

Alpine Line

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

January/February/March 2020

OFFICERS

CHAIR

Sandra Ciccone

VICE CHAIR

Nancy Knauss

SECRETARY

Joanne Burzese

TREASURER

Patty McGuire

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AWARDS

Len Lehman

BANQUET

Cathy Kaut

Carol Przyborski

FACEBOOK

Lyn Lang

Bobbi Diller

HOSTS

Bonnie & Stephen Plato

LIBRARY

Patty McGuire

MEMBERSHIP & PROOFREADER

Lyn Lang

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sandy Ellenberger

PLANT SHOW

David Amrhein

PLANT SALE

Lyn Lang

Debra Meyer

SEED EXCHANGE

Pinky Fredericks

WEBMASTER

Amanda Haney



Al Deurbrouck

January 2, 1932 - November 26, 2019

*"We come from the earth, we return to the earth,
and in between we garden."*

Alfred Austin



In memoriam: Al Deurbrouck 1932 - 2019

The Allegheny Chapter and NARGS lost a stalwart member and supporter when Al Deurbrouck passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

Al was an avid rock gardener, and his home near Pittsburgh showed this effort in myriad beds, troughs and specimen plants. His gardening expertise showed in the numerous awards he won at the Allegheny Chapter's annual show. Many of these plants were grown from seed, and Al certainly followed the adage, "Who plants a seed beneath the sod, and waits to see, believes in God."



Al was definitely a Grey Eminence in the chapter having served as chapter chair, chapter awards chair, show chair and editor of the local newsletter. On the national level, he chaired the advertising committee and was chair of the committee when the chapter hosted 2 national conferences and 2 winter studies. He always taught newcomers the marvelous quote by Elizabeth Lawrence, first woman landscape architect in America, "All gardeners become rock gardeners because gardening is an art and rock gardening is the purest form of that art!" His personal rock garden and troughs demonstrated this art. In addition, he bred a wonderful rock garden daylily which was named 'Little Bird'--a daylily only 6 inches tall and still the only one of this type registered by the American Daylily Society. Al was also active in other garden societies including The West Mifflin Men's Garden Club and the Daffodil and Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania. One of his favorite iris cultivars was 'Tiger Honey'--a broken pattern orange and white.

Professionally, Al was a coal prep engineer and received many awards in that profession. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.





NARGS Annual General Meeting / Foresight 2020: Exploration and Inspiration

The Adirondack Chapter invites you to attend NARGS' Annual General Meeting— whether you are a return attendee or are considering attending for the first time. We promise an action-packed few days that include visiting the public gardens of Cornell Botanic Gardens and some very special private gardens. We are eager to showcase the beauty of our area that is often described as gorge-ous – which references our many gorges and waterfalls. But we're also proud of 40-mile long Cayuga Lake, the 2nd largest of the Finger Lakes, and the rolling, wooded hills and verdant gardens that surround it.

Each afternoon, after returning from field trips, you can indulge your plant lust at our plant sales featuring an exciting list of specialty vendors. Dinner and evening talks will follow. We are thrilled to introduce the NARGS community to Kaj Andersen and the Bangsbo Botanical Gardens of Northern

Denmark where he and his wife Minna, working alongside Zdeněk Zvolánek, have been instrumental in the construction and care of the world's largest crevice garden. Our other international speaker is Harry Jans, who believe-it-or-not is making his AGM debut and needs no introduction to the rock gardening community. Harry, renowned for his extensive travels, will take us on a whirlwind around-the-world tour in 60 minutes – highlighting alpines that he considers the best, new, rare, or strange and looking at different survival techniques. For his second talk he will focus on the alpines of Ecuador and Peru, two countries not often visited by plants people. Rounding out the Conference activities are book sales and signings, door prizes, and always the camaraderie of fellow plant enthusiasts.

We believe Ithaca is the place to be this June! You might even want to consider extending your stay to more fully experience the Finger Lakes region.

--Adirondack Chapter Planning Committee

Registration-at-a-Glance:

- Cost \$425; must be a NARGS member. You can join or renew at the time of registration.
- Online registration opens ~January 6, 2020. From the NARGS.org home page, go to drop down “Events” and to a clickable link for the Annual Meeting. The link will take you to an external webpage where you can complete the registration form and pay. There will be no paper registration.
- Limited to 135 registrants

Conference “central” is Robert Purcell Community Center, 217 George Jessup Rd., on the north campus of Cornell University, Ithaca, where talks, plant sales, book sales and signings and most meals will take place. Everyone will sign-in here; look for the loading zone signs near the building entrance. We plan to have volunteers on hand to direct you upon arrival.

