



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 30, Issue 1



## Threat by the Asian Ambrosia Beetle, *Bob McWhorter*

We will hold our NVASA Chapter meeting on 25 January at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the very location where we will sponsor the 2009 ASA Convention in May of this year. This will allow us tour the facility and assist us as we finalize our plans.

The speaker for this meeting will be Bob McWhorter, who is currently president of the Potomac valley Chapter of the Rhododendron Society. He is also a member of the Ben Morrison chapter of the Azalea Society. He will present a talk on the Ambrosia Beetle, an emerging threat to azaleas, rhododendrons and other plants.

The goal of the presentation is to educate members about the potential damage this insect can do and what can be done to prevent it from destroying our prize plants. The presentation is based upon Bob's personal experience with the Granulated (Asian) Ambrosia Beetle, which is now pretty much established in Virginia and Maryland; and upon extensive on line research of website postings by all the major Universities and State departments of agriculture and the U.S. DNR Forest Service.

Bob is currently enrolled in a horticulture class at the Community College of Baltimore County in Integrated Pest Management. As the

AAB was covered in the class, he asked the instructor to review and comment on his presentation and the handouts. The instructor gave it an A+ and said it was better than anything he had seen from the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center staff. We can be confident that he is presenting current, practical and useful information on this pest, which is particularly fond of deciduous azaleas and many other plants found in ASA/ARS members gardens.

It should be a very useful presentation for all of our members

There will be a short business meeting for the chapter.

Refreshments will be available—please refer to the Refreshment Duty box to see if you need to bring something.



### POST SCRIPT TO SNOW STORM

*And the next morning, dozens of  
Deer hoof prints lead from  
One group of azaleas to the next.*

*Anonymous*

*Meeting on  
January 25th  
at the Crowne  
Plaza Hotel in  
Herndon, VA  
1:30 P.M.  
Directions on  
page four*

### Refreshment Duty—

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

A through J



# From the President

*Eve Harrison*

Hi Everybody!

Winter is usually a quiet, reflective time of year to browse catalogs, decide on new beds, plan what to winter prune and the like. It has hardly occurred to many of us at all since that time has been a flurry of mental and physical activity preparing for the coming convention. We've all been meeting, emailing and making list after list of things to do before the actual convention May 1-4.

I'm sure you've all gotten your copy of the long awaited Winter Azalean showing wonderful pictures of many of the tour gardens along with the packed schedule of events, speakers and tours. Jim Cotter did a wonderful job on the article and Phil Louer and Don Hyatt added a few finishing touches toward the deadline which rounded the whole event into a "I can't wait to go" status. Great work, guys!

Phil Louer has been an amazing Convention Chairman since he valiantly offered to "help". Never did I dream that his previous work experience entailed his being a Project Manager many time over. How fortunate for us as well as the entire ASA Convention Experience! The Convention Committee met at the new Merrifield Garden Center location at Gainesville, Va. for a meeting on Saturday Jan. 10 and were treated to a quick tour of their work in progress. (Bob Warhurst, the owner of the nursery, offered this facility to us at no cost for such meetings and did stop by to say hello.) What a truly magnificent state-of-the-art structure they have erected in their 37,000 sq. ft. greenhouse! We have put all Mer-

rifield locations on the Post Tour list of places to visit after the convention and attendees will be given special things from them in their tote bags along with a great discount coupon for the visit! Before I forget to tell you, Jay Jackson, a grower of deciduous azaleas from NC, will be bringing several hundred in qt. containers to sell at the plant sale. I know many of you are becoming more interested in the deciduous azaleas so this is great news for collectors as well as hybridizers!

I've spoken with two owner/managers recently of garden centers who expressed some economic concern over the spring season. They seemed cheered by my pronouncement that "gardeners have to dig!" when spring arrives. We are positive creatures of hope, and digging in the earth, giving life to new plants and shrubs gives us an energy that non-gardeners can only wish for. Maybe our new mantra should be "Become a Gardener"!

I really hope you all will meet us at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Jan. 25 for our chapter meeting and to tour the facilities we have reserved for the convention. The speaker will be timely as spring approaches and we learn of things to watch for and do regarding the Asian Ambrosia Beetle (see meeting agenda on page one.).

We have all sorts of opportunities for folks to be involved with making the convention experience run smoothly, from cashiers, plant runners, plant misters, salespeople, plant room preparation, to a whole scope of small but important jobs. Please come and make yourselves available on some level. We will have sign up sheets for duties and while we're there it will be great to be able to see the actual rooms

for all events, giving us the reality of what we have to work with.

Truly there are other things going on and I'm reminded daily to keep track of how much rain falls in order to keep up the spraying schedule for discouraging the deer from foraging on my azalea buds and aucubas. They are equally determined in winter as in other seasons because they don't have as much greenery to choose from right now. Hunting season has ended and they are arriving down from the mountains in great numbers to visit, of course, my garden!

