



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 31, Issue 2



## Native Azaleas, *Don Hyatt*; & ASA 2010 Convention, *Rick Bauer*; & Chapter By-Laws

This meeting will be held on April 11th, 1:30 PM at the Pohick Regional Library, Springfield, VA. Directions are on page four.

### PROGRAM

Don Hyatt will give a presentation on Native Azaleas. As you know, Don is a founding member of our chapter and spends lots of time seeking out the natives every year. His presentations are always very interesting and pictorial as well.

After his talk, Rick Bauer will give a short report on the ASA 2010 Convention recently held in New Orleans. The Virginia delegation had 19 representatives at the convention.

### CHAPTER BY-LAWS

An important business session will follow to discuss and pass on the revised by-laws for the chapter. The current by-laws, as we know them, are the originals for the chapter and have been revised, but the revisions have been lost somewhere in transitions. A new set has been prepared and approved by the executive committee, and now must be approved by the membership. Please be present for this important vote.

← Please check refreshment duty note on the left.

## From the President *Eve Harrison*

Dear Friends,

We returned Sunday night from the Azalea Society convention to discover green grass everywhere! What a shock since when we left for New Orleans 10 days earlier, the entire valley had the winter-dead look. I'm tentatively wishing you all a wonderful spring, hoping that with all of the emerging buds and blooms that we don't get an unwelcome frost! This seems awfully early for spring but...I'll take it!

This convention was my third consecutive one and with each one the bonds with members of other chapters just grow stronger in friendship. If there is any way those of you who haven't attended one can possibly try one, I think you'll be hooked on a variety of levels. Margie Jenkins, well known plantswoman, and of course Buddy Lee were extremely generous in giving all of us plants when we visited their nurseries on the tour. The Southern hospitality that we experienced was just astonishing from the restaurant waiters to hotel reservations

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Sunday, April  
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Library,  
Springfield,  
VA -  
Directions on  
page four -*

### Refreshment Duty—

For this meeting, the duty falls to those whose last names begin with the letters

L through Z

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to everyone connected with the tours. Bracy's Nursery on the North Shore of New Orleans gave us a grant tour of their operation and then treated us to a gargantuan lunch complete with fried catfish and shrimp, cooked in the wonderful outdoor kitchen of Regina and Doug Bracy. The meal was filled with many delicious accompaniments and later we toured their home garden where we had just dined around their swimming pool and poolhouse complete with a Southern Living type kitchen! What a grand experience!

While attending the first Board meeting in New Orleans Aaron informed us that we should have an active Membership Committee to come up with some ideas that will assist the chapters in obtaining new members and retaining old ones. Since our chapter has made a lot of progress in that area mainly due to our fundraising efforts and the celebratory cutting exchanges, plus our now public auction, I offered to serve on that committee. Somehow within minutes of me telling the Board some of our success stories, past national president John Brown, with a smooth turn of word slipped me into the role of Chairman! Not one to necessarily turn down a challenge, I helped round up several more energetic folks and we held our first meeting and laid out preliminary goals for the chapters which we presented at the final board meeting. Very exciting to see something materializing so quickly that should benefit everyone!

Bob and I came home via the outskirts of Atlanta where we made our way to a fabulous nursery, Wilkerson Mill Hydrangeas and then later to Marion, NC where we visited and picked up amazing deciduous azaleas

and an 'Augie Kerr' magnolia at the native plant nursery, Meadowbrook We-Du. Both ship great plants via the web so look them up and treat your garden to some of their fantastic offerings.

I encourage you all to attend the April 11 chapter meeting mentioned elsewhere mainly because it'll be our last meeting until the cutting exchange in July. At the meeting in April we will hold what we hope will be a twice yearly Plant Exchange at which interested (and who wouldn't be?) members will bring in any type of plant material to put in the "pool" and we'll all take turns choosing one plant at a time to correspond with the number of plants brought by each member. This will be entirely free and promises to be an exciting event, as everyone loves "free" plants. Bring anything from your garden such as companion plants for azaleas, of course azaleas, hostas, iris, etc.

Eve

## Note From The Vice President— *Rick Bauer*

*I* 2010 Convention in New Orleans. Just returned from the

Orleans. While the unusually cold winter resulted in almost a total lack of blooming azaleas, the beautiful weather and the hospitality shown by the Louisiana Chapter ensured we all had a good time. I particularly enjoyed meeting and talking to chapter members from different parts of Virginia who normally can't attend our chapter meetings because of the distance involved. The Northern Virginia chapter had the largest representation of any chapter at the convention with 18 members and spouses in attendance. Details of the convention will be in a future Azalean and highlights will be presented at the chapter meeting on 11 April.

