

# Rhododendron

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R. 'Futuristic'

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Great Lakes Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

## 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

<b>President</b>	Chas Wagner	814.725.1584
	wagsix@roadrunner.com	
<b>1st V. Pres.</b>	Dr. Steve Krebs	440.357.5131
<b>2nd V. Pres.</b>	Bert Hendley	740.452.4523
<b>Secretary</b>	Jill Griesse	740.587.3736
<b>Treasurer</b>	Margaret Corbin	814.833.7207
<b>Membership</b>	Dr. L.G. Walters	724.287.2047
<b>Newsletter *</b>	Annette Pizzino	440.248.4583
<b>Web Master</b>	Linda Stull	lmsgardener@yahoo.com

**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

### Great Lakes Chapter Website

[www.greatlakesrhodies.org](http://www.greatlakesrhodies.org)

Username—great lakes password—maximum

\*GLC newsletter posted to website quarterly

### Cover:

Dr. Mark Konrad's hybrid Rhododendron,  
'Futuristic'  
Photo David Walyko

*"Nothing happens if first not a dream."  
Carl Sandburg*

## President's Message

It was a sunny but brisk day in Coshocton, Ohio last October 6<sup>th</sup> and an intimate group experienced a day designed by committee. Six months earlier we drove into Coshocton and asked the visitor's center about their gardening project associated with America in Bloom. The costumed guides made a few phone calls and within 30 minutes we were standing in Bill Freund's garden. A tour ensued and when we got back to the house, I asked, "Do you give tours for other groups?"

Over the spring and summer, Bill organized the tours, brochures, gave suggestions of housing, where to have our meeting, etc. Bert Hendley encouraged the tour of Clary Gardens. Jill Griesse suggested the evening's entertainment. Her friends, the Wises, have the Rainbow Hill Vineyards down a country road.

After our meeting and lunch at Sportzone in downtown Coshocton, we were given a tour of Clary Gardens by the director, Kerry Rapp, who just happened to work at Mission Oaks previously. We completed our tour before the wedding started. Next, we toured "The Gardens at Roscoe Hill". Bill and Carol Freund moved here from Shaker Heights 25 years ago and have not stopped working on their home and gardens. With the development of Clary Gardens in 2003, the Freund's garden went from 25 acres to 5 acres. Bill is still downsizing with the abundance of plant materials given away at the end of the tour.

Shortly after 3 PM, we proceeded down the hill to meet Connie and Diane of Historic Roscoe Village. Through the efforts of Edward and Frances Montgomery this delightful restored canal town boasted many stores and craft shops. We toured the gardens sprinkled between and behind the shops. We were encouraged to shop on Sunday with a discount card designed for our group.

We reconvened around 6 PM at the Rainbow Hill Vineyards, a secluded spot in the hills east of Coshocton. Because of our intimate group, we dined by the fireplace in the winery. Earl Corbin volunteered as a masterful chef with the steaks and chicken grilled to perfection. Following dinner, our host for the day, shared how a small group of dedicated gardeners has beautified the city and county of Coshocton through hanging baskets of flowers, flower beds, containers and window boxes. "Coshocton is Blooming" is part of "America in Bloom" where judges visit your area and critique in these categories: Floral Displays, Landscaped Area, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts, Heritage Preservation and Overall Impression. Check out their websites!

It was an educational and delightful weekend! Make plans for our plant sale at Holden!!

Respectfully,

*Chas Wagner*

*Photos Chas Wagner*



**GLC members on a walking tour lead by grounds gardeners, Connie and Diane as they described scenic features of "Historic Roscoe Village" and site of legendary Ohio Erie Canal.**

### New Info

**Updated info Great Lakes Chapter gift "New Leaf" project Holden Arboretum**  
**Please note updated acknowledgement of Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust matching funds- not mentioned in first letter. The total amount of the above GLC gift, August, 2012 reflecting the matching funds: \$37,500.00. View new letter page six AMP**  
**I noticed the matching funds, not acknowledged, called Steve Sedum, corrected info letter.**

### Delicious Autumn!

*"My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird, I would fly about the earth seeking succession autumns"*

**George Eliot**

# Bits by Bev Great Lakes Chapter Meeting October 2012

## BITS By Bev

Great Lakes Chapter's Fall Meeting, October 6, 2012, Coshocton, Ohio!

