



ALPINE LINE

Allegheny Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

May –June–July 2015

Message from the Chair, Len Lehman



Well, we finally are out of the nasty winter cold and into peak activity growing season with warm days and cool nights. We are running about four weeks behind schedule, based on the citizen scientist webpage *Bud Watch*. This vigilant group monitors various

species of trees for information such as when first buds break dormancy, first leaves open, and first flowering. From this report, several interesting things and trends are apparent: Except for this year, the trend is Dogwoods are flowering generally three weeks earlier than normal. This is critical to species survival as it puts the trees at risk of late freezes and loss of next generation seeds. It's easy for anyone to join this group and other citizen scientists' groups (FeederWatch, etc.) that help perform a valuable service to the scientific community, which has suffered greatly from loss of funding.

Despite my New Years resolution to not buy more plants, new boxes filled with must-have gems arrive constantly. I am now swamped with new plants demanding care. I always threaten my family that one day I will simply wander off and declare myself a missing person. Perhaps now is the time to do it!

One of our most important events of the year has come and gone—our Annual Show and Sale. Our show is a valuable tool in educating the public about the wonders of alpine plants and rock gardening. Competition of potted plants and cut flowers is really secondary, as the most important part is to show the public what are alpine plants and the beauty of their flowers.

Our sale is one of the main sources of income for our club and enables us to bring in top-notch speakers, such as Jon Lonsdale. We welcome friends and family to the show and enjoy looking over our selection of plants in both show and sale areas. Many thanks to Randy Soergel for the space, and Al, Lyn, Debbie, and Carol and others for setting up.

Recently, Bonnie and Steve organized the impressive DHSWP show. I applaud members Trish Abrams, David Amrhein, Bob Dietz, Amanda Haney, Lyn Lang and Alan Peacock for their entries in the show. Entries of Ed Bennett and Al Deurbrouck both ended up on Queen's Table!



Meanwhile, Karen is working her magic for future events. For the May meeting, we will tour both the Lynch garden and a nearby Japanese garden. We visited this garden a few years back when it was first constructed, so it will be interesting to see how it has matured. In June, we will meet at DJ's and make

terrariums. Keep an eye open for that extra special jar or container which will make a nice receptacle. There is an informative terrarium article in *Dave's Garden* (davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/908). Also, for an incredible collection of terrariums, including several that hang, you may want to check out *Black Jungle* (blackjungleterrariumsupply.com).

Meanwhile, I thank all of you for participating in our **best** Annual Plant Show and Sale.

Mystery Plant of the Month

This issue's mystery plant is among of the vast world of Alpine plants considered the most difficult to grow. For those who have success, it is grown mostly in alpine houses. Native to Tierra Del Feugo, it is called by some to be the most beautiful of alpine plants and among the most unusually colored.



Joseph Hooker named this plant for his close friend who sent him preserved specimens. Gardeners have more luck growing hybrids of it, such as *John Innes* (a short-lived

perennial that is good for woodland and shady gardens in our area) and *Walter Shrimpton*. They do not last long in summer heat, and they are almost **a l w a y s** grown as annuals in patio pots and planters, or for border plantings.



To win a prize plant, send as many entries (with botanical and common names) as you like to Len at llehman1@verizon.net.

