



# Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society  
Berkshire Chapter March 2009

## **Next Meeting**

**Saturday, April 4, 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

**Chapter Business:** Show & Tell, Ask The  
Expert, and any other relevant or irrelevant  
activities, as long as they are interesting.

**AM & PM – Alan Bradshaw**

### ***Western Plants***

Alan's seedhouse, Alplains, supplies an  
incredible assortment of western US alpines,  
from classics like *Aquilegia jonesii* and  
*Penstemon grahamii* to cacti species from  
the Desert Southwest. His encyclopedic  
knowledge of the plants includes not only  
dimensions, but also growing conditions.  
His talk at the 2008 Eastern Winter Study  
Weekend was one of the high points of that  
meeting, and we are thrilled to have another  
opportunity to share in Alan's passion.

Alan's morning program will be followed  
by:

**Lunch — BYO.**

We welcome dessert contributions. Lunch  
will be followed by our first plant sale of  
the year. Please make every effort to bring a  
few of last year's now grown up seedlings,  
or something that you can dig up and that  
will catch the eye of one of our other  
members.

## Editor's Message – 3/21/09

Our Chairman, Cliff Desch, was unable to  
write his usual monthly column due to a bad  
case of post-traumatic stress syndrome.  
Apparently several deer managed to evade  
his sophisticated and expensive deer barrier,  
and since that horrible Sunday morning  
when he found them munching on some of  
his most precious botanical gems, he has  
been disconsolate and incommunicado. I  
expect that we will see him at the April  
meeting, so when you run into him, a hug  
will probably be appropriate.

April not only opens with Alan Bradshaw,  
but closes with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stonecrop  
Alpine plant sale in Cold Spring, NY. This  
year the vendors include Wrightman's,  
Alpines Mont Echo, Betsy Knapp Troughs,  
Don Dembowski, Carol's Collectibles, Les  
Plantons A&P, and Stonecrop Gardens.  
<http://www.stonecrop.org/>

Harvey Wrightman has agreed to deliver our  
Chapter order to the Stonecrop sale, If you  
haven't emailed me your order, please bring  
it to the April meeting, as I will still be able  
to get it to Harvey in time. We still have a  
few copies of McGregor's Sax book  
available for \$30, so grab me early or you  
may be left out.

Like most of you, I'm thrilled that the snow  
is finally gone and I can actually get into the  
garden. See you next week!

PFG

# A Bunch of Different Ways that I Miss Geoffrey

Article and Illustrations by Lori Chips

Geoffrey's last name and my last name both begin with the letters Ch. Charlesworth, Chips; one came immediately after the other. And that is the order I always found them in inside our Chapter's box of nametags. Until I didn't. Until his was gone. The first time it wasn't there made me stop and catch my breath; I glanced inadvertently over at the front row, right, center, where he used to sit and I had to pay attention to the hole in my heart. I still expect to see him. I still expect that, when I need to ask someone about a plant, he will be able to answer me. I guess one "Measure of a Man" is how long and how strongly his spirit resonates. And this, for me is only the beginning of the story.

2008 was a year of tremendous loss for me. I lost my Mom less than three weeks before the winter study. Naturally I managed to catch the first flu that happened to pass by after that, and the study weekend had to go on without me. With one exception. Joe drove me in on Sunday morning to hear Geoffrey speak. I think we all felt the magic generated by the power of his last lecture. I feel sure that he felt it too. When Anne

Spiegel's voice had a little catch in it as she lovingly introduced him, as everyone responded to his warmth and humor, and finally when we all stood up spontaneously clapping at the end.

Afterwards I went up to the podium and from a safely non-contagious distance I told him how much I loved his talk. He automatically moved towards me, opening his arms to give me a hug but I put up my hand. "No you don't. Flu." He smiled and stepped back. That was the last time that I would ever see him; somehow I will always be wistful about not getting that hug...

