

August 2010 • Volume 51 No. 3

Rhododendron



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Harry & Marge Johnson
Best in Show, R. 'Trude Webster'

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Krebs' unnamed yellow hybrid
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Harry & Marge Johnson scoop Top Awards at GLC 50th Anniversary Truss Show, May 2010. Best in Show 'Trude Webster' right flower and Second Best in Show, R. fortunie flower at left.

Great Lakes Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER/ ARS

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 | Dr. Jim Browning | 412.373.8689 |
| | Whippoorwill7@verizon.net | |
| 1 st V. Pres. | Chas Wagner | 814.725.1584 |
| 2 nd V. Pres. | Steve Krebs | 440.357.5131 |
| Secretary | Jill Griesse | 740.587.3736 |
| Treasurer | Linda Stull | 914.922.7612 |
| | msgardener@yahoo.com | |
| Membership | Dr. L. G. Walters | 724.287.2047 |
| GLC Newsletter | Annette Pizzino | 440.248.4583 |
| Past President | Fred Palmer | 814.371.2079 |

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 |

Lending Library: Annette & Tony Pizzino 440.248.4583
Books: Rhododendrons, azaleas, companion plants, and other informative plant info, plus videos, DVD's, slides

Cover: Photo Marge, Harry Johnson, Marge wins 1st & 2nd Best in Show; Marge (Trude Webster), Harry (R. fortune)
Photo Tony Pizzino

President's Message

"How could such sweet and wholesome hours be reckoned but with herbs and flowers."

Andrew Maxwell (1621 – 1678)

Many thanks to the Great Lakes Chapter members and those visitors from the Ann Arbor Chapter who turned out for our 50th anniversary flower show meeting at the Holden Arboretum and, specifically, thanks to Annette and Tony Pizzino, our hosts, for their most effective organizational efforts. Congratulations to Marge and Harry Johnson, the Best in Show winners, with their beautiful truss of 'Trude Webster.' The plant auction was one of the best ever thanks to the efforts of our expert auctioneer, Felix Robinson. The plants for the auction provided by Ray Walylko, were both abundant in number and of an exceptional and interesting variety. Ray is certainly an invaluable asset of this chapter. Steve Krebs and Mother Nature deserve our gratitude for the perfect day, on Sunday, at the David G. Leach Research Center. All in all it was a most memorable weekend.

In August of 2004 the chapter met at the Wade and Gatton Hosta Nursery and Botanical Gardens, had an opportunity to purchase plants from their extensive inventory and to walk through their enchanting display. Dr. John Guyton was our host then and is again inviting us back to this interesting venue. I hope to see you all on August 14th

Respectfully submitted, Jim Browning
Ray Walylko and Nursery, growing great plants.



Great Lakes Chapter Web site: www.greatlakesrhodies.org

User name – greatlakes password - maximum



Bits by Bev

Saturday May 22, 2010, The Great Lakes Chapter's 50th Anniversary Truss Show was held at the beautiful surroundings of the Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio. Our host: Tony and Annette Pizzino. One can only imagine the hours they put into the planning of the event "Perfection" played out from beginning to end. The weather "person" turned a cloudy morning into a sunny day. The morning started with the truss entries followed by a judging period. Total number of entries, 213, their were 29 first place winners and 23 second place winners. Marge Johnson's "Trude Webster" took the best in show honors. A list of the other winners can be found elsewhere in the "Rhododendron". A big thank you to all the judge's, scribes and everyone else who assisted when help was needed throughout the day. Good choice of food was found in our box lunches. Did you notice the place mats on the tables even had a "Rhodie" theme. The afternoon tour of the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron gardens were of your choosing: a guided tour, a walking tour on your own, or a tram ride tour. After returning our President, Dr. Jim Browning gave a short talk detailing the history of our Great Lakes Chapter, followed by a plant auction, of 100 plants. Yea, you read right 100 plants, the auctioneer was Felix Robinson. Three lucky winners won the book entitled Leach's "Rhododendrons of the World" donated by Tony and Annette. Many members of the Ann Arbor Michigan Rhododendron Chapter joined us in the celebration, it was a pleasure having you, thank you for coming. (Sorry about your bus problem)

