

Alpine Line NEWSLETTER

ALLEGHENY CHAPTER NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY 2ND QUARTER 2024



Draba ramosissima

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Allegheny Chapter Library Book Review



Sedum rupestre Blue Spruce

The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums

By Brent Horvath

From backyards and borders to containers and living walls, over hillsides and terraces and on up to rooftop gardens Sedums are a choice group of succulent plants revolving around the constellation of Crassulaceae. However, plants we are used to calling Sedum may actually be *Hylotelephium*, *Petrosedum*, *Phedimus*, *Rhodiola* or *Sinocrassula*. Horvath helps to clarify the difference between these and provides both the currently acceptable and former botanical name. So, the *Hylotelephium spectabile* may still carry the Sedum Autumn Joy name on a nursery tag.

These plants reward gardeners with long lasting color, texture and blooms throughout the seasons. This guide is filled with details around planting, propagating and selecting the right plants for your use and environment. In the chapter "150 Sedums for the Garden" the author creates a pictorial beauty contest then follows up with "Where to Buy" (in Australia, Canada, UK, and US) and "Where to See" (US and Canada). Just in case you haven't satisfied your curiosity after reading this book Horvath provides one more step — a go-to of books, websites and organizations in "For More Information."



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Chair message for April

[At the April meeting] we will initiate the member showcase.

This is a wonderful way that we can learn tips and best practices from others' experiences.



Aviary Rock Garden Tulip

There are lots of exciting happenings in the coming months! Our April meeting at the National Aviary is a perfect time to see the Chapter Rock Garden in full bloom and take a few photos. Bill Barnes, our speaker and chapter member will take us on a trip to the crevice garden at the Juniper Level Botanic Garden near Raleigh. Also at this meeting, we will host our usual raffle, but this month let's focus on plants. This is a perfect time to have a **Plant Raffle**. We will also launch the **Member Showcase**. Members are invited to share garden successes and failures with the group. Props are encouraged and presentations are limited to three minutes. This is a wonderful way that we can learn tips and best practices from others' experiences. And don't forget to bring your printed and mounted photos for the show in May. **I will have extra foam core boards available for mounting your photos.** Your images will inspire others to try rock gardening! Details about the photo contest are included in the newsletter.

May will be a busy month for the chapter with two major events—the show and sale and Gardenfest. This is the 53rd year for the Plant Show and Sale and we are working to make it one of the best. We had a great turnout for the pot-up day and all of the plants are now in the care of members until the sale on May 5th. In addition, dwarf conifers have been ordered and will be shipped from Oregon, hopefully with a few ferns. The chapter has also purchased plants from a grower in Indiana and we are also depending on choice selections from members' gardens. We have new signage and have been promoting the sale so that gardeners throughout the area will learn that we have some unusual plants as well as tried and true varieties for sale.

The Plant Show and Sale will be followed by Gardenfest on May 11 at O'Hara Twp. Park. This is an opportunity to reach new members and sell any remaining plants. Volunteers are needed to help—please contact me if you can assist.

And finally, in June we have a break and can enjoy a relaxing morning and have fun shopping at DJ's Greenhouse and Gardens. DJ hosts the chapter and generously offers a hearty breakfast for the members. DJ also shares his expertise and will tell us about some new varieties and those stalwart performers that should find a place in our gardens.

Happy spring!
Nancy

Upcoming Meetings:

APRIL 9, 2024 – 1:00 PM KAREL ULIZIO'S GARDEN

Trough Making Workshop- RSVP to nargsalleghenypa@gmail.com

APRIL 21, 2024 – 2:00 PM AVIARY

Bill Barnes= Crevice Garden at Juniper Level Botanic Garden

MAY 5, 2024 – 9:00 AM-3:00 PM SOERGELS ORCHARD AND GARDEN CENTER

The 53rd Annual Plant Show and Sale

MAY 11, 2024 – 9:30 AM-3:00 PM O'HARA TWP. PARK

Gardenfest

JUNE 9, 2024 – 9:30 AM DJ'S GREENHOUSE AND GARDENS

Breakfast Meeting

National Aviary
700 Arch St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Soergels Garden Center
179-Exit 73/PA 910,
Wexford/Brandt School Rd

