

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



June 2007 Newsletter

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ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC ON JUNE 10th - Back when native American rhododendrons and azaleas were just being discovered by the likes of John Bartram, James Logan built Stenton. Logan was William Penn's key man in the young city and commonwealth, and his sumptuous country home north of colonial Philadelphia was completed in 1730. Three generations of Logans lived there, and, to the joy of architectural historians today, they never modernized the mansion with electricity or plumbing.

It is at this remarkable site that we gather for our annual meeting and picnic. Tours of the house will be offered, and we'll hear about Stenton's goal of garden restoration. Would you believe, John Wister, one of the stalwarts of our chapter in its early years, designed Stenton's Colonial Revival Garden in 1911, and it called for native American deciduous azaleas (among many other species). We will have a rain-or-shine setup for our feasting and oh-so-brief business meeting, which includes the election of some officers. (We have willing candidates, and floor nominations will be in order.)

We will gather at 2:00 p.m. for conversation and house and garden tours. Food will be served around 3 p.m. A main course of turkey and beverages will be provided. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.** Stenton is in Lower Germantown (directions below) and there will be completely safe inside-the-fence parking. Don't miss this special picnic in an unparalleled, historic setting.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PICNIC-

Stenton is at 4601 N. 18th St., just below Windrim Avenue.

Travel advisory: The huge Philadelphia bicycle race is the same day, and going through Manayunk is not advised; Kelly Drive (East River Drive) will be closed.

The best approach is from northbound Roosevelt Expressway (U.S. Route 1). Roosevelt is Exit 340-B on the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76). Going north on Roosevelt, take the "Wissahickon Avenue NORTH / Germantown Avenue" exit. The exit ramp divides; follow the signs for

Germantown Avenue. At the first traffic light, Wayne Avenue, turn right. Go to the first traffic light, Windrim Avenue, and turn left. On Windrim, go to the second traffic light, N. 18th Street, and turn right. Stenton is immediately on the left.

For other approaches, go to www.stenton.org/further or call 215-329-7312 Tuesday through Friday. If lost en route to the picnic, call Michael Mills at 215-527-7145.

THE ENVY OF ENTREPRENEURS EVERYWHERE - We sold every single plant at our plant sale at Morris Arboretum. (If only we could do this every year!) Many, many people worked to make this the success it was: Karel Bernady, Tom Lloyd, Michael Mills, Linda Hartnett, Randy Dalton, Betts Layman, Jon Villaume, Craig Conover, Kim Kopple, Ken Kopple, Debby Evans, Bob Harper, Paul Johnston, Ted Stecki, Norm Sumner, Maysie Starr, Myo Myint, Bub Gressman, Sue Camp, Gil Heupie, Tom Conover, Brian Keim, Will Smith, Joe Flanagan, Steve Wheeler, Betsy Uffer, Tam Jefferies, Maris Ogg, Stephanie Ravett, and John Voglebacker. Fran and Pauline Raughley sold books and Rupert Rossetti helped to load the truck.

The cut-flower competition (the public name for the truss show) had an uncommonly high number of entries – 303! Plus new exhibitors: Perc Moser, Mary Roy, Hope Punnett, and Bruce and Marianne Feller, all of whom took ribbons. Tom Lloyd won his first trophy ever, and the Fellers, Long Islanders who chair the national ARS truss show advisory committee, made quite a splash in their first outing at our show. Trophies will be presented at the picnic, including the announcement of the Sweepstakes winner. The other top winners are:

Francis J. Sholomskas Trophy, Best Species
Bruce and Marianne Feller for R. kaempferi var. kinshibe

Ross B. Davis Jr. Trophy, Best Rhododendron Hybrid
Bud and Marilyn Gressman for Cape White

Walter Kern Trophy, Best Deciduous Azalea
Tom Lloyd for White Lights

Dan and Betts Layman Trophy, Best Foliage
Joseph Minahan for John Paul II X Harold Amateis

Maxine West Trophy, Best Evergreen Azalea
Bruce and Marianne Feller for Frostburg

Joseph J. Becales Trophy, Best New Hybrid
Joseph Minahan for Scintillation X John Paul II

Ken and Renee Miller Trophy, Best Specimen Plant
Michael Mills and Randy Dalton for Eliza Hyatt

John C. Wister Trophy, Best in Show
Bruce and Marianne Feller for Frostburg

CALENDAR

June 5, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting, home of Betts Layman

June 10, Sunday, 2 p.m. Annual Picnic – Stenton Mansion (see above)

August 19, Sunday, District 8 cutting exchange & plant auction, at the home of Wil Smith. Details to come.

Sept. 16, Sunday, 2 p.m. – Chapter Meeting with Plants for Members sale, Morris Arboretum.

Oct. 11, Thursday – Chapter Meeting, Morris Arboretum

Nov. 8, Thursday – Chapter Meeting, Morris Arboretum

E-MAIL NOTIFICATION- If you want to receive notifications electronically please notify Debby Evans via e-mail (dfevans@msn.com). We will continue to mail notices to those who prefer it. Please contact Debby if you are still receiving paper mailings in addition to the e-mail notice.