Certain persons loom large in one's imagination way before you meet them. Norman and Geoffrey were like that for me. I remember reading

Singer/Charlesworth on the labels of some of the most amazing plants in the Alpine House at the New York Botanical Garden. I was swiftly to learn more about Geoffrey. Because he was a writer, I was privileged to be able to

gain access to his inner life. Also, to his garden, his friends, his plants, pet peeves, opinions, and his joy. I consider myself to be irredeemably lucky to be a reader of his work. In the inimitable way he wrote we have all been able to share in the rare gift of his experience. Possibly my favorite chapter in all his work is the one called "Planting Out." I see myself and every other gardener



I know in that little chapter, and it always makes me laugh.

The first time I ever really spoke to the two of them was at Elisabeth's house (then Harmon, now Zander) during the seed exchange in 1996. I had been introduced to them the year before at the Berkshire annual meeting but that had been my first and was pretty much a blur. The next year while filling seed orders I remember some inspired talk about *Eriogonums* as Elisabeth's budgie sat on Norman's shoulder and tried to pull seed packets out of his hands. I remember showing both of them some of my drawings and having them compared with Timmy Foster's- high, high praise indeed. I remember tea, and I remember being told about an opening at Oliver Nurseries.

Everyone just loves to recount engaging stories about these two, and for good reason. They were brilliant men, warm, witty, quirky and talented.

And I hate having to use the past tense about them. Telling an anecdote about them allows us, just for a minute or two, to reside with them again. It's a good feeling.

After I'd come to know them I would send them (each) a drawing at Christmastime. Finally one day Norman told me I really only needed to send one, that they would share it, and that he and Geoffrey were not competitive with each other any more. He

said that all of that had stopped one day when one of them walked over to the other in the potting shed with a handful of defunct plant labels and said: "My dead plants are better than your dead plants." I have no idea if this is true or only a good story. So from then on, I sent only one drawing with "Happy Holidays" on the envelope until Geoffrey, some time after Norman was gone, said: "You know, I don't believe in religious holidays." So after that, my plant picture arrived at his house with "Happy Winter Solstice" on the outside. He seemed content with that. I was very moved later on to know that he had saved them all.



If you were ever lucky enough to visit their fabulous garden on Norfolk Road in Sandisfield you will know how big it was. It was made up of every setting they could contrive to experiment with, germinate, and grow rare plants. But then, they weren't always rare. Geoffrey has often championed the cause of the easy-

going wall plants: *Alyssum*, *Arabis*, *Aubrieta*. His generosity spilled over into even that. While visiting them once Joe happened to ask: "so who does all the mowing around here?" Geoffrey looked sharply at both of us and said "Norman THINKS that he does."

I have an envelope from overseas that was mailed to him with seeds enclosed. I can't

bring myself to throw it out; it is addressed to the garden at 24 Norfolk Road.

Sometime in the middle of winter in the middle of the 1990's while visiting my Mom in Key West we sat together on her bed talking. The beautiful trade winds buffeted the palm fronds around outside the window (not the most likely setting to be discussing alpinists) while I told her all about my new involvement with the Rock Garden Society and about its remarkable members. She stopped with her hand on the door and said to me: "You know, you have chosen a field and a discipline where people revere the elders in their midst." She was right, of course, and how lucky for us all that this is so. She was responding, I know, to the awe and reverence in my voice towards the people I had met, but also, she was telling me that, one day, I could be a lucky "Elder" too.



For those of you who attended Geoffrey's memorial meeting in the fall, then you have already heard the "Um" story. For the rest of you, here goes...

Norman had convinced me to give my very first solo talk, and I was nervous. Geoffrey had helpfully told me that every time he gave a talk he had to teach himself how to do it all over again. My subject was plant propagation, something I knew well, but stage fright has nothing to do with that. After I had finished Geoffrey approached me and told me how much he had liked it. I said: "Well, I think I said the word "Um" a few too many times." "Nonsense," he said, "You said the word "Um" exactly the right number of times."

It's a funny story, but it displays his mind and his heart so well. It is full of warmth, generosity and kindness. He was always respectful. He was interested. He was thoughtful. THIS is what I miss.

People have sometimes referred to Geoffrey as reserved, or even shy. I think these adjectives miss the mark. It is certain that he was humble. But joining that, he was bemused, and he was never afraid to speak up about his convictions.

