

From the Chair

Gardening can be a full year activity in Minnesota! Lots of planning and lots of hoping and wishing can fill these cold winter months with plant photos, catalogs, and indoor seed flats. MN-NARGS events are scheduled for each of the next six months. January, February, and April will have regular meetings. March will be the month for our banquet. May will be our garden tour and June 6th is the date for our spring plant sale. I expect that each of these events will result in planning for new gardens and new plants as well as new approaches to growing plants. Our meetings usually identify plants that I've wanted to grow and plants that I need, but didn't know about before MN-NARGS.

My hopes for 2020 include more sunlight (six large ash trees departed in November), no repeat of the 2019 'boxwood catastrophe', and planting many new, interesting plants from the June plant sale. I always come home from the plant sale with plants that I haven't grown before. It is a joyful thing when new plants thrive. I hope your garden is a source of joy and hope to you, as my garden is for me.

Our club can also be a source of joy and hope. I have found that the knowledge, advice, and friendship of our members have made my gardens better. Better plants, better locations, and better processes for watering, fertilizing, and pruning. I invite you to consider the impact of MN-NARGS on your gardens. If you've received good things from belonging to MN-NARGS, perhaps you might bring some friends to our meetings so that they can share some of the benefits. Our programs, plant sales, and extensive knowledge are useful to all gardeners, even those who don't grow alpine plants. Guests are always welcome and every event is an opportunity for you and me to bring a guest and expand our membership.

Warmest Regards,

—Doug Root
January 2020

NARGS Seed Packaging

So Many Allium

Many NARGS clubs volunteer to help process and sort donated seed. Once again our club was one of those that volunteered to participate in the seed packaging for the NARGS Seed Exchange.

We were supplied with over 200 master packets of seed. Our assigned seeds began with the letter "A".

I never knew there were so many different types of Allium.



plenty of seeds in a master packet to fill the requested number of glassine envelopes. Other times we had to make do with a limited number of

Packaging continued on page 2)



As a new member, it was my first time experiencing this event. Our task was to divvy up various types of seed that had been donated from NARGS members across the USA and Canada. By taking master packets of over 200 taxa and dividing them into a number of individual glassine envelopes, based upon how many seeds were in the master envelopes and the approximate demand from previous years orders. Sometimes there were

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seeds from the master packet and only fill a few envelopes. Most seed was very clean with little chaff but occasionally it seemed that chaff was all there was. One of the highlights for me, besides meeting some of you, was discovering the many different sizes, shapes and colors of seed even in such a small sampling of only 200 taxa.

Steve Kelley and Arla Carmichiel once again hosted us in their lovely historic home and treated us to a nice warming and filling lunch. Thank you. We also enjoyed many delicious treats brought by other generous volunteers too.



Thank you to the following people who donated their time and energy and helped create a festive mood on this day:

- Betty Ann Addison
- Arla Carmichiel
- Mary M. Clark
- Shirley Friberg
- Donna Haberman
- Steve Kelley
- Phyllis Meyer
- Lynda & Tom Mills
- Marcus Phelps-Munson
- Rick Rodich
- Jerry Shannon
- Barbara Tapper

2020 Program & Meeting Schedule

January 18, 2020

Board Meeting at 12:00

General Meeting at 1:00

Our speakers will be Shirley Friberg & Lee Shannon—*Starting Rock Garden Plants from Seed*

Also our 1ST Annual POP Up GGS. What is that you say? It is Garden Garage Sale. It's going to be our winter, clean out our closet. Bring anything garden related, Books, Clay Pots & Saucers, Trowels, Forced Bulbs, Garden Stationery, Garden Art, Nursery Gift Cards and or anything you might want to donate. You will receive 25% back on the price you have sold the items for, so please mark how much you think it's worth. Do not go overboard, such as 25 of one item, remember it is winter and we do not want to carry in or out more than a armful. Lets see what kind of response we get from this Sale.

Hennepin Technical College, Metro Police Law Enforcement Ed. Building,
9110 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park 55445

February 8, 2020

General Meeting at 1:00

Our Speaker David Remucal—*Curator of Endangered Plants* at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, In 2016 David headed up the project to gather and preserve seed of all 48 of the States' Native Orchids Species, 20% of them were considered endangered or threatened. We're looking forward to his presentation about Native Orchids in Minnesota.

