

Oct 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

The month of September was a busy one for Susan and me. The weekend of 9-11 September, we attended the fall meeting of the **Middle Atlantic Chapter (MAC)** of the **American Rhododendron Society** at the **Pipestem Resort** in West Virginia. I always enjoy the **MAC** meetings as it gives me a chance to see many of the **Northern Virginia ASA** members who live too far from the DC area to normally attend our meetings. Chapter members who were at the **MAC** meeting were **Dave** and **Virginia Banks**, **Bill Bedwell**, **Jay** and **Shirley Gillenwater**, **Jeanne Hammer**, **Don Hyatt**,



I-r Barbara Hall (whose garden we visited during the convention) with chapter members Paul James and Debby Sauer at Sandstone Falls, WV



Doug and Anita Burke on the McKeever Lodge deck

Paul James, **Ann** and **Bill Mangels**, **George McLellan**, and **Lloyd** and **Margaret Willis**.

I was also pleased to see chapter members **Doug** and **Anita Burke** who made the long drive down from the **Toronto, Canada** area.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the excellent presentation given by **Don Hyatt "A Walk in the Woods"** which chronicled some of the past azalea/rhododendron hikes in the southeast. As usual, the talk was informative, amusing and filled with beautiful photographs. **Don** and

George McLellan make these trips annually in June. I encourage all of you who are capable of hiking moderate distances to participate in at least part of one of these trips in the future.

Azalea Auction and Sale 17 September

WOW! That is the best word I can think of to describe this year's fall auction and sale. **Paul Beck**, who maintains great records, showed that this was, by far, the most successful auction we've had in at least the last four years. We grossed over \$5000 in sales from the fixed price and the silent and live auctions. **Carolyn Beck** commented on how heartening it was to see folks at the sale with shopping lists of azaleas they were looking to add to their collections. That speaks to the volume and diversity of the azaleas which we have been raising for chapter sales. **Don Hyatt** served as our auctioneer and as usual, his knowledge of plants, his humor and his skill with Powerpoint made for a very interesting and entertaining afternoon.



Some of the wide variety of azaleas available at our fixed price sale



Don Hyatt - describing one of the cultivars being auctioned.

We are thankful for the beautiful plants provided. As usual, many of the plants were a result of our propagation program, led by **Carolyn Beck**. We are also extremely grateful to **Mike and Debbie White** for providing a number of large, unique plants. Anyone who has ever seen their plants knows how beautiful and interesting they are. I personally had the winning bid on one of their beautiful deciduous varieties – “**Don’s Variegated Austrinum**.” We also had a number of plants for sale which came from the collection of **Frances and Phil Louer**. We are extremely grateful to all who provided plants.

It was also great to have our friends from the **Northern Virginia Daylily Society** selling beautiful daylilies in conjunction with our sale. I was impressed by the variety they offered and acquired a number of unique and attractive cultivars for our garden.

As usual, I want to recognize the major force behind this event – **Paul and Carolyn Beck**. I think we’re all aware of the work they put into all aspects of this event. I also want to emphasize that this is a **TEAM** effort and want to thank the following people for their considerable time and effort in making it a success – chapter members **Susan Bauer, Sam and Ginger Burd, Paul Davis, Ralph Habegger, Don Hyatt, Barb and John Kirkwood, Lars Larson, Marvin Friedman and Margaret Vogel, Diane Marcus, Lee McElvain, David Meadows, Dave and Leslie Nanney, Joanne and Dan Neckel, Barry Sperling, David Taylor and Ajit Thakur. Larry Martin** also helped by allowing us to stage plants at his home. I’d like to give a special thanks to **Diane Moritz** from the **Ben Morrison Chapter** and **Andrea Scurlock** (**Paul and Carolyn’s** daughter) for helping us with this chapter event.

New Members

We’d like to welcome three new members who signed up at the auction/sale.

Chuck Croft is also a member of the **Bonsai Society** and has been an attendee at our auctions in the past. He lives in **Burke, VA**.

Emmanuel Mangona lives in **Springfield, Virginia** and is a real azalea enthusiast. He is also a very competitive auction bidder (I know from personal experience)!

Jack Rubenstein is also a member of the **Bonsai Society** and lives in **Alexandria, VA**.

We’re pleased to have them join our chapter. We’re also happy to continue to build the relationship between the **Azalea and Bonsai Societies**.

Chapter Meeting with Speaker Dr. Paulette Royt – “Life in the Soil” – 23 October
Master Gardener, Dr. Paulette Royt, will be speaking on “**Life in the Soil**.” The talk will include a discussion on the biology of the soil as well how to apply this soil biology to good gardening techniques in a discussion of best practices, not only to grow healthy azaleas and other plants, but also to be good stewards of the earth.

Paulette Royt earned a **BS** and **MS** degree in **Biology** from **American University**, and a **PhD** in **Microbiology** from the **University of Maryland**. After a fellowship at the **National Institutes of Health**, **Paulette** joined the **Biology Department** of **George Mason University (GMU)** where she taught numerous courses within microbiology and pursued research in pathogenic microbiology. Upon retiring from **GMU**, **Paulette** became a **Master Gardener** at **Green Spring Gardens** where she serves as a docent and speaker on many topics of horticulture.

We will also conduct a plant exchange.

Volunteers/Chapter Officers -

As we approach the end of the year, we have to put in place our plans for next year. One of the things we need in place is our slate of officers and also volunteers. Please get back with me if you are interested in serving as an officer or committee chair or if you would just like to find out about other areas in which you can assist - (757) 833-7737 or rickenbauer@cox.net.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
October 22 1-4 pm	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 15 October. 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.

I look forward to seeing you at the chapter meeting on 23 October.

Rick