See you on the 25th in Herndon. I promise we'll inspire you!

Eve

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## November 2008 Chapter Meeting

Don Hyatt gave a talk on "Propagating Azaleas and Rhododendron", covering both seeds and cuttings. He also gave a brief introduction into some other methods like grafting, layering, and tissue culture. His effort was to distinguish between how one might handle things differently when working with evergreen azaleas, deciduous azaleas, and rhododendrons although most of them are fairly similar.

Considering the time of year this talk was given, Don provided information on how to take dormant root cuttings during the winter, and he also talked about the "The Creel Way", Mike Creel's approach to rooting deciduous azaleas during the winter.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# ASA 2009 Convention Planning

Please remember that this chapter is sponsoring the Azalea Society of America (ASA) National Convention on May 1-3, 2009. The winter issue of the Azalean has been published and mailed to the members. You should have received your copy. You will find the narrative plans for the convention along with the registration form on the inside cover. Sam and Virginia Burd have accepted the job of recording registrations as they come in. Please take a moment and fill out the form, write your check, and get it in the mail. We have set March 15<sup>th</sup> as the deadline to get your registration fee paid before the penalty of \$15 is added on.

The convention planning committee is continuing to develop the final detailed plans for the conduct of the convention. We have now obtained a contract for two each 57 passenger buses to carry tour visitors.

A recent addition to our convention is the annual Potomac Valley Rhododendron Chapter Flower Show. The show will take place simultaneously with our convention in the hotel. We are still working on the details of how this will take place.

The Convention will open officially at 7:30 PM Friday evening (May 1, 2009). Prior to this, the Board meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. We have revised the registration time. It will begin at 1:00 PM so that the

board members can register before their meeting. We will probably start plant sales earlier than the announced time of 5:00 PM depending on how early we can set up and get underway.. Following welcoming announcements, there will be a brief slide preview of some of the gardens we will visit on Saturday and Sunday, followed by presentations by Tony Dove and Pete Vines.

A reminder that the tours on Saturday (May 2, 2009) include the gardens of Dan and Barbara Krabill, Don Hyatt, Joe and Brenda Klimavicz, Meadowlark Gardens, and Frances and Phil Louer. On Saturday evening there will be presentations by Clarence Towe and George McLellan.

Tours on Sunday include Bob and Betty Stewart, Leslie and Dave Nanney, Green Springs Garden Park, Dave and Sharon Raden, and Carolyn and Paul Beck. On Sunday evening, there will be a short, but very entertaining auction. The banquet will begin at 7:00 PM in the same room followed by our evening speakers, Rosalie Nachman and Don Hyatt. The ceremonies will conclude with the annual meeting.

The final plant sale will take place from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Monday morning. A Board meeting will also take place from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

The special hotel room rates are applicable for three nights before the convention and for three nights following the convention. For those who wish to arrive early and/or stay after the convention, we are putting together a list of the major attractions in the area including many gardens in the metropolitan area, and some of our local gardens will also be open for informal tours. David Nanney is also arranging a conducted tour of the Pentagon and its memorial for those who wish to partake. Information on these possibilities will be included in a letter you will receive confirming your registration. This information will also be posted on the in-depth 2009 ASA Convention web pages linked from the ASA Home page, and will be available during registration at the convention.

While have not scheduled a convention planning committee meeting after the upcoming January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will take advantage of the opportunity to get familiar with the hotel layout and adjust our meeting room plans if necessary.

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*(Continued from page 2)*

He discussed raising plants from seed in quite a bit of detail since that is something one typically does during the winter under lights. He talked about finding a source of seeds, which is part of the process, and some on hybridizing and how to make a cross.

He also interspersed photographs from his visit to Scotland last May. All of those in attendance agreed that Don once again provided an outstanding and very interesting talk.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 2200 Centreville Road in Herndon, VA. This is on the west side of Centreville Road just north of the Toll Road (VA 267) paralleling the Dulles Access Road.

From I-495 take Exit 45 (VA 267W Toll Road). Exit the Toll Road at Exit 10 (Herndon/Chantilly). Make right of exit onto Centreville Road and the hotel is on the left.

From I-66, Take either the Fairfax County Parkway towards Herndon, or Route 28 towards Dulles Airport to The Toll Road (VA 267).

From the Parkway, go west to the Exit 10 and exit right to the hotel on the left.

From Route 28, take the toll road east to exit 10 and exit left to the hotel on the left.

To avoid paying toll, please refer to maps and/or GPS devices to find other ways to get to Centreville Road in Herndon.

**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:** Rosie Field  
**Treasurer:** David Nanney  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Frances Louer

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