

The Azalea Clipper

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



Photos: Sperling



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15
1:30 - 4:30

JOE KLIMAVICZ

The Latest in Hybridization

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Plant Exchange too!
Any type!

Please label and sign your name

Refreshments: A - K

Directions on back page

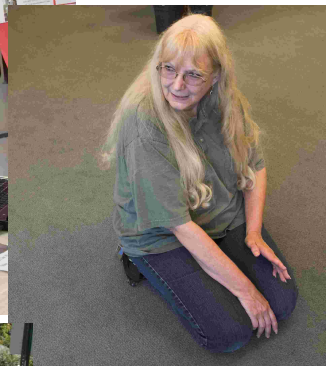
Well known local hybridizer **Joe Klimavicz** will let us in on his latest work, showing pictures of his recent hybrids (including the one above). He will discuss his goals through the years and the directions for future work.

You can prepare for the meeting by re-reading **Carolyn Beck's** award-winning article in the Spring 2016 Azalean or my article on Joe in the October 2012 Clipper (p.4).

Both are available online at www.nv-asa.org!

Check Inside!

p. 3: **Barb's** Message and **Lars'** Cheapskate Gardening; p. 5 **Joe Coleman** on Drought Tolerant Azaleas; p. 6 **Paul Beck** on the new website; p. 8 **Ben Morrison** Auction and luncheon October 18. photos, p. 2 and p.4



President's Message

We have survived another sale and auction with a great return. Thank you for your purchases and bids. A big thanks to Mike White, Ajit Thakur, and Larry Martin for donating plants. And thanks to everyone who helped setting up on Friday, throughout the day on Saturday, and the clean up... Carolyn Beck for her amazing propagation talents, Paul, our financial & technology guru, Lars Larson who is always there, Joanne and Dan Neckel, John Kirkwood, Dave and Leslie Nanney, Dick Cecka, Robin Baer, Rick and Susan Bauer, Paul Davis, Bob and Eve Harrison, Ralph Habegger, Diane Marcus, David and Patsy Meadows, Fred Newlan, Barry Sperling, Jim and Susan Hedrick, Don Hyatt, and Andrea Scurlock who kept taking in money for us while we were in with the auction.

We still have some great things to look forward to this year, our speaker in October, Joe Klimavicz, an invitation to join the Ben Morrison luncheon and auction, and our holiday

party in December. The blooms are gone (mostly) but the fun continues.

If you have any Huang Azaleas in your yard, would you please contact me. There is an effort by another group to put English names on some of them and the process requires some digital pictures.

We are in need of some more members to house our plants as we grow them up to sale size. If you have a shady spot in your yard where we could keep some pots, please give me ([703-268-6958](tel:703-268-6958); kirkwoodb@aol.com) or Carolyn Beck a call or send a message. This is a really easy way to get involved and help out. If you are wondering if I mean you, the answer is YES!

See you in a few weeks at our next meeting.

Barb

Cheapskate Gardening by Lars Larson

Recycle those pesky signs!

The plastic sign boards that politicians, realtors, and commercial businesses use to advertise have many uses in the garden and home (Most jurisdictions require 72 hours for all political signs to be removed after the election or be fined. Others are placed "illegally" and can be removed if on private or public property).

The smaller ones are useful as shields for attaching (with clamps) to fertilizer spreaders to limit dispersion into protected areas and sun shades for delicate plants.

A can of paint spray will mask the original message and a new one can be added with markers or paint for any variety of uses.

The metal wire stand is a useful "rebar" substitute to cement work, or cut and bent to be used as sod "pins" or pins to anchor protective wire fences around new plantings. The larger (4'x8') signs are great as floor coverings under equipment to shield floors from leaks and spills, and as protective covering for floors while doing renovations.



Sandy Dandy



Brenda Marie

Drought Tolerance

by Joe Coleman

[Editor's note: At the July cutting exchange I talked with Joe Coleman about drought tolerance and how he handles gardening in Georgia. The following is his answer:]

I thought I might share some thoughts on drought tolerant azaleas, or as they are known down here, the survivors! As we garden in the deep south, just east of Atlanta, our conditions do vary from Virginia. Hurricane Irma for instance, did us no favors ... 3.4" of rain ... mostly of the horizontal variety...about 25 mature pine trees down in our 70mph winds.....none on the house or greenhouse fortunately, but the garden now has a lot more sun! That was last week.....this week is dedicated to chain saw work.....it will take time.

