

Rhododendron

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Great Lakes Chapter
American Rhododendron Society

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 American Rhododendron Society**



Presidents's Message
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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 several times each year, on the third weekend of March, May, August or 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, Eric Oesterling | 724.875.5788 |
| oesterling@windstream.net | |
| Vice President David Walylko | 814.270.4512 |
| david24066@live.com | |
| Secretary Karen Wagner | 814.725.1584 |
| wagsix@roadrunner.com | |
| Treasurer Steve Krebs | 440.413.9682 |
| skrebs@holdenarb.org | |
| Membership Dr. L.G. Walters | 724.287.2047 |
| 1932@zoominternet.net | |
| Newsletter Annette Pizzino | 440.248.4583 |
| annettepizzino@roadrunner.com | |
| Web Master Robert Kotson | 304.551.5626 |
| rkotson@gmail.com | |

Past President, Dr. Steve Krebs

Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Kay Walters | 6 year term |
| Karen Wagner | 4 year term |

Chas Wagner rhododendron mentor,
 wagsix@roadrunner.com

Great Lakes Chapter Website
 www.greatlakesrhodies.org

Username—greatlakes password—maximum
 Robert Kotson rkotson@gmail.com
 Web Master

Cover:

Rhododendron 'Pearce's American Beauty'

Hardy zone 5, strong grower (H. 5-6 ft, W. 4-5 ft.) part shade. Tight formal truss, surrounded by an "Elizabethan collar" of deep green leaves, blended red tones, yellow flair markings.

*"More than anything, I must have flowers, always."
 —Claude Monet*

Dear Rhodie Friends,

At the March 18th meeting, members expressed a desire to visit members' gardens during blooming season. We are hoping to collect information to make this possible. If you are willing to open your garden, please send us dates, time, if you want a call before a visit , or if all day is good or only evenings...if the visit should be weekends only? (Maybe phone numbers should be included for those traveling a long distance). Since we live all over the place and there so many different blooming times, we need your best time. Our plan is to forward (by email) this information to our members.

Please email one of us: Spike1932@zoominternet.net or gramcl@aol.com

Kay 724-287-2047

Margaret 814-323-2883

Margaret Corbin & Kay Walters



Schroeder Dobbs arborist, tells the group how to ID, spruce, pine and fir trees. Flex Robinson left above, with excellent auctioneer skills, auctions plants. GLC members attend March 18 plant sale & meeting , Conley Resort, Butler,



10:00 am—11:00 am social time with coffee and delicious donuts

11:00 am Kay opened the meeting,
She introduced our new guest, Carol Nagg from the Butler area.

Eric started the business meeting with a discussion of the GLC Plant Sale at Holden. May 19, 20, 21.
A meeting of GLC members was suggested for 11:00 am on Friday May 19th.

Friday May 19, noon—6:00 pm is Holden Arboretum members' day , including Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
plant sale & show. May 20, 21 the plant sale is open to the general public—10:00am—4:00pm

Steve had filed the papers to make our group a vendor at Holden. Plants to be sold, will be finalized.
(Nurseries sources: Briggs Nursery, Plainview Nursery, others)

The People's Choice voting (which truss is voted best) will be coordinated by Annette. She has posters, etc.

Enter flower trusses early or upon arrival on both Friday & Saturday.
A sign-in will be done this year so GLC/ARS will know who bought plants for future info contact. We need
name, address, phone and email.

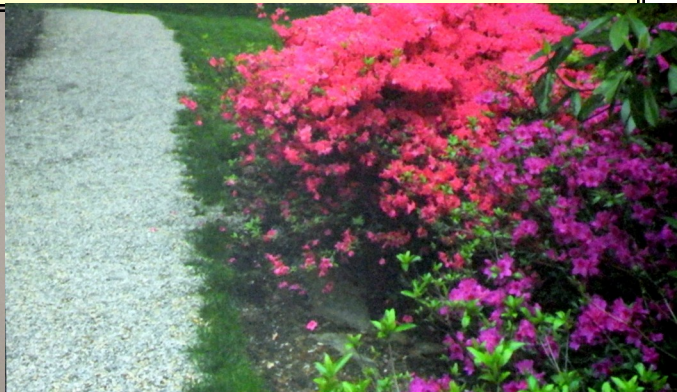
OTHER BUSINESS:

1. A schedule of future meetings: April & May, at Holden, September for Fall meeting (Chas/Karen Wagner)
Dawes Arboretum, Mission Oaks Garden, Phipps Conservatory, Schedel's Gardens, etc.
2. Margaret suggested to have members open their gardens. Publish a list of dates & times.
3. Margaret & Kay will be the event coordinators, date, time, address, Email Bob to be included
4. Motions were to have meetings in April (Felix) May & September/Bob seconded, unanimous vote.
5. Motion made to set-up optional field trips, Seconded by Eric, unanimous.
6. Please try to out reach to get new members,. Speak to Master Gardener groups, garden clubs, flyers de-
veloped for libraries, nurseries and other public places. Eric to contact National for pamphlets, we could
include in our contact info .
7. Website—Bob still needs pictures of our gardens. Cell, 304-551-5626, or, rkotson@gmail.com
8. Acknowledge of Spikes' awards in the ARS Journal National Photography Contest awards was made.
9. Blanche Browning has invited our group to visit her gardens.
10. Meeting was adjourned for a delicious lunch: chicken/beef sandwiches, salad & Italian Wedding Soup.

Bert & Susan Hendley brought 2 guests to tell us about "Mission Oaks Gardens" in Zanesville, Ohio. The
original 7 acres was donated to the town by the Hendleys. Schroeder Dodds gave a lesson on how to tell the
difference between a pine, a spruce & a fir. Mission Oaks volunteer Darlene Turner gave a power point pres-
entation on the development of the park and how volunteers work to lead tours and do the garden work.
plant sale followed with plants from George Tomaich, Floyd Moore and WW Nurseries.

Gail Potter

Darlene Tumer, presents an informative Power Point guided tour of Mission Oaks Gardens Zanesville, Ohio



Walters' Woods 'Garden Open'



Annette suggested that I write a short—hard to do—description of my garden, (woods), and so I started right in because I know I will have to have it approved by a higher authority, (wife). So on the first draft of this short paper, (all genius's write papers), she immediately crossed out the first thirty two pages before she even reads them as if they were superfluous. Now in my mind, I feel that anyone who uses words like superfluous should be taken more seriously. I have also discovered in writing this, that I seem to have a lot in common with another famous literary figure. It seems that both Christopher Robin and I share a life in the woods. Unfortunately my woods is

some ninety acre smaller than his, and I don't have any tigers here, not even friendly ones. What all this comes down to is that, I indeed, am very fortunate having a woods instead of just having a garden, Woods are special because of trees, and while I can garden, "only God can make a tree." Well enough of this scientific discourse, this paper will now proceed as if written by any average rhododendron grower, although appearing average is extremely difficult for me.

We returned to Pennsylvania in 1965 and I acquired about a two acre lot on a north facing slope in an oak woods on my father's property. For the next two years I burned brush until I had enough area cleared to have a house built. Once the house was occupied I started to plant rhododendrons and fill the house with kids. My early plant selections were from Orlando Pride and Warren Stokes who helped in selection and planting advice, "dig a hole and put the plant in." This was sage advice and I still follow those same principles to this day. Lanny, insisted we join the rhododendron society and there we met Weldon Delp. At this time, I found that I could wither spend a lot of money on plants or feed the kids, so my plant purchases were always very small cheaper plants. One exception was the three mail order plants, I bought from the Warren Baldsiefen Nursery, but I was able to pay these off in less than twelve years. I have never been able to explain why, but these men Warren Stokes, Lanny Pride and Weldon Delp kept showing up with plants. Maybe they just like my location or maybe it was Kay's pound cake., whatever the reason I was always planting. I can't remember what year it was but I can remember that one year, I had seventeen blooms. Why I remember this I don't know but my mind, seems to store a lot of unusual memories, and I never know when they will decide to reemerge.

Years sped by as they always seemed to do on Mushrush Road, and through The American Rhododendron Society I met: Tony Shammarello, Michener, Tom Ring, Bill Fetterhoff, Bob Blough, Bob Danick, Jim Browning, and even had a nodding relationship with Dave Leach. Now I have a story to tell about each of these people, but to keep this scientific paper within reason, I will try to restrain myself. Sometime I am going to write about these men, and The Great Lakes Chapter Study Club. As you have possibility already realized at this point, that once I start to write ego takes over and I have a hard time stopping. I'm sorry about that, well, not really. In fact it is kind of fun.

