

The Rootball e-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CHAPTER ARS

VOL 3, NO 1, FEB. 5, 2013



Time is Running Out!

by Ted Nyquist

Numerous times over the past year and one half, I have discussed the need for increased participation and assistance at all levels within our Chapter. A number of you have come forward to provide articles for our newsletter, to act as mentors for our new members and speak at our Chapter meetings. For those who were able to participate, I thank you.

However, time is running out for assistance in filling certain critical positions on the Board including that of President and Secretary. My term of two years expires this coming May. We also need a replacement for Tony Greco whose term has expired for Secretary.

If you are willing to serve on the Board or know of someone that you believe will be a good candidate, please contact me. It is not critical that a volunteer live in the Chicagoland area. The use of email and telecommunications are available to us and provide excellent ways to serve our needs.

Thanks for reading this note and I look forward to hearing from you.

Ted Nyquist
President Midwest Chapter
630-215-5022
t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net

Winter Meeting on March 2 to feature Dr. Steven Krebs as Guest Speaker

The Midwest Chapter is pleased to announce Dr. Steven Krebs, Director of The David G. Leach Research Station of Holden Arboretum in Kirkland, Ohio will be the guest speaker at our Winter Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2013. The meeting will take place at 1:00 PM in The Fairchild Room at The Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL. This promises to be an excellent program and all guests are welcome.

Following is a synopsis and bio provided by Dr. Krebs:

Modernizing a Garden Classic; Rhododendrons for the 21st Century

I start with the assumption that most people would like to grow a rhododendron, but most people also have difficulty in getting them to grow well, particularly in continental climates like the Midwest. This is certainly the case for the broad gardening public, less so with enthusiasts

and knowledgeable practitioners who enjoy the challenges and rewards of genus *Rhododendron*. Future trends, such as global warming, droughts, or flooding may pose even greater difficulties to success with these plants.



Capistrano

My plant breeding work at the David G. Leach Research Station of the Holden Arboretum



Nepal

focuses on adding root rot disease resistance and heat

tolerance to the collection of highly ornamental and cold hardy rhododendrons developed by Dr. Leach and others. These traits could result in a new breed of plants that are much easier to grow and are adapted to a wider range of climatic conditions.

The core of my talk is an update on this rhododendron breeding program, which is based primarily on the use of the Asian species



Malta*

continued on page 2

Winter Meeting on March 3

continued from page 1

R. hyperythrum for both disease resistance and heat tolerance. In addition, two other topics will be more briefly covered – the completion of a new Rhododendron Discovery Garden at the Holden



Rio*

Arboretum, and a native azalea hybridization project at the Leach Station that has resulted in summer blooming plants with bright colors and fragrance.

Krebs Bio (PhD Michigan State University, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Dept Horticulture)

I started working with David Leach in 1992, a few years after his property, collections, and breeding populations had been incorporated into The Holden Arboretum's research program. I became director of the Leach Station in 1998 and my responsibilities now include:

- 1) maintenance and development of a 30-acre research and display garden
- 2) breeding and introduction of rhododendron cultivars with novel attributes
- 3) research on rhododendrons or other ericaceous plants.



Janet Blair*

My work focuses on the hybridization of rhododendrons for continental climates and analyses of ornamental and adaptive traits. Primary projects include a breeding program for *Phytophthora* root rot resistance in rhododendrons, field screens for powdery mildew resistance in azaleas and physiological and genetic studies of freezing tolerance in rhododendrons.

Secondary interests and expertise are in the areas of plant polyploidy and reproductive biology. Much of this research is done in collaboration with scientists and graduate students at other universities.

I am trying to build on David's legacy by adding adaptive traits to his highly ornamental, cold hardy collection. My goal is to create novel hybrids that can be enjoyed by the masses because they are easy to grow under a wide range of conditions.



Normandy*

The use of *R. hyperythrum* has worked wonders towards this end, creating the most field-adapted, vigorous material to date. Of course, it is a step backwards temporarily in hybrid flower color

saturation (*R.*

hyperythrum is white-flowered), but the gain in root vigor quality, floriferousness, and dense habit is well worth it.



Ivory Coast*

7

or those unable to attend the presentation on Saturday at The CBG, Dr. Krebs will make the same presentation at Cantigny Park on Friday, March 1.

