

ALPINE LINE

Mar/Apr 2018

*THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE
ALLEGHENY
CHAPTER OF NARGS*



Galanthus



Message from the Chair

Hello Everyone,

Excitement is building as we march forward into our 50th growing season and, of course, our show and sale at Soergel's on May 6th. The Chapter members that just completed our seed starting program seemed to have had that mixture of wonder and apprehension that those tiny little seeds were going to grow into fantastic rock gardening specimens instead of just another empty cell. Sandy and Lyn did a fantastic job of acquiring *Dianthus pavonius*, *Erinus alpinus*, *Heuchera pulchella*, *Primula alpicola*, *Saponaria ocymoides* and *Silene alpestris* and all the necessary accoutrements to make the program a big success. By the time Sandy had completed her primer on the A-Z of successful seed starting, I think she had all of us convinced we would soon have an array of great plants. I still recall early on learning about seed science from our illustrious scholar and lecturer, Leonard Lehman, who presented a program with the Men's Garden Club of Pittsburgh prior to our annual seed exchange and plug sale and was heard on at least one occasion to state, "there are no bad plants, only plants in the wrong location; they really just require people who love them."

I was inspired by his program and afterward went on my antique



Tandy computer and found a design for an A-Frame plant stand which could support 8 flats. Being the eternal optimist, after spending an afternoon putting two of the stands together, my next move was to get a Thompson and Morgan catalogue and select 12 seed packs based on ease of germination and tolerance to dry and rocky clay. In the end I probably got about a 70% success rate with getting the ornamentals to grow large enough to transplant into my landscape and was starting to feel like a proud parent in nurturing along my brood. As I recall, that first summer after embarking on my planting adventure was especially dry, and my beds went from looking wonderful to forlorn by frost. What I was able to determine was which of my plants were hearty enough to struggle with the challenges of growing in my particular space, and since then I have faced a number of challenges to growing in Southwestern PA, most recently 40-50 degree fluctuations in daily temperature. I do, however, continue looking forward to that seedling with the funny

name shining in one of my planters or troughs in spite of adverse conditions and starting out another season at our wonderful rock garden at the Aviary.

I hope you all might try some new specimen you can get excited about, and I wish you the best in growing it.

David

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, March 18th at 2 PM, Northland Library

Charles and Martha Oliver will discuss Charles' hybridizing efforts with small phlox. They will bring plants for purchase.

Members A - H are asked to bring snacks. Raffle donations are always welcome!

Sunday, April 15th at 2 PM, National Aviary

Mark Langan, owner of Mulberry Creek Herb Farm will discuss companion plants for mini hostas. He will bring plants for purchase.

Members I - P are asked to bring snacks. Raffle donations are always welcome!

HEY

If you would like to share an interesting/informative article about gardening, send it to the *Alpine Line*. The deadline for contributions is the 20th of Feb., Apr., Jul., Sep., and Dec. Please email your article to Len Lehman at lclehman1@verizon.net or

Al Deurbrouck at adeurbrouck@verizon.net

Thank you for your interest and support of *Alpine Line*.

In Memoriam

Bonnie Plato's Mother

Anna Mae Cavitt, passed on Friday, January 5. Members will remember Anna Mae as a regular meeting attendee and visitor at the Aviary rock garden along with Bonnie and Stephen on many occasions. Anna Mae met her husband while working on a fire lookout tower on Mt. Sedgwick NM during World War II. She enjoyed crafts, painting, sewing and golf. On behalf of the Allegheny Chapter, we extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

50th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

The Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will hold its 50th Annual Rock Garden Plant Show and Sale at Soergel's Garden Center on Sunday, May 6. Soergel's is located at 2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090, just off the intersection of I-79 and Route 910. Phone 724-935-2090. The event will be located behind the market on the patio and inside the barn.

