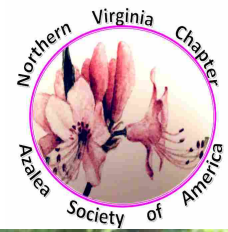


# The *Azalea Clipper*

Volume 41 Issue 3 September 2020 Published 1980-2010 by Frances and Phil Louer  
Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



Two former presidents visit the Clipper with stories from out of the area.

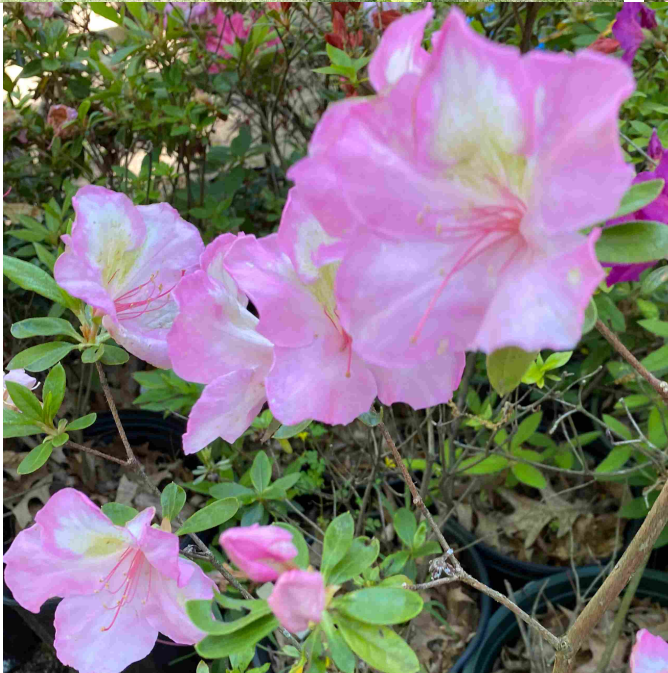
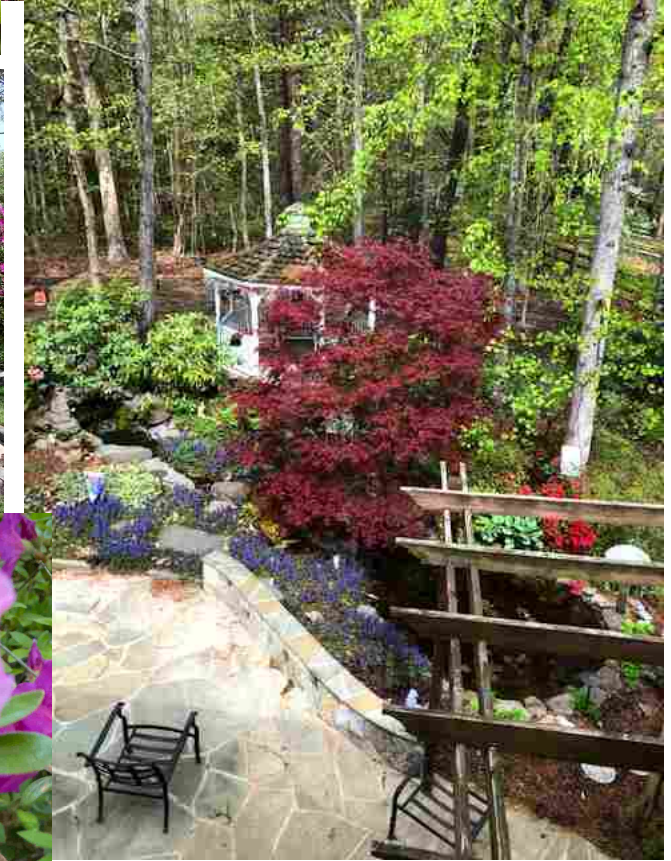
**Eve Harrison** (left) remembers a visit from friends to her home and garden near Luray, in the Shenandoah Valley. Her story starts on page 6.

**Barb Kirkwood** (right), a little farther afield, searches for azaleas in the heat and drought of Australia. Check out page 4 for her story, and photos.

Covid-or-not, here comes the **Annual Azalea Sale!** **Paul Beck** has worked his magic on our website where members can order items for pick up at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on September 26. Details on page 3!

Tables full of plants will be available for **both members** and the **public**, including a table of one-of-a-kind plants. Available will be Satsukis, some Stewarts, Holly Springs, Klimzviczs, Marshy Points, an Encore Autumn Sunburst and a variety of deciduous azaleas.

