



***ARS Fall Meeting, Gettysburg, PA , September 27-29, 2022***

**<http://arsstore.org/Fall2022>**

**Tuesday, Sept. 27 - Gettysburg Gardens Open House & Opening Session**



Anyone who knows John Bartlett knows that when he comes to a chapter meeting he brings along some plants, some very unusual native plants. You may have never heard of them, but after talking to John you realize that they are very special plants. Since 1986, Gettysburg Gardens has been propagating an extensive

inventory of plants native to the Mid-Atlantic region.

John has invited everyone to come, visit and shop at Gettysburg Gardens Tuesday afternoon. He has a great selection of trees and shrubs including Magnolia, Stewartia, and Rhododendron, especially native azaleas. He has an extensive selection of native wild flowers including many primulas and hardy cyclamen. They have culinary herbs, Salvias, geophytes (bulbs, corms, tubers etc.) both hardy and tender



***Evening Program with Don Hyatt***

The Opening Session Monday evening will feature a program by Don Hyatt.

Besides being well known for his entertaining programs, Don is the editor for the ARS's Rhododendron & Azalea news, has received the ARS Gold Medal, ARS Silver Medal and ARS Bronze Medals. Don is recognized as an international authority on both rhododendrons and azaleas and has served on the national boards of both the Azalea Society of American and the ARS.

Don's talk will emphasize the achievements of our newer East Coast hybridizers such as Ed Reiley, John Doppel, Tom Ahern, Joe Minahan and many others. These hybridizers will likely be featured in the new ARS/Tyler Arboretum Test & Display Garden. Don't be surprised if Don inserts some amusing tidbits we always enjoy.

Even though he had a 33-year teaching career at Fairfax County Schools, with a specialty in computer science, Don claims to be a "plant person" at heart. He started his first garden at the family home

in Northern Virginia when he was only three.

Don has focused on the preservation of hard-to-find native azalea species and natural azalea hybrids in the wild. He has long been associated with plant society sales and garden clubs.

Don also has great artistic talent as is illustrated by his watercolor illustrations of native azaleas. He offers limited edition prints of these and many other botanical drawings for sale. You can find them, along with more information about him, on his website: [www.donhyatt.com](http://www.donhyatt.com).

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## Wednesday, Sept. 28 - Tours & Banquet



Overlooking the town of Hershey, Hershey Gardens features a breathtaking assortment of flowers and shrubs, a stately collection of rare, signature trees. Indulge your senses in the color and variety of brilliant displays and gardens, including the indoor, tropical Butterfly Atrium

Open year 'round! The new Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory features hundreds of tropical butterflies and horticultural displays in the indoor Butterfly Atrium. Hershey Gardens is 23 acres of magnificent gardens, more than 3,500 rose bushes and a whimsical Children's Garden. This botanical gem is a garden for all seasons!

Hershey Gardens opened in 1937 with Milton Hershey's request to "create a nice garden of roses." 85 years later, the small rose garden has blossomed into 23 acres of botanical beauty providing visitors with unique experiences and enriching opportunities.

## Gettysburg Battlefield Tour



The ultimate Gettysburg battlefield bus tour experience puts you on the famous

Gettysburg Battlefield with a professional licensed guide. We will relive the Battle of Gettysburg as told by the most knowledgeable historic storytellers in the area. Ironically, besides being historic, the battlefield is a beautiful, typically Pennsylvania area in the Fall.

The Gettysburg National Military Park tour guide covers all three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Your tour will feature at least one scenic stop as well as a restroom stop.

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## Banquet Program: Wayne Mezitt



The Banquet Wednesday evening will feature a program by Wayne Mezitt. Wayne Mezitt is a 3rd generation nurseryman.

Since 1923 the Mezitt family has owned and operated Weston Nurseries. Peter and his wife Olga purchased 80 acres in Weston, MA. One of the most pivotal

events in the early history of Weston Nurseries was the introduction of the PJM Rhododendron in 1945. Peter's son, Edmund, developed the hardy hybrid and named it in honor of his father. The PJM is now known worldwide as one of the most beautiful and resilient rhododendrons, and graces many gardens in New England.

In the 1960's, Peter's grandsons Wayne and Roger joined the family business and continued to expand and innovate, purchasing adjoining land in Hopkinton until the nursery encompassed over 900 acres by the end of the 80's. In 2006, Wayne's son Peter became President, and began the transition to a new business model more appropriate for the changing environment in the surrounding area.

## ***Thursday, Sept 29 – Hybridizers' Roundtable***

### **ARS/Tyler Arb. Hybrid Test Garden**



Hybridizers' Roundtable will start with a review by Karel Bernady about the ARS/Tyler Arboretum Rhododendron Test and Display Garden. This exciting new project is to be established at Tyler Arboretum. It is in the planning stages now, but has commitments from the ARS, Tyler Arboretum, and the three chapters in ARS District 8.

The Founding Task Force consists of Perc Moser, Karel Bernady, Tom Ahern

and Michael Martin Mills. These four Task Force members and a representative of Tyler with the approval of the national ARS organization, and Tyler Arboretum are planning a test and display garden in Tyler Arboretum for cultivars recently hybridized in the mid-Atlantic region. Work has started with preparation of the sight under way.

The goal is to seek out rhododendron hybrids of outstanding merit and hope wholesale propagators will take notice and retail garden centers will offer more interesting choices.

Among the hybridizers whose creations will be considered for inclusion in the garden are hybridizers whose works have been within a 150-mile radius of Tyler Arboretum.

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### **The Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg, PA**



The Wyndham Hotel - Gettysburg, PA will host our meeting. The convention rate for rooms is \$136 per night.

If you would like to stay longer on the battlefield or on the deck at the local winery. You'll want to plan an extra day to make time for a traditional experience to be enhanced with more fun and food.

### **ARS 2022 Fall Meeting Schedule:**

#### **Tuesday, September 27:**

Open house at Gettysburg Gardens  
Evening buffet dinner  
Opening speaker: Don Hyatt

#### **Wednesday, September 28**

Breakfast buffet  
Bus Tour includes Lunch:  
Visit Hershey Gardens  
Gettysburg Battlefield Tour  
Evening banquet dinner  
Banquet speaker: Wayne Mezitt

#### **Thursday, September 29**

Meet the President  
Hybridizers' Roundtable:  
ARS/Tyler Hybrid Test Garden