

November 2023 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Well fall has arrived with the changing colors and the cooler weather. Those of us with reblooming azaleas in our gardens are enjoying the extended blast of color which they provide up until the first killing frost.

It is also a time of planting for many of us and a time to get our gardens ready for winter.



October Meeting – Garden Photos/Plant Exchange 22 October

Over 35 members and guests attended the October meeting in person, with others joining via Zoom. We tried something new this time with the program being presented by members sharing photos of their gardens.

Once again, we had a great selection of snacks provided by Hospitality Chair **Susan Hedrick**. She shares her recipe for Pecan Pie cookies which is on page seven of this newsletter. During the first half hour of the meeting we were able to socialize with other members.

President **Barb Kirkwood** opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking volunteers who do so much to ensure the success of the chapter. She also



Barb Kirkwood welcomes attendees



Barry Sperling presents photos of his garden in Alexandria.

solicited more members to volunteer. We had eight presentations scheduled, however there was so much content and interaction with the attendees that we were only able to enjoy five of them.

Barry Sperling presented beautiful photos of his azaleas in the springtime. **Barry** groups his azaleas by bloom time.

Vice President **Ralph Habegger** presented **Joe Gutierrez's** photos of his azalea bonsai. This was followed/complemented by **Mike Mitchell's** presentation of his bonsais. **Mike** has trained in Japan on creating bonsai and has a number of beautiful specimens.

Bob Harrison (along with former chapter president **Eve**), joined us from Midlothian, VA. **Bob's** presentation didn't focus as much on plants as it did on garden art. He provided pictures and background stories on the large eclectic collection of garden art the **Harrisons** have amassed.

Hybridizer **Joe Klimavicz** presented the final slide show. **Joe's** garden consists primarily (though not entirely) of evergreen and deciduous azaleas he's hybridized. Due to space constraints, the plants are tightly packed and present a blaze of color when in bloom. His garden also serves as a test bed, allowing him to evaluate plants. Due to space constraints, those plants which don't make the grade, are removed and replaced by other hybrids.

Presentations of the **Neckel, Bauer** and **Beck** gardens have been deferred to a future date.

We also had another of our popular plant exchanges. In addition to those plants brought by members, we had a large number of chapter propagated and raised azaleas to give away to members.



Joe Klimavicz shows photos from his garden. Most of the azaleas are his own hybrids.

Additional photos are at the end of this message.

Holiday Social and Annual Meeting – 3 December Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

The chapter's annual Holiday Social will be held at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on 3 December from 1 – 4:30. This annual event is the culmination of our year's activities and gives us a chance to socialize with our friends and share our favorite holiday dishes. While most of the food is provided by members, the main meat dish is provided by the chapter.

As with all of our activities, we require someone to help setup/take down decorations for the event. If you are able to help, contact **Leslie Nanney** at 703-624-3754 or **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958 or kirkwoodb@aol.com.

To coordinate who is coming and dishes to share, we will have a SignUpGenius which can be accessed on any electronic device. We kept it simple, how many are coming, what will you bring, name and contact. You can see who has signed up and what they plan to bring so we do not have only 20 desserts (**Barb** says she is actually OK with that). You can access it through this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4FA4AC29A7FF2-45672909-holiday>. If you wish, you can also call **Leslie** with your RSVP.

This event is also our Annual Meeting. We elect officers for the next year, approve the budget and approve charitable donations for 2023.

Below are the members who have agreed to serve in elected positions for 2024:

President – **Barb Kirkwood**
Vice President – **Dave Nanney**
Treasurer – **Paul Beck**
Secretary – **Joanne Neckel**

This was another successful year for the chapter financially. The primary revenue generator was the plant sale at the annual convention in Atlanta which we co-sponsored. The chapter realized \$8500 in revenue from the convention. We thank those members who worked so hard to make the sale a success. While the work on most of our sales is done by volunteers in the Northern Virginia area, at the convention, we were happy to be joined by chapter members from other parts of the United States. A copy of the financial statement is at page five.

At the end of each year, we make charitable contributions based on our financial status. The Executive Committee has proposed the chapter make the following contributions for 2023:

- \$1000 Green Springs Title I
- \$2000 Jenkins Arboretum
- \$3500 for the ASA General Fund
- \$500 Kirkwood Church (in thanks for providing the meeting facility).

These donations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, we have established a budget for 2024. A copy is attached as at page 6. This budget will also be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

New Members

We would like to welcome **Maria Haas** and **Harrison Pham** to the chapter. Former member **Helen Li** also rejoined the chapter at the meeting. Welcome back!

Azalea Foster Homes Needed

We have an abundance of 6000 plants from various sources, including the convention, and our propagation efforts. We need to find a couple of members who would be willing to “foster” some plants until we can get them to sale. Care is pretty easy. They need a shady or afternoon shade area and some occasional water if Mother Nature does not provide. Even a rank amateur can be highly successful at this task and even a small space will help us out for a few months. If you have some space and can loan it out to us, please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958 or kirkwoodb@aol.com.

Chapter Volunteers Needed.

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 of hours in the spring (the Executive Committee has decided not to have a traditional fall sale in 2023, and will not need a coordinator in the fall).

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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Dec 3	Holiday Social/Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

Below is the schedule for 2024. Additions and deletions will be made as changes occur.

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Mar 17	Meeting with speaker	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Apr 2-5	National Convention	ASA	Auburn, Alabama
Apr 27	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
May 4	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
Jul 14	Cutting and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

Sep 21	Fall Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Beck House
Oct 6	Fall Meeting w Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

Other Activities/Notes –

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.



Bob Harrison shares the background stories of the various items of yard art in their garden.



Ralph Habegger shows photos of Joe Gutierrez's bonsai.