Hennepin Technical College, Metro Police Law Enforcement Ed. Building,
9110 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park 55445

March 21, 2020

Social time 5:30

Dinner at 6:00

Annual Banquet, Succulents & Silent Auction
(See March Gayla Banquet on Page 3 for more information)

Hilton DoubleTree formally Radisson Hotel,
2540 Cleveland Ave N. Roseville MN (651-367-3969)

April 18, 2020

General Meeting at 1:00

Members presentation on *Rhododendrons, The Pit, Trip from Africa* and possibly *Jumping worms*.

Hennepin Technical College, Metro Police Law Enforcement Ed. Building,
9110 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park 55445

May 2020

Members Garden Tour TBD

June 6, 2020

10:00 am

Annual Public Plant Sale and Plant Auction

Roseville Central Park, Jaycees Shelter
2540 North Lexington, Roseville

Steven Courtney

Conifers for Rock Gardens

Saturday, October 12, our guest speaker was Steven Courtney. He spoke to us on the subject of *Conifers for Rock Gardens*. Steven Courtney is a member of the American Conifer Society and former curator of the Harper collection of dwarf and rare conifers at Hidden Lake Gardens in SE Michigan.



At the conclusion of his well presented and informative talk, there was a drawing for his book, *People & Plants*. It chronicles the Harper Collection of Dwarf and Rare Conifers at Hidden Lake Gardens with special attention to tree descriptions, history and remembrances of the donor, Justin 'Chub' Harper. A listing of the specimens in the Collection is included along with beautiful photographs of many of the plants in the Collection. Research data on growth rates of these plants is also included. The lucky winner of Steven's book is a new member and the new editor of this newsletter, Marcus Phelps-Munson. Congratulations to me!

Treasurer's Report

Income 10/1/2018-9/30/2019

Contributions	\$20.97
Banquet Income	\$706.34
Plant Sales Income	\$1,844.20
Dues	\$1,436.16
Total	\$4,007.67

Expenses 10/1/2018-9/30/2019

Soc Membership	-\$125.00
Postage.	-\$90.20
Printing	-\$594.67
Equipment.	-\$102.19
Program	-\$2,482.12
Banquet Expenses.	-\$2,195.17
Insurance	-\$250.00
Total	-\$5,839.35

Current Bank Balance: \$17,158.46

March Gayla Banquet

Succulent Banquet with Silent Auction & Succulents too

March 21, 2020

Social Hour: 5:30

Dinner at 6:00

At the Hilton DoubleTree formally the Radisson Hotel, 2540 North Cleveland Avenue, Roseville MN 55113 (651) 367-3969



We are so *excited* this year as a *thank you* to our members for all the hard work, donations, and for each and every plant sale that you have participated in, office you may have held, or talk you may have given, we want to give back to *you*. With that in mind we are offering our Banquet this year at *no charge*.

The catch, we need members to bring a very nice donation for the silent auction. Our reservations will be limited so be sure to register early. If you are bringing a guest there may be a slight fee (to be announced).

We hope everyone will be as excited as we are.

You need to RSVP and send your menu choice by early March, 2020 to Barbara Tapper at barbt@westlunddistributing.com.

1. Hickory Char-Grill 6 oz Sirloin with caramelized Onion jus. Served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetable
2. MN Stuffed Chicken, Wild Rice and Sausage Stuffing Finished with Wild Mushroom Cream Sauce. Served with Gratin Potatoes and Fresh Vegetable
3. MN Walleye Almondine Broiled in White Wine and Butter Toasted Almonds. Served with Fresh Vegetables and Wild Rice
4. Vegetarian Wellington Vegetable Stuffed Puff Pastry on a bed of Quinoa with a Sun-dried Tomato Glace

Dessert will also be included with each meal.



Our guest speaker is Kelly Kyllenon, who will be presenting on succulents. Kelly is from Park Rapids, MN and has been owner of Kelly's Cottage Garden in Park Rapids Minnesota for over 10 years. Kelly's business specializes in custom work for homeowners and businesses, succulent creations, wedding bouquets & facilitator of many different



types of hands-on classes around the topic of gardening, flowers and anything creative.

