

The Rootball e-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER ARS

VOL 2, NO 2, FEB.4, 2012



Membership

Our membership continues to grow with the addition of two new members and three renewals since our last newsletter. We now have 63 members.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Christopher Arts,
New York, NY/Flint, MI

Philip Stay & Judy Ratcliff
Granger, IN

Welcome Back!

Jim & Sammy Blender
Raritan, IL

Thomas & Chris Mallory
Whitehall, MI

Robert & Betty Williamson
Madison, WI

Members' Roster

A current roster with each member's contact information will soon be mailed to all members. This information will also be posted on our website in a password protected area where it will be updated as necessary. Password information will shortly be provided to each member when the roster is posted.

Chapter Winter Meeting to Feature Guest Speaker

Betty Ann Addison will be our guest speaker on March 17 at The Chicago Botanic Garden

The Midwest Chapter winter meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 17 at The Chicago Botanic Garden. The meeting will begin with guest speaker Betty Ann Addison at 11:00 AM followed by a members' business meeting at noon. Please contact Ted Nyquist <t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net> or 630-215-5022 to confirm your plans to attend and if you'll bring a guest so we can make proper arrangements.

We're pleased to welcome one of our very own members, Betty Ann Addison of Gardens of Rice Creek in Minneapolis as our guest speaker. The title of her talk is "Breeding Rhododendrons, Flower to Flower" and will address her rhododendron breeding efforts in zone 4. A detailed article about Betty Ann was featured in the last issue of *The Rootball e-News* (Vol 2, No 1, January 5, 2012) and can be accessed on our website at <www.midwestars.org>.

Several chapter events have been planned in 2012 and will be discussed at the members' meeting along with other business:

- Chapter Plant Sale and Truss Show on May 12 and 13.
- Summer Meeting at The University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison, WI, with guest speaker Mike Heim on July 14.
- Midwest Chapter 50th Anniversary Party on September 8.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss what promises to be a terrific meeting. Its also a good time to reconnect with fellow members so we're hoping for a good turnout.

DETAILS

MIDWEST CHAPTER WINTER MEETING

DATE: March 17, 2012

PLACE: Chicago Botanic
Garden
The Garden View Room

TIME: 11:00 AM - Guest Speaker
12 Noon - Meeting

Please confirm with Ted Nyquist your
plans to attend by March 10

<t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net>

630-215-5022

a message from the president . . .



Rhododendron Education in 2012

One of my motivations for joining the Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society several years ago was to learn more about selecting and growing Rhododendrons in our Midwest climate and conditions. I, like many others had heard all too often how difficult it was to grow Rhododendrons in the Midwest.

Your Chapter has been working on several fronts to help educate gardeners about the correct ways to successfully grow these plants in the eight states that comprise the Midwest Chapter. We have established a mentoring program for new members to launch them on a positive start to gardening with these plants. Each new members is matched with an existing member to help answer questions and launch them on the road to success.

We will soon have a completed PowerPoint presentation that will be available to all members who are invited to give talks at Garden Clubs. Not only will this be useful from an educational point of view, but it can be utilized to recruit new members.

In addition, we have arranged for several educational meetings for Chapter members to interact and learn from speakers who are growing Rhododendrons in some of the most difficult climates we face. On March 17 at the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG), a fellow Chapter member, Betty Ann Addison, founder of Gardens of Rice Creek near Minneapolis, Minnesota will speak on “Breeding Rhododendrons, Flower to Flower”. We hope you are planning to attend and learn from Betty Ann and interact with your fellow Chapter members. Please confirm your attendance with me at 630-215-5022 or <t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net>. A brief Chapter business meeting will follow her presentation.

The ARS and ASA Joint National Meeting will be held in Asheville, North Carolina on May 4-7. It will be a time to listen to many knowledgeable speakers and a time to interact with fellow members from around the world. Please register now if you haven’t done so already. Contact the national website for details.

John Migas, President of the Azalea Society of America and fellow Midwest Chapter member has arranged for a three day tour of various gardens at peak bloom time in the greater Saugatuck, Michigan area on May 18,19 and 20.

The Chapter Plant Sale and Truss show is going to be held May 12 and 13 at the CBG. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Chapter members and purchase your new Rhododendrons for 2012. Chapter members will receive a discount from the regular price!

We have arranged for a summer Chapter meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Our speaker will be Mike Heim, a fellow Chapter member from Hayward, Wisconsin who has been growing various hardy plants including Rhododendrons in Zone 3. His experiences should help us all.

Last but not least is our 50TH Anniversary Celebration to be held on September 8th at the Edgewood Valley Country Club in La Grange, Illinois. More details including the speaker for the event will be announced later.

Now as I close I am encouraged to go outside and visit my Rhododendron beds. While they are usually covered with snow at this time of the year, with temperatures reaching the 50’s I am encouraged that there will be little or no winter damage. With a good two months to go there is still a chance Mother Nature will have a few good freezes in store for us before we start a concerted warm up. I can’t wait.

Think Spring,

Ted Nyquist

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Winter Meeting

March 17, 2012
PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden
The Garden Room
TIME: 11:00 AM

*Betty Ann Addison is Guest Speaker.
"Breeding Rhododendrons, Flower to Flower"*

ARS & ASA Joint National Meeting

May 4 - May 7, 2012
PLACE: Asheville, North Carolina

Chapter Plant Sale & Truss Show

May 12 and 13, 2012
PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden

Michigan Garden Visits

May 18, 19, and 20, 2012
PLACE: Saugatuck/Holland, MI
DETAILS: TBD

Summer Meeting

July 14, 2012
PLACE: University of Wisconsin
Botanical Garden
The Visitors Center' Room
TIME: 11:00

Mike Heim is Guest Speaker. "Pushing Hardiness Limits, Rhododendrons and Their Companions in The Northwoods"

Chapter 50th Anniversary Party

September 8, 2012
PLACE: Edgewood Valley CC
LaGrange, IL
TIME: TBD



Fantastica

2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Map

The USDA Plant Hardiness Map is the standard which gardeners and growers alike use to determine which plants are most likely to thrive in a given location.

It's important to note hardiness zones are based on the average annual extreme minimum temperatures during a 30-year period and not the lowest reported temperatures. The 2012 edition is based on 1976-2005 weather data. A trial check did not find the addition of more recent data made a significant difference to the results.

Below is a link to the website where you can reference the 2012 Hardiness Map. You can click on a state to see the various climate zones within the state. Also, a personal ZIP Code zone finder is included where you can simply type your ZIP Code in the proper box and your zone will be reported.

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

Call For Articles

To help make our newsletter more interesting and informative, we would like to include articles from our members about various topics related to rhododendrons.

They can be about a favorite rhododendron or companion plant, photos of your garden or any topic you think our members might find of interest.

Send your articles, photos or ideas to the editor at [<apgreco@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:apgreco@sbcglobal.net).

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The Midwest Chapter ARS
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