



# The Azalea Clipper

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America

Volume 24, Issue 3



## Annual Azalea Cutting Exchange, Membership

This meeting is our annual azalea cutting exchange. There will also be an opportunity at the meeting to learn how to propagate azaleas from cuttings during a hands-on "seminar" by some of the more successful members of the chapter. The chapter's annual cutting exchange will afford those attending an opportunity to add to their azalea collections with new varieties selected from the azalea gardens throughout this area.

The event will take place at 1:30 p. m. on Sunday, July 13, 2003, near Haymarket, VA at the home and garden of Frances and Phil Louer. (Directions below) They have thousands of azaleas planted in gardens around the five-acre property, including over 2,200 varieties. Come and benefit from the meeting and enjoy a tour of the gardens.

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.* ☺



### Directions to Louer's

Go west on I-66 to Exit 40. Turn north on Route 15 towards Leesburg for about 3 1/2 miles. Just **before** the traffic light and 7-Eleven at Sudley Road (Route 234), turn left on Waterfall Road (Route 601). Go one mile to Padgett Drive. Turn right on Padgett for one block; then turn right on Palmer Lane. **Phran's Azalea Trails** is the third house on the left. *The travel time is about 40 minutes from the Beltway.*

### From the Pres *Barry Sperling*

On the email list recently we received some questions on the order of: "My azalea is dying. What do I do?". Obviously, an answer would require a lot more data from the questioner, but it occurred to me that there should be an automatic hand-out that we could email to people in need of basic data, so I wrote to Bob Stelloh, who maintains the list, and he said, "Sure, how about if you write one?". I wrote up a short, non-controversial sheet on siting and planting and sent it back to Bob, who noted that it wasn't terrible, and then I sent it to the original questioner, and a few other people who asked for it.

At about the same time I approached two small garden centers near me and asked if they would like a hand-out on azaleas that would cover the basics, to be included with every azalea purchase next spring. This, of course, would contain contact information for our club and would be a natural for targeted advertising, touching people who are giving at least a casual thought to azaleas. They both agreed. Well, the last 2 paragraphs are talking about the same thing: a basic handout to beginners that would be a quick read and cover everything lightly. I've written the "siting and

(Continued on page 2)

July 13th  
at Frances  
and Phil  
Louer's  
Gardens  
1:30 P.M.  
EDT

### July 2003

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		

### REFRESHMENT DUTY —

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



### K through P

As a treat, the McElvain's are bringing their famous home-made ice cream. You may want to bring complimentary food items.

(Continued from page 1, *From the Pres*)

planting" section, but this still needs more: choosing azaleas; describing a healthy plant; what is available as color variety; early, middle and late bloomers; sizes of plants; composition for landscaping; common problems with pests and fungus, etc. And this should fit, with what I previously wrote, on the front and back of a single sheet.

OK, maybe we can't get Galle on one sheet, but it would be interesting to see what COULD be done. SO, if you could write up a little ( or all? ) of the above that has yet to be done, we could see how it could be put together to make a useful handout that garden centers would be happy to include. After all, people who have been successful with azaleas are likely to buy more! We need volunteers for parts of the above write up, so write me at [barrysperling@ix.netcom.com](mailto:barrysperling@ix.netcom.com), call at the listed number, or mention it at the July 13 meeting. This would be a great way for more people to enjoy these plants and learn about our club!

Barry

**TAKING CUTTINGS**

Take cuttings early in the morning if possible. Be sure to double check the plant variety; occasionally, cuttings have been submitted taken from the wrong plant.

**Last Chapter Meeting Notes, Lee McElvain, Secretary**

On April 6, 2003, the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society met, after what we all had hoped would be the last snow of the season. The meeting, which was held at the Sherwood Regional Library south of Alexandria, was very well attended and enjoyed by all. New introductions by Joe Klimavicz and Bob Stewart were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

President Sperling next announced that copies of Pete Vine's last catalog had been reproduced (with permission of the author). After discussion, it was agreed that copies would be distributed, without charge, to Chapter members at regular meetings for as long as the supply lasts.

The highlight of the meeting was our guest speaker, Phil Normandy, who is a prominent contributor to the Brookside Gardens. Speaking to a full room, he recounted some of the history and challenges of the Brookside experience. He recalled that the azalea project had a difficult launch with lots of unforeseen

problems, but noted that with experience and perseverance things improved. Many experiments were attempted and some satisfying results led to new introductions.

As he recounted the background of Brookside, he showed many examples of the problems encountered and explained the corrective actions that were taken. In summary, the reward for many years of hard work, experience, and patience is evidenced by the success of Brookside Gardens everyone can enjoy today. This time, setting up the coffee pot and arranging the refreshments brought by fellow members turned out to be a real challenge, because nearly all of the space in the room was taken to seat the attendees. As usual, however, Alice met the challenge with grace and a smile. Thanks, again, Alice for a job well done.

Lee McElvain, Secretary

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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**Northern Virginia Chapter,  
Azalea Society of America**

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**Next Chapter Meeting -  
July 13th, 1:30 PM  
Azalea Cutting Exchange**