Last year, in the months of September, October and November, we went 58 days without measurable rainfall.....temperatures were mild to hot for the most part, we may grace the teens but single digits are very rare...think cool rather than cold down here!..... .1" starts measurable rainfall in the rain gauge!

We had a some heavy dews and foliage wetters along the way, but the soil remained dry for the most part. Azaleas, both deciduous and evergreen, are mountain plants, preferring good drainage and fogs or frequent rainfall. Too much of a good thing, normally results in

root rot. So, deciduous and native azaleas lost foliage early due to the stress and the evergreens just stopped. Spring bloom was sparse and nothing to write home about.

Groups that came through the best were the kurumes, Huangs, most of the Glenn Dales, MacDonalds.....those that do best in our heat. Groups that did okay included the Schroeders, Holly Hills, RBS's, Klimavicz Hybrids, Polly Hill Hybrids, Bowie Mill Hybrids, Harris Hybrids, Greenwoods and Marshy Points. Those that seem to fare less well in our garden were the northern hybrids....the Gartrells, the Gables, the Linwoods.....species and Satsuki Hybrids, Robin Hills.....tender hybrids like Belgian and Southern Indians and Aromi Hybrids. Everybody is much happier with a little rainfall.....overhead sprinklers are a necessary fall back, but they do not replace a good rain!

Some azaleas prefer more water than others.....the Encores are a case in point. They are used to being watered well and frequently. After a couple of years, they can be watered normally but to start, give them plenty! Natives come back strong after a period of neglect.....not so complex evergreen hybrids.....unless you are into dead plants! The fall is our driest season, still with some pretty high temperatures. To ease the path into dormancy, water less but keep them alive!

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**.

Navigating the new ASA website

Paul Beck, Treasurer & Webmaster

When I originally established the ASA membership database on the Northern Virginia chapter website in 2013, I knew that it was an ASA resource and should have been on the ASA website (azaleas.org), not the NV chapter website. At the time, the environment was not such that it would have been possible to provide a database-backed membership roster, which could be searched and updated by the members themselves. That environment has since changed, and in the fall of 2016, **Dave Banks** asked me to assist with the transition of the data to a new ASA website, in conjunction with re-hosting the site on a newer, more “responsive” environment. The term “responsive” simply means that the website will respond to differing technologies and screen sizes of the viewing platform; i.e., it will work and look well on your smartphone or tablet. Dave suggested the use of the WordPress as the hosting platform, since he had good experience with it, and it was extremely popular and widely accepted as the standard. Importantly, WordPress supported the use of “themes” to customize the look and feel of your website, and the current themes were responsive and would meet that goal to accommodate our increasing membership usage of smartphones. Dave and I agreed to split the workload of creating a new website with WordPress, with Dave tackling the huge job of sorting through the old website and extracting the useful information (there was a lot of that) and converting it to work with the more modern website. I was to create the portion of the website representing interactive content, much of which already existed on the NV website.

When I created the NV website, I used a technology base and programming language which easily supported the concept of role-based content maintenance (but was not so easily understood by many webmasters). We found it very useful to be able to delegate the maintaining and updating of content to various members acting in different roles. For example, Barry was able to upload the Clipper without any assistance from the webmaster, and the secretary was able to upload meeting minutes. This concept worked so well that I determined that the new ASA website should support the same concept. It turned out that the WordPress platform, recommended by Dave Banks, was up to the task. As an example of how well this is working, the **Legacy Project** started by **Rick Bauer**, and originally hosted on the NV website, has now become an ASA level project, and has gained much interest throughout the society. There are several **Legacy Leads** from various chapters of the ASA that are actively creating and updating valuable information on several Legacy projects. If you have not visited the new **Legacy Project** home page on the ASA website, I think you will be impressed by what our new leads have accomplished. There is a link to it on the top level menu. Check it out!

This article will be an introduction to a series of articles explaining the new features of the ASA website, along with some instruction and guidance on how to make the most of the website. I will start by summarizing those portions of the site for which I am responsible, and therefore most familiar. A brief description of each of the features is included. Starting with the next issue, I will dive into one feature at a time per issue, with instructions and screen grabs.