On 7 March we held our chapter meeting at Pohick Library in Burke. Bill Johnson, a horticulturist at Hillwood gave us a presentation, "Hillwood through the Seasons". This presentation, originally scheduled for our snow cancelled February meeting, showed us the beauty of Hillwood gardens through all four seasons.

During the business portion of the meeting, members were provided copies of the 2010 schedule and the budget, which was approved by the Executive Committee in January. Additionally members voted to provide to the ASA, \$2000 from the profits of our successful 2009 convention. We also voted to purchase tents and supporting equipment to be used in chapter fund raising and other activities. Finally, we approved \$1000 to purchase azaleas to sell at the Blandly plant sale in May.

Our next meeting will be held 11 April at the Pohick Library in Burke. At that meeting, one of the major agenda items will be to vote on by-laws for the chapter. While by-laws were created when the chapter was formed in 1980 and revised in later years, there is no known record of these modifications or of a current official set of by-laws. As a result, a new set was created based on a template provided by the ASA national organization and an early version of the chapter's by-laws. This set was approved by the Executive Committee on 24 January for presentation to the general membership for approval. A copy of the proposed by-laws was sent to those members receiving the monthly Azalea Update. A copy will also be posted on the Northern Virginia Chapter website. Any member who desires a copy of the proposed by-laws and can't

access them through the previously mentioned sources, may contact Rick Bauer for a hard copy.

Additionally we will be discussing final plans for chapter participation at Garden Week in Charlottesville 18-19 April and for the plant sale at Blandy Arboretum 7-9 May.

Finally, we're trying to institute/reinstitute features of interest to our members. At the April 11th meeting we will be conducting a plant exchange. All members are asked to bring a plant or plants for exchange. The number of plants you bring will be the number of plants you can select from other members. We're hoping this will be a good opportunity for members to increase the number and variety of plants in their gardens.

I hope to see you on 11 April at Pohick Library.

Rick

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES  
YET?

IF NOT, SEE PAGE 4

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### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

April 18-19 Garden Show in  
Charlottesville

May 1st or 2nd Visit to Mem-  
bers' Gardens

May 7-9 Blandy Plant  
Sale

July 11 Chapter Azalea  
Cutting Exchange

## **March 7, 2010 Chapter Meeting, Lee McElvain, Acting Secretary**

Members assembled at the Pohick Regional Library in Springfield, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by President Eve Harrison. She explained that the Treasurer's report would have to be deferred due to illness of the Treasurer, but advised those in attendance that the Chapter Treasury has a balance of approximately \$22,000 and advised that a formal report probably will be available at the next meeting

Rick Bauer, the Vice President, was then asked to discuss other Chapter business. He presented for discussion, a full year schedule of chapter activities and explained that some adjustments may be required as the year progresses. The schedule, he noted, was developed to coordinate Chapter activities with the activities of other groups and events in which our members share an interest. By "deconflicting" our meeting and events and posting them far in advance, it is hoped that the general membership will note the dates on their calendars and be available to participate in more of the events planned for this Chapter.

Following that discussion Rick moved to the subject of the New By-Laws recommended by the Chapter's Executive Committee. He explained that the proposed By-Laws would be made available by Internet and that he would mail hard copies to anyone requesting them. It was pointed out that a principal reason for considering the New By-Laws is to create a known structure for the Chapter going forward, because no one seems to have a copy of the Old By-Laws, as amended,

previously. The provisions of the New By-Laws will be discussed and determined at the next regular meeting (which is scheduled for April 11, 2010),

Next, the Chapter's participation in the Virginia Garden Week at Charlottesville was discussed. Since this is an event to which the Chapter was specifically invited to participate, it was generally agreed that we should take part. No costs to the Chapter are expected for this event except that we must provide our supplies and equipment. Larry Martin, Chairman of the fundraising committee, said that several volunteers plan to participate, and any others wanting to do so should contact him. Some members have indicated a willingness to provide rooted cuttings to be sold or used for membership enhancement. Proceeds of sales would be deposited in our Chapter Treasury.

Rick introduced Bill Johnson, a veteran horticulturalist at The Hillwood Estate of Marjorie Merriweather Post in Washington, D.C. Mr Johnson's presentation of Hillwood made all of us want to visit its gardens during each season of the year. Although the gardens - like ours -- suffered some damage from the heavy snows this year, it is expected that, come spring, they will be beautiful and ready for visitors.

Mr. Johnson walked us through the gardens using beautiful pictures by seasons. He showed us Hillwood in winter (you had to be there to appreciate the masterful photography) the snow swept scenes were like being in a wonderland. Then he moved into the spring plantings as they were starting to emerge into warmer weather and the landscapes as we would see them now. Every season - winter, spring, summer and fall - offered by his photography was beautiful as he described

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