

October, 2011 • Volume 52 • No. 4

Rhododendron

In this issue:

Cover: R. 'Kay Walters'
Hybridized by Dr. L.G. Walters

President's Message	2
GLC Officers/Board updated - Book auction	
Bits by Bev	3
Dr Jim Browning Bronze Medal	
Secretary's Notes Karen Wagner	4
Old, new business, future events	
Viki's List Rhododendron Companions...	5
Complete listing on GLC website	
News, Views & Short Updates	
Spring Rhododendron buds fail to expand....	6
Newsworthy shorts	
Agenda Fall Meeting Conley Resort	7
Host Spike & Kay Walters	
The Brueckner Hybrid Evaluation Project...	8
Harold & Bev Berg garden US evaluation site	

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	Chas Wagner	814.725.1584
	wagsix@roadrunner.com	
1 st V. Pres.	Steve Krebs	440.357.5131
2nd V. Pres.	Bert Hendley	740.452.4523
Secretary	Jill Griesse	740.587.3736
Treasurer	Margaret Corbin	814.833.7207
Membership	Dr L. G. Walters	724.287.2047
GLC Newsletter	Annette Pizzino	440.248.4583

Past President Dr. Jim Browning

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Stull*	Kay Walters	6 year term
Karen Wagner	Don Whitney	4 year term
Blanche Browning	Bob Frenzel	2 year term

*Linda Stull also serves as GLC webmaster

www.greatlakesrhodies.org

User name—greatlakes password—maximum

Lending Library: Annette & Tony Pizzino
440.248.4583 annetepizzino@roadrunner.com
Books: Rhododendrons, azaleas, companion plants, and other informative plant info, plus videos, DVD's, slides (Books auctioned, GLC meetings)

Cover:

R. 'Kay Walters'

Photo Tony Pizzino

Presidents's Message

I am writing this on the evening of Sept. 11th, which causes one to glance backwards. Hopefully, all of us took time to reflect on the last 10 years.

The last president's message in the August newsletter was written by Jim Browning as he reflected over the 2 years he was president. I thank Blanche and Jim for the dedication to the Great Lakes Rhododendron Society as past treasurer, president and past and present board members. After touring their garden in May I was amazed at Jim's passion, recall and knowledge of each plant on the hill side. As Clem Hamilton stated at the 50th anniversary, every garden has a story and it was delightful to hear the Brownings' story over the last 35 years. The GLC/ARS Bronze Medal Award, Presented by John Heinze on the evening of August 20th, was well deserved. Jim, before winter sets in, take a few days in the hammock by your attractive water feature. Thank You!!!

Another big THANK YOU goes to Annette and Tony Pizzino for hosting the August 20th meeting and tour of Stan Hywet. For the tour of the hall and gardens, we were split into 3 groups so all of us could hear and ask questions. The evening's dinner was delicious and Viki Ferreniea did a great job on her presentation of rhododendron companion plants. The list was very helpful. (A copy for future reference, of Rhododendron companions will be available on the website for those who do not have a copy) Thank you, Bert and Steve for rescuing the evening's PowerPoint. Thanks go to the Pizzinos' for hosting at a location about 1 hour from home.

Mark October 15th on your calendar for the fall meeting hosted by Kay & Spike Walters, at the Conley Resort, just south of Butler, PA.

*The resort is a beautiful setting, especially for any of you golfers. Floyd Moore's Gala Garden Center is near by. Take an extra day to drive thru the PA mountains. To soak in the fall colors. **The schedule has time built in to enhance your photo/computer skills. Bring pictures, laptops, flash drives and be ready to learn and share your knowledge with the rest of us.***

See ya there!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Chas Wagner

"The Great Lakes Chapter Members would like to thank all the past and present members who have and continue working diligently to keep the GLC the excellent and progressive group it is!! On behalf of the Nominating Committee, may we present (see left) the following Officers and Board Members, effective August, 2011 " —note from Bev Berg



www.greatlakesrhodies.org

User name — greatlakes password —maximum

Send photos of your garden, Linda Stull GLC webmaster

lmgardener@yahoo.com

“Bits by Bev”

After the Great Lakes Chapter’s visit on Saturday, August 20, 2011 to Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens (Stan is old English for Stone Quarry), one can understand why it is called, “A National Treasurer.” It was the aspiration of Frank A. and Gertrude Sieberling. F.A. Sieberling was the founder of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company-Akron, Ohio.