- **Membership database** (*About the Society*→*Members*). The online membership database is a key feature of the new interactive content. Members can be searched for by last name, first name, chapter, or state (or combination thereof). Individual member records can be updated by the member themselves, or one of several administrators. On the NV website, I had implemented the ability for any chapter officer to update any record for that chapter's members. This feature was rarely used, and has not been implemented (yet) on the new website. When viewing a chapter listing on a smartphone, note that if your phone is rotated to landscape position the member's phone number appears, and that if you then touch their number it will initiate a call to that member.
- **Azalean online** (*The Azalean*→*Azalean online*). This content was also initially released in early 2015 on the NV website, and has been fully ported to the new website. The 12 most current issues are viewable only by logged-in members. Older issues can be searched & viewed by anyone. The journal can be viewed as a complete document by clicking on its issue volume & number, or individual articles can be viewed by clicking on the (Contents) link. In addition, back hardcopy issues can be ordered online and paid for with PayPal. On the ASA website, we introduced a full text article search capability with **Google Custom Search™**.
- **Searchable azalea database** (*Azalea Types*→*Azalea Database*). This page was a key feature that drove the move to the new hosting platform and interactive database content. The core concept was to have one location for data, photographs, and other information about azaleas, and that this information would be searchable and integrated. The initial data load included all the azaleas on the NV website with descriptions, characteristics, and photographs where available. In most cases, to protect the intellectual property of the individual, the photograph is annotated with a copyright and the photographer's name or organization. The old website had a huge repository of cultivar names and groups, but unfortunately not much else. These cultivar names and groups have been imported into the searchable database, but there is a huge need to populate the database with details and photographs. Much more on this topic in a later issue.
- **Legacy Project** (*Legacy Project*). This content has been briefly described previously, and will be an in-depth article in the future. The **Legacy Project**, currently lead by ASA President **Rick Bauer**, has gained tremendous traction after being ported to the ASA website. Several new groups have been added to the Project, and legacy leads have volunteered (and become very active) from the **Texas** and **Central Carolinas** chapters, as well (of course) from the **Northern Virginia** chapter. Each lead person has full control over their project with the ability to update any information & photographs on the home page, as well as all cultivar data, search criteria, and photographs.
- **Join Us** (*Join Us, Renew or Donate*). This page is the one-stop shopping location to join the society, renew your membership, donate or sign up for a subscription membership. The new subscription feature, implemented last year, saves you time, saves the Society expense of mailings, and is highly encouraged. More information on this key page will be in the next issue, hopefully before the renewal time for 2018 memberships.

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

Captions: Photos by Fred Newlan (N) and Barry Sperling (S) P. 2 l to r, t to b: Rick and Barb (N), Paul B. and Bob Harrison(N), Ralph Habegger, David Meadows, Carolyn, Paul Davis (N), Andrea Scurlock (S), Chuck Croft, Joe Gutierrez, Thomas Duling (N), Patsy Meadows, Joanne Neckel (S), Diane Marcus (S), Larry Martin, Eve Harrison (S), Susan Bauer (S), Susan Hedrick (S), Ajit Thakur, Don Hyatt(S), Lars (N), David Lieu (S) P. 4: Faith Bange, Janice Kennedy, Gerald Bange (N), Scene (S), Dan, David M. (N), Margaret Vogel pointing (N), Joe (S), Ralph (S), Jim (S), Rick, Robin Baer (N), David M., Robert Horen, Leslie (S), Paul (S), Barry (N); bottom flowers by Klimavicz

The Ben Morrison Chapter of ASA cordially invites you to our luncheon and plant auction to be held Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 PM. at Christopher's Restaurant, [1286 Route 3](#) South, Crofton, MD 21114.

(Using the address for the Crofton Post Office ½ block away might be easier: [1296 Cronson Blvd, Crofton, MD](#)). Please let Budne know if you can come so he can let the restaurant know.

There will be an auction for those that wish to participate. Please bring any plant such as an African violet, azalea, daylily, hosta, sedum, etc., for the auction.

Instructions regarding bringing a plant or two:

We will be placing plants for the auction on a table in the dining area. Please clean your pot as much as possible. Please be sure dirt, water, etc., will not be leaking out by placing your item in a plastic bag that can be used later by the owner to carry it home in.

Budne [\(301\) 943-4357](tel:3019434357) cell, [\(301\) 946-4815](tel:3019464815) home, budne@aol.com <mailto:budne@aol.com>

Schedule

October 14: Executive Committee meeting, 10 am – 1:30, at Joanne Neckel's

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

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

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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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