



Saximontana

Rocky Mountain
Chapter

North American
Rock Garden Society

Volume 46 Number 8

September 2023

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Mark your Calendars!

September 23

Members' Plant Sale

8 am - noon

Apex Pavilion

Arvada

October 7

Fall Symposium

8 am - 3 pm

Sturm Auditorium

Followed by Social Hour at Steve
Aegerter's

3 - ish

The new RMC website is up and running!!!-

Your old bookmark should roll over to the new site. If not, go to <https://rmc-nargs.org>.

➡ To access the Members' Portal, you have to reset your password. It should be fairly simple: just give it your user name or email address and hit "forgot password." You should get an email with a link to change it.

Political Correctness and Plants: Is There a Middle Ground?

Panayoti Kelaidis

The last thing we expected when proposing to name a new award for our chapter (the Saco DeBoer rock garden award) was that the man whom we chose to honor would become the target of the City of Denver's Human Rights & Community Partnerships Renaming commission. The reason the Commission would like to rename the Saco DeBoer park on South York and Harvard gulch is because DeBoer drafted Denver's first zoning code, in which he excluded multi-unit housing (such as apartments) from residential neighborhoods. DeBoer felt that apartment houses were detrimental to children's upbringing. A few decades later, the zones were further subject to "red-lining" (neighborhoods were effectively segregated by this practice). I am quite sure that DeBoer would not have approved segregation or the way that his code was used to enforce it. We cannot know for sure—but having read both of DeBoer's books and many articles he wrote, he strikes me as an extremely open-minded, fair person. Nevertheless, the Commission asserts that "zoning of the 1920s was in many ways exclusionary." And blames DeBoer for this.

I have not seen any arguments on the City of Denver website that substantiate a single way (let alone the "many ways") that the zoning excluded anyone at the time the code was written. There will be a meeting on August 30 (before you receive this issue of *Saximontana*) where the fate of this park's name will be decided. We'll let you know by the October *Saximontana* if not before...

What draws most of us to gardening is that it is the antithesis of politics: rather than haggling over status, money or power, we gardeners focus on the wonderful generosity of nature, the gentle swaying of foliage and the magic of flowers and fruits. We go into our gardens to connect with nature, to relax and to escape the madding crowd (and especially the hype, volume and pushiness of the media). I have a hunch there will be a huge boost in gardening come 2024 as the next presidential election looms ever closer!

Like it or not, the world *obtrudes* in ever so many ways: Instead of *Perovskia*, we must call it "*Salvia yangii*," *Zauschneria* is now *Epilobium*. *Dodecatheon* is *Primula*. Your neighbor to the south decides to "pop their top" and suddenly your vegetable garden becomes dark as a forest. Your wildflower meadow—just starting to mature and look splendid—gets a citation from the weed police. When you're not at home, someone goes into your vegetable garden and picks the ripe tomatoes. And one of your heroes is deemed the architect of segregated neighborhoods. (All of these things have happened in the last few weeks to friends of mine—and me!)

Now more than ever is the time to make a new little crevice bed—preparing for the treasures we will all bring and buy at the Members' Sale at Apex! Now more than ever it's time for us to do as Voltaire urged us in the last paragraph of *Candide*:

"Pangloss sometimes used to say to Candide: — All events are linked together in the best of possible worlds; for, after all, if you had not been driven from a fine castle by being kicked in the backside for love of Miss Cunégonde, if you hadn't been sent before the Inquisition, if you hadn't traveled across America on foot, if you hadn't given a good sword thrust to the baron, if you hadn't lost all your sheep from the good land of Eldorado, you wouldn't be sitting here eating candied citron and pistachios." —

"That is very well put," said Candide.

But we must go and work our garden.

It's not too late to pot up extra volunteer plantss from your garden to contribute to the fall sale!

Label them with both botanical and common names if possible.

Height x spread is also appreciated.



- Mike Kintgen will emcee our sale this year.
- Each shopper will tally their purchases. RMC will supply "official" plant sale check lists, and pens/pencils if needed. Be sure to fill one out before checking out.
- Bring boxes or trays to hold your purchases.



Schedule:

8 - 9 am Setup

9 am Short business meeting:

Introduction of slate of officers for 2024.

Nominations for 2024 board positions will be accepted.

