

March 2010 • Volume 51 No. 4

Rhododendron

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Helen S. Layer
Rhododendron Garden
R. Charles Dickens

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& October, 2009, Garden Visits

**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	Dr. Jim Browning	412.373.8689
	Whippoorwill7@verizon.net	
1st V.Pres.	Chas Wagner	814.725.1584
2nd V.Pres.	Steve Krebs	440.357.5131
Secretary	Jill Griesse	740-587-3736
Treasurer	Linda Stull	814-922.-7612
Membership	Dr. L.G. Walters	724-287- 2047
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino	440.248.4583
Webmaster	Linda Stull	814-922-7612
	lmsgardener@yahoo.com	
Past President	Fred Palmer	814.371.2079

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: Rhododendron 'Charles Dickens,'
Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden
Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio
Reprinted with permission. Photo Ian Adams

Charles Tubesing, Chief Horticulturist,
The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio
Highlights several very special features of
The Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden.



Photo Brian Parsons

Dedicated in 1970, the 30 acre Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden is placed in mature woodland with a canopy composed largely of red oak, with additional maples, American beech, and hickory. Within this tranquil setting, over 3000 rhododendrons and azaleas comprising over 500 different kinds are displayed in large beds. This is a strolling garden, with 2 miles of paths. There are large masses of the "ironclads" and other hardy rhododendrons and azaleas supplemented with introductions by local breeders: Anthony Shammarello, Peter Girard, David Leach and others. The rhododendrons and azalea plantings are segmented with groupings of Pieris and Kalmia and individual specimens of dogwoods, serviceberry, magnolias and other trees

(Rae, Sutherland garden photos, Oct.'09 reverse side ,GLC agenda page)

*"We look to windward for fair weather"
Henry David Thoreau*

Great Lakes Chapter Web site: www.greatlakesrhodies.org
User name - greatlakes password - maximum

Great Lakes Chapter President's Message



"Be through my lips to unawakened earth the trumpet of a prophesy; O wind, if Winter comes can Spring be far behind?"

Percy B. Shelley from "Ode to the West Wind"

This winter, though persistent, is soon to relax its grasp. We can begin to look for the early signs of spring; skunk cabbage in the boggy places, pussy willow catkins, hepatica blooming in the deep woods, colt's foot on the sheltered banks and the morning sunrise approaching due east on the horizon. But the concrete sign of spring's arrival is the Great Lakes Chapter's annual plant sale meeting on March 27th in Kirtland, Ohio. **Harold and Bev have arranged for another stellar event with many new and enticing plants for sale.** A second room has been added this year to facilitate plant distribution. This has been our most successful meeting in the past few years for attracting new members, enriching the Chapter's treasury, and adding to our rhododendron collections. I hope to see you all there.

Looking ahead to the weekend of May 22nd and 23rd, the Great Lakes Chapter will celebrate its 50th anniversary flower truss show at the Holden Arboretum. Annette and Tony Pizzino have made elaborate plans for a gala affair. We are privileged to have the Lantern Court as venue for the dinner. **Tours of Holden's Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden on Saturday and the David G. Leach Research Center on Sunday, should find these gardens at their peak.** We are hoping for a large turnout at this meeting. A contingent from the Ann Arbor Chapter will be joining us.

Further ahead, in August, John Guyton is planning a meeting at the Wade and Gatton Hosta Nursery reprising the very successful meeting of August 2004

On a sad note, we lost two cherished members this past winter; Bill Fueger and Nobue Robinson. We extend our deepest sympathies to Lily, Felix and their families.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Browning



Co- Host Beth Genter, and Peggy Rae



Co-Host Dr. Mark Konrad admires weeping European Beech (Fagus Sylvatica) and handsome stone urn

Co- Host, Dr Mark Konrad admires weeping European Beech (Fagus Sylvatica) and handsome stone- urn garden artifact.

See reverse side of agenda page for more October garden photos.

Great Lakes Chapter Website: www.greatlakesrhodies.org
User name – greatlakes - password – maximum
Webmaster: Linda Stull lmsgardener@yahoo.com

Great Lakes Chapter Treasurer's Report March 2010

Great Lakes Chapter ARS Board of Directors Meeting – October 10th 2009 Coropolis, PA

In Attendance:

Jim Browning, Blanche Browning, Annette Pizzino, Bill Glenn, Chas Wagner, Fred Palmer, Bob Frenzel, Bert Hendley, Donald Whitney, Jill, Griesse, Linda Stull, Steve Krebs, and Blossom McBrier

Called to order by President Jim Browning at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary's report accepted as published.

50th Anniversary Plans:

Blossom McBrier has all kinds of Historical stuff. Please send pictures of people which you have to Chas Wagner Before March meeting.

There will be CD's/DVD's continuously running all day of gardens, etc.

