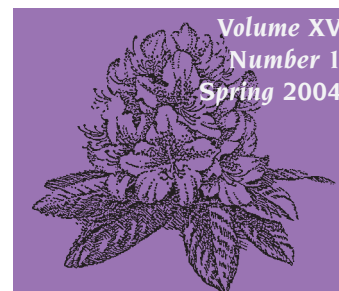


The Rootball News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



PLANT SALE AND TRUSS SHOW

May 8 & 9

The Midwest Chapter's annual plant sale and truss show will take place on Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 at The Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. Hours of the sale are 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM each day.

Like last year, the show is earlier in May than in the past to not conflict with The Botanic Garden plant sale and our field trip to Ohio later in the month.

We urge all members to participate in the truss show. Since the show is in early May, there is always a concern we may not have many truss varieties to display.

Last year we had the same concerns but thanks to the excellent support from our members, we were overwhelmed with the large number of varieties that were represented. We barely had enough vases to display all of the trusses!

The truss show is an opportunity for visitors to view 'up close and personal' the diversity of blooms from our gardens and encourages them to purchase plants from our sale.

If you have never brought trusses to the show, please consider doing so this year. For new members, the display is not a competition and is solely for the enjoyment of fellow members and visitors. Try to arrive by 8:30 AM on Saturday to allow enough time to label your trusses and ready them for the display by the 9:00 AM opening.

The plant sale will include a wide variety of lepidotes, elepidotes and evergreen and deciduous azaleas. Once again, the plant materials will come from three Michigan nurseries, Rosebay, DeGrandchamp's and John Migas' Woodlands Nursery.

>See "Plant Sale", Page 2

On 2 Ohio

David Leach Garden Will Highlight Our second field trip



For the second year in a row and after a very successful trip last spring to the Saugatuck, Michigan area, The Midwest Chapter has organized a field trip to visit The David Leach Research Station in Madison, Ohio. Additional plans are to visit The Holden Arboretum and Girard Nursery as well. We will depart on Friday May 21 and return on Sunday, May 23.

Steven Krebs, curator of The David Leach Gardens will give us a personal tour. This tour promises to be stunning as the rhododendrons should be at peak bloom.

>See "Ohio", Page 2

Approximately 250 plants will be available with over 60 varieties. Some varieties were only available to us in very small quantities - three and four of each - so it will be important to arrive early on Saturday to avoid disappointment. Refer to the accompanying table for a partial list of varieties on order.



We also will have a Connoisseur Corner that will include varieties in very limited quantities never offered before at our sale. These plants are from John Migas' Woodlands Nursery and should be of special interest to our members. The variety list has not been finalized yet, but we can expect to find plants on some of our wish lists.

The Midwest Chapter relies heavily on our plant sale for revenue to help fund guest speakers and chapter activities such as the Michigan Meandering trip last May and our upcoming ON² Ohio trip this spring. The sale and truss show also promotes The Midwest Chapter to potential new members helping keep our chapter vital.

The plant sale and truss show would not be possible without the dedication and efforts from some of our members. Roger Dunlap makes all of the arrangements for the plant sale from selecting the varieties to making arrangements for plant delivery. John Golab and Tad Dauksza, along with other volunteers, ready the plants for the sale on Friday and clean up the sales area on Sunday. If anyone cares to volunteer their help, please contact John Golab at (847) 382-1674.

Mark your calendar and plan to come early for the best selection. Not only will you be adding to your rhodie collection, you will be supporting our chapter at the same time. 🌿

Our trip to Girard Nursery will give us an opportunity to purchase plants and if the interest is anything like last year, we can expect to return with our motor coach filled to capacity.

Arrangements are also being planned to visit some private gardens and possibly some other nurseries so ON² Ohio is shaping up as another horticultural overload.

The Midwest Chapter will cover the transportation expenses and attendees will be personally responsible for lodging and meals.

Once again plans are for the bus to have two pick-up points in the Chicago suburban area, one north and one south. Each departure point will have adequate parking for our cars. Details are being finalized and will be discussed at our spring meeting. A subsequent announcement will also be sent to all chapter members once plans are finalized.

We ask those planning to go on the trip to let us know their intentions as soon as possible so we can have a count of the number of people that we can expect. Contact Tony Greco at 708-246-1267 or at <apgreco@sbcglobal.net>. We are hoping to have a final count by the May 8 meeting for planning purposes.

Last year on The Michigan Meandering excursion, we learned these trips are a wonderful way to become better acquainted with fellow members and spouses, particularly our newer members.

So mark your calendar for a fun weekend. Once again we are looking forward to a good turnout making ON² Ohio our biggest success yet. 🌿

2004 Plant Sale Varieties (Partial List)

ELEPIDOTES

Jonathan Shaw
Purple Passion

Tapestry

Calsap

Baden Baden

Besse Howells

Pana

Brent Roseum

Haaga

Janet Blair

Marjie K. Hinerman

Scintillation

Vernus

Capistrano

Delp's Sunsheen

County of York

Yaku Prince

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



LEPIDOTES

April Rose

Grape Jam

Erica

Landmark

Milestone

Pink Diamond

Pink Pixie

Hudson's Bay

Molly Fordham

Black Satin



DECIDUOUS AZALEAS

Hi-Lites

Cecile

Golden Lites

Gibraltar

EVERGREEN AZALEAS

Herbert

Karens

Corsage

Mrs. Henry Schroeder

Hino Crimson

Girard's Fuchsia

Girard's Pleasant White

Girard's Rose





John Golab, Midwest Chapter President

At the time you receive this you should be enjoying the first round of our wonderful blooming Lepidotes. The Mucronulatums along with Madison Snow, Cornel Pink, Pink Penoir, Milestone, Nicky, and the host of "April's" should be putting on quite a show. These are but a few of the many Lepidotes in our gardens collectively, with PJM's just beginning followed by the second-generation selections immediately following. While many of us can't wait for those huge Elepedote trusses, these "early's" are not to be missed. They are extremely rugged and reliably bloom year after year. They begin the

Rhododendron season in April when little but bulbs are in bloom. I would encourage those of you that have not enjoyed this class of Rhody's to expand your collections in this direction. You will not be disappointed.

