

# on the ROCKS

Spring OHIO VALLEY NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY 2012

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visit our website at  
<http://ovnargs.org/>

**NOTES OF INTEREST...**

Tony Avent's wife of 34 years, Michelle, died February 12, 2012, after a four year battle against a very aggressive form of breast cancer. Michelle was 55 years old and was co-owner of Plant Delights Nursery. Donations can be sent to The V- Foundation for Cancer Research, The Susan B. Komen Foundation, Hospice of Wake County or the J.C Raulston Arboretum.

(JC Raulston Arboretum, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Campus Box 7522, Raleigh, NC 27695-7522, (919) 515-3132. ) Here is a great article by Tony. <http://www.plantdelights.com/February/products/879/>

Mary Chastain's husband, Roy-age 90, passed away about 1 am on Tuesday February 7, 2012. Roy had been in very poor health for a number of years. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Ooltewah Baptist Church building fund (P.O. Box 9, 5514 Main Street , Ooltewah, TN 37363 , Phone: 423-238-4831)

I'm sure that Mary would appreciate cards and notes from her friends.  
The address is: Mrs. Roy Chastain 8119 Roy Lane Ooltewah, TN 37363-9420

January 27, 2012. Fire at Van Wades home in Bellville, Ohio. They escaped. 2nd floor destroyed. They are OK! A wood-burning stove is believed to be the cause of an attic fire that destroyed thousands of records belonging to Wade and Gatton Nurseries on Thursday. Hundreds of boxes of documents were tossed out of a hole in the roof. Smoke damage was mainly contained to the attic and upstairs, but water damage was throughout the 18-room house. (Van and Shirley Wade, c/o Wade Gardens, 3360 Possum Run Rd., Mansfield, OH. 44903)

Did you know? Tree grower Van Wade apparently can pick out his swamp white oaks from the more than 200 others planted at the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site. "I saw my trees on TV a few times," during 10-year anniversary broadcasts, Van Wade told the Mansfield News Journal, which reported that some of the oaks that once grew at his Wade and Gatton Nurseries in Ohio are now among the trees at the 9/11 Memorial. Wade said 47 of the trees selected for the memorial came from his nursery in Bellville. *link to article:*

[www.911memorial.org/blog/ohio-man-plans-nyc-trip-see-trees-he-grew-are-911-memorial](http://www.911memorial.org/blog/ohio-man-plans-nyc-trip-see-trees-he-grew-are-911-memorial)

After a great loss, Arrowhead will continue - On the morning of December 16th, 2011, Bob Stewart, great plantsman and co-founder of Arrowhead Alpines, passed after a long and brave battle against cancer. He was 59. Bob will be remembered for his vast knowledge, his boundless passion for the natural world, and for the immense generosity with which he shared these parts of himself. Whether through his epic catalog copy or long phone conversations or personal greenhouse tours, he enriched the lives of those in the horticultural community, as Allen Bush so vividly portrays in his wonderful article, "Bob Stewart's Never-Ending Nursery." We will miss Bob's energy, his wit, his genius, and even his rants.

Arrowhead Alpines will continue to be run by Bob's wife, Brigitta, as the same on-site retail and mail-order nursery that you've come to love. The only difference is that we will no longer publish a paper catalog, which was a herculean task that Bob took on solely each year. We will continue to update the plant listings on the Arrowhead Shopping Cart, and we are taking orders now for 2012 spring shipping. The first ship-week is March 5, but if you absolutely have to have something earlier send us an email or call 517-223-3581.

Alan Grainger and Chris Miller lost their mothers just before Christmas 2011

For current Ohio Valley information ..... Keep checking our website!

Tom keeps us up to date. .

Donations of news, photos, and articles are always welcome.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR OVNARGS

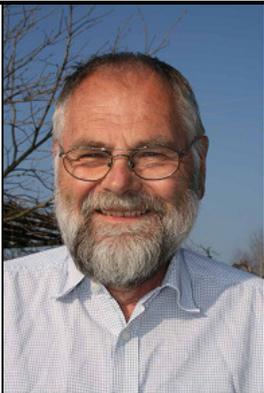
Dues: \$8 per year or \$21 for 3 years.

