



The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 31, Issue 1



February 2010

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*Meeting on
February 7th,
1:30 P M at
George Mason
Branch
Library,
Annandale,
VA
Directions on
page four*

Hillwood Museum and Gardens, *Bill Johnson*

Our next general membership meeting is on 7 February at the George Mason Library in Annandale. Our guest speaker will be Bill Johnson, a horticulturist from Hillwood Museum and Gardens in Washington, DC. He will be giving the presentation "Hillwood Through the Seasons."

Bill Johnson has been at Hillwood Museum and Gardens for twenty-seven years. He is currently a staff horticulturist and volunteer coordinator. Bill's formal horticulture training was mostly at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania with a Certificate of Merit in Ornamental Plants and several other certifications.

The presentation will be a visual tour of the gardens beginning in winter and moving through the other seasons. There will be lots of color from the azaleas in the spring, which is one of the signature plants for Hillwood. Bill will talk about the plant collections and the effort they make to keep the design intent of Mrs. Post's garden as it was when she was there.

Please check refreshment duty note below. ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Refreshment Duty—

For this meeting, the duty falls to those whose last names begin with the letters- A through K

From the President *Eve Harrison*

Dear Friends,

Your Executive Committee ventured out in threatening weather yesterday and met at the gracious home of Carolyn and Paul Beck for nearly four hours. We carefully reviewed all of the things Rick had mentioned in his Chapter Letter and approved a large number of items from the 2010 Budget, 2010 Schedule of meetings and events, finishing with long, careful attention to our chapter bylaws. The budget, and schedule will be presented to the members at the February 7 meeting at George Mason Library. We would so value your presence at that meeting so that you may have a voice in the various recommendations and votes. The bylaws will be presented at the next chapter meeting on 11 April.

Our speaker, Bill Johnson from Hillwood in DC will present a wonderful program with digital pictures of the various gardens, which I'm sure will be both exciting and informative. We will then

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(Continued from page 1)

have reports from the Executive Committee with discussion involving you and potential approvals by vote. Very good reasons to try to attend.

One of the items we discussed was the consideration of a donation to the newly formed Azalea Research Foundation. I found that many people are unaware of the activities of this group and all promised to read up on the articles which have been coming in the Azalean as well as at our nv-asa.org web site. This should fully explain the mission and progress heretofore and you should be able to consider a donation to them in an enlightened, optimistic light. You will discover that there are some very high level folks serving on that austere committee, among them a horticulturalist and an experienced writer of grants. Please take a little time and read up on this group so that your vote has its full meaning for our entire organization.

As I was pounding away on the treadmill this morning, thinking of you all, especially those of you whose hands I have not been able to shake simply because we haven't met in the seven years that I have been a member of our chapter. I tried to envision why you aren't able to come for one reason or another but it certainly doesn't preclude us from wanting to hear from you. We are in an exciting time of trying to assist our national society in its efforts to reach out for new members in lots of ways. It is so important to add to our membership for many reasons but even more so to retain the members we have! Our chapter is ready to take responsibility for helping to lead the way toward more recognition of azaleas via ASA and to promote their use, address their ailments and generally help people learn more

about them.

I would be so very glad to hear from you via email, telephone or paper mail with some of your ideas that may aid us in our goals. We have established a Membership Committee, a Fundraising Committee, and a Hospitality Committee. A Tour & Fieldtrip Committee was formed to coordinate how we can visit gardens more out of this immediate area as well as to coordinate field trips with ARS members when feasible. There is a huge interest in visiting the gardens of our members farther to the south and southeast and that would include many of yours! Please call or email or otherwise contact these chairman with however you are able to help. You are valuable to us and we look forward to your ideas and suggestions. Larry Martin is chairing the Fundraising Committee. Lars Larson is chairing the Membership committee, Carolyn Beck chairs the Hospitality committee and Don Hyatt as chairman of the Tours and Field Trips.

If physical attendance is a problem, your thoughts and ideas are heartily welcome.

We have tentatively approved fundraising to include the Blandy Garden Fair at the Va. Arboretum out Rt. 50 past Upper-ville on Mother's Day weekend, very possibly manning a booth at the Va. Garden Week activities in Charlottesville April 18 and 19. They specifically invited us to come and sell plants but more importantly be available to tell attendees about ASA and have membership applications available along with 4" cuttings to sell at a tiny charge. There continues to be high interest in having our annual azalea auction, previously held at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax. You are all needed at any or all of these events. We have a core of folks who do an

awful lot of work but would sincerely welcome others to step in and take part, spreading our little core pond out by ripples to involve more people and more fun for future activities.

I welcome your phone calls and/or mail. I would be so thrilled to involve you in our upcoming plans--you know very well that you have talents we can all benefit from! Just call me or better yet, show up Feb. 7!!! There will be plenty of treats! Until then, I wish you all good health while you plan your next gardening project.

Eve

North Carolina Nurseries: A Chapter Field Trip –

Some members of the ARS and ASA are planning a joint field trip to North Carolina in March and everyone is encouraged to join the trip. They will be touring some nurseries in southern Virginia and North Carolina the weekend of **March 5 to 7.**

These trips are very informal. They select a date, a proposed itinerary, and a motel as a rendezvous point. People make their own reservations and travel arrangements. Feel free to join the group on any part of the trip or set your own itinerary.

