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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.

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Board of Directors

Bill Glenn	Don Whitney	6 year term
Bob Frenzel	Bert Hendley	4year term
Blanche Browning		2 year term
Margaret Corbin		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: Paul James Garden, Boones Mill, Virginia
Photo right, Jill, Paul Griesse garden, Granville, Ohio
Photos, Wolfgang Koger

President's Message

The Annual truss show of the Great Lakes Chapter was held on May 23rd at The Works, Newark, Ohio. (A museum of art, technology and history) There was a respectable turnout of trusses entered considering the very cold and wet spring weather. Tom and Gail Potter won the Best in Show award with their eye catching truss of "Purple Pansy."

Following the truss show we were treated to wine, cheese and delicious strawberries at the beautiful home of Holly and Park Shai in nearby Granville, Ohio. The view of their expansive lawn from the veranda was certainly restful on the eyes.

Next, thanks to the excellent and generous hospitality of our hosts, Jill and Paul Griesse we enjoyed a barbecue al fresco in the pastoral setting of lovely home and gardens. The eminent speaker of the evening was George Dorman current president of the American Daffodil Society who gave an inspired and comprehensive talk on the many varieties of daffodils: 13 divisions of them. If we could have been there a month or so before we could have seen most of them blooming in Jill and Paul's garden

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Bronze Medal, the highest award our chapter can bestow, to a most deserving Mark Konrad.

All in all it was a memorable meeting provided by our kind hosts Jill and Paul Griesse, for which the chapter is most grateful.

Annette and Tony Pizzino have arranged to hold the August meeting at a spectacular garden in Youngstown, Ohio. I hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Browning



Great Lakes Chapter



Bits By Bev

May 23, 2009, The Great Lakes Chapter's Annual Truss Show was held at "THE WORKS" (A Children's and Science Museum with a hands on Museum on the first floor) in Newark, Ohio. Did you ever have the feeling a Truss Show was being held and no Truss's would be available due to a late spring in some areas. Our hosts, Paul and Jill Griesse had that feeling, but as always our members came though. Final tally, 117 entries, 29 received first place awards, 22 second place. Best in show went to Tom and Gail Potter's "Purple Pansy. Annette Pizzino was rewarded with a bottle of wine as she had the most ribbons awarded in the show. The following members judged the trusses: Harold Berg, Jill Griesse, Dr. John Guyton, John Heinze, Wolfgang Koger, Dr. Mark Konrad, Annette and Tony Pizzino. Blanche Browning and Jane Konrad were the scribes, thank you for all your help.

After closing the show we were all invited for a "Happy Hour" at the home of Park and Holly Shai, on Potters Lane, Granville, Ohio. As expected their home and grounds were lovely, the view off the deck would add 20 years to one's life, greenery at its best. I spotted a statuary that would look great at my place, but Holly has the ideal spot for it, and refused to give it up. Thanks for having us, a good time was had by all.

Last stop for the evening, was one of our favorite places to visit - the home of Paul and Jill Griesse. This is my third visit and I still find it challenging to give one a complete picture of the 50 plus acres surroundings. Let's start with the farm house, it was built in 1873. They live there and have raised their family there for 35 years. Jill say its, "just a farm house", yea, right, I have seen many "farm houses" nothing can compare with theirs. Mixing the old with the new, the staircase alone is a work

of art. Something you would see in an old movie. The "house" is a home filled with warmth and charm.

The carriage house is full of antique cars. Paul's hobby is restoring them, I noticed sitting on one of the hoists - in his state of the art work workshop facility was a 1908 Model S waiting for his attention. There were many different types of gardens some formal, some natural. The second home, the swimming pool, etc. etc. Dinner: doesn't everyone serve pork chops that are at least two inches thick?? Good food and conversation are always in order at their place. We did not have a business meeting but did have a surprise for Dr. Mark Konrad, as he was presented with a well deserved Bronze Metal. Congratulations!!

