

## May 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

April is always a busy month and this one was no exception. It was great to see the large turnout at our 12 April meeting where **Mary Olien** gave us an update on **Green Spring Garden** and the **White Garden** and the impact our donations have had on the gardens and on the **Title I** program. For those of you who couldn't attend, our contributions have made a major impact in hiring an intern for the **White Garden** and in making it possible for financially disadvantaged youth to participate in garden programs. We also had a large selection of plants available in our plant exchange as well as a nice spread of refreshments coordinated by our **Hospitality Chairperson, Patsy Meadows**.

The following weekend the chapter had a plant sale at the **Verulam Farm** in **Charlottesville**. This was in conjunction with **Historic Garden Week**. **Susan** and I really enjoyed meeting and talking to the people coming through the barn where we were setup. I also appreciate the members who participated in the preparation and conduct of the sale. Particularly I want to thank **Paul and Carolyn Beck** for their significant effort in preparing for the sale. I'd also like to thank **Dave and Leslie Nanney, David and Patsy Meadows** and **Lloyd and Margaret Willis** for helping setup, teardown and man the booth during the sale.



We also provided information on the chapter and the society in an effort to make the public aware of our organizations. We provided complimentary copies of **The Azalean** magazine, ASA flyers and membership applications, **2016 Williamsburg Convention** flyers and an **Azalea Care** flyer. Additionally, we also showed a slideshow of chapter activities. Members who signed up in Charlottesville also received a free **Calendulaceum**.



We were pleased to gain two new memberships for the chapter during the **Charlottesville** sale. I'd like to welcome **Al** and **Alba Shank** from **Charlottesville** and **Christine Matthews** from **Midlothian** to the **Northern Virginia Chapter**. We look forward to seeing all of you at a future chapter event.

I attended the **Middle Atlantic Chapter (MAC)** of the **American Rhododendron Society (ARS)** meeting in Durham 24-26 April. I had the opportunity to visit the archives at **North Carolina State University** and see some of the artifacts from the establishment of our chapter. As part of the meeting, we visited the **Sarah P. Duke Gardens** in **Durham**. While the whole garden is beautiful, I especially enjoyed the native area which included a large number of native azaleas. If you are ever in the Durham area, the garden is



certainly worth a visit. Unfortunately due to inclement weather, I didn't get to visit the **JC Raulston Arboretum**. The **MAC** chapter meetings also give me the opportunity to see a number of **Northern Virginia Chapter** members who, because of distance, normally don't attend our chapter activities. Chapter members in attendance were **Paul and Carolyn Beck, Dave and Virginia Banks, Ken and Sandra McDonald, Lloyd and Margaret Willis, Phyllis Rittman, Don Hyatt, Bill Bedwell, David Taylor, George McLellan, Walter Przypek, Debbie Sauer and Jeanne Hammer**. Associate member **Joe Miller** was also in attendance.

We have a couple of events coming up this month.

**Member Garden Tours** – One of the highlights of our spring program is the opportunity to tour the gardens of our chapter members. **Barry Sperling** has coordinated with the following chapter members for visits to their gardens. Please coordinate with the garden owners in advance.

**Dan Krabill** 5/2 or 5/9, McLean, 703-534-7441.

**Dan and Joanne Neckel** 5/9, Fairfax Station, 703-690-6013

**Barry Sperling** 5/3 or any later date, Alexandria, 703-765-7062

If you have any pictures of your garden which we could post on our **Facebook** page, please send them to **Barry** at [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net).

**Green Spring Garden Plant Sale May 16** – Once again, we will be selling plants at **Green Spring Garden**. In addition to being a fund raiser, this is also an opportunity to show our face to the general public and hopefully gain new chapter members.

We are looking for members to help with setting up on 15 May and manning the booth and tearing it down on 16 May. If you are able to assist, please contact **Lars Larson** at [lars.larson@cox.net](mailto:lars.larson@cox.net) or 703-277-3441.

**Whites Nursery Picnic May 17** – The **Mason-Dixon Chapter** of the **ARS** has invited our chapter to a picnic and plant sale 1-4 pm 17 May at associate members **Debbie and Mike White's Nursery**, 22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, MD. A [flyer](#) is located on our website. Please RSVP with Debbie at (301) 471-5958 or [whiteaz@verizon.net](mailto:whiteaz@verizon.net).

**Azalean Online**. The **ASA** Board of Directors, at the Nacogdoches, TX convention, approved a new project to put **The Azalean** online. This project is headed up by **Susan Bauer**, and involves digitizing old **Azaleans** as well as putting the new issues online as soon as they go to the printers. The first online **Azalean (Winter 2014 issue)** is now available, well before it reaches your mailbox in hardcopy. You can currently access it from the [link in the announcement header](#) on the NV web site home page. In order for articles to be released, we first need to obtain copyright releases from the authors. As these releases are obtained, and the articles have been digitized (if not available in softcopy), the article will be viewable from the above links. Note that you must be logged in to view the articles.

### Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2015

Date	Event	Organization	Location
May 9 and various	Chapter member garden tours	NV-ASA	Various – see above
May 16	Green Spring Garden plant sale		<a href="#">Green Spring Garden</a> in Alexandria, VA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>
May 17	<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	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
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).

#### **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 many of you at the Green Spring Garden Plant Sale on the 16th and/or White's Nursery on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Rick