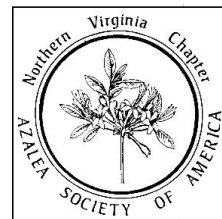


The Azalea Clipper

Volume 35 Issue 2 July 2014

Published 1980-2010 by Frances and Phil Louer

Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

JULY 20 1:00 - 4:00

CUTTING EXCHANGE

Everyone please bring
something for the potluck
lunch

CAROLYN &
PAUL BECK'S HOME
Oak Hill, VA



... and where would you go if you couldn't find the plant you want at the cutting exchange, auction or internet? In the '80s and '90s you would have visited the Hanners' at *Azalea Trace* (above is an early photo). Read the story of the finest azalea source in the whole, wide ... well, read the story starting on P. 4.



Patsy and Dave Meadows provide many of the cuttings and plants we find at the Cuttings Exchange and Auction

Cutting Exchange Note

Directions can be found on page 6.

Please park on the street. There are only a few spaces on the driveway, and we want to save these for people who require a shorter walk. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn.



Charles and Wanda Hanners created Azalea Trace



Rick and Susan Bauer flank Paul Beck and Paul Davis at the Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale in May. Photo by Carolyn Beck.



Above: Joe Klimavicz works hard to create his many hybrids. Left: The Sperling garden survived the winter. Photos by Barry Sperling.



L-R Anita Burke, Diane Gregg, Doug Burke, Margaret Vogel, Carolyn Beck, Budne and Diane Reinke, Donna and Ronnie Palmer, Virginia Banks, Dan Neckel, Kathy Andrews, Joanne Neckel, Susan Bauer, Leslie Nanney, Barry Sperling, Dave Nanney, Chris and Beth Wetmore. Missing – Irene and Soul Aslan, Dave Banks, Rick Bauer, Paul Beck, Jeanne Hammer, Dan Krabill, Walt Przypek

President's Message

Lars Larson

The mid-Atlantic region has had an abundance of rain this spring which has provided the opportunity for the surviving plants to recover from our severe winter. Nature's way of culling the less hardy has made room for new varieties of azaleas and companion plants in our gardens. The cutting exchange on Sunday July 20th will provide you with the opportunity to pick up those replacements and share your own hardy survivors with others.

I would encourage you to bring a friend along to introduce them to our chapter and its talented members. If not already doing so, if you have "unknowns" and ambitious layering starts, share them with your neighbors and friends to spark that desire for more varieties and joining our chapter activities. We can do our part for the future generation of gardeners as well.

It's never too early to get children into the garden and "assisting" in your efforts and learning of the wonders of nature first hand. Who knows, you might have a future hybridizer naming their perfect pure blue azalea hybrid after you!

Hope to see you at the cutting exchange.

Budne Reinke has requested cuttings of **Gay Paree** and **Monticello** if anyone can bring them to the cutting exchange.

Rick Bauer has requested cuttings from **Sandra McDonald's** hybrids:

Chessie's Lavender, Chessie's Pink, Fancy Face, Mademoiselle Yvette, Mademoiselle Gigi, Quiet Beauty, Salmon Mound, Sandra's Fancy, Sandra's Misty Morn, Sweet Freckles and Williamsburg Rose Bouquet

Which brings up the reminder that the Clipper is a good vehicle for **requesting** plants and cuttings, or **offering** extras to the azalea community. Just send your note to the editor.

Don't forget to check into our website

www.nv-asa.org

and the national website

www.azaleas.org

Want to make an donation of \$10 to the club? It's easier than you think! Ask to receive the Clipper via email pdf rather than paper snail mail and it saves the club \$10/yr!! (AND ... the pictures in the pdf look BETTER than on paper!)

