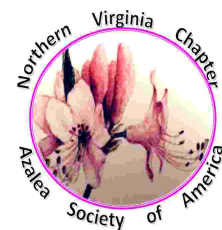


The Azalea Clipper

Volume 39 Issue 4 October 2018

Published 1980-2010 by Frances and Phil Louer

Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28
1:00 – 4:30

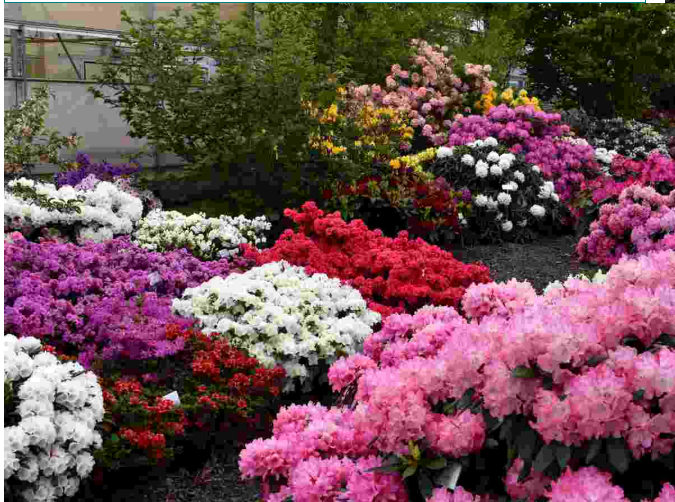
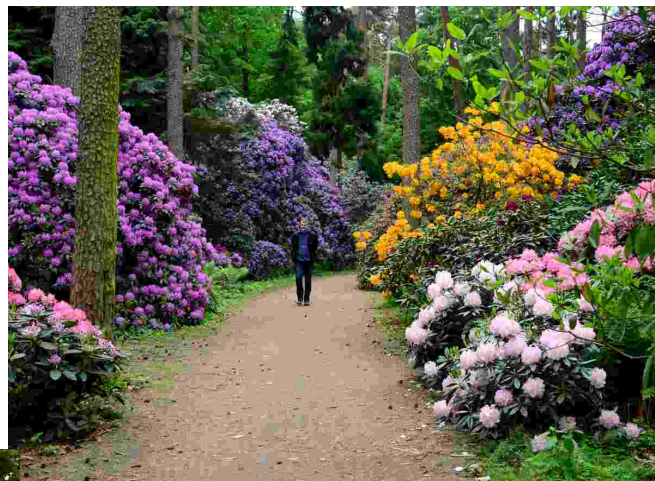
Don Hyatt & Rick Bauer

*ARS Bremen Convention
and Finland post-tour*

Refreshments: A – K

*Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
(directions on the back)*

The American Rhododendron Society (ARS) held their 2018 convention in Bremen Germany. Convention attendees were given the option of attending several pre-convention tours and one post-convention tour to Finland. A number of ASA members, including several from the Northern Virginia Chapter, attended the convention and the post-convention tour in Finland. Two of the attendees, **Don Hyatt** and **Rick Bauer** will be giving presentations on the ...



... Bremen Convention and Finland post-tour on 28 October. They will describe and show pictures of gardens and nurseries visited as well as other features such as speakers, receptions and local sights in both the Bremen area and Finland.

Don't miss **Robert Thau's** enthusiasm for azaleas in Texas (p. 4) and **Lars Larson's** next edition of the **Cheapskate Gardener** (p. 3.)



President's Message

As we begin to close out a busy year, the opportunities to join in in the chapter activities remain.

The fall plant sale and auction was another success. Thanks to all the folks that participated and helped make it happen. We even had an attendee, **Robert Thau**, that made the trip from Texas to participate! No distance too far to get azaleas!!

Still ahead is the planting of **Klimavicz Garden** planting at **Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna** (the event is yet to be rescheduled from the original 10 October date so stay tuned!). If you haven't been to the Gardens, it offers a good opportunity to visit this local venue.

The next chapter meeting on October 28th will feature the dual presentation of **Rick**

Bauer and Don Hyatt on the ARS convention in Bremen, Germany and a side trip to Finland. Not only should it be entertaining but an opportunity to see what our European friends can do with their plants...and perhaps snag one of the chapter door prizes!

If you have any issues for the executive committee meeting to be held after the regular meeting, please contact one of the chapter officers.

Mark your calendars and try to attend our annual holiday social at **Carolyn and Paul Beck's** home. It is always a wonderful social event and gets the holidays off to a great start.

Hope to see you all soon!

Lars

The Cheapskate Gardener

by **Lars Larson**

As the leaves begin to fall and the temperature starts to drop from our balmy summer warmth, it's time to start putting things to bed for the winter. If you haven't found the spot for the potted azaleas (or perhaps not found the time or ambition!) to get them in the ground, one can always cluster them and bury them to better protect them from the freezing temperatures and chilling of the roots that mother earth provides.

