



Potomac Valley Chapter
North American
ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

May 2020
PVC Bulletin

Rhododendron periclymenoides, Pinxterbloom azalea, photo: S. Strickler

Calendar of Events

Saturday May 30th, 10am, Virtual Tour of Jim Dronenburg and Dan Weil's Maryland Garden.
Watch for a zoom invitation from Barbara Rose on Wednesday, May 27th

With the help of Dan's wonderful photographs, Jim will take us around their cottage-style one-acre garden, showing the progression of bloom and plant expansion from January through May. (You should already have a more detailed announcement in your email inbox.)

June 26-27 TAPROOT 2020, NARGS Virtual Conference. See the line-up of speakers and more details here: <https://www.nargs.org/conference> *** **Watch for a special PVC offer for non-NARGS members who may want to join NARGS and attend the conference.**

President's Message

Greetings Rock Gardeners,

On May 7, 2020, the PVC board met using Zoom. Surprisingly, we adapted well to this new venue and we are inviting you all to a first-ever PVC virtual garden tour via zoom. (You should already have an invite in your inbox.)

In the absence of our speaker presentations and, sadly, our two plant exchanges, some of you might enjoy resources offered online. Below are a few links that I like to frequent.

1. Peg Plant – <https://pegplant.com> At this website you can subscribe to Peg Plant's monthly e-newsletter compiled by Peggy Riccio. Most gardening events in the DC area

are posted here. During the pandemic, Peggy is keeping track of the many virtual garden events now being offered. I recommend subscribing to both her monthly newsletter and the PegPlant FaceBook page where she posts almost daily updates on virtual events.

2. On Instagram you can follow these sites maintained by some of our members and professional horticulturists prominent in the gardening community. A few I follow:

- a. NARGS – na_rockgardensociety
- b. panayotikelaidis (Panayoti spoke to PVC in 2019)
- c. Gardenandbook (member Sarah Strickler)
- d. DC Tropics (Begonia expert John Boggan)
- e. Horticultureguy (works in the Smithsonian gardens)
- f. Smalltowngardener (member Marianne Wilburn)
- g. Plantdelights (Tony Avent's NC nursery)
- h. Judy Zatsick, VP, shows lot of pics of Oak Spring where she works)

The board also discussed starting our own Instagram site for members to post photos of their gardens they'd like to share with other members. We'll keep you posted!

3. Lastly, on FaceBook there are two groups I regularly follow:

- a. Alpine Plants and Rock Gardens
- b. Modern Crevice Gardens



Both these FB pages have loads of photographs from many big names in rock gardening, such as Czech rock gardener Zdenek Zvolanek and our recent speaker Jeremy Schmidt. Take a look to see their latest amazing creations.

Additionally, I'd like to update you on my own endeavors at growing NARGS seeds. This year I followed Kevin McIntosh's suggestions, using the GrowEase Seed Starter Kits purchased from Gardener's Supply Company. I'm happy to report that I've had over 80 percent germination rate. When I planted seeds this year, I took seriously the method of "surface sowing" and barely covered them with a thin layer of grit. No doubt, there will be losses when I transplant them to their next habitat!

Lastly, looking at all the recent blooms in our garden I have to single out this Sarracenia 'Lemon' bloom. The pitchers are struggling but the flowers are a good sign that all will rebound. I purchased this plant last July on our field trip to Meadowview Biological Research Station.

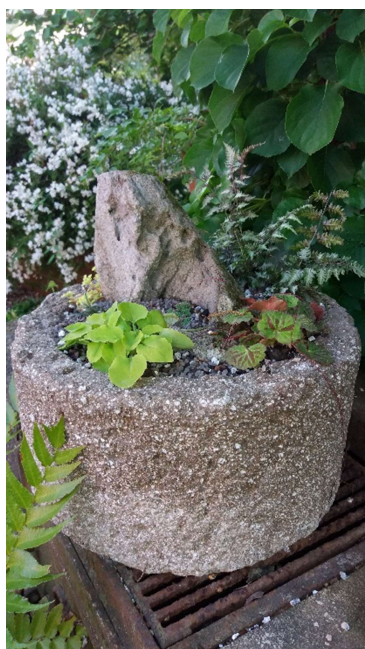
Stay safe, everyone, and hope to see you on zoom!