9:30 Sales begin

- Those who bring 5 or more plants may choose one free plant before the sale starts.
- The first round is open to all members and is full price (\$10).
- Prices drop until all plants are sold (\$10 > \$5 > \$2 > \$1 > \$0.50 > \$0.25).

All proceeds will go to RMC-NARGs for speakers fees, refreshments, grants and other club activities.

Members' Plant Sale

September 23
8 am - noon

Apex Pavilion
11706 W. 82nd Ave.
Arvada

➤ **Cash or check only**



Autumnal Equinox

This year's plant sale also coincides with the Autumnal Equinox, which occurs at 2:50 a.m. EDT. On the equinox, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness.

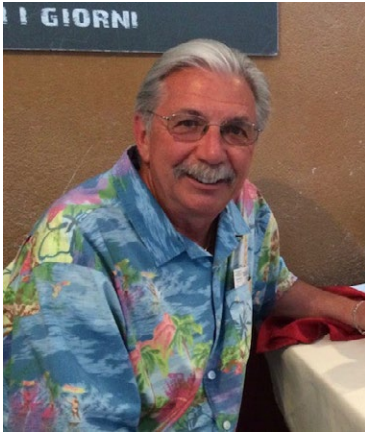
Michael Barbour will be bringing about 120 different plants. They are generally more “alpine” than what many of us propagate. There will probably be something you can’t live without. Everything is in 2.5” pots, except sedum ‘Angelina’. These plants are sold separately; 15% of sales will go to RMC.

<i>Acantholimon</i> sp. (via MK, nice green color)	<i>Daphne x susannae</i> ‘Cheriton’	<i>Gentiana verna</i>	<i>Sabulina verna</i>
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i> ‘The Pearl’	<i>Daphne x whiteorum</i> ‘Beauworth’	<i>Geum coccineum</i>	<i>Salvia nutans</i>
<i>Androsace sarmentosa</i> ‘Chumby’	<i>Delphinium pylzowii</i>	<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	<i>Salvia reptans</i>
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	<i>Delphinium tatsienense</i>	<i>Globularia meridionalis</i>	<i>Salvia staminea</i>
<i>Andryala agardhii</i>	<i>Dianthus x allwoodii</i>	<i>Gypsophila bungeana</i>	<i>Saponaria lutea</i>
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i> ‘Kelway’	<i>Dianthus</i> ‘Berlin Snow’	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	<i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i>
<i>Antennaria</i> ‘McClintock’	<i>Dianthus petraeus</i>	<i>Iberis simplex</i>	<i>Scutellaria alpina</i>
<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	<i>Dianthus giganteus</i>	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i>
<i>Aquilegia discolor</i>	<i>Dianthus haematocalyx</i> ssp. <i>pindicola</i>	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	<i>Sedum rupestre</i> ‘Angelina’ (3.” pot)
<i>Aquilegia glandulosa</i>	<i>Dianthus myrtinervius</i>	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<i>Sedum spurium</i> ‘Tricolor’ (morning sun)
<i>Aquilegia viridiflora</i>	<i>Dianthus scardicus</i>	<i>Matthiola montana</i>	<i>Sempervivum</i> sp. (tight spider-web former)
<i>Arenaria gracillus</i>	<i>Digitalis ambigua</i> ‘Temple Bells’	<i>Minuartia attica</i>	<i>Silene saxifraga</i>
<i>Arenaria</i> ‘Frank Cabot’	<i>Dracocephalum ruyschianum</i> ‘Blue Moon’	<i>Minuartia stellata</i>	<i>Silene yunnanensis</i>
<i>Arenaria montana</i> ‘Avalanche’	<i>Edraianthus graminifolius</i>	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	<i>Tanacetum ceinerariifolium</i>
<i>Arenaria</i> ‘Wallowa Mountains’	<i>Erigeron compositus</i> ‘Railroad Ridge’	<i>Orostachys spinosa</i>	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>
<i>Armeria maritima</i> ‘Alba’	<i>Erigeron elegantulus</i>	<i>Penstemon hallii</i>	<i>Teucrium pyrenaicum</i>
<i>Artemisia pedemontana</i> v. <i>assoana</i>	<i>Erigeron leiomerus</i>	<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>	<i>Teucrium subspinosum</i>
<i>Aster alpinus</i> ‘Pinkie’	<i>Erigeron pannatisectus</i>	<i>Penstemon superbis</i>	<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>
<i>Aubrieta</i> ‘Whitewell Gem’	<i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i> (via Apex garden)	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	<i>Thapsi rotundifolium</i>
<i>Campanula moesiaca</i>	<i>Eriog. umbellatum</i> v. <i>humistratum</i> ‘Tahoe’	<i>Penstemon teucrioides</i>	<i>Thymus comosus</i>
<i>Campanula thyrsoides</i>	<i>Eritrichium pectinatum</i>	<i>Pelargonium endlicherianum</i>	<i>Thymus</i> ‘Archer’s Gold’
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i> v. <i>lanatum</i>	<i>Erodium chrysanthemum</i>	<i>Phacelia sericea</i>	<i>Thymus praecox</i> ‘Minus’
<i>Chaenorhinum glareosum</i>	<i>Erodium petraeum</i>	<i>Phemeranthus calycinus</i>	<i>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</i>
<i>Crataegus ambigua</i>	<i>Eryngium planum</i> ‘Blue Hobbit’	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> ‘Crown of Snow’	<i>Townsendia</i> sp. (large, lilac flowers)
<i>Daphne arbuscula</i>	<i>Erysimum kotschyianum</i>	<i>Phyteuma sheuchzeri</i>	<i>Veronica cinerea</i>
<i>Daphne arbuscula</i> ‘Muran Pinnacle’	<i>Genista depressa</i>	<i>Platycodon grandiflorous</i> ‘Sentimental Blue’	<i>Veronica gentianoides</i>
<i>Daphne x hendersonii</i> ‘Ernst Hauser’	<i>Gentiana angustifolia</i>	<i>Polemonium boreale</i> ‘Heavenly Habit’	<i>Veronica liwanensis</i>
<i>Daphne sericea</i>	<i>Gentiana cachemirica</i>	<i>Polemonium pucherrimum</i>	<i>Veronica</i> ‘Waterperry Blue’
<i>Daphne x schlyteri</i>	<i>Gentiana clusii</i>	<i>Pteroccephalus perennis</i>	<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i>
		<i>Pulsatilla albana</i>	
		<i>Rhodanthemum hosmariense</i>	

