

Azalea Society of America (ASA)
Northern Virginia Chapter
Meeting Minutes
31 March 2019

Purpose: Guest Speaker and Plant exchange. This was a joint gathering of members from the Northern Virginia Chapter and Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to hear the speaker, Mr. Charles Andrew, who is currently the Vice-president of the ASA, and to participate in a plant exchange.

Meeting Opened: 2 p.m. by Diane Marcus, Vice President

- After welcoming everyone in attendance, Ms. Marcus asked out of town members of the NV Chapter and ASA to stand and introduce themselves.
 - o Charles Andrews – Atlanta, Georgia
 - o Dale Berrong – Athens area, Georgia
 - o George McClellan – Gloucester, Virginia
 - o Jackie and Nick Ferriter – Northern Neck, Virginia
- Ms. Marcus reminded folks of the planting effort scheduled for the next day, April 1, at Meadowlark Garden in Vienna. The Chapter is sponsoring establishment of a legacy garden with Klimavicz hybrids.
- Ms. Marcus thanked Mr. Andrews for coming to speak to the group and also thanked everyone who brought plants to share.
- Ms. Marcus indicated at the close of the ASA chapter meeting and after the meeting of the American Rhododendron Society (Potomac Valley Chapter) that Mr. Andrews would provide his presentation, which would then be followed by the plant exchange.

Meeting closed: 2:15 p.m.

Meeting of ARS opened: 2:16 pm by Ginny Mohr, President.

Speaker/Presentation: Mr. Don Hyatt introduced Mr. Andrews as a retired systems analyst and project manager, who has many interests and activities, such as genealogy, history, Lions Club, church work, as well as native azaleas, rhododendrons, viburnums, hollies, magnolias, dogwood, silver bells, camellias, osmanthus, daphne, hellebores, iris, hosta, trillium, bloodroot, etc. Mr. Andrews then presented a detailed analysis supporting the idea that there is too much overlap as well as too much variation within the currently defined 17 American species. Further indicating that it is possible that most of our current azaleas have in their DNA from past millennia a mix of genes derived from the wide pool of section *Penthantera* or subgenus *Hymenanthes* of genus *Rhododendron*. His presentation reviewed how natural hybridization takes place, listed some of

the barriers, gave examples, and raised questions about the difference between hybrids and gene introgression from one species into another.

Plant Exchange: Opened by Ms. Marcus

Attendees:

Diane Marcus

Rick and Susan Bauer

Paul and Carolyn Beck

Dave and Patsy Meadows

Larry Martin

Barry Sperling

Don Hyatt

Dave Nanny

Nick and Jackie Ferriter

Leonard Blank

Craig Hudson

Kathy Andrews

Bob and Rosa McWhorter

Richard and Ginny Mohr

Fred Newlan

Joe Miller

Halit Kardak

Mike White

Diane and Budine Rienke

Barbara Bullock

Judy Karper

Judy Shapleigh

Dan Krabill

Larry Martin

Anne Marie and Marianna McKinnon

Susan Richardson

Diane Gregg

Margaret Vogel

Irene Aslan

Deborah Van Vechten

Sarah Strickler

Jing Huang

Diane Hill

Minutes prepared by Susan H. Bauer