

The Rootball e-News

Newsletter of the Midwest Chapter ARS—VOL 5, NO. 1, APRIL 1, 2015



PLANTS ON ORDER

(RHODODENDRONS)

Biloxi Blues
Calsap
Dorothy Swift
Eino
Faisa
Grape Jam
Haaga
Helsinki University
Hot Dawn
Janet Blair
Kabarett
Landmark
Lemon Dream
Mikkeli
Minnetonka
Polarnacht
Scintillation
Tapestry
Tina Heinje
Wyandanch Pink
Yaku Prince
Yellowstone

(AZALEAS)

Baltic Amber
Bixby
Klondyke 21-24"
Klondyke 27-30"

The above varieties have been ordered but are subject to availability. For additional information, contact John Golab.

Photos of some of the varieties are included throughout this newsletter.

In this issue:

	Page
Plant Sale & Truss Show	1
President's Letter	2
How-To Videos	3
Chapter Communications:	
A Supplementary Approach	4
Ozark Chapter Visit	
& Arkansas Garden Tours	5
Calendar of Events	6
Chapter officers/Membership	6
Summer & Christmas Meetings	6

2015 Plant Sale and Truss Show slated for May 9 & 10th at the Chicago Botanic Garden

The 2015 edition of our chapter's annual plant sale will take place at the **Regenstein Center** located within the grounds of the **Chicago Botanic Garden** on May 9th & 10th. Hours of the Sale will be between 10 AM and 4 PM both days. The Sale, open to Chapter members and the general public, will feature a variety of rhodies grown by ROSEBAY NURSERY located in Saugatuck, Michigan. This is the Chapter's chief revenue producing event of the year. For the last 10 years at least, ROSEBAY NURSERY has been our prime Nursery source for this event continually producing quality plants which tend toward "latest releases" but NOT at the expense of cold hardiness. "Tried and true" good doers, we are proudly proclaim. The logistics of staging such a sale means however, that proving a wide variety dictates limited quantities of each. So, a word to the wise: "Show up early".

MEMBER'S DISCOUNT

Midwest Chapter members will once again receive a Member's Discount depending On the number of plants they purchase (excluding 4" sizes). A 10% discount will be offered on the purchase of 1 or 2 plants, 15% on 3 to 5 plants and 20% on six or more. At last year's show, we signed up several new members who joined our Chapter to take advantage of the discount and we expect similar results this year.

TRUSS SHOW

One of the highlights of the sale is our Truss Show exhibit featuring locally grown flower trusses from member gardens. This colorful exhibit always seems to elicit an "surprising" reaction from visitors to the exhibit and clearly demonstrates that a wide array of rhododendrons (and azaleas) can be grown successfully.

We encourage all of our members to bring in some of their trusses. Plan to arrive about a half hour early to help set up the display.

PLANT DRAWING

A new adjunct to our Plant Sale this year is a RHODY DRAWING. The purpose of the DRAWING is to generate excitement and to develop a new member prospects list in the process. There will be 2 types of drawings: an unrestricted DRAWING aimed at the "gardening public" and one directed toward "Chapter members". The former will be conducted on Saturday: one in the morning – one in the afternoon. The prize will be a blooming rhody in a 3/5 gallon pot. The actual drawings are scheduled for 1 PM and 3 PM. We will simply require that entrants provide name, address, telephone and email data. This data will be used to compile notification lists for future Chapter events. Winners need not be present for the actual drawing but the "prize" must be claimed (Saturday).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.)



John Golab

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone in the Midwest is enjoying a slightly better winter than last year. We should also be grateful we don't live in Boston where over 100 inches of snow has fallen as of this writing. Speaking of snow, let me call your attention to a very informative article about snow in the latest issue of the ARS Journal by our own Roger Dunlap entitled: SNOW COVER . . . WHO NEEDS IT! The concept of snow as an insulator has been discussed by all of us for many years. However, this article brings to light some factors not previously considered. I'm sure you will all find this piece very interesting.

As a follow on to last year's record breaking winter, a committee has been formed to evaluate the damage and reap some valuable information from a very disastrous natural event. Bill Dietrich, Tom Horner and myself will be developing a survival matrix of all the hybrids in our collections, classifying the level of destruction from "none at all" to a "complete loss". Details such as time in the collection, degree of recovery and bud hardiness will be incorporated. This chart should prove extremely valuable to gardeners looking to expand their rhody gardens as well as hybridizers evaluating new selections for the Country's interior particularly the upper Midwest. Any inputs from our chapter members are welcome.