O'Hara Twp Park
330 Fox Chapel Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

DJ's Greenhouse & Garden
1004 E Lake Rd
Transfer, PA 16154

SPRING came early to the rock garden at the Aviary in 2024. Although winter returned a few times during March, members were treated to a warm sunny day for our first visit on March 14. Most of the snowdrops and snow crocus had finished blooming, but the Tommasinianus ‘Hummingbird’ crocus planted last fall were in bud. The expanding patch of *Corydalis solida* Beth Evans was a standout in the shade area. The variegated daphne came through the winter with minimal damage as it enters its sixth year of almost continuous bloom.

Aviary Rock Garden Update



Cages and burlap placed around the

osmanthus and Japanese maple proved to be good winter protection. Lorraine suggested removing the evergreen leaves from the hellebores during our last fall visit so we could skip the chore of trimming them in the chilly late winter. While the loss of foliage detracted from the beauty of the garden in late fall and winter, it was lovely to see the hellebore blooms this spring without desiccated leaves.

Club members will visit for maintenance on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from April through October. On April 25, there may be selective dividing of iris and other flourishing plants to offer at the plant sales on May 5 at Soergel’s and Gardenfest on May 11.

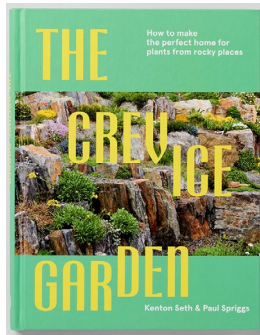
Expect to be delighted by spring blooms on April 21 when we meet in the National Aviary classroom. Come early to find parking and view the garden before the meeting.



Alan Peacock talks with Paul Spriggs about the Aviary rock garden, a bit of history and his old friend Al Deurbrouck on the chilly morning before Paul’s presentation on The Crevice Gardens at Beechwood Farm and Reserve.



Paul noted the Daphne was a highpoint of the garden.





GET TO KNOW THE NEW MEMBERS

BARB KLINE
ELISE FORD
SUE COLAIZZI



What are some of your favorite plants?

Barb: Dwarf tomatoes

Elise: I like many shade plants but that may be because I have primarily a shade garden. Favorite sun plants include *Phlox* 'David', iris, *Baptisia*, *Filipendula* 'Venusta', Culver's root, clematis and geraniums. I also think daylilies are so cheerful, even though they require daily maintenance.

Sue: Hydrangeas, salvias, foxgloves, and dahlias

Do you have a favorite garden that inspires you?

Barb: Friend's Farm outside Altoona. My friend Chris runs this farm and has truly made the venture sustainable and a part of her lifestyle. I've seen so many gardens in my travels over the years...two come to mind, I would love to go back and spend many days at Versailles because it was volunteer-run with sheep offering daily symphonies. I was also inspired by Holehird Gardens in Windermere---they had a memorable rock garden.

Elise: probably Chanticleer. I always learn something when I go there. Since my background is in design, I usually look for elements of a garden that inspire me, whether an English or French garden or that of a home gardener.

Sue: Le Jardin des Plumes in Normandy

What's one garden-related thing you learned recently and would like to share with the chapter members?

Barb: Using golf tees to mark my bulbs so I know where to plant new ones in the fall.

Elise: I had never seen an Asian jumping worm until the pot-up day. I didn't know that the young jumping worms don't have a cream band like the adult worms.

Sue: What to do and not do when starting a new bed.

If you could choose anyone as a gardening mentor, who would it be?

Barb: Joan Dye Gussow, an author, professor, environmental activist, and local food movement pioneer. Pam Dawling, author, of books and many articles in a publication called *Growing For Market*, she ran Twin Oaks Farm in Virginia. Both these women were huge influences as I started market gardening at my farm.

