



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Berkshire Chapter September 2009

Next Meeting

Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 AM

Berkshire Botanical Garden Exhibit Hall
BBG is located 2 miles west of Stockbridge
MA at the junction of Routes 102 & 183

Morning Program

Lola Lloyd Horwitz (1st photo)

My Doing and Undoing: A Garden in Change.

Lola Lloyd Horwitz gardens in Brooklyn, NY but has secondary yet vital roots in rural Vt. and Orange County, NY. She is the past Chairperson of the Manhattan Chapter and organized the 2006 NARGS Eastern Winter Study Weekend. Her garden design work involves transforming several Brooklyn driveways, creating crevice gardens in window boxes and other projects to enliven the spirit

Following the morning program, we'll take a lunch break, have our monthly plant sale, and then...

Afternoon Program

Pam Everleigh (2nd photo)

The Genus *Primula*

Pam is a founding member of the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS) and is currently Vice-President. She has a keen interest in Primulas and has served as a Board member and webmaster of the American Primrose Society. Her personal website www.primulaworld.com contains an image gallery of over 2500 images of Primulas.

Notes from the Program Chair

Since we already had our allotted 2009 NARGS tour speaker, Josef Halda, we did not expect another in the same year. But as luck would have it, the Primula Society has given us the opportunity to hear Pam Everleigh (a second NARGS tour speaker from Calgary) at our October meeting. Fortunately for us, our last speaker, Judy Sellers, mentioned the Primula Society's scheduled event when she spoke to BNARGS last meeting. Turned out it was on the same date as our next one -- and across the street to boot. So I offered BNARGS to host their meeting and to join us for our morning talk from Lola Lloyd Horwitz.



Usually they meet at the small old BBG building in the afternoon. Some of their members drive 3 hours or more to attend (sound familiar?) To stay consistent with their schedule, the afternoon speaker will commence at 2pm, which is a bit of a change for us. But I am sure it will be worth it.

On another note, thanks to Tom Flanigan for taking on scheduling our November luncheon at the Red Lion. I do hope you will plan to attend. Since we are still getting our non-profit paperwork in order, we do not have a final price per lunch yet. Tom will be taking reservations and money at the October meeting.

In keeping with the program to study the family Primulaceae next year, there were volunteers at the last meeting to help with co-ordination. One

idea is to order seed as a group, split it among many growers, and show results next year. Also, I am looking for speakers who can show us how to take cuttings, divide and otherwise propagate the easy and the rare. This family is large enough to interest the best growers as well as novices. From androsaces to primroses, from soldanella to cortusa, there will be something for everyone.

At this point I am interested to hear what members are currently growing as well as what is desired. For instance, I have a couple of colors of *Primula kisoana*, which is easy to divide. If there are members who do not have this wonderful woodlander, I, for one, might concentrate on bringing divisions to next year's plant sales. Also, if there are special plants (propagated or named for members), we might divide and pass those around to keep them flourishing. Get the picture? So let me know if you have something special, or have had great luck with a tricky species, or have a wish list or want to try to grow from seed.



Elisabeth Zander

Late Bloomers

By Mark McDonough

***Allium glandulosum*:**

One thing that struck me about this particular summer, is how advanced some of the late bloomers are. In fact, one of my favorites, the hardy Mexican *Allium glandulosum* is in bloom a full month ahead of itself compared to previous years, and growing taller too, reaching 27" tall (69 cm). Here is a photo taken last September 14th, 2008, serving to show what this rare species looks like today.

This year marks the 10 year anniversary, having received living material from Thad Howard in 1999. He collected this plant in San Luis Potosi, central Mexico, at approximately 2000 m,

flowering in the fall, favoring rather moist sites. I coddled it in pots for 7 of those 10 years, overwintering it in an overly warm and poorly lit basement area where it merely survived and rarely flowered. Hoping that it would prove as hardy as a couple other Mexican alliums I grow, several years ago I planted them out in several locations in the garden, to fend for themselves. The species is very late to sprout, each year no red-stained shoots until June sometime, a nerve-racking growth pattern! But fortunately, it has been hardy thus far.



