



Newsletter

North American Rock Garden Society
Berkshire Chapter May 2013

Dionysia aretioides (photo Bruce Lockhart)



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Sax. sieberi

P. vulgaris Sibthorpia

Bruce Lockhart was kind enough to share some early winter color. Photos from the Philadelphia Flower Show, and his greenhouse.

I built my first rock garden about 5 years ago on the east side of a greenhouse and doubled its size last year. It has become the favored part of a garden which includes a woodland garden, several perennial gardens, a koi pond, an orchard and a large vegetable garden. The greenhouse, which is kept just above freezing in winter, houses a small collection of primulas and seedlings from NARGS, AGS, SRGS, and Chris Chadwell's collections. Bruce.



P. polyantha Red Self

P. marginata "Kesselring"



P. marginata "Kesselring"



Adonis 'fukujukai'



Saxifraga Jana

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A message from the Chairperson Judith Brown

MEMBERS NEEDED!

Recently I was contacted by Bobby Ward of NARGS, who requested statistics regarding our chapter. I was appalled at the decrease in membership. In 2010 we had 64 members. Prior to a few more dues being paid at the April meeting, we had only 42 members. If you have not paid your dues for 2013, please send them to Pam Johnson, our hardworking treasurer, who keeps trying to retire and who keeps rescuing us. Her address and dues amounts appear at the end of the newsletter.

FROM AUCTION TO RAFFLE

Our Vice-Chair, Dean Evans has come up with an idea to replace the auction of the special rock garden plants that are brought to meeting by speakers and members. The purpose of this change was to make the plants affordable to those who couldn't bid \$25 for a plant. At the April meeting, Dean sold tickets which cost \$1 for one ticket and \$5 for 6 tickets. A total of \$68 was raised this way. Dean brought a container of ruby shale ground to 3/8" for use with western alpine plants. This was added to the collection of plants being raffled.

After lunch, Anne Spiegel pulled ticket stubs from Dean's magic bucket, and people with the winning number got to adopt their favorite plant. For the next auction we will have fewer plants and a shorter lunchtime so this fun activity doesn't take as much time. We also hope that there will be more plants for sale as you divide those in your garden or bring in seedlings that you have started. I challenge all of you to bring more plants than the number that Lori Chips always donates!

Next Meeting:

Saturday, May 4th @ 10:30 AM

Please note:

Unfortunately the May 4th garden tours have been canceled due to lack of response. Members are free to travel to Leo's nursery: Blanchette Gardens in Carlisle, MA but they must do so on their own. There is also another great nursery around the corner in the same town - Joe Pye Weed (Jan & Marty Shaeffer).

That same day, the 4th is our national NARGS meeting in North Carolina, the national Rhododendron Society meeting in WA, and, close to home, the national Primula Society in Tower Hill MA.

I got a notification of an event in Albany on May 4th from 1 - 3 pm: Tulip Mania Day at the Ten Broeck Mansion - celebrating 7,000 bulbs planted there by the Mansion and the Albany County Master Gardeners. Judy Stacy former Albany City gardener and now Master Gardener, will speak about her love of tulips and spring bulbs. A high tea will be served. Reservations at \$20 per person at 436-9826. Driving directions at www.tenbroeckmansion.org

Could be of interest & worth adding to the list of alternatives.

Pam

Sunday, May 5th, member Anne Spiegel's garden in Wappingers Falls NY is open for the Garden Conservancy.

Planned meetings for 2013

June 1st Martha Oliver

am: The New Heucheras

pm: Plant Breeding

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.

Best

Elisabeth

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

2013 kick off meeting

Steve Hootman spoke on Rhododendrons of China



First meeting of 2013



Tom & Dean at the April meeting.

April meeting highlights



Dean with the tickets is a picture of him selling raffle tickets.



The rusty part on an old wheel chair is an old industrial wheel that Dean is going to reuse as a planter. He has placed a board on the bottom to keep the dirt in and is using the old bolt holes for drainage. The old wheel chair is simply and easy way for him to transport heavy objects.



The table with all the seed packs are the extra seeds from the seed exchange which were set up alphabetically and were free to a good home.



The cut up milk cartoons with Direct Seeder written on them were brought by Dean Evans to show and tell.



The table of plants with colored tags is from our plant sale, which included dwarf creeping phlox and a cold hardy delosperma.



The box with the pretty blue flower (a double petaled primrose) was brought by Jacques for show and tell.



A blue double petaled primrose



Pink flowering plants were a few choice ones that were raffled off for show and tell.



The bouquet was brought by Carol Hanby and contained flowers and leaves from her garden.



Ann with the slide next to her is from her talk about Patagonia.

Berkshire Chapter -- 2013

Positions of Responsibility

Chairperson - Judith Brown
 Vice-Chairperson - Dean Evans
 Secretary - Carol Hanby
 Treasurer - Pamela Johnson/Thomas Flanigan
 Newsletter - David Gehrs

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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 May 24, 2013

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