Azalea Trace

Many of us who have been enjoying azaleas in the Washington area for some time have a pleasant memory of the trip to the Azalea Trace nursery. Great plants that you couldn't find at the garden centers were in abundance there. Even better, Charles and Wanda Hanners, the proprietors, were knowledgeable, enthusiastic and could easily be prodded to take you on a tour of their greenhouse. Every shopper was asked about their soil type and shade situation while the Hanners walked around looking for the perfect plant.

An easy drive out Pennsylvania Ave to Huntingtown, MD brought you to their semi-rural setting of 5000 azaleas of 1700 varieties, planted in a naturalized setting. Filling up a moving van with their offerings would only put a slight dent in their stock!

Sadly, time passes for us all and the Hanners decided to let the business go in 2007, 20 years after moving the operation from Bowie, MD (which was itself the result of a move from the Mitchellville, MD area). Wanda still has trouble restraining her desire to take more cuttings!

I spoke with Wanda in March and she reminisced about the years with the growing body of plants and the work she shared with Charles.

Charles' grandfather, from England, Charles Read, was the head gardener at Hammel Estate in Bexley, Ohio. Starting when Hanners was 6 he began weeding, mowing and learning the other essentials that every gardener must understand. He went into the Air Force and then later the NSA, always keeping gardens where they lived.

A nursery in Howard County, which was closing, gave them truckloads of plant materials, including azaleas. Then they contacted Frank White who helped them with a lot of the Ids, as many tags were missing or undecipherable. Gordon Severe, from the Eastern Shore, also helped. They provided the Hanners with 4" pots of Glenn Dales and Back Acres when they were in Bowie, filling the 1 acre they maintained and taught them how to take cuttings. Bea and Bob Hobbs introduced them to the young ASA and they joined in the early '80s.

Though they sold a few plants from their home in Bowie, the commercial operation "Azalea Trace" was started once they moved to Huntingtown in Calvert County and Charles retired, as did Wanda, a Special Education Teacher. "Trace" was used in the older sense of a "path".

Cuttings and seeds from open pollination provided much of the available material along with some cross-breeding that they did themselves. Recording the plants on maps they lined up the babies behind each parent. Wanda notes that it was amazing to see the differences in the children. The plantings were on 3 ½ ft centers on terraced hillsides and were neither fertilized nor watered once they matured. Benches, crafted by their son Charles, were scattered around the shady property for everyone's enjoyment.

Favorites? Charles leans toward the bold red and white Janet Rhea while Wanda prefers the more subtle Satsuki Hai Sei (cream with a deep rose blotch). In general they favor the Glenn Dales and all of the Pete Vines productions.



[continued on p. 5]

Auburn University requested many Glenn Dales and Robin Hills, which they provided. The Arboretum would send people down for specific plants, and not waste more of the worker's time looking elsewhere if they couldn't find them at Azalea Trace. After an ice storm Barbara Bullock came down to replenish the Arboretum's stock. Other requests came in from all over the world after Adrian Higgins wrote an article about them in the Washington Post (also picked up by the Los Angeles Times).

They still get requests for plants, though the business has closed, and people in area stores often call Wanda "Mrs. Trace" (Charles was called "Mr. Azalea")! Every spring they continue to enjoy the 45 beds of 300-500 plants each (though Wanda says that bed #19 has 1900).

While most of us have a great looking back yard as a final goal, the Hanners went beyond that to make their mark on the azalea community and widen the horizons for all of us!

Barry Sperling

The 2014 National Convention by Rick Bauer

The Azalea Society of America (ASA) National Convention was held this year in Charleston, SC from March 28th through 30th. The headquarters for the convention was the Charleston Marriott Riverview in downtown Charleston. This was the first convention to be held in Charleston and was sponsored by the Rev. John Drayton Chapter of the ASA.

