

The Rootball e-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER ARS

VOL 2, NO 6, OCT 1, 2012



A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MIDWEST CHAPTER

I just wanted to pass on my congratulations on your chapter's 50th Anniversary. That is quite an accomplishment when we have seen other chapters come and go. With your membership spread over 6 states and growing rhododendrons under difficult conditions, I commend you all for keeping your chapter strong.

I'm sorry that I could not join you for your celebration, but I will be there in spirit. During my time with the ARS, not nearly approaching 50 years, I have met so many great people. And I'm sure the friendships that you have made in your widespread chapter are what keeps you going.

Again, congratulations, and have a great party as you start on the next 50 years!

All the best,

Don Smart

President ARS

Midwest Chapter Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Gala Dinner Party

by A. P. Greco

The Midwest Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a lovely dinner Party on September 8, 2012. The event was held at Edgewood Valley CC in LaGrange, Illinois.

Twenty-four people attended including ARS Executive Director Laura Grant who flew in from Toronto to help celebrate with us. For many, this was a great opportunity to meet Laura personally. What a delight!

The party was attended by some of our senior and new members alike which was good to see. Of course, there were a lot of conversations about rhododendrons as one would expect.

The evening provided many highlights topped off with Susan Garland receiving The Bronze Medal. To say she was overjoyed would be an understatement. Congratulations, Susan!

Our chapter also presented Laura Grant with The Midwest Chapter Certificate of Appreciation in recognition for all she has done for our chapter. Laura also read a letter from Don Smart, ARS President, congratulating our chapter which appears elsewhere on this page.

John Golab gave a brief talk about some of the recent highlights of the chapter, and Gerry Firak, our longest tenured member, provided some lively remarks about the early years. Gerry joined the chapter in 1966 as a young man, four years after The Midwest Chapter was established.

Gene Paschall also added some kind words in memory of Kay Moats, one of our past presidents who passed away this summer.

The party wound up with a fun raffle that included some beautiful prizes Susan Garland selected from the upcoming Christ Church of Winnetka Annual Rummage Sale. Susan is deeply involved with this charity event and additional information can be found about the sale on page 6. Everyone departed with a small rhododendron, complements of the chapter.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful evening.





Wayne &
Barbara Pearson



Susan Garland



Gerry Firak



Gene & Beth Paschall



John Golab



Chuck High



Barbara & Tony Greco

PHOTO - R. Dunlap

Fun on our 50th



Becky & Bob Maganuco



Laura Grant
Robert Ramik



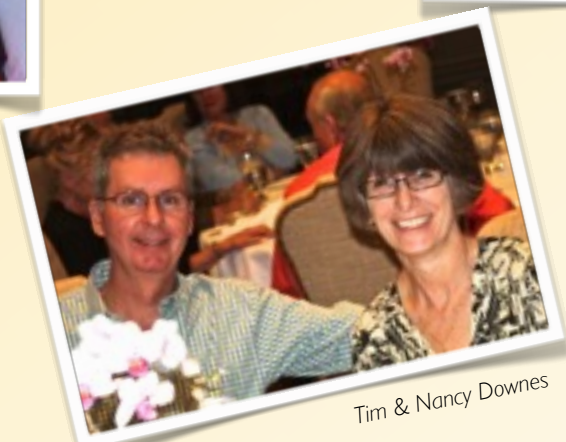
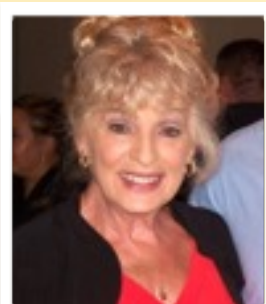
Marty Anderson



Gidget &
Ted Nyquist



Roger & Angie
Dunlap



Tim & Nancy Downes



Arvis & Rene Silinis

Apologies to Betty Firak for not including a photo of her on this page. The photographer, who happens to be yours truly, just missed it. Sorry, Betty.

A. P. Greco

Award Recipients at Anniversary Party

THE BRONZE MEDAL

Susan Garland



In recognition of your many contributions to advance the interest of rhododendrons including your outstanding service as ARS District Director, your tireless efforts to strengthen our membership as Midwest Chapter Membership Director, and your outstanding dedication and personal involvement in many chapter activities, including the plant sale, our mentoring program, social functions and most of all the personal relationships you develop with our members.



IN APPRECIATION

Laura Grant



With gratitude for your unwavering support and assistance to the Midwest Chapter as we fulfill our mission of leadership in the rhododendron gardening community, public education and membership growth.

Ted Nyquist presented the awards to Susan Garland and Laura Grant after reading the text on each of the certificates as it appears on this page.

a message from the president . . .