The Show and Sale is our only public display and fundraiser, and member participation is vital to its success. There are many ways Allegheny Chapter members can contribute. First and foremost, consider bringing a trough, container, or cut flower arrangement of rock garden plants you have grown. Secondly, we need a lot of hands to keep things running smoothly, so plan on attending and lending a hand where needed.

The Show is our opportunity each year to exhibit to the general public the beautiful, and sometimes challenging, unique plants we grow in our rock gardens and troughs. Please consider entering some of your favorite rock garden plants in the show and helping to make the event a success.

If entries are already in containers or troughs, they will require less preparation and grooming for the show. Plants growing in the ground may be dug and potted up several weeks in advance. However, it may help to wait until 1-2 days before the show to select the best plants to pot up. For more advice about preparing entries for the show, members can visit the Chapter's website to review the essay by Carl Gehenio. Also, see Len Lehman's article about the Chair's Choice ferns in this newsletter.

If you are the 2017 winner of a traveling trophy, please bring your award to this year's show. Traveling trophies will be displayed for the public during the show and then collected for engraving.

The Sale

March through early April is the perfect time to divide and pot up some of those clumps that may be encroaching on their neighbors and donate the extra divisions to the plant sale. Divisions and seedlings of rock garden suitable plants for the sale need to be potted up by the second week of April to allow time for the roots to recover from transplanting. Be sure the donated plants are properly labeled, clean, and healthy. Remember, there is 100% profit on all donated plants and planted and unplanted troughs. Donations such as books and garden accessories will also be welcome for the raffle.

Help will be needed at Soergel's on Saturday evening, May 5 to set up for the show and sale. The sale will be open to the public on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and your participation all morning, afternoon, or the full day will be greatly appreciated.

Many hands will be needed early Sunday morning starting at 8 a.m. to mark prices and place donated plants on the sale tables. Sale plants will be arranged by light requirements—sun, shade, and part sun—and members will be needed throughout the day to assist the public in selecting plants that will thrive in their garden conditions. If you are not familiar with the many varieties of plants in our sale, this will be an excellent learning opportunity.

Tell Your Friends!

Please let all of your gardening friends know about our Show and Sale. Direct them to the chapter's website at <https://nargspittsburgh.wixsite.com/rock-garden> and/or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NARGS.AlleghenyChapter>.

Annual Plant Show Schedule and Rules

Schedule

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Entries received by show committee
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Plant sale open to public
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Judging of exhibits (show floor closed to public)
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Show open to public

Rules

1. Nonmembers of the Allegheny Chapter of NARGS are encouraged to enter but will not qualify for high cumulative score monies or trophies.
2. There are no limits on the number of entries per class.
3. The term "rock garden plant" shall mean any plant suitable for the rock garden – be it a bog garden, shade garden, native garden, or alpine house.
4. All plants for competition must be the property of the entrant and must be in their possession for at least two months (60 days).
5. All plants entered for competition should be clearly labeled, and the names should be displayed. Inaccurate identification shall not be grounds for disqualification.
6. The judges are the final authority for awards.
7. No exhibit shall be removed from the floor from the time of judging to the close of the show without express permission of the show chair.
8. The Allegheny Chapter will not assume responsibility for exhibits left on the tables after the show ends.

Classes of Entries

A committee will be available to assist exhibitors in the proper identification and placement of their entries.

- Class #1 One pan rock garden plant in flower*
- Class #2 One pan native plant in flower, suitable for the rock garden
- Class #3 One pan primulaceae in flower, including primula and androsace
- Class #4 One pan bulbous or rhizomatous plant in flower, suitable for the rock garden
- Class #5 One pan succulent including sempervivum, sedum, cactus, and crassulaceae
- Class #6 One pan rock garden plant grown primarily for foliage, including hosta, saxifrage and ferns
- Class #7 One pan dwarf shrub, tree, or conifer
- Class #8 One bowl of cut flowers of rock garden plants, to be judged for quality, delicacy and artistic arrangement
- Class #9 A trough of three or more distinct species rock garden suitable plants arranged for effect
- Class #10 Miniature Garden: A trough of three or more distinct species rock garden suitable plants along with accessories arranged to create a miniature garden landscape
- Class #11 Chair's Choice: One pan Chair's Choice plant grown by Allegheny Chapter member for current year's plant show. 2018 Chair's Choice plant: Asplenium (aka Pelleae) atropurpurea (Purple stemmed Cliff-brake) and Rusty Woodsia or Oblong Cliff Fern (Woodsia obtusa)