Who's Who -- 2024 Nominees

Election of RMC Officers will be at the business meeting on October 7.

Most of the RMC board has agreed to serve for one more year. Additional nominations for 2024 RMC Board positions will be accepted at the business meetings September 23 (Members' Plant Sale) and October 7 (Symposium), or you may contact one of the [current board members](#) (page 14).



For President -- Steve Aegerter

Well, it is a rather daunting task as far as I'm concerned and being honest with myself – not sure how I'll do. Although, there is strong membership which I'll rely on heavily. For me, being a rather free spirit, there are too many rules, too many zooms – which I have no clue on, and being a relatively new member (2019) - too many aspects of the organization I really know nothing about. Then following in the footsteps of a horticultural legend isn't an enviable situation, but if elected I promise always to do my best.



NARGS representative -- Bob Skowron

I am a member of RMC-NARGS participating in chapter activities for over 25 years. My technology and business background allows me to contribute to the chapter in numerous ways. In August, the RMC website was updated to a new platform. Included in the website rebuild was the addition software that simplifies membership management and improves communication. I am looking for other ways where technology can improve our chapter. I am currently filling the board member role of NARGS representative. I am a year-round lover of the high alpine. I enjoy hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter.

On July 21, the RMC Board elected Bob Skowron to the vacant NARGS representative position on the current RMC Board.

Open positions. We need nominees for:

Vice President

Member-at-Large (Metro)

Membership co-Chair

More on these positions
on [page 14](#)

RMC –NARGS Symposium

October 7

8 am - 3:00 pm

Sturm Auditorium, DBG

Annual meeting with election of officers, followed by speakers.

Symposium Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 Meet & Greet, coffee & Danish
Business Meeting
Election of 2024 officers
Preliminary report of Chapter finances by the Treasurer

8:30 – 9:30 **Sean Hogan**

9:30 – 10:00 Morning coffee

10:00 - 10:50 **Amy Schneider**

10:50 - 11:00 Mini-break

11:00 - 11:40 **Panayoti Kelaidis**

11:40 – 1:00 Lunch break—on your own

1:00 – 1:50 **Colin Lee**

1:50 – 2:00 Mini-break

2:00 – 3:00 **Jenny Wainwright -Klein**

3:30-ish- 5:00 Social hour, wine and charcuterie at Steve Aegerter's
860 South Hudson Street

Sean Hogan

8:30 – 9:30



Sean Hogan, design consultant, author and nursery owner, was born in Portland and spent his later childhood years in Sacramento. He pursued his education in horticulture and botany at American River College and Sacramento State. Early work included mapping rare and endangered plants for the State of California as well as landscape and design work, often revolving around his love of western natives.

