



Newsletter of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society

May/June/July 2018

50th Annual Rock Garden Plant Show & Show Review

All of our members' hard work and preparation for the 50th Annual Rock Garden Plant Show & Sale is complete, and we can put up our feet for a bit and enjoy the spring flowers. It was a great show with the usual breezy, cool weather, and brisk sales. Many thanks to Randy Soergel for providing a nice location for our show, sale and demonstrations. (The new chairs are very comfortable!) Please remember to visit Soergel's Garden Center and let them know you are a member of the rock garden society when you purchase plants and other garden materials.

Thank you to everyone for preparing so many plants and troughs to make a memorable show. A huge thank you goes to all the members who helped to make the show and sale a success--from making troughs, procuring pumice rock planters and sale plants, providing raffle donations, and digging and potting plant donations, to helping with set-up Saturday night, Sunday morning and throughout the day, and especially for bringing lots of beautiful entries for this year's show. Thirteen members participated providing 88 entries. A special thanks goes to David Amrhein for holding the remaining sale plants for our table at Gardenfest on Saturday, May 12th. Also, thank you to Debra Meyer, Cathy Kaut and Deborah Crowley for helping with the Gardenfest sale.

The presentations on bogs and bog gardens, planting troughs, and small and mini hosta in containers appeared to be well received. Please send any ideas you may have for demonstrations or talks at the next show to Lyn Lang.

Thank you, Patty, for all your work as cashier, and for collecting dues, coordinating our lunch orders, and receiving 8 new memberships. New members are Ron Berman, Kathie Davis, Laurel Dittman, Laurie Kilkenny, Daniel Mace, Joseph Raught, Linda Schwartz, and Kirk Wicker. Please give these new members an enthusiastic welcome when we meet again!

Lyn Lang

Congratulations to all the 2018 winners!

On behalf of the Allegheny NARGS, we would like to thank visitors, exhibitors, judges and volunteers for creating such a special atmosphere for the event. We not only congratulate the prize winners but also look forward to building on this year's success for the future. The Show had 13 members enter plants and 88 show entries.

AWARDS:

- Best Plant in Show/Clare Williamson Award - Class 3 - Primula vulgaris/Cathy Kaut
- Best Trough in Show/Audrey Rauch Award - Class 9 - Trough/Debra Meyer
- Chair's Choice Award - Class 11 - Fern/Joanne Burzese
- Daffodil & Hosta Society of WPA Award - Class 4 - Iris 'Little Showoff'/Jim Adams
- Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub or Conifer in Show/Connie McKeever Award - Ilex crenata 'Jersey Jewel'/Sandra Ciccone

HIGH CUMULATIVE SCORES AWARDS:

- First Place - Debra Meyer
- Second Place - Jim Adams
- Third Place - Sandra Ciccone

2018 PLANT SHOW WINNERS

CLASS 1



Gentiana acaulis
Jim Adams

CLASS 2



Micranthes virginiensis
Debra Meyer

CLASS 3



Primula vulgaris
Cathy Kaut

CLASS 4



Iris 'Little Showoff'
Jim Adams

2018 PLANT SHOW WINNERS

CLASS 5



Sedum ternatum
Lyn Lang

CLASS 6



Asplenium trichomanes
Al Deurbrouck

CLASS 7



***Ilex crenata* 'Jersey Jewel'**
Sandra Ciccone

CLASS 9



***Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Fillicoides Compacta',
Sempervivum arachnoideum, *Sisyrinchium* sp.,
Lysimachia japonica 'Minutissima', *Phlox*
subulata 'Snowflake', *Delosperma basuticum***
Debra Meyer

CLASS 10



***Hosta* 'Corkscrew', *Sempervivum* 'Oddity',
Sedum nevii 'Silver Frost',
Sedum rupestre 'Angelina'**
Debra Meyer

CLASS 11



Asplenium atropurpurea
Joanne Burzese

Message from the Chair David Amrhein

Welcome everyone to spring which officially began March 20th. Between the freeze days and shuffling around my hardened off plants and the IRS server crashing for tax day, I don't know if I'm coming or going. One thing I am certain of is how fine the Aviary garden looked when we were there for our meeting. Even with excessive rain and cold the plant selections and bones of the landscaper were outstanding. Once again our club came out for the Show and Sale making this a memorable 50th year of providing the public with a look at premier specimens and workshops and talks not normally available at no cost.