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS

Officers

Chair: Len Lehman, 412- 233-5902
lclehman1@verizon.net

Vice Chair: Karen Schmidt, 724-679-3818
KarenSMG@aol.com

Secretary: Dianne Passoth, 724-444-4862
DiannePassoth@mtsaonline.org

Treasurer: Patty McGuire, 412-366-8364
cmpmam@comcast.net

Committee Chairs

Awards: Al Deurbrouck, 412-653-0281
adeurbrouck@verizon.net

Honorary chair: Connie McKeever, 412-823-7250
Raymck27@earthlink.net

Banquet: Deb Meyer, 412-734-2039
DebrASM@aol.com

Hosts: Bonnie and Steve Plato, 412-726-7865
stephenplato@gmail.com

Library: Patty McGuire, 412-366-8364
cmpmam@comcast.net

Membership & Proofreader: Lyn Lang, 724-443-7092
Lyn9@consolidated.net

Newsletter Editor: Linda Kalcevic, 412-847-0825
kalcevicl@verizon.net

Plant Show & Sale: Deb Meyer, Lyn Lang, and
Carol Przyborski

Seed Exchange: Patty McGuire, 412-366-8364
cmpmam@comcast.net

Website: Sylvia Lynch, 412-795-0736
home.comcast.net/~sylvialynch/

Contributors

Al Deurbrouck
Jim Bucklad
Lyn Lang

Show & Sale Demonstration



Allegheny Chapter Members—Kudos to. . .

Patty McGuire, Karen Schmidt, Alan Peacock, Steve and Bonnie Plato, and others for speaker arrangements, obtaining the room, setting up refreshments and helping to make the April meeting a stunning success. Many thanks.



Welcome new members: Judy Perez, Rich Costanzo, Deborah C., Eleanor Frazier Mohamed, Lynn Miller. Missing from picture: Marilyn Lockwood, Jim and Margaret Kalka.



Share an interesting and informative article, an idea, or helpful suggestion about gardening by publishing it in the *Alpine Line*. Send it to kalcevicl@verizon.net

Although gardens haven't peaked, some are still picture worthy. Send yours to kalcevicl@verizon.net - or mail it to Linda Kalcevic, 772 Village Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The deadline for submissions is the **20th of the month**.

Results of 47th Annual Plant Show and Sale

The 2015 Show was arguably the best show we have ever held. A large number of our members entered an outstanding number of well-grown and well-presented plants. Thanks to all who participated. Hopefully our new members were motivated to enter plants next year. It is nice to win ribbons and awards, but the purpose of the Show is to make our members and our visitors aware of the wide variety of plants that can be grown in this area.

Thanks to our Show and Sale co-chairs Deb Meyer, Lyn Lang, and Carol Przyborski, and to Susan Benn, Al Deurbrouck, Len Lehman, Patty McGuire, Alan Peacock, and Karen Schmidt for a job well done. A special thank you to Randy Soergel for providing the location and publicity, as well as participating in the fairy garden sessions.

AWARD WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW

Judy Adams

POINT WINNERS

- 1st Debra Meyer
- 2nd Al Deurbrouck
- 3rd Dick Nussbaumer

BEST IN CLASS



Class #1. One pan rock garden plant in flower – Debra Meyer, Antennaria rosea

Class #2. One pan native wildflower suitable for the rock garden – Lyn Lang, Dodecatheon meadia



Class #3. One pan primulae in flower, including primula and androsace – Deb Meyer, Primula polyanthus elatior 'Gold Lace'



Class #4. One pan bulbous or rhizomatous plant suitable for the rock garden in flower – Dick Nussbaumer, Cypripedium 'Emil'



Class #5. One pan succulent (Crassulacea, Mesembry, Anthemaceae) – Al Deurbrouck, Jovibara hirta

Class #6. One pan rock garden plant grown primarily for foliage, including hosta, saxifrage and ferns – Dick Nussbaumer, Asarum europaeum



Class #7. One pan dwarf shrub, tree, or conifer – Debra Meyer, Pinus mugo 'Mitsch Mini'



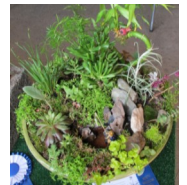
Class #8. One bowl of cut flowers of rock garden plants, to be judged for variety and quality of material – Judy Adams, Iris, ginger leaves, Lily of the Valley leaves



Class #9. A trough of three or more distinct species rock garden suitable plants arranged for effect – Lyn Lang, Athrium filix-femina minutisimum, Asplenium trichomanes, Adiantum venustum, Draba oligosperma and Heuchera X 'Chiquita'



Class #10. Fairy Garden. One pan containing miniature plants and accessories arranged to create a mythical garden theme – Nancy Pacella



Photos by Jim Bucklad



March Meeting Report

The March 15, 2015, meeting of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society was called to order at the National Aviary at 2:10 by Vice Chair Karen Schmidt with 35 members and 3 guests attending. Chair Len Lehman was delayed in traffic.

