



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 25, Issue 4



## Annual Plant Auction on August 29th

Please note, this meeting is being held at the home of **Dave and Leslie Nanney's in West Springfield, VA.** They have graciously offered their gardens for our viewing and enjoyment.

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 for those who may have only a few varieties.

This would be a particularly good meeting to invite guests to. Also, if there is a member of another chapter you would like to invite, or a member of our chapter whom you have not seen for a while, please give them a call and encourage them to come.

In any event, don't forget to bring several plants, particularly new or unusual varieties that others may not know or have. If you do not have plants to bring, by all means come anyway.

This is a great opportunity for members and guests to obtain new varieties of azaleas at little cost.

### August 2004

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
<b>29</b>	30	31				

**The meeting will be at Dave and Leslie Nanney's Home. Directions appear on page four.**

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



**Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

- ◆ **September 26, 2004** To be announced.
- ◆ **November 21, 2004** To be announced.

*Please mark your calendars -*

*August 29th  
at Dave and  
Leslie  
Nanney's  
Home  
at  
1:30 P M  
EDT*

### Refreshment Duty

For this meeting includes those persons whose last names begin with the letters:

**Q through Z**

For the next meeting on September 26th, persons whose last names beginning with **A through J** will be responsible.



## From the Pres *Barry Sperling*

With the plant auction coming next (one of the great reasons to be in the club!) I thought I'd reprise an email I sent to the azalea list 3 months ago. This describes the plant I'm looking for. How do your objectives differ from mine?

At last year's Rhododendron Society banquet a man asked me what my favorite azalea was. I looked down and thought for a while, then thought some more, scratched my head and, by the time I looked up, the wait-staff was vacuuming the dessert crumbs and I was otherwise alone.

I couldn't answer the question. I realized that I didn't own one that I could call my favorite. The problem was that, even with "good doer" lists, I wasn't completely sure what would constitute one in the first place.

I had plants I liked a lot: Harris's Coronado has the best red I know of. The Glenn Dale Prudence grows very well for me. It also covers itself in flowers, which I think is one of the things that sets azaleas above so many other types of bushes. Bicolors look very good, such as the Glenn Dale Martha Hitchcock or Bob Stewart's Ashley Ruth. I would want my favorite to look good in the landscape and also close-up.

Needless to say, but I will anyway, it must be both plant and bud hardy (down to maybe -15 for the plant, 0 for the buds). Though I'm not looking for a cactus, drought and heat tolerance would help.

So, I come down to at least these criteria. My Favorite would:

- 1) look good in the landscape as a foundation plant that would be a focal point.
- 2) grow vigorously enough to be a foundation plant in a realistic number of years.
- 3) be floriferous, covering itself densely.
- 4) look good on close inspection of the flower and truss.
- 5) be a bi- (or tri- ? ) color.
- 6) have the darker of the colors be a strong one such as a good red or purple
- 7) be a low-maintenance plant as described above.
- 8) non-azaleaphiles would say: "That looks good! Where can I get one?"
- 9) azaleaphiles would say: "That looks good! Why don't I get one?"

Has anyone seen my favorite azalea? If so, bring it along (and bring a friend!)

Barry

## Previous Chapter Meeting July 11,

A venture into the wilderness led members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA to the home of Bob and Eve Harrison where everyone had a delightful afternoon and enjoyed a little part of Heaven that West Virginia is so famous for. The drive helped us to appreciate their dedication to the chapter in attending meetings that are so convenient for all of the rest of us.

The meeting was interesting and short! Our treasurer was away on a trip to Alaska; thus there was no treasurer's report. It was unnecessary to read the minutes of the previous meeting, since they were printed in the CLIPPER.

So that got us to the interesting part. Don Hyatt mentioned that when we host the convention, the main focus will be on plants developed by local hybridizers. It is hoped that members will be able to help propagate plants for that event. In addition President Barry Sperling informed members that an effort is being made to collect and preserve records on the creation and early years of the national organization. Since several of our members have ties to the origins of the ASA, through them, our chapter should be able to make a considerable contribution to this effort.

After that, the fun began--selecting cuttings for future landscaping fantasies. Everyone attending got more cuttings than they needed, but not more than they wanted. Hopefully, within a few years there will be plenty of beautiful gardens for our members to admire.

As usual, treats were served for all. This time, refreshments were served before the aforementioned "business". Then after the cuttings had all been selected, everyone had an opportunity to tour the garden with our gracious hosts. Thanks a bunch to Eve and Bob for having us. It was a fun-filled day.

Lee McElvain, Secretary

# STEELE'S NURSERY GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

After threatening for years, Steele's Nursery is finally going to close. We will have a final two-weekend sale to eliminate the excess stock, clear out the large plants on our neighbor's property, and sell the propagating supplies (propagating shelves & lights, small poly-tents 4'x4'x12', pots & trays, & sales supplies)

The sale will be September 11,12, & 18,19. — Everything must go.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> all plants will be full price (One has his/her choice)

On the 12<sup>th</sup> all plants will be 25% off

On the 18<sup>th</sup> all plants will be 50% off

On the 19<sup>th</sup> all plants will be 75% off

The next week any plant organization desiring to purchase plants for a plant sale, door prizes, or whatever, may do so at 10% of the original price.

Many of you have been concerned that those difficult to find, unusual varieties would no longer be available when we stop. Jim Fry (Who is currently President of the New York Chapter of the ARS.) has purchased all our liners containing over 1000 varieties of azaleas and close to 300 varieties of lepidotes. Jim plans to continue where we left off. Once he gets set-up and ready to sell, he will contact those of you who are currently on our mailing list. It is our understanding that Jim will ship!

*We would like to thank you for your business and your friendship,*

Mich & Bill Steele  
 1055 E. Niel's Lane  
 West Chester, PA 19382-7178  
 (610) 696-5042  
 wmsteele@voicenet.com

## STEELE'S NURSERY SALE DATES

September 2004

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		

25% OFF →

75% OFF →

NVASA Mtg. →

← Full Price

← 50% OFF

## Directions to Nanney's

**From I-95 (Exit 169)**, go **west** on **Old Keene Mill Road (SR 644)** through West Springfield for about 3.6 miles to **Hillside Road** on the right. **Turn right** on **Hillside Road** for one block (past new houses) to **Tuttle Road**. **Turn right** on **Tuttle Road** to the end of the road and bear left on the driveway up to Nanney's home.

**From Fairfax County Parkway**, turn **east** on **Old Keene Mill Road (SR 644)** for about 2.7 miles to **Hillside Road** on the left (next road after **Huntsman Blvd.**). **Turn left on Hillside Road** for one block to **Tuttle Road** on the right. **Turn right on Tuttle Road** to the end of the road and bear left on the driveway up to Nanney's home.

From any other direction, find your way to **Old Keene Mill Road** and follow directions as above. **Hillside Road** is about 0.6 mile west of the intersection of **Old Keene Mill and Rolling roads**.

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LOST — CALL 703-644-5651

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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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<b>Vice President:</b>	Dan Krabill	(703)534-7441
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lee McElvain	(703)536-9730
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15800 Palmer Lane  
Haymarket, VA 20169-1808

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*NEXT MEETING,*  
**SUNDAY AUGUST 29**  
1:30 PM

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