If you were at our meeting with Mark Langan, you would have recognized a number of his choice selections, many of which are in our rock garden. Along with our speaker we had a chance to distribute the Chair's Choice *Belarina* 'Nectarine' primrose for next year's show. You may want to grow these in your garden this year and bring back next year like your fern entry for this year's show. If you were not at the meeting we can still provide you with a *Belarina* primrose along with a nice selection of seeds we got from the NARGS.

Because of the Show and Sale we are not having a conventional meeting Sunday May 20 but rather attending an open garden visit with Trish Abrams. If you have been with Trish at auctions and plant sales in the past you will know of her love for gardening and the diversity of species you will be seeing. We will also be visiting a great garden when we go to DJ's at the June 10 meeting.

I think what I like most about DJ's estate is the mature aspect of the landscape since he got the itch a while back and has grown out some wonderful specimens. Please remember to let friends and family know we are providing free membership this year to new members in celebration of our 50th anniversary. See you at Trish's.

Upcoming Meetings

May 19-20 - Trish and Joe Abrams will open their gardens on both days of the weekend from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The address is: 806 Belmont Road, Butler, PA 16001.

June 10 at 9:30AM - Breakfast at DJ's Greenhouse, Transfer, PA. "Breakfast with DJ." No Charge! He will be talking about new outstanding plants. Please RSVP to Dennis James at djsgreenhouse@verizon.net.

July- No meeting this month.

August 19 at 2:00 PM - Annual Members Only Picnic - again at the Pine Township Community Park.

September 16 - This is a bit early notice, but the speaker will be Cindy Tibbetts, owner of Hummingbird Farm, a strictly clematis-growing operation, specializing in "Clematis for the Frozen North". The web site, <http://HummingbirdFarm.net> is full of information on choosing and growing clematis, including "The Frozen North Pruning System."

Mystery Plant for May/June/July

This issue's mystery plant is a bulbous plant ideal for rock gardens and giving delightful little clumps of white, blue (the most common color) and pink/lavender, Native to Chile, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil, it is a member of the Amaryllis family and is given a specific subfamily. Not well known by gardeners, the bulb is rodent resistant due to a foul odor of the bulb. The genus has had a mixed up nomenclature with it changing genus several times when first described in 1826 until 1992 when the genus was stabilized into its current form. About 23 species exist with only 2 commonly sold in the trade. The common name refers to the shape of the flower. Inexpensive, it is a real gem in the rock garden, flowering in late April to mid May. Enjoy!

Email answers to Len Lehman, lclehman1@verizon.net. Only genus name needs to be given.



DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens

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

2018 Schedule of Events

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

- May 15 Gardening to attract Hummingbirds, 6:30. Guest Speaker Paula Shacklock
- May 17 Gardening to attract Butterflies, 6:30. Guest Speaker Donnajean Enyeart
- May 22 Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Is it time yet? Planting a Veggie Pot Demo!
- May 31 Container Class, \$25. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required. Be Creative!
- June 2 Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required No Charge! You name it we discuss it!
- June 9 Cooking with Herbs! 10:00. Deborah Plant Plants Herb Farm Bed and Breakfast!
- June 19 Create your own Fairy Garden, \$35. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required
- June 26 Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Now that it's growing how do I keep it going?
- July 7 Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required Fertilizer! What's That?
- July 10 Create your own Fairy Garden \$35. All Materials Included 6:30 Reservations Required
- July 17 Create your own Terrarium! \$35. All Material Included 6:30. Reservations Required
- July 20 Evening in the Garden \$28 (Garden Party). Reservations required. Food and Good Music 6-9
- August 4 Breakfast with DJ, 9:00 Reservation Required You Did What to Your Plant?
- August 14 Vegetable Gardening Class, 6:30. Yes you can still plant a Fall Garden!
- August 16 To Be Announced
- August 18 Customer Appreciation Day, 9-5. Refreshments and Specials
- September 1 Breakfast with DJ, 9:00. Reservations Required. It's Not Over Yet!
- September 11 Create your own Fairy Garden, \$35. All Materials Included, 6:30. Reservations required
- September 18 Hyper-Tufa Class \$ 25 Create your own Planter. Reservations Required! 6:30
- September 22 Fall Garden Walk, 10:00. Getting your garden ready for winter! A tour of the gardens.
- October 7 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 website.