Finally, your editor says goodbye to the Clipper. It's been fun, and I've appreciated the nice remarks, but a decade is enough, and with **Rick Bauer** willing to step into the position, you know you'll enjoy reading it for years to come. Thanks for everyone's help providing original material from within our membership, and I'll see you on the other side of a vaccination!



Top left: Klimavicz L5-12-3; Sperling Apr.17, 2020  
 Mid-left: Bauer Serenity Garden; Neckel back yard  
 Low-left: Martin Myuno-no-tsuki; Larson Autumn Sunburst

## *Lars' President's Message*

As we wind down a very wet summer and head into fall, it's a great time to assess your azalea upgrades! **Paul Beck** has recently emailed information on the upcoming members-only azalea sale and the upcoming outdoor sale at **Kirkwood Presbyterian Church** on Saturday, 26 September. In this time of pandemic concerns we will do our very best to follow safety procedures and protect one another's health. Please take a look at the offerings and take advantage of the opportunities to add to your azalea collection.

Our chapter schedule for the remainder of the year will be sorted out soon. We need to hold an

election of officers and are looking at the options to do that. A virtual gathering or outside assembly are options that are under consideration by the board. It appears that our traditional Holiday Gathering will not happen this year, unfortunately. We'll keep you posted as things are finalized.

As we get into more pleasant days of less humidity and lower temperatures, it's a good opportunity to get outside and catch up on the garden chores...and plant some new azaleas!

Stay safe,

Lars

## *Paul Beck Explains the Online Plant Sale*

This year, for the first time, we are supporting online ordering of plants. This will allow for minimal crowds at the fall sale, since most of our customers have historically been our members.

Any member or associate member can order plants online from the sales page of our website,

[www.nv-asa.org/sale](http://www.nv-asa.org/sale)

Complete instructions for online ordering are found in the "Member Only Information" section at the top of the "**\*2020 Member Only Sale\***" page. Please read these instructions, as well as any additional remarks which may be posted in that section. If the "Member Only ..." section is not at the top of the page, check to be sure you are logged in (if you are logged in, there will be a

**\*Logout\*** button instead of a **\*Login\*** button in the left sidebar). [ Continued on p. 8 ]

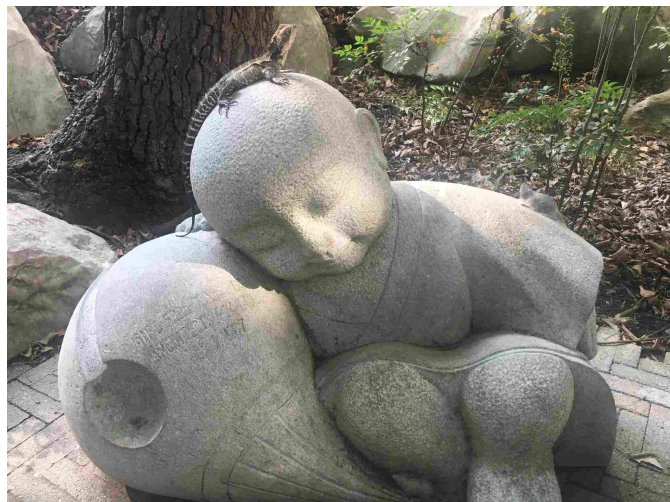


## *The Chinese Garden of Friendship*

*Barb Kirkwood*

It has been a good, long while since you have heard from me. Unfortunately, we live in Canberra, Australia which has cold winters and hot summers and does not seem to be a particularly good environment for Azaleas. I saw some small plants in the garden center at a local hardware store and overheard a couple of ladies discussing the ones they had bought that had died no matter how much effort they had put into the plants. They turned and cautioned me not to buy them because they were impossible to grow.

There are also a few bushes around the US Embassy that are well established, get watered regularly and do look lovely when they bloom. But in the community at large, just about zilch. I can certainly understand why as the temperature topped 105 for the last two days and there has been no



measurable rain for months.

I have spied some azaleas and rhododendrons in Tasmania, Brisbane, and just this week in Sydney. We stopped by an amazing garden right in the midst of the hustle and bustle of Sydney called the Chinese Garden of Friendship where they claim Yin meets Yang. Amongst their compact four acres they had a nice display of Penjing which is a Chinese style of miniature trees and landscapes similar to Bonsai. My visit was also during the celebration of Chinese New Year so the garden was decked out in colorful decorations. With the towering buildings of Sydney just beyond the garden walls, this was a little patch of heaven with running water, towering willow trees, cool lagoons and colorful koi fish. After the sweltering walk to the garden, it was delightful to sit beside a waterfall and have a quiet conversation with one of the many bearded dragons.



