

May 2023 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Your editor has just gotten back from the joint convention of the Azalea Society of America (ASA) and the American Rhododendron Society (ARS) in Dunwoody, GA. We primarily oversaw the plant sale portion of the convention which was a lot of work considering we had almost 3000 azaleas and rhododendron for sale. Now we can take a well-deserved rest!

More information on the convention is below.



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

The Northern Virginia Chapter along with the Azalea Chapter of the ARS jointly sponsored the latest annual convention in Dunwoody, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. We were blessed with beautiful weather...sunny and mainly cool for the entire time. The only rain occurred on Friday night, however things cleared up nicely on Saturday.

Since the chapter was responsible for the plant sale, a number of members arrived on Monday afternoon. They started to get the plant sale pavilion ready for the plants while **Rick Bauer** and **Paul Beck** drove the 70 miles to Danielsville, GA to pick up a trailer load of plants from **Dale Berrong's** property where they had been stored. Tuesday and Wednesday we continued to clean, label, and barcode the plants for our opening on Wednesday evening. We had brisk sales throughout the convention including sales to the public on Saturday and Sunday morning.



The Plant Sale Pavilion ready for the first customer – photo R Bauer

Special thanks go to all of the people who put an incredible amount of effort into planning and conducting the convention plant sale. **Paul Beck** did an incredible amount of work posting all the sale plant information on the website as well as producing the barcode labels for the plants. **Carolyn Beck** and **Dale Berrong** (Azalea Chapter) both coordinated with plant suppliers and arranged transportation.



Paul Beck and Susan Bauer check out a purchase by Joanne Neckel – photo R Bauer

Dale made two trips to **Maarten van der Giessen's** nursery in Semmes, AL to pick up plants (which **Maarten** generously donated to the convention). We also thank **Mike White, Dale Berrong, John Kohli, Aaron Cook, Spring Meadow Nursery** and **the Becks** for their contributions of plants. **Lars Larson** delivered a trailer load of plants to Danielsville prior to the convention. The **Bauers, Becks** and **Nanneys** all transported azaleas and rhododendron to Dunwoody.

Setup and tear down and other assistance during the sale was done by **Barb Kirkwood**, the **Bauers, Becks** and **Nanneys, Rich Lasonde, Joanne Neckel, Jeanne Hammer, Eric Oesterling, Margaret Vogel, Kathy Jentz, George McLellan, Laura Grant, Tom Tierney,**

and **Enda Cusak**. Also helping were associate members **Mike Bamford** and **Pim Rust** (also members of the Azalea Chapter), **Ronnie** and **Donna Palmer**, **Rick Edwards**, and other ASA members **Karel Bernady** and Azalea Chapter members **Brenda Busby**, **Jan Nicholson**, and **Art Murray**.

Susan Bauer and **Paul Beck** ran the checkout during the entire convention, assisted by **Barb Kirkwood**, associate member **Donna Palmer** and **Lorna Hansen**. If we have missed anyone, we apologize and thank you for your assistance.

There were three days of tours during the convention and one post-convention tour. Attendees had the opportunity to go on the Flint River Canoe Trip on Wednesday, visit Atlanta Botanical Gardens and the Atlanta History Center on Thursday and the Gibbs Garden and Babyland General Hospital on Friday. A tour of Hurricane Creek was offered post-convention.

The chapter has members spread throughout the country and in Canada, Germany, and The Netherlands. National conventions are the ideal time for members from disparate locations to get together. The Northern Virginia Chapter was well represented at this year's convention with 29 members in attendance. We were pleased to see **Enda Cusack** and **Tom Tierney** from Stamford, CT; **Dave Banks** from Williamsburg, VA; **Laura Grant** and **Robert Ramik** from Toronto, Ontario; **Larry Miller** and **Lorraine Fader** from Evansville, IN; **Richard Lasonde** from Portsmouth, NH; **George McLellan** from Gloucester, VA; **Rick** and **Susan Bauer** from Yorktown, VA; **Jeanne Hammer** and **Paul McWhinney** from Macon, NC; **Joe Nemmer** from Mercer, PA; **Eric** and **Sue Oesterling** from New Alexandria, PA; and **Steve Wright** from Devon, PA.

From the Washington area we had **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck**, **Joanne** and **Dan Neckel**, **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney**, **Barb Kirkwood**, **Don Hyatt**, **Kathy Jentz**, **Bill Mangels**, **Carol Segree**, and **Margaret Vogel**.

