

GREATER PHILADELPHIA RHODO GRAVURE

Newsletter of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, American Rhododendron Society :::::::::: Autumn 2017

Let's do brunch

October meeting will be a potluck special

As much as we love our club and the wonderful speakers at meetings, sometimes, frankly, it's a challenge to make our personal schedules work comfortably. There's travel time to Morris Arboretum, church services for some of us, a date with the big flat screen in the den for an Eagles game, and, oh dear, we have to eat lunch at some point.

Let's make it a bit easier – come have brunch at the October 15 meeting and combine two things into one. (Note that the Eagles do not play against anyone, anywhere, at any time on October 15.)

Everyone is encouraged to bring a brunch-appropriate dish to share. Perhaps a breakfast casserole, or fruit salad, or cinnamon buns. The chapter will supply wine, and you're welcome to supplement the libations on a BYOB basis.



Since this is a first foray into a chapter brunch-and-meeting combo, the board has decided to let the potluck zeitgeist have control of the menu, without assigning food groups via alphabet or the like. Experience shows that it's a rare potluck event that yields 15 platters of lobster salad and one small tray of brownies – and if that happens we'll have something to talk about for quite some time.

The room will be arranged with tables for dining, and the chapter will see to it that coffee and tea are amply available.

Just before press time, complications arose, and the scheduled speaker for the meeting will not be available. The board is working assiduously to fill the vacancy, and an update with the speaker's name and topic will be sent as soon as matters are resolved. The information will also be posted at www.GPChapterARS.org. Members without computer access may call chapter president Craig Conover at 215-901-1034.

Is your passport up to date?

Register for German convention by November 15

The amazing rhododendron convention in Germany in May might seem far off, but in fact the first registration deadline is much earlier than is typical for the ARS annual convention: November 15. (After that date, non-ARS people may register – and they may fill up all the slots.)

And what a conference it will be. The main event is in Bremen and is a full week, May 20-27, with three days of tours and outstanding speakers from Germany, Scotland, Norway, United States, England and Ireland (all in English!).

Among the stops are the Bremen Rhododendron-Park, with something like 600 species and 3,300 cultivars (said to be the second-largest rhodo collection in the solar system) and Park der Gärten (Park of the Gardens) near Bad Zwischenahn, which has 43 theme gardens and 2,000 rhododendrons.

But what really makes this conference different are the pre- and post-convention tours. As in, if you're going to send yourself across the Atlantic, why limit yourself to one corner of one country?



A small part of the Bremen Rhododendron-Park

Get over there by May 13, and Denmark and Sweden are on tour. Wanna go Dutch? The Holland segment is the first pre-conference tour, May 7-12.

Starved for sunlight? Take the post-convention tour to Finland, May 27-31, when sunrise will be around 4:15 and sunset at 10:20 or so. Your rudimentary knowledge of German and re-

Continued on Page 2

Greater Philadelphia Chapter
American Rhododendron Society
www.GPChapterARS.org

President: Craig Conover (2017-19) 215-901-1034;
sterling@sterlingfinishing.com
Vice President: Ron Rabideau (2017-19) 856-465-2344;
rhodyrex@verizon.net
Treasurer: Myo Myint (2016-18) 610-525-0599; myintm933@verizon.net
Secretary: Michael Martin Mills (2016-18) 215-844-6253; mmm19119@gmail.com
Past President: Kim Kopple (2017-19) 215-242-0391; kkopple@vet.upenn.edu
Director: Gary Ammon (2016-18) 215-988-2981; gary.ammon@dbr.com
Director: Karel Bernady (2017-19) 610-827-0113; bernadk@verizon.net
Director: Kate Deregibus (2017-19) 215-247-5777;
kderegib@exchange.upenn.edu
Director: Linda Fowler Hartnett (2017-18) 610-940-9478;
lindahartnett@gmail.com
Director: Maris Ogg (2017-18) 215-836-0637;
mogg@towerbridgeadvisors.com

RhodoGravure: Michael Martin Mills 215-844-6253; mmm19119@gmail.com
Plants and Propagation: Karel Bernady & 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 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, and January at Morris Arboretum. February through August we are mobile, with a banquet, plant sale and picnic at various sites. Latest meeting information may be found at www.GPChapterARS.org.

Dues are \$40 per year, for chapter and national membership and a subscription to the *Journal*. Contact the president or treasurer (see above) for a form or go to www.GPChapterARS.org; click on “Join us.”

German adventure

Continued from Page 1

lated languages won't help you with Finnish, a most exotic tongue, but don't worry, for virtually every Finn speaks English.

