

Nov 16 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Susan and I got back from a wonderful trip to Italy in early October. While we were in the walled city of **Spello**, we found a beautiful azalea plant in bloom. **Don Hyatt** indicates it is a **Belgian Indica**. And in case you were wondering....no, I didn't get any cuttings.



We had a large turnout on 23 October to hear **Dr. Paulette Royt** give her presentation on "**Life in the Soil.**" I know that I learned a lot and will be changing the way in which I work the soil around my plantings. In particular I'm interested in trying the "no till" approach and using compost and compost "tea." We also had a large number of plants for our plant exchange to include a number of mature azalea varieties.

The Executive Committee met on 22 October to plan for next year (schedule, officers) and to formulate recommendations for amounts and recipients of our 2016 donations. We had a very successful year financially so we will be recommending a larger amount of donations than in previous years. We are putting together a full program of events for next year...one of the most ambitious I have seen in recent years. We will be providing this schedule to our members at the holiday social in December.

501(c) 3 Status – thanks to **Paul Beck's** efforts in coordination with the **Internal Revenue Service**, the **Northern Virginia Chapter** now has 501(c)3 status in its own right. One of the major benefits of this status is that contributions to the chapter, both monetary and other items of monetary value, are now tax deductible.

Propagation program – Most of you are probably aware of the aggressive propagation program we have had in the chapter for the last several years. **Carolyn Beck** has been the major force behind this program (with a major assist by **Paul**). The time has come for them to scale back a bit. We are putting in place a new program where we will be distributing the effort among chapter members, with centralized management and procurement of supplies. We will be focusing on Legacy hybrids as well as other popular varieties. We will be working with **Mike White** for the acquisition of liners to support our program.

Speaking of **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck**, I just found out that they were awarded the **Bronze Medal** by the **Potomac Valley Chapter** of the **American Rhododendron Society**. Congratulations!

From Budne Reinke, President, Ben Morrison Chapter –

The Ben Morrison Chapter is cordially inviting all N. Va. members to the Holiday Celebration on Wednesday, November 30th, at 12 noon. This will be hosted by Bill and Gabrielle Scott, 15801 Candy Hill Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Please bring a dish to share, and let Bill and Gabrielle know you are coming by emailing them at wscottarch@earthlink.net or phoning them at (301) 888-1476.

Please also copy Budne at budne@aol.com or phone him at (301) 946-4815.

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 rickbauer@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
November 30 12 noon	Ben Morrison Chapter Holiday Celebration	Ben Morrison - ASA	Bill and Gabrielle Scott 15801 Candy Hill Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
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 18 November. More information is available at [White Garden Workdays](#).

National Arboretum Workday – 3 December

Barbara Bullock has announced a workday at the **National Arboretum** on 2 December from 10am to 3pm. Tasks will include raking, tarping, some weeding, some pruning, and a lot of pulling leaves off of or out of their azaleas. If this interests you, please get back to **Barbara** via email at Barbara.Bullock@ARS.USDA.GOV or phone (202) 245-4511 so she has an approximate head count.

I will forward **Barbara's** complete message separately.

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.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the Holiday Social on 4 December at John and Barb Kirkwood's home.

Rick