

# The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



## NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

SUNDAY JULY 10  
1:00 - 5:00

## CUTTINGS EXCHANGE

*...And Plant Exchange!*  
*Please label and sign your name.*

*Carolyn Beck will explain  
how to pot your cuttings!*

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Refreshments:  
Everyone bring something

Directions and "How To Take Cuttings"  
on the back page



Paul and Carolyn Beck did much of the work raising plants for the convention. Photo courtesy of David Nanney.

## 2016 Joint ASA/ARS National Convention, Williamsburg, VA "Legends and Legacies"

The Northern Virginia (NoVA) Chapter of the Azalea Society of America (ASA) joined with the Middle Atlantic (MAC), Potomac Valley (PVC) and Mason-Dixon (MD) Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) to sponsor and conduct the 2016 joint convention in Williamsburg, VA. The four chapters are comprised of many of the same members, with members of the ASA also being members or associate members of one or more of the three ARS chapters and vice versa. . With the chapters from both societies approaching the dates they were "due" to sponsor their respective conventions, it seemed logical that they should join forces to put on a "really big shew" (as Ed Sullivan would say).



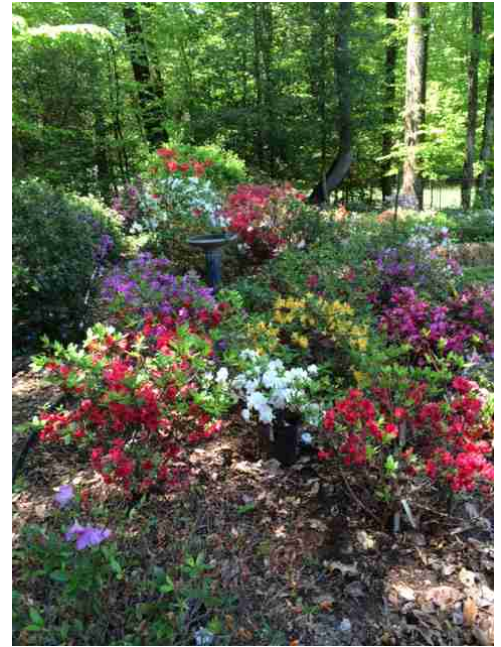
(all photos by Rick Bauer unless otherwise noted) [Continued on p. 3]