This species is most unusual with its true metallic red color of the starry, widely-spaced florets. The buds are nearly black red. Not showy in the garden, but certainly distinctive as alliums go. Last year (2008), flowering in mid September, there were open florets lasting into early November.

***Allium macranthum*:**

The second onion species worth noting is *A. macranthum*, marking a 19-year anniversary in my garden. My seed source was Gothenburg Botanic Garden (Sweden) in 1990, from a seed collecting expedition to Bhutan, 3670 meters. In all those years it remains a small sized clump, persisting and flowering modestly in an open sunny garden. It has never set seed in all those years, that is, until this year! In fact, it went

from the usual 2-3 flowering stems to nearly a dozen, with viable seed produced on about half the stems. It is said this species is often confused with the American nodding onion or *Allium cernuum*, although once seen in person, they are quite different indeed. The largish ovoid flowers of *A. macranthum* open up with a white pink-kissed opalescent color, then age to a ruddy purplish color. The stems themselves never nod, completely unlike the permanently crook-necked stems on *Allium cernuum*. In *Allium macranthum*, the pedicels holding each flower do indeed hang downwards or splay outwards, giving it a most unusual disposition to the flower heads, although not without some vague visual affinity with nodding onion blooms.



This species is hard to get true-to-name in the seed exchanges, it is invariably *Allium cernuum* or some other imposter. If your seed grows and flowers the 2nd year from seed, you can bet you don't have the true *Allium macranthum*.

***Saponaria cypria*:**

The last anniversary plant that comes to mind, is another hardiness surprise, *Saponaria cypria*. It came from NARGS seed on 1999, collected at 1600m on Troodos Mountains, Cyprus. It is a most satisfactory little rock garden plant, useful for its July - August bloom. I had put together a small photo gallery of young plants growing in pots back in 2002:

http://www.plantbuzz.com/RockGard/Caryo/im/Sap_cypria.htm

I really appreciate this little plant for the midsummer blooms, and those long sticky red calyxes. One minor fault, it flowers begin to

open late afternoon or dusk (crepuscular), fading away by midday. It reblooms for a long time, and even out of bloom, the tidy clumps of spoon-shaped leaves look good. In the photos taken recently, you'll note that two forms resulted, one is more green-leaved and shy blooming, the other has glaucous leaves and flowers most prolifically.

It has never set seed.



This article was adapted, with the author's permission, from a post on Alpine L.

Paeonia Tenuifolia

I would like to provide some info about *Paeonia tenuifolia*, as I have been growing it for some years now. Locally it is known as the Moravian peony and was brought over to this country by members of the Moravian sect that settled in Lititz, Pennsylvania. I got my start from a friend who had a farm just outside Lancaster. She brought the plant to a plant exchange, just dug up out of her garden in May! It was a bit wilted but *Paeonia tenuifolia* is a tough plant and seems to thrive in the local clayey soil. I also rescued a patch from a farmhouse that was about to be torn down and now have four patches of *Paeonia tenuifolia*. With different exposures for each patch I get about a month of bloom. Every other year I dig one of the patches up to divide as these plants are very welcome at my local NARGS chapter plant sale and I have discovered that, when visiting a gardening friend, my

welcome is a little warmer if I come with a pot of *Paeonia tenuifolia*.



Paeonia tenuifolia – photo by Harvey Wrightman

I had always assumed that all the local *Paeonia tenuifolia* came from a single plant as it was always sterile until last year when I had enough seed to send off to the seed exchange. I wonder what made the difference? I have recently added some species peonies to the garden; could *Paeonia tenuifolia* be crossing with *P. veitchii* or *P. mascula*?

Why the seeds all of a sudden. Another *Paeonia tenuifolia* mystery. I think if I get seeds next year I will try and germinate them and see what I get.

By Jane Grushow, adapted with the author's permission, from an *Alpine L* post.