Stacking Stones

Evelyn E. Arneson

Age 90 of Arden Hills Passed away November 29, 2019 Preceded in death by her loving husband of 47 years, John A. Arneson. Survived by her children, Judy (Les) Heinen, James (Linda) Arneson, Nancy (Chas) Arend; grandchildren, Jill (Doug) Cutler, John (Morgan) Heinen, Samantha (Frank) Beard, Erik Arneson, Chas J Arend (Shannon Swanson-Arend), Mark (Amanda) Arend, Steve (Kelle) Arend; and great-grandchildren, Cameron and Madelyn Cutler and Rori and Thea Arend; also survived by brothers Edward, Philip, William and Daniel, sister Anna; and many nieces and nephews. Evie was born in

Walhalla, ND where she met and married John. Their life's journey included Texas and Hibbing MN, before making their home in St. Paul. Evie's passions were cooking, gardening, her family and her church. We wish to give special thanks to the wonderful and loving staff at Arthur's Senior Care. Memorials preferred to Alzheimer's Association. Please consider adding a special plant to your garden next spring in remembrance of Evie.

Members passing thoughts

"In memory of Ev Arneson who died recently at age 90. Ev was a long time member of the MN Rock Garden Society. She was the most knowledgeable rock gardener I knew

and contributed greatly to the Society. A wonderful friend for many years, I have many good memories and will miss her greatly. She was one of a kind."

— Nancy Erickson

At left, Evie in her Rock Garden.

Below, with friends, L to R, Elsie Riggs, Eve Arneson, Nancy Erickson

Arndt J. DUVALL III, M.D.

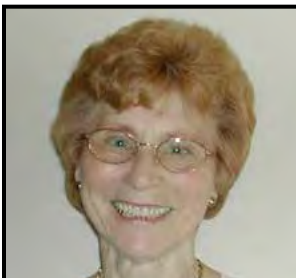
Our thoughts and prayers are with Faye Duvall, whose husband, Jack, passed peacefully at home on Monday, October 28, 2019. Jack was age 88. He was a White Bear Lake Professor of Otolaryngology, a proud St. Paul native and alumnus of the University of Minnesota; undergraduate and medical school. He was a successful clinical physician, surgeon and professor at the University of Minnesota, whose research and mentorship guided many surgical residents. A loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Jack will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Minnesota State Horticultural Society or donor's choice.

Remembering our Members

Please send any get well wishes for members and their families or any notices of passing of a member or member's spouse along with photos for inclusion in this section, Stacking Stones.

Phone or email our Hospitality (Sunshine) Chair, Djina Frye at 651-484-7644. d.b.frye@comcast.net

Stone Stacks or "Cairns" are memorials, landmarks or path markers. They have been used since early times as signposts marking a path through nature. Later, cairns were used as burial monuments, landmarks and as natural art.



Member Spotlight

Between Two Ferns and a Cactus

Michael Heim kindly shared some photos of his garden throughout different seasons for our enjoyment. As you can see Mike is a big fan of ferns, as am I.

Top to bottom and left to right

A – *Woodsia polystichoides* – Aug 30

B – *Cheilanthes lanosa* growing with cacti – Aug 10

C – *Cheilanthes wootonii* with *Selaginella densa scopulorum* – Aug 10

D – *Asplenium viride* – Aug 10

E – *Asplenium septentrionale* – Aug 10

F – *Asplenium septentrionale* – Nov 7



Claude Barr, Great Plains Horticulturist



Claude Barr, Author of "Jewels of the Plains", Wildflowers of the Great Plains Grasslands and Hills
—University of Minnesota Press

Claude Barr's ranch was down in a valley, standing out like a green thumbprint on the rolling, brown expanse of western South Dakota. The only trees for miles around, pines and various fruits, testified to his persistent care without a well, only captured surface water to nourish them. When we first met Claude, my family and I had traveled from the Black Hills for hours, never experiencing such desolation. Therefore, it was an awe-inspiring surprise when we descended the steep road and entered the world of Prairie Gem Ranch. Greeted by rows of neat, labeled nursery beds in blazing sun for cactus, and a large shade structure with beds for plants needing more protection, we were astounded.

Through the years, as I visited again and corresponded with him, I became aware of the depth of Claude's dedication in the face of tremendous odds. It is those stories that illuminate his character that I wish to retell.

As he recounts in the preface, Claude attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa on a scholarship. While there, he met Kate Dean, who had had a career as an opera singer. She had sung and played the piano for Queen Victoria, in fact, and was about 20 years senior to Claude when they met and married. Claude told me that when she arrived in Hot Springs, she was dismayed at living in a soddie or sod home, which in fact was where they lived their first summer on the Plains. He then built her the rustic cabin where he lived out his days. I was able to see her piano in an unused bedroom, piled with books and journals. Unfortunately, she died of "a broken heart" after two years, Claude's nephew confided to me, and was buried somewhere on the property.