Our group seems to find different and unusual ways of having a meeting, variety is the spice of life we use it in our gardens, why not adapt it to our meetings?

Our morning business lunch meeting was to be held at the Coshocton Village Inn. Due to unforeseen circumstances it was moved to the "Sportzone Restaurant". Dr. Jim Browning was presented with a bottle of "bubbly" due him from the Women's group for having won the most ribbons at the May Truss show.

The afternoon program was spent visiting gardens plus having a guided tour through the "Historic Roscoe Village". Before I go on I would like to acknowledge our Host, Bill Freund, (who is not a member of our group) planned all the days' activities, more about Bill later.

Our first stop was the "Clary Gardens", a fairly new Botanical Garden founded in 2001. Much has been achieved already in a very short time, many native plants, perennials, trees, shrubs etc. Two houses built in the early 1800 were also a big attraction. The enthusiasm of the staff and their many volunteers will accomplish many things in the years to come. Second stop, the gardens of our host, Bill Freund. The property and gardens were very well maintained, Bill walked along with us and answered any questions we had. Bill did a tree inventory this year, would you believe he has ONLY 387 trees on this land, in 33 different Genus.

Last stop for the afternoon was a guided tour of the "Historic Roscoe Village". Must say it brought back memories of reading about the Erie Canal, not only in word but also in song. In the early 1800's the Canal was developed to transport people and goods from ports on Lake Erie and the Ohio River, helping to establish towns and villages along the canal. Walking the town visiting their many gardens and shops one had the feeling of living in that century. The Canal itself is no longer along side the village. But, a short distance away at the "Coshocton Lake Park, visitors today can take a horse-drawn canal boat replica along a 1 1/2 mile restored section of the original Ohio-Erie Canal.

Prior to dinner, there was a silent auction for plants brought by Ray Walyko.

Did your group ever have a "Rhodie" meeting where you cooked your own dinner? We did. "The Inn at Rainbow Hills Bed & Breakfast", Newcomerstown, Ohio. Must say this was truly a different experience. Picture a warm cozy lodge type cabin with a roaring fire in the stone fireplace. Outside Earl Corbin, our "grill master" cooked the steaks and chicken to perfection, some of our male members also helped taking orders, etc. The dinner trimmings that went with the food was supplied by the establishment. If you're in need of a "grill master" you know who to call. BONUS: we got to take home a FREE bottle of wine, one of OUR choosing from the Rainbow Hills vineyard.

The evening speaker was Bill Freund. Topic "changing a community through gardening. "AMERICA IN BLOOM", America in Bloom has only been in America for Eleven years. It started in France after World War II. What is America in Bloom?? "It's an independent non-profit organization which promotes community beautification programs through the use of flowers, plants and trees. Founded in 2002, it has grown to 180 cities participating. 38 states represented, 22 million people". Bill spoke about the group he belongs to, "Coshocton is Blooming", the group was started with just a handful of people in 2009, "Planting, Preserving and Promoting Pride" what an impact it has had in this community. It's truly amazing what a few people can do. Again stating: that this national group only starting in 2002. "America in Bloom" already sponsors annual nationwide competition with other cities that feel they are ready to compete in categories such as: best hanging baskets, most beautiful town entrances, best community garden programs etc. Thank you Bill for sharing your expertise in the new and growing "America in Bloom". Continued success with your group. We hope to see Bill and his wife Carol again in the near future. The attendance was on the small size at this meeting, BUT a good time was had by all.