In my new position as district director, I have begun my travels to the chapters within District # 11. Last fall I visited the Ozark Chapter to attend their meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It

was very enjoyable and highly informative. Many thanks to Larry Coleman for hosting my visit. I wish you all could see Larry's garden and the work he has done over many years. Beautiful, Larry! Please see a more detailed article of the Ozark Chapter visit on page 5 of this newsletter.

As I continue visiting other chapters, my hope is to form a joint meeting that may be more pertinent and more convenient for all the chapters in our district. This would be akin to the old Regional Meetings we use to have incorporating multiple chapters that ran for several days. Our long time members will recall these events.

Unfortunately, over recent years, these "cooperative events" have gone by the wayside. I would very much like to renew this tradition with the cooperation of other chapters and support from all of you. I will keep you posted.

This issue of "THE ROOTBALL NEWS" has been produced by Roger Dunlap, our new, acting Newsletter editor. As many of you know, Tony Greco, our long time Editor, producer and publisher of this Newsletter has moved to his new residence in south Florida. Tony will no longer be able to produce this publication but we wish to thank him for his many years of work and effort practically from its inception. THE ROOTBALL NEWS has been the pride of our Chapter receiving glowing praises from both ARS National and many other Chapters. Well done, Tony and thank you! We will miss you.

Lastly, it's time to start thinking about our upcoming annual Show and Plant Sale at the Chicago Botanic Garden. We will have our usual selection of wonderful "rhodies" from ROSEBAY NURSERY including some promising new releases. Please put Mother's Day week end on your calendar (May 9 & 10th) and plan on attending. Bring your trusses - bring your friends - especially, bring yourselves. This year we will have a new "wrinkle" for those who attend and as usual we will need help from volunteers for the Friday (May 8th) set-up as well as Saturday and Sunday (May 9 & 10th) to work the Show.

Happy spring!

John

2015 Plant Sale - (continued from Front Page)

Those Midwest Chapter members interested in “joining in the fray” can also participate in separate, “member” drawings with similar rules. Open to Chapter members only, this DRAWING will operate BOTH Saturday and Sunday featuring “connoisseur” caliber plants. Again, winners must claim their prize on the day of the DRAWING (Saturday or Sunday).

This Plant Sale is made possible (in part) by the cooperation of the Chicago Botanic Garden which has graciously provided temporary storage space for our plants. Their collaboration has greatly simplified the logistics of staging this event. As always, we are hoping for a good turnout and YOUR presence as well.

Roger



TO



“NEW “ How-To Videos Now Posted On Our Website!

Video Training Sessions

A series of video tutorials is being created and placed on the Chapter website (www.midwestars.org). A purpose of the American Rhododendron Society “is to encourage interest in and to disseminate information about the genus Rhododendron.” The creation of these videos, which focus on growing Rhododendrons in the Upper Midwest, helps to fulfill the above purpose as well as helping new members get off to a good start and provides useful information to existing members. The four videos currently listed on the website are:

- Lesson 1: Site Selection
- Lesson 2: Soil Preparation
- Lesson 3: Nomenclature and Selection
- Lesson 4: Planting

Three additional videos will be created in the Spring of 2015. The new videos will cover the following topics:

- Lesson 5: Watering and Fertilization
- Lesson 6: Pruning and Deadheading
- Lesson 7: Common Rhododendron Diseases and their treatment.



These videos are created based on knowledge and experiences from Chapter members growing Rhododendrons in various venues in the upper Midwest. If you have ideas for future videos that could be posted and/or are willing to participate in the creation of a video, please let the Board know so we can add them to our list of future projects.

You can access the current videos by going to our Chapter website (www.midwestars.org) and clicking on the (“How To”) heading. The four videos are listed on the first page. Feedback from Chapter members is appreciated.

Ted



JANET BLAIR



CALSAP



WYANDANCH PINK

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS: A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROACH

Our Midwest Chapter of the ARS is responsible for Chapter activities in eight states. With this large geographic area of responsibility it is difficult if not impossible for our members to participate in meetings and share information effectively. I am envious of those chapters in the Society where there are higher concentrations of owners in a local area. Your Board is comprised of members who are also geographically dispersed from Traverse City, Michigan and Chicagoland to Florida and Arizona.

