

Rhododendron



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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, Eric Oesterling oesterling@windstream.net	724-875-5788
Vice President David Walylko	
Secretary Karen Wagner wagsix@roadrunner.com	814.725.1584
Treasurer Steve Krebs skrebs@holden.arb.org	440-413-9682
Membership Dr. L.G. Walters 1932@zoominternet.net	724.287.2047
Newsletter Annette Pizzino annetepizzino@roadrunner.com	440.248.4583
Web Master Robert Kotson rkotson@gmail.com	304-551-5626

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:

Spike & Kay Walters Spring garden. Mixed border with mature, deep red 'Francesca.' See Agenda page, Share your garden photos of rhododendron/azaleas, mixed borders, groupings, and plants in pot. Will appear on GLC website for all to enjoy, and admire. Send photos by— regular mail, email, bring to meetings—all info on agenda page.

**"We receive but what we give,
And in our life alone does nature live."
Samuel T. Colebridge**



President's Message

It has been a mild winter to this point—there should not be much winter bud damage so far. But I said the same thing about this time last year and then we had some of our coldest temperatures that mid-February into early April. I have long thought that it is our fluctuating temperatures in late winter and early spring that are more damaging than our coldest winter temperatures. Regardless, I am looking forward to spring. My bud set varies from variety to variety after a dry summer and fall 2016 but there are plenty of buds for a good show in spring.

Speaking of spring, the chapter is planning activities for the coming season. First of all, to kick off the season there is a meeting and plant sale scheduled for March 18 (Saturday) including a short talk by our very own Bert Hendley, about the development of "Mission Oak Gardens, an evolving public garden", in Zanesville, Ohio. I hope as many as possible can attend this meeting. We have a lot to talk about as far as future plans for the chapter. And bring any good gardening friends who might be interested, we need new members! Check out the description and registration information in this newsletter and get signed up. Guests do not have to be members.

The second spring event on the calendar is to repeat our sale and outreach at the Holden Arboretum spring plant sale on the weekend of May 19-21 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). This will be a chance to meet the public, sell them uncommon varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas and educate them on the beauty and culture of the genus Rhododendron (and of course the many benefits of belonging to ARS).

So plan to attend these chapter activities and look forward to a great spring in 2017.

Eric Oesterling, President



**Great Lakes Chapter members find that special rhodo plant, at—
WW. Nursery, Indiana, PA.**

**Back,
Frank Myers, David Walylko**

**Center,
Karen Wagner, Tim Potter**

**Front,
LeeAnn Mravunich, Gail Potter,
Eric Oesterling**

Photos Tony Pizzino

Great Lakes Chapter /ARS

Meeting October 15, 2016

WW Nurseries, Indiana PA

President Steve Krebs extended a warm welcome to 24 members and guests in attendance along with thanks to LeeAnn Mravunich and Frank Myers for hosting us at WW Nurseries.

Official Business

- Treasurer Margaret Corbin gave the financial report: Checkbook \$9390 with small outstanding bills, CD at PNC was renewed in September for \$25,264 Membership chairman Spike Walters reported recently sending 77 member renewals.
- Newsletter editor Annette Pizzino sends approx. 90 newsletters and appreciates contributions and articles for it in a timely manner.
- Bob Kotson webmaster, will use member lists as he creates a members only section on the website. He also requests garden pictures for the website as well.
- Election of officers. Margaret Corbin resigned as Treasurer. Steve Krebs is taking Eastern VP with the National ARS and wishes to end local president position.
- Karen Wagner is willing to remain secretary. By majority vote, the following were elected to new positions:
- President : Eric Oesterling
- Vice president: Dave Walylko
- Treasurer: Steve Krebs
- Memorial will be made to ARS in honor of Bill Glen and Ray Walylko in the amount of \$50 each.