- Accompanying guests who do not choose to register for the conference may stay in the residence halls and can purchase “day-of” meals at the Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery with a credit card; advance payment required for guests to attend the banquet
- May 15 deadline for all below (subject to availability); all can be performed through the online registration site:
 - Registration for Syracuse pre-conference day trip
 - Submission of afterhours mini-talks proposals (coordinated through Steve Whitesell, elysium214@aol.com)
 - Ordering a Conference t-shirt
 - Guest banquet reservations
 - Motel or residence hall reservations at special conference rate
 - Last date to register without a penalty; after May 15 registration cost is \$450
 - Last date to cancel your registration, less a \$50 processing fee; registration fee is forfeited for cancellations after May 15

Program Summary: What's included

- 2 daytime field trips to gardens and a moderate level gorge walk (with easier options) at a “botanical pace”
- 2 talks by Harry Jans, 1 talk by Kaj Andersen, 4 talks by Cornell Botanic Gardens naturalists and horticulturists
- After-hours mini-talks (by advance submission, see below)
- 2 scheduled plant sales and book sales and signings
- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 dinners at Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery
- Friday night catered banquet with cash bar; option to add a guest at additional cost; Saturday dinner is on your own
- NARGS Annual Meeting and Awards
- Door prizes
- Open gardens on-your-own on Sunday, June 21 (optional)

Conference Schedule (subject to change)

Thursday, June 18 Pre-Conference Day Trip (optional tour of 3 Syracuse area gardens)

8:00am – 3:00 pm Pre-registration required and additional fee of \$45 includes lunch (limited to 42) 2:00 – 6:00pm

Official Conference check-in

3:00 – 6:00 pm AdCom and NARGS Board meetings

3:30 – 5:30 pm Plant sales, book sales and signings

4:30 – 5:30 pm Informal “Taste of Ithaca” social hour

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner at [Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery](#)

7:15 – 9:30 pm Talks by Cornell Botanic Gardens naturalists and horticulturists

9:30 – 10:30 pm After-hours mini-talks (attendance optional)

Friday, June 19

7:00 - 8:00 am Breakfast at Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery

8:00am – 4:00 pm All day field trips: gorge walk and 3 private gardens; box lunch included

4:30 – 6:00 pm Plant sales, book sales and signing

5:30 – 7:30 pm Cash bar

6:15 - 7:30 pm Catered banquet buffet

7:45- 9:00 pm Talk by Harry Jans

9:15 - 10:15 pm After-hours mini-talks (subject to submissions)

Saturday June 20

7:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast at Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery

9:00 – 10:00 am Talk by Kaj Andersen

10:30am – 12:00 pm Field trip to Cornell Botanic Gardens with docent guides

12:00 noon Chapter Chairs meeting begins at Cornell Botanic Gardens

12:00 – 7:00 pm Box lunch and free afternoon with options offered; dinner on your own

7:00 – 8:00 pm Annual Meeting and Awards

8:00 – 9:15 pm Talk by Harry Jans and concluding remarks

Sunday June 21

7:00 - 8:30 am Breakfast at Robert Purcell Marketplace Eatery

10:30 – 3:30 pm “On-your-own” tour to members' private gardens

Speakers

Please refer to the fall Quarterly for brief bios of our international speakers (Harry Jans and Kaj Andersen) and to FAQ's on the NARGS conference web page for more details.

Cornell Botanic Gardens featured talks

- Emily Detrick, the Elizabeth Weaver Director of Horticulture: welcome and opening remarks
- Sarah Fiorello, Interpretation Coordinator: “Cornell Botanic Gardens is Gorges,” on the Natural Areas Program of management, conservation and research
- Krissy Boys, Natural Areas Horticulturist: on her stream bank restoration project in the Mundy Wildflower

Garden

·Robert Wesley, Botanist: on the Chaumont Barrens of Jefferson, County, a rare alvar grassland

More about Field Trips

Friday: We've planned a full day outing, dividing into three groups with three identical itineraries, in round-robin fashion. Box lunch-on-the-go will be at a local park along Cayuga Lake. We will take a guided gorge walk and visit three gardens.

Gorge Walk: Buses will take us on a guided gorge walk with a local naturalist expert to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Note the walk will be at a leisurely “botanical” pace on improved pathways that do involve walking up and down steps and woodland paths. Be advised to wear comfortable clothing and hiking shoes, exercise caution, and know your own limits.