*A pan is any container; a trough is a container that simulates a stone trough.

Awards

Best Plant in Show – Clare Williamson Award

Presented in honor of a former Allegheny Chapter member, given to the entry judged best in show classes 1-6. Winner will receive Best in Show ribbon, traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet, and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub, or Conifer in Show – Connie McKeever Award

Entry judged best in class 7. Presented in honor of an Allegheny Chapter member who grew choice dwarf conifers for many years. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

Best Trough in Show - Audrey Rauch Award

Selected from classes 9-10. Presented in honor of an Allegheny Chapter member who pioneered the building and planting of troughs in the tri-state area. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

Chair's Choice Award – 2018 Plant: Asplenium (aka Pelleae) atropurpurea (Purple stemmed Cliffbrake) and Rusty Woodsia or Oblong Cliff Fern (Woodsia obtusa) – Entry judged best in class 11, plants distributed to Allegheny Chapter members by the chair. Winner will receive traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

The Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western PA Award - sponsored by the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western PA. This award is given for the Best Hosta or Bulbous Plant in the Show. Winner will receive a traveling trophy at Annual Awards Banquet and a \$25 Soergel's gift certificate presented at Show. Trophy will be held for one year and then passed on to the next winner.

Ribbons – 1st (blue), 2nd (red), 3rd (yellow) if merited in each class. Honorable Mention may be given at the judges' discretion. More than one 1st (blue), 2nd (red), 3rd (yellow), or Honorable Mention ribbon may be given in a class depending on the specific merit of each plant. Best in class shall be awarded to the 1st place entry judged as best within each class.

High Cumulative Scores Awards – Soergel's gift certificates: 1st (\$25), 2nd (\$20), 3rd (\$15). Total is based on 5 points for 1st place ribbons, 3 points for 2nd place ribbons, and 1 point for 3rd place ribbons. Also, 5 additional points for best in class plus an additional 5 points for best in show.

Awards Table will be comprised of the best entry in each class. From these best entries in each class:

- 1) Best Plant in Show will be selected from classes 1-6.
- 2) Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub, or Conifer will be the best entry in class 7.
- 3) Best Trough in Show will be selected from the best entries in classes 9-10.
- 4) Best Chair's Choice Award will be the best entry in class 11.
- 5) Best Hosta or Bulbous Plant in Show.

All gift certificate awards will be given at the conclusion of the Show. All trophies will be presented at the Allegheny Chapter's Annual Awards Banquet.

One sale plant will be given to any Allegheny Chapter member who enters 3-5 plants, and two sale plants will be given to any Allegheny Chapter member who enters six or more.

Mystery Plant for Mar/Apr

This month's mystery plant(s) are a group of semi-succulent plants related to portulaca. Found mostly in the Northern Hemisphere, they range from Europe and Northern Africa through the Mideast and into Asia. We also have several native species, including one found in the Appalachians. The plants have mostly



pink to light red flowers with one distinctly different yellow species found in Africa. The flowers are somewhat insignificant, but the plants are valued for their bright red seed pods which are a good fall color for a rock garden. It is from these seed pods that the plants get their common name Flameflower. Plants grow under 6 inches tall and tend to be somewhat tender. However, they seed easily so, once established, a constant source of young seedlings are available. At one time all plants were



placed in one genus, but taxonomists have now separated them into two genera with the original genus referring to Old World species and the new genus referring to North American species.

