

The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



Jane Newman
1925 - 2017

I always enjoyed talking with Jane and once asked how it all got started. She told me that the man who worked on her car invited her over to see his azaleas. She particularly like 'Quakeress' and that remained a favorite. I remember the huge plants in her driveway (12' tall or more) that showed the possibilities when they are cared for as she could. Several people have written their memories of her and I'm including them starting on p. 4. While there is some overlap in the themes, this should be expected as she was involved in many activities which we all enjoyed. So, here are some horticultural and personal remembrances of the friend we knew for so long.

Barry

Please continue on p. 4

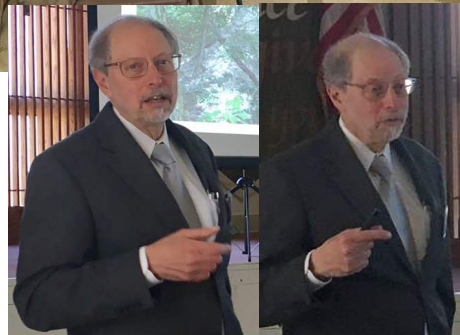
Next Meeting: **Cutting Exchange** with *two* demonstrations **July 16 1 pm – 4 pm**
and plant exchange ... please label and sign ***Everyone Please Bring Something for Pot Luck***

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Springfield

See back page for details



NVASA at the New Orleans Convention. Left: **Barbara Stump** awards **Carolyn Beck** best article in the Azalean. Next 4 from Mini-Conference.



Barry talks "Dirty" during April Lecture. Rt.: **Leslie, Barb and Helen** at Nanney's Open Garden.



President's Message

John and I took off on an adventure June 1. We first stopped in Iceland and saw lots and lots of Lupines but very few trees in the area around Reykjavik. Seems the early Scandinavian settlers used their great forests for fuel, housing, and iron making. The government is now making an effort to reforest.

Then we moved on to Sweden where the ultimate goal was to meet some cousins I had been corresponding with about genealogy. I noticed the country was just coming into their spring. There were many Lilacs in bloom, the old varieties that smell heavenly. But I didn't see any Azaleas. I thought perhaps they were too far north to grow well. Then we visited their garden island, Djurgården, which houses the Vasa museum (worth the trip by itself), Skansen, the open-air museum which brings in houses from all over Sweden from different eras, and some gardens.

As we were walking back to the hotel, I finally found some Azaleas and Rhododendrons. They were stunning and still in bloom the first week of June. I did not see any in yards as we traveled through the countryside so I was delighted to come across those on Djurgården.

We had one of our best sales yet at Green Springs garden in April. We sold well more than half of what we brought to the sale, including all the native Azaleas we took and they were not even in bloom. We even had quite a rush of people as we were taking down our tents and putting plants into the trailer. It was so good that we joked about looking like we were closing down a couple of times for the next sale. The Bonsai group gave us a healthy boost as they gathered selections for a workshop on Azalea plants as Bonsai. I hope we can get a few of our joint members to display their creations at an upcoming meeting.

Our next meeting, on July 16, 1 PM is one of everyone's favorites, the cutting exchange. Look for information on how to take cuttings properly in this edition of the Clipper. We also plan to have a workshop where Carolyn Beck and Barry Sperling will demonstrate two different methods for propagating your cuttings. We have a potluck dinner on that day, so plan to bring something to share.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Barb



Captions: p. 1 by Sperling: Jane, Don Voss and Jane, Bob & Eve Harrison, Jane, Don Hyatt, Bill Lorenz

p. 2 top: by Barbara Stump, award by Bill Miller, Mini-Conference and Barry by Barb Kirkwood, 3 ladies by Sperling

p. 3 by Kirkwood: left, Sweden, right Kirkwood garden

Jane Newman, continued from p. 1

Dan Krabill:

