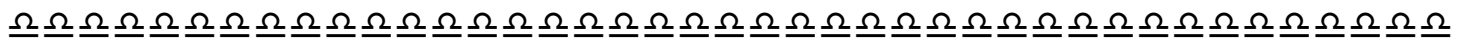




June 2018

Our weather certainly has been changeable this year! Several record setting 90 degree days when I started this, now several days in low 70s.

Our next meeting will be at [Rotary Botanical Gardens](#) 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI 53545. We'll meet at 9 am (or when you can arrive) and clean up the rock garden. We'll adjourn to a nearby restaurant around noon for lunch provided by our chapter. This is always a fun day.

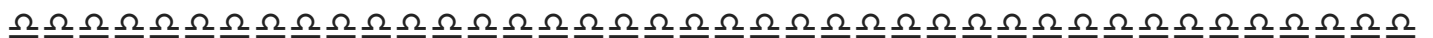


Visit with Lou Emmons

My sister Lois Kinlen and I visited Lou, a longtime member of our chapter who lives in Richmond, Il., this spring. She does have some help in her flower beds but this 92 year old gets up and down better than I do at 20 years younger! Various forms of Anemone ranunculoides and nemorosa were blooming along with several well behaved Ranunculus and the beautiful blue Corydalis turtschaninovii. Of course, she shared pieces of many plants with us! And we shared some plants with her since gardeners will never be too old to want new plants.

Lou was a very active member when I first joined the chapter many years ago and our club visited her gorgeous gardens several times. We had a great visit this spring.

Sharing plants has advantages for both parties. Plants trigger memories of the donor friends and their gardens. And when I share plants, it means I have space for more plants and may also be able to replace the plant if I lose my population.



Jeffersonia dubia (May 2002)

(Iza Goroff provided Plant of the Month feature for the NARGS site for a number of years and generously shared his file with me, for inclusion in our newsletter.)

Jeffersonia dubia is a member of the Berberidaceae, the barberry family, which in addition to the woody barberries contains the popular genus Epimedium, as well as several lesser known genera. Jeffersonia dubia is a native of Manchuria and North Korea where it grows in woodlands.

Unlike many American woodland plants, Jeffersonia dubia is not ephemeral; its leaves last until winter. It flowers before and during its leaves arising and blooms for about two weeks in mid-spring. The mature plant can grow as high as 12" (30 cm). In bloom it is about 6" (15 cm) tall. The leaf is a rough circle about 3" (7 cm) in diameter with a cut to the center attachment of the leaf petiole and a shallow dip on the edge opposite the cut. The flowers are about 1" (3 cm) wide, a light but bright lavender blue which carries well in the shade rock garden.



My first two plants of Jeffersonia dubia came from the late Henry Fuller in 1978, who advised me to plant them on a slope so that seeds would fall and be carried away from the parent plants and form a colony; seeds which fell and stayed close to the parents would produce plants which could not compete with their parents. Although Jeffersonia dubia is not ephemeral, its seeds are; they must be planted soon after they are mature. The only practical means of propagation is seed. Jeffersonia dubia is very long lived; my original plants are still going strong.

Jeffersonia dubia is a plant for the (not too) shady rock garden. It grows well in a standard shade rock garden soil such as approximately equal parts of topsoil, humus (sphagnum peat moss is o.k.), and sand. It grows equally well with an organic (e.g. bark chips or oak leaves) or gravel mulch. It is hardy to at least -32 F (-36 C).

The genus Jeffersonia contains only two species: Jeffersonia dubia and J. diphylla. Jeffersonia diphylla is a native of Eastern North America. Their close relationship is one of the many pieces of evidence that in the very distant geological past the Eastern coast of North America was connected with the Eastern coast of Asia. Jeffersonia diphylla is interesting for its foliage; its leaf forms two triangles, their apexes intersecting at the stem. Its flowering is much inferior to Jeffersonia dubia, since its white flowers last only a few hours before its petals fall. Jeffersonia diphylla and J. dubia should NOT be grown near each other.

They hybridize, and the resulting hybrids' foliage loses the separate character of each species.

(Iza shared J. dubia with some of us a number of years ago and it has since been shared with most members of our chapter. I have two other forms. One is from a Minnesota garden and has a very dark leaf edge in early spring which disappears later in the year. "Dark Centers" was purchased from Garden Vision last year and hasn't bloomed yet. (Iza shared J. dubia with some of us a number of years ago and has since been shared with most members of our chapter. I have two other forms. One is from a Minnesota garden and has a very dark leaf edge in early spring which disappears later in the year. "Dark Centers" was purchased from Garden Vision last year and hasn't bloomed yet.

J. dubia has seeded around and I have also propagated it by ripping the dense root mass apart. In view of Iza's comments about crosses with J. diphylla, I need to move them farther apart although I haven't seen any crosses yet. Jean)

Future meetings.

June 9 - work day at Rotary Gardens in Janesville, 9 AM (or whenever you can arrive) until noon when we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant.)

July 21 - visit to Steve Lesch's nursery 10 am

August 18 - 50th anniversary celebration, at Flower Factory

September 15 – plant sale

Oct 23 - NARGS speaker tour: Marcia Tatroe. This is a Tuesday, 6-8 PM at Olbrich

November & December - TBD, hopefully trip talks with lots of interesting plant pictures!

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