

Jan 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Happy New Year. I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season Susan and I had a quiet one, however now we are looking forward to a new year full of activities.

As I write this message, the temperature is in the 70's. The unfortunate impact of that is that my blueberry bushes have blossoms on them, my alium are coming up and my Encore azaleas are in bloom. While I like warm weather, I'm worried about the impact of the cold weather...which will be coming.

I was pleased to see the great turnout we at our **Holiday Social/Annual Meeting** on 6 December. Thirty-one of our chapter members enjoyed good food and company at **Paul and Carolyn Beck's** house. We elected next year's slate of officers, approved the 2016 chapter budget and approved the overall donation level and allocations for 2015. We had a very successful year in fundraising (through the sale of plants).



Chapter Members Listen to Comments by Norma Merritt – photo by Barry Sperling

The officers for 2016 are:

President – Rick Bauer

Vice President – Barb Kirkwood

Secretary – Joanne Neckel

Treasurer – Paul Beck

The chapter approved the following donations:

Green Spring Gardens – Margaret White Garden Intern	\$2200
Green Spring Gardens – Title 1 Program	\$1000
National Arboretum	\$1000
Norfolk Botanical Garden	\$1000

I want to thank you all for making 2015 such a successful year and I hope that we surpass it in 2016 with our co-sponsorship of the Joint ASA-ARS National Convention in Williamsburg, VA.

The Azalean – Hopefully you have all received the **Winter** issue of **The Azalean**. It is also online at <http://www.nv-asa.org/azaleans>. This issue is focused primarily on our upcoming convention. I think you will enjoy the articles on the **Norfolk Botanical Garden** and **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**. Additionally, there is a detailed article on the convention itself and a registration form for the 2016 Convention as well as a ballot. Please do your part as a member of the **Azalea Society** and vote. While we unfortunately

are not in a position to have multiple volunteers vying for each position, *your participation does help fulfill society by-laws requirements.* You will also be given the opportunity to vote for Best Article in **The Azalean**. Again, please take the time to vote and mail in your ballot.

Joint ASA/ARS Convention 20-24 April 2016– Most of the planning and contracts for the 2016 convention are now in place. The convention planning committee met in **Williamsburg** in November to discuss detailed planning and to do another walk through of the hotel facilities. This will be a great convention with beautiful gardens, interesting speakers and the opportunity to take advantage of all of the historic venues in **Williamsburg** and the **Historic Triangle**. Up to date information on the convention 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. A list of volunteer requirements was passed out at the Holiday Social. A copy will also be sent to all members with email access. Please help out by volunteering, at the convention and/or in preparation for the event (see the list later in this message).

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the current schedule for 2016. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
March 20 1-5pm	Spring Meeting with Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA/PVC-ARS	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
April 20-24th	ARS/ASA Joint Convention	NV-ASA, Mason-Dixon, Middle Atlantic and Potomac Valley Chapters, ARS	Williamsburg, VA
Apr 30- May 8	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various – to be determined (TBD)
May 14	Green Spring Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA
Late May – TBD	Bonsai Tour at National Arboretum led by Dr. Joe Gutierrez	NV-ASA	
July 10 1-5pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
September 17 1-5pm	Plant Auction and Sale	NV-ASA/Daylily Society	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
October 22	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
October 23	Fall Meeting with	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

1-5pm	Speaker and Plant Exchange		Church
December 4 1-5pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

Other Activities/Notes –

ARS & ASA Convention 2016 Plant Sale -

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.

The plant sale is probably the largest member run event of the convention and requires a large number of volunteers.

Volunteers will be needed to perform the following tasks:

1. Enter plant descriptions and photographs onto the website.
2. Attach barcode tags to plants.
3. Groom plants for the sale, which would include light pruning, removing debris from around the base of the plant, and cleaning the outside of the pots.
4. Assist with loading and transporting plants to the Williamsburg area in March and April.
5. Also, delivering the azaleas to the convention site in late April.
6. Provide space for plants in the Williamsburg area during the month before the convention.
7. Help with plant sale setup on Tuesday and/or Wednesday, April 19th-20th.
8. Assist customers at the plant sale (answering questions, bagging/boxing plants, moving plants to the reserve/sold area or the customer's vehicle).
9. Staff Phytosanitary Certificate area. The plan is to provide inspection of plants that attendees wish to transport to areas in our country and overseas that have restrictions. These plants will be

segregated and the required paperwork completed by the customer with assistance from staff.

10. Act as a Cashier.

11. Transport unsold plants back to the place of origin.

These events will take place from now until the end of the convention so there should be tasks which won't conflict with your schedules and which fit your interests/skill sets. Some of the tasks can even be accomplished if you are unable to attend the convention.

We would like as many of our group to participate in the convention sale. If you can help with any of the activities, please contact **Carolyn Beck** at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com .

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.

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 **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or 703-268-6958.

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](#). We recently added **RareFind Nursery** in Jackson, NJ to our list. They are members of the ASA and carry a number of our Legacy Hybrids.

Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts!

Rick