

## Sep 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I've been enjoying the last few days of cooler weather and have been catching up on a lot of yard work. I'm frankly looking forward to the cooler weather of autumn. As always, I have a number of pieces of information to provide.

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Azalea Auction and Sale 26 Sep:** This month we have our annual **Azalea Auction and Sale** on 26 September at **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**. This is always a great event and provides chapter members and members of the general public, the opportunity to purchase or bid on outstanding cultivars, many of which have been hybridized by ASA members. As with any of our events, we can always use volunteers to help with setup, teardown and conduct of the sale/auction. If you are able to volunteer for set-up on Friday, 25 September and/or help with the auction/sale on Saturday, 26 September, please contact **Lars** at [lars.larson@cox.net](mailto:lars.larson@cox.net) or 703-277-3441. Information on azalea varieties which will be featured will be available on our website at <http://www.nv-asa.org/azaleas/0/sales> in mid-September.

**The Azalean** - The latest status is that the double issue (spring/summer) has been completed, but not yet printed, and we currently have the softcopy posted online. Articles will be made visible as we get copyright releases from authors...which we are doing now. It is expected that the journals themselves will be in member's mailboxes mid to late September. The journal was delayed due to serious health problems experienced by **Mike Sikes**. Those of us who know **Mike** and **Connie** wish them both the best and wish **Mike** a speedy recovery. The new editor, **Barbara Stump**, is already at work putting together the fall issue of **The Azalean**. Barb is a former editor of **The Azalean** and, with her retirement, will have the time, experience and subject matter expertise to do a great job. Additionally, she is being assisted by **Pam Fitch**, another former editor.

I also previously reported on the efforts to digitize **The Azalean**. Significant progress has been made by the **Digitization Team** in digitizing past issues. Access is now available to all issues from the current issue back through 1993. There is an amazing amount of good information in past issues and I encourage you to go out on the website and check it out. The results of this effort are currently visible on the **ASA** website by clicking [here](#). You must have an **ASA** login to access the articles from the 12 most recent (3 years) issues. Older issues can be viewed by anyone, without a login. To view an individual article, you must locate the issue first and then select **Click here to make articles viewable**. In addition to viewing the articles, you may easily order back issues of **The Azalean** through the web interface using **PayPal**. Articles which are not viewable have not yet been digitized and/or we have not received copyright release for the article from the author.

[As a separate note from **Susan** -**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.**]

**White Garden Intern** – Our chapter has made contributions over the past several years to support an intern for the **White Garden**. This year the intern was **Jessica Meyer**. Below is a short statement from **Jessica** which was published in the **Green Spring Garden** newsletter, **Gardenline** (used with permission):

*My name is Jessica Meyer and I have traveled from New Orleans to be a part of the Green Spring Gardens family. I am currently in school studying biology and invasive species management. I have been selected and hired as an intern to create an Invasive Species Management Program at the White Garden in Falls Church, VA. I was so excited about the opportunity that I eagerly drove a thousand miles for this offer. Working with Mary Olien of Green Spring Gardens and her staff has been a pleasant experience. I am always included in every workshop and staff meeting, and*

*have been constantly offered literature to improve my education. I find this team to be very supportive and eager to share their wisdom. I came here thinking I was going to knock out everything in my path within a month; but after time and shared wisdom, I am learning a much more delicate art to managing a site. I am given opportunities to work with people who have worked with Fairfax County for years and who have much training with the field of work I chosen. My manager has set me up for success, and I am very happy to have this opportunity to intern here.*

I'm proud that our chapter has not only aided in **Jessica's** education, but has helped in furthering the goal of having the **White Garden** eventually open to the public. Thanks to all of you.

Last month I mentioned members writing articles for **The Azalea Clipper**. **Barry** is doing a great job, however he currently does the lion's share of writing for the **Clipper**. Please consider writing an article. It doesn't have to be long and can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Pictures are also always appreciated. Contact **Barry** if you have any questions [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net) or 703-765-7062.

**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>
Sep 26	Azalea Sale and 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 - Update**

We continue to develop our plans for the joint **2016 ASA-ARS Convention**. We have contracted with the hotels and bus company, finalized the gardens to be visited as well as the speakers. Additionally we have selected caterers for our tour lunches and have identified a company to provide tours of the **Williamsburg** area. 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. As we get closer to the event, we will be asking members to volunteer for one or more of the many jobs necessary to make this convention a success. This link will take you to the [convention website](#) in progress. The hotel is already accepting reservations using the group code **ASA**.

## **ARS & ASA Convention 2016 Plant Sale - Update**

Well over 2000 azaleas are being grown for this event by a number of chapter members. Most will be in 4" pots, but there will also be a nice selection in 3-quart and 1-gallon sizes. Featured will be cultivars from our **Legacy Hybridizers**. In addition, there will be representatives from other hybrid groups that are thought to be of special interest.

The tentative list of what will be included in the sale will be put on the website after the first of the year. Final changes will be made in March.

We would like as many of our group to participate in the chapter's sale. There are a wide range of activities needed to make this a successful venture. If you can help, please contact Carolyn with any of the activities on the linked [list of roles](#). Numbers 1-6 on this list have essentially been completed. Now we are focusing on items 7-14.

### **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're able to attend and assist in conducting our upcoming auction and plant sale. Thanks.

Rick