Friday, March 1, 1:00 PM
Cantigny Park: Visitor Center Theater
151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
Call in to register at 630-260-8162

The program is free and the parking fee is waived for this event.

All photos in this issue with an asterisk (*) are David Leach Hybrids

a message from the president . . .



2013 . . . What's Ahead

*I*t is hard to believe that another year has passed and what a year it has been! No one that I have talked to can remember such a sustained dry and hot period. Those of us who watered well and often made it through relatively unscathed. However if you missed a day or two at the wrong time you were in trouble. Many lessons were learned. I won't know with certainty until May whether or not two young maples I purchased last Spring made it through last summer or not.

In spite of the trials and tribulations we faced, it was a good year for our Chapter. We learned that we were number one in growth compared to all the ARS Chapters in the country. Quite an achievement that should make you proud! With your help we can be number one again; however, it will take a concerted effort by all to reach our goals for the year. Please help with the recruiting and referrals. The benefits to you and the Chapter are many.

Last year we experienced one of the best plants sales we have had in years aided by the preordering of plants, members' discount pricing, enhanced graphics at the show and a concerted effort by those present to talk to the many visitors who came through our plant sale to witness the beauty of growing rhododendrons.

Last year also celebrated the Chapter's 50th anniversary highlighted by an elegant dinner at the Edgewood Valley Country Club in La Grange, IL and the attendance of our Executive Director, Laura Grant. A grand time was had by all. Board member and Membership Officer Susan Garland was presented with The Bronze Medal for her many

contributions to the Chapter over the years. A Bronze Medal was also presented to Dave Hinde for his many contributions to the chapter on December 3 at our Christmas Party.

We are planning for another exciting year for the Chapter. Our winter meeting will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden on March 2 with the featured Speaker being Dr. Steve Krebs of the Holden Arboretum in Ohio. Dr. Krebs will also speak at Cantigny Park in Lisle, IL the proceeding day.

In addition to the winter meeting, we plan to have a summer meeting at Taylor University in Upland Indiana on June 15. Chapter members Dr. Andy Whipple and Paul Lightfoot of the University will conduct tours and demonstrate the techniques used to propagate azaleas from tissue culture.

We also plan to have gardens tours of our members gardens in the spring. May as usual plans to be a busy month. John Migas reports that the Lake Michigan Chapter of the Azalea Society plans a spring garden tour in Holland and Saugatuck on May 17, 18 and 19. More details will follow in the coming months. All are invited whether or not you are an Azalea Chapter member. Also don't forget the National ARS meeting in Seattle. I hope to see many of you there.

I look forward to another exciting year.

Warmest Regards,
Ted Nyquist

IN MEMORIAM



G E O R G E G R A Y

It was with deep sadness to learn one of our longtime members George Gray, passed away on October 20, 2012. George was one of the leaders of The Midwest Chapter and will be remembered for his love of rhododendrons,, his generosity sharing his many hybrids and for his friendship.

Our deepest condolences are extended to George's wife Etta and the entire Gray family.

Dave Hinde Awarded The Bronze Medal

*D*ave Hinde was presented with The Bronze Medal on December 1 at our Christmas Party. The presentation was made by Ted Nyquist, Midwest Chapter President with the following remarks:

The Bronze Medal, the highest honor that an ARS Chapter may award, is being awarded to David Hinde for his tireless work and contributions to The Midwest Chapter.

Dave, a member of the ARS since 2005 is a dedicated participant and supporter of the ARS and the Midwest Chapter. Currently Dave serves on the Midwest Chapter Board as Treasurer, a position he has held since 2006. He also served as Membership Director and has worked diligently at our annual Plant Sale and Truss Show.

Dave and his wife Ellen live in Roscoe, Illinois, nearly two hours from Chicagoland where our Board Meetings are held. Dave rarely misses a meeting despite the distance.

As a former professor of Physics at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois, he brings his scientific background and expertise to his passion for the genus Rhododendron. Along with associates in Rockford, he established the Rhododendron and Azalea collection at The Klehm

Arboretum and Botanic Garden which he continues to foster and maintain. Klehm is located in plant hardiness zone 4b to 5a and as a result of Dave's efforts and guidance there are now over 80

different species and cultivars in its collection which makes for an ideal testing ground for our Rhododendrons in the Midwest.