Three garden visits:

- Bill Stark and Mary Stauble Garden: see article in this issue about this garden.
- Len and Cindy Lion Garden: We anticipate their hundreds of perennials to be in peak bloom for the Conference. From the entrance plantings you will be drawn to the sound of flowing water emanating from three connected ponds. Stone-terraced beds around the house are filled with yet more choice perennials and dozens of planted pots. The gardens continue down a steep, wooded hill, where borders of shade-loving perennials, groundcovers, and shrubs surround a gazebo and folly. Woodland trails lead to a sculpture garden, a cantilevered deck overlooking a deep gorge, and a boardwalk.
- Marlene Kobre and Ron Denson Garden: An unassuming front yard belies the beauty that awaits you as you enter through the garden gate. The gardens soon reveal a passion for Japanese maples and tree peonies, lush perennial borders, patio plantings, troughs, water features, and more. Regular visits to New Mexico have greatly influenced their collection of potted succulents. Continuing to add new beds and new plants, their latest additions have been a second rock garden and a dwarf conifer bed.

Saturday: After breakfast and a morning talk, we'll be ready for a lovely ramble along Beebe Lake on mostly level ground from our Conference headquarters to the Nevin Welcome Center and the Cornell Botanic Gardens. Docent volunteers will be stationed along the surrounding themed gardens to answer questions throughout the morning. With a free afternoon you may choose to further explore its 25+ acres of gardens or its F.R. Newman Arboretum (voted the most beautiful among U.S. colleges), best reached by car.

Plant Sale Vendors

The following nurseries are confirmed at this time:

- **Secret Garden**, Esther Benedict owner, Nappanee, IN. Miniature plants, alpines, mini-hostas, ferns, daphnes, and papercrete troughs. No website but check out this tantalizing review: https://www.nwitimes.com/lifestyles/one-tank-trip-benedict-s-nursery/article_e2dd0f33-5a8a-56f8-9d31-06f96d2f5443.html
- **Coldwater Pond Nursery**, Phelps, NY, <http://www.coldwaterpond.com>. Ted and Elly Hildebrant, owners. Dedicated to propagating and growing select woody ornamentals of exceptional quality, range, and scope.
- **Topiary Gardens**, Diana Smith, owner, Marcellus, NY. <http://www.topiary-gardens.com>. Specializing in new and hard-to-find conifers, perennials—including choice alpines, shrubs, and trees and her real passion - Japanese Maples with over 500 varieties grafted and grown by the nursery.
- **Cayuga Landscape**, David Fernandez, owner and Pat Wilson, Garden Center Manager, Ithaca, NY. Choice dwarf conifers, unusual deciduous ornamentals, and interesting perennials suitable for rock and woodland gardens, primulas a specialty.
- **Wrightman Alpines**, Esther Wrightman, owner, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. <http://www.wrightmanalpines.com>. Needs no introduction to most NARGS members, offering a choice selection from the more than 600 alpine plants listed in their catalogue.

Syracuse Area Pre-Conference Day Trip

A charter bus will leave at 8:00a.m. on Thursday morning to take those who have signed-up in advance (via the Conference registration page) to visit three Syracuse area gardens, located north of Ithaca. The ride is just

over an hour to the first garden. Cost is \$45, which includes a box lunch and at this price we expect seats will sell fast. The bus returns you back to Conference HQ's at Robert Purcell Community Center at approximately 3:00pm. The pictorial article in this issue offers a preview of what you'll see at these outstanding gardens. Note you must be a Conference registrant or guest of a registrant to go on this trip.

After-hours Mini-talks

We are inviting proposals for informal after-hours presentations to be offered Thursday evening (and Friday if there is sufficient response) following the main speakers' talks. Each one-hour session can feature up to 4 speakers who will have 5 - 15 minutes for their presentation on any topic of interest to rock gardeners. Possibilities are wide open and could include travel adventures, growing tips, experimentations, design and construction ideas and/or implementations, failures and successes, or [your idea here] – the more original the better. We want to be as inclusive as possible and will accept as many proposals as time allows, considered on a first-come, first served basis. For our planning purposes, submit your proposal via email to Steve Whitesell, elysium214@aol.com by May 15, after which he'll notify all applicants of the scheduling and other details. Your presentation should be formatted in PowerPoint, please. We look forward to a broad range of presentations.

Lodging

A block of single and double rooms have been set aside at a Cornell residence hall very close to all conference-based activities at a cost of \$93 and \$68 plus tax per person respectively. All rooms are furnished with twin beds, linens, and towels, and bar soap but no other toiletries. A full bath serves every 3-room suite. Rooms can be booked for Wednesday, June 17 for early arrivals. You may book your room on the registration website. Roommate requests will be honored.

