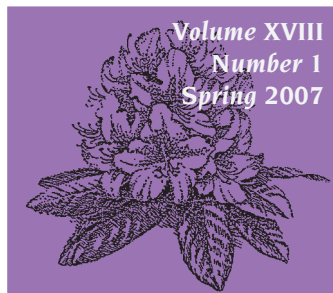


# The Rootball News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER — THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY



## Midwest Chapter Plant Sale and Truss Show Returns to The CBC



This spring, The Midwest Chapter's annual plant sale and Truss Show will once again take place at The Chicago Botanic Garden on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day.

John Honkisz has made the plant selections this year. We have found from past sales blooming plants are always the first to sell so John carefully selected many varieties that will be in bloom. Also, with this being Mother's Day weekend, we hope many of our plants will be purchased as gifts.

Approximately 150 plants have been ordered from Rosebay Nursery and in addition, John Migas will bring some of his evergreen azaleas. A list of plants that have been ordered is below.

We encourage all of our members to bring trusses for our Truss Show. This display is always of great interest to our visitors and members alike. Try to bring your trusses an hour before the show opens to allow enough time to label and set up the display. Last year's Truss Show was truly awesome with many of our members participating so let's see if we can top it this year.

The plant sale is our primary fundraiser and is extremely important for our chapter. We encourage each member to invite their friends. Many of the varieties we offer are not available from local garden centers plus you can pick up a great Mother's Day plant that will provide many years of enjoyment!

### PLANT SALE VARIETIES

#### ELEPIDOTES

Big Deal  
Calsap  
County of York  
Delp's Sunshen  
English Roseum  
Holden  
Marjie Kay Hinerman  
Pana  
Pearce's American Beauty  
Pink Pixie  
Purpureum Elegans  
Scintillation  
Spring Dawn  
Tapestry  
Today & Tomorrow  
Tony  
Vernus

#### LEPIDOTES

April Snow  
Balta  
Black Satin  
Faisa  
Thunder  
Olga Mezitt  
PJM  
Weston's Pink Diamond

#### EVERGREEN AZALEAS

Various

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### 'CHICAGOLAND GARDENING' ARTICLE

The November/December 2006 issue of *Chicagoland Gardening* magazine included a nice feature about our Midwest Chapter. Included with the article was a photo of Etta Gray admiring one of the trusses at last year's Truss Show at The Morton Arboretum.

*Chicagoland Gardening* is a fine publication with relevant articles about our growing area. For subscription information visit their website at [www.chicagolandgardening.com](http://www.chicagolandgardening.com).



# Letter

from the president



john migas



spring • 2007

Hello from Michigan...

Here it is the third weekend in April and finally a sunny day, calm and short sleeve shirts. Just before Easter weekend, the temperature reached nearly 70 degrees waking up a lot of plants. Then all of a sudden a switch was set off and 8 inches of snow had fallen and back to 20 degrees. What a shock to the plants!

From what I heard we were not alone. Bud blast, bark split, green leaves suddenly looking like corn flakes were reported from Asheville, NC, Chattanooga, TN, Evansville, IN, Mobile, AL and Monmouth, IL.

Seems like a lot of the country was damaged by this early warm up and sudden freeze. In the end it seems I got lucky and didn't suffer as much loss as I thought. Frozen buds on most of my early lepidote rhodies and magnolias were about all the damage I suffered. Overall the winter was long and cold with a steady snow.

As far as our chapter activities, we have a busy schedule starting out with our member's garden visit to the northwest Chicago suburbs on May 5. Visits include the Moats, Golab and Wetzel gardens. Hope all can make it.

The following weekend is our Plant sale and Truss Show at The Botanic Garden on May 12 and 13. Please call a board member if you can volunteer.

In July, our summer meeting will be held at the home of Barbara Berend in Burlington, Wisconsin. We also plan to visit other member's gardens that live nearby. Look for an announcement with the exact date and details.

In August, we plan to have a members cutting party. Members interested in providing cuttings should contact a board member so we can start putting a list together.

October will be our ARS Fall Regional Conference at The Holden Arboretum on October 12 thru 14. There will be more information forthcoming as details are finalized.

Hope to see you at the garden visits and plant sale and enjoy our spring season.

*John Migas*

## GERRY FIRAK AWARDED BRONZE MEDAL

On September 30, 2007, Gerry Firak was awarded The Bronze Medal at the chapter's fall weekend meeting in Rockford, Illinois. John Migas, chapter president made the presentation.

Gerry is a long time member of the Midwest Chapter, has served as president and has contributed many hours of his time to our annual plant sale and truss show.

Congratulations Gerry, and another big thank you for all you have done for our chapter.



# "OOHS" AND "AAHS"

## AT THE 2006 AUTUMN MEETING

There were plenty of "oohs & aahs" as 24 members of the Midwest Chapter met in Rockford last September 30th and October 1st. Members came from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.



The weekend began with a tour of Anderson Japanese Gardens, cited as among the top three Japanese Gardens in the US. Several chapter members have visited the gardens in prior years, and were impressed at the growth – both in acreage and plant material – that has taken place since their last visits. Our tour was led by Sally Nelson, a former Rockford native who spent 28 years in Okinawa & Japan before returning to Rockford and becoming a docent at Anderson.

After a bountiful luncheon at the Olympic Tavern & Restaurant, the group moved out to southeast Rockford to the J Carlson Growers nursery. Jon Carlson greeted us, gave a short introduction to the nursery, and then turned us loose to ogle and fondle the merchandise. No meeting seems complete without the opportunity to acquire new specimens, and several plants ended up in vans, car trunks, or on floors behind front seats!