The evening speaker was George Dorner, President of the American Daffodil Society. (who also happens to be a math teacher)_

For those of us who knew very little about Daffodils, perhaps I can enlighten you. There are 5 colors combinations: yellow, yellow and white, yellow and orange, white and orange, pink and lime green. The earliest reference to daffodil's can be found in the 6th century AD writings of Prophet Mohammed. "Rhododendron's have around 1,000 species, Daffodils 50". Daffodils are grown from bulbs, plant them in the fall, they are easy to grow, dig a hole and drop them in. They need lots of water during their growing season. They can grow in shade or full sun. Bonus: squirrels, rodents or deer will NOT eat the bulbs. A small look into the world of Daffodils. Thank you Mr. Dorner. In closing hope everyone got a chance to see the Griesse's horse "Skippy" it's always so well mannered and calm. Perfect weather, perfect day!!



GLC members tour Holly & Park Shai's beautiful garden in Granville, Ohio.

Photos by Wolfgang Koger

Great Lakes Chapter Truss Show Awards

May 23, 2009



The David Leach Award for Best in Show
Purple Pansy Tom and Gail Potter

The Joseph Gable Award for Second Best in Show
Happy Days Dr. Mark konrad

The Orlando S. Pride Award for the Best Proven Performer
America Dr. Jim Browning

The Sir Joseph Hooker Award for the Best Species Rhododendron or Azalea
The Judges' choice from all the blue ribbon winners of the hardiest, most vigorous, and easy to grow rhododendron
R. kusianum Gordon Emerson

The Weldon Delp Award for the Best Lepidote
For the best truss or spray of a hybrid or species Lepidote
No Award

The E. H. Wilson Award for the Best Ironclad Rhododendron
The Best of these "cultivars of extraordinary Hardiness" introduced before 1926
America Dr. Jim Browning

The Exbury Award for the Best Hybrid of yakushmanum
For the best truss of a first or advanced yakushmanum hybrid
R. yak seedling Annette Pizzino

The C.O. Dexter Award for the Best Truss of a Pink Rhododendron
Happy Days Dr. Mark konrad

The Robert Blough Award for Best Truss of a White Rhododendron
Pink Parade Gordon Emerson

The Dr. Tom Ring Award for the Best Truss of a Red Rhododendron
America Dr. Jim Browning

The William Fetterhoff Award for the Best Truss of a Yellow or Orange Rhododendron
No Entry

The Peter Girard Award for the Best Truss of a Purple to Near Blue Rhododendron
Purple Pansy Tom and Gail Potter

The Otto Prycl Award for the Best Spray of a Deciduous Azalea
Buttons and Bows Annette Pizzino

The Tony Shammarello Award for the Spray of a Persistent Leaf Azalea
Herbert x unnamed seedling Gordon Emerson

The Homer Salley Award for the Best new Hybrid Never Before Shown
Happy Days Dr. Mark konrad

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Spike's Notes:

Well, here it was in early May and my rhodies were just coming out. A little color showing but nothing really outstanding now except the skunk cabbage. All my planting from the plants for members already in the ground and it is still too early to plant the garden. Su Doko can only carry a person so far and the computer cheats at Gin Rummy--- that is the only logical explanation ---then with Jack Bauer already having saved the country again on "24," I found myself in a state of boredom. What to do with my time while awaiting the bloom? After much soul searching there it was!

Right in front of my nose! I would go mountain climbing. I even was in possession of boots from L. L. Bean, perfect for the task according to old L.L. himself. I was happy once more, after all at my age how many more chances would there be?

As with any great expedition there is much planning to do. The logistics evolved almost beyond description. I felt I should tackle the biggest task first, so I asked Kay if we could go! Now most people would think of this as being a simple husband- wife thing. Logistics, logistics, logistics. I have learned before ever asking about going anywhere to position myself so that I am not standing between my wife and the suitcase.

