

The Rootball News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



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Midwest Chapter Plant Sale and Truss Show

The 2005 plant sale and truss show will take place on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday May 8 at The Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. The sale hours are from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day.

Once again a dazzling array of rhododendrons and azaleas will be available for purchase. Roger Dunlap has selected a wide variety of cultivars for the sale – some old reliables that have the proven toughness for our Midwest climate and some varieties one would be hard pressed to find at local garden centers.

There will also be a Collectors Corner, a place where hard to find varieties will be available in extremely limited quantities, perhaps as few as only one or two of each.

The plants once again have been purchased from Rosebay and DeGrandchamp nurseries in Michigan as well as Woodlands Nursery, which is operated by John Migas, our Midwest Chapter president.

Altogether we will have approximately 200-250 plants at the sale. A list of some of the regular varieties is on page 3. The Collector's Corner plant varieties have not yet been selected at time of publication.

The plant sale is the primary source of income for our chapter with the proceeds used for many of our functions including field trips, speakers etc. Any assistance in helping to set up the sale area on Friday, May 7 is most welcome. If interested contact John Golab at 847-382-1674.

The Truss Show, which takes place along with the sale is one of the ways we attract new enthusiasts to the beauty of rhododendrons. The variety of trusses each year is stunning and all members are encouraged to bring some trusses to the show.

For those that have not participated in the past, the truss show is not a contest but merely a display of blooms for all to appreciate. We look forward to seeing a large selection of colorful trusses again this year. Please try to arrive with your trusses a half hour prior to the sale so the display will be in order when the plant sale begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday.



Check out what's
for sale on page 3!



Traverse City Garden Tours

The Midwest Chapter has scheduled what promises to be a fun weekend up in beautiful Traverse City, Michigan on June 11 and 12.

Roger Dunlap has planned a jam-packed weekend highlighted with a garden tour of Ed Cole's fantastic garden. Ed was featured in a previous issue of The Rootball News and a visit to his garden will be a true highlight of the weekend.

Refer to the attached insert for the complete weekend itinerary of the garden tours and nursery visits.

► (see "TRAVERSE CITY", page 3)

Letter

from the president



john migas



spring • 2005



Greetings, once again from Michigan.



Spring is upon us. Maybe too soon for some, nevertheless it is here. We here in Michigan have not had rain in over 30 days. Above normal temperatures, wind from the east and no rain. Drought conditions have greeted us about three months early.

My PJM's and Mucronulatum's are showing some bloom along with Rhododendron Christmas Cheer (first time in 5 years without frost damage).

To sum it up, a long cold winter....March 10° below normal and now April is 15° above normal with no rain. Isn't gardening fun!

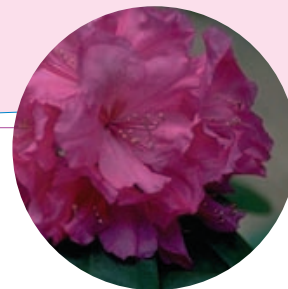
As far as upcoming events, the Spring meeting and plant sale on Mother's Day weekend will soon be here. Volunteers are needed to assist with plant set-up and sales. Please contact Ted Daukesz or John Golab for scheduling.

The spring trip to Traverse City, Michigan and hosted by Roger and Angie Dunlap in June is going to be a lot of fun. Mark your calendars.

Finally, no one has stepped forward to become our new treasurer. We need your help. Please.

John Migas

Midwest Chapter President



► TRAVERSE CITY (continued from page 1)

Since the weekend includes planning for restaurants and food caterers, please confirm your plans to attend with no later than May 21. Also note there will be a separate lady's tour and luncheon on Saturday that should be confirmed as well.

A list of hotels is also included on the insert. All attendees are responsible for their own lodging and transportation. Carpooling is recommended and our spring meeting on May 7 may be a perfect time to make transportation arrangements with others planning to attend.

Traverse City is a wonderful vacation destination with a lot to do and see so this is a perfect place to relax and spend a gardening weekend with friends.



Ed Cole



Admiring the Garden



2005 Plant Sale Varieties

Come early for
the best selection!

The following varieties have been ordered for our plant sale but are subject to change by the grower. The Collectors Corner plant selection has yet to be finalized.

Elepidotes

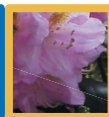
Jonathan Shaw
Tapestry
Wojnar's Purple
Calsap
Henry's Red
Besse Howells
Pana
English Roseum
Haaga
Scintillation
Lavender Princess
Marj K. Hinnerman
Pearce's American
Beauty
Delp's Sunsheen
Pahjola's Daughter
Teddy Bear
Dorothy Swift
Ken Janek
Princess

Lepidotes/Species

April Rose
Grape Jam
Thunder
Erica
Landmark
Milestone
Pink Diamond
Pink Pixie
Weston's Mayflower
Dauricun "Madison
Snow"
April White

Azaleas

(Evergreen and Deciduous)
Stewartstonian
Cecile
Jane Abbott
Golden Lights
Lemon Drop
Snowbird
Weston's Innocence
Tri-lights
Mandarin Lights



membership

A warm welcome to the following new members that have recently joined our chapter:

Kathleen Blinn

Marion, Indiana

David Hinde

Roscoe, Illinois

Kristine Nielson

Canyon, Minnesota (Welcome Back!)

Patti Whittaker

Wanda, Minnesota

Meeting Notes

Winter Meeting

Highlighted by Guest Speaker Deborah McCowan

The Midwest Chapter Meeting was held on February 19 at The Chicago Botanic Garden and featured Deborah McCowan, proprietor of Knight Hollow Nursery (KHN) in Middleton, WI.

Knight Hollow, with a staff of 5 people specializes in commercial micropropagation. The nursery started out in 1981 with the original intent to micropropagate azaleas and rhododendrons primarily H1 and some H2 varieties and has now grown to include high value woody plants.



Deborah's presentation included an explanation of the microculture process, its advantages to clone a single unique plant quickly as well as some downsides such as mutations, genetic vulnerability and intensive labor costs.

KHN does proprietary cloning of licensed plants and plants in the public domain. They produce a half million plants a year on contract and consider themselves to be small in the industry.

Thank you Debbie for the most enlightening presentation and for the plants you brought to share with the attendees.

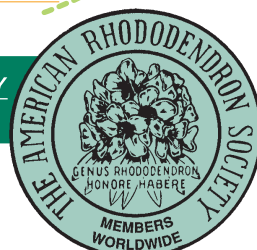
2005

Spring Meeting

Coinciding with the plant sale, will be our spring meeting on Saturday morning, **May 7** at approximately 10:30 AM.

Important business will be discussed including plans for our weekend in Traverse City and the 2006 plant sale which may need to be scheduled at a different site since The Chicago Botanic Garden will be under construction.

THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY MIDWEST CHAPTER



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 \$35.00. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Chairperson whose name and address appears below.

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Calendar of Events

MAY

Spring Meeting • May 7

9:00 a.m. at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Plant Sale & Truss Show • May 7 & 8

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Chicago Botanic Garden

Azalea Society of America

National Convention • May 19 – 22

Holland, Michigan Area; Contact Ted Dauksza for information

JUNE

Midwest Chapter Field Trip • June 10 – 12

Traverse City, Michigan

T.B.D.

Summer Meeting



The Rootball News

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