



A Rock Garden Newsletter

June 2013

The visit to Milwaukee area gardens is Saturday, June 8, and we will see some great gardens. Please click [here](#) for a link to Google maps for directions from Madison to the four gardens.

Basically, we will start at Jeff Fritz' garden around 10 am. Then off to Joy and Dave Collura's garden and lunch. The gardens of Michael Kanter and Mary Stanley will round out the day.

Jeff Fritz, W279 N5851 Walnut Grove Dr, Sussex

Jeff added the following to the directions:
Depending upon which direction you are coming from, most likely I-94 to Hwy. 16 (via Hwy. 67 or Hwy. 83 if coming from Madison). Take Jungbluth Rd./KE exit and go north to Hwy. K. Then 2nd left at Walnut Grove Drive. We are 3rd house on left before Ainsworth Rd. In case anyone gets lost, our phone# is 262-533-3081.

When we decided to build our new home 5 years ago, I wanted to find a piece of land that had some character, more than just a rectangular, flat piece of property. We found it located in the small subdivision of Walnut Grove, overlooking an 80 acre prairie field and wooded common area.

Anxious to get started on landscaping the 1.2 acre blank slate after the home was built, we needed to develop the muddy, east-facing slope of clay that existed out our back windows. Fifty-five tons of outcropping limestone were delivered and placed over a 100+ foot length to prevent the new mix of sand and loose soil from eroding down the hill and to create levels for planting alpines, which was a must from the beginning.



However, a waterfall and pond was also a must for the backyard and limestone had been deemed by experts as unacceptable for use in a water feature. So about 25 tons of river and fieldstone rock and

stones were collected and placed in and around the pond to form an amalgamation of limestone and granites. The free-flowing paver stone patio was then installed among the pond and rocks so we could sit and relax among the fish and sounds of rushing water.

Since then, with the lawn taking a back seat, many small trees, conifers, shrubs, perennials and especially rock garden plants have been populating the landscape every time I can find a new gem. With no mature trees except for the tree line on the back lot line, there is very little shade around the home landscaping so I crammed as much as I could along the strip located on the north side of the house, including many hostas and ferns. Everywhere else gets the sun-loving plants with some of my favorites being veronicas, geraniums, dianthus, sedum, campanulas, viburnums and dwarf conifers. Gold, red and variegated foliage plants are also features I find appealing.

There is still plenty to do, new gardens to develop and spaces to fill with new plants. Well, at least I have gotten a good start and a place to relax between shoveling, weeding and watering.

Joy & Dave Collura, 13600 W Graham St, New Berlin

Welcome to the Collura garden. It is on a suburban lot that Joy & I have been reshaping for 23 years. One of our first daring adventures was to dig out grass and put a butterfly garden in the front yard.

Over the years, we have brought in 35 ton of rock and 40 plus yards of soil. The last 3000 pounds was for a crevice garden.

We also got rid of 10 yards of dirt for a pond. The plants range from alpiners to dwarf trees, cacti, shade plants, and aquatics.

The yard will be featured during the American Hosta Society Convention this year. (Sorry Iza, we do have hosta.) The birds and fish love it. Please stop by and visit.

Joy and Dave are also hosting lunch for us. They will provide brats, chips and drinks. They have enough seating on their patio for our group, plus indoor seating in case it rains.

After lunch, we move on to the afternoon visits.

Mike Kanter 1209 S 89th St, West Allis

Mike provided a short but intriguing description:

Gardens that go from the desert to the alpiners and a few things in between.

Mary Stanley, 1220 W. Estates Drive, 124 N, Mequon

Dave added the following notes about locating her home. *Mary's house is on a private road that does not show up on most map services. Use 12538 N Port Washington Rd, Mequon for her address. Her home is then to the east on Estates Dr. You can't miss the berm in her front yard.*

My husband and I live in a carriage home at a retirement community in Mequon north of Milwaukee. Fortunately for me, they allow the residents to garden next to their homes. We live in a double house so the first thing I did was have my son-in-law build a fence between our home and our roof mates home to afford a little privacy and create a space for a perennial garden. Then we created a perennial garden next to our patio. There is a north exposure so I had the opportunity to plant many of the shade plants that I dug from my extensive gardens in the Twin Cities. Martagon Lilies, Trilliums, Jeffersonia dubia, Bishops caps that I started from seed and primulas to name just a few.

At the side of the house against another fence that hides the air conditioner, my cold frame and composter, I planted clematis, peonies and climbing roses.

