

## PVC NARGS January 2019 Survey Results

**37 out of members completed the survey composed by Jim Hughes. Here is what we found:**

1. Your age      a. 20 – 35    b. 35 – 50 **1**    c. 50 – 65 **9**    d. over 65 **25**
2. Are you a current or previous gardening professional?  
a. Yes **14**    b. No **21**
3. Are you a member of NARGS?    a. Yes **19**    b. No **16**
4. Have you ever attended a NARGS event?  
a. Never **10**    b. Once **3**    c. 2 – 5 times **12**    d. over 5 times **10**
5. Do you belong to other garden related organizations?    a. Yes **32**    b. No **3**
6. If yes, please list them:

AGS

American Conifer Society

American Horticultural Society (9)

American Iris Society

American Orchid Society (2)

American Rhododendron Society

American Rose Society

Arlington Rose Foundation

Azalea Society of America (3)

Beltsville Garden Club

Bethesda Community Garden Club (2)

Bromeliad Society

Brookside Bonsai Society

Capitol Hill Garden Club

Cyclamen Society

Cylburn Arboretum Association (2)

FONA (11)

Four Seasons (16)

Friends of Brookside Gardens (3)

Friends of Green Springs (FROGS) (4)

Garden Conservancy

Greenbelt Garden Club

Hardy Plant Society Mid-Atlantic Group

Horticultural Society of MD 2

Hyattsville Garden Club

Landscape Designers Group

Maryland Native Plant Society (4)

Mason Dixon Chapter of Rhododendron Society

Master Gardener (Intern at Green Spring Gardens)

Master Gardeners Howard County

Master Gardeners Montgomery County (2)

Master Gardeners of Northern VA

MD Horticultural Society

National Bonsai Foundation

National Capital Orchid Society

ODCS (Chrysanthemum Society)

PA Horticultural Society

Perennial Plant Association

Potomac Bonsai Association

Potomac Hosta Society

Potomac Rose Society

Rhododendron Species Botanic Garden

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Royal Horticultural Society (2)

SIGNA

Silver Spring Garden Club (5)

Southern Garden History

SRGC

Stonecrop

Takoma Park Horticultural Club (5)

VA Native Plant Society (3)

7. Do you volunteer at public gardens? a. Yes **17** b. No **17**
8. Rate the current dues for membership in PVC.  
a. About right **27** b. Too high c. Too low **8**
9. Do you have an area of your garden that you would describe as a 'rock garden'?  
a. Yes **21** b. No **12**
10. Do you grow rock garden plants in troughs? a. Yes **21** b. No **13**
11. How many troughs do you have?  
a. zero **10** b. 1 **8** c. 2 – 5 **9** d. over 5 **8**
12. What best describes your living/gardening situation?  
a. dwelling with yard **34** b. balcony/patio c. no outdoor growing area **1**
13. Do you have a greenhouse? a. Yes **4** b. No **31**
14. Do you have a cold frame? a. Yes **8** b. No **27**
15. What is the typical annual amount you spend on plants for your entire garden?  
a. under \$50 **4** b. \$50 - \$250 **4** c. \$250 - \$500 **10** d. \$500 - \$1000 **7** e. over \$1,000 **10**
16. Did you purchase mail order plants in 2018? a. Yes **27** b. No **7**
17. List your favorite online mail order nurseries:
- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Annie's Annuals (2)         | Logee's Greenhouse (2)    |
| Arrowhead Alpines (2)       | McClure and Zimmerman     |
| Avant Gardens               | Mesa Garden Nursery       |
| Brent and Becky's (8)       | Mr. Maple                 |
| Bridgewood Hostas           | N. Hampshire Hostas       |
| Brushwood (2)               | Nurseries Caroliniana (2) |
| Camellia Forest Nursery (2) | Old House Gardens         |
| Carolyn's Shade Garden      | Park Seed                 |
| Cistus Nursery (3)          | Peony's Envy Flower Farm  |
| Conifer Kingdom (2)         | Plant Delights (20)       |
| County Line Nursery         | Prairie Nursery           |
| Digging Dog                 | Rare Find Nursery (3)     |
| Edelweiss Nursery (5)       | Rare Plants               |
| Far Reaches Farm (8)        | Renee Seeds               |
| Forest Farm (2)             | Select Seeds              |
| Garden Visions (3)          | Sunscapes                 |
| Green Hill Farm             | Taylor Greenhouse         |
| Green Hill Hostas           | The Hosta Farm            |
| High Country Gardens        | Van Engelen Flower Bulbs  |
| Hillside Nursery (2)        | Wayside Gardens           |
| Joe Pye Weed's Garden       | White Flower Farm (2)     |
| John Scheepers              | Whitman Farms             |
| Kartuz                      | Woodlander's (3)          |
| Klehms                      | Wrightman's               |
| Laporte Avenue Nursery      |                           |
| Lazy S's                    |                           |
| Living Stones Nursery       |                           |