We need a booklet/program for the 50th and need someone to head it up. We have a format from previous times – this one need to be larger and 'fancier.' Annette, Steve and Jim Browning volunteered.

Ann Arbor Chapter wishes to attend. Is there an upper limit for the dinner? We will also send a special to the Canadian and other chapters.

We need to put an announcement in the ARS Journal about the show – Jim Browning to so. There will be a link to our site. There will be a Brief announcement on ARS website – then a later story about the event.

We need additional vases for our show. Annette Pizzino will follow-up.

Jim Browning will print new placards for truss show also.

Dayton Nursery would like to be a part of our show. (Jim Browning will check printed rules for commercial people) The Pizzino's will go down and issue an invitation to them to join us in whatever capacity possible.

We have a speaker for the 50th – it is Clem Hamilton – CEO of Holden Arboretum.

Regular GLC Business:

Treasures Report: Submitted by Linda Stull
Moves to accept – Blanche Browning
Second – Bob Frenzel
Unanimous

Speaker (Hank Schannen) from August meeting
Never submitted bill – Linda Stull will handle.

Vanguard Account needs to be transferred – Bert Hendley will handle

If someone signs-up for membership we would like to give them a Rhododendron.

Plant Sales have been large – the more the merrier! They have done well for us. A portion of the cost is paid only to commercial growers. March meeting 2010 is at Dino's Willoughby, Ohio on March 27th.

August meeting 2010, John, Jane Guyton, Hosts Wade & Gatton Nurseries(hostas) date TBA
Adjourned at 11:30

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Griesse, Secretary

GLC tours Peggy Rae's Coropolis, Pa. garden



Need Help? Contact Us Today
American Rhododendron Society
Your Rhododendron and Azalea Support Group
Visit Us at www.rhododendron.org
For Educational Brochure or Membership Information

March 27th, 2010 Great Lakes Chapter Meeting

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2010

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 -Noon 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 Reznicek
Curator of Vascular Plants, University of Michigan
Herbarium. Plant Systematics-
"How plants get their names (and changed!)"

Family Style----- Sit Down Dinner

Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana
Roasted Potatoes, Rigatoni, Green Beans
And Carrots Almondine, Dessert. Etc.

Price is \$27.00 Per person-----Total \$-----

**Make Check payable to Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
(include name, address, and phone number)**

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 "RhoB" price

Rooms held until March 18, 2010

Red Roof Inn

440.946.9872

SEND DINNER RESERVATION TO:

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

DEADLINE

MARCH 21, 2010

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

"The color of springtime is in the flowers, the color of winter is in the imagination." Ward Elliott Hour

Great Lakes Chapter October 10th, 2009 Garden Tours

Sewickley – Baden Tours

Co-Hosts, Beth Genter, Dr. Mark Konrad & Jane Konrad, arranged two interesting and diverse garden tours: the Peggy Rae garden, Sewickley, Pa., and the Carl and Ann Sutherland garden, Baden, Pa.

Peggy Rae, a well known Sewickley landscape architect of civic and residential projects, and Carl & Ann Sutherland generously opened their private gardens to GLC visitors.

The Peggy Rae garden, very well maintained over a period of many years, offered beautifully limbed –up trees, with wide sweeps of green lawn. A restful, mature, Japanese garden, select perennials, and a mature tree collection—are all set among handsome stone urns, stone pillars, artifacts, etc. Especially eye catching, are two welcoming, carved stone crowing roosters. Peggy Rae guided, and narrated an enjoyable tour of her elegant, formal garden.

The Carl and Ann Sutherland garden of Baden, Pa. is set among acreage, surrounded with, scenic, peaceful, hill-top vistas. Beautiful, mature rhododendrons, azaleas, Japanese maples, and other rare trees – surround this tranquil, natural setting. The Sutherlands have horses, and Ann has a very well tended small vineyard—or at least, several rows of neatly tied healthy grape vines. Cheers! It was fun! A full round of Thank You's,— to everyone who made the October garden tours possible

L. below Carl, Ann Sutherland, R., Admiring Stewartia, L below, Rae garden roosters, Jap. Garden B;ossom McBrier



“Nature will bear the closest inspection.”
Henry David Thoreau



Clip & Save

Bill Isner's Notes On Pruning

Pruning large rhododendrons and azaleas to reduce **their height or make a more compact plant can be** accomplished in early spring (April) before new growth starts. Pruning at this time gives the new shoots time to harden off before severe weather terminates growth. Flower buds will have to be sacrificed however, and many wait until after flowering before they prune. This is not as successful as the early pruning and bad experiences have left many timid to prune again.

Plants that have many layers from the main trunk (trunks) can be cut to ground level and let the layers take over. This usually shortens the plant for a few years before the process has to be repeated.

