

The Rootball News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



Volume XIII, Number 2
Spring 2002

Quality, Variety and Great Prices Abound!



HELP SUPPORT THE MIDWEST CHAPTER AT THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE



The Midwest Chapter's annual plant sale and truss show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19 at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. Sale hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day.

Approximately 200 plants have been ordered from DeGrandchamp Nursery in Grand Haven, Michigan and Rosebay Nursery in Saugatuck, Michigan. Also this year we will have plants from John Migas' nursery in Saugatuck. John, a member of the Midwest Chapter, specializes in evergreen azaleas as well as rhododendrons.

We continue to order plants from these nurseries because of the quality and hardiness of their plants. A listing of the plants on order is included in this newsletter and may be subject to change due to availability.

Emphasis as always is on hardiness and color

diversity. Roger Dunlap did a fine job once again ordering a nice mixture of elepidotes, lepidotes, deciduous azaleas and evergreen azaleas that will appeal to both the novice and experienced gardener. Altogether over 30 varieties will be on sale.

All one has to do is check out rhododendrons at quality nurseries to see that not only are our plants first rate but also the prices are extremely attractive.

Our annual plant sale is the major fund raising event for our chapter and together with our truss show gives us the opportunity to attract new members and distribute cultural information to visitors.

Bring a friend and plan to come early for the best selection as we expect a large turnout, particularly on Saturday morning. It's a great way to add to your rhododendron collection, stay in touch with fellow members and help support our chapter.

MAY 18 - MAY 19



**SALE HOURS ARE
FROM 9:00 AM TO
5:00 PM EACH DAY.**



Show Off Your Trusses!

The Midwest Chapter's Truss Show will take place along with our plant sale at The Botanic Garden on May 18 and 19.

For our newer members who may have never participated, this is a non-judged show where member's trusses are exhibited creating a colorful display.

The truss show always receives a great deal of interest from visitors where they can view the trusses up close to see the intricacies of the flowers. People are usually very surprised to see the wide range of bloom and color attainable in our Midwest growing area.

We encourage all of our members to participate and if you do plan on bringing some trusses, come a little earlier on Saturday so the display can be set up in time for the plant sale opening at 9:00 AM. Bud vases to display the trusses will be at the show so simply bring your trusses and keep track of the varieties as name tags will also be prepared at the show.



Chris Trautmann, Guest Speaker at Winter Meeting



Due to inclement weather, our winter meeting was rescheduled on March 16 where **Chris Trautmann** of Mowbray Nursery presented slides of his nursery operation and hybridizing efforts. Slides were shown of rhododendrons from The Great Lakes Chapter, in particular the work of Trautmann, Tom Ring and Warren Delp. What we saw were fabulous blooms with a wide diversity of color. Their hybridizing efforts include short breeding cycles and quick recycling of color achievements in an effort to attain their goals more quickly. Chris also pointed out the importance of getting promising plants propagated to avoid losing them, as unfortunately occurred in the past.

One technique Chris shared with us is a foliar phosphate fertilizer program he uses that allows for increased bud set and quicker flowering times to evaluate his hybridizing efforts. Chris' formula is included below.

Chris brought some plants, which were sold quickly. He also brought some seedlings, which were available to those attending the meeting.

Other topics covered at the meeting included the upcoming new slate of officers. John Golab volunteered to head an election committee and Tom Horner will assist. New officers will be elected at our spring meeting on May 18.

A planting demonstration is being planned at the Truss Show to show interested visitors the techniques of successful planting practices. Harvey Woehlck will coordinate.

John Migas addressed our group with regard to his efforts to start a Midwest Chapter of the Azalea Society.

One of the highlights of the meeting was The Midwest Chapter historical materials Kay Moats brought for all to go through. Her scrapbooks included photos, letters and other memorabilia from the early days of the chapter. Kay also reminisced about some of the early members and their involvement in the formation of the chapter.

Thanks Kay, for sharing this with us! 🍀

**Great
Technique!**

CHRIS TRAUTMANN'S FERTILIZER PROGRAM FOR BUDDING UP RHODODENDRONS

After feeding your rhododendrons, mix in one gallon of water, and foliar until runoff. Do the following every two weeks from July 1st to September 1st.