Director Kerry Rapp of Cleary Gardens



**KARENS NOTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**/additional agenda items
2. **SECRETARY**  
Minutes of last meeting – accepted as printed in news-letter
3. **TREASURER** - Financial Report Bal of 9/30/2012 - \$6271.39  
CD's = approx \$22023.00
4. **SCHEDULE FOR OCT 6<sup>TH</sup>** - discussed

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **MEMBERSHIP** –3 or 4 new members since May

**OLD BUSINESS**

A Pizzino will suggest To Holden REG that recognition be given to “Great Lakes Chapter breeders” rather than “Northeast Ohio breeders”

**2014 ARS CONVENTION - QUAIL HOLLOW RESORT, PAINESVILLE, OH**

**MAY 15 – 18 - “EVERY GARDEN TELLS A STORY”**

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance** – determine attendance that is a financial “break even” point

**Tours & Speakers**- free accommodations from Quail Hollow to cover speakers: keynote will be Rick Lewandowski on Native Flora in Eastern US, also Ian Adams with photography , Clem Hamilton

**Plant Sale** - John Guyton replaces Linda Stull; Harold Berg will also serve; UPS Shipping option and Credit cards suggested

**Flower Show** – Brownings will put entry rules on website

**Photo Contest**— Spike Tony Walters, Pizzino, Wolfy Koger

**Sponsorships** – Chas Wagner will contact other chapters; M Corbin will seek other sponsors; display space can be made available to sponsors

**Publicity** - Carl seeks more pictures of gardens that will be visited

**Website** -

**Journal Articles** – Annette Pizzino

**Hospitality** Kay Walters, Bev Berg, Margaret Corbin, more

**ARSJ Convention Schedule** Pizzino, Corbin, Wagner, Krebs

**Plant Auction**— Format TBA

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**2013:**

March 16th Quail Hollow, Convention planning, plant sale

May 18 Jim Webster suggested Cox arboretum was not available—Wooster OSU, site of 2013 Truss Show

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Bev Berg presented the Women's Fund Award for most Ribbon awards at the 2012 Truss Show to Jim Browning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**News/Views & Short Updates**

**Great Lakes Chapter Library Books**

The remaining GLC Library books have been donated to the newly renovated Warren H. Corning Library of the Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio. The remaining books , very attractively priced, are available for purchase on the “used book cart” at the Corning Library – first come/first served. Sue Swisher, Corning Librarian, has prepared a list of donated books.

**A special Note:**

In reference to the above, the Great Lakes Chapter has retained important and interesting archival material:

**Rhododendron and azalea research:**

**A Database of 1000/800 Citations with Brief Abstracts – Volumes One & Two (includes scholarly data)**

**Author Homer E. Salley, Ed.D.**

**Plus,**

**Early Great lakes Chapter Work Shop Notes**

**The above are available to lend**

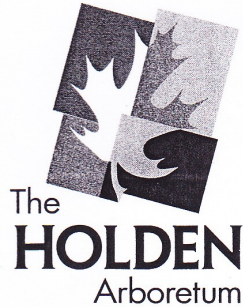
I received an email this past September, from long time Great Lakes Chapter Secretary, Jill Griesse - concerning her health issues. A past call to Jill's daughter, Holly Stai, tells us, “Jill is receiving treatment and is responding with grace”  
**Thumbs way up!! We are wishing you very well, thinking about you and your always helpful input, – looking forward to seeing you soon.**

**Karen Wagner, Convention 2014 Treasurer, dons another hat, and has generously provided us with updated Great Lakes Chapter Meeting news.**

**Garden news:**

**As the Holden Arboretum embarks on” The Year of the Rhododendron” please note: The new -“ Rhododendron Exploration Garden” is now: “Rhododendron Discovery Garden. Gala opening—May 18th, 2013 AMP**

*What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. Joyce Kilmer*



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New

Updated letter notes Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust  
Matching Funds of \$12,500.00 for a total gift of \$37,500  
from The Great Lakes Chapter/ARS to The Holden Ar-  
boretum's new Rhododendron Discovery Garden. \*

\*Note new name

September 21, 2012

Mr. Chas Wagner  
President  
Great Lakes Chapter, American Rhododendron Society  
11274 Curtis Road  
North East, PA 16428

Dear Chas,

I again want to thank you and the members of the Great Lakes Chapter, American Rhododendron Society for their generous support of Holden's New Leaf capital campaign, in particular the Rhododendron Exploration Garden.

Your gift was received in time to be a part of the total of \$2,153,467 which was reported to The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust as being raised during the August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012 period of their 1-for-2 matching challenge grant to Holden. Therefore, the gift from the Great Lakes Chapter of \$25,000 in the end produced a total of \$37,500 for the Rhododendron Exploration Garden!

