a perennial border setting because she thinks of it more as that kind of a plant.

They grow a lot of lilies including *Lilium philadelphicum*, one of the rare western woodland lilies. Nicola is getting interested in some of the Nepalese lilies, as they have had some success with them in their new Himalayan garden, which was funded by the Norman Singer Award from NARGS. The gardens were built on a steep slope and some of the rocks are so massive that they're no good for rock gardening, because they need big plants to make an impact, so it's a perfect place for the shrubby penstemons, which look pretty in the middle of the summer. They have a number of different penstemons including *Penstemon fruticosus*, a shrubby clump former, *P. rupicola* being probably her favorite of the shrubby penstemons, *P. fruticosus* 'Albus,' as well as a cultivar called 'Crystal', which forms a nice display, *P. cardwellii* 'Roseus,' which is one of the nice ones, and they also grow *P. newberryi*, and a lot of *P. davidsonii*. Peak season for traffic is July through August, and unfortunately some of the best alpines have come and gone by then, but most of the visitors to the gardens are not looking for the early alpine gems, they're looking for color in the garden. Nicola is lucky in that she is able to keep color in the garden all season.

Another plant that blooms in mid-summer, and does really well for them that they are growing a lot more of now are delospermas Through their connection with Panayoti and the Denver Botanic Garden, who has introduced a lot of the *Delosperma*, including *D. floribundum* 'Starburst', they are growing about 10 different species of these South African succulents. They've killed some of them, but a lot of them are surprisingly hardy. The common yellow ice plant, *D. nubigenum* (*D. congestum*), is blanketing areas in the mountain perennial garden and seems to bloom all summer long. *Delosperma kelaidis* 'Mesa Verde' is one of the ones Panayoti introduced, it has done really well and blooms most of the summer for them.

Autumn at BFAG is when the peak leaf change happens in the 2nd and 3rd week of September. This is when a lot of the other penstemons come in bloom, like *P. pinifolius* and *P. barbatus*. A lot of the red flowers bloom at this time of year so they manage to keep pretty good color in the gardens through mid-September. The red flowers of *Zauschneria garrettii*, stand out in the dryland garden at this time of year. It really keeps the color going, and is food for the hummingbirds before they fly south for the winter. It is a plant that is becoming much more commonly available that likes a well-drained location and grows really well for them. They grow *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer', but she has not had success with other *Crocosmia*. In late fall there are a lot of the late-blooming campanulas like *Campanula formankeniana*, *C. incurva*, and *C. versicolor*, so they too keep the color and interest going for quite a time. The colchicums are a nice late season interest and they grow quite a few of them, including *Colchicum speciosum*. Also there are the fall-blooming Himalayan gentians, from which they rarely get seed because they bloom so late that they get snow on them before they ripen. They have some really nice collections including *Gentiana farreri*, *G. sino-ornata*, and *G. paradoxa*.

The snows come with the onset of winter, then you can't get out in the garden till early spring. At the end of her lecture Nicola couldn't resist putting in some photos of South American plants. She went with Panayoti to Chile and they met up with John Watson and Anita Flores where they spent a month down there traveling

through the Andes, photographing and collecting seed. Growing some of these South Americans has now become one of her particular interests. *Alstroemeria umbellata* is one they're not able to grow, she showed the photo she took down there of one they called *Alstroemeria* 'Wedding Cake', which is an absolutely unbelievable plant when you see it growing out on the desert screes. They do have *A. pallida* and *A. exserens* in the garden but they're very temperamental. It is absolutely stunning to come up through the trees and pop out onto a white scree covered with the 6 inch tall Chilean *Alstroemeria pseudospathulata*.

Another South American is *Chaetanthera villosa. S*he has been able to grow an annual *Chaetanthera* which looks just like it but it has white daisy flowers. She can't remember its name. they grew it as an annual and she's down to her last nugget of seeds from the original collection. It reseeded only one year for her. *Caiophora coronata* is a real stunning plant, but the hairs on the white star-puffed flowers sting and can create a rash on some people, and unfortunately she didn't get her seed to germinate. A common plant that needs no introduction from South America is *Oxalis adenophylla* which is grown by the millions by the Dutch bulb industry, but after seeing them in the wild, growing like bedding plants, Nicola got really interested in them and now they've got a fabulous display of them on the screes. She never used to think of them as a scree plant and that is why it is fun going to another part of the world and looking at plants in their native habitat. As Fred Case also told us in the spring, seeing where the plants grow in the wild is a huge help in trying to figure out where they'll do best in the garden. This *Oxalis* was found in a barren moonscape area, surrounded by grey screes, but when you look closer at the screes there were rosulate violas growing like bedding plants and the oxalis growing in the scree, it was just incredible. She hasn't been able to grow the rosulate violas, like *Viola sacculus*, but Karen at Laporte Avenue Nursery was actually able to grow some from seed Nicola brought back, however their survival is questionable.