And finally, my friend Chris Wise, owner of Friend's Farm - she has been and continues to be an inspiration as we both age and continue to be influential to other local foodies.

Elise: Again, my background is in design, so I learned by reading about landscape architects and garden designers (dead and alive) and the gardens they designed. At present, I'm fascinated with Piet Oudolf and his design process.

Sue: Arabella Lennox-Boyd, a garden designer who lives in Northern England and designs gardens worldwide.

What do you do when you are not gardening? Other hobbies, travel, sports....

Barb: Master Gardeners, LGBTQ advocacy & support, enjoying my dog, and having the time in retirement to explore and continue learning.

Elise: Reading, knotting, needlepoint, traveling and I want to learn watercolor.

Sue: Hang with my grandchildren.

PLANT FOCUS

DRABA AIZOIDES, AN EASY ALPINE FROM SEED BY LYN LANG

Draba aizoides, also known as yellow whitlow-grass, is one of those plants whose seeds are almost always available from the NARGS seed exchange. It is just 1 of 26 *Draba* species profiled by NARGS [Draba | North American Rock Garden Society \(nargs.org\)](http://nargs.org)

My first encounter with this easy *Draba* species was many years ago during a seed starting workshop and chapter meeting. The seeds germinate in less than 2 weeks and do not require any special treatment.

This evergreen perennial has a basal rosette of bristly green leaves. Upright flower stems of about 4 inches are topped with clusters of bright yellow flowers followed by elliptical seed pods.

Draba aizoides is native to Europe where it may be found growing on limestone rocks and walls. These are very small plants that require their own space in the well-drained rock garden, gravel scree, or crevice separated from more vigorous rock garden plants that may crowd them out. It also grows well in troughs.

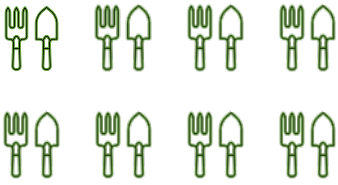
As with most perennials, *Draba aizoides* will usually flower in the second year from seed. Cheerful, bright yellow flowers bloom in very early spring about the same time as Cardamine, that weedy bittercress we battle in our gardens and lawns. Both are members of the Brassicaceae family. Like bittercress, *Draba aizoides* produces an abundance of easy to collect seeds to share with friends and seed exchanges.

This small mounding plant grows slowly and requires little care, and its ease of culture may tempt you to grow more. Transplants from seeds started only 7-8 weeks ago are already filling out small pots.



Having so much success with *Draba aizoides* has motivated me to try another *Draba* species from the exchange. *Draba sphaeroides*, also known as ball *Draba*, Cusick's *Draba*, Steen's *Draba* and Steen's Mountain Whitlow Grass, is a North American native. Germination was slower, and the plants are still quite small. Even though it's a western species, it may turn out to be a good specimen to grow in a crevice trough.

Not wild about yellow flowers? There are some white flowered species of *Draba* you can try growing from seed, too.



PAUL SPRIGGS DEMOS A TROUGH

Some folks can look at a finished piece and know how to get there themselves, many more of us need to see it built from the ground up



Trough must have good drainage. Cover drainage holes with porous fabric or screen to prevent loss of sand media.

Build soil media out of 80% sand, some loamy soil and a gritty material such as a Bonsai mix. This provides drainage and air to the roots to encourage growth.



On March 24th the NARGS Travelling Speaker Series brought Paul Spriggs to Allegheny to speak on his book "The Crevice Garden." Paul took it a step further with a demo of the finer concepts of this design. Observing the build and hearing many tips on best practices gave attendees a deeper understanding and a better idea on how to build it themselves.



Building the "bones." Select rocks that are flatter so the spine rises up with the edges ending below the soil for a natural look. Space rocks ~1" apart. Pack the soil down well to reduce settling.