Alternatively, a limited number of rooms are being held at special rates at two nearby motels: Best Western University Inn of Ithaca (\$139+ tax for single/double room for two) and Clarion Inn University Airport, Ithaca NY (\$129 + tax for single/double room for two). Ask for the NARGS Conference rate, which can also be applied to two days before and two days after the official Conference dates (from June 16 – 22). Use their website links for more information about these motels. Each motel offers free door-to-door shuttle service to the Conference by advance arrangement. The registration webpage will provide links to these motels. All rooms are subject to availability and will be held until May 15.

Getting to Ithaca: transportation, parking

- **By car:** Parking on campus will be available only in a designated lot for a daily parking fee, currently at \$7 per day. For those attendees arriving by car we will contact you by email with further instructions.
- **By Air:** Ithaca is served by three airlines – Delta, United and American. Airports in Rochester and Syracuse offer additional carriers.
- **Shuttle Service:** Both motels offer free shuttle service from the airport and to and from the Conference Center. Car rental services are available at the Tompkins Ithaca Regional Airport <https://flyithaca.com/ground/car-rental>. Ithaca also offers Uber, Lyft, and taxi service.

Conference T-shirt

We will be selling a full-color Conference t-shirt featuring our Conference logo. It can be ordered through the registration website.

Additional Information/Questions

Visit the FAQ's on the NARGS website (Home to Events to Annual General Meeting FAQ's). We'll also include options for free time activities, whether it be for a few hours or a few days (and that includes dining out options).

Still More Questions? Need help with Registration?

Our FAQ's have tried to address many of the details of the AGM and Conference, but you may still have some unanswered questions. If so, contact our Registration Coordinator John Gilrein, 2020agm@twcny.rr.com.

Message from the Chair *Sandy Ciccone*

Welcome to 2020...the start of a new decade and a time to look forward to flourishing gardens and renewing friendships. But before we leave 2019 behind I need to reminisce. In November of this past year our club lost a member, Al Deurbrouck, who will be sorely missed by everyone. Al touched all of our lives in many different ways. He was a friend, a mentor, a master at gardening, a gentle kind soul, a truly good person. Al was the first member I ever talked to about alpine rock gardening, something I knew nothing about or that these plants even existed. The conversation we shared back in May of 2012 was the reason I became a member of NARGS. I wanted to learn more and get to know this interesting man who seemed to be a warehouse of plant knowledge. Over the years that happened as I was warmly welcomed into our club. Al, to me, was all of the things I mentioned earlier. The club and I will miss him and his steady guiding hand as we move forward. He has left a hole which will take many people to fill.



Al had held many chair positions and served on many committees in our club as he truly understood the concept of volunteering. With his loss his current chair positions need to be filled. Len Lehman has volunteered to chair the Awards Committee. Sandy Ellenberger has volunteered to become our new newsletter editor. Discussions are happening about the cochair of the aviary garden. Although Al was not the chair, we are looking for someone to chair the Show portion of our May Show and Sale. Dividing the two activities, as was done in the past, will help to make both of them even more successful. If you want to volunteer to assist with any of these activities or any other club committees, please let me know. I warmly thank everyone who volunteers to give their time and energy to help out with club activities. The club exists through you.

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and enjoys good health and a fabulous gardening year in 2020.

Sandy

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 2 at 2:00 pm / Northland Public Library - "Propagation Workshop". Please bring a gallon or half gallon translucent plastic jug. Members F through O, please bring snacks.

March 29 at 1:00 pm / Beechwood Farms Nature Center - Todd Boland, horticulturist at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden will speak on "The Beartooth Scenic Highway: Dizzying & Alpine Delights". There is perhaps no more stunning area for western Rocky Mountain alpine plants than along the scenic Beartooth highway. NARGS has had several tours to this area in recent years, for good reason. It is truly one of the best places in North America for seeing a wide variety of alpine plants. The meeting will be a potluck lunch, so please bring a side dish to feed eight people.

April 19 at 2:00 pm / National Aviary - Sandy Feather will speak on "The Use of Conifers in the Garden." Members P through Z, please bring snacks.

May 3 at 9:00 am / Soergels Orchard - Annual Plant Show & Sale

June 14 at 9:00 am / DJ's Greenhouse & Gardens - Breakfast with DJ.



