

May 2024 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Chapter and society activities have gotten into full swing this month. The chapter was well represented at the society convention in Auburn, AL in early April. This was followed by a workday and a plant sale at Meadowlark Botanic Gardens. Finally, some of our members accepted the kind offer of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society to attend their District 9 meeting in Annapolis. With our members working in their gardens, this has been a very busy month.



Pruning Workshop at Meadowlark Botanical Garden 26 March

By Barb Kirkwood

Carolyn Beck, Ralph Habegger, and Barb Kirkwood were at Meadowlark Garden in March to give a demonstration on how to do a hard prune or rejuvenation prune of overgrown azaleas. Meadowlark has a small meadow area just downhill from the Klimavicz Legacy garden that is ringed with some old, large azaleas. The staff at the garden was interested in some rejuvenation pruning to bring them back into good form. We were all intrigued at the presentation by **Barbara Bullock** on the rejuvenation pruning that was done at the National Arboretum on the 75-year-old Glenn Dale azaleas. After the request from Meadowlark, all three of us did some research on best practices and spoke with **Barbara** on the experience.



Carolyn and Ralph demonstrate pruning techniques – photo B. Kirkwood

We started by clearing away weeds and vines so we could begin to see the structure of the plant. **Carolyn** and **Ralph** talked about the very old, thick branches, those that crossed, and those growing straight up as good candidates to remove first. Because of their size, large pruners or saws were used. After the removal of these first selections, choices could be made to select the best of various branches. Ralph mentioned how he thought of the big plants just as he did his little bonsai trees when removing branches that would open up the plants to more sunshine. When finished, the smaller, interesting branches were left. They did experiment with pruning one plant that had been severely damaged by a tree fall and taking it down to about one foot. It will be interesting to check it out next year. Though the pruned azaleas will not have extensive blooms this spring, they will be healthier and more attractive the following year.

After demonstrating on two azaleas, the staff and volunteers were guided through pruning of other plants. The plan for the garden is to select some plants for pruning each year. As the area is rejuvenated, the garden may consider adding some named plants donated by our chapter in addition to identifying an area for a new Stewart Legacy Garden.

What a great collaboration between our chapter and Meadowlark Garden.

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

Sixteen-chapter members, as well as a number of associate members, attended the society's annual convention in Auburn, AL in early April. After heavy rainfall the first evening, the weather was sunny, but cool for the rest of the convention.

The first day of the convention an "Azaleas 101" seminar was conducted at the College of Forestry on the Auburn University campus. These seminars are becoming a standard part of conventions and introduce attendees to the society and to azaleas. The day also consisted of registration, the society board meeting, a plant sale, and the welcome reception.



Plant sale setup.



Alabamense Chapter President John Torbert gives an orientation talk at Davis Arboretum

In the afternoon we visited the Greenleaf and Rogers gardens, both privately owned. We went back to the hotel for the plant sale after which we bussed out to the Crooked Oaks Pavilion in nearby Notasulga, AL where we had a buffet dinner and talks by Dr. **Charles Mitchell** on Historic Land Use of the South and by **Patrick Thompson** who gave us a talk on Alabama Biodiversity.

On the third day of the convention, we took the hour-long bus ride back into the Eastern Time Zone when we traveled to Callaway Gardens, GA. During this full day event, we took a tram tour through various portions of the garden and had a box lunch at an onsite pavilion. While some of the azaleas were past prime, there were still a considerable number in bloom.

The second day consisted of garden tours. We first toured the Davis Arboretum, a 13.5-acre arboretum at Auburn University. The azaleas, including a large number of deciduous varieties, were in full bloom. This was followed by lunch at the Botanic restaurant/nursery in neighboring Opelika, AL. We had a delicious box lunch in their open-air courtyard and then had time to shop in their nursery.



Memory Garden across from Davis Arboretum



Some of the Northern Virginia Chapter members and associate members in attendance – photo D. Lanclos

That evening we had our banquet/annual meeting at the Ag Heritage Pavilion at Auburn, University, where new officers were announced, and awards were given. We also had two excellent presentations. The first was by **Sam Pryor** on *Pollinators and Pollination Success* and the second by our own **Joe Klimavicz** who gave an informational and sometimes humorous talk on his hybrids and garden titled *Developing New Azalea Hybrids*.

Finally, **Tara Spears** from Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA gave us a presentation on next year's convention based at Jenkins. It looks like it will be another excellent convention which currently includes visiting six of the exceptional gardens in the Brandywine Valley of Pennsylvania.

Friday was departure day. Breakfast was provided for those still in attendance. We were also visited by a number of Alabama representatives including the Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives and three state senators. During this visit a ceremonial check was presented to the convention organizers. This money was from the state Mid-State Resource Conservation and Development Council.

This year's convention was excellent, and we thank the members of the Alabamense Chapter who sponsored the convention.

More photos from the convention are located at the end of this message.

Klimavicz Legacy Garden Workday – April 9



The chapter held its first workday on the Klimavicz Legacy garden at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on April 9. **Paul and Carolyn Beck, Ralph Habegger, Joe Klimavicz, Barb Kirkwood, and Leo Garcia** worked to spruce up the legacy bed. They removed weeds, added some companion plants, and gave the azaleas a feeding of Holly Tone. As we continue to work with Meadowlark, we hope to start a Stewart Legacy Garden in the future.