Soergel's Garden Center - Educational Series

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

Date / Time	Speaker	Activity
May 17 / 7:00 PM	Jessica Walliser	New Annuals
June 21 / 7:00 PM		Perennials (Probably)
July 19 / 7:00 PM	Anita Difonte	Cocktails from the Garden
August 16 / 7:00 PM		Fair Gardening (Probably)
September 20 / 7:00 PM		Airplants & Terrariums (Probably)
October 18 / 7:00 PM	Randy Soergel	All About Apples
November 15 / 7:00 PM	Aspen Song Wild Bird Feed	Bird Feeding

March 18, 2018 Minutes Joanne Burzese, Secretary

The Allegheny Chapter of NARGS met at Northland Library on March 18 at 2 pm. Charles and Martha Oliver spoke about phlox for the rock garden and beyond. They showed slides of various sized phlox and their hybrids developed by Charles and other hybridizers. They also had plants for sale.

Sandy Ciccone conducted the business portion of the meeting. She reported that Peggy Dimperio is working on publicizing the annual NARGS show and sale at Soergel's. Peggy has contacted various news media to have articles written. She will also contact Doug Oster and Jessica Walliser asking for their help in publicizing the event. Debra Meyer will be making brochures to be distributed at the Garden Marketplace during the Garden and Landscape Symposium at Shady Side Academy and other locations. Sandy asked for volunteers to conduct demonstrations at the show. Patty McGuire reported that she is obtaining a "Square" for the club to handle credit card sales. There will be a sign posted at the show indicating an additional charge for credit card usage.

Lyn Lang recommended that members pot plants for sale one month prior to the show. She also requested that those doing their own pricing use whole dollar amounts. She is looking for items to be donated for the raffle at the show. She is also looking for volunteers to help set-up for the show the evening of May 5th and also for the day of the show.

Len Lehman advised those entering the Chair's Choice ferns in the show to bring them inside now, put them in a north facing window and give water slowly. Only one of the two ferns given out need to be entered.

Patty McGuire gave the Treasurer's report which was approved. Minutes from the last 2 meetings were also approved.

Sandy Ciccone reported that Len Lehman will be giving a talk on carnivorous plants at the Men's Garden Club meeting on April 2nd. All are welcome to attend.

Karen Schmidt was the winner of the mystery plant contest, correctly identifying *Phemeranthus calycinus*.

Lyn Lang reminded members that maintenance of the rock garden at the Aviary will continue on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Volunteers are also needed on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month to water and do other maintenance as needed.

Bonnie Plato reported that the Daffodil and Hosta Society will be having a daffodil grooming clinic at 1 pm at St John's Lutheran Church. They will be having a mock show after the grooming and prizes will be awarded. She needs volunteers to help set-up for the daffodil show at the Garden Marketplace at Shady Side Academy. Set-up will begin at 4 pm on April 27th. Help is also needed for the show on April 28th. Everyone is encouraged to enter daffodils in the show even if not a member of the society.

The next Allegheny Chapter meeting will be at the Aviary on April 15 at 2pm. Members wanting drinks are advised to bring their own as the coffee and tea table will not be set up. Lyn Lang asked those bringing snacks to do so inconspicuously.

April 15, 2018 Minutes Joanne Burzese, Secretary

The Allegheny Chapter of NARGS met on April 15 at 2pm at the National Aviary. Mark Langan from Mulberry Creek Herb Farm presented a program on planting troughs. He apologized that he had to deviate from his planned topic of miniature hostas in the landscape because of unavailable plant material. Instead he demonstrated planting a specimen trough and a miniature landscape trough. He had plants suitable for rock gardens and troughs available for sale.

