

## Jul 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Susan and I just returned from a week in Canada. I must say we enjoyed the temperatures in the 60's and 70's after the 100+ temperatures we had in Yorktown the week before.

Unfortunately I was unable to make it to the **Smoky Mountains** this year as my schedule wouldn't permit it. I understand from those that participated that it was a great trip...beautiful weather and peak blooms. They even had an ASA member from Germany, **Dr. Ralf Bauer** (no relation), come over for the trip, having been inspired by **Carolyn Beck's** article in the Winter issue of **The Azalean**. I'm going to try and keep my calendar open next June so that I can participate.



J. Jackson, Lindy Johnson, and George McLellan admire a compact, yellow form of *R. calendulaceum* on Roan Mountain at Engine Gap. – Photo Don Hyatt

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the cutting (and plant) exchange **on the 26<sup>th</sup> at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**. I highlighted the date and location in the last sentence since there was some confusion about the date of the event. This is one of my favorite events of the year and I think **Kirkwood** will be an ideal location to hold it. I have been able to get some great cuttings at past exchanges and increase the size and variety of my azalea collection. You are free to bring rooted azaleas and other plants to share with our members. We have also invited the members of the **Ben Morrison Chapter** of the **ASA** to join us. Barry will have more information on the event in the upcoming **Clipper**.

Speaking of Barry, he's posted some great pictures of his garden. You can view them by clicking on this [link](#).

**The Azalean** – A lot of effort is underway to get **The Azalean** back on a regular, timely, publication schedule. To help in this effort, a decision was made to publish a double issue covering spring and summer 2015. Unfortunately the editors have been experiencing some health issues so the journal will likely come out in August rather than July. Hopefully after this double issue, future issues of **The Azalean** should be on a regular publication schedule.

As a reminder, a comprehensive index of **The Azalean** is now online on the ASA website. The index facilitates ordering back copies of **The Azalean** as well as to view selected articles online.

As I mentioned last month, the **ASA** Board of Directors, at the Nacogdoches, TX convention, approved a new project to put **The Azalean** online. This initiative has been spearheaded by members of our chapter. This project 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.](#) You can currently access it from the [Archives](#) menu selection on the ASA website. Note that you must be logged in to view the articles.

In order for articles to be released for viewing, **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 link.

**If you have authored any articles in the past, you will receive a copyright release form. Please sign and return it as soon as possible so that we can move forward with this initiative.**

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2015

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>
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	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
Dec 6	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Carolyn and Paul Beck's home

**Other Activities/Notes –**

**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 –**

**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 you all have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and I look forward to seeing you on the 26<sup>th</sup> at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. I'm attaching a couple more pictures of the Smoky Mountain Trip below.

Rick



R. calendulaceum flowers in the open balds along the Appalachian Trail near Roan Mountain. – Photo Don Hyatt



The Appalachian Trail at Roan Mountain can be seen in the distance with R. calendulaceum in the foreground. Photo-Hyatt