

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



April 2010 Newsletter

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Plants and Propagation: Karel Bernady & Linda Hartnett	Phila. Flower Show: Ted Stecki tstecki@gpchapterars.org

OUR NEXT MEETING is actually our annual banquet that will take place on Saturday, April 10th, 6:00 PM, at the Whitemarsh Valley Country Club. Details are included in the attached invitation. E-mail recipients will receive the invitation as a separate attachment and USPS recipients will have it enclosed in this mailing.

Doug Jolley will be our speaker. Doug grew up in Potter County, Pennsylvania, and now resides in West Virginia where he and his wife, Davette, operate a small nursery. Doug's topic will be: Seeking Out Native Orchids and Wild Ericas.

"We will travel from the piney woods of Florida looking for Rhododendron chapmanii to the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California for Rhododendron occidentale. We will stop in Newfoundland and in Alberta, Canada, and then see what can be found in the central Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Often on our outings for the showy native azaleas and rhododendrons, we walk by and even trample on other members of the Erica family and some of our most unique plants; the native orchids."

So bring along your passports and plan to enjoy a wonderful journey with Doug and his fabulous photography.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WILLIAM STEELE – The memorial service will take place on Saturday, March 20th, 11:00 AM, at the Birmingham Friends Meeting. The address: 1245 Birmingham Road, Birmingham, PA. Memorial contributions may be sent to the following:
Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon, PA 19333
Neighborhood Hospice, 400 E. Marshall St., West Chester, PA 19380
Chester County Hematology Oncology Services, 440 E. Marshall St., West Chester, PA 19380

DR. FRANK WEST passed away last week. He was a member of both the Greater Philadelphia Chapter and Pine Barrens. He was not only a long time member and hybridizer, but also a co-

editor of Hybrids and Hybridizers, Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Eastern North America. Details of the services are not known at this time.

PLANTS FOR MEMBERS WORKDAY – TUESDAY, MARCH 30th

We'll meet at Steve Kristoph's Nursery starting at 9:00 AM. This is a rain or shine event as we can work under cover and we hope for comfortable weather. Please bring a lunch and a stool to sit upon, if you so desire. We will supply drinks, camaraderie, and good conversation. Our plan is to pot up newly rooted cuttings struck last August and, if time permits, up-pot some plants to 1 and 3 gallon pots. This is an opportunity for both new and long-term members to help the society. *Please contact Karel Bernady if you can participate in this event.* His phone number can be found in the header of this newsletter.

Directions: Take the New Jersey Turnpike north to Exit 8. After the toll, follow Route 33, east towards Freehold. Go 6.2 miles and turn right onto Woodville Road, Route 527A. Go 1.3 miles on Route 527A and then turn right onto Roberts Road. This is immediately past Wagner Farm Park Athletic Complex. Go about 1 block and turn left at the gates into the nursery.

HYBRIDIZERS' WORKSHOP – Dr. Al Fitzburgh reminds us that the annual workshop will be held on Saturday, March 20th at Holly House at 1 PM. Bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages will be provided. Contact Dr. Al with any questions at arfitz@earthlink.net.

PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW – Our garden, Rhododendron Ramble, was a successful and satisfying exhibit. We are quite excited to have received an award for horticultural excellence from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania for horticultural merit in a garden design of 1,000 square feet or more.

Our thanks go to the committee: Linda Hartnett, Kim Kopple, Ted Stecki, Michael Mills, Randy Dalton, and Debby Evans. And a special thank you goes to the set-up committee: Glenn Frederick, Pat Kelleher, Michael Mills, Randy Dalton, Betsy Urffer, Joan Roberts, Tom Conover, Ted Stecki, Cynthia Rossetti, Rupert Rossetti, Andy Earle, and Linda Hartnett. It was a successful and efficient setup and everyone's help was greatly appreciated. We also want to thank Betts Layman and all of her helpers for staffing the exhibit throughout the entire Flower Show week, as well as Jon Villaume, who loaned us several small plants for the garden.

We are already looking ahead to the 2011 show and the next exhibit, Paris in the Springtime.

NEW BOARD MEMBER - We would like to welcome Andy Earle to our Board. Andy works at Jenkins Arboretum and is a member of both the Valley Forge Chapter and ours. Andy has helped with our Plants for Members propagation, the District 8 Convention, and our Flower Show exhibit. Andy will complete the term of Jonathan Wood, who recently resigned from the board.

MORRIS ARBORETUM PLANT SALE – THURSDAY – SATURDAY, MAY 6, 7, & 8TH

A wonderful selection of unique and exciting Rhododendrons will be available along with Morris Arboretum's extensive selection of plants. This year, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter will host the Truss Show/Flower Competition, a joint event with the Valley Forge Chapter. The show will be held on Saturday, May 8th. ARS members of any chapter may bring trusses and foliage to the show to be judged and exhibited. Entry rules and further information will be in our April Newsletter.

ARS NATIONAL CONVENTION – THE EASTERN CHALLENGE – May 14 – 17, 2010.

Remember to sign up for the convention soon. Go online to the ARS Web Site or use the form

provided in the most recent bulletin. Six extraordinary gardens will be featured on the garden tours, and there are interesting educational sessions planned.

CALENDAR

- March 20, 2010 - Annual Hybridizers' Workshop, Holly House, 1 PM
- April 10, 2010 – Saturday, 6:00 p.m. Annual Chapter Banquet. Whitemarsh Valley Country Club. Doug Jolley will speak.
- May 14-17 –ARS Annual Convention, Long Island, NY
- May 6 – 8, 2010 (Thursday to Saturday) Plant sale and Truss show, Morris Arboretum. Joint show with Valley Forge Chapter.
- June 20, 2010 - Picnic at Bartram's Garden.
- August 15 – Sunday, 2:00 p.m. District 8 Cutting Exchange. Frank Brouse will host at 2015 Potshop Road, Norristown.

BOARD MEETING REMINDER – The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 6th, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Betts Layman. RSVP to Linda Hartnett or Betts Layman.

E-NEWS – If you'd like to switch over to electronic newsletter delivery contact Debby Evans. dfevans@msn.com. In fact, we strongly encourage you to do so, if at all possible. We would like to send many notices in addition to the newsletter by e-mail.