Dave Amrhein conducted the business portion of the meeting. He handed out cards for registering plants to be entered in the May Show. Label sticks for plants to be sold at the Show were also made available. He reported that on April 20th all the Trib weeklies will have an article about the Allegheny Chapter Show in their spring time edition. He also passed out flyers about the Show for members to post in various locations.

Lyn Lang requested that if members know in advance what plants they will be donating to the sale to contact her so more professional labels can be made. She requested that sale plants be brought to Soergel's on Saturday evening if possible or by 8:30 am on Sunday. She reminded members to check the newsletter for rules for Show entries. She also reported that Deb Meyer has a garden trug for the show raffle and is looking for donations of garden items to fill it. Bobbi Diller, Lyn Lang and Sandy Ciccone are working on the club's Facebook page. They will be posting information about the Show and are asking members to invite people to like the page and to share posts.

Bonnie Plato had tags available for anyone entering daffodils into the Daffodil show. She reported that there will be potted daffodils and miniature hostas available for sale at the Daffodil show. She reported that there will be potted daffodils and miniature hostas available for sale at the Daffodil show. There will be a photo contest at the show also. Photos should be at least 8" x 10" and mounted. Further information is available on the Daffodil and Hosta Society Facebook page.

Belarina 'Nectarine' (*P. vulgaris* 'Kerbelnec') is the Chair's choice plant for next year's Show. They were distributed to members at the meeting. After all members receive their plants any extras will be available for sale at this year's Show.

Dave Amrhein reported that he will have a table with information about NARGS, the Daylily Society, the Men's Garden Club, and the Daffodil and Hosta Society set up at Gardenfest at the Lauri Ann West Community Center on May 12th. He asked for a volunteer to staff the table since he will be sharpening tools at the event. Peggy Dimperio volunteered to do this.

Following the raffle the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm. There were 25 members and 1 guest present.



Julie Lynette Dandoy

Julie was born on May 6, 1954 and passed away on Thursday, March 22, 2018. Julie was a resident of Butler, Pennsylvania at the time of passing. Julie was a 1976 graduate of Slippery Rock University. She was very interested in rock gardening and was an active member of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society since 2013. As one friend described her, "She was a joy, a delight, and kind."

THE NARGS ROCK GARDEN ADJACENT TO THE PITTSBURGH AVIARY

You may recall that, in my last aviary rock garden update, I advocated that the 20th March was a day to look forward to - being the first day of spring. That we dote on this day and its expectations is beyond debate, but it is obvious from recent events that Mother Nature has no intention of being constricted by such mundane occasions. I say this because, I'm not sure, but I think that when I blinked last week, during that time I might have seen for just a fraction of a second spring weather. Mind you, I wouldn't swear to it, as the next time I blinked and reopened my eyes it was snowing.

Fortunately, many of the plants in the aviary rock garden have not been too badly affected by the unusual weather of late and during our first maintenance visit this year for general clean up many spring flowers we come to depend on did not let us down and were in bloom.



Tulip



Primula



Helleborus



Helleborus

Some had been delayed by the inclement weather, and Lady Jane was not quite there yet.

There are many members of our group who are justifiably fans of Hellebores and there were several examples on display that illustrate the variety of this species.

As a side issue, adjacent to the rock garden are several large bird cages, part of the aviary exhibit. The largest one is home to three Condors and the one closest houses a pair of Demoiselle Cranes who have built a nest - not unusual for a bird, but I couldn't help being struck by the size and complexity of the construction. That they should go to so much trouble when something less than half the size would be adequate to lay a couple of eggs is something only cranes would comprehend. Not for us to question why.





FROM THE BUGCATCHER'S BOOKSHELF

I am going a little wild this time and writing about a book not in our library but a great reference for Summer.

Ah SUMMER - most planting is done and now the routine of watering and maintenance kicks in. Ah SUMMER - time to kick back in a swing, chaise-lounge, hammock, or other soft comfy seat, with a nice cool drink, napping, and letting gentle breezes flow over the body.

Ah SUMMER-VACATIONS. I always look forward to vacations to explore new areas, sample new cuisine, and visit gardens. I always try to include gardens as part of the trip for new ideas, new plants, and beauty.

