



The Azalea Clipper

Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event is a meeting with speaker Chris Schmidt from Blandy Arboretum at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on 26 March 1-5 pm.

We will also have a plant exchange. 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.

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Chapter Meeting 26 March with Speaker Chris Schmidt from Blandy Arboretum plus plant exchange 1 – 5 pm Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (Zoom at 1:30pm)

The speaker our March meeting will be **Chris Schmidt**, the Chief Arborist at the Virginia State Arboretum, Blandy Experimental Farm. This will be a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS. We will also have a plant exchange. **Chris Schmidt's** presentation will be available via Zoom at 1:30pm. Instructions for accessing are on page 7.

Chris will tell us about the history of Blandy while she shares insight into some of their amazing collections including trees, shrubs, and flowers. The original owner, **Graham F. Blandy**, was a wealthy New Yorker who used it as a summer home. Upon his death in 1926, he bequeathed 712 acres and a structure known as the Quarters building to the University of Virginia for the arboretum.

The arboretum's first director was **Orland E. White** from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. He oversaw the design and planting of the property from the date he was hired in 1927 until he retired in 1955. Many specimens are approaching 100 years old now so we can appreciate the beauty of mature specimens as well as other newer plantings.

Chris expects to retire this year and we are fortunate to have her join us. She can speak on a broad range of topics.

Note: Thanks to **Don Hyatt** for giving permission to use this adaptation of his article from the Winter issue of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS's newsletter.

President's Message

Spring certainly sprang early on us! We had temperatures in February we normally see in April. The bulbs are up with flower buds. The cherry trees are about to burst all around the DC area. Here's hoping we do not have a deep freeze that spoils our usual spring color.

We are ready to go full swing after our usual winter break. Our azaleas will be blooming in no time and we are ready for our March meeting and our April Convention. Come join us for our March 26 meeting at 1:00 at Kirkwood Presbyterian, a slight time change. This joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS will be all about the Blandy Experimental Farm, a garden I have not had the pleasure to visit yet. Then the Convention we are jointly sponsoring begins on April 19 in Atlanta. Register by March 31! Come along and join in all the fun.

Continued on page 2

President's Message - continued

We will have two plant sales this year, April 29th with a rain date of April 30 and May 6 with a rain date of May 7 at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna. We need volunteers to help out at these sales, share knowledge about Azaleas, and help others select new plants for their gardens. If you are available any of these days, please let me 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.

I am still looking for the right individual to take over the coordination of our plant sales. We have only two this year, already set up, so there will be very little that yet needs to be done. It is also the right time to start thinking about serving as an officer next year. We need to keep our organization working well with fresh ideas and talent. Please call and volunteer.

Barb

Joint ASA/ARS Convention – Atlanta (Dunwoody), GA April 19-23, 2023

The society will be holding its annual convention in the Atlanta, GA area in April. The Northern Virginia Chapter is co-sponsoring the convention along with the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

The chapter will be handling registration and the plant sale. Hopefully we will have a good turnout from chapter members. We can certainly use the help with running the plant sale. If you haven't been to a convention before, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other azalea enthusiasts and to see some great gardens.

The convention is being held at the Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center hotel with an excellent rate of \$134 plus tax. This rate is good for three days before and three days after the convention. There is a lot to see and do in Atlanta and the hotel is located a block from a MARTA station, Atlanta's rapid transit system.

There is a large shopping mall with a number of restaurants located a little over a block from the hotel. This will provide additional dining options to those at the hotel. Come for the convention and stay additional days to enjoy what Atlanta has to offer. A list of local attractions and information on the convention itself is on the convention [webpage](#). An article on the convention is in the [winter issue of *The Azalean*](#). The latter requires you to login. Finally, there is a very good [video](#) about the convention on the website.

The hardcopy registration form is currently [online](#). Online registration is available at this [link](#).

NOTE: The final day for convention registration and for reserving hotel rooms (done separately) at the special convention rate is 31 March.



Native azaleas at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Photo credit: Pim Rust

Gibbs Garden – an ASA/ARS Convention Garden Site

One of the gardens to be visited during the upcoming convention is Gibbs Garden. Below is an extract from an article written by **Don Hyatt** for the March issue of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society newsletter for March. It is reprinted with his permission.

Have you registered for the 2023 Convention? Don't delay because the deadline is, March 31, just a month away! When I saw that Gibbs Garden was on the Friday tour, my mind was made up. I must go!

