



The Azalea Clipper

Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event will be a talk by **Dr. Ajit Thakur** on Kurume azaleas.

It will be held 17 March 1:30-4 pm at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

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 with Speaker **Dr. Ajit Thakur** 17 March 1:30 4:00 pm Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

The next chapter meeting will be held on 17 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be **Dr. Ajit Thakur** who will give a presentation on Kurume azaleas.



Aioi (Fairy Queen) – Photo C. Beck

Dr. Thakur is an expert on Kurume and Satsuki azaleas and has

written many articles in publications, including ***The Azalean***, and given numerous presentations on Kurume azaleas to various garden groups and others.

Kurume azaleas are hybrids of three evergreen species from Kurume, Japan. They were either collected (from natural hybrids) or hybridized in the Kurume City area of Japan.

Kurume are one of the four major evergreen hybrid groups from Japan. Kurume, the Mucronatum, the Hirado and the Satsuki have bloom times in that order from earliest to latest. Among the four groups, Kurume azaleas are the smallest flowering and leaf plants. They are hardy to Zone 7 and higher, with a few hardy in microclimates of Zone 6. They range in color from white to red. Because of the small flowers, the Kurume are the most floriferous of these four groups.

The discussion will be concentrated on the strictness of the definition, the origin, and the passage of this group to the West.

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17 March Chapter meeting - continued

There will be representative photographs of some of these plants and discussion of the further development in the 21st century. Some representative displays of Kurume Azalea gardens will be shown at the end for azalea lovers who intend on visiting Japan during their blooming season. Most of this discussion with some photographs, are contained in a two-part sequence of work done by **Dr. Thakur** and **Carolyn Beck** in *The Azalean* in 2022.

For those not able to attend in person, the presentation will be broadcast via Zoom. Instructions for accessing the presentation are at the end of this newsletter.

Kurume Cuttings

Chapter members **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** have a large number of different Kurume varieties in dedicated garden beds at their home in Springfield. They will bring several listings of their collection and invite you to visit in the early blooming season when the Kurume are in bloom. If you are interested in cuttings, you may mark the plants, and return in July or August to harvest the cuttings.

President's Message

Well, it's winter, it's spring. It's winter, no, it's spring. And now we are back to winter, but I cannot vouch for what we will have tomorrow. I'm confused, the daffodils are confused, and my cherry tree bloomed in December and again for Valentine's day. Don't know what it has planned for April. So, the only thing I am sure about is that I will be at Kirkwood Presbyterian at 1:30 for the Azalea meeting on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Ajit will be speaking about the beautiful Kurume azaleas.

We have our two sales at Meadowlark coming up on April 27 and May 4. Some of our core group of volunteers will not be available both days and we must have some friendly enthusiasts to help set up, share knowledge, and help others select new plants for their gardens. These are our only two sales this year and we rely on them to fund our donations to various garden related organizations. Here is a link for a [Signup Genius](#) or give me a call and let me know what day(s) and times you are able to be there. Come for an hour or come all day and keep me company. It's always a lot of fun, and **even I** know more than most of the garden visitors who purchase our plants, so anyone in our group is qualified as a "specialist."



Azalea Society of America Convention – Auburn, AL 2-4 April

It's not too late to sign up for this year's convention. The convention preview is at <https://play.soundslides.com/885wYRKR>. The website for the convention is <https://azaleas.org/convention-2024/>. **Registration after 1 March will incur an additional fee of \$50.**

Garden Photos

In past years we have featured photos from members' gardens in both the monthly message and **The Azalea Clipper**. If you have photos of your garden which you are willing to share, send them to the editor at rickfbauer@gmail.com.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Plant Sale – April 27 and May 4

The chapter will be holding our first two plant sales of the season at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on April 27 and May 4. 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.

These sales cannot be accomplished without the assistance of chapter volunteers.



2023 Meadowlark Plant Sale – photo C. Beck

This is a wonderful 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 either or both of these days, please let **Barb Kirkwood** know at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958 or use [Signup Genius](#):

Brookside Gardens Azalea and Rhododendron Tours – April 30 and 2 May

Keely Shaughnessy, a member of Brookside Gardens' staff, will be leading a walking tour of Brookside Gardens' late spring blooming shrubs and deciduous plants. You will explore the colorful collection of azaleas and rhododendrons while learning how to incorporate them into your own home garden.

