

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



February 2012 Newsletter

President: Linda Hartnett (2011-12) lhartnett@gpchapterars.org

Vice President: Michael Martin Mills (2011-13)

mmills@gpchapterars.org

Treasurer: Myo Myint (2010-12) myintm@gpchapterars.org

Recording Secretary: Maris Ogg (2011-2013) mogg@gpchapterars.org

Corresponding Secretary Betts Layman (2010-12)

Past President: Michael Martin Mills (2010-11)

mmills@gpchapterars.org

Newsletter: Maris Ogg mogg@gpchapterars.org

Plants and Propagation: Karel Bernady & Linda Hartnett

Website: www.gpchapterars.org

Director: Karel Bernady (2011-13)

karelbernady@gpchapterars.org

Director: Debby Evans (2010-12)

dfevans@gpchapterars.org

Director: Robert Harper (2011-13)

rharper@gpchapterars.org

Director: Kim Kopple (2010-12)

kkopple@gpchapterars.org

Director: Kate Deregibus (2011-2012)

kderegibus@gpchapterars.org

Director: Bud Gressman (2011-2012)

mgressman@gpchapterars.org

Truss Show: Michael Martin Mills

Phila. Flower Show: Linda Hartnett

OUR NEXT MEETING: Sunday, February 19 is our joint meeting with the Valley Forge Chapter. This year, Karel Bernady, Michael Mills and Bob Stamper will discuss:

"Travels of Rhododendron and Azalea Lovers in Japan"

Karel, Michael, and Bob will treat us to the best of their recent, but separate, trips to Japan. Most of us know all three speakers. Each is an expert in his own right. Together, they encompass a very wide range of interests and knowledge. This program should be both entertaining and informative. The meeting will be held at The Uwchlan Meeting House. As a first-time visitor to Japan, Michael Martin Mills was, naturally, wowed by the classic Japanese horticultural aesthetic. But the closer he looked, the more he realized that the operative word was "control." While all gardeners are at some level controlling nature, the Japanese take it to another level, from ancient moss gardens to little bonsai and meticulously pruned 30-foot evergreens. Michael's images capture much of the beautiful unnaturalness of Japanese horticulture. Directions to Uwchlan Meeting House are at the end of the newsletter. Refreshments will be provided by the two chapters.

The 2012 Philadelphia Flower Show – Aloha! The theme this year is Hawaii, and The Flower Show Committee is well on its way to another successful exhibit. Since this is our chapter's 50th year of exhibiting in the Flower Show, we hope you will encourage all of your gardening friends to stop and see our exciting group of rhodies and vireya rhododendrons. We can use help on February 29th with set up and again on Sunday March 11th after 6PM to remove everything. Please let Linda Hartnett know if you can assist us. Hope to see you there!

Annual Banquet – This year our speaker will be Dick Jaynes of Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT. Dick is a graduate from Wesleyan University (BA) and Yale (Ph.D.) and worked at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for 25 years as a plant breeder and horticulturist with specialties in chestnut and mountain laurel. He has received numerous awards for his research and edited the reference book *Nut Tree Culture in North America* and authored *Kalmia: Mountain Laurel and Related Species*. He resigned from the Experiment Station in 1984 to start Broken Arrow Nursery. In the Broken Arrow catalogue, Mr. Jaynes states (on Kalmias): "We tend to be a bit biased

on this particular shrub, but with good reason. We currently hold the largest collection of mountain laurel in the world and have actively collected and bred the species for many years. The result is a startling range of flower colors and plant habits and more than 30 cultivar introductions with several more on the way.” This promises to be a memorable annual banquet presentation.

Other Volunteer opportunities – We would appreciate your ideas for speakers for our future programs. If you know someone who would be informative, or have heard a particularly interesting speaker, please contact Linda Hartnett and we will try to schedule a program. We also are looking for your ideas for future subjects.

E-NEWS – If you’d like to switch over to electronic newsletter delivery contact Maris Ogg, mogg@towerbridgeadvisors.com.

Please be aware - We will hold all of our 2012 meetings on Sundays except for our Banquet. All meetings EXCEPT FEBRUARY and the annual banquet will be held at Morris Arboretum's Bloomfield Farm which is across the street from the main entrance to the Arboretum.

CALENDAR

- **February 19** – Joint meeting with the Valley Forge Chapter, Karel Bernady, Michael Mills and Bob Stamper will discuss Japanese Gardens they have visited. The meeting will be held at The Uwchlan Meeting House.
- **March 3-11** – PHS Flower Show
- **April 14** – Annual Banquet. Dick Jaynes will speak on Kalmias.
- **May 11-12** – Morris Arboretum Plant Sale

Directions to the Uwchlan Meetinghouse: From the PA Turnpike, exit at Downingtown #312. Choose the left-most toll lanes and once through the toll booth, bear left to Route 100 South, toward Downingtown. Proceed through the traffic light at Sheree Blvd, located just south of the Downingtown interchange of the PA turnpike. Get into the right lane and you will come to the entrance for Uno’s, Hoss’s and the hotels, (before the Route 100-113 intersection). Turn right into the driveway (Uno’s sign) and proceed southwest down the road between Uno’s and Hoss’s restaurant. At the stop sign for North Village Avenue in about 1 block, turn left onto North Village Avenue. Proceed about two blocks to a dead end with the Meetinghouse on the left.