

March 2009 • Volume 50 No. 1

Rhododendron

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**Great Lakes Chapter
American Rhododendron Society**

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

PURPOSE

A nonprofit organization whose aim is to promote in the Great Lakes region the objectives of The American Rhododendron Society; to encourage interest in and dissemination of information about genus rhododendron including azaleas; to provide a medium through which all persons interested may communicate and operate with others of like interest through educational and scientific studies, meetings, publications and similar activities.

Meetings

Meetings are held four times each year, on the third weekend of March, May August and October, unless otherwise indicated.

Membership

Membership is open to all persons interested in the growth and culture of rhododendrons and azaleas as per the Chapter By-Laws. Those persons interested in becoming a member should contact the Membership Chairman Dr. L Gordon Walters.

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

President	Fred Palmer	814-371-2079
	cfpalmer@verizon.net	
1stV.Pres.	Dr Jim Browning	412-373-8689
2ndV.Pres.	Jane Konrad	412-741-6721
Secretary	Jill Griesse	740-587-3736
Alt Secretary	Jerri McClain	740-676-0149
Treasurer	Collene Palmer	814-371-2079
Membership	Dr. L.G. Walters	724-287-2047
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino	440-248-4583
Webmaster	Linda Stull	814-922-7612
	imgardener@yahoo.com	
Past President	Dr. Mark Konrad	412-741-6721

Board of Directors

Bert Hendley	Bob Frenzel	6 year term
Margaret Corbin	Blanche Browning	4 year term
Kay Walters	Dr. L. G. Walters	2 year term

Lending Library: Annette & Tony Pizzino 440-248-4583
Books: Rhododendrons, azaleas, companion plants, and other informative plant materials also available, videos, slides.
Books: Fred Palmer, new & new-unsold books available.

**Cover: R. maximum, Blue Ridge Mountains,
North Carolina Photo JP Pizzino**

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Hopefully as you read this, winter will be releasing us from its tight grip, in my area it started in mid November and showed signs of being a good old-fashioned winter. Lots of snow and plenty of frigid temperatures thrown in for good measure. Well enough about cold weather, let's turn our thoughts to warmer days. Our October meeting was held in DuBois Pa. We couldn't have had better weather all weekend, clear, sunny and highs in the low 70's and the fall foliage was in absolute perfect peak condition, personally, I live for weather like this. At our board meeting we discussed the importance of our annual truss show. Dr. Jim Browning suggested, and the board approved the idea that the Chapter should hold the truss show on a rotating basis in the 3 main regions of our Chapter: Columbus, Ohio region, Cleveland, Ohio/Erie, Pa. region and the Pittsburgh, Pa. region. This year, the truss show will be held in Granville, Ohio, details yet to be finalized. In 2010, our Chapter's 50th anniversary truss show will be held in the Cleveland, Ohio region at The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Oh.—and in 2011, the Pittsburgh, Pa. region. We also discussed our Treasurer's report, the Chapter's finances are in good shape.

After our board meeting we went for a short drive to Bigler to tour the Walker Gardens. We had a great turnout with about 40+ people attending the lunch and garden tour. Creator of the garden, Mr. Ray Walker age 92 gave us the history of the garden as well as a few humorous comments. About 32 met for attitude adjustment hour and dinner back in DuBois, conversation was quite interesting to say the least. After dinner, Bob Frenzel gave a talk about his and Kathleen's tour of Japan, his slides and commentary gave us a really nice look at Japan; Thanks again Bob.

Our Chapter's website which can be found at www.greatlakesrhodies.org, looks good Thanks to Linda Stall, don't forget to send photos to her so she can post them. Username—greatlakes, password—maximum. Linda's e-mail—see left. We have been invited to join the Mid Atlantic Chapter for their May meeting, Roanoke, Va., at the Holiday Inn. The dates are May 8th—10th includes a tour of Paul James' garden—maybe last opportunity. More details will follow. See you March, 28th P4M'S Dino's Restaurant, Willoughby, Oh, that's it Fred.



**Ray Walker
Photo Chas,
Karen Wagner**

Bits by Bev

"Bits by Bev" is a real challenge for me this month. I am wintering in a very warm climate, far away from the nasty winter some of my friends in the Great Lakes Chapter are experiencing. If I don't do justice to my column this issue, you will understand why! And did I mention my notes are somewhere between here and home. "The dog ate my homework."