September 5th 2009 Meeting Notes

Show and Tell:

Don Dembowski brought a houseplant cyclamen, *C. mirabile* "Tilebarn Anne," which has reddish, silver and green leaves. It is one of many Tilebarn cultivars named at the Tilebarn Nursery in the UK (www.tilebarn-cyclamen.co.uk/plants.htm#anne). He also brought in *Daphne x whiteorum* "Warnford," a cross made by *Daphne* book author Robin White between *D. petrea* "Grandiflora" and *D. jasmine*. Though Don says it is difficult to propagate, this prostrate, cascading form blooms

from July until frost! It is sometimes confused with the selection 'Kilmeston' which is a cross of the same two parents but is an upright form.

Cliff Desch brought in one of his own exotic pitcher plants (in flower) native to the Venezuelan Tepui: *Heliamphora nutans*. He attended the Northeastern Carnivorous Plants meeting recently held at [Black Jungle Terrarium Supply](http://www.blackjungle.com) (www.blackjungle.com) 370 Avenue A



Heliamphora nutans flower

Ext., Turners Falls, MA 01376-8900, (413) 863-2770. At the meeting he learned about Stewart McPherson's most recent book, **Lost Worlds of the Guiana Highlands**. This is Stewart's third book about pitcher plants. Here is a website blurb about it: "The tablelands of the Guiana Highlands are among the most spectacular yet least explored mountains of our world. Each is an immense sandstone plateau, known locally as a 'tepui,' that is encircled on all sides by gigantic vertical cliffs up to 1,000 meters tall. The summits of these unique mountains have remained isolated for millions of years, and

today harbor plants, animals and landscapes that occur nowhere else on Earth. This work examines the story of the discovery and exploration of these remarkable mountains and considers the unique plants, animals and landscapes atop of these mysterious lost worlds.” The “punch line,” as Cliff put it, is that Stewart is only 26 years old! Imagine the wonders he will find and provide to the botanical world in the years to come!



Auricula 'Gavin Ward'

Plants for the monthly sale were provided by Wards, Garden Vision Epimediums, Oliver's Nursery, the Primula speaker Judith Sellers, and many members.

Elizabeth Zander and Tom Flanigan announced the BNARGS luncheon to be held at the Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, speaker Priscilla Twombly, \$22.00 per person.

Judy Sellers calls herself a “hobby gardener” and is also known as ‘compost queen.’ This may sound humble enough, but her knowledge of and enthusiasm for primula was infectious and provoked interest in all who attended. If you weren't there, you might consider begging friends for a copy of the handout, so you can see how comprehensive a program she presented). Following is a summary of my notes (Carol Danby, thank you for the light pen!):

Five hundred species of Primula are known, with red and yellow-flowered hybrids being the strongest growers. The easiest to grow are *P.*

veris, *P. polyanthus*, *P. seiboldii* and *P. japonica*.

Many variations and hybrids were highlighted, including *P. veris* ssp. *Rubra*, which has a red-rimmed corolla and is yellow within. *Primula juliae* was discovered in the Caucasus in the early 1900s and provided parentage to innumerable hybrids, with well over 200 cultivars. Its creeping rootstock (apparently rare in the genus?) provides a ready means for increasing plants, a valuable trait retained in many of its hybrids. Judy mulches twice a year to protect the shallow roots against drying out. The most famous cultivar of the *juliae* hybrids is “Wanda” (magenta flowers), whose other parent is a red *P. vulgaris*.

The many species and cultivars Judy discussed were far too numerous to mention them all here. However, Cowichans are particularly notable, flowering in garnet red and in a gorgeous gentian blue that does not occur in nature. So are Burpee's “Pacific Giants,” double-flowered wonders, showing forms of gold laced polyanthus. The most incredible, looking more like a painting than reality (due to the farina on the petals), was grey-edged “Gavin Ward.” Other species that stand out in my notes include: *P. beesiana*, found in moist mountain meadows at 2600 meters in Yunnan and Szechuan, China, reaching 4 to 5 feet tall and can “hold their own” in a meadow; *P. alpicola*, confined to the Tsangpo river basin in Tibet, with “a fragrance almost stupefying in its sweetness,” according to an American Primrose Society 1948 pictorial dictionary; and *P. florindae*, also abundant in parts of the Tsangpo basin, considered somewhat of a bog plant, also very fragrant, with August blooms reaching 3.5 feet.

