

May 2014 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and the blooming of the azaleas in your gardens. I have been busy planting azaleas from my nursery bed and up-potting those not yet ready for prime time. I have also been on the road for various horticulture activities.

On 6 April I had the opportunity to give a talk on the ***Legacy Project*** to the **Mason-Dixon Chapter** of the **American Rhododendron Society (ARS)** up in Westminster, MD. It was a beautiful day and we had a great turnout. I also had the chance to meet with **Don Hyatt** and some of the **Mason-Dixon** members involved in planning the 2016 convention.

On 17 April, **Susan** and I attended a talk by **J Jackson**, President of the ASA, given to the **Northern Neck Chapter of the Native Plant Society (NNNPS)** in Wicomico Church on the Northern Neck of Virginia. **J** gave a talk on ***Propagating Native Azaleas: Seeds to Sale***. We saw **Northern Virginia ASA** members **George McLellan** as well as **Nick** and **Jackie Ferriter** who are also members of the **NNNPS**. **ASA Members Lindy Johnson** and **Jim Brant** were also in attendance.

This past weekend I joined other chapter members in helping **Carolyn Beck** up-pot azaleas. I'd like to thank **Carolyn** as well as **Rod Hooios** and **Paul Davis**. I'd also like to thank **Barbara Kirkwood**, a **Master Gardner**, for assisting with the effort.

Susan and I had the opportunity to visit the **Cosby Garden** in Rockville, VA this weekend.



The **Cosbys** have a beautiful 11 acre azalea garden, which some of our members visited last year as part of the **Richmond Garden Tours**. I was pleased to see the **Legacy Garden** which they have established in new beds in their garden. There you will find cultivars from **Bob Stewart**, **Joe Klimavicz**, **Sandra McDonald** and **Pete Vines (Holly Springs)**. Additionally they have added other varieties such as **Bowie Mills**, **Marshy Point**, **Harris** and **Aromi**. Their garden will be open for visitors this coming weekend (see below). Please call in advance. The **Cosbys** have also opened their garden for tours for the **2016 ASA-ARS Convention** in **Williamsburg**.

I encourage you to take advantage of all of the beautiful gardens being opened by our members this coming weekend and the following weekend. See below for the available gardens.

The **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **ARS** has invited our members to attend their 7 September meeting at 1 pm at the [Potomac Community Center](#). The speaker will be **Karen Rexrode** who will be speaking on ***Plant Explorers***. You may remember **Karen** from when she spoke to our chapter in March 2011 on ***Garden Flow***. Make sure you put this on your calendar.

We have a busy schedule ahead, especially for May –

Member Garden Tours (4 May/10 May) – A number of our members have been gracious in offering their gardens for member tours. You have the chance to visit them this coming weekend and the following weekend. 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 May 4th

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

Pattie's Garden (**ADDED – next to Hoioos**), 583 Marlborough Point Rd., Stafford, VA 22554, 540-659-2562 please call ahead

Nanney's Garden, 8646 Tuttle Rd., Springfield, VA 22152, after 10 am, no need to call ahead

Sperling's Garden, 7732 Schelhorn Rd., Alexandria, VA 22306, 703-765-7062, please call ahead

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

Saturday May 10

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

Open House at Nanneys May 4th – In addition to opening their garden to members, **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** are holding an open house for chapter members from 1-5 pm. They now have approximately 1,300 minerals in their collection to join what should be peak azalea bloom, so they're jumping on the opportunity to visit with friends. They will be offering very light snacks and drinks, on what is forecast to be a perfect spring day.

Their home phone is 703-644-5651 and cell is 703-624-3754 if anyone needs directions. Their address is 8646 Tuttle Road, Springfield Va., however the GPS puts you on the wrong side of a dead end. Enter off Old Keene Mill Road to Hillside. At the top of the road at the three rural mailboxes, turn on Tuttle to the end.

Picnic at White's Nursery (6 May)– **Carolyn Beck** has organized a chapter picnic at **Mike** and **Debbie White's** nursery at 22531 Wildcat Rd Germantown, MD on 6 May. The **Whites** have a beautiful property in rural Montgomery County and it should be an enjoyable event. Members should bring their own lunch. **Carolyn** and **Paul** will be arriving mid-morning and departing mid-afternoon to avoid the worst of the traffic.

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>. If you need additional information, please contact Carolyn at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com.

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 **Paul Davis** at padavisjr@aol.com or 703-408-7080.

Advanced Sale to Members - In advance of our Green Spring Garden plant sale, we are offering our members first choice of the available plants at member prices. Plants available for sale are on [our web site](#). You'll also find [instructions](#) for ordering. Pricing is as follows:

1 gallon: \$8.00	5 gallon: \$20.00
2 gallon: \$12.00	7 gallon: \$25.00
3 gallon: \$16.00	10 gallon: \$30.00
4 gallon: \$18.00	

Orders can be done online by logging into the Northern Virginia site www.nv-asa.org and selecting Plant Sales. You must be logged into the site to reserve plants. If you have any questions about logging into the site, contact Paul Beck at [703-860-5676](tel:703-860-5676) or pabeck@gmail.com. Refer any questions about the member sale to **Carolyn Beck** at [703-860-5676](tel:703-860-5676) or Carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com. Plants may also be ordered by contacting **Paul** or **Carolyn** directly.

Cutting Exchange 20 Jul - The annual cutting exchange will be held at **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck's** house on 20 Jul. Hopefully you have this on your calendar and will be joining us.

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. Currently the focus is on identifying the cultivars we want to propagate. **Carolyn** would like suggestions from everyone.

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. If you can help with any of the activities on the [attached list](#), please contact **Carolyn**.

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
May 4/ May 10	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various – see info above
May 6 (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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Sep 7 - 1pm (ADDED)	PVC Meeting – NoVA ASA members invited Speaker: Karen Rexrode on “Plant Explorers”	PVC-ARS	Potomac Community Center
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 was recently 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](#).

I hope to see you at the **Green Spring Garden** plant sale on 17 May, either as a customer, helper or both.

Rick