Our President Fred Palmer and his wife Collene were the hosts for the October 11, 2008 meeting at the Hampton Inn, Dubois, Pa.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to attend the luncheon at the private "Walker Garden" in Bigler, Pa. However our loss turned into a gain. The stately elderly gentleman – Ray Walker owner of the lovely Swiss Chalet Home and Gardens met us at the gate. Being we were the only two people there, Mr. Walker shared with us the history of the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker purchased the property in 1940 – use your imagination as to how far the gardens have matured in almost 70 years. I don't pretend to know what paradise is – but walking the grounds of the beautiful gardens, with Flute music playing in the background gives one the presences of peace and happiness. The grounds featured sculptures, historic artifacts, fabulous gardens, two swans basking in the water, and so much more. The paths in the gardens were marked with arrows making it convenient for visitors to find their way around. There were also many signs with proverbs. In closing I will share a few with you that stayed with me. "The garden of Eden – Life began in a garden." "The road to success is always under construction." "You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard boiled egg." "We all grow better in sunshine and love." "Leave only foot prints, take only memories."

*Our evening speaker was our own Bob Frenzel.
-continued next page.*



Walker Garden, photos
Felix Robinson, E. Stroombek
photos by Chas, Karen Wagner

He and his wife Kathleen went to Japan last spring. Their tour guide was a lady who lived there at one time – what a Bonus. Bob's excellent slide presentation gave us a taste of Japanese gardens, Pagodas, styles of walls, gates, bridges, and paths one seldom sees in our own culture and gardens. Thanks Bob, it's always an educational experience seeing, listening and learning about other cultures.

Sunday morning Fred and Collene Palmer had an open house for anyone who could attend. Fred's directions to his house were perfect. Their garden had many well laid out pathways, lined with excellent Rhododendrons and companion plants and trees. A major feature was a stone wall that Fred had built with the help of some mechanized equipment. He showed some members his propagation bins he built in his basement. While I didn't see them, they were described as basically large wooden boxes with a hinged glass front. On the underside of the top were mounted fluorescent 4 foot lamps. An important feature was to provide heat to the rooting medium. The warmth of home, topped off with refreshments made the long trip home easier.

Also having an open house, was Ray Walylko at his West Virginia Nursery in Indiana, Pa. While we didn't have time for the tour, we heard that it is outstanding. A number of members brought cuttings to the meeting for Ray to root. They will eventually show up at one of our March plant sale meetings. Everyone will be encouraged to bring cuttings to our future October Meetings for Ray to root.

Thanks to everyone for the enjoyable weekend meeting.

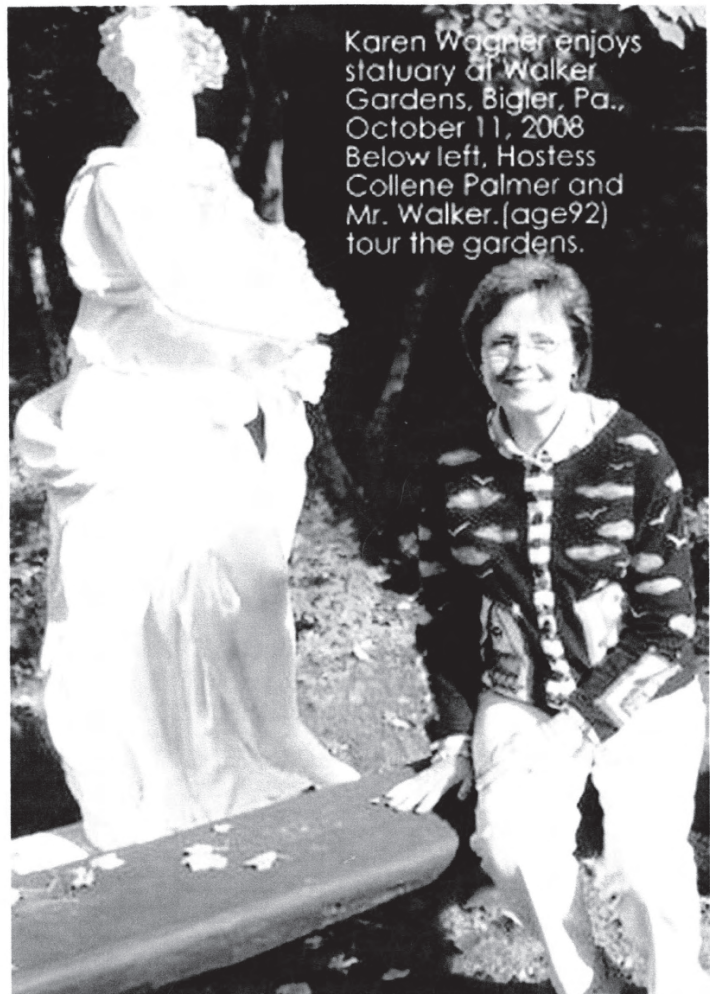
Send your garden photos to GLC website:

www.greatlakesrhodies.org

username – greatlakes

password – maximum

Linda M. Stull msgardener@yahoo.com



Karen Wagner enjoys statuary at Walker Gardens, Bigler, Pa., October 11, 2008
Below left, Hostess Collene Palmer and Mr. Walker.(age92) tour the gardens.



Invitation
"Gardening at The Peaks"
Register, all info back page


MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES

HOOPER BALD PROJECT
SPRING 2009

The Species Study Group of the Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS has undertaken a new project to help restore the ecologically diverse and important Hooper Bald. This North Carolina mountaintop wilderness area is south of the Great Smoky Mountains area near the Tennessee border in the Nantahala National Forest, just off the scenic Cherohala Skyway.

Like many of the open balds in the Southern Appalachians, Hooper Bald is getting overgrown. Rather than staying an open meadow, the area is filling up with successional trees and shrubs which crowd out the native meadow wildflower, azalea and rhododendron populations. Without intervention the top of the mountain will no longer be an open meadow bald, but will become pine and hardwood forestland. This invasive regression is threatening many native wildflowers, and especially the exceptional forms of the Flame Azalea (*R. calendulaceum*) on which have been identified on Hooper Bald. One of those exceptional plants has been informally named "Hooper's Copper" and is a bright coppery orange Flame Azalea that has some of the largest flowers we have seen on this species with blossoms of more than 3" across.

In November 2008, the Species Study Group began discussions about this project with the Forest Service Officials in the region. Working in coordination with the National Forest administration, a restoration clean-up of the Bald has been scheduled for the weekend of April 3 - 5, 2009. We are looking for volunteers to participate in this preservation of the important plant communities of Hooper Bald. This restoration is similar to the ones currently in progress in the Roan Highlands and on Gregory Bald. The National Forest Service has approved the plan and will be assisting us in cutting of invasive trees and shrubs, and bush hogging to open up the Bald. Many volunteers from the Middle Atlantic Chapter and others interested in the project are needed to help with the chipping of the cut trees, cleaning up around the identified azaleas and pruning other vegetation.



A real advantage to this project on Hooper Bald is the relatively easy access. Using any of the several motels in Robbinsville, NC as our base, only a short drive is needed to get to the scenic Cherohala Skyway. From the Skyway entrance to the parking area at Hooper Bald is not far, a little less than 12 miles. After parking, we have just a short walk of about a quarter mile along a gravel path to get from the parking area to the Bald. (There are even restroom facilities - not typical conditions for most wilderness areas.)

If any of your group members would like to join with members of the Middle Atlantic chapter ARS for this fun and productive weekend of restoring a natural area containing many interesting plants, we would love to have you join with us in this project. For more information or to sign up for the project, please contact Jim Brant, MAC President, by phone: 804 693-7556 or by e-mail: jandpbrant@verison.net.

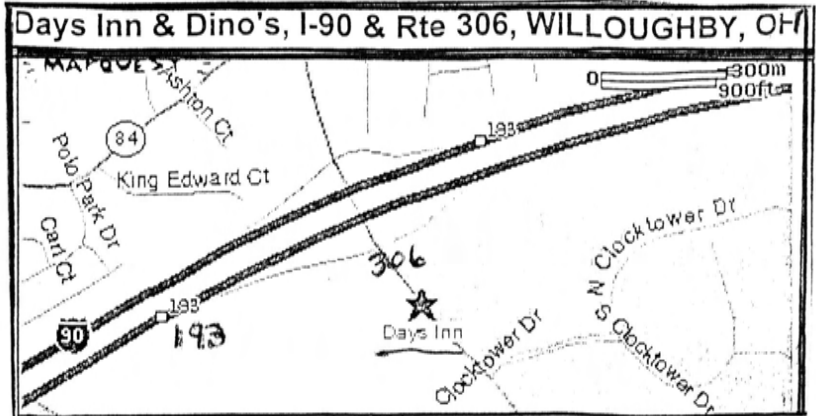
Thanks,
Jim Brant, President
Middle Atlantic Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

