

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)
WINTER NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2015



CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS **meeting details below**

PLEASE NOTE a change of date for our Annual Winter Potluck to Jan. 24 from our “normal” date, which would have been Jan. 17 (and was so noted in the Fall Newsletter); and also that we have taken the unusual step of having a Winter Newsletter to bring people up-to-date on events with our Annual Meeting.

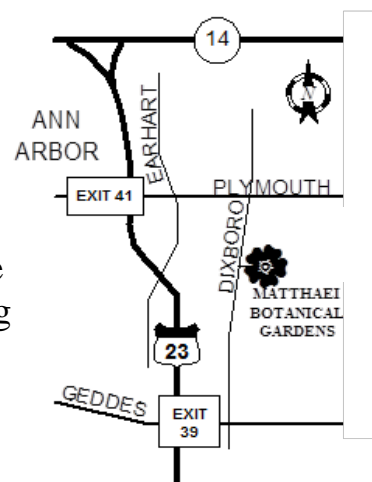
****SATURDAY, January 24: Our Annual Winter Potluck**

MEETING: 11:00 AM – ca. 3:00 PM
PLACE: **Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium**
– see the map below right
Potluck Lunch: 12:00 NOON
Beverages provided. Please bring a dish to pass!
Brief Business Meeting: 1:15 PM
Program 1:30 PM

Our Speaker: our own **Jacques Thompson**, speaking on
"Witches'-Brooms: From the Woods to the Garden"

“Witches'-brooms” are naturally occurring mutations on tree branches, especially those of conifers, that show a congested or otherwise dwarfed growth and form one of the foundations of the dwarf conifer industry.

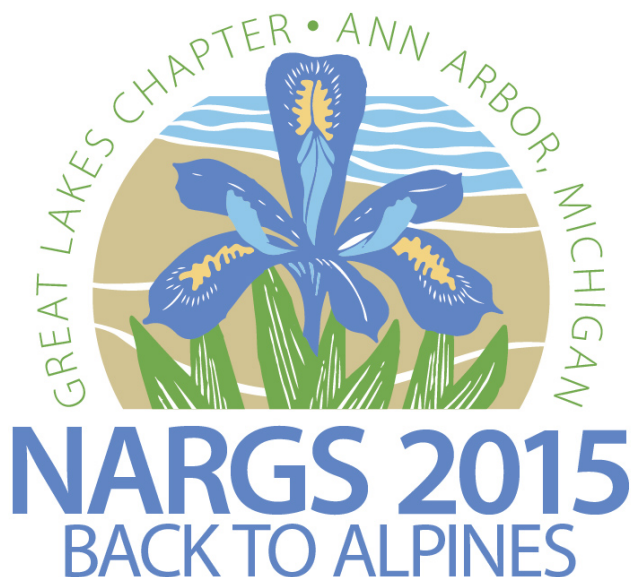
Jacques has searched extensively in Michigan and elsewhere for “Witches'-brooms,” and will share his adventures hunting them in the wild, as well as notes on propagating them and using Witches'-broom derived cultivars in the garden.



Mark Your Calendars:

Thursday-Sunday, May 7-10, 2015: *Back to Alpines* – **Our National Meeting! – details below.**

BACK TO ALPINES – OUR UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETING



The last time our Chapter was on the docket for a National Meeting was 2003 – when we conducted a successful Winter Study Weekend. This time, we are “on” for the Annual Meeting, and we have a great program outlined. Our venue will be Ann Arbor’s own Weber’s Inn.

This will be a superb chance to see and hear great speakers and see great gardens, to say nothing of buying super plants, tufa, troughs, and books!

We hope as many of you as are able will take advantage of this meeting. It is also a rare chance to meet and talk with Rock Gardeners from all over the US and Canada – without flying to a distant city. We need support from our membership – and feel free to pass this Newsletter to gardening friends who may be interested. If you are local, you can attend while staying at home, and just take advantage of Weber’s fine dining and facilities. If you are out of town, we have negotiated a very favorable rate of \$99 per night (plus tax).

A brief DRAFT outline of our events is below:

THURSDAY, MAY 7

4:00 – 5:30 Dinner on own

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

5:30 – 6:30 PM: Evening Reception (hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes & Auction

7:00 PM: Introductory Remarks [brief program after this commenting on past inspirational gardeners of the Chapter that we have lost recently – including Betty Blake, Fred Case, Leila Bradfield, Dick Punnett]

7:30 PM Evening program – **Tony Reznicek** – *The*

Michigan Landscape and Gardening in It

8:30 – 11:00 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

FRIDAY MAY 8

7:00 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Bus tours of local gardens and natural areas

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

5:30 – 6:30 Evening Reception (hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes & Auction

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM **Ger van den Beuken** – *Growing High Alpines at Sea Level or Below*

9:00 PM **Ger van den Beuken** – *Argentina & Chile in 50 minutes* - for dedicated gardeners

10:00 – 11:00 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open

SATURDAY MAY 9

7:00 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM Bus tours of local gardens and natural areas

4:00 – 5:30 PM Sales area & Silent Auction open; Silent Auction Bids end 5:30 PM

5:30 – 6:30 Evening Reception (hors d’oeuvres, cash bar)

6:30 PM: Door Prizes, & Auction & Silent Auction wins

7:00 PM: Dinner

8:00 PM NARGS Awards, etc.

