

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



January 2012 Newsletter

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Truss Show: Michael Martin Mills

Phila. Flower Show: Linda Hartnett

OUR NEXT MEETING: Sunday, January 8th. The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. with snacks & chatting and Tony Aiello's talk on Plant Exploration will start after a short chapter meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tony has served as Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania since 1999. He is responsible for managing the Morris Arboretum's historic gardens and living plant collections. As part of his duties, Tony has overseen restoration of the Arboretum's historic landscape features and participated in the completion of significant capital projects. As part of his curatorial duties he has participated in plant collecting trips to the Southern Appalachian Mountains, China, and Europe. Prior to coming to the Morris, Tony was Curator of Woody Plants at the Chicago Botanic Garden, worked in the horticulture department at Iowa State University, and was the Garden Club of America's Martin McLaren Fellow in 1991-92. Tony received his B.S. in Biology from Cornell University and M.S. in Horticulture from Purdue University. His interests include trees and shrubs from the northern temperate regions, and in particular magnolias, maples, hollies, and witchhazels. His other botanical interests include the history of horticulture and economic botany.

Happy New Year to everyone! We have an exciting year coming up for the Society. As you can see from the calendar, we have excellent speakers scheduled for our next several meetings, who will broaden our gardening horizons. Please mark your calendars to join us. One bonus in our 2012 programs will be Karel Bernady's report on the progress of his grafting project. This propagation method has the potential to benefit all of us and you will want to hear more detail!

The 2012 Philadelphia Flower Show – By now many of you have received the first round of invitations to the 2012 Flower Show and so you are no doubt aware of our need for volunteers to help with our show entry. The theme this year is Hawaii, and while this will be challenging for Rhododendron lovers, we have some exciting plans. Please contact Linda Hartnett to get involved in the planning and construction of our exhibit. This is our 50th year of exhibiting in the Flower Show. We are looking for photos or memorabilia from past shows to put an exhibit book together. Please contact or send Linda Hartnett any information that you have for our display.

Plant Society Project – Debbie Evans, Michael Mills and Maris Ogg are looking for volunteers to explore closer ties with the numerous plant societies in our area. If you are a member of another plant

society, please send Maris an email at mogg@towerbridgeadvisors.com. We have a tentative agreement by the Morris Arboretum to host an organizational meeting and we are looking for contacts at the local societies. We are also looking for people to join an ad hoc committee that will have no more than three meetings this year and conclude by the end of the summer. We are considering doing a joint Society plant sale or some common meetings with other societies. We would also like to help each other by promoting memberships.

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 meetings on Sundays for 2011/2012 except for our Banquet. All meetings EXCEPT FEBRUARY's will be held at Morris Arboretum's Bloomfield Farm which is across the street from the main entrance to the Arboretum.

CALENDAR

- **January 8** - Chapter Meeting, Tony Aiello will discuss Plant Exploration.
- **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