Karen introduced the speaker, Jill Nicolaus, known as a criticologist and prolific author from *Dave's Garden* as well as from her blog, *allthingsplants.com*. *Pocket Gardens – A Miniature Environment Catering to Fussy Plants* was the title of her presentation. She offered these useful and simple suggestions to create pockets of drainage in order to increase the odds of successfully incorporating alpine plants into a perennial garden:

- Build mounds
- Use bottomless pots
- Use cinder blocks
- Make bottomless hypertufa containers
- Create a miniature raised bed
- Use edging material, such as mulberry limbs or lumber

Following a refreshment break, the Business Meeting began with the reading of the February 15 minutes by Secretary Dianne Passoth. Patty McGuire moved and Al Deurbrouck seconded that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Patty McGuire presented the Treasurer's Report. Three checks were written and three deposits made. Dianne Passoth moved and Lyn Lang seconded that the report be accepted.

Chairman Len Lehman commented on the excellent job Linda Kalcevic is doing as Editor of the *Alpine Line*. Copies of our newsletter are sent to all the NARGS chapters. There have been many requests for article reprints.

Membership Chair Lyn Lang advised that membership dues need to be paid by April 1. Dues collection is going very well.

Lyn asked members to let her know if they also belong to National and informed us you can join for more than one year. She reminded the group that the Penn State Master Gardeners' Symposium and Marketplace will be held April 18 at Shadyside Academy. Steve Plato added that the Daffodil Society's show will also be there.

Al Deurbrouck began a discussion regarding the May Rock Garden Show and Sale. There will be three workshops offered during the Show and Sale. Remember, changes have been made to Classes 9 and 10, and it is now beyond the deadline when you can purchase plants to enter. Discussion included bringing indoors potential entries, cleaning containers, using the correct botanical name and cultivar on the tag, and using containers similar to plants' natural environment. There is no limit on the number of plants each may enter. Profits from donated plants for the sale will profit the Club.

The next meeting will be 4:00, April 19, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Please RSVP to Patty McGuire by April 12 if you plan to attend and let her know what you are bringing to the dinner. Guests are welcome. There will be a raffle.



Len Lehman showed a slide of the month's Mystery Plant (*Primula sieboldii*) which Jim Bucklad guessed correctly. Len previewed next month's Mystery Plant.

Al Deurbrouck moved and Lorraine Duffola seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

We were reminded to visit the beautiful blooming Aviary Rock Garden. The afternoon ended with a raffle.

Dianne Passoth, Secretary

Aviary Rock Garden

Chapter members were greeted with a stunning display of tulips, pulsatilla, daphne and many other flowers during our maintenance visit to the rock garden on Thursday, April 23.

We visit the rock garden rain or shine on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from March through November. Bring your favorite garden tools, gloves, and a container for debris. The garden during May is guaranteed to be spectacular! Please mark your calendar for any dates you can participate.

Volunteers meet at the garden at 10 am. The National Aviary is located at



700 Arch Street, Pittsburgh 15212. For those visiting the garden for the first time, it is on the grounds outside the Avi-

ary and next to the driveway leading into the visitors' parking lot.

If you feel like getting up a bit earlier, join us at 9:00 at Ye Olde Allegheny Sandwich Shoppe, 822 Western Avenue 15212. They offer a great breakfast, and usually, free parking across the street. Enter the gravel lot from Brighton Road and park at the Western Avenue end.

Contact Al Deurbrouck at adeurbrouck@verizon.net or Lyn Lang at lyn9@consolidated.net with any questions.

