

# The Rootball e-News

Newsletter of the Midwest Chapter ARS—VOL 5, NO. 2, September 21, 2015



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## One Well-Attended Summer Garden Party

The Midwest chapter - ARS annual summer party convened at John Golab's home and garden situated in the rolling hills of northwest suburban Inverness, IL on July 18th. The guest list topped out at 22 established and new members representing not only the Chicago metropolitan area but also distant locations such as Denver, Colorado, Hayward & Waterford, Wisconsin and Traverse City, Michigan.

Those present included: Richard Bara (Denver, CO), Bill Dietrich (Prospect Heights, IL), Roger & Angie Dunlap (Traverse City, MI), Susan Garland (Winnetka, IL), John Golab (Host) & friends: Patty Dodson (Northfield, IL) + Ken & Peggy Mason (Arlington Heights, IL), Mike & Louise Heim (Hayward, WI), Dave & Ellen Hinde (Roscoe, IL), Tom Horner (Waterford, WI), Eva Hyndman (Prospect Heights, IL), Ken & Jean Kasza (Palos Park, IL), Jim McCarthy (Wilmette, IL), Don Novak (Downers Grove, IL), Ted Nyquist (Bartlett, IL), and Gene & Beth Paschall (Palos Heights, IL)

All turned out to brave the sweltering heat and to tour a carefully tended garden replete with rhododendron and perennials. One "special" place in the garden was a secluded plaza designed by John as a tribute to his late wife, Eileen. The plaza features a fountain - a bronze heron shooting water into a reflecting pool. The ground may have been muddy

underfoot but that did not discourage members from viewing a lush, green "sea" of "rhodies" and swaths of varied, colorful perennials. (See photos on Page 3.)



Angie Dunlap (Right) presents John Golab with a plaque.

The plaque bears an inscription which reflects John's "dim view" of computing.

(See below.)



"I won't be impressed with technology until I can "download" a bottle of wine."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.)



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone's summer has been a good one. This is my final letter as President of the Midwest Chapter. My term has expired. The number of times I have held the position, coupled with ARS By-Laws, dictates that I can not hold this position again. Your new President will be Susan Garland. The rest of the Board will remain the same. I wish Susan well in her new endeavor.

It was wonderful to see so many of you attend the annual summer meeting at my home. Some of you traveled long distances and it was greatly appreciated. Members from Colorado, Michigan and Wisconsin were represented along with our local attendees. Many faces had not been seen for several years so it was great fun to renew acquaintances and discover what everyone was growing.

At our summer gathering, a short business meeting took place and two major announcements were made:

1. Completion of my term as President and the installation of Susan Garland as your new President for the next year. (Editor's note: During this ensuing year, our members are encouraged to submit "nominations" for her successor. A further explanation as to how this will be conducted together with a nominating form will be distributed in the future.)

2. The Chapter will NOT be buying plants and offering them for sale at the annual Truss Show next year. While the flower trusses will be on display as usual, the many pots of rhododendrons for sale will not.

Those of you who attended the summer meeting are aware of the reasons this decision was made but for the benefit of all, I will reiterate. Each November several of us travel to Michigan to select the rhodys to be sold at the following year's Plant Sale event. The plants are then dug and stored for the winter, then shipped to us in early April. A team of people is required to receive the truck, unload and relocate approximately 200 plants to a holding area at the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) where the Sale is ultimately held. One of our members has had to go to the CBG and water the plants each week for four subsequent weeks. Then, four weeks later, still another team of people is required to load and transport the plants from the holding area to the Sales/Exhibition Hall where they are labeled with ID and price tags. One day of "set-up" followed by two days of manning the Show are necessary to complete the sales and educate the public on rhododendron culture. All of this is a huge effort requiring many volunteers. Sadly, the number of members available to help each year has been declining. When you add in the inevitability of aging, it's no surprise that unloading 50 lb. pots has become particularly difficult. In summary, after 25 years, the task has become too difficult to handle and thus the decision was made. Certainly, this topic can be revisited in the future but for now, the decision has been made.

An additional note concerns the rhododendron hardiness rating project which Bill Dietrich, Tom Horner and I took on last Spring. A preliminary set of charts was distributed during the meeting. The data collection will be an ongoing effort as long as we continue to receive input. To those of you who have extensive collections (40 or more hybrids) and would like to participate in the project, I encourage you to contact any one of the three of us for the chart format.

Finally, thank you all for your support during my final term and a special thanks to the Board who tirelessly continue to run the Midwest Chapter.

