

Potomac Valley Chapter  
North American Rock Garden Society

**PVC Bulletin**

July 2012

Jim McKenney, Editor [jimmckenney@jimmckenney.com](mailto:jimmckenney@jimmckenney.com) <http://www.pvcnargs.org/>  
This issue edited by Alice Nicolson

You can pay your dues by sending your check for \$15 to Margot Ellis, 2417 N Taylor St., Arlington, VA 22207

**Deadline for next Bulletin - August 15, 2012**

**PVC Calendar**

All meetings are Saturdays, 9:30am for coffee & socializing; 10am lecture, unless otherwise noted.

**July 21<sup>st</sup>, 12 noon-4.00 p.m. - PVC Picnic**  
(see below)

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Rob Gimpel, "Gardening at Stonecrop," a public garden in Cold Spring, NY.** Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD Rob is a PVC member and former intern/gardener at Stonecrop, which features a rock garden among others. Stonecrop was formerly the home and garden of Garden Conservancy founder Frank Cabot. For more about Stonecrop: <http://www.stonecrop.org>

**September 29<sup>th</sup>: Plant Exchange,** Dan & Sigi Turner's home, 6905 Mink Hollow Rd, Highland MD

**October 12-14, NARGS Fall Study Weekend in Pittsburgh (Allegheny Chapter) "Autumn in the Garden -- A Time for Troughs"**  
For more information see link below.  
<http://home.comcast.net/~sylvialynch/Study%20Weekend%20Information.htm>

**October 20<sup>th</sup> Kirk Brown as John Bartram:** US National Arboretum, Washington, DC A dramatic presentation of the life and times of America's first botanist, inveterate traveler, collector and father of the nursery industry in the original thirteen colonies.

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, Members Annual Meeting:** US National Arboretum, Washington, DC. Bring digital plant images of your garden or travels near and far to share with members. 10 to 15 minutes per person

**2013**

(Tentative schedule with dates and locations TBD)

**January Al Martin, "Flowers of the Alpine Zone in the Presidential Range (NH), Mt Washington and Neighboring Peaks."** Al is a Watnong Chapter member (NJ)

**February Don Hyatt, "Chasing the Boom in the Southern Appalachians"**  
Don is a PVC member and rhododendron expert

**PVC Annual Picnic**

**When:** Sat. July 21, Noon to 4:00 pm

**Where:** Freddi and Dick Hammerschlag; 7106 Deer Valley Rd, Highland, MD 20777 (Howard County)  
[peachnfrog66@comcast.net](mailto:peachnfrog66@comcast.net) 301 854 2674

Dick & Freddi will provide beverages and materials but ask each of us to bring a dish - preferably NOT a dessert. (Seems dessert will also be provided.)

Please RSVP by JULY 13 and identify the dish you'll be bringing if possible (or at least a category – i.e., appetizer, side, entrée, etc.) so they can plan.

**They've been working on their garden, so be ready to stroll around.**

**Added enticement - surplus seeds from the 2011-2012 NARGS SEEDEX will be available for free.**

**DIRECTIONS:**

From I 95 North toward Baltimore, go to Rt 216 at exit 35B towards Scaggsville (or take Route 29): Go north on Route 216 past the *multiple traffic circles* near route 29. Go past Route 108 (Highland junction traffic light -see Boarman's Market and small strip mall) now becomes Highland Road. Go to Mink Hollow (about 1 mile) and turn left. Go to Deer Valley Rd ( 1st left) and turn left. Go about 8 houses on right to 7106 (see flag pole) and park at top of hill along Deer Valley Rd. Walk down to house

OR get to Ashton = New Hampshire (Rte 650) and Route 108. Take Rte 108 east and make 1st left onto Mink Hollow Rd. Cross Patuxent and go to top of hill where you'll see Deer Valley Rd going to the right. Take it to 7106 as above.

**Summary of PVC Board meeting, June 14, 2012**

Present: Dick Hammerschlag, Betty Spar, Sarah Strickler, Jim McKenney, Sharon Washburn, Gay Washburn, Anne Mazaitis.

Absent: Tricia Goins, Margot Ellis. Alice Nicolson, Bobbie Diebold

PLANT SALE at Green Spring only netted about \$600 or so, in line with what other vendors have experienced.