The groundbreaking for the huge under taking started in 1912, the original vast estate had over 3000 acres, only 70 remain today. We walked the many stepping stone pathways, enjoying the beauty of the different displays and variety of plants, trees, etc.

The English Tudor Manor House took us back to the roaring 20’s (way before my time...but I have read about it). The Sieberlings had six children. The three story home’s furnishings are 95% original, it also had “indoor” plumbing!! Mrs. Sieberling’s motto was: LIVE NEW, LOOK OLD, she also felt the “house was not for us alone,” their doors were always open for visitors and friends.

After an enjoyable afternoon it was back to the Akron, Ohio’s Holiday Inn for the social hour followed by a plant auction.

Dinner was excellent, dessert Chocolate Cream Mousse, need I say More?

The winners of the May’s Truss Show were presented their awards.

The Chapter’s Bronze Medal was awarded to Dr. Jim Browning, it was well deserved for all the work he has done and continues to do for the betterment of our chapter.

The evening speaker was Viki Ferreniea, the lead horticulturist at the Holden Arboretum. Through speech and slides she introduced us to the use of companion plants to compliment the Rhododendrons in our garden. She proved to us that bringing in other plants of color, really do compliment our favorite plant. Viki also suggested that we keep winter in mind when planting so we have color all year long, and don’t overlook using bulbs!

Bottom Line...”Our gardens are a personal thing.” Thank you Ms. Ferreniea the information you shared with us will benefit all of us. (if you missed out on the companion handout’s I have extra’s)

Thank you to Tony and Annette for another well planned event.

If you can keep a secret I understand our October meeting hosts Dr. Spike and Kay Walters are giving away five dinner’s...feel lucky??

Stan Hywet Hall reception area, the following welcoming note:

Welcome, as thy need may be find here

Happiness, peace and sanctuary.



Dr. Jim Browning receives a well deserved Great Lakes Chapter /American Rhododendron Society Bronze Medal recognizing his dedication and good humor:

Congratulations Jim!

Blanche Browning, Bronze Medal 1999



John Heinze* former longtime District 11 Director presents the Chapter’s highest medal of recognition for service and dedication to the Chapters’ goals of furthering knowledge and appreciation of the genus rhododendron. John a man of few words, a quick wit, and timely action gets the job done:

The recipient is nominated, and approved. John receives a list of the recipients GLC merits, deeds and actions—he artfully weaves the words together, conveys it “All “ to the plaque maker—and there you have it, the Chapters’ newest winner—Dr. Jim Browning. (appreciative note) amp

*GLC/ARS Bronze Medal 2004

www.greatlakesrhodies.org

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Send photos of your garden, Linda Stull GLC webmaster

lmsgardener@yahoo.com

Great Lakes Chapter Karen Wagner Notes, August, 2011

Great Lakes Chapter/ARS: Aug 20th 2011

Holiday Inn Akron West- Akron, OH

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

2. SECRETARY

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING no minutes available

CORRESPONDENCE- 1. call from Larry Coleman seeking new District 11 director

2. email from John Migas - invitation to attend 50th Anniversary in Michigan, see below.

3. TREASURER

FINANCIAL REPORT Margaret Corbin reported checking balance \$5,841.55

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Spike Walter reports 98 name/addresses, 6 or 7 did not renew memberships. Annette Pizzino sends out 105 Newsletters.