Holden has received confirmation from the Trust that we have indeed fully met the match. The trust has also sent us a schedule for when the \$1 million grant will be received by Holden.

While we still have \$1.35 million to go, we are 83% toward our goal of \$7.85 million and feel confident of our ability to raise all funds.

It takes many people with a shared vision to achieve a success like this. We are proud to count the Great Lakes Chapter as one of our partners in this endeavor. I hope you and others from the chapter will keep May 18 available as this is the date of the Grand Opening of Holden's new Rhododendron Exploration Garden. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Sedam  
Senior Director of Development

cc: Annette Pizinno

AGENDA

PLACE: Quail Hollow Resort  
11080 Concord-Hambden Road  
Painesville, Ohio 44077  
Phone: 1. 440.497.1100  
WWW.QUAILHOLLOWRESORT.COM

TIME: 10:00 AM—12:30 PM  
Convention 2014 planning meeting

LUNCH Quail Hollow Restaurant 12:30—1:30 PM  
CK's Steakhouse Luncheon Menu

=====  
Members' Meeting 2 PM

Discussion/planning Convention 2014

Plant Sale immediately following above

5:00 PM event over—No speaker or banquet

Don't miss this meeting, we need your input.

=====

Quail Hollow Resort

American Rhododendron Society Annual International Convention  
May 15—18, 2014 Greater Cleveland, Ohio area  
"Every Garden Tells a Story"

PLANT SALE INFO

For a great diverse collection of attractively priced, well-grown, healthy rhododendrons, evergreen/deciduous azaleas, plus garden companion plants; magnolias, Japanese Maples, hydrangeas and much more; special order, contact Ray, David:

W.W. Nurseries & Research Center  
188 Valley Green Drive,  
Indiana, PA 15701

Email: wwnurseries@hotmail.com  
Phone: 724.349.5653

We will propagate your rhododendron or azalea cuttings from your cutting stock or ours. WE WILL ALSO GROW YOUR RHODODENDRON & AZALEA SEEDS!!!

PRICES 2013

<b>Rooted Cuttings:</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Liners:</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>#1/1gallon</b>	<b>\$10.50</b>
<b>#2/2gallon</b>	<b>\$15.50</b>
<b>#3/3gallon</b>	<b>\$22.50</b>

**Special price:**  
You can combine varieties & pot sizes to get the 100 rate, providing 100 or more of the specie is purchased.

**Photo below:**  
Dr. Mark Konrad's R. 'Angel Blush'  
Photo on ceramic by Cathy Kelly



## MARK'S STORY

My early interest in broad-leaved evergreens came as we lived in Virginia and enjoyed the Azalea Gardens, magnolias and especially the camellias. After moving to Pennsylvania, it became apparent we could not grow those camellias. But on doing some research, we discovered the genus *Rhododendron* and an outstanding name in this area – David Leach.

We telephoned him and he immediately invited us to come for a visit. This was an eye-opener.

His garden in then, Brookville, PA was astounding and his research in propagation and hybridizing was stimulating. He insisted we join in this effort and work on line-breeding, giving us a quite large plant of County of York – Catalode. And so began the journey.

Early work began with collection of “parent plants” and a trip East to visit Nearing and then Gable. Each man was intellectually exciting and encouraging about getting into hybridization. I remember questioning Gable about waiting so long for a plant to bloom with his remark that “after the first seven years – each year brings a present – like Christmas”.

First efforts were at a wooded site some miles from our home, but offering good soils, available water, and overstory plants of help and interest. For a number of years all my plants were at that site – seedlings as well as parent plants. Hunters occasionally came through and caused some small problems – but no deer or “critter” damages. One interesting story was the theft of some ½ dozen plants we had brought back from the East. We offered a reward in the papers – because they were very special plants – to no avail. In the Spring a staff member mentioned to me that her neighbor had noticed a very large bud on one of his plants and wondered about it. She then told him that Mark could recognize the bloom and was missing some plants. So – soon we received a phone call that our plants were on the sidewalk below the house! All were returned!

