

Oct 15 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

As I write this message, we're awaiting the arrival of hurricane **Joaquin**. While I'm happy for the rain, which we really need, I'm hoping the winds and tides don't pose a problem.

Public Sale and Auction - I want to thank all of those members (and others) who helped in the set-up, tear down and conduct of our **8th Annual Public Sale and Auction** on the 26th. Once again we had a very successful sale. The bulk of our plants were the result of an aggressive propagation program we started several years ago, spearheaded by **Carolyn Beck**. We also had plants donated by **Bob Stewart** and **White's Nursery (Mike and Debbie White)**. Additionally, we had plants donated by **Phil and Frances Louer** several years ago, for the purpose of future plant sales. We are grateful to all of our plant donors. **Don Hyatt** also graciously donated four of his beautiful watercolor prints for the auction.



Mature Azaleas for Sale at the Fall Plant Sale/Auction at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church – photo by Barry Sperling

I'd also like to thank **Lars Larson** for coordinating the effort, **Paul Davis** for being our auctioneer and helping with setup, and **Paul Beck** for setting up an amazing WiFi network and running the projector (as well as doing an incredible amount of auction data preparation with **Carolyn**). Thanks also to **Jim** and **Sue Hedrick**, **Diane Moritz (Ben Morrison Chapter)**, **Barbara** and **John Kirkwood**, **Larry Martin**, **Leslie** and **Dave Nanney**, **Lee McElvain**, **David** and **Patsy Meadows**, **Pati Gabaldoni**, **Sam** and **Ginger Burd**, **Barry Sperling**, **Don Hyatt** and **Andrea Scurlock (Paul and Carolyn's daughter)** for all of their help in advertising, setting up/tearing down and running the auction/sale. We couldn't have done it without you.

Not only do our public sales raise funds to support many horticultural programs, they bring our chapter and our activities to the attention of the public and hopefully result in more members.

Welcome Back – Most of our members know **Eve** and **Bob Harrison**. **Eve** is a former president of the chapter and **Bob** has been a frequent auctioneer for us. They moved to the Charlotte, NC area several years ago. I guess they missed us since they have recently re-affiliated with the chapter. We welcome them back! Hopefully we'll see them at the convention, if not sooner.

The Azalean – Things are really on a roll with **The Azalean!** The Spring/Summer issue is in the mail (really!). The Fall issue is at the publisher and work on pulling together the Winter issue has begun. Both the Spring/Summer and the Fall issues are **currently** online at <http://www.nv-asa.org/azaleans>. You will need a password and user ID to access the most recent **Azaleans**. I recommend you check out the results of the massive amount of work by our chapter members in digitizing and placing **The Azalean** online as well as getting our magazine schedule back on track.

Joint ASA/ARS Convention 20-24 April 2016 – Most of the planning and contracts for the 2016 convention are now in place. **Don Hyatt**, **George McLellan** and I visited and booked the final venue, lunch facilities at **Beaverdam Park** in Gloucester, last week. We also went back to **Norfolk Botanical Garden** to check out the picnic facilities and visit the

McDonald Azalea Garden. A short article on the convention will appear in the **Fall** issue of *The Azalean* (currently available online) and a much longer article, as well as registration materials, will be in the **Winter** issue (due out in December). This issue will also include articles on **Lewis Ginter Garden** in **Richmond** and **Norfolk Botanical Garden**, two of the gardens included in our convention tours. Up to date information is available on the convention website <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>. Our hotel, The **Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center** is currently accepting reservations at <http://www.fortmagruderhotel.com/> or by calling 757-220-2250 using convention code **ASA**.

We hope that you are planning to attend the convention. We will be publishing volunteer requirements in the near future. Please consider volunteering some of your time to help make this convention a success.

Chapter Meeting 18 Oct Bonsai Azaleas- We are fortunate to have **Dr. Joe Gutierrez** speak to us on **Bonsai Azaleas** at our next meeting. **Joe** is a member of our chapter and the **Northern Virginia Bonsai Society** so it is logical that he combined his interest in both areas. **Joe** first became aware and interested in bonsai while traveling through Japan as a child; however he didn't try his hand at it until the end of his career as a Navy surgeon. He started with chrysanthemums, however he has a particular interest in azaleas since they do so well in the mid-Atlantic area. He has studied under a number of bonsai masters in New York and California. **Joe** will bring samples of his bonsai. This will be a very interesting talk. You are encouraged to bring a friend.

We will also be having a plant exchange. This is always an excellent opportunity for you to share your excess plants with other attendees and gain new plants for your garden. More information on the meeting and refreshment responsibilities will be in this month's **Clipper**.

Holiday Social Dec 6 – This is one of our most important meetings of the year. We will be approving the budget for 2016, electing officers and making decisions on the amount and recipients of our yearly donations. More information will be available in next month's message and in **Not the Clipper** (**Barry's** short final newsletter of the year).

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2015:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Oct 17	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	Becks'
Oct 18	Chapter meeting with speaker Dr. Joe Gutierrez speaking on Bonsai Azalea and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
Dec 6	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Carolyn and Paul Beck's home

Other Activities/Notes –

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 with any of the activities on the linked [list of roles](#), please contact **Carolyn Beck**. Numbers 1-6 on this list have essentially been completed. Now we are focusing on items 7-14.

Miscellaneous –

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 or 703-765-7062.

Clipper Volunteer opportunity – Barry puts a lot of effort into writing for and putting together the **Clipper**. He could use assistance in printing and mailing the completed **Clipper** to those members receiving it in hard copy. If you are able to assist 4-5 times a year, please contact **Barry**. The cost of supplies and mailing are reimbursed by the chapter.

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. 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 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'm looking forward to seeing you at our October meeting.

Rick