Pre-Convention Planning Committee Lunch

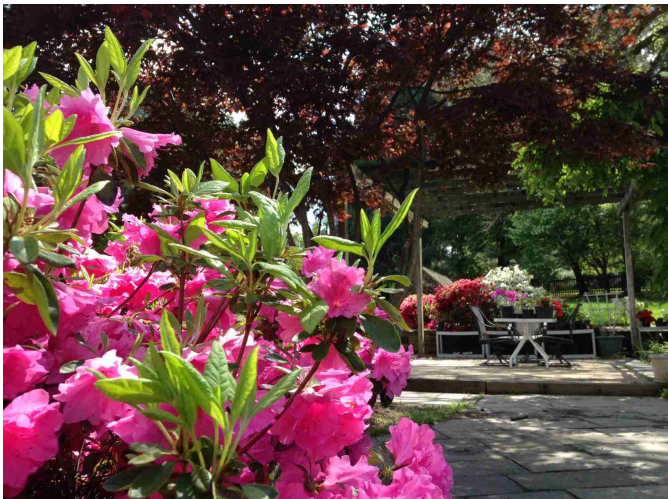




*Sperling Garden, photo by Sperling*



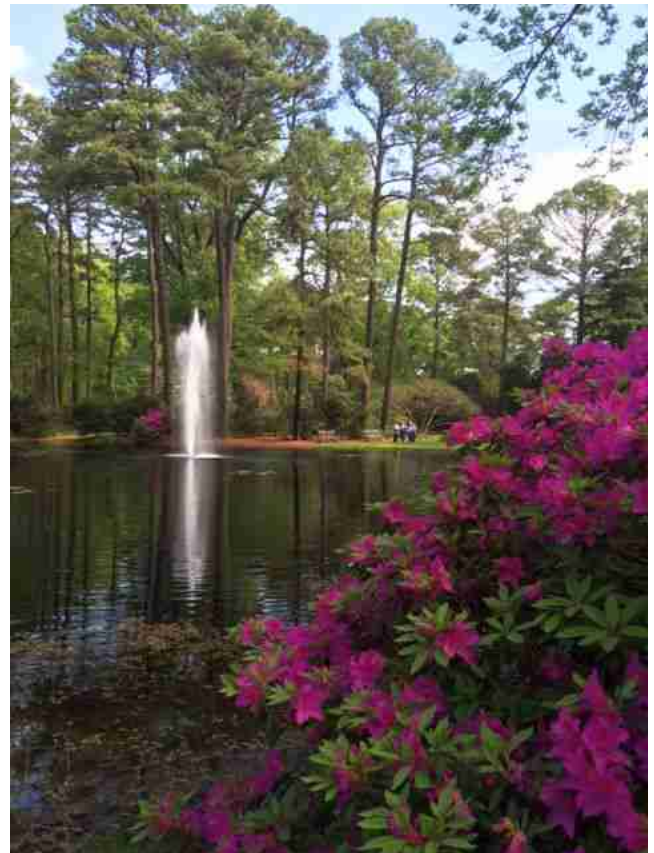
*Larson Garden, photo by Larson*



*Kirkwood Garden, photo by Kirkwood*



*Bob and Rosa McWhorter at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, photo by Sperling*



*Norfolk Botanical Gardens, photo by Larson*



## *President's Message*

As I write this message, I'm thinking about what our chapter has already achieved five months into the year. The big accomplishment was the hugely successful national convention which we sponsored along with three chapters of the American Rhododendron Society. Looking back, we had been planning the convention for over four years. The activity really ramped up in the last year and then in the months immediately preceding the convention. I know that a lot of work went on behind the scenes in setting up the convention activities and in propagating, raising and preparing for sale the huge inventory of plants we offered (over 4,000 plants). It was amazing to watch the flurry of activity by all sponsoring chapters in setting up the convention... especially the plant sale. The point of sale system using barcoded plant tags, convention badges and scanners ensured that we were able to process sales efficiently and quickly. At one point we were selling plants at the rate of one every 12 seconds! We are now in the process of putting together our "lessons learned" and an outline for conducting a convention to assist other chapters in conducting their own conventions (and to assist us the next time our turn comes around).

Plant societies in general are having difficulty in attracting and keeping members. I firmly believe that one way to keep our numbers up is by offering attractive programs to our members. One great way to do this is to cooperate with other plant societies for our mutual benefit. We did this in conducting the convention and will do this later this year in a joint sale with the Daylily Society in September. Our members are also invited to participate in the Smoky Mountain trip sponsored by the ARS. Sharing our events with each other allows us to get more "bang for the buck" in planning and conducting events. It also exposes our chapter to others with an interest in horticulture and sometimes results in new members.

Our next event is my favorite for the year... our annual cutting exchange. I hope you'll be able to join us for an afternoon of camaraderie, good food and the opportunity to acquire and propagate new azaleas varieties to add to your gardens or to raise for future chapter plant sales.

**Rick Bauer**

### {Convention Report continued}

Exploratory discussions started in late 2011. Initially it was thought that the convention would be held in Norfolk, due mainly to the Norfolk Botanical Garden. It was later decided that Williamsburg would be a better draw for participants and allow easier access to the three eventual garden venues, Norfolk, Richmond and Gloucester. After the initial concepts were developed and agreement was obtained by all four chapters, commitments were made to and accepted by both societies in 2013. The convention planning committee was formed with Rick Bauer (NoVA/MAC) and Don Hyatt (PVC/NoVA) being the co-chairs. Other key players were George Mclellan (MAC/NoVA) Paul and Carolyn Beck (NoVA/PVC), Dave and Virginia Banks (MAC/NoVA), Susan Bauer (NoVA/MAC), Phyllis Rittman (PVC), Ray Smith (MD/Ben Morrison), Sonny Coble (MD), Mary Reiley (MD) and Richard and Ginny Mohr (PVC/NoVA). The planning committee met multiple times as a group in Northern VA, in Maryland and in Williamsburg before the convention. The Fort Magruder Hotel and Convention center was selected for the convention due to the location and facilities available. Members also had experience with the hotel from a previous ARS convention. Garden venues were visited multiple times, the bus company was contracted and routes were developed, vendors and meal options were finalized, and speakers identified. Finally, the program and schedule were put together and tweaked as we approached the actual convention.

