



## NARGS Nova Scotia Annual Meeting

By Bobby Ward

NARGS held its annual meeting June 8 – 11, 2023, on the 26-acre Agricultural Campus of Dalhousie University in Bible Hill (near Truro), Nova Scotia. The Agricultural Campus is one of the four branches of the university in the province and specializes in all branches of plant and animal sciences. The meeting was held adjacent to the spectacular Bicentennial Rock Garden, constructed in 2002 and renovated in 2018 – 2019. Four members of the Piedmont Chapter attended the conference: Amelia and Richard Lane, Cyndy Cromwell, and I. It was a typically organized meeting with day tours to gardens and natural areas, lectures at night, and plant sales with about 110 attendees plus support volunteers.

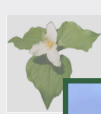


. *Dodecatheon* (now *Primula*) *pulchellum*  
'Red Wings'



Crevice Garden at Dalhousie Rock Garden





**Dalhousie University Bicentennial Rock Garden with pink granite**



**Lewisia cotyledon**



**Stone trough cut by local stonemason at Dalhousie Rock Garden**



**Plant sales**





**Darwin Carr's rock garden.**



**Glooscap of the Mi'kmaq First Nation (Native American) was the first human, creating himself, according to legend, and made the world inhabitable by creating mountains and rivers.**



**Bobby Ward at low tide in the Bay of Fundy. The rock is pink sandstone.**

(All the Nova Scotia lectures and awards presentations are posted on the NARGS web site free for NARGS members [HERE](#). Or pathway: About Us> Members News> Members Only Videos.)





## Adam Black Receives Prestigious Award

Tony Avent (left) presents Adam Black the Edgar T. Wherry Award from the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). The award is for “the dissemination of botanical and/or horticultural information about native North American plants.” Adam is director of Horticulture and Plant Conservation at the Bartlett Arboretum Headquarters in Charlotte.

The award was announced June 10th in Nova Scotia at the NARGS annual meeting. Tony, a member of the Board of Directors of NARGS, presented the award at the Southeastern Plant Symposium in Raleigh June 16.



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### Piedmont Chapter Slate of Officers to be installed at the September Meeting

Chair: Sandy Harwood  
Past Chair: Amelia Lane  
Vice Chair /Program Chair: Bobby Ward  
Secretary: Char Thomann  
Treasurer: Cyndy Cromwell  
Membership Chair: Ruth Little  
Directors: Tim Alderton  
          Jim Hollister  
          Charlie Kidder  
          Chris Glenn  
          Kyle Sonnenberg  
          Jay Yourch  
Newsletter Editor: Marian Stephenson





## Titan Aroids in Bloom

By Bobby Ward

The Triangle area may hold the record for having two *Amorphophallus titanium* plants blooming within a couple of weeks of each other. The first was on June 21st at the JC Raulston Arboretum and the second was at Juniper Level Botanic Garden on June 30, 2023.

The plant, an aroid, is considered a charismatic megafauna for botanic gardens worldwide, because when it flowers it attracts vast crowds who want to see the gigantic unbranched inflorescence, the largest in the Plant Kingdom. The inflorescence consists of a long columnar, usually tawny-colored, spadix that has at its base, hidden from view, rows of small male flowers below which are rows of female flowers.

When the grand purple spathe (or “skirt”) opens at the base, it emits a rotten flesh odor attracting flies and carrion beetles to the female flowers the first day while the male flowers open the second day producing pollen (it is not self fertile and it will need pollen from another plant to produce seeds). If pollination is successful, it produces red, berry-like fruit, similar to other aroid family members, such as *Arisaema* (jack-in-the-pulpit).

These two titan aroids are the 808th and 812th known to have bloomed in cultivation, since the first one at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1889.



**Avent aroid in flower**



**JCRA aroid in flower**





## **Piedmont NARGS Speakers Fall 2023/Winter 2024**

**September 16, 2023**

**Jerry Yu:** “Discovering Ecuador’s Highland Alpines and Orchids”  
Plus 15-minute talk by **Amelia Lane** report on  
“The International Czech Rock Garden Conference, May 2023”

**October 21, 2023**

**Sandy Horn:** “Conifers for Rock Gardens”

**November 4, 2023**

**Jon Roethling:** “Reynolda Gardens: What Was Old Is New Again”

**January 20, 2024**

**Zachary Hill:** “Unusual Native Plants of the U. S. Southeast”  
Plus 15-minute talk by **Tracy Thomasson** on:  
“Critters in the Garden: the Good and the Bad”

**February 10, 2024**

**Tim Alderton:** “NARGS-Sponsored Argentine Patagonia Trip, December, 2023”  
Plus 15-minute talk by **Jim Jahnke** on  
“NARGS Extension Trip to Southern Patagonia, 2022”

**March 16, 2024**

**Paul Spriggs** (NARGS Traveling Speaker): “A Grand Tour: Experiencing the  
Rock Gardens of the Czech Republic”

**April 20, 2024**

**Scott Zona:** “Turning Rocks into a Rock Garden”  
Plus 15-minute talk by **Cyndy Cromwell** report on  
“NARGS Nova Scotia Annual Meeting, June 2023”





