



# Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society  
Berkshire Chapter July 2013

*Aquilegia jonesii* (photo Dave Gehrs)





# North American Rock Garden Society

## Berkshire Chapter July 2013

By Judy Brown

After asking Dean Evans several times to invite us to see his garden, we finally prevailed. After the June BNARGS meeting, Ed and I followed Dean to his acres of land west of Stephentown. Dean and his dog Tom showed us his gardens as well as his thrifty inventions. We were greeted by a lovely clump of iris, his rock gardens, and a marvelous clump of *Dianthus alpinus* growing in the patio. An impressive *Enkianthus campanulatus* was also spotted behind the house.



Ed and I were treated to a demonstration of Dean's eradication of ants living beneath a tree. He released acetylene into one of their holes and then ignited it. No more ants! Dean then showed us the

wood-burning stove that he uses for sterilizing soil and the huge pots that he seeded in March. Yes, he does indeed use the techniques that he talks about at our meetings.



Dean took us next to his marvelous woods where his spectacular Japanese primulas grow in a bog and where his prized Dawn Redwood trees are planted. As we made our way out of the woods on the flat stone paths he created, we spotted another of Dean's clever inventions: a rack to dry tree limbs in preparation for use in the furnace.



The last memory of Dean's amazing acres is the dolmen he has built for his ashes by raising the huge stone with a series of increasingly taller stones that he slid underneath. Of course, we all know that Dean is immortal, so his dolmen will just be one more curiosity, even if he can't bring it to Show and Tell.



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**Meeting Reminder**  
**June 1, 2013**  
**Speaker: Martha Oliver**

Important Notes about the July 6 Meeting

This meeting will be hands on -- make your own hypertufa trough with Deb Pope! A signup sheet will be available at the June meeting or you can sign up by emailing Elisabeth Zander at [canbya@gmail.com](mailto:canbya@gmail.com).

Participants must bring:

1. Dust filter mask.

2. Heavy latex/rubber gloves.

somehow release (like a spring form pan), as cured hypertufa is impossible to remove from a straight-sided, rigid mold. - *continue on next page*



3. Molds. A mold can be almost anything -- a large bowl, dishpan, plastic flowerpots, baskets (without metal "ribs"), or cardboard boxes. If cardboard boxes are used, the box should not be larger than approximately 10" x 18".

Also, a lightweight board or a tray will be needed to put under the box so that it can be transported home.

If the mold is straight-sided, it should not be rigid and the sides should somehow release (like a spring form pan), as cured hypertufa is impossible to remove from a straight-sided, rigid mold.

4. Lightweight plastic sheets or plastic garbage bags to line the molds.

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*Frog Hollow Garden, Burnt Hills NY (photo by Dave Gehrs)*

## **Next Meeting:**

### **Planned meetings for 2013**

#### **July 6th**

Debra Pope of Auburn, MA come for a hypertufa trough workshop. We should probably have a signup sheet so she knows how much to bring

#### **August 3rd**

am: Bill Brown

pm: Joyce Hemingson

#### **Sept 7th**

am: Abby Zabar - Gardens: In Spite of the Odds

pm: the Big Plant Sale

#### **October 12th - Ian Young am & pm\***

\*Everyone please notice we have Ian Young of Scotland from the NARGS speaker tour coming in October. This is a special treat for us. it would be good to think of some publicity to share his visit, as well as our other speakers.

**Nov 2nd** tbd, following the November speaker in the morning is the luncheon at Red Lion Inn.

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## **Positions of Responsibility**

Chairperson - Judith Brown

Vice-Chairperson - Dean Evans

Secretary - Carol Hanby

Treasurer - Pamela Johnson/Thomas Flanigan

Newsletter - David Gehrs

Program Chairperson - Elisabeth Zander

Independent Director - Erica Schumacher

Refreshments Chairperson - Joyce Hemingson

### **Published 10 times per year (Feb. through Nov.) by the Berkshire Chapter NARGS**

Membership is open to all members of NARGS

Dues \$10.00 single, \$12.50 Family

Payable to the Treasurer

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Deadline for Next Newsletter is June 22, 2013

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