

“Rhododendrons in Penn’s Woods” 2009 Eastern Regional Conference

Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 22

5 pm – 8 pm Registration and Information

Friday, October 23

8 am – 6 pm Registration and Information

9 am – Noon ARS Board of Directors Meeting

Noon – 1 pm Board of Directors Luncheon

1 pm – 5 pm ARS Board of Directors Meeting

5 pm – 6 pm Plant Sale

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Cash Bar

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm Dinner

7:45 pm – 8:45 pm

Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region

Adam Levine and Robert Cardillo are the award-winning author and photographer of *"A Guide to the Great Gardens of the Philadelphia Region."* They will provide an intimate look at this region's 300-year horticultural heritage. The Garden Writers of America named their book "Best of the Year." Signed copies will be available for sale. Adam Levine is an award-winning garden writer whose work has appeared in many regional and national magazines. Rob Cardillo is a Philadelphia-based professional photographer, formerly the Director of Photography at Organic Gardening magazine. His work now appears in *Garden Design*, *Horticulture*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and numerous other publications.

9 pm – 10 pm Plant Sale

Saturday, October 24

8 am – 5 pm Registration and Information

8 am – 5 pm Plant Sale

9 am – 10 am

The Rhododendrons of John C. Wister: Our Legacy at Tyler Arboretum

Robert Herald is a botanist who is currently working as a plant recorder at Tyler Arboretum and Chanticleer Garden. For the past three years he has been evaluating the John C. Wister collection of rhododendrons at Tyler Arboretum. John Wister was a renowned horticulturist and author, Director both of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore College and of the John J. Tyler Arboretum, and recipient of the ARS Gold Medal. Robert's work has involved ARS Chapters and members in efforts to restore the Wister collection and preserve it for the future. Robert will highlight the history of the arboretum and its cherished position in the area's horticultural heritage. He previously worked at Longwood Gardens as a curatorial assistant and as head gardener of Longwood's Hillside Garden.

10 am – 10:30 am Break

10:30 am – 10:45 am

ARS Endowment Fund Update

Bill Mangles, ARS Treasurer and co-chair of the ARS Endowment Fund Committee, will report on the status of the fund.

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Rhododendrons on the Frontier: The Bartram Family, Plant Collectors and Naturalists in 18th-Century North America

Joel T. Fry is curator of Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, America's first botanical garden. He is an archaeologist, who began his involvement with the garden as a student. He continues today conducting research on the botanical history of the Bartrams, John and his son William. They were unique figures in 18th-Century America, homegrown natural scientists and practical gardeners, who are credited with identifying and introducing into cultivation more than 200 of our native plants. Joel will recount the history of this outstanding family and will look specifically at some of the rhododendron species the Bartrams discovered and introduced to gardens in North America and Europe.

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Saturday, October 24 (continued)

Noon – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Rhododendrons of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country

Tom Ahern has been hybridizing rhododendrons for well over twenty years. His initial interest was to create hardy yellow and orange blooming rhododendrons with attractive form and foliage. After a trip to the west coast in 1995 he became interested in the unique look of species plants that grow well there. Tom began hybridizing with these species to try to bring heat and cold hardiness into them for eastern gardens. His presentation will show the interesting results of his and other eastern Pennsylvania hybridizers. Tom is also an outstanding bird carver.

2:30 pm – 3 pm Break

3 pm – 3:45 pm **Research Foundation Update**

Karel Bernady, Research Foundation Chairman, will give a report on the status of the foundation and its activity.

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Companion Plants for the Woodland Garden

Sally and John Perkins are known for their photography, enthusiasm and fast-paced talks. Their love of woodland wildflowers and native deciduous azaleas that complement them will captivate you. From spring ephemerals to hardy groundcovers they will highlight familiar and uncommon plants that add interest and diversity to a garden. Sally's education is in botany and cell biology. John is a computer software engineer and Webmaster of the Massachusetts Chapter's website. Sally and John both are researchers for the Veterans Administration in Boston.

5:30 pm – 7:45 pm Cash Bar

6:30 pm – 8 pm Dinner Banquet and Live Auction

8 pm – 9 pm

The Legacy of Joe Gable

Donald W. Hyatt is a retired high school teacher from McLean, VA, whose educational background is in horticulture, biochemistry and computer science. He is well known for his tireless interest in rhododendrons and native plants, his photography, articles, botanical illustrations and extensive personal website. Don is a recipient of the ARS Silver Medal. In his presentation, Don will show the valuable contributions of rhododendron pioneer and Gold Medal recipient, Joe Gable, and the hybridization efforts of those who followed him. He will also entertain us with his outstanding photography and stories.

9:15 pm – 10 pm Plant Sale

Sunday, October 25

8 am – Noon Plant Sale

9 am – 10 am

Society Open Forum with Executive Director

10 am – 11:30 am

Hybridizers' Roundtable

Directions to The Inn at Chester Springs

815 North Pottstown Pike (Route 100)

Lionville, PA

610-363-1100 www.innatchestersprings.com

From the East - New Jersey/New York:

New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 6 - PA Turnpike West to Exit 312 "Downingtown Exit," bear left onto Route 100 South, follow 1 mile, Inn is on left. Exit to the right just before light, left onto Route 100 to Inn on right.

From the West - Harrisburg:

PA Turnpike East to Exit 312 "Downingtown Exit," bear left onto Route 100 South, follow 1 mile, Inn is on left. Exit to the right just before light, left onto Route 100 to Inn on right.

From the South - Delaware:

Follow I-95 North to Route 202 North, continue for 15 to 20 minutes to Route 100, "Exton Exit." Follow Route 100 North approximately 5 miles to Inn on right.

From the Philadelphia International Airport:

Follow I-95 South to "West Chester Exit," Route 322 West. Follow Route 322 West to Route 1, turn left onto Route 1 and follow approximately 3 lights. Turn right onto Route 202 North; continue for 15 to 20 minutes to Route 100, "Exton Exit." Follow Route 100 North approximately 5 miles to Inn on right. **Regional rail connection** - see conference website for details.