*John*





**Eileen's Garden**

**(Shown L to R) - Bill Dietrich, Tom Horner, Beth Paschall, Ellen Hinde, Ken Kasza, John Golab and the "spouting Heron"..**



**PERENNIAL:**

Lysimachia ciliata 'purpurea'

PURPLE FRINGED LOOSESTRIFE



**PERENNIAL:**

Lysimachia clethroides

GOOSENECK LOOSESTRIFE

## **One Well-Attended Summer Garden Party** - (continued from Front Page

A brief business meeting was held. (The salient points are covered in the President's Letter on Page 2.)

As John said in his "Letter", the flower truss segment will remain the essential means by which we promote and educate on the genus *rhododendron* during our annual (Mother's Day weekend) Show. Members are encouraged to bring in their flower trusses next Spring.

Rich Bara gave a brief summary of the ARS National Convention held in (Sidney, British Columbia, Canada) last May.

Ted Nyquist, our former Chapter president, expressed his gratitude to John for his 4 terms as president "seconded" by a long round of applause.

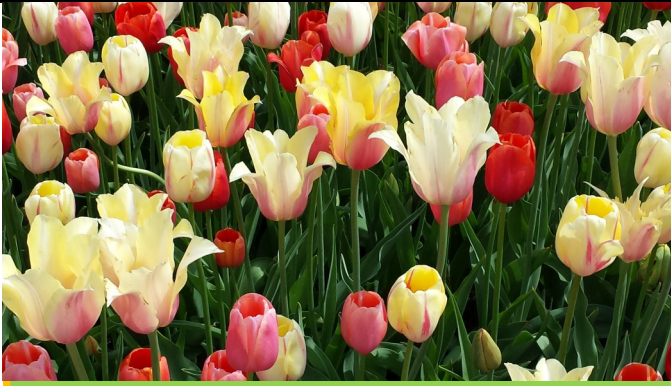
*Roger*



**PERENNIAL:**

Eryngium giganteum

'MISS WILLMOTT'S GHOST',  
GIANT SEA HOLLY



## SPRING SHOW & PLANT SALE

The Midwest Chapter—ARS conducted its customary annual Show & Plant sale at the CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN (Glencoe, IL) on Mother's Day weekend (May 9 & 10th) amid the usual tumult that typifies this event every year. Once again, the weekend was accompanied by changeable, cool, rainy weather adding uncertainty to the turnout and our Sale outcome.

This was our opportunity to showcase blooming rhododendron "trusses" from member gardens located in surrounding Chicago suburbs such as Barrington, Prospect Heights and Palos Heights. As usual, the display evoked gasps and "camera clicks" from appreciative attendees.

Simultaneous with our "Truss Display" was our fund-raising Plant Sale featuring hardy rhododendrons grown in Saugatuck, Michigan by ROSEBAY NURSERY. The budded plants were field grown, dug for this occasion and potted up in 3 gallon containers. If it were not for their dark green, unblemished foliage, we might have faced even more difficulty in selling these non-blooming plants. Fortunately, the color photo plant tags compensated nicely for the lack of blooms. Naturally, the combination of blustery weather and "uncooperative" blooms generated considerable angst among Event organizers. However, we did feel comfortable knowing that we featured extremely hardy plants. The Finnish hybrids in particular, are hardy to -35 degrees. At the end of the Show, we had 27 plants left unsold out of a total of 147 ordered. The remainder were sold at the July 18th Party previously mentioned.

One new dimension added to our Show this year (as an "experiment") was a "plant drawing". Conceived as a means to generate new prospects, we were delighted by the response of the "gardening public". One hundred thirty two entries were submitted. We were just as excited by the character of the "deserving" winners, as the winners themselves must have felt in winning.



Chris & Rose Lloyd  
Lake Forest, IL

## (PLANT DRAWING WINNERS)



Todd Degner &  
his son, Henry  
Libertyville, IL

The winners each took home a robust "rhody" named 'Eino' bred by the Finnish hybridizer, Dr. Marjatta Uosukainen. We hope this "prospects list" will eventually lead to producing new members for our Chapter.

Another adjunct to our Show, was the sale of used books donated by Chapter members. Ted Nyquist deserves credit for conceiving and carrying out the idea. Becky Maganuco was instrumental in organizing and pricing the books. Although only a modest number were sold, it was interesting to observe how much interest these books generated.

Well deserved recognition and gratitude goes out to the following Midwest Chapter members who donated their time and labor leading up to and including the Show itself: Len Buzyna, Bill Dietrich, Roger Dunlap, Jerry Firak, Susan Garland, John Golab, Tom Horner, Dave Hinde, Ken Kasza, Becky Maganuco and Ted Nyquist. It was good to see Gene & Beth Paschall, Chuck & Jane High and Jack Strom (all Chapter members) and Ms. Dodson (charter member of the "Midwest Chapter auxiliary") appear at the Show and lend their moral support. To all, a well deserved "Thank you"!





