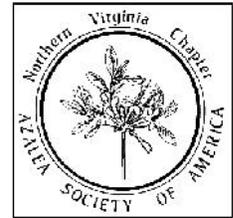


TheAzaleaClipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT
CHAPTER MEETING:

MAR 25 12:30 - 4:30

LUNCH &
SATSUKI TALK

WILDFIRE RESTAURANT
Tysons Galleria



'Ai-no-Tsuki' is one of the Satsukis you want to have as you enjoy the end of the evergreen season.

Our first meeting of the year will be a luncheon at the **Wildfire Restaurant in Tysons Galleria on March 25th**. Social time will start at **12:30 pm**. Our meal, business meeting, and presentation will take us through 4:30. The restaurant is very accessible, with an outside elevator entrance quite close to the parking lot sidewalk. We are very much looking forward to welcoming new members many of whom are from the former Brookside Gardens Chapter. Continued on p.5 with important information.

April 29

Roll-Your-Own Azalea Tour

Leslie and Dave Nanney will again host a tour of their garden for all comers starting at noon on the 29th. Also, free free to drop by in the morning (call ahead) to see the gardens of:

Fran and Andrew Boninti
(Charlottesville)

Brenda and Joe Klimavicz (after 9:30, Vienna)

Barry Sperling (Alexandria)

Bob Stewart (Springfield)



The John C. and Margaret K. White Gardens

by Donald W. Hyatt

When Margaret White passed away peacefully at her home on the morning of January 6, 2010, she was just a few weeks away from her 104th birthday. At that time, the beautiful 13-acre estate where she had lived for over 70 years was transferred to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Margaret and her late husband, John C. White, or “J.C.” as we knew him, moved to the property in 1939. Over the years, they created one of the finest rhododendron and azalea gardens in the region. It bothered Margaret that such a lovely landscape might go the way of most real estate developments, the property razed and replaced by tract homes or townhouses. Long before she passed away, she made sure that the White property would become a horticultural asset for all to enjoy. It will be known as the John C. and Margaret K. White Gardens, and those of us who appreciate horticultural treasures will be forever grateful to Margaret for her generosity.



Margaret and JC designed their plantings using the concept of “garden rooms” instead of flower beds. Having seen mature rhododendron gardens during their travels in the British Isles, they realized that when those plants get big, they need to be viewed with ample open space in the foreground to appreciate the majesty of such large specimens. Now that the White Garden has reached maturity, we can appreciate the wisdom in their design.



The Whites purchased many rhododendrons directly from Joe Gable including the blush pink ‘Cadis’ which they planted at the edge of the lawn behind the house. It is enormous now!

A second major garden room was actually a tennis court at one time, and Margaret always referred to the area by that name. They planted Gable’s late pink rhododendron ‘Albert Close’ on the bank above the court but the vigorous plant has now rambed over the edge and into the lawn, layering many times to create a huge specimen measuring 38 ft. across.

The garden also has an excellent collection of evergreen azaleas including masses of many Gable varieties we rarely see anymore. Under the large white oak is the double salmon ‘Louise Gable’, and in the tennis court area are plantings of ‘Herbert’ in deep purple, ‘Springtime’ in bright pink, and a large swath of a double pink, the original ‘Gable’s Rosebud.’ There are many Glenn Dale azaleas including plantings of the fragrant white ‘Treasure’ and the *real* ‘Geisha’, a white with purple streaks. Many plants sold as ‘Geisha’ are actually ‘Festive’ which has deep pink stripes.

{ continue this on p. 4. Photos courtesy of the author }

From The President

It's great to be writing my first "From the President" for 2012. It's an indication that we are starting another great year of activities for the chapter and will be seeing good friends after a long "winter." A major change in the Azalea Society of America (ASA) has had a large impact on our chapter. In December, the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the ASA decided to disband. While this was sad news for the ASA, the good news is that many of the former Brookside members are affiliating with our chapter and the Ben Morrison chapter. While it is possible to be a member of the ASA without being affiliated with a chapter, I feel it's much more rewarding to be able to participate in chapter activities and interact with other members. We are initiating an active outreach program for those Brookside members who have not yet affiliated with another chapter.

