

July 19 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I'm happy to be home and also happy that Mother Nature is helping out with the watering duties. My garden is doing very well (unfortunately also including the weeds).

Smoky Mountain Hikes

My travel schedule precluded participating in much of the Smoky Mountain hikes this year other than the activities on Hooper Bald (see below). **Don Hyatt** has an article on the hikes in the latest ***Azalea Clipper***.

Graham County Native Azalea Festival 14-15 June Robbinsville, NC

Susan and I attended the second annual Graham County Native Azalea Festival. Joining us were chapter members **Don Hyatt**, **George McLellan**, associate member and society VP **Charlie Andrews** and ASA members **Mike Bamford** and **Joe** and **Jan Nicholson** (president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS). This was in addition to the local ASA members in the Graham County region. We had beautiful weather and the azaleas on Hooper Bald were in great form. Society members and members of the Partners of the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness conducted guided hikes through the azaleas.



View of the Smoky Mountains from Hooper Bald

Friday evening's program included a dinner of typical Indian foods as well as an entertaining and educational performance by a Cherokee Indian dance troupe.

The festival on Saturday included 40 vendors, a major increase over last year, and the foot traffic was also heavier than last year. The ASA had a booth at the festival and signed two new members and two renewals. The chapter also sold deciduous azaleas, many grown from seed from Hooper Bald and Roan Mountain. We sold 41 plants for \$795.

More photos from the event are at the end of this message.

Norma's Celebration of Life Lived - Norma Merritt Ft Myer/Arlington Cemetery - 10 July

Norma Merritt, a long time member of the azalea society and the Northern Virginia Chapter, will be interred at Arlington Cemetery on 10 July at 3 pm. A luncheon will be held at the Fort Myer Officer's Club from 12:30 - 2:30. The family has invited members of the chapter to attend these events in **Norma's** memory. Inquiries and RSVPs should be sent to **Norma's** daughter, **Catherine M. Merritt-Hauer**, 978-474-0133

(Home), 617-974-2626 (Cell), hauerfamily@comcast.net. A separate flyer is attached to the email forwarding this message.

Cutting (and Plant) Exchange – 1-4:30pm 14 July

This is my favorite annual meeting. It is a pot luck as well as an opportunity to expand your collection of azaleas through propagation of cuttings. Members should bring bagged cuttings with the name of the cultivar, hybrid group and your name (in case anyone has questions). Normally each bag has five cuttings (or more).

We will also be having a plant exchange. This is a good opportunity to share your excess plants with other chapter members as well as gaining new plants. The plants should, as a minimum, be marked with the plant name. Other information such as characteristics of the plant (e.g., habitat) is desirable. Plants should be watered, but not dripping wet.

More information is provided in the latest edition of *The Azalea Clipper*.

Louer Azalea Collection

Many of you know that **Phil** and **Frances Louer** assembled a large and varied collection of beautiful azaleas over the years. **Phil** has offered to give away azaleas from their collection to interested chapter members. If you would like to have a part of the **Louer** azalea collection, please contact **Phil** at (703)754-2824 or plouer@msn.com. You will be responsible for digging up the plants you select.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Below is the schedule for 2019. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Jul 14 1-4:30 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Sep 28	Fall Sale and Auction	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct 27 1-4:30pm	Meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA
Oct TBD	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

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 dianemarcus@starpower.net or (301) 983-1098.

Rick

2d Annual Graham County Native Azalea Festival



George McLellan and Don Hyatt relaxing at Tapoco Lodge



Meadow on Hooper Bald



View from Cherohala Skyway



Calendulaceum on Hooper Bald



Don Hyatt, Charlie Andrews, Mike Bamford, Rick Bauer and George McLellan in front of calendulaceum on Hooper Bald – photo S Bauer



Garden at Stecoah Art Center



View of Tapoco Tavern - photo D Hyatt



Main street of the festival - photo D Hyatt



Calendulaceum on Hooper Bald – photo S Bauer



ASA tent at azalea festival – photo Joe Nicholson



ASA tent at azalea festival – photo Joe Nicholson



Seed propagation workshop at Graham County Library – photo D Hyatt