So here we are in our car--- "Tom-Tom" our GPS set for Roanoke Va. and the mountain of "Paul James." I will not go through the whole trip down except to say that we spent very little of the trip on interstates which upset "Tom-Tom" so much that he- she finally broke down and swore at us! All in all, it was a characteristically typical trip for Kay and Spike and "Tom-Tom" should be ashamed but then you have to wonder about a Tom with a female voice. A little known fact is that if West Virginia would straighten out their roads there would be enough road left to redo Alaska and Texas. Any way we finally arrived safely at our hotel--despite "Tom-Tom's" despicable revenge sending us to a recycling plant instead of directly to our hotel.

The Middle Atlantic Chapter held their show meeting and plant sale on Friday evening. It was a chance to renew old acquaintances and meet new people. Their chapter only meets twice a year. They are a very enthusiastic and friendly group. The speaker Friday was a park service worker who was in charge of the work being done to preserve the azaleas on Gregory Bald.

Saturday morning We boarded two buses to go to Paul James' mountain garden. Since we had been There before I knew I would enjoy the day. As hard as it usually is, to be impressed twice by the same place this is the exception to that rule. Paul is a gracious host and the gardens something special.

I spent a great deal of my time checking the Delp hybrids, which I promptly lost the names to but I do have pictures. After approximately three hours at the James garden we boarded the busses again and went to Glebe Hill gardens. This is an impressive private home garden specializing in day lilies, hostas and wonderful cookies. Now I have four more hostas at my house

The Saturday evening MAC meeting was also at the hotel. After dinner the speaker showed wonderful pictures with the theme of "Just because It's Beautiful." Then there was a special awards program for Paul James I had the honor of presenting the beautiful plaque from the Great Lakes Chapter to Paul in recognition of his preserving the largest collection of Delp Hybrids. The Great Lakes Chapter was represented at the meeting by thirteen members. The next morning we returned home taking mostly interstates "Tom-Tom" was so pleased

Spike Walters

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Paul James note:

How pleased Barbara and I were over the beautiful plaque we received from the Great Lakes Chapter for our garden. It is up on Delp Hill and we did take pictures while the rhododendrons were still in bloom. Again, please give our best to your Chapter and our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful addition to our garden. We enjoyed your visit and, hope you will come again. Paul James

Photo below, Paul James' garden, Delp Hill photo Paul James

See close-up photo in full color , back page GLC newsletter

Delp hybrids: Left, 'Spot Magic,' and right rhodo 'Reckless' (Ginny Delp had a special touch in naming Weldon's rhodos)





Great Lakes Chapter

WELDON E. DELP (1920-1999)

Weldon Delp left countless wonderful memories to his family. To his wife, Virginia, the memories and joy of each spring coloring and naming new hybrids. To his oldest daughter, Judy, the original farm where his evergreen nursery was established and his love of rhododendrons began. To his youngest daughter, Joyce, his rhododendron nursery including acres planted with his hybrid rhododendrons and a desire to preserve his work.