Since moving to Sewickley, the perfect place for a garden made it more possible to increase my time and interest in hybridizing – from early attempts at propagation to later happy results in developing exciting crosses.

Experimentation with soils, cuttings, seeds and transplanting held my attention. And developing interest and work with the Great Lakes Chapter ensued including serving as Treasurer/Membership for two years early on, attendance at meetings, assembling more plants, and developing a rhododendron garden complete with species rhododendron and azaleas and hybrids. For a number of years I held monthly summer “study group” meetings where more local hybridizers could get together and exchange ideas and their work. We also hosted a number of garden tours and social “brunches” for all members who could attend. I worked to increase membership in a variety of ways – so important for the Chapter and helped in several Regional Shows here in the Pittsburgh area. And after retiring and with more time, offered to serve as President.

An early cross was attempting to effect an “Azaleadendron” as earlier breeders had. I accomplished developing a healthy plant, “Futuristic”, (Gibraltar x R.) but no blooms for 20 years. Finally there were some blossoms that proved prettier each year and became a part of some of my crosses. The garden had always known deer – strolling through and even sleeping there – yet little damage. They seemed to like the tomatoes better (and Jane’s house and yard plants and blooms). Yet one year they discovered this special plant and munched over half of it. It has recovered since, but suffered a lot.

While I have preferred the larger trusses (as George Tomaich mentioned) I did work toward better plant growth, leaf shape and color and even differences in trusses/florets as well as looking for color, aroma, bloom time, and other characteristics.

I felt that other beginning enthusiasts might like to know about some of my early efforts and basic procedures. So I started writing articles for the American Rhododendron Journal – which they seemed to appreciate as a balance to more scientific research articles.

Through the years I have tried and grown many different species and hybrids. Some “good-doers” that bloom through a range of winter temperatures and bloom long include: Yak hybrids, Catalode, Boule de Neige, Gigi, Henry Yates, Delp’s Tetra, Janet Blair, Bob Bovee, Martha Hitchcock, Helen Curtis, and my crosses: of Maximum and Yak – the “angels”, the azalea “Garden Jewel” that won second best of show in 2011, and some others: Happy Times, Moonlight Serenade, Sweetheart, Show Time, Pink Halo, and Spring Ecstasy.

It was with great pleasure that I received the Great Lakes Chapter Bronze Medal, the Chapter’s highest award on May 23rd, 2009.

Deer still come through, but with little damage. Always there is scat to let you know they are there. This year they have bedded down in one of Jane’s Iris beds ---squashed flat. However, Ray Walyko and son David are growing on cuttings of most of my crosses

One good friend, Bill Fetterhof, had terrible damage from deer. Yet he was able to produce some lovely crosses. His Strawberry Supreme has done well here, as have his Lois Jean and Adele’s Yellow. All survive cold and drought. I have a few times had to water the small seedlings. But the larger plants are all survivors of mixed weather conditions. Some of Delp’s plants have also done well, as have Pride’s hollies – great companion plants. And for additional assets, the blueberries are relished – what we can save from the birds.

Mark Konrad's stunningly beautiful hybrid Rhododendron 'Happy Days'

Dr. Mark Konrad





*Dr. Mark Konrad and Jane Konrad's Garden Sewickley, Pa.*

*Dr. Mark Konrad's hybrids are available to beautify your garden. David & Ray Walyko's W.W. Nurseries lists the following:*

*Konrad's: Angel Blush, Angel Glow, Jane Konrad, Konrad's Misty Moon, Konrad's Rose Jewel, Konrad's Sweetheart, Purple Glow, Showstopper, White Star, Robert Konrad, Symphony— plus more, everyone a visual delight. Attractive pricing.*

*AMP*

**AMERICAN RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY**

**WHAT WARM AND WONDER-  
FUL PEOPLE**

**I HAVE MET ALONG THE  
RHODODENDRON TRAILS:  
FRIENDLY AND GENEROUS  
ARE THEY:**

**ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO  
HAVE MADE THE WORLD A  
BETTER PLACE AND  
MORE BEAUTIFUL TOO.**

*Mark Konrad*

Great Lakes Chapter/ARS  
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