

April 2014 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I was happy to see the large turnout of chapter members at the joint meeting with the **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **ARS** on 16 March. It was standing room only in the Potomac Community Center to hear **George McLellan** give a talk on "**The Winter Garden.**" It is amazing how many different plants can bring winter interest to the garden, either through blooms or foliage. In addition to **George's** talk, we had a plant exchange with a large number of azaleas and companion plants.

I'm writing this message after ten days on the road. We spent a weekend in beautiful western North Carolina where I had the opportunity to give a presentation on the **Legacy Project** to the **Vaseyi Chapter** of the **ASA** in **Hendersonville, NC**. We had a good turnout from the chapter members and **ASA** members from other chapters including **Chris Wetmore**, president of the newly formed **Central Carolina Chapter** (**Eve** and **Bob Harrison's** new chapter) and his wife **Beth** as well as **J Jackson, ASA President** and his wife **Lindy Johnson**. I was also surprised to see **Andy** and **You-Ying Whipple** from Indiana who are members of the **Lake Michigan Chapter**. **Andy** is a professor at **Taylor University** and is on the board of the **Azalea Research Committee**. He gave a very interesting keynote presentation on **Azalea Tissue Culture** at the **Evansville Convention** in 2011. There was a lively question and answer session after the presentation. I hope we can get more **ASA** members interested in creating their own **Legacy Projects**.

The main purpose for our travels was to attend the **ASA National Convention** in **Charleston, SC**, however **Susan** and I had the opportunity to link up with **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck** at **Brookgreen Gardens** in **Pawley's Island, SC**. It is primarily a sculpture garden which was started by **Anna Hyatt Huntington**, a noted sculptor in her own right. She collected works from a large number of famous sculptors. If your travels take you to the **Myrtle Beach** area, I would recommend a visit.



On Thursday, we drove down to Charleston, to attend the **ASA National Convention**, sponsored by the **Rev. John Drayton Chapter** of the **ASA**. As in the past, the **Northern Virginia Chapter** was very well represented with the largest contingent at the convention. I was happy to get the opportunity to meet chapter members I hadn't met before as well as members who travel great distances to attend (it is always great to see **Doug** and **Anita Burke** from **Toronto** and **Ronnie** and **Donna Palmer** from **White Hall, AR**).

As you probably guessed, the cold winter resulted in a late bloom season so we saw very few open azaleas. We did visit



some beautiful gardens and could imagine how spectacular they would be in full bloom. **Middleton Place** in particular has one hill with thousands of azaleas. **Magnolia Plantation** has azaleas in a more natural setting. Susan and I were fortunate to have **Isaac Leach** lead our group. **Isaac** is on the staff of **Magnolia Plantation** and grew up on the plantation, living with his family in one of the former slave quarters (which we were able to visit). As a result, he had a long history

with the Hastie family (owners of the plantation) and his love for the garden was obvious. We also visited [Cyprus Gardens](#) which is a beautiful azalea garden set in a Cyprus swamp. A more extensive article on the convention will be in the next **Clipper**.

In society business, **Paul Beck** and I were both elected to be Directors for 2014-2016. **Dave Banks** also took over webmaster duties from **Bob Stelloh**. **Paul, Dave** and I join **Dan Krabill, Leslie Nanney** and **Lars Larson** on the Board of Directors. **Paul** is also working, in coordination with **Dave**, to put the ASA membership roster online under password control.



The highlight of any convention is the opportunity to meet with friends you get to see only once a year. If you haven't attended a convention in the past, I highly recommend you attend one in the future. Next year's convention will be in **Nacogdoches, Texas**.

We are now moving into prime time for our chapter and azaleas. I'm looking forward to the azaleas starting to bloom. We also have a number of activities scheduled for the next few months.

White Garden Workday 11 April (ADDED)– The first workday of the year on the White Garden will be held on 11 April 9am to noon. A flyer with more information will be posted on our website once we receive it.

Bonsai Show Apr 12-13 – A new addition to the calendar, the **Bonsai Society** is holding a show at the **Merrifield Garden Center** at 12101 Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. The free show runs Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Joe Gutierrez**, a member of our chapter, is also a long term member of the **Bonsai Society**. You may remember his excellent presentation on **Bonsai Azaleas** which he gave to our chapter a couple of years ago. More information is available in the [Fairfax Connection](#).

Member Garden Tours (27 April /4 May/10 May) – date added – This has been a tough year for many of our gardens. Fortunately they are springing back to life with the warm weather. Several members of our chapter have offered their gardens for members to tour on the above dates. If you are interested in touring a garden, please coordinate with the owner, if requested, at the number listed prior to arriving. Thanks to all the owner/members who have offered their gardens for the tours.

Sunday April 27

Cosby's, 18168 Dogwood Trail Rd, Rockville, VA 23146, 804-749-3462 please call ahead

Sunday May 4th

Hoioos', 573 Marlborough Point Rd., Stafford, VA 22554, 540-659-5854, please call ahead

Nanney's, 8646 Tuttle Rd., Springfield, VA 22152, after 10 am, no need to call ahead
Sperling's, 7732 Schelhorn Rd., Alexandria, VA 22306, 703-765-7062, please call ahead

Cosby's, 18168 Dogwood Trail Rd, Rockville, VA 23146, 804-749-3462 please call ahead

Saturday May 10

Klimavicz's, 8994 Kildownet Ct., Vienna, VA 22182, 703-242-8724, please call ahead

Picnic at White's Nursery (Contact Carolyn if you are interested) – **Carolyn Beck** is organizing a chapter picnic at **Mike** and **Debbie White's** nursery at 22531 Wildcat Rd Germantown, MD this spring. They have a beautiful property in rural Montgomery County and it should be an enjoyable event. Members would bring their own lunch.

The **Whites** have generously offered our group a discount on any plants purchased the day of our visit. For a preview of what may be available, visit their website at <http://www.whites-nursery.com>.

We had originally scheduled this picnic for 11 May, however this is Mother's Day so we need to reschedule. The following days are offered as alternates May 5, 6, 12, 13, or 14. If you are interested in attending this event, **please help select a date by contacting Carolyn Beck as soon as possible** at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com. We will post the scheduled date on the website and in the May Message to Members.

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**. If you are able to assist on either or both days, please contact **Carolyn Beck** at carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703-860-5676.

Cutting Exchange 20 Jul - The annual cutting exchange will be held at **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck's** house on 20 Jul. This meeting is always a good time and I hope you put it 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 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com.

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
Apr 11 (ADDED)	White Garden Workday	Green Springs	White Garden see NV-ASA webpage week of 7 April
Apr 27 / May 4/ May 10	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various – see info above
TBD – Call Carolyn Beck to give her your preference (see above)	Picnic at White's Nursery	NV-ASA	White's Nursery 22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, Maryland 20876

Date	Event	Organization	Location
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 an article on the project has just been published in **The Azalean**. 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](#).

Rick