Judy uses feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*) on the northeast side of her home as a “nurse plant” for primula – combining it with primula provides shade, and the rabbits don't eat it.

Primula flowers are heterostylous, i.e., the condition of the styles (within a pistil) can be either long or short. Long-styled flowers are referred to as “pins” or “pin-eyed,” with the rounded stigma appearing at the mouth or

opening of the flower and the anthers inserted down inside the corolla tube. Short-styled flowers, called “thrums” or “thrum-eyed,” have the stigma included in the corolla tube and the anthers positioned at the mouth of the flower. Heterostylous flowers promote out-crossing when pollen from a thrum is deposited on the stigma of a pin flower (or vice versa). The British do not permit pin flowers in competition (sounds a little sexist to me), but all of the flowers Judy showed us were beautiful regardless of obvious style (pin) or anthers (thrum). (Trivia note: Merriam Webster online’s first definition of thrum is “a fringe of warp threads left on the loom after the cloth has been removed.” Rug hooking was established through the use of thrums that weavers could take home.)



Primula veris ssp. rubra – photo by Judy Sellers

Propagation: Judy sows outside in fall/winter to ensure cold stratification. Seed is thinly sown in covered flats containing compost or seed mix topped with grit. (The grit prevents heaving.) Transplanting takes place when the leaves of seedlings are touching. Seedlings from a February sowing (of *P. auricula*) were ready for transplanting into individual cells by June. The Cowichan (auricula type) takes 3 years from sowing to produce great plants. She recommends not dividing until there are 8 or 9 crowns per plant. Rotting leaves should be cleaned off new growth in spring. Variegated primula die in Judy’s experience, and her thoughts on micropropagation are that it weakens primula plants and dwarfs their flowers. Fungus is considered a minor problem, but voles cause total destruction.

As might be expected of a devoted primula enthusiast, Judy provided membership forms and sources of primula. The New England Primula Society is a chapter of the American Primrose Society; for annual membership, send \$10 to APS-NEC, Lee Nelson, 8 Peer Street, Binghamton, NY 13901-5908. See also www.americanprimrosesociety.org. Sources include Barnhaven Primula at www.barnhavenprimroses.com and Pop’s Plants at www.popsplants.co.uk.

Primula Allionii

Pam Everleigh

I’m not sure when I saw my first *Primula allionii*, but I know that I’ve been entranced by these remarkable cushion Primulas since I started growing alpines in 1991. The plants were unobtainable locally back then - no one was growing them in Calgary - so I was thrilled when I spied them for sale at a Winter Study Weekend. Moments after my purchase, my excitement turned to despair mixed with determination when Norman Singer examined my plants and said “Good Luck, you’ll need it to grow those!” Thus began a process of buy-try-kill until I got it right.

Primula allionii is native to a small area (just over 200 sq km) of the Maritime Alps on the French – Italian border. The main habitat is centered on the Roya Valley in France which runs in a north-south direction and is subject to strong winds and snow in winter. The plants have a specific growing preference for calcareous cliffs, composed of rock which is similar to hard tufa but which still allows for the percolation of water. This creates pockets and crevices in which the plants grow. Sometimes they also grow in small caves, but never in the soil at the base of these cliffs. The plants flower March to April in the wild and as early as January in cultivation. The flower buds form in the fall and, like many Primulas, the plants can start and stop blooming, holding their buds during cold weather. Seed is late ripening, usually October to November.