Email answers to Leonard Lehman

Congratulations to Lyn Lang who correctly identified the Jan/Feb mystery plant as *Dracocephalum alpinus* (Dragonhead).



2018 MEETING NOTICES

ALLEGHENY CHAPTER ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Date/Time/ Refreshment Group	Location	Speaker	Activity
Jan 21, 2:00 PM F - O	Northland Library	Membership led by Len Lehman	Roundtable Discussion of Favorite Plants
Feb 18, 2:00 PM P - Z	Northland Library	Sandy Feather	Seed Starting Workshop
Mar 18, 2:00 PM A - E	Northland Library	Martha and Charles Oliver	The Small Phlox Charles is Hybridizing
Apr 15, 2:00 PM F - O	Aviary	Mark Langan, Mulberry Creek Herb Farm	Companion Plants for Mini Hostas
May 6, 9:00 AM	Soergel's Garden Cen- ter	Show & Sale	Show & Sale
May 20	Garden Visits TBA	Garden Visits	Garden Visits
Jun 10	DJ's Nursery	Dennis James	New Outstanding Plants
Jul	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
Aug 19, 2:00 PM	Pine Township Community Park	Picnic	Raffle, Trough Show, Plant Sale, Auction
Sept 16, 2:00 PM P - Z	Northland Library	TBA	
Oct 20	TBA	Janet Novak	Awards Banquet
Nov 18, 2:00 PM A - E	Northland Library	Robert Mulvihill, National Aviary Ornithologist	What's Good for Birds is Good for Your Backyard
Dec	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
Dec 6, 9:00 AM	Northland Library	Trish Abrams	Seed Packaging

January 21, 2018 Minutes

Joanne Burzese, Secretary

The January 21, 2018 Allegheny Chapter meeting opened with Len Lehman showing pictures of members' favorite rock garden plants. Members who submitted their lists then spoke about why they picked

those plants and their growing conditions. They also responded to any questions from other members regarding these plants.

Dave Amhrein opened the business portion of the meeting by asking

for a motion to discuss the amended by-laws. Motion to do so was made by Bonnie Plato and seconded by Al Deurbrouck and unanimously approved. Lyn Lang recommended changing wording of Article III, Section B from household membership to family membership to be consistent with wording of dues amounts. There was a discussion of Article V, Section C as to whom the annual written treasurer's report should be submitted. It was determined that it should be submitted to the membership. A motion to change non-budgeted expenditures requiring membership approval to \$150 (Article VI- Section C) was made by Jim Ellenberger, seconded by Steve Plato and unanimously approved. A motion to change memorial donations in lieu of flowers to include causes as an option (Appendix II) was made by Lyn Lang, seconded by Gina Teams and unanimously approved. Al Deurbrouck made a motion to approve amended by-laws. Motion was seconded by

Steve Plato and unanimously approved.

Alan Peacock presented the club business cards he designed. 100 have been printed for distribution to friends, other clubs and events. Len Lehman made a motion to print 400 more. Lyn Lang seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Len Lehman reported he received four entries for the mystery plant but only Lyn Lang correctly identified Dragonhead (*Dracocephalum alpinus*).

Len Lehman stated that usually at the January meeting the charitable donations for the year are decided. He suggested \$100 donations be made to the NARGS national society and to the Aviary. Steve Plato made a motion to make those donations. The motion was seconded by Al Deurbrouck and unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45. Seventeen members were in attendance.

February 18, 2018 Minutes

Respectively submitted by Patty McGuire, Treasurer for Joanne Burzese, Secretary

The Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society met at the Northland Public Library on Sunday, February 18, 2018. The meeting was called to order around 2:15 PM by our Chapter Chair, Dave Amrhein. After a warm welcome and a little conversation, Dave started the business meeting with the Treasurer's Report as

the Secretary's minutes were unavailable. Patty began by acknowledging the thank you letter from the NARGS National for our \$100 donation that was sent in January. She then reported that she had filed our IRS Federal Tax Return which is completed electronically – a 990-N (e-Postcard). It was accepted by the IRS on Saturday, February 10, 2018. Patty had also completed the 2017 financial report.