Make a deep hole in a crevice, bare root the plant by dipping in water to rinse off soil then lead the roots into the hole, back-filling with sandy media and packing in tightly. Plant high so it does not settle far down when watered in and allows space for top-dressing.



Top dressing with very small pebbles of different size and shape ranges gives a very natural look to the finished piece.



The result is a beautiful rock crevice garden with the look and feel of a natural landscape and the “recipe” for making your own.

NOTE: Raffle tickets for the Paul Spriggs’ crevice trough will be sold at the Plant Show and Sale and at GardenFest.

Allegheny Chapter



Plan Ahead!



PLANT PROPAGATION

Reports are coming in on how well the propagation efforts are working. The plugs transplanted at the potting event are filling out their pots and some are developing buds. One even showed the first root out of the bottom of the pot.



The small divisions collected from Nancy's and other's gardens are also doing very well under the care of members who are growing them on at their homes. It will soon be time to acclimate these plants to the outdoors and add a little fertilizer.



Primula vulgaris – plants adopted by Kathie Davis

A number of members started seeds from some of the rock garden seed exchange packets. The plants that germinate from these seeds are the beginnings of the plant sale needs for 2025. Once the chaos and exhausting fun of the Plant Show and Sale are behind us, it will be time to consider what plants to select for propagating with cuttings and with the seeds that can germinate with warm or cold moist stratification. With propagation efforts underway our Allegheny Chapter can create another outstanding sale for 2025 and perhaps some specimen plants for trough garden show entries.



POTTING UP PERENNIALS FOR THE PLANT SALE

- Preparing Pots (previously used)
 - Remove soil from pots using brushes.
 - Follow cleaning with a pot-drench in 10% bleach solution. Allow pots to dry and store in an area away from soil.

NOTE: Follow these guidelines to minimize potential for spreading invasive species including Asian jumping worms and Japanese stiltgrass.

- Gather materials -
 - Clean pots
 - Sterile potting soil
 - Tags/sharpies
 - Containers for potting soil
 - Buckets for rinsing plants
 - Hose with sprayer attachment (on site)
 - Digging tools, including serrated knife for separating perennials to easily remove soil and optimize size for re-potting
 - Latex gloves
- Identify plants ready to dig -
 - Plants should be dug when just emerging from dormancy when there is two inches or less of top growth. The earlier perennials are dug, the less top-growth will be present. Plants “in shock” from digging often droop and/or lose some emergent growth.
 - Key is to dig early. Gauge soil temperature for the ability to dig the plant. (Can you get a shovel to the bottom of the root ball?)

NOTE: Good digging days are often the least appealing to diggers. Cool, damp days allow plants to move into pots with minimal stress.

- On-site digging and potting -
 - Place sterile potting soil in trug or slice soil bag to allow for easy access to soil. Dampen potting soil in advance of potting.
 - Dig entire plant, with roots intact, shake off as much soil as possible.
 - Bring clump to potting area, hose off as much remaining soil as possible.
 - Fill buckets with water (warm water ideal!) and swish plant to get remaining soil from the root of plant. Inspect roots to see that they’re free of any soil.
 - Pull plant apart where it is apparent that it can be broken into pieces. Use serrated knife to slice sections ensuring that you have roots and top-growth for each cut. Plants with fibrous roots are less easily identifiable, but some experimentation will allow you to see how much to cut.
- Set plant in pot and fill with soil to within one-half inch of the rim, placing the crown of the plant at soil level. The crown of a plant is the junction where the top growth meets the roots. Water plant, label and provide an on-site spot where the potted plant will not be in contact with soil, such as a deck, patio or tarp.



Ephemerals Welcome Spring & Extend the Gardening Season

“Appearing at a time when little else is in bloom, ephemerals are an important early food source for wildlife awakening from hibernation”

On a bright early spring day, small green plants push through the snow crust, reaching for the warmth of the sun. Spring ephemerals have arrived! Ephemerals bloom in the spring and go dormant after they bloom, their foliage ripening and disappearing from summer through the winter months.

