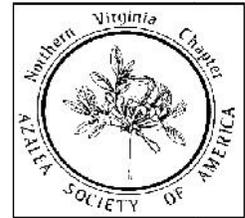


The Azalea Clipper

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

DECEMBER 5 **HOLIDAY SOCIAL**
HOME OF CAROLYN AND PAUL BECK

REFRESHMENT DUTY –
MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES
BEGIN WITH "A" THROUGH "Z"



While we don't buy azaleas for their fall foliage, it's a nice perk.

From The President

Reflections on a Four Year Tenure

The presidency in 2006: why me? I'd only been a member of NoVa's chapter (gift membership) for 3 years and knew next to nothing about azaleas other than how I adored their shimmering welcome to spring each year. We lived in WV, 85 miles from the location of where most meetings were taking place in NoVa but I naively and reluctantly agreed to try to do the job, primarily because in these people I felt a friendship from the very first meeting I attended that grew and grew each year. I just needed to be with these friends who knew so much and if it meant trying to do this arduous (I thought) job, I'd give it my best. I'd forgotten all I ever knew in 7th grade 4-H club of Roberts Rules of Order and felt a neophyte's unease for months and months. Gradually I realized my job was to come up with ideas that would encourage attendance to meetings and further, to grow the chapter.

So, facing the reality of the 2008 NoVa national convention with its demands for start up expenses, I began to encourage some new ideas. We tried a public auction held in August at a huge garden center and with amazing participation by the members, and found it to be quite successful on lots of levels. The one thing that makes these successful is having an auctioneer who hath no pride in his lack of knowledge of azaleas but who could cajole and tease the audience into bidding on the many plant varieties the members donated. Secondly, having a Don Hyatt to man an audiovisual show of each variety before a bid, coupled with his swelling, encouraging music and knowledgeable descriptions, is the complement to the auctioneer. Bring lots of savory and sweet food for everyone. Have a set price table and this year we instituted a successful silent auction.

Armed with that success we pressed on to take a

booth at a long established annual plant sale with excellent success. We had some excellent speakers during this time, Don Hyatt always delivering wonderful educational audiovisual talks on his many specialties, Bob McWhorter making us aware of a new dreaded critter who's steadily marching into Virginia. We had some springtime picnics and tours and lately re-instituted a plant exchange for spring and fall. The gift exchange is new but hopefully will provide even more camaraderie and social delight.

Along the way, but especially during the convention planning and execution, Frances and Phil Louer were rocks to me in their support and helpful advice. I will cherish always the daunting task that Phil took on and how proud I was of him stepping in for me to deliver the opening convention speech.

As for the future, even though others will take on the reins, as a member of the national membership committee, I hope some of the coming ideas might be considered by *our* chapter: at least one regional chapter meeting/tour of an area that members who live too far to attend our local meetings might attend; funding of educational endeavors that promote azalea knowledge and appreciation; a gathering of ASA/ARS regional chapters with a speaker of renown; a speaker locally in spring to educate those desiring to enter the hybridizing fray. So many ideas!

Personally, I will forever treasure the friendship and knowledge of Phil and Frances Louer, Don Voss and Jane Newman. Jane seemed to insist that I take home some red rhododendron and camellia cuttings last spring and I'm thrilled to say they're alive and planning new buds for

spring. I have to say I am most grateful to Joe Klimavicz and Bob Stewart for donating so many of their amazing hybrids to our many causes. I have separate beds for each one's hybrids and am always looking for their next offering. Thank you, gentlemen, for enriching my gardening life.

Here's the hard part: after a fascinating "run", as we used to say in the theatre, it ends for Bob and me as we pack our house and dig the best of plants to enter another phase of our lives. The siren of grandchildren has been calling for several years and now it just can't be ignored anymore. I lived in Charlotte and surrounding area for many years while the 3 boys grew so returning to that area feels possible and exciting. My lifelong friend, gardening mentor and surrogate mother, Barbara Alexander, has patiently waited for me to return after her long, again patient investment in me. We have found a lovely home on 5 secluded acres (mostly wooded) that already feels like a really stylish but comfortable shoe. There's a huge pond out front and the few neighbors pasture several horses in adjoining fields. No mountains but surely again, peace with nature and home for our plant friends and faithful 4 cats.