18. Have you participated at least once in the NARGS seed exchange in the past 3 years? Yes **17** No **17**
19. PVC NARGS is a volunteer organization. Highlight all you would be willing to help with:  
 plant exchange **20** plant sale at Green Spring **20** open my garden for a visit **16**  
 contribute to our newsletter **12** seed exchange **9** host an event **13**  
 Nothing, I just want to pay dues to support the effort of the board **4**
20. Do you have a profile on Facebook? Yes **15** No **20**
21. Do you think PVC should have a club profile on Facebook? Yes **13** No **10**
22. Do you think PVC should have a website with contact information and schedule of upcoming events? Yes **31** No **2**
23. Circle one of the following:  
 a. I prefer lectures on plants that can be grown locally **6**  
 b. I prefer lectures on plants that may or may not be grown locally  
 c. I like both **29**
24. Circle one of the following:  
 a. I enjoy the PVC Bulletin **2 - 3 times a year** **23**  
 b. I would prefer a shorter **monthly** newsletter **5**
25. Would you like to learn more about plant propagation? Yes **29** No **5**
26. Would you like to learn more about taking photos of your plants? Yes **16** No **15**
27. I would participate in helping PVC Host a regional NARGS meeting (approximately 25 hours of work) sometime in the future. Yes **20** No **10**
28. Designate your **interest level** in club activities **this past year** by circling any number from 1 through 5 with *1 being not interested* and *5 being very interested*. (Respond only if you attended the activity)

**2018 Programs Listed In Order Of Popularity**

Members Slide Show in November	<b>95/21 = 4.52</b>	1	2	3
		4	5	
Dodson/Milliken (Far Reaches Farm)	<b>87/20 = 4.35</b>	1	2	3
		4	5	
Tony Dove Talk (Rhodies)	<b>76/18 = 4.22</b>	1	2	3
		4	5	

Holubec Talk (Tian Shan)	$20/77 = 3.85$	1	2	3
	4 5			
Quarry Visit	$34/10 = 3.4$	1	2	3
	4 5			
Johnson Talk (Hillwood)	$34/11 = 3.09$	1	2	3 4
	5			

29. Designate your **interest level** in club activities proposed for **2019** by circling any number from 1 through 5 with *1 being not interested* and *5 being very interested*.

**2019 Proposed Activities Listed In Order Of Interest**

Visit other club member gardens	$137/32 = 4.28$	1	2	3
		4	5	
International speakers	$131/31 = 4.23$	1	2	3
		4	5	
Hands on activities (workshops)	$118/29 = 4.07$	1	2	3
		4	5	

“Kusamano and Kokedama On the Rocks” A Lecture/Demonstration by Young Choe  $110/27 = 4.07$

1	2	3	4
	5		

Members slide presentation  $121/31 = 3.90$

	1	2	3
4	5		

Field trips more than 45 minutes from my house

	1	2	3
4	5		

$112/30 = 3.73$

Lecture on the Polygonatum genus  $103/28 = 3.68$

	1	2	3
4	5		

Lecture on creation, maintenance and plants of tropical gardens around USNA visitor center

	1	2	3
4	5		

$99/27 = 3.66$

Trough-planting workshop	$105.5/31 = 3.40$	1	2	3
		4	5	
	NARGS lectures on alpine plants in other			
Countries	$108/30 = 3.6$	1	2	3
		4	5	
Social activities	$98/29 = 3.38$	1	2	3
		4	5	
	Trip to Meadowview carnivorous plant			
Reserve – lecture, hike and plant sale	$99/30 = 3.30$	1	2	3
		4	5	4
Trough-making workshop	$97.5/31 = 3.16$	1	2	3
		4	5	
Quarry Trip	$88/28 = 3.14$	1	2	3
		4	5	

30. Do you have any specific topics for talks, speakers, field trips or workshops that you would like PVC to arrange? Note that your suggestions do not have to be specifically related to rock gardening; for example, “I would like to see a lecture on ferns” or “I would enjoy a photography workshop”.

