

## April 2023 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Spring has arrived early this year. Many azalea varieties, as well as companion plants, are already starting to bloom. This is also the start of prime time for the chapter and society when we have the opportunity to view azalea gardens in their prime and promote azaleas and the society through our interaction with the general public at plant sales and other initiatives such as the Legacy Gardens we support.

We hope you enjoy the beauty of your gardens and those of fellow society members and public gardens. We also hope we can count on you to help support chapter activities.



### **Chapter Meeting 26 March 1pm Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**

The first meeting of the year was a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. We had a great turnout to hear **Chris Schmidt**, Chief Arborist at Blandy Experimental Farm, give us an interesting talk on Blandy Arboretum, including the history of Blandy.

She took us through the history of the **Tulley** family's original purchase of the land, its later sale to **Colonel Upton Boyce** and finally the sale to **Graham Blandy** in 1903. It was **Graham Blandy** who bequeathed 700 acres of the property to the Miller School of Biology at the University of Virginia.

**Dr. Orland White** was appointed to oversee the Blandy Experimental Farm in 1927 with an annual salary of \$4500. While an educational institution, it had minimal funding, and the "farm" was required to produce income. Students enrolled at the farm were required to perform chores at the farm.

**Chris** covered the various areas of study and explained how **Dr. White**, with his extensive connections, had acquired a massive collection of seeds, including those of invasives. For **Dr. White**, any plant was welcome.

Blandy continues as an educational facility, hosting thousands of students each year.



**Chris Schmidt presents the history of Blandy**



**Don Hyatt presents Chris Schmidt with a "My Mary" deciduous azalea.**

After **Chris'** presentation, **Don Hyatt** presented her with a **Beasley** deciduous azalea, "My Mary". He related how **George Beasley** described the plant as wider than it was tall and that he named it after his wife. Apparently, she was not pleased!

**Don** also gave us an update on the White Garden in Fairfax County. This former property of chapter member **Margaret White** was given to Fairfax County in 2010 for the county residents to enjoy. The county was on the verge of designating the house as a historic structure under the Resident Curatorship Program and awarding a 24-year lease for the property. This would have essentially removed access

to the property from the general public. **Don**, along with many other individuals, raised objections to this action. To the credit of Fairfax County, they listened to the public input and removed the property from the Resident Curatorship Program. The plan now is to pursue developing the property in accordance with **Margaret's** wishes.

**Judy Zatsik** who is the new Director of Green Spring Gardens, is taking over management of the White Garden. She is now seeking volunteers who might be able to assist over there from time to time. If you are able to assist at White Garden, please contact **Judy** at:

**Judy Zatsick**, Site Manager  
Green Spring Gardens  
4603 Green Spring Road  
Alexandria, VA 22312  
703-642-5173  
[Judith.Zatsick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Judith.Zatsick@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Finally, **Don** encouraged the attendees to sign up for the upcoming ASA/ARS convention.

The final activity was a plant exchange. We had a large number of beautiful plants, and everyone had the opportunity to take home plants to add to their collections.

P.S. To get a better view of the "My Mary" azalea, here is a picture of a specimen in the **Beck**, garden with your 6'3" editor showing the scale (photo by **C. Beck**). This "My Mary" actually looks taller than it is wide!



**FINAL NOTE: If you failed to turn in your name tag after the meeting, please remember to bring it to the next meeting.**

### **ASA/ARS Convention 19-23 April, Dunwoody, GA**

The next annual convention is a collaboration between the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America and the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. It is being held in Dunwoody, GA, north of the Atlanta area.

The Northern Virginia Chapter will be well represented at the joint convention, comprising almost a quarter of the attendees. **Thanks for your support!**

During the convention, the major chapter activity will be the plant sale, though other volunteer requirements may emerge. We are looking for volunteers to help us conduct the sale.

If you are willing to support an hour or two of your time during the convention, please contact **Rick Bauer** at [rickbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickbauer@gmail.com).

### **Member Garden Visits 26 April and 10 May 11 am – 2 pm both dates**

**Rosa** and **Bob McWhorter** and **Carol Segree** will be opening their gardens for chapter visits in April and May (the **Segree** garden will only be open in May). The April date is expected to be a peak azalea viewing date while the May date is expected to be a peak date for rhododendron, however some of both types will be in bloom on each date. Both dates are subject to change based on projected bloom time. Any changes will be reflected on the chapter website.



The garden addresses are:

**Rosa and Bob McWhorter**

1666 Preakness Drive  
Gambrills, Maryland 21054

**Carol Segree (note: open only 10 May)**

1806 Hunt Creek Run  
Gambrills, Maryland 21054

Editor's Note: Both gardens are beautiful and well worth visiting. Thanks to Ben Morrison Chapter for organizing the visit.



**McWhorter Garden**



**Segree Garden**

**Barry Sperling** will be coordinating additional member garden visits. If you are interested in opening your garden to visits by chapter members, please contact **Barry** at 703-765-7062 or [bsperling@cox.net](mailto:bsperling@cox.net). When we have a list of additional gardens, we will publish the supplemental list.