**October 23, 2004: Tony Reznicek "Collectors Plants-Why Botanists grow the strange and weird (and ugly) plants that they do (or at least that I do)"**

Tony displayed plants that almost without exception he has grown in his backyard, although not all of them are still alive. Like most rock gardeners, Tony started with classic European alpines, many of which have been selected over many generations of cultivation and are now relatively growable, like *Gentiana dinarica*, *Gentiana verna*, *Soldenella montana*, *Physoplexis comosa*, and *Cassiope* 'Badenoch'. Classic plants for rock gardeners also come from Asia, like *Arcteria nana*, *Oxytropis megalantha*, and *Centaurea chrysantha*. Collectors always have to try difficult plants because in the back of their mind is the thought that this one may be the exception – the one that is growable. North America also has tons of neat plants that you can grow. Many of the western North American plants are a little more difficult like *Silene hookeri*, *Oxytropis lambertii*, *Astragalus coccineus*, and *Kelseya uniflora*.

Some native plants of the Great Lakes region make great rock gardens plants too, including *Hymenoxys herbacea*, our Chapter's logo plant, where there is only one known Michigan occurrence of the plant, and it is one of only two occurrences left in the US. The Michigan Nature Association just purchased the property in Michigan, so fortunately it will be protected. Other stellar native plants include *Iris lacustris*, *Erigeron hysopifolius*, the native prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), *Hudsonia tomentosa*, a natural mat plant, the butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), and the white-flowered *Houstonia canadensis*. A few of the natives are very difficult, including our native hart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americana*), and *Leucophysalis grandiflora*.

As a plant taxonomist and botanist, Tony is naturally interested in biological diversity, and one of the most interesting things for him is plants that are hardy here (i.e., he can get them through our winters), but are otherwise in tropical families. Some example include *Passiflora incarnata*, *Flueggea suffruticosa,* a small tree in the Euphorbia family, *Roscoea* in the ginger family, including *R. humeana*, *R. auriculata*, *R. cautleoides*, *R. scillifolia*, and *R. schneideriana*. Some other hardy members of tropical plant families or genera include:

*Spigelia marilandica*, *Chloranthus japonicus*, *Fuchsia magellanica*, and *Jasminium fruticans*. Another woody tropical plant family, the Bignoniaceae, has the alpine herbaceous genus *Incarvillea*, with *I. mairei*, *I. zhongdianensis*, and *I. delavayi*. One of the most remarkable adaptations belongs in the Gesneriaceae family (African violets and their relatives) which include the hardy *Ramonda myconi*, *R. serbica* and *R. nathaliae*, *Haberlea rhodopensis*, and *H. ferdinandi-cobourgii*, also *Jankaea* and its hybrid with *Ramonda*, ×*Jankaemonda*, and the Asian gesneriads, *Conandron ramondioides*, and *Boea hygrometrica*. Another tropical group that has one member that can grow in cool temperate climate is *Pelargonium endlicherianum* from Turkey.

Botanists are interested in why similar plants occur in widely separated parts of the world. A classic example of this is *Liriodendron tulipifera*, from eastern North America and, from Asia, *L. chinense*. Based on geological records the last time there could have been a continuous forest of them around the globe was 20 million years ago and it fascinates evolutionists as to why they have stayed so stable for such a long time. You can hardly tell them apart. Some other examples of disjunct species included native *Jeffersonia diphylla* and the Asian *J. dubia*, the big-leaf *Magnolia*, *M. macrophylla* and *M. tripetala* from eastern North America and *M. officianalis* subsp. *biloba* from Asia, our native mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, and its Asian counterpart in *P. hexandrum*, as well as the mayapple relatives *Dysosma versipellis*, *D. pleiantha*. and eastern North American *Calycanthus floridus* paired with eastern Asian *C. sinensis* (*Sinocalycanthus sinensis*). It is often the case that you cannot predict hardiness based on where a plant occurs now, because climates have gone through many changes in the past, and things that are in subtropical climates now may be perfectly hardy here because in the distant past they occurred in very different climates. So just because something occurs in a warm climate doesn't mean it will not be hardy, since it may have retained some hardiness from events long past. Witchhazels also have North American and Asian species including our native fall-blooming *Hamamelis virginiana*. All other *Hamamelis* species in the world (they occur in eastern North America. and eastern Asia) flower in the early spring. When you get this kind of shift with late fall and early spring flowering (you also get it in *Crocus*, *Colchicum* and various other plants), it is speculated that originally these plants flowered in winter when the climate was warmer than now. As the climate cooled, the plants had to make a choice to flower either before winter or after, but not during winter. Other species that are highly disjunct include *Triosteum* (with 3 species in eastern North America and 3-4 in Asia), and *Saururus cernuus*, has a Chinese counterpart, *S. chinensis*. Sometimes the plants are not the same genus but very close relatives, for example *Helonias bullata* and its closest relatives in Asia *Heloniopsis* and *Ypsilandra*. For *Glaucidium palmatum* from Japan, its closest relative is our native eastern North American *Hydrastis canadensis*. Shortias are also a classic example of species in eastern Asia and eastern North America, with our native species *S. galacifolia* and *S. uniflora* from Japan, and the hybrid of these two, *S.* ×*intertexta* 'Leona.'Also in Japan is *S. soldanelloides,* including var. *magna*.