With these challenges your Board has initiated plans to complement our face-to-face interactions with electronic communications. A few years ago we utilized audio or teleconferencing with our Board of Directors when they were not able to meet one on one. While this was effective, with the advent of online meeting software that could be utilized by small companies and groups, we have upgraded our activities to the use of online video conferencing for Board meetings. Over the past several months the Board has been utilizing WebEx for its online meeting software. WebEx offers a number of software packages that can accommodate from three to hundreds of participants depending on needs and pricing. With the WebEx package we have chosen our Board, we can accommodate up to eight participants. We are able to view each participant and share various types of printed documents such as PowerPoint and Words documents. This has become an effective and personal method of communication with each other where face-to-face meetings are not an option. We want to expand the use of video conferencing beyond the Board level to all the members of our Chapter who wish to participate. The WebEx system works on both PC and Mac platforms. It is best if you have a high-speed Internet connection to facilitate the sharing of documents and the video.

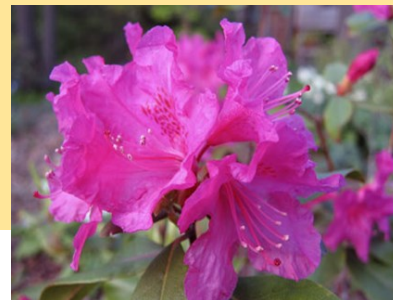
I suggest that those individuals, who have an interest in participating, please check out the online software at WebEx.com and view some of the free tutorials and the contact "yours truly" via phone or email to let me know of your interest. We hope to effectively utilize this technology thereby allowing our members to increase their participation in Chapter activities.

Thanks for participating.

Ted Nyquist

630-215-5022

t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net



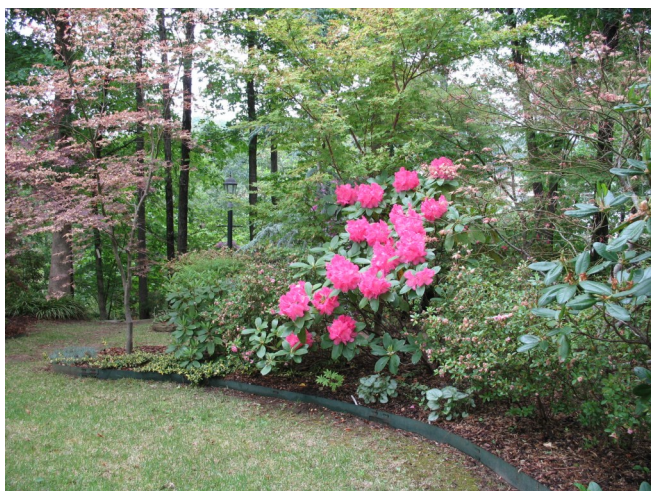
FAISA



A "raging torrent" of tulips!!
GARVAN WOODLAND GARDENS



Just one of many Japanese Maples
adorning Larry Coleman's garden.



One of many "show stopping" rhodies
within Larry Coleman's garden.

A Visit to the Ozark Chapter

The following is a report by John Golab of his visit to the Ozark Chapter on November 7, 8, and 9th, 2014 in his capacity as District # 11 Director:

The Chapter meeting was held at GARVAN WOODLANDS GARDENS, a botanical garden affiliated with the University of Arkansas located in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This 210 acre Garden claims to have a collection of Japanese Maples ranked 5th in North America. The town of Hot Springs has a long history and is quite charming. Over the years, some of you may have visited and taken advantage of the healing waters of the springs which run through a number of the hotels and spas.

The featured speaker was Robert "Buddy" Lee, Director of Plant Innovations at PLANT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC (PDSI) and creator of the Encore Azaleas® which are commonly seen on golf courses in southern United States. His very informative presentation was followed by a special tour of GARVAN GARDENS conducted by Associate Executive Director Robert Byers. The views were breathtaking – many of the pathways featured Encore Azaleas® in bloom for the third time (this growing season) which makes me speculate: could upper Midwest Gardeners ever enjoy a fall bloom out of such azaleas?? (Food for thought!)

On Sunday I visited the beautiful garden of Larry Coleman, an Ozark Chapter member) followed by a trip to the SIDNEY NISBET ESTATE GARDENS located in Melbourne, Arkansas, some 40 miles away. This 300 acre garden was something to behold. Our most charming host, "Sidney" invited Larry and I to go on a golf cart tour narrated by the head gardener. This beautiful, private garden employs five gardeners and displays countless Japanese Maples, Conifers and thousands of other plants. It was such a privilege to see this garden. Very special, indeed.

I concluded my visit with a stop at a local nursery featuring many, many Japanese Maples. These Maples appear to be a mainstay of local gardens particularly as standard companions to Chapter members' rhododendron collections. While some of us grow a few selections up North, they are nowhere near as prevalent as in the South. It came as no surprise to learn that Japanese Maples stand up to the heat very well.

