

# RHODOGRAVURE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY :::::::::: WINTER 2022

## *It's Zoomodendron time again*

Ron Rabideau will speak on the RareFind legacy

Thanks to the pandemic, the January meeting of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter will be solely on Zoom, viewable from a home computer (or audio only via phone). No need to drive in wintery weather. The link for the Zoom meeting is at the end of this article; plan to Zoom in at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday, Jan. 9.

As many ARS folk know, Ron Rabideau spent 17 years at RareFind Nursery in central New Jersey, becoming the key employee under founder Hank Schannen. In its heyday, RareFind was perhaps the pre-eminent rhododendron nursery in the Northeast, so much so that some gardeners have kept its old catalogues to use as reference material.

“A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind” is the title of Ron’s Jan. 9 presentation. Here is his preview of the talk: “It will be a listing and discussion of my favorite and what I feel are the most promising rhododendrons I grew, observed and compared in my years at RareFind, in Jackson, N.J. Over the years we propagated and grew in the neighborhood of 3,000 varieties, so I did lots of comparing. Some are RareFind intros, but many are from other breeders, not all are registered.

“My goal was to identify the most unique and distinctive varieties that performed well at RareFind. A very important criterion to me in addition to floral display and foliage was commercial potential. Good vigor and disease/insect resistance, as well as heat and cold tolerance are musts. Plants



**R. ‘Lumos’**



**R. ‘Cyclops’**

Ron Rabideau photos



**Variegated form of 'Maximum Roseum'**

must perform well through the commercial growing process from rooting through container growing and field growth.”

Ron is now greenhouse manager at Mercer County Community College and is both Greater Philadelphia Chapter president and Eastern vice president of the national ARS.

Anyone who has a computer with an internet connection can “attend” the Jan. 9 meeting at no charge. Members may participate with their live faces on the screen, or just their names. Pay attention to the muting function; during the presentation, all should be on “mute” until Q&A time.

Go to this web address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89132869021?pwd=UmQyREERaWEpqaklydDRVd3F6NEhTZz09>

Use this meeting ID and pass code when prompted: 891 3286 9021; passcode: 284961.

Members who are new to Zoom are welcome to contact any board member via telephone to get tips. Those without internet may call in and listen; the two best call-in numbers are 301-715-8592 and 646-558-8656.

Members are encouraged to share the link and password with gardening friends, local or from other states and nations. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday, Jan. 9.

## *In the works: A new test garden*

Tyler Arboretum and the ARS plan to plant and trial mid-Atlantic hybrids

ARS members have an edge when planting a garden with really interesting rhododendrons – we know that patronizing chapter sales and making our own propagations of friends’ beauties are the way to assemble a distinctive collection.

But gardeners in general? They head to notable nurseries and find only the same set of pink, white and sort-of red rhododendron cultivars that have been for sale for the last 40 years.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter has plans to change that, though admittedly it will take a few years. It will also take money (more about that below).

While the final details are still being worked out, a group of four local ARS figures, with the imprimatur of the national organization, and Tyler Arboretum intend to create a test and display garden in the arboretum for cultivars recently hybridized in the mid-Atlantic region. The goal is to seek out elepidotes with less common coloration and moderate stature, to record their performance over a few years, and to publish the assessments of the trials. And then, it is hoped, the wholesale propagators will take notice and retail garden centers will offer more interesting choices. The maturing garden should also prevent extinction of worthy hybrids that have had minimal propagation.

The Founding Task Force consists of Perc Moser, Karel Bernady, Tom Ahern and Michael Martin Mills. Negotiations with Tyler, led by Mandy Santiago, executive director, and Mike Karowski, director of horticulture, have been friendly and have unfolded at a brisk pace, an indication

that both sides are eager to make the new garden happen. It is likely that a formal Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by both sides before spring.

The first stage of the process will be creation of a selection committee, charged with deciding which cultivars are to be planted. The four Task Force members and a representative of Tyler will be the core of the committee.