Make checks payable to: OVNARGS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: OVNARGS Chuck Ellsworth 5728 Running Fox Lane Mason, OH 45040

**MEETING**      **MARCH 25**      **SUNDAY**      **12:30**      **National Speaker**  
**Franklin Park** (open 10-5) 1777 East Broad Street Columbus OH 43203 614-645-8733  
 Off of I-71, take the Broad street exit-go east about 3 miles and Franklin Park is on the right. <http://www.fpconservatory.org>



**Fritz Kummert**, a well-known plantsman in European horticultural circles will speak on  
**"Highlights of a 4 acre garden in south-eastern Austria"**

His garden at Wohngraben is situated in the south-eastern part of Austria in the province of Styria (Steiermark) at an elevation of approximately 480 m. He grows "a large collection of plants in a wide range, not really specializing in any particular genus".

**The \$11 entrance fee will be waived for OVNARGS members providing proof of membership (a copy of your newsletter)**

The restaurant at Franklin Park is open from 11-3. If you come early, you can eat there before the meeting! The Garden Café offers a creative made-from-scratch, weekly menu by Chef Stephanie Adams, inspired by the garden, and local, seasonal ingredients. (They also have a gift shop and greenhouse to browse through without having to pay extra. Our meeting and talk will be over by 3 and there is still time to browse the conservatory. We will have water and snacks available.

This will be a great meeting with lots of fun and lots to see and learn. Mark your calendar!

**The conservatory's feature programs right now are:**      **ORCHIDS!**      **Vibrant Victoriana**      January 14 – April 8, 2012  
 Escape to an era of elegance and luxury. Stroll through a warm, vibrant garden. Discover the beauty and grace of these infamous blooms. Hundreds of orchid blooms fill the historic Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse with a display of splendor and warmth. Explore the Victorian collectors' fascination with the exotic species through displays emphasizing the form, color and pattern of individual blooms. A fire at Columbus City Hall in 1921 destroyed local records, creating gaps in the history of the area and the past of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This new exhibition, researched and developed by the Conservatory staff, shares and challenges accepted facts and oral histories of the institution's past, and reveals the way in which the community, Franklin Park, and the Conservatory have developed together over the past 150 years. Interactive stations invite visitors to explore the past and share stories, memories & mementos of their history with the Conservatory. <http://www.fpconservatory.org/orchids.htm>

**Blooms & Butterflies**      March 10 – September 3, 2012  
 It's central Ohio's rite of spring! Experience the emergence of hundreds of exotic butterflies and watch their release into the Conservatory's Pacific Island Water Garden. Get an up close view as tropical species from around the globe take flight and feed on tropical blooms.

**The Chihuly glass artwork exhibition is there, too.**  
 If you plan your time, you can see the exhibits, eat, and enjoy the meeting. One full day!

**Our meeting is in a lower level classroom.**

I get an interesting newsletter from Margaret Roach who used to be on the Martha Stewart show when it was a good garden resource....She fell in love with this hose when given the prototype to try out.

<http://awaytogarden.com/giveaway-i-hate-to-water-but-met-a-hose-to-love>

Her Article is great and I thought you might be interested in a new product that really seems to perform.

Water Right, Inc      Slim and Light Garden Hose      <http://www.waterrightinc.com/>



It comes in a variety of colors (Black, cranberry, eggplant, espresso, olive, & robin's egg) and 25, 50, 75 and 100 foot lengths. Super Slim & Lightweight by design, the polyurethane garden hose is soft, flexible and effortless to use. The our polyurethane is safe to drink from and is 100% free from toxic chemicals such as lead and phthalates often found in other garden hose.

- Solid Machined Brass Fittings. Specially Chrome Plated.
- 1/2" inside diameter design. 4-5 gallons per minute flow rate...plenty for most any job around the home, garden or shop.
- The Ultra-Light garden hose weighs only 3 pounds for every 50 ft.
- Flexible in all weather conditions. Hot, cold, and even freezing temps.
- Specially engineered strain relief on both hose ends to prevent hose kink at the faucet/ nozzle end of the hose.
- Polyether-based polyurethane is designed for long-term water use. No kinks, no cracks, no leaky connections.
- American Innovation. American Jobs. American Made. American Owned.

I talked to several nurseries all over the country and they are using these pruners I thought you might be interested in learning about them! (Nothing is quite like good garden stuff!)

Gardeners in Japan have long considered **Okatsune** tools to be the finest in the world.

Designed for professionals, the results are tools that do the job day to day consistently, last almost forever, and work with amazing fluidity and ease. 3 sizes    8.25"=long \$59.95, 8" = medium \$55, 7"= short 49.95. (I could only find spring replacements for the smaller 2 sizes).



