

May 2009 • Volume 50 No. 2

# Rhododendron

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R. calendulaceum, Blue Ridge Mts, N.C.

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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
	<a href="mailto:cfpalmer@verizon.net">cfpalmer@verizon.net</a>	
1st V. Pres.	Dr Jim Browning	412-373-8689
2nd V. Pres.	Jane Konrad	412-741-6721
Secretary	Jill Griesse	740-587-3736
Alt Secretary	Jerri McClain	740-676-0149
Treasurer	Linda Stull	814-371-2079
Membership	Dr. L.G. Walters	724-287-2047
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino	440-2484583
Webmaster	Linda Stull	814-922-7612
	<a href="mailto:imgardener@yahoo.com">imgardener@yahoo.com</a>	
Past President	Mark Konrad	814.371.2079

### 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: Flame azalea (*R. calendulaceum*), Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina  
Photo George Humphries

## President's Message

Hello everyone,

Our plants for members meeting was held in Willoughby, Oh. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, attendance was great with about 65 for dinner. The sale had over 550 plants and this year that didn't seem like enough with all the interest everyone had in purchasing plants. Thank you Harold Berg, for doing an excellent job of finding such great variety for our members to choose from. Our evening speaker, Tony Reznicek from the University of Michigan, gave a great slide show presentation on flowering plants in China, the variety and colors were spectacular, my favorites were, well everything with blue flowers. A huge Thank You to Harold and Bev Berg for hosting such a successful meeting.

Our truss show will be held in Newark, Ohio at the Works Museum and is being hosted by Jill and Paul Griesse. We are being encouraged by our Chief Judge and upcoming Chapter President, Dr. Jim Browning to participate in the truss show by bringing entries to the show.

This will be my last President's Message as my term ends after the truss show. I would like to take this time to thank Annette and Tony Pizzino for doing such a great job. I would also like to thank our members for the opportunity to serve them as well as our chapter's board members, especially our Secretary, Jill Griesse for her patience and guidance and last but certainly not least, Bev Berg, head of our nominating committee. You all are the reason why we have such a great organization.....

See you all soon,  
Fred



Tony Riznicek

**August GLC meeting, Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at the beautiful Fellows Riverside Gardens, Youngstown, Oh. Docent lead tours, Speaker Hank Schannen, Hosts: Annette, Tony Pizzino

**Chapter attendees at the combined meeting GLC & Middle Atlantic Chapter, Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>** "Gardening at the Peaks," will view presentation of marble plaque, donated by our Chapter, to honor Paul James' collection of Weldon Delp hybrids. Joyce Harris (Delp daughter) contacted, and wonderful Delp Bio, prepared by Joyce will be distributed.

**Generous donation to GLC lending library—see note added to bottom column of "Bits by Bev."**

Speaker Tony Riznicek

photo Tony Pizzino

"March Madness" like we have never seen before - 55 registered buyers, 557 plants, all sold out in 2 1/2 hours. We could have sold twice the amount, as the interest in plants is never ending. To succeed in an operation that size, it took a lot of man and woman power. Thanks to all who brought and helped arrange the plants for sale display. We have out grown one room. Next year we will have two rooms: one for plants, one for people. It will make the plant pickup more orderly.

The following people brought plants: Harold Berg, John Heinze, Steve Krebs, Jackie Looye, Floyd Moore, Bob Staut, Chris Trautmann and Ray Walylko. Many new plants were available for the first time. If you would like to get on the 2010 P4M plant preview list, e-mail Harold at [habberg@aol.com](mailto:habberg@aol.com). He is missing a few of the members e-mail addresses.

A special thank you to our computer wiz Steve Sohner and plant caller Bob Staut, whose knowledge of plants is amazing.

The plant sale ran all afternoon, finishing just in time for a short "Happy Hour" followed by a home style dinner. I'm noted for being a judge of desserts. They failed the grade this time. Look for "Dessert Improvement" next year.

The evening speaker was Tony Reznicek, Curator of Vascular Plants, University of Michigan Herbarium. His subject was "Rhododendron and other Plant Habitats in Western China". Talk about an excellent speaker, his digital slide presentation gave one the sense of being there. Tony slowly took us up the mountains, stopping at several different elevations, to elaborate on the diversity of plant and plant habitats for that particular area.

