

## Apr 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Happy Spring! Well it looks like winter has finally departed. Spring has arrived in Yorktown and I understand it is also appearing in the DC area. I'm sure everyone is ready for primetime for our signature plant.

This message is a little later than normal due to my attendance at the **ASA Convention** and then a trip up to **Hooper Bald** to help clear undergrowth from the stand of native azaleas.

I was pleased to see the good turnout from the **Northern Virginia Chapter** at the **ASA National Convention** in **Nacogdoches**. I was also pleased to welcome two new members who affiliated with our chapter, **Robert Ramik** and **Laura Grant**. Many of you may know them from the **American Rhododendron Society** where **Laura** is **Executive Director**. For those of you who were unable to attend, we will have a short slideshow at our upcoming chapter meeting. A more extensive write up will appear in the next **Clipper** and in an upcoming issue of **The Azalean**.



Northern Virginia Chapter ASA National Convention, Nacogdoches, TX 2015

L-R, Robert Ramik, Laura Grant, Paul and Carolyn Beck, Virginia and Dave Banks, Donna and Ronnie Palmer, Dave and Leslie Nanney, Ben Dukes, Susan and Rick Bauer

A large amount of work was done prior to the convention to develop a concept and a recommendation for digitizing **The Azalean**. A group led by **Susan Bauer**, along with **Paul Beck** and **Dave Banks** put together a proof of concept and proposal to the **Board of Directors (BOD)** to digitize **The Azalean** and place it online. This concept was approved by the **BOD**. More information will be provided later in the next **Clipper**.

**The Azalean** was a major topic at the Board of Directors meeting. I know you are all aware that the journal fell behind under the previous editors. While progress had been made, we were still lagging behind schedule. It was decided that the Spring and Summer issues would be combined, containing more content than normally found in a single issue. It should be published and sent out the end of June. This will put us back on a normal schedule. You should have recently received the Fall 2014 issue and the Winter 2014 issue is at the publishers now.

Some of you may have seen the March 2015 issue of **Virginia Gardener**. The issue contains an excellent article by **Don Hyatt** titled "**Everything About Azaleas**."

We have added an additional activity to our calendar. The **Mason-Dixon Chapter** of the ARS has invited us to a picnic/plant sale at White's Nursery on 17 May. We have also received information from the **American Boxwood Society** about their **2015 Symposium**. More details are available at **Other Activities/Notes**.

**Chapter Meeting 12 April** – Our 1 March meeting was rescheduled due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for 12 April at 1:30pm at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. Additional information is in the last **Clipper**. Bring any plants (not just azaleas) which you can share with other members. Members are also encouraged to invite friends or family to the event.

**Charlottesville Garden Week Plant Sale 19-20 April**- Our chapter will have a stand at the **Garden Week** in **Charlottesville** this year. We are using this event to bring attention

to our chapter, hopefully gain new members, introduce the public to our azaleas...especially **Legacy** varieties and finally to generate income.

We have requirements for volunteers for the following shifts – 9-1 and 1-5 on 20 April. Anyone interested should contact me at (757) 833-7737 or [rickbauer@cox.net](mailto:rickbauer@cox.net).

**Member Garden Tours** – One of the highlights of our spring program is the opportunity to tour the gardens of our chapter members. This year we’re planning to schedule these tours on 9 May. If you are willing to open your garden to your fellow chapter members and friends, please contact **Barry Sperling** at [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net) or (703) 765-7062.

**New Members** – Besides **Robert Ramik** and **Laura Grant**, we’d like to welcome **Julia** and **TJ O’Malley** from Kensington, MD. **Julia** and **TJ** are former members of the **Brookside Gardens Chapter**. We hope to see them at an upcoming event.

**Volunteers** - The **Northern Virginia Chapter** cannot operate without the hard work of many volunteers. As with any private organization, some members have a greater degree of interest and strengths (and in some cases energy!) in particular areas than others...however in most cases, everyone can contribute something. At the end of this message I have attached a list of some ways in which you can volunteer. If you are able to assist in any way, please get back with me or any chapter officer.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

Below is the schedule for 2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 12 – rescheduled from 1 March <b>(Addition)</b>	Chapter meeting with speaker Mary Olien from Green Spring Garden and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
Apr 19-20	Plant sale w/ <a href="#">Garden Week</a>	NV-ASA	Charlottesville, VA
May 9	Chapter member garden tours	NV-ASA	Various
May 16	Green Spring Garden plant sale		<a href="#">Green Spring Garden</a> in Alexandria, VA
May 17 <b>(Added)</b>	<a href="#">White’s Nursery Sale and Picnic</a>	Mason-Dixon Chapter ARS	<a href="#">White’s Nursery</a> 22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, MD
Jul 26	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	TBD
Sep 26	Azalea Auction	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
Oct 17	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Oct 18	Chapter meeting with speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 6	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Carolyn and Paul Beck’s home

## **Other Activities/Notes –**

### **American Boxwood Society (ABS) Symposium May 19-22 –**

The **ABS** will be holding their 2015 symposium at **Longwood Gardens** from May19-22. They are visiting a number of gardens in the **Brandywine Valley** as well as historic gardens in **Philadelphia**. If any members would like more information, it is available by clicking on this [link](#) or by going to their website at [www.americanboxwoodsociety.org](http://www.americanboxwoodsociety.org).