From the mid-80s to the mid-90s, Sean worked as the curator of South African, New Zealand, Australian, New World Desert and California Native Cultivar Gardens of the UC Berkeley Botanic Garden. In 1995, he and his partner, UC Davis Arboretum Botanist Parker Sanderson, returned to Portland to start a design and consultation firm specializing in regionally appropriate plants for the Pacific Northwest. This eventually evolved into their opening Cistus Nursery, located on Sauvie Island in the Columbia River west of Portland. Cistus Nursery is highly regarded as one of the best west coast retail nurseries and is known worldwide for its collection of rare plants and advocacy of unusual and underused plants.

of

is

Hogan has lectured extensively in North America and Europe in addition to explorations of South America, South Africa and the western regions of the United States and northern Mexico. His writing and photos can be found in an extremely wide range of horticultural and botanical literature. He was the consulting editor of the 20,000-plus entry *FLORA: A Gardener's Encyclopedia*, published in 2003 and published *Trees for all Seasons* in 2008, both by Timber Press.



Painted Hills, OR
with *Lewisia rediviva*

My home state has myriad habitats, all influenced by moisture (or lack thereof), elevation, temperatures and soil type. This leads to not only some beautiful scenery, but corresponding diversity. I'll show some favorite places from the High Siskiyou Mountains, to the Wallowas and the very dry areas between and focus on selections made over the years, with success in the interior west, like Penstemons, Lewisias, bulbs, Cacti, sedums and Manzanitas to mention a few.



Iris innominata with *Ceanothus pumilus* - Rogue Canyon, OR



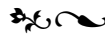
Lewisia leekana, Serpentine Mountain, OR



Opuntia polyacantha 'Imnaha Sunset'



Brodiaea howellii v *leachae*



Amy Schneider

10:00 - 10:50

Amy Louise Schneider has been working at beautiful Denver Botanic Gardens since 2008. She is an Assistant Curator in the Horticulture Department. Amy cares for PlantAsia, the Green Roof, and the Iris & Daylily Gardens at York Street, and the alpine interpretive garden at Mt. Goliath.

Following in their Footsteps:

The Alice Eastwood and Alfred Russel Wallace Trip to Gray's Peak Colorado

It took over a year for me to research the trip made by Alice Eastwood and Alfred Russel Wallace to Gray's Peak in July of 1887. Starting with the Wallace North American travel journal and many other historic sources, I put together the story of the trip and a list of all the species collected, then recreated the journey 136 years later. I am delighted to talk about both of these explorers and their incredible friendship forged long ago in the Rocky Mountain alpine.



Panayoti Kelaidis

11:00 - 11:40

A Trilogy of Travel

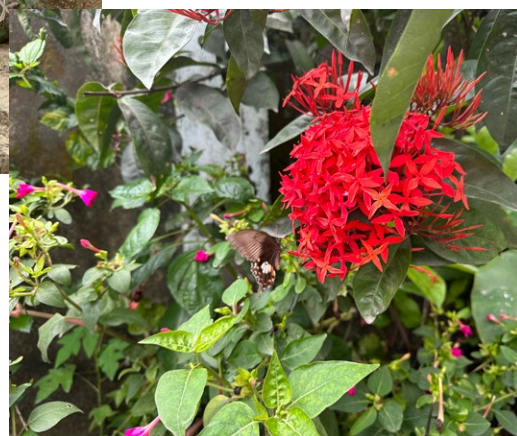
In the last five months Panayoti has had the enormous great fortune to travel to three far-flung locales that encompass great biodiversity and plants with great interest to rock gardeners. He will present highlights that include the bulbous gems of Uzbekistan, the alpine jewels of the Sikkim Himalayas, and super-duper bloom of Namaqualand, South Africa.



Buddleia colvillei, Sikkim highlands, near Lachung, northeast Indis



Scutellaria immaculata
Sangardak, Uzbekistan



Clerodendron splendens? Uzbekistan



Dimorphotheca pinnata Calvinia West, South Africa.



