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Newsletter of the Midwest Chapter ARS—VOL 8, NO. 2, August 1, 2018



**Midwest Chapter to hold its  
"Summer meeting" at the  
MORTON ARBORETUM in  
Lisle, Illinois on August 18th.**

## A Special Message from the President . . .

Back in May of this year, I assumed the role of President of the Midwest Chapter, American Rhododendron Society, a position I have held before—over 45 years ago. I am even more fascinated with rhodies now than I was back then. And growing them in the most unlikely of climatic conditions serves to bring out the individuality of each variety, making them even more captivating. But here I go talking to Noah about a flood.

As my first official undertaking, I extend to you a heartfelt invitation to join us on Saturday, August 18, 2018, at 11:00am, at the Morton Arboretum, 4100 South IL-53, Lisle, IL, for our summer meeting. I hope each and every one of you can come as I want to meet you so we can share with each other our experiences with our favorite flower.

As you probably know from the title of my talk, I will be describing life with rhodies at 6000 feet in what, but for irrigation, would be high desert with only 15 inches of rainfall per year. After years of experimentation, I have collected a bunch of crazy rhodies that actually like my high country lifestyle. Indeed, I now have the wonderful problem of running out of space.

But that is only part of the day's agenda. The arboretum, a beautiful place in its own right, has gilded the lily by adding a judged art exhibition and wine tasting to the calendar that day!. And perhaps my favorite perk is the troll hunt! What's best of all, as an attendee of the Midwest Chapter meeting, the chapter picks up your entry and parking fee so after the meeting, you can enjoy all that the Morton Arboretum has to offer without charge, (except for the wine, and any art work you may choose to buy, of course.)

All we ask is that you RSVP by August 9, 2018, if at all possible, to our event coordinator, Tom Horner, at [psalmxl@aol.com](mailto:psalmxl@aol.com), so that we can get an accurate count for the refreshments. There is one more thing. I would like my presentation to be interactive. To do that, I would request that each of you jot down two names, one the name of the rhodie that grows the best for you, and the other, the rhodie you can't get to grow to save the ranch. We can compare notes and maybe get that rhodie off the endangered species list.

It is as easy as 1-2-3: 1-RSVP 2-jot down the two names; and 3-join us on Saturday, August 18, 2018, at 11:00am.at the Morton Arboretum, 4100 South IL-53, Lisle, IL 60532.

Until then,

*Richard J. Bara*

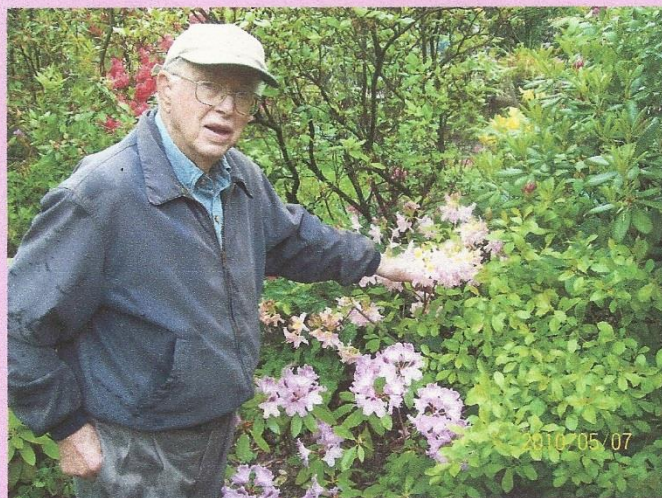


## Gene Paschall "In Memoriam"

The Midwest chapter lost another "giant" on Easter Sunday 2018 when Gene Paschall passed away of natural causes at the age of 96. (\*) Gene served as Chapter President for 4 years (Summer 1986 to Summer of 1990. Way back in 1991, Gene took me (and others) "under his wing" and quickly "inoculated me with the rhododendron "bug". All it took was a personally narrated tour of Gene's blooming garden (in Palos Heights, IL) to make an indelible impression. I became enamored with the Genus and never looked back. He created and nurtured a Garden which "walked the talk". His wife, Beth was his "chief booster"; always there to reinforce unbelieving eyes! Although rhododendron certainly dominated his garden, one could not help but be impressed by his "versatility" as his stand of conifers and rock gardens loudly proclaimed! \* (Sadly his wife, Beth passed away a few weeks later on June 6th.)