Nevertheless we could try to do better by selling better plants. Dick proposed the appointment of a Plant Sale Chair, who also would be a board member, to develop ways of improving our offerings and having them reflect our rock gardening theme. Among the ideas that were floated were these: using something like Jim McKenney's garden plot, grow plants from starters or seed for a year or more in advance of the sale, choosing plants for example from the list of 100 rock garden plants for this area from Don Humphrey; or buy plants commercially and sell them at a markup, as we did in part this year. There was a suggestion that Green Spring might provide us with tables in the future.

We will continue participating at the Green Spring plant sale, but also keep thinking about FONAs, where there would not be upfront costs of 15% of sales. Other NARGS chapters fund raise by raffling or auctioning off plants at meetings.

PVC PLANT EXCHANGE Dick asked Vice President Tricia Goins to take on the job of arranging the time and place of our plant exchanges.

NARGS SEED EXCHANGE. [see article below] Dick agreed early this year to

run the distribution part of the seed exchange after the seed list comes out (usually the middle of December). We would keep track of seed orders, their mailing and payment and remaining seed supply. The mailing (weighing and address labels) will be done in close cooperation with a post office that also can help us with international (hence custom forms) mailing. Dick is looking for a space that we can occupy for 2 to 2.5 months that we can access freely. He estimates we will need 20 to 30 volunteers, beginning at the end of December and until the seed exchange closes, usually the second week of February. At the meeting in September a sign-up sheet will be sent around. Some Mason Dixon chapter people have promised to come and help.

FALL SCHEDULE. Sarah is at work on the fall schedule. We are sharing an expensive speaker with the National Arboretum and the details are being worked out. Two PVC members are also on the schedule.

BYLAWS CHANGES will be published in the July PVC Bulletin and can then be voted on at the September meeting.

PVC SPONSORED INTERN. After the suggestion was made at an earlier meeting, Dick explored the idea with Green Spring. They do have intern programs for \$1500 - \$2000. Perhaps in exchange for an intern we could negotiate a (space for a) propagation workshop. We would have to have in writing that the bulk of the time the intern would work in or on the rock garden and not be used to help weed the rest of Green Spring. Hillwood might be another possibility.

PVC BROCHURE will be updated with more options for info from new members and

new PVC email and phone contacts. We should resume sending out new member information packets and recognizing new members at meetings.

OTHER. Gay wondered why experienced rock gardeners are not talking more about their plants. New(er) members would appreciate that. The same goes for trough workshops.



*Rhodophiala bifida*

Alice Nicolson

### **Bylaws Revisions**

The proposed bylaws revisions were approved by the board are being presented to the membership for a vote at our September 2012 meeting. The revisions consist of two parts;

1. changes to wording - replace the word "Society" with "Chapter", since we are indeed a chapter of NARGS.
2. The nominations procedure is clarified and also amended to include nominations from the floor. All proposed changes are highlighted in red with italics. The following sections show the substantive changes.

#### **ARTICLE IV** **Officers**

...  
Section 2. Election of Officers. *The Nomination Committee shall present the slate of candidates and call for nominations from the floor.* Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the Annual Meeting. *(See Article VI, Section 3(a))*

#### **ARTICLE VI** **Committees**

...  
Section 3.

...  
(b). The Nomination Committee *will consist of at least three members and* will seek candidates from the voting membership; will report the *slate* of candidates (*which can consist of more than one candidate per position*) to the Board of Directors at least *45* before the date set for the annual meeting; will assure that the *slate of* candidates is published in the *Chapter's* periodical newsletter or bulletin at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting; will conduct the election procedure at the Annual Meeting.

The whole proposed bylaws will be posted on our website for those interested.

If you have any questions about these proposed questions call or e-mail Sharon Washburn at 301-656-5510 or [sharonwashburn@verizon.net](mailto:sharonwashburn@verizon.net)

#### **From the President**

Most of you know by now that I accepted a request from NARGS (our parent organization) for us (Potomac Valley Chapter of North Atlantic Rock Garden Society) to handle Phase 3 of a four phase annual process of disseminating packets of seed in response to incoming orders from NARGS members in the U.S., Canada and overseas. In general Phase 3 (our task) consists of (1) organizing the hundreds of seed packets (received from NARGS) by their number, (2) then collecting seed packets by number to fulfill/match individual incoming orders, and (3) placing them (seed packets) in addressed mailers for each order. The individual filled mailers are then weighed, given correct postage (to reach each country), completed with a customs form if necessary and then mailed. This will be done for each order most of which will now come in via e-mail (a new system), the rest by snail mail. This will be done from late December into February as necessary and will require volunteers from the membership. It is my intent to post sign up sheets on line and also have them at the Fall meetings. Dates, times, tasks and place to be determined for the work sessions. There will be many tasks, some rather simple, others more comprehensive. It is my intent to try to get as many members involved as possible – not just rely on the usual cadre of involved members. After all with membership comes responsibility as well as benefits. We should also be able to count on some support from the Mason Dixon Chapter out of Baltimore.