The Northern Virginia Chapter and the Azalea Society of America lost a very good friend and great azalea person with the death of Jane Newman on May 16, 2017 at the age of 91 at her home in Great Falls, Virginia. Jane joined the ASA in 1979 and was a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. She was an avid collector of azaleas, growing many hundreds of varieties in her garden. She was particularly interested in the Glenn Dale collection of 454 varieties, of which she grew and photographed the great majority and was one of the premier experts. Jane happily shared her plant material and knowledge with chapter members and others. She was a very active participant at the ASA's Harding Garden at the American Horticulture Society for many years, participating in weekly work sessions and regularly donating plants that one participant described at the time as being "bigger than Jane." She was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Azalean from 1993 through 2012, and wrote many articles for the Azalean through the years. In recognition of all this, the ASA awarded Jane the Distinguished Service Award at its 2009 Convention.

Jane's gardening interests were not limited to azaleas. She was also a collector of hostas, accumulating hundreds of varieties. Also, she grew and shared a variety of fruits and vegetables in her garden including great potatoes and tomatoes. One of my favorite memories of Jane is a phone call I got from her a number of years ago in which she said "come over and dig it up." She was referring to the hard-to-find Glenn Dale azalea Pied Piper, from which she had previously provided me with cuttings several times and which I had been singularly unsuccessful in rooting.

We will miss Jane's good humor, sharp wit, knowledge, and generosity.

Dave Nanney:

Jane was a long-time active member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Azalean and an

author of many articles in it. She was an active participant in work sessions at the Harding Garden at American Horticulture Society for many years. She collected azaleas and hosta. May have been the most knowledgeable living person on the Glenn Dale azaleas. She was always very generous in sharing her knowledge and plant material.

Dixie Hougen:

I met Jane because of my smart mouth. Years ago, when a few members of the local Azalea Society chapter maintained the-then wonderful azalea planting at River Farm, I complained to a Richmond azalea enthusiast, Nancy Swell, about the weeds. Nancy's response was "put your money where your mouth is and go help weed on Wednesdays". That is how I met Jane and Milt and several other members. I was struck by Jane's quietness and self-effacing behavior and by her endless knowledge of the many azaleas at River Farm, in particular, her ability to correctly recall their names. Other members were knowledgeable but Jane never seemed to be wrong. Of greater interest to me, was her shrugging of this knowledge and mentioning at least one other Society member who knew more than she. She was anything but a showboater. I pulled a lot of weeds, I spread a lot of mulch, and I met Jane Newman. It was all good. It was a privilege. {Just as a measure of the breadth of Jane's interests, she was very active in politics and met Dixie in that way, so there was more to her than expertise in horticulture.- Ed.}

Carole and Lee McElvain:

Jane was a matriarch in the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, She was one of the most knowledgeable in the chapter -- never hesitant to speak out. She was generous with her knowledge and her resources (she always brought cuttings for hard to find azaleas, home-grown tomatoes, and other vegetables from her garden). And she was a great Redskins fan, so she insisted on keeping the program on track so she could get home in time to watch the game! We will miss her.

Don Hyatt:

How very sad. I knew Jane for many years but she never shared too much about herself with me. We just talked azaleas. I do know that 'Quakeress' was the plant that sparked her interest and started it all. She had a huge plant in her driveway loop and I planted the variety at the street edge as a remembrance of her. She was probably one of the best people we ever had for azalea identification. She studied her azaleas very closely, especially the Glenn Dales. I was sure she could tell all 454 Glenn Dales apart by sight, even at a distance of 20 ft. :)

Jane and I discussed battling deer and we had mutual interests in companion plants. We were looking for ones that seemed to be deer resistant like Pulmonaria but the deer have started eating those in my garden now.

Jane had quite a hosta collection, too. The Hosta Society lists over 21,000 named cultivars so people don't grow them all. Jane decided to arrange them in her garden in small clusters according to some general theme related to the name. For instance, she liked putting all the

hostas named for foods together like 'Guacamole', 'Gumdrop', 'Espresso', and 'Ribbon Candy'. All her hostas that were named for song titles were planted together like 'White Christmas', 'Rhapsody in Blue', and 'Tiny Dancer'. Those whose names related to US history were planted together like 'Patriot', 'Liberty', 'Independence Day', and 'American Eagle'. I thought it was a very clever idea. I might have done the same thing except that deer will eat the hostas before they eat the azaleas.