Speaking of chapter activities, we have a full slate of activities again this year. The schedule is listed in this Clipper. The next activity (and first ASA activity) is our March 25th luncheon/meeting at the Wildfire Restaurant in Tyson's Galleria. **Dr. Ajit Thakur** will be speaking on Satsuki Azaleas. More information is available in this issue of the Clipper. In addition to these activities, we're also continuing our work with the Norfolk Botanical Gardens to increase their collection of Glenn Dale Azaleas and will be moving out on the Legacy Project.

Good communication is key to any successful organization. We have a number of means of communication including The Azalean, The Azalea Clipper and my monthly emails. If you are not receiving any of these, please get back with me so that we can ensure the situation is corrected. We are also working on publishing a directory of member's contact information. **Paul Beck** has contacted members separately to obtain permission to include this information. Hopefully you have all responded to him one way or another. Finally, we have our web page where we are able to quickly update information for our members. For the latest updates, I invite you to visit <http://www.nv-asa.org>.

Any chapter is only as good as its members make it. We are trying hard to make membership a worthwhile endeavor with the number of activities we are offering. It takes a lot of work and planning to offer this program. Periodically we ask for members to assist helping us run these events. Hopefully when the call goes out, you'll respond with some of your time.

I'm excited about getting back into my garden and look forward to seeing you on the 25th or at any of our other activities this year.

Rick Bauer

The White Garden from p. 2:

Margaret and JC always loved native plants and wildflowers. They tended native plants they found on the property and rescued others, including mountain laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, from along route 50 when it was being widened. Wildflowers are everywhere including naturalized areas of *Trillium grandiflorum* and a magnificent bed of *Galax* along the edge of the drive. The property includes a large field filled with buttercups and with a small pond at one corner.

The Whites were particularly fond of native azaleas and there are many fine specimens on the property including *cumberlandense*, *prunifolium*, *arborescens*, *vaseyi*, and *periclymenoides*. Margaret and JC had hiked up to Gregory Bald many years before I knew the place existed, so she always enjoyed seeing my pictures, remarking at how much larger the azaleas had become. Yes, the White Garden is a wonderful gift but it is not open to the public yet. The County must deal with a number of issues like access and facility use that will require substantial funding, probably through a bond referendum. The proposed Master Plan can be viewed at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/GMP/WhiteMP.pdf

The property is currently being managed by nearby Green Spring Gardens, and will probably always remain a satellite of the larger facility, much the way McCrillis Gardens complements the broader scope of Brookside Gardens in Montgomery County, MD. Of course, during these difficult economic times, Green Spring has not received additional funding or staff to support the White Garden, so it is important that volunteers are available to assist with routine maintenance issues. We must also raise funds to purchase any needed supplies.

There is a "Friends of the White Garden" organization, but we can no longer work there unless the garden is officially open. Mary Olien, the Director of Green Spring Gardens, does invite volunteers to assist several times a year during planned work sessions. We expect her to post a schedule soon. She will need lots of extra hands to help clean up after the winter and to remove invasive plants. It a great time to see the property so we hope many ASA members will join the cause. To receive announcements, ask Mary to add you to her email list:

Mary Olien: Mary.Olien@fairfaxcounty.gov

Our Northern Virginia Chapter ASA has made a very generous gift to the Friends of the White Garden to help support the property, but Mary has also lined up two other activities this spring to raise additional funds. You must register for them through Green Spring Gardens.

April 17, 2012, 7:30 – 8:30 PM: (Presentation) "Things I Tried that Died" by Don Hyatt

In this humorous talk, Don discusses difficulties in raising rhododendrons and other plants. The presentation includes a thread on the White Garden and is held at Green Spring. (Fee: \$15)

May 6, 2012, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (Walking Tour)

"Meet the White Gardens" by Mary Olien

This fundraiser is a private tour of the White Garden led by the Director of Green Spring Gardens. It should be peak rhododendron bloom time. (Fee: \$15)

Perhaps we will see you at the White Garden this year! Even an hour or two will help.

