

The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT
CHAPTER MEETING:

OCT 14 1:00 - 5:00

PLANT AUCTION

MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER
GAINESVILLE

Avid hybridizer Joe Klimavicz has registered 15 varieties and at least 7 of them will be available. Look for them in the silent or live auction, or in the fixed price sale.



NV-ASA ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

by Carolyn Beck

Our annual plant auction will include three different ways to acquire many wonderful plants, mostly azaleas: the **silent auction**, which begins at 1:00 pm, the **live auction**, commencing about 2:00 pm, and a wide selection of small azaleas at a **fixed price**. The fixed price plants will be available for purchase anytime during the event.

As a special feature, we are planning to auction off the naming rights of one or more of **Bob Stewart's** selections. So, if there is someone special in your life you would like to honor, this is a great opportunity.

There will be over 250 varieties available, including deciduous and evergreen azaleas, rhododendrons, and some other types of plants; surely something for everyone.

(continued on p. 3)



Gloria Louis



James Scott



Zoe
Elizabeth
Stoltz



Mary Lou Dority

Some of the Klimavicz hybrids that will be available at the auction.



Scott Aker, of the National Arboretum, led over 30 interested people on a descriptive walk around Mt. Hamilton on September 20th, describing the work that a contractor will be hired to do to improve the area. See Harold Belcher's commentary later in this issue.

President's Message

Rick Bauer

I hope that all of you had a great summer. I was pleased to see so many members at our July cutting exchange. We had a great selection of food, to include **Lee and Carole McElvain's** home made ice cream. We also had a large selection of cuttings and some live plants provided by our members. I hope that those of you who attended are having success with rooting your cuttings.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming annual azalea auction. This event is a hit every year. It's happening a little later this year than in the past, so we should have cooler weather. I hope you'll take the opportunity to attend and to obtain azaleas you don't normally find in the commercial market, meet our fellow chapter members and

perhaps folks from other chapters and plant societies. We will have a live and a silent auction as well as a large number of fixed priced plants for sale. We are fortunate again this year to have **Bob and Eve Harrison** attending the auction with Bob graciously offering to be our auctioneer. I look forward to seeing you there. If any of you are able to assist in setting up, tearing down or conducting the auction, please contact **David Meadows** (see the contact information at the bottom of the page).

It will be three months since our last meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you again at our azalea auction at **Merrifield Garden Center** on 14 October at 1 pm.

Rick

(Auction, continued from p. 1)

Handouts will include descriptions. We are even hoping to publish the handout in advance and will let you know how to access this information when it is ready.

We are looking forward to again having the entertaining **Bob Harrison** as our auctioneer. **Merrifield Garden Center** will be offering discount coupons for all attendees. Light refreshments will be provided.

This function is open to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors; anyone who might be interested in azaleas and gardening.

If you would like to assist during set up the day before, or participate in any of the various activities on Sunday, please contact **David Meadows**, Volunteer Coordinator

A little about Joe Klimavicz and his plants:

Joe is an avid hybridizer of evergreen azaleas—a passion of his since the late 1980s when he lived in Springfield VA near more established azalea hybridizers--**Bob Stewart** and **Pete Vines**. With a few azaleas from Bob and Pete, Joe moved to his current Vienna, Virginia one-third acre lot, and his hybridizing really took off. Joe's garden is an example of highly intensive azalea cultivation. Each year, Joe makes around 10 crosses and brings out of his basement close to 1000 new azalea hybrids each year, but discards almost all of them after they first flower, retaining only the best. The Klimavicz hybridization program is aimed at developing a plant that is **vigorous**, and **disease and insect resistant**, with a flower that is **unusual** and **long-lasting**. He has registered 15 azaleas to date.

He lives in Vienna with his wife, **Brenda** and their three daughters: **Caitlin Marie, Linda and Sandra**. Joe's daughters began their own hybridizing in elementary school, and the oldest daughter, Caitlin Marie, published an original research paper in the *Azalean* at age 16.

Joe has always welcomed garden tours and visitors, especially in the spring (below welcoming former ASA president **Buddy Lee**).

Joe's registered plants:

Caitlin Marie - Elsie Lee x Satellite

Lovely Linda - Florence Waldman x Dayspring

Sandy Dandy - Leopold Astrid x Girard's Fuscia

Gloria Lewis - Carol Kittle x Girard Fuscia

Brenda Marie - CB1x(Elsie Lee x Dancing Butterfly)

Spirit of Valdosta - Elsie Lee x Gay Paree

Isabella Maria - Carol Kittle x Girard Fuscia

James Scott - Mary E. Thomsen x Florence Waldman

Thaissa - Carol Kittle x Good Times

Nancy Lynn - Nancy Dipple x Florence Waldman

Mary Lou Dority - Betty Christopher x Komo Kulshan

Barbara Tozzi - Nancy Dipple x Florence Waldman

Zoe Elizabeth Stolz-Carol Kittle xGirard Fuscia

Rebecca Taffet - Elsie Lee x Satellite

Mary JaneCummings - Brenda Marie x (FestivexSatellite)



