

Mar 17 Message to Members

I have to double check my calendar to ensure it is March! I already have daffodils in bloom along with the camellias. I spoke to Tom Johnson today from the Rev. Drayton chapter in South Carolina and he says his azaleas are already in bloom in Charleston and will peak next week!

One of my Venus' Baby plants is already in bloom...but I have to admit it had been safely in my garage, under lights, for the last few weeks!

We are about to enter "Prime Time" for azaleas and for our chapter activities.



One of my Venus' Baby plants already in bloom!

North Carolina Plant Trip 2-4 Mar ADDED -

The **MAC** and **PVC** chapters of the **ARS** are sponsoring their annual plant trip to North Carolina nurseries and have extended an invitation to our chapter members to attend. A copy of the trip flyer is attached to the email forwarding this message. **Don Hyatt** wanted to mention that they will be staying in the Hampton Inn in Sanford, NC (the flyer indicates multiple options).

Mini-Conference 18 Mar - The main activity coming up on 18 March is the **Mini-Conference** from 1-3 pm at **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**. This is something we haven't tried before and I'm looking forward to participating in it. I'm particularly looking forward to us working with other horticulture societies. 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 and the plants of other participating societies. Please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com if you'd like more information or are able to assist. I'm hoping we get a good turnout from our members and from the public.

PVC Meeting Mar 26 Barbara Bullock Talk ADDED- Don Hyatt has extended an invitation to attend their meeting of the Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS at the Potomac Community Center on Sunday March 26, 2017, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. **Barbara Bullock** will be giving an update on the Azalea Collection at the National Arboretum where she has served as curator for many years. Quite a bit has happened since 2010 when the azalea and rhododendron communities successfully fought the decision to destroy the plants on the Glenn Dale hillside.

ASA Convention 30 Mar - 2 Apr - The next big event is the **ASA** convention in **Hammond, Louisiana** 30 Mar-2 Apr, sponsored by the **Louisiana Chapter**. I've looked at the list of registrants and we once again have good representation by the **Northern Virginia** chapter. **Susan** and I always enjoy the conventions. It is a great opportunity to see different gardens in different parts of the country and to meet up with friends from other chapters. If you haven't attended a convention in the past, I encourage you to sign up for one.

While not yet widely publicized, the 2018 convention will be in **Little Rock, Arkansas**.

White's Nursery Open Houses Apr 29th and May 21st - Chapter member **Debbie White** has informed us of two open houses to be conducted by **White's** nursery. More information is in this month's "**Not the Clipper**." I have been to one of their open houses before and really enjoyed myself. Additionally, **Mike** and **Debbie** have a large collection of wonderful azaleas for sale.

Clipper Input –

If you have any input for the **Azalea Clipper**, please provide it to **Barry Sperling** bsperling@cox.net by 9 March for the 9 April meeting **Clipper**.

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
Mar 2-4 ADDED	North Carolina Plant Trip	PVC/MAC ARS	Various
March 18, 2017 1-4 pm	Mini Conference	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Mar 26 1-4 pm ADDED	Meeting with Speaker Barbara Bullock	PVC ARS	Potomac Community Center
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	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
April 27- 30	American Rhododendron Society Convention - info only	ARS	Eureka, CA
Apr 29 9am-5pm ADDED	White's Nursery Open House – Early Bloomers	White's Nursery	22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, MD 20876
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 Alexandria, VA
May 21 9am-5pm ADDED	White's Nursery Open House – Late Bloomers	White's Nursery	22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, MD 20876
July 16 1-4 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA

September 9	Green Spring Gardens Fall Plant Sale - Tentative	NV-ASA	Green Spring Gardens Park Alexandria, VA
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	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
October 14 10 am - 1:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
October 15 1-4 pm	Fall meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
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.

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

I hope to see many of you on the 18th!

Rick