

Letter

from the president



john migas



spring • 2007

Hello from Michigan...

Here it is the third weekend in April and finally a sunny day, calm and short sleeve shirts. Just before Easter weekend, the temperature reached nearly 70 degrees waking up a lot of plants. Then all of a sudden a switch was set off and 8 inches of snow had fallen and back to 20 degrees. What a shock to the plants!

From what I heard we were not alone. Bud blast, bark split, green leaves suddenly looking like corn flakes were reported from Asheville, NC, Chattanooga, TN, Evansville, IN, Mobile, AL and Monmouth, IL.

Seems like a lot of the country was damaged by this early warm up and sudden freeze. In the end it seems I got lucky and didn't suffer as much loss as I thought. Frozen buds on most of my early lepidote rhodies and magnolias were about all the damage I suffered. Overall the winter was long and cold with a steady snow.

As far as our chapter activities, we have a busy schedule starting out with our member's garden visit to the northwest Chicago suburbs on May 5. Visits include the Moats, Golab and Wetzel gardens. Hope all can make it.

The following weekend is our Plant sale and Truss Show at The Botanic Garden on May 12 and 13. Please call a board member if you can volunteer.

In July, our summer meeting will be held at the home of Barbara Berend in Burlington, Wisconsin. We also plan to visit other member's gardens that live nearby. Look for an announcement with the exact date and details.

In August, we plan to have a members cutting party. Members interested in providing cuttings should contact a board member so we can start putting a list together.

October will be our ARS Fall Regional Conference at The Holden Arboretum on October 12 thru 14. There will be more information forthcoming as details are finalized.

Hope to see you at the garden visits and plant sale and enjoy our spring season.

John Migas

GERRY FIRAK AWARDED BRONZE MEDAL

On September 30, 2007, Gerry Firak was awarded The Bronze Medal at the chapter's fall weekend meeting in Rockford, Illinois. John Migas, chapter president made the presentation.

Gerry is a long time member of the Midwest Chapter, has served as president and has contributed many hours of his time to our annual plant sale and truss show.

Congratulations Gerry, and another big thank you for all you have done for our chapter.

