

Feb 19 Message to Members

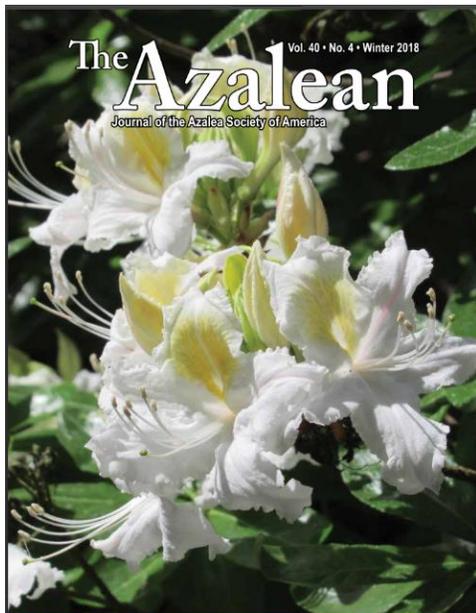
Chapter Members,

My garden is totally confused. Warm days encourage new growth, only to be hit by freezes the next day. I'm certainly looking forward to spring. One bright spot in my garden are the hellebores. If you don't have any in your garden, I highly recommend adding them as a companion plant to your azaleas. They can be found in many garden shops and I have even seen them in Trader Joe's.

David Meadows has a great selection at a very reasonable price. If you're interested, contact him at pmeadows85@hotmail.com or (540) 349-0129. They are also available at some of the nurseries to be visited as part of the NC Nursery Plant Trip (see below).



The Azalean



I hope that all of you have received your winter issue of **The Azalean** by now. You might have noticed that it is now being published in full color. Previously, many features towards the end of the issue, for example Chapter News, were in black and white. Our society treasurer, **Paul Beck**, in conjunction with our editor, **Barb Stump**, determined that the additional cost to print completely in color was minimal and made the change. I hope you agree that this is an improvement. While I'm on Chapter News, kudos to **Barry Sperling** for the excellent submissions he provides to **The Azalean** for our chapter.

Also, I'd like to refer you to the ballot on the front page of the mailing cover. It has the selection for officers (candidate running or write in) and Best Article in **The Azalean** for 2018. Please take the time to fill it out and mail or email to **Leslie Nanney**. She is still accepting ballots beyond the stated 1 February date posted.

Membership Renewal

Thanks for the great response to our call for membership renewals. The Northern Virginia Chapter has been one of the most responsive in the society. We received responses from 100% of our members and 96% have renewed as of the date of this message. We have a great group of chapter members and **Paul Beck** and I, as society treasurer and president respectively, appreciate the timely response by our chapter members.

Norfolk Botanical Garden Collaboration

The chapter has been collaborating with Norfolk Botanical Garden for several years to expand their collection of Glenn Dale azaleas. Most recently, we provided them with Glenn Dale varieties to add to their collection. We have also provided monetary donations to the garden for the past several years. I will be meeting with some of their staff this month to discuss plans for continued collaboration.

North Carolina Nursery Plant Trip March 1-2

Don Hyatt is organizing his annual trip down to nurseries in North Carolina. He has extended invitations to members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA and the Middle Atlantic and Potomac Valley Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS). This is a great opportunity to visit some quality nurseries which have a great selection of plants. I have visited a number of the nurseries in the past and am impressed with the wide variety of plants available (primarily what we would call companion plants). Information on the trip is included as an enclosure at the end of this message. Contact **Don** if you have any questions.

ASA National Convention – Summerville, SC 14-16 March

It isn't long until our annual convention in Summerville, SC. This should be a great convention with some beautiful gardens on the schedule and some great speakers. Nearby Charleston is also a beautiful historic city which is well worth a visit.

The fall issue of ***The Azalean*** has an article detailing the gardens and the speakers to be featured at the convention. Registration is already underway. You can register by using the form in the Fall ***Azalean*** or by going to the ASA website and clicking on About the Society>Conventions. This will give you more information on the convention as well as the registration form. If you've been to a convention before, you know they are a great time. If not, I encourage you to attend the next convention in Summerville. I'm hoping to see a good turnout by chapter members at the convention.



Magnolia Plantation - photo William Miller

Chapter Meeting 31 March 1-4:30 pm

Our first meeting of the year will be on 31 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. This will be a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS. **Charlie Andrews**, Vice President of the ASA and former president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS will be giving a talk on native azaleas. Put this one on your calendar. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale May 18 9am-3pm