~Lyn Lang

Allegheny Chapter 2015 Meetings/Events

Next meeting—2:00 Sunday, May 17, at the Lynch's garden, Penn Hills

	Time	Speaker	Topic	Location
January 18	2:00	Debra Meyer and Carol Przyborski	NARGS Annual Meeting in Santa Fe	Northland Library
February 15	2:00	Len Lehman	Seed planting workshop	Northland Library
March 15	1:30	Jill M. Nicolaus	Pocket Gardens	National Aviary
April 19	4:00	Dieter Zschummel*	One Year in Our Garden in the Middle of Germany	St. John Lutheran Church Cumberland Road
May 17	2:00	Garden tour**	Lynch's garden and her neighbor's Japanese garden	184 Spring Grove Road, Penn Hills 15235
June 28	9:30 am	DJ	Breakfast at DJs and hands-on Terrarium workshop	DJ's Greenhouse
August 16	11 & 2:00	Picnic	Bog garden Workshop - Michael Szesze	Pine Township Community Park
September 20	2:00	Chuck Gleaves	Gardening for the Fun of It	Northland Library
October 17	5:00	John Lonsdale	Spring Bulbs	Banquet— TBD
November 15	2:00	Jared Hughes	Groovy Plant Favorites	Northland Library
December	9 am		Seed packing workshop	Northland Library

***May 17, 2 :00 Lynch's Garden Tour, 184 Spring Grove Road, Penn Hills. Phone 412-795-0736**

The Lynch's garden has been evolving for 20 years in both area and plant diversity. Their garden lies on approximately one acre with a natural woodland in the back garden. The front portion of this garden is devoted to a rock garden installed 10 years ago. Along with a love of alpine plants comes an equivalent love of wildflowers that fill the woodland area. Large oak trees provide a canopy over the back garden with an under-story of ferns, hostas, Japanese maples and a large collection of native plants. Bob has augmented the natural mood with several water features and a bog.

Directions from Parkway East –

Take Parkway East to the Rodi Road exit. Follow Rodi Road to the end, which is the third light. Make a right onto Frankstown Road. Follow it one mile to the second light. Make a left onto Spring Grove Road. 184 is a half mile on the right.

Directions from Allegheny River Boulevard -

Take Allegheny River Boulevard either from Lawrenceville, Highland Park Bridge or Oakmont to the traffic light at Sandy Creek Rd. Turn here. Follow Sandy Creek Road through the traffic light. In about 200 yards, turn left onto Lime Hollow Road. Bear right at the Stop sign. At the traffic light, turn left onto Frankstown Road. Proceed to the next traffic light, and turn left onto Spring Grove Road. 184 is a half mile on the right.



Lynch's garden in 2010

*A garden is a grand teacher.
It teaches patience and careful watchfulness.
It teaches industry and thrift.
Above all it teaches entire trust.*

~Gertrude Jekyll

NARGS Book Review



The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops, Naomi Slade, Timber Press, (April 22, 2014); 254 pp, hardcover; publisher's price \$24.95, Amazon price: \$18.27.

This book confirms the fact that in the heart of every gardener lie the primal cells of a galanthophile. Yes, we have heard the mutterings: "they all look the same", but a quick flip through the photographs is enough to convince the reader that the Brits may be on to something. This something has been going on for a few centuries in Great Britain, but is now being embraced by a growing number of North Americans.

Cutting to the chase, the reason to buy the book is the 60 pages dedicated to approximately 60 species and cultivars. Each of these is described by height, flowering time, cultivation difficulty, and distinguishing features. This is followed by one to two paragraphs dedicated to the origin of each species or cultivar. A color photograph filling one half to a full page accompanies each galanthus. In these pages, the reader can begin to appreciate the uniqueness of such lovelies as "Lady Elphinstone," "Yaffle," "Diggory," and the simple elegance of species such as *fosteri*, *gracilis*, and *plicatus*.

Often, books dedicated to a specific genus are collected for a future reference. These

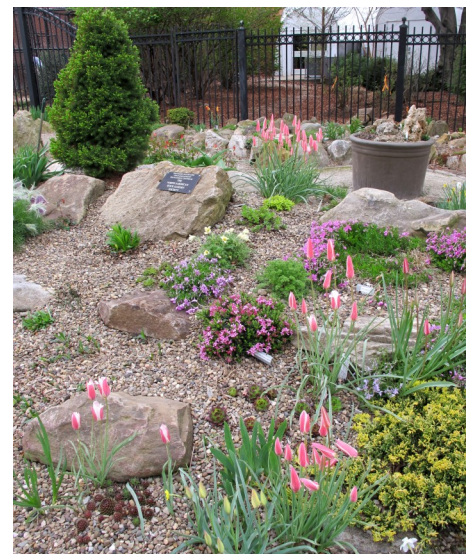
are not often read cover to cover. "The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops" entertains the reader with discussions of the history of collectors and the stories regarding various episodes in the history of galanthomania.

