

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



September 2007 Newsletter

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Plants for Members Program – Our 2007 Plants for Members Program will take place on Sunday, September 16, at the Widener Education Center of Morris Arboretum. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please come at 1:30 PM for refreshments, conversation with fellow members, and a review of the offerings.

This year, the twenty-first since the program began, will bring a bumper crop of rooted cuttings. Many new hybrids from the work of Tom Ahern, John Doppel, Ed Reiley, Bob Furman and other hybridizers are being offered in our program for the first time. Also, we are helping Tyler Arboretum to back up single cultivars in their collection, and we will have some of those plants available. Highlighted this year are the extremely fragrant Dexter/Swarthmore 'Chalfont'; George Ring's favorite blue-flowered hybrid, an unnamed *R. minus* var. *carolinianum* x 'Crater Lake'; and Ed Reiley's fragrant 'Reileyridge Sweet Sue.'

The plants expected to be available are listed in the accompanying pages. Individual plants cost \$4.50 each or \$12.00 for three. Those marked with a bold "A" are limited in supply, with only one or two available. To give everyone an opportunity to acquire these, we will auction them off before everyone is given a chance to choose their first three selections. As usual, meeting attendees will receive numbers, to be drawn in random groups of six to shop for three plants; after each person has had an opportunity to select three plants, remaining plants are offered to all without limit.

We want to express our great appreciation to all who have helped make our Plants for Members Program possible. Cuttings were gathered from the gardens of Tom Ahern, Shirley and Alan Anderson, Norm and Jean Beaudry, Jean Beutler, John Doppel, Joe Flanagan, Bob Furman, Frank Furman, Paul James, Howard Kline, Betts Layman, Michael Mills and Randy Dalton, Joe Minahan, Ed Reiley, Howard and Joan Roberts, Hank Schannen, Wil Smith, Jon Villaume, Bill Zurich and Tyler Arboretum. Sticking the cuttings and transplanting the rooted ones were done at Steve Kristoff's Nursery by a host of members and friends: Jean Beutler, Sue Camp, Debby Evans, Frank Furman, Bob Harper, Linda Hartnett, Tom Lloyd, Michael Mills, Myo Myint, Bob Poor, Ron Solt, Jon Villaume, and Karel Bernady. Special thanks for helping pot up the plants goes to staff and family from Tyler Arboretum, Robert Hearld, Betsey Ney, Mike Karkowski and Mike's parents, Richard and Shari Karkowski. Thanks to all for their outstanding contributions to this program.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING - Here is the best way to learn how to propagate rhododendrons yourself: Join the sticking party on Saturday, Oct. 20, when Karel Bernady of the Plants &

Propagation Committee will lead a team in preparing and sticking cuttings for next year's Plants for Members crop. This takes place at Steve Kristoph's Nursery in Central New Jersey, where the cuttings will spend the winter (and spring and summer...). After taking part in this vital chapter activity, you'll be able to go home and do the same for yourself. For more information and directions, contact Karel at 610-827-0113 or bernadk@earthlink.net.

KEENER EYES may have noticed a new return address on the envelopes of the snail mail version of the newsletter. This is the address of our invaluable treasurer Myo Myint. Among Myo's responsibilities is keeping the mailing list of members up to date. The chapter president had a modest eureka moment, and now, thanks to the miracles of rubber stamps, if a mailing is returned by the postal authorities, it will go directly to Myo and changes in our database can be made forthwith.

GOING, GOING, GONE. The District 8 Cutting Exchange and Auction took in \$822.50, which after minor expenses will be distributed to the ARS Research Foundation and other national ARS activities. One beautifully indumented plant went for \$50! Despite the mid-August rain (at last!), a good crowd was on hand, augmented by a contingent from the Potomac Valley Chapter. Wil Smith's place looked lovely, enviable.

IN SERVICE TO THE GENUS. Grants approved by the Board of Directors:

ARS Endowment Fund – \$500
Rhododendron Species Foundation – \$500
Rhododendron Research Foundation – \$500

Morris Arboretum – \$1,500
Tyler Arboretum – \$1,000
Jenkins Arboretum – \$1,000

CALENDAR

September 16, Sunday – Chapter meeting, Morris Arboretum, 1:30 p.m. (see above)
September 21-23 – Western Regional Conference, “Flowers and Friends by the Sea,” Newport, Oregon (See Journal or <http://www.rhododendron.org/2007WesternRegional.pdf>).
October 11, Thursday – Chapter meeting, Morris Arboretum, 7:30 p.m. “The Experts Are at Your Service.”
Oct. 12-14 – Eastern Regional Conference, “Great Lakes, Great Challenges,” Holden Arboretum, Mentor, Ohio (see Journal or <http://www.rhododendron.org/Fall%20Conference.htm>)
October 20, Saturday – Plants for Members sticking day. See above.
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, 1:30 p.m.
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