His second wife, Jeanette, was a mail-order bride. He advertised in the local newspaper and she answered his call and became his wife. "The sweetest woman that God ever made!" according to Claude's nephew. Later, she was stricken with severe arthritis and became bedridden for the last 13 years

of her life. He nursed her, cared for the animals, marketed the eggs and butter they produced and even took part-time work grading roads for the County. He was proud of his perfect grade on the roads. Because there was little percolation into the soil,

water had to be guided carefully. Washouts meant isolation for the residents. Gumbo gets greasy with the slightest shower.

The incident that precipitated his turning to photography and then to the nursery business happened in the '30's. Parched with thirst while in town, he didn't have a nickel for a glass of soda pop. There and then he vowed to raise cash money so he would never again be in that position.

At home, he took a photograph of the Pasque Flower outside his bedroom window, where he had lovingly transplanted it in times past. It was in full bloom, every petal exquisitely backed with down, like a floral chick. That photo, sent to House and Garden magazine, was the key to his opening a mail-order nursery business that led to his survival on the



*Claude Barr collecting *Opuntia* forms with Merle Kratoska (late member) and Chris Mech, my son.*

Plains and his long-lasting legacy. Not just any representation of a species interested him. He sought the best color and forms to bring home and propagate for his nursery. No "squinky" petals, but full, round form on the phloxes and clear

Claude Barr, Great Plains Horticulturist (Continued)

lemon, orange or pink flowered cactuses made it worthwhile to dig deeply in the hard ground. How did he manage to transplant and grow these plants in the almost impenetrable, deep gumbo on his land? Soil was so dry that cracks would open up in the clay soil, 2 or 3 feet deep. Claude would fill these cracks with river sand and gradually the soil was loosened enough to accept the cup or so of water expended on a new plant. The river, by the way, was several miles distant and he would bring precious sand home in his car trunk when he went that way. Wherever he went on the Plains he walked great distances hunting for new plants, so it was no surprise that he found a double wild rose on the land of his neighbor, J.W. Fargo. Thought at first only a novelty, the discovery had unforeseen consequences. All the modern Canadian Shrub Roses trace their parentage to that happy find. Plant breeders in Manitoba, Canada spotted this anomaly in his catalog as a unique resource. They needed a very hardy, double parent to cross with beautiful but tender roses to create shrub and climbing roses for the North. At first, Mr. Fargo was loathe to part with this unusual plant, imagining it must be worth a fortune. But in time, he was persuaded to allow Claude collect and propagate it, proving that the best way to keep a rare plant is to share it. Claude would not have taken it without permission.

Claude joined me in Minneapolis several times on his way to North

American Rock Garden conferences on the East Coast. He was always amazed at how green everything was! When he received the Edgar T. Wherry award at his last Conference, the audience arose in tribute. His striking 6'4" stature and great dignity made it an unforgettable scene.



Rosa arkansana 'J.W. Fargo' Double Wild Rose

While at a previous conference, an independent agent from Rhode Island had approached him about publishing the book he had written over the years full of anecdotes and photos of his favorite plants. Since this was his sole publishing offer, Claude willingly sent the manuscript to him. Later, he demanded payment from Claude to publish his book! It was at this juncture that I met Claude and began asking questions. Since my husband had had his first book published by the University of Minnesota Press, I was familiar with the process. On Claude's behalf, I wrote to the agent to request the manuscript be returned. He refused to do so. Claude's advanced age made it imperative to advance this project as quickly as possible. Therefore, Earl Brockelsby, founder of Reptile Gardens in Rapid City, hired

a "Rhode Island Yankee" attorney to expedite its return, which soon was accomplished. When the manuscript arrived here, I took it and Claude's slides to the editor at U. of MN. Press. He was very impressed with it and felt because it dealt with Great Plains plants, geography and history, it fitted in with the mission of the Press.

Asked to help edit the copy for content, I stood between—in age and experience—Claude and the young editor assigned to this work. Carefully combining Geology and Geography chapters was my greatest challenge. It was a delicate balancing act. Throughout, I deliberately kept every turn of phrase that was Claude's

and fought to retain the smallest details which often illuminated the story.

