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ARS Digital Resources

- Website:** www.rhododendron.org
- Office:** www.arsoffice.org
- JARS online:** www.arsoffice.org/protect/login.asp
- JARS back issues:** <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS> [to Vol. 63, 2009]
- Archives:** www.lib.virginia.edu/small
- ARSSore:** www.ARSSore.org
- Blog:** www.rhododendron.org/blog/default.asp
- Plant Name Registration:** www.rhododendron.org/plantregistry.htm

Cover Photo



Winter in Kristian Theqvist’s Rhododendron Garden.
Photo by Kristian Theqvist

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From the President

Ann Mangels

Baltimore,
Maryland



We had a wonderful Fall ARS conference in Chattanooga last month. There were nearly 100 people in attendance and the ARS members soaked up the southern hospitality given us. The planned activities were informal and allowed time to mingle, talk and get to know each other. It was a very relaxing time!

When asked the question, "What do you like most about the ARS?," many members reply by saying that getting to meet other rhododendron enthusiasts, and making new friendships with people from other parts of Rodyland, makes the ARS a very special part of their lives. Of course, we all love also to talk about our gardens and hear from others about the similar challenges and highlights we all share. But, our personal interaction, whether at chapter get-togethers or at a more formal convention, provides to many of us the in-depth enjoyment and vigor we feed on.

You'll see a synopsis of the ARS meeting further on in this Journal. As has been a problem with fall BOD meetings, it is sometimes difficult to realize a full quorum in attendance. Before our past meeting, Dave Banks and Hale Booth made sure the hotel could comply with a teleconference hook up, and the board was notified about the system. Wouldn't you know it but this time we had a full complement of attendees? The next test then will be for the Executive Committee to hold its meeting via teleconference prior to the annual meeting in Philadelphia. If need be, we can finish the details later, but it should be a good test for future teleconference use.

At the board meeting we learned that the site for our 2021 spring meeting has not yet been established. Please notify Steve Krebs or one of the eastern directors if your chapter/district would be willing to host the spring 2021 annual meeting. There are many nice plants already started by District 12 for the plant sale, especially Brueckner and Vineland hybrids.

A long-standing policy that Gold and Silver Medals be given only at the Annual (Spring) Meeting was discussed, and it was decided that Silver Medals may now be given at a Fall Conference if that is the more logical venue. Since the Silver Medal is a regional award, some potential recipients may not regularly attend the Annual Meeting when it is geographically distant. The Honors Committee will select all Gold and Silver Medal recipients the same as always. Citations for both medal types will be sent to the calligrapher at the same time, and so the verbiage as to the date of presentation to silver medal awardees will thus need to be specified. The absent member will not be identified at the Annual meeting, but it will be announced that "another Silver Medal will be awarded later to a recipient not here today. Be sure to watch your JARS to find out about the presentation.

It was a good meeting and there was plenty of time for everyone to speak. I believe we all felt we accomplished our mission.

I hope you had a great Holiday Season and that at our next meeting in Philadelphia, we'll talk about our wonderful gardens with both our old and new friends!