Most everyone is familiar with Eurasian ephemerals such as tulips, crocus, daffodils, and grape hyacinths. Less well-known are perennial wildflowers native to the woodlands of eastern North America. Frost-tolerant, these plants break dormancy in early spring, grow, bloom, set seed, die back, and disappear once deciduous trees leaf out and shade the woodland floor. Delicate in appearance, native ephemerals bloom in white and pastel shades appropriate for the spring season. Most are hardy to USDA zone 4 and many have deer resistance.

True native ephemerals are dormant by the end of spring but others, such as bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), and mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), while still ephemeral, hang on to their foliage until mid to late summer.

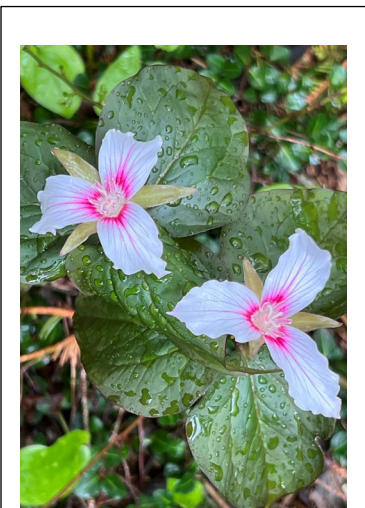
Appearing at a time when little else is in bloom, ephemerals are an important early food source for wildlife awakening from hibernation, including queen bumble bees and other bee species, early-season butterflies and moths, fungus gnats, ants, birds, and box turtles. Wildlife reciprocates by pollinating plants and assisting in seed dispersal.

Native spring species can be grown in residential gardens and are especially welcome in an informal wildflower garden that receives morning or dappled sun. They can add interest under shrubs or along a woodland path.

Research cultural needs of ephemerals to guide placement in the garden. Walk along woodland paths in early spring, take an identification aid, such as Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide, available as a book or a free downloadable PDF. Take notice as to whether a plant is growing in a clump or as a groundcover. Observe where it is thriving, whether near tree roots or along a stream’s edge to glean information about the plant’s preferred habitat.

Ephemeral species can be challenging to find at nurseries. It is commonly illegal to remove plants in the wild. Leave stands of ephemerals alone. Seek plants from online sources and local garden centers in spring. Reference the Pennsylvania Native Plant [Society] for a list of reputable native plant nurseries and always look for “nursery-propagated” plants <https://www.panativeplantsociety.org/native-plant-sources.html>

Locally, native perennials can be found at Arcadia Natives, <https://arcadianatives.com/>, the Native Plant Nursery at Beechwood Farms,



Painted Trillium
Trillium undulatum



<http://www.aswp.org/pages/native-plant-nursery-at-beechwood> and Rust Belt Natives, <https://www.rustbeltnatives.com/> Most carry a handful of ephemerals, so if you're looking for a specific plant be sure to call in advance.

Native spring ephemerals prefer organic-rich, acidic, well-drained soil. Most have fleshy roots - bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes - that store the food needed to grow the following spring. Take care not to damage these roots when planting. Ferns, hostas, *Brunnera* species, *Astilbe*, and woodland phlox break dormancy later in spring and are perfect companion plants to ephemerals. Their fresh growth will cover the bare ground as ephemerals enter dormancy, shading and cooling the soil during the heat of summer. A mulch of finely shredded, deciduous tree leaves will mimic the native woodland habitat of ephemerals. Mature plants may be divided during autumn or propagated by seed.

Add native spring ephemerals to your garden and enjoy their subtle beauty up close in your own landscape.

