

April 2022 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

We are just entering prime time for our gardens and azalea blooms. For many of us, this is our favorite time of year. It is also one of the busiest times for the chapter with member garden visits and plant sales. Hopefully you'll be able to help us out by volunteering to support these activities. Additionally, this year we will be able to participate in the dedication of the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA.



Chapter Meeting – 27 March

The first chapter meeting of the year was held at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on 27 March. **Jake Summers**, formerly the Hamilton Educational Fellow at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens in Devon, PA, gave us an excellent presentation on his project to create a Holly Springs Legacy Garden at the arboretum. We held a hybrid meeting with speakers and members appearing in person and via Zoom. We had a great turn out with 22 members attending in person and 19 members signed in online.



Chapter President Barb Kirkwood welcomes the attendees

The society recently held its annual convention in Lafayette, LA. This was the first live convention in three years due to the COVID pandemic. Several members of the chapter attended the convention. **Rick Bauer** gave a slide show and provided background information on the convention. Afterwards, the attendees were shown a slide presentation created by society president and 2023 ASA Convention Chairman, **Charlie Andrews** on next year's convention. It was very well received and we're looking forward to getting together again next year in Atlanta.



Members socialize before the program

Mike Mitchell, a member of our chapter and the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society, gave a brief presentation on excellent examples of azalea bonsai.

Finally, the chapter held a member plant exchange. This is always an outstanding way for chapter members to share their excess plants with other members.

Additional photos are at the end of this message.

Dedication of the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum – 15 May 10am

The formal dedication of the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA will be on Sunday, 15 May at 10am. If you are planning on attending the dedication, please contact **Carolyn Beck** at carolynbeck@gmail.com or (703)860-5676 **no later than 14 April**.

2022 ASA Convention Lafayette, LA

A number of chapter members joined other society members for the first national ASA convention last month in Lafayette, LA. It was great to get together with old friends after the last two conventions were cancelled due to COVID.

Eighty ASA members and guests gathered to tour Lafayette and surrounding areas to view azaleas and other points of interest. Lafayette was named an "Azalea City" in 2016 and continues their beautification efforts using azaleas.

Our base for the convention was the Holiday Inn North in Lafayette. All activities except for the tours were held in this modern facility. We were



Azalea Trail poster in front of the convention hotel



Encore® azaleas planted along a street through the university

treated to excellent Louisiana cuisine and interesting speakers. Some of us also expanded our azalea collections from the on-site plant sale.

The tours took us along Lafayette's "Azalea Trail" as well as Jefferson Island, Avery Island (home of McIlhenny tabasco and a massive egret rookery) and the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

Jefferson Island has a number of salt mines below it. It was in the news in 1980 when a Texaco drilling rig broke through the ceiling of one of the mines, emptying Lake Peigneur and taking another 65 acres to form the largest manmade sinkhole. It also claimed the newly built home of the property owner which was at the shore of the

lake. Fortunately no one was killed in this accident. More information is located at the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-N2TrcxkOA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cXnxGIDhOA>

Avery Island is where **Edmund McIlhenny** first started the production of tabasco sauce. After five generations, the company is still in the family. We enjoyed a delicious meal at the family home and were given a talk on the history by one of the family members. Also of great interest is the rookery for egrets. They were being hunted to extinction for their feathers which were used on ladies' hats. **Edmund's** son **Edward Avery McIlhenny** established an egret rookery on Avery Island in 1895 to protect the egrets. The rookery started with a few pairs of egrets. By 1911, it was estimated to have 100,000 egrets.



Egret rookery on Avery Island - photo C. Beck

We also were given interesting talks on the history of the various areas, including Good Hope Hall in the Freetown which is along Lafayette's "Azalea Trail." This historic facility was established by freed slaves and their decedents. Additional information is available at this [link](#).

In the evenings, we also received interesting presentations by **Dr. Heather Kirk-Ballard** on the impact of COVID on the horticulture industry, **Dr. David Creech** on azalea work at Stephen F. Austin gardens and **Buddy Lee**, on azaleas, past, present and future.

