

Aug 17 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I'm hoping that we will be getting some relief from the hot weather. I'm also hoping for some rain so that I can cut back on watering.

Ben Morrison Cutting Exchange - July was a great month for chapter members. A number of our members took advantage of the **Ben Morrison** chapter's kind invitation to their cutting exchange at **Joe Miller's** (an associate member of the of **Northern Virginia** chapter) home in California, MD. **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck**, **Jim** and **Sue Hedrick**, **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** and **Ajit Thakur** enjoyed an afternoon on the shore of Chesapeake Bay. We continue to have a great relationship with our sister chapter in Maryland and frequently participate in each other's activities. I encourage you to take advantage of any future invitations.



Budne Reinke conducts the Ben Morrison auction - photo by Joe Miller

Cutting Exchange 16 July 1-4 pm Kirkwood Presbyterian Church - Our annual



Attendees mingle at the cutting exchange

cutting exchange was a huge success. About 40 chapter members, guests, **Ben Morrison** members and **Bonsai Society** members had a great afternoon with delicious food, informative presentation, the cutting exchange and a hands-on workshop for rooting azalea cuttings.

Members brought a large variety of dishes to share and after a delicious lunch, **Barb Kirkwood** opened the meeting and welcomed all of the attendees. She provided information on our successful plant sales in May as well as discussing upcoming chapter events. **Barbara Bullock**, from the National Arboretum, had been invited to the meeting. **Carolyn Beck**, on behalf of **Bob Stewart**, presented **Barbara** with a copy of the newly named "**Barbara Bullock**," azalea (formerly RBS-85). **Barbara** has been involved with the azalea community for many years, not only with her work at the arboretum, but also as an author of articles for **The Azalean** as well as a speaker for our chapter and others over the years.



Presentation of the "Barbara Bullock" azalea

Lars Larson took the reins of the actual cutting exchange, directing who and how many bags of cuttings each attendee could select each round. Additionally, a large number of plants (azaleas and other) were available for selection.



Carolyn provides instruction on rooting of cuttings - photo Jack Rubenstein



RBS-85 "Barbara Bullock"- photo Carolyn Beck

Barry Sperling presented an interesting and informative talk on using the "Creel" method of propagating azaleas. He cited a high success rate using this method. It looks promising and I am going to try it out with some of my cuttings this year.

Carolyn Beck later gave an excellent workshop on another method of rooting cuttings using rooting medium and placing cuttings in plastic bags exposed to indirect sunlight (or under plant lights). A large number of attendees joined in the hands-on workshop. There were several great questions posed and I think all of us walked away with a greater knowledge on this method, as well as two pots of rooting cuttings.

On our way home to Yorktown, **Susan** and I stopped to see **David** and **Patsy Meadows** in Opal, VA. **David** had announced at the meeting that he had a large number of hellebore varieties for sale. We love hellebores. They make great companion plants for azaleas, are deer resistant and add winter interest to the garden. We picked up a large number for very reasonable prices. If you are interested in obtaining hellebores for your garden, contact **David Meadows** at (540) 349-0120.

Green Spring Gardens Fall Plant Sale 9 Sept CANCELLED- We had this scheduled as a tentative event, however the Executive Committee determined that we should focus our efforts on the 23 Sep sale and auction and as a result we will not participate in the fall sale.

Ginter Garden Fall Plant Sale 15-16 Sept CANCELLED- The subject sale was proposed as a way to increase visibility of our society in the Richmond area, as well as to continue to introduce the public to beautiful azaleas they wouldn't normally find in big box stores and many nurseries. Unfortunately we didn't have enough people from the area available to participate in the sale so we have cancelled our tentative participation.

Azalea Sale and Auction 23 Sept 1- 4:30 The fall Azalea Sale and Auction is one of our two major fundraisers for the year..and the auction is always a lot of fun. Carolyn Beck is soliciting volunteers to help with this event. I hope that many of you will be available to assist and will respond to her call for volunteers.

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
Sept 23 1-4:30 pm	Azalea Auction and Sale	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
October 14 10 am -	Executive Committee	NV-ASA	Dan and Joanne Neckel's home 9702 S. Run Oaks Dr

1:30 pm	Meeting		Fairfax Station, VA 22039
October 15 1-4 pm	Fall meeting with Speaker Joe Klimavicz	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Dec 3 1-4 pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Lars and Jean Larson's Home 5785 Ladues End Ct., Fairfax

Other Activities/Notes –

Free Azaleas! – **Barry Sperling** has two plants (which are too large for the plant exchange and need to be dug up) looking for a good home. The available plants are:

Peggy Ann, Weiskettle, Early-Midseason, small flowers, dark pink bordering white, 2 1/2 ft tall, 3 ft wide

Nancy of Robin Hill, Robin Hill, Late-Midseason, large pink flowers, 2 ft tall, 4 ft wide

If interested, call Barry at 703-765-7062, 4 mi south of Alexandria.

Back Copies of The Azalean - If you have the following copies of **The Azalean** which you are willing to donate, please contact **Susan Bauer** at bauersh@aol.com.

2003 Winter

2004 Winter

2005 Fall and Winter

2008 Spring

2009 Winter

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.

Have a great August. I hope to see many of you at our September sale and auction.

Rick