

# on the ROCKS

**SPRING OHIO VALLEY NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY 2013**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Chuck Gleaves  
419-522-0211 X 104  
gleaves.charles@gmail.com

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Michael Evans  
513-821-6711  
Michaelevans@fuse.net

**SECRETARY**

Chris Miller  
crystalrose@hughes.net

**TREASURER**

Chuck Ellsworth  
513-336-9792  
pncellsworth@aol.com

**TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE**

Joan Day  
513-868-3512

**TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE**

Peter Zale  
513-200-3599  
cassiope9@hotmail.com

**WEBMASTER**

Tom McMannon  
859-635-9078  
tmcannon@mac.com

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Betty Davis  
513-984-9841  
hostas@fuse.net

**PLANT SALE CHAIR**

Liz Bolender  
937-434-4362

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

**MEETING SUNDAY APRIL 14 NOON**  
**Brown Bag**

*Club will provide bottled water*

*Chris Daeger will be our host!*

*Chris is the arboretum manager and director of the  
Stanley M. Rowe Arboretum*

*Our meeting will be at*

**BC Nursery** Owners—Becky & Chris Daeger  
4183 S.R 276 Batavia, OH 45103 513-724-9032  
E-MAIL—bc4trees@fuse.net

*Chris will host a talk and introduce us to some new treasures and then  
take us on a tour of his collection! Bring sturdy shoes in case it is wet!*

*He has enough chairs for all of us!*

*Conifers and evergreens, miniatures and dwarfs.*

*Rare treasures are the focus. We grow for landscapers,  
gardeners, collectors and trough lovers....*

*Featuring Bonsai treasures, too – in every stage of growth.*

*Over several acres, there is a large personal collection.*

*Chris has been active in many societies and this will be a day filled  
with great information and lots of shopping!*

*Many plants in containers and ready to sell!*

**DIRECTIONS:**

**WE ARE EAST OF CINCINNATI.**

**FOLLOW RT. 32 EAST OF I-275**

**AND TAKE RT. 133 WILLIAMSBURG EXIT.**

**GO SOUTH ON 133 TO RT. 276 AND TURN (WEST) RIGHT.**

INTRODUCING: **ZAX ROX** A NEW DIVISION OF B.C.  
ROCKS, MINERALS, CRYSTALS, & FOSSILS FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
(more fun stuff to purchase!!!!)

## 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

## APRIL WORK FOR US!

Cool-Season Annuals like hellebores, pansies and violas can be potted up for spring color. Remember to have frost protection devices at the ready like this, just in case of a hard freeze. After the beds are cleaned, top dress according to label directions with an all-natural organic fertilizer and a layer of finished compost. When working in Beds and borders, be careful not to clean up too roughly because desirable emerging self-sown annuals and biennials can be destroyed unless you pay attention. Begin pruning trees and shrubs for form before the leaves appear, but not too early with the sap-heavy maples and birches, remove tenacious perennial weeds while the ground is still soft enough to pull them easily, transplant and divide, renew mulches, and dig new beds while spring is new and exciting.

### SLUG ATTACK TIME

It is time to apply the ammonia soil treatment around Hosta to control slug populations. Instructions: Mix a solution of 20% household ammonia (1 part ammonia to 4 parts water). Using a watering can apply this solution generously as a soil soak around the crown of your Hosta plants just as the pips are breaking the soil in the spring. This solution will kill overwintering slugs and slug eggs in the soil. We have found that it significantly reduces slug populations. If slugs continue to be a problem, this solution can be reapplied several times throughout the growing season. Some Hosta fanciers actually spray their Hosta gardens with a very dilute Ammonia solution (1:8) as frequently as once a month.

**QUICK! PRUNE OFF VIBURNUM-BEETLE egg cases before larvae hatch. *Pyrrhalta viburni* (Paykull)**

Viburnum beetle is a defoliating pest of some Viburnum species. Most of the damage is caused by the larvae in late spring but some further feeding damage is done by the adult beetles in late summer. Heavy attacks can result in most of the foliage being severely damaged in late spring. Damaged leaves are discoloured with brown dried up edges to the holes created by the adult beetles and larvae, especially on *Viburnum tinus*. From summer through fall, adults will continue to be active, mating, laying eggs on terminal twigs, and feeding upon foliage until the first killing frosts. There is one generation annually. Heavy infestations by viburnum leaf beetle can defoliate shrubs, cause dieback, and eventually kill plants. Valued plantings of the European cranberrybush viburnum can be severely damaged by larval and adult feeding.



**FEED BULBS** (including garlic!) Use an organic fertilizer labeled for them as green shoots get up and growing.

**IRIS** - When iris get 6" tall or when air temperature reaches 70 degrees, you must do something for borers. If you garden organically, use Grub Away Nematodes from Gardens Alive; if you are not organic, use any of the Bayer treatments that include Merit (available at Lowe's). Use according to directions. There is a granular one now that lasts several months. Deadhead early bloomers as necessary, cutting off bloom stalks at the ground when bloom is finished. Keep weeds down. Mulch is useful, but keep it off the tops of the rhizomes of bearded iris, so that the rhizomes are exposed to full sun.