As I reflect back on those fleeting moments in time, I still recall asking him how he managed to cultivate such abundant, gorgeous blooms – "What is your magic formula, I would ask?" His response was always cryptic in nature accompanied by a wry smile. Certainly characteristic behavior from a retired CORN PRODUCTS chemist where "guarding" Company patents was "standard operating procedure"! Actually he was quite forthcoming with general cultural information but there was always a few "secrets" he would hold in reserve. (I suppose that's how "living legends" are born and perpetuated! :)

Here are a few photos of Gene, Beth and a couple of his favorite "rhodies":



**Gene showing off his  
exquisite garden  
May 7, 2010**



**Gene & Beth Paschall  
May 13, 2008**

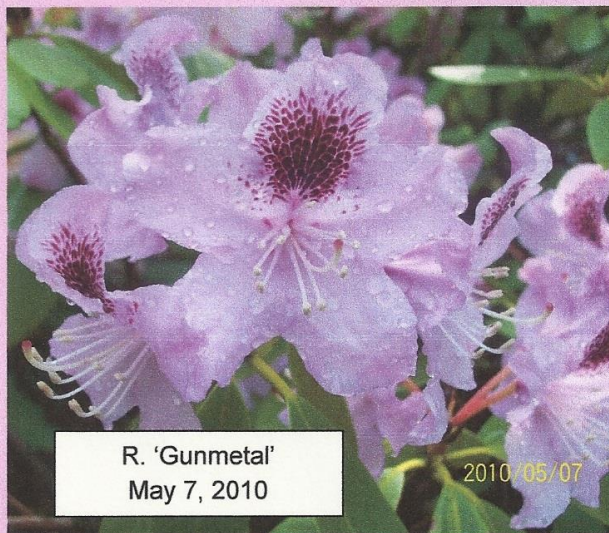
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## Gene Paschall "In Memoriam" continued



R. 'Pink Scallop'  
May 7, 2010



R. 'Gunmetal'  
May 7, 2010

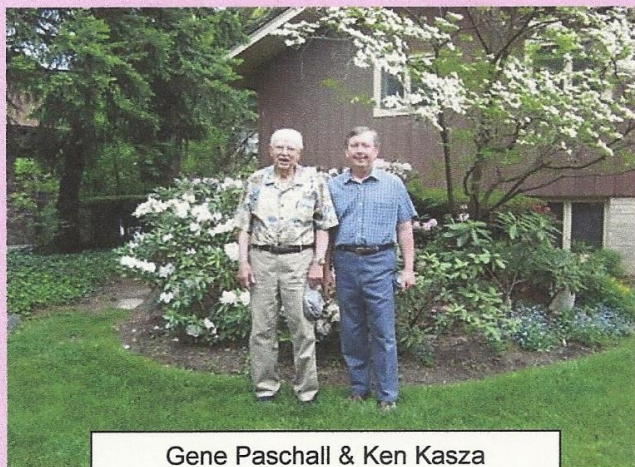
Recounted below are fond memories (and photos) submitted by 2 other Midwest Chapter members: Ted Nyquist wrote-

"Although I was aware of Gene's failing health for some time, it was a sad moment when I heard of his passing.

I had been in the Midwest Chapter for a short time when I was named President of the Chapter. A significant honor, but a daunting task considering most everyone in the Chapter knew a lot more about growing rhododendrons than I did. Gene was a gracious supporter and offered me encouragement in those early times when I needed it most. He always had a kind word, as did his lovely wife Beth. I looked forward to seeing Gene at Chapter functions and I once did get a tour of his fantastic garden where he shared the knowledge he gained over many years of growing and hybridizing these plants.

Gene was not only an accomplished gardener but also a warm and caring person. Gene has passed but his contributions and spirit live on and shall be remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Gene".

Ken Kasza, a Midwest chapter member and friend of Gene and Beth to the end, composed a beautiful photo montage chronicling Gene's friends and how they related to his exquisite garden. Gene was appreciated and beloved by so many in the Midwest chapter (too many to name.) May God Rest His Soul!



Gene Paschall & Ken Kasza  
by Gene's R. yakushmanum bed.



Gene Paschall & Jean Kasza among  
the blooming Peonies.



### **“Michiganders” show up in force at the “spring meeting”.**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 26 Midwest chapter members met for our “spring meeting” at John Migas’ WOODLANDS NURSERY located in picturesque Saugatuck, MI. Although the weather was somewhat dank and overcast, the azalea bloom dazzled nevertheless in all their luxuriant glory.

Richard Bara was introduced as our new Chapter president and winning the unanimous support of those present. Don’t be misled by the fact that Richard is a current resident of Telluride, CO. He has a long association with the Midwest chapter going back to its founding in 1962. In fact, Richard was at one time a Chicago native and Chapter president. Still active as a self-employed attorney, Richard graciously agreed to fill the position vacated last year by Susan Garland. So, Richard led our first “business” meeting of the year. His stated goal is to make the Midwest chapter more “vital” by scheduling more events and attracting younger people particularly gardening enthusiasts from “outlying” areas. It is gratifying to see that 50% of the attendees were Michigan members. Way to go!