Among the hybridizers whose creations will be considered for inclusion in the garden are Joe Minahan, Tom Ahern, Joe Becales, Norm Beaudry, John Doppel, Frank Furman, Perc Moser, Ed Reiley, Hank Schannen, Ron Rabideau and Howard Roberts, whose work has been within a 150-mile radius of Tyler Arboretum. The intention is that all the hybrids being trialed are innately likely to be good-doers for the mid-Atlantic climate, with its hot, humid summers and winters that, even if milder of late, are not unlikely to have temperatures near zero Fahrenheit.

The selection committee will have to work expeditiously, since many of the cultivars will have to be propagated and grown to planting size. Current plans are for the first set of roughly 40 cultivars to be planted in groups of three. Planting will take place in two to three years, by which time the semi-wild plot adjacent to the existing Wister-era collection of rhododendrons will have been prepared, with the removal of a few trees and a fair amount of undesirable vines and other invasives, and the creation of paths.

The heart of the project will begin after the plants' first season in the ground, with details annually recorded on many attributes that combine to make a top-rate variety – vigor, shape, flower and foliage appeal, disease resistance and the like. An evaluation panel will be formed in due course.

The project will require funding. The Task

**Some likely candidates for the test garden (counterclockwise from left): 'Fashion Plate' of Becales; 'Steve's Sunrise' of Reiley; 'Cause of Our Joy' of Minahan.**



Michael Mills photo



Mary Reiley photo



Karel Bernady photo

Force and Tyler intend to each fund half the project, whose preparation and installation are projected to cost at least \$15,000, to be followed by annual maintenance expenditures. Each of the Task Force members has pledged to make a large personal contribution, and the three chapters of ARS District Eight will be counted on to help fund the ARS side of the agreement. Fundraising will be conducted, soliciting both horticulturally focused foundations and individual ARS members.

## *Petal blight is mere months away*

Proper planning can prevent poor performance

The following is reprinted from the Spring 2014 issue of the RhodoGravure.

By and by, the joy of a rhodoholic will emerge: the flowers. And with them, for too many of us, will be that ghastly phenomenon known as petal blight, or *Ovulinia azaleae*, a fungus. Unfamiliar? Count your blessings. Flowers collapse and get slimy. End of joy.

There are ways to combat petal blight, and if you're diligent you get the upper hand. (A dry spring will help a lot.)

G. David Lewis of Rutgers wrote in the Winter 1999 ARS Journal: "Spray! If you do it right you will have difficulty in finding blight in your garden. If you don't do it right, you are wasting your time and a lot of money. . . . The trick is in the proper timing and the proper application."

Lewis and others say that spraying must begin *before blight is seen* and *before flowers open*. His first application is when *early* evergreen azalea buds are showing color, followed by weekly applications for four weeks. If it is more rainy than usual, shorten the interval to five days.

The buds (and any open flowers) must be covered. Don't bother spraying foliage. A University of Massachusetts extension article also recommends spraying the ground surface under and around azaleas and rhododendrons, because this is where the *ovulinia* has overwintered, waiting for warmth and water to release spores.

Cultural practice can help. When deadheading, the spent flowers go in the trash, not on the ground or in the compost. Increase air circulation by spacing plants and pruning them. Avoid overhead watering.

Back to spraying. Various fungicides work. Multiple sprayings, as Lewis recommends, will mean lots of fungicide.

This web page lists several fungicides and rates of application:

<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/azalea-rhododendron-spp-ovulinia-petal-blight>

The UMass article is at:

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/ovulinia-petal-blight>

# *Local observations in the time of climate change*

These factoids may not be science, but they're real

Whither the weather? The RhodoGravure shall not attempt to answer that question. Instead, it contacted several gardeners in the area to find out how “climate change” is manifesting itself as “garden change.”

The chief gardener at RhodoGravure headquarters spent an inordinate amount of 2021 weeding out English ivy seedlings. In conversation with Denis Lucey, a recently retired garden designer and sage plantsman who lives in Chestnut Hill, he learned that there was a time when growing English ivy in upstate New York and inland New England was a somewhat dubious proposition due to the winter cold (it is from England, after all). But not any more, and the milder Philadelphia winters seem to suit those bird-pooped ivy seeds rather well. The seedlings are everywhere. (This is not a unanimous verdict. It could be that the amount of English ivy in the local ecosystem has reached a tipping point and that there are simply a lot more seeds for birds to disperse.)

