



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 29, Issue 4



## Annual Chapter Azalea Plant Auction, Chapter Membership

### August 2008

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Please note, this meeting is being held at the Merrifield Garden Center at Fair Oaks. It is on Lee Highway just west of Fairfax City. Directions are on page four.

Our plant auction provides an excellent opportunity to expand your collection of azaleas at very modest prices. It is a particularly good opportunity for those new to growing azaleas, and also for those who may have only a few varieties.

This meeting is open to the public for purchasing the azaleas we will have for sale and auction. So bring guests and any friends who want to acquire more plants.

If you want to contribute several of your own plants, particularly new or unusual varieties that others may not know or have, please follow the **guidelines shown on page three**. You need to decide what you will bring by **August 15th** so that Rosie

Field can assemble lists from all contributors and prepare the auction sheet for attendees. Please provide your list to Rosie by the 15th. These procedures will help ease the overall auction process.

Don't miss this great opportunity.

Please note President Eve's note about having extra refreshments available. So, see below, everyone has a

#### Refreshment Duty—

For this meeting, everyone is asked to bring something.

*August 24th--  
Chapter  
Azalea Plant  
Auction,  
1:30 P M at  
Merrifield  
Garden Center  
(Fairfax)  
Directions on  
page four*

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING IS ON SEPTEMBER 28TH AT THE GEORGE MASON LIBRARY IN ANNANDALE PLEASE MARK THIS DATE. PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

# From the President

*Eve Harrison*

We were delighted to have so many members attend the cutting exchange here on the ridge last month, despite the cooking temperatures. As predicted, tons of delicious food magically appeared from coolers, along with Lee and Carole McIlvain's out-of-this-world homemade ice cream and toppings. Lee volunteered again to help grill chicken and turned out his usual expert fare. Thanks to Susan Bauer's kitchen expertise, things seemed to get organized quickly and after a tour up and down the hills and into the woods, we enjoyed a terrific comradly lunch.

Larry Martin's propagating techniques were cheerfully shared and I made a few adjustments to the varieties that I "stuck" this year to see if my percentage of success would improve. Adding more light was crucial and keeping the cuttings soaked in between sticking the varieties certainly had to have made a difference in their going-in hydration. Stay tuned. Larry's cuttings are simply amazing and if you've never heard his advice, feel free to email him because he generously shares his techniques.

Things seem to be buzzing around the email as I read that folks are indeed sending Rosie Field their plant names and the number of plants they will be donating to our auction at Merrifield Gar-

den Center-Fairfax Aug. 24. It was quite a production last year and just watching and listening to Don Hyatt's expert descriptions and Bob Harrison's hilarious auctioneering make the trip worth while, not to mention being able to obtain unusual, if not rare hybrids from so many member donors. Please come and join us--you'll be so glad you did and most of you do live in that general area so 12101 Lee Highway is just not that far! Of course, the members will be bringing yet more dishes to share with each other and attendees invited to join in the bidding. It's truly a wonderful, friendly experience that you get to take home with you as well!

Please be sure to bring any pictures of your donations if you happen to have any, to set beside the plants. Otherwise, Don will do his best to find pictures that he can use in his digital production, accompanied by gorgeous music. There should be no "mysery" plants since so much research goes into making these attractive for bidding.

Aside from chapter "doings", I'd like to ask a couple of favors of the membership in general. The first would be to solicit ideas from you about subjects you would be interested in hearing. We've covered many facets of azaleas in the six years I have been a member but I'm sure those of you we don't hear from probably have some suggestions for other discussions. Please feel free to offer them via email or regular mail to anyone. I just noticed that my email address

somehow is wrong in the roster so take note that it is [Bobnpvine@wildblue.net](mailto:Bobnpvine@wildblue.net).

The other favor is to ask if you would be willing to share with me what we could do to entice you to a meeting. I see that so many of you have Vienna, Alexandria, McLean, etc., etc. addresses so I wouldn't think that distance could be as great a factor as it might be for us (we live nearly 100 miles down in the Shenandoah Valley). Obviously, our years of making good friends with common interests are enough to draw us from so far away every couple of months. We have been fortunate to welcome several new members into the chapter this year and they will readily tell you how welcome they're made to feel so I'd love to see as many of you as possible, come and see what we're about! With the convention looming, there will be as much or as little as you might want to be involved in. It reminds me so much of the time I directed a children's musical--many things happening and the emails and meetings breed a anticipatory sense of excitement!

With that, I'm heading out to spray against a new herd of deer who certainly altered my spring blooms last night!!!