Some Native Ephemerals

bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

cut-leaved toothwort (*Cardamine canadensis*)

Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*, formerly *Anemonella thalictroides*)

round-lobed hepatica (*Anemone hepatica/Hepatica americana*)

sharp-lobed hepatica (*Anemone acutiloba/Hepatica acutiloba*)

shooting star (*Primula meadia*, formerly *Dodecatheon meadia*)

spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*)

trillium (*Trillium* spp.)

trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

twin leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*)

Online Sources

American Meadows- <https://www.americanmeadows.com/>

Cold Stream Farm- <https://www.coldstreamfarm.net/>

Far Reaches Farm- <https://farreachesfarm.com/>

Fieldstone Gardens- fieldstonegardens.com

Monticello Shop- monticelloshop.org

Plant Delights Nursery- <https://www.plantdelights.com/>

Wood Thrush Natives - <https://woodthrushnatives.com/>

SPECIAL EVENT

The chapter is sponsoring a trough-making workshop on **Friday, April 9th at 1 p.m.** at Karel Ulizio's house.

Please bring gloves, a mask, and an old basket or two no larger than 18" in diameter to use to make the trough. (The basket will be unusable after the trough is removed.) We would like participants to make one trough for themselves and one for the plant sale in May..

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND,
RSVP TO

nargsalleghenypa@gmail.com

THE PLANT 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 are best potted up by the first week of April to allow time for the roots to recover from transplanting. Be sure the donated plants are properly labeled, clean, and healthy. **Please carefully follow the instructions in this newsletter for potting up perennials for the plant sale.** Remember, there is 100% profit on all donations to the sale. Donations of plants, troughs, artwork, books and garden accessories are also welcome for the raffle.

Many hands will be needed early Sunday morning starting at 7:30 a.m. and throughout the day to set up the show and sale areas, engage with the public and assist with cleanup at the end. See the volunteer opportunities page of this newsletter for many ways members can help with this event.

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 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NARGS.AlleghenyChapter>.

Rock Garden Society PLANT SHOW

This year is our 53rd Annual Rock Garden Plant Show. The show and plant sale will be held at Soergel Orchards and Garden Center, 2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090, just off the intersection of I-79 and Route 910. The event will be located behind the market on the patio and inside McIntosh Hall.



The plant show is our only public display, and member participation is vital to its success. Let's make this year's show a most memorable one. Consider bringing a trough, container, or cut flower arrangement of rock garden plants you have grown.

If entries are already in containers or troughs, they will require less preparation and grooming for the show. It may be worthwhile to survey your garden and pot up potential entries now and place them in a sheltered spot. Hardier plants in the garden can also be dug and potted up 1-2 days before the show. For more advice about preparing entries for the show, visit the Chapter's website to review the essay by Carl Gehenio.

The Show is our opportunity each year to exhibit to the general public the beautiful, and sometimes challenging, unique plants we grow in 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 you are the 2023 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.

Photography Exhibit and Contest – May 5, Soergel Orchards and Garden Center

Now is a great time to visit the Aviary Rock Garden to capture some stunning photographs for the upcoming exhibit and contest. Or, review your existing images and identify those that you plan to enter in the show. The categories and contest rules are listed below.

To open the photo exhibit promptly at 9 a.m., the judges have requested that member photos be submitted before **April 30**. The judges will review the photos several days before the exhibit. Printed and mounted photographs may be brought to the April 21 meeting at the Aviary or arrangements may be made with Nancy Knauss. Extra mounting boards will be available at the Aviary meeting.

Photo Contest Rules

1. An exhibitor must be an active member of the NARGS Allegheny Chapter.
2. An exhibitor may submit only one entry per class.
3. A photograph previously entered in any NARGS contest may not be entered again even with slight alterations and/or reprinting.
4. Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor under whose name it is registered. Any editing must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject. In manipulated photographs, any added imagery must be the work of the exhibitor.
5. Photographs must be flush mounted on foam core and may not be over-matted. The overall dimension of entry must be 8"x 10". Matte or luster finish printing is preferred. Glass and framing are not permitted. Mounting and printing may be done professionally. All photographs must be two-dimensional and printed on paper unless otherwise specified.
6. Each entry must have the entry form properly completed and affixed to the back of the photograph. The top of the photograph must be indicated. A title must be included on the entry form.
7. The photography chair will provide an entry card to be staged with each photograph. Identification of plant material on the entry card is required.
8. Printed and mounted photographs must be received by April 30. They may be brought to the April 21 meeting at the Aviary or arrangements may be made with Nancy Knauss.
9. Only the photography committee may reclassify an entry with the exhibitor's permission. The photography committee and/or the judges may subdivide a class that has many entries.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES

Class 1 Single plant or several of one variety in bloom or not.