Colchicum coloratum ssp. *burchellii*
Calvinia Nature Reserve, South Africa.



From the top of ZZ's garden in the Czechia, AKA the Czech Republic.

Colin Lee,

Senior Horticulturist at Betty Ford Alpine Gardens

1:00 – 1:50

I began working here at Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in 2016 as a Plant Records intern and I must have done something right because I have been working in Vail at the gardens ever since. I grew up in Colorado and graduated from CSU with a degree in horticulture and a minor in botany and began working full time year round at Betty Ford. Since then I have had the pleasure of working and learning about alpine plants both hands-on here in Betty Ford Alpine Garden and out in the alpine tundra found right here in the heart of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. I have been a part of numerous rock garden builds and renovations here at Betty Ford, working with Nick Courtens, my mentor, Ryan Keating and Kenton Seth.

Rock Gardens of the Czech Republic - A look into the Motherland of Moderne Crevice Gardening

In 2023 I was granted the amazing opportunity to attend the Czech Rock Garden Society Global Conference (CZRGS) in Pruhonice, CZ, with rock gardeners from all over the world. During this talk I will take you to Czechia, on the journey I had while attending one of the most impressive rock garden conferences out there. I dedicate my presentation to my late mentor, friend and colleague Nick Courtens, who we lost tragically in late May of 2023.



Prague, Czech Republic



Garden Tour with Jiří Papoušek





2:00 – 3:00

Jenny Wainwright-Klein

In 1992 I started work in the Rock Garden (Alpinum) of the Munich Botanic Garden (MBG) and discovered a fascination for alpinists. Now, just over 30 years later, I am supervisor of the alpine propagation unit (since 2000) and of the Alpine Garden on the Schachen of MBG, Germany. The summer of 2022 was my 29th season working in the Schachen Alpine Garden. In the last 17 years I have taken part in nine seed collecting expeditions; one to Georgia and eight to Lesotho. The collecting expeditions to Lesotho have resulted in a new Lesotho area in the Alpine Garden as well as in MBG. I am a complementary member of the Meconopsis Group, a life member of NARGS and a member of the Scottish Rock Garden Club. I have given talks to various local Bavarian plant groups, Alpine Garden Society groups in England, zoom talks to groups in the USA, as well as to the Meconopsis Group in Edinburgh and at the Scottish Rock Garden Clubs discussion weekend.

Growing Alpines in the Schachen Alpine Garden: a Satellite Garden of the Munich Botanic Garden in the Bavarian Alps

The Schachen Alpine Garden was opened in 1901 and is one of the oldest alpine gardens in the European Alps. Situated on the northern flanks of the Wetterstein Range above Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the garden has the ideal combination of a cool, moist summer and snow-covered winter for the cultivation of *Meconopsis*, Himalayan Primulas, many European alpinists, plants from the Lesotho Drakensberg and many more alpine plants. Since the summer of 1994 I have spent my summers working in the Schachen Alpine Garden.



Panorama with Hochblassen and Alpspitz peaks, Bavaria, Germany



Meconopsis x sheldonii



Alpine Garden Schachen

More Fall Plant Sales

Harlequin's Gardens

August 30 - October 30

Elliot Gardens

30% off perennials, roses, vines, berries

DBG

Fall Plant & Bulb Sale

Friday & Saturday,

Sept. 22 & 23

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

York Street Location

Admission is free, but reservations are required.

Member-only shopping 8-9 a.m.

High Plains Environmental Center

End of season sale (on-site)