Lunch from p. 1:

Menu

Starters: Mozzarella, Tomato, and Basil Pizza plus Caesar Salad

Entrees: Spit Roasted Herb Chicken plus Cedar Planked Salmon

Side Dishes: Mashed Potatoes plus Steamed Broccoli with Herb Butter

Vegetarian option(needs to be prearranged): Penne with Wood Roasted Vegetables. **Please mention this request when you call or send in your check.**

Dishes will be served family style.

Price per person: \$27.50 Please send a check made out to NV-ASA to Paul Beck, to be received by March 14th.

A cash wine and beer bar will be available in our luncheon room.

We are delighted to have **Dr Ajit Thakur** speak with us about Satsuki azaleas. Ajit is a former member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of The Azalea Society and a resident of Springfield, Virginia. This hybrid group has been a long time passion of his, and he has published several articles about them in *The Azalean*.

Ajit was born in India and has lived in Thailand, England, Italy, Canada, Austria, and various states in the US. He speaks Bengali, Thai, Sanskrit, English, and a little Japanese. He obtained a B. S. and a M. S. from Presidency College in Calcutta, India, followed by a PhD at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Currently he is the Principal Scientist and Associate Director in charge of Preclinical Statistics for North America.

As a result of an early interest in evergreen and deciduous azaleas, Ajit was introduced by Dr John Creech to two famous Japanese azalea and rhododendron explorers, Dr Kurashige and Hideo Suzuki. Hideo provided tours of his plantings in Japan, and Ajit was enthralled. Back in the states he sought out members of the ASA and ARS, like Gordon Severe, Julius Nuccio, Pete Vines, Norman and Jean Beaudry, Malcolm Clark, and Don Hagar, visiting their gardens and nurseries. Acquiring the Brookside Gardens Satsuki introductions became the focus of his azalea collection.

In addition to gardening, Ajit finds time for photography, music, fresh water fishing, and travel with his wife Yoko. Yoko was born in Japan. She received her B. A. there, then came to the US for her M. A. and PhD, specializing in East Asian Studies. Currently is teaching in the Fairfax County School System. For more information about this meeting please contact:

Carolyn Beck.

Special Rate on Azaleas –

We will once again be purchasing azaleas from Marshy Point nursery for our fund raiser at Green Springs Garden in May. We would like to offer our members the opportunity to purchase azaleas for slightly above cost. These are quality plants in three gallon containers. Last year we sold these plants for \$22 at our sale and will likely be selling them for the same, or slightly higher price this year. We are offering our members the opportunity to place an order for these azaleas for \$14 for evergreen azaleas and \$15 for deciduous. This figure includes delivery cost and tax. If you are interested, a list of available azaleas is on our website at <http://www.azaleas.org/nv.html> or by calling Carolyn Beck.

If you would like to order azaleas, please contact Carolyn Beck with the list of varieties and quantities of each along with a check for the amount written out to NoVA ASA prior to 25 March. In most cases, the nursery requires a minimum of 5 plants per cultivar be ordered. You will be notified as soon as we receive confirmation of our order. Confirmation will depend upon what others are interested in and whether Marshy Point is willing to accept a reduction in numbers. You will receive a refund check for any portion of your order which cannot be honored.

The delivery date will probably be sometime the week of May 14th, as we plan to combine member orders with chapter orders for the Green Springs. Their sale will be on May 19th. The tentative drop-off/pick-up site is at the Larson's in Fairfax. Any orders in the Tidewater area can be picked up from Rick Bauer in Yorktown.

Future Event Sponsors –

We have a full slate of activities for this year. These could not be accomplished without the help of our member/volunteers and members who extend their hospitality for chapter events. We need members to volunteer to host the July Cutting Exchange and the December Holiday Party. Sponsoring these events require you only to provide the meeting place. Refreshments and other arrangements will be provided/coordinated by chapter volunteers. If you are able to host either of these events, please contact Carolyn.

2012

March 25 NVASA Meeting with speaker
April 29 Garden Tours
May 4-8 Asheville, NC ASA/ARS Joint Convention
May 19 NVASA Plant Sale, Green Spring Gardens
July 15 NVASA Cutting Exchange
September 16 NVASA Plant Auction
October 14 NVASA Executive Committee Meeting
October 28 NVASA Meeting with speaker
December 2 Holiday Party

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