*Notes and Thoughts on the U.S. National Arboretum's
Glenn Dale Hillside Renewal Project*

Harold Belcher, USNA Volunteer, Secy. of Ben Morrison Chapter

On Thursday, September 20th, 2012, at 1:00 P.M. the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) invited Arboretum Staff, Azalea Collection volunteers, Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) staff, members of the press and others to attend a discussion of the project and a tour of the site on Mt. Hamilton. The Agricultural Research Service had provided the USNA with funding to allow them to clear invasive plants from the Glenn Dale Hillside, to thin sapling trees and prune the azaleas to improve growing conditions for them and stimulate new growth. The area to be covered by the Statement of Work (SOW) is approximately 6.5 acres. To utilize the ARS funds, a contract for those services must be in place by September 30, 2012.

The tour and discussion began at the entrance to the Glenn Dale Collection across from the Azalea Road Parking Lot. Scott Aker, the Garden Units Leader and Head Horticulturalist at the National Arboretum, conducted the discussion and tour. He gave an over view of the Project to renew and restore the azaleas on Glenn Dale Hillside. At the conclusion of the overview, he took questions from attendees.

Taking the questions in order, sapling thinning and invasive removal will be done simultaneously and will begin shortly after award of the contract. The pruning of the azaleas will take place in March, or immediately following the flowering season.

On the use of herbicides, the SOW specifies that "Herbicides will be the primary control method used..." and only Triclopyr (in the form of Garlon 3a or 4) and Glyphosate are approved for use. "Invasive plants within the crown of the azalea plants will be pulled out manually to at least one foot from the plants prior to the direct plant application of herbicides". The SOW is silent on providing ground cover (mulch or fabric) to areas cleared of invasive plants.

Concerning the removal of saplings, approximately 400 trees (various species and sizes) have been tagged for removal.

Regarding the extent of pruning of the azaleas, the contract SOW specifies "Branches more than 1" in diameter shall be pruned and cut close to the base of the plant. If there are smaller shoots close to the ground on these branches, then the cut should be made just above the shoots. Any remaining branch that is over four feet tall shall be cut back to the base of the plant as well".

To briefly summarize my concerns: 1) 50' spacing of the trees on the South facing slope of Mt. Hamilton is too wide as the azaleas on this slope will need more shade and there should be more saplings growing to replace those trees that fall 2) the use of Triclopyr needs to be monitored very closely 3) defoliated areas need to be mulched or covered by next spring to stabilize the soil, prevent a resurgence of weeds, and shade the roots of the remaining plants 4) addressing the disposition of labels either "found" or on pruned stems and 5) to ensure the viability of the "renewed" azaleas, no more than 1/3 of the plant should be removed unless it is clearly diseased.

[50% of Harold's notes were deleted for space. Ambiguities are my fault. Be sure to check www.savetheazaleas.org for much more information - ed.]

Want to make an donation of \$10 to the club? It's easier than you think! Ask to receive the Clipper via email pdf rather than paper snail mail and it saves the club \$10/yr!! (AND ... the pictures in the pdf look BETTER than on paper!)

Barbara Bullock sends along this, which I have edited a lot for space. Contact her for more details:

"This is to announce our **2nd annual late fall to early winter clean up day** in the Azalea Collections scheduled this year for **Saturday December 1, 2012**. We will begin at 10am and work 'til 2 or 3 pm. In the event of rain, sadly we will have to cancel. If we cancel, our front desk receptionist will be notified by 8:30am, so that if you are wondering, call **202-245-4523** before leaving home. **Bring your lunch** and we will have lunch in the garden like we did in April. **Everyone will need to fill out a "One Day Work Form"** for the Arboretum to be able to cover you in the event of injury prior to start of work. I will have all tools, rakes, or shovels needed for the various jobs, but would like to ask you to **bring your own gloves and water** in plastic bottles. Tasks will mostly have to do with dealing with our large volume of leaves, particularly with taking them out of the small azaleas and raking." Contact her if you might be interested and for other important details.

**Directions to the October 14th Plant Auction in Gainesville at 1:00
Merrifield Garden Center**

**6895 Wellington Rd, Gainesville, VA 20156
703-368-1919**

From the north, east, or west:

Route 66

South at exit 44 onto 234/Prince William County Parkway for 1.4 miles

Right on Balls Ford Road for 0.8 miles.

Left on Wellington Road and travel 0.2 miles.

The garden center is on the left.

From the south:

Route 234/Prince William County Parkway north.

Left on Wellington Rd for 2 miles.

The garden center is on the right.

For GPS directions, use Manassas instead of Gainesville

2012

October 14 NVASA Plant Auction,
Gainesville, Merrifield Garden Center

October 28 NVASA Executive Committee
Meeting, Beck's

November 11 NVASA Meeting with Rick
Bauer speaking on the Sandra McDonald

December 2 Holiday Party, Barbara and
Roger Randall, Spotsylvania