Meeting activity focused on a tour of the Nursery’s extensive grounds, a planting demonstration (given by John Golab) and a propagation seminar (given our host, John Migas). Perhaps most anticipated by attendees was the Azalea sale conducted by John Migas. John offered a diverse array of evergreen & native azaleas at bargain prices. Attendees were also afforded the opportunity to visit a “rhody” sale at “cross-town” ROSEBAY NURSERY. ROSEBAY NURSERY is a wholesale Nursery specializing in small & large leaved rhododendron. It is significant to note that both “Nurseries” cultivate “field-grown” plants (as opposed to container-grown). This approach helps to ensure that the plants will acclimate faster to soil conditions in your area. All and all, attendees enjoyed a jam-packed, productive day. Judging from the departing vehicles “crammed” with plants, it was obvious that attendees took full advantage. Can one be blamed for looking forward to next year’s “event”?



L to R – Front row: Chris Mallory, John Golab & Joyce White.  
 Middle row: Ken & Jean Kasza, Sandy Milligan, Bill Bigler, Susan Garland, Roger Dunlap,  
 Brian Lernowicz, Art Hartman, Tom Mallory & Richard Bara.  
 Back row: Bob Day, John Migas & Fred Merkel.  
 (Attendees not shown: Ted & Gidget Nyquist, Becky Maganuco, Sharon Zulkie, Kara Gregory,  
 Dan Kunst, Harold Berg, Pat Hartman, Bonnie & Patrick Ion.)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Summer Meeting

DATE: August 18, 2018  
 PLACE: THE MORTON ARBORETUM  
 4100 South IL-53  
 Lisle, Illinois  
 TIME: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
 CONTACT: Tom Horner  
 Email: psalmxl@aol.com

### The Midwest Chapter—ARS

Website: [www.midwestars.org](http://www.midwestars.org)

Be Sure To Check Out Our  
 Latest Videos!

### Midwest Chapter Officers (CURRENT)

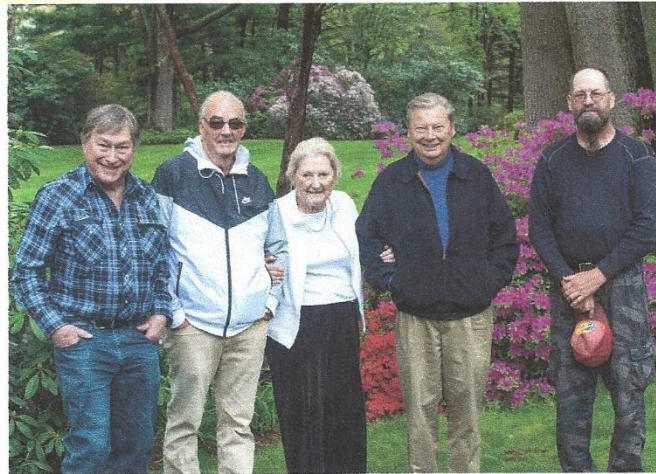
**Richard Bara—President**  
[<rjbara72@gmail.com>](mailto:rjbara72@gmail.com)

**Tom Horner, Treasurer**  
[<psalmxl@aol.com>](mailto:psalmxl@aol.com)

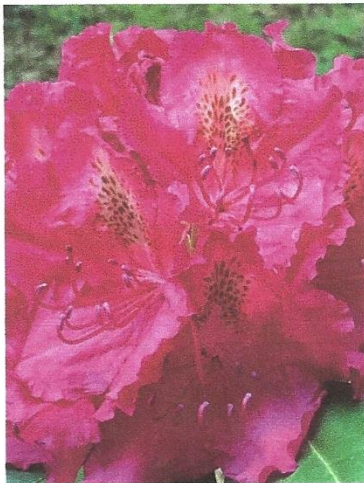
**Susan Garland, Membership**  
[<s-boatman@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:s-boatman@sbcglobal.net)

**Roger Dunlap, Secretary**  
[<Koukla18833@yahoo.com>](mailto:Koukla18833@yahoo.com)

**Roger Dunlap, Newsletter Editor**  
[<Koukla18833@yahoo.com>](mailto:Koukla18833@yahoo.com)



L to R – Richard Bara (Chapter President),  
 Roger Dunlap (Newsletter Editor),  
 Susan Garland (Membership Chairman),  
 John Golab (District 11 Representative) & John Migas, Host.



**Pearces's American Beauty**



**Cape White**