The evening program was held at the Pine Ridge Country Club, in near by Wickliffe, Ohio. Just prior to dinner, the Truss Show awards and ribbons were presented to the winners, compliments of the "Women's Club Money:" Blossom McBrier was presented a bottle of "bubbly" for having won the most ribbons at the truss show. Congratulations to all and continued success in your gardens. Following a very tasty meal and "dessert" (come to think of it, I haven't commented on desserts lately), was the guest speaker of the evening, the President and CEO of the Holden Arboretum, Clement W. Hamilton, PhD. He gave us a look into the future plans of the area. First a little background: Holden is one of the largest Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in the United States covering 3,600 areas, specializing in woody plants that are grown in the area. Just a few of the many topics offered in his detailed slide presentation were: a new entrance, educating schoolchildren and engaging them with plants, growing trees and also grouping them together, gardens and living displays, "A GOOD GARDEN TELLS A STORY WELL", butterfly garden, wild flower garden, professional outreach and public activities, library, artifices, water control etc.etc., Space does not allow for all the other topics, but this gives one a small example of the ongoing and future plans for Holden. Good Night!!

Sunday morning 7:00 AM was the icing on the cake, several members had the privilege of visiting Tony and Annette's home and gardens.** We all know how organized they both are, so you already knew in your mind what beautiful gardens they would have - no disappointment there. A lifetime of collecting plants and trees, the flow of their gardens continued on in perfect color and order. Thanks for inviting us. It was well worth the drive. **Everyone welcomed—come any time! (Amp)

We closed out the weekend with a visit to the Leach Research Station in Madison, Ohio. Steve Krebs, PhD is director of the Station. What an excellent job Steve and staff have done, and continue to do. While walking every path and turn. there was no end to finding another grouping of wonderful plants. Listen up people, the future of new Rhodies will be found there. Thanks Steve for opening up "your" place on Sunday morning.

That about covers the weekend. Again, a big thank you from all of us to Tony and Annette for the special 50th anniversary celebration you planned, a good time was had by all!!



Holly Shai & Linda Stull



Clem Hamilton, PhD

Great Lakes Chapter Truss Show Awards

'May 22, 2010



The David Leach Award for Best in Show

Marge Johnson Trude Webster

The Joseph Gable Award for Second Best in Show

Marge Johnson R. fortunie

The Orlando S. Pride Award for the Best Proven Performer

Steve Krebs Calsap

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

Marge Johnson R. fortunie

The Weldon Delp Award for the Best Lepidote

For the best truss or spray of a hybrid or species Lepidote
Not Awarded

The E. H. Wilson Award for the Best Ironclad Rhododendron

The Best of these "cultivars of extraordinary Hardiness" introduced before 1926

Blossom McBrier Nova Zembla

The Exbury Award for the Best Hybrid of yakushmanum

For the best truss of a first or advanced yakushmanum hybrid
Not Awarded

The C.O. Dexter Award for the Best Truss of a Pink Rhododendron

Marge Johnson Trude Webster

The Robert Blough Award for Best Truss of a White Rhododendron

Steve Krebs Calsap

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

Blossom McBrier Nova Zembla

The William Fetterhoff Award for the Best Truss of a Yellow or Orange Rhododendron

Steve Krebs Unnamed Krebs' Hybrid

The Peter Girard Award for the Best Truss of a Purple to Near Blue Rhododendron

Steve Krebs Unnamed Krebs' Hybrid

The Otto Prycl Award for the Best Spray of a Deciduous Azalea

Marge Johnson Gold Exbury

The Tony Shammarello Award for the Spray of a Persistent Leaf Azalea

Marge Johnson R. poukhanense

The Homer Salley Award for the Best new Hybrid Never Before Shown

Not Awarded

The Holden Arboretum Award

The best new named hybrid rhododendron introduced in the past seven years
Not Awarded

