

The Rootball News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

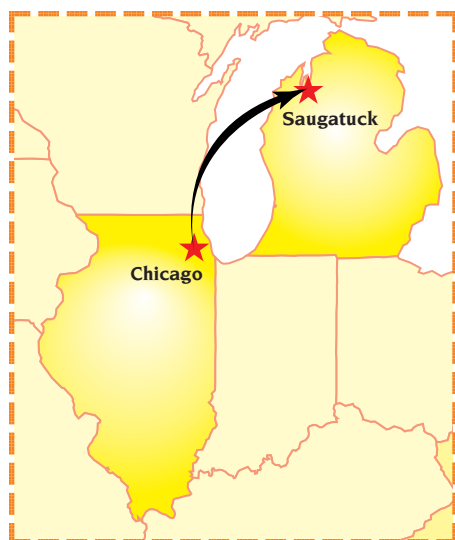


Michigan Meandering

The Midwest Chapter has organized a spring field trip to the New Haven/Saugatuck, Michigan area on Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24 to visit 6 private gardens, Rosebay Nursery which is a commercial rhododendron grower, and a retail garden center. We plan to depart the Chicago area early on Friday morning and return early evening on Saturday.

The gardens on our tour are truly spectacular with mature rhododendrons and azaleas that should be at peak bloom. Included will be a tour of John Migas' garden, a fellow Midwest Chapter member who has made the arrangements for this tour. John also raises azaleas and we'll see his operation in addition to his lovely garden. For a taste of John's garden, refer to the accompanying article and photos.

The chapter has arranged for transportation from the Chicago area eliminating the hassle of driving. A bus will pick members up at two Chicago suburban locations, north and south sides, and continue to shuttle us between the gardens. The bus should also be a lot of fun and give us a chance to visit with fellow members. Needless to say the bus' storage capacity for our plant purchases will be most welcome.



For this trip to be successful, we must travel as a group so it is mandatory everyone that attends travel on the bus. We are cramming a lot within these two days and we must travel together to stay on the tight schedule. Also, we will be visiting private gardens that are widely spread out in hard to find areas. The gardens are being opened to us for specific times only, so it is important for us to travel as a group.

Included on the tour will be a visit to Rosebay Nursery. This is one of the nurseries that provide plants to the Midwest Chapter for our annual plant sale. Linda Charvat, proprietor of the nursery raises beautiful rhododendrons and her plant fields should be spectacular when we are there.

Since her plants are field grown we will only be able to purchase plants if Rosebay has any available that are already potted. There will not be anyone



Plant Sale & Truss Show May 10 & 11

The Midwest Chapter's annual plant sale and truss show will take place earlier than normal this year due to a scheduling conflict with The Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG). The CBG is holding their plant sale the weekend we normally reserve for our event. This occurred last year and we felt our sale was overshadowed by the CBC sale so we decided to schedule our event a week earlier.

The plant sale and truss show will take place on Saturday May 10 and Sunday May 11 at the CBC. Hours of the sale are 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day. Our spring meeting will be on Saturday at approximately 11:00 AM.

We urge all of our members to attend and participate in the truss show. With the show scheduled earlier this year, we need as many members as possible to take part, particularly if we have a late spring bloom. But then again we may be right on target with the weather and be able to include trusses of some varieties that are normally all bloomed out when we have our show later in May.

If you never have brought trusses to the show, consider doing so this year. The display is primarily for members and visitors to enjoy and is not a competition. Try to arrive by 8:30 AM to label your trusses so they are on display when the show opens at 9:00 AM. Someone will be there to help you.

The plant sale once again will include a full array of lepidotes, elepidotes and deciduous azaleas from Rosebay Nursery in Saugatuck Michigan and

available to dig for us and if so it would take too much time. John Migas plans to have Rosebay pot some plants up for us beforehand and sell them at his place when we visit his garden. John will also have some of his azaleas for sale as well.

Overnight accommodations will be at The Haworth Inn, located on the campus of Hope College in Holland Michigan. The room rate is \$99.00 that includes a continental breakfast on Saturday morning. This is Tulip Time in the area and it is difficult to reserve any number of rooms in a block. The chapter has reserved 20 rooms that will be our responsibility if not used so we have our fingers crossed for a good turnout. For more information about the hotel, you can call 1-800-903-9142 or go online www.haworthinn.com. All Midwest Chapter members and spouses/guests are welcome and the chapter is picking up expenses for the bus and buffet dinner at the hotel on Friday evening. Members are responsible for their lodging.