At this year's annual Truss Show and Plant Sale, I will be stepping down as president and John Migas will be taking over the position. The new programs that have been started will continue with this year's field trip to the David Leach garden and The Holden Arboretum as a few of the stops on the May 21-23 weekend. We have not forgotten stops to nurseries and garden centers. This will be included as well. I hope those of you who enjoyed last year's trip will join us again and bring friends as well. We also hope to see some of you that were not able to make last year's event, join us this year. The bus has room! Yes, plants too.

Don't forget about the plant sale May 8 and 9. Elsewhere in the newsletter is a list of some unusual selections to add to our collections. John will also be adding some of his Michigan grown evergreen azaleas to your choices, so don't miss it. This event will also fund our 2005 field trip, wherever this may be, a double good investment.

A last event to put on your calendar is the summer meeting, where this year we will be visiting Fred Stanton and Co. in south central Illinois. Details will follow at a later date.

Finally, it has been my great pleasure serving as your President these last two years. At a time when many chapters are failing, the Midwest has remained strong and viable due to its great members. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming events. 🍀

Sincerely,

John Golab

ARS-Midwest President

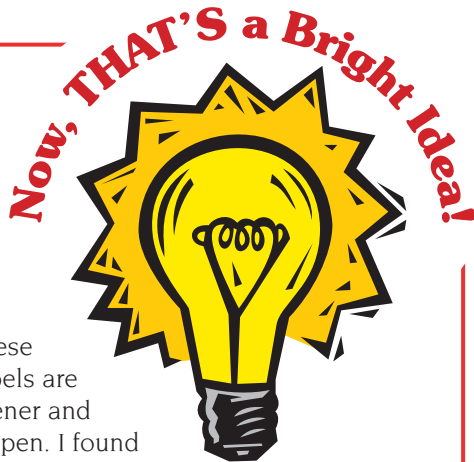
Permanent Garden Tags

By Tad Dauksza

Impress-O-Tags are the best product I have found to permanently label plants. These low-cost aluminum labels are 1" x 3" with a wire fastener and are "embossed" with a pen. I found the product when ordering prairie plants from the "PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY" in Winona, Minnesota.

One hundred tags are \$15.00 postpaid and can be ordered toll free at 866-417-8156. You can also visit their website at <www.pariemoon.com>.

I found an additional good feature with these tags after making a mistake on a label one time. I simply took a pencil and used it like a rolling pin resurfacing the tag so another name could be written. It works. 🍀



Election of New Officers at Spring Meeting

A meeting will be held in conjunction with our plant sale at approximately 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 8 at The Chicago Botanic Garden.

A new slate of officers will be elected for two-year terms so it is very important we have good attendance.

Final plans for our ON² Ohio trip will also be on the agenda as well as other business.





MIDWEST CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

The following members have reached milestone anniversaries in 2004. Congratulations to all!

40 Years

Gerald Firak
Patrick Tatum

20 Years

Stephen Jess
Paul & Connie Lightfoot
Rita Wells-Howell

15 Years

David & Jean Niemann
Burt & Myrna Silver

10 Years

Patricia Domanik
Mike Gower

5 Years

Jim Blender
Barbara Guhanick
Donel Nelson
William Snyder



WELCOME

Following is a list of new members who have recently joined our chapter:

Otto Bodner, Prospect Heights, IL
Yung Borodkin, Libertyville, IL
Robert Drucker, Wilmette, IL
Alfred and Katie Hackbarth, Glencoe, IL
Arnold Klehm, Hampshire, IL
Don and Margie Leventhal, Evanston, IL
Marcia Meggs, Olympia Fields, IL
Bernadette Moran, Lake Bluff, IL
Mary Parrish, Hackansack, MN
Leslie Vinson, Libertyville, IL

...and welcome back

Rae Ellen Syverson, Fond du Lac, WI
Patrick Vettling, Wyoming, MN

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN HAHN

DONALD PADEN

Since the last issue of The Rootball News, The Midwest Chapter lost two of its members. Condolences are extended to the Hahn and Paden families.



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

John Golab, President
1583 Bedlington Drive
Barrington, IL 60010
847-382-1674 • john_golab@agilent.com

Roger Dunlap, Vice President
12519 S. 82nd Avenue
Palos Park, IL 60464
708-361-1739
rogerdunlap@compuserve.com

John Migas
6541 Bradley Road
P. O. Box 561
Saugatuck, MI 49453
269-857-1505

Dr. Ken Kasza, Treasurer
11723 Holmes Avenue
Palos Park, IL 60464
708-448-1426 • kasza@anl.gov

Tad Dauksza, Membership
11726 Springbrook, Court
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-479-8130 • td@att.com

Anthony P. Greco, Communications
6497 Cherokee Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525
708-246-1267 • apgreco@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 \$35.00. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Chairperson whose name and address appears below.



The Rootball News

The American Rhododendron Society / Midwest Chapter
c/o Anthony P. Greco, Editor
6497 Cherokee Drive
Indian Head Park, Illinois 60525