### Suggestions and Comments

Field Trips: look at trips taken by Four Season club

After much reading on rock gardens and how dwarf conifer/evergreens are used in rock gardens, I joined PVC thinking that I would find information on same. After years as a member, I have yet to see a program on dwarf conifers/evergreen for rock gardens. So, I joined the American Conifer Society.

I believe PVC should define itself – a social club, or a teaching club to promote use of unique plants.

I wish member programs would include knowledge on propagating and growing their plants rather than just photos at member slide program.

If the speaker is good, many subjects will do. For example, I went to the rhododendron lecture just because it was there. I really enjoyed it because the speaker was good.

Holubec was not a great speaker but his slides were very good.

Would love to hear Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Nursery again; he and Judith gave us a talk on finding hellebores in the Balkans one year and it was wonderful. He also brought hellebores to sell.

Cactus talk.

Have a PVC website if not too costly.

Supplement Bulletins with email reminders.

Lecture on Campanulas for our region

Lecture on microorganisms that help plants grow

Lecture on summer and fall blooming bulbs

Talk on columnar plants for the garden

Epimediums

Dwarf Conifers

Miniature perennial herbaceous plants

Crevice gardens

Sustaining rock garden plants in the DC metro area – successes and failures

Conifers for rock gardens

Pruning, especially conifers

Talk on rock/alpine gardens found ‘around the world’

Use of stone in rock gardens

Growing plants to maturity from seed

Trips to gardens (public or private), nurseries, plant collectors,

Landscape architecture

Garden History

I have 6 styrofoam containers of various sizes (and options for more regularly) and would be interested in taking part in a trough session using them

Read J. Tychonievich’s article “Reaching New Members” in latest Rock Garden Quarterly, v77 #1.)

I’m interested in everything!

A talk on seed germination (Don Humphreys gave a great one years ago); encourage members to plant seeds for rock garden plants

Create list of favorite rock garden plants from PVC members

What ever happened to Jo Banfield's records? Do we have a club historian? Do we have notes from the 2002 Study Weekend?

We don't have many people liking our Facebook posts for Green Spring Gardens outside of staff and Friends of Green Spring board members.

Ernie DeMarie from NY NARGS to speak on any topic related to South African plants. I would particularly like to hear about plants he is cultivating in his garden.

Lecture on ferns, moss, and rain gardens

I would like to see us get away from having travelogues at the member's slide presentations unless the trip is focused on horticulture. Keep the club focused on plants not travel.

I would like to hear anything Karen Rexrode would have to say about rock gardening.

A lecture on ferns which are deer resistant, they say.

I would enjoy any NARGS lectures including members from nearby chapters. Active involvement in the seed exchange process is both educational and social.

I have an old friend, Dan Heims, who is the head of Terra Nova Nurseries out in Oregon and a maniac breeder of Heuchera, Echinacea, and many other perennials. He travels and lectures a lot. If he is in the neighborhood and there is interest, I might be able to get him as a speaker, but he typically charges a fee.  
<http://www.terranovanurseries.com/>

I would like to see a lecture on shade gardening, Asian/tropical plants, and layered/successional planting (spring ephemerals planted with summer plants and summer dormant plants)

I like "how to" lectures, workshops, garden tours that include the owner/manager. Also personal experience/travel if the photography is well done.

I live in Ellicott City and will rarely attend a meeting in Virginia or in the evening unless at a venue I have been to before.

Healthy soil and growing tips, lecture on ephemerals

Lecture on hardy ferns, terrestrial orchids, miniature conifers for rock gardens

Azaleas, evergreen and deciduous; ground covers; how to build a rock garden (not crevice); how to plant and maintain a rock garden including plant care

We should also send more frequent announcements about events

To host a regional NARGS meeting, we'd need support from other members besides the regular core group.

Would love to go to Stonecrop in NY. <http://www.stonecrop.org/visitor-information/>

Try to get Lori Chips to talk. She works or used to for Oliver's nursery in CT and recently wrote a book on troughs. I asked her quite a few years ago and she declined, had many aged animals she didn't want to leave. Could try again although it is pretty far, travel-wise. [https://www.timberpress.com/author/lori\\_chips/1783](https://www.timberpress.com/author/lori_chips/1783)

Also Dan Bernacik (Chanticleer); he's the one who does the Wave Hill Chair workshops but he also does talks on a variety of topics. <http://www.danbenarcik.com/garden-chair.html>