



The Azalea Clipper

Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event is our annual cutting exchange (and plant exchange) at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church from 1:30 – 4:30 pm on 17 July.

[Refreshments will be provided by the chapter.](#)

We're on the Web!

<https://www.nv-asa.org>

The Northern Virginia Chapter web page is a great source for late breaking news, such as weather-related cancellations.

Chapter Officers:

President: Barb Kirkwood
703-268-6958

kirkwoodb@aol.com

Vice Pres.: Ralph Habegger 703-481-1812

rphinva@verizon.net

Secretary: Joanne Neckel
703-690-6013

vaneckel@verizon.net

Treasurer: Paul Beck 703-860-5676

pabeck@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary and Clipper Editor: Rick Bauer

757-833-7737

rickbauer@gmail.com

Cutting Exchange and Plant Exchange

1:30 – 4:30 pm 17 July Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

The chapter will hold its annual cutting and plant exchange on 17 July at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

Members are requested to bring cuttings of their favorite azalea varieties.

Many of us also have extra plants in our garden which we would like to share with other members. Bring these into the plant exchange to share and you might find a plant that you would like to add to your garden.

Instructions for taking cuttings and preparing plants for exchange are on page 5.

Finally, we will have a number of deciduous azaleas available for sale.



Members examine plants and cuttings at the 2021 Cutting and Plant Exchange – photo B. Sperling

President's Message

We all enjoyed the beautiful displays of azaleas in our yards and in the area. Thanks to those who opened their gardens to visitors.

We had 1 ¾ plant sales at Meadowlark Gardens (rain caused an early end), and one was rained out at Ayr Hill Garden Faire.

We also had a very emotional dedication of the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens in Pennsylvania. Pete Vines and a number of family members attended along with a group of our members. We toured the gardens and were treated to a lovely lunch with the staff.

We are in need of more volunteers at our sales and propagation efforts. I ALWAYS love to hear from someone who asks, "What can I do to help?"

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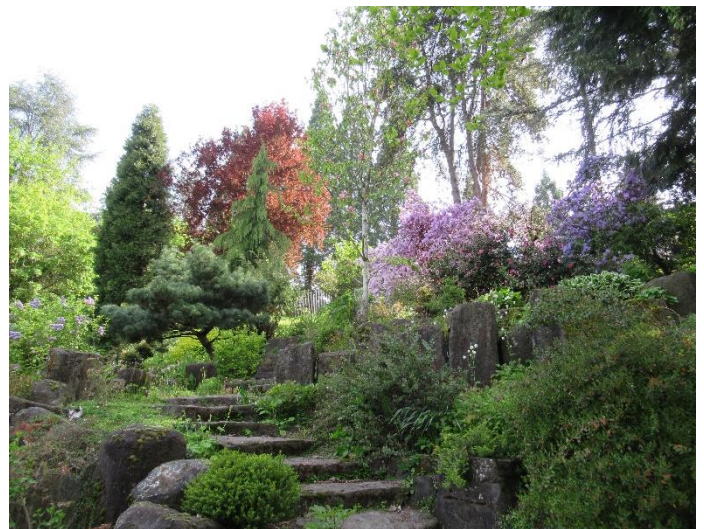
President's Message - continued

We have added a number of new members over the last couple of months. Be sure to welcome them at our meeting in July or whenever you happen to see a new face.

Barb

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR

The subject garden was one of the tour options for the recent American Rhododendron Society (ARS) convention in Vancouver, WA. The garden is sponsored by the city of Portland Parks and Recreation and the Portland Chapter of the ARS. Below are some photos from the garden.





Deciduous Azaleas for Sale

Carolyn Beck provides the following information:

“There will be about 30 deciduous azaleas available for sale at the July meeting. Most will be species and hybrids grown from seed (one of a kind). A photo will be attached to each plant to help with your selections.”

Azaleas Available for a Good Home

Dave and **Leslie Nanney** have some large plants for a give-away and want our azalea family to have the first shot.

Below is the message from **Dave**:

“We have a bed full of numbered Robin Hill azaleas planted over 40 years ago. So they are major plants with very attractive blossoms despite the fact that Robert Gartrell did not choose to name them. Leslie is looking for new garden space so these plants will be migrating to new homes. If you are interested, please give us a call in the near future. We plan to give priority to our azalea friends before offering them to others.”

You can contact **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** at 703-624-3754

Azalea Pruning with Carolyn – by Barb Kirkwood

Carolyn Beck propagated a number of Marshy Point Azaleas for the benefit of The Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA a number of years ago. Unfortunately, she has so many club plants she takes care of that these missed being pruned the last year. They were overgrown and odd shaped due to lack of care. **Carolyn** asked me to help prune them and if they survived, great. If not, no loss because as they were, they were not appropriate to sell.

