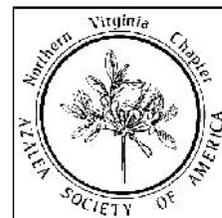


The Azalea Clipper

Volume 34 Issue 1, March 2013

Published 1980-2010 by Frances and Phil Louer

Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**MARCH 10 1:00 – 5:00
CENTREVILLE LIBRARY**

**Searching for the
5/5/5 Rhododendron**

Norm Beaudry

Plant Exchange

Refreshments:

A – K

**Details: below right
and on p. 6**



Glenn Dales are the signature azaleas of the Washington spring and ASA Treasurer Dan Krabill is a nationally recognized expert on that group.

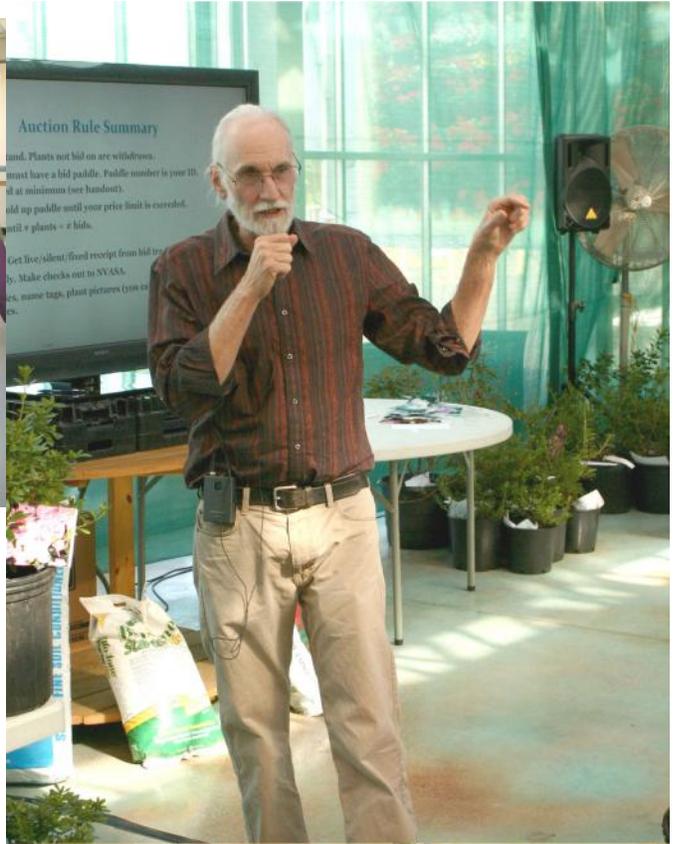


Don Hyatt chats with the late Bob Hobbs at a Northern VA Chapter Meeting. Read an appreciation of Bob's work contributed by Harold Belcher and Don Voss starting on p. 4.

The **March meeting** of the **Northern Virginia Chapter** will be held as a joint session with the **Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS**.

Separate chapter business meetings and a plant exchange for attendees will be held. **Norm Beaudry**, chair of the ARS Seed Exchange Committee, will provide a presentation on **Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron**, that is, searching for the rhododendron with excellent flowers, leaves and plant habit. Norm will review some of the hybrid rhododendrons by **Bob Furman** on Cape Cod and as well as the hybrids of **Delbert Brim** in North Carolina and **Eveline Pilkington** on Cape Cod. He will also mention the rhododendrons of **Jim Barlup** and **Frank Fujioka**, both in Washington State, and **Jens Birck** in Denmark, that he is using in his personal hybridizing program in Bethesda, Maryland. **Norm** and his wife **Jean** received the ARS Silver Medal in 2009 in Everett, Washington. They have been active members of the ARS since 1975.

Lars Larson, VP



Above: **Rick Bauer** goes into detail about the Legacy Project and the hybrids of Sandra McDonald at the November meeting.

upper right: **Bob Harrison** gives a rapid-fire, professional performance as our auctioneer in October.

right: The hard work behind the scenes with **Carolyn Beck, Rick Bauer and Sam Burd.**

bottom right: live auction scene

below: **Lee and Carol McElvain** add to their collection.



President's Message

Once again we are starting a new year of chapter activities. I hope that all of our members enjoyed a happy holiday season and are looking forward to the coming year. I certainly am. Every warm spell makes me want to go plant, until another cold snap brings me back to my senses. The way things are going, I expect we'll have an early spring.