A recent Washington Post article noted that mice are the prime carriers of ticks (not deer as often claimed!) with as many as 60 ticks found per mouse. I have found that actively trapping mice and voles year round does help reduce the presence of ticks in the garden...and this time of year they will be seeking a warm place to winter over.

Our other perennial threat is the deer population that appreciates your gardening efforts by munching it away! Time to work on the strategies to limit their over winter snacking by sprays, fencing or other innovative tactics when the vegetation goes dormant! No one solution seems to be the secret but variety and alternate means seem to keep them guessing and at bay! Don't delay, they always seem to eat my stuff the night before implementing my plan!

Captions: p. 1 pics by the Bauers **p. 2 top:** Setup volunteers, by Rick Bauer; remainder of Clipper by Sperling; **L to R:** Joseph, Paul, Ralph, David, Don, Carolyn, Ajit, Leslie, Patsy, Diane, Carolyn, David, Lars, Margaret, Joanne, scene, Helen, Lars, Fred **p. 4** Robert Thau; sale **p. 5** scene; Susan Bauer, Paul Beck, Carolyn Beck; Ajit Thakur and Silent Auction; Susan and Paul **p. 6** David Meadows, Bill Miller clean up; checkout scene

Robert Thau

Founder of Newest ASA Chapter A Horticultural Autobiography

My love for plants started at about 14 years of age while working for a landscaper. I was the one pulling the weeds in the flower beds. I would find seedlings of yews and other varieties, then take them home and plant them.

I moved from NJ to Louisiana in 1980. A friend I met had a nursery, and so I quickly learned the plants of the south. Not long after that I started a collection, and soon followed a small nursery with woody ornamentals. Once we had the stock plants we would propagate from them, specializing in azaleas and camellias, and did quite well. The only problem was I took in my ex-brother-in-law as a partner, and after years it did not work out. We sold the nursery.



I moved to Jasper, Texas in 1990 and was attracted to bougainvilleas, a tropical vine native to Brazil. I purchased a large commercial greenhouse and started buying every cultivar I could find. Soon after, I had over 100 cultivars in my collection. I learned how to propagate them and opened a wholesale business. All this was lost in hurricane Rita: my stock plants and over 6000 container plants died due to the loss of electricity and water.

I retired 5 years ago and decided to grow a garden with Japanese Maples and rare azaleas. I joined the Texas Chapter of the ASA, and this is where the excitement started. Once my garden had about 200 cultivars of azaleas, I approached the Master Gardeners of Jasper and invited the group to tour the garden, exposing them to the rare varieties they had never seen before. The tour had 23 members and 34 showed up.

Soon after the first tour I started signing up new members, offering to do workshops on propagation, care, and planting location. The one thing I have heard at all workshops and talks from all groups of garden clubs is: "I never knew that there are so many cultivars of azaleas." In my area, Formosa is the only azalea they know. I bring up a number, which I don't think no one knows exactly: there are over 15,000 cultivars, which may be on the low end. (continued on p. 5)



Robert Thau continued from p. 4

Last year I thought about Jasper, TX being an Azalea City. We have had an azalea fest for 30 years and azalea trails throughout. I got in touch with Buddy Lee to ask what I needed to gather to make it happen, which I did, and on March 17, 2018 Buddy Lee presented the Mayor of Jasper, TX with a certificate to proclaim Jasper as an official Azalea City.

When the local membership started to increase, I talked to Rick Bauer about starting a chapter so our members would not have to travel for hours to attend meetings and events. Rick liked the idea, so with 22 local members it is going to happen: on October 22, 2018 the Texas Forest Country Chapter will meet. Thanks to the city and the Chamber of Commerce, we will have a building in which to conduct our events.

I propagate all the azaleas from my garden, but don't sell any. Every visitor gets a free azalea. I donate them to the ASA conventions, local beautification projects, and share my cuttings with any ASA member. To get these cultivars exposed, I have support from the City Manager of Jasper, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jasper Master Gardeners and many more.



[Directions to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church](#)

8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152, 703-451-5320 Kirkwood.office@verizon.net

From the East: Rte 95 exit 169B, Franconia Rd West, which becomes Old Keene Mill Rd (Rte 644) about 3 miles, passing Irving Middle School, to a Right at a light on Carrleigh Parkway
Make a U-turn at Dabney Avenue

From the West: Fairfax County Parkway (Rte 286)

East on Old Keene Mill Rd (Rte 644) about 3.5 miles, passing Rolling Road
to Left at a light on Carrleigh Parkway ; Make a U-turn at Dabney Avenue



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The Clipper*

Find your editor's Essay Blog at

<http://thegardenedge.blogspot.com>

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

Schedule

10/28 Fall Meeting Kirkwood Pres. Church

10/28 Executive Committee Meeting

12/9 Holiday Social at the Beck's

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