Reviewed by Terry Laskiewicz who has a one acre garden, part woodland, part alpine slope in southwest Washington along the Columbia River. In the greenhouse, primroses as well as fritillaria and many other bulbs are cultivated, many grown from NARGS seed.

You may read the entire review at NARGS.org.

*Behold, my friends, the spring is come.
The earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun,
and we shall soon see the results of their love!*

~Sitting Bull



Ticks

To take care of a tick bite: Remove the tick promptly and carefully. Use tweezers to grasp the tick near its head or mouth and pull gently to remove the whole tick without crushing it. Other methods — such as applying petroleum jelly, fingernail polish, rubbing alcohol or a hot match — aren't recommended.

If possible, seal the tick in a container, and put it in a freezer to show your doctor if you develop illness after a tick bite. Wash hands with soap and water and the area around the tick bite.

Contact your doctor if: You aren't able to completely remove the tick, **or** the rash gets bigger, **or** you develop flu-like signs, **or** you think the bite site is infected.

Most tick bites cause minor injury, but some may cause illnesses, such as Lyme disease.

Read more at <http://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-tick-bites/basics/ART-20056671>

Tricks



To prevent soil from escaping through holes in base of flower pots, line them with large coffee filters .



To sharpen scissors, cut through sandpaper .

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western PA (DHSWP)

Saturday, June 6	Hosta Show at Soergels
Thus – Sat, June 18 – 20	National Hosta Convention, Raleigh, NC
Sat – Sun, June 20 – 21	Whispering Pines Hosta Sale
Fri – Sun, July 10 – 12	Great Lakes Region Tailgate, W NY Hosta Society
Saturday, July 18	Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 8	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
August---TBA	Garden in the Parks Field Day, gardens at North & South parks
September---TBA	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro PA
Saturday, October 10	Pot Luck meeting: Put your Hosta to Sleep/Plant your Daffodils for Spring, Northland Library
Saturday, November 7	End of Season Luncheon, TBA
Saturday November 21	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



Ed Bennett won 'Salome' 2W-PPY 1958 Best Classic Single Stem Ribbon, an American Daffodil Society award, Best Classic Daffodil Ribbon 1940 - 1969, also ADS Ribbon.

Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone. ~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

DJ's Greenhouse 2015 Calendar of Events

May 14	Gardening to attract Hummingbirds (Paula Shacklock)
May 19, 6:30	Gardening to attract Butterflies (Donnajean Enyeart)
May 26, 6:30	Vegetable Garden series
May 28, 6:30	Container Class. \$25 Includes material
June 2, 6:30	Create your own Fairy Garden. \$35. Materials included
June 6, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
June 9, 6:30	Create your own Carnivorous plant Terrarium. \$35. All material Included. Reservations
June 12, 6:30	Ladies Night Out. \$15. Reservations
June 13, 10:00	Creative Planting. \$18. Plant a unique Container
June 16, 6:30	Herb Infused Butters. \$5. Pam Brown, Pamela Gardens
June 20	TBA
June 23, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
July	Hundreds of Daylilies in Bloom All Month
July 11, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
July 14, 6:30	Create your own Fairy Garden. \$35 Materials Included
July 17, 6-9:00	Evening in the Garden. \$26. Good food, good times, and good music! Reservations.
July 25, 6:00	River Watchers Fund Raiser
July 28, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
Aug 8, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
Aug 11, 6:30	Tappas at Sunset. \$23. Small plate with beer & wine. Tasting Chef David Armstrong. Reservations
Aug 18, 6:30	Create Your own fairy Garden. \$35. Materials Included
Aug 22	Customer Appreciation Day: Refreshments and Specials
Aug 25, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
Sept 5, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
Sept 8, 6:30	Make your own Terrarium. \$35. Materials included
Sept 22, 6:30	Vegetable Garden series
Sept 26, 10:00	Fall Clean-up Class and Garden Walk. A Guided tour of the Fall Garden. Q & A
1004 East Lake Road, Transfer PA 16154, www.djsgreenhouse.com or 724-92-1230	

Bringing Nature Home: Interview With Doug Tallamy



Monarch butterfly on Echinacea

Bees and monarch populations are seeing precipitous declines. Why do you think this is happening?

