

The *Azalea Clipper*

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Northern Virginia Chapter Azalea Society of America



NVASA member **Donald Voss** died this last August at the age of 94. He was internationally known as an expert in botany and lectured many times. At one point he was simultaneously a director of both the ARS and ASA. He was on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Azalean* for many years. In 2010 the ARS awarded him their Gold Medal. See **p. 4** for a remembrance by **Dr. Whittemore** of the National Arboretum.

Annual Azalea Auction and Plant Sale Joined By the Daylily Society

September 17 1 pm – 4 pm

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (see p. 6 for directions)

Everyone knows that fall is the best time to put in plants and this meeting provides you with a bigger variety than you would find at the box stores and garden centers, for much less than they would charge you! You can even browse photos of many of the flowers, starting on September 6th, by going to:

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



P. 1 Don Voss 2001

Left: Don and Barbara Bullock 2002

Right & 3 below from the Cutting Exchange:

Lars Explains

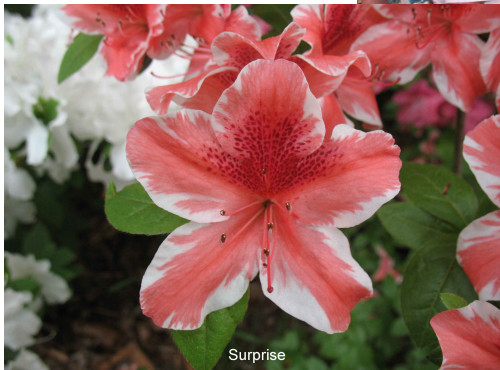
Carolyn Gives a Class

Scene

Barbara K Enjoys



Surprise (below) is one of the great plants you'll find at the Auction. Also check out p. 5. Photo by Dan Krabill



Surprise



p. 1 and p. 2 photos by Sperling, except for the flower.

President's Message

I hope that all of you had a great summer. I was happy to see the large turnout we had for our cutting exchange in July. Those who attended had the opportunity to participate in a “hands on” workshop for putting cuttings, conducted by **Carolyn Beck**. I know that the large number of members who participated found it to be very worthwhile to have a “hands on” training session.

Another new feature last meeting was **Barb Kirkwood's** “candy method” for determining the order used for members to select plants in the plant exchange.

The point is that it is beneficial to all of us to introduce new ideas and ways of doing things into the chapter and the society. I

encourage you to think “outside of the box” in coming up with new ideas for chapter activities.

We are in the process of working up our schedule for next year. I would encourage you to submit your ideas to me or to **Barb Kirkwood**.

Also, nothing can be done in the chapter without the help of volunteers. I'm thankful that we have so many folks we can count on to get the job done (the recent convention was a prime example). I encourage all of you to answer the call when requests for volunteers go out. Thanks.

Rick Bauer

As a gift to the co-chairs for the conference, **Barb Kirkwood** created a twenty-page photo book of some of the events and gardens. It was suggested that other members might be interested in the book as well.

If you are interested in ordering a book of your own, you can go directly to the Shutterfly link for this book.

<http://azaleaconvention.shutterfly.com>

Barb ordered the hard cover, regular price \$39.99 but you can search for coupons or look at their sales for up to 50% off. The soft cover books are less expensive. They will offer you all sorts of add-ons which you can select or ignore.

The book has pictures from all the garden tours as well as shots of the sale, banquet, and some people shots. Photos were provided by various members.

You can view the book, but cannot edit it, from the above site. You can copy it into your account or a free account you create for yourself, and edit it from there. You can add pages or replace some of the photos with some of your own photos.

Check with **Barb Kirkwood** (kirkwoodb@aol.com) if you need any help or suggestions on a discounted price.

Listing of Bowie Mill Hybrids (from Buck Clagett); see Clippers of March '15, July '16

‘**Susan Lynn**’ Christina X CB 10. 3 inch double, strong red (RHS 42B). The color is inconsistent. The blotch is insignificant dark red. Leaves are dark green, shiny. 1 inch X ¾ inch. The plant is as wide as tall with a very tight growth habit. Mid to late may. Named for my Son's wife.