4. SCHEDULE FOR AUG 20 & 21 - ANNETTE Board mtg, tour of Stan Hywett house and grounds, 4:30 plant auction, dinner at 6:00 and speaker at 7:00

OLD BUSINESS

5. FINANCES : CD's , MONIES SET ASIDE, RECORDS Margaret reports an audit has been completed at no charge, but a plant will be offered to the auditor. Auditor found books to be in good order. CDs \$49,000; Otto Prycl Fund \$359.99; Women's Fund \$926.02; Book Fund \$650.44. Discussion of speaker fees--\$150 + dinner.

6. AUCTIONS Having plant sales is raising money, encourages member attendance. Some suggestions were given for methods to speed up sales, and will be tried at the meeting today. Each buyer will be given a number and can choose a plant in that order. Prices will be preset on plants.

7. LIBRARY 3 books will be put up for door prizes at each sale in order to reduce or eliminate library.

8. WEBSITE bylaws will be added to the website. Garden presentations can also be linked to youtube.

9. BY-LAWS — ELECTION OF OFFICERS An electronic copy of the bylaws was requested – to be added on the website.

10. Jim showed the new awards from the truss show, a framable document/picture of the winning truss.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Document the story of how members became interested in Rhododendrons to be added to the website

12. Steve Krebs gave an update on progress at Holden. They are adding 4 acres to the Rhododendron garden. There are opportunities to be part of that development and donate to the project.

UPCOMING DATES:

Oct 15 – Butler, PA - Kay & Spike Walters - Conley Resort

Oct 21-23 - Mid Atlantic Fall Meeting - Richmond, Virginia - <http://www.macars.org/>

2012 -

- Mar 24 - Holden - Plant Sale – Steve Krebs
- May 4 - 7 - Joint ARS & ASA - Nat Conference - Asheville, NC
- May 18-20 – Lake Michigan (ASA) 50th anniversary – Holland, Michigan. An invitation was extended to share in the celebration and garden tours. The ARS District 11 chapters are all invited (Ann Arbor, Great Lakes, Midwest & Ozark) along with the Tri-state (ASA) and Great Rivers (Holly Society)
- May 26- Truss Show - Erie – Blossom McBrier (Host) – Tom Ridge Environmental Center
 - August – host & location needed
 - October –host & location needed

2013: Mar Plant Sale Holden Arboretum --- May ? – Mid Ohio

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wagner

Some Favorite Companions for Rhododendrons Viki Ferrenia August, 2011

Viki Ferrenia, lead horticulturist, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio with a refreshing perspective, is a welcomed source of complementary plant companions for our rhododendron gardens. Her broad knowledge of plants in general, (including a special interest in North American wildflowers)— along with an educated, and experienced eye in garden design, balance, and arrangement— provides us with a wonderfully varied plant list, that can enhance the garden space we have.

“Author,* teacher, lecturer: a graduate of Swanley Horticultural College in Kent, England, recipient of National Diploma in Horticulture from the Royal Horticulture Society; former director of horticulture , New England Wildflower Society; creator of the North American wildflower garden at the world-renowned Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania; her articles have appeared in *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening*,” - more, more—in- short, Viki, “ knows her stuff.”

*The above info taken from the jacket of her book, *Wildflowers in your Garden*. (GLC Lending Library)

For a quick and handy reference –check it out.

Her complete list is available on the GLC website:

www.greatlakesrhodies.org

For a dramatic fall plant statement: this statuesque plant with healthy, deep, green leaves in an eye-catching vivid blue—completely deer-proof—from Viki’s list:

***Aconitum carmichaelii*, Monkshood (also other colors)**

(Grows beautifully in our garden, anticipated fall treasure) Photo Tony Pizzino



Another plant from Viki’s list, this one has very attractive fall color plus, spring interest.

Enkianthus campanulatus, (E. perulatus)

This shrub provides a full pallet of autumn color, reds, oranges, and yellows—all in contrast to the green of rhododendron leaves. This shrub appreciates acid soil with good drainage. Spring provides interesting and colorful clusters of hanging bells. We have two and appreciate two seasons of color.