Finally, as table favors, **Buddy Lee** provided liners of his next Encore© release, Autumn Moonstruck, a variety with beautiful variegated leaves.

A more detailed report on the convention will be in an upcoming issue of **The Azalean**.

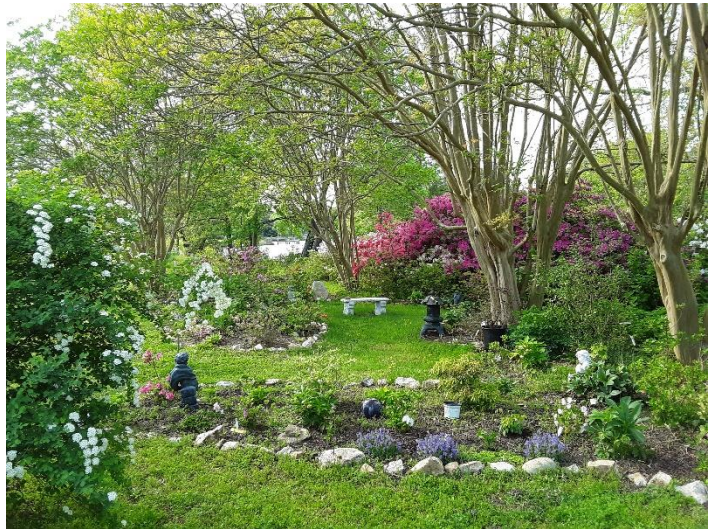
Additional photos are at the end of this message.

Open Member Gardens

This is the time of year when our gardens really shine. Most of us like to share the beauty of our gardens with others.

Prime time for the gardens is dependent upon weather conditions, but right now we are looking to have the open gardens the first two weekends in May, however you can open your garden at any time. You can also set conditions for the visit (e.g., hours of the day, call before you arrive etc.)

We're looking for volunteers to open their gardens for visits by chapter members. If you would like to open your garden, please contact **Barry Sperling** at bsperling@cox.net or (703) 765-7062 by 25 April. **Barry** will consolidate the information and it will be published in next month's message to members.



Bauer Garden Yorktown, VA

Garden Photos



"My Mary" in Beck Garden

Our membership is spread across the country and to Canada and Europe. Obviously, many of our members can't physically tour other members' gardens because of distance. Many of you work very hard to create beautiful gardens and you should show them off.

If you would like to share photos of your gardens with the other members of our chapter, please send them to rickfbauer@gmail.com. If appropriate, provide information on the photos provided.

Meadowlark Gardens Plant Sale April 30-May1/Ayr Hill Plant Sale May 7

The chapter will be holding its first plant sale of the year at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, VA on 30 April and 1 May. We will also be selling at Ayr Hill on May 7 from 8am – 1pm. We always need volunteers to help out with these sales. If you are available any of these days, please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958.

Chapter Volunteers Needed.

All chapter activities are planned and conducted by volunteers. As with many organizations, much of the work is done by a small number of members. At the last meeting, **Barb Kirkwood** asked for more members to volunteer for specific positions. Specifically:

Plant Sale Coordinator - The chapter is looking for a volunteer to be Plant Sale Coordinator. This individual’s responsibilities are to coordinate, as necessary, with the venue where we will be conducting the sale and to be the central point of contact for soliciting volunteers and for disseminating necessary information to them. If you are interested in the position or would like more information, contact **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958.

Refreshments Coordinator – Patsy Meadows has been doing this job for many years now. The chapter Executive Committee decided at their December meeting to streamline the responsibilities of this position. No longer would the incumbent have to coordinate the snacks brought in by various members. The coordinator now procures the meeting snacks paid for by the chapter and coordinates set up of the snacks.