### **Azalea Property for Sale -**

I normally don't get into the real estate business, however I was contacted by a seller who has an azalea property of 3.3 acres and two streams in North Silver Spring for sale. I find it a shame when properties with azalea gardens are sold to folks who have no appreciation for azaleas (and in some cases bulldoze them out). For more information, please contact George J. Simonis, 15230 Baughman Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906, Ph: 301-598-6669, E-Mail: [simonis.george@ieee.org](mailto:simonis.george@ieee.org)

### **Legacy Project –**

The **Legacy Project** is designed to "help ensure the continuation of knowledge of azalea hybridizers and their plants and maintain true specimens of their cultivars." If anyone would like more information on becoming a "**Legacy Lead**" or otherwise participating in this project, visit our [Legacy website](#) or [contact me](#).

### **ASA-ARS Convention 2016 –**

Plans for the joint **2016 ASA-ARS Convention** continue to take shape. We have finalized the gardens to be visited as well as the speakers. We think that the **Williamsburg** location will provide a lot of opportunities to enjoy historic and recreational venues in addition to the full schedule of events as part of the convention. This link will take you to the [convention website](#) in progress.

**Legacy Hybridizers** will be featured (along with other special azaleas). **Carolyn Beck** has volunteered to coordinate the chapter efforts in identifying, propagating and raising azaleas for the convention.

The spreadsheet for the azaleas and growers for the **2016 Plant Sale** has been completed. Revisions will be made this spring as we evaluate the success of last year's cuttings. The final list will be made available on our website at least a month before the convention.

A limited number of cuttings will be started this year, so there is one last chance to offer your suggestions. If you have recommendation for some really exciting azaleas, please let **Carolyn** know.

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 [linked list](#), please contact **Carolyn**.

### **Miscellaneous –**

**New Plant Registration Form** - For anyone registering plants, a new Plant Registration Form is now available on the ARS website under "Resources" on the menu bar.

**The Azalean** – The editors of **The Azalean** 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](mailto: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 **Lars Larson** at [lars.larson@cox.net](mailto:lars.larson@cox.net) or 703-277-3441.

**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 on 12 April for our first meeting of the year.

Rick

## Volunteer Opportunities

Below are some of the ways you can help your chapter. If you have other skills you can provide to the chapter, we're always happy to have additional help. If you can help in any area, contact Rick Bauer at (757) 833-7737 or [rickbauer@cox.net](mailto:rickbauer@cox.net).

**Chapter officer or committee lead/member** – a list of elected positions and appointed committees is at [Contacts](#) on our chapter website. If you are interested in running for office or if you would like to help on a committee, you can contact any of the current officers or committee chairpersons for more information or to volunteer.

**Plant Propagation** - We do a large amount of propagation to support our plant sales and our convention. We can always use volunteers to help in repotting cuttings.

**Writing** – Have you been to an azalea garden or other horticultural location/event which might be of interest to our members? Would you like to learn more about society hybridizers and their cultivars? Consider writing an article for the **Azalea Clipper** (chapter newsletter) or **The Azalean** (society journal).

**Speaking** – Are you comfortable giving presentations to groups? Do you want to learn more about our hybridizers and their cultivars? Volunteer to be a speaker for the **Legacy Project**. Speakers help spread the knowledge of beautiful cultivars which likely have not hit the mainstream market.

**Automation Skills** – We have done a lot to automate the activities in our chapter and have taken the lead in enhancing the automation capabilities of the society as a whole. The bulk of this effort has fallen on a small number of members. We would like to build up the team of folks.

**Marketing** – The chapter and society need members to continue to grow/survive. We need good programs, however we also need to market to the general public and other plant societies. While many of us aren't up on all of the latest means of getting the word out, perhaps we have folks who have ideas on how to leverage social media or other capabilities such as **YouTube, Facebook, Twitter** or other media I've never heard of to get the word out. Maybe you have children or grandchildren who have suggestions.

**Plant Sales/Auction** – We need people to help setup and teardown, transport plants and help sell plants.