I read something not long ago describing how one's relationship with a deceased loved one does not remain static; it evolves. Of course what I thought that meant was that the pain, anguish, even anger or bitterness would lessen over time; something along those lines. I was wrong. It is a very active evolution and it is filled with subtle discoveries. It is not just a settling down into peacefulness; it is actually a conversation. I have a couple of packets of Geoffrey's Nasturtium seeds that I will be planting in the spring. It is with a real pang that I will release them, as they are annuals, destined to live out their quick exuberant lives inside

one season. They are nothing to hold on tight to, nothing that will last. But Geoffrey was the first to say he wasn't sure he trusted any plant that looked like it might outlive him. He also once told me that he would be ready to go back to the soil when the time came. He was quintessentially a gardener, after all.

I may as well admit that, even though I am a plant collector, a person who drops to their knees before rare flowers-(well, sometimes one HAS to, these plants can be small) I still harbor a soft spot for the genus *Tropaeolum*. And I guess Geoffrey did too. I love the enormous size of the seeds, and the science-project-in-grammar-school way they thrust their first parasols of foliage out of the ground. Then of course, there are the luminous hot-colored flowers. So, when all danger of frost is past I will be pushing these seeds into the soil. In spirit, I plan to invite Geoffrey to come along and join me whenever I sow some seeds. Or when I see a rare plant. Or when something rare decides to flower. Or when something germinates. (Or something doesn't.) This year when the season hits high summer and when those Nasturtiums start their show I'll know, the conversation isn't over.

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### ***Euphorbia polychroma:***

#### **An Easy AND Beautiful Spring Glowing Mound**

*Euphorbia polychroma*, also known as Cushion Spurge, "cushion" because of its cushion-like, dome-shaped growth habit and the common name "Spurge" derives from the Middle English/Old French espurge ("to purge"), due to the use of the plants sap as a purgative. Some people are sensitive to the milky sap that can cause skin irritation. This species is closely related to the poinsettias. *Euphorbia polychroma* is a very hardy,

carefree, long-lived and long blooming perennial.



*Euphorbia* is a very diverse genus including over 2,000 varieties of annual, biennial and perennial trees and shrubs. The genus is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas, but also in temperate zones worldwide. *Euphorbia polychroma* has narrowly ovate to oblong leaves approximately 2" long arranged in whorls around the stems. The leaves produce shades of red, orange, and purple in autumn. The chrome yellow flowers are actually bracts or modified leaves. The bracts glow for three to four weeks starting the middle of May in my zone 5 garden. *Euphorbia polychroma* is reliably hardy from zone 3 to 8.

The plant looks great from early spring through frost. It's perfect forming mound reaches a height to 20 inches tall and 24 inches wide. Best grown in full sun, but can handle some shade. Prefers dryer conditions, but can be grown in almost any good draining soil. Will reseed but not invasive. Cut back about a third of the plant after flowering to prevent reseeding. *Euphorbia polychroma* does not like to be transplanted once established.

Since *Euphorbia polychroma* is a Mediterranean native it can add an exotic

flare to your garden. The landscape habit is a tidy dome shaped structure with many uses from the front to the middle of borders, masses, large rock gardens and great to combine with daffodils, other smaller bulbs and smaller perennials. Great to mix with late blooming perennials to achieve color the rest of season. Good for hot dry spots. Drought tolerant, and can spread quickly in overly moist soil. I have several in front of an old rock wall. Euphorbias are deer and rabbit resistant.

Here are a few introductions:

*Euphorbia polychroma* Bonfire - dark red leaves

*Euphorbia polychroma* 'Lacy' - variegated leaves

*Euphorbia* 'Jessie' – Barry Glick of Sunshine Farm and Garden. interspecific Euphorbia hybrid, a cross between *E. griffithii* and *E. polychroma*

'Candy' ('Purpurea') is 1 to 1.5 feet tall with purple stems and purplish leaves and pale yellow flower heads.

'Emerald Jade' is about 1 foot tall with showy autumn foliage and bright green floral bracts.