Dr. Ralf Bauer of Offenburg, Germany affiliated with our chapter at the convention. The picture shows these members, along with associate members after the ASA banquet.



Northern Virginia Chapter members and Associate Members after the ASA banquet - photo Denise Lanclos

We had chapter members honored at both the ASA and the ARS banquet. **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** were honored with the ASA's Distinguished Service Award at the banquet on Friday evening. This was in recognition of their long association (over 40 years) and contributions to the society and their promotion of azaleas. The text of the award read:



David and Leslie Nanney

You are among the longest-term society members, joining in 1979. During this period, you have contributed at both the National and Chapter level. You both have served on the Board of Directors as Directors. Additionally, Leslie has served eight years as the Society Secretary. At the chapter level, Dave served as President of the Northern Virginia Chapter, and you both have made significant contributions supporting chapter activities. Dave is the Legacy Lead for the Holly Springs azaleas and you both were integral to assisting in the establishment of a Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum.

You have worked to improve the society plant database and participate in the beta testing of software for the ASA website. Your impressive azalea garden is frequently open to the public for tours, encouraging interest in azaleas.

***Dave and Leslie**, we greatly appreciate your contributions to the society and your efforts to*

promote azaleas. You are distinguished members of the Azalea Society of America.

Society Past President **Rick Bauer** presented them with their award (photo by **Kathy Jentz**).

Paul and **Carolyn Beck** were presented the Silver Award by the ARS at their banquet on Saturday night. The citation for the award reads:



Carolyn and Paul Beck

You are a dynamic duo and beyond compare. Your tireless efforts in support of evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons is exemplary and accomplishments profound. Carolyn is a skilled horticulturist, propagator, and photographer who has amassed an enormous azalea collection featuring new introductions from many local hybridizers. You generously propagated and shared plants with local chapters and helped establish several legacy collections at public gardens. Paul used his technology expertise and

Carolyn's azalea resources to create an online database with over 11,000 cultivars. Paul has

revolutionized plant sales using barcodes on plant tags and attendee badges. Checkout is very efficient using scanners and credit card sales, and has become standard at local conferences. In grateful appreciation, the ARS awards you its Silver Medal.

The award was presented by **Bill Meyers**, President of the American Rhododendron Society and **Bill Mangels**, ARS Honors Committee Chair. (Photo by **Don Hyatt**).

Congratulations to both the **Nanneys** and the **Becks** on their well-deserved awards.

Kathy Jentz has posted a large number of pictures from the convention on the society Facebook account. You can access them at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064601323237>.

A complete report on the convention will appear in the summer issue of **The Azalean**.

Chapter Plant Sales 29 April and 6 May Meadowlark Botanical Garden, Vienna, VA

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.



2022 Meadowlark Plant Sale – photo C Beck

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.

We held our first sale on 29 April. The results were excellent with 135 plants sold for a total of \$2765. Our thanks go to the volunteers who helped make the sale a success: **Paul Beck, Bill Miller, Dave Nanney, John and Barb Kirkwood, Joanne Neckel, David Meadows, and Ralph Habegger**. Our thanks also go to **Carolyn Beck** for all her work in preparing the plants for sale.

Former chapter member **Song Chu** renewed her membership at the sale. We also handed out three membership forms, so hopefully that will result in new members.

We will be holding our second sale at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna, VA on 6 May (rain date 7 May).

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 to help on the 6th, please let Barb Kirkwood know at 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.

Bonsai Sale



Joe Gutierrez presents the check to Paul Beck – photo C. Beck

About 3 years ago, the **Becks** gave **Joe Gutierrez** (a chapter and Northern Virginia Bonsai Society (NVBS) member) a number of Satsuki, 3 gallon or more in size, for the purpose of creating bonsai that would benefit the NV-ASA. These trees in training were made available for purchase at a recent NVBS azalea workshop given by **Joe**. The proceeds from 6 "trees" were \$480. **Joe** presented a very welcome check to chapter treasurer **Paul Beck**.

We thank NVBS for agreeing to the concept of sharing proceeds, and we are grateful to **Joe** for all his work and for the benefit to our chapter.



Shinkyō



Waraijishi

Bonsai photos by **Joe Gutierrez**.

New Members

Dr. Ralf Bauer of Offenbach, Germany affiliated with the Northern Virginia chapter as a member at the national convention. **Ralf** visits the states often and is an expert on native azaleas and rhododendron.

