



The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 30, Issue 5



Holiday Social Observance, Membership

December 2009

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*Meeting on
December 6th—
Holiday Social,
1:00 to 4:00 at
Norma
Merritt's Home
in Fort
Washington,
MD
Directions on
page four*

On **December 6th** we will have a special meeting in the spirit of the approaching holidays. The main event will be “socializing with each other”, as we often do (sometimes extendedly) prior to our regular meetings.

There will be a short business meeting, as Eve Harrison has some urgent business to get done, including election of officers for the coming year. See her article on page two for more information. Then we will have refreshments (see below).

The meeting will be at the home of Norma Merritt at 12211 Riverview Road in Fort Washington MD. Directions to her home are on page 3. We appreciate greatly Norma offering her home for this event.

Remember, this is an informal gathering and exchange of information among us all. Don't be bashful about bringing pictures, articles, or anything about your gardens or your gardening experiences. Maybe we all can learn from each other and end up by having greater success in our future gardening activities.

For refreshments, we are asking each one to bring a dish to celebrate the holidays for a potluck meal. Bring hot or cold foods, salads, and deserts. Coffee and tea will be provided.

From the President *Eve Harrison*

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

I hope you received this sometime around Thanksgiving-- hopefully before. Those of you who have email will have received VP Rick Bauer's informative November letter but if you didn't please email him at [Rick Bauer@cox.net](mailto:RickBauer@cox.net) with a current email address.

As I mentioned last month, we are working feverishly on getting a proposed budget, a schedule for 2010, and how we want to donate some of our convention proceeds. A committee will convene in January to hold these discussions and will report its findings to the general membership at a proposed February meeting TBA. Anyone who has other comments or ideas to add to these items may address them to either Rick or me via email or telephone.

(Continued on page 2)

From The Vice President—*Rick Bauer*

Well I'm a little late getting my message out this month. I spent the last weekend cleaning up from Ida. Our place in Yorktown is on the water...and though nothing got into the house, the rain softened the ground and wind pushed over some trees and damaged some of our lawn equipment, so I had a little bit of a cleanup to deal with.

Our last meeting was held at the Pohick Regional Library on November 1st. Joe Guterrez, one of our chapter members, gave an interesting talk on Bonsai Azaleas. His talk was very informative and garnered a lot of interest from the members in attendance based on the number of questions he received. He also brought a number of examples of azaleas which he has trained. While it takes a lot of patience and a good eye for deciding which branches to retain and control, the results can be very beautiful.

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 6th.

Rick

November 1, 2009 Chapter Meeting

At the meeting on November 1, the chapter hosted Dr. Joe Gutierrez, a long-time member of our chapter and an avid bonsai enthusiast. Joe described some of the history of bonsai, as well as the techniques he uses to achieve the graceful forms so unique to this ancient art. He demonstrated these with azaleas, showing how he prunes the plants and then wires the branches to train them in the desired direction.

He brought seven azaleas, of different varieties, sizes and ages, along with a photo history of each plant to show its shape when he originally got it, and the stages of shaping that resulted in the current appearance. His excellent presentation lured some of his audience to consider trying to create bonsai of their own.

(Notes by Leslie Nanney)

EXCERPTS FROM THE THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to our beneficent Father, who dwelleth in the Heavens, and I recommend to them, that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the divine purpose, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this, the 3d day of October, in the year of our Lord, 1863, and of the Independence of the United States, the eighty-eighth.

By the President:
A. LINCOLN
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

* **AZALEA SOCIETY MEMEBERSHIP** *
* Membership in the Society runs from Janu- *
* ary to December. The year your membership *
* expires appears on the top line of the address *
* label for your Azalean issue. If the year 2009 *
* appears on that line, your membership expires *
* at the end of this year. Dues notices are mailed *
* in early November. You may refer to the recent *
* (Fall 2009) issue of the Azalean for more infor- *
* mation on dues categories and directions on *
* submitting your dues payment. *
* **Thank you for renewing your member-** *
* **ship via prepaid or life membership, but if** *
* **you have not renewed your membership,** *
* **please send in your payment as soon as pos-** *
* **sible. Dan Krabill is our ASA Treasurer.** *
* His address is: *
* Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer *
* 6009 Copley Lane *
* McLean, VA 22101 *
* Phone: 703-534-7441 *

Directions to Norma Merritt's Home

- ◆ Take Capital Beltway south of Alexandria to cross the Potomac River on Woodrow Wilson Bridge.
- ◆ Immediately after crossing the river, turn right on the Indian Head Highway.
- ◆ After 4.1 miles (fifth traffic light), turn right on Fort Washington Road for 0.8 miles.
- ◆ Turn right on Riverview Road and bear left after 0.9 miles.
- ◆ Proceed on Riverview Road parallel to the river for another 0.9 miles.
- ◆ Turn right on the dirt road at mailboxes for 0.2 miles to Merritt home on the right at river's edge.
- ◆ The address is 12211 Riverview Road. Phone 301-292-3233 if lost and need help.

The Azalea Clipper is published BI-monthly by the **Northern Virginia Chapter** of the **Azalea Society of America**. The officers of this Chapter are:

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