My visit was extremely pleasurable and informative. Many thanks to my host Larry Coleman, who accommodated me and made all the visits possible. I look forward to my next visit with the members of the Ozark Chapter and better yet, a joint meeting with our Midwest Chapter members sometime in the future.

(For additional information on GARVAN GARDENS, see garvangardens.org or call: 800 366-4664). Also on ENCORE AZALEAS, visit their website: <http://encoreazalea.com>.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Plant Sale & Truss Show

DATE: May 9 & 10, 2015
 PLACE: Chicago Botanic Garden
 Glencoe, Illinois
 TIME: 10 AM to 4 PM

Spring Garden Events

Details of specific events will be
 Announced In future email "blasts".

Chapter Summer Party

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2015
 PLACE: John Golab residence
 Barrington, Illinois
 TIME: To Be Announced

Fall Meeting & Presentation

Details to be announced.

Midwest Chapter Officers

John Golab, President
[<e.j.golab@gmail.com>](mailto:e.j.golab@gmail.com)

David Hinde, Treasurer
[<dwh123@charter.net>](mailto:dwh123@charter.net)

Susan Garland, Membership
[<s-boatman@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:s-boatman@sbcglobal.net)

Roger Dunlap, Secretary
[<Koukla18833@yahoo.com>](mailto:Koukla18833@yahoo.com)

Roger Dunlap, Newsletter Editor
[<Koukla18833@yahoo.com>](mailto:Koukla18833@yahoo.com)

Ted Nyquist, Show Chairman
[<t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:t.nyquist@sbcglobal.net)

MIDWEST CHAPTER SUMMER LUNCHEON MEETING AND RAFFLE

What fun we had in August and December for our 2014 Luncheon gatherings!

The summer luncheon was held at "Chez Garland", my home in Winnetka, IL on August 16th. It was a time of catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

The menu consisted of salads, coleslaw, Scandia's chicken salad and okra/corn/

The Midwest Chapter ARS

Website: midwestars.org

BLOG: midwestars.org/wordpress

kielbasa salad. The top hit was Tom Horner's homemade pound cake, laced with lemon inside and out! It was to die for. He gave me the recipe. Email me for it! And this time we served wine, which was a very popular move.

Otto and Jutta Bodner's photos made clear that Otto's garden is of the same stature as the best we have seen at previous ARS Conventions. Gorgeous. We suggest a Chapter meeting there!

Rich Bara of Colorado gave two outstanding reports: 1) Controlling Phytophthora and 2) The virtues of using Western Red Cedar bark as mulch. Rich has seen rhodies springing up en masse underneath Western Red Cedars in California.

Marty Anderson could not attend but invited three friends and they joined on the spot. We welcomed Peter Martin, his wife Terry Stirling and Sue Augustine, all of Skokie, Illinois.

Tom Horner and I ran the RAFFLE. Our prizes were nice items from my church's rummage gardening stock. Prizes included a hand painted "cachepot" (a fancy name for a plant pot), a handsome new basket, a pair of hand painted flour sack dishtowels from the ARS Convention held in Cleveland and a blue and white porcelain cake stand. Now to the last raffle item – a vintage glass bonsai. Oops! - we dropped it on its way to Peter Martin. The flowers cracked. Peter accepted it graciously, but the piece was no longer worthy as a gift, especially to a new member. Stay tuned for the rest of that story.

A SPECIAL WELCOME

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS WHO
 HAVE JOINED OUR CHAPTER SINCE
 OUR LAST NEWSLETTER:

Sue Augustine

Skokie, Illinois

Craig & Patty Small

Yorkville, Illinois

Ted Antle (spelling correction)

MIDWEST CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER

The HAPP INN, a popular dining establishment located in the north shore suburb of Northfield, IL served as the venue for our December 6th Christmas party. Twenty attendees ("regulars" & "newbies") convened in a beautifully appointed private dining room complete with ornate, lighted glass panels and a separate cash bar. Wine flowed, the appetizers were good and the entire meal courtesy of the Midwest chapter was excellent.

President John Golab welcomed the group, especially the new members in attendance. He commented that it was good to see so many "southsiders" make the trek for this event. John updated the group on arrangements being made for the May plant sale and consideration being given to future Joint meetings with adjoining Society chapters, particularly the Great Lakes chapter.

We were thrilled to award Terry Stirling (Mrs. Peter Martin) – a replacement for the broken glass bonsai mentioned above. We went back to Christ Church's rummage stock and found a pair of blue and white porcelain vases bearing tall silk paper whites. Glorious. She was surprised and pleased. So are we.

We look forward to more such gatherings in 2015! *Susan Garland*