Publishing is a lengthy business and Claude was now 94. The summer before the book was printed, he fell in his kitchen and broke his hip and had to reside in a nursing home in Hot Springs, SD. I was able to gather a completed typescript of the book, print the photographs, have it bound in red and present it to him there. With all the nurses and his companions gathered around at a little ceremony, Claude accepted the book (noticing it wasn't a "real" book yet) but he beamed and announced "Well, it looks like I'll be famous after all!" A cry from the heart. After sacrificing his life for his love of plants, I can only imagine the relief and joy he felt.

—Betty Ann Addison

The Polar Plunge

Can Boxwoods Tolerate Winters in Northern Wisconsin?

Ask a plantsperson most anywhere in the country whether boxwoods could survive an hour's drive from Lake Superior and more than likely the answer will be a definitive "No". To most folks, boxwoods are associated with the southeastern and Mid-Atlantic regions, with the White House and grand old southern estates. However (and this is no secret to people living there), certain boxwoods do thrive in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. In order to push the envelope so to speak into an even colder region, I decided many years ago to test as many potentially cold-hardy boxwood species, varieties, and cultivars as I could find at my home near Hayward in northwestern Wisconsin. This would allow me to ascertain whether any would be tough enough to not only survive unprotected, but look good after coming thru brutal winters. My home, a.k.a. test site was formerly in U.S.D.A Zone 3b; since the year 2000 in Zone 4a. It is situated atop a rugged kettle moraine which originated towards the end of the last Ice Age when two massive lobes of glacial ice collided in slow motion. This created a complex landscape with an incredible diversity of aspects, slopes, and soil types in proximity to one another... a situation ideal for an enthusiastic horticulturist like me to test all kinds of "That won't grow here" plants in their preferred sites after meticulously researching their needs.

Why boxwoods? Well, as you may have guessed, our winters are typically long and cold. On one occasion deep permanent snow arrived on



Boxwood in early summer after being exposed to temperatures of -36°F the previous winter

Halloween, but more typically it arrives a month later. Occasionally snow remains on the ground into early May. As you can well imagine, broadleaved evergreens would be a most welcome sight indeed. Personally, I find a well-grown boxwood left to its own devices to be an elegant example of Nature's art, particularly when it is grown in the shade so that its natural branching pattern can be appreciated. I relish the honey-scented flowers of boxwood and am thrilled when birds decide to hide their nests in them. In self-sown seedlings, the richness of forms and foliage variations is a wonder to observe... and to select for.

The test winter that I have been keenly waiting for finally arrived. On January 30th, 2019 the temperature plunged to -33F (-36C). The

following morning I awoke to find the thermometer reading at -36F (-38C). The last time that it was this cold was during the 1990s. To take advantage of this cold-hardiness test opportunity, I bundled up warmly



and took my notebook and pencil outside to collect data on which plants were exposed above the snowline. There were many. The woodstove was very much appreciated when I was done! When spring arrived, cold-injury was not immediately apparent. I had to wait patiently until early summer for new growth to erupt (or not) in

The Polar Plunge (Continued)

order to definitively determine the hardiness of a particular plant. By that time the foliage on some boxwoods had begun to yellow, indicating a lack of long-term suitability to our climate. This data is listed in the following table, as well as data from previous winters, since I feel that this may also be interesting and of practical use to growers. Hopefully all of these plants were correctly labeled when I received them.



The above data point to *Buxus sinica insularis* (formerly *Buxus microphylla koreana*) as being the best choice for gardeners wishing to grow boxwoods in the coldest regions. Of the hybrids, 'Green Gem' appears to be the hardiest. Unfortunately none of the *Buxus sempervirens* cultivars including those originating in the Balkans proved to be fully hardy above the winter snowline. This information will hopefully encourage folks living in the north to take the "plunge" and plant boxwoods, as now they have accurate data at their disposal when shopping for plants. Numerous other potentially hardy cultivars in the test bed were yet too small to be exposed above the snowline. Stay tuned following a future harsh winter for a report evaluating their merit. I would like to thank the horticulturists at various arboreta and botanical gardens, as well as private individuals, who generously shared

cuttings so that this research could be accomplished.