March 28th, 2009 Great Lakes Chapter Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Host: Harold and Bev Berg

Place: Dino's Banquet Center
4145 State Route 306
(I-90, Exit # 193)
Willoughby, Ohio 44094
440.269.8000



Agenda: All activities are at Dino's

- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Board Meeting
- 12:00 pm Lunch on your own
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Business Meeting
- 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM Plant Sale
- 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Social Hour
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Evening Program

Speaker, Tony Teznicek

Curator of Vascular Plants, University of Michigan Herbarium.

"Rhododendron (and other plant) habitats in Western China"

Family Style----- Sit Down Dinner

Chicken Marsala, Roasted Pork Loin,
Roasted Potatoes, Rigatoni, Green Beans
And Carrots Almondine, Eggplant Parmigiana,
Dessert, plus beverages

Price is \$25.00 Per person-----Total \$-----

Make Check payable to Great Lakes Chapter/ARS

Places To Stay

Days Inn (Adjacent to Dino's)
4145 State Route 306
Willoughby, Ohio 44094
440.946.0500

*Rooms: Dbl Bed \$53.10 + Tax
*Ask for "GLC Rhodo" price

Red Roof Inn
440.946.9872

Motel 6
440.953.8835

SEND DINNER RESERVATION TO:

- Bev Berg
- 1900 East Gunn Road
- Oakland Twp. MI 48306
- 248.652.3141
- habberg@aol.com
- Include Name, Address and Phone

DEADLINE
MARCH 21, 2009

Canadians may pay upon arrival,
Call, or e-mail dinner reservation

"It's what you learn—after you know it all—that counts." --John Worden (basketball coach)

Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio

Re: Don Whitney



New Journal Editor

Dear Newsletter Editors:

Update on the Leach Research Station

By Steve Krebs

The David G. Leach Research Station has been operated by The Holden Arboretum since 1988. Over a 20 year span, the Arboretum has remained committed to the Station's research and breeding mission, and has funded many improvements in resources and infrastructure at the Madison site.

However, current economic woes and subsequent depreciation of the Arboretum's endowment resulted in significant staff layoffs last month. (January, 2009) Among those leaving Holden is **Don Whitney**, who served as Research Station Supervisor for 12 years. Don was a great asset to the display and field plantings, and provided valuable support for the greenhouse and laboratory projects during the winter months. His talents and hard work will be missed.

One of Don's greatest pleasures was fraternizing with rhododendron enthusiasts in the Great Lakes Chapter, and my hope is that although he will put the Leach project behind him, he won't lose his interest in the genus or the activities of our group. He is welcome any time. Don can be reached at dwhitney65@gmail.com.

Your may know by now that the ARS has a new journal editor. Your newletters should be sent to him, whether by e-mail or post.

Here is where to send them:

Dr. Glen Jamieson
804 San Malo Circle
Parksville, BC V9P 1S4
Canada

E-mail:
ars.editor@gmail.com

I have enjoyed every one of your newsletters! I know this is a time consuming job and you are much appreciated. I am sure Glen will appreciate them too. Keep up the good work!

Sonja Nelson

Invitation:

Dear Newsletter Editors,

This is a request that you let your chapter folks know that we are inviting them all to our ARS 2009 Rhododendron Rendezvous in Everett, WA. The dates are April 29 to May 3, 2009. The ARS Board meeting is on Wednesday, the 29th and tours start on Thursday, the 30th. There will be a half day of educational workshops on Saturday. For more details, www.ars-2009-convention.org. There will be on-line registration with credit payment available in about two weeks.