The real joy of *Primula allionii* is its enormous variability and it's potential for generating new hybrids. Wild plants deviate in size and shape of both flowers and leaves and the color ranges from pink-magenta through to blue-purple. White forms are rare though the breeder Ken Wooster was known for his white seedlings including the popular "Snowflake". *P. allionii* has been hybridized with at least seven other species however only one natural hybrid has been found in the wild. This is *P. x meridionalis*, a cross between *P. allionii* and *P. marginata* found in the Miniera Valley and first collected by Mr C. C. Mountfort in 1927. This collection is still in cultivation under the name 'Miniera'. Later collections of this natural hybrid show that it is as variable as its parents. All this variation adds up to a breathtaking sight when a show bench is filled with perfect domes of *Primula allionii*!



Primula allionii 'Wharfedale Ling' – photo by Esther Wrightman

After many seasons of killing this species, what is the secret to its cultivation? I tried growing plants in clay pots plunged into sand (with limited success), in holes drilled into tufa, even in a trough filled with a tufa grit mixture. They all eventually died. The key to success for me was realizing that Calgary is a relatively dry climate and that these Primulas required more moisture than provided by the methods I had been trying. Eventually I stopped babying this species and planted them directly into gritty soil; tucked in beside the North-East face of large rocks and mulched with large stone chips. This worked! For those in a more humid and wetter

climate, growing *P. allionii* in tufa may be your answer as more than one rock gardener has been successful doing this. Certainly keeping the crown of the plant from contacting the soil and removing dying leaves and flowers immediately with tweezers will prevent botrytis problems. Also good ventilation and protection from direct contact of moisture on the leaves will keep your plants healthy.



Primula allionii 'Broadwell Milkmaid' – photo by Esther Wrightman

Now that you have *P. allionii* growing successfully, you can't rest on your laurels. As with all plants in the Auricula Section, older leaves die back and new leaves form at the top of the stem effectively elongating the stems as the plant matures. This produces a progressively untidy cushion but these stems are perfect for cuttings which can be taken any time from after flowering through to the fall. Remove dead leaves from the stem, make a nice clean cut at the bottom, and insert into damp pure sand (slightly coarse) ensuring the sand is well firmed around the base. The fresh leaves should not be in contact with the sand and the cuttings must be well ventilated, not closed in. I do this in the fall and by spring the cuttings have rooted. It is highly recommended you continually rejuvenate your plants because older cushions may die suddenly of root rot and may be more prone to botrytis. And don't forget to pass on your cuttings to others so they may discover how best to grow them in their garden. These gems should be enjoyed by every rock gardener!

There are many good references on *Primula allionii*.

- www.primulaworld.com images under allionii in the Species Gallery
- http://www.auriculas.org.uk/Allionii_Data.htm to check the accuracy of your named plants refer to this list by John Gibson
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (64: 313, 1996) for the results of an excellent study conducted in the wild by Jules Fouarge
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (53:276, 1985), (60:255, 1992) and (72:187, 2004) on allionii cultivars
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (69:38, 2001) on cultivating in tufa
- Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society (60:462, 1992) encouragement on starting to grow P. allionii
- Primulas of Europe & America by Smith, Burrow and Lowe
- Primula by John Richards
- http://www.auriculaandprimula.org.uk/galleries/european_primulas.html

Sunny Border Nurseries

Sunny Border Nurseries, Inc. is currently celebrating its 80th anniversary as a wholesale grower. The nursery was founded by in 1929 by Robert Bennerup under the name of Norwalk Perennial Gardens. In 1946, the nursery moved to its present location in Kensington, CT and changed its name to Sunny Border Nurseries. During the first 25 years at the Kensington location, the nursery was primarily involved in the wholesale production of bare root perennials, with some small conifers and woody ornamentals sold through a retail outlet. After Robert Bennerup's death in 1967, the business was sold to his son, Pierre Bennerup. Pierre subsequently sold off the woody material, closed

the retail outlet and gradually converted all bare root operations to container grown perennials.