Continuing on to the top of the mountains, where plant life was sparse and dwarf Unless you had the privilege of seeing his slides, you could never imagine plant life growing in the crevasses of the mountains found in China. The Blue flowering plants really caught my eye, but the speaker said they would not grow in our climate.

I thought you might be interested in some of Tony's Bio. He has been directly involved in naming over 100 plants, is considered to be the World's expert on Sedges, and is often referred to as the "Sedge Guru." He recently had a Carex named after him - "Carex Reznicekii"

This year's plant sale, attendance, and speaker were top notch. This all took place at: Dino's Banquet Center, Willoughby, Ohio, on Saturday March 28, 2009. Everyone went home with a "Dinner Plant"

One correction from the August Bits: Ray Walylko would like the cuttings brought to the August Meeting, instead of the October Meeting. More info to follow.

Think your plants aren't good enough to enter in this year's Truss Show. Other people have felt the same way, but brought Truss's with them anyway - ending up winning "Best in Show"

GLC Ladies Group has purchased and presented to the Chapter's Lending Library, a signed by the co-author\* copy of: "The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas" Very colorful edition with great in-depth hosta information/descriptions. Hostas as rhododendron companions, combine beautifully. Check this one out.

\*Mike Shadrack, was our tour guide Eagle Bay Gardens, GLC August, 2008 Meeting.

**Top photo, Don Whitney, Chas Wagner carry in super-sized plant** to be auctioned - great price!

**Middle photos:** Canadian ARS member attendees: Mike, Marian Little, and "Niagara Rhodo" newsletter editor, Nick Yarmoshuk, and Wanda Yarmoshuk bid on plants. (Nick said he purchased several plants) (Photos Tony Pizzino)



# GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

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## Great Lakes Chapter ARS Board Meeting Saturday, March 28, 2009 Willoughby, Ohio

### In Attendance:

Fred, Collene Palmer, Mark, Jane Konrad, Bob Frenzel, Spike, Kay Walters, Jim, Blanche, Browning, Annette Pizzino, Bert Hendley, Jill Griesse, Margaret Corbin

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Fred Palmer  
Minutes of previous meeting reviewed by Fred Palmer:

- Invitation to Middle Atlantic Chapter meeting in Virginia—"Gardening at the Peaks," 15 GLC members have indicated they will attend. Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> Paul James garden tour. The Great Lakes Chapter will present a marble plaque to Paul James (Boones Mill, Virginia) in honor of his extensive Weldon Delp hybrid rhododendron collection. Spike Walters will make the presentation. Annette Pizzino has contacted Joyce Harris (Delp's daughter), and Joyce has written a brief Bio of her father; copies will be made and distributed.
- We need to go through the national office of ARS for Chapter meeting insurance. The National has blanket coverage so we need to contact them for each meeting, so that we are covered as to: where, when, and how many attendees. Contact Laura at ARS Office to get a letter so that we are under 501C 3 for tax responsibilities. **A sincere Thank You, to Bert Hendley for his research into this important 501C 3 protective, procedure for the Great Lakes Chapter meetings**

### Treasurers Report:

- Harbor Fund closed out!
- Put money in money market at .43%!
- Place in CD at least \$6700 – or total.

- Current assets, approx. \$50,000
- Bob Frenzel move to accept
- Bert Hendley second. Approved
- Awards Committee – no report
- Plant Sale today – huge!
- Membership Approximately 104, total of 130 mailed to past members—who may be late, plus other ARS Chapters.
- Historian – no report
- Books – paring down Holden Arboretum site, 50<sup>th</sup> Truss Show, Annette, Tony Pizzino Host

### New Business:

**Truss Show meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Newark, Ohio at The Works Museum. The Works will be available for show entries from 6-9 p.m. Friday night Saturday entries till 10:00 a.m.**

#### We really! need blossoms

Bert Hendley suggested that Ohio University at Zanesville extension office, Master Gardeners, and local Garden Clubs be notified of show. Suggested to be sure we have a hospitality table there, Jane Konrad volunteered to assist with this. Possibly, a short class on how to grow rhodies, also, small area with answers and tips for rhododendron growers.

Large plant give away.

Please send email map on directions to The Works.