—Article & photos by Michael Heim

Michael Heim worked as a graduate student at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He is a member of the faculty and teaches courses in the

natural sciences at a local tribal college in northwestern Wisconsin. In 1999, he received the Bronze Award from the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation for research on cold-hardy plants. His research has been published in the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* and *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

Boxwood Hardiness

***Buxus sempervirens* L.**

- 'Agram' killed-back at -23°F (-31°C)
- 'Henry Shaw' severely injured during an open winter, i.e. a virtually snowless winter
- 'Hillsboro' killed-back at -20°F (-29°C) one winter, but merely injured at -27°F (-33°C) during another
- 'Inglis' killed-back during an open winter
- 'Northern Find' tops killed in an open winter, but merely injured at -27°F (-33°C) during another
- 'Prostrata' tips do not typically harden off. Branches injured during an open winter. Fine at -20°F (-29°C), killed-back at -23°F (-31°C), but merely injured at -27°F (-33°C) other winters
- 'Pullman' many tips on one, but only a few tips on another killed during an open winter. Some injury at -28°F (-34°C), while fine at -32°F (-35°C), and killed-back at -36°F (-38°C) other winters
- 'Vardar Valley' new flush of growth uninjured at 27°F (-3°C). Killed-back to 3 inches (7.5 cm) from ground during an open winter. Fine at -21°F (-30°C), severely injured at -29°F (-34°C) other winters
- 'Welleri' injured at -27°F (-33°C)

Buxus sinica* var. *insularis

- 'Winter Beauty' killed-back at -36°F (-38°C) when young, while fine at -36°F (-38°C) when older
- 'Winter Gem' fine at -36°F (-38°C)
- 'Wintergreen' fine at -36°F (-38°C)

***Buxus* hybrids**

- 'Green Gem' foliage fine at -36°F (-38°C), but buds killed when young. Only some buds killed at -36°F (-38°C) when older
- 'Green Ice' killed-back at -36°F (-38°C)
- 'Green Mountain' top 7 inches (18 cm) killed during an open winter, while fine at -32°F (-35°C) another winter
- 'Green Velvet' 1 inch tips killed during an open winter. Fine at -32°F (-35°C), severely injured to killed-back at -36°F (-38°C) other winters
- 'Sheridan' fine at -32°F (-35°C), but severely injured to killed-back at -36°F (-38°C). May be synonymous with the following
- 'Sheridan's Dark Green' fine at -32°F (-35°C), but severely injured at -36°F (-38°C)
- 'Wilson' severely injured at -36°F (-38°C)

The Dunce Cap

A stupid name for *Orostachys spinosa*? Not really....

This hardy succulent has an well-earned common name, but I could also give it another moniker: the Transformation Plant. It seems to convert from one shape to another, depending on the season of the year and its maturity. In fact, another name for *Orostachys spinosa* could be Shape-shifter!

Winter hardy even to zone 3, this transformer looks like a Hen and Chicks (*Sempervivum*) in the spring and summer, but with a more refined geometric growth pattern to the succulent, green leaves.



The rosette grows larger than most Hen and Chicks, and it's not uncommon for them to reach 5 inches in diameter.

Toward the end of summer, it begins its first transformation: all of a sudden, new growth tightens, and forms a solid ball in the center of the splayed older leaves.

This looks quite alarming to the uninitiated gardener:



is it diseased or bug infested? No. This is normal!

As the fall season continues, the green outer summer leaves shrivel, and the center ball changes to a dull silver color. One

can easily imagine it to be made of metal. This is the form that withstands our winter temperatures, and this *Orostachys* sails through the cold season unscathed.

In early spring the metal ball transforms



again, with leaves expanding and unfolding, and changing color once again. You can still see last summer's shriveled leaves around the outside.



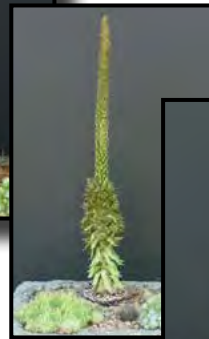
This cycle repeats for 2-4 years, until the plant is ready to flower. Just like Hen and Chicks, you never know which year it might be, but it will be evident when the central stalk begins to elongate and the shape of the plant takes on a cone shape, much like a dunce cap.

In early June, flower buds appear as the *Orostachys* prepares its display.

Tiny white flowers begin blooming in the latter half of June and continue into July.

Similar to Hen and Chicks, when an individual leaf

rosette blooms, it will also die that same season. For *Orostachys spinosa*, senescence begins in the second half of July, but seeds will need some more weeks to mature.