Final details such as pick-up locations, departure times, etc. will be provided as plans are finalized. Each member that reserves a space will receive specific details in a subsequent communication. Also, we will go over plans at our spring meeting on May 10.

If you plan to attend and have not yet sent in your room deposit, please send a \$30.00 check to our treasurer, Ken Kasza. For additional information, contact John Golab.

Ken Kasza
11723 Holmes Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60464
708-448-1426

John Golab
1583 Bedlington Dr.
Barrington, IL 60010
847-382-1674

We are looking forward to a good turnout and a fun filled weekend so plan so bring your camera and enjoy what promises to be a spectacular time. 🍃

>>>Michigan Precursor

Last spring several Midwest Chapter members drove to Saugatuck, Michigan to tour John Migas' garden. John is currently Vice President of The Midwest Chapter.

What a spectacular setting!

John's garden is on 15 acres of rolling, wooded property and beacons visitors to take a stroll and enjoy its great beauty.

Not only is the garden a visual delight with many varieties of evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons, a sweet fragrance greets visitors from the various cherry and crabapple trees as well as many fragrant viburnums and lilacs as they stroll through the grounds. The garden includes large rolling lawns, a woodland trail and a beautiful formal garden.

John specializes in growing evergreen azaleas and we were given a tour of his operation. He propagates 140 varieties that are primarily for wholesale buyers and landscapers with some retail sales.

John is currently forming a Midwest Chapter of The Azalea Society of America and is in the process of establishing a charter that will



Linda Charvat

be named The Lake Michigan Chapter.

We also visited Rosebay Nursery, another stop on our upcoming tour. Linda Charvat, proprietor of the wholesale nursery gave us a tour of her operation that grows primarily rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas.

Her hardy plants are grown in a rich sandy loam and are beautifully cultivated. Our chapter has purchased plants the last several years from Rosebay Nursery for our plant sale and includes many of the latest proven varieties for our area.

We had such an enjoyable day we thought other members would enjoy seeing how well rhodies grow on the other side of the lake leading us to plan our Michigan Meandering trip this upcoming May 23rd and 24th. 🍃

John Migas



Plant Sale Varieties

PINK

English Roseum
Scintillation
Rosy Lights
Janet Blair
Yaku Prince
Wilsoni
Spring Parade
Milestone

Marjie Kay Hinerman
Northern Starburst
Az. Rosebud
Az. Landmark
Pink & Sweet

YELLOW

Sunsheen
Lemon Drop
Lollipop
White:
Big Deal
Nantucket
White Lights

PURPLE

Colonel Coen
Sandra
Jonathon Shaw
Autumn Violet
April Rose
Orchid Lights
Thunder

RED

Besse Howells
Firestorm
Haaga
Pana
Pierce's American
Beauty
Erica
Red Velvet

ORANGE

Gibraltar

BLEND

Calsap
HiLites



John Golab, Midwest Chapter President

Hello everyone! Welcome to another year of Rhododendron appreciation and madness. After a long hard winter, it's time to assess the damage and appreciate the survivors. As we all know, this was a winter with very little snow cover and very little moisture, while cold temperatures gripped the midwest for extended periods of time. This combination is lethal for all but our hardiest specimens. At the same time this is also ideal for evaluating your "good doers". Take notes on the Rhody's that exhibited no burn, leaf curl, or bark split. If they had good bud set last fall, watch to see if they bloom. These are the one's that make our list. Those plants that suffered all of the above, can now provide space for something new!

I'm especially excited about the activities for this year, which some might consider madness, but I hope most of you will participate and enjoy. For the first time ever, the Midwest Chapter will be renting a bus and visiting private gardens along with a nursery and special garden center in the Saugatuck and Grand Haven areas. The group will be staying the night, with the chapter hosting a special dinner. We will return the following day after visiting additional gardens and a final stop to purchase plants. A total of six private gardens will be visited along with the above mentioned stops. These gardens would never be seen except for this special event. The date is May 23 and 24. We are asking a deposit of \$30 be sent to Ken Kasza ASAP. We have reserved a block of rooms for the event and will need to give a final count soon. I encourage our members to join us as this will be a first and will set a precedent for future activities. We are in need of at least three more couples to meet our minimums. (Yes, we definitely want our spouses to join us!) Also, notify any friends who may enjoy such an event and have them come along on a fun trip to Michigan.

