

March 2014 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I'm a little late with my message this month since I've been out of town. I'm sitting here watching the sleet and snow thinking how spring can't come soon enough. I'm ready to get my cuttings out of the garage and into the natural sunlight.

Even though the weather may not indicate it, we are fast approaching spring and the start of our major activities for the year. We have a great schedule this year and I hope you are all able to participate, starting with our first meeting on 16 March.

Chapter Meeting and Plant Exchange 16 March: "Winter Garden" – I hope you will be able to attend our joint meeting with the **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **ARS** on **16 March** at the [Potomac Community Center](#). George McLellan will be giving his presentation on the "Winter Garden." I have seen it before and it is a great presentation. I hope you're able to join us. **Even better, bring a couple of friends!**

More information on the presentation, plant exchange, and refreshment duties is in the latest [Azalea Clipper](#).

ASA Convention 28-30 March - I hope to see many of you at the **ASA** convention in **Charleston** at the end of this month. It looks like it will be another good time for the participants.

Picnic at White's Nursery (TBD) – **Carolyn Beck** is organizing a chapter picnic at **Mike** and **Debbie White's** nursery in Germantown, MD this spring. They have a beautiful property in rural Montgomery County and it should be an enjoyable event. **Mike** and **Debbie** have even offered to sell their azaleas to our members at a discount. More information will be provided in my monthly emails and on our website as it becomes available.

Member Garden Tours (27 April and/or 4 May) – Many of our members have beautiful gardens which are at their best in April and May. If you are willing to show off your garden to our chapter members, either on April 27th (for early blooming) or May 4th (for mid-season blooming), please contact **Barry Sperling** at bsperling@cox.net or 703-765-7062. We will publish the list of open gardens in next month's email and post it on our website.

Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale 17 May – The **Green Spring Plant Sale** is one of our two major fund raisers for the year. Besides generating revenue, it allows us to introduce the public to our chapter and to support the goals of the **Legacy Project**, by offering chapter and **ASA** hybridizer developed cultivars to the public. We can always use help with setting up on the **16th** and selling plants and then tearing down the operation on the **17th**. Please mark these dates on your calendar. We can always use assistance with this event.

European Garden Trip May 20 – June 1 - 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.

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. We would like as many of our group to participate in the chapter's efforts to provide 2000 plants. There is a wide range of activities...hopefully something for everyone.

1. Recommend individual cultivars that might be in demand. These are typically those that are new, difficult to find, unusual, 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.

At the moment, we are focusing on step number 1, so it would be most helpful if you could send me your thoughts about azaleas that you would like to see included.

2. Provide cuttings (July through September 2014 for evergreen varieties; May-June for deciduous).

3. Help to process cuttings (July-September 2014 for evergreens; May-June for deciduous). This would involve preparing cuttings, placing them in medium, labeling, and bagging the pots. We could do this as a group.

4. Participate in a potting party. We will probably do several at Carolyn's house during March and April 2015.

5. 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, as needed.

6. 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 your home near a window where a somewhat humid environment could be created.

7. Assist with transporting plants to the Williamsburg area in March and April, 2016. Also assist in delivering the azaleas to the convention site in late April.

8. Provide space for plants in the Williamsburg area during the month before the convention.

9. Assist customers or help with check out at the convention plant sale.

10. Transport unsold plants back to the Northern Virginia area.

If you are able to assist in any of the activities, 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.

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 the calendar for this year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
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 / May 4	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various
April-May (TBD) - added	Picnic at White's Nursery	NV-ASA	White's Nursery 22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, Maryland 20876
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, visit our [Legacy website](#) or [contact me](#).

Miscellaneous –

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](#).

I hope to see you at the chapter meeting on 16 March and also at the ASA Convention.

Rick