Thanks for your support
Don Smart, Cascade Chapter, Convention Chairmen

Reserve: May, 9-10, 2009

Paul James' Garden
Roanoke, Virginia
Extensive Delp R. Hybrids
Future viewing--limited
Additional info to follow

summer of rhododendrons

by Don Whitney, Leach Station supervisor

May brings, to the rhododendron lover, a riot of color as one favorite hybrid or species after another explodes into bloom. June, on the other hand, is often anticlimactic as you look out upon spent bloom after spent bloom. David G. Leach thought just this as he looked upon the world of hardy rhododendrons, and his own garden. He saw a void, which might be filled with careful intermingling of the genes from the native rosebay and Asian species. In so doing Leach created the "Summer" series of rhododendrons.

The "Summer" hybrids bloom from early June until July and are a robust group. Some of the hybrids grow to very large size in the fertile, favorable soil of The Holden Arboretum's Leach Research Station in Madison, Ohio. The largest of these have reached more than 20 feet tall. They flower on large trusses in shades of pink or white. The "Summer" rhododendrons are a welcome sight on warm June and July days while reminiscing over the past season of activity and excitement.

Leach's "Summer" series includes:

'Summer Glow' (('Summer Snow' x Scarlet Blast)

Registered with the Royal Horticultural Society and published in the 1986/87 Yearbook. Released to introducers in 1988, 'Summer Glow' produces very large luminous pink trusses in mid-June. The blooms are displayed nicely against the large, dark, glossy leaves. Flower buds are hardy to -15 F.

'Summer Sequel' [(*auriculatum* x *discolor*) x *Catalpa*]

Registered with the Royal Horticultural Society on 7/81/84. Released to introducers in 1984, its very large trusses of pink flowers are welcome embellishments to a late June or early July evening. Flower buds are hardy to -15 F.

'Summer Snow' [(*maximum* x *ungernii* x *auriculatum*)]

Registered with American Rhododendron Society in 1968 (68-4:214). 'Summer Snow' is a hardy, vigorous plant, growing to tree-like proportions in Madison, Ohio. Large white flowers with a greenish-yellow blotch are borne in huge trusses to scale with the plant. Flower buds are hardy to -15 F. Late June is the typical flowering time for 'Summer Snow.'

'Summer Solace' (('Summer Snow' x *Catalpa*)

Registered with the Royal Horticultural Society and published in the 1986/87 Yearbook. 'Summer Solace' blooms late June into July with large trusses of white flowers bearing a yellow-gold blotch. Flower buds are hardy to -15 F.

'Summer Song' (*smirnowii* x *griersonianum*) x [(*catawbiense* var. *album* x (*discolor*)] x 'Corona' x *griersonianum*) x (*maximum* x 'Goldsworth Orange') x (('America' x 'Gertrude Schale')

Registered with the Royal Horticultural Society and published in the 1986/1987 Yearbook, it is not distributed. Flowering in large trusses of pink flowers, this is the latest of the large-leaved rhododendrons to bloom at the David Leach Research Station. Flower buds are hardy to -15 F.

'Summer Splendor' (('Summer Snow' x 'Party Pink')

Registered with Royal Horticultural Society on July 18, 1984 and released to introducers in 1984. Pale pink flowers in very large trusses adorn this plant in late June. Plant and flower buds are hardy to at least -20 F.

'Summer Summit' [(*maximum* x (*auriculatum* x *discolor*)]

Registered with the American Rhododendron Society in 1968 (68-4:218). Released to introducers in 1970, 'Summer Summit' is another vigorous, large growing selection. Buds of phlox-pink open to white flowers in globed trusses. With a hardiness of -20 F and bloom occurrence in early July, it makes a fine selection for even the toughest growing conditions.

Leach's "Summer" series of hybrids are excellent, hardy and large plants with fine foliage. They provide a foil against which to plant other, smaller hybrids, extend the bloom season, and make excellent landscape specimens in sites with space for them to grow and thrive.



MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO
"GARDENING AT THE PEAKS"

May 8-10, 2009

Holiday Inn Tanglewood Roanoke, Virginia

Come from North, South, East and West, and join us the weekend of May 8-10, 2009 to experience "Gardening at The Peaks" in Roanoke, Virginia. We will be based near the Peaks of the Blue Ridge Parkway at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood which is conveniently located for our planned activities - just south of Roanoke near the intersection of I-581 and Route 419. The hotel has undergone extensive renovations since our last visit, and has a flexible arrangement of meeting rooms to accommodate our meetings, banquet, Flower Show, Book Sale and Seedling Sale. Our plans for the weekend include tours of two Peak gardens – MAC member Paul James and Glebe Hill Garden, and two Peak speakers – Kristine Johnson and Pamela Harper. The second weekend in May promises to be Peak viewing time for our garden visits, as well as along the Blue Ridge Parkway – so make plans to include a drive on the Parkway as you travel to or from the meeting. Our normal disclaimer: we cannot guarantee the weather (hot, cold, rainy or clear skies are all ok when visiting wonderful gardens), but we can guarantee the opportunity to relax with old and new MAC friends, talk about plants, purchase plants, visit gardens, hear top-notch speakers, and plenty of food!