**Dinner following at the home of Paul and Jill Griesse in Granville, Ohio about 5 miles from Newark. Maps to Newark—will be available.**

**See Agenda, wine-social, Holly, Park Shai, after Truss Show, before dinner Adjourned at 11:02 a.m.**

Respectively submitted:  
Jill Griesse, Secretary

*"At The Works we're more than a museum, we're a cultural gathering place. A place where visitors of all ages can explore the connections between art, technology and history. A place for lectures, gallery showings, concerts and science exhibits."*  
[www.attheworks.org](http://www.attheworks.org)



# THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S OPEN DAYS

OPENING AMERICA'S BEST PRIVATE GARDENS SINCE 1995

NEWS

NEWS

## GARDEN CONSERVANCY'S *OPEN DAYS* *DIRECTORY* IS THE ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR GARDENERS

Cold Spring, New York --- Since 1995, the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program has been opening the gates to hundreds of America's private gardens. Our *Open Days Directory* has become the essential tool for the public to learn about and gain access to great examples of outstanding American gardens. Proceeds from the program support the national preservation work of the Garden Conservancy such as the rehabilitation of the gardens on Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay.

The 2009 season offers more than 300 private gardens to visit in twenty-three states, including many areas that are participating for the first time, such as Altadena, California; Blue Hill and Sedgwick, Maine; Las Vegas, Nevada; Erie County, Pennsylvania; and Newport, Rhode Island. Returning regions feature gardens in Birmingham, Alabama; Denver, Colorado; District of Columbia; Worcester, Massachusetts; and Manchester, Vermont, among others. Each year, nearly half of the gardens participating in the Open Days program are new.

The 2009 *Open Days Directory* (\$21.95 including shipping and handling) provides descriptions, visiting dates and hours, and driving directions to private gardens from coast to coast. The Directory also includes one free admission ticket to any private garden participating in the program, a \$5 value. To purchase a Directory or to join the Garden Conservancy as a member and receive a free copy, call 1-888-842-2442 or visit [www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org).

The 2009 Open Days Program is generously sponsored by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., America's most trusted name in gardening for 132 years, providing seeds, plants, gardening supplies and accessories for the home gardener. *Garden Design* magazine is the national media sponsor of the Open Days program.

###



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# Great Lakes Chapter American Rhododendron Society

## Annual Truss Show May 22-23, 2009

### Hotel Options

#### Best Western

122 Arrowhead Dr.  
Hebron  
Phone: 800/528-  
1234  
\$84.99

#### Hampton Inn

1008 Hebron Road  
Heath  
Phone: 740/788-8991  
\$95.00

#### Cherry Valley Lodge

2299 Cherry Valley Rd.  
Granville  
Phone: 740/788-1200  
\$149.00

Show is being held at:

**The Works**  
**56 S. First St.**  
**Newark, OH 43055**

Phone: 740/349-9277 [www.attheworks.org](http://www.attheworks.org)

**Directions:** Take Oh-13 to downtown Newark. Take the 4<sup>th</sup> street/downtown exit. Turn right at end of ramp onto Mt. Vernon Rd./13 S. Go left on Canal Street and turn left on S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. End at 55 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. THE WORKS building is on the left with parking lot.

**Show Details:** Open for placement of trusses on Friday, May 22 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Again on Saturday morning May 23 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am \* Show opens at 12:00 pm and closes at 5:00 pm on Saturday.

**Social notes:** Following show you are invited for wine at the home of Holly and Park Shai, 170 potters lane, granville (maps available at the show) followed by dinner,(and drinks) at the home of Paul and Jill Griesse.

**Guest Speaker** will be George Dorner - President of the American Daffodil Society. Title of his presentation is "Hooked on Daffodils".

Dinner: \$25.00 per person

**Menu:** Pork Chops, Spring Salad, New Potatoes, Asparagus, Hot Rolls

Honey Bun Cake and Ice Cream, Coffee etc.

**Please R.S.V.P** by sending your check payable to the Great Lakes Chapter ARS. Mail to Jill Griesse, 2640 North St., Granville, Oh 43023. Any questions please feel free to call Jill at 740-587-3736 or email [pdgriesse@prodigy.net](mailto:pdgriesse@prodigy.net). Reservations are due by May 17th.

Note

\*GLC Board Meeting, and Chapter Business Meeting, time/place---TBA.





## GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

### *Introducing Larry Coleman:*

***Larry Coleman assumes new District 11 Director's duties. The Great Lakes Chapter Welcomes You!***

*We will certainly miss John with his friendly camaraderie, and that special sense of humor, which always came through, in all Chapter situations. We know we will see you often. A sincere Thank You, for years of dedicated service to the Great Lakes Chapter.*

*We'll always see that you get extra cookies!*

*Tony and I have met Larry Coleman several times during the annual American Rhododendron Society spring trips. Larry is friendly, always helpful and very knowledgeable about the genus rhododendron. In short, Larry is a consummate," rhodophile." You'll like talking to him.*

*We have seen several pictures of his beautiful rhododendron garden, sited against a handsome dwarf Japanese Maple Tree collection in the background. Every plant, artistically arranged among the many rocks in his Batesville, Arkansas garden. Time did not permit a visit. However, we returned home from the Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2008 ARS Spring trip, where we purchased several small, named dwarf Japanese Maple trees. (Spike and Kay offered the trees--trunk room home.) Small rhododendrons with hyperythrum as a parent came home to Solon. ('Peppermint Twist')*

*The following article, "Stonewoodridge," written by Larry Coleman, appeared in the spring 2009 newsletter, "Ozark Chapter ARS."*

### **STONEWOODRIDGE GARDENS**

*Azalea & Rhododendron Woodland Garden*



**LARRY COLEMAN**  
3312 Amy Street  
Batesville, AR 72501

Phone: 870-793-1040  
Cell: 501-626-8464

Email: stonewoodridge  
@suddenlink.net

### **Stonewoodridge**

After the January 27<sup>th</sup> major ice storm in north Arkansas, I've resigned myself to the fact that landscape gardeners are no different than farmers—every few years you are going to have a bad year. It takes months to recover from ice damage. I've hauled out five trailer loads of trees and limbs and still have work left to do. My rhododendrons mostly avoided damage.

The bud-set on the rhododendrons was not so good this year and the leaves on some of the plants have cold and ice damage.

In my garden, I've put some finishing touches on the recently completed Japanese garden tea house. I added a bamboo lattice around the bottom of the deck as well as finished some interior oriental décor.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, at the spring meeting in Batesville and Clinton

Larry Coleman

Photos below taken by Larry Coleman



SCINTILLATION from Larry Coleman's Garden—2008



GRAND SLAM from Larry Coleman's Garden—2008

# GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

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From Bev Berg:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee may we present the following Officers and Board Members, effective August, 2009

## Officers

President	Dr. Jim Browning
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Chas Wagner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Steve Krebs
Secretary	Jill Griesse
Treasurer	Linda Stull
Membership	Dr. L.G. Walters
Webmaster	Linda Stull
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino

## Board of Directors

Bill Glenn	Don Whitney	6 Year term
Bob Frenzel	Bert Hendley	4 Year term
Blanche Browning		2 Year term
Margaret Corbin		2 Year term

Past President Fred Palmer

Again, may we thank everyone past and present who have, and are continuing to work diligently to keep the Great Lakes Chapter the excellent group it is!

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**Register to attend: 440.602.3833,  
440.846.4400, 9am-5pm, Mon.-Fri.  
www.holdenarb.org**



## Spring Blooms at the David G. Leach Research Station

DATE	Saturday May 16 and May 30
DATE	Sunday May 17
TIME	9am-4pm
LOCATION	At Site
COST	Free, but registration is required

Take this infrequent opportunity to visit one of our horticultural gems, the David G. Leach Research Station in Madison, Lake County. Meander among thousands of blooming rhododendrons in a woodland garden, and check out the new rhododendron hybrids that are being bred and selected for future introduction. Research staff and guides will be on hand to lead tours, starting every hour on the hour. Last tour begins at 3pm. Directions will be sent upon registration. HOR501

News/Views Short updates

The Garden Conservancy's

Open Days

Opening America's Best Private Gardens Since 1995\*

Erie Area Rhododendron Group

The Garden Conservancy, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of America's gardens, sponsors a fund raising program called "Open Days" in which over 300 private gardens across the country are opened to the public. The Erie area will be participating in this program this year for the first time.