Dr. Lucey also reports a new potential invasive for our woodlands: metasequoia, or dawn redwood. While it has been grown here for decades, volunteer seedlings were rarely an issue. It would seem that milder winters and increased precipitation are good news to the water-loving dawn redwood, and stands of young ones are being reported in certain woodlands, the backyard of a garden near RhodoGravure headquarters, and the South Jersey property of Bud and Marilyn Gressman.

Charles Cresson, the noted horticulturalist of Swarthmore, believes the increase in summer precipitation, resulting in generally moister ground conditions, is the reason for higher numbers of volunteer ferns in his garden. In the past three years or so, one garden in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia has been blessed with abundant fern sporelings, including a surprising number of little cyrtomiums (Japanese hollyferns), some at a notable remove from the parent plant. In some ways this should not be a surprise; cyrtomium has naturalized in parts of the South.

True, moister soils in the summer can allow leaving the hoses coiled and the sprinklers out of sight. But Michael Mills suspects that the chlorosis that developed in several elepidotes last summer and fall is weather related. The general area at issue was adequately drained for rhododendrons when it was planted a decade ago. Now, he fears, a nearby low spot in the lawn is collecting and holding the increased rainwater, and adjacent areas are, via capillary action in the soil, becoming too wet for shrubs that require “drainage, drainage, drainage.”

Walking hand in hand with milder winters is the concept of shorter winters. The last oak leaves fall at least two weeks later than they did 15 years ago, and some narcissus are blooming



two or more weeks earlier. The dwarf narcissus ‘February Gold’ actually blooms in February now, and ‘Rijnveld’s Early Sensation’ was sensationally early last year, with first blossoms in January in Northwest Philadelphia.

And then there’s hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) [left], that weed with tiny white flowers in late winter/early spring that turn into very skinny ankle-level seed pods that split and send seeds flying. With

a longer growing season, it has been observed getting two generations into one growing season (the creeps!).

Talk about creeps – lesser celandine has lately begun emerging in *December*. (Note to gardeners willing to use herbicide: glyphosate, or Roundup, will work on lesser celandine if applied soon after it emerges – once the plant is a full tuft of foliage, you need to dig. And when it emerges in early winter, there’s much less problem with inadvertently killing something good next to it when using herbicide. The trick is a warm-enough, dry-enough day to spray.)

Out Media-way, garden designer Tom Borkowski commented that more and more “tender” perennials seem to be surviving winter. Last winter, he reported, petunias lived through the winter. This year, his abutilons were still undamaged as of the first of January. “Maybe,” he said, “we’ll eventually have a climate like England, where we can grow all those things that Charles Cresson has been babying in his garden for years.”

Speaking of Mr. Cresson, whose Swarthmore garden is an exquisitely curated collection with oodles of choice and very rare plants: he is indeed having more success with varieties that previously suffered in winter or required ample babying. Among them: the Chinese fringe flower shrub, *Loropetalum chinense* ‘Zhuzhou Fuchsia’ **[below left]**, which no longer suffers winterkill and now needs annual pruning, and *Sternbergia lutea*, the fall-blooming, brilliant yellow crocus-



lookalike that legions of people have tried to grow with fleeting success; Charles reports his are much more vigorous of late. He also related Gertrude Wister’s comment to him 40 years ago that wintersweet, the Chinese *Chimonanthus praecox*, was “not worth growing” even if it did, feebly, bloom in winter. “That’s all changed,” said Charles. “Very frequently it’s a very good” winter bloomer.

Given the climate trends, Charles is now thinking of trying out some of the blue *Ceanothus* species native to the West Coast. They’re known as California lilacs, and the online images are oh-so alluring. One Oregon nursery rather snootily proclaims, “What makes it even better is that *Ceanothus* doesn’t grow just anywhere” – as in, if you’re not a Left Coaster, go back to your pathetic impatiens. Ha! Charles Cresson is on the case.

Greater Philadelphia Chapter member Janet Novak can give Charles a run for his money. When asked about climate change and her garden, she reported:

“Recent winters have been so mild that I can now expect to have flowers every day of the year.”