Per gallon of water:

- 1/2 teaspoon – wetting agent
- 1 – 1-1/2 tablespoon Rock Phosphate (espoma) 0-4-0
- 1 teaspoon Epson Salts
- 1 – 1-1/2 teaspoon Chelated Iron – 10%





Midwest Chapter Receives *ARS Membership Award*

The Midwest Chapter received a plaque at the recent American Rhododendron Society conference in Atlanta in recognition for increasing its membership by more than 10% in 2001.

This is particularly significant with memberships generally declining and can be attributed to the tireless work by our membership chairman, Tad Dauksza. Tad has been relentless "spreading the word" and it's great to see his hard work recognized.

Thanks Tad for doing a bang-up job!



Ken Janek

Plant Sale Variety List



LEPIDOTES

Black Satin
PJM (landscape size)
Milestone
Northern Starburst
Weston's Mayflower



Calsap

ELEPIDOTES

Tapestry
Calsap
Yaku Prince
Pierce's American Beauty
Besse Howells
Firestorm
English Roseum
Scintillation
Marjie Kay Hinerman
Janet Blair
Ken Janek
Today & Tomorrow
Capistrano
County of York

EVERGREEN AZALEAS

Karens
Herbert
Rosebud
Girard's Crimson
Girard's Fuchsia
Girard's Pleasant White

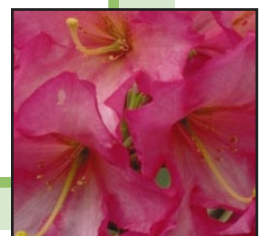
DECIDUOUS AZALEAS

Orchid Lights
HiLites
Pennsylvania
Cecile
Golden Lights
White Lights
Gibraltar



Firestorm

ADD TO YOUR RHODODENDRON COLLECTION



BRING A FRIEND AND PLAN TO COME EARLY

American Rhododendron and American Azalea Societies Annual Conference

The Midwest Chapter had a large turnout at the recent conference in Atlanta and was represented by the following members:

Susan Boatman
Tadeusz Dauksza
Sherry Dragula & Mark Widrechner
Daniel & Sharon Kunst
Paul Lightfoot
John Migas
Pat Tatum
Barbara & Robert Wetzel

Rhododendron Presentation and Plant Demonstration at Lake Katherine Environmental Center

On April 22, Roger Dunlap and Ken Kasza made a presentation to over 100 attendees of The Palos Heights Garden Club. The title of the presentation was "Growing Rhododendrons In The Midwest – A Broad Overview".

Roger and Ken feel very strongly that a hands-on demonstration is critical to educate the novice gardener being introduced to rhododendron culture. In addition to a slide presentation, they teamed up to demonstrate how to plant a root bound rhododendron including the various ingredients that make up optimum soil conditions.

The presentation was extremely well received and an honorarium of \$100.00 was contributed to The Midwest Chapter.

Calendar of Events

Spring Meeting

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden, Linnaeus Room
Date: Saturday May 18
Time: Approx. 11:00 AM

Annual Plant Sale & Truss Show

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden Education Building
Date: May 18 & 19
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Summer Meeting

Place: TBD
Date: July/August
Time: TBD



WELCOME

The Midwest Chapter welcomes the following new members to our chapter and we look forward to your active participation in chapter events.

DANIEL & SHARON KUNST,
Sodus, MI



MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Purpose

A non-profit organization whose aim is to promote in the midwest region the objectives of The American Rhododendron Society, which are to encourage interest in and to disseminate knowledge about rhododendrons and azaleas. To provide a medium through which all persons interested in rhododendrons and azaleas may communicate and cooperate with others through education, meetings, publications, scientific studies, research and other similar activities.

Meetings

Meetings are held 4 times a year, generally in March, May, August and October. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the transaction of business at these meetings and to profit by the knowledge gained from our knowledgeable members and Guest Speakers. *Visitors are always welcome!*

Membership

Membership is open to all persons interested in the growth and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas as provided by the Chapter By-Laws. Membership includes one year (4 quarterly issues) of the *ARS Journal* and affiliation with the chapter of your choice. Annual membership dues for an individual is \$28.00. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Chairperson whose name and address appears below.



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