

## Apr 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

It was great to see the large turnout of NV-ASA members, guests and PVC-ARS members at our 20 March meeting. We all enjoyed an excellent presentation by Master Gardener **Martha Brettschneider** on ***The Garden as Mindfulness Mentor***. I know she inspired me to go out and buy a macro lens and tripod for my camera. I hope she inspired others to get out in the garden, focus on the beauty of nature and capture the beauty on film or digits. Members are encouraged to go outside, take pictures of their gardens and share the beauty with fellow members. You are encouraged to send your pictures to **Barry Sperling** [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net) who will share them on our Facebook page and in an upcoming **Clipper**.



**Members and Guests Listen to Martha Brettschneider's Presentation**

I also enjoyed the beautiful slide show which **Barb Kirkwood** put together, showing the pictures of the gardens we will be visiting. I hope it inspired more folks to sign up for the convention. We have had a spurt of last minute registrations and you are reminded that registration ends on **5 April**. We have reduced the late registration fee to the \$50 level of early registrations.

### **Sad News – Madeline Cosby**



**Ida Madeline Cosby**

It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Madeline Cosby** at age 97 on 30 March. Those members who have visited the **Cosbys** and their garden in **Rockville** had the opportunity to meet **Madeline**. She was the friendliest, most gracious person you could ever meet and will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to **Elizabeth** and **Roy Cosby** and the rest of the **Cosby** family.

**Madeline** lived a long and purposeful life. A more detailed article on **Madeline's** life is in the [Richmond Times Dispatch](#) March 31<sup>st</sup> edition.

Funeral arrangements are currently being finalized. If you wish to be notified of the final arrangements, please send me an email and I will forward them to you when available.

**Joint ASA/ARS Convention 20-24 April 2016**– This is it folks...the event we've been planning for three years. The joint ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg which we are co-sponsoring with three chapters of the American Rhododendron Society will be a great event and it looks like we will have beautiful blooms after the recent cold spell slowed **Mother Nature** down a bit. 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](#). The early registration fee of \$50 has been extended through the entire registration period. No registrations will be accepted after 5 April.

Hotel reservations must be made separately with the **Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center**. While the hotel no longer has rooms blocked solely for the convention, they will continue to honor the special rate of \$119 a night which includes breakfast for two, if rooms are available. 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](mailto: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 is on our chapter website.



**Massive Dragon Lantern in Lantern Asia Exhibit**



**Peacock Lantern**

**Susan** and I recently went to **Norfolk Botanical Garden** to see their exhibit - **Lantern Asia**. This is a beautiful exhibit which will still be there when we tour the garden. This will be a special treat for all...even those who have visited the garden before. The plants were just starting to pop and hopefully the azaleas will be in their full glory when we visit.

**Garden Tours April 30 – May 8** – Once again we are asking our members to open their gardens to fellow chapter members. If you are willing and able to show off your garden during this peak bloom time, please contact **Barry Sperling** at [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net) or 703-765-7062. He will publish a schedule for garden visits which we will post on the website and will send out via email.

**Green Spring Garden Sale – May 14** - This is an early “heads up” for the **Green Spring Garden** sale. Please make sure this is on your calendar and, as always, we can always use help to setup, sell plants and tear down.

**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
April 20-24th	ARS/ASA Joint Convention	NV-ASA, Mason-Dixon, Middle Atlantic and Potomac Valley Chapters, ARS	<a href="#">Williamsburg, VA</a>
Apr 30- May 8	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various – contact <a href="#">Barry Sperling</a> if you want to open your garden to fellow members
May 14	Green Spring Plant Sale	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Green Spring Gardens</a> in Alexandria, VA
May 21	<a href="#">Picnic at White's Nursery</a>	Mike and Debbie White	<a href="http://www.whites-nursery.com/">http://www.whites-nursery.com/</a>
Late May – TBD	Bonsai Tour at National Arboretum led by Dr. Joe Gutierrez	NV-ASA	
July 10 1-5pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
September 17 1-5pm	Plant Auction and Sale	NV-ASA/Daylily Society	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
October 22	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
October 23 1:30 -4:30 pm	Fall Meeting with Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>
December 4 1-5pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

**Other Activities/Notes –**

**Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) Garden Fair and Plant Sale –**

**FONA** will be holding a **Garden Fair and Plant Sale** at the **National Arboretum 29-30 April**. This year's event offers both traditional favorites and rare plants from nurseries across the country, including everything from perennials, annuals and heirloom vegetables to many rare and new offerings. One example, a beautiful evergreen introduced by horticulturalist Dan Hinkley, is the Schefflera taiwaniana 'Yuan Shan'. Hailing from the high mountain areas of Taiwan, this hardy container plant will provide distinctive

texture to shade gardens. For more information go to [www.fona.org/gardenfair](http://www.fona.org/gardenfair).

### **Virginia Garden Faire 7 May –**

**Vienna Parks and Recreation** will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Garden Faire on the Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, from 9 am to 12 noon on 7 May. More information is located at their [website](#).

### **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. Attach barcode tags to plants.
2. 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.
3. Assist with loading and transporting plants to the Williamsburg area in April.
4. Also, delivering the azaleas to the convention site in late April.
5. Help with plant sale setup on Tuesday and/or Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Assist customers at the plant sale (answering questions, bagging/boxing plants, moving plants to the reserve/sold area or the customer's vehicle).
7. 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](mailto:carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com) .

**Miscellaneous –**

**Photos for *The Azalea***

**Clipper/Facebook – Barry** is looking for pictures of your garden to share with other members on our chapter Facebook page and in the **Clipper**. Now is the time to show off a little. Send your pictures to **Barry** at [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net).



**Formosa and Other Azaleas in Bauer Garden**

We are also 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](mailto: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](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 **Barb Kirkwood** at [kirkwoodb@aol.com](mailto:kirkwoodb@aol.com) or 703-268-6958.

I hope to see a large turnout of chapter members at the ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg 20-24 April.

Rick