Barbara Rose roserose@verizon.net

A Trough Trio

James Hughes

This spring I had three empty troughs and time on my hands while “Staying at Home.” One I bought last year at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD. The other two I made at our Potomac Valley Chapter trough workshop last year. These two had been ‘seasoning’ in my shed all winter wrapped in plastic to slow down the drying process and harden them. All had several holes drilled in the bottom. For variety, I decided to plant each trough with a different theme: one for hardy shade plants, one for hardy sun lovers, and one for non-hardy plants. I planned to use different stones for each one.



The 10-inch diameter hypertufa trough became the shade trough and will be for sale by the club at some future event. It is 5.5 inches deep. (All trough measurements are the internal dimensions of the container.) For plants, I chose a chartreuse dwarf Hosta, Japanese Painted fern, Sedum makinoi ‘Ogon’, Saxifraga stolonifera (strawberry begonia), Sedum ‘Blue Balls’, and Ophiopogon japonicus ‘Gyoku-ryu’ (very dwarf Mondo grass). The plants were placed around a lava rock called ‘feather rock’ which is light as a feather. My soil mix was gritty but with a healthy proportion of garden loam since these plants benefit from, or at least tolerate, a richer soil. Best viewed with the taller Japanese painted fern in the back, this

trough should be placed where it gets part shade.



The second trough was a rectangle and a bit larger; its internal measurement is 17 inches by 11 inches by 5 inches deep. For stones, I used a half dozen pieces of bog iron, a form of impure iron



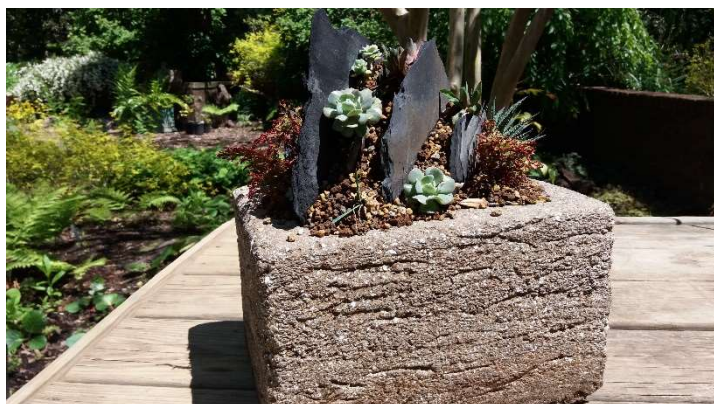
deposit that develops in bogs or swamps by the chemical or biochemical oxidation of iron. It has a rusty, aged look. The focal point of this trough became Cedrus atlantica ‘Sapphire Nymph’, a dwarf cedar with a blue cast, planted off center. It will need to be pruned annually to keep it sized for this container.

The placement of the stones created separate spaces for many very small plants: *Primula allionii* 'Wharfedale Ling'; *Draba lasiocarpa*, which likes a little lime mixed into its soil; *Veronica whitleyi*, the blue flowers of which will eventually hang over the lip of the trough echoing the 'Sapphire Nymph'; a variegated Boxwood, *Buxus sempivirens* 'Aurea pendula'; *Sedum makinoi* 'Ogon' which does well in sun or shade; and a purple *Sempervivum*, Hens and Chicks for contrast. As this is my sun trough and these plants prefer excellent drainage, my soil mix was a combination of sifted pumice, medium sized crushed granite, and Akadama, an imported soil from Japan.



Lastly, I created a non-hardy arrangement in a 10 inch by 7 inch by 5 inch deep rectangular trough. It is light enough to bring in during the winter and put in a sunny window or under grow lights. It could also be grown indoors year-round. Besides being a trough, it is also a miniature crevice garden thanks to my neighbors who replaced the slate on their roof this winter. When I saw all their