The Williamsburg location provided the opportunity to not only visit some beautiful gardens, but also the take advantage of multiple historic venues. { Continued on p. 4 }

To help our out of town guests take advantage of this opportunity, we coordinated with a local vendor, Colonial Connections, to offer tours of Williamsburg and Jamestown and, what turned out to be our most popular tour, plantations along the James River. These tours were offered the day before the official start of the convention. Since this was also the day that the Boards of Directors for both societies met, we also scheduled historic tours for the Sunday after the official end of the convention.

The convention officially kicked off on Wednesday evening with an official welcome to participants and presentations on Rhododendron Hybridizing and Native Azaleas in one breakout room and separate presentations on Satsuki Azaleas given by Jim Trumbly and the Legacy Project by Rick Bauer in the other. It was also the day that the plant sale started. Our primary offerings were azaleas and rhododendron, though we also had a large number of tree peonies which were very popular. Carolyn Beck had spearheaded the effort to propagate and raise the large number of azaleas for the convention, starting the efforts three years or more before the convention. The result was an incredible number of azaleas, primarily in 4 inch and 3qt pots.

In preparation for the convention, an inventory of all the plants to be sold was created and each plant was



*Plant Sale: Paul Beck and Leslie Nanney*

tagged with a barcode unique to the plant type and size. Convention attendees also had badges with unique barcodes on them. Paul Beck had developed an extremely effective point of sale system which he had tested at multiple chapter plant sales. Buyers coming to the checkout stations had the barcode on their badge and then the barcode on the plant tags scanned. A total sale and detailed receipt was generated and payment was accepted by cash, check or by credit card. At the height of the sale, a plant was sold every 12 seconds.

Thursday was our first full day of the convention and the first day of garden tours. The busses left the hotel at 8:30 heading towards the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. Along the way, participants

viewed a DVD on Lewis Ginter and the founding of the garden (as an aside, NoVA member Bill Bedwell played an important role in the establishment of the garden). The overcast day kept temperatures comfortable and the garden was in top form, having avoided the worst of the recent late frost. The busses departed Ginter for Rockville, VA in the afternoon to visit gardens of chapter member Elizabeth Cosby and the Japanese garden of Junko and Joe Liesfeld. {Continued on p. 5}

{Below: **Don Hyatt** greets the Bartram re-enactor and **Susan Bauer, Debbie Sauer, Landon Davis** and **Barbara Hambrook** coordinate lunches and Ginter Garden activities.}





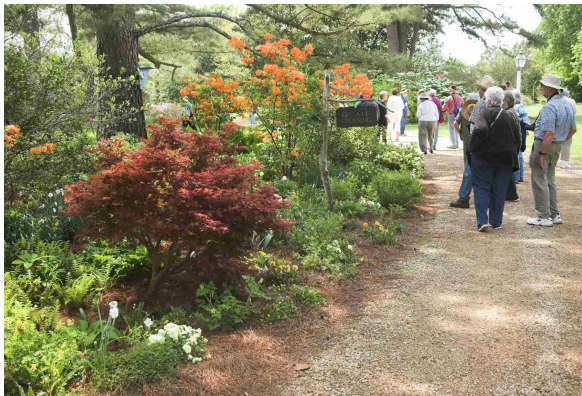
Members were offered the opportunity to shop at the plant sale when they arrived back in Williamsburg. That evening, attendees were treated to an interesting presentation by Kirk Brown, President of the Garden Writer's Association who channeled colonial botanist John Bartram. He was followed by Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Friday morning the busses departed for the Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) and the Pinkham garden in Carrollton, VA. NBG had a special exhibit called "Lantern Asia" with structures located throughout the garden. The Pinkham Garden, which sits on 6 waterfront acres of the James River, was a special treat which elicited many positive comments from tour participants.

Friday evening was the ASA banquet with over 240 attendees. There was a live auction of plants and Sam and Ginger Burd had the winning bid for naming rights for one of Joe Klimavicz's hybrids. Dan Krabill and Paul and Carolyn Beck received the ASA Exceptional Service Award. The keynote speaker was Rick Lewandowski, Director of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Texas. The evening once again ended with the plant sale.