Our March meeting will be held at the Northland Public Library, Sunday,

March 18 at 2:00 PM. Charles and Martha Oliver, chapter members, will be speaking to us about their current hybridizing of small garden phlox which should be very interesting as Charles is an internationally renowned hybridizer.

Our April 15 meeting will welcome Mark Langan owner of Mulberry Creek Herb Farm in Ohio. Marks' topic will be companion plants for mini hostas.

And of course, our May Show and Sale to be held on Sunday, May 6 at Soergel's Garden Center from 9 AM to 3 PM. Dave wanted to make sure that it will be widely publicized, and Lyn assured him that along with the publicity, the rules, rewards, and articles that inform our members on how to prepare their plants for the show will be included in the upcoming newsletter. Volunteers will be needed and members are asked to bring their own home-grown plants for the sale. Any plants that might need divided are usually the ones that make it to the sale tables. We have already ordered miniature conifers for the sale and everyone who received one of the Chair's Choice ferns last year that has survived, is encouraged to enter it in the show. I believe that there were 2 different types of ferns that were given out to each member...either one will do just fine. Len suggested that the members bring their ferns inside and place them on a North facing window sill to help them grow out from the cold winter. The Chair's

Choice plant for 2019 is a Vulgaris double 'Apricot Nectar'.

The Aviary Garden is going to be needing some attention beginning in March, weather permitting. The Aviary volunteers usually visit the garden twice a month, the 2nd and the 4th Thursday of each month. There was interest last year that some of the maintenance take place on a Saturday or Sunday for those members who work during the week. Al and Lyn brought up the suggestion that maybe those members who would like to assist on a weekend, could water the garden over the weekend during their free hours. The water supply will be available but only when the Aviary is open between 10 AM and 5 PM. If weekend groups could be available the 1st and 3rd weekends the garden will be attended each week by either the Thursday or weekend groups. If interested, members were instructed to contact either Al Deurbrouck or Lyn Lang.

Sandy Ciccone made the suggestion we have trough making take place at our September meeting. She then asked if anyone was interested and the answer was a definite yes. More information to follow concerning the feasibility of trough making this year. The November meeting is tentatively scheduled to be 'Bird Gardening' with Bob Mulvihill.

We broke for refreshments provided by our members with last names from P to Z. We had lots of Valentine candy for all of us cho-co-holics with a

few healthy items thrown in for variety along with Buffalo dip and crackers with a little kick. We then held our famous raffle that brought in \$50 with lots of good gardening items and lucky winners.

The last half of our February meeting was led by our own member, Sandy Feather. She began her presentation with a slide show – Requirements for Seed Germination. It was very well prepared and great for those in attendance that weren't too familiar with what it takes to make flowers from seeds and even for those members who needed a refresher. Sandy explained what the seeds require to grow into beautiful flowers...water, sunlight, oxygen, and heat. Sandy explained how to break seed dormancy and the what, where, and how to plant the seeds so they grow into beautiful plants that can be planted outside.

After Sandy's presentation, the members attending were able to plant the 6 different types of seeds available. Lyn Lang and anyone else that assisted her, did a fantastic job of preparing the tables with the plant containers, soil, information sheets containing the seed packets, and planting instructions. We had plenty of pots, soil, sand, and baggies available. Len also brought some seed sowers which were available for \$1. Thank you to all who helped set up and those that joined in at the end to tear down.

We welcomed a new member, Paul Worona, who joined our group at the meeting.

Dave reminded all in attendance that our next meeting will be Sunday, March 18 right here at Northland Public Library with the Oliver's speaking.