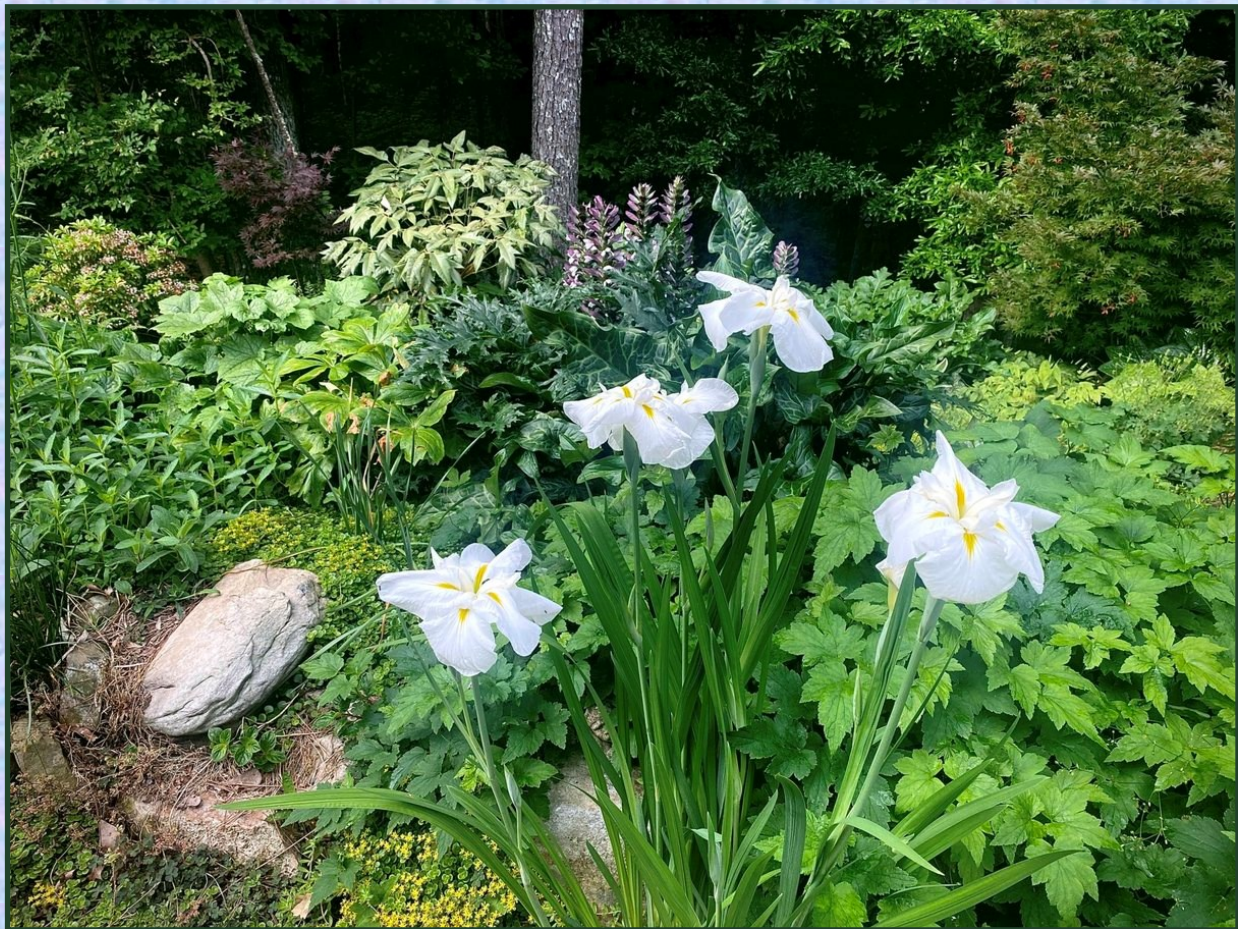
**Kyle and Mary  
Sonnenberg**

**Welcomed Piedmont  
Chapter Members to  
Their Garden and  
Home  
May 6, 2023**

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## **Summer Glimpses of Members Gardens**

**Thanks to Jim  
Hollister  
for this photo.**



A riot of Iris, Anemone, Podophyllum, Arum, Sedum, Schefflera, Acer, etc. on a rocky ridge.



Continuing... Photos Shared by Members from their Gardens  
2023



*Iris siberica* ' Tipped in Blue'

*Studies in Blue*  
Photographs by Scott Zona



*Papaver rhoeas* ' Amazing Grey'



*Salvia patens* ' Blue Angel'





## Wayne Stephens' Former Pennsylvania Garden



Beloved place to sit, meditate and drink wine



Spring blooms

Some photos from my previous woodland garden in Chadds Ford, PA ~7 years ago. I started it myself and gardened there for 22 years.

It was featured in the Oct/Nov 2010 edition of Signature Brandywine Magazine and selected as best garden in Delaware County, PA in 2010.



Rest filled walkway with *Tiarella cordifolia*





Continued...

## Wayne Stephens Garden



Rest for meditating with Shy Yogi of Bali



Outcropping and Spring



Winding Way Trail





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## Sunflowers at Dorothea Dix Park

Images of the five acres or so of sunflowers at Dorothea Dix Park near downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. They are growing on the site of a former landfill. The mature seeds from the flowers will be harvested and used to produce biodiesel fuel for the city's vehicles.

### Sustainable Garden Seminar

Learn the basics of sustainable gardening through the example in *Bee Better Naturally's Teaching Garden* with Helen Yoest.

Over a three- hour instruction morning, learn waterwise techniques, mulching, and plants to sustain your garden fully.

**Saturday, October 21st, 2023**  
**8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**\$75.00 registration fee**

Register here:  
<https://www.beebetternaturally.com/shop/>

*The Bee Better Naturally Teaching Garden won the City of Raleigh's Sustainable Garden Award in 2015.*

### Membership Form

#### Piedmont Chapter—NARGS

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30

**Membership Options:** Individual:\$15  
 Circle one. Household: \$20

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second person name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to: **Piedmont Chapter, NARGS**

Mail to : **David White, 3 Ontario Court, Durham, NC 27713**

Visit <https://www.piedmontnargs.org/> to learn more about the Piedmont Chapter