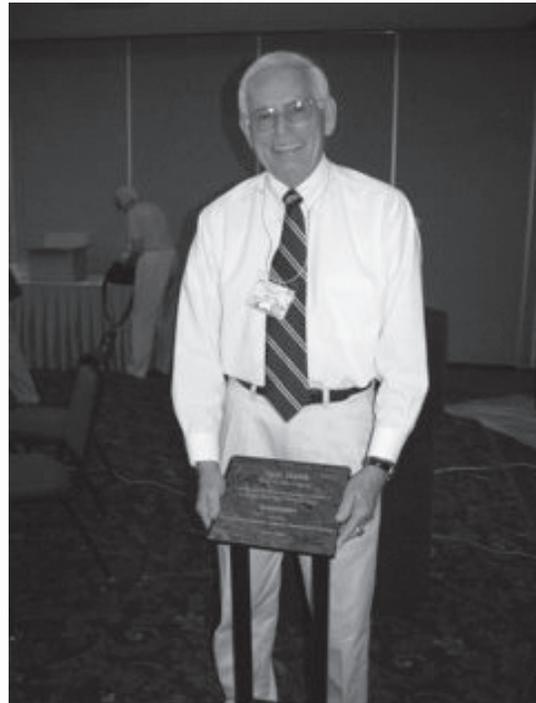
His greater legacy he left to the world – more than a thousand selected and named rhododendron hybrids, both lepidote and elepidote, about a third of which have been registered with the International Rhododendron Register. He never sold any of his creations; he kept some but gave away more than he planted. He rested in the uncertain assumption that if they were any good the world would not let them die. He was perhaps the most prolific rhododendron hybridizer of plants for cold and extremely cold climates. What survived in his planting in Harrisville, PA was certainly bud hardy to at least –15F(-26C) and several bloomed after –30F.

With never a request for a research grant, he did his own research and developments in propagation as well as hybridization and freely shared information and techniques. Study group meetings of the Great Lakes Chapter were often held in his greenhouse and he met weekly with a few whom wanted to learn more. Some brought questions they could have looked up the answers to but it was easier to just “ask Weldy”. He was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Great Lakes Chapter and in 1986 received the Gold Medal from the American Rhododendron Society. Nomination letters were replete with words like “enthusiastic”, “generous”,

“knowledgeable”, “innovative”, “meticulous record keeper” and so on. Weldon will live on in the minds of many that he touched and the hearts of fewer whom were closest to him. Every spring, at places all over the country, the essence of what he loved will begin to swell and break forth into bloom and many who never knew him will be graced by his passion.

His life and work were chronicled in two volumes of Rhododendron Hybrids, in three reports of the American Rhododendron Society Journal, JARS 43:1, 1989, 49:1, 1995, 49:3, 1995, and in the American Nurseryman, May 15, 1974. A collection of his hybrid rhododendrons is located at Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio.

-Joyce Delp Harris



Paul James of Boones Mill Virginia, is honored with commemorative plaque for maintaining the largest collection of Weldon Delp hybrids. Presented by Great Lakes Chapter - ARS on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Photo by Kay Walters

Weldon E. Delp became interested in hybridizing rhododendrons because he purchased one for his wife each year and after only a few years he ran out of choices. Only the "old standards" were hardy in Western Pennsylvania.

His main goal was to produce hardy rhododendrons in a variety of colors, especially a true red, yellow and dark purple. Examples of these are:

Reds:

ANNA DELP [(America x Blaze) x Red Brave]

DELP'S CINDY LOU [America x (Mars x catawbiense var. rubrum)]

DELP'S RED MAX [(Gable's Red Max F4)]

Yellows:

DELP'S DREAM (Si Si x Serendipity)

DELP'S SUNSHEEN [[[Sweet Lulu x [vernicosum 18139 x (Nereid x discolor)]]]

SI SI (yakushmanum x Gold Mohur)

Deep Purple:

KENNETH DAVID HARRIS (Sefton x Purple Splendour)

He also began hybridizing for a more compact size suitable for landscaping. Examples include:

GENEVIEVE SCHMIDT (America x yakushmanum)

GHOST [(maximum x yakushmanum) Konrad x maximum collected in wild at Jackson Center]

OH MY! (smirnowii x yakushmanum) Delp

PANA (Oh My! x Red Brave)

Along the way he also produced some unique blooms including:

BORN WINNER (Goody Goody x Anna Delp)

CAT'S PAJAMAS [(aureum (chrysanthum) x maximum)

WENDY LYN [Princess Elizabeth x (smirnowii x yakushmanum)]

And some great hybridizing parents:

FIERY ORANGE (Ginny Mae x Dead Ringer)

RONALD OTTO DELP (Lodestar x Mary Belle)

Plus a lot of variety in lepidotes (small leaf rhododendrons) including:

CUDDLES (Burns yellow carolinianum x Sparkie)

FAISA (carolinianum-Delp pink form x scintillans)

GRACE AND WILL (carolinianum-Delp pink form x Mucram) #1 white = Robby x lutescens fcc)

HINDSIGHT (Epoch x B-28-01)

HUGGY BEAR (minus x chapmanii)

STAR GAZER (Flashy Blue x Carefree) - one of the last named crosses and the closest to blue!!