JOIN NARGS TODAY - NARGS is for gardening enthusiasts interested in alpine, saxatile, and low-growing perennials and woody plants. Annual dues in the US and Canada are \$40, payable in US funds. VISA/Mastercard accepted.



Benefits of membership include: *Rock Garden Quarterly* with articles on alpines and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen and ink drawings; annual Seed Exchange with thousands of plant species; study weekends and annual meetings in either US or Canada; and book service.

Join online at www.nargs.org or write: Bobby J. Ward, Executive Secretary NARGS, P.O. Box 18604, Raleigh, NC 27619-8604, USA. The NARGS *Quarterly* is now online and members have free access at www.nargs.org/rock-garden-quarterly.

THE ALLEGHENY CHAPTER'S ROCK GARDEN ADJACENT TO THE NATIONAL AVIARY

Alan Peacock

So far, by the end of this month we will have withstood Christmas Day and New Year's Day, celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day, survived Daylight Savings Time and St. Patrick's Day, and now we have one more Day to look forward to soon – 20th March – the first Day of Spring.

Not only have we managed to deal with the shopping excursions and sales pitches that bombard us from every TV show that accompanies these holidays, but also the inclement weather that tends to accompany this same time period. But, on the bright side, so has our rock garden located adjacent to the Pittsburgh Aviary. I went with Al and Len a few days ago to see how the garden has fared after, of course, the obligatory breakfast first, and I am pleased to report it has done remarkably well, as the following photograph attests.



It was not the best of days for a visit; a cold penetrating wind and rain coming down like stair rods, so we only stay long enough to take photographs of the few flowers willing to poke their heads above the surface during such inclement weather; a lonely snowdrop and two clumps of crocus.

Currently, we visit the garden on the second and fourth Thursday each month at 10 AM, meeting for breakfast first at 9am. Although this is frequent enough to keep the garden under control, on occasions it suffers from lack of water, especially during the summer months. We would like to solicit members who could tend the garden on a Saturday or Sunday on the weeks other than the second and fourth week



just to water. A hose is always available behind the railings, and it just requires the water to be turned on at the faucet near the Aviary main gate at the end of the driveway. If you are able and willing to do this, would you please contact either Al Deurbrouck or Lyn Lang. The first regular visit to maintain the garden this year will

take place on Thursday, March 8, and any of you reading this are welcome to join us in this endeavor and also, of course, the prior obligatory breakfast. Lyn Lang will e-mail the details just prior to the actual date.

2018 Schedule of Events

DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens

1004 East Lake Road www.djsgreenhouse.com
Transfer, Pa. 16154 724-962-1230

This schedule is not complete. Please check the web-site during the year for additional classes.

APRIL

3rd Create your own Fairy Garden, \$35. All Materials Included - 6:30. Reservations required
5th Tea Container Class, \$22. All Materials Included 6:30 Reservations required
10th Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. When can we Plant? Planting a Lettuce Bowl Demo!
14th Opening Day, 9-5. Stop by for Refreshments and Cookies
21st New Plants Class 10:30. Join us as we walk the Greenhouse discussing new plants for the year

MAY

15th Gardening to attract Hummingbirds, 6:30. Guest Speaker Paula Shacklock
17th Gardening to attract Butterflies, 6:30. Guest Speaker Donnajean Enyeart
22nd Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Is it time yet? Planting a Veggie Pot Demo!
31st Container Class, \$25. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required. Be Creative!

JUNE

2nd Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required No Charge! You name it we discuss it!
9th Cooking with Herbs! 10:00. Deborah Plant Plants Herb Farm Bed and Breakfast!
19th Create your own Fairy Garden, \$35. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required
26th Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Now that it's growing how do I keep it going?