She did take loads of pictures of her azaleas but she was very "camera shy" herself. She didn't want her own picture taken. I think I may have gotten one image of her years ago but it is not very good. She was ducking out of the way as I was trying to photograph some of her azaleas.

As you can see, Jane was a stalwart of the club who helped to make our meetings a gathering of experts as well as friends. We'll all miss her and think of her.

Barry

Cheapskate Gardening and Learning!

By Lars Larson

In order to identify the plants in one's garden, an effective identification marking system or recording of locations and types is helpful. Through trial and error, an inexpensive and durable tagging system was made from roofer's aluminum step flashing (less than \$3 for a 10 piece pack of 5"x 7" pieces at Home Depot or Lowe's) and 14 gauge galvanized electric fence wire (about \$12 for 50 feet). Stem wire (found in the craft stores) can also be used but is thinner but may be more desired for less visual attraction. Each flashing piece can be easily cut into 6 or more tags that are easy to be seen (recommend clipping the corners to remove sharp edges). An alpha numeric punch set can be used to imprint the species, date of acquisition, or other desired information that will stand the test of time (use block of wood under tag to limit punch depth). Can be ordered on line (1/4" size best) or from Harbor Freight Tools for about \$15. A permanent marker can be used to highlight the information if desired. Placing the tags higher on the plant will assist in locating them when leafed out.

Did you know that **ALL** of the **Azaleans** and many of the **Clippers** are available online at our website: <http://www.nv-asa.org>? Thanks to the team of **Susan** and **Rick Bauer**, **Paul Beck** and **Dave Banks**.

ASA Convention 2017

by Rick Bauer

Once again, the Azalea Society of America held a thoroughly enjoyable convention....even more so when you aren't running it! This year's honors went to the Louisiana Chapter and was held in Hammond, LA. While the convention organizers couldn't totally control Mother Nature (the blooms were a little early this year), they did control the weather during the convention: we had beautiful days and comfortable temperatures throughout.

As is normal, the first afternoon involved arrival and registration, while the board of directors dealt with business of the society. Four items of interest were the scheduling of conventions out through 2022, the appointment of a new membership chairman, the elevation of the Legacy Project from one in the Northern Virginia Chapter to a society level project and finally the official unveiling of the crisp new website put together by chapter members **Dave Banks** and **Paul Beck**.

We also were given azalea convention favors including one of the newest Encore® azaleas, 'Autumn Bonfire'.

Friday morning we headed out for the 1 1/2 hour trip to St. Francisville, LA where we visited the Imahara Garden. The 55 acre garden was started by **Walter Imahara** in 2003 and remains in his family to this day. It is an incredible Japanese garden. We enjoyed the beauty and the inclusion of Asian techniques in deciding plant and sculpture placement.

After the Imahara Garden, we went to Rosedown Plantation which is now a Louisiana State Park. We returned to our hotel to freshen up before our trip again to the Hammond Research Station where we enjoyed another buffet dinner, the plant sale (with the remaining plants being sold at fire sale prices) and three outstanding talks. **Rodrigo Valverde**, LSU AgCenter Plant Pathologist spoke on "Virus Identification in Azaleas." **Mark Windham**, University of Tennessee Plant Pathologist spoke on "Growing Disease Free Azaleas" and **Neil Odenwald**, Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects spoke on historical Louisiana gardens, gardeners, landscaping and design.

Saturday was a full day, full of fun, food and festivities. Our first stop was at the experimental garden of **Buddy Lee**. For those of you who don't know, Buddy is the developer of the Encore® Azaleas. We later went to Transcend Nursery and the home of **Buddy** and **Dixie Lee**. This was where the partying started. We all had the opportunity to tour Buddy's experimental beds and greenhouses...but the real partying was elsewhere. We were treated to crayfish etouffee, pralines and king cake. Mardi Gras beads were in great supply and many of us adorned ourselves with the beads. They also had a live Cajun band. A number of us joined, either playing the washboard or in a chain dance.