An ardent nature lover, Dave also serves as Secretary of the Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited which seeks to restore and maintain trout habitats throughout the country.



As President of The Midwest Chapter, I am honored to present Dave Hinde with the Bronze Medal.

The certificate reads:

"In recognition of your outstanding contributions to The Midwest Chapter serving as Treasurer and Membership Director, and for your personal involvement in chapter activities including our annual Plant Sale and Truss Show. All this despite the long commuting distance to attend chapter meetings and functions."

Congratulations, Dave

Welcome!

The Midwest Chapter would like to welcome our newest members.

Cantigny Garden

Joy Kaminsky
Wheaton, IL

Klehm Arboretum and Botanical Garden

Rockford, IL

Jason and Michelle Linn

Hinsdale, IL

Sharon Fredrickson

Lake Zurich, IL

Susan Garland, our Membership Director, thanks all of you who have renewed your membership for 2013.

The total number of members is now at 77. All of our members are encouraged to help with recruitment for our chapter to continue to grow.

The benefits are numerous including a discount at our yearly Plant Sale, Chapter Newsletter, The ARS Quarterly Journal, discounts on books and much more.

If you know anyone you feel may be interested in joining, let Susan know <s-boatman@sbcglobal.net> and she will gladly send them some literature.



Edmund Amateis*

Midwest Chapter Membership Includes Arboretums and Botanical Gardens

The Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to have among its members several distinguished botanic gardens and arboretums including:

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL
Klehm Botanic Garden and Arboretum, Rockford, IL
Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL
Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis, MO
Azalea Path Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Hazleton, IN

We are very proud to include these fine institutions on our membership roster and encourage all of our members to visit them.



Mrs. T. H. Lowensky

Midwest Chapter Assisting Morton Arboretum and Cantigny Park Selecting Rhododendrons

by Ted Nyquist

The Midwest Chapter has been working closely with The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois and Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois with the selection of rhododendrons for each of their gardens.

Cantigny Park is a new Midwest Chapter member joining the ARS in 2012. Under the guidance of their Director of Horticulture, Joy Kaminsky, Cantigny is initiating a major effort to plan and establish a Rhododendron collection. Plans and designs were started last year and plants ordered for a spring 2013 planting. We hope other members of the Chapter together with family and friends will come to visit this spring to see the beautiful display.

The Morton Arboretum established a rhododendron collection several years ago under the guidance of Dr. Kunso Kim, who is responsible for their various collections. Once again, plants were ordered last fall to enhance the existing collection. Shipments and planting will occur this spring.

Members can view both the new Cantigny rhododendron gardens and Morton Arboretum collection on the same day this spring since both are within reasonable proximity of each other.



Madrid*

2013 Plant Sale Varieties

The plants have been ordered for our 2013 Plant Sale that will take place on May 11 and 12 at The Chicago Botanic Garden. Several new varieties are included this year. We will also have some evergreen azaleas from John Migas. Exact varieties will be determined based on availability.

The number of plants ordered for each variety is limited so if there is a variety you definitely desire, contact John Golab to preorder at <e.j.golab@gmail.com> or (847) 382-1674). We will also try to add to our order if a member wants to preorder a large number of plants. Exact prices will be established when the shipment arrives. The chapter will be offering a Members' Discount again this year and specific details will be provided in an upcoming announcement.



Scintillation



Tapestry



Percy Wiseman



Janet Blair*

Dorothy Swift
Yellowstone
Tapestry

Percy Wiseman
Scintillation

Skookum
Sugar Puff

Tina Henjie
Polarnacht

Wyandanch Pink
Kabarett

Caroline

Lemon Dream

Weston's Pink Diamond

Landmark

Minnetonka

Pearce's American Beauty

Janet Blair

Commonwealth

Calsap

Anna Hall

Bixby



Bixby



Landmark



Calsap



Pearce's American Beauty

upcoming events

Spring Meet

by John Migas

Once again the Lake Michigan Chapter of the Azalea Society of America will host a spring garden tour in Holland and Saugatuck, Michigan. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and allow this event to happen. Last year's plans were cancelled due to the untimely spring weather we had in early April.