September 23

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 23 MEMBERS' PLANT SALE

APEX PAVILION

OCTOBER 7 SYMPOSIUM

STURM AUDITORIUM

Sean Hogan

Amy Schneider

Panayoti Kelaidis

Colin Lee

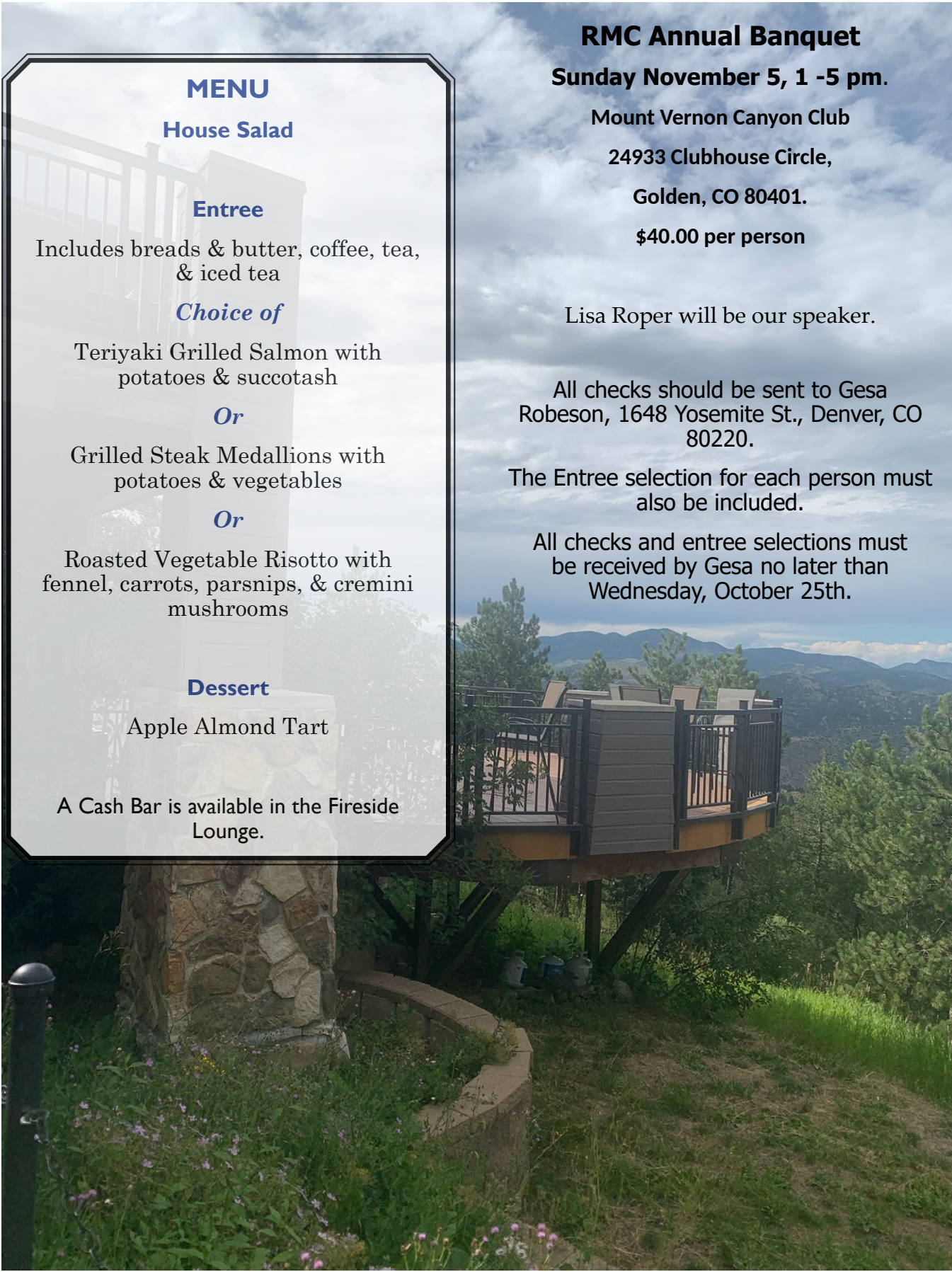
Jenny Wainwright Kline

NOVEMBER 5

ANNUAL BANQUET

MOUNT VERNON

CANYON CLUB



MENU

House Salad

Entree

Includes breads & butter, coffee, tea,
& iced tea

Choice of

Teriyaki Grilled Salmon with
potatoes & succotash

Or

Grilled Steak Medallions with
potatoes & vegetables

Or

Roasted Vegetable Risotto with
fennel, carrots, parsnips, & cremini
mushrooms

Dessert

Apple Almond Tart

A Cash Bar is available in the Fireside
Lounge.

RMC Annual Banquet

Sunday November 5, 1 -5 pm.

Mount Vernon Canyon Club

24933 Clubhouse Circle,

Golden, CO 80401.

\$40.00 per person

Lisa Roper will be our speaker.

All checks should be sent to Gesa
Robeson, 1648 Yosemite St., Denver, CO
80220.