I'm excited about the program we have for this year. A calendar of all of our planned events is included in this Clipper. Our first activity, on March 10th, will be a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) with Norm Beaudry as our speaker. I think this is a great opportunity to hear an excellent presentation, and also to meet with other like-minded plant enthusiasts. I also think it is beneficial to all of us to collaborate with other plant societies. It enables us to spread our resources farther. In a similar vein, the chapter will be voting on whether to participate with three chapters of the ARS to co-sponsor a joint ASA/ARS convention in Norfolk in 2016. I hope you will support this with your vote and volunteer to assist in putting on the convention.

Speaking of conventions, the 2013 ASA convention is being held in Athens, Georgia this year. Information on the convention is in the latest copy of **The Azalean** as well as on the ASA website. The annual conventions are a great opportunity to link up with old (and make new) friends, to see different parts of the country and to visit beautiful gardens and nurseries, all at a reasonable price. I highly recommend that you check out the information

and consider attending the convention 18-21 April.

Two years ago we offered tours of gardens in Charlottesville. That trip was very successful. This year we're offering a visit to gardens in Richmond in April or May. As of now we have the gardens of Elizabeth Cosby and Landon Davis on the schedule as well as visits to Lewis Ginter Garden, Maymont or the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. A decision on date will occur later to try and hit the peak blooming season. Members are encouraged to visit our website for late breaking information on this activity as well as all of our activities. And while I'm mentioning the website, Paul Beck is currently redesigning our website to make it more useful in supporting the chapter and our programs. Enhancements will appear later this year.

As I've mentioned in previous correspondence, the chapter has started a project called "The Legacy Project" to highlight the work of our azalea hybridizers. The purpose of this project is "to help ensure the continuation of knowledge of these azalea hybridizers and their plants and maintain true specimens of their cultivars." Currently we have teams working on the azaleas of Sandra McDonald, Bob Stewart and Pete Vines. If you are interested in starting a team for another hybridizer, or working on an existing team, just contact me and I'll point you in the right direction.

I look forward to seeing you at our chapter meeting on March 10th.

Rick Bauer

In Remembrance of Robert Wesley (Bob) Hobbs, PhD

by **Harold Belcher**

I've known Bob since 1966 when he and Mary Ann moved next door to me. I knew that Bob was interested in music and pipe organs in particular. Bob wanted to build a structure in their backyard to house a large pipe organ. My parents gave Bob and Mary Ann a variance to allow them to build the structure and I helped Bob with some of the construction. I enjoyed working with him on the organ house in his backyard and helped move the large (two stories) pipe organ into the structure. It was a work of art and reminded me of the pipe organ in Captain Nemo's submarine the Nautilus in *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*. When we were finished, I remember asking Bob if bats would fly out when he played. Bob replied with a smile, "I hope not but we'll see". I enjoyed hearing him play the organ in the evenings, however, I never saw any bats fly out when he played.



I knew that Bob was an astronomer. We talked about astronomy and about the comet Kohoutek, circa 1973, and space research.

Bob worked at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) before moving on to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. When I worked at NRL, after Bob had moved to Goddard, I discovered that we both had worked with some of the same scientists. That made for some interesting conversations and reminiscence.

Bob and Mary Ann separated and I only saw Bob a few times when he visited his children. Although I lost track of him for many years when he moved to North Beach, Maryland, I fondly remembered his friendship, humor and intellect while he was my neighbor. I was fortunate to be able to rekindle that friendship with Bob and meet his wife Belinda (Bee) Hobbs. Their friendship prompted me to join the Ben Morrison Chapter about a year or so prior to our 2004 Convention in Bowie, MD.

Pat and I often visited Bob and Bee at their home in North Beach, to enjoy their company and take cuttings of their azaleas. We took Bob and Bee to Glen Echo to see the historic Dentzel carousel and the Wurlitzer pipe organ which is still there from 1921 when it first opened in the twelve sided building at Glen Echo Park. On another visit we had a picnic lunch and enjoyed Bee's excellent chocolate chip cookies. We enjoyed those trips, and their company, immensely.

When Bob asked me to step up as President of the Chapter, I readily agreed on the condition that he would serve as my Vice President. Over the four years that I served as President of our Chapter, from July 2005 until July 2008, Bob was my Vice President. Afterward he provided valuable support by helping me secure speakers for our meetings, providing counsel and listening to my ideas. I couldn't have done what I did without his (and Bee's) help. His contacts within the Azalea Society of America and from his many years in the community provided invaluable assistance in obtaining speakers for our meetings.