**HOSTA** - Remove debris off crowns; apply 1-2 Tablespoons of 10-10-10 fertilizer taking care not to burn the crowns. Apply a 10% ammonia solution on crowns to kill slug eggs and provide extra nitrogen. Keep mulch and debris 3 to 4 inches away from crown. Divide if want to and water afterwards. Hostas can be planted now through August. Keep watered.

**DAFFODIL** - Although daffodils will usually bloom well without fertilizer, putting a handful of low nitrogen fertilizer, such as 6-24-24, on the clumps after the foliage appears will improve the quality of the blooms. Don't cut the green leaves off before they begin turning brown which will be June or thereabouts.

**DAYLILY** - Pull debris, mulch, leaves, etc. away from emerging new plants. At the end of March apply a fertilizer such as 18-6-12. (12-12-12 would be fine, too.) If thrips are a problem, use an insecticidal soap or neem oil or a systemic insecticide such as Spinosad, Abamectin, or Imidacloprid (=Merit) as the buds are being formed in the scape. Daylilies can be transplanted in late April or early May depending on the weather. Soak roots in water a couple of hours before planting. The crown should not be more than an inch below the soil surface. Water. [I use root stimulator to help establish a good root system.]

**WEBSITE OF THE SEASON!** <http://www.discoverlife.org/> Free on-line tools to identify species, share ways to teach and study nature's wonders, report findings, build maps, process images, and contribute to and learn from a growing, interactive encyclopedia of life now has 1,272,866 species pages.

**Look Before You Buy** - If you are thinking of buying gardening books, read the WIKI on NARGS site before you do And remember, NARGS gets a percentage of ALL purchases made through the WIKI portal (the beige rectangle on front page of website). Visit [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org)

## BOOK REVIEW

### What's Wrong with my Plant? (*And how do I fix it?*)

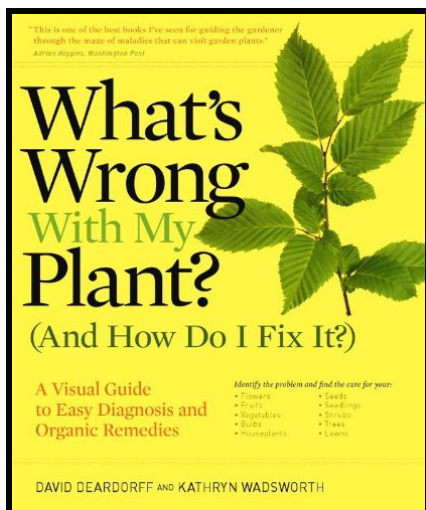
A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies.

By David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth,  
Timber Press, 2009, 451 pp,

*Book Review by Sally Boyson*

"I very highly recommend this book, even to experienced gardeners."

*Dealing with a sick plant is one of the most frustrating situations a gardener can face. More often than not, we have no idea what is causing the problem, or how to fix it. Fortunately, help is at hand. The format is so simple it doesn't even require knowing the name of the plant; all you need to know is whether the problem is affecting its roots, stem, flowers, or leaves. It does not matter whether the plant is a houseplant, perennial, vegetable, tree, or shrub.*



Although our alpine plants seem to be blessed with few diseases, this is a valuable book to own for the few that do get sick and for all the other plants we love. Despite the good science, it is an easy read. This book has an introduction about all the parts of plants and what they do (lacking in a few relevant Latin terms, but I am being picky), then 3 main parts and an appendix, as well as an excellent index. It is most lavishly illustrated with paintings of the disorders in the first part, with a photographic gallery at the end.

Part I — What's Wrong?, a dichotomous key of descriptions, grouped by plant parts. Each answer sends you to the relevant section in Part II and some-times III.

Part II — How do I Fix it? This is grouped by growing conditions and then by organism type. All of the remedies suggested are organic, but a warning about how to deal with toxic chemicals safely is included. Prevention is emphasized.

Part III — What Does it Look Like?, the photo gallery. Like part I, this is grouped by plant parts. The Appendix is — What's Wrong with my Lawn?, but this is a bit of a misnomer. It does not have a key or a multitude of drawings and photos of diseases like Part I. It begins with questioning lawns entirely, but then goes on to give sound advice on how to have a healthy one.

Sunday April 7, 2013 12 – 4 Harvest Thyme annual Hellebore sale by Clara Berger  
Park across the street in the restaurant parking lot.  
7415 State Road Cincinnati, OH 45230 513-231-4963

REMINDER: Have you thought about *Ground Layering* to propagate some of your treasures? Now is a perfect time to try. In nature when a branch touches the ground it often starts its own root system. Strawberries ground layer as do most ground covers. Bonsai growers often use this method, and you can do it yourself. The idea is to root the branch before cutting it off from the parent plant. All you do is bend a healthy, low growing branch to the ground. (Wounding the bark on the underside to help the plant root more quickly and dusting with a rooting hormone may also help.) Cover it with about 3" of compost or soil. You can either pin it down, or use a stone to keep the branch in place. Keep it well watered until new roots form and when you have a good healthy root system, cut it from the parent plant, dig it up and replant it. Hydrangeas, rhododendron, honeysuckle, lilacs, azaleas, and many other ornamental shrubs respond well.



How did your treasures do this winter?

Amaryllis and Clivias are always a great winter treat!

