

June 2014 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Last month was a busy one. I spent an enjoyable weekend in Flatwoods, WV for a meeting of the **Middle Atlantic Chapter (MAC)** of the **ARS**. A large number of **MAC** members who are also members of our **ASA** chapter were in attendance. The day after the meeting I participated in a workday at the **Carrier Arboretum** at **James Madison University**. I had wanted to visit the arboretum to see the **Sandra and Kenneth McDonald Garden**, so the work day was a perfect opportunity.



Don Hyatt, George McLellan and I also visited gardens in the Norfolk area and Gloucester for inclusion in our garden tours for the **2016 ASA-ARS Convention**. We saw some beautiful gardens which I'm sure our attendees will really enjoy.

Speaking of gardens, I'd like to thank all chapter members who opened their gardens for tours in April and early May. The ones I visited were beautiful and I've heard from other members that they really enjoyed the opportunity to see some beautiful azaleas (and companion plants) in bloom.

A number of our members participated in a picnic at **White's Nursery** in Germantown, MD on 6 May. Though I wasn't able to attend, it sounds like it was an enjoyable time and we thank **Mike and Debbie White**, for opening their nursery to our chapter members and for also offering our members discounted prices on their azaleas.

It was great seeing some of our members at the **Green Spring Garden Plant Sale** on 17 May. It was a successful sale for our chapter with us selling 74 plants (we sold an additional 60 plants in our "Members Only" sale prior to Green Spring). It was a beautiful day and they had a large turnout. There was a wide variety of vendors (including **Debbie White**) with some beautiful plants. I'd like to thank **Paul and Carolyn Beck, Paul Davis, Pati Gabaldoni, Susan Bauer, Jeanne White, Barry Sperling** and **Lee McElvain** for helping with the sale.



Most of you know that we have a **Facebook** page. We're trying to use it to bring more attention to our chapter and gain more members. Hopefully you have "Liked" it so that your **Facebook** friends will see it also. Besides publishing our activities, we need to get more content on our page. If you have any interesting pictures of azaleas or gardens (especially your own) to post on our **Facebook** page, please send them to Barry Sperling at bsperling@cox.net.

Those of you who "Like" the **ASA Facebook** site, saw the picture of the **Aromi** azaleas and heard about the [fund raising effort](#) to expand the **Aromi** collection at the **Mobile Botanical Gardens**. Efforts like these are what we recommend in the "[Legacy Project](#)." Attendees at the ASA convention in **Athens** in 2013, may have heard **Maarten van der Giessen** speak about the **Aromi** hybrids and realized how beautiful they are. I have a couple of them in my garden and intend on collecting more.



Finally, **Don Hyatt** makes trips up to the **Smoky Mountains** each June to see the impressive native azalea and rhododendron blooms. I took part last year and hope to join him again this year. Right now there isn't a firm date established as it will be based on when the peak blooms will occur, however if you are interested in potentially participating, contact information is below.

Below are upcoming events -

Smoky Mountain Trip (TBD) – The timing of this trip is dependent upon the azalea and rhododendron blooms. If you are interested

and would like to get more information, please contact **Don Hyatt** at don@donaldhyatt.com or **George McLellan** at 804-824-1012(c) or 804-693-4253(h).

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.

PVC-ARS Meeting 7 Sep - 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Schedule for 2014 – Below is the calendar for the remainder of this year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Jun (TBD) Added	Smoky Mountain Trip	NV-ASA	Various
Jul 20	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Paul and Carolyn Beck's
Sep 7 - 1pm	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 luncheon 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](#).

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 with additional information 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.

Miscellaneous –

FREE PLANTS!!! – Both **Carolyn** and **Barry** have free azaleas for any interested chapter members. **Barry** has the following plants available for you to dig up:

Nancy of Robinhill: 1 1/2' high, 2 1/2' wide

Ben Morrison: 3' high, 1 1/2' wide

Silver Mist (possibly misnamed Harris hybrid; white flowers, slightly after mid-season): 1' high, 2 1/2' wide

Carolyn has a number of mature “dig your own” plants as well as a number in pots.

Chapter members should coordinate directly with them if you are interested.

Carolyn may be reached at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com.

Barry may be reached at 703-765-7062 or bsperling@cox.net.

Clipper Input - It’s about time for the next **Azalea Clipper** to be published. If you have any input, please provide it to **Barry** no later than **15 June**. This is the **Clipper** prior to our cutting exchange. If members desire cuttings of particular cultivars, this would be a good opportunity to request them.

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 you have a great summer and that I will see you in July at the cutting exchange.

Rick