Every day of the year! The RhodoGravure is in awe. Janet continues: “A fall-blooming snowdrop (a form of *Galanthus elwesii*) starts bloom in late October. It will continue blooming into February or March if I give it a little protection on the coldest nights. Specifically, I put a bucket over the plant on nights when the low is supposed to be 20F or less. By the time the fall snowdrop has stopped blooming, spring-blooming bulbs have started.



The earliest for me are the standard *Galanthus elwesii*, *Crocus sieberi* ‘Firefly’, *Narcissus* ‘Rijnveld’s Early Sensation’, *Helleborus thibetanus*, *Primula vulgaris* ssp. *rubra* [above], and an unknown variety of yellow primrose that came from ARS member Hope Punnett. As further proof of the mildness of our winters, several of these spring bloomers sometimes start blooming in December (the galanthus, crocus, and yellow primrose).” Janet’s garden is in Chestnut Hill just off Germantown Avenue in the business district, and she points out that the density of buildings and roads make it a bit warmer than nearby suburbs.

Tony Aiello, a Mount Airy resident now on staff at Longwood Gardens, likewise has a continuous snowdrop parade. He’s also been able to harvest parsley all winter long with just a flimsy cloth to see it through the coldest nights.

It should be pointed out that the climate change we are experiencing features extremes as well as warmth – one author recently advocated switching to the phrase “climate breakdown.” Our winters may be milder on the whole, but the polar vortex can still deliver some comeuppance. Witness that freakish deadly cold that hit Texas last winter. Indeed, while the temperatures moderate hereabouts, strong winter winds seem to have increased – bringing with them stress and desiccation. Three years after your new blue California lilac seems to have settled in, there could be consecutive -5F nights, creating the perfect spot to plant an ironclad rhododendron in the spring.

## *The chapter takes a gap year with the Flower Show*

For a second year, the Philadelphia Flower Show will be outdoors at FDR Park in South Philadelphia in June. But for the first time in 59 years, the ARS will not have an exhibit.

A number of factors went into the board’s decision to opt out of the show this year. The biggest was the fact that a June event severely constrains the notion of a rhododendron exhibit. There is no reverse forcing of shrubs so that they bloom six weeks later than normal. Last year at the first outdoor show in the history of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter’s exhibit had some summer-blooming deciduous azaleas – and lots of non-rhododendrons. Being unable to include any spring-blooming elepidotes, lepidotes and azaleas felt something like having a 72-hole golf tournament played on a three-hole course.

As well, mounting an exhibit on sloping ground in full sun was, to echo many of the exhibit crew members, a bit much. Doing the exhibit in June, as opposed to early March, didn’t help either: in February and March, gardeners have time on their hands and can use a chunk of it to put together the exhibit. In June, people are hard at work in their own gardens, with little time to spare for pro bono work for PHS. The usual contingent of docents dwindled to less than a third of the Convention Center level, leaving our exhibit last June unstaffed for most of the time.

PHS has not indicated whether the outdoor Flower Show will be standard going ahead or if returning to the Convention Center in late winter will happen in the post-pandemic era. The chapter Board of Directors is not opposed to participating in late-winter indoor shows, should they resume.

# Calendar

**All listings should be considered tentative pending coronavirus developments.  
Members will be advised by email of changes and cancelations.**

**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.

**January 9, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.** Chapter Meeting via Zoom. Ron Rabideau, presenter, "A Legacy of Rhododendrons from RareFind." Members will receive a link via email, or go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89132869021?pwd=UmQyRERaWEpqaklydDRVd3F6NEhTZz09> (meeting ID: 891 3286 9021; passcode: 284961). See article on Page 1.

**February 8, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.** Board of Directors meeting via Zoom

**February 20, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.** Joint Greater Philadelphia-Valley Forge meeting. Peter Zale, Longwood Gardens, presenter; Topic: Conservation and plant exploration. A decision on customary libations and co-mestibles is pending. Uwchlan Meeting House, Lionville, Pa.

**April 5, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.** Board of Directors meeting via Zoom

**April 9, Saturday** Annual Banquet

**May 4-8 ARS National Convention, Portland, Ore.** More info: <http://ars2022.org/> and [ARS2022YoutubeVideo](#)

**May 7 & 8, Saturday and Sunday** Chapter Plant Sale, in conjunction with Tyler Arboretum's annual plant sale, Media, Pa.

