

# Alpine Line

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

April/May/June 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 .....

## Message from the Chair

Life is sweet and miraculous to be appreciated every day. As the spring season of 2020 unfolds, bringing us new visual beauty daily, and as hellebores, crocus, daffodils, squill, forsythia, draba, and corydalis open into flower, we need to be grateful for the blessings in our lives both large and small.

The Covid-19 virus is a scourge causing havoc and death worldwide. We must all look forward to and anticipate the day when the curve has flattened and a treatment and cure are both a reality. For now, go outside in your gardens and plan, dig and plant. Take the extra time you always wanted and design a new garden and dream of the plants that will flourish there and restore your soul.

We will be having meetings again. I am hopeful that we will be able to meet at DJ's Greenhouse for our June breakfast meeting. Who knows, we may end up having a July meeting. We are living through a time of uncertainty so "go with the flow" may be our new meeting watchwords. The chair's choice plant for this year, dwarf astilbe, still needs to be distributed. When we have a meeting. It will happen.

Until then enjoy the sun when it shines and keep sharing your plant photos on line. They are lovely day brightens. Take care and continue to social distance.

*Sandy*

## Rock Garden at the National Aviary: Spring 2020

How fortunate our group has been to have beautiful, fairly steady spring weather to work in our gardens and the rock garden at the Aviary. Alan, Bonnie, Lyn and Steve were privileged to share breakfast at the Olde Allegheny Sandwich Shoppe on March 12th before meeting Lorraine at the garden for our spring cleanup.

In the shade garden all of the hellebores were in bloom, including upright varieties like Ann's Red and Pink Frost, and the large epimedium was showing foliage. Spring ephemerals were beginning to emerge, and *Corydalis solida* 'Beth Evans' was already in bud. In the crevice garden *Draba aizoides* was in bloom with clusters of cheerful yellow flowers. At the shady end of the large mound garden we were delighted to see dozens of seedlings coming up around *Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter Aconite).

Last fall we chose to let leaves remain on the shade garden for winter protection, and it worked very well. On March 12th we removed the very thick layer of leaves. While winter winds kept the pathways clear enough for walking, an abundance of leaves collected along the edges and nooks and crannies. So we cleaned up lots of leaves and trimmed desiccated leaves from the hellebores and a few other plants.

Sara Showers from the Aviary supplied brown bags for our leaves. She has also been doing some pruning of linden tree to keep the canopy as open as possible to allow more sunlight to shine on the large mound rock garden. Sara will make sure we have access to water for the garden after this season.









# Congratulations to all the 2019 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 23 members enter plants and 73 show entries.

## AWARDS:

### Best Plant in Show

Clare Williamson Award sponsored by Audrey Rauch & Patty McGuire

Class 1-6 - *Lewisia cotyledon* / Drew Graham

### Best Bulb or Rhizome sponsored by the Hosta & Daffodil Society of WPA

Class 4 - *Arisaemia ringens* / Joanne Burzese

### Best Dwarf Tree, Shrub or Conifer in Show

Connie McKeever Award

Class 7 *Buxus microphylla* 'Kingville Dwarf' / Drew Graham

### Best Cut Flower Arrangement sponsored by Debra Meyer

Judy Adams/Trish Abrams Award

Class 8 / - Trish Abrams

### Best Trough in Show sponsored by Ramana Surampudi

Audrey Rauch Award

Class 9-10 - Trough / Lyn Lang

### Best Chair's Choice Award sponsored by Dennis James

Class 11 - *Primula vulgaris* belarina 'Nectarine' /Cathy Kaut

## HIGH CUMULATIVE SCORES AWARDS:

First Place - Sandra Ciccone

Second Place - Joanne Burzese

Third Place - Al Deurbrouck

# 2019 PLANT SHOW WINNERS

CLASS 1



*Lewisia cotyledon*  
Drew Graham

CLASS 2



*Houstonia caerulea*  
Sandra Ciccone

# 2019 PLANT SHOW WINNERS

CLASS 3



*Primula kisoana*  
Sandra Ciccone

CLASS 4



*Arisaemia ringens*  
Joanne Burzese

CLASS 5



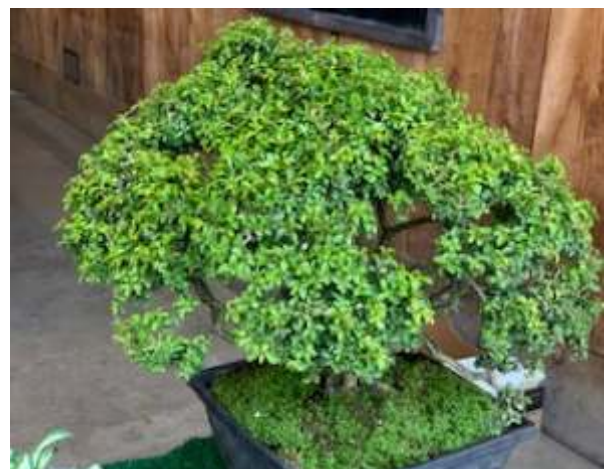
*Sedum sieboldii*  
Al Deurbrouck

CLASS 6



*Hosta* sp.  
Bob Dietz

CLASS 7



*Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf'  
Drew Graham

CLASS 8



Epimedium, Species Tulip, Pulmonaria  
Trish Abrams



# 2019 PLANT SHOW WINNERS

## CLASS 9



*Heuchera 'Blondie', Adiantum venustum, Trillium viridescens, Hosta 'Rock Princess' & 'Pandora Stripe', Maidenhair spleenwort*  
Lyn Lang

## CLASS 10



**Hosta, Moss, Conifer**  
Cathy Kaut

## CLASS 11



*Primula vulgaris belarina 'Nectarine'*  
Cathy Kaut



## 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 alpiners 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](http://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](http://www.nargs.org/rock-garden-quarterly).





# How to Propagate Euphorbia

By Gary Keim Fine Gardening - Issue 191

Most of the evergreen types of euphorbias will self-sow when the correct conditions present themselves. New seedlings can be removed from the plant when young. The non-evergreen types can be divided like most perennials in early spring or in early autumn. Evergreen and woody species can easily be grown from cuttings using these steps too.

## Step 1

In spring before the flower buds emerge, take tip cuttings off the plant. They should be at least 1 inch long.

## Step 2

Remove several leaves from the bottom of each cutting.

## Step 3

Wash off the milky sap from the cuttings in cold water. Allow the cuttings to dry for at least a day and up to a week.

## Step 4

Dip the end of each cutting into rooting hormone.

## Step 5

Stick the bottom end of each cutting into a pot filled with potting mix and water. The cuttings should root within two weeks.





# 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**