AM Leonard offers the 8 inch one. \$52.99

<http://www.amleo.com/okatsune-pruner-7-1%2F8in-overall/p/OK101/>

(You might do better searching on your own, this was my best shot!)

Okatsune Hand Pruners (Sentei basami) are designed as a solid, lightweight pruner that delivers a perfect cut with ease. These are lightweight and have a razor sharp solid steel blade that will last a lifetime if used properly. At Grand Island Serene Gardens they use a combination of different lengths in order to prune and shape the various gardens they work on. With care they will last a lifetime.

This company seems to sell all 3 sizes. I have read several articles where gardeners found the 8 inch too large for their hands. They also sell the spring. I would recommend that you buy a pack of them as that is the only thing against them that I found mentioned on the internet. When one was lost, they had trouble finding another. The springs only cost 1.95 for 2.

If your order is over \$100, you get free shipping and handling, so you might want to share your order with a friend.

Here is the entire list of Okatsune products offered by the Orion trading group.

<http://www.oriontradinggroup.com/servlet/Categories?category=Hand+Tools%2FGrafters>

## National Plant Trials database to launch in 2012

All-America Selections and the University of Georgia just announced the creation of a Web based National Plant Trials Database, [www.PlantTrials.org](http://www.PlantTrials.org) that will serve as a repository for data from participating flower trials throughout North America—with options to expand globally. read more: <http://www.greenhousemanagementonline.com/national-plant-trials-database-launch-2012.aspx>

## Spraying fruit trees with dormant oil

There has been a lot of discussion about winter spraying of dormant oil (a nontoxic spray to control sucking and chewing insects in the egg stage before they can do any damage). It seems that you should spray all fruit trees 3 times each year (late fall, mid winter and early spring (just before the buds open) to suffocate wintering bugs (ex: mites, scale and aphids that winter in or on the plants.)! (You can't spray til the temp is over 45 degrees, not on a windy day and no rain or freeze predicted for at least 24 hours.) Drench the branches of your shrubs and trees thoroughly - it's impossible to overdo it. They also highly recommend using a spray on your rose bushes.

### Here's one recipe for a homemade spray:

Combine: 1 gallon of water 2 tbsp. of ultra-fine canola or horticultural oil 1 tbsp. of baking soda.

This mixture was developed by researchers at Cornell University. Shake the mixture well to combine all ingredients.

### Here is another:

Dormant Oil with Fungicide

- 5 Tablespoons of Hydrogen peroxide
- 2 Tablespoons of Baking Soda
- 2 Tablespoons of Castile soap
- One gallon of water

After mixing this into a sprayer, shake well. Then periodically during spraying to keep it blended.

(Castile soap is natural, has an olive oil base, and is rich in potassium salts that eat through the protective waxy coating on insects.

The hydrogen peroxide and soda are effective at removing active disease organisms and sterilizing fungal spores.)

### And a third one!

- 1 gallon mineral oil
- 1 pound oil-based soap
- 1/2 gallon water

Combine all ingredients, boil, and mix very well. Dilute 1:20 with water and use immediately because the ingredients separate quickly.

It is also recommended that you spray azaleas, rhododendrons, barberry, juniper, burning bush, and even lilacs. By applying dormant oil, such insects as scale, thrips, leaf minors, and other over-wintering insects can be controlled before they become a problem. The dormant oil will also kill a certain percentage of fungus and diseases.

NOTE: For citrus trees, you should buy special dormant oil from your garden supply store. Citrus leaves can be damaged by the film that remains on the leaves.

## ORCHARD MASON BEE LINKS

- <http://www.orchardbees.com/>
- <http://www.masonbeehomes.com/>
- <http://www.gardeners.com/About-Mason-Bees/8198,default.pg.html>
- <http://www.knoxcellars.com/>
- <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/masonbees/>
- <http://www.davesbees.com/>

has a link to 96 page how to booklet!

*Information about Homemade concoctions.*

<http://svgardenclub.org/homemade%20concoctions.html>

## Well, we have a new USDA Map - believe it or not. (in more ways than one!) Ohio now seems to be completely zone 6

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 2012** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today released the new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating a useful tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 1990 with greater accuracy and detail. The new map—jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group—is available online at [www.planthardinessars.usda.gov](http://www.planthardinessars.usda.gov) ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of USDA.

For the first time, the new map offers a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based interactive format and is specifically designed to be Internet-friendly. The map website also incorporates a "find your zone by ZIP code" function. Static images of national, regional and state maps have also been included to ensure the map is readily accessible to those who lack broadband Internet access.