It's happening because we've taken away what they eat. This is not rocket science. Monarchs are an index of all the other insects that are disappearing. As a caterpillar, they're

a host plant specialist and their food is milkweed. As we eliminate weeds in our farmland and in our roadsides, they find very little to feed on, so their populations are small. On the Monarch's return to Mexico, they need flowering plants and nectar, and they're finding brown fields. That's why they're disappearing, along with our 4000 species of native bees and countless other insects that nobody is following.

You will hear that it is because we had a drought, a cold spring or problems in Mexico where monarchs overwinter. But the real cause of the monarch's decline is the loss of their only host plant, milkweeds. Every year there have been half as many Monarchs as the previous year. As of last winter, we have 3.6% of the population we had in the 70s. Weather fluctuations are not new. It is the tiny population of what they used to be that is new.

That's why the small habitat patches that do remain are not enough to sustain the populations of insects and other types of biodiversity. That's one of the problems with the Endangered Species Act. We don't do anything to help declining species until their populations are dangerously small. Why are insects, not just pollinators critical to maintaining the diversity of other species?

E.O. Wilson wrote an article in 1987 entitled, "The Little Things That Run The World." Insects actually sustain life on land. Insects are the basis of food webs and transfer energy to all other animals. If you eliminate insects you eliminate other species. If you eliminate pollinators you eliminate 90% of our flowering plants. Insects pollinate 80-90% of our plants. Plants make oxygen; they regulate our watersheds; they preserve our topsoil. If you take away plants, you take away the eco-system services that humans depend on. We're creating a world that is not conducive to life.

What are some simple steps homeowners can take to support insects and pollinators, and encourage wildlife and biodiversity? It's actually quite simple—abandon the age-old concept that humans live here and nature is somewhere else and embrace the concept that we need to share our spaces with nature. We enjoy a walk in the woods; we enjoy seeing butterflies, birds, beautiful flowers, etc. Research has shown that spending time in nature is the very best way to recharge your attention span and deal with the stresses of life. Living with nature is a healthy necessity, not a sacrifice we must endure.

We have 45.6 million acres of lawns and it is growing by 500
8

square miles each year. That's an area 8 times the size of New Jersey from which the species that run our ecosystems have been removed. Now that we see the big picture, homeowners can take action.

Lawn should be restricted to the areas on which we walk in our landscapes; it is a mechanism for guiding us through our landscapes. Lawn should not be our default landscaping practice. If we cut the area of lawn in half, we could create the equivalent of a new national park that is 20 million acres in size. That alone would create the biggest natural area in the nation, bigger than most of our national parks combined.

For those of us with established landscapes, how would you suggest we begin to transform our yards?

Put the plants back! People can add productive native plants that support wildlife back into their yards. In most areas of the U.S. you can plant oaks. Oaks support at least 557 species of caterpillars (think bird food).



White Eyed Vireo feeding young. by Doug Tallamy

Most native trees do this, but oaks do it better. Their root system is massive. Oaks, cherries, willows, birches and poplars are great choices. Asian ornamental species don't do this at all. Every time a homeowner plants a plant from Asia, they have to realize it won't support the insects that support our birds and viable food webs.

What advice would you give to new homeowners about landscaping?

Make a plan. Most people just hire someone, so hire someone with the skills of an ecological landscaper. If you get involved yourself, make it a hobby that you can enjoy for years. Pick at it, don't feel you have to do it all at once. You can simply put trees in your yard and then build beds around those. Choose your plants wisely and plant young specimens.