Discussion of future Great Lakes Chapter ARS meetings and projects with suggestions

- Blossom McBrier suggested selling rooted cuttings and encouraging raising plants. Also she suggested Program Development position within the group to pilot species and youth involvement through Holden.
- Bob and Helen Kotson suggested continuing the Holden Plant sale and flower show, in May and possibly including a formal meeting or event to follow for interested rhododendron buyers
- Outreach to master gardener organizations, those who have already shown an interest in plants and gardening.
- Providing experts (our members) to Holden on a "rhododendron weekend" and making contacts with visitors.
- Juliana Medeiros suggested she would create a Rhododendron diversity pamphlet
- Since many enjoy purchasing plants, there will be a March meeting (3rd week) hosted by Kay and Spike Walters at Connley Resort with a members plant sale.

Awards

Spike and Kay Walters celebrate 50 years as ARS members! Congratulations!

Steve Krebs** was awarded the Bronze Medal, the highest award the chapter can bestow, for his faithful efforts for the chapter and continuing work with rhododendrons. Congratulations!

The meeting included a wonderful lunch as well as speaker David (Joe Gable's grandson) and, Kathy Gable. David gave a talk "Life on the Gable Farm" (the Joe Gable story).

David Walylko presented helpful insect control information.

Frank Myers showed cutting instructions for those wanting to have successful cuttings started.

A tour of WW Nurseries was given.

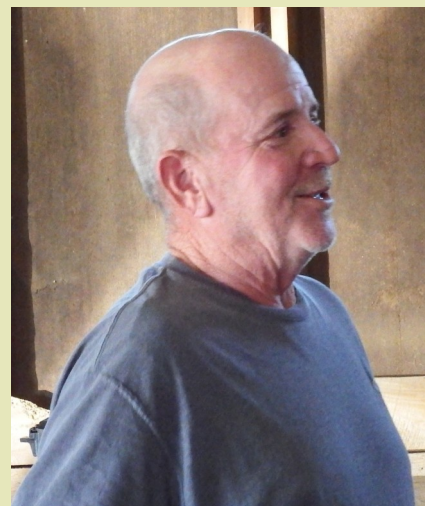
** John Heinze, long time ARS District Director Great Lakes Chapter II (ret.) will formally present Bronze Medal—Steve Krebs. TBA.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen

Wagner,
Secretary



**Frank Myers
WW Nursery
Demonstrates:
How to take
cuttings from a
rhododendron
plant and care-
fully insert into
growing flat. His
emphasis is on
careful work-
manship.**



**"Life on the
Gable Farm"
Speaker,
grandson of
successful
hybridizer
Joe Gable. A
candid, infor-
mal trip into
rhododen-
dron history
Photos
Tony Pizzino**

Enough Said! by Spike Walters

I find myself once again as the substitute writer of the “Bits by Bev.” This is not something I excel at, as if there was some thing I did excel at, but enough of that so here again is rambles by Spike. The Great Lakes Chapter held it’s fall meeting at the WW. nursery , Indiana Pa. There were twenty in attendance. Fred and Lee Ann the new owners of the nursery had ordered a beautiful day and the higher authority complied with their request. If the day is any indication of their influence with that authority their future plants should be great. A wonderful buffet was provided both in taste and quantity. The meeting was held in their barn.... big enough for three’s. The speaker was a grandson of Joe Gable. We all know about Joe’s plants and now we know more about the man which in turn makes the plants seem even more special. Steve told us that he was advancing to the national level in the society. He will be replaced as president of the Great Lakes Chapter by Eric Oesterling. Margaret Corbin is resigning as treasurer and Steve said he would be able to serve as treasurer. An ancient Chinese proverb said that when ever a person must resign a new person is ready to step forward. Well in all honesty that is not an ancient proverb but doesn’t it sound good and here it really is working.

