

April 18 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I was happy to see a great turnout at our 18 March meeting with guest speaker **Barbara Bullock** from the **National Arboretum**. **Barbara** gave us an interesting talk on the arboretum azaleas and her work to positively identify some of the unknown azalea varieties. As usual, we had a great selection of food and a large number of plants available in the plant exchange. We had a number of guests in attendance and one, **Fred Sweat**, joined the society after the meeting. **Fred** is a nurseryman in Stafford, VA. Many of you may have been to his nursery, **Sunnyside Garden Center**, on Route 1.



Barbara Bullock from the National Arboretum presents "Decades With the Glenn Dales" photo - Bauer

I'm getting excited as we approach prime time for our gardens and azaleas. I'm a bit apprehensive since a family of seven deer have taken up residence next door. They did a job on my azaleas, though none seem to have totally died. I'm going to have to develop a long term solution (e.g., deer fencing) this year.

Susan and I, along with 14 other chapter members, are heading out to Little Rock for the 2018 convention. We have never had a convention in Arkansas before so I'm really looking forward to it. The convention organizers are also holding an **Azaleas 101 Workshop** the day before the convention. The 72 workshop attendees are primarily members of the **Arkansas Master Gardener Association**. They will not only learn about azaleas, but the ASA will be gaining 72 new members...at least for the rest of the year. I'm hopeful that we can start a chapter in Arkansas (even though we would probably lose **Ronnie** and **Donna Palmer** to the new chapter).

There is a lot of great activity at the national level. Chapter Associate Member (and Texas Chapter President) **Robert Thau** has been working hard to promote azaleas in Jasper, TX. He has gained a number of new members and on 18 March, Jasper was presented their **Azalea City** certificate by **Buddy Lee** former President of the ASA and developer of the **Encore©** azaleas.



Buddy Lee Presents the Azalea City Plaque to Gary Gatlin, Mayor of Jasper, TX photo-unk

Fred Anderson of the **Vaseyi Chapter** has been working hard to generate membership in East Tennessee. He has garnered the sufficient number of members and is finishing the paperwork to establish a new chapter in East Tennessee...the **Smoky Mountains Chapter**.

Many of you are probably aware of and some have participated in the initiative to restore the native azaleas on **Hooper Bald** near Robbinsville, NC. I will be down in Robbinsville 14-16 June to present their **Azalea City** certificate as part of the **First Annual Graham County Azalea Festival**. I hope it will be the first of many festivals. I will provide more information as it is available in case any of you would also like to attend. Part of the festival will include tours of the restored **Hooper Bald**.

Below is a list of our upcoming events:

ASA National Convention 5-8 April – The [ASA National Convention](#) will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas for the first time. It will be great to see gardens in a different part of the country. They will also have a large number of Legacy hybrids from Northern Virginia Chapter and other Washington area hybridizers in their plant sale. This is a great opportunity to introduce society members in a different part of the country to some of the beautiful hybrids developed here on the east coast. As usual, we have a good contingent of chapter members attending as well as members of the **Ben Morrison Chapter**.

Cosby Garden Tour – Late April – A number of chapter members have visited the garden of **Roy** and **Elizabeth Cosby** in Rockville, VA either during a chapter trip a few years ago or as part of the 2016 convention. Since that time, they have generously donated their garden and property to **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** in Richmond, though they still maintain their residence there. The **Cosbys** have a large variety of azaleas to include a number of **Legacy** hybrid groups. A firm date has not yet been set however when it is, it will also be sent out via email and posted to the chapter calendar.

Member Garden Tours 28/29 April and 5/6 May– Chapter members will be opening up their gardens for tours on these dates. The final schedule has not yet been published. When it is, we'll send out an email and update the chapter webpage.

Green Spring Gardens Sale – May 18/19 - The chapter will be participating in the Green Spring Gardens plant sale again this year. This sale is one of our two biggest fund raisers of the year. It is always a good time and a great venue for selling our beautiful azaleas and exposing our chapter and society to the general public. The first date is when we set up the stand and the second date is the sale date from 9am-3pm. This event always requires volunteers to set up, tear down and to sell azaleas. Please mark these dates on your calendar and volunteer to help when the call goes out later in April/May.

White's Nursery Open House 20 May 9am – 5 pm - **Mike** and **Debbie White** will once again be having an open house at their nursery at 22531 Wildcat Road, Germantown, MD 20876. Please contact **Deb White** at (301) 471-5958 or whiteaz@verizon.net if you have questions or need additional information. Directions are available on their website www.whites-nursery.com.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for 2018. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Apr 5-8	National Convention	ASA	Little Rock, AR
Apr 22 Tentative	Plant Sale	Garden Club of Virginia	Virginia Historic Garden Week Charlottesville, VA
Late Apr (TBD)	Cosby Garden Tour	NV-ASA	Rockville, VA
Apr 28/29	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various
Apr 27- 29	MAC Spring Meeting	MAC-ARS	Staunton, VA
May 5/6	Member Garden Tours	NV-ASA	Various NOTE: PVC-ARS will also be conducting tours on these dates
May 19	Green Spring	Green Spring	Green Spring Gardens Park

	Gardens Sale		Alexandria, VA
May 20 9am – 5pm	White's Nursery Open House	Mike and Debbie White	White's Nursery 22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, MD 20876
May 20- 27	ARS Convention	ARS	Bremen, Germany
June 14- 16	Graham County 2018 Native Azalea Festival	Graham County, NC	Robbinsville, NC
July 15	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Sep 15	Auction/Sale	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct 20	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Oct 21	Fall Meeting w Speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Dec 9	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Beck's Home

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 look forward to seeing a large number of our members in Little Rock.

Rick