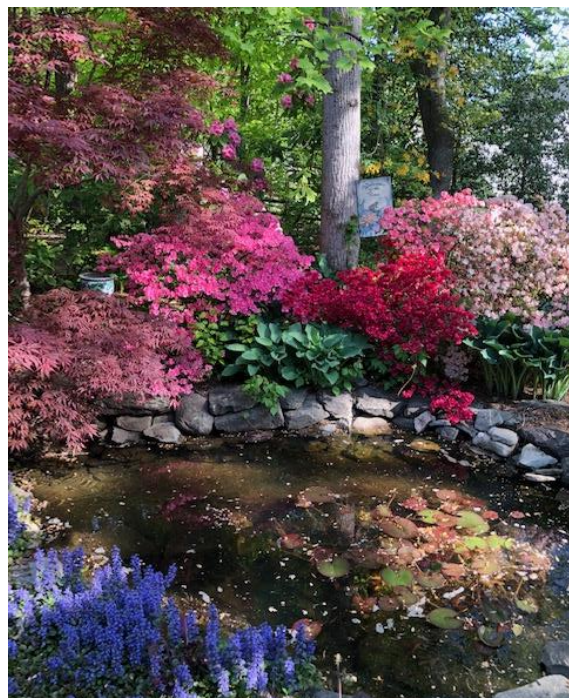
**Garden Photos**

This is the time of year when our gardens really shine. Opening your gardens to visitors is one way to show them off. Another is to send in your garden photos to be published in the **Monthly Message** or **The Azalea Clipper**.

Please send your photos and any descriptions (if desired) to [rickfbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickfbauer@gmail.com). We will publish them in future editions.

Also, we are planning on putting together a presentation of chapter member garden photos for the fall meeting. We will put the provided photos together into one presentation for the meeting. You may submit any number of photos you desire, but we're looking for about 10-15 pictures per garden/ collection.

Depending on how many submissions we get, we will adjust the number of photos per garden for the meeting presentation. During the meeting,



**Neckel Garden - photo J. Neckel**

members can describe their photos, if desired, or we can just show the photos without anyone needing to present to the chapter.

Any topics regarding the azaleas are fine - it will be interesting to see various photos. Topics might include:

- Garden development over the years
- My favorite azaleas in bloom
- Rare or unusual azaleas
- Largest or smallest azaleas (flowers or plants)
- Hybrids a member has developed
- or any other topic a member would like to include.

### **Chapter Plant Sales 29 April and 6 May**

Chapter plant sales are the primary means of generating funds for the chapter. These funds help us conduct our chapter activities and make charitable contributions to other, mainly horticultural, organizations at the end of the year. Additionally, it allows us contact with the general public to promote azaleas and the chapter/society.

We have adjusted our plant sale schedule this year, focusing on those venues which provide the best returns on our investment of time and resources. This year we will be holding our major plant sales at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna, VA. The primary dates are 29 April (rain date 30 April) and 6 May (rain date 7 May).



**2022 Meadowlark Plant Sale – photo C Beck**

This is a great opportunity to get out in the fresh air, meet members of the general public and help the chapter.

If you are available any of these days, please let **Barb Kirkwood** know at [kirkwoodb@aol.com](mailto:kirkwoodb@aol.com) or (703) 268-6958 or use SignUp Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4FA4AC29A7FF2-meadowlark> This one makes it very easy to keep track and sends you a reminder.

### **Chapter Volunteers Needed.**

We **STILL** have one open volunteer position we are trying to fill:

**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. This will take a couple hours in the spring (the Executive Committee has decided not to have a fall sale in 2023).

If you can spare a few hours in the spring, contact **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958 or [kirkwoodb@aol.com](mailto:kirkwoodb@aol.com).

**Calendar of Upcoming Events –**

Below is the schedule for 2023. The calendar is also available on the chapter website at <https://nv-asa.org/events>.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
19-23 Apr	ASA/ARS Convention	ASA/ARS	Dunwoody, GA
26 April and 10 May	Member Garden Visit	ASA	McWhorter and Segree Gardens
29 April and 6 May Rain dates 30 Apr and 7 May	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna
May 20th	Sale to Bonsai Society	NV-ASA	Beck’s House
16 July	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Oct 22 or 29 (TBD)	Meeting w/speaker	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 3	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD

**Other Activities/Notes –**

**Miscellaneous –**

**Hoophouse/cinder blocks available**



**David Meadows** has the chapter’s hoophouse which neither he, nor the chapter needs. The hoop house structure is 8'x40'x36" in size. The base is 4x4 x8 pressure treated with the uprights/supports being 2x4x8 treated. The hoops are CPVC pipes 1/2"x10'. Sections of the hoop house could be used to make a 'smaller' structure.

He also has about 20 cinder blocks which were previously used to set up shelves for our plant sales.

If you are interested in any of these materials, contact **David** at [tdmeadows@gmail.com](mailto:tdmeadows@gmail.com) or (540) 349-0120.

**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 [rckfbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rckfbauer@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 [rickbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickbauer@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](mailto: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.