Lots of plant symposiums, seminars and semi-annual plant sales finally close by! We will remain faithful members of NoVa and fully plan to return for cutting exchanges and auctions. You, my friends, will forever be in our hearts, just not as visible as before.

Please come to the December meeting/party--I need lots more pictures of you!

Most affectionately,

Eve

Come and Get It!!

*Rod and Mary Hoioos have **Crepe Myrtle, red buds and Magnolia Grandiflora** for anyone who wants to come and dig them up.*

If you have any ...

4" pots to hold cuttings for future plant sales, and possibly trays to hold them, contact Carolyn Beck.

Do it NOW!!

***Dan Krabill** is waiting by his mailbox for your **ASA dues** which are due **NOW!** Put down this newsletter and mail your \$25 check to him at: 6009 Copely Lane, McLean, VA 22101*

Club Savings Time

If you would like to receive the clipper via email, saving the club printing and postage, and are not already, please send me a note

At our last meeting ...

on 17 October at the Pohick Library we had a good turnout of members to hear Rick Bauer give a presentation on Pete Vines' Holly Springs azaleas. The presentation covered a large number of the beautiful and diverse varieties of plants developed by Pete Vines. Pete used to be a resident of Northern Virginia before retiring to Florida and inspired other hybridizers in our chapter.

In addition to the presentation, we held a plant exchange. This has proven to be popular in the past and last month was no exception. These exchanges are a great opportunity for chapter members to share their azaleas and other varieties of plants with each other. (from Rick Bauer)

Gone But Not Forgotten...

I have no more Vines Catalogs left from the original printing. 3 people said they were interested. Anyone else who doesn't have one (sort of a mini-Galle written by Pete Vines) let me know and the club can discuss funding.

Heads Up On Dates:

Mar. 5-6 ARS plant trip to NC nurseries; Mar. 20 Chapter meeting (plant exchange?); Apr. 21-24 ASA Convention in Evansville, IN; May 11-15 ARS National Convention; May 14 Green Spring Plant Sale; July 10 Cutting Exchange; Sept. 11 Plant Auction; Oct. 23 Executive committee meeting

No Room Here For Discussion But...

the email list is very active with alarm about how Scott Aker, of the National Arboretum, is planning on spending money to kill acres of Ben Morrison's unnamed hybrids on Mt. Hamilton because they're too popular and he doesn't have money for more parking and toilets. Talking about who to complain to and what to say. Ask about it.

President: Eve Harrison	proposed: Rick Bauer
VP: Rick Bauer	proposed: Carolyn Beck
Secretary: Leslie Nanney	proposed: Mary Hoioos
Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman	proposed: Paul Beck
Corresponding Secretary, Clipper Editor: Barry Sperling	
Write-Ins Welcome	

And Finally:

*the Holiday Social on Sunday, 12/5/10 at 1:30 at the Beck's. **Bring a dish and RSVP to Carolyn what it is.** They'll provide beverages.*

*A **gift exchange** will be held for those interested. \$10 max, wrapped, garden related and appropriate for anyone. Participants will, in turn, choose a wrapped gift (no stealing).*

***Details:** 2963 Fort Lee St., Oak Hill, VA 20171*

***From the East:** I-66 west to Rt. 50 west, up the hill to just past Fair Oaks Mall to West Ox Rd. Go north about 3.8 mi to a right on Folkstone Dr., which is the next light after Franklin Farm Rd. Right on Fort Lee St. at the 2nd stop sign. House is the 3rd on the left down a long concrete paved drive.*

***Or, from the east:** Dulles Toll Rd/267 west to Reston Pkwy south, passing lights at South Lakes, Glade Ave., Fox Mill and Lawyers Rd. Left at light onto Folkstone Dr., and then as above.*

***From the west:** Rt. 66 east to Fairfax County Pkwy/ 7100 north. Cross Rt. 50 and pass several lights to right/east onto Franklin Farm Rd to the next light. Left onto West Ox Rd to the next light. Right onto Folkstone, and then as above.*

***From the south:** Fairfax County Pkwy and as above "From the west".*

No. VA Chapter, ASA
Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary
7732 Schelhorn Rd., Alex., VA 22306