*Article and Photo by David Gehrs*

## **The Western Winter Study Weekend: *My Perspective***

*Robin Magowan*

With the collapse of the Calgary-scheduled annual meeting the mid-March Western Winter Study meeting in Portland became, de facto, our needed annual meeting. Jane

McGary had assembled a roster of luminaries—nearly all Brits—and the revitalizing theme seemed one a tottering membership could apply personally. For a quartet of us Berkshire folk (Alex and Lynn Kenner, and Peter George, and I) it seemed a worthwhile opportunity.

Peter rented a car and early Friday we set out for Cistus Nursery, located at the end of a little island in the Columbia River a half hour away. Its director, Sean Hogan, had contributed the general design and a number of the plants for the excellent Classical Chinese garden occupying a block of the former Chinese quarter across the river from our conference hotel, an experience that took him into growing zone-defying hardy tropicals.



The Japanese Garden in Summer

From Cistus we drove to the Hale garden in the backyard of a residential corner lot, a garden twenty years in the making, constructed out of pitted black volcanic rock and full of an extraordinary variety of perfectly labeled exquisite alpines. Not many rock gardens can claim to be genuine works of art, but the Hale garden manages in a plant-crammed space to give a feeling of beauty and in its positioning of bushes real serenity.

On Saturday morning we were treated to three outstanding talks by Ian Young, Carlo Balistrieri, and David Sellars. Ian Young is a

former head of the Scottish Rock Garden Society for whom he contributes a weekly bulb blog. The first of his talks took us on a tour of his Aberdeen city garden, all the more interesting in that he is a working artist. His plants all had a personal reason for being studied, touched, and admired. But it was their claim of beauty in a highly concentrated garden space that spoke to us.

We know Carlo Balistrieri as a former curator of the Bronx Botanical Garden. He gave a talk on buns or cushion plants—what steps we need to take to grow them tight—and a more interesting one on the amazing developments the Dutch are pioneering in rock garden design: a series of tufa crevice gardens and the extraordinary public garden in Utrecht that are giving the Czechs quite a run for preeminence: not so much fanatically striated as in the Czech manner as exuberantly bulging.

Balistrieri's twists on rock garden design led into David Sellars' espousal of a simulated chaos in the rock garden. We have seen of late a number of presentations of crevice gardens featuring slabs of rock set in tight rows much the way they appear in the mountains. But the plants themselves, Sellars maintains, don't grow in these orderly rows. Instead they prefer areas where the order breaks into a rubble from which seedlings can profit to find the niches they need. The irregular profile a mountain range presents turns out to be a mixture of pattern and seeming chaos that it repeats on every level of scale. Think, for instance, of the patterned bark on a tree. The challenge nature offers would be a garden of ever-increasing complexity that plants can exploit. In the Czech crevice scheme there is nothing worse than a boulder garden; the rocks should be not big lumpy ones, but slabs, thin two-thirds submerged flatnesses. Sellars sees nothing wrong with a boulder

field; especially great boulders with holes drilled so they can be wedged apart and planted as crevices. We all know that most alpine plants thrive in limestone because of the niches that the fissuring allows. But what if, like Sellars, you live where you only have granite? It's not every day we get a talk on chaos theory, fractal geometry, and deterministic and random kinds of overlapping in garden design.

I won't say the weekend was entirely successful. The intrusion of politics later Saturday morning as the slate of nominated directors was wiped out and replaced by a Western crew had all the unsavoriness of a coup d'état: the power of sheer numbers on home turf. And it sets an ugly precedent that bears watching. Good people—Harvey Wrightman, Matt Mattus, and Peter George—don't need to be ruthlessly trampled. To believe NARGS will be the better for this display of might makes right is absurd. Instead it leaves a burnt feeling that we attendees can't help but carry. Why go all that way for a meeting to be so pointlessly humiliated?

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## Movements

April, the time for planting, is near and with it comes assessment. Gardens change. Trees grow or are removed; the amounts of light and wind are altered. Plants die, or grow so much they subdue and dominate a garden. In nature change is managed by extremes of weather and topography. Storms, ice, fire, snowmelt, flooding and rockslides, grazing...etc. Humans will manage a garden in a similar manner with the objective of improving overall attractiveness of the plantings, or perhaps just to grow some difficult species.

