

## Feb 17 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I don't have much new to report this month. I've been taking advantage of the unusually warm weather to inventory the plants in my garden, replace worn labels and put the information into a database. I'm sorry that many of my very old plants belong in the "lost label" category. I'm trying to do a lot better, especially in the areas of my garden which I'm dedicating to **Legacy** hybrids.

**Sad News** – I just found out that **Ken McDonald** passed away on January 31st after a long illness. **Ken** served our country in the **U.S. Army Reserves**. He was a major presence in both the azalea and rhododendron communities and was a longtime member of the **Northern Virginia Chapter, ASA** and the **Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society**, including service as chapter president among his many contributions. **Ken** was most helpful to me personally in gathering information to use in my presentations on the **McDonald** hybrid azaleas. We were pleased to see him when he recently attended the joint convention in **Williamsburg** with his wife **Sandra**. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to **Sandra** and the rest of the **McDonald** family. Funeral information will be provided as soon as it is available.



Ken and Sandra McDonald at the 2013 dedication of the Sandra McDonald Garden at Norfolk Botanical Garden

Some of our members may know **Jim Campbell** from the **Louisiana** chapter. This [link](#) takes you to a nice article about Jim (focused on his work with Camellias) in the **New Orleans Advocate**.

### New Initiatives –

**Propagation Program** – For many years, **Carolyn Beck** has coordinated the propagation of azaleas for our plant sales and to support the **Legacy Project**. It has come time to spread the wealth. The chapter is instituting a new propagation program which is still managed centrally, but which is executed de-centrally. A separate mailing will be coming out with more detail on the program and where you can assist. If we all do a small part, we can continue to support the chapter's initiatives and continue to generate resources to support worthwhile horticultural activities.

**Mini-Conference 18 March**– Our **Mini-Conference** is a new idea suggested by our new president, **Barb Kirkwood** and approved by the **Executive Committee** during our fall meeting. This is an exciting new initiative which will hopefully bring additional public awareness of our chapter, further foster collaboration with other horticulture societies and educate the public on azaleas. A message from **Barb** is attached to this email gives more information on the program and solicits support from our members. Please contact **Barb** at [kirkwoodb@aol.com](mailto:kirkwoodb@aol.com) if you have questions or are able to assist.

## Clipper Input –

If you have any input for the **Azalea Clipper**, please provide it to **Barry Sperling** [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net) by 25 February for the 18 March meeting and by 15 March for the 9 April meeting **Clippers**.

We already have a full calendar of events scheduled for this year. The current calendar is shown below.

### **Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

Below is the current schedule for 2017. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
March 18, 2017 1-4 pm	Mini Conference	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
March 30- April 2	2017 ASA Convention	Louisiana Chapter - ASA	Hammond, Louisiana
April 9 1-4 pm Note Corrected Date	Chapter meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
April 27-30	American Rhododendron Society Convention - info only	ARS	Eureka, CA
May 6	Parkfairfax Condominium Complex Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Parkfairfax Condominium, 3360 Gunston Road, Alexandria, VA 22302
May 6-7	Member Garden Tours - Tentative	NV-ASA and PVC- ARS	Various - TBD
May 20	Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Green Spring Gardens Park <a href="#">Alexandria, VA</a>
July 16 1-4 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
September 9	Green Spring Gardens Fall Plant Sale - Tentative	NV-ASA	Green Spring Gardens Park <a href="#">Alexandria, VA</a>
Sept 15-16	Ginter Garden Fall Plant Sale - Tentative	NV-ASA	Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA
Sept 23 1-4 pm	Azalea Auction and Sale	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
October 21 10 am - 1:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
October 22	Fall meeting	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church</a>

1-4 pm	with Speaker		<a href="#">Springfield, VA</a>
Dec 3 1-4 pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

**Other Activities/Notes –**

**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).

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](mailto: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](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 **Lars Larson** at [lars.larson@cox.net](mailto:lars.larson@cox.net) or (703) 277-3441.

I'm looking forward to spring and our first chapter event on 18 March.

Rick