Now for more rambles. When I mentioned old Chinese proverbs my mind went back to motherisms. Did I say that my mind follows strange paths. My mother was a wise person and there always was a method to her wisdom although sometimes it took time to appreciate. I complained as every child seems prone to do but in the wisdom I inherited I knew it was also to my benefit, to keep my complaints short. My mother always made me eat vegetables because there were starving children in China. Now how she knew the Chinese children were starving or how my eating vegetables was going to change this I never questioned. If mother said this, there had to be a reason for it. Now I was always willing to send my vegetables to those starving Chinese children as I have always been the ultimate humanitarian. Mother never agreed with my solution to end starvation in China but that was probably because of the shipping involved. Fortunately, at least for me broccoli was one vegetable we never grew in our garden. Now looking back the question in my mind is, if my mother was always right how come there are so many Chinese today. All in all I have come to realize the wisdom my mother possessed and her plan apparently worked as I now eat my vegetables, even broccoli. My mother is now gone and my wife has taken over that position my mother made famous and as you probably have guessed her favorite vegetable is broccoli and it does come in large packages. Ok so this is the conclusion of my rambles. If by chance you have read this far, thank you for your attention. Now I can get back to deciding what I want to be when I grow up. I know to others I may appear to be grown up but I am not sure this is what I wanted to be. I know you are wondering what this ramble has to do with rhododendrons, Well it happens that my farther was a rhododendron person and he took great pride in showing off his rhododendrons but that was all show. You see in our family it was my mother who did the planting. Enough said ! - Spike

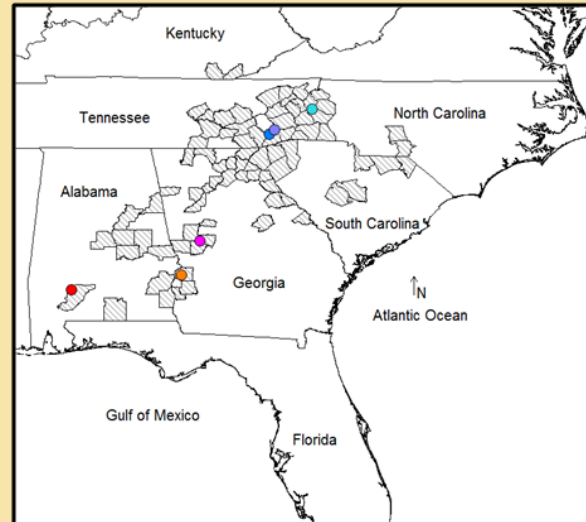


GROUP PHOTO
GREAT LAKES CHAPTER MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2016
WW NURSERY, INDIANA, PA
HOST: LEEANN MRAVUNICH & FRANK MYERS

Photo Spike Walters

Rhododendron minus

Biodiversity, or the variety of life on earth, is an idea embodied by *Rhododendrons*. The diverse leaf and flower forms among species is part of why we love them in our gardens, and it is also key in allowing species to occupy different habitats in nature. Though sometimes overlooked, another important aspect of biodiversity is “within-species variation”, or how much individual plants of the same species differ from each other. Though all *Rhododendron* species harbor variation, *Rhododendron minus* is often noted as being particularly variable, such that debate about lumping or splitting *R. minus* into multiple species has been a favorite subject of taxonomists for decades. For example, leaf size and shape varies among *R. minus* individuals, even when plants are grown together under precise conditions (below, left). Now, researchers at the Holden Arboretum are investigating whether these visual differences within the plants grown from seeds collected from across the geographic range of *R. minus* (below right). They have found that plants from warmer, southern populations have faster growth rates and higher optimal temperatures for photosynthesis compared to those from colder, northern populations. This work will continue with investigations of genetic variation among populations as well as potential differences in how leaf pigments like chlorophyll respond to seasonal changes in temperature. This work will bring new insights into the causes and consequences of within-species variation in *R. Minus*. Beyond the intrigue of resolving *R. minus* taxonomy, within-species variation will remain an important topic for *Rhododendron* enthusiasts, because variation provides the raw material for breeding new horticultural varieties. Within-species variation also has implications for how species respond to changes in growing conditions. With high variability, there is a better chance that at least some *R. minus* individuals will have the traits needed to be able to survive and thrive as conditions change over time.



Left: Different leaf types in *R. minus*. Right: *R. minus* distribution (grey shading) and six populations under study (colored circles). Juliana Medeiros, Scientist Holden Arboretum (reprinted with permission)



Left photo:
Steve Krebs
Leach Station (LRS)

Juliana Medeiros
Holden Arboretum

Beth Whipple
Holden Arboretum
Layer Rh. Garden

Photo Tony Pizzino

News, Views & Short Updates



New Name

In early 2014, The Holden Arboretum & The Cleveland Botanical Garden merged as a single facility, with

two campuses, Kirtland, Ohio & University Circle. Cleveland, Ohio

The new master brand name:

Holden Forests and Gardens *

Look for interesting and new innovations holdenarb.org

- Holden Forest and Garden's is a collaboration between affiliates, The Holden Arboretum and the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Ohio nonprofit corporation.

Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden Rejuvenation Pruning

Tere Cole-Lang, horticulturist/designer with Beth Whipple maintain the Helen S. Layer Rhododendron Garden, & The Eliot & Linda Paine Rhododendron Discovery Garden. Tere began an ambitious and interesting

“rejuvenation pruning” procedure of pruning-down huge, mature, overgrown rhododendrons in the Helen S. Layer Garden in 2013. Tere explains:

“It seems to take about 2 years to re bloom, (harsh winters). Plants put on about a foot of growth a year. No “special” fertilizer. However, I try to limit fertilizers to the spring, early summer months. The one thing I do is remove the majority of the leaves in the fall (oak & rhododendron), mulch them and then return them to the beds.”

Beth updates us on other news in the Layer garden, “this past season we completely removed and rebuilt 3 different beds for Juliana Medeiros’ research on rhododendrons. Some of the rhododendrons we will plant this upcoming spring are:

- R. catawbiense*
- R. minus*
- R. fortunei*
- R. pseudochrysanthum*
- R. keiskei*
- R. hyperythrum*
- R. nakahare*
- R. makinoi.* (just to name a few)



“I am also planning on adding some shade perennials to the garden, and possible naturalizing some open turf areas as well.”

Beth Whipple (a photo of Steve, Juliana, Beth, page 5)

MORE INFO “REJUVENATION PRUNING”

TCOLE@HOLDENARB.ORG

George’s Happy 1/2 Acre

Enthusiastic rhodophile and GLC member George Tomich, enlarges his rhododendron collection by taking cuttings from his own plants—plus other cuttings were grown-on for him by—WW Nursery.

In addition to cuttings, George orders and raises select seed from the annual ARS Seed Exchange.

He recently sent an email to All: I’m planning on the March 18th meeting and will bring some plants for the March sale. “I can probably only carry a limited number of plants in the back seat of the car and I have quite a few plants to choose” (see below)

Hallelujah, Phyllis Korn, Trude Webster, Purple Passion, Maxecat, Marie K. Hinermann, Anah Kruschke, Marketta’s Prize, Rocket, Ken Janek, Capistrano, Bob Bovee, Star Sapphire, Minnetonka, and Very Berry.** (plant some in pots)

He mentions, “plants are of various sizes, plus a few yaks, that I have lost the parentage tags, but are excellent doer’s. These are plants that I have copies of.”

George’s plants appear from time- to- time at GLC meetings’, and they are well grown, with healthy green leaves.

The above selection is a good mix of known “Good Doers” and other new and interesting cultivars.

You can select from the above list and reserve your selection—email, or call George with your preference:

mgtoma@twc.com or phone 859.263.8690

The Hidden Life of Trees

From Nick Zarmoshuk, Niagara Chapter of the ARS, in his January/February newsletter, he shared news of a fascinating new book, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, author Peter Wohlleben.

Wohlleben, a German forester claims: “trees are more like people than we think, ...trees have memories, they have friends, they have enemies, and they talk to each other over what he calls, the “wood Wide web.” I will read this book. I called the Solon Library, they have 17 copies, and I was placed on the waiting List. -AMP

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”
- William Shakespeare

PLACE: Conley Resort* (Stay over night, see below)
740 Pittsburg Road
Butler, PA 16002
724-586-7711
***\$79.99 + tax per night, full hot breakfast**