She decided we would try some heavy pruning to see if we could rejuvenate them. We got together on a chilly March morning and after observing her prune a few and asking many questions, I ventured into a tentative try with lots of guidance. Eventually, I began to feel skillful enough to work along-side her, asking questions if I became stuck. The good news was that I was much more conservative with my pruning and if

I looked at all unsure, **Carolyn** would say, 'Yes, that one goes', or 'Take it all the way back to...' We were brutal!

Of course, we began with trimming off anything that was dead. That allowed me to see the structure of the plant with less distraction. Next, we would remove any branches that were growing straight up, crossed over other branches, or were growing back into the center of the plant. Finally, we would look at areas of multiple branches and remove the weaker, smaller branches, leaving just one or two main branches. It made me particularly nervous when I found myself cutting off most, or in some cases, all of the green leaves. We managed to get through about half that morning.

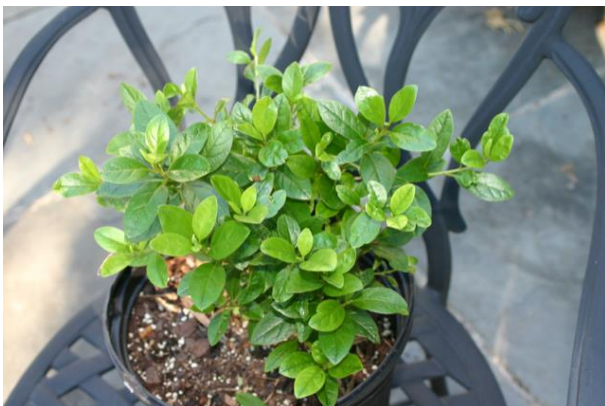
I usually manage to forget to document what I do, thinking afterwards that I should have taken a few photos. This time, although I did not take any before photos of the wild, overgrown plants, I did take some after pruning photos. Now that the plants have survived and recovered a little, **Carolyn** took some photos documenting the vast improvement in spite of our brutal pruning. (photos by **C. Beck**)



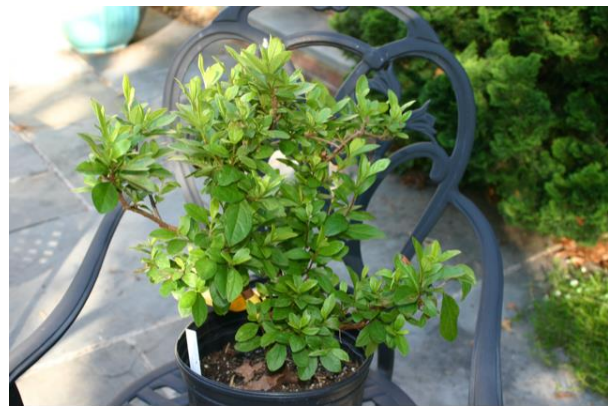
Annapolis Before



Bopalula Before



Annapolis After



Bopalula After

Calendar for 2022

Below is the schedule for the 2022. The calendar is also available on the chapter website at <https://nv-asa.org/events/>.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
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

Directions to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152

From the East : Rte **95** exit **169B**, **Franconia Rd West**, which becomes **Old Keene Mill Rd** (Rte 644) about 3 miles, passing **Irving Middle School**, to a **Right** at a light on **Carrleigh Parkway**
Make a U-turn at **Dabney Avenue**

From the West: **Fairfax County Parkway** (Rte 286)
East on **Old Keene Mill Rd** (Rte 644) about **3.5 miles**, passing **Rolling Road**
to **Left** at a light on **Carrleigh Parkway**; Make a U-turn at **Dabney Avenue**

Preparing Plants for the Plant Exchange

The plant exchanges provide an excellent venue for parting with your excess plants and for adding additional varieties to your collection. Plants should be watered before donating, though not overly wet (i.e., no dripping of water from the container). Please label them with the name of the plant and the donor (the latter is in case someone has questions about the plant).

Taking Cuttings

Select cuttings from new growth found at the terminal branch ends (avoid branches that have produced "sport" blossoms uncharacteristic of the named variety). Collect cuttings after the stems are fully mature, but before they turn woody. The parent plants must be in good health. A good time to take the cuttings is in the early morning. If drought conditions are present, water the plants well the evening before. Select stems of medium diameter rather than thin weak wood. Place cuttings (4 to 6) from each plant in a separate plastic bag (identified by the parent variety) along with a few drops of water, and seal it to retain 100% humidity inside. Print the name of the plant variety on the outside of the bag, along with a short description of the plant. Avoid overheating of cuttings from direct sunlight. Cuttings should be stuck in the rooting medium as soon as possible after taking the cuttings, but they can be stored in a closed container in the refrigerator for up to a week. {At the meeting ask our experts about growing cuttings!} A good label with the plant name, hybridizer, flower description and "cutter" would help a lot!