Two years ago I got permission to put in a rock garden in the front of the house. We dug out about a foot + of heavy clay and attached the down spout

from the roof to drainage tile which we snaked around in the hole. Then I added 14 yards of 1/3 compost, 1/3 builders sand and 1/3 rocky grit. The pile was molded into three mounds with a path through the middle. Weathered holey boulders were added and many plants. Also many species tulips, iris, crocus and daffodils were added the first fall.

The first winter, our very mild one, all survived and spread. Some I am removing because they have become too aggressive. I am really having fun experimenting to see what seems to do the best. Creeping Phlox and Dianthus are there to create large swaths of color but I also have some more delicate examples. My Lewisias appear to have survived and hopefully will bloom again this year. I have included some dwarf evergreens, Pachistima, a Holly and a creeping Cotoneaster to add different textures.



Delosperma n. "Gold Nuggets"

Highlights of the March, April and May meetings

Many thanks to David and Nancy Nedveck ([Flower Factory](#)) and Steve Lesch ([LDI](#)) for opening their great nurseries for the past two meetings. Most of us took the opportunity to collect more plants as well as growing advice.

Iza Goroff generously donated a digital slide projector so we no longer have to borrow or rent one.

Members discussed their favorite plants at the March meeting. Ed Glover commented that Primula allionii is underused. It needs drainage and protection from the hot afternoon sun.

After discussing a wide range of plants, the topic of pest control was raised. Several members warned about storage of popular products based on urine and other scents. Don't store them indoors! Even with stringent packaging, the odor will seep out.

[Milorganite](#) is a fertilizer that also repels rabbits, slugs and earwigs although the company doesn't list this reported side effect on its Web site.

The lethal dose in products that poison mice and voles are too low to cause injury to predators.

Recipes for repellants which are effective and less costly were shared.

From Ed Lyon who received it from a gardener in Pewaukee who lived on the edge of a woods and had serious deer problems.

For a 3 gallon backpack sprayer

- * 3 gallons water
- *18 eggs, separate yolks and add to water (this acts as surfactant), save the whites for a egg white omelets or baking (whites will clog the nozzle on your sprayer)
- *Add eggbeaters equivalent to egg whites (I think one carton of egg beaters = 3 eggs)
- *Add pepper based hot sauce - I use one banned from chili cook offs called Dave's Insanity Sauce. It is very strong so I use a TBSP. Amount will depend on the degree of heat of the sauce. Keep in mind, hot sauce can burn vegetation so you might want to do a test first on some vegetation and wait a few days to see the results. This application will leave a light, white film on some plants but the gardener who gave me the recipe said he felt that was insignificant to massive plant loss.

From Nancy Nedvek:

- 5 egg whites (or whole egg for deer)
- 1 TBSP powdered cayenne pepper
- 1 TBSP black pepper
- 1 gallon of water

Mix all ingredients well. Dilute 1 part of the mixture with 4 parts water. Apply with a sprinkling can 2 or 3 times a season, especially to the new growth. Yields 5 gallons.

(Ed's comment: Note the second one is for a sprinkling can; I think the egg whites and powdered peppers would clog a sprayer.)



WI-IL Rock Garden 2013 Meeting Schedule

July (Sat 20th or Sun 21th) Public Rock Garden workdays (Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens)

August (Sat 17th) Public Rock Garden workdays (Rotary or Allen Centennial Gardens)

Dates for both are flexible, we will have a sack lunch and perhaps a tour of a local garden.



Saxifraga "Rose Marie"

September (Sat 21st) Annual Member Plant Sale
Plans are to have this at a member's garden. As summer progresses, please consider starting or dividing some of your more rare plants that cannot be purchased.

October (Sat 19th) – Speaker (TBA)

November (Sat 16th) – Combination business meeting & pot luck lunch.

Plus our annual treat of "Travels with Steve"



Some members have been bringing special plants for auction at our meetings. If you have a plant that is a little unusual or that is looking especially irresistible and you don't want to wait for the fall auction, bring it to a meeting. You may be amazed at the spirited auction and how much other members value your treasure!



Silene maritima

Membership Renewal Form

(check the newsletter label for your renewal date)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Dues are \$10 per year. Please clip this form and send it along with your check (payable to WI-IL NARGS) or cash to: Brad McDowell, 1535 Speedway Road, Verona WI 53593

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THE NORTHERN OUTCROP

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