Rick Edwards, of Cedar creek, MO joined the Arkansas Chapter and affiliated with the Northern Virginia chapter as an associate member. **Rick** was a friend of **Robert Thau's** (former associate member of the chapter and president of the Texas Forest Country Chapter) and has taken over for him as legacy lead on the Bowie Mill azaleas.

Garden Visits 10 May

Rosa and Bob McWhorter and **Carol Segree** will be opening their gardens for chapter visits on 10 May, 11am until 2 pm. It is expected to be a peak date for rhododendron; however some azaleas will also be in bloom on that date.

The garden addresses are:

Rosa and Bob McWhorter

1666 Preakness Drive
Gambrills, Maryland 21054

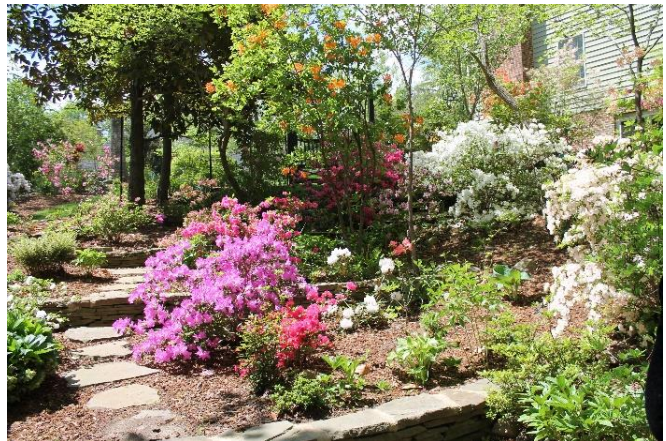
Carol Segree

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's garden will be open for visits until Sunday, 7 May. Please call ahead to verify he'll be around. 703-765-7062.

White's Nursery Spring Open House Sale 19 and 20 May 9 am to 5 pm

Chapter members **Mike** and **Debbie White** will be holding their spring open house sale on the 19th and 20th of May at their nursery in Germantown, MD. This is a two-day special pricing event. They always have an excellent selection of azaleas for sale. The nursery is located at 22531 Wildcat Rd, Germantown, MD 20876.

Smoky Mountain Trip – mid June

It is about time for the annual hikes through the Smoky Mountains to view native azaleas and rhododendron. This is always a very enjoyable trip...especially when Mother Nature is cooperative. This year the hikes will be organized by society president **Charlie Andrews**. Details are yet to be developed, though the hikes normally take place in mid-June. Detailed information will be disseminated once the itinerary and dates are established. While a large number of separate locations are visited, participants can go on any or all of the hikes. Stay tuned.



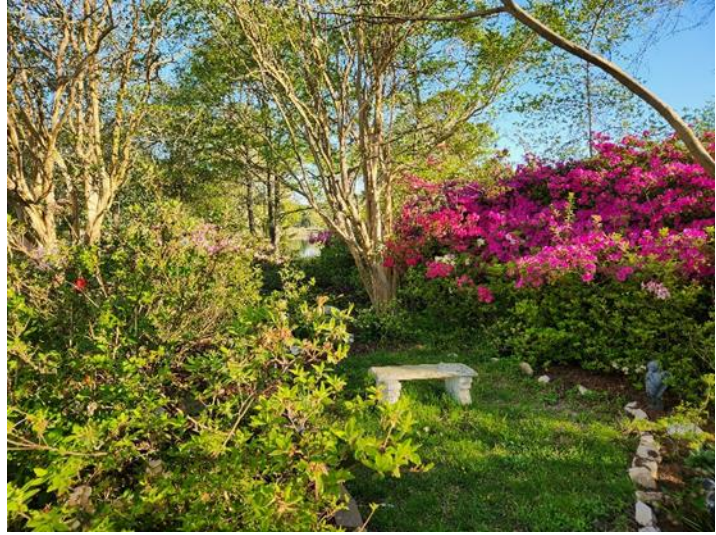
Calendulaceum on Roan Mountain

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. 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.



Bauer Serenity Garden

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

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
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
19 and 20 May 9am – 5 pm (added)	White’s Nursery Spring Open House Sale	White’s Nursery	White’s Nursery 22531 Wildcat Rd Germantown, MD 20876 (301) 788-3293
May 20th	Sale to Bonsai Society	NV-ASA	Beck’s House
Mid-June (added)	Smoky Mountain Hikes	ASA	Smoky Mountains
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 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 rickfbauer@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 rickfbauer@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.