

The Rootball e-News

Newsletter of the Midwest Chapter ARS—VOL 6, NO. 2, July 1, 2016



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Summer Meeting to Convene July 16th in Waterford, Wisconsin

The summer meeting will be hosted on July 16th by Tom Horner, long time Midwest chapter member from Waterford, Wisconsin. Tom has served as Vice President and hosted numerous garden events over the years. Those seeing Tom's garden for the first time will be struck not just by the extensive collection of rhododendrons but also by its "eclectic" composition of trees, shrubs, and perennials. Tom has artfully combined all these plant elements in an informal style that bears the "stamp" of a content, retired, high school art teacher!



**R. 'Caroline' (center background) flanked by
R. 'Katherine Dalton' (left foreground) &
R. 'Calsap' & 'Campy' (right foreground).**

Nestled in the quiet, rural country northwest of Racine, visitors will be treated to a labyrinth of gardens including a rock garden and a picturesque pond. In years past, this pond has been the home to a set of mated swans which might seem peaceful "at first blush". However, ask a former visitor (whose identity shall remain nameless) and he (or she) would regale you with a different tale—an intense encounter with one protective "cob" (male swan) who seemingly rose from the ashes like the mythical "Phoenix". Memories of this "hapless" visitor (dwarfed by the outstretched wings of an enraged waterfowl) being chased down a garden path still remain on the collective consciousness of Chapter members to this day! No harm done but the incident certainly lent "drama" to what should



have been a tranquil scene.

Thankfully, Tom no longer harbors "attack swans"; one can tour in peace . . . and peaceful it is. You will be pleasantly surprised to see a few late blooming "rhodies". For those who appreciate a garden which

has nearly everything, this is the place for you.



Tom's rock garden

Tom will be providing "light" beverages to augment a "true potluck". Feel free to bring a food item although it is not mandatory. If you have a "favorite" chair, plan on bringing it. Please confirm the number in your party no later than Fri., July 15th. Waterford is west northwest of Racine, WI. Email Tom - psalmxl@aol.com or phone: 414 550-5935. His address is: 25706 Malchine Road, Waterford, WI 53185. Plan on arriving around 11 AM on July 16th. The trip from the CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN is about 65 miles. Allow approximately 1 1/4 hours each way.

Driving directions: Easiest route — take I-94 north, exit at Highway 20 (Racine), west 14 miles to Tom's home.

Note: Beware of westbound "Road Closed" sign on Malchine Road; it is still open to just west of Tom's driveway. Beware of "Bridge out" sign on eastbound Malchine Road, 1/2 mile west of Tom's driveway.

Roger Dunlap



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This Chapter is busy! Greetings to each of you and here's a synopsis.

April 9: Ryan Kettelkamp of Evanston's Kettelkamp & Kettelkamp presented "Growing Rhododendrons in Chicago- a Landscape Architect's Agony and Ecstasy" at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Strong attendance, very well received!

April 20-24: Our 2016 National Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia had a new twist. It was a joint production of the ARS ("us") and the ASA (Azalea Society of America). It worked! Three hundred attended and the tours were spectacular. Elegant boxwoods (this is Virginia, after all) and masses of blooming azaleas were visual treats, along with splendid Colonial architecture and history.

The Midwest Chapter presented retiring Executive Director Laura Grant with a Tiffany vase, thanking her for astute wisdom and guidance. Ted Nyquist and I provided funding as well.

Laura's position will now be distributed among four National Board members.

May 7: John Golab and Roger Dunlap hosted a truss show at the CBG Mother's Day Weekend. Excellent display!

May: Our cherished friend and past President Fred Stanton passed away in the fall of 2015. Led by Jim Blender, the Chapter planted a rhododendron 'PANA' by his grave in Monmouth, IL in May. We so miss this man. A bright side is that Fred's sister Susan Trevor joined our Chapter in appreciation and therefore we gained a fine new member.

May 22: The Highland Park IL Library produced a "How-To" event and invited us. Becky Maganuco and I represented the Chapter. Our sign read: "How to Grow Rhododendrons in Chicago". Great response! We showed off 'Today & Tomorrow' and 'Calsap', both in bloom. Close to forty people attended with several interested in membership. Many requests for information and counsel! One fellow could not understand why his rhodies were setting buds but no flowers. Becky and I figured out that he was mistaking leaf buds for flower buds. We prescribed a move out of deep shade and a lot of patience. What fun!

Before long we will be planning our Chapter Christmas Party. Last year's location, Little Joe's Famous Pizza in Tinley Park provided excellent food and service. This year we'll look for a new location just for variety. Any recommendations on locations or restaurants?

But the big news of the moment is that Tom Horner of Waterford, Wisconsin is hosting our summer Annual Meeting. Fear not – his widely acclaimed gardens are 1 1/4 hours north of CBG.

Be there!

All the best to the best growers of Rhododendrons!

Susan Garland



Edward "Ed" P. Cole
1931 –2015



Ed posed in front of his yakushimanum bed
which he affectionately called "YAKVILLE".

A TRIBUTE TO "Ed" Cole

It was November 17, 2015 when the Midwest chapter - ARS lost "a giant" among rhody "enthusiasts". Born 84 years ago in St. Louis, MO, Ed grew up to become an inquisitive, brilliant student both academically and of the natural world. He held college degrees in Geology and in Business which served him well as a Systems Analyst for TRANSAMERICA CORPORATION and later in retirement (1984), when his horticultural pursuits really took off. Over the course of 30 years, Ed has left a distinguished legacy particularly in the realm of rhododendrons.