John Migas' Garden

2013 will be different. The show will go on no matter what the weather brings us. We will have more info as time goes on.

The dates are as follows:

Friday, May 17

registration and early bird garden visits.

Saturday, May 18

garden visits, evening banquet.

Sunday, May 19

post garden visits, head for home.

Hotel Location:

Hayworth Inn & Conference Center
225 College Drive
Holland, MI. 49423

<http://www.haworthinn.com/pages/haworthhistory.html>

The rates should be close to last years, hopefully staying the same.

Garden Tours, speakers and schedules will be posted at a later date. This notice is simply to make everyone aware that the event is a go.

I hope to see you all here.....many thanks.

JUNE IN Indiana

One of our chapter's goals is to try to include all of our members in our activities. The Midwest Chapter encompasses a wide geographic area including 8 states so this presents some real challenges.

Following up on last year's successful program in Madison, Wisconsin, we are planning an event at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana on June 15.

Fellow members Dr. Andrew Whipple and Paul Lightfoot are putting together a program that will include a full schedule of events. Included is a presentation on Tissue Culture Propagation, a garden tour of the university's native azalea collection that should be in bloom-weather permitting, a

tissue culture hands on demonstration and workshop and the opportunity to purchase some azaleas. A private tour of Paul Lightfoot's garden is also planned if time permits.



R.Periclymenoides

This will be a full day of activities and promises to be an outstanding event.

Our chapter is considering renting a 15 passenger van to transport people from the Chicago area to the event so save the date of June 15 on your calendar.

More details will be provided as plans are finalized.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Winter Meeting

DATE: Saturday, March 2, 2013
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden
The Fairchild Room

*"Modernizing a Garden Classic:
Rhododendrons for The 21st Century"*
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Steven Krebs

Steve Krebs' Alternate Presentation

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2013
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Cantigny Park
Visitor Center Theatre
151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL
PHONE: 630-260-8126

*"Modernizing a Garden Classic:
Rhododendrons for The 21st Century"*
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Steven Krebs

Glenview Gardeners Presentation

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2013
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: The Midwest Palliative & Hospice
Care Center
2050 Claire Court
Glenview, Illinois 60025
(847) 467-7423

ARS National 2013 Convention

DATES: May 1-5, 2013
PLACE: Seattle, Washington

Refer to ARS website for details

Chapter Plant Sale & Truss Show

DATES: May 11 and 12, 2013
TIME: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden

Michigan Meet

DATES: May 17-May 19, 2013
PLACE: Saugatuck, Michigan

Contact John Migas for additional information
<azaleajohn@yahoo.com>.

Summer Meeting

PLACE: Taylor University
Upland, Indiana
DATE: June 15, 2013

Details will be provided

ARS Seed Exchange

The ARS seed exchange is now open. Seed is available exclusively for ARS members until March 15, 2013 after which it will then be available to the general public. Visit the ARS website www.rhododendron.org to view the searchable seed catalog and for ordering instructions.



*Bikini Island**

Quarterly Bulletin & ARS Journal Electronic Archive

If you haven't done so yet, try visiting the ARS website <www.rhododendron.org> where you can now reference back issues of the The Quarterly Bulletin and The ARS Journal dating back to the first issue in 1947.

Click on the link "Quarterly Bulletin and ARS Journal Electronic Archive" where you will be taken to Virginia Tech's Digital Library and Archive.

This is a great addition to the ARS website and should be of interest to both old and new members alike.



Delp's Sunsheen

Glenview Garden Club Presentation

Our chapter has been invited to make a presentation to the Glenview Garden Club on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 PM.

Midwest Chapter members are invited to attend. There is no need to reserve a place so just show up.

Date: Tuesday, March 12

Location: The Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center
2050 Claire Court
Glenview, Illinois 60025
(847) 467-7423
TIME: 7:00 PM



*Lodestar**

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, Communications
apgreco@sbcglobal.com



The Midwest Chapter ARS
midwestars.org

BLOG: midwestars.org/wordpress

A special thanks to Ted Nyquist, Steve Krebs and John Migas for their contributions to this issue.

Editor/Design/Photography
A. P. Greco