Botanists are also interested in primitive plants, meaning plants that are survivors of early-evolved plants. Some examples of primitive plants Tony has grown include *Ephedra minima*, umbrella pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), the Chinese Magnolia vine (*Schisandra chinensis*), and *Saruma henryi*, a cousin to our wild gingers (*Asarum* spp.). In botany, you are taught that dicots have their flower parts in 4's and 5's and monocots have them in 3's but there were always a few exceptions. It turns out that most of these dicots that have their flower parts in 3's are actually from before the modern dicotyledons evolved and before they developed their more typical 4- and 5-parted flowers. *Decaisnea fargesii* is an example of this as well as *Stemona japonica*, which is a primitive monocot that is probably closely related to some of the primitive dicots. Some other primitive things include *Pteridophyllum racemosum*, which is a primitive poppy relative. There are actually primitive plants that don't even look very primitive and we've only discovered that they're unusual through looking at the DNA and seeing what plants branch at the very base of the evolutionary tree for particular plant groups, like *Chionographis japonica* which is related to ancestors of the modern lilies.

Another reason collectors like to grow plants is unusual forms or unusual mythology or human cultural associations. *Trillium petiolatum* is a bizarre trillium, and the *Trillium* relatives

*Paris* are unusual as monocots in general, having flower parts in multiples of 4 or 5 (or more), *Helwingia japonica* is a distant cousin to dogwood but has its flower sitting in the middle of the upper side of the leaf! And it is also astonishing how an ugly plant like the mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*), could be so deeply a part of European mythology.

It is intriguing to think of what evolutionary processes drive the fantastic structures in a number of aroids including *Arisarum probiscoideum*, *Arisaema* spp., and *Arum* spp. The thought is that these weird spadices and their appendages contain scent-releasing glands, for diffusing scent into the air, and there is a gradient that draws insects sensitive to it down inside. The entire Araceae family is bizarre, strange, and vaguely obscene which adds to their attractiveness for collectors. Among the ones Tony grows are *Arum euxinum*, *A. elongatum*, *Eminium lehmannii*, and *Orontium aquaticum*.

Tony ended the talk with some collectors "must have" plants - special variants or relatives of familiar plants that tease the intellect and generate interest and curiosity: *Eranthis pinnatifida*, which is white while familiar *Eranthis* are yellow; *Taraxacum albidum*, a white (and non-weedy) relative of our humble dandelion; *Astilbe simplicifolia*, a tiny, simple-leaved version of our common, large compound-leaved Astilbes*; Caltha palustris* var. *alba*, a white form of our familiar marsh marigold; *Pulsatilla lutea*, a yellow species of the well known and usually purple or pink pasque flowers; and *Solidago minutussima*, a tiny species of goldenrod, a group known for being coarse and aggressive.

Also fascinating are new forms and gardenworthy variants of familiar plants, especially when found in the wild. Included were *Symplocarpus foetidus*, in an albino (yellowish) form, *Iris verna* and *Viola pedata* in clean white forms, a cut-leaf *Actea rubra,* and an *Arisaema triphyllum* with a white, reticulate vein pattern on the leaves.

## What's in bloom now?
## by
## Tony Reznicek – March 22

This year, has been an exasperating wait for spring. Snow, more snow, and cold, past the middle of March and right to the bitter end (though we're not quite there yet). But a few things in sheltered spots where the snow melted off – south facing banks, areas near the house – are in bloom already. Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis* and *G. elwesii*) are out just today. *Colchicum hungaricum* and *C. trigynum* are like small, pale pink stars. *Hamamelis vernalis* has been out for a week now, blooming even when the ground is snow-covered, but the flowers are tiny (though fragrant). *Hamamelis* 'Diane" is also out with deep coppery red blooms. A couple *Crocus* are out, including a nice orange species from Janis Ruksans that is not in an especially warm site, but the label is frozen solidly into the ground, so I can't see what it is! Of course, *Helleborus niger* near the house is in bloom, looking very out of place with its huge white flowers among the brown leaves. A pretty poor show for late March.

## Chapter Officers 2005

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

| | |
|---|---|
| President: | Fred Case<br>7275 Thornapple Lane<br>Saginaw, Michigan 48609<br>(989) 781-0269<br>fredwcase@aol.com |
| Vice President | Elaine Rappley<br>3800 South Graham Road<br>Saginaw MI 48609<br>(989) 781-0570<br>rappleyjunk@aol.com |
| Treasurer: | Michael Kaericher<br>8171 Brookville Road<br>Plymouth, MI 48170<br>(734) 459-538<br>mkaericher@alum.mit.edu |
| Secretary: | Laura Serowicz<br>15411 Woodring<br>Livonia, MI 48154<br>(734) 522-2294<br>hepatica@twmi.rr.com |
| Newsletter Editor: | Tony Reznicek<br>890 Wickfield Court<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48105<br>(734) 996-0692<br>reznicek@umich.edu |

Please send address changes to our Treasurer Michael Kaericher.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

**Great Lakes Chapter:**

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone: _____

email/FAX:_____

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

or pay in person at the next GLC meeting

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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

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