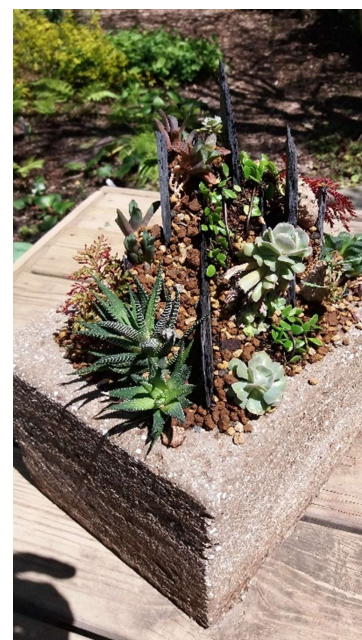
slate being thrown away, my first thought was **CREVICE GARDEN MATERIAL FOR FREE!** Because it is so thin, I fit several pieces into the 8 x 10 inch trough, allowing me to create "panels" and tight spaces where plants could be tucked away.



I chose plants with a variety of textures and shapes: a *Selaginella erythropis*, which has a red underside to its ferny leaf, *Haworthia*

with its spikes, *Khadia alticola* with its succulent character, *Lemnaphyllum microphyllum*, a groundcover called "bean fern", a blue *Echevaria*, *Euphorbia* 'Gabisan' (pineapple euphorbia), a hybrid most likely originating in Japan. I plan to leave the trough outside to get everything growing vigorously before bringing it inside when temperatures drop this fall.

One of the aspects of trough gardening that I find appealing is the ability to create a vignette, a snapshot of a location with an assortment of complementary plants and stones, not just a pot with a random selection of plants. It is about a place, the woods, a mountain top, a swamp, a mountain scree. Potted plants can be beautiful in their color, texture, and drama, but they seldom evoke that sense of place that can be captured by a well-crafted trough.



Iris

Jim Dronenburg

Ah, yes, just like the famous British writers, I am writing with an iris in bloom in front of me on my desk.

All right, it's not a desk, it's a folding table in the dining room. And it's not *Iris unguicularis* (the British writers like Vita Sackville-West and Beverley Nichols despised the name and preferred to call it by its older name, *Iris stylosa*). It is, in fact, a potted *Iris tectorum*. It came into bloom yesterday, and since they are calling for frost tonight, the bloom would be lost. (Frost on the eighth of May. Ugh.) Really, of course, the PLANT would be just fine, but I didn't want to lose the bloom, and since it was potted I had Dan grab it.



This brings me to a short ramble, not on rock garden iris, but on iris in general that I have experience with. I'll leave out the bearded, or German, iris; I don't do well with them, certain exceptions here of course, but I have too rich and wet a soil and every borer in the state of Maryland seems to find me.....

Anyway, the *Iris unguicularis* I mentioned above is a great one for gardeners in the DC metro-area to grow. I grew it for several years, and it never bloomed. It does for everyone else in PVC-NARGS that has reported having it. Possibly the buds are less hardy than the plant itself. The plant blooms in the dead of winter, in warm spells. The writers (above) would go out and pick it in bud and let it open inside. It is supposed to have a wonderful fragrance. I wouldn't know, *sigh*. There are now several cultivars available--an online search will find them easily, and they aren't any more expensive than the run of other mail order perennials. The British writers do say that you should grow them in a lean soil; let them get a whiff of nitrogen and they will go all to leaf, not bloom. Vita Sackville-West adds, "If you have a load of old brickbats, so much the better." Well, as it happened at the time I got the plant, I did have a load of old brickbats and mortar rubble. I dug a hole in a protected place, sunk a five gallon pot, filled it with absolutely nasty stuff as above, and planted the iris. It took off like a big bird. Lush green leaves and no bloom. Several years later I lost patience with it, and dug it out. I found out that the roots had gone down well over a foot, through the holes of the pot, and out into the heavily amended outside soil.

Duhhhhh.....

For the early spring, the miniature bulb *I. danfordiae*, *histrioides*, and *reticulata* hybrids, which I do not grow, take the stage. Low-low, but for many persons acting like tulips and going pffft after a year or so. (Including me, I might add.) Look at the catalogs, if you want to break your heart. I won't talk about the Dutch or Spanish bulbous irises either, for the same reason.