DJ's GREENHOUSE & GARDENS 2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

Date/Tme	Event		Cost
APRIL 7 / 6:30	Succulent Garden Class	Reservations required	\$35 Materials included
APRIL 9 / 6:30	Salad Bowl Class	Reservations required	\$16 Materials included
APRIL 15 / 9-5	OPENING DAY	Refreshments & snacks!	
APRIL 21 / 6:30	Vegetable Gardening Class	What Can We Plant Now?	
APRIL 28 / 6:30	New Plants Talk	Greenhouse walk.	Discussing 2020 Season's new plants
MAY 12 / 6:30	Garden to Attract Hummingbirds		
MAY 14 / 6:30	Garden to Attract Butterflies		
MAY 20 / 6:30	Vegetable Gardening Class	Let's Get planting!	
MAY 28 / 6:30	Container Class - Be creative!	Reservations required	\$27 Materials included
JUNE 6 / 9:00	Breakfast with DJ	Reservations required	What to do & When to do it!
JUNE 11 / 6:30	Herbs: Preparation, Planting & Cooking with Herbs		Speaker: Laurie Bush
JUNE 16 / 6:30	Succulent Garden Class	Reservations required	\$35 Materials included
JUNE 18 / 6:30	Hydrangea Class - Yes you can!		Healthy-Happy-Blooming Plants
JUNE 23 / 6:30	Fairy Gardens for KIDS only!	Reservations required	\$20 Small container included
JUNE 25 / 6:30	Tea Time - Teas, pastries and take home a tea herb garden	Reservations required	\$20 Immerse yourself in the history and beauty of a tea garden!
JUNE 30 / 6:30	Vegetable Gardening Class	What Can I Still Plant?	
JULY 7 / 6:30	Create Your Own Fairy Garden	Reservations required	\$35 Materials included
JULY 9 / 6:30	Terrarium Workshop	Reservations required	\$35 Materials included
JULY 11 / 9:00	Breakfast with DJ	Reservations required	Fertilizer? When? How often?
JULY 17 / 6-9	Evening in the Garden - Webb Winery will be available for samples and to purchase wine.	Reservations required	\$30 Garden Party for a Cause! \$5/person will be donated to the Mercer County Community Food Warehouse. Please donate non-perishable items.
AUG 1 / 9:00	Breakfast with DJ	Reservations required	Keeping the Garden Alive!
AUG 12 / 6:30	Vegetable Gardening Class		Planting the Fall Garden
AUG 15 / 9-5	Customer Appreciation Day		Refreshments & Great Plant Specials!
AUG 19 / 6:30	Personal Sachet Workshop	Reservations required	\$20 Includes all material - Laurie Bush
SEPT 5 / 9:00	Breakfast with DJ	Reservations required	Keeping Your Plants Looking Good!
SEPT 10 / 6:30	Herbs: Harvesting, Storing & Canning with Herbs		Speaker: Laurie Bush
SEPT 15 / 6:30	Hydrangea Workshop		How and When to Prune!
SEPT 26 / 1:00	Fall Garden Walk		What to Prune & How to get our Plants Ready for Winter!
OCT 6 / 6:30	Fall Harvest Wreath Workshop	Reservations required	\$35 Materials included
OCT 10 / 10:00	A Final Look at the Garden!	Reservations appreciated	Enjoy hot spiced cider & donuts.
NOV 8 / 2:00	Winter Container Workshop - Bring your own container (12-14") for this class.	Reservations appreciated	\$30 We will provide all materials and help you create a beautiful winter arrangement. Please bring pruners and gloves for this class.

APRIL HOURS: Opening day is the 15th. Monday - Saturday from 9-5 & Sunday 11-4



JOIN NARGS TODAY.

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

Benefits of membership include: Rock Garden Quarterly with articles on alpines and North American wildflowers, illustrated in color photographs and pen 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.

Allegheny NARGS Membership Renewals for 2020

Happy New Year! If you haven't already paid dues for 2020, this is your reminder. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. The Chapter depends on dues to help fund the great line-up of workshops and speakers.

Please make our check payable to NARGS Allegheny Chapter and mail to the membership chair:

Lyn Lang
4042 Valleyvue Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044-9501.

If there has been changes in your address, phone number, or e-mail, please complete the enclosed membership form and send it with your payment.

Dues may also be paid by check or cash at chapter meetings in January - March.

2020 NARGS Allegheny Chapter MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Individual - \$10 / Family - \$15

Please make checks payable to: **NARGS Allegheny Chapter.**

Mail to: Lyn Lang, 4042 Valleyvue Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9501.