Most of the plants in our yard at home started from seeds or very young plants. You get a healthier tree or plant when you start small, because it isn't root bound or root pruned. People say, 'but I won't be there to enjoy them' about young trees, but in 14 years, our oaks have grown to 30 feet tall and were started from acorns.

What are your go-to native plants?

Everywhere they can (or should) grow, oaks would be number one. Native viburnums, solidago (goldenrod), sunflowers and asters are very high on the list. Native monarda (bee balm) is a great choice.

(For more info, see the Bringing Nature Home Best Bets: What to Plant lists. If you live west of the Mississippi, you can consult Utah State University's Gardening for Native Bees Fact Sheet. <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/plants-pollinators09.pdf>)

(Continued on next page)

Interview With Doug Tallamy continued

You want your landscape to support the food web, including insects that are part of the food web and insects that are important pollinators. In the East, button bush, American plum, Clethra, Joe Pye weed, Virginia sweetspire, and native hollies are super pollinator plants. In the west, I recommend planting cottonwood trees and some of the many species of *Ceanothus*.

You can target certain species you may want in your yard. I wanted to have Zebra Swallowtails in my yard. They feed on pawpaw, so I planted several pawpaw trees. It took nine years, but the swallowtails finally found our pawpaws. Now we have a healthy population of the butterfly, and we get to eat paw paws.

If you put a bush or tree in your yard in the appropriate place, you can see a difference, in everything from insects that use that plant, to the birds that eat those insects. You'll get posi-

tive feedback and further motivation. There's no better way to expose kids to nature than to put it right where you live.

Try to build a balanced landscape that's doing more than one thing. I have found that most people don't get motivated to do this until they get a dose of reality, of how quickly the species we depend on are disappearing. Plants are not just for decoration, plants are vital ecological entities that do so many things.

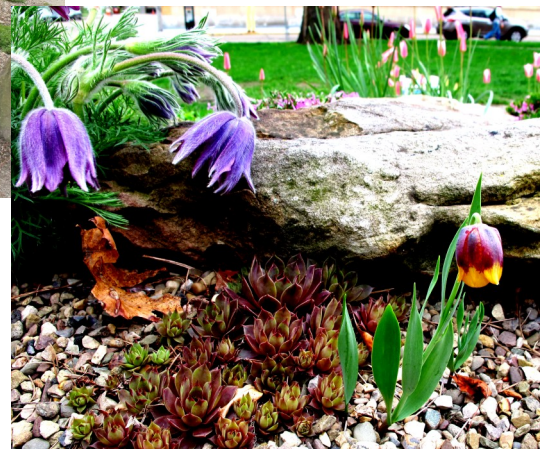


Doug Tallamy is a professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of Bringing Nature Home and The Living Landscape with Rick Darke (Timber Press, June 2014). Reprinted from High Country Gardens, posted in Native Plants on January 6, 2015.

Allegheny Chapter's Rock Garden at the National Aviary



700 Arch Street Pittsburgh



Take a Look

Soergels.com lists weekly circular, daily menus, and special events as well as links to make reservations.

AllThingsPlants.com— plant database, forums, podcasts. Sign up to receive a weekly newsletter.

EdelweissPerennials.com— Purchase plants grown the old-fashioned way—potted the previous season or even a year before and grown either all year outside or in unheated cold frames.

free Plan-a-Garden
Design your dream garden now with our easy planning tool!



Start Now

Fun & Easy Tool

- 1 Drag-and-drop garden structures, accents, and plants
- 2 Ability to save and edit plans for later
- 3 Print plan for easy use or share with family and friends

Better Homes & Gardens. BGH.com. Plan All Things Plants. Weekly news and gardening ideas.

(Looks interesting but haven't used it.)

Amazing 2-minute video showing pollination—<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0>

Annuals for the Rock Garden by Mark Kintgen, Denver Botanic Garden (Part 2)

Calandrinia. Native to Chile, this sometimes perennial plant can bloom all summer. Several species are encountered, the best for continental North American gardens may be *Calandrinia umbellata* from the Andes which can bloom all summer and is often a short lived perennial in Colorado.