Don't forget our truss show and sale to be held this year on Mother's Day weekend, May 10 and 11. This year at the Chicago Botanic Garden, we will not be competing with some other major events, which have led to a great deal of confusion in the past. Some nice selections have been made for this year's offering. New varieties as well as some favorites will both be on display. As this will be an earlier time of the month, don't forget to save those blooms in the refrigerator. We may need them all for a good show. No Rhody is too small or too common.

Finally, we are planning two more meetings for the year, the summer meeting and one more speaker event with a difficult to get personality. George Gray and I will do our best at the National ARS meeting to convince him to speak to our group.

In closing, may I ask again for your support. We have already started the year with a wonderful history presentation from Hank Schannon, and will continue the year with a terrific slate of events for 2003, especially the Michigan trip. We need your participation and enthusiasm to be successful. See you on the bus!



Henry "Hank" Schannen, Guest Speaker at Winter Meeting

On January 25, 2003, Hank Schannen, proprietor of Rare Find Nursery in Jackson, New Jersey (Zone 6b) was guest speaker at the Midwest Chapter winter meeting. His presentation was titled "Where We Are And Where We Are Going".

Included was a brief history of rhododendron hybridization and a slide show that was both entertaining and to say the least most welcome in the middle of winter. His slides included many hardy hybrids suitable for our climate as well as new plants that are on the horizon.

In addition to his hybridizing, Hank, recipient of the 1997 ARS Gold Medal is a collector and is always looking for new plants. His nursery includes a four-acre display garden with 1000 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas interspersed with companion shrubs.

One plant highlighted in the presentation was Hank's stellar hybrid, Solidarity (-15). This rhododendron features large luminous flowers that start as red buds, open to pink

blossoms and then age to a soft white. Hank also described how he arrived at the name Solidarity. He wanted to name the plant after his mother but she refused saying "no one will buy a rhododendron called Wanda Pipchinski". Instead she selected Solidarity to honor the Polish labor movement.

To receive a copy of the 72 page Rare Find catalog, visit www.rarefindnursery.com. Over 500 plants are in the catalog, each with lengthy descriptions.

The meeting also included a discussion about our upcoming trip to Michigan, our plant sale and truss show this spring and efforts to date to establish a Midwest Chapter website. 🌿

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Hank's nursery includes a four-acre display garden with 1000 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas interspersed with companion shrubs.
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A DOWN UNDER RHODIE ADVENTURE

by Harvey Woehlck

What started as a business trip turned unexpectedly into a rhododendron experience beyond our wildest expectations.

While Sydney was very tropical in appearance, and 3 foot diameter houseplants, like Benjamin figs, lined the city parkways, the real rhododendron paradise is in the southern island of Tasmania. We arrived in Hobart, the capital city of the Australian state of Tasmania, reputed to be the most mountainous island in the world. Once we got used to driving on the wrong side of the road, we set out to do a little exploration. The Royal Botanic Garden in Hobart gave a taste of what was yet to come later in our travels. Modest plantings of rhododendrons there were pleasant, and blended nicely with 80 foot tall specimens of Norfolk Island pines, Wellingtonias, and Monkey Puzzle Trees. Although it was the end of winter in mid September, one quickly realizes that one can't tell the season in Tasmania by the vegetation. Essentially all native vegetation is evergreen, and most is eucalyptus. Evergreen rhododendrons just seem to fit in this surrounding, and the few deciduous trees brought from Europe or North America looked

naked and awkward. We continued our journey around the drier, Eastern side of Tasmania with a short detour up to the snowy summit of Mount Wellington. Local custom demands that snowmen be built on the auto hoods, or at the least, as much snow as possible be piled up. Although this does impair the drivers' vision somewhat, having a car full of snow on return to civilization is worth the risk.

Northward and Eastward, the scenery resembled the rugged shoreline of California blended with the pastoral hillsides of England. Apart from the few eucalyptus plantations, the entire Eastern part of Tasmania is dedicated to sheep and cattle. A few rhodies were poised in well irrigated yards, but nothing yet to compare with the never ending green of the Tasmanian rainforest in winter. Northwest, past the vineyards and a transition to rainforest climate along the Northern coast of Tasmania, we arrived in the town of Penguin, noted for the birds that gather on the shoreline at night. A short drive into the mountains finally delivered us to Burnie and the Emu Valley Rhododendron Society Garden.