Saturday morning we embarked on our last day of tours. The five busses headed out to nearby Gloucester, Virginia where we visited five gardens, two belonging the ASA/ARS members, Barbara Hall (MAC) and Jim Brant (MAC/Vaseyi). Participants also visited Brent and Becky's Bulbs and the waterfront gardens of Cam Williams and Sue Perrin. In addition to the beautiful garden, the Williams home (Dunham Massie) was once owned by a Confederate general William Booth Taliaferro. According to Cam Williams,



"He built Dunham Massie back in 1845. Taliaferro was a United States officer, a lawyer, the father of eight children and a Virginia legislator. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the Confederate Army and became a Brigadier General. He served with Stonewall Jackson during a portion of the war. After the war Taliaferro returned to Gloucester county and his large family where he lived out the remaining years of his life." Lunch was at the beautiful Beaverdam Park. Unfortunately the sky opened up during lunch and some attendees opted to eat on the bus rather than walk to the covered picnic pavilion.

Saturday evening was the ARS banquet. The evening started with a social hour, followed by an auction. Mike Stewart, former President of the ARS, was the keynote speaker. At the ARS annual meeting, Norm Beaudry and chapter member Bill Mangel received the ARS's Gold Medal. The plant sale was once again opened at the end of the evening.

Sunday was the day of departure, however we again offered a tour of the historic area. Additionally we opened our plant sale to the public. Local garden club members were our primary customers, however we had a number of members of a South Carolina antique car club meeting at the hotel who also purchased a large number of plants. {Continued on p. 6; upper-left photo of Williams Garden by Sperling}

The convention was highly successful. A large number of participants commented on it being one of the best they had attended. Many compliments were received about the gardens visited, the speakers, the food and the number and variety of plants at the plant sale. The convention success was a result of a lot of hard work by many people in the Northern Virginia Chapter as well as the other sponsoring chapters from the ARS. We can now relax for a few years before it once again becomes our turn to sponsor a convention.

**Rick Bauer**



*May 28 Bonsai tour at National Arboretum led by  
**Joe Gutierrez***



***Barb Kirkwood and Carolyn Beck** getting the  
full story from **Joe***



***Yoshiko Doherty**, maintainer of the **McCormack**  
azaleas, with her favorite*



***Don Hyatt** captures 'Venus' Baby' in the **McDonald**  
**Garden** of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens during  
the convention*

Above 4 photos by Sperling

After your editor suffered severe damage to the buds of his early azaleas in the April 6 freeze **Carolyn Beck** mentioned that **Bob Stewart** had solved that problem and had little damage. When I asked him about that he said he did what fruit growers in Florida do when a freeze threatens their crops: he sprayed water over all the sensitive plants and kept the sprayer going all night. In the morning there was a thick coating of ice over the plants (and buds) which protected them from the colder air. There was no freeze damage. There is always a way!



## Buck Clagett's Notes On His Bowie Mill Hybrids

(continued from the March 2015 Clipper)

**Li'l Tae** - (Seedling 96-2-7) 2" Double hose in hose flowers with centers of full petals and rarely some partial petals strong purplish pink (RHS 68A) graduates to light purplish pink (68 C&D) at the center and finishes with a bright chartreuse throat. The blotch is showy on the top 3 lobes. It blooms in late April. Name: Granddaughter Kelly Corsiatto. R 2005

**Mania**—(Seedling #84-4-2) 'Alexander' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: 2-1/2 inches across, single, white with a very rare strong to light purple stripe (RHS 77B-D), tubular blooms with ruffled edges. Bloom time: late June or July. Name: my wife's best friend. "Mania" is Polish for Mary. R 1994

**'Marybeth'** - (Seedling #89-4-3) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: 3 inches across, on young plants, strong reddish purple (RHS 70B) throughout; after a few years develops a very pale center with RHS 70B margins; with varying degrees of light pink in the center; petaloid stamens. Name: my youngest daughter.