Calandrinia spectabilis is another species that is larger, 1-3 feet depending on how happy it is. It must be native to coastal Chile as it is not very frost hardy and seems most happy in coastal California. It was spectacular in Denver for one summer. I need to try it again.

Calandrinia have performed well for me in any well drained soil and full sun. They are best established as plants set out in the spring.

Dichondra. Marketed as a ground cover in the far south, this durable plant has become a standard in summer containers across the nation. It is very resistant to drying out and less than ideal watering regimes. The cultivar 'Silver Falls' is much more ornamental than the regular green form, with its almost metallic silver leaves. It could be a vigorous summer ground cover in a larger rock garden, perhaps cascading over the edge of a stone wall or alongside a large stone. The plant takes some frost, so it can make it quite far into the autumn before succumbing.

Dichondra is very easy going, tolerates hot full sun or one-half day of sun. It prefers decent drainage, and regular irrigation will make it grow more luxuriant. It is best established from plants set out in the spring after frost. It can be cut back and overwintered with some degree of success in a sunny window or cool rather frost-free garage.

Euphorbia hypericifolia 'Inneuphe' Diamond Frost®. Always on the search for something different, breeders are looking to wilder looking plants to give consumers a different look from blowzy annuals. Some of this work has created compact plants with more of a "wildflower look" allowing them to look more at home with rock garden plants. *Euphorbia* Diamond Frost® is one such plant. It seems to relish heat and really comes into its own during the dog days of summer.

Diamond Frost *Euphorbia* asks for sun or a few hours of shade and is best established as plants set out after danger of frost.

Gazania. These long cherished plants can be indispensable in the rock garden for adding a bright punch of color on comparably compact plants that will not overrun most small plants if properly spaced. Some forms like the Talent mix offer silver foliage. One can never have enough *Gazanias*, in my book. If you are looking for a possibly perennial form, *Gazania linearis* 'Colorado Gold' from the Plant Select® program has done very well in various conditions in Colorado, including at over 8,000 feet in the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail. It can self-sow

heavily in some situations. Tanager is a bright orange *Gazania* that can be perennial in warm and dry Zone 6 conditions. I have found perennial types flower most heavily in the spring, early summer and again in the fall.

Gazania prefer full sun and well-drained soil, and they can be started from either seed or transplants into the garden

Lotus berthelotii. This is one of my favorite plants for texture in the garden. Its sea green to green slender feathery leaves are a wonderful contrast to plants with coarser textures. Few plants have a texture that quite matches this plant. Use it like the *Dichondra*, cascading down a rock slope, gracefully nudging up and over a larger rock, or spilling over a retaining wall. All it asks is for sun and well-drained soil. I wish it were more frost hardy as it generally departs at temperatures around F 30.

It prefers full sun and demands good drainage in containers. If it dries out too much it can be a bit iffy, so make sure it never fully dries out. It is commonly available at garden centers each spring and best established after the last frost.



Mecardonia. Of all the new annuals entering the market, this group of little yellow creeping annuals plants has really captured my attention. It has burst onto the scene in the last few years. Native of Argentina

and surrounding countries, several of the selections have been bred by INTA (National Institute of Agriculture Technology in Argentina) and Sakata. They seem to relish the hot humid summers of Pennsylvania and Ohio, which may remind them of home. They have proven adaptable as well to the hot, dry and consistently up and down summers of Colorado. They were still presentable in October 2014 in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati -- that's a good track record. I know I will add some to my garden.

Mecardonia is just appearing on the market and can take a bit of tracking down, but Proven Winners sells one cultivar and other varieties may show up in your local garden center. They seem to do fine in either full sun or part shade. Some of the parents are naturally found in moist areas in the wild, so I think it's best to not consider them very drought tolerant.

Pelargonium sidioides and other species type *Pelargonium*. Geraniums or more properly *Pelargonium* can be a bit underwhelming in the hot and humid summers of the Midwest and East. My understanding is they tend to bloom well when nights are a bit cooler than 70 degrees. Ernie DeMarie near New York City recommends the following species. These have a much more refined look and will be right at home in a rock garden. (Continued-Part 3 in next issue.)