

February 2014 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I have just completed potting up the azalea cuttings I rooted last summer. After years of minimal success in plant propagation, I have over 350 rooted cuttings (unfortunately I started with almost 1000 cuttings) which I hope to grow to plant sale size. Most of the plants are in support of the **Legacy Project** hybridizers (i.e., mainly chapter hybridizers) and will be featured in our future sales.

Chapter 2013 Donations – As you are aware, the chapter was very successful financially last year which resulted in us being able to make larger contributions than in the past. [Thank you letters](#) from the recipients are posted on our website.

Convention 2016 - Legacy Hybridizers will be featured (along with other special azaleas) at our joint **ASA-ARS** convention in **Williamsburg in 2016**. **Carolyn Beck** has volunteered to coordinate the chapter efforts in identifying, propagating and raising azaleas for the convention. There are a number of activities, listed below, which require the support of chapter volunteers.

1. Recommend individual cultivars that might be in demand. These are typically those that are new, difficult to find, and/or have great flowers and foliage. We plan to focus on the Legacy Program hybrids (**Stewart, Klimavicz, McDonald, Holly Springs, Bowie Mills, Marshy Point, Glenn Dale**, and a few others), but would also like to make other superior forms available.
2. Provide cuttings (July through September 2014; May-June for deciduous).
3. Help to process cuttings (July-September 2014). We could do this as a group; preparing cuttings, placing in medium, labeling, bagging the pots.
4. Provide space to overwinter some cuttings the first winter and rooted cuttings the second winter (November-April). This would be a place like a cold frame, greenhouse, or inside the house near a window.
5. Participate in a potting party. We will probably do several at our house during March and April 2015.
6. Care for plants after up potting during the spring, summer, and fall of 2014 and 2015. This would include providing a site with afternoon shade, fertilizing with Holly Tone in March and June, regular watering, and pruning from March through June.
7. Providing space for plants in the **Williamsburg** area during the month before the convention.
8. Help with transporting plants to the convention late April, 2016.

If you are able to assist in any of the activities, please contact **Carolyn** at carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703-860-5676.

Speaking of the convention, **Don Hyatt** has created a website which will be updated as we get closer to the event. Check it out at <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>. **Paul Beck** has also put a link to the site on our chapter Homepage.

NC Plant Trip Feb 28 - Mar 2 - Once again, **Joe Marsala** is organizing a plant trip to North Carolina nurseries and has opened the event to our chapter members. This trip visits some great nurseries with a wide variety of plants and affords participants the opportunity to enjoy the company of other plant enthusiasts while increasing their plant inventories. More information on the trip is at [NC Plant Trip](#). If you are interested in participating, please contact **Joe** at 410-867-7904 or joe-marsala@comcast.net as soon as possible so that he is able to negotiate a group rate at the **Comfort Inn** in **Garner, NC**.

Chapter Meeting 16 March: "Winter Garden" - Susan and I were unable to join the **NC Plant** trip last year due to other commitments, however we did visit the nurseries on the trip itinerary the weekend before the trip and were very pleased with the wide variety of quality plants available. We were able to pick up many of the "**Winter Garden**" plants recommended by **George McLellan**. Unfortunately, **George** had to cancel his "**Winter Garden**" presentation to our chapter last November due to family health issues. I'm happy that we are able to have him speak to us at our joint meeting with the **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **ARS** on 16 March. It is a great presentation and I hope you're able to join us.



PrunusMume-Kobai
Photo- Hyatt

European Garden Trip - The **American Rhododendron Society** is planning a trip to **Northern Germany** and **Denmark** after their national convention next year. This trip is also open to members of the **ASA**. Tour [information](#) and [itinerary](#) are at the hyperlinks. If you are interested in joining the trip or would like more information, please contact **Bill Heller** at william.r.heller@boeing.com.

11 October Chapter Meeting – A team of our chapter members as well as members of the **ARS**, visited the **Wildfire Restaurant** in **Tyson's II** to coordinate our October meeting. The visit turned out well and the facility has been booked for our 11 October meeting with **Harold Greer** as the keynote speaker. More information will be coming out as we get closer to the date, however, make sure you put this on your calendar.

Facebook - As a reminder, national and our chapter have both created **Facebook** pages. I encourage all members on **Facebook** to "**Like**" both national's and our **Facebook** pages and to get their friends to "**Like**" us. Also, if you share the postings on these pages, it will get wider dissemination to your friends who see your **Timeline**.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Schedule for 2014 – Below is a calendar for this year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Feb 28- Mar 2 (added)	NC Plant Trip	Joe Marsala	Various VA/NC
Mar 16	Meeting w Speaker George McLellan – The Winter Garden (joint with PVC ARS)	NV-ASA/PVC-ARS	Potomac Community Center
Mar 28-30	ASA Convention	ASA	Charleston, SC
Apr 27 (backup May 4)	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various
May 17	Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale	NV-ASA/FCPS	Green Spring Gardens , Alexandria, VA
Jul 20	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Paul and Carolyn Beck's
Sep 20	Public Azalea Sale and Auction	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church , Springfield, VA

Oct 11	Joint dinner meeting w/ ARS – Speaker: Harold Greer	NV-ASA/ARS	Wildfire Restaurant, Tyson's II
Oct 26	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 7	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD

Other Activities/Notes –

Legacy Project –

I have spoken about the **Legacy Project** for several months and have just submitted an article on the project to **The Azalean**. Hopefully it will be published in the near future. If anyone would like more information on becoming a “**Legacy Lead**” or otherwise participating in this project, please contact me.

Miscellaneous –

FREE AZALEAS! - The **Becks** want to grow more of the **Legacy** cultivars. In order to make room for them, they are eliminating a number of mature azaleas. All are nice plants, although some have lost their tags. If you, or anyone you know, are interested, please contact **Carolyn** at carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703-860-5676.

AZALEA CLIPPER – If you have input for the upcoming **Azalea Clipper**, please provide it to **Barry Sperling** at bsperling@cox.net **no later than 18 February**.

The Azalean – I hope you agree with me that the new editors of **The Azalean** are doing a great job. They 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 **Paul Davis** at padavisjr@aol.com or 703-408-7080.

Nurseries – A number of our members own nurseries or otherwise propagate azaleas for sale to the general public. A list of these members and their nurseries is located on our website at [Member Nurseries](#).

Rick