FRED H. STANTON  
1944 –2015



Fred among the “rhodies”  
he planted at his Monmouth, IL home  
June 2008.

### A TRIBUTE TO FRED STANTON

The MIDWEST Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society lost a great friend August 22, 2015. Fred was a great promoter of “rhodies”. He was one of the first individuals to plant rhododendrons in the Monmouth area. He was very active planting “rhodies” in the Monmouth Park, Monmouth College and at his home. In addition, he was always willing to give rhododendrons and azaleas to his many friends for them to enjoy in their own yards. He entertained the Midwest chapter to view his gardens and the surrounding area around Monmouth. Besides rhododendrons and azaleas Fred’s yard had many varieties of hostas and Japanese Maples and a variety of perennials. Fred was active in promoting the Midwest Chapter Plant sale each Mother’s day weekend at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Fred was Vice President of our chapter in 2008 and President in 2009 and 2010. Fred donated red and white azaleas to be planted around the new Wells Theater building at Monmouth College which bloom during the college’s graduation. Fred had many other interests also. He played the piano by ear, was an artist and had painted a whole block of Michigan Avenue in Chicago during his school years. He enjoyed working with wood and made several miniature houses and hotels which he displayed on his mantel each Christmas. Fred enjoyed traveling and one of his favorite trips was to England to see the “rhodies” in bloom at Kew Gardens (some of these “rhodies” were over 100 years old) in addition to the many buildings which he enjoyed seeing. Another one of his passions was his dream of being an architect. He enjoyed just driving around different cities and country sides to view the different architecture designs. Fred truly enjoyed life and he will be missed by his many friends and acquaintances. Please plant a rhododendron in his memory.

*Jim Blender*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Chapter Christmas Party

DATE: Sat., December 5, 2015  
 PLACE: Little Joe's Famous Pizza  
 7976 W. 167th St.  
 Tinley Park, Illinois 60477  
 PHONE: 708 532-2240  
 TIME: 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
 R.S.V.P. John Migas  
 Email: azaleajohn@yahoo.com

### Midwest Chapter Officers

Susan Garland, President &  
 Membership Chairman  
[<s-boatman@sbcglobal.net>](mailto:s-boatman@sbcglobal.net)  
 David Hinde, Treasurer  
[<dwh123@charter.net>](mailto:dwh123@charter.net)  
 Roger Dunlap, Secretary &  
 Newsletter Editor  
[<Koukla18833@yahoo.com>](mailto:Koukla18833@yahoo.com)

### CHAPTER MEMBER LEADS GROUP THRU NATURE'S SALAD BAR

On a balmy, spring day in the middle of May 2015, Midwest Chapter member and college ethnobotany instructor, Michael Heim led a group of 15 curious and hungry people of all ages thru a lovely mesic hardwood forest filled with wildflowers.

A mesic forest consists of trees like sugar maple and basswood that like medium-moist, soil conditions. The soils there develop into rich black loam due to the trees pumping nutrients to the soil surface via their fallen leaves. This, in turn, favors tender, delicious greens.

After Mike explained the ecological background of the forest and identified a number of edible greens (and ones that aren't), the participants collected enough to stuff an omelet. Leaves of wild leeks (onion), toothwort (mild horse radish), trillium (nutty), basswood (tender), sweet

### The Midwest Chapter ARS

Website: [midwestars.org](http://midwestars.org)  
 BLOG: [midwestars.org/wordpress](http://midwestars.org/wordpress)

A SPECIAL WELCOME  
 TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS WHO  
 HAVE JOINED OUR CHAPTER SINCE  
 OUR LAST NEWSLETTER:  
 Mary Agnes & Ed Burckart  
 Glenview, IL



Mike Heim, (shown on left)  
 explaining the ecology of the area  
 to several participants.  
 Spring 2015

cicely (anise) and ostrich fern (juicy) were included.

Everyone then traveled back to the college kitchen and prepared scrumptious omelets for lunch. One and all had a great time: no one left hungry. This was one of many upcoming workshops/field trips sponsored by the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Ojibwa Community College Extension Program, located in Hayward, Wisconsin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lac Courte Oreilles, (French translation—Lake Short Ears) is in reference to a freshwater lake located approximately 8 1/2 miles southeast of Hayward, WI. The native Ojibwa were perceived by the French fur trappers as having "short ears" - hence the name!

*Mike Heim*



R. 'Taurus'  
 Spring 2014  
 Dunlap garden  
 Traverse City, MI