

GREATER PHILADELPHIA RHODOGRAVURE

Newsletter of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, American Rhododendron Society :::::::::: Autumn 2014

Flowers with familiar names

Conclusion of a series on eponymous
rhododendrons and azaleas

The RhodoGravure presents the final chapter in its series on rhododendrons and azaleas named for members and friends of the Greater Philadelphia and nearby chapters of the ARS. Most of the eponyms in this installment are from earlier times in local ARS endeavors and hijinks—many of the names will likely ring no bells for newer members, but they are part of our history, and indeed part of our floral legacy, as long as the plants are propagated and shared and grown in local gardens.

To see the previous installments, go to www.gpchapterars.org, click on “Newsletter,” then click on “Spring 2013” or “Autumn 2013.”

‘Betty Arrington’

A pre-1943 Dexter cross (thus parentage is unknown). Named after the wife of a mid-1960s chapter president, George Arrington, and registered by him in 1971. Described in the International Rhododendron Register and Checklist as “rose madder, with a prominent ruby-red flare; scented.”



R. ‘Betty Arrington’
John Delano photo

‘Doctor Franklin West’

Hybridized and named by G. Albert Reid, creator of the Linwood Hardy Azaleas. This has a salmon double flower, “deep yellowish pink” on the RHS color chart. Franklin West was a member in the earliest days of the chapter and was co-editor of *Hybrids and Hybridizers*, the essential book on Eastern mid-century rhododendron hybridizers.

‘Doctor John’

Nope, not the 1960s-70s blues-R&B-funk musician. This one is from Tyler Arboretum and is named for John Wister,

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M.M.Mills photo

And the sales go on

Did you say “square”? For the second year, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter had a sales booth at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Fall Festival at the Navy Yard. The modern world has made the act of selling so modern: As pictured here, Linda Hartnett, principal orchestrator of the sale, shows Myo Myint how to do a credit-card sale with her phone using the “Square” plug-in device. Our merchandise included rooted cuttings and older plants from the chapter’s propagation program, plus woodies and perennials on consignment from Michael Martin Mills and Steve Kristoph’s Nursery.

Strolling for fall color in October

November meeting date changed

One of the joys of our part of the globe is “fall color,” when the foliage of many species veers from green to hotter zones of the spectrum. There are few places better than a serious arboretum to see an array of horticultural possibilities to brighten your garden.

For our October 12 meeting, Morris Arboretum’s Kate Deregibus will lead us through the arboretum grounds. Bring a note pad! (Golf-cart-style transport will be available.)

We gather at 1:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, with the program at 2. In the event of inclement weather, Kate will speak on planting the garden for winter interest.

In order to avoid conflict with the Valley Forge Chapter’s annual banquet, our November meeting has been shifted to Sunday, Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m., at Morris Arboretum. The topic is moss, that seductive joy to bare feet that can make a garden quite special (and a no-dogs, no-spike-heels zone). Keith Bowman, the speaker, is affiliated with the Moss Acres company in the Poconos. For his master’s degree he specialized in bryology (study of mosses, liverworts and hornworts).

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Plants and Propagation: Karel Bemady & Linda Hartnett
Truss Show: Michael Martin Mills; Philadelphia. Flower Show: Linda Hartnett

The American Rhododendron Society is a horticultural organization devoted to the genus *Rhododendron* – which includes azaleas. At the national level, the society holds annual conferences, publishes the excellent, full-color quarterly *Journal of the ARS*, and fosters plant research and conservation. Its website, www.rhododendron.org, is a trove.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter gathers eight times a year. Sunday afternoon meetings are held September, October, November and January at Morris Arboretum. February through August we are more mobile, with a banquet, plant sale and picnic at various sites. The latest meeting information may be found at www.GPChapterARS.org.

Not already a member? Dues are \$40 per year, which includes chapter and national membership and a subscription to the *Journal*. Contact the president or treasurer (see above) for a member form or go to www.GPChapterARS.org; click on “Join us.”



R. ‘Helene Huber’
Bub Gehrlich photo

Eponyms

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a present-at-the-creation chapter member and director of both Scott (Swarthmore) and Tyler Arboretums. Parentage is listed as (‘Pygmalion’ x *R. haematodes* x *R. fortunei*) X ‘Gillies Apricot’. Last propagated by the chapter in 1999.



R. ‘Doctor John’
Jim Willhite photo

‘Edward W. Collins’

This deep pink, “hose-in-hose and doubled” flower is another G. Albert Reid cross (‘Nellie’ X ‘Opal’). Ed Collins was president of the chapter 1976-78.



R. ‘Edward W. Collins’
Joe Coleman photo

‘Ethel Mae’

The second president of our chapter was Charlie Herbert, in the years before he opted for secession. ‘Ethel Mae’, named for Mrs. Herbert, is a lepidote, *R. minus* var. *chapmanii* X *R. mucronulatum*. Moderate purplish pink with a moderate purplish red blotch. Hybridized in 1953.

‘Helene Huber’

Grown by Charlie Herbert from seed obtained at the Dexter estate; strong purplish pink lepidote with a moderate yellow blotch. Helene and Robert Huber were active chapter members.

‘H.T. Skinner’

Specifics on this pale yellow lepidote are minimal. In the 1980s, Shelley Dillard, propagator at Morris Arboretum, gave Michael Mills and Randy Dalton a plant. The RhodoGravure has not found any printed mentions of the plant elsewhere. Skinner was a curator

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Eponyms

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at Morris Arboretum and was influential in the creation of the chapter.

‘Jane Martin’

‘King Tut’ X *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum*. Hybridized by Orlando Pride, named and registered by Alfred S. Martin, a key chapter member who served as national ARS president, 1973-75. Outside of the flower holds color (vivid red then deep pink) longer than most. Named for Mrs. Martin.