**May 7 or 8** Cut-Flower Competition (truss show), with Valley Forge Chapter. Date and time to be finalized. Jenkins Arboretum.

## Greater Philadelphia Chapter American Rhododendron Society [www.gpchapterars.org](http://www.gpchapterars.org)

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Director: Bill Halberstadt (2020-22) halberstadtbill@gmail.com

Director: Perc Moser (2021-23) 610-635-8290; percmoser@gmail.com

Director: Maris Ogg (2020-22) 215-836-0637; mogg@towerbridgeadvisors.com

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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](http://www.rhododendron.org), is a trove.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter typically 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. Several events are held in conjunction with the Valley Forge Chapter of the ARS. Latest meeting information may be found at [www.GPChapterARS.org](http://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](http://www.GPChapterARS.org); click on “Join us.”

## *Chapter Board Minutes*

Board of Directors Meeting,  
Greater Philadelphia Chapter, American Rhododendron Society  
October 12, 2021

In attendance by Zoom: Karel Bernady, Bill Halberstadt, Kim Kopple, Michael Mills, Myo Myint, , Ron Rabideau. Excused: Stuart Brooks, Maris Ogg; Linda Hartnett attended second half.

**Treasurers' report:** [Editor's note: Details of the accounts are not published online. Members in good standing are welcome to contact the treasurer to obtain such information.] Myo Myint distributed and Income/Expense Comparison by category report for the periods from 9/1/2019 to 8-31/2020 and 9/1/20 to 8/31/21.

Karel Bernady will update us on the amount of NERC funds available by the end of this year. We still owe Stephen Kristoph for plants for the Tyler Arboretum sale.

Maris Ogg sent Ron Rabideau several questions to bring up at the meeting regarding the budget. She asked for Myo to point out non-recurring income items through 8/31 including the Tyler sale, next year we are paying them 10% of proceeds. Was the revenue from the on-line sale at Tyler combined with the “live” sale? Should be two separate entries for those next year. Also the return on the NERC funds should not be an item for our income statement.

### **Chapter Meeting Schedule:**

**Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** speaker Nancy Bell. First in-person meeting since Covid. Morris Arb limiting attendees to 20 and no food or drink allowed.

**Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** Michael Suggested Ron and he accepted. Topic tbd.

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** Joint mtg with Valley Forge Chapter. Their turn to get speaker? Perc will discuss at his VF Nov 20<sup>th</sup> board mtg.

Peter Zale came up as a potential speaker, but he may have spoken to us recently? Apparently there is a new Rhododendron Garden being installed at Longwood?

### **No March Mtg.**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Saturday Banquet:** Discussed speaker possibilities. George Woodard came up as well as Steve Wright on plant exploration(native azaleas).

**May Truss Show at Jenkins:** Which Chapter will host? Would we have a joint truss show? Judging rules would need to be merged.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022:** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June) Joint Picnic with Valley Forge. Location TBD.

A discussion was held to investigate potential other venues to hold meetings due partly to restrictions placed upon us by the Morris. Michael Mills agreed to "casually" look into other venues. It was reported that Jenkins charges \$200 for a half-day for institutional members and Tyler charges \$750! For a half-day. Two different chapters meeting at the same location?

**Upcoming Greater Philadelphia Board Mtgs:**

**Dec. 14th, 2021. 7:30 via Zoom**

**Feb 8th, 2022.**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022** (Banquet on 9<sup>th</sup>)

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Clarification of joint activities with Valley Forge:** Valley Forge Chapter has not held any board meetings in a long time. Perc Moser said there is one scheduled for Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and he will try to get answers. VF needs to agree to a member of our GPC board be on their board.

**Flower Show:** Report by Linda Harnett. We learned the Flower Show will again be held outdoors. Due to the problems of the limited availability of blooming plants because of the late date and for other reasons, a vote was taken affirming the Chapter will NOT have an exhibit in 2022.