When a garden is fresh and new, the rush to fill it as soon as possible can lead to over-

planting, a common practice of the nursery/landscape trade to sell plants and satisfy the urge to make it finished. One can do this in the rock garden with fast-growing mats like *Veronica liwanensis* or *V. oltensis*. Mildly thuggish, they can be ripped back if spread out of bounds. Some plants can grow in these mats, but I find it rather too competitive for choice plants. Ground cover plants like *Geranium sanguineum* can grow over and eliminate others very easily; and, though it can be dug out, any remaining pieces of root will allow it to re-establish. Choice of plants is critical. Weedy plants, no matter how pretty, carry a price in nuisance.



Daphne 'Lawrence Crocker'

Conifers and shrubs can also overtake an area. Again the nursery/landscape trades favor grafts on faster-growing rootstocks so that a full-size is available for sale. Specialty nurseries are more likely to use slower-growing rootstocks or propagate from cuttings. When building a new garden, it is quite OK to use some larger shrubs to create a more mature look. We did this in the tufa garden with ~ 30 *Daphne x 'Lawrence Crocker'*. Years later they occupied too much space and we ripped out 20. The daphnes – knowing that they would have well developed, fibrous roots, they were put into gallon pots and sent to the sales bench. If transplanting to a new location, the roots can be trimmed to fit the hole or crevice. - overlaying matted roots will die anyway. Backfill with the same soil was removed.

Division works well with alpines that lack a taproot; often the individual rosettes have roots attached – the “Irishman’s cuttings”.



'Irishman's Cutting'

*Primula allionii* and its hybrids are readily done this way. Avoid the older, corky parts as they can harbor disease. Younger bits will grow faster. Check for the dreaded root aphid – a white, waxy film in the roots about the crown. If found, treat plants with Marathon drenches to eliminate it. Silver Saxifrages and Androsace can be divided in a similar fashion, spring or fall.

#### Caveats

1) Generally speaking almost everything can be moved/divided in spring. Plants want to grow then, and new roots are produced freely. Fall (Sept. – Nov.) is also good, but less sure than spring. If the weather is too dry and the plants are stressed, the results are poorer. Some things, e.g., willows and oaks in Eastern NA transplant very poorly in the fall.

2) Juno and onocycclus iris, like many other hardy bulbs, should be planted in the fall only. Even potted specimens are best left alone as even minor root disturbance when in active growth will cause the plant to decline – this I know from bitter experience. By August they are dormant, can be dug and left unattended on a shelf for weeks. Upon replanting, even in late November, they quickly establish new roots and will grow



slightly throughout the winter. From December on, I never disturb them. This is why they are offered only from August to October. One can say ditto for *Adonis vernalis*. Bare root plants in the fall transplant 100%.



*Adonis vernalis*

3) Although most native soils are fertile enough, it does help to put a spoonful of a rock powder such as apatite, greensand or carbonatite with the transplant. We use a carbonatite for all the mixes except for the ericaceous material. It acts as a slow-release fertilizer and will not burn roots. In nature plants that grow in areas that have apatite or carbonatite, exhibit more vigor. What works in nature, works in the garden.

4) Before you set about digging in the garden, consider the most basic tool and how over the years it has become increasingly difficult to find good hand tools. Mass marketing and manufacturing have degraded the selection of hand tools that we still depend to carry out simple chores. I have 2 ancient (50 year old) Lawson trowels that are no longer available. I had copies of them made using a tool steel (for blade strength and a thin profile for sharpness). The steel blade is hardened to ~ 54 Rockwell, and the tang is bonze welded to the blade to avoid heat stress. This type of blade is far superior to the usual machine-stamped type that is thicker, softer steel making for a heavy, awkward-feeling tool. The lightness of our trowel makes it feel

very lithe in the hand. I modified the profile to better suit use in a rock garden. The blade is firmly attached to a hardwood handle and set with epoxy. The handle is painted red so you won't lose it. It should last 50 years. If you fancy one for yourself or a friend, and look it up in our catalogue, or come to the Stonecrop Sale where you see it for yourself.