Class 2 Wide shot of a rock garden in a natural habitat or cultivated setting.

Class 3 Close-up of a rock garden plant in bloom.

Class 4 Container/trough with multiple plants in bloom or not.

Class 5 An artistic interpretation of any one of the above categories but with Photoshop editing.



PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM North American Rock Garden Society Allegheny Chapter

Name: _____ Email: _____

Photo Title: _____ Class: _____

Plant(s) Common Name & Botanical ID: _____

Description: _____

Table Top Plant Show Entry Rules- MAY 5th

2024 Rock Garden Plant Show Schedule and Rules

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at Soergel Orchards and Garden Center

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Entries received by show committee
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Plant sale and show open to public
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Judging of exhibits

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 entered for competition must be hardy to Zone 6 or lower.
5. All plants entered for competition must be the property of the entrant and must be in their possession for at least two months (60 days).
6. All plants entered for competition shall be identified on the entry card. Inaccurate identification shall not be grounds for disqualification.
7. The judges are the final authority for awards.
8. 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.
9. 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 <i>primula</i> and <i>androsace</i>
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

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

Plant Show and Sale Gardenfest May 5th & May 11th

Mornings of plant sale days are crazy busy and Deb and Lyn, the show chairs will need help with the following:

- Transporting the plants to the sale.
- Setting up the plant, trough, and rock tables.
- Placing the plant ID holders and cards on the tables.
- Hanging signage (5 pieces).
- Setting up the raffle table and signage.
- Setting up the Plant Show tables (table coverings and signs) for each entry Class.
- Setup space for raffle tickets near cashier, include pens for names and numbers.
- Check on seating inside the events hall.

The rest of the day moves pretty quickly too with

- Moving plants around to fill in the gaps of sold plants.
- Directing visitors to the events hall to see the show displays, watch Gina Teams build a rock garden trough (11AM), and to listen to Bill Barnes talk through tips on propagating plants (1PM).

Allegheny Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

We are all volunteers!

- Meeting people who like plants as much as anyone in the chapter but have questions,

Eventually the day will be over before you know it, and then...

- Signs are taken down and rolled up for storage.
- Leftover items (troughs, rocks, and plants) are loaded up in cars to transport to where they will be stored until Gardenfest.

Gardenfest is scheduled the following Saturday, May 11th at O'Hara Twp. Park. After all the happy craziness of the plant show and sale on May 5th, the chapter needs members to ...

- work the sale and educate customers on the culture of the plants.
- transport plants and items to tables.
- post signage identifying the Allegheny Chapter (1 sign 3' x 4') and descriptions of the plants.
- work as a *cashier* for purchasing items.
- answer visitor questions and curiosities about rock gardening.
- pack up remaining items and transport to locations for storage.



“Stephen was a scholar who was quiet, kind, and a gentle man.”



The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has been dedicated to protecting and restoring the region’s exceptional natural places since 1932. As a member-based nonprofit organization, we work in cities and towns across Western Pennsylvania and rely on the help of thousands of members, partners and volunteers. We are making a difference in our region’s water, land and life. We do this work for the benefit of wildlife and people who call Western Pennsylvania home, and for future generations.



TELL US ABOUT IT

STEPHEN PLATO OBITUARY

Stephen J. Plato, 77, of Cranberry Twp, passed away on Monday, February 5, 2024, at UPMC Mercy Hospital. He was born in Brookville, PA on October 11, 1946, one of four sons to the late Tobias and Vermell Plato. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his three brothers Lonnie, Reginald, and Skippy. Stephen is survived by his beloved wife Bonnie W. (Cavitt) Blakey Plato who he married on May 19, 1990. For 32 years, Stephen worked at Woodville and Mayview State Hospitals in their departments of Physical Therapy and Nursing.