**Miss Curlicue** - (Seedling 96-2-3) 1 3/4" double flower with irregular edges of dark red to strong red to white in the center to bright chartreuse in the throat. The blotch is showy, made up of bright purple and ochre markings and confined mostly to the top lobe. Name: Granddaughter Lauren Spelman. R 2005

**Momma Cee** - (Seedling #89-4-6) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A Flower: bloom is 2-1/2 inches across, semi-double, strong purplish red (RHS 64B-C), with petaloid stamens; varying amounts of white to very pale pink. Mature rooted cuttings three to four years old exhibit lighter petaloids. Name: my Mom. R 2012

**My Li'l Tonto** - (Seedling # 89-2-8) 'Christina' X 'Shinnyo no Tsuki' Flower: 2 inches, double, with 16 to 18 lobes. Color is vivid red (44a) with various sized centers of yellowish pink (39b). R 2012

**Patrick William** - (Seedling #89-6-5) 'Pixie' (Glenn Dale) x unnamed hybrid ST-4—Flower: bloom 2-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, very floriferous. The color is an elegant, creamy white with an outstanding chartreuse blotch on the three upper lobes. This azalea won Best in Show at the 1998 Brookside Gardens Chapter flower show. Name: my grandson, it is the best white I have ever seen. R 1997

**Phyllis Jean** - (Seedling #96-2-4) (Dorset X Elsie Lee) X Helen Curtis. 2 1/2 inch hose in hose. Color is red (RHS 50A) washed to (50B) to off white in the center; a very distinct chartreuse base. Blotch showy, bright salmon to ochre center; covers the three upper lobes. Name: a prominent member of our ARS chapter. R 2009

**Pop's** - (Seedling #84-4-1) 'Alexander' x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid Flower: 2 inches across, single, white with sanding, striping, and sectors, including half of some flowers, and sports of vivid purple (RHS 81B) and light purple (RHS 81C). Name: George Harding's family nickname. R 1994

**Richard Montgomery 1956** - (Seedling # 91-4-1) Rosette X Mania. Flower: 1 3/4 inch semi-double to fully double flower. The color is deep red (RHS 45C). The blotch is in the three upper lobes and is dark red (RHS 53A). Dedicated to my High School Alumni group. R 2002

**Rose Lee Clagett** - (Seedling #89-4-1) 'Moonbeam' x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: bloom is hose-in-hose, 2-3/4 inches across, with wavy margins. The color is light purple (RHS 77D), very pale purple with picotee edges of strong purple (RHS 77B). This was named after one of my aunts on my father's side. R1995

**Ruthy's Red** - (Seedling #89-2-10) 'Christina' x 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'—Flower: bloom is hose-in-hose, 2-3/4 inches across with ruffled edges, strong red (RHS 41B) with rare centers of pale pink. This was named for one of my mother's sisters. R 1999

**Ryan Michael** - (Seedling #89-6-1) 'Pixie' x unnamed hybrid ST-4—Flower: 2-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, very floriferous, color is deep purplish pink (RHS 68A) with very showy rose dots in the blotch. This is named after my oldest grandson. After the plant is 5 or 6 years old it may exhibit large groups of flowers ( 6-8) at some terminal ends. R 1997

{ Continued on p. 8 }

**Samantha Michelle** - (Seedling #89-2-6) 'Christina' x 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'—Flower: bloom is 2-3/4 inches across, double, hose-in-hose (15-17 petals), ruffled, deep purplish pink (RHS 73D) with very pale purple (RHS 73D) centers of varying size in every bloom. Name: one of my Granddaughters, Samantha Clagett. R1997

**Stacy Lynn** - (Seedling #84-3-2) 'White Orchid' x 'Cinderella' (Glenn Dale)—Flower: 2 inches across, double (12-14 petals), strong pink (RHS 48C-D), with inconspicuous strong red (RHS 51A) spots on dorsal lobes. Small plant, very early. Name: my middle daughter. R 1991

{ Still 5 to list, as soon as there is space. Then: the complete Klimavicz catalog! }

### ***Taking Cuttings***

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!}  
A good **label** with the plant name, hybridizer, flower description and "cutter" would help a lot!

### **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

Visit our **website** <http://www.nv-asa.org>

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### **2016**

**July 10** Cutting Exchange, Kirkwood Pres. Ch.

**Sept 17** Auction with Daylily Soc., Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

**Oct 22** Executive Committee Meeting

**Oct 23** Meeting with speaker

**Dec 4** Holiday Social

**President: Rick Bauer** 757-833-7737  
rickbauer@cox.net

**Vice Pres.: Barbara Kirkwood** 703-268-6958  
kirkwoodb@aol.com

**Secretary: Joanne Neckel** 703-690-6013  
vaneckel@verizon.net

**Treasurer: Paul Beck** 703-860-5676  
pabeck@gmail.com

**Corresponding Secretary and Clipper Editor:**  
**Barry Sperling** 703-765-7062  
bsperling@cox.net