Once again, the Northern Virginia Chapter was well represented with 27 members and associate members in attendance. {See the picture at the bottom of p. 2}

We had the opportunity to visit some beautiful gardens. Unfortunately Mother Nature did not cooperate fully this year (similar to the 2010 convention in New Orleans). The cold winter which hit us here in Virginia, also affected South Carolina. Many of the azaleas were just budding and had another week or two until they reached their peak. It was apparent that the gardens we visited would be spectacular in full bloom. This was especially apparent at Middleton Plantation where an entire hillside was planted with thousands of azalea bushes, about ready to bloom.

Regardless of the vagaries of Mother Nature, the gardens we visited were beautiful. It was interesting to see the azaleas (some of which were in bloom) in the settings of a Cypress Swamp and amidst oak trees with Spanish Moss hanging from their branches. It was also very interesting to hear the history of the area. At Magnolia Plantation, my group was fortunate to have Isaac Leach leading the group. Isaac grew up on Magnolia Plantation and his family lived in the old slave quarters (which we were also able to visit). He related how his great grandfather fought for the Union Army. He said he never saw a picture of him, however one day he told the story to one of his tour groups which included a historian. The historian recalled the great grandfather's name and was able to pull up a picture of him which he had in his files!

We were also introduced to the history and culture of the south. The first was in the "attendance" of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, a woman who ran three plantations at the age of 16 and was the first woman to be inducted into South Carolina's Business Hall of Fame. She told of her experience in growing indigo. Attendees were also treated to a demonstration of dances such as the Charleston and Shag and were given the opportunity to learn a few steps.

We thank the Rev. Drayton Chapter for their hard work in sponsoring this year's convention.

Taking Cuttings **(from the 7/10 Clipper)**

Select cuttings from **new growth found at the terminal branch ends** (avoid branches that have produced "sport" blossoms uncharacteristic of the named variety). Collect cuttings **after the stems are fully mature**, but before they turn woody. The parent plants must be in good health. A good time to take the cuttings is in the **early morning**. If drought conditions are present, **water the plants well the evening before**. Select stems of medium diameter rather than thin weak wood. Place cuttings (4 to 6) from each plant in a separate plastic bag (identified by the parent variety) along with a few drops of water, and seal it to retain 100% humidity inside. Print the name of the plant variety on the outside of the bag, along with a short description of the plant. **Avoid overheating of cuttings from direct sunlight**. Cuttings should be stuck in the rooting medium as soon as possible after taking the cuttings, but they can be stored in a closed container in the refrigerator for up to a week. {At the meeting ask our experts about growing cuttings!}

Directions to the Beck's Cutting Exchange

2963 Fort Lee St., Oak Hill, VA 20171 (703-860-5676)

As noted on p. 1, please park on the street

From the East: I-66 west to Rt. 50 west, up the hill to just past Fair Oaks Mall to West Ox Rd. Go north about 3.8 mi to a right on Folkstone Dr., which is the next light after Franklin Farm Rd. Right on Fort Lee St. at the 2nd stop sign. House is the 3rd on the left down a long concrete paved drive.

Or, from the East: Dulles Toll Rd/267 west to Reston Pkwy south, passing lights at South Lakes, Glade Ave., Fox Mill and Lawyers Rd. Left at light onto Folkstone Dr., and then as above.

From the West: Rt. 66 east to Fairfax County Pkwy/ 7100 north. Cross Rt. 50 and pass several lights to right/east onto Franklin Farm Rd to the next light. Left onto West Ox Rd to the next light. Right onto Folkstone, and then as above "From the East".

From the South: Fairfax County Pkwy going north past I-66 and Rt. 50, with a right/east onto Franklin Farm Rd. and as above "From the west".

2014

July 20 NVASA Cutting Exchange 1 pm

Sept 7 PVC-ARS Potomac Community Ctr.,
Speaker: Karen Rexrode, "Plant Explorers", 1 pm

Sept 20 Azalea Sale & Auction Kirkwood
Presbyterian Church

Oct 11 Joint NV-ASA & PVC Meeting
Wildfire Restaurant, Harold Greer speaking

Oct 26 Executive Board Meeting

December 7 Holiday Social

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