(continued on p. 6)

An email concerning Don Voss from Dr. Whittemore

Dear colleagues,

Ten days ago, the Arboretum lost **Don Voss**, an old colleague and very good friend for many of us. I want to say a bit about Don, since many people here aren't aware of the work he did over more than fifty years volunteering here at the Arboretum.

Don first used the National Arboretum herbarium in 1964, when his friend **Henry Skinner** was director. His father-in-law, **Robert Gartrell**, was a famed azalea breeder, and Don worked with him to document his breeding work and register the cultivars he bred. Don began volunteering regularly in the Herbarium in 1987, and continued for 29 years, often logging the most hours per year of any National Arboretum volunteer, despite his long, congested commute from Vienna, Virginia. He carried out major projects for the Herbarium, seeing Contribution number 7 through to its completion and publication, and thoroughly reviewing our type specimens and cultivated standards. He also made important contributions to the azalea community as an author, reviewer, and consulting expert for the major journals.

Trained in economics, and employed for many years as a data analysis for the CIA, Don had the ability to be meticulous without losing sight of the big picture. He built up specialized knowledge in areas such as botanical nomenclature and the accurate description of colors, and his work will benefit plant scientists and growers for years to come. His contributions earned him the Gold Medal of the American Rhododendron Society in 2010.

Don's knowledge of plants and the rules for naming them was broad and detailed. He was always ready to help others who were interested in botany and horticulture, and his willingness to share his specialized knowledge in areas such as botanical nomenclature and the accurate description of colors has benefited botanists and horticulturists all over the world. Over the past year, Don became noticeably less vigorous and less steady on his feet, while remaining mentally as sharp as ever. He continued to drive in to the National Arboretum twice a week until the beginning of July, when an accident at home sent him to the hospital, and then to a nursing home. At first, Don was hopeful that he would be able to move back into his home. However, treatment was complicated by several other medical conditions Don had been managing, and it became clear that Don wouldn't be able to resume his independent life. He died the morning of Friday the 12th of August 2016. Don was an excellent companion - well-educated, well-read, with many interesting experiences and the ability to communicate clearly and vividly. He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the opportunity to know him and work with him. I had postponed sending this in the hope that I would be able to find out about funeral or memorial arrangements for Don, but his friends I have emailed don't know of anything. I'll let everyone know if a memorial is planned in the future.

Thanks,

Dr. Alan T. Whittemore, US National Arboretum

[Note: your editor was surprised to find the following essay rolled up in a fortune cookie. As I recognized the author's name I decided to present it to you.]

Dead Azaleas

Early this spring, between torrential bursts of rain, I wandered through what is actually beginning to look remotely like a garden, enjoying the telltale promise of blossoms on all my little unnamed azalea bushes...except for one in the corner. Funny, I didn't remember one of these bushes being a deciduous kind but it was definitely devoid of leaves and buds. [cont. p.5]

I pushed it out of my mind presuming I must have somehow missed it. As the weeks progressed and I contemplated building an Ark, one by one the bushes burst forth with blossoms...except for my corner problem child. I am patient and recognize some of these babies need a bit more time to reach their stride and perhaps needed some well intended attention. This one however seemed to be snubbing its nose in my general direction.

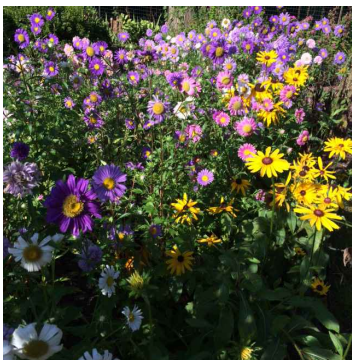
Now, I have been able to keep it hidden from most people, but I've discovered most plants are a bit more perceptive and seem to recognize a black thumb when they see it. They are cunning, however, luring one in with a few dropped leaves and a little yellowing, just begging for a bit more H₂O, some rays of sunshine, or perhaps a little after dinner Miracle Grow cocktail. And just as you offer a little tender loving, they look you in the face with that black thumb accusation and slowly commit hari-kari. I spend days of anxious hovering trying this, that, and the other thing, but inevitably find myself lingering over an all too familiar lifeless form. Sometimes I cut it back looking for any hint of green until I finally recognize this black stick is not going to suddenly make an Easter resurrection.