An iris new to me these two years, from Alice Nicolson, is *I. lactea*. (left) It is less than a foot high for me, planted in (mostly) sun in a raised bed, with flowers of narrow, light blue standards and narrow white falls (*lactea* = milky) streaked with blue and a hint, towards the center, of yellow—think of *Iris reticulata* ‘Katherine Hodgkin’ with narrower falls and no pronounced black spots. It has so far been proof against all the neglect I have thrown at it and increases slowly but surely. It is in a bed against a south wall; but I don’t think this is unhardy at all. That’s just where it is. *Danger*,

Will Robinson: There is an essentially cream-yellow cv. of *Iris sibirica* called ‘Lactea’. Don’t be fooled if you see a picture of this online.

Another iris I have is *Iris cristata* (below). This is an unassuming little thing, straight species, light lavender, about 3” high outside right now, that so far has not come back for me in the dappled



shade that one sees recommended online, but is doing quite well in about six hours of sun. This one does appreciate a rich soil. It is, admittedly, slow to start (for me) but is rock hardy; I had several plants winter over above ground in 4” pots with no protection. I may be over-coddling it. As of this writing I have not mulched around it but I’m looking for a low-low ground cover. It travels by, essentially, above ground runners and should give modest increase. Again, quite a few cultivars are available, including a white form which I intend to get. Someday.

Then there is *Iris japonica* (right). (Note: the “Japanese iris” is a different plant altogether, *Iris kaempferi/ensata*.) *I. japonica* is about a foot tall and looks like a cross between a Siberian iris and a Cattleya orchid. I have what I believe is the cv. ‘Eco Easter’. I was warned that it was a suckering thug. It was so beautiful that I didn’t listen.

It’s a suckering thug. Three years later I’m taking it out by the flatful for the plant sales (I had a flat ready this spring; luckily, people came by to pick up plants while it was in bloom, which this year was mid April through now, the first week of



May) and they were so smitten by it that they got it. The bloom is about 2-1/2 inches across, white-lavender falls stippled with dark blue and a yellow-orange and white blotch in the center, on a branching (and arching over) wiry stem. The bloom is essentially flat. I'm quite impressed by its ability to flower profusely in what amounts to deep shade, against a north facing, one story wall with a foot-plus overhang, and a lilac crowding out a lot of the overhead light. It does, however, have the territorial ambitions of Attila the Hun and I'd suggest planting it within a large, bottomless pot sunk into your border. Either that or plant it against something that will take no guff from anything else. (In another area, it's holding its own against knee high bamboo.) Again, there are various cultivars.



The other iris blooming for me now, as above, is *Iris tectorum* (left). It was seen growing on the roof of thatched houses in Japan, hence the name (latin for *of the roofs*). It is about a foot high as a plant, but the bloom can stretch higher on its stem; a good six inches higher, in a shaded position. The stem is less wiry than *I. japonica* but a lot narrower than the bearded irises. It has done very well for me in deciduous, dappled shade. The flower in front of me is 4-1/2 inches across, a lavender with darker dotted streaks on the falls, and a white crest rising from the petal, rather than a beard. There is also a white form, (got it) and both are easy in the garden. They spread, but they are not as acquisitive as *I. japonica*. The leaves are a little shorter and wider, to my mind, and ribbed. Full sun to (for me) almost full shade.

bearded iris, with a narrow leaf. Coincidentally, these look a lot like Japanese iris, *I. ensata*, when not in bloom. However, *I. ensata* has a pronounced midrib on the leaf, easily found by touch; *Iris siberica* does *not*.) At present, the flowers can be quite different from the narrow, smaller blooms of forty years ago; from the form of almost flat blooms to quite prominent standards, from falls that come out on narrow "stems" and then rounding out and falling, to altogether roundish falls. And the colors! From the "old" blues and purples (still the most commonly found) to the current larger-falls selections, whites, yellows and now melons, oranges and nearly reds to browns; double and triple colored, and some with veining of a contrasting color on the falls. It is worth a quick "side trip" on your computer to look at what Joe Pye Weed's Garden

Siberian irises (right) are a wonder. For the most part as tall or taller than most



<http://www.jpwflowers.com/> has for pictures on their site. There are smaller Siberians too, these days, for those with less room. Full sun to part shade. They are absolutely not fussy.



I do have what I think is the native *Iris prismatica*, (left) a tad earlier (under the same conditions) as Siberian iris for me, same height and habit, and a little narrower, light blue bloom, or rather, white with blue stippling. Supposedly somewhat variable- I only have one clump. Siberians are showier but I'm not going to dig this up, no way; it has a delicateness that Siberians don't.