The weekend kicks off on Friday afternoon with meeting registration open and Flower Show entries beginning at 4:00 pm., and continues after dinner (on your own) on Friday evening with our MAC Chapter business meeting to elect officers, followed by our first Peak speaker Kristine Johnson, supervisory forester at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where her duties include forest insect and disease management, exotic plant control, and restoration of native plant communities, including our current MAC project on Gregory Bald, with the Seedling Sale and Book Sale rounding out the evening. Saturday morning will begin with a continental breakfast buffet (included in your meeting registration) and then we will board buses for the short trip to Paul James garden – constructed by a Peak plants person situated just below the Peaks of the Parkway. We do not believe that Paul has ever met a plant that he did not have a place for in his extensive garden and so, his garden includes incredible collections of many species, not only azaleas and rhododendrons, but also maples, conifers, perennials and native wildflowers. Our visit to Paul's garden will conclude after enjoying a box lunch and then we will re-board the buses to travel to Glebe Hill Garden, owned by Gary and Carol Osbourne, in Daleville, Virginia. Glebe Hill Gardens features world-class collections of over 1400 varieties of daylilies, 800 plus varieties of hostas, hundreds of conifers, shady paths and a cascading man-made stream. Saturday evening will begin with a Cash Bar and our Plant Auction of choice plants and (friendly) competitive bidding, then a dinner buffet featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu, Sliced Top Round of Beef and Baked Salmon with all the trimmings. After dinner we will welcome back our keynote speaker Pamela Harper, noted plants person, author of Perennials – How to Select, Grow & Enjoy, Designing With Perennials, Color Echoes, and Time Tested Plants, and owner of the Harper Horticultural Slide Library of over 100,000 slides of plants and gardens. Her topic for the evening presentation is "Just Because Its Beautiful" and we know she will have a wealth of information to share. Pamela Harper has been honored by the Garden Writers Association of America and as with the Horticultural Writing Award from the American Horticultural Society. Her garden has been featured on the Home and Garden Channel and in articles in Virginia Living, Fine Gardening and Horticulture magazines. The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning with the Species Study group meeting and several options for tours on your own as you return home.

A detailed schedule of the weekend plans (including more information about the Sunday Tag-A-Long Tour to North Carolina with the Species Study group), the meeting registration form, hotel registration



Information and deadlines, and Spring Flower Show rules will be available on our website in February – <http://www.macars.org>. Registration is required for the Saturday garden tours and the banquet. Guests are welcome to attend the Friday evening and/or Saturday evening speakers at no cost. Please join us for a weekend of “Gardening at The Peaks” in Roanoke, Virginia the weekend of May 8-10, 2009 and help Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS to celebrate with Paul James on a Peak Tour of his garden and to recognize and honor his many contributions to the body of horticultural knowledge.

Questions? Please contact Sharon Horn, Meeting Registrar by phone: 540-350-2666 or by email: oldturnpikefarm@gmail.com

Weldon Delp Hybrids below:
Delp’s ‘Moonglow’ photo Paul James
‘Great Genes’ (‘Ruddy Red Max’ x ‘Midsummer’) grex 329
Photo Paul James at home in his garden, photo Homer Salley.
Refer: *The Delp Rhododendron Hybrids*
ARS Journal Su. 1995. Dr Homer Salley
Pages 122 - 126



‘Testy’ (‘Goody Goody’ x self) grex 150, siblings ‘Color Purple’, ‘Picturesque’. Photo by Weldon Delp.

‘Tim Craig’ (‘America’ x yakushmanum) x ‘Frank Moniz’ grex 14, siblings ‘Ritchard’s Red’, ‘Vigorous Pink’. Photo by Homer Salley.

Great Lakes Chapter, ARS

Annette Pizzino

34900 Lakeview Drive

Solon, OH 44139-2027