

## Apr 17 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I'm a little late on my monthly message due to excessive partying (more on that later)!

I was pleased with the results of the **Mini-Conference** the chapter organized on 18 March. This was a great idea suggested by **Barb Kirkwood** last year in our **Executive Meeting**. For our first time out trying the concept, it went very well. It appeared that all of the children in attendance really enjoyed the workshops and their parents enjoyed the presentations occurring concurrently. It was exciting to see children so enthusiastic about horticulture. Hopefully we will do this again next year, making adjustments for lessons learned.

After the **Mini-Conference**, **Susan** and I headed off on a long journey to the azalea convention, visiting friends and



Palmer garden in bloom, White Hall, AR

family along the way. We also were carrying a load of azaleas to deliver to folks in **Arkansas,**

**Texas,** and **Louisiana.**

We had the opportunity to

visit and have lunch with chapter members **Ronnie** and **Donna Palmer** in **White Hall, AR.** **Ronnie** runs the **Azalea Hill Garden and Nursery** and has some beautiful cultivars. He has also started **Legacy Garden** beds. His

nursery and garden will be on the tour schedule for next year's convention in **Little Rock, AR.**

Our next stop was **Jasper, TX** where we visited chapter associate member **Robert Thau.** I first met **Robert** at our convention in **Williamsburg** last year and was impressed by his enthusiasm. He even left the convention a little early to drive up to **Mike** and **Debbie White's** nursery in



Well laid out and labeled beds in Robert Thau's garden in Jasper, TX



Susan with Ronnie and Donna Palmer at Azalea Hill Garden and Nursery, White Hall, AR



Rick with Robert Thau in his garden

**Germantown, MD** to buy plants to take back to **Texas.** I delivered another load of **White's Nursery** plants when we visited. **Robert** has started an incredible garden with a wide variety of azaleas. It is relatively new

and the plants are small, however it is going to be spectacular in a couple of years as the plants mature. Robert is one of the most enthusiastic azalea fans I've ever met. He is the society's new **Membership Chairman** and is already making great inroads in increasing membership. He came up to me a number of times at the convention saying "I've got an idea" and they were **ALL** good ones.

After a couple of days in **New Orleans**, Susan and I drove to **Hammond, LA** for the **ASA National Convention**. Here's where the partying comes in. The folks in **Louisiana** certainly know how to throw a party and show us their hospitality. There are probably



Two Cajun Band members who look awfully familiar!

videos on the Internet of someone resembling me leading a Cajun conga line at **Buddy Lee's** (developer of the **Encore** azaleas) house...but I assure you that was just a look alike! I told **Barry** that I would put together an article on the convention for the next **Clipper** so I'm not going to go into a lot of detail in this letter.

I do want to cover a few of the business items that came out of the convention. For the slate of officers, I was elected to be society President, **Charlie Andrews** from **Vaseyi** was elected as Vice President, and **Paul Beck** and **Leslie Nanney** continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Newly elected Directors

are **Kevin McCorkle** from **Central Carolinas**, **Jim Campbell** from **Louisiana**, and **Sally Perkins** from **Vaseyi**. The **Board of Directors** approved a recommendation to make our chapter's **Legacy Project** a national initiative. It will now appear on the **ASA** website. For the interim, we will continue to run it in our chapter. We also have scheduled conventions out through 2022. Next year will be **Little Rock, AR** and the following year will be **Charleston, SC**. The other conventions are listed on the ASA website.

Speaking of the website, **Dave Banks** and **Paul Beck** wowed all in attendance at the banquet when they demonstrated the new website they have both been working so hard to develop. It is incredible, both attractive and much easier to navigate. Kudos go to both of them for all of their hard work. I encourage you to check out the new, redesigned website if you haven't done so already.

Finally, **Carolyn Beck** won the award for the best article in **The Azalean** for her article on **Joe Klimavicz's** azaleas.

When we left **Hammond** on Sunday morning, we, along with **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck** and a few other attendees drove east to **Semmes, AL** to visit **Maarten Van Der Giessen's** nursery. **Maarten** is a long time member of the ASA and a big supplier of beautiful azaleas. Many of us filled what remaining space we had in our cars with some wonderful additions to our collections!

**Chapter Meeting April 9 1-4pm** – The next chapter meeting is at **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church** this coming Sunday. Our own **Barry Sperling** will be speaking on **Dirt!** I'm sure he will tell us additional ways to get the best out of our plantings. Additional information on the meeting is in the latest issue of the **Clipper**.

**Pennsylvania Nursery Trip – 12 April ADDED** – The Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS has invited us to join them on a trip to Pennsylvania nurseries next week. It sounds like they are visiting some great nurseries with quality plants at reasonable prices. More information is available on the [trip brochure](#). Point of contact is Don Hyatt 703-241-5421 (home) or 703-975-0409 (cell).

**White's Nursery Open Houses Apr 29<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Chapter member **Debbie White** has informed us of two open houses to be conducted by **White's** nursery. More information is in last 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.

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
April 9 1-4 pm Note Corrected Date	Chapter meeting with Speaker – Barry Sperling	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
April 9 <b>ADDED</b>	Pennsylvania Nursery Trip	PVC-ARS	Various. Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.
April 27-30	American Rhododendron Society Convention - info only	ARS	Eureka, CA
Apr 29 9am-5pm <b>ADDED</b>	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 <a href="#">Alexandria, VA</a>
May 21 9am-5pm <b>ADDED</b>	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	<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 14 10 am - 1:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
October 15 1-4 pm	Fall meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
Dec 3 1-4 pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Lars and Jean Larson's Home 5785 Ladues End Ct., Fairfax

### 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 hope you are able to make the next meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Rick