

Mar 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

It's great to be at the tail end of winter. Right now it looks like March will be coming in like a lamb. I hope it stays that way.

This time of year is prime time for us. A look at our calendar below shows that we have a large number of events from March until May. We have **added two additional events**, one in March and one in May. The **Potomac Valley** and **Middle Atlantic Chapters** of the **ARS** are once again conducting a [North Carolina Nursery Trip](#) 4-6 March and have invited the **Northern Virginia Chapter** to join them. If you have downloaded this information previously, there has been a change in itinerary and the new information is currently posted. In May, **Mike** and **Debbie White** are holding a picnic at their nursery on 21 May. Information on both events is included at the hyperlinks in the calendar below and on our website calendar.

I'm excited about all of the activities we have coming up. Following are the next couple of activities on our calendar:

Chapter Meeting – 20 March – I'm looking forward to seeing a large number of our members at the upcoming chapter meeting on 20 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be Fairfax County Master Gardener, author, blogger and award-winning photographer **Martha Brettschneider** who will be speaking on the topic ***The Garden as Mindfulness Mentor: How Digging in the Dirt Brings Focus to Mind, Spirit, and Camera***. This talk should be appropriate for azalea gardeners as well as gardeners in general. This is a joint meeting with the **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **ARS**.

We will also be having a plant exchange, one of my favorite chapter activities. This is always a good time for you to share your excess plants and add additional varieties to your garden.

More information is available in the upcoming [Clipper](#) which will be sent out next week or can currently be accessed on our chapter website. You are encouraged to bring a friend to the meeting.

Joint ASA/ARS Convention 20-24 April 2016– The huuuuge event for the chapter this spring is the Joint ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg which we are co-sponsoring with three chapters of the American Rhododendron Society. Up to date information on the convention is available on the convention website <http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>.

Registration for the convention continues and may be done either by submitting the hardcopy application included in the winter issue of **The Azalean**, or by downloading it from the convention [registration webpage](#). Registration may also be done [online](#). Early registration continues until 22 March after which the registration fee increases from \$50 to \$65. No registrations will be accepted after 5 April.

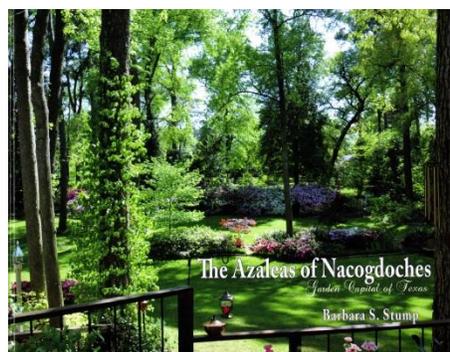
Hotel reservations must be made separately with the **Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center**. We have a special rate of \$119 a night which includes breakfast for two. The rate is good for two days before and after the convention dates. We encourage you to register and make your hotel reservations early. While there are still plenty of rooms at the hotel, they are out of king rooms. The hotel is 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.

While I admit I may be a bit prejudiced, I think this will be a great convention. Not only are we in the historic town of **Williamsburg**, but we will be visiting beautiful public and private gardens in **Richmond, Norfolk** and **Gloucester**. We also have a solid roster of guest speakers. Last, but not least, our plant sale will have thousands of azaleas and rhododendron varieties as well as some companion plants. A listing of all of the plants available in the sale will be on the chapter website on or about 1 March.

I'm also very pleased that **Buddy Lee**, hybridizer of the **Encore®** azaleas, is providing a selection of his **latest varieties** as convention favors. **J Jackson** and **Lindy Johnson** are also providing a deciduous azalea for each attendee. We thank all of them.

The Azaleas of Nacogdoches - Many of you know **Barbara Stump**, the society Vice President, co-chair of last year's **Nacogdoches ASA** convention and Editor of **The Azalean**. **Barb** has just published a book "**The Azaleas of Nacogdoches**." I have a copy and it has some beautiful photography of east Texas azaleas. It costs \$35 plus shipping and is available by sending an e-mail to managing editor **Kimberly Verhines** at sfapress@sfasu.edu. Shipping will add another \$10-\$12 to the cost. However, if you order and send payment prior to 15 April, **Barb** will hand carry your copy to the **Williamsburg** convention for no shipping charge.



I will bring my copy to the 20 March chapter meeting so that you can see it and decide whether you would like to order it. If you want to order it and are not going to the convention (seriously?☺), get with me on the 20th and we can see if alternate arrangements can be made for delivery to avoid shipping charges.

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 |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| Mar 4-6 added | North Carolina Nursery Trip | PVC-ARS/MAC-ARS | Various |
| 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) |

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|-----------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| May 14 | Green Spring Plant Sale | NV-ASA | Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA |
| May 21 added | Picnic at White's Nursery | Mike and Debbie White | http://www.whites-nursery.com/ |
| 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 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 – The latest issue is currently posted online and will be mailed and emailed this week. Once again Barry has done a superb job and I think you will enjoy reading the articles in this issue.

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.

I hope to see you at our upcoming chapter meeting on the 20th of March.

Rick