Tours will be held on Tuesday, April 30th 1:00-2:15 pm or Thursday, May 2nd, 10-11:15 am. Tour costs are \$12 for the general public or \$10 for Friends of Brookside Gardens.

Registration may be done by clicking [register](#).

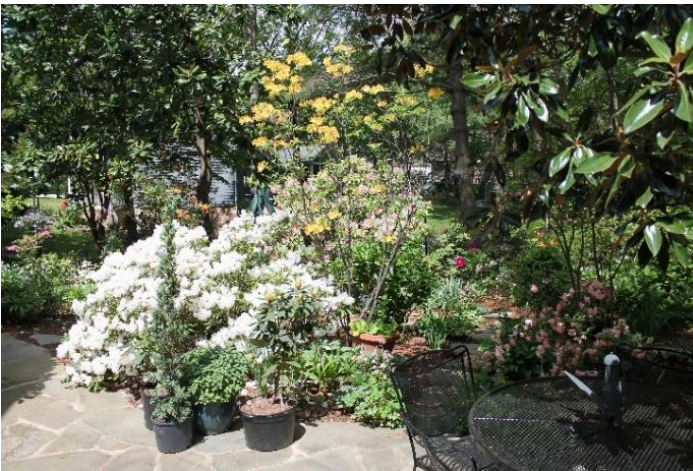
Attendees should meet at the Visitor Center entrance.

Brookside Gardens
1800 Glenallan Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

**American Rhododendron Society District 9 Meeting – Annapolis, MD
28-30 April**



McWhorter Garden



Segree Garden

The Potomac Valley Chapter (PVC) of the ARS has extended an invitation to our chapter to attend their District 9 Meeting in Annapolis, MD. Among the activities planned are garden visits to the McWhorter, Segree, and Bradshaw gardens as well as the gardens at Historic London Town and Gardens. A Marshy Point Legacy Garden was recently established at London Town.

Scheduled speakers are **Don Hyatt** giving a talk on "The Marshy Point Azaleas" and **Tony Dove** giving a talk on "Landscaping and London Town Gardens."

The all-inclusive cost for the meeting is \$210. Lodging will be at the Country Inn and Suites by Radisson in Annapolis. The conference rate is \$99 per night and includes breakfast. This rate is available until 31 March.

This is a terrific opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. More information is available at <http://www.arspvc.org/2024/index.html>.

Editor's note: I have been to both the Segree and McWhorter gardens, and they are beautiful. I have also heard great things about the Bradshaw garden.

Sad News – Dianne Gregg

We were just made aware that former chapter member **Dianne Gregg** passed away on 12 February. **Dianne** was a member of a number of horticultural organizations in addition to the Azalea Society. One of Bob Stewart's azaleas was named in her honor. She was also an expert in art glass. Her full obituary is viewable at the link below:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/dianne-gregg-obituary?id=54400495>

Calendar for 2024

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Mar 17 1:30 – 4:00 pm	Meeting with speaker Dr. Ajit Thakur	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Apr 2-5	ASA National Convention	ASA	Auburn, Alabama
Apr 27	Meadowlark Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
Apr 28-30	District 9 Meeting	PVC-ARS	Annapolis, MD
Apr 30 1-2:15 pm	Brookside Gardens Tour	Brookside Gardens	Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD
May 2 10-11:15a am	Brookside Gardens Tour	Brookside Gardens	Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD
May 4	Meadowlark Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Garden
Jul 14 1:30 – 4:00 pm	Cutting and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Sep 21	Fall Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Beck House
Oct 6 1:30 – 4:00 pm	Fall Meeting w Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

Zoom session login information

To join the meeting via Zoom, click on the link below and login with the meeting ID and Passcode.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87614230946?pwd=weXg7WLbqTwmlzsYgFIBta7S95yDMq.1>

Meeting ID: 876 1423 0946

Passcode: 424099

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**.