"This is the most sophisticated Plant Hardiness Zone Map yet for the United States," said Dr. Catherine Woteki, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. "The increases in accuracy and detail that this map represents will be extremely useful for gardeners and researchers."

Plant hardiness zone designations represent the average annual extreme minimum temperatures at a given location during a particular time period. They do not reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations.

The new version of the map includes 13 zones, with the addition for the first time of zones 12 (50-60 degrees F) and 13 (60-70 degrees F). Each zone is a 10-degree Fahrenheit band, further divided into A and B 5-degree Fahrenheit zones.

To help develop the new map, USDA and OSU requested that horticultural and climatic experts review the zones in their geographic area, and trial versions of the new map were revised, based on their expert input.

Compared to the 1990 version, zone boundaries in this edition of the map have shifted in many areas. The new map is generally one 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zone warmer than the previous map throughout much of the United States. This is mostly a result of using temperature data from a longer and more recent time period; the new map uses data measured at weather stations during the 30-year period 1976-2005. In contrast, the 1990 map was based on temperature data from only a 13-year period of 1974-1986.

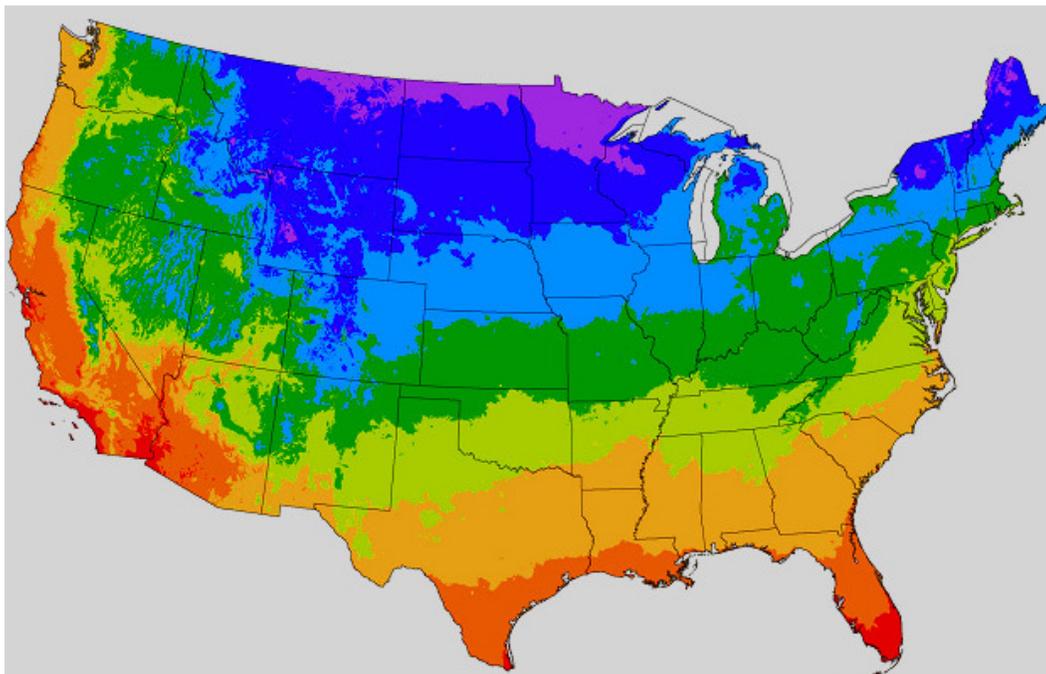
Some of the changes in the zones, however, are a result of new, more sophisticated methods for mapping zones between weather stations. These include algorithms that considered for the first time such factors as changes in elevation, nearness to large bodies of water, and position on the terrain, such as valley bottoms and ridge tops. Also, the new map used temperature data from many more stations than did the 1990 map. These advances greatly improved the accuracy and detail of the map, especially in mountainous regions of the western United States. In some cases, advances resulted in changes to cooler, rather than warmer, zones.

While about 80 million American gardeners, as well as those who grow and breed plants, are the largest users of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, many others need this hardiness zone information. For example, the USDA Risk Management Agency uses the USDA plant hardiness zone designations to set some crop insurance standards. Scientists use the plant hardiness zones as a data layer in many research models such as modeling the spread of exotic weeds and insects.