Even though there's time, the first thing that needs to be accomplished is to locate a place/space that we may use uninterrupted for the given time period of late December into February. We need an approximately 650 sq. foot open space that we can access when we need to (hopefully what we decide is best for us, e.g., evenings, some days during the week, and weekends. Work periods would be about 4 hour blocks or however long we all feel comfortable. In the past some Chapters buckled down and were done in a few weeks, others took longer at their pace. Right now I can't say how many times a week we would need to meet (3 or 4 is a likelihood at first). It depends on the number of orders.

Also it is quite likely we would need to commit more time early on than later.

**Sooooo, anyway right now I need help from all of you to try to locate candidate locations.** Frankly, other chapters seem to have found free places. We could, if necessary, pay a small reasonable fee that would be repaid by NARGS but it would likely need to be less than retail. By the way, the space is needed to hold about 10 long tables which remain set up with the organized seed packets on them. The room needs to be heated, have electricity and access to a bathroom. Please get back to me with viable options including name/address of place and contact info.

Details with tasks will follow as I get the process organized. It might take 30 or 40 members to accomplish this job readily.

I am hoping that with all our eyes and ears we will find us a workable space. I have done some searching on my own without any winners, yet.

I'd welcome brief commentary on this so far, especially for most of you working folks whether you could find some time during the daytime to help out as opposed to only evenings/weekends.

Thanks!

Dick Hammerschlag  
[peachnfrog66@comcast.net](mailto:peachnfrog66@comcast.net)

### **NARGS News**

The Eastern Study Weekend is being held in Pittsburgh, PA October 12-14. It's not a difficult drive, all highway, about 4 hours. The hotel is in downtown Pittsburgh and the rate I was quoted is \$115 plus tax for twin beds (Hint, I may share).

Early bird registration saves \$50 if before September 1, so you have time to think about it, for \$300. There are charges for Friday's dinner (\$33) and Saturday's dinner is included. Guests pay \$60 for food.

You can register on line through charge card and pay pal. Right now the registration is kaput, but I'm sure that will be fixed soon. There are great field trips and workshops. Read all about it at [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) study weekends.

Memberships: We still have at least two openings for NARGS memberships at \$20.00 instead of the usual \$30.00 with PVC subsidizing the cost to you as an incentive. The Quarterly and the Seed Exchange are unusual benefits of being a member. Plus of course going to the annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be in Asheville NC in May 2 - 5, 2013. More information: [www.nargs2013.org](http://www.nargs2013.org). Not a bad drive, but long. Flying is riskier since one has to go through Charlotte and that is a busy airport that is closed periodically for thunderstorms. I'm sure The Piedmont Chapter is making it a special conference. I am definitely going to delivery more awards.

Speakers: We will not be having a NARGS speaker this year. Overbooked and we have been fortunate to have two speakers in a row, so I'm not complaining. Better luck next year.

The Seed Exchange: This will be interesting. The Potomac Valley Chapter and Mason Dixon Chapter are actually doing the work. Stay tuned for more information. We will need a chair, co chair and at least 8 loyal "seeders" to sort and organize what comes in. Dick H. is right now in charge. We are desperately looking for a dry basement where we could leave the seeds in place for a few months, starting in October. Any volunteers or space would be appreciated.

Donations: I am continuously surprised at the loyalty of donors to NARGS. This spring's Quarterly lists our own Thornton Burnet Jr. as one. Thank you Thornton!

Awards: A chapter award went to Paul Botting. No surprise. Paul has enabled PVC to keep up our standards in all areas where he participated, both on the Board and in construction of troughs.

We will have another chapter award in July. Alice Nicolson received an Award of Merit for her tireless energy on behalf of the parent organization serving in several capacities including on the Administration Committee.

Betty Anne Spar  
Director at Large NARGS

### **New emails for two board members**

Margot Ellis, treasurer - [4pvcctreas@gmail.com](mailto:4pvcctreas@gmail.com)  
Alice Nicolson, Communications - [a.taxonomy@gmail.com](mailto:a.taxonomy@gmail.com)

**11127 Schuykill Rd.  
Rockville MD 20852**

**PVC Bulletin  
Jim McKenney, Editor**