The chapter has participated in this event for several years. We've had good response from a large number of chapter volunteers in the past. Unfortunately, this year many of the usual volunteers have calendar conflicts which preclude their participation. We would like to find out who would be willing to volunteer to help. We are prepared to scale back the scope of our participation based on the number of members who volunteer. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Carolyn Beck carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or (703) 860-5676.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for 2019. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Mar 1-2	North Carolina Nursery Plant Trip	ARS MAC/PVC;NV-ASA	Various
Mar 14-16	ASA Convention	ASA	Summerville, SC
Mar 31 1-4:30pm	Joint Meeting with Speaker Charlie Andrews	NV-ASA/PVC-ARS	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Apr TBD	Potting Party	NV-ASA	Beck House
Apr TBD	Klimavicz Garden planting at Meadowlark	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna, VA
Apr 27-28	Member Open Gardens	NV-ASA	Various
May 4-5	Member Open Gardens	NV-ASA	Various
May 11 Tentative	Plant sale in Vienna	NV-ASA	Ayr Hill Garden Club
May 18	Green Spring Gardens Plant sale	NV-ASA	Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA
May 16-19	ARS Convention	ARS	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Early to mid June TBD	Smoky Mountain Hikes	ARS/ASA	Various Locations in the Smoky Mountains
Jul 14 1-4:30 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Sep 28	Fall Sale and Auction	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct 27 1-4:30pm	Meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct TBD	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

Other Activities/Notes –

Miscellaneous –

Photos for *The Azalea Clipper*/Facebook – Barry is looking for pictures of your garden to share with other members on our chapter **Facebook** page and in the ***Clipper***. Now is the time to show off a little. Send your pictures to **Barry** at bsperling@cox.net.

We are also always looking for articles for ***The Azalea Clipper***. They don't have to be long and can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Pictures are also always appreciated. Please consider writing an article. Contact **Barry** if you have any questions bsperling@cox.net or 703-765-7062. ***Clipper*** articles can also be the basis for later submissions to ***The Azalean*** (see below).

The Azalean – The editors of ***The Azalean*** depend on member submissions of articles of interest to the general **ASA** membership. If you have an article to share, send it to them at theazalean@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi.

Speakers – We continue to strive to provide speakers on topics of interest to our members. If you have heard, or are otherwise aware of, speakers who might be of interest to our chapter, please contact **Diane Marcus** at dianemarcus@starpower.net or (301) 983-1098.

Rick

1 Enclosure

NC Plant Trip

NC Nursery Field Trip: March 1- 2, 2019

It is time for our annual trip to North Carolina to visit a few mail order nurseries that have open houses at this time of year. We buy some plants, socialize, go out to dinner, and have a lot of fun. Won't you join us?

George McLellan and some other members of the Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS will be leaving on Thursday, maybe staying in Reidsville, NC. The next morning, they will pick up a wholesale order from Cam Too Camellia Nursery in Greensboro, before going to Camellia Forest Nursery.

People coming from long distances may choose to skip Pine Knot and go directly to Camellia Forest since it is possible to visit Pine Knot on Saturday on the way home. Let George or Don know if you are coming so we can keep an eye out for you.

Don Hyatt

donaldhyatt@verizon.net or
don@donaldhyatt.com

Proposed Itinerary: 3/1/2019 to 3/2/2019

Friday morning (*if time allows*)

Pine Knot Farms (Hours: 10 am – 4 pm)
681 Rock Church Rd, Clarksville, VA
23927
www.pineknotfarms.com

Target time at Pine Knot: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Approximate travel time from DC: 4 hours

For those who get an early start, we will try to visit Pine Knot Farms for their Hellebore Festival on Friday AM. I prefer to pick out hellebores when in bloom but tissue culture clones are available now

Friday Afternoon

Camellia Forrest Nursery (9 am - 5 pm)
9701 Carrie Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
www.camforest.com

Target time at Nursery: 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Travel time from Pine Knot: 1.5 hours

From Pine Knot, we will return to I-85 and head south via Rt. 25 to Chapel Hill, and travel west on NC-54 to the nursery for camellias and many other plants. Afterwards, we will drive south to Sanford via NC-15 to avoid Raleigh's rush hour traffic.

Friday Night -Hotel in Sanford, NC

Hampton Inn Sanford
1904 S Horner Blvd, Sanford, NC 27330
(919) 775-2000

Travel time from Camellia Forest: 55 minutes

We have stayed at this hotel before and have had good results. We usually gather in the lobby in late afternoon, drink some wine and have snacks (bring your own), and go out to dinner in town.

Friday Afternoon and Saturday morning

Big Bloomers Flower Farm (8:30 am – 5 pm)
275 Pressly Foushee Road, Sanford, NC 27330
www.bigbloomersflowerfarm.com

Target time at Big Bloomers: 8:30 – 10:30 am

On Saturday morning, we usually go to Big Bloomers first and Plant Delights Nursery next. Those who get to Sanford early enough on Friday can start shopping at Big Bloomers that afternoon and finish up the next morning. In the past, Big Bloomers has allowed us to leave our carts in the greenhouse and come back the next morning to finish buying and check out. Great selections!

Saturday afternoon

Plant Delights Nursery
(8:00 am –5:00 pm)
9241 Sauls Road, Raleigh, NC 27603
www.plantdelights.com

Target time at Plant Delights: 12:00 –2:00 pm
Travel time from Sanford: 1 hour

Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery carries premium plants but also expect premium prices. However, many plants are things that you can't find anywhere else or you never knew existed.

Plant Delights and Pine Knot Farms both have wonderful display gardens that show off some of the plants they sell. Pine Knot is known for their hellebores but Tony carries them, too, and so does Big Bloomers. Tony has many other plants of interest and has really expanded his landscape to feature the rare plants he offers in a garden setting