

The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



See p.3 for a detailed look at the *Klimavicz Legacy Garden's* creation at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, VA.

{ photo by Rick Bauer }



Virginia Jardine Banks, 77, passed away on 27 November. She is survived by her husband **David Banks** of Williamsburg; her son Larry Banks of Vienna, VA; and, her sister Doris Snyder of San Francisco, CA.

Virginia was an avid plant person, especially interested in rhododendrons and azaleas. She was a long-time member of both the Azalea Society of America (Northern Virginia Chapter) and the American Rhododendron Society (sequentially members of the Potomac Valley Chapter, the Dutch Chapter, and the Middle Atlantic Chapter).

She was also an accomplished quilter (Colonial Piecemakers Quilt Guild) and weaver (Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild) and created a large number of beautiful objects during her time in Williamsburg.

Rick Bauer and others participated in a well-attended service for her, and noted that four of her quilts were on the wall. One of those is on the left.

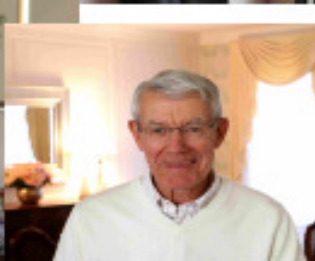
{ Above photo courtesy of David Banks. Quilt photo by Rick Bauer. }

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

March 29th meeting is CANCELLED

IF RESCHEDULED A NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT





President's Message

Through the year we have a variety of activities and events that I encourage each of you to take advantage of, whenever your schedule permits. The club sales offer opportunities to get that special variety you've been wanting! You might even snag it in one of the chapter meeting plant

exchanges!

Our Meadowlark Gardens effort is well on its way, but we have more work to do. Please try to join other members in the work days scheduled in the months ahead.

See you soon.

Lars

Captions: p. 2 by Sperling. L to R middle: Budne Reinke, David Meadows, Carolyn Beck, Joe Gutierrez. Next line: JianMing Yang, Shanshan Yang, Carol Segree, Eve Harrison, Bottom line: Steve Morrison, Lars Larson, Leslie Nanney, Paul Davis, Paul Beck

The Klimavicz Legacy Garden Almost Ready for its Debut

For several years the chapter has been working with Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, VA, to establish a garden of azalea hybrids created by **Joe Klimavicz**, himself of Vienna, VA.

The need to highlight and preserve the works of our local hybridizers, which in general were not in the trade, was discussed for some time by some of our chapter members. By 2013 thoughts were coalescing during discussions with, among others, **Rick Bauer**, **Carolyn Beck** and **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney**. The group felt it important to develop collections for each hybridizer, managed by volunteers in their own yards. They would collect specific data about each variety, such as parentage, bloom times, and habit. Photos would be shared on a website. **Rick Bauer** developed an extensive list of the ideal situations and data collection needs for volunteers willing to take on this task, publishing them in the Winter 2013 Azalean. This became the Legacy Project, encouraging the creation of many individual Legacy Gardens through

PowerPoint talks to horticultural groups as well as individual discussions. Fourteen of these gardens, and their Legacy Leads, were listed in an article **Rick** wrote for the Winter 2017 Azalean. The coming Spring 2020 issue has a further update from **Rick**. The Azaleans are available to members from the Azalea Society of America's website at

<https://www.azaleas.org>

In February of 2017, **Barb Kirkwood** spoke with **Keith Tomlinson**, Meadowlark's Manager, about creating a Legacy Garden there. A group of NV-ASA members met with **Keith** on October 12, 2017 to lay the groundwork. A meeting was held in October 2018, attended by **Barb**, **Rick**, **Gary Reese** of the Bonsai Society, and **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck**. Subsequent meetings were attended by subsets of this group. They developed a Memorandum of Understanding, discussing the work to be done by both the Chapter and Meadowlark. This was signed February 1, 2018.