Other selections in the “Enkianthus” family:

From our deceased friend, Hank Schannen’s spring 2010 catalog. (verify available, see website below.)

www.rarefindnursery.com (Spring, 2010)



Enkianthus campanulatus 'Princeton Red Bells'



Enkianthus campanulatus 'Renoir'



Enkianthus campanulatus 'Showy Lanterns'

The Great Lakes

The Great Lakes represent 20 percent of the Earth's fresh surface water—where 20 percent of all North American fish species find shelter and millions of birds migrate or breed. The abundant Great Lakes have supported life for thousands of years, including more than 40 million people who live in the basin today. To protect this critical ecosystem, The Nature Conservancy and its partners are launching an unprecedented effort to conserve a comprehensive network of protected areas—more than 1 million acres of land, 100 miles of shoreline and 6,000 miles of river and stream. *The Nature Conservancy* nature.org (GLC members' gardens closest to Lake Erie, try zone 6 plants.)

An Oak of “note”—

The Oak is the national tree of the United States 2004

The U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence are written in “oak gall ink,” an indelible dark blue color. Oak trees, incorporated into the 9/11 ground zero, World Trade Center Memorial Plaza in New York City are—400 swamp white oak trees (*Quercus bicolor*), they tolerate drought, compacted soil. In his book, *Oak*, by W.B. Logan, the author quotes the poet John Dryden's musings on the durability and adaptability of oak trees: “three hundred years growing, three hundred years living, three hundred years dying.”

Some of us, have beautiful mature rhododendrons, that thrive in the shade of these handsome hardwood trees, in addition we receive wonderful oak leaf mulch each autumn. Years ago in visiting Jim & Blanche Browning's garden, we noticed a volunteer oak seedling—Jim remarked that it would anchor the grouping of near-by rhodies. In David G. Leach's —*Rhododendrons of The World*—: “...Oak trees can offer most *Rhododendrons* an ideal association.” p.56

Soil Makes You Happy

Proof that dirty fingers lead to clean minds.

Findings: A common soil bacterium, *Mycobacterium vaccae*, is an effective vaccine for leprosy. Researchers began to evaluate its value in treating asthma, tuberculosis, and cancer. Then cancer patients treated with *M. vaccae* reported feeling **inexplicably happier**, neuroscientist Christopher Lowry, Ph.D., of the U.K.'s University of Bristol injected mice with the bacterium, then examined their brains. The mice's immune systems were stimulated, causing brain cells to release serotonin, a mood-altering pleasure-inducing hormone. **Our advice: Dig in! Be happy!**

Source: *Organic Gardening*, “News,” Research Report .01 Edited by Beth Huxta, Winter 2007-2008 amp

The following article contains valuable information on—expanding rhododendron buds and the impact of quick cold spells—thus, providing an answer to a disappointing situation that some of us have experienced. amp

What's wrong with MY PLANT?



PROBLEM: Every spring, I look forward to my rhododendrons blooming. The long, cool springs in Seattle ensure that the plants' trusses will stay fresh for weeks. But once in a while, spring brings disappointment. These floral buds (photo, right) had begun to open but were all killed during expansion. The explanation for their demise is simple, but prevention requires a bit more attention.



EXPLANATION: The die-off of these just-opened rhododendron blooms is from a late-season cold snap. Rhododendrons, like many other temperate spring bloomers, have overwintering flower buds that resist freeze damage. The bud scales prevent ice from forming in the tender tissues of the embryonic flowers. Dormant flower buds can, in fact, survive temperatures as low as -40°F.

The key here is dormancy. Once dormancy is broken in flower (and vegetative) buds, water moves freely into them, swelling the tissues and forcing the protective bud scales apart. This is a dangerous time for the rapidly growing buds because they have lost their cold hardiness. Even a mild frost can cause the water in these young flowers to freeze.

PREVENTION: Plant selection and placement is important in avoiding cold damage caused by late-season frosts. Marginally hardy species, of course, are going to be the most likely victims of cold damage. So think about your landscape microclimates and consider these situations before you plant:

► **Is your house at the bottom of a hill?** Cold air rolls down hills and piles up in front of your house. Even a sunny south-facing site at the base of a hill can be markedly colder than a shady north-facing landscape protected by the house.