8:30 – 9:30 PM – **Malcom McGregor** – Rock Gardening – or What’s a Heaven For

Malcolm is a popular lecturer known to us all as Editor of the Quarterly, and as an expert on and author of a comprehensive book about Saxifrages.

9:30 – 11:00 PM Sales area open

SUNDAY MAY 10

10 AM – 5:00 PM: On your own – Open Garden Tours, Nursery visits, etc.

12:30 PM – Departure of Post Conference Trip

OUR SPEAKERS:

Tony Reznicek – *The Michigan Landscape and Gardening in It*

Tony is Curator at the University of Michigan Herbarium, expert on the Great Lakes region flora and sedges, and an avid gardener, used to battling the climate and local fauna.

Ger van den Beuken – *Growing High Alpines at Sea Level or Below & Argentina & Chile in 50 minutes* Ger is an internationally known Dutch rock gardener, experienced with growing and propagating choice alpines, especially Daphne, and the use of tufa.

Malcom McGregor – *Rock Gardening – or What’s a Heaven For* Malcolm is a popular lecturer known to us all as Editor of the Quarterly, and as an expert on and author of a comprehensive book about Saxifrages.

These are all great speakers, sure to be both entertaining and informative.

VENDOR LIST (Still tentative):

Arrowhead Alpines, Benedict’s Nursery, Duvall Nursery, Don LaFond’s Troughs, Great Lakes Orchids, White Raven Books, Wrightman Alpines, and our Chapter will also have a table or two!

THE GARDENS we will be visiting with the bus tours are all local, keeping driving time to a minimum:

Don & Mary LaFond:



Tony & Susan Reznicek:



Jacques & Andrea Thompson:



Bev & Bob Walters:



Along with these four gardens, we will have brief (20 min) workshops at each garden as a “how to” showcase of some of the unique elements in the garden.

Plus, we will be visiting two **NATURAL AREAS** – a sand barren NW of Ann Arbor where we should be able to celebrate a large colony of the Bird’s foot violet, the



finest eastern North American species and also a rich deciduous forest where we will show visitors our beautiful burst of spring bloom, especially trilliums.



There will be **OPEN GARDENS & NURSERIES** to visit on Sunday, May 10.

Plus, we will have **POST CONFERENCE TOUR**, May 10-12. The post conference field trip will be to the "Straits Region" of Michigan, about 280 miles north of Ann Arbor, with stops on the way there and back. The focus will be on natural rock gardens and rock garden plants in the wild. We will look at shaded and sunny rock outcrops, rocky, gravelly, and sandy beaches, and open communities back of the beaches, plus a stop to see large stands of trilliums, and brief stops for other selected items including sand dunes, and, if time allows, jack pine barrens. It will be early for large scale bloom, but we should certainly see bloom in many species with some nice displays. This is limited to 24 people.

REGISTRATION:

We would prefer if you register through the NARGS website www.nargs.org but if you do not have computer access, please fill out this form with check payable to "NARGS – Great Lakes Chapter" and mail it to:

**Libby Greanya, Conference Registrar,
2204 Vandemere Dr., Jackson, MI 49201 USA**

Keep in mind that you need to be a NARGS member to register (though you can join on this form or online if you are registering online). If more than one member of a household is registering for the meeting, please complete a registration form for each person. If you will be accompanied by a guest who will **not** be attending the trips and programs, but wishes meals, please also fill out an additional form for them. Thanks.

Name: _____
Mailing address: _____

City: _____ **State /Prov.:** _____
Postal/Zip Code: _____ **Country:** _____
Email: _____
Phone: (_____) _____
Vegetarian: _____ **Yes / No**
Any other special dietary requirements: _____

Registration (enter amount on space to the right)
Registration US\$290 (US\$325 after March 20, 2015)
\$ _____

1-year NARGS membership (if not a member):
US\$30 _____

Guest (meals only, include another Registration Form with their name, etc.): US\$120 _____

Post-Conference trip, May 10–12: US\$235 per person, double occupancy; US\$295 per person single occupancy (cost covers transportation, lodging in St. Ignace, box lunches, and refreshments. Breakfast and dinner will be as a group, but at local restaurants.)
\$ _____

[NOTE: Sorry, no refunds after April 20]

GETTING A ROOM AT WEBER’S

Our host hotel is Ann Arbor’s own Weber’s Inn (Weber’s Restaurant and Boutique Hotel). Weber’s is an Ann Arbor institution, a family owned hotel, restaurant, and conference center renowned for its food and local atmosphere. Rooms are available at a special NARGS rate of \$99.00 per night. Please contact the hotel directly, before March 20, 2015, and use the Code: MAR050715 when registering. Toll Free Number: (800) 443-3050, Local Number: (734) 769-2500.

The address is:
Weber’s Restaurant and Boutique Hotel, 3050 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. www.webersinn.com

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

Thank You.

Susan Reznicek
890 Wickfield Court
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227
(734) 996-0692
reznicek@umich.edu