Barb, and others, has been working at developing and purchasing signage. **Carolyn** and **Paul Beck** recently met with Meadowlark Gardens manager **Keith Tomlinson**, discussing the cost and formatting of the text and pictures which would be on the main sign for the bed, as well as individual signs for the varieties.

Over the last year, volunteers have worked on the site: clearing brush and some trees from an area designated for expansion, across the sidewalk from the main bed. They also prepared the soil in the main bed, dug holes and put in the small plants provided for the display. These workers included:

Rick and Susan Bauer, Carolyn and Paul Beck, Dick Cecka, Joe Gutierrez, Don Hyatt, Joe Klimavicz, Lars Larson, Anne Marie and Marianna McKinnon, David Meadows, Richard Mohr, Dave Nanney, Dan and Joanne Neckel, Fred Newlan, and Mike White.

The *Klimavicz Legacy Garden* will be formally dedicated in the spring of 2021, the first publicly accessible Legacy Garden in the area, though several are held in private hands.

The first section of the garden was planted with all of Joe's named selections available at that time. This garden should appear near its peak display in late April and early May. A camera-worthy scene! As additional varieties are named, they will be added in the recently prepared section B.

Joe's azaleas are available for purchase at **Mike White's Nursery** in Germantown, MD, and our NV-ASA plant sales.

Currently the garden contains:

Antoinette Martin, FT-97-4 **Barbara Tozzi**, NW-00-3 **Bob Stewart**, L2-01-6
Brenda Marie, BE-97-27 **Caitlin Marie**, LS-91-47 **Donald H. Voss**, HM-10-34
Evelyn Potter, L2-01-22 **Everlasting Ella**, BA-05-50 **Flurry**, MV-04-39
Gloria Louis, KF-98-123 **Isabella Maria**, KF-98-111 **James Scott**, TW-97

Lovely Linda, WD-93-11 **Madeline Cosby**, BW-03-02 **Mary Jane Cummings**, B4-05-01
Mary Lou Dority, BK-00-14 **Nancy Lynn**, NW-97-56 **Rebecca Taffet**, LS-90-01
Ryleigh Paige, LS-91-50 **Sandy Dandy**, LG-95-63 **Spirit of Valdosta**, LP-93-03
Thaissa, AT-99-16 **Zoe Elizabeth Stoltz**, KF-98-41

There is a fee of \$3 for children and seniors, \$6 otherwise. Annual passes are \$35.

Parking is available on the left as you enter.

Directions:

From the Northwest (Reston) direction, take VA Route 7, passing Potomac Vegetable Farms, which is on the right, turning right at Beulah Road (Fairfax County Fire Station is on the far right SE corner), and head South.

If you are coming from the Southeast on Rt. 7 (Tysons Corner direction), Beulah Road is a left turn at the first light after you see Wolf Trap Nursery, which is on the left.

Meadowlark is 1.7 miles from Route 7. You will pass Browns Mill Rd at the bottom of the hill, and then proceed up a hill and over VA 267, the Dulles Access Road. Meadowlark will be on your right, 0.3 miles past the Access Road.

From the South (Vienna) take Maple Ave. (VA 123) to Beulah Rd. and turn NW (right if coming from the Tysons area, left if coming from Nutley St.) Passing Church St., in 1.8 miles you will come to an intersection with Old Courthouse Road on the right and Trap Rd straight ahead. Beulah is a left turn there. Do not go straight across to Trap Rd. Meadowlark is 0.8 miles from this intersection, on the left.

The Klimavicz Legacy Garden is in the area called Azalea Woods. After going through the Visitor's Center, turn left. At the bottom of the hill turn right. The garden is to the right of the gazebo.

Barry Sperling

[Thanks to **Carolyn Beck** and **Rick Bauer** for the information, and some phrasing, above.]

The Five Seasons

by Barry Sperling

Dark

Never-ending cold. The sidewalks are slippery. I hate having to be careful!
Snow is forecast ten days from now. They've been right sometimes. I'll scatter some soil amendments on the beds before then, so they'll soak in slowly as the snow melts.