► **Is your site affected by strong winds?** Wind will make the air around your plants colder and strip away moisture from leaves.

If a cold snap is predicted during the time when flower buds are opening, then insulate your small trees and shrubs with cages constructed out of chicken wire and burlap. The good news is that, even without protection, the plants probably won't suffer long-term damage and will bloom again the following year.

—Linda Chalker-Scott, editor of *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens*, is an associate professor and extension horticulturist at Washington State University in Puyallup.

Source: *Fine Gardening* January 2011 page 77

“You cannot perceive beauty but with a serene mind.”
—Henry David Thoreau

October 15, 2011 Great Lakes Chapter/ARS Fall Meeting

DATE: Saturday, October 15th, 2011

PLACES TO STAY

PLACE: Conley Resort
740 Pittsburgh Road (Route 8)
Butler, PA 16002
800.344.7303

Conley Resort 800.344.7303

Conleys will hold rooms till September 15th

Address see left

Rooms double bed, (2 persons) full use of pool

Complete morning breakfast— \$119.00, + tax *

*Special rate, single occupancy—\$84.00, + tax

HOST: Spike & Kay Walters (724.287.2047)
Spike1932@zoominternet.net

Comfort Inn (located 5 miles north on Rt 8)
724.287.7177

Two Double Beds (AARP Rate) \$98.99 + tax

Regular \$109.99 + tax

AGENDA

All Activities are at Conley's

10:00—11:30 AM GLC Board Meeting
Noon Lunch- on- your- own
1:00 PM GLC Business Meeting
2:00 PM Website Meeting
3:00 PM Plant Auction
5:00 PM Happy Hour

6:00 PM Dinner (Lakeview Room)
7:00 PM Program Speaker:
Joe Stupka

Days Inn (located 6 miles north on Rt 8)

800.329.7466

Regular \$99.00 +tax

Use Discount card (AARP) \$89.00 +tax



Sit-Down Dinner Menu:

_____ *Chicken Parmesan*

_____ *Stuffed Pork Chop*

_____ *Baked Cod*

All Dinners served with a tossed salad, choice of side, and vegetable, rolls, beverage, and dessert

_____ *Total number of Dinners @ \$25.00 per dinner*

\$ _____

DEADLINE Tuesday, October 11th, 2011

SEND DINNER RESERVATION

Margaret Corbin gramc1@aol.com

1802 Millfair Road

Erie, PA 16505 (814.833.7207)

FINAL TOTAL, DINNER \$ _____

Make check: Great Lakes Chapter/ARS

Include name, address, and phone number

Canadians may pay upon arrival



Harold Berg comments on: The Brueckner Hybrid Evaluation Project

“The Niagara Region Chapter, Rhododendron Society of Canada, and the Brueckner Family have agreed to collaborate in developing a program within a wide selection of rhododendron hybrids, developed by the late Dr. Joseph Brueckner, would be tested for their suitability as ornamental shrubs for gardens in southern Ontario.”

In May, 2011, 219 potted plants were ready for distribution under coded numbers. In general they were to be distributed so that a wide representation of localities as possible would be achieved.

Twenty test sites were selected: 18 in Ontario, 1 in British Columbia, and 1 in the USA. The USA test site is at Harold and Bev Berg’s garden in Rochester, Michigan. It consists of 20 plants.

As a note of interest, the 2010 rooting of 123 plants from 45 different hybrids was done by Ray Walylko, W.W. Nursery of Indiana, PA. Ray is also currently rooting additional plants for 2012. **Submitted by Harold Berg**

Harold Berg comments on GLC website photo above: part view of endless rhodies,—“all protected by net or livestock fence. All are watered by underground sprinkler system from my pond. The red is Henry’s Red, named after a salesman for Weston Nurseries. He spotted it growing in test field and said, “I could sell a million of those.” Harold is rooting cuttings of Henry’s Red. (Also Bill Isner’s favorite –red.) amp

Great Lakes Chapter/ARS

Annette Pizzino

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