

September 2007



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 28, Issue 5



## Chapter Meeting, *Barry Sperling, VP & Eve Harrison, President*

### September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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
<b>30</b>						

Please note, this meeting is being held at the Tyson's-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA Beginning **at 1:00 PM**. *The earlier start time of 1:00 PM is necessary because we only have the room until 3:00 PM.* Directions to the library are on page four.

a couple of pots I'm currently using and discuss some of his other experiments.

There will be refreshments, a plant exchange, and door prizes as usual. *Please check the Refreshment Duty notice below to see if you should bring some goodies to eat.* ☺

*September  
30th-- Chapter  
Meeting,  
1:00 P M at  
Tyson's-Pimmit  
Regional  
Library 7584  
Leesburg Pike,  
Falls Church  
VA -Directions  
on page three*

Mike Creel is a very active and creative researcher in the methods of cutting propagation. He regularly posts descriptions, discussions and photographs of his current experiments on the azalea email list.

The main characteristics of his methods involve: 1) a plastic, transparent cover over the cuttings with space around the outside for water to enter and wick into the middle, 2) a fast draining medium that won't support fungus or standing water, 3) thick shade so that the plastic covers won't overheat in the sun, 4) outdoors propagation without the need for heat or special lights.

I've had more success with his methods than with other methods and I'll show you

### Refreshment Duty—

For this meeting, the duty falls to those whose last names begin with the letters;

**Q** through **Z**

### Azalean and Membership Roster

**W**e have a report that, due to a computer glitch, that nearly 1/2 of the membership roster was left out of the current list that was just mailed. This will be corrected with some other improvements in the next issue of the Azalean. They are very sorry for these deletions and are hard at work on fixing that problem.

# From the President

*Eve Harrison*

I hope as you read this, that the rains have arrived in your area. It was 96 the last three days here on a ridge of the Blue Ridge Mtns. in the Luray Valley and I'm getting fairly desperate for a little help in the rain department. I have lots of new azaleas to install, thanks to the generosity of so many members in donating their own plants to our recent auction.

Speaking of that amazing event, I must say that the way lots of folks chipped in to help, it looked entirely professional from all angles. We had a large crowd compared to private auctions of our own chapter--somewhere around 50 bidders!!! Frances Louer set the pace by winning the bid for Bob Stewart "Amherst" and the pack was then off and running! The bidding was high and spirited with the public adding to the prices, which netted us an amazing sum over previous years. We raised after minimal expenses of the room, a sum some five times what we usually generate! A great base for our convention plans!

I saw lots of new faces and even some returning ones! Everyone was treated to an invitation to learn about our chapter before Don Hyatt began to throw gorgeous photographs on a screen for nearly all bidded items. His descriptions helped people understand very well what they were bidding on and with Bob Harrison's wheedling to go higher, everyone zipped through just over 100 plants, many in 7 gallon containers!!! Our tables of \$5 plants vanished quite nicely as well. Thanks to Carolyn Beck's generosity in donating so many landscape plants due to a renovation, and the Louers' 20 Nuccios and then some! We had a fabulous base

upon which to add many more plants. Bob Stewart, one of our wonderful hybridizers donated several of his hybrids, which brought great bids and Larry Martin's amazing plants brought more than he'd hoped for! Other contributors include Dan Krabill and Don Hyatt's Paintings. Bob Harrison kept us heartily entertained and Larry's wife and daughters along with Carolyn brought tons of food fit for a king!

It seems that the bar started high for what will probably be an annual event--certainly not just to raise money but to give the public a chance to purchase plants rarely seen in nurseries. It also gives our hybridizers recognition and encourages other members to grow wonderful plants throughout the year in recognition of the dedicated work in raising them.

Our September meeting should be lively as well as we discuss our convention plans and look forward to folks volunteering to help in lots of areas. This group knows how to have fun and how to welcome any new or returning face so please don't hesitate to use your membership to come and eat well and enjoy yourselves as well as pick up information to make your garden even better.

Barry Sperling will give a short talk at the Sept. 30 meeting on his discussions with Mike Creel, noted S. C. plant propagator. Note that this edition of the Azalean has an article written by

Mike Creel.

I know how quickly time starts to slip away when fall arrives so please give some thought to hosting your home for our now annual Christmas party. It began two years ago as a way for members to have more chat time with each other as meetings often don't allow a whole lot of time for members to discuss their gardening endeavors with each other. The food that is brought is usually phenomenal and of course, the camaraderie abounds! If you can put up with all this fun please let Barry know ASAP!

We hope to see lots of new and returning faces Sept. 30. See you there!

Eve

We are happy to report that longtime returning member of our chapter, **Patton Echols**, is feeling better after an emergency appendectomy that kept him and Beth from our auction. We hope they can return to our ranks soon!

**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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News items may be provided to **Frances Louer**,  
15800 Palmer Lane, Haymarket, VA 20169-1808.

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## Chapter Plant Auction August 26th Pictures



### Directions to Tyson's-Pimmit Regional Library

The Library is located at 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA, which is between the intersections of I66 and the Beltway. From I66—

- Exit onto Rt. 7 West (Exit #66 to Tyson's Corner).
- Proceed through 3rd traffic light (Tyson's Station Shopping Center) and turn at the second right beyond the traffic light.

From I495 (Beltway);

- Exit onto Rt. 7 east (Exit #47B towards Falls Church).
- Pass George Marshall High School on the right.
- Turn at the first left at the first turn-in beyond the light. (There is a left-turn lane but no light at this entrance.)

If proceeding west from Falls Church—

- Pass under I-66 to the third light (Tyson's Station Shopping Center).
- Turn at the second right beyond the traffic light.

If proceeding east from Tyson's Corner—

- Pass over I-495.
- Pass George Marshall High School on right.
- Turn at the first left beyond the light at GMHS. (There is a left-turn lane but no traffic light for the library entrance.)

We can transmit this newsletter to you via email in pdf format at a considerable savings to the chapter treasury. If you want to receive it by email, please advise me at the following address with your correct email address.  
plouer@msn.com

If you received this letter by email you do not need to take any action.

The Chapter extends great appreciation to Bob Harrison for his enthusiastic conduct of the auction. His efforts were significant in getting the plants sold at excellent prices.

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Northern Virginia Chapter,  
Azalea Society of America



Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary  
15800 Palmer Lane  
Haymarket, VA 20169-1808

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*AZALEA CHAPTER  
MEETING SEPTEMBER  
30TH  
1:00 PM EDT*

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