About Us

American Hostas, Daylilies and other Perennials,™ A Division of: Wade & Garton Nurseries and Wade Botanical Gardens



Hostas are the featured perennial plants in the Wade Botanical Gardens. Now consisting of approximately 3,100 different species and named cultivars. Plants range from cultivars with giant leaves, as large as 22" long to mediums, smalls, dwarfs, down to miniature leaves as small as 1/2" wide.

Leaf colors of Hostas range from hundreds of shades of deep to light green, light yellow to deep golds in solid colors numbering several hundreds. Blue colored hostas number in the hundreds with varying amounts of bluish shades in both multi-colored, solids, edged, centered or streaked leaves. Variegated leaved forms have hundreds of white, gold hued, yellow, streaked leaf center, while hundreds have wide and narrow edges of golds, yellows, creams, and whites. Ruffled leafed edges and margins are ever popular, as well as white undersided leaf types.

The Gardens actually started in the 1930's through the 1960's with Pearl Garton, Nell Wade, and Adelia Garton, each with their own small private gardens, close around the two homes.

Van and Shirley Wade started to add to the gardens in 1983, and have added additional features each season since.

Hillside, slopes, a woodland setting, among giant Canadian Hemlocks, White Oaks, hundred year old Sugar Maples, seventy year old White Pines and eighty to ninety foot tall European Larch, which add tall overhead shade to the small stream and waterfall within the gardens.

The large Victorian style family home built in the late 1880's was remodeled and added on to in 1911. The home has 18 rooms with 4 large, white pillared porches. The home stands proudly at the top of a small hill, surrounded by the Gardens and Nursery, amid tall Maples and conifers.

Several acres of intensely planted perennials, are well labeled and displayed in attractively designed beds and grassy walkways.

Well over 5,000 common, unusual and rare varieties of shade trees, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, vines, groundcovers, perennials, including Hostas, Daylilies, Daffodils, etc. can be studied and observed at Wade & Garton Nurseries, the various farms, the Botanical Gardens, and the garden center.

The Richland County, Bellville, Ohio garden, edged to the north by the Clear Fork River and Garton Rocks, a rocky 125' cliff, carved out of the glacier melt 25,000 years ago. The river is stocked with European Brown Trout, which is lined with giant American Sycamores and Ohio Buckeye trees.

The Botanical Gardens are near the center of a large nursery operation, and is flanked to the south by a four acre Garden Center and to the north-east by the loading and shipping and assembly docks of Wade & Garton Nurseries.

Whereas Hostas prevail, many smaller garden display the following: 2,000 varieties of Daylilies, 650 varieties of Daffodils, 35 varieties of Peonies, 18 varieties of Hemlock cultivars, 22 varieties of Witchhazels, 58 hardy varieties of Ferns, 60 varieties of Aspiders, and 16 varieties of Pulmonarias.

The walking paths are primarily grassy walkways, some are concrete, others brick, gravel and roadways. Most of the gardens are not wheelchair accessible, but much of the garden center nearby is. Many walkways are for the young at heart and other surefooted gardeners.

Sitting patios are well placed throughout the gardens and garden center. Three are in the garden Center, and two unistone patios in the Daylily Gardens, with three brick patios in the Hostas and other Gardens.

Pathways are golfcart accessible for those not so surefooted, but only two are available at a time, upon request.