The Entree selection for each person must
also be included.

All checks and entree selections must
be received by Gesa no later than
Wednesday, October 25th.

Who's Who -- 2024

If Steve becomes RMC President, Don will no longer be our Member-at-Large (Metro) representative, and Lori's imminent departure, please consider nominating someone (maybe you?) for these positions on the RMC Board.

We need nominees for:

Vice President

The Vice President is primarily a program chair: planning, organizing and presenting events for the membership, including speakers, plant sales, a banquet, garden tours, hikes and field trips, and workshops. In the absence of the President, the Vice President performs the duties of the President.

Member-at-Large (Metro)

The Members-at-Large serve as representatives of the members and assist the other board members in the performance of their duties

Membership co-Chair

The Membership co-Chair is responsible for maintaining membership records and publishing an annual membership roster and other membership literature.

Who's Who 2023

President

[Panayoti Kelaidis](#)

Vice-President

[Steve Aegerter](#)

Secretary

[Lee Recca](#)

Treasurer

[Ken Ray](#)

Web Master

[Hugh MacMillan](#)
[Joe Wittig](#)

Newsletter Editor

[Marilynn Mueller](#)

Member at Large - Metro

[Don Orr](#)

Member at Large - Non-Metro

[Cindy Reed](#)

Membership

[Gesa Robeson](#)

[Lori Giesecke](#)

NARGS Representative

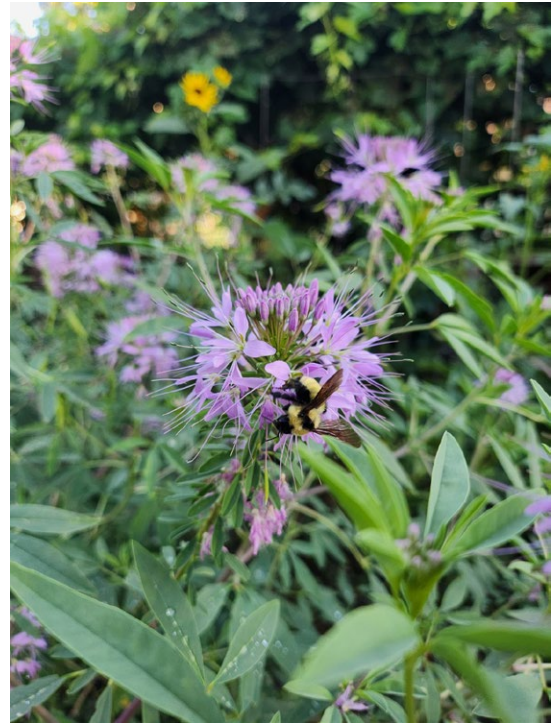
[Bob Skowron](#)

Past President

[Kathleen Stewart](#)



Fallugia paradoxa (Apache plume)



Cleome (Bee plant/spider plant)

Photos by Kathleen Stewart

MEMBERSHIP FORM: Rocky Mountain Chapter - North American Rock Garden Society

Membership year is from January thru December... dues may be paid 3 months earlier for the next year.

RMC Membership Options, circle one: (See website at <https://rmcnargs.org> for benefits)

Individual = \$15 Household = \$20 Supporting = \$55 Patron = \$105 Life = \$305 \$ _____

PAPER SAXIMONTANA newsletter mailed to you, **Pay an EXTRA \$15 per year:** \$ _____

Total Due = \$ _____

(To join **North American Rock Garden Society**, please go to their website: www.nargs.org)

TODAYS DATE _____ **Check One:** New Member ____ Renewing Member ____

NOTE: Names and contact information are published in the annual RMC Roster, which is password-protected online.
The RMC Roster is labeled "For Members Use Only". The Roster is shared with NARGS.

Name(s): _____

[Enter names as you wish them to appear in the Roster.]

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

This is **NEW** or corrected **INFORMATION:** Yes ____ No ____

Make check payable to **RMC-NARGS**. Mail to **Gesa Robeson, 1648 Yosemite St., Denver, CO 80220**

Penstemon image on sale announcement, page 3: Flower Study (1883–1900) by Mary Vaux Walcott. Original from The Smithsonian. Digitally enhanced by rawpixel.

Saximontana
Gesa Robeson (mail)
Denver, CO 80220
USA

Rocky Mountain Chapter
North American Rock Garden Society