HOSTS: Spike & Kay Walters 724-287-2047

AGENDA

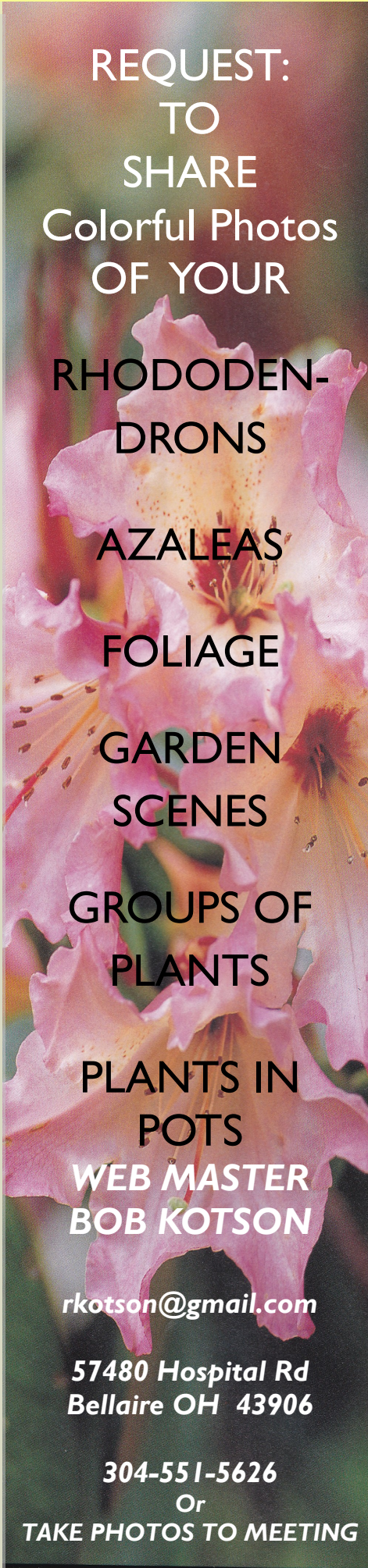
- 10:00 AM** Coffee, snacks and a time to visit
- 11:00 AM** Planning future Meetings: Kay, “chance to get, your two-cents-in for our future meetings.” All members- invited! Discuss plans, have volunteers sign-up for May GLC Plant Sale/Flower Show. Need someone to volunteer to host October Meeting
- 12:30 PM** LUNCH see reservation below
- 2:00 PM** Speaker: Bert Hendley
“Mission Oaks Gardens an evolving public garden”
- 2:30 PM** “Safe Trip Home”

DEADLINE
Friday, March 10th

Make reservations for a DELICIOUS
LUNCH \$15.00 PER PERSON
SOUP, SALAD SANDWICH, BEVERAGE DESSERT

Send Lunch RSVP and Check*
Gordon Walters
218 Mushrush Rd
Butler, PA 16002

***Make check out to Great Lakes Chapter/ARS**



**REQUEST:
TO
SHARE
Colorful Photos
OF YOUR
RHODODEN-
DRONS
AZALEAS
FOLIAGE
GARDEN
SCENES
GROUPS OF
PLANTS
PLANTS IN
POTS
WEB MASTER
BOB KOTSON**

rkotson@gmail.com

**57480 Hospital Rd
Bellaire OH 43906**

**304-551-5626
Or
TAKE PHOTOS TO MEETING**



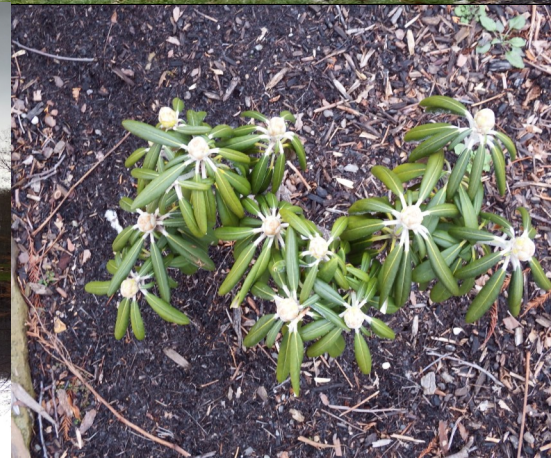
Scotch Heather
Calluna vulgaris
 'Wickwar Flame'



'Golfer' (Layer)



Heath Pond
 (Layer)



Yaku 'Angel'

Winter Garden
Paine Rhododendron Discovery Garden
Holden Arboretum
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Photos Tony Pizzino

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