

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



November 2007 Newsletter

President: Michael Martin Mills MMMills@gpchapterars.org Vice President: Linda Hartnett LHartnett@gpchapterars.org Treasurer: Myo Myint myintm@gpchapterars.org Recording Secretary Jon Villaume Corresponding Secretary Betts Layman BLayman@gpchapterars.org	Director: Karel Bernady KarelBernady@gpchapterars.org Director: Sue Camp Director: Debby Evans DFEvans@gpchapterars.org Director: Robert Harper RHarper@gpchapterars.org Director: Tom Lloyd Tlloyd@gpchapterars.org Director: Jonathan Wood
Newsletter: Debby Evans DFEvans@gpchapterars.org Plants and Propagation: Karel Bernady & Linda Hartnett	Truss Show: Michael Martin Mills Phila. Flower Show: Ted Stecki TStecki@gpchapterars.org

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS -

You buy a rhododendron – or a holly, or sourwood, or heptacodium – and what do you want? Success. That is, it grows, it blooms, and it thrives. Alas, things don't always turn out that way. Which is why the chapter is particularly pleased to present Kathryn Belville of Bartlett Tree Experts for the November monthly meeting. The title of her presentation is *"Step by Step Assessment for Planting Success,"* and she comes loaded with information. And enthusiasm. Chapter president Michael Mills considered her the runaway best speaker at this past summer's Woody Plant Conference at Swarthmore College. As is our custom, we gather at 7:30 p.m. for conversation and refreshment, with the program beginning at 8:00, Thursday, November 8, Widener Building at Morris Arboretum.

SOME STICKY BUSINESS -

Many thanks to Jon Villaume, Linda Hartnett, Bob Harper, Frank Furman, Jean Beutler, Robert Poor, Andy Earle, Steve Torongo, Tamar Jefferis, Tom Lloyd, Linda Hartnett, Michael Mills, Betts Layman, and Karel Bernady for a marathon session on October 20, sticking cuttings for next year's Plants For Members program. A total of 2,100 cuttings (more than 240 cultivars!) were deftly prepared and tucked into their private propagation cells to spend the winter and spring putting out roots in deepest New Jersey. (See the results next September.)

IN CASE YOU WEREN'T TAKING NOTES...

The panel of experts at the September meeting – Charles Cresson, Jean Beutler, Frank Brouse, Harold Sweetman and Bill Steele – were passing out good advice so fast that you may have missed some. Here are several pointers we learned from this quintet:

- A source for beneficial nematodes that attack black vine weevil larvae is www.rinconvitova.com. (Note that applying nematodes is a precise proposition, so read up before proceeding. This website has substantial information: <http://www2.oardc.ohio-state.edu/nematodes/default.htm>.)

- Turface gets high marks as superior to sand for improving drainage in soil. The particles are porous, and retain the porosity over time.
- The insecticide Merit (commercial name for imidacloprid) is the current chemical of choice for combating black vine weevil. It gets a better grade than many chemicals on harmful toxicity concerns. If you cannot find Merit itself, consider “Bayer Advanced Lawn Season Long Grub Control Ready to Spread Granuals,” which contains imidacloprid.
- One of the ways soil loses the acidity that rhododendrons need is use of tap water. Municipal water systems neutralize the water, and over time that water will shift soil toward neutral.

CALENDAR

November 6, Tuesday – Board of Directors meeting, home of Betts Layman, 7:30 p.m.

November 8, Thursday – Chapter meeting, Morris Arboretum, 7:30 p.m. “Step by Step Assessment for Planting Success,” Kathryn Belville of the Bartlett tree concern.

January 13, Sunday – Chapter meeting, Morris Arboretum, 1:30 p.m.

February 17, Sunday – Annual joint meeting with Valley Forge Chapter, Uwchlan Friends Meeting, at 1:30 p.m. Ernest Schuyler

March 2-9 – Philadelphia Flower Show

March 13, Thursday – Chapter meeting, Morris Arboretum, 7:30 p.m.

April 12, Saturday – Annual Banquet

April 16-19 – National convention, Tulsa, Oklahoma

May 7-11 – International Rhododendron Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

May 10 – Chapter Plant Sale and Truss Show, 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.