I toured Gibbs Garden on essentially the same weekend as the coming convention but 10 years ago. It was the first year it was open to the public. The property is nearly 300 acres with 220 acres of garden.

It was created by one of Atlanta's preeminent landscape designers, Jim Gibbs. He started the project in 1980 on land around his new home. He wanted to view a world class garden from the manor and used his expert knowledge of plant materials, his artistic talent and landscape design skills, and considerable financial resources to transform undeveloped land into a masterpiece. It really is perfection!



Sadly, Jim Gibbs passed away in November 2021 after a brief illness. He was only 75 but he has left us all a garden legacy for the ages. Gibbs Garden has the largest daffodil planting in the US, an amazing 20 million bulbs spread over 100 acres. The Japanese Garden is a record, too. It covers 40 acres and has 7 naturalistic spring-fed ponds. He has collections of many plant groups, too. The images on the next page are photos I took in 2013. You want to see this place!





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 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.

Drinks will be provided, however visitors are requested to bring a dish or snack to share. 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

White Garden Update – Breaking News

As many of you are aware, former chapter member **Margaret White** sold her 13.5 acre property in 1999 to Fairfax County, VA for the purpose of a public garden. Covenants in the deed specified that the property would be used for horticultural purposes until 2075. In 2006, a Master Plan was developed for the property, reflecting **Margaret's** wishes. In the intervening years, care and development of the property has been sporadic.

In 2021, the Resident Curator Program (RCP) took control of the property and advertised for a tenant to occupy the property. This would have restricted public access to the project and would have been contrary to **Margaret's** intentions. The **White** family and other stakeholders raised public objections and the action was put on hold while the situation was reevaluated.

On 27 February, the Fairfax County Park Authority held a Zoom meeting for the public to discuss the status of the property. Between government officials and stakeholders, 75 people were in attendance, including representation by three generations of the **White** family.

In a welcome example of government listening to public concerns, the Park Authority reported that the property would no longer be in the RCP program, that the house would be torn down and that the focus of efforts would be to restore and maintain the horticultural aspects of the property. The Park Authority is also considering adding a feature such as a pavilion to the property. A video of the meeting will be posted online, but hadn't occurred at the time of this publication. Thanks to **Don Hyatt** and all of the other stakeholders who expressed their concerns to the county.

New Members

We would like to welcome Cinzia Denoi to the chapter. Cinzia is from Brooklyn, NY.

Membership renewal for 2023

We still have a few members who have not renewed their memberships to 2023. Hopefully this is just an oversight. If so, please renew as soon as possible. At this late date we can't guarantee that you'll receive a copy of the spring issue of **The Azalean**.

Membership dues stateside are \$30.00 per year with **The Azalean** in hard copy (US\$45 for Canada and US\$60 for overseas), and \$25.00 for online-only access to **The Azalean**. Our society website at <https://www.azaleas.org/joinus/> shows the various ways of paying for memberships. Memberships can also

easily be renewed by calling our treasurer, **Paul Beck** at 703-209-2219 and providing a credit card number. You may also mail your membership renewal check, made out to **ASA**, to:

Paul Beck, Treasurer
Azalea Society of America
2963 Fort Lee St
Oak Hill, VA 20171-1812

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.



Calendar for 2023

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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Mar 26 1-5 pm	Meeting w/speaker Chris Schmidt from Blandy Arboretum	NV-ASA/PVC-ARS	Kirkwood Presbyterian
19-23 Apr	ASA/ARS Convention	ASA/ARS	Dunwoody, GA
26 April 11am – 2pm	McWhorter and Segree Gardens open	Ben Morrison and NV-ASA	Various in Maryland
29 April (rain date 30 April)	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna
6 May (rain date 7 May)	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens, Vienna

10 May 11 am-2pm	McWhorter and Segree Gardens open	Ben Morrison and NV-ASA	Various in Maryland
End of May	Sale to Bonsai Society	NV-ASA	Beck's
16 July	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Oct 22	Meeting w/speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 3	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

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).

Zoom session login information

Topic: NV-ASA/PVC-ARS Joint Meeting

Time: Mar 26, 2023 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88405429307?pwd=d1N1bTArb09mOXRRUGIBZkF1ZTZiZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 0542 9307

Passcode: 241141

One tap mobile

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+13092053325,,88405429307#,,,,*241141# US