And for those people with less room and a bit of sun, I can recommend *Iris graminea* (below). A foot high or less, with narrow (graminea = grass or grassy, referring to the leaves) foliage and small, purple

flowers the size of a quarter, and a sweet scent, for which it is called the plum iris. This is not long lived for me, I suspect because I keep planting it in places which then become shady; the best stands I ever saw were in an Arlington "hell strip", in full sun.



Japanese iris, *I. ensata*, have been hybridized to-heck-and-gone too. Any decent catalogue can show almost all colors. Typically one is suggested that they do best along a watercourse; but they do quite well in an open border, kept moist as necessary, and in an acid soil, preferably in full sun. The flowers are essentially flat, and huge. There are doubles—somewhat startling on a flat bloom. Remember my earlier comment; the leaves have an easily felt "midrib" as an identifier. On top of their own hybrids, they have been used for the 'pseudata' hybrids. More on these, but the other parent is the iris that Native N—er, purists, love to hate:

Iris pseudacorus (pseudo = false, *acorus* = the genus of rushes). This is a tall, generally yellow, iris (some hybrids) easily 3-plus feet tall where happy, loving sunny, wet conditions to the point that it can spread out of hand down a streamside. However, it does quite well in a garden bed and in these conditions, when I had it, spread no more than a Siberian. Again, though, I let it get crowded/shaded out. For the medieval minded, this is the origin of the stylized "fleur de lis" found, generally, on coats of arms (and upholstery fabrics).

The hybrids between Japanese and *pseudacorus* iris are 'pseudata'. They have for the most part the *pseudacorus* sized plant, larger blooms, and the ones I had tended to be in the white/yellow/ almost greyish range, with wider petals, approaching a Japanese iris form. Computer side trip: Go to Draycott Gardens <https://www.draycott-gardens.com> and look at their pseudatas. Many



have a gemlike, 'peacock' spot in the center of the falls. Mine grew nicely in my bog, but a garden bed suits them juuuuuust fine. Full sun.

As the spring dies down into June, I have, and recommend, the unsung beauties of the spuria irises (right). These are, in my experience, mostly tall. They have a form like the modern Siberian hybrids, falls anything from narrow to wide. But the COLORS! Gemlike shades of blue, purple, bronze, red, orange, yellow and combinations thereof, many with veining. They bloom for me when the bearded iris and peonies have given their all and the roses are taking a breather. Computer road trip: Wildwood Gardens, Molalla, OR.

http://www.rebloomingiris.com/other_species_%20&_species_crosses.htm Rock bottom prices, VERY good plants.

That's it for the summer. But I lied, above. I do have, and will recommend, two or three of the reblooming bearded irises. Especially if one is a gamblin' person. As often as not, for me, the second bloom runs a race with the first frost. What I have, is white, sky blue, and white-with-blue-picotee. I'm sure there are more colors, but that's what I have.

Anyway, this is just one person's list; there are incredible numbers of non-bearded irises out there. I'm always willing (hint, hint) to try new ones.

Some Lining Out Space

Jim Dronenburg

Originally in GreenPrints, Autumn **2016**; reprinted by permission

All I wanted was some lining-out space.

I belong to not one, but two garden organizations that have plant sales. As an officer in each, I am Expected To Have Things For Sale. The trouble is that anything good propagates and grows slowly. The bits that you chop off the side of a clump and pot up for sale the next week, no one will buy.

So, I thought, it's time to make a new bed and grow things—line them out—for future sales and for use elsewhere in my own garden. I marked off 24' x 24' on the slightly sloping back “lawn” (euphemism for crabgrass over clay) and set down an approximate square by putting railroad ties, three on each side, on the surface of the ground. Then I started to dig and remove a full shovelful deep within that space.

Well, this was work. But it would be worth it...

