

The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

SUNDAY MARCH 1
1:30 - 4:30

MARY OLIEEN

Discussing the history and planning of

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Plant Exchange too! Any type!
please label and sign your name

Refreshments: L – Z

Directions on back page



Li'l Sweetie Pie

Buck Clagett and his Bowie Mill hybrids, such as the above, deserve wider recognition. Check out p. 4 and 5 for more on Buck and a partial catalog.

For **Mary Olien**, bringing horticulture and education together for gardeners of all skill levels has been the centerpiece of her career. An interest in the science of plants and the practicality of studying a food crop led her to a bachelor's degree from **Virginia Tech** in Horticulture with a focus on pomology, the study of fruit trees. At **Michigan State University** she earned a Masters Degree in Horticulture, exploring water stress in fruit crops. Over the next 15 years she discovered that research positions were few and far between, but gardening and education were universal, even in such disparate places as Maine, New York, Mississippi and South Carolina. From lectures and workshops for homeowners to gardening with children to teaching high school biology, she gained the experience necessary to lead the education programs at the **State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy**. During those eight years, she honed leadership and management skills that led her to the manager position at **Green Spring Gardens**, a jewel of a public garden in Alexandria, Virginia. Since 2005 Mary has guided a talented and dedicated staff to increase visitation and revenue, even through the economic ups and downs. She invites you to visit to see how they demonstrate excellence in horticulture, cultivate learning through gardening and provide excellent customer service to all who come.



President's Message

I'm happy to be writing this message as it indicates the start of another year of chapter activities. I hope that all of you had a happy holiday season. I'm sorry that **Susan** and I missed the holiday social, but we understand it was a great party and we thank **Barb and John Kirkwood** for opening their beautiful home to the chapter.

This year we will continue to do a lot of planning and work towards the 2016 Joint ASA-ARS convention in Williamsburg which we are co-sponsoring with three chapters of the American Rhododendron Society. We already have the hotel, speakers and garden tours laid on and are propagating a large number of azaleas and rhododendron which will be available during the convention. As we move through the year, we will be identifying requirements for assistance in conducting the convention (e.g., sales personnel, bus captains etc.) We hope to see a good turnout for the convention and hope that many of our members will be able to assist in volunteer positions.

On 1 March we will have our first chapter meeting of the year at Kirkwood Presbyterian church. As you are aware, the chapter has made donations to Green Spring Gardens over the past few years for their Title I program support and for an intern. **Mary Olien** from Green Spring Gardens will give us a talk on Green Spring Gardens as well as report on how our contributions have been used.

Additionally, we will have our first plant exchange of the year. This is a great opportunity to share your excess plants (not necessarily azaleas) with other members as

well as increase your collection.

The ASA National Convention is being held 27-30 March in Nacogdoches, Texas. I know this is quite a distance, however I hope we have a good turnout. The azalea gardens there are supposed to be beautiful and it looks like they have a good program in place.

In 2011, **Fran Boninti**, one of our members in Charlottesville, asked the chapter if we would sell azaleas during the period of their garden tours as part of Garden Week. A number of our members took part in that sale and I think we all had a good time. This year we are once again participating in the sale, mainly to gain visibility for the ASA in general and our chapter in particular as well as to provide azaleas, including Legacy varieties, to the general public. We will be operating three shifts 12-5 on Sunday 19 April and 9-1 and 1-5 on Monday, 20 April. Please get with me if you are able to assist during any of these periods. The plant sale will be held in an indoor facility. Volunteers will receive complementary tickets for the garden tours, a \$40 value. This link contains more information on Garden Week.

www.vagardenweek.org/main/tourdetails?id=245

Finally I'd like to thank all of the members who continue to work to plan and execute the programs of the chapter. These include all of the officers, the committee chairs and everyone who volunteers to work at any of our functions. We couldn't do it without you.

Rick Bauer

Captions

p. 1 & 2 Flower pictures courtesy of *Buck Clagett*

p. 2 Holiday Social pictures courtesy of *Barbara Kirkwood*

Buck Clagett

Not far across the Potomac from the Northern Virginia club lives an accomplished hybridizer, active for 50 years. Derwood, Md. resident Buck Clagett has produced a large number of beautiful evergreen azaleas under the Bowie Mill designation, many available from White's Nursery (see the Clipper, Vol. 35 No. 3).

His goals have been to produce flowers with more petals and more colors than have been available. Your editor, with Tina's Whorled and Tissie in his garden, will attest to Clagett's success in those goals.

Both sides of his family had an interest in horticulture and growing seedlings so it's no wonder that he tended in that direction. His Aunt Dorothy knew Dr. Wilson from the USDA, a friend of Ben Morrison. Dr. Wilson brought to her some original Glenn Dales: Festive, Fashion, Corsage, etc. About 1962 Buck started a collection from Lyon's Nursery: Hahn's Red, Ambrosia and Martha Hitchcock. Some Gables came from a Hyattsville nursery and Gold Cups from Nuccio's in California.