With such an array of choices and countries involved, registration is not the same as for a U.S. convention. Don't try to do this at the last minute. A four-page conference brochure is at <http://ars2018.org/ARS2018JARSBrochure.pdf>. Electronic registration is available, or get a printable registration form at http://ars2018.org/To_ARS_2018_Registrar.pdf. More explanatory information is at <http://ars2018.org>. Forms will also appear in the Fall ARS *Journal*, but, honestly, it might be hung up in the mail. The deadline to beat the clamoring hordes of non-ARS people who know a good trip when they see it is November 15.

Note that all fees are in euros and include hotel accommodations. (At RhodoGravure press time, the euro was at \$1.17, meaning that 1,000 euros is the equivalent of \$1,170.)

Dutch treat



Arboretum Trompenburg in Rotterdam is actually below sea level, and it's part of one of the pre-convention tours in May.

Demonic devices

Ah, Mnemosyne! The ancient Greek goddess (daughter of Uranus and Gaia) left us with that excellent concept, the “mnemonic device,” by which we remember various factoids.

As everyone knows, “Thirty days hath Pretender, Harvest Moon, Waring Blender. All the rest are dull contenders.” Or something like that.

Karel Bernady is every ready with a mnemonic device to help budding botanists and ordinary gardeners remember the differences between grasses and sedges and reeds.

The RhodoGravure thinks it goes like this: “Sedges makes pledges, and grass is just pot, and reeds are found in Long Island Sound.” Hmm, maybe not. Perhaps: “Sedges form hedges, and reeds we have got, and grasses make passes at boys who wear glasses.” Um, not so sure about that one either. Let's try: “Sedges astound, with grass edges crowned, by reeds wearing tweeds like Conan Doyle's hound.” No, no, no!

Here's Karel's real incantation: “Sedges have edges, and grasses do not, and reeds are round wherever they're found.”

“Mnemosyne” is quite a name. She must have been spelling it for teachers and bank clerks for thousands of year. The pronunciation is *nee-MAHSS-ih-nee* (leading to *nee-MON-ic*).

Bonus round: Do you know what the following mnemonic device refers to? “Old Maids Never Wed And Have Babies. Really Vicious Retrievers Snap Willingly, Snarl Dangerously. Beagles Don't. Period.” The first letters match the stations of the Main Line: Overbrook, Merion, Narberth, Wynnewood, Ardmore, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, Villanova, Radnor, St. Davids, Wayne, Strafford, Devon, Berwyn, Daylesford, Paoli.

Move over, Uber

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter greatly encourages car-pooling to ARS meetings and events. In addition to saving-the-planet reasons, some members no longer drive, some enjoy conversation instead of the radio, and parking at Morris is less of a bother if there are fewer cars.

Chapter President Craig Conover has volunteered to be the point person if someone needs help finding a ride. Contact him at 215-901-1034 or sterling@sterlingfinishing.com.

For Latin lovers

Two interesting aspects about Latin names of species are our topic here.

First, Linnaeus did not invent them. Yes, we all use (or should use) the Linnaean system of Latin names – *Rhododendron exasperatum*, for instance.

But plants already had scientific Latin names when Linnaeus, thank goodness, simplified matters. Theretofore, the name of a species might be, not two Latin words, but five or eight or 17. The old system, if you can call it that, was that the “first” species in a genus got a simple Latin name, which might translate to, say, “short oak.” Then came another species, “short oak with round-lobed leaves.” Next, “short oak with deeply notched round-lobe leaves.” Then: “short oak with deeply notched round lobes and tiny acorns.” And on and on. All in Latin.

Linnaeus came up with the binomial system, whereby each species has a two-word Latin name, genus and species. There was mighty resistance, but eventually the 17 or so old men who had managed to memorize some of those long-winded old Latin names were displaced by more rational botanists.

Second interesting aspect: not only do the modern Latin names mean something, with a glossary you can be in on the content.

The following list is decidedly abbreviated set of combining terms you may encounter in a specific epithet, that is, the second half of a Latin name. (They won’t always be exactly as rendered here, since Latin names have gender, feminine, masculine or neuter based on the genus, and the species should match that gender. “*Rhododendron*,” by the way, is neuter.)

There are easy ones, such as *Rhododendron occidentale*, meaning western rhododendron. It of course gets more complicated (or arcane). Pinxterbloom azalea has had two binomials, *R. nudiflorum* and *R. periclymenoides*. The former refers to the flowers’ appearing before the leaves emerge, the latter means “like honeysuckle,” a reference to its fragrance.