Plenty of time to update garden maps using last year's changes. Drawn with Microsoft Paint, then printed for reference.

Arranging photos of flowers, herbaceous beds, and fall colors can take days. Some even make the cut and wind up on the web. The garden didn't really look *that* good? It must have been a Photoshop trick.

Deer eating the azaleas? NO! Bambi must die!

The dark months, after the leaves have been picked up, are the time to get acquainted with my house's interior. The living room, kitchen, bedroom, bath. Got it. Stuck inside.

Another two months of this? Get me out of here!

Bright

The point. The full year of work comes to this: great looking flowers.

Standing among them in the early morning, steam slowly spinning skyward from my personal coffee cup, shoes shiny with dew, nowhere else in the world matches this. Later in the day, visitors will enjoy the scene. Did I pick up all the dead leaves? I wish they were here Tuesday when that 'Amoenum' looked great!

"Kodak Moments", toothy grins spread wide. Less clichéd when in front of a bright wall of flowers than during other seasons.

Is that yellow bird fan-dancing through the leaves a Kentucky Warbler or a Yellowthroat?
But, I know where my bird book is.

Trees and grass show off a light green. The sun is warm and plans develop unhurried by distracting insects or cold winds. No rush. It seems this could last forever.

Couldn't be better!

Thick

Pushing through dense air and vegetation.

Bug repellent, headbands, and hoses.

I'm holding on in the face of extreme heat and drought, continuing into the next day, and the next, and ... some herbaceous plants are giving up and collapsing. A few small plants in pots leave this vale of tears. Where do they go? Should that be "this *veil* of tears?"

Main activities: dragging hoses all over the yard, mixing dirt for new beds, and top-dressing old ones later.

Trees and grass settle into dark green.

Ah, some summer flowers are showing off: daylilies, mimosa, milkweed. Butterflies are getting attention. I forget how to tell the Spicebush Swallowtail from the dark morphed Tiger Swallowtail. But, I know where the butterfly book is.

Scratching bites. Where'd that poison ivy rash come from?

{ Continued on p. 6 }

Ahhhh (Finally)

Temperatures tick lower. Mosquito clouds thin.
I work in my undershirt without defending against bugs or cold. Neighbors look the other way.

The best time of year for planting and transplanting.
Dreaming of next year. We'll expand that bed and top-dress the other. Do I want to start a new bed by the fence now? Leave it 'til later?
Fall asters and sedum are still attracting butterflies.
Dragonflies! Is that an Eastern Pondhawk or a Slaty Skimmer? But, I know where the dragonfly book is.
Tree leaves surviving, a little worn and bug-bitten. Grass browning.

Brown

The world turns brown, up and down.
Still planting and transplanting. Give the roots time to settle in and feed.
Raking and making. Leaves turn into compost, which turns into top-dressing for beds.
Is that leaf from a Pin Oak or a Spanish Oak? But, I know where my tree book is.
New life amid the old strife: arum and rohdea japonica start to grow in the cool winds, to die back the next summer, now sharing the newly thinned beds with erect hellebores. Are those really crocus and daffodil shoots expanding above the surface?
Flashes of orange and red. That's why I grow Japanese Maples. And some of the azalea leaves are blazing red and yellow. Wow, that sky is *really* blue!

And Again ... Dark

A new season of cold and stasis wraps around the calendar, and into my mind, pushing me back through the door, to room temperatures echoing the African savanna I was created for.
Will this cold wind never end?
Fade to Dark.

Find your editor's Essay Blog at

<http://thegardenedge.blogspot.com>

A new one posted about the 20th of each month.

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Schedule

{ Things being different this year, the below is tentative, and the meetings are at Kirkwood. }

July 12 **Cutting Exchange**
September 12 **Fall Sale and Auction**
October 25 **Fall Meeting with Speaker**
December 6 **Holiday Social**

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