Private gardens open to the public abound in Tasmania. You can find acre sized hedge mazes, and tea houses with private gardens that rival municipal parks. Instead of a garden on this scale, we found a chapter garden that dominated the entire valley, over 32 acres in

size and with over 15,000 plants. On each wall, towering eucalyptus trees framed and shaded the valley. The valley floor was ablaze with evergreen azaleas and tall rhododendron arboreum specimens. Pathways across the terraces bring you to a lake above the emu river, surrounded by beds of *r. sinogrande* with leaves nearly 2 feet long. Although the large leaved rhododendrons begin their bloom in August, the greatest bloom is in September, coinciding with our visit. Vireya rhododendrons were growing alongside iron clad hybrids, and tender Himalayan species were blooming in full sun in terraces. The most unusual aspect of the garden is the animal proof gate at the entrance. Although one rarely sees the mostly nocturnal pests, kangaroos of all sizes, possums and occasional wombats do considerable damage to the garden.

Tasmania is located as far south as Chicago is north. However, it has a maritime climate, which makes the temperatures nearly ideal for tropical and temperate plants of all types, including rhododendrons. The lowest temperatures are in the vicinity of 25 degrees and the hottest temperatures are near 80. The day length variations are similar to temperate America. This combination helps Tasmanians grow one of the widest ranges of plants anywhere.





"Plant Sale", continued from page 1

DeGrandchamp Nursery in Grand Haven, Michigan. Over 35 varieties are on order with quite a few being offered for the first time. See the accompanying table with a listing of the plants by color that have been ordered.

In addition, we will have some evergreen azaleas from John Migas' nursery for sale as well. Although a list is not yet available, we can be sure there will be a colorful selection of hardy azaleas as we had last year.

Once again, Roger Dunlap and John Golab have been instrumental with organizing this event. Roger has selected the plants with the nurseries and makes arrangements to have them shipped to the CBC. John spends Friday at the CBC arranging the plants when they arrive, pricing them for the sale and closing up the show on Sunday afternoon. Needless to say John needs volunteer help so if you can assist, contact John at 847-382-1674.

Our plant sale is the primary Midwest Chapter source of income enabling us to schedule events such as our upcoming Michigan Meandering and bring in guest speakers for some of our meetings. Also, most important, we attract new members to help keep our chapter vibrant.

So mark your calendar and plan to come early to our sale. There is always room for one more plant to beautify your garden and by making a purchase you're helping our chapter at the same time. 🍀

*Don't forget to
check out the list
of plants available
on page 2!*

EDWARD KING POOR III

Edward Poor, age 74, died November 6, 2002 at his Winnetka, IL home. He was a U. S. Army World War II veteran and a partner in a law firm. He was the beloved husband of author Janet Meakin Poor, a devoted grandfather of four and an avid gardener.



In Memoriam — Allan C. Galloway

September 30, 1924 – January 15, 2003

The Midwest chapter lost one of its last surviving original members on January 15th. Allan (or Al as he preferred to be called) passed away at the age of 78 in a manner that many of us would fancy, doing one of the things he loved to do – gardening. Al was tending to his lush garden which surrounded his retirement home in the high desert plateau area of southeast Arizona near Cochise's Stronghold when the end came. Al had been planting and evaluating new plants since settling down there in permanent retirement several years ago. This typified his gardening "M.O." for most of his adult life. He loved to try out new plants and never backed down from difficult challenges posed by the environment. In fact, he was apt to "push the envelope" for all it was worth. I feel fortunate to have known Al well enough to recount some of Al's life particularly as it involved rhododendrons and his pioneering efforts in establishing our Midwest chapter.