I think where I live is the ideal location for growing rhododendrons, well that is not entirely true because I have also lived in Tacoma, Washington and that kind of spoils a person from Western PA. The plant

selection catalog for my Western Pennsylvania area was somewhat limited in the early days when I was just starting to develop my standing as a rhododendron expert. True, I did have a lot of slides and a projector that worked, and I would travel—slides and distance—were the two most important qualifications in expertise establishment. Through those early years, I euthanized a large number of West Coast hybrids, just to prove my hardiness hypothesis. My garden is probably somewhere in the neighborhood of fifty years old, and even older, if you take into consideration those plants I inherited from God. I have tried to keep the natural appearance of my woods as close to nature as possible, and the letting of nature cure itself, has proved labor expedient. My woods are absolutely beautiful, but then as the song “Cabaret says, if you could see it with my eyes.” We do have a couple of garden clubs and photography groups who have become annual repeaters. The most common question I am asked seems to be, “How many rhododendrons do you have?” I always reply with an exaggerated number as that seems to make them happier. My woods also have an outstanding variety of wildflowers and ferns which we have added to over the years. There are benches and paths through the property, but not areas for high heels which I never wear anyway. I have been told that I have the best rhododendron garden in Western Pennsylvania, but then I talk to myself a lot. I am fortunate to have a natural collection of native azaleas, which seem to expand through the woods in various places that they have selected for themselves. What you will not find, anywhere else, are my late blooming azaleas which I carried on from crosses Warren Stokes made with native American azaleas.

Ok, just what makes my woods special? I think it is because it is a personal woods. I planted every rhododendron myself. Many of the rocks have been reassigned over the years to fit my design plans and some are where they are because I couldn't move them any farther. Ok, maybe a few God had set, but he said I could take credit for design, although he wanted credit for creation. As I age, I find it has become harder for me to remember all the plant names as quickly as I did before, and yet, I have no trouble remembering who gave me what plant, and where it came from. There is a story that goes with each plant that only I know. What this means is you need to come spend some time in my woods, as I am approaching the end of my time here, and the stories and the garden, I'm afraid, both will die with the gardener. I have seen this happen too often, which is one of the prices I pay for living this long. When Wing Fong came to do the DVD for The American Rhododendron Society, he said, that I should never get lonely in my garden as all my friends are still here, at least in my memory. And that my friends, is a shortened and inaccurate version of Walters' Woods. The sign at the gate say “Away From it All” and that sign is very prophetic. There is also a DVD in The American Rhododendron Society Library of our woods, and I have made a pictorial book of a year in the woods. Don't say I didn't warn you about ego. So I leave you here as Christopher Robin and myself are going to visit our friend Henry, you know H. D. Thoreau. He also had a woods and a pond and helped me with ideas for my “Life in The Woods” book. Hey Chris is Poo Coming to?

Spike Waters



President's Message:

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Dear Friends,

As I write this in mid-April I am in Charleston, SC with my family. Down here native dogwoods are past their peak as is *R. austrinum* and the evergreen azaleas at Magnolia Plantation. I was here 23 years ago in early April and the Plantation was beautiful with all the evergreen azaleas in full bloom, but not in mid-April 2017. Only a few flame azaleas at the gardens are near peak now. But we are having a great Easter weekend with two of our daughters and their husbands and our one grandson, James.

Back in SW Pa. I may miss some serviceberry, part of the redbud bloom and a couple of our early lepidotes but the best spring bloom will be waiting for us when we get back home in a few days. We look forward to the next 6 weeks as the rhododendrons, azaleas and many companion plants progress through their peak spring beauty each in their turn. NC nothing beats the beauty of woodland rhododendron gardens in the area encompassed by our Great Lakes Chapter.

We have a few chapter activities going on during May and we need good participation from members to make these successful. We are again planning to participate in the Holden Arboretum plant sale from Friday, May 19 through Sunday, May 21. We plan to sell potted rhododendrons and azaleas but the main objective is to help other gardeners be successful growing rhododendrons and azaleas in their gardens and in the process hopefully encourage them to join our chapter. We need to line up more volunteers to answer questions about varieties and culture of rhododendrons. It is a very nice event with many vendors selling many different types of plants. A good opportunity to pick up some interesting companion plants for the gardens and an excuse to visit Holden when the Helen Layer Rhododendron Garden should be in full bloom. Eric Oesterling, (724-875-5788 oesterling@windstream.net) to volunteer to help.