Parts of plants

anthus – flower
carpus – fruit
florus – flower
folius – leaf
petalus – petal
phyllus – leaf
rhyzus – root
sepalus – sepal

niger – black
purpureus – purple
roseus – rosy
ruber – red
sanguineus – blood red
violaceus – violet
virens – green
xanthinus – yellow

Shapes and Sizes

alti – tall
angularis – angular
angusti – narrow
brevi – short
elongatus – elongated
giganteus – large
gracilis – slender
grandi – large
lati – wide
macro – large
maximus – very large
mega – large
micro – small

Colors

albus – white
argenteus – silver
aureus – gold
azureus – sky blue
caeruleus – dark blue
candicans – white
citrinus – lemon yellow
coccineus – scarlet
cyanus – blue
flavus – yellow
fulvus – tawny
luteus – yellow

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 10, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting. Home of Craig Conover.

October 15, Sunday, 1 p.m. (NEW TIME) Greater Philadelphia Chapter brunch and meeting. Morris Arboretum. See article on Page 1.

October 19, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Valley Forge Chapter meeting. Jenkins Arboretum. Speaker: W. Robert Stamper, “Contrast in the Garden.”

November 12, Sunday, 2 p.m. Valley Forge Chapter Annual Banquet/Greater Philadelphia meeting. St. David’s Country Club. Speaker: Barbara Bullock, National Arboretum.

December 12, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting. Home of Craig Conover.

January 14, 2018, Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Chapter meeting. Morris Arboretum.

February 18, Sunday, 2 p.m. Joint Great Philadelphia-Valley Forge meeting. Uwchlan Meeting House, Lionville, Pa. Speaker: Ron Rabideau, “*Rhododendron* Species for the Northeast.”

March 3-11 Philadelphia Flower Show. Pennsylvania Convention Center.

April 14, Saturday, 6 p.m. Annual Chapter Banquet.

May 11-12, Friday-Saturday Plant sale. Morris Arboretum.

May 12, Saturday Joint Greater Philadelphia-Valley Forge Flower Competition (truss show). Morris Arboretum.

May 20-27, 2018 ARS Annual Convention, Bremen, Germany, with pre- and post-convention tours. See article on Page 1

May 16-19, 2019 ARS Annual Convention, Desmond Hotel, Malvern, Pa.

minimus – very small
nanus – dwarf
ortho – straight
pumilus – dwarf
parvi – small
tenui – slender

Seasons

austivalis – summer
autumnalis – autumn
hyemalis – winter
vermalis – spring

Emphasis or Degree

atro – dark

bondus – abundant
escens – resembling
ferus – bearing
issimus – very
oides – like
osus – with or bearing
semper – always
sub – somewhat
ulus – somewhat

Regions and Habitats

alpinus – alpine
aquaticus – aquatic
australis – southern

Continued on Page 4

Clues to those Latin names

Continued from Page 3

borealis – northern
montanus – of mountains
occidentalis – western
orientalis – eastern
riparilis – of riverbanks
rupestris – rock-loving
saxatilis – rock-loving
sylvaticus/sylvestris – of woods

Character or Form

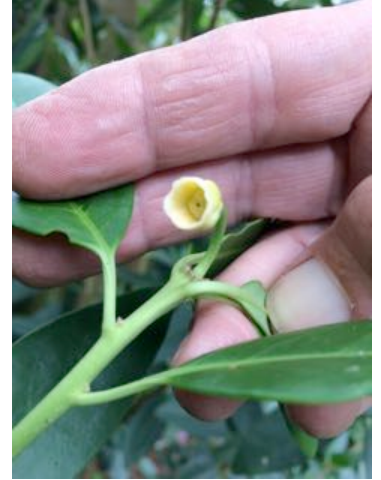
acuminatus – tapering
acutus – sharp-pointed
alatus – winged
arborescens – woody
barbatus – barbed or bearded
columnaris – columnar
comutus – horned
decumbens – bent down
dentatus – toothed
dissectus – deeply cut
divaricatus – spreading



When it was named, *R. maximum* was thought to be the largest in the genus.

eximius – distinguished
fimbriatus – fringed
flore-pleno – double-flowered
fruticosus – shrubby

glaber – smooth
graveolens – very fragrant
laciniatus – fringed or very deeply cut
lanceolatus – lance-like
edius – intermediate
mollis – soft
mutabilis – variable
nudus – bare
odoratus – fragrant
officianalis – medicinal
pendulus – weeping
plumosus – feathery
praecox – very early
procumbens – trailing
racemosus – bearing racemes
repens – creeping
scandens – climbing
serratus – saw-toothed
sessilis – stalkless
speciosus/spectabilis – showy
umbellatus – bearing umbels
vulgaris – common



M. Mills photo

Illicium parviflorum is true to its name: it has a decidedly small flower.