Later in the day, the group gathered at Giovanni's Restaurant for a social hour followed by our Chapter Banquet in the restaurant's Private Boardroom. Chapter President John Migas honored Gerald Firak with an ARS Bronze Medal. Compliments were many, both for the quality and variety of menu items, and for John Golab's wine selections.

Sunday morning we gathered at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, where I led a 3-hour walking tour of the arboretum's 155 acres. Well, "led" isn't exactly true, as trying to lead over 20 keen plants people through an arboretum is akin to trying to herd cats – both groups tend to wander off on their own!

Klehm Arboretum was a new experience for most of our members, as it's only existed as an arboretum & botanic garden for about 20 years. The grounds began as Rockford Nursery in the 1920s, were acquired by the Klehm family in the 1960s, and then generously donated to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District in the 1980s, to be maintained as an arboretum.

When folks from the Morton Arboretum came out to help inventory the existing plant collection in the 1980s (now since grown to over 650 different species and cultivars), they particularly were impressed with the diversity and condition of the conifer collection. So were many of our chapter members.

However, equally impressive to the chapter visitors (and gratifying to me, as the instigator) was the "Volunteers' Rhododendron & Azalea Dell", begun just two years ago with advice and counsel from several members of our chapter, and a fellow volunteer at Klehm, Ray Luy. The Dell is nestled in a ravine studded with mature Bur Oaks, and within it and one other area at Klehm, we now have over 40 different cultivars of Rhodies and an equal number of Azalea cultivars, aggregating over 150 specimens. As far as I know, we currently have the largest collection of members of the Rhododendron genus extant in a public garden in northern Illinois.

(As a footnote, our Rhododendron Collection has come through the 2006/7 winter quite well, and many plants are budded up nicely. Why not visit Klehm this spring?)

After the tour we held an auction in the parking lot at Klehm, of donated plants and books, and the chapter netted \$182 from it.

For further information, go to [www.klehm.org](http://www.klehm.org) and [www.andersongardens.org](http://www.andersongardens.org)

Dave Hinde, Treasurer, ARS Midwest Chapter, and Volunteer Curator, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden  
"Volunteers' Rhododendron & Azalea Dell"

### 2007 ARS Fall Regional Conference

This year's regional conference is being organized by The Great Lakes Chapter and will take place in Eastlake, Ohio on Friday Oct. 12 through Sunday, October 14.

The theme of the conference is "Great Lakes, Great Challenges".

The Midwest Chapter is on the agenda and we plan to charter a bus and attend as a group.

The conference promises to be of interest to all of us and traveling together should be great fun. Also, this should be a fine weekend for fall color so keep your schedule open as we're hoping for a large turnout.

Once details are finalized, we will send out information to all members.



### Midwest Chapter Spring Garden Visits

For the first time, at least in recent history, our chapter has made arrangements to visit three of our member's gardens during rhododendron bloom season on Saturday, May 5. Each garden is very different and promises to be a true highlight of the spring.

Each visit will only be at the designated time to allow each host to enjoy the other garden visits.

Barbara Wetzel will provide lunch at the last garden visit of the day. Please be sure to confirm with Barbara at least a week in advance if you plan to attend so she can plan her arrangements accordingly.

#### Following is the day's schedule:

##### 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Kay Moats  
406 S. Wa Pella  
Mt. Prospect, IL  
847-392-2004

##### 11:00 am - 12:30 am

John Golab  
1583 Bedlington  
Barrington, IL  
847-382-1674

##### 1:00 pm

Barbara Wetzel  
20 Braeburn Lane  
Barrington Hills, IL  
847-658-1528

# ARS Updates

## Calendar of Events

### MAY

may 5  
**Spring Garden Visit**  
 Kay Moats garden, 9:00 AM  
 John Golab garden, 11:00 AM  
 Barbara Wetzel garden, 1:00 PM

may 12 - 13  
**Plant Sale and Truss Show**  
 The Chicago Botanic Gardens,  
 9:30 - 4:30

### JULY

(date to be determined)  
**Summer Meeting and Garden Visit**  
 Barbara Berend, Burlington, WI

### OCTOBER

october 12-14  
**ARS Fall Regional Meeting**  
 Eastlake, OH

## 2006 Summer Meeting

The 2006 summer meeting was held at John and Eileen Golab's lovely garden on August 26. Approximately 25 people attended.

Their well-manicured garden was the perfect backdrop for the sumptuous lunch John and Eileen served.



## Anniversaries

In 2007, the following chapter members will be celebrating milestone anniversaries in The Midwest Chapter:

### 35 Years

Tom Horner

### 30 Years

Gene Paschall

### 25 Years

Barbara Behrend  
 Mark Widrelechner

### 20 Years

Bob & Sharman Wersen

### 15 Years

Paul Christensen

### 10 Years

Tadeusz Dauksza  
 John Migas

### 5 Years

Stan Hokanson  
 Darrell Kromm  
 Gary Erickson  
 Jack Strom



## 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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## membership

A big welcome to the following new members who have joined our chapter this past year:

**Harold Berg**  
 Rochester, Michigan

**Wallace Heuser**  
 Lawrence, Michigan

**Dr. George Hodakowski**  
 Hinsdale, Illinois

**Joni Johnson**  
 Brooklyn, Wisconsin

**Mike Justice**  
 Noblesville, Indiana

**Phillip and Linda Lanning**  
 Walton, Indiana

**Mary Uhrina**  
 Indian Head Park, Illinois

**Mark & Kim Weldon**  
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana



## The Rootball News

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