



The Azalea Clipper

Business Name

Volume 31, Issue 4



Thirty Years of Service by Northern Virginia Chapter

Annual Azalea Plant Auction



*Azalea Auction on
Sunday, September
12 at 1:00 P.M. at
the Merrifield
Nursery at
Gainesville, VA
Includes a Silent
Auction, Live Auction
and Set Price Plants
See page three
Directions on page
four -*

This Northern Virginia Azalea chapter was chartered 30 years ago in May 1980 with 12 founding members. Membership in the chapter increased to 37 members by the beginning of 1981. Of those 37 members, there are still 12 members with the chapter.

What service has the chapter performed for both new and old members over these years? The answer is that the chapter has been a great assistance to both old and new members.

This has been accomplished mainly through education and sharing of experiences. Most members knew little of the vast list of evergreen, deciduous, and native azaleas. Learning about the historical development of azalea hybrids and varieties, and the large numbers of hybridizers and the thousands of varieties that have been developed from the natural varieties is a real education. Every year we learn about taking cuttings, rooting them and growing plants. We have had education in hybridizing azaleas, and some members have taken up this hobby.

Much of this education has been derived from resident experts available within the chapter, but it has also come from sharing of knowledge and experiences by oth-

ers in hybridizing, starting and growing azaleas, and garden design. The chapter has maintained a speaker program which has brought in outside experts, many on the subjects of azaleas, diseases, insects, and companion plants

Members have had opportunities to expand their collections of plants (some members have gone overboard on this one) through exchanges of cuttings and plants. Through garden tours of other members in the area, they have been able to pick up ideas for design of their own gardens.

The Northern Virginia Chapter has supported and participated in four national Azalea Society conventions in the local area. These national conventions provide great opportunities for camaraderie with azalea growers nation wide.

In summary, this chapter has provided great opportunities for the members to improve their knowledge of azaleas, enter into the field of hybridization, acquire unusual plants, develop gardens, root and grow their own plants, and share their lives and experiences with others going through the same activities

Frances and Phil Louer

From the President *Eve Harrison*

Hi Everyone!

This is a really big issue of the Clipper as we recognize our 30th year as a chapter!!! The best part is that there is still good size group of the original members, though we don't get to see as many of them as we wish. Phil Louer and I got to talking about all those years and what it means to Frances and him and I asked him to put it down on paper to share with all of you.

We are so fortunate to have those founding members share their vast knowledge of azaleas. It has helped me incredibly to become a decent propagator and through the efforts of Don Hyatt, to become a little addicted to growing deciduous azaleas from seed! Guess all mothers miss that nurturing so this fills a neat little need for me to go checking to see who has sprouted and who needs food and miracle of all, who has budded for the first time!

In order to try to include more members into attending get-togethers, Rick has sent out a questionnaire seeking your interests and needs and I'd really encourage you to get some answers to him soon. We will be having an executive board meeting in the next few weeks and I sincerely hope we have your input as we try to decide and make decisions on if it's feasible to hold a regional meeting away from northern Virginia. Richmond's Ginter Botanical Gardens would seem a wonderful place to meet and tour as well as others south

of here. Such an experience would provide the members of this localized area to journey down by minivan and stay overnight, providing even more fellowship and exchange of how our gardens are doing.

Another point I want to address is how we should spend the money we have worked so hard to make for further advance knowledge and the delight of growing azaleas. There are lots of ideas out there and we value yours as well so again, please find time to answer Rick's short questionnaire so that we may move forward with plans for next year.

I've seen all the auction plants that will be available for you at the Merrifield Garden Center-Gainesville event Sept. 12. There are some wonderful plants and with the changes we've implemented to have an ongoing silent auction throughout the live auction plus more set-price plants, you should be able to leave with lots of terrific specimens. And don't forget to bring a dish for the huge hospitality table. We promise you an entertaining afternoon with wonderful friends, food and plants! And....it's free! Bring your friends!

See you soon,

Eve

**NEXT CHAPTER
MEETING IS ON
OCTOBER 17 AT THE
POHICK REGIONAL
LIBRARY, PLEASE
MARK THIS DATE.**

Clipper Editor Needed

Phil and Frances Louer have signaled that they must give up editing and publishing the Clipper. (See the article on page three.) This is the last issue they will publish.