Health also plays a major role in how well a plant will respond to pruning. Plants with disease or poor root growth usually don't respond to pruning well.

Some varieties of rhododendrons will not sprout after pruning and usually the branch just dies. When the pruner is in doubt of how a plant will respond to pruning. A simple test can be performed before an all out assault on the plant occurs. Choose a healthy branch and cut it back to the desired height. If it has not sprouted by late fall, the plant is not a good candidate for pruning. It's best to live with it as is, especially if the plant is a favorite variety. On the other hand though, if it has sprouted by fall, you can cut the plant back the next spring with less timidity.

It is best to leave some green leaves on the plant for visual as well as photosynthesis reasons. If hot, dry weather occurs after pruning, one may want to tip the cuts with a light coating of Vaseline to prevent drying out. In severe cases a covering with plastic is recommended (old dry-clean bags are good.) It also helps to mist the branches about every four days and water the plant once with a mild fertilizer. Mulch only if the plant needs it.

Most of the *catawbiense*, *maximum*, *fortunei* and their hybrids are good subjects for pruning to reduce their height. The "Iron-Clad" rhododendrons and Knap Hill azaleas are most successful.

Pruning cuts should be made about one third of an inch above an old leaf node. These are

sometimes difficult to find on branches over one inch thick. They are usually seen as a slightly larger area on the branch. It is best to make all cuts on a slight angle. Most important, to use sterilized pruning equipment to prevent the spread of disease

Spring Reminders

Got the winter blues? (In this case the "yellows") A good shot of ferrous phosphate, *Sequestrene*, sprayed on Rhododendron and Kalmia foliage will bring back the true green color of the leaves and brighten the flower color as well. **The first week of May is the best time to spray. Yet later is better than never, if you can't get the spraying done that week.**


When deadheading after this year's flowering season, remember to collect and remove all seed pods and withered flowers. Throwing seed pods and flowers on the ground around plants will infest next year's bloom with petal blight. An ounce of prevention is true in this situation. If the refuse is to be composted, be sure to cover deeply with soil. This will prevent spores of the blight to become airborne next spring.

For those of us with Black Vine Weevil, (*Otiorynchus sulcatus*) which feed on Rhododendrons and Azaleas, I have had great success by drenching the root system of infested plants with a good systemic. Plants showing damage are treated from mid May to the first week of July, just once. This has been 100% effective. A good prayer also helps!

Bill Isner, now retired, successfully supervised, the beautiful Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden, of The Holden Arboretum, for a thirty year period.

Bill Fueger, imbued at an early age with a keen understanding and love of plants, maintained a lifelong interest in horticulture. Conversation with Bill was always fun and full of new plant info. Bill was a long time member of The Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
Bill will be missed.

FUEGER



WILLIAM M. FUEGER, age 88, of Novelty passed away peacefully Dec. 26, 2009. Beloved husband of 59 years to Lilly. Loving father of Mark (Karen) and Daniel (Cindy). Dear grandfather of Sgt. James Nicholas Fueger, Natasha, Danielle and Matthew. William was a member of the Master Gardener since turning 80 and fulfilled a lifetime of his love for horticulture. Funeral services 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 at STROUD-LAWRENCE FUNERAL HOME, 95 SOUTH FRANKLIN ST., CHAGRIN FALLS. Family will receive friends 2-4 AND 6-8 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Burton Public Library, 14588 West Park St., Burton, OH 44021.

"Beauty awakens the soul to act."

Dante 1265-1321

Welcoming Holden's New Lead Horticulturist

Charles Tubesing introduces Vicki Ferreniea, Holden's new Lead horticulturist.



Please join me in welcoming our new Lead Horticulturist, Viki Ferreniea to Holden. In addition to supervisory responsibilities, she is responsible for day to day care and management of the Layer Rhododendron Garden.

Vicki has many years of experience in the cultivation and management of a wide range of plants, their selection and evaluation for garden worthiness and marketability. She's also had extensive hands on involvement with the design, installation and maintenance of diverse gardens, the renovation and expansion of mature gardens and the rejuvenative pruning of woody plants.

The text that follows is taken from the jacket of the book **Wildflowers in Your Garden**, which Viki authored for publication in 1993.

Viki Ferreniea is the former director of horticulture for the New England Wildflower Society. A graduate of Swanley Horticultural College in Kent, England, she received the National Diploma in Horticulture from the Royal Horticulture Society. She trained at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, where she first

began her love affair with North American Wildflowers. The creator of the North American wildflower garden at the world-renowned Longwood Gardens, she has lectured on and taught about wildflowers all over the country.

More recently Viki worked for several years with the Breck Bulb and Springhill Nurseries divisions of Foster & Gallagher. Before that she managed private estate gardens for a Connecticut family, was a perennial trials manager for a New Hampshire organization, and horticultural manager of a start-up organic farming operation in Maine.

