

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



November 2008 Newsletter

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OUR NEXT MEETING... will take place on Thursday, November 13th at the Morris Arboretum. Come at 7:30 for refreshments and a chat before the meeting begins.

“Now the Wissahiccon is of so remarkable a loveliness that, were it flowing in England, it would be the theme of every bard, and the common topic of every tongue”
– Edgar Allan Poe, *“Morning on the Wissahiccon,”* 1844

Here in the 21st Century, Wissahickon can mean a hodgepodge of things: It’s a school district, a lanky but lovely red elepidote, a “spring water,” the eponym of the sparkly schist of which so many houses were built, a corruption of the Lenape for “catfish creek.” (And, to recent arrivals, a tongue-twister, often coming out “Wickahisson.”)

But for Poe and a host of others, the Wissahickon, both the creek and its wooded gorge, were and remain a marvel. Today, all you have to do is flip open your cell phone and send a picture to a cousin in some grim desert clime. For our great-greats, the equivalent gesture was to mail a picture postcard, and the postcard purveyors of Philadelphia provided an abundant set of choices.

Our chapter meetings take place a mere 100 yards from the very creek, so we’re going to get to know it better, via the grand postcard collection of David Bower, volunteer coordinator of the Fairmount Park Commission and affiliate of the Friends of the Wissahickon. The images and the vignettes are a rich banquet – right up there with the traditional meal of the inns that once dotted the gorge: catfish and waffles.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO RANDY DALTON! Rumor has it that Truman defeated Dewey just about the same time that Randy made his inaugural appearance in the world.

THE PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW plans continue to evolve. In keeping with the theme of Italy, our exhibit “Villa Serenita” will showcase rhododendrons in a distinctly

Italian setting. We'll need volunteers to help with set-up and to staff the exhibit. Please try to volunteer some time during the week. Contact Betts Layman to sit at the show or Linda Hartnett to help with set-up.

THE NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS COMING TO THE DELAWARE VALLEY - the conference will run from October 22 – 25, 2009 and plans are moving forward in good order. Keep some time free and volunteer to help with the event. Contact Karel Bernady or Linda Hartnett to find out how you can help. Their phone numbers can be found in the header of this newsletter.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CLEANING OUT THOSE BEDS FOR THE WINTER. The more you can do now, the happier you'll be in the spring. Be sure to clean out dead and diseased leaves, etc.

BOARD MEETING REMINDER – The meeting will take place on November 25th at the home of Betts Layman. RSVP to Linda Hartnett or Betts.

CALENDAR

November 13 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Monthly chapter meeting. Morris Arboretum.

January 25, 2009 – Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Monthly chapter meeting. Morris Arboretum. Kate Derigibus of the Arboretum will speak on propagation.

February 15 – Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Joint meeting with Valley Forge Chapter at Ewchlan Meeting. Rick Lewandowski, of Mt. Cuba, will speak.

March 1 – 8, Philadelphia Flower Show

March 12 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. – Morris Arboretum

April 18 – Saturday, Annual Banquet

May 7 – 9 – (Thursday to Saturday) Truss Show & Plant Sale – Morris Arboretum

June – Picnic – TBD

E-NEWS – If you'd like to switch over to electronic newsletter delivery contact Debby Evans. dfevans@msn.com