1288 Garton Rocks Road

Bellville, Ohio 44813

Telephone: 419-883-3191

Fax: 419-883-3677

Email: wadeandgarton@yahoo.com

Website: wadeandgartonnurseries.com



New Research Activities

by Mary A. Topa, PhD,
director of research

Collaborative research projects, particularly those that involve plant collections and natural areas, are an essential part of building a research program at a public garden. An arboretum is a living collection of woody plants intended for scientific and educational purposes. I am often asked how Holden's plant collections are used for scientific research, and it is particularly exciting when graduate students discover, sometimes serendipitously, the value of collections in answering a particular research question. This past summer, Laci High, a master's student from the Applied Plant Sciences Department at the University of Minnesota, conducted part of her graduate research at Holden, using the rhododendron collections from the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden and the David G. Leach Research Station. Steve Krebs, Ph.D., director of the Leach Research Station, is on her graduate committee and is a long-time collaborator with her advisor, Stan Hokanson, Ph.D. High is examining genetic differences in budbreak phenology, more specifically, the simultaneous occurrence of vegetative growth with



flowering. This vegetative bypassing effectively obscures the inflorescence and reduces the plant's ornamental value. Some of the more cold hardy cultivars introduced from a Finnish breeding program derived from *Rhododendron brachycarpum* spp. *tigerstedtii*, exhibit this vegetative bypassing trait when grown at latitudes south of Finland. A component of High's research will elucidate the environmental factors, such as photoperiod and temperature that are causing this synchronous

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The Holden Arboretum Autumn 2009



Steve Krebs working at the David G. Leach Research Station

bud break. However, the rhododendron collections at Holden have allowed her to evaluate other genotypes that possess this characteristic. She has characterized over 50 species and cultivars at Holden for traits of interest and observed bypassing on seven of these species and cultivars.

Oscar Valverde-Barrantes, a doctoral student in the Biological Sciences Department at Kent State University, is also using the collections at Holden as part of his graduate research. Kurt Smemo, Ph.D., is a member of Oscar's graduate committee and is collaborating on a variety of projects with Oscar and his advisor, Chris Blackwood, Ph.D. Valverde-Barrantes is interested in the evolution of fine root morphology and symbiotic associations in flowering plants. Root systems of trees contain various classes of roots that differ functionally and morphologically. The smaller-diameter roots of trees (typically those less than two millimeters) play a critical role in nutrient and water acquisition from the soil, and are the most physiologically-active roots. Despite these critical roles, there are still many questions concerning how roots evolved in terrestrial plants, and how evolution has shaped the complex relationship between fine roots and soil microorganisms, in particular, mycorrhizal fungi. Much of our understanding of root development and function is based on annual, agronomic crop species. Holden's tree collections will provide a unique opportunity to study a wide variety of different tree species with divergent evolutionary histories. Valverde-Barrantes is particularly interested in the life history traits associated with modern versus older plant families with a focus on magnolia relatives. His research will focus on how morphology of fine roots have changed throughout evolution among the flowering plants, and how these adaptations have co-evolved with fungal symbiotic associations among plant lineages.



Felix Robinson

Team GLC swings into action:
The "big hand" goes to behind the scene workers:
A mood of congeniality set by President Jim Browning/ Blanche, and GLC members carried the day; even Mother Nature cooperated--the rains arrived after the Layer Garden tours--resulting in a sold-out-plant auction! Felix Robinson--plant auctioneer--a real pro. Bert Hendley donated very special rhodo decorated name tags--the Bergs, provided printed personalized names of GLC, Ann Arbor, Canada, Susquehanna, & visitors--wonderful!
Linda Stull/Margaret Corbin arranged, hand addressed, and mailed formal invitations. Linda generously assisted by Holly Shai--completed herculean plant auction sales!! Wing Fong supplied all day-running ARS/ DVD's. Kay & Spike Walter prepared very special photo gallery posters. (Look for additional viewing, October meeting) A beyond control--tech mishap- prevented the viewing of archival photos intricately prepared by Chas/Karen Wagner. (Look for viewing, October Meeting.) Even the raffle of Leach's "Rhododendrons of The World" resulted in winners by both Chapters, 2 GLC/ 1 Ann Arbor. Pearl Fong, hand-scripted reserved table placement cards & assisted with Show results. Linda came through--last moment--entrée selection tags!! All day Hospitality table greeters, flower arrangers--Steve Krebs' placing rhodo trusses among silver trophies -.Layer garden rhodo pickers-- A wonderful 50th event Thank You, amp