**Plants for Members meeting/sale** – Was held at Morris' Bloomfield Farm on Sept 19. Karel was not originally going to be available but plans changed so he ran the sale. The sale went well, gross receipts were \$1,911.

**Plant Sales at Tyler:** Discussion of an agreement (MOU) between GPC and Tyler regarding our chapter plant sale was raised. Since this board meeting and distribution of these minutes, wording for an MOU has been agreed to.

**Hybridizers Garden Proposal at Tyler:** Perc Moser presented a preliminary MOU with Tyler about developing a hybridizer's garden for ARS District 8. An outline of roughly how this would run was provided. Assumptions of estimated costs were outlined in a document. Costs of the garden creation and the ongoing maintenance would be split between Tyler and the ARS organization. Plants would be supplied by local hybridizers from our region's chapters. We need to get the agreement of other chapter boards. Members of the committee include: Tom Ahern, Norm Beaudry, Karel Bernady, and Perc Moser. Joe Minahan had been a member but with his loss now a replacement needs to be found. Michael suggested a "formalized" process needs to be developed to run this new organization. Potential sources of funding were discussed, Karel suggested the ARS Endowment Fund is a possibility. A draft fundraising calendar was recommended. Linda suggested possibility of the Martin Foundation contributing. There seems to be enthusiastic support for this project.

Michael announced that Nov 2022 the chapter would be 75 years old but later corrected that it would only be 65yrs.

An upcoming free western joint ARS fall Zoom conference was announced for October 23 & 24, Saturday & Sunday, noon-4 p.m. (EDT) ARS Virtual Fall Conference presented by three British Columbia chapters and clubs. Speakers include

Don Hyatt, Hartwig Schepker of Germany, and David Millais of Britain. FREE, registration required via <http://rhodyman.net/Fall2021.html> More information: <http://rhodyman.net/Fall2021.pdf>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Board of Directors Meeting,  
Greater Philadelphia Chapter, American Rhododendron Society  
December 14, 2021

In attendance via Zoom: Karel Bernady, Bill Halberstadt, Michael Mills, Perc Moser, Myo Myint, Ron Rabideau, Stuart Brooks, Linda Hartnett. Excused: Kim Kopple, Craig Conover, Maris Ogg.

- Treasurer's Report. [Editor's note: Details of the accounts are not published online. Members in good standing are welcome to contact the treasurer to obtain such information.] Myo Myint gave balances for accounts. 7 people have not yet renewed.
- Michael Mills discussed alternative meeting locations with Janet Novak with no success. He will check with Germantown Academy, and Perc will check with Springside Chestnut Hill Academy and recheck with Jenkins (although a question was raised whether or not we want to have a meeting at the same location as VF). Need to make sure there is a seating capacity of greater than 25 with audio visual capabilities and the ability to serve food. Rock Garden Society is also looking for a new meeting location.
- Interboard positions. It was suggested that Perc Moser serve as Greater Philadelphia rep on Valley Forge Board. He said he was happy to do so.
- Perc will discuss status of VF's plant sale with Jerry O'Dell.
- Perc will also determine 1) date of Truss Show, 2) Date of VF plant sale if it's going to occur, 3) Can we jointly sponsor Truss Show.
- Discussed a Spring garden Tour. Karel will put together list of possible locations; we need to determine 1) do we charge; 2) which gardens; 3) when in May
- January 9 chapter meeting. Ron will speak at the meeting at Morris. Ron will check with Kim to determine what the logistics of the situation are now given the Omicron variant
- Peter Zale will be speaking at the February 20 joint meeting. Karel will put together a list of potential rhododendrons to give to Peter in lieu of speakers fee for GP. VF will pay their share in cash; Peter will speak on Conservation and plant exploration
- We need a Banquet speaker. Names that have surfaced are 1) George Woodard, 2) Steve Wright, 3) Andrew Bunting. Ron will call George, Michael will call PHS to confirm that we get one free speaker and, if so, we'll consider Andrew Bunting.
- Karel provided a detailed update on the status of the Test and Display Garden at Tyler. He said that while we're moving forward, there are several points that still need to be negotiated. Michael mentioned that we will be looking for each District 8 chapter to donate \$2,500 to \$3,000 for start up and \$1,000/year for ongoing maintenance.