‘John Wister’

Officially this is a synonym for the registered name ‘Janet Blair.’ There is a faction that insists that this is the proper name – or that there are two distinct plants and that all those ‘Janet Blair’ labels are mistaken IDs.

‘Pauline Emelia’

This deciduous azalea is named for Pauline Raughley, a stalwart in the Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters. Yellowish-white, pink at the edges, with a vivid yellow blotch. The Raughleys often entered it in truss shows.

‘Polly Hill’

The great Polly Hill, a member of our chapter until her death at 100, is honored by a Winterthur introduction and registration of a white form of *R. schlippenbachii*.

‘Walter Kern’

This chapter member (Bronze Medal, 1984) is memorialized by a G. Albert Reid evergreen azalea (‘Nellie’ X ‘Opal’) that has double flowers of deep purplish pink.



R. Walter Kern’

Joe Coleman photo

‘Winnie’

In 1982, Joe Minahan crossed his ‘John Paul II’ with ‘Harold Amateis’ (both of them red as can be), and got this strong pink with darker edges. Named for his wife, but not yet registered.

‘Winsome Winnie’

Dennis MacMullan did the paperwork and got this one registered, also named in honor of Winifred Minahan. The cross is ‘Dexter’s Honeydew’ X (‘Virginia Richards’ x *R. degronianum* subsp. *yakushmanum* Exbury form). The buds

are ivory, but the open flowers are pure white with a 1-inch scarlet marking at the center.

Clarification

The first installment of this series had misleading information on the cultivar ‘Fred Winter’. Barbara Winter has provided this account: Fred crossed ‘Polynesian Sunset’ with ‘Lem’s Cameo’; several seedlings eventually bloomed orange, and he wanted to name one ‘Bourbon Slush’. Realizing the cross was not too hardy, he gave plants to Lou Bagoly before he moved south. A few years later, Lou told Fred the plants, apparently including ‘Fred Winter’, didn’t do very well.

Calendar

Important: If you do not receive this newsletter electronically, you will not receive email reminders a week before events. Please use this calendar to mark your own.

October 7, Tuesday Board meeting, 7 p.m., home of Kim Kopple

October 12, Sunday Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Speaker: Kate Deregibus of Morris Arboretum. Morris Arboretum, Widener Visitor Center. See article on Page 1.

October 16, Thursday Valley Forge Chapter meeting, 6:30 p.m., Jenkins Arboretum. Speaker: W. Robert Stamper.

October 20-25 New Zealand Rhododendron Association’s 70th Jubilee International Conference. Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand. Info: www.rhododendron.org.nz/conference_info.php.

November 9, Sunday Valley Forge Chapter annual banquet, 1:00 p.m., St. David’s Country Club. Speaker: Bruce Feller, national ARS president. Call Kathy Woehl, 610-688-9173, for reservation information.

November 16, Sunday Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m.. Morris Arboretum, Widener Visitor Center. Speaker: Keith Brown on mosses. See article on Page 1. **Important note:** this is a new date for the meeting.

December 9, Tuesday Board meeting, 7 p.m., home of Kim Kopple

January 11, 2015, Sunday Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m., Morris Arboretum. Speaker: Michael Martin Mills.

February 15, Sunday Joint meeting with Valley Forge Chapter, Uwchlan Meeting House, Lionville, Pa.

February 28-March 8 Philadelphia Flower Show, “Lights, Camera, Bloom,” with our chapter’s exhibit. If interested in helping, contact Linda Hartnett (contact info on Page 2).

April 11, Saturday Annual chapter banquet, Whitmarsh Valley Country Club.

May 8-9 Chapter plant sale, Morris Arboretum

May 6-10 ARS annual convention, Sidney, British Columbia (just north of Victoria). Info: <http://2015rhodo.ca>.

Diagnosis made easier

Updated volume should help you deal with an ailing rhododendron

ARS members who have nothing but perfectly healthy, spotless, flourishing rhododendrons and azaleas don't need to read this. For the rest of us – stumped by yellow leaves, notched leaves, wilting, rotting stems, slimy flowers or whatever – there is a new tool. This summer, a second edition of *Compendium of Rhododendrons and Azalea Diseases and Pests* was published by the American Phytopathological Society. And ARS members can get it at a discount.

Here's what the APS Press says in its marketing materials for the book:

“Symptom diagnosis is improved through a new collection of more than 170 color photos throughout the book and an easy-to-use symptoms-based diagnostic guide.

“Management strategies are cover various production systems used throughout the world and are segmented by geography and environment.

“Editors Robert G. Linderman and D. Michael Benson, both rhododendron and azalea experts in their own right, selected top authorities on rhododendron and azalea diseases and insects to write this new edition. These contributors offer important new and updated information since the first edition of this book was

published in 1986.”

This collection of information does not, however, come cheap. But Steve Henning negotiated a reduced price for ARS members – \$79 instead of the list price of \$99. To get the special price, you must go to <http://arsstore.org>. Click on “Rhody Books,” then click on “Rhododendron & Azalea Book Reviews.” (Incorrect clicking will lead you to a higher price.)

An extensive review of the book by Steve can be found in the August 2014 Valley Forge Chapter newsletter (<http://valleyforgears.org/files/news0814.pdf>) or, coming soon to a mailbox near you, the Fall ARS Journal.

Here's an excerpt from Steve's review: “This book will prove invaluable to nurseries and major gardens where they need a reference their employees can use to diagnose, solve, and prevent problems. It will also be of great importance to ‘rhodoholics’ who have a great deal invested in their passion. ... In conclusion, the new APS compendium delivers. It helps identify problems, their treatment, and how to prevent these problems. Since it is very complete, it may have more details than the casual reader can digest. However, for those that need the facts, this book is for you.”