I took all the turf and roots and piled it up in the hedgerow (lazy man's compost); I saved the good soil off the top, such as it was (or wasn't) and put it aside. This left me about 18" of height to refill, the eight inches or so I'd dug out below ground level plus the ten-inch height of the railroad ties. I brought in pickup truckload after pickup truckload of composted



horse hooey from an acquaintance's stable. The stuff was full of weed seeds, but I Had A Plan. I dug eight inches of the stuff into the subsoil below where I'd dug out. Then I brought in compost from the county landfill, truckload after truckload again, and mixed it, about 2/3 compost to 1/3 of the set-aside topsoil, for the top ten inches.

I didn't do it all at one time, of course; I started digging at one corner and had a wide area dug to the deepest level—then over that a smaller area with the horseapples and subsoil—then a smaller area yet with the good stuff on top. I would get a bit done on the bottom layer, expand the upper areas correspondingly, and plant things the instant I had any new “good” ground in place.

This took me from March of that year to the end of August, and I was less than half done. I worked in a “U” shape around the edges... By May, at least, I had enough ground dug and ready, to plant my four dozen *Ismene* bulbs, 20 plants of *Bulbine* (both not hardy here in Maryland) and 35 iris sprouts from an iris rescue that spring.

Then my Beloved Partner, whose back (ahem) does not bend in the garden, said, “Why don't you put in that little plastic pool that you were given last year?” Repeated emphasis that this area was strictly for growing things in rows did not avail me anything.

So, fine. I hacked a deeper hole in the clay-trying-to-be-rock to accommodate a six-foot, doggie-bone-shaped rigid pool. Leveled the hole. I started filling the pool with water and filling in around the outside as I did so. Just as I got to the shelf level of the pool, my B.P. said, “Oh, look, isn't that a crack?”

If you could have seen my comic-strip thought balloon at that point, it would have been a skull and crossbones, another skull and crossbones, and more skulls and crossbones...

So off we went, and for this “free” pool we purchased a 15’ x 15’ liner. Have you ever noticed how often the free stuff turns out to be more expensive than the bought? Beloved Partner found YET ANOTHER plastic rigid pool at the store, on remainder (small wonder, it was sixteen kinds of ugly, the entire interior was made to look like rough rock). But it was deep. This was to go near the first pool. Guess whose labor would dig the hole?

Once home, I removed two railroad ties on one side and excavated a wider area around the hole of the first pool about a foot deep. I laid the liner down in the hole for the pool. Then I started building a rock wall to the level of the pool, at the edge of the liner, in place of the removed railroad ties. The liner lapped over the top of the stones. Then I re-



inserted the pool over top of the liner. I filled the space between the pool and the liner with a mixture of sand and peat. Then I put flat stones over the edge of the pool, and the edge of the liner. This gave me about six inches of height above the height of the water. I added more sand/peat and filled it all in.

Gradually I refilled the pool. Now I had a pool and a bog. The bog’s liner would hold in any water that leaked from the crack in the pool. And since the liner’s lowest point was at the level I wanted the water in the pool to be, any excess water would drain off and the bog would never flood. Luckily, I also had some flat pavers. These last made a walk around the pool/bog area.

I was done by October, while the rest of the garden went to absolute ruin, along with my knees and my back.

Another walk “grew like Topsy” out of the first walk. Between them they made the whole space unusable as a “row crop” area. At this point I said, “to #\$%^ with it”, gave up, and made most of it a permanently planted bed. I had—this spring—JUST enough room to plant out my seven dozen *Ismene* bulbe, 20 more iris (potted since last year, Lord help us, and 40 more to find places for), and about 30 plants of *Bulbine*. But they all multiply, and I will need twice the space next year. To make matters worse, the fall bulb catalogues have begun to come in. So now, when the *Ismene* and *Bulbine* are dug up and brought in for the winter, daffodils will fill their places.

My project for this fall and winter?

A new bed. I need some lining-out space.

Epilogue, spring 2020: That bed, besides the two pools, is filled with tree peonies, pines, rhododendrons, witch hazels, magnolia, and other shrubs, underplanted with perennials. Hardly an inch is available to plant new things. I *did* build a new bed to hold the tropical stuff. Besides

shrubs intended to be permanent, it barely held, that summer, four clumps of canna, seven dozen plus Ismene, and a row of Bulbine. When Fall came, THAT space got filled with peonies, lilies, and other bulbs, and last spring we built yet another bed for tropicals. It barely held what I had last year. Now it has to hold more Ismene, more Bulbine, Lord knows how many dahlias, and twenty-seven clumps of canna “Pretoria” propagated for the sales that aren’t happening this year.