Within a few years he started azaleas from seed with the first crosses attempted in the late '60s. Stacy Lynn (a very small, early, strong pink double) and Tissie (a very late, large flowered strong purple hose-in-hose) were his first successes.

Currently, seedlings are started under lights in his basement just after Christmas, but after being transferred to his cold frames they spend the rest of their lives outdoors. The cold frames are 2' x 6', glass topped and shaded. Clagett doesn't use a greenhouse. Plants are sprayed 3 times a day inside the cold frames in the summer. In addition to a 7' deer fence (and Liquid Fence) he sprays for insects and poisons slugs.

Looking back, Buck especially enjoyed spending time with George Harding and Bob Stelloh. He was in on the early activity of the ASA about 1978, attending a meeting prior to the first official meeting. This early meeting included Bill Parsons, Nate Fitts, George Harding, Frank and Mike White and Bob Mallet. Soon after, this continued with the first official meeting of the ASA which was attended by Buck, George Harding, Frank White, Emile Deckert, Bob Mallet, Ty Spencer, Bill Parsons, Warren and Judy Grooms and Alice Holland. At this meeting they collected information about suppliers and made the 1st logo (a flower and a leaf).

Buck Clagett has been involved with the rich history of azaleas, from hybridizing to founding the ASA and is a great resource for our little hobby. If you would like cuttings from his collection he invites you to contact him at bclagett2@verizon.net.



Abbreviated Bowie Mill Catalog with Buck Clagett's notes

[Seedling code: year – cross – seedling]

‘**Aunt Bess**’ - Corrine Murrah open pollinated(No seedling #) Flower: 2 ¾ inch single flower with a white center and a mostly well defined border of deep rose pink (RHS 68b). There is a very showy blotch area in the upper half of the flower of reddish purple (RHS 71B) in the pink areas and chartreuse in the white areas. Named for my Dad's oldest sister.

‘**Aunt Jim**’ - (Seedling #80-3-1) ‘Corsage’ seedling—Flower: 2-inch single, white in the center to moderate purplish pink (RHS 65A) on the tips of the petals. Flower buds are deep purplish pink (RHS 68A) and contrast very nicely with the paler flowers. Bess was one of my father's sisters.

‘**Aunt Kitty**’ - (Seedling #84-3-12) ‘Koromo Shikibu’ x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: bloom is white, hose-in-hose, 2-3/4 inches across. Petals: are narrow and staggered. That part of the corolla borne of the sepals tends to flare at the top, as in Mayo’s ‘Magic Lily’. This plant was named for one of my mother’s sisters.

‘**Birdie Mae**’ - (Seedling # 96-2-15) (Elsie Lee X Dorsett) X Helen Curtis. Flower: 1 ¼ inches, H&H, wavy lobes, deep yellowish pink on the edges (39B) fading to an off white center, blotch heavy, strong purplish red on the top 3 lobes. My father’s nick name for my oldest sister Sandy Childs.

‘**Debbie Beth**’ - (Seedling #93-8-1) Martha Hitchcock X Elsie Lee. Flower: 3 inch double flowers of strong reddish purple (RHS 72C). Blotch area significant and covers the top half with purple dots. Named for Mike White’s wife.

‘**Denise Ann**’ - (Seedling #89-4-4) ‘Moonbeam’ (Glenn Dale) x unnamed hybrid CB-1A—Flower: bloom is ruffled, 3-1/4 inches across, white double, hose-in-hose (15 petals), with strong purplish pink (RHS 68B). Two plants have sported rays of light and dark purple with white margins and solid purple. The center of the bloom has very showy chartreuse highlights. Named for my oldest daughter.

‘**Dink**’ - (Seedling #91-7-1) Linwood Lavender X Mania Flower: 2 inch double hose and hose rose pink (RHS 65a). Occasionally will have some semi-double flowers. Blotch area covers the top half of the flower with rose red dots. Exterior base of the flower has an orange cast to it. Dink is my daughter in law’s nick name.

‘**Dorothy King**’ - (Seedling #84-2-8) ‘Koromo Shikibu’ x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid (ruffled, semi-double flowers, rose red with white variegation)—Flower: 2-1/2 inches, hose-in-hose, strong to vivid purplish pink (RHS 67A to B), showy dark purple blotch, adaxial side of corolla has orange highlights. Named for one of my father’s sisters.

‘**Dottie Ann**’ - (Seedling #91-1-1) Asahizaru X CB10 Flower: 2 ½ inch single with two distinct bicolor patterns. Flower 1-(RHS 72B) reddish purple border with a (RHS 75C) light purple center. Flower 2-(RHS 51A) orange red border with a (RHS 56B) pale red center. Named for my Aunt Dottie.

‘**Elizabeth Ann**’ - (Seedling #89-2-5) ‘Christina’ x ‘Shinnyo-no-tsuki’—Flower: 2-3/4 inches across, double (13 petals), colored strong red (RHS 53C) with variegations of light purplish pink (RHS 55C). This variegation appears only after the plant is three or four years old from a rooted cutting. Variegations range from complete center to random blotches, to none, although most flowers have some variegation. The plant was named after my oldest granddaughter, and is **one of my personal favorites**.

