



The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 29, Issue 6



Propagating Azaleas and Rhododendrons, *Don Hyatt*

Our speaker this month will be Don Hyatt, a member of our own chapter. The emphasis will be on seeds and cuttings, as well as a brief introduction into some other methods like grafting, layering, and tissue culture. He will be attempting to distinguish differences when working with evergreen azaleas, deciduous azaleas, and rhododendrons although most of them are fairly similar.

Considering the time of year this talk is being given, Don plans to include information on how to root dormant cuttings during the winter. This will also include some information on "The Creel Way", Mike Creel's approach to rooting deciduous azaleas during the winter.

Raising plants from seed will be presented in quite a bit of detail since that is something one typically does during the winter under lights. Finding a source of seeds is part of that process, so Don will say a bit on hybridizing and how to make a cross.

There will be a business meeting for the chapter and also for the 2009 Convention committee members.

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



From the President *Eve Harrison*

Dear Friends:

Gloriously I can announce we finally got refreshing, replenishing rainfall Saturday giving relief to nearly a month of wind and dry conditions! We can now begin to plant and transplant and I hope you all are doing the same. Many years ago I learned to apply Superphosphate in October and March to hydrangeas and rhododendrons that weren't blooming well, generally due to possibility of acid tying up the phosphorous in the soil so that the roots couldn't access it to produce blooms. Now that the soil has moisture again, it's a perfect time to give a boost of Holly Tone and/or Superphosphate to individual plants.

Since we last met a Membership Committee and a Hospitality Committee have been formed for obvious reasons. We were asked at the ASA convention last May to appoint

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*Meeting on
November 16th
at the George
Mason District
Library in
Annandale, 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-

Q through Z



September 2008 Chapter Meeting

The guest speaker was Mr. Amol Kaikini from Fairfax County's Master Gardener program (<http://fairfaxmastergardeners.org>). His subject was Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which uses preventive cultural practices and natural pest controls to control pests. People tend to focus on fertilizing and not enough on protecting soil.

There are a few things to note about IPM:

- ◆ A certain volume of pest level is acceptable. For some growers, there is no acceptable pest level so IPM would not work for them.
- ◆ In using preventive gardening practices, the focus is control, not eradication.
- ◆ IPM uses monitoring so that you know when the pests arrive and if beneficial insects are present. This monitoring is a cornerstone of IPM.
- ◆ Mechanical methods of removing pests are used before biological methods. Mechanical methods include hand-picking, barriers, traps, and even vacuuming (used by dairy farmers).
- ◆ Biological methods are used before chemical methods. Biological includes beneficial insects. One source named was Gardens Alive (<http://www.GardensAlive.com>).
- ◆ Chemical controls are used last. The chemicals are natural but remember that they are still dangerous.

Under the category of preventive cultural practices, using compost is promoted. It seems to be difficult to have enough com-

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Membership Committees to begin implementing ideas that will attract new members to our individual chapters. Through emails there have already been some very good ideas put forth which will be shared with you at the Nov. 16 meeting. Certainly we are open to any ideas from folks who are unable to attend regular meetings so don't be shy about phoning or emailing any of us with your thoughts.

We found ourselves sans THE hot water pot for coffee and tea months ago and I noticed a dirth of "supplies" that were needed to accompany the many delicious dishes that various members bring to each meeting. So, we now have a pot and are being supplied with napkins, cups, etc. on a regular basis. The gardening conversations that takes place before meetings have become increasingly well attended due in part, I think to the variety and amount of dishes brought and shared. Excellent!

As the vegetable garden has finally given forth all it had for the freezer or canning jars, I can turn my attention to other matters but as I was gathering exhausted squash vines for disposal I remember reading in Organic Gardening at least 30 years ago about the recommendations of sticking an eggplant, pepper and other vegetables into the ornamental bed to help provide fresh produce in the family. I well remember that last recession back then and have stuck to that advice when I couldn't have a "real" vegetable garden. Once I filled a sandbox with beans, peppers, eggplants and toma-toes! Give the idea some thought, especially in these times --you'll be really glad you

did. My favorite green is spinach and you can produce two crops a year! Go find that little space for it!

We were honored to have Jane Newman and Don Voss return after a long hiatus--we missed them and their wisdom and look forward to seeing more of them in the coming months! We were so glad to have Glenda Finley return after many years in Germany and look forward to hearing of her experiences there. I was just delighted to see Maurice Katoen walk in the door, check in hand, to join our chapter! He has been a loyal member of the bidding audience at our two public auctions and I knew we very much needed his vast knowledge in our midst. Maurice is a microbiologist and travels to China and elsewhere as a consultant. Give yourselves a treat by getting to know both of these folks soon!