Although a poster-sized version of this map will not be available for purchase from USDA, anyone may download the map free of charge from the Internet onto their personal computer and print copies of the map as needed. **(BEWARE...the download if the map is 35 - 318 meg!)**

**A darling video on flowers!**

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/27920977?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0href>



| Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1976-2005 |      |                |
|--|------|----------------|
| Temp (F)   | Zone | Temp (C)       |
| -40 to -30   | 3    | -40 to -34.4   |
| -30 to -20   | 4    | -34.4 to -28.9 |
| -20 to -10   | 5    | -28.9 to -23.3 |
| -10 to 0   | 6    | -23.3 to -17.8 |
| 0 to 10  | 7    | -17.8 to -12.2 |
| 10 to 20   | 8    | -12.2 to -6.7  |
| 20 to 30   | 9    | -6.7 to -1.1   |
| 30 to 40   | 10   | -1.1 to 4.4    |
| 40 to 50   | 11   | 4.4 to 10      |

Well, the new USDA map might be on target this year, because all of my elwesii snowdrops (the big ones) started blooming in January. This photo was taken in Jane Willeman's garden, Springfield-OH, on January 27<sup>th</sup>....Talk about early!

We missed out on the talk by Grimshaw last year, but here is an article about his snowdrops.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardenstovisit/9025624/The-whites-of-spring-seasonal-snowdrops.html>



**As many of you know, I am a Ron Wilson enthusiast and listen to his show every Saturday morning from 6-9 on AM radio 55KRC. Here are some tips from his website that I thought you would like!**

Read many more at <http://ronwilsononline.com/>

**BREATH FRESHENERS:** When planning your herb garden this year; be sure to plant the best breath fresheners! According to author James Duke; Parsley, Basil, and Cilantro are at the top of the list. They all contain the green pigment chlorophyll, which is a powerful breath freshener. In addition, Dill (seeds and leaves), Cardamom (seeds), Anise (seeds), and the Peppermints come next.

**Not only are bananas really good for you, they're really good for the soil and your plants!**

Not only are they one of the best sources of instant and sustained energy, bananas can also help overcome or prevent a substantial number of illnesses and conditions. They help regulate high blood pressure, naturally energize the brain, they're a great colon cleanser, help take the edge off periods of depression, help curb heartburn, morning sickness and sometimes good for hangovers, and believe it or not, have been a help for some smokers to kick their smoking habit.

So, when you're finished eating your banana, don't throw out the peel! You see, the banana benefits just keep going as banana peels are good for your soil and for your plants! By adding banana peels back to the soil, they break down, add organic matter back to the soil, and also add nutrients such as potash and phosphorus. Simply cut up your peels in thin slices and toss them in the garden, or in the landscape mulch, or if you want, actually chop them into the soil. And if you have houseplants, take the peels and slide them down between the soil and the side of the pot.

That way you add organic matter to your houseplants soil, and give them a light boost of banana peel nutrients. As they break down, banana peels don't smell, and don't attract bugs, so they're safe to use with your plants indoors. So, when someone says an apple a day keeps the doctor away, remind them that a banana a day has about 4 times the effect -both for you and for your plants!

**Birding enthusiasts share a problem** – wild birds fly from the backyard feeders into the home's windows where they're injured or die. Millions of wild birds are killed each year from colliding with windows. Well, I have found a solution that you can hardly see, but the birds definitely can! The solution for stopping those birds from flying into your windows is called "WindowAlert"!

WindowAlert is a low-tack decal that is applied to your home or office windows, and they're available in several cool designs. So how does the WindowAlert work? Well, the decal contains a component which brilliantly reflects ultraviolet sunlight. Birds have vision that is up to 12 times better than that of humans, so the ultraviolet light that is reflected from the decal is basically invisible to humans, but glows like a spotlight for the birds. So, the birds "see" the decals and the windows, and avoid flying into the glass.

Now for best results, position your WindowAlerts about every 3-4 square feet on the outside of the window, so the birds will be able to pick up the reflections. The UV coating may fade over time depending on the exposure, so be sure to replace your decals about every 2 years

**I received this letter and though I should share it although it is a bit late.  
Ohio gardeners vs. government!**

THIS JUST HAPPENED IN HAMILTON COUNTY! IF ALLOWED TO PROCEED,  
THIS WOULD HAPPEN EVERYWHERE IN OUR STATE! Just when ALB has hit our area HARD!

The Ohio State University Extension, Hamilton County office is in need of your immediate support. On Wednesday, February 15, we learned that our Extension funding through the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) of Greater Cincinnati will be terminated effective March 1, 2012. We were informed through an e-mail message from MSD; there were no prior discussions or notices. The termination of funding means that our office will close and there will be no Extension programming in the county. This means that Ohio State University Extension will cease to exist in Hamilton County for the first time since 1917.