Three guesses what I need?

A Tree Peony from Seed

Robert Faden, May 25, 2020

We haven’t grown many peonies and only one tree peony, purchased at Winterthur many years ago, could be called successful, at least it used to be. At one time it produced at least 50 dinner plate-sized white, fully double, carnation-like blossoms. But alas, competition above and probably below ground with the much larger and more robust Camellia ‘Spring Promise’ growing in back of it has resulted in a much reduced plant which last year had only 24 flowers and this year just six.

Perhaps pruning back the Camellia may help.

The good news on the Peony front this year came from a seed grown tree peony that flowered for the first time. The seeds were obtained from the 2008-2009 NARGS seed list. Number 2242 was recorded as *Paeonia rockii* with a description: “white flowers with a maroon eye and plants growing to 1.8 m tall”. We would have planted the seeds in early 2009. Two germinated and the resulting plants have been grown ever since in pots buried in pea gravel in window wells on the east side of our house.



One plant has shown little progress over the years in forming a shrub habit, but the other one, now well over three feet tall and unbranched, has steadily increased in height every year but, until this year, never flowered. The three buds this April were a pleasant surprise, and the 6 and ½ inch semi-double white flowers made us very happy.

There is some question whether the flowers are exactly typical *Paeonia suffruticosa* ‘Rock’s Variety’ (or ‘Joseph Rock’), as this plant is currently called—a friend at Kew Gardens told me that they rarely come true from seed—but they are pretty close, very attractive and we like them.

Filling the Void – A Hub of FREE International Gardening Talks

Sarah Strickler

A free online lecture series <https://www.gardenmasterclass.org/online> sprang up as the world went into lockdown. Put together by two Brits and billed as “**Tea-Time Talks**,” (live at 4pm GMT in Britain, 11am EDT in the US, you can figure out the other time zones), the series has run for more than a month and includes horticultural speakers from around the world -- North America-- both coasts, the mid west and southwest; eastern and continental Europe; Japan, New Zealand and Australia; and the UK and Ireland. I am probably forgetting a region....

The brainchild of Annie Guilefoyle and Noel Kingsbury, who were already offering garden design programs through their company GARDEN MASTERCLASS, <https://www.gardenmasterclass.org>, the FREE Tea-Time zoom talks are given by everyone from Fergus Garrett of Great Dixter, to Cassian Schmidt of Hermannshof, from Sean Hogan of Cistus nursery to Australian garden photographer Clair Takacs. Not everyone is a gardener or designer, they also included photographers, book publishing professionals, nursery professionals, and artists. Some people you will have heard of, some you will not. The lectures are informative, sometimes personal, a little quirky as they were pulled together quickly and the technology is not perfect, but they are created with a lot of generosity of spirit from all involved.

I haven't heard all the talks by any means, but as **they are recorded**, I plan to go back and watch and listen. **One I especially enjoyed was hearing Andrew Bunting, currently of Pennsylvania Horticulture Society** (many will remember he was a long time at the Scott Arboretum), **talk about designing and installing a new gravel garden in his front yard in Swarthmore, PA.** I had been enticed by photographs Andrew posted on IG of the installation process, and the setting out of plants, so I was thrilled to find him discussing it in depth! (He does talk about other things as well.)

Hearing about a horticultural professional's experimentation in their personal garden is a treat. Dan Pearson's is another gardener--a designer—who talks about creating a new home garden in the English countryside. If you don't know his online magazine: <http://digdelve.com/>

Derry Watkins – an American who runs a nursery near Bath in southwest England, and whose NARGS speaking tour was cancelled (she was to talk to PVC this fall)--also makes an appearance. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpDohfR5hew&feature=youtu.be> Live Tea-Time Talks may be winding down as the UK begins to 'reopen,' but you can view the recorded versions whenever you like.

DUES: \$15 per year. Please send to treasurer Margot Ellis, 2417 N Taylor St., Arlington, VA 22207

Editor's note: All photographs are by the article authors unless otherwise noted.

PVC web page: <https://nargs.org/chapter/potomac-valley-chapter>

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