I did a web search for trowels. Most offerings must be the result of marketing "notion" based on appearance. I did find 2 sites worth looking at:

[www.gardenfurnishings.com](http://www.gardenfurnishings.com) has high-carbon trowels made by DeWit that are forged in a profile that looks correct. It does have an offset handle, so it will be a bit more awkward in a tight crevice. It also won't be as comfortable shoved into a back pocket.

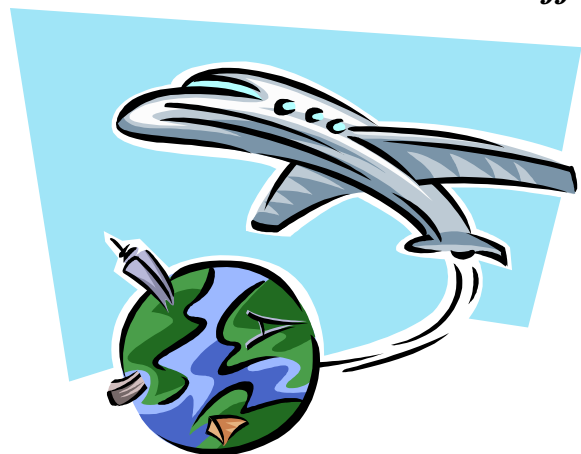
[www.redpigtools.com](http://www.redpigtools.com) is a site for "blacksmith made" tools. There is more variety here, as the production runs are small – many of interest to tool collectors I suspect. There is a "rockery trowel" that is properly narrow with an in-line handle. The blade appears to be thicker than the one we make, but it still looks useable.

*Article and Photos by Harvey Wrightman*

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## **The WWSW – The Other Stuff**



The WWSW was held in Portland, Oregon, and that is a LONG way by air. It took one

day to go, and one day to return, so from my perspective 40% of my time was spend rather unproductively. It would take a lot more value for me to do this trip again.

I had never been to Portland before, and I am not particularly anxious to return. It rained most of the weekend, and it was cold, and the wind was very impressive. The city seems nothing special architecturally, but it's really hard to judge a place when the weather is so atrocious. Robin assures me that it's a beautiful city, so if I ever go again, it will be in the dry season.

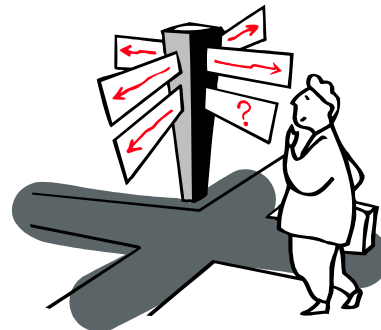
As Robin recounts, the programs were quite good. The hotel was decent, but the various functions were held in several locations, which was a bit odd. The plant sales were in a huge room across the street from the main hotel, and it was too big a space for the number of vendors present. The vendors were excellent, and the plant selection was good enough for me to buy an extra suitcase to bring them back.

Because of the lousy weather and the rather late winter in the Pacific Northwest, there were not a lot of plants in growth during our garden visits. It seems to me that, given the rather tiny amount of 'study' that goes on at these meetings and the obvious interest in garden visits that the attendees reflect, these meetings should be held in late spring. Perhaps we should have one national meeting every other year in June, and 2 regional meetings the off year, probably in early May.

Most of the attendees were from the west coast, and tended to hang around with each other, so I spent most of the 3 days with the 15 or so attendees from Minnesota, Michigan, Maryland, NY and New England. This was only my 3<sup>rd</sup> NARGS event, so I

have no feel for whether this was what always happens, or whether it was unusual.

The meeting was billed as both a National and Regional meeting, but the 'National' component was a fiction. Out of 173 registrants, 150 were from the west coast. Considering that NARGS is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, you'd think that the national organization could have figured out a way to actually celebrate it in some way, rather than ending up as a sideshow at a regional meeting. It is somewhat depressing to realize that we had an anniversary of consequence and there was no celebration. This reflects a sense that the national organization is losing relevance to the chapters. The next few years may turn out to either be the turning point for NARGS to return to its historical role as the hub of a vibrant and growing group of chapters, or the speeding up of its decade-long slide into irrelevance.