Both Stephen and his wife, Bonnie, were Pennsylvania Master Gardeners, Allegheny County. They loved working in their gardens. Both members of the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Southwest, PA, Pittsburgh Iris and Daylily Society, and North America Rock Garden Society-Allegheny County.

Stephen also was a member of the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table, and The Pittsburgh Players Pool League and Three Rivers Depression Era Glass Society.

Stephen was active all his life. He enjoyed competitive tennis, competitive table tennis, Karate (including instructing Karate at Pitt and Carnegie Tech), Team chess competitor and pool on multiple teams. In 2001, he won Best 8-Ball Player of the Year. Stephen loved jazz and classic rock. He collected vintage glass and barware. As we stated earlier, he loved plants. He was a Civil War History Buff. Stephen was a scholar who was quiet, kind, and a gentle man.

In memory, family suggests donations in his name be made to Western PA Conservancy.

www.waterlandlife.org

Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



I would wave and the pair would smile, returning the greeting.



The two had forgotten more than I'd ever know about gardening...



...and were passionate about everything that grew.



TELL US ABOUT IT

Unique snowdrop and homemade container evoke memories of garden friends

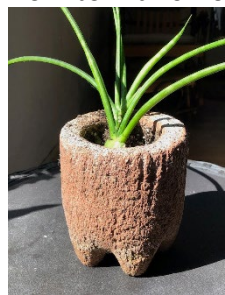
Photos and article by Doug Oster

Dave Amrhein passed along this article by Doug Oster about past leaders and friends of the Allegheny Chapter. With much regard, here is the article.

When Len Lehman and Al Deurbrouck would show up at one of my garden talks, they would often times be the last two entering the room. They heard most of the jokes before, but still laughed, as I spoke about whatever the seasonal topic might be.

They were both proud members of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, it's in that capacity that we became friends over the years. Both of them unfortunately passed away [.]

I wrote about Len [for a story] highlighting the wonderful rock garden in front of the National Aviary which he helped tend. For Al, he showed me how to make homemade troughs to use as containers [for a story.]



Al Deurbrouck loved making these containers and giving them to friends.

I have one of his troughs in the house where two *Sansevieria cylindrica* plants happily grow on in the homemade pot on the windowsill.

Often times as the crowd thinned at an appearance, we would sit together talking about plants. The pair's sense of humor was only matched by their love of the garden. Al even once showed me a photo of car which lost control and ended up in his garden.

After finishing a presentation about fall bulbs, where I raved about my love of snowdrops and growing different cultivars, Len told me about his affection for the tiny fall planted bulb which is one of the first to bloom in late winter. He had a rare variety in his garden named 'Wasp,' and promised to dig and a few bulbs for me.

'Wasp' snowdrop is one of the first flowers to bloom in late winter.

A year later a few little bulbs came in the mail at the perfect time for planting. I thought long and hard about where they should go. The bulbs needed a special spot so they would not be confused with any other snowdrops in the garden.

I chose the side of a bed in the vegetable garden near the front gate. That tiny patch of special snowdrops happily surprised me when taking the dog for a walk in the garden. In only their second season, they have already started to multiply.

As I laid on my stomach photographing the diminutive pure white flowers, I couldn't help but smile, thinking about Len. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of plants, but most of all, I thought of his kindness and willingness to share his garden treasures.

Even though it's bittersweet to think about those two sweet characters, the trough and snowdrop will forever remind me of a couple of gardeners and friends who touched my heart.

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NARGS ALLEGHENY CHAPTER ROCK GARDEN

The NARGS, Allegheny Chapter rock garden occupies a space next to the National Aviary on Pittsburgh's North Side. Members usually work at the garden the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