Today, Sunny Border's extensive production facilities include five properties with a total of 57 greenhouses and 40 acres of outdoor production. The nursery is run jointly by Pierre Bennerup, CEO and Sunny Border President, Marc Laviana,

We produce over 2,000,000 plants a year with over 3,000 varieties in production yearly in a wide variety of pot sizes from 3" to 3 gallon. Our primary sales region is the Northeast corridor, from Virginia to Maine, west to Ohio.

We have year round propagation and production and we are unparalleled, in offering the largest selection around, from classic, time-tested plants to the most unique new varieties discovered throughout the world and in our own fields.



Main Farm

The largest part of our inventory consists of hardy herbaceous perennials however we also have an extensive line of alpine (rock garden) plants, ornamental grasses, ferns, vines, herbs and our popular Bodacious Temperennials program. Horticulturalists worldwide are now using the term "Temperennials" when referring to tender perennials and tropicals. We also produce an extensive inventory of green roof varieties for the landscape trade and as northeast grower for Weston Solution's GreenGrid® green roof modules. Most recently, we've also added a line of vegetables called Sunny B's Veggies and plan on adding more varieties to the product line each year.

Sunny Border has introduced many new plant varieties to the trade during its long tenure in the industry. The best known is Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue', hybridized by Robert Bennerup in the 1940's. Grown throughout the temperate world, it remains one of the finest forms and longest blooming of all Veronicas. In 1993, it was selected as the "Perennial Plant of the Year" by the Perennial Plant Association. More recently, we've introduced varieties such as Polemonium reptans 'Stairway to Heaven', and Coreopsis x 'Sienna Sunset', among many others.



New Farm

Adonis Vernalis

Harvey Wrightman

Adonis is one of those odd genres of the family ranunculaceae that murkily sits amongst paeonia, anemone, and ranunculus. The only 2 we grow are *A. amurensis*, a species from Eastern Siberia, and *A. vernalis*, which has a wide, though limited distribution throughout Europe. Our original plants are from Czech origin seed (Moravia), and produced approximately 50 plants. These have been raised in an ordinary garden bed – rich, loamy soils (think wheat land) are favored, and soon the clumps of black, rather thick roots with relatively few smaller branches, developed. In early April, when the ground has thawed, large flower buds will boldly poke through the winter

debris that still remains, and in the space of a week or 2, the large yellow cups of flowers will emerge on short stems – much welcome treat for the bees that are out foraging in the cold bright air. As the days lengthen and warm, the leaves and stems emerge growing eventually to ~ 20 cm in height and carrying the flowers with them upward – another kind of resurrection plant.

Planted thickly, as our group is, one can imagine them growing on a Czech hillside with pasturing cattle or sheep nearby, much like the photos of wild paeonia that grow in Chinese grasslands.

One might ask if these plants are grazed? That I can't answer for sure, but I suspect that since the



Adonis vernalis – photo by Rachel Flowers

plant is closely related to *Paeonia* and contains alkaloids, probably not. The seeds which develop through June are held in the open in a tight cluster. Large, like anemone seeds, they ripen and fall near the base of the plants. I have collected these and sown them, but I find that the best germination results when I leave them where they fall and dig the plants later as they mature. The seedlings resent transplanting – DO NOT DISTURB! The plants go dormant in September and at this time can be dug and left bare-root much like peonies. Replanted anytime in the fall, they quickly re-establish and will bloom next spring. Propagating in pots is less successful and they resent disturbance when in active growth in the spring. *A. vernalis* is an easy plant to grow, not so easy to acquire, as it resents extreme domestication.



Adonis vernalis – photo by Esther Wrightman

give our plants adequate drainage from the rains that are neither "early" nor "late," but rather utterly inconvenient. And we mulch extensively, sometimes to keep the plants from sitting in water, and other times to keep the soil cool and moist when the rain doesn't come. In short, we are committed to growing our plants in a place where evolution says they don't belong -- and the amazing thing is how well we actually do this seemingly impossible task.