At the same time, we are going to hold a truss show at Holden in conjunction with the plant sale. We have more room to show the trusses this year and they should encourage the public to grow these beautiful plants we all love. Members are asked to bring the best of what is blooming in their gardens to enter in the truss show at Holden. Annette Pizzino will coordinate the truss show.

The third chapter activity taking place during May is for the benefit of our members. We would like to hold a series of open garden days at member's gardens. During our March meeting members expressed a strong desire to visit each other's gardens during bloom. We all love to visit other gardens and we all work hard on our own gardens and we love to share the fruits of our labors with other rhodoholics. Our members' gardens stretch from central Pa. through Ohio to Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. Kay Walters (724-287-2047, spike1932@zoominternet.net) is going to coordinate this Members' Open Gardens Days. Make your best guess as to when your garden will be at peak bloom and when it fits your schedule and then contact Kay to set up a day or two or just an afternoon or evening when you would be willing to host members at your gardens. You can request that visitors call before arriving. Kay will tabulate this information and share with membership when different gardens are open for visitation.

May is always a busy month but this year would appear to be especially so. I look forward to seeing many of you at Holden and at each other's gardens next month.

Sincerely, Eric Oesterling 724-875-5788, oesterling@windstream.net

'GARDENS OPEN'

Call ahead for best viewing and updates

Spike & Kay Walters

724-287-2047

spike1932@zoominternet.net

Blanche Browning

412-373-8689

whippoarwill7@verizon.net

Blossom Mc Brier

814-474-3104

blossommcb@aol.com

Please refer to chapter website for additional member's Spring 2017 'Garden Open'

The above gardens are mature acreage gardens, tremendous variety, don't miss this opportunity.

Greatlakesrhodies.org

AGENDA
“UNDER THE TENT”

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER/ARS PLANT SALE & TRUSS SHOW

PLACE: Holden Arboretum
(new brand name: “Holden Forests & Gardens”)
Dual facilities, Holden Arboretum & Cleveland Botanical Garden)
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, Oh 44094-5172
440-946-4400
holdenarb.org

TIME: Friday—May 19th Members 1st choice Noon—6pm
EXHIBITION/DISPLAY FORMAT, NO RIBBONS
“PEOPLES CHOICE” Truss Show
GLC members enter flower trusses upon arrival

Saturday– May 20th– Open to the public
GLC members enter flower trusses upon arrival

Sunday– May 21 –10:00am—4:00pm

HOST: Eric Oesterling, President Great Lakes Chapter/ARS
(see President’s Message for additional info)

LUNCH: A variety of lunch selections—several vendors

VENDORS: Holden Wildflowers,
Don’t miss this selection.
Ornamental shrubs & trees
Perennials, herbs, wide assortment
Annuals, plus baskets/pot s -artful combinations
Garden artifacts, etc., etc., much more!

ACTIVITIES:

Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden, Acres of mature rhododendron/azaleas.
Numerous ornamental trees, park-like setting, mature oaks, hickories, & beech .
Paine Rhododendron Discovery Garden, Tour the RDG, view colorful info panels
Artfully grouped ornamental trees, dwarf Japanese maples, numerous companions.
Great Lakes Chapter Rhododendron site: hybridizers highlighted, much more.
Corning Library, view ,J.D. Hooker’s “ The Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya”
(Historically the most important book about rhododendrons. RARE)
Canapy Walk, eye level with tree canopies, view Lake Erie, top of emergent tower.

“ So here’s to the gardener, who grows not to feed his body, but simply to nourish soul & delight the eye.”
-Rudyard Kipling



David Leach’s

‘Spellbinder’
Early blooming Pizzino garden



Middle photo:
‘Landmark’
Early blooming –RDG

Lower photo:
Early blooming,
Weldon Delp’s
‘Oh My’

Photos Tony Pizzino



Helen S. Layer Rhododendron bouquet, Holden's 75th anniversary, arrangement by Bill Isner.
Cleveland Botanical Garden Truss Show

Great Lakes Chapter/ ARS
Annette Pizzino
34900 Lakeview Dr.
Solon, OH 44139