Ed's fascination with plants began at early age but intensified following the completion of his new Empire, MI home in 1969). Perched atop a "barren" sand dune, Ed's home afforded him with a commanding view of Lake Michigan. Ed could not resist the impulse to plant and plant he did. Starting with conifers from all over the world, he began the ornatation of the surrounding landscape. It wasn't long before he realized that his home site benefited from a maritime microclimate. Early on, rhododendrons captured his fancy. He was captivated by the growing challenge they presented. Systematically Ed overcame all of the hostile obstacles to growing rhododendrons in basically what was a "sandbox"!

By 1999, his dazzling blooms could no longer escape public notice. Ed achieved notoriety when TRAVERSE MAGAZINE ran a pictorial essay entitled: RHODODENDRONS IN THE MIST – a reference to his misting of rhododendrons with aerial spinners mounted on bamboo stakes. Ed relished the challenge of engineering the soil pH to match the preferences of ericaceous plants. He excelled at composing leaf textures and blooms which screamed sheer "artistry". Ed loved to test and evaluate the hardiness of many species and hybrids particularly those thought to be too tender for 45° north latitude. Overall his pragmatic approach was rewarded with surprising (pleasant) results - an inspiration to many.

Ed loved his conifers and rhododendrons so much that he took to planting them HIMSELF upon neighboring parcels, even along the public roadways of Empire itself. He was so enthusiastic that it never occurred to him to request permission first – shades of "Johnny Appleseed"? Remnants of his botanic enthusiasm persist to this day. Similar to the evangelistic ways of Johnny Appleseed, Ed was also a deeply religious man. The inside of his living room was adorned with his favorite Biblical passages carved in wood panels providing daily inspiration.

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A TRIBUTE TO “Ed” Cole continued

I first met Ed at a regional ARS convention in Chicago back in the mid 1990s. Ed traveled long distances to attend meetings at the ANN ARBOR chapter and to a number of National ARS conventions. As much as I thought I knew the man, there was one curious item left behind by Ed which defies explanation: Why was a large scale, wooden ‘house fly’ left hanging from his garage ceiling? Ed never showed any entomological leanings. Why the presence of *Musca domestica*? We’ll probably never know but I’m told that Ed loved to “ease drop” in on family conversations – the more spirited, the better. Ed may have displayed this ‘fly’ because, to him it represented the proverbial “fly on the wall”. Perhaps he fancied himself that way or maybe this is a “mystery” never to be solved.

What became of the “fly”, you ask? Well, my persistent questioning directed toward the Family regarding the significance of Ed’s fly was rewarded. Ultimately, it was set aside for me as a memento. I wound up “liberating” it from a local Bank vault! Now I am “stuck” with a “pesky house fly” of gigantic proportions! I am condemned to living out my days with the ever present *Musca domestica* (more like *Musca tormenticus rhododendronae*) as a constant reminder of Ed. It shall be displayed “in a place of honor” - MY garage!

I doubt that Ed would have thought of his legacy in this way but he might have been amused by it!!

Roger Dunlap



The strange, new animal species
“discovered” inside Ed’s garage:
“*Musca tormenticus ssp. rhododendronae*” :)

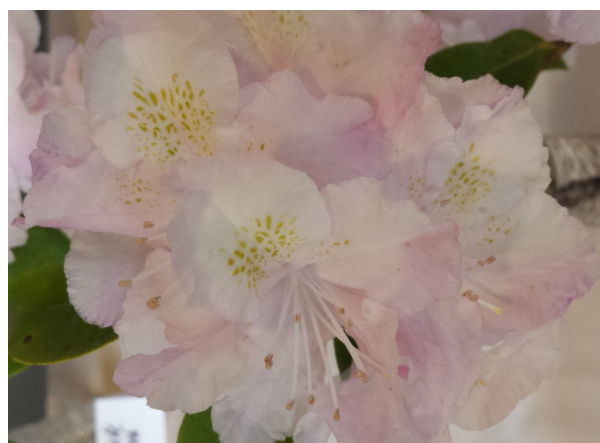
Midwest Chapter Spring Truss Show (Mothers Day weekend—Chicago Botanic Garden)



Bud vase display of blooming rhododendrons
from Chicago area, Member gardens.
(Small leaved rhododendrons predominated.)



R. 'Springtime'



R. 'Angel Powder'

“Out & About”

(Vignettes of Midwest Chapter activities)



April 2016—Williamsburg, Virginia

Chapter president, Susan Garland (left) presenting a Tiffany vase “appreciation award” to retiring Executive Secretary, Laura Grant at the ARS National Convention.



**April 2016 Naples Botanical Garden
Naples, Florida**

**L to R: John Golab, Laura Grant,
Angie & Roger Dunlap**



May 2016—Highland Park, Illinois

L to R: Susan Garland and Becky Maganuco staffing the Midwest chapter information booth at the Highland Park Library “How-To” event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER Garden Tour/Meeting

DATE: Sat., July 16, 2016
 TIME: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 PLACE: Tom Horner residence
 25706 Malchine Road
 Waterford, WI 53185
 PHONE: (414) 550-5935
 CONTACT: Tom Horner
[<psalmxl@aol.com>](mailto:psalmxl@aol.com)

Chapter Christmas Party

DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED

The Midwest Chapter ARS

Website: midwestars.org
 BLOG: midwestars.org/wordpress

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)

A SPECIAL WELCOME

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

Susan Trevor

Monmouth, Illinois



L to R: Jim Blender (Fred's best friend)
 and Susan Trevor (Fred's sister) pose with
 Rhododendron 'Pana'
 donated by the Midwest Chapter – ARS
 in memory of Fred Stanton
 Monmouth, Illinois