You would think I would recognize this pattern and bow out quickly, tossing the culprit into the trash bin before its negativity affects any other rogue plants and before my ego takes a lingering bashing. I suspect my children have sometimes followed behind me, shovel and casket in hand. But season after season, this play reruns.

Most of my death stories begin with a younger acquisition. Something recently purchased or maybe just a year old. But this cunning, corner azalea was there when we moved in. Perhaps it had resided comfortably for five or ten or even twenty years, but just two seasons under my care and it was merely a carcass of its former self. I left that plant for three months after I had first noticed its leafless state of affairs. I could finally take it no longer. I served notice to spouse that the plant was DOA from "the record setting rains of this spring," (and certainly not from any culpability of my own,) and I was removing it as soon as I could walk in that area without mud oozing over my shoes. At least this plant was very definitive about its demise with no prolonged death scene. It was just me, with hope eternal, who refused to recognize a cadaver when I saw one.

By California Rose

[Editor's note: I've had a couple of "dead" plants come back after a year or so, most recently a Variegated Holly Fern that spent a year dead for tax purposes and reappeared this spring, tiny but still alive as I write this in late August. However, for the vast majority that I kill, they stay in permanent repose. I wonder if that fern stalks the garden at night as a zombie?]



Left: Larson Garden by Lars Larson; Center: Lego Yellow Jacket by Susan Bauer; Right: Angelwings by Sandra McDonald (available at the Auction)

‘Tim-Tim’ 1 ¾ inch Single Flower with some exhibiting partial petals in the centers. Color: deep yellow pink (RHS 43C), slightly lighter in the center. The top lobe blotch: showy dark salmon. Foliage is small, dark green, and shiny. Habit: wide as tall, dense. Late May. Special Features: a ‘Butterfly’ appearance similar to ‘Gypsy’. Most flowers have five petals, some up to 8 petals. Named for my Grandson Timmy Spelman. R2008

‘Teeny Weeny’ (Elsie Lee X Dorset) X Helen Curtis. 1 ¼ inch double with 16 lobes. Noticeably flat. Light reddish purple (RHS 68D), well defined edges of a darker reddish purple (RHS 68B). Blotch: a few distinct dots of RHS 68b. Leaves: 1 ½ X ½ inches, medium green and glossy. Habit is small, slightly open, and moderately floriferous. The plant size is 18 X 18 inches after 14 years. Late June.

‘Tina’s Whorled’ ‘Koromo Shikibu’ x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid. Flower: 3 inches, strong reddish purple (RHS 78B). Petals do not touch, more elliptic than strap-like, giving a whorled effect to the flower. Foliage: 2 inches long by ¾ inch, new growth larger. Habit: as wide as tall, open. Bloom: May 15-30. Named for my wife.

‘Tissie’ ‘White Jade’ x an unknown *R. indicum* hybrid. Flower: 3-1/4 inches, hose-in-hose, strong purple (RHS 77A to B), conspicuous strong purplish red (RHS 71B) spotting on dorsal lobes, with wavy margins. Foliage: 1-1/2 inches long, elliptic, dark green. Habit: somewhat open, generally as wide as it is tall; a 20-year-old plant is 4 feet by 4 feet. Bloom time: mid-to late June. Named for one of my father’s sisters.

[Listings have been condensed from the original catalog, contact **Buck Clagett** for more info.

bclagett2@verizon.net]

Next issue starts the **Klimavicz** catalog!

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

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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2016

Sept. 7 Ben Morrison meeting & plant sale; open to NVASA members, 12 N, Christopher's Rest., Crofton

Sept 17 Auction with Daylily Soc., Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Oct 22 Executive Committee Meeting

Oct 23 Meeting with speaker

Dec 4 Holiday Social

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