

Jul 20 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

We are entering another month of COVID-19. While restrictions are easing, we are not yet at a point where it is safe to meet in large groups. As a result, our normal July meeting/cutting exchange has been canceled. An updated calendar is in this message and can be found on our website <https://www.nv-asa.org/calendars>.

July Cutting Exchange

While the July cutting exchange has been canceled, it is still an ideal time to propagate azaleas. We have provided workshops on azalea propagation for many years at our July meetings. Additionally, there is information on the ASA website with information on different methods of [propagation](#). There are also articles in *The Azalean* on propagation...the most recent one being **Dale Berrong's** article on cutting propagation in the Spring issue. I encourage you to try your hand at propagation.

Garden Photos

Thanks to all members who have sent in photos from their gardens. Please continue to do so and I will put them in the monthly message. Below are a few photos taken by **Carolyn Beck** of azalea varieties in the **Beck** garden.



Chiyo-no-Homare - Satsuki



Roan Big Bird - OP



Patches - Satsuki



Cindy Voss - Holly Springs

Smoky Mountain Hikes

June is normally the time when society members hike in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. These hikes have been organized by chapter members **Don Hyatt**

and **George McLellan** for many years. I have personally participated in a few of them and enjoy the opportunity to hike in the mountains and to see native azaleas, rhododendron, and mountain laurel in bloom. The hikes were not held this year due to the corona virus.

Below are some photos from previous Smoky Mountain hikes. I would encourage you to consider participating in future hikes. They normally run over a ten-day period and you are welcome to participate in any part (or all) of the itinerary.



R. calendulaceum on Roan Mountain



R. calendulaceum on Roan Mountain



R. catawbiense on Roan Mountain



R. catawbiense growing out of rock



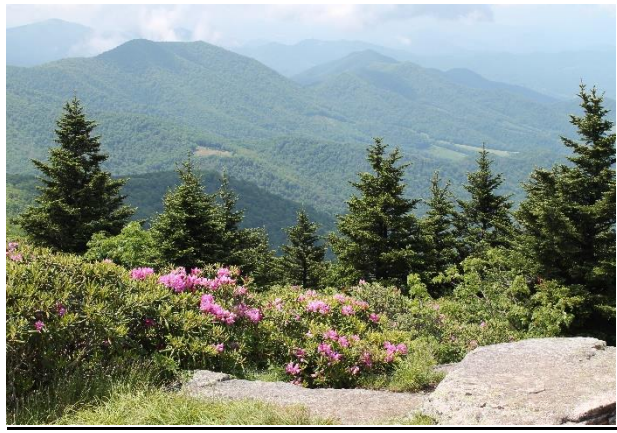
George McLellan walking through *R. catawbiense*



Mountain Laurel on Elk Knob, NC



Mountain Laurel on Elk Knob, NC



R. catawbiense on Roan Mountain



R. calendulaceum on Roan Mountain



Parking for Roan Mountain on North Carolina/Tennessee border

Graham County Azalea Festival

In the same general area is the town of Robbinsville, NC and Hooper Bald. Hooper Bald has a collection of beautiful native azaleas. Over the years, **Jim Brant** and **George McLellan** organized efforts to promote and preserve the azaleas on Hooper Bald. Members of the Azalea Society of America, the American Rhododendron Society and other groups participated in removing competing vegetation and in planting natives. These efforts were recognized by the U.S. Forest Service.

As a result of the restoration efforts on Hooper Bald, Robbinsville/Graham County held their first azalea festival three years ago. Members of the ASA participated in the first two festivals. In addition, Robbinsville was recognized as an Azalea City by the Azalea Society of America in 2018.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, the festival was not held this year. Hopefully, things will return to normal next year. Here are photos from the first two festivals.



R. calendulaceum on Hooper Bald



View from Hooper Bald



George McLellan and Don Hyatt relaxing at Tapoco Lodge



R. calendulaceum on Hooper Bald – photo Joe Nicholson



Azalea Society booth at Graham County Azalea Festival – photo Joe Nicholson



Hooper Bald azalea – photo Joe Nicholson

Proposed Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

As Society President, I sent the proposed plan out to all society members in May asking any interested parties to submit their comments to the Forest Service. The proposed plan is extremely lengthy and difficult to digest. **Don Hyatt** did an incredible amount of work in analyzing the plan, its assumptions, and its proposed course of action. A copy of **Don's** fine analysis is at <http://www.arspvc.org/articles/Appalachians-USFS.pdf>. I forwarded this plan

to the point of contact at the U.S. Forest Service under a cover letter signed on behalf of the Azalea Society of America. I know that others have also submitted comments. I will keep you and the other society members apprised of any feedback I receive.

Fall Sale and Auction 26 September

Our annual azalea sale and auction is still scheduled for September; however, it has been moved to later in the month. There will likely be operational modifications implemented due to COVID-19. Stay tuned.

Calendar of Upcoming Events -

Below is the schedule for the 2020. The calendar is also available on the chapter website at <https://www.nv-asa.org/calendars>. Many of the events marked "Tentative" are dependent upon weather and plant conditions. **Many activities are being canceled/rescheduled because of COVID-19.** Check the chapter calendar for the latest updates.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
July 12 Canceled	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Sep 19 9 am – 5 pm	White's Nursery Open House	White's Nursery	22531 Wildcat Road Germantown, Maryland 20876
Sep 26 1-5 pm Changed	Fall Sale and Auction	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct 25	Fall Meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct 25	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Dec 6	Holiday Social and Annual Meeting		Paul and Carolyn Beck's Home

Other Activities/Notes -

Miscellaneous -

Photos for *The Azalea Clipper*/Facebook - Barry is looking for pictures of your garden to share with other members on our chapter **Facebook** page and in the **Clipper**. Now is the time to show off a little. Send your pictures to **Barry** at bsperling@cox.net. We are also always looking for articles for **The Azalea Clipper**. They don't have to be long and can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Pictures are also always appreciated. Please consider writing an article. Contact **Barry** if you have any questions bsperling@cox.net or 703-765-7062. **Clipper** articles can also be the basis for later submissions to **The Azalean** (see below).

The Azalean - The editors of **The Azalean** depend on member submissions of articles of interest to the general **ASA** membership. If you have an article to share, send it to them at theazalean@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi.

Speakers – We continue to strive to provide speakers on topics of interest to our members. If you have heard, or are otherwise aware of, speakers who might be of interest to our chapter, please contact **Diane Marcus** at dianelynn@starpower.net or (301) 983-1098.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Rick