

Nov 20 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

We are approaching the end of a year which most of us would prefer to forget. The COVID virus continues to have negative impacts on many facets of our lives, to include chapter activities.

We continue to make modifications to our schedule. Kirkwood Presbyterian has been closed for public activities for several months and they are in the process of considering the terms under which they will reopen. COVID continues to be a health risk, especially lacking a vaccine. The holiday social has been cancelled, however we are looking to hold our annual meeting as scheduled. More on this later in this message.

The latest schedule for the remainder of the year is in this message and can also be found on our website <https://www.nv-asa.org/calendars>.

Sad News – Robert Thau

Robert Thau succumbed to his battle against cancer on 19 October. **Robert** was president of the Texas Forest Country chapter and an associate member of the Northern Virginia Chapter. Even though he lived in Jasper, Texas, he made at least one trip a year back east to add to his collection of azaleas and to participate in chapter activities. He would pull a large trailer behind his pickup truck and fill it with azaleas he purchased from White's Nursery, the chapter and from other sources. He was always excited to obtain a new variety of azalea and amassed a collection of over 1400 different varieties in his "Nature's Way Garden."



Robert with Susan Bauer and Barry Sperling at the 2019 Cutting Exchange



Robert in his newly planted garden in Jasper in 2017

Robert was a great promoter of azaleas. He was known as "Mr. Azalea" in Jasper. He was always giving talks to other plant groups, giving tours of his garden and teaching azalea propagation. He gained enough society members to establish a chapter in Jasper. He also was a prime force behind Jasper obtaining the "Azalea City" designation. Finally, he was deeply involved in a major state funded city beautification effort focusing on azaleas.

Robert was a humble man. He was literally blown away this past year when he was awarded the society's Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions. This was followed up by a **Bob Stewart**

azalea being named in his honor. His award and a photo of his azalea, among other artifacts, were on prominent display at the Jasper Chamber of Commerce this past summer.

During his illness, **Robert** continued to be upbeat. Even as his health was deteriorating and he was putting his affairs in order, he was planning for the future. He talked of providing plants for future society conventions and was looking forward to his annual plant trip back east next spring.

The chapter and the azalea family lost a great friend. He will be sorely missed.

Fall Plant Sale

With the COVID situation, we cancelled the indoor silent and live auctions normally associated with our fall sale. Regardless, the onsite sale was very successful. This year we opened the sales to chapter members before the public sale, allowing members to order plants online. This was so popular we have kept the members only sale open for orders until 30 November.

Members may access the site at <https://www.nv-asa.org/sale>. Access requires a password. If you do not have a password, you can obtain one from the chapter website www.nv-asa.org by clicking on the Register button (below the Login button) and filling out and submitting the form.

Annual Meeting – 6 December

Currently we are still planning on holding our annual meeting at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on 6 December. This is dependent upon getting approval from the church to hold an indoor meeting and our ability to conduct it safely. We are also exploring the possibility of holding it electronically. I will be giving a presentation on the Bowie Mill azaleas.

The annual meeting is important. We elect officers, approve the budget for the next year and approve contributions. We also announce the schedule for next year. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the elected positions, President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary, please contact **Lars Larson** at (703) 505-5733. We are also looking for someone to volunteer to be chair of the Hospitality Committee. This committee is responsible for coordinating and providing the refreshments we have at our meetings. Contact **Lars** if you are interested or want more information on the position.

More information on the annual meeting will be provided in the *Azalea Clipper* later this month.

Legacy Project Activities

In last month's message, I reported on Legacy Project activities involving the chapter in September. We had additional activities in October. **Joanne Neckel** had the opportunity to lead eleven members of the Laurel Garden Club on a tour of the Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Gardens on 7 October. Many weren't aware that the azalea garden existed and were amazed at the amount of work which went into creating it. They indicated a desire to come back in the spring to see the garden in bloom.

One of the side benefits of Legacy gardens is that they are a means of making people more aware of the different varieties of azaleas which exist.

The chapter is also supporting the development of a Holly Springs Legacy



Delivering the Holly Springs azaleas to Jenkins Arboretum with Jake Summers and Rick and Susan Bauer - photo Helen Standen



Jake Summers showing the area of the future Holly Springs Legacy Garden

Garden at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA. **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** delivered a vanload of Holly Springs azaleas to Jenkins in September. **Susan** and I made another delivery to Jenkins on 8 October. **Jake Summers**, who is designing the garden, took delivery of the plants and gave us a tour of the area they will be developing for the Holly Springs Legacy Garden. While the garden will not be completed for a couple of years, Jenkins has a large collection of azaleas and rhododendron and we hope to visit again next year when they are in bloom.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to visit Jenkins last year as part of the American Rhododendron Society convention. Below are photos provided by Jenkins Arboretum which show the garden in bloom.



Facebook

I have recently become an administrator on the chapter Facebook page. If you are on Facebook and haven't done so already, please "Like" the chapter Facebook page. I will try to keep it updated with photos of azaleas and items of interest to our members. If you have anything you think would be of interest and would like it posted, please email it to me at rickbauer@cox.net.

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 activities are being canceled/rescheduled because of COVID-19. Check the chapter calendar for the latest updates.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Dec 6 – Social cancelled	Holiday Social and Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Paul and Carolyn Beck's Home
Dec 6 – added (tentative)	Annual Meeting w speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA

Other Activities/Notes –

Miscellaneous –

Carolyn Beck is looking for any information, description, or photos, of the following azalea varieties. If you have anything to share, please send it to **Carolyn** at (carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or (703) 860-5676).

Amoena Red
Delicious, Hager
Fairy Tale
Girard's Caroline
Girard's Kelly Marie
Gold Piece, Hershey
Kiwa Amoena
Leon's Amy
Neil Goza, Goza
Nuccio's Blue Ice
Penco, labeled as a Pennington
Pink Clusters
Ring's Kiusianum
Rose Bengal
Shin-no-Noe, Kurume
Strawberry Delight, Kohli
Tee Pee

Photos for *The Azalea Clipper*/Facebook – We are 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 me your pictures at rickbauer@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 me at rickbauer@cox.net or 757-771-4446 if you have any questions. **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.

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving!

Rick