

Not the Clipper

Vol 4 No. 1 March 2017

Digging Into Spring

First Mini Gardening Symposium

This year, the **Northern Virginia chapter of the Azalea Society of America** is spearheading what we hope will become an annual event inspiring new interest in gardening especially in younger folks. On March 18, 1-3 PM, we are planning to have a free two-hour mini gardening symposium, **Digging into Spring**, at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in West Springfield with multiple presentations by a variety of gardening organizations.

We are working in collaboration with members of the **American Rhododendron Society, Green Springs Master Gardeners, American Hemerocallis Society, American Hosta Society, and Meadowlark Gardens**. We have ten adult presentations and a children's program. You are encouraged to bring children/grandchildren to this event. Snacks will be available. Listed below are the presenters and the topics for the adult program.

The children's program will be an hour long and is focused at children age six and above. It will run two times and can accommodate 20 children in each session. The children will be creating Ziplock bag seed and root viewers, designing a garden of their own, and creating a miniature garden. **Jules Malone** from Meadowlark Gardens and **Susan Hedrick** from ASA and the American Hosta Society will be assisting the **Kirkwoods** and **Nanneys** with the children's projects. Children must preregister so we are certain we have enough spaces and supplies for them. Registration is through SignUp at <http://signup.com/go/m7BTv7> in case you have someone you think would love this program. Children must be participating in the program or under the supervision of an adult.

We hope you will come join us on March 18. You will have a variety of presentations to choose from. You are welcome to preregister for your preferred adult sessions (at the above link) which will help us determine which rooms should house the more popular topics.

Speakers and their topics are listed at the bottom of p. 2.

Barb Kirkwood

President's Message

I had thought spring had sprung last November when temperatures around here tipped over 70. Come December, we had more 50 and 60 degree temperatures. The trees were confused and we had a few branches of Cherry blossoms that burst out. Now here in February, I am wondering if this was the winter that wasn't. Hopefully, Mother Nature will not burst out with some unpleasant surprise storms that will knock out the spring bulbs and blossoms.

We have a lot of activities coming up beginning with our First Mini gardening symposium, Digging into Spring, on March 18. I hope we will have lots of members come support this new effort. We can use help in making it a good experience for newer gardeners. (see the article for details) Just twelve days later, we begin our convention in

Louisiana. It's not quite as convenient as last year's here in Virginia, but I expect I will see a few of our chapter members there.

Come Sunday, April 9, from 1 to 4:00 PM, we will be at Kirkwood Presbyterian for our spring meeting. Continuing in our tradition, we would love for our members to bring the snacks. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring something to share for our spring meeting. Names beginning with M-Z should bring something for the fall meeting in October. Consider inviting a friend or new neighbor to one of our meetings so we can keep growing and refreshing our membership.

Details on the topic are still being worked out and will be in our March Clipper.

Barb

Choose From These Confirmed Mini-Conference Speakers:

Barry Sperling Azalea Gardens of Northern VA

Don Hyatt Native Azaleas: Preserving Native Flora

Joe Gutierrez Azaleas for Bonsai

Carolyn Beck Propagation of Azaleas

Paulette Royt Native Plants

Sue Clark Gardening with our Deer Friends

Charles Kackley Planting Trees and Shrubs

Rick Bauer Legacy Project

Janice Kennedy Daylilies: The Perfect Perennial

Dennis Cronley Easy to Grow Shrubs

White's Nursery Events

White's Nursery would like to invite plant societies, garden clubs and plant lovers for two fun events this spring. These two events will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, April 29 9 am to 5 pm - Early Spring - White's Nursery Open House This event will showcase the earlier blooming azaleas (deciduous and evergreen) and rhododendrons

Sunday, May 21 9 am to 5 pm - Late Bloomers Sale at White's Nursery This event provides an opportunity to enjoy later blooming azaleas and rhododendron

Enjoy an afternoon mingling with other plant lovers while taking a leisurely stroll admiring the many varieties of azaleas and rhododendrons in our greenhouses. This year our evergreen azalea inventory has grown to over 300 varieties. We also carry one of the largest collection of deciduous and native azaleas. Bring your cameras for some great photographs. The blooms are always amazing!

White's Nursery is located at:

22531 Wildcat Road

Germantown, MD 20876

Website: www.whites-nursery.com

Like us on Facebook!

Plant societies and garden clubs are welcomed to bring plants to sell. If you are interested in selling contact Deb White on 301 471 5958 or via email: whiteaz@verizon.net

More info than you can believe is at:

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

Like to see your name in print? Your editor does! You can join him in print by sending your garden photos, stories about gardens and landscapes you've visited around the world (or Northern VA), articles about varieties of azaleas, landscaping, companion plants, plant care or pest control as well as entertaining essays celebrating the gardening life to:

bsperling@cox.net

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

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Schedule

March 18: Mini Conference at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church; 1 – 3 pm

March 30 - April 2: ASA Convention, Hammond Louisiana

April 9 Chapter Meeting with Speaker at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church; Snacks: A-L
1 – 4 pm

April 27-30: ARS Convention, Eureka, CA

May 6 Parkfairfax Plant Sale, Alexandria

May 6-7 (tentative): Member Garden Tours

May 20: Green Spring Garden Plant Sale

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, place TBD