I almost forgot about the Board Meeting that Robin and I attended, along with about 20 others from various chapters. The discussions focused on three main areas: the NARGS website, declining membership and finances. I keep a file of old newsletters, and I reread a column Robin wrote about a Board meeting he attended when Norman was President, and the major subjects were declining membership and money. I guess some things never change! The website issue was (and is, to some degree) somewhat rancorous, with two competing visions being brought forward, and the meeting really did

nothing to resolve the issue. NARGS engaged a programmer to update the website, and his vision will be available to the membership sometime in April. Matt Mattus presented a vision focusing on the way NARGS should be presented to the world, which I thought was exceptionally good and absolutely on the money. What happens with NARGS and the website is still in the future, but I suggest that we all pay close attention as the story evolves.

Membership decline and finances are inextricably intertwined, and all attendees agree that NARGS must do something to stop the bleeding. The question, of course, is what NARGS can actually do, other than improve the website. I offered the observation that, unless and until NARGS creates a sense that it is worth \$30 a year to join, the problem will continue. We have over 5,000 Chapter members, with NARGS membership closer to 3,000. So the gardeners are there, and NARGS just needs to give them a reason to join.

*PFG*

## A Look At Our Finances

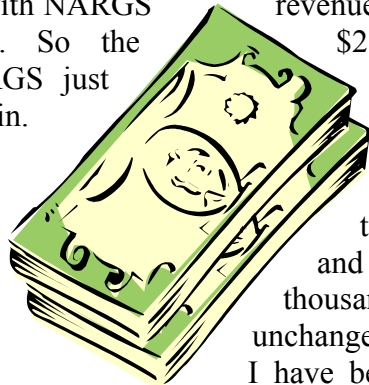
Here is a brief summary of facts and figures in regard to BNARGS membership and finances:

We have 95 current memberships – some of those being dual – with “current” being defined as having paid either 2008 or 2009 fees. 30 people have been removed from the distribution list either at their request or because they have not paid dues for some time.

For the last two years, despite generous donations from a member, we have operated at a loss.

In 2008, we had income from dues, donations, plant and book sales of \$5,281.24 and expenses of \$6,744.65, the operating loss of \$1,463.41 being financed by the money that came from prior years, a profit of about \$1,000 on the EWSW and cashing in the CD. The equivalent numbers in 2007 were \$4,898.26 in income and \$5,800.45 in expenses – a net loss of \$902.19. I have excluded from “operating expenses” the purchase of the digital projector, considering this to be a “capital” item.

Our major annual expenses are: newsletter printing and postage average \$2,690, program average \$2,060 and donation to BBG for use of the facility \$1,500. Largest revenue items are: donations average \$2,690, plant sales average \$1,251 and memberships \$955.



I believe that plant sale revenue is considerably lower than it used to be, probably because Norman and Geoffrey are no longer raising thousands of seeds. Dues have remained unchanged for at least the dozen or so years I have been in the chapter. Should we be thinking about an increase?

We currently have sufficient cash in hand to be in a position to fund a deficit in operating budget for several years to come, so there is no crisis. Just a little food for thought – and a gentle reminder that 2009 member fees are due.

*Pam Johnson - Treasurer*

**Please Remember To Pay Your Dues!**

## **Positions of Responsibility**

Chairperson – Cliff Desch  
Vice-Chairperson – Robin Magowan  
Secretary – Carol Hanby  
Treasurer – Pamela Johnson  
Archivist – James Fichter  
Audio Visual Chairperson - Joe Berman  
Greeter – **Open**  
Independent Director – Peter F. George  
Newsletter Editor – Peter F. George  
Meeting Recorder – Elaine Chittenden  
Plant Sale Chairperson – Bob Siegel  
Program Chairperson – Elisabeth Zander  
Proofreader – Martin Pepper Aisenberg  
Refreshments Chairperson – Joyce Hemingson  
Speaker Housing – Anne Spiegel

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Membership is open to all members of NARGS  
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Pamela Johnson  
PO Box 203, 140 Main Road  
Monterey, MA 01245

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Please contact editor before reprinting  
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Peter F. George, Editor  
Berkshire Chapter NARGS  
PO Box 833  
Petersham, MA 01366