We found a delightful little tea house that was closed by the time we had wandered around to it but reopened as a Chinese restaurant when the garden closed. We were able to extend the delight of our afternoon wandering in the garden for two more hours and enjoyed a lovely Chinese meal.

What tickled me most throughout the entire visit was a lone, blooming azalea (in the dead of the 90 degree summer) in the shady walk to the tallest structure, the Clear View Pavilion. There was no identification or name to the plant, but just for an instant, I was transported back to the friendly faces of the Northern Virginia Azalea Society.

## *Friends and Memories*

*Eve Harrison*

One day, while living in the Shenandoah Valley, up on one of the many ridges, the phone rang and it was, surprisingly, John Brown, past ASA president. I got to know him in 2008 when the Vaseyi chapter held the convention. John said to me, "My wife was a teacher and you remind me of her." I was flattered, and we became friends in the ASA, and on the Board over time.



The reason for the call was to inform me that he and Bob Stelloh were on their way to the rhododendron convention up in NY and wanted to know if they could come by to see the garden. I was thrilled and excited to see them a couple of hours later. We toured the gardens and the two commented on one thing or another, always quick with good advice, if needed. Near the end of the walk we wound our way down the hill to a shade garden above a small pond. I had started an azalea garden winding around the hill, sprinkled with rhodos. Bob looked up to the right where there was a sunny spot and commented how that would make a great bald for deciduous azaleas. Of course I followed his advice again as it made perfect sense. Deciduous azaleas could use a fair amount of morning sun, if possible. It fell right in line with what many members had been doing for years: hiking up the balds of the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. These adventurers took spectacular pictures, including of themselves inspecting one plant after another. It was always their dream to spot a red rhododendron, found after years of searching.

Well, after a meal, Bob and John left and were on their way. I gave thought to what Bob suggested and decided to move deciduous azaleas into that large space. By then I had collected some 30 plants which had not bloomed very well, and apparently needed the extra sun. It worked!

Now, 10 years later, we have moved permanently to the Richmond, VA area on two acres with a large shaded section. I proceeded to install a garden which had moved with us once again! All has gone well, but with a shade garden there's little room for deciduous plants in need of sun.

As I looked out the kitchen window one morning, I saw a large area of open space with huge trees along the edges, and thought, "Wow! This might be a new bald". That was last fall. Holes were dug for some 20 plants, which by now are quite large, and all bloomed very well this spring. Most are budded now for 2021 and I once again owe much to the experience and kindness of the two of the ASA's most prominent and helpful friends.



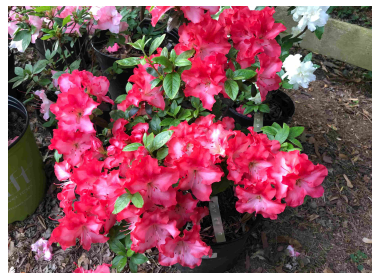
*July 11, 2004 Cutting Exchange at Harrison's in West Virginia. Eve leads the tour.*



*July 13, 2008 Cutting Exchange at Harrison's in Luray, VA.*



*Joe K Front Walk*



*Joe K DY-13-9*



*Bauer's 'My Mary'*

## [Directions to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church](#)

8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152, 703-451-5320 [Kirkwood.office@verizon.net](mailto: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

[ **Plant Sale continues** ] Also, check the "Sale:" picklist item in the search dialog form to see that it says "2020 Member Only Sale".

You must first login to create a shopping cart and put plants in your cart. If you do not have a login, click the "Register" button in the green left sidebar. You will need to provide your email, phone number, and zip code to register. The member database on the NV website is old, and does not keep up with any changes to login information made on the ASA website. If you have trouble logging in or registering, please contact **Paul Beck** at [pabeck@gmail.com](mailto:pabeck@gmail.com) or (703) 209-2219. If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it by clicking the "Forgot Password?" button on the login dialog.

Please note that this online ordering is designed to help minimize social contacts. You may make arrangements with **Carolyn Beck** at [carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com) or (703) 860-5676, for a time and place to pick up your order.

Find your editor's Essay Blog at

<https://thegardenedge.blogspot.com>

49 Essays with photos, a full road-trip's worth!

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## *Schedule*

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

**September 26** Fall Sale

**October 25** Fall Meeting with Speaker & Exec Committee Meeting

**TBD** Annual Business Meeting

**President:** **Lars Larson** 703-277-3441  
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**Vice Pres.:** **Diane Marcus** 301-983-1098  
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**Secretary:** **Joanne Neckel** 703-690-6013  
[vaneckel@verizon.net](mailto:vaneckel@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** **Paul Beck** 703-860-5676  
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**Barry Sperling** 703-765-7062  
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