The Great Lakes Chapters members join in extending a warm welcome to Vicki Ferreniea, and look forward to meeting her in the beautiful Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden. The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland , Ohio

You are Invited

"A Celebration of Rhododendrons"
Mark Your Calendar
May 22, & May 23, 2010

Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
50th Anniversary Truss Show
Warren H. Corning Visitor Center
Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio
Displays, Photo Gallery, Video's

Box Lunch – Interesting Narrated Tours
Plant Auction, Social Hour, Dinner, Speaker
Holden's Lantern Court Georgian Colonial

Sunday, May 23rd
10:00 a.m. Tour
Leach Research Station
Madison, Ohio

***"April hath put a
Spirit of youth in everything."
-William Shakespeare***

Plant Introductions at Holden

by Mary Topa, PhD, *director of research* and Steve Krebs, *director, Leach Research Station*

As a plant institution, The Holden Arboretum is the owner of many one-of-a-kind plants representing unique genotypes. These plants originate from several sources. They occur naturally in our land holdings, are brought here from collection trips, or are grown on site from random-pollinated (insect/wind) or controlled-pollinated (hybridized) seed using plants in our collections or elsewhere.

The question arises whether any of this unique diversity can serve Holden by being exploited for purposes beyond our geographical boundaries, serving a broader regional, national or international interest. Plant breeding/introduction activities at public gardens generally focus on the introduction of cultivars with high perceived value because of

Plant introduction also enhances the diversity of Holden collections. Selection of plants for introduction requires a diverse array to choose from. Whether this diversity is generated from wild collections or from hybridization (genetic recombination), Holden benefits from the commercial, research or educational potential of the collection. Plant introduction can provide monetary compensation from revenues (royalties) received from valued plant introductions over a finite period of time. While this income is important for furthering horticultural research at Holden, the primary goal of the breeding program is the introduction of new and improved plants for public use and enjoyment.



Fig.1 New cold-hardy rhododendron cultivars that were hybridized by David G. Leach and introduced posthumously by Holden. Left: a fancy yellow-flowered creation named r. 'Holden's Solar Flair'. Right: r. 'Holden's Spring Herald' is an early blooming, large-leaved hybrid.

In 2007, an *ad hoc* Plant Introduction Committee was formed at Holden consisting of representatives from Holden staff, Holden board members, local nursery owners and academic horticulture. It was the committee's job to review Holden's Plant Introduction Program and draft plant introduction guidelines, using the David G. Leach rhododendrons as our model. This came at a critical time since Holden wanted to introduce several of Leach's selections that he did not live to fully evaluate. Two cold-hardy selections with particular ornamental merit have been recently named and entered into the International Rhododendron Register: the yellow-flowered hybrid Rhododendron 'Holden's Solar Flair' and a large-leaved, early-bloomer named R. 'Holden's Spring Herald' (**Fig.1**). In both cases, Leach is the breeder of record, and Holden is recognized

as the evaluator and introducer.

their potential use in large numbers over a wide area or specific region. However, there is increasing emphasis on the introduction of material with non-horticultural plant uses, such as native plants of local origin that are used in the conservation and restoration of native plant ecosystems.

Holden aims to introduce landscape plants that are "widely planted and renowned for thriving despite severe environmental stresses" (*Leaves*, Fall 2009, page 4). Why? Public enjoyment of a Holden introduction is an effective way to achieve broad institutional recognition. Plant introduction also promotes collaboration with peer institutions that have their own research and development programs. Holden currently evaluates plants from academic, non-profit, and governmental institutions that have their own introduction programs. By sending out, as well as receiving plants for testing and evaluation, Holden fulfills its role as an important horticultural resource.

There are over a dozen more of these 'Leach classic' selections – cold-hardy in zone 5 and highly ornamental – under consideration for future introduction. Concurrently, a new breed of rhododendrons is being developed at Holden that adds disease resistance and heat tolerance to the cold-hardy cultivars created by Leach and other hybridizers (see page 12). Still in the early stages of propagation and off-site evaluation, the first wave of these plants has the potential for a bigger market than the current Leach cultivars, more revenue generation, and more institutional recognition. Our hope is that success in this rhododendron breeding venture will provide a model for research and development of other important landscape plants at Holden.



'Janet Blair'. Photo by Courtland White.



'Capistrano'. Photo by Dennis McKiver.



'Mist Maiden'. Photo by Maicom Boyd.



Fig.1 New cold-hardy rhododendron cultivars that were hybridized by David G. Leach and introduced posthumously by Holden. Left: a fancy yellow-flowered creation named r. 'Holden's Solar Flair'. Right: r. 'Holden's Spring Herald' is an early blooming, large-leaved hybrid.

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