We still need someone to plan and purchase the snacks and to set up the refreshments at the chapter meetings. It would be great if we had a couple of people volunteer to allow flexibility if one of them were not available for the meeting. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering, contact **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958.

New Members

We met some great folks at the recent Lafayette convention who were in “At Large” status and decided to affiliate with our chapter. We’d like to welcome **Tom Tierney** and **Enda Cusack** from Stamford, CT, **Bill Brown** from Patchogue, NY and **Anita Lawson** from Tampa, FL. We would also like to welcome **Richard Lasonde** from Portsmouth, NH. We hope to have them join us in person or via Zoom at future chapter or society events.

Calendar of Upcoming Events –

Below is the schedule for 2022. The calendar is also available on the chapter website at <https://nv-asa.org/events>. A number of events have a date of TBD (to be determined). These events will occur, however final coordination has not yet been done on the scheduling.

Check the online chapter calendar for the latest updates.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
30 April and 1 May	Meadowlark Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
May 5-8	ARS Convention in Washington State	ARS	Vancouver, WA
May 7	Ayr Hill Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Vienna, VA

15 May 10am	Dedication of Holly Springs Legacy Garden	Jenkins Arboretum	Devon, PA
May TBD	Member Open Gardens	NV-ASA	Various
May TBD (rain date)	Meadowlark Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark garden
Jul 17 1:30-4:30 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Sept 24 1:00-4:30 pm	Fall Sale	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Oct 30 1:30-4:30 pm	Meeting with speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Oct 30 (after chapter meeting)	Executive Committee Mtg	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 4 1:00-4:30 pm	Holiday Party	NV-ASA	Barb and John Kirkwood's Home

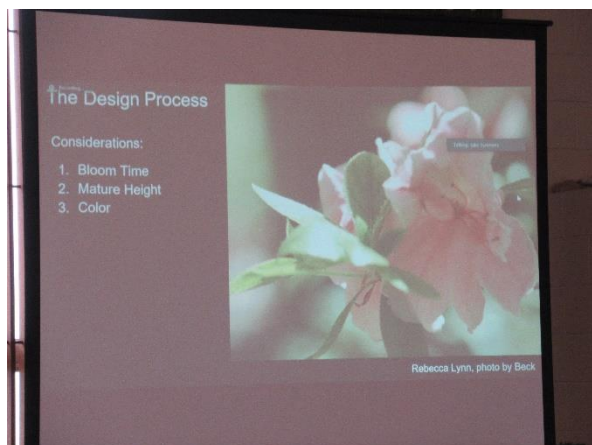
Other Activities/Notes –

Miscellaneous –

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 rickenbauer@gmail.com. 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 rickenbauer@gmail.com 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 editor of *The Azalean* depends 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.

Chapter Meeting March 27th



One of Jake's presentation slides



Mike Mitchell talks about azalea bonsai



Rick Bauer presents a convention slide show- photo L. Larson



Some of the plants available for exchange (less bonsai)

2022 Lafayette Convention



Registration table ladies



Lafayette Visitor's Center



Denise Landlos, Convention organizer, welcoming attendees



Plants available for the plant sale



Lafayette Museum Garden – photo B. Kirkwood



Gazebo at Girard Park – photo B. Kirkwood



Live oak at Jefferson Island



Most of the attendees at Lafayette Museum – photo C. Beck



Rick Bauer and Peter Iveson – photo S. Bauer



Good Hope Hall – photo S. Bauer



Jefferson Island – photo C Beck



Paul and Carolyn Beck and Dave Nanney



Alligators and turtles in Cajon Lake on the campus of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette – photo B. Kirkwood



Buddy Lee (Louisiana) and Kathy Jentz (Northern Virginia) in discussion at Girard Park – photo C. Beck



John Torbert (Alabamense), Barb Kirkwood, Dave Banks and Rick Bauer (Northern Virginia), Dale Berrong (Central Carolinas) and Mike Bamford (Vaseyi) before the ASA Board meeting – photo S. Bauer



One of the evening dinners