Al was Illinois bred having resided at various times in Homewood, Park Forest and Olympia Fields. Allan developed a general interest in gardening and rhododendrons in particular during the early 1960's. He became acquainted and teamed up with Dale McCurdy to establish the Midwest Chapter in 1962, became the chapter's first vice president, and went on to become a Life Member of the ARS. His quest for new plant material led him to various gardens, nurseries, and Arboreta and to establish ties with several prominent rhododendron hybridizers of his day: Joe Gable, Augie Kehr, David Leach, Lanny Pride, and John Wister to name a few. In 1965, Al and his family relocated to Traverse City, Michigan where he continued to cultivate his beloved rhododendrons. In re-establishing an extensive rhody collection, Al continued to cultivate friendships as well. He mentored many on the wonders and nuances of rhody cultivation, including current Empire, Michigan resident and Ann Arbor chapter member— Ed Cole. Al and Ed experienced and overcame many of the same environmental challenges which included neutral pH, low fertility of the beach sand, and unreliable summer moisture. Ed credits Al with coming up with a micro-sprinkler water system to solve the moisture problem. Together they determined that the judicious use of mulches, sulfur, and slow release fertilizer took care of the fertility and pH shortcomings. Al was particularly interested in (as he put it): "chasing the Holy Grail of a hardy, really blue flower; 'Oceanlake' and 'Songbird' came the closest". Al was captivated by the potential of a Schroeder Nursery cross "Scintillation x Double Orange Crush" which he started from seed and nurtured for many years. One of the surviving plants has produced double flowers in orange hues; its hardiness, however, remains an open question at this time.

Al was always generous with plants and helpful advice. This was abundantly evident when he gave rhodies from his lakefront home to friends and neighbors before he moved to Arizona. Ed says it best: "I will greatly miss Al and our garden visits to one another during the bloom periods. We enjoyed the overall beauty together, especially plants blooming for the first time, or the ones we highly valued." Al lived an exceedingly active life involved in a wide array of activities yet he gladly reserved time for others. I will always remember his engaging warmth and enthusiasm. I'm sure that anyone who came into contact with Al came away with the same positive feeling. This timeless spirit of sharing and fellowship is the common thread that unites rhody enthusiasts everywhere. We are truly blessed to share in and carry on that spirit that Al exemplified so well.

-Roger Dunlap, Midwest Chapter, March 2003

New Editor of "Rhododendron and Azalea News" from Midwest Chapter

Marty Anderson, Midwest Chapter member is the new editor of the ARS electronic newsletter "Rhododendron and Azalea News". The newsletter can be viewed at www.rhododendron.net.

Marty's first issue went online April 1 and together with the webmaster has totally altered the way it looks. The format has been redesigned to be more appealing and easy to read.

She receives information from 70 chapters worldwide, selects the articles that have universal interest and organizes them into four categories for easy reference. Marty plans to publish four issues per year and make additional enhancements with each issue.

With only being a member for about a year, Marty has an enthusiasm that is nonstop. A lifelong friend of hers, Paul Anderson, the new director from District 5, gave Marty a gift subscription to our chapter. Since then, she has taken on this large undertaking of being editor and is a one person recruiter giving gift memberships to 8 of her friends. If she keeps this up she'll have her own ARS chapter soon!

It is people like this that keep our chapter active and we all want to give Marty a big thanks.



New Chapter Officers

The following new officers were elected for two-year terms at our Spring 2002 meeting:

President – John Golab
Vice President – Roger Dunlap
Vice President – John Migas
Treasurer – Dr. Ken Kasza
Membership – Tad Dauksza
Communications – Anthony Greco

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.



Chapter Officers

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Anthony P. Greco, Communications
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708-246-1267 • apgrec@aol.com

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.



The Midwest Chapter welcomes the following new members to our chapter. We look forward to meeting each of you personally and to your active participation in our chapter events.

RAJIV ARORA, Ames, IA
MICHAEL AND NATHAN CICHON, Chicago, IL
FORD AND SUZANNE DALLMEYER, Winnetka, IL
JOHN HEINZE, Toledo, OH
JO-FANG HSUEH, Naperville, IL
STAN HOKANSON, St. Paul, MN
NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY, Northbrook, IL
MARCIA OGDEN, St. Charles, IL
JACK STROM, Highland Park, IL
SANDRA WEARNE, Naperville, IL
ANDREW WHIPPLE, Upland, IN
OLWYN ZAMORSKI, Mesick, MI

Also, a big thanks to all of our members who have recruited or sponsored new members, particularly Marty Anderson and our membership chairman, Tad Dauksza.

Spring Meeting

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden
Date: Saturday May 10
Time: 11:00 AM

Annual Plant Sale & Truss Show

Place: Chicago Botanic Garden
Dates: Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Michigan Meandering Garden Tour

Place: Saugatuck, Michigan Area
Date: Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24
Points of Departure: To be announced



The Rootball News

The American Rhododendron Society / Midwest Chapter
c/o Anthony P. Greco, Editor
6497 Cherokee Drive
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