Update from Ann Arbor President, Bonnie Ion:

Thank you again for the lovely reception and all your preparations to make your 50th year anniversary a tremendous success!. Our Ann Arbor chapter enjoyed the whole show as well as the food. Thank you, Thank you. Our bus trip back was a little slower than we had planned and we didn't get home until after midnight (bus glitch)—but it went as best as possible. At least, we weren't stranded on the highway for hours.

Someone (Linda?) asked Bob Welch about fertilizer and he wrote out a note and gave it to me and then I couldn't find the right person. Since everyone always likes fertilizer tips, I add copy info for my chapter too. Here goes the information and I hope the right person who requested it--gets it!

DIFFUSION NORTHERN STAR MINERALS (20-4-11)
3893 Heritage
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517-347-6800

I hope this information helps and, Bob, if I have typed something wrong, please correct it for us all. Thanks again and best wishes.
 Bonnie Ion, Ann Arbor/ARS Chapter President.

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Charles Tubesing, Chief Horticulturist, Holden Arboretum updates GLC on the silver trophies



The trophies have been delivered to the Leach Research Station, (Madison, Ohio), where Steve Krebs, station Director, has agreed to store them. Please share this information with appropriate chapter members/officers, so it is common knowledge where these are stored.

I'm glad everything, including the weather, worked out satisfactorily.

Charles

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Note of Thanks to Steve Krebs for dinner rhodo gifts. Ann Arbor members especially pleased!
R. 'Eruption' (elepidote) 'Fragrant Star' (deciduous azalea)
Sunday morning Leach Research Station tour full of sunshine and endless—OHS and AHS! Thanks Steve-- the station full of rhodo treasures looks beautiful!! Your "unnamed yellow hybrid," a winner. amp

Great Lakes Chapter Meeting, Saturday August 14th

Date: Saturday, August 14th

Places to stay:

Place: Quality Inn and Suites
R. I 71, Exit 165 & Ohio 97
Phone: 1.419.886.7000

The meeting Motel – Quality Inn and Suites
(no block rooms reservations, 1.419.886.7000)
GLC members \$93.46

Host: John Guyton – 1.614.885.8554

Comfort Inn and Suites 1.419.886.4000
Knights Inn 1.419.886.2292
Days Inn 1.419.886.3800

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AGENDA

Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Lunch On your own

Business Meeting 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

TOUR: 2:00 p.m.

John notes, The Wade & Gatton Garden is primarily hostas, daylilies, also many interesting trees, etc. The gardens have been expanded substantially since our last visit six years ago. I was quite impressed at a recent visit, it has been a great year for hostas; fortunately, sales dept. open Saturday (Maps will be provided, it is a 10-15 minute drive.)



Social Hour/ Plant Auction 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Speaker 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The after dinner speaker is Peter Zale, a doctoral candidate at OSU, and his topic is: *New Useful and Necessary Plants for the Midwest Garden*

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Bellville, Ohio 44813
Telephone: 419.883.3191
E-mail: wadeandgatton@yahoo.com
Website: wadeandgattonnurseries.com

Canadians may pay upon arrival

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH

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Dinner: Select one

- Roast Beef Bordelaise, with vegetable
- Baked herb/crusted chicken
- Garden or fresh fruit salad
- Herb roasted potatoes, sugar snaps/almonds
- Dessert – gourmet cookies & pastries

\$18.00 per person, Total-\$ _____

Make dinner checks payable to:
Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
John Guyton
586 Charleston Avenue
Columbus, OH 43214
1.614.885.8554
E-mail johnguyton@sbcglobal.net



Above: Touring Leach Research Station



At Right: Steve Kreb's
Unnamed Yellow Hybrid

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