After our time at Buddy and Dixie's house we went to Bracey's Nursery. This is probably the largest commercial nursery I have ever seen. They have acre after acre of healthy plants lined up with military precision. **Randy Bracey** gave us an orientation on the nursery and their use of immigrant labor. The workers are all here on valid visas and are provided quality housing, including a soccer field. His workers return home each year, however the conditions of employment are so good that he has very low turnover of employees. We also were given a talk by the head of their propagation section and walked through some of their greenhouses.



After a delicious catfish and shrimp lunch we waddled onto the busses for the trip to Margie Jenkins' nursery. Margie is probably the Grande Dame of the society. She is a delightful woman



who is extremely knowledgeable and still energetic in her 90's. We were able to tour her nursery and enjoy ANOTHER dessert with tables full of homemade cakes. We then made the trip back to Hammond to prepare for the evening's festivities. The society banquet was held in a banquet hall in Hammond. We once again had the opportunity to socialize with society members from across the country. As has become our custom, the members of the Northern Virginia Chapter assembled for a chapter photo of members and associate members in attendance. We once again were treated to a delicious buffet followed by the annual meeting. **Barb Stump**, the editor of *The Azalean*, presented the award for the best article in 2016 to **Carolyn Beck** for her article, "The Klimavicz Hybridizing Project." **Paul Beck** and **Dave Banks** gave a demonstration of the new website. After demonstrating the online

Azalean, the wife of one of the attendees was heard to say "Now you can get rid of all of those old hard copies!" Outgoing president **J Jackson** turned over the reins of the presidency to me and in turn, I presented him a plaque in appreciation for his four years as society president. After a few words about my goals for the future of the society, I turned the program back to the convention chair, **Allen Owings**, and he introduced the entertainment for the night, **David Himelrick**, LSU AgCenter professor and illusionist. Some of us are still scratching our heads trying to figure out how he pulled off his tricks. Sunday morning we had to bid goodbye to our fellow attendees, looking forward to seeing them next year in Little Rock. Susan and I drove to **Maarten Van Der Giessen's** nursery in Semmes, AL. We are also extremely thankful to Maarten for the contribution of a large number of liners of Aromi varieties which we will use in the chapter to further the goals of the Legacy Project.

I have been attending society conventions since 2008 and once again, I had a fantastic time. It is so nice to make friends from across the country and to be able to meet with them once a year in different locations. If you haven't been to a convention, I encourage you to attend. Next year's convention in Little Rock will be followed by Charleston and then Houston. A complete list is on the society's website.



First 3 photos in this article by **Rick Bauer**. Right photo by **Carolyn Beck**.



A Huge Thank You to **Maarten van der Giessen!** **Paul** and I stopped in Semmes, Alabama to visit the nursery belonging to Maarten van der Giessen. Maarten is a member and strong supporter of The Azalea Society of America (ASA). Maarten insisted on giving our chapter the over 500 azaleas we had selected. Most are evergreen varieties and are now in 4" pots; the deciduous cultivars are in a gallon size. These will all be grown-on to help support our future fund raisers. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA thanks Maarten for his amazing gift to us. {above right} – **Carolyn Beck**

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

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!

Carolyn Beck & Barry Sperling will each demo a different method of growing cuttings!

Schedule

July 16: Cutting Exchange at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 1 – 4 pm

September 9: Green Spring Gardens Fall Plant Sale (Tentative)

September 15-16: Ginter Gardens Fall Plant Sale (Tentative)

September 23: Public plant sale and auction at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 1 – 4 pm

October 14: Executive Committee meeting, 10 am – 1:30, place TBD

October 15: Meeting with speaker at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 1 – 4 pm

December 3: Holiday Social, 1 – 4 pm, Lars and Jean Larson's

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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