Your immediate help is critical for our continued existence. Contact the Hamilton County Commissioners and let them know that OSU Extension in Hamilton County is a valuable asset to you. Please describe how our specific programs have impacted you, or your organization, and how detrimental it would be if OSU Extension did not exist in Hamilton County. Following the Commissioner's contact information is a summary of "Quick Facts" about OSU Extension, Hamilton County, and the OSU Extension, Hamilton County, Horticulture Program. CONTACTING THE COMMISSIONERS:

- The Board of County Commissioners 138 East Court Street, Rm. 603 Cincinnati, OH 45202
- Greg Hartman Phone: (513) 946-4405 Fax: (513) 946-4404 E-Mail: greg.hartmann@hamilton-co.org
- Susan Waidner, Chief of Staff: susan.waidner@hamilton-co.org
- Chris Monzel Phone: (513) 946-4409 Fax: (513) 946-4407 E-Mail: chris.monzel@hamilton-co.org
- Gena Bell, Chief of Staff: gena.bell@hamilton-co.org
- Todd Portune: Phone: (513) 946-4401 Fax: (513) 946-4446 E-Mail: todd.portune@hamilton-co.org
- Kathy Binns, Chief of Staff: kathy.binns@hamilton-co.org

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A word for me that I keep hearing more about... **allelopathy** From Miriam Webster online: al·le·lop·a·thy noun  
Definition of ALLELOPATHY: the suppression of growth of one plant species by another due to the release of toxic substances

Per Wikipedia: Allelopathy is a biological phenomenon by which an organism produces one or more biochemicals that influence the growth, survival, and reproduction of other organisms. These biochemicals are known as allelochemicals and can have beneficial (positive allelopathy) or detrimental (negative allelopathy) effects on the target organisms. Allelochemicals are a subset of secondary metabolites, which are not required for metabolism (i.e. growth, development and reproduction) of the allelopathic organism. Allelochemicals with negative allelopathic effects are an important part of plant defense against herbivory. Allelopathy is characteristic of certain plants, algae, bacteria, coral, and fungi. Allelopathic interactions are an important factor in determining species distribution and abundance within plant communities, and are also thought to be important in the success of many invasive plants. For specific examples, see Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and Nutsedge.

The process by which a plant acquires more of the available resources (such as nutrients, water or light) from the environment without any chemical action on the surrounding plants is called resource competition. This process is not negative allelopathy, although both processes can act together to enhance the survival rate of the plant species.

**Killer tip from the Sierra Garden Club!**

**Increasing Roundup Potency:** Mix 2 tsp. of ammonium sulfate (nitrogen type fertilizer) to each gallon of water before adding the required amount of Roundup. The ammonium sulfate binds some of the minerals in the water, allowing more of the Roundup to be available to kill plants. Also: Spray off your plants with water to get the dirt off before applying Roundup. Otherwise, some of the Roundup will be absorbed by the dirt and won't be in direct contact with the plant where it needs to be to get absorbed and kill it.

If you already don't have more information than you can use, try this Ohio phenology link for info for your plants. Just enter the date and your zip and they can tell you lots about your plants. <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/>

- What a loss! Mt. Tahoma nursery no longer offers mail order.

**HOT TODDY RECIPE FOR WINTER!** (from a friend in Louisiana where she grows her own Meyer lemons!)  
add 3 tsp. honey to 1/2 cup boiling water, add 1 1/2 tbsp. lemon juice, and 2 oz. scotch and stir

I finally got around to reading the NARGS quarterly and it is amazing!  
Reformatted to supply wonderful articles and information to any gardener!

## On the Rocks

Betty Davis - *editor*  
7002 Summit Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45243



## Meeting

Franklin Park Conservatory  
Columbus, OH

Sunday, March 25 12:30

National Speaker – Fritz Kummert

**NOTE: Admission free to NARGS members who  
bring a newsletter for identification!**

Meeting, plant sale and pot luck at Joan Day's first weekend in June.

**NOTE 2:** Our newsletters and schedule and other good info are on line. We update there as soon as information comes in! Please keep checking.



<http://ovnargs.org>

Author Unknown: *A real gardener enjoys the smell of manure better than that of Estee Lauder.*

Lou Erickson: *Gardening requires lots of water\_ most of it in the form of perspiration.*