

Feb 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I hope you all weathered the record breaking snowfall well. While in Yorktown we didn't get the amount received in the DC area, we did get our share of snow, ice and wind. It was particularly bad for us as we had just gotten back from a two week cruise to the **Panama Canal**...where the temperature was much more pleasant.

We had the opportunity to visit **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden** in **Coral Gables, Florida** as part of our trip. Those of you in the **Orchid Society** are probably familiar with this garden as it is the headquarters of the **Orchid Society**. Unfortunately I have had little success with the few orchids I've owned over the years. I highly recommend a visit if you're ever in **South Florida**.



Membership Renewal – Paul Beck, in his role as **National Treasurer**, has sent out reminders to members whose memberships have expired. Please be timely in your response. Treasurer is another of the many volunteer jobs in the society. Timely response to **Paul** (one way or another) helps reduce the amount of additional work required to ensure membership renewal actions are completed.

Chapter Meeting – 20 March – I hope you have this meeting on your calendar. We are finalizing the speaker, however we will also be having a plant exchange. This is always a good time for you to share your excess plants and add additional varieties to your garden.

Joint ASA/ARS Convention 20-24 April 2016– Registration for the convention is up and running. It may be done either by submitting the hardcopy application included in winter issue of **The Azalean**, or by downloading it from the convention website. Registration may also be done online. This is going to be a great convention in a great location. We encourage you to register and make your hotel reservations early.

I am excited about the gardens, speakers and plants which will be available at the convention. I'm also very pleased that **Buddy Lee**, hybridizer of the **Encore©** azaleas, is providing a selection of his latest varieties as convention favors. There will be other evergreen azaleas selections, as well as deciduous varieties.

Up to date information on the convention is available on the convention website <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>. We are planning to post a complete list of cultivars available for sale (including pictures) on the website by the end of February.

Our hotel, The **Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center** is currently accepting reservations at [hotel reservations](#) or by calling 757-220-2250 using convention code **ASA**. If you have any questions or problems, visit the convention website or contact me directly. Additionally, if you have any problems with hotel reservations, there is a direct line the

hotel has established, 757-221-6916. Leave your contact information and the hotel will get back with you within 24 hours.

We thank those who have already volunteered to assist in preparing for and conducting the convention. We still need folks to assist in different roles. Please contact me for general volunteer opportunities and **Carolyn Beck** at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com for preparing the plants for the sale.

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 1-5pm	Fall Meeting with Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian 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 are events that will take place from now until the end of the convention. Please let us know what will fit into your schedule, your area of interest, and your skill set. Note that 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 – I recently sent an email out asking members to consider switching from hardcopy to softcopy delivery of ***The Azalea Clipper***. I appreciated the responses, both yea and nay, which I received.

We are always looking for articles for the ***Clipper***. They don'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. Please consider writing an article. 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.

W.W. Nurseries (added) – Some of you may have used **W.W. Nurseries** in the past. I recently received communication from them that they are under new ownership. For those interested in seeing what they offer, their new website is www.rhodiesrus.com.

Rick