Looking Ahead

*I*t has finally cooled off in Chicagoland except for the heat from the usual political rhetoric which is increasing as the elections approach and the alternate sides of the several strikes trade barbs in heated exchanges. The Law of Conservation of Energy suggests that the political debates have absorbed the energy of the summer heat. I can't wait until the Holiday season comes.

The worries over the survival of my Rhododendrons have been replaced by the survival of my lawn as several rodents have taken to chasing after the tasty grubs. This is the first time in twenty-four years that this has happened. It keeps us gardeners on our toes in order to deal with nature's surprises.

Looking ahead, our Chapter has seen a sustained growth in our membership as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter by Susan Garland our Membership Officer and we are now up to seventy-seven. Yes, I wrote seventy-seven!

Your board is planning an aggressive program for the forthcoming year starting with a Holiday Party in December. In order to support our

members, continue our growth and provide an aggressive slate of activities, we need now more than ever greater participation from our members to assist in staffing key Chapter activities.

We require not only members to step forward to assist in staffing future Officer positions as current Officers have served their terms, but to help in program activities such as coordinating Chapter meetings, mentoring new members and the list goes on. We cannot sustain our current level much less anticipated growth without increased support from our members. We would

greatly appreciate hearing from you letting us know here and how you could participate.

“...to support our members, continue our growth, and provide an aggressive slate of activities, we need now more than ever greater participation”

You will be rewarded with the joys of meeting many new and interesting friends, a greater knowledge of our Rhododendron species and the knowledge that you are helping our Chapter be the best that it can be. Don't let your geographic location be a barrier to participation.

We look forward to more use of teleconferencing and possibly video conferencing in the coming months, so where you live should not be a deterrent to your participation.

Warmest Regards,

Ted Nyquist

PULMONARIA 'MAJESTE'

Brighten Up That Shady Corner

by A. P. Greco

*I*f you're looking for a handsome plant to grow in a semi-shady area with rhododendrons and other shade plants, I recommend you consider Pulmonaria 'Majeste'. I've been growing this plant for quite a few years and I like the way it brightens up a dark, shady spot with its luminous silvery foliage.

In the spring, this plant resembles many of the other Pulmonaria varieties with mottled green leaves and blue flowers, but its the foliage color change in early summer that makes this variety special.

The leaves turn a beautiful silvery color with a crinkly texture and remain this way for the rest of the growing season. The shimmering foliage edged with a narrow green band sets this plant apart from other shade plants offering a nice contrast.

Pulmonaria 'Majeste' is readily available and grows 12 inches tall by 18 inches wide. It is hardy to zone 3 and is not aggressive.

If your looking to brighten up your garden a bit, Majeste may be just what you are looking for.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Christmas Party

Details: TBD

Chapter Winter Meeting

PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden

DATE & TIME: TBD

Chapter Plant Sale & Truss Show

May 11 and 12, 2013

PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden

TIME: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Glenview Gardeners Presentation

The Midwest Palliative & Hospice

CareCenter

2050 Claire Court

Glenview, Illinois 60025

<http://www.carecenter.org/>

(847) 467-7423

Additional details will be provided.

Summer Meeting

Details: TBD

Chapter Fall Meeting

Details: TBD



The Midwest Chapter ARS
midwestars.org

BLOG: midwestars.org/wordpress

A special thanks to Roger Dunlap and Ted Nyquist for their contributions to this issue.

Editor/Design/Photography
A. P. Greco

Congratulations!

Check out the October/November issue of *Organic Gardening* for a terrific article about Ted Nyquist's garden in Bartlett, IL. Congratulations Ted for the well-deserved recognition.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewal Around The Corner



Susan Garland
Membership Director

Thanks for a great year! For those whose membership ends in 2012, you will receive your renewal papers and stamped return envelope in October. Feel free to share the material with your gardening friends. We stand at 77, so 80 is our new goal!

Welcome aboard into 2013!

Questions? Just call or email.

Susan Garland

Winnetka, IL

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Midwest Chapter Officers

Ted Nyquist, President
t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net

David Hinde, Treasurer
dwh123@charter.net

Susan Garland, Membership
s-boatman@sbcglobal.net

Anthony P. Greco, Secretary/Communications
apgreco@sbcglobal.com

Party Raffle Prizes from Annual Rummage Sale Charity Event

The wonderful raffle prizes at the Anniversary Dinner were selected by Susan Garland from the upcoming Christ Church Annual Rummage Sale. The sale will occur on Thursday, **October 4** and everyone is invited to attend.

Susan volunteers in the Chelsea Gardens section, one of 21 departments that features many beautiful gardening related items. This is a huge sale with over 300 volunteers that raise close to a quarter million dollars. The proceeds are distributed to over 60 deserving charities.

*Christ Church
Rummage
'12*

Thursday, October 4

7 AM - 3 PM

470 Maple Street

Winnetka, IL

847-446-2850

www.christchurchwinnetka.org

Contact Susan Garland for additional information.