JULY

7th Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required Fertilizer! What's That?
10th Create your own Fairy Garden \$35. All Materials Included 6:30 Reservations Required
17th Create your own Terrarium! \$35. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required
20th Evening in the Garden \$28 (Garden Party). Reservations required. Great Food and Good Music 6-9

AUGUST

4th Breakfast with DJ, 9:00 Reservation Required You Did What to Your Plant?
14th Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Yes you can still plant a Fall Garden!
16th To Be Announced
18th Customer Appreciation Day, 9-5. Refreshments and Specials

SEPTEMBER

1st Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required. It's Not Over Yet!
11th Create your own Fairy Garden, \$35. All Materials Included, 6:30. Reservations Required
18th Hyper-Tufa Class \$ 25 Create your own Planter. Reservations Required! 6:30
22rd Fall Garden Walk, 10:00. Getting your garden ready for winter! A tour of the gardens.

OCTOBER

7th Fundraiser Dinner for the Community Food Warehouse. Details later this Summer.
We are open until mid-late October.

Our hours of business are listed on the web-site.

Soergel's Garden Center — Educational Series

2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090 724-935-2090

Date/Time	Speaker	Activity
Mar 22, 7:00 PM	Jonathan Green	Lawn Care
Apr 19, 7:00 PM	Andrea Jackson	Herbs
May 6, 7:00 PM	Len Lehman	Rock Gardening - a Primer
May 25, 7:00 PM	Jessica Walliser	Annuals (Probably)
June 21, 7:00 PM		Perennials (Probably)
July 19, 7:00 PM	Anita Difonte	Cocktails from the Garden
Aug. 16, 7:00 PM		Fairy Gardening (Probably)
Sept. 20, 7:00 PM		Air Plants & Terrariums (Probably)
Oct. 18, 7:00 PM	Randy Soergel	All About Apples
Nov. 15, 7:00 PM	Aspen Song Wild Bird Feed	Bird Feeding

CHAIR'S CHOICE AWARD

Leonard Lehman

The Chair's Choice award was established in 2015 as a way to increase participation in our show and to expose members to noteworthy plants. Members receive either bulbs, plugs or plants of the selected variety and hopefully grow for exhibit in this class of the show.

You have all received ferns to be grown for the 2018 Chair's Choice Award at our May Show and Sale. Whether you enter them in our Show or simply plant them in your rock garden, they are choice plants.



2016 - Iris 'Hot Coals'

2017 - Corydalis 'Purple Bird'

2018 – Ferns: *Asplenium* (aka *Pelleae*) *atropurpurea* (Purple stemmed Cliff-brake) and Rusty Woodsia or Oblong Cliff Fern (*Woodsia obtusa*)

Since ferns are slow growing, it is time to start prepping them for the show. Bring in pots and give them cool moderate temperatures with light shade. Keep moist but not soaking! A good northern window is fine! Do not fertilize, or do so only with a very, very weak water soluble fertilizer!

Note - Only one of the ferns needs to be entered!

FROM THE BUGCATCHER'S BOOK- SHELF



Every so often a real treasure is published that elevates knowledge to a higher level. Such is the book "Cuttings from a Rock Garden: Plant Portraits and Other Essays" by Lincoln and Laura Louise Foster. (c. 1990). Linc and Laura Foster were stalwarts of the NARGS and, in addition to publishing articles, introduced several famous strains of prime roses, phlox, armerias and other choice rock garden plants. Their home in Connecticut was called Millstream as it had a wonderful stream crossing their property and which gave its name to the many forms of alpine plants. This book is a great collection of essays on their experiences in rock gardening and includes specific plants through problem and general rock gardening. I still

refer to many of the articles for advice on certain plants as the Fosters were master growers and their advice was always practical and easy to do. This is a book to curl up in a cozy chair in the evening and read with a cup of hot chocolate on the nearest table. When the Fosters passed, an effort was made to preserve the home and gardens as a public garden but I do not know if this occurred or the current status of the property. Their gardens were almost always on tour for some gardening club or association and they were always gracious hosts with visitors always leaving with new babies to care for. Certainly a book to read not only for information but also for enjoyment.

Contact Patty McGuire to bring this book to you at the next meeting.