



The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 28, Issue 4



Annual Chapter Azalea Plant Auction, Membership

August 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

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.

You should provide your expected list of plants ahead of time to Rosie Field. **Guidelines for procedures to follow are on page two.**

Don't miss this great opportunity.

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.

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

Refreshment Duty—

For this meeting, everyone is asked to bring something.

August 26th - Chapter Azalea Plant Auction, 1:30 P M at Merrifield Garden Center (Fairfax) Directions on page four

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.

In any event, don't forget to bring several of your own plants, particularly new or unusual varieties that others may not know or have.

But please note that we will have some procedures to ease the auction process.

Welcome to our new members:

Virginia & Samuel Burd

Dick Cecka

Frank &

Sandra Carlson

Dottie Thisbeau

We look forward to your active participation in our chapter

From the President

Eve Harrison

Whew! Did I say Happy Summer last time? How could I have known it would be the hottest and driest summer ever in this region? Gardening has *certainly* been a labor of love *this year*, hasn't it? Every gardener I know has moaned over this seemingly endless drought!

But.... being the cockeyed optimists that gardeners are, we push on, knowing fall and the returning tropical rain bands will end the agony, we plan for fall planting, but first, our long planned public azalea auction, August 26. For anyone who hasn't read or heard, it will be held at 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax on Sunday August 26, 2007 from 1:30 to 4 pm Everyone is welcome to come and bid and partake of refreshments.

Things are very organized but we do need to ask for help in a couple of areas. Everyone in the chapter is asked to bring some sort of finger food/snack since we're anticipating many more people than usual. There will be easels at Merrifield's entrances announcing the auction starting Aug. 20, as well as flyers at cash registers at both nursery locations. It will be announced on Merrifield's Gardening Advisor TV show on Sat. Aug. 18 and 25.

It would be helpful to have a few people arrive early to help situate the plants as they arrive, mostly to help bring pots upstairs to assemble. (There's

an elevator).

As with anything new, I'm sure we may overlook something so if you are available earlier that day, perhaps by 12:30 and can arrive just to see where we might need additional help.

I've heard that many members have stuck hundreds and hundreds of cuttings for the convention plant sale in '09 and we are so grateful for such a commitment to its success. An announcement will be forthcoming for a convention committee meeting so for now, we watch our cuttings like mother hens, hoping for a high success rate!

I discovered this summer a product that is new to me and has been quite effective in driving the voles from my plantings. It is called Liquid Fence Vole Repellent. I've used the Liquid Fence to repel deer for five years and found it 100% effective, used as directed so I tried the Vole product with great hope! One bed is planted in rows of "teenagers" waiting to go into the landscape and the varmints had methodically started on one end and eaten the roots of the last one, then the next one and the following one before I was able to apply this vole repellent. Thought I'd pass it along since they seem to be everywhere, especially in the woodlands.

I hope everyone will come and contribute plants to this important auction. It promises to be hysterical since Bob puts on a good "show" stumbling over pronunciations, etc. but it's all in great fun. We

really hope our newer members come to take advantage of this great opportunity to expand their azalea repertoire at fantastic prices.

Eve

Guidelines for Plant Contributions to the Auction

For all members who are bringing plants to the auction, contact Rosie Field by email at 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.

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 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.

Please — the deadline to provide your list is August 22nd. This is necessary for Rosie to get the auction the auction papers ready.

There will be many small azalea plants of many varieties for sale at a nominal price.

So, please do come, contribute, purchase, and take home a bunch of nice azalea plants.

Chapter Meeting July 15, 2007

The Northern Virginia Chapter's annual azalea cutting exchange was held July 15th at the beautiful home and gardens of Carolyn and Paul Beck.

President Eve Harrison opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming several new members to the chapter.

Treasurer Dave Nanney reported that the recent sales of plants were a huge success, which is especially welcome news with regard to upfront costs of sponsoring the ASA convention in 2009.

Eve recommended Don Hyatt's website (<http://donaldhyatt.com/>) to all chapter members with Internet access and solicited ideas for her president's letter in general. Barry Sperling agreed to a resume updating the chapter portion of ASA's website.

Dan Krabill reported on convention planning and the need for volunteers for certain activities. Dave Nanney agreed to handle tours.

The annual plant auction meeting will be held August 26th at Merrifield Garden Center, -Fair Oaks location. It will be open to the public. Eve asked plant donors to supply photos and descriptions of their plants, if available.

There were select azalea cuttings in abundance for everyone, and plenty of refreshments.

The chapter extends enormous thanks to Carolyn and Paul Beck for hosting this meeting. It was a rare treat to view their gardens and share the accommodations of their home.

Jane Newman
Secretary

Preventing Winter Damage to Azaleas

(Excerpt from one of Art Frazer's articles reprinted by permission of Anita Frazer.)

Preventing winter damage is always better than trying to cure one, once it has happened. It is not always possible to prevent winter damage if we have an unusually severe winter. But a few simple rules will generally prevent such damage.

1. Plant shrubs and varieties that are known to be hardy in this area. Avoid the southern shrubs (especially azaleas) which are very lovely in the South – and which may survive one or two winters here – but a cold winter will surely wipe them out. Don't be confused – some of the azaleas grown in North Carolina and elsewhere are Kurume varieties and others are perfectly hardy here. It is the INDICA (Indian) hybrids which are so lovely in North and South Carolina (and Norfolk) that will not survive our winters here.

2. Plant only vigorous healthy shrubs. Plants from truck hucksters or wayside markets with loose and/or dried root balls have two strikes against them. A "bargain", remember, has to be something worth more than

you pay for it. Nursery bargains do not mean "cheap" plants. A sick, or unhealthy plant is a prime candidate for winter damage.

3. Any pruning and fertilizing should be done by now (August) to avoid the stimulation of late tender growth.

4. Water regularly during summer if the rainfall is inadequate, to maintain vigorous healthy shrubs, and to minimize the stimulation of new growth caused by late wet weather following a drought period. Azaleas should have one inch of water every 10 days, either rainfall or watering. The fact that a shrub does not look like it is suffering from lack of moisture is not an acceptable standard. By the time leaves droop, or appear withered, an azalea has suffered the calamity of major shock.

5. If the late fall has been dry, it is especially important to water azaleas well in November and December before the ground (and root balls) freeze.

6. Mulching under azaleas is an excellent practice to conserve moisture and even out sudden changes in temperature. Keep and/or pick fallen deciduous leaves out of azalea branches. They can restrict air circulation and may cause some defoliation.

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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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

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Haymarket, VA 20169-1808

*AZALEA PLANT
AUCTION AUGUST
26TH
1:30 PM EDT*
