

April 2024 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Spring has finally arrived! We're in prime time for our chapter and for all plant lovers. We started the season with our first meeting of the year on 17 March when we heard an excellent presentation on Kurume azaleas by **Dr. Ajit Thakur**. A large contingent of chapter members will be at the ASA convention in Auburn, AL the first week of April. Finally, we will have our first azalea sales the end of April and beginning of May at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. We hope to have a large turnout of chapter volunteers to help run the events.



Meeting with Speaker 17 March

Our first meeting of the year included an excellent presentation on Kurume azaleas by chapter member **Dr. Ajit Thakur**. **Ajit** gave a comprehensive talk which ranged from taxonomy to history to pictures of example Kurumes and gardens where they can be seen.



Dr. Thakur gives the Kurume presentation

We had a large attendance with over 30 members physically in attendance and 10 more attending via Zoom. A copy of the presentation is on our chapter website at Chapter>Meeting Minutes or by clicking on <https://nv-asa.org/meeting-minutes/>



Some of the plants available in the exchange

In addition to the presentation, the chapter held another of our popular plant exchanges. We had a large and excellent selection of plants to include not only azaleas, but a number of hellebores and other companion plants. While we call these exchanges, everyone in attendance is eligible to participate whether or not they provided plants to exchange.

As always, we had a delicious selection of refreshments thanks to our hospitality chairwoman, **Sue Hedrick**, assisted by **Jim Hedrick**.

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

The chapter has a number of members attending the Society convention in Auburn, AL. A report on the convention and pictures will be in next month's message.

Klimavicz Legacy Garden Workday – April 9

The Northern Virginia chapter will hold its first workday on the Klimavicz Legacy garden at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna VA 22182 at 9 AM on Tuesday, April 9. Bring garden gloves and clothing that will help protect you from some of the plants we might need to remove, such as wild roses. We will also need some shovels and pruners. Tools do need to be clean. We will have alcohol for sterilization. Each of us needs to fill out two forms that we will provide when you arrive. Please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958 if you can volunteer for a few hours.

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 from 10am to 3pm (rain dates are April 28 and May 5). 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. Setup will begin at 8:30am and tear down will be after 3pm.



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 for any amount of time on either or both of these days, please contact **Maria Haas** at mhhaas@pm.me or (267) 485-6644 or **Barb Kirkwood** 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

Garden Photos

In past years we have featured photos from members' gardens in both the monthly message and **The Azalea Clipper**. Most of our gardens will be entering prime time soon. Don't be shy...if you have photos of your garden which you are willing to share, send them to the corresponding editor at rickfbauer@gmail.com.

New Members

We welcome **Derrick** and **Audrey Grace Garvin** to the chapter. They are from Alexandria, VA and joined at our March meeting.

Calendar of Upcoming Events –

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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Apr 2-4	National Convention	ASA	Auburn, Alabama
Apr 9 9am - ?	Klimavicz Legacy Garden workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens
Apr 27 (Rain date 28 April)	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens
May 4 (Rain date 5 May)	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens
May 17	Azalea sale to Bonsai Society	NV-ASA	Beck house
Jul 14 1:30-4 pm	Cutting and Plant Exchange plus garden presentations	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Sep 21	Fall Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Beck House
Oct 6 1:30-4 pm	Fall Meeting w Speaker and Plant Exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Dec 8 1-4 pm	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

Other Activities/Notes –

Satsukis for Sale – Chapter member **Lewie Phillips** has rooted Satsuki azalea cuttings for sale. Rooted in 2.25" pots. There are too many varieties to list. Email him for a list and pricing at dr.lewie@yahoo.com.

Carla Azaleas Wanted – Lewie Phillips is also looking for any/all Carla varieties, either in pots or cuttings. If you can provide either, contact him at dr.lewie@yahoo.com.

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.