The chapter is unable to express sufficient thanks to Phil and Frances Louer for their 30 years of dedication to putting out a newsletter aptly named The Clipper. I hope you'll each take time to thank them as you can.

Now is the time for a latent writer/editor to step forward to relieve them of this duty and make it your own! There is a lot of opportunity there to reprint articles of interest to gardeners as well as any new ideas for publication you may have.

Phil has graciously offered to share the mechanics of putting it together as well as sharing any old Clippers you may want to read. I'm sure it has evolved over time and researching the past issues seems a terrific idea.

It is important to our chapter to continue this long tradition as we go into the future of reaching younger people to nurture their gardening interests. Please contact Phil or Eve with your questions and comments.

Eve

Annual Azalea Plant Auction

GENERAL

The auction will consist of a live action, a silent auction, and a number of plants at a fixed price per plant. A list of plants that will be available is attached. The doors open at 1:00 PM and the silent auction will begin then. It will end at 2:15 PM, at which time the live auction will begin.

SILENT AUCTION GUIDLINES

You will be given a bid number card at the time you register. Your bid number is your identification during both the silent and the live auctions. A list of plants being offered will be provided. This handout will include item descriptions and indicate in which group each plant may be found (silent auction (S), live auction (L) or fixed price (FP).

The silent auction will be open from the beginning of the event until 2:15 pm. There will be an announcement made 5 minutes before the closing of the silent auction.

Each item will be labeled with a code letter and will be accompanied by a bid sheet. A minimum bid and a minimum bid increment will be indicated on the bid sheet. To place a bid, write in your bid in the form's bid column and beside it, in the bid number column, indicate your personal bid number. Please use only your bid number and not your name. We ask that you seek assistance if you find an invalid bid or make a mistake during bidding.

At the time of closing of the silent auction, the highest bidder will be declared the winner on each plant. After the closing, the bid sheets will be collected and the plants distributed to the winners by members of the Azalea Society. Payment in the form of cash or check will be collected by the cashier.

The Azalea Clipper

by Frances and Phil Louer

This Northern Virginia Chapter was chartered in 1980 with 37 members. Art Vance was elected president and he put out a newsletter in December 1980.

The Azalea Clipper name was adopted for the next newsletter in February 1981, with Frances as the editor. She did it on an electric typewriter, and mailed out copies with handwritten mail labels on the letters. A copy of this first Clipper is enclosed.

Frances continued publishing the Clipper by typewriter until about 1984 when we got our first computer with a word processor and a data file program. We had to develop a data file of the member's addresses so that we could then print labels for the letters.

It was about 1987 when Microsoft started their Windows Publisher program and we then adopted much the same format as you see today. We were able to import the data file we had into the new database capability. For many years, we had to maintain this membership address list in the Access database program for printing the mailing labels.

Maintaining the membership list by way of the database method is no longer needed. We have abandoned it in favor of the spreadsheet process as maintained by ASA National using the member lists provided by the National Treasurer.

As you can see, Frances is a founding member of the chapter and she has been at this for almost 30 years as Corresponding Secretary, which is a long time. We feel now that getting this letter out has become a burden to us along with the many other requirements we have at our age, along with the large property we have to maintain, so, we must give up this effort as of now. This will be the last Clipper we will publish. We just can't do as much as we used to.

Surely publishing this Clipper offers a great opportunity for someone to exercise his or her ingenuity in making the publication very useful and interesting. The process is well defined; all it takes is the desire and energy to make it go.

Please step forward and volunteer!

Directions to the Auction at Merrifield Nursery-Gainesville, VA

- ◆ Take I-66 from east or west, but get off at Exit 44—Prince William Parkway
- ◆ At the first traffic light –Balls Ford Road—turn right on to Balls Ford Road
- ◆ At the next traffic light—Wellington Road—turn left on to Wellington Road
- ◆ The Merrifield Nursery is on the left just past the 7-11 store .

IF COMING FROM THE MANASSAS AREA-

- ◆ Take Route 234 on Prince William Parkway north to the light at Balls Ford Road (just before coming to I-66)
- ◆ Turn left on to Balls Ford road and follow directions as above.

Refreshment Duty—

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

A through Z

This means everyone!

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