Bob has provided his help and support for our Chapter for over 30 years since it was formed in 1980. On June 11, 2012, the Ben Morrison Chapter presented Bob and Bee Hobbs with the Hobbs Award of Merit. The Hobbs Award of Merit says in part: "There being no better representation of the friendship, good humor, love for azaleas and enthusiastic support of its activities, the Ben Morrison Chapter, as an expression of its respect, admiration, and affection, hereby establish and confer upon Robert and Belinda Hobbs its first Hobbs Award of Merit." The award was presented by Jim Duffy, our Chapter President.

Harold later sent me a lot more material. Though space does not permit most of it I abstracted:

Bob served as president of the BMC (from 1986 to 1987), **national vice-president** (from 1987 to 1980 and **president of the ASA** (from 1988 to 1990). Bob and Bee Hobbs are life members of the ASA. Bob and Bee were active members of the 1992 Annual ASA Convention & Meeting planning committee and they received the **ASA's Distinguished Achievement Award** in that year. In 1999, Bob Hobbs received the **ASA Exceptional Service Award**.

Additional notes from **Don Voss**

From 1989 to 1999, the **Bob and Bee Hobbs Azalean team** not only produced a high-quality publication but did so in a manner that held down production costs. At first, savings were realized by changing the printer and using a part-time typesetter and layout specialist. These savings helped to make possible a major innovation: the introduction of color photographs, at first on the cover and later in the articles. To take advantage of bulk-mailing postal rates, Bob and Bee sorted the printed copies by ZIP code and mailed them. In the mid-1990s, they took over the typesetting and layout work—a further saving for the ASA, but an added burden for them. Those who reviewed copy prior to publication found few corrections necessary. Bob was an excellent editor: from the details of spelling, punctuation, and grammar to broader issues of presentation, there was little for reviewers to do besides reading and enjoying the articles. Members who enjoyed *The Azalean* during the years of the Hobbs' editorship received a bigger and better journal than would have been possible without the dedication and generous contribution of time and effort by Bob and Bee.

The annual December **Holiday Party** was hosted by **Barbara and Robert Randall** at their fine home in Fredericksburg, VA which was packed with 33 members, guests and massive amounts of food. After people had stuffed themselves and visited each other president **Rick Bauer** presided over a meeting with a full agenda. Among the items discussed, sometimes extensively, were: a spring garden tour of Richmond, **Paul Beck's** treasurer's report (including a summary of the successful year's sales and a budget for 2013), a new website for the chapter, support for the rapidly developing Legacy Project (both online and additional member's efforts), targets for donations (the Friends Of the National Arboretum, the Margaret White Garden and Green Spring Gardens Park) and a discussion of our potential co-sponsorship in the 2016 convention.

Officers for the coming year were elected: continuing President **Rick Bauer**, new VP **Lars Larson**, continuing Treasure **Paul Beck** and new Secretary **Susan Bauer**. Thanks were extended by all to outgoing VP **Carolyn Beck** and Secretary **Mary Hoioos** (who contributed to this report).

Suggestions For the Plant Exchange

Please bring a few of your favorite plants to share if you would like to participate in the plant exchange. Along with each plant, please provide a description and your name so the recipient can get back with you if there are any questions. Pictures are always beneficial. Pots should be clean and the soil only damp.

Directions To The March Meeting

Centreville Regional Library 14200 St. Germaine Dr., Centreville 703-830-2223

Traveling WEST on Rt. 66 from east of Centreville, proceed past Exits 53A and 53B, marked "Centreville," taking Exit 52. Come down the Exit 52 ramp, and get in the left turn lane. Left at light onto Rt. 29. Go under Rt. 66 and turn Right at 2nd light: Machen Rd. Library at intersection with St. Germaine.

Traveling EAST on Rt. 66 take Exit 52 and stay right. Turn on "Rt. 29 North" and proceed as above.

From FAIRFAX, take Rt. 29 South about 6 mi and at Centreville, past Rt. 28, turn Left at Machen Rd., then to intersection with St. Germaine.

From MANASSAS, take Rt. 28 North and turn left at Machen Rd., then as above.

From CHANTILLY, right on Rt. 29, left on Machen Rd., then as above.

2013

March 1-3 Plant Shopping Trip, PVARs & NvAsA, North Carolina

March 10 Joint Meeting at Centreville Lib

April 18-21 ASA National Convention, Athens, GA

April/May TBD Richmond Gardens Tour

May 1-5 ARS National Convention, WA

May 18 Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale

July 14 Cutting Exchange

October 13 Auction

November 17 Meeting with speaker

December 8 Holiday Social

President:	Rick Bauer
Vice President:	Carolyn Beck
Secretary:	Mary Hoioos
Treasurer:	Paul Beck
Corresponding Secretary and Clipper Editor:	Barry Sperling