

Aug 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I hope that all of you are coping well with the summer heat. My major effort this month was putting all of the cuttings I picked up at the annual cutting exchange as well as the **Stewart** and **Klimavicz** cuttings **Carolyn Beck** provided me in support of the **Legacy Project**. Once again I picked up more cuttings than I had originally planned! As I've said before, the cutting exchange is my favorite meeting of the year. We had a good turnout, including members of the **Ben Morrison Chapter**. **Joe Coleman** also made the trip up from Georgia to pick up additional cuttings for his collection.

Vice President **Barb Kirkwood** came up with an ingenious (and tasty) method for controlling the process of members picking up cuttings. She passed out four varieties of chocolate candy. She then called up groups by the variety of candy they had selected (e.g., everyone with a Twix goes next).

We always have a demonstration on putting cuttings, however this year, **Carolyn Beck** went a step further by conducting a hands-on workshop where attendees actually went through the entire process and left with two pots of cuttings.

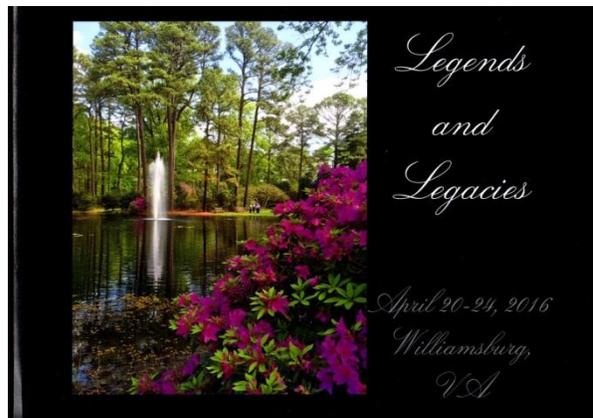


Members participating in a hands-on workshop for putting cuttings



Diane Moritz, Herb Hargroves, Linus Chen, Susan Bauer and Dave Nanney follow Carolyn's instructions for putting cuttings

On a personal level, I was also surprised by **Barb Kirkwood**. In conjunction with **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney**, she had put together a book of photos from the recent convention and presented **Don Hyatt** and me with copies. It is a beautiful book and provides great memories. Since **Don** and I were fully engaged with many of the others running the convention, it also provided us with photos of sights we may not have seen. I was really moved and this will be prominently displayed on our coffee table. Thanks **Barb, Dave and Leslie!**



Legends and Legacies - Cover photo of Norfolk Botanical Garden by Lars Larson

Joint Convention - During the meeting I also reported on the success of the recent convention. Between the convention itself and the plant sale, we made in the

neighborhood of \$20,000. The convention committee, with the concurrence of the chapter presidents of each sponsoring chapter, agreed to send checks for \$5000 each to the **Azalea Society of America** and to the **American Rhododendron Societies**. The remainder will be split evenly between the four sponsoring chapters.

Conducting a convention is difficult. When you're doing it with four geographically dispersed organizations, it adds additional challenges. **Don Hyatt** quoted **Northern Virginia Chapter** member, **Harry Risetto** in the latest copy of the **Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS** newsletter- "**Harry Risetto**, one of our long time **Potomac Valley Chapter** members who had chaired many **Dahlia Society Conventions**, pulled me aside for a few words of comfort. He said, "There are two measures for a successful convention: 1) nobody comes to blows, and 2) nobody dies." Using those metrics, added to the financial results, I think that we can all agree the convention was a success.

Legacy Project



Azalea liners at the Beck's home

For several years, we have been propagating **Legacy** and other azalea varieties for our chapter plant sales. **Carolyn Beck** has been doing the lion's share of the work in this regard. Anyone who has visited the **Becks** might have a hard time distinguishing it from a nursery. **Carolyn** would like to scale back her efforts and she and **Paul** would like to reclaim some of their property (including their driveway) currently being used to raise plants.

We will be putting together a plan to continue our program through decentralizing the efforts required. **Carolyn** has agreed to continue to lead the effort for the time being, however we will be looking for additional folks to help with

efforts to propagate and raise azaleas to sale size. More information will be provided in the future.

Congratulations -

I'd like to extend congratulations to chapter member **Norma Merritt** who celebrated her 90th birthday in July. In addition to her birthday, she successfully passed her driver's test and was recently put on the board of the **League of Women Voters**. Way to go **Norma!**

Azalea/Daylily Sale and Azalea Auction - 17 September

Our next chapter activity is our annual Azalea Sale and Auction which will be held at the **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church** from. This year the **Northern Virginia Daylily Society** will be selling daylilies concurrently with our sale of unusual and rare azaleas. As always, we are looking for members to help with setting up and tearing down the sale/auction as well as helping us to conduct the event. If you are able to assist, please contact **Carolyn Beck** at 703-860-5676 or carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com.

New Members -

A belated welcome is extended to **Harry Risetto** who joined the society and our chapter during the recent convention. **Harry** lives in **Falls Church** and is also a member of the

Potomac Valley Chapter of the **American Rhododendron Society** (and is quoted earlier in this document).

I'd also like to welcome **Bill** and **Maria Cooper** from **Dover, DE** to our chapter. They joined the **ASA** at the joint convention this year and recently affiliated with our chapter. We welcome them to the chapter and hope to see them at a future chapter activity.

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
September 17 1-5pm	Plant Auction and Sale	NV-ASA/Daylily Society	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
October 22	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	Neckel's Home 9702 S. Run Oaks Dr Fairfax Station, VA 22039
October 23 1:30 -4:30 pm	Fall Meeting with Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
December 4 1-5pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood's Home 11381 Seneca Knoll Dr. Great Falls, VA 22066

Other Activities/Notes –

White Garden Workdays

A number of workdays have been scheduled for the **White Garden** throughout the year. Volunteer effort is a major factor in preparing the **White Garden** for opening to the public. The next workday is scheduled for **5 August**. More information is available at [White Garden Workdays](#).

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.

We are also always looking for articles for the **Azalea 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. **Clipper** articles can also be the basis for later submissions to **The Azalean** (see below)

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.

Stay cool during the month of August and I hope to see you at the Azalea/Daylily Sale and Azalea Auction in September.

Rick