Finally, by the end of August, the mother plant is dead. Much

like *Semper-*

vivum do, often a mother *Orostachys* rosette will produce little "chicks" sometime prior to natural death, so the cycle of life continues uninterrupted. But in this case, no chicks were ever produced.

This is not necessarily a bad thing, as seed is always a better venue for future plant adaptation.

—Article & photos by Rick Rodich

Housekeeping Notes

Refreshments for Meetings

Two or three volunteers are needed to bring snacks for each meeting. Contact Donna Haberman dhaberman68@gmail.com. One or more volunteers are needed to help Donna when she is unable to attend the meeting.

Arboretum Rock Garden

Our chapter maintains the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Rock Garden. Work at the Rock Garden is done between April and October. Volunteers are needed and welcome. It is a great place to learn about rock gardening. Email Shannon Wadman at shannonwadman@icloud.com or call 612-822-1164 for information and to volunteer.

Membership Dues

The Minnesota chapter of NARGS fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30 of the following year. Dues are \$10.00 which includes an email subscription to this wonderful newsletter, or \$15.00 for a printed copy mailed to your address. Student memberships are free and receive an email subscription only. Dues are payable to Chuck Griffith, Treasurer, 7979 Jonellen Ln, Golden Valley, MN 55427-3525; chuckgriffith2@me.com 978-388-7483.

N A R G S

We encourage you to also consider joining our national organization, North American Rock Garden Society. As a new member, you will receive a CD containing the NARGS publication "A Beginners Handbook". NARGS membership dues are payable on line at www.nargs.org, or by sending a check or complete credit card information to NARGS, P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604.

Newsletter

We are always looking for fun and informative items to add to our newsletter. Do you have an article, book report, rock gardening news, and or related photos to share with fellow members? Please submit your items to Marcus at Marcus@RandomGraphics.com prior to Feb 15 for inclusion in the March Issue. The newsletter is published five times per year.

Committee Chairs

Banquet 2020: New Banquet Chair needed for 2020 helper:

Kathy Beck

Calling Committee:

Nancy Erickson 651-631-3031

Greeter/Name Tags:

Bonnie Busson 651-653-7371

Membership:

Volunteer needed

MN Landscape Arboretum
Rock Garden liaison:

*Shannon Wadman 612-822-1164
shannonwadman@icloud.com*

NARGS national membership liaison:

*Rick Rodich 952-446-9272
rrodich@juno.com*

Nominating Committee:

Cheryl Philstrom 651-433-5064

Sunshine:

Djina Frye 651-484-7644

Plant Sales, Chair:

*Rick Rodich 952-446-9272
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Members Garden Tour for 2020

Volunteer needed

Publicity:

*Cheryl Philstrom 651-433-5064 &
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Refreshments:

*Donna Haberman
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State Fair Exhibit:

Volunteers needed

Officers and Board of Directors October 1, 2019– September 30, 2020

Chair (final year):

*Doug Root,
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Vice Chair and Program Chair (final year):

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Secretary (final year):

*Cheryl Philstrom,
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Treasurer (final year):

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Membership:

Volunteer needed

Past Chair:

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Director (2017–2020):

*Barb Tapper,
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Director (2018–2021):

*Chuck Carlson,
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Editor's Note

This issue of *Minnesota Rock Plant Notes* marks some new garden-related adventures for me. I am a new member of the Minnesota chapter of the NARGS and the new Editor of *Minnesota Rock Plant Notes*.

I came to Minnesota and this local chapter of the MN NARGS by way of Seattle Washington, where I had the great fortune of being a member of the Northwestern Chapter of the NARGS. Seattle is a very different place with a very different climate, however both MN and WA have a big something in common, won-

derful warm gardeners who share of themselves their knowledge and their gardens. Because I'd had such wonderful experiences with the Washington rock garden group, I thought I should find out if there was a local chapter to explore. A quick internet search found the MN NARGS. Talk about "Minnesota Nice," you sure don't disappoint. With my first email inquiry, I was invited to an open garden event being held the following day. From that moment forward I was made to feel like I'd been a part of your fold for years.

Thank you for the warm welcome into our club.

Also, thank you to everyone who has supplied news, articles, stories, photographs, given of their time, and general assistance with my first issue of this publication, *Minnesota Rock Plant Notes*.

I look forward to the new adventure that is gardening in Minnesota. Specifically I will be adding a rock garden area to our yard. I'll be seeking your help and advice with that adventure as well.

—Marcus Phelps-Munson