Delicious snacks provided by Susan Hedrick.



Mike Mitchell shows photos of his bonsai.

Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America
Treasurer's Report, January 1, 2023 – Oct 22, 2023

Balance as of 1/1/2023:

FVCB Savings.....	\$6,884.63
FVCB 2-yr CD.....	\$11,149.35
FVCB Checking	\$3,601.00
Total	\$21,634.98

Balance as of 10/22/2023:

FVCB Savings.....	\$29,897.15
FVCB 2-yr CD.....	\$11,177.15
FVCB Checking	\$9,165.85
PayPal.....	\$388.70
Total	\$50,628.85¹

2022 Plant Sale Summary

Sale	Plants	Gross	Budget	Fees	Net
2023 Member Only Sales	87	\$1,417.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,417.00
2023 Non-member Sales	49	\$703.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$703.00
2023 Bonsai Sale	82	\$2,024.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,024.00
2023 Meadowlark	238	\$5,028.00	\$4,000.00	\$502.80	\$4,525.20
2023 Joint Convention	620	\$8,470.51	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,470.51
Total	1076	\$17,642.51	\$14,500.00	\$502.80	\$17,139.71

Significant 2023 Items

The most significant item from 2023 was the net proceeds from the convention of almost \$8,500. Due to the low registration numbers and high member expense, we anticipated incurring a loss from the convention.

Plant sale revenue was \$17,139.71, or 118% of the \$14,500 budget. The **Member-Only** sale this year was ad hoc, and was not very successful, yielding only \$1,417. Meadowlark plant sales were \$5,028, much better than expected. Meadowlark continues to be a highly successful venue.

The propagation expense was \$3,495.85 against a budget of \$3,000.

Suggested Club Donations, to be voted upon at the business meeting:

Current cash on hand is \$50,628.85. Current obligations are \$5,455. Our chapter is very healthy. The following are the recommended 2023 end of year donations:

- \$1,000 Green Springs Title I
- \$2,000 Jenkins Arboretum
- \$3,500 ASA General Fund
- \$500 Kirkwood Church
- \$7,000 Total donations**

¹ Outstanding obligations of \$5,455 (Meadowlark).

NV-ASA 2020-2023 Expenses and 2023-2024 Budgets

Category	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
INCOME	\$8,817.10	\$16,372.99	\$11,090.21	\$18,583.32	\$15,500.00	\$8,715.00
Interest Income	\$224.10	\$219.99	\$73.46	\$57.21	\$100.00	\$200.00
Dues	\$0.00	\$665.00	\$750.00	\$715.00	\$600.00	\$650.00
Donations	\$597.00	\$447.00	\$27.75	\$168.60	\$300.00	\$300.00
Sales	\$7,996.00	\$15,041.00	\$10,239.00	\$17,642.51	\$14,500.00	\$7,565.00
Fall Sale	\$1,068.00	\$2,620.00	\$1,891.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bonsai Society	\$247.00	\$1,613.00	\$1,751.00	\$2,024.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Member Only	\$6,224.00	\$6,440.00	\$2,580.00	\$1,417.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,500.00
Meadowlark	\$457.00	\$4,368.00	\$2,888.00	\$5,028.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,129.00	\$703.00	\$0.00	\$65.00
Convention		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,470.51	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
EXPENSES	\$11,101.79	\$14,150.07	\$21,156.28	\$5,217.12	\$11,630.00	\$8,715.00
Convention	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative	\$602.87	\$1,139.32	\$637.39	\$449.48	\$850.00	\$585.00
Mailings	\$65.90	\$55.00	\$11.60	\$66.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$612.38	\$184.24	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$25.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82.68	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Website	\$464.52	\$94.85	\$32.99	\$100.99	\$300.00	\$200.00
CC/Bank Fees	\$72.45	\$251.17	\$168.48	\$125.09	\$250.00	\$150.00
Zoom	\$0.00	\$125.92	\$157.40	\$157.40	\$125.00	\$160.00
Clipper	\$357.99	\$254.39	\$0.00	\$252.25	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$4,500.00	\$6,835.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00
Hospitality	\$26.88	\$40.68	\$200.95	\$39.74	\$400.00	\$200.00
Insurance	\$477.00	\$477.00	\$477.00	\$477.00	\$480.00	\$480.00
Programs	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$150.00
Honorarium	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$150.00
Meadowlark	\$68.55	\$430.00	\$288.80	\$502.80	\$400.00	\$500.00
Commission	\$68.55	\$430.00	\$288.80	\$502.80	\$400.00	\$500.00
Member Sales	\$56.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Propagation	\$4,011.75	\$3,823.68	\$2,552.14	\$3,495.85	\$3,000.00	\$2,800.00
Supplies	\$3,003.75	\$3,378.46	\$2,477.14	\$2,409.71	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Purchases	\$1,008.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$1,022.61	\$2,000.00	\$800.00
Barcodes		\$445.22	0	\$63.53	\$0.00	\$0.00

Pecan Pie Cookies

2 *eggs*

1 c. *packed brown sugar*

1/2 c. *melted margarine*

1 c. *flour*

1 c. *chopped pecans*

Combine - all ingredients in bowl, mixing lightly

Pour - into greased muffin cups.

Bake - 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes for large 15 minutes for small.

Yield - 12 large or 36 small cookies.

*The above is the original recipe - **I add a 1/2 to 1 tsp butter/vanilla flavoring or vanilla flavoring to give a richer taste.**

*It also makes more than 36 cookies when I use my Pampered Chef cookie scoop (one tablespoon size) in a mini muffin pan. It is a #40 cookie scoop if yours is numbered.

*Depending on how your oven works the small cookies may only takes about 15 minutes to cook. **The second tray always seems to cook faster for me as well.**