‘**Gracie Girl**’ - (Seedling #96-2-10) 1½ “ hose in hose flowers with irregular strong red edges to white in the center to a bright chartreuse throat. The pistil is much shorter than the stamen. The blotch is confined mostly to the top lobe and is made up of salmon and brownish red markings. Named for my Granddaughter Grace Clagett.

‘**Grandma Cleveland**’ - (Seedling #89-2-1) 2 ¾” single flower. The center is light reddish pink, with a very well defined, but narrow border of deep reddish pink. The edges of the flower are ruffled and the texture of the flower “wrinkled” similar to Easter Parade. Named for my maternal Grandmother.

‘**Granny Cee**’ - (Seedling #89-4-5) ‘Moonbeam’ x unnamed hybrid ST-1A—Flower: very open, 3 inches across, hose-in-hose, very ruffled, with occasional petaloid centers. The color is white with moderate striping of deep purplish pink (RHS 73A) and a very obvious chartreuse stain at the bottom abaxial surface of the corolla. It readily sports strong purplish pink (RHS 68B) and occasionally sports a color pattern like ‘Janet Rhea’. The name is a nickname of my paternal grandmother.

‘**Inch**’ - (Seedling #84-4-5) ‘Alexander’ x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid—Flower: 2-1/4 inches across, single, white, with an abundance of stripes, flakes, and sectors of bright deep purplish pink (RHS 67C) and strong purplish pink (RHS 67D), very floriferous for a late season indicum. This is Stacy Lynn’s nickname; I just thought it fit.

‘**Itty Bitty**’ - (Seedling #96-2-18) (Elsie Lee X Dorsett) X Helen Curtis. A 1 ¼ inch double flower with 15 to 19 lobes. Flower is reddish purple RHS 68a on the tips of the petals fading toward the center of the flower. Flower has distinctive white midribs. The blotch consists of some red spots on the upper 3 lobes. Flower has 15-19 petals.

‘**John Francis**’ - (Seedling #80-2-1) ‘Hino-crimson’ x unknown seedling—Flower: 1-3/4 inches across, hose-in-hose, strong reddish purple (RHS 70B), very floriferous. Named for my Uncle Jack.

‘**Layne Ashlee**’ - (Seedling #89-2-7) ‘Christina’ (Vuykiana) x ‘Shinnyo-no-tsuki’—Flower: bloom is 2-3/4 inches across, double (12-14 petals). The color is vivid reddish orange (RHS 43B) with centers and blotches of light pink (RHS 39D). Variegations do not appear until rooted cuttings are three to four years old. Layne is my granddaughter. **The flower is one of my favorites.**

‘**Li’l Fella**’ - (Seedling #96-2-8) 1 ½” double flower with irregular edges of yellowish pink (RHS 47C) to white in the center, to bright chartreuse in the throat. Blotch is confined to the top lobe and is a dark rose color. Named for my Grandson Nicholas Corsiotto.

‘**Li’l Sister**’ - (Seedling #96-2-12) 1 ¾ inch semi-double flowers, stamen rare, strong purplish red (RHS 63A) with wavy lobes. Blotch moderate, purplish red (RHS 70A) on the upper 3 lobes. Named for my youngest sister Cathy Lyter.

‘**Li’l Sweetie Pie**’ - (Seedling #96-2-2) 2 ¼” double flower with irregular borders of reddish purple (RHS 82C) to light reddish purple, to white in the center to chartreuse in the throat. The blotch covers the top three lobes and is a combination of brownish red, red, and chartreuse markings. Named for my Granddaughter Courtney Spelman.

More of the catalog in coming issues

Martha Derthick, one of our chapter members from Charlottesville, passed away on 12 January. Martha was a retired political science professor at the University of Virginia and the author of several books. She was also deeply involved in horticulture. Our condolences go to her friends and family. A memorial service is planned for 2 May in Charlottesville.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?pid=173930123>



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

The Chapter Website has info on the conventions, dues, plant photos, back issues of the Clipper, member information and more!

<http://www.nv-asa.org>

You will enjoy joining the members who will be going on an informal nursery tour in North Carolina, March 6 – 8. Details can be obtained from Don Hyatt (don@donaldhyatt.com), a chapter officer or:

<http://www.nv-asa.org/notes/21>

2015

Mar 1 Meeting with speaker Mary Olien, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church; Plant Exchange

March 6-8 NC Nursery trip; see above

Mar 26-29 ASA Convention, Nacogdoches, TX

April 19-20 Charlottesville Plant Sale & Garden Week

Late April-Early May Member garden tours

May 16 Green Spring Gardens sale

July 19 Cutting Exchange

Sept 26 Auction, Kirkwood Presbyterian Ch.

Oct 17 Executive Committee Meeting

Oct 18 Meeting with speaker

Dec 6 Holiday Social

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