Corydalis turczaninonii – photo by Esther Wrightman

Natural Rhythms

Over the past weekend I spent a good deal of time in our local synagogue, celebrating the Jewish New Year with my family. I tend to read the prayers in their English translation, since even after almost 6 decades of practice, biblical Hebrew remains a very difficult language for me. One of the regular readings is drawn from Deuteronomy 11:14 -- "that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil." As I read this familiar passage, it suddenly struck me that much of what we do as rock gardeners is find ways to grow plants despite the fact that the New England rains -- the rains of our land in its season -- are radically unfamiliar to our plants, because most of them are native to mountains, dry plateaus, even deserts. We create microclimates, attempting to mitigate the often bizarre weather we have to live with and its negative, sometimes fatal, effect on our plants. We dig deep and backfill with sand and stone to

This week I'm also sorting through a huge number of bulbs I got from Harvey Wrightman, many of which will be distributed to other chapter members over the next 2 weeks. (I still have a decent number of bulbs left, including several of the *C. turczaninonii* corms, so please let me know if you want some). Almost all of these bulbs come from the Caucasus, Turkey, Iran and Siberia, where the climates are utterly alien to our own. The bulbs are expensive, and the risk we take is that our efforts to create the necessary conditions to keep them alive and flowering will be successful, and it is a risk that to me at least, is worth the cost. Looking through the Ruksan's catalogues I save, I can barely contain my excitement over what will bloom for me next year, assuming the rains and my efforts to give these bulbs the 'right stuff' are in concordance.

PFG



Chapter Business

Surprisingly enough, we sometimes conduct Chapter business at our meetings, and the October meeting is traditionally designated as our Business Meeting. This year we are supposed to conduct our annual election of officers, so it's important that we know who is actually up for election. Without having conducted a formal nomination process, we are prepared to re-elect our entire slate of officers, so unless YOU have interest in assuming a welcome(!), the slate of officers is the same as you will find at the end of this issue. It seems that we are beginning to resemble the political climate of the Caucasian post-Soviet states more than our own, but hopefully next year we'll achieve some real turnover in our Chapter officers.

Our November meeting, the Annual Luncheon Meeting, is taking shape under the leadership of Tom Flanigan. Reserve the date, **November 7**, for our program, which will be held at the Red Lion Inn and will feature Priscilla Twombly. Menus, costs, etc., will be available at our October meeting. In the interim, feel free to contact me or Tom Flanigan if you have questions.

Also at our November meeting, we will be voting on a proposed Chapter By-Law change. Currently our By-Laws require that all BNARGS members belong to NARGS. In fact, BNARGS membership is conditioned on already being a member of NARGS. There is no mention of whether or not it is a requirement of membership that we maintain NARGS membership. We should clarify the By-law by deciding whether or not being a member of NARGS is a requirement of BNARGS membership. My proposal is to change the relevant By-law provision to read as follows: 'Membership in The North American Rock Garden Society is strongly recommended, but is not a requirement.' Your comments are welcomed!

We continue to have our monthly plant sale, so *PLEASE* don't forget to bring a few at our next meeting. We all need to check on the status of our dues as well. And this issue will be available in a new format on the web. I'm trying out a few things to see if we can produce a more attractive and interesting newsletter electronically, while continuing our current format with the paper version. So go to the BNARGS website to see the new electronic version.

Finally, I need to thank all of our contributors who keep sending me interesting and informative material for our newsletter. My job is made SO much easier by the incredible articles and photographs. Keep it up!

Peter George



The October Newsletter

We are entering 'seed propagation' season, and I'm looking for material from our members describing the various plants that they have germinated successfully, and then grown in their gardens over at least one gardening year. So if you are successfully growing eriogonums, or opuntias, or fritillaries, or just about anything that is *not* native to the northeast U.S., please consider sending me a photo a brief description of the 'how' of your successes.

PFG

Positions of Responsibility

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Vice-Chairperson – Robin Magowan
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Refreshments Chairperson – Joyce Hemingson
Speaker Housing – Anne Spiegel

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Please contact editor before reprinting
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