Under the leadership of Susan Kemenyffy, the owner of Raku Place in McKean, six local gardens will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm on May 24. I am very proud of the fact that four of these six gardens are maintained by EARG members: Chas and Karen Wagner, Bret and Kitty Maloney, Blossom McBrier and Kathleen and yours truly. Local public gardens participating include Goodell, Asbury Woods, Leaf and TRAC. **This will be a great promotion for the rhododendron world since rhodies will be the dominant blossom in most of these gardens late in May.** Mark your calendars for May 24. Your \$5 admission will be split between the Garden Conservancy and local charities. If anyone shows up at my garden, the Asbury Woods Nature Center will benefit.  
Bob Frenzel 814.474.2331  
(Questions/comments)

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**\*For more info on the Garden Conservancy see reverse side of GLC May, agenda page**

\*Note

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Summer's lease hath all too short a date.  
-Shakespeare



# Seeing Yellow! *The pursuit of the hardy, yellow, large-leaf rhododendron hybrid*

by Donald Whitney

The eastern United States are blessed with some wonderfully hardy and robust rhododendrons. We have the dozen or so native species of deciduous azaleas—technically *Rhododendron*—ranging in color from red, through orange, yellow, pink and white. We also have a few species of small-leaf rhododendrons – lepidotes, or scaly-leafed – in pinks and whites. And then we have two large-leaf rhododendron species, *R. maximum*, and *R. catawbiense*, both found in the eastern mountains and cold hardy. These large-leaf rhododendrons or elepidotes (scaleless) typically are either white or some shade from lavender to pink. They leave the gardener seeking a broader palette of color wanting or lusting after the less hardy Asian rhododendrons.

Asian rhododendrons fill the color spectrum with a rainbow bloom. Sadly, however, most of the species from Asia either lack hardiness to survive our winters or are otherwise too exacting in their cultural needs to be easily grown.

Beginning in the 1940s, David Leach pursued a dream of breeding a rhododendron hybrid possessing the hardiness, fine foliage, good form and

yellow blooms carried in a large, well-organized, tight truss (Inflorescences of elepidote rhododendron are known as trusses). Leach saw as the culmination of his efforts, the excellent hybrid *R. 'Capistrano,'* but the pursuit of this plant yielded many other hybrids and followed many generations of breeding.

Leach's early efforts with yellow saw the introduction of pollen from the plant named after the famous plant explorer Frank Kingdon Ward: namely *Rhododendron wardii*. This rhododendron species varies in the wild from pale ivory to bright yellow and has the added benefit of being somewhat hardy. It's buds tolerate temperature lows of around zero degrees Fahrenheit. A cross with *Rhododendron wardii* using *R. 'Catalgla,'* a white Catawba rhododendron as seed parent made in 1954 yielded a fine, glossy-leaved pale yellow hybrid Leach introduced in 1973 as *R. 'Nile.'* Another early hybrid of a white *R. catawbiense* and a selection of (*R. wardii* x *R. fortunei*) produced the plant *R. 'Limelight.'* While this hybrid was not introduced to the nursery trade, it was to play a part in later hybridizing efforts. Other crosses using the *R. wardii* hybrid *R. 'Crest'* produced the plants *R. 'Peking,'* and *R. 'Hong Kong.'*

Later generation crosses using the previously mentioned hybrids and similar unnamed selections produced the hybrids, *R. 'Nikko,'* *R. 'Canary Islands,'* *R. 'Casanova,'* *R. 'Arabia,'* and *R. 'Capistrano.'* Of the yellow flowered plants Leach generated, he was most proud of *R. 'Capistrano.'* While many of the mentioned hybrids prove difficult to cultivate away from the excellent soil in Madison, Ohio, *R. 'Capistrano'* grows well in many peoples' gardens around the country. *'Arabia'* shows promise as a cultivar and has fine floral characteristics, opening pale yellow from pink buds and fading to ivory.



*Rhododendron 'Capistrano'*



*Rhododendron 'Arabia'*



*Rhododendron 'Casanova'*



*Rhododendron 'Hong Kong'*



*Rhododendron 'Catalgia'*

Leach's work to create a hardy, yellow-flowered, large-leaf rhododendron produced several fine garden plants and a number of lesser standing. *R. 'Capistrano'* continues to gain popularity as gardeners explore the range of colors available in this group of plants. It is the standard by which we judge other selections. Several of Leach's unnamed yellow rhododendron selections are being considered for introduction with great hope. Steve Krebs, director of the David G. Leach Research Station, is continuing to work toward better, more adaptable yellow rhododendrons using both the plants Leach produced and those from other breeding programs as well as exploring new germplasm sources for color, form and adaptability. From our perspective at the David G. Leach Research Station, the future is far from rosy, it is bright yellow!

Great Lakes Chapter, ARS  
Annette Pizzino  
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