Hence when I found *THE GARDEN TOURIST; 120 DESTINATION GARDENS IN THE NORTHEAST* By Jane Milbocker (Enchanted Gardens, 2018), it was a book I had to have. The book covers, private, historical, public horticulture, and college gardens, and public nurseries in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania (Sadly, the book suffers from "Nothing good west of the Alleghenies" syndrome and therefore many wonderful gardens in Western New York and Pennsylvania are omitted)

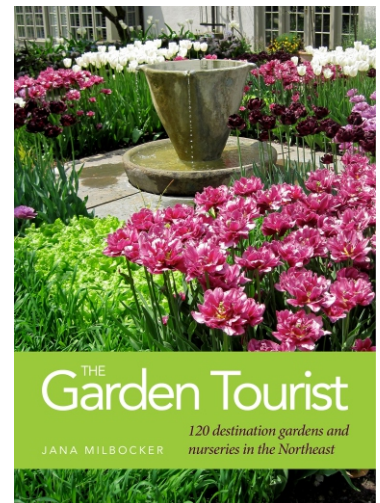
The gardens are arranged by state and then by location. Each garden lists entrance fee, if applicable, dates and time of operation, amenities such as restaurants, restrooms, trails and special events, and then pictures and descriptions of the garden. I have visited and heard of such famous gardens as Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Longwood, Chanticleer and Coastal Maine Botanic Garden but never heard of The Yaddo Garden(NY), the Bellamy-Ferriday Home and Garden, Hollister House Garden(historic) and others. The descriptions are quite detailed and often list special gardens within the garden.

Also nurseries are included, and my mouth drools to visit such nurseries as Adams Fairacre Farms (NY), Broken Arrow Nursery (NY) and Mason Hollow Nursery in Maine. All list speciality plants carried by the nursery and general price ranges are sometimes given (expensive, average, etc.).

As mentioned before, the weakness in the book is in an incomplete listing. For example, Linc Foster's home, Millstream - a phenomena garden and nursery where Foster introduced some of the most famous rock garden plants - i.e., Millstream Armeria, does not even get a mention. Also, as noted, no gardens west of the Alleghenies are listed. Secondly, no index is given so you can immediately go to a specific garden. One must go to the state and browse through until a specific garden appears.

Despite these faults, the book is certainly one I will pack on trips to the Northeast and look for the low profile gardens normally not noted.

Leonard Lehman



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 alpinas 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.

2018 MEETING NOTICES**ALLEGHENY COUNTY ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY**

Date/Time/Refreshment Group	Location	Speaker	Activity
JAN 21 / 2:00 PM / F-O	Northland Public Library	Membership led by Len Lehman	Roundtable Discussion of Favorite Plants
FEB 18 / 2:00 PM / P-Z	Northland Public Library	Sandy Feather	Seed Starting Workshop
MAR 18 / 2:00 PM / A-E	Northland Public Library	Martha & Charles Oliver	The Small Phlox Charles is Hybridizing
APR 15 / 2:00 PM / F-O	National Aviary	Mark Langan, Mulberry Creek Herb Farm	Companion Plants for Mini Hostas
MAY 6 / 9:00 AM	Soergel's Garden Center	Show & Sale	Show & Sale
MAY 19-20 / 10:00 AM-6:00 PM	Trish & Joe Abram's Gardens	Open Garden	Open Garden
JUN 10 / 9:30 AM	DJ's Nursery	Dennis James	New Outstanding Plants
JULY	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
AUG 19 / 2:00 PM	Pine Township Community Park	Picnic	Raffle, Trough Show, Plant Sale, Auction
SEP 16 / 2:00 PM / P-Z	Northland Public Library	Cindy Tibbets, Hummingbird Farm	Rambling Through the Rock Garden
OCT 20, 2018	TBA	Janet Novak	Awards Banquet
NOV 18 / 2:00 PM / A-E	Northland Public Library	Robert Mulvihill, National Aviary Ornithologist	What's Good for Birds is Good for Your Backyard
DECEMBER	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING
DEC 6 / 9:00 AM	Northland Public Library	Trish Abrams	Seed Packaging