Title Slide of Joe Klimavicz's presentation - photo S. Bauer



Convention organizers accompanied by members of the Alabama Legislature, ASA Board Members and staff of the Mid-State RCD posing with a mockup of the check from the RCD to Alabamense Chapter - photo S. Bauer

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Plant Sale – April 27 and May 11 (change)

The chapter held its first plant sale of the year on 27 April at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Vienna, VA.

While the weather forecast for Saturday was good all week, it changed to rain on Friday. Nevertheless, we decided to conduct the sale on Saturday.

We had a great turnout of members to help with the sale. Despite the bad weather and ending the sale two hours before originally scheduled, we had great results. The chapter sold 109 plants with a gross receipt of \$2,057. Thanks to all the chapter members who assisted with the sale on April 27th.



April 27th Chapter Plant Sale at Meadowlark Botanical Garden

Based on the weather projection for 4 May, we have decided to move the second sale to Saturday 11 May. If you are available to help for any amount of time on 11 May, please contact **Maria Haas** at mhhaas@pm.me or (276) 484-6644 or **Barb Kirkwood** at kirkwoodb@aol.com or (703) 268-6958 or use [Signup Genius](#). **Setup will begin at 8:30am and tear down will be after 3pm.**

Garden Photos

In past years we have featured photos from members' gardens in both the monthly message and *The Azalea Clipper*. 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 would like to welcome the following new members. Charles Baker is from Wayne, PA and Leonardo Garcia is from Falls Church, VA.

Azalea Pruning

We need assistance in pruning some of the chapter azaleas. This pruning will occur mornings starting on May 6th. If you're able to assist or if you need more information, contact Carolyn Beck at carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com.

Calendar of Upcoming Events –

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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
May 11 (Rain date 12 May)	Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Gardens
May 18	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.

Pots Available – **Carolyn Beck** has a large number of 4-inch pots and 15-cell trays to share. If you are interested in any of these items, contact **Carolyn** at carolyn.f.beck@gmail.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.

ASA Convention photos. All photos by **Rick Bauer** unless otherwise stated.



Convention Hotel



Dr. Greenleaf welcomes us to his garden.



Barb Kirkwood at Azalea Trail at Callaway Gardens - photo Carolyn Beck



Wedding Cake at Greenleaf Garden - photo Carolyn Beck



Chapter members on the Tram at Callaway Gardens - photo Carol Power



Lunch at Botanic



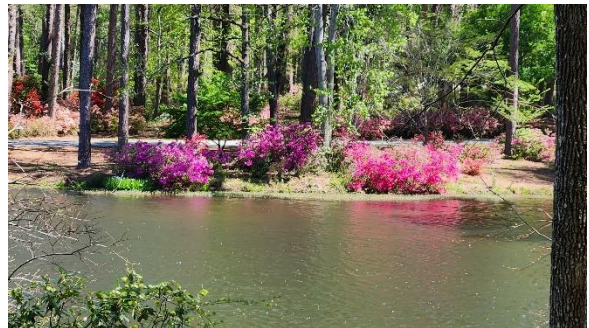
Lake at the Azalea Bowl at Callaway



Butterfly at Callaway Butterfly House



Dinner at Crooked Oaks Pavilion



Azaleas at Callaway Gardens



Ida Cason Callaway Memorial Chapel - photo Janet B. Miller



Callaway Azalea Bowl - photo Janet B. Miller



Banquet at the Ag Heritage Pavilion



Waterfall at Crooked Oaks Pavilion - photo Carolyn Beck



Bill Miller and Buddy Lee at the Galle Memorial Plaque at Callaway - photo Susan Bauer



Paul and Carolyn Beck at Callaway - photo Susan Bauer



Callaway Discovery Center - Photo William C. Miller III



Title Slide of Sam Pryor's Presentation - photo William C. Miller III



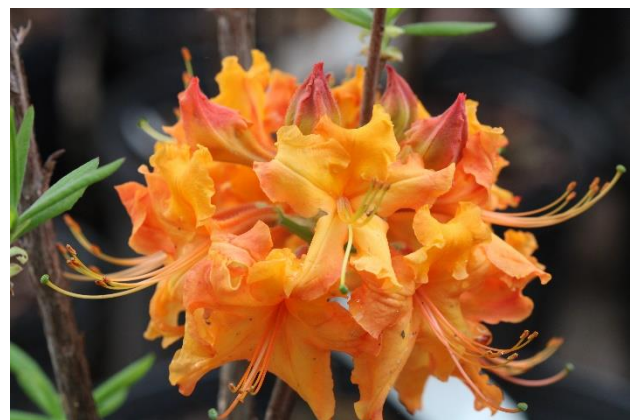
Botanic Nursery



Rick and Susan Bauer at the Callaway Discovery Center - photo Carolyn Beck



Dave and Leslie Nanney at Callaway - photo Susan Bauer



Tiger Azalea at Davis Arboretum - photo Carolyn Beck