See you the 24th.

Eve

## Notes from the Vice President, *Rick Bauer*

We have a couple of events scheduled for the upcoming months. The first is our second annual public plant auction at the Merrifield Garden Center on 24 August. Our auction last year was a lot of fun and made over \$1800 which helped us build a good financial cushion as we approach the 2009 convention. Many of our members are providing (or at least babysitting) the plants, which will be auctioned. **If you are one of those members, please see the Guideline box below.** This allows Bob and Don to do the necessary preparation for the auction (I know Don finds pictures of all of the plants in bloom...I guess Bob exercises his vocal cords practicing the pronunciation of each plant name as he does an excellent job running the auction!). Since this event is open to the public, **all members are asked to bring refreshments to share. If you are able to assist in setting up or tearing down, please get back with me.**

We also have a Chapter meeting scheduled for 28 September at the George Mason Li-

brary. Mark the date on your calendar. Additional information will be provided later.

Those of us who were able to attend the cutting exchange on 13 July at Bob and Eve Harrison's house enjoyed great food, a beautiful day in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and great camaraderie. It is very hard to believe that Bob and Eve's property was once a hog farm. They have done a lot of work with the farm and it shows. I have included a few pictures from the event to show what I'm talking about. We had a great turnout and the weather cooperated until late afternoon when the skies opened up. Fortunately we had completed all of the outdoor activities, including the cutting exchange, and were able to bring the tents down before Mother Nature opened up. Larry Martin did an excellent job instructing us on the best way to start cuttings. I've never yet had the success that he has, but I'm hoping to do better. We were also able to have a short business meeting to resolve some additional issues for the convention. I'd like to thank Bob and Eve Harrison for opening up their house to the Chapter for this event.

## ASA Convention for 2009

**P**lease keep in mind that **we** are sponsoring the ASA National Convention in 2009. The location is the Crown Plaza Hotel in Herndon, VA, and the date is **May 1-3, 2009.**

The planning committee has a confirmed slate of speakers and a group of garden tours. The speakers will be Tony Dove, Pete Vines, Clarence Towe, George McLellan, Rosalie Nachman, and Don Hyatt.

Garden tours include Dan Krabill, Joe Klimavicz, Don Hyatt, Frances Louer, Dave and Leslie Nanney, Carolyn Beck, and Dave and Sharon Raden. We expect also to stop at Meadowlark Gardens, and Greenspring Farm Park.

We have settled on the costs for the convention. Registration fee will be \$40 and the tours will be \$42 each day. The full announcement article including the details on the speakers and tours is in preparation with a deadline of September. This is necessary for the article to appear in the winter issue of the *Azalean*.

After this we will begin to establish tasks and schedules leading up to the date of the convention. Here is where we will need volunteer help from every one to be involved. It is now only eight months away, so please set aside the above dates and be prepared to offer your services whenever the need arises. We want our visiting guests to find this a rewarding experience.

*Phil Louer,  
Convention Chair*

## Guidelines for Plant Contributions to Auction

**For all members who are bringing plants to the auction,** contact Rosie Field by email at [rmfield@cox.net](mailto:rmfield@cox.net) with a list of the number of plants you will bring. If you do not have email, print your list and mail it to Rosie at 4426 Roundhill Road, Alexandria, VA 22310. Her Phone is 703-922-6362. **The deadline to provide your list is August 15th. This is necessary for Rosie to get the auction papers ready.**

She will assign you a block of numbers that corresponds to the number of plants you will be bringing. Then tag or use white grease pencil and assign one of your numbers to each specific plant.

After you have done that email Rosie [rmfield@cox.net](mailto:rmfield@cox.net) with your list with plant number and plant name. A brief description will also be helpful since this list will be printed up for all the participants to browse during the auction.

## Directions to Merrifield Nursery & Garden Center

The Fair Oaks Merrifield Garden Center is located at 12101 Lee Highway, (Route 29/211) about 2 miles west of Fairfax City and about 1/2 mile east of the Fairfax County Parkway intersection..

### From I66

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) South (Exit 55) from I66
- Take the Lee Highway Exit (Route 29)
- At the overpass, go straight through the first traffic light so that you can turn left at the next light to get onto Lee Highway (Route 29 North)
- You will merge onto Lee Highway and Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right

### From Alexandria, Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station

- Take the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 7100) North
- Exit at Lee Highway (Route 29) and turn right at the bottom of the ramp (Route 29 North)
- Merrifield Garden Center is located 1/2 mile down on the right



**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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