Several of the places on the visit are primarily mail order nurseries and are not open to the public except a few times each year. That is why the first weekend in March was chosen

Don Hyatt can discuss details at the next ASA meeting. If you are interested in knowing more about the trip and would like updates on the itinerary, let Don Hyatt know so he can keep you informed.

From The Vice President—Rick Bauer

I hope all of you are managing to survive this cold weather. Like me, I'm sure you're ready for the spring and getting back into the garden.

Our next general membership meeting is on 7 February at the George Mason Library in Annandale. Our guest speaker will be Bill Johnson, a horticulturist from Hillwood Museum and Gardens. He will be giving the presentation "Hillwood Through the Seasons."

Bill Johnson has been at Hillwood Museum and Gardens for twenty-seven years. He is currently a staff horticulturist and volunteer coordinator. Bill began the volunteer program at Hillwood Museum & Gardens in 1993. The Hillwood volunteer staff has grown from nine to over 240. Bill currently manages the behind the scenes volunteers which is about half of the total group. He also organizes and oversees in-house training in a wide range of topics as well as recognition events for Hillwood's volunteers.

Fran Boninti, a chapter member from Charlottesville, is co-chair of Historic Garden Week in Charlottesville the week of 17-25 April. She says they have a beautiful rhododendron venue and feels fortunate that Jay Gillenwater and Bernie Tautkus have agreed to be open. Both have outstanding gardens and Jay has been going over the top, doing more to his property in preparation. Jay also has wonderful plants for sale - woody, annuals and perennials. There are five other gorgeous gardens open which have more azalea and rhododendron as well as the houses being open. More information is available from the web site below:

<http://www.vagardenweek.org/>

If anyone plans on coming down on Sunday they are welcome at her house. She'll have snacks; bathrooms available etc. and you can visit her gardens as well (she and her husband have 2 acres of gardens surrounded by deer fencing as well as the rest of the property with trails). Her husband Andrew will be happy to visit with members (since Fran is co-chair she will likely be busy ensuring everything runs smoothly

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES
YET?
IF NOT, SEE PAGE 4

December 6, 2009 Chapter Meeting

The annual winter meeting was held at the home of Norma Merritt in Ft. Washington, MD on the banks of the Potomac River. A large gathering of friends and family contributed many different kinds of food to share. We had a lovely time to chatting with friends, and a group even gathered around the piano to sing Christmas carols.

We also had a few items of business to attend to, including the election of officers for 2010. The following slate was elected:

Eve Harrison, President
Rick Bauer, Vice President
Phyllis Rittman, Treasurer
Leslie Nanney, Secretary

Phyllis Rittman reported the results from the plant sale at the national convention we hosted in May. Members voted to send \$1,000 to the ASA National Society for use in the general operating fund. We also voted to donate \$2,000 to the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to support an intern in the azalea collection.

The FONA Executive Director sent the chapter a nice note thanking us for our donation. Barbara Bullock also sent a personal note of appreciation for our support since she is now the only full-time gardener to care for the 35-40 acre azalea collection.

Leslie Nanney, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 5-7	ARS Plant Trip to NC Nurseries
March 14-17	ASA National Convention
April 11	NVASA Chapter Meeting
April 18-19	Garden Show in Charlottesville
May 1st or 2nd	Visit to Members' Gardens
May 7-9	Blandy Plant Sale
July 11	Chapter Azalea Cutting Exchange

Directions to George Mason Branch Library

The George Mason Branch Library is located at 7001 Little River Turnpike (Route 236) in Annandale, VA. It is on the south side of Little River Turnpike at the intersection of Hillbrook Dr. to the south and Evergreen Lane to the north — between the Capital Beltway, I-495, and the Shirley Highway, I-395.

- ◆ From the Beltway I-495: go east on Route 236 about 1.70 miles to Hillbrook; the library is on the right at the corner.
- ◆ From Shirley Hwy. I-395: go west about 2.75 miles to Hillbrook. Turn left to the library on the corner.

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* **AZALEA SOCIETY MEMEBERSHIP** *
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* Membership in the Society runs from January to December. The year your membership *
* expires appears on the top line of the address label for your Azalean issue. If the year 2009 ap- *
* pears on that line, your membership expires at the end of this year. Dues notices are mailed in *
* early November. You may refer to the recent (Fall 2009) issue of the Azalean for more informa- *
* tion on dues categories and directions on submitting your dues payment. *
*
* Please note– if your membership dues are not received by March 1st, your membership *
* will expire. *
*
* Thank you for renewing your membership via prepaid or life membership, but if you have *
* not renewed your membership, please send in your payment as soon as possible. Dan *
* Krabill is our ASA Treasurer. *
*
* His address is: *
*
* Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer *
*
* 6009 Copley Lane *
*
* McLean, VA 22101 *
*

The Azalea Clipper is published BI-monthly by the **Northern Virginia Chapter** of the **Azalea Society of America**. The officers of this Chapter are:

President	Eve Harrison
Vice President	Rick Bauer
Secretary	Leslie Nanney
Treasurer	Phyllis Rittman
Corresponding Secretary	Frances Louer

News items may be provided to **Frances Louer**,
15800 Palmer Lane, Haymarket, VA 20169-1808.