There are many others and some authorities may have chosen different examples, but these are the ones that always stood out to me along with the infamous **HARRISVILLE** (Newport F4) which was so hardy it bloomed after -30 degree temperatures.

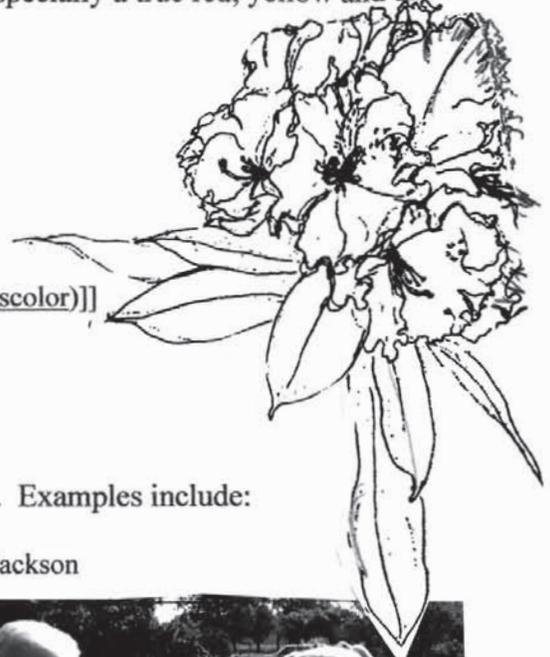
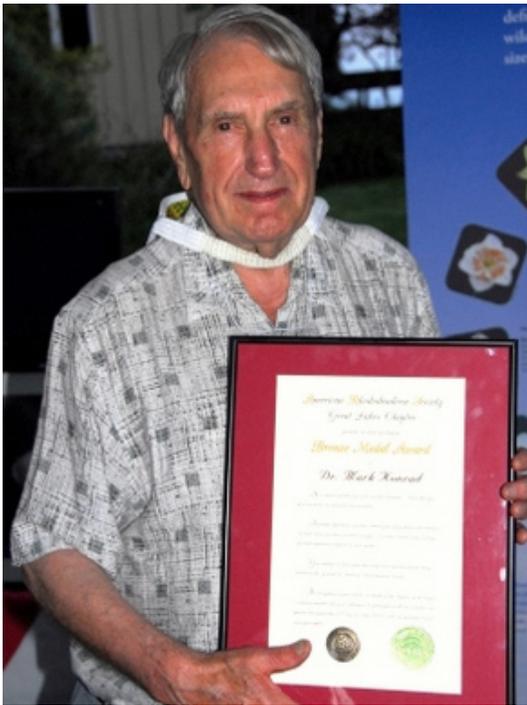


Photo above right
Weldon Delp right,
Homer Salley left,
Author of *Rhododendron Hybrids*,
Co-author Harold E. Greer
Available GLC lending Library
See selected Delp hybrids in color



Mark Konrad receives GLC/ARS Bronze Medal
 Photo by Wolfgang Koger



Weldon Delp commemorative plaque awarded by GLC to Paul James - Boones Mill, VA
 Delp Hill L. 'Spot Magic', 'Reckless' photo by Paul James



Tom and Gail Potter 'Purple Pansy' - 1st
 Photo by Tony Pizzino



Mark Konrad and Jane Konrad, Mark with rhododendron 'Happy Days' - 2nd

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