You will note that there will be more and more convention committee meetings as we edge closer to May 1st. If anyone would like to be involved in any aspect of these meetings, whether you can be there physically or would like to share an idea or plan to be involved at the site, please know that you are welcome --we would love to have you and your input.

See you Nov. 16 at the library.

Eve

Please see membership dues notice on page four

post for large operations and in that case, use compost tea. One named source of compost tea was American Plant Nursery (<http://www.americanplant.net>). This is to help support the soil food web. Choose the right plant for the right location. Avoid monoculture and manage soil drainage and pH. Each teaspoon of soil has huge numbers of bacteria and fungi. Most sunlight feeds the roots, the root exude a solution that attracts the bacteria and fungi. Protozoa and anthropoids feed on the bacteria and fungi. The protozoa and anthropoids expel nitrogen and ammonia that the plant can use. Conifers have greater amounts of fungi and annuals and vegetables have more bacteria (and fewer fungi).

Under the category of chemical natural pest control: Horticultural Oil, Volk Oil, Neem Oil and Soap Spray. Oils choke insects. However, do not spray oils on blue conifers.

There is also a Cornell Mildew Cure which you make yourself: 1 gallon water + 2 Tablespoons light oil + 1 Tablespoon baking soda + 1 Tablespoon dish detergent

Rosie Field
Secretary

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 following information has now been posted on the ASA website. A more complete preview of the convention with pictures will soon be posted on Don Hyatt's website with a link to the ASA site. Don will also be giving a preview at the meeting this month.

"The convention headquarters will be the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in Herndon, Virginia just minutes from Dulles International Airport. The Crowne Plaza's convenient location is 22 miles from Washington DC and only 4 miles from the Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum. Its central location is within walking distance to venues, including the Worldgate Center with shops, restaurants and a multiplex movie theater. For added convenience, the hotel offers free parking, and free shuttle service to and from Dulles Airport and other locations near Herndon, as well as an Enterprise Car rental desk on site.

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, registration will begin at 3:30 PM, and plant sales will be open at 5:00 PM. 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**.

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. For those who wish to remain in the area for a while, there are major attractions including the **National Arboretum** and **Mount Vernon** in the metropolitan area, and some of our local gardens will also be open for informal tours. More information on these attractions and directions will be posted on the in-depth 2009 ASA Convention pages linked here, and will be available during registration at the convention."

Our next convention planning committee meeting will be held at the end of the November 16th chapter meeting. There are a few long lead time items we need to address now. We will then need to meet monthly from January to the convention to define the tasks and schedules leading up to the date of the convention. We will need help from many chapter members to carry out this convention. Please be ready to volunteer your help in making this convention as good as we can.

Phil Louer,
Convention Chair

Azalea Society Membership

It is time for most of us to renew our memberships in the ASA. The year your membership is due to expire appears on the top line of your address label for the Fall issue of the Azalean. If the year 2008 appears on that line, your membership will expire at the end of this year.

Regular membership is \$25 per year, with a \$1 discount for each year paid in advance, up to \$5 per year. If your check is received before dues notices are mailed in November, you may take a \$1 "early bird" discount off the amount of the check. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to ASA, contributing memberships are \$50 per year, supporting memberships at \$100 per year, and endowment memberships at \$200. You might also consider joining for life, for the one-time payment of \$500 or five consecutive

annual payments of \$100 each.

Checks should be written to "Azalea Society of America" and sent to:

Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer

**6009 Copely Lane
McLean, VA 22101-2507**

Alternatively, you may use your credit card at <<http://www.paypal.com>> to send your dues to <PayTheASA@aol.com>. You can open a PayPal account in minutes (and if it asks, please mention <PayTheASA@aol.com> as the person who referred you).

Please describe any changes in your mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, or membership type when you make your payment. If you have any questions, please call Dan at 703-534-7441 or e-mail him at dkrabill@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Directions to George Mason Branch Library

The George Mason Branch Library is located at 7001 Little River Turnpike (Route 236) in Annandale, VA. It is on the south side of Little River Turnpike at the intersection of **Hillbrook Dr.** to the south and **Evergreen Lane** to the north — between the Capital Beltway, I-495, and the Shirley Highway, I-395.

- ♦ **From the Beltway I-495:** go east on Route 236 about 1.70 miles to Hillbrook; the library is on the right at the corner.
- ♦ **From Shirley Hwy. I-395:** go west about 2.75 miles to Hillbrook. Turn left to the library on the corner.

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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