

February 2025 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Mother Nature is making her presence known in the Northern Virginia area and other parts of the country this winter with a number of significant snowfalls. I know that many of us are looking forward to the return of spring.



Our chapter activities will resume in March with a meeting at Kirkwood Presbyterian. Additionally, we'll have our annual convention in the nearby Brandywine Valley of Pennsylvania. We hope you'll be able to join us.

Chapter Meeting with speaker Don Hyatt 23 March 2025

The chapter will hold a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society on 23 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

The speaker will be **Don Hyatt** who will be giving a talk on "Art and Accents in the Garden." The talk will include a segment on sculpture, including images from Brookgreen Garden in South Carolina. It will also include numerous photos of whimsical items that **Don** has photographed in different gardens over the years.

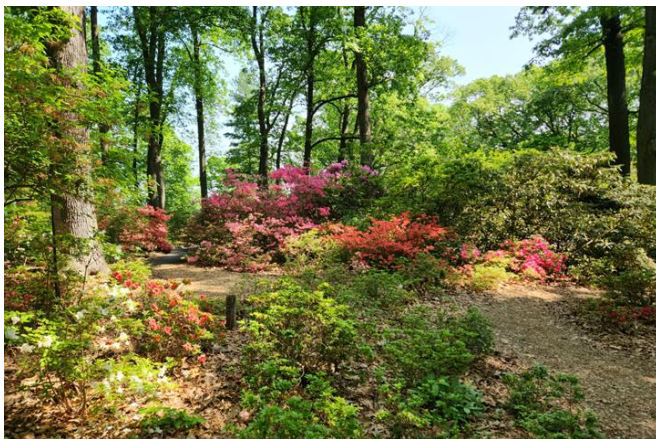
For those who are unable to attend in person, the presentation will be viewable via Zoom.

In addition, we will be holding one of our always popular plant exchanges. Mark this on your calendars. More information will be provided in the March issue of ***The Azalea Clipper***.



Norm Beaudry in front of a garden woodpecker sculpture Photo - D. Hyatt

2025 ASA National Convention – Brandywine Valley, PA 7-9 May 2025



Holly Springs Legacy Garden Jenkins Arboretum - photo R. Bauer

It's time to make your reservations for the upcoming society convention in Malvern, PA. Our friends at Jenkins Arboretum in Deven, PA graciously offered to sponsor this convention.

For the information of new members, we have had a great relationship with Jenkins over the past few years and have collaborated closely with them to establish a Holly Springs Legacy Garden and also to increase their inventory of Satsuki azaleas.

The co-chairs of the convention, **Steve Wright** and **Tara Spears** are also members of the Northern Virginia Chapter.

The dates for the convention are May 7-9. Put it on your calendar. **Registrations must be made by April 8th, after which time a \$50 fee will be applied.** A full refund is available only for cancellations made before March 8, 2025.

The convention will be held at The Desmond Hotel in Malvern. Parking is free and a full hot breakfast is included with your reservation. 80 rooms have been reserved with a special convention rate of \$169 per night Wednesday night through Friday night. 20 rooms have been held at the convention rate for both Tuesday night and Saturday night for those wishing to extend their stay. **Rooms must be reserved by April 8th to receive that rate.** Reservations made after that date will be subject to room availability and higher pricing.

You can get more information at this [link](#).

There are some beautiful gardens on the agenda including Winterthur, Jenkins, Mt. Cuba, and Chanticleer. There are also a number of other gardens and other sights worth seeing in the area if you want to extend your stay.

Linus Chen provided additional information on local venues: "For those of you planning to attend the ASA Convention in May, the United Kingdom YouTube channel "Garden Masterclass" has a video on "Private Gardens of Philadelphia" (a recently published book by **Nicole Juday**). It features the photographer and author; the latter quickly mentions three gardens, including **David Culp's** "Brandywine Cottage" garden. (**David** also organizes the March Galanthus Gala). Though the video doesn't feature azaleas, hopefully the video will get you excited about the ASA convention. The video can be accessed by [clicking here](#)."

Nicole Juday will be speaking at Hillwood Estate in Washington, DC at the end of February. Click on the title for more information:

[The Secret World of Philadelphia's Private Gardens with Nicole Juday](#)

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m.)

Garden historian **Nicole Juday** discusses the character-driven gardens she discovered while writing her book *Private Gardens of Philadelphia*.

Nuccio's Nursery Fire

All of us are aware of the devastating fires in Southern California. The Eaton fire destroyed substantial portions of the city of Altadena, CA. Nuccio's azalea and camellia nursery is in Altadena. **Dave Nanney** has spoken to **Jim Nuccio** who reported that all their buildings and equipment were destroyed in the fire. Miraculously, most of their inventory of azaleas and camellias was relatively unscathed. With the dry weather and the lack of water, their survival



Rick Bauer with Tom Nuccio Jan 2022 - photo S. Bauer



Tom with a beautiful azalea from their nursery - photo S. Bauer

was also in danger. Fortunately, a local water service, Water Truck Service Ramos, provided a truck load of water for the plants at no charge. This was just a start. Normal water sources remain unavailable. No rain has occurred, and the plants remain at risk. This may only hasten what was to be their last year before the sale of the 90-year-old nursery.

Tom Nuccio is currently hospitalized for an unrelated non-life-threatening illness.

Maria Haas has provided more links on the nursery. A GoFundMe page HAD been instituted for them. They were very appreciative but weren't comfortable accepting the donations and asked that the page be

taken down. **Kathy Liu**, a local member of the Camellia Society, is trying to facilitate access to the nursery and will help organize a cleanup and sale of the plants when access is allowable. I will pass on the information when received.

<https://www.nucciosnurseries.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/895887780499234/permalink/8976344952453436/?>

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again! Many of our chapter members have memberships which expired on 31 December. Those members in that category should have received a message from the society treasurer advising them that they needed to renew their membership. Additionally, your membership expiration date is on the envelope containing the winter issue of ***The Azalean***.

Please renew your membership as soon as possible. We hope you renew, however if you do not intend on renewing, please contact **Pat Insley** at membership@azaleas.org so that we don't have to keep bothering you with reminders.

Membership dues are \$30.00 per year with ***The Azalean*** in hard copy, and \$25.00 for online-only access to ***The Azalean***. There are several ways of paying your dues which are shown on the society website at <https://www.azaleas.org/joinus/>. Memberships can easily be renewed by calling our membership administrator, **Pat Insley**, at (703) 597-7539 and providing a credit card number. You may also mail your membership renewal check, made out to **ASA**, to:

Pat Insley, Membership Administrator
13035 Farthingale Drive
Herndon, VA 20171-2622

New Members

We would like to welcome **George Swift** to the chapter. **George** lives in Harrisonburg, VA.

2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events –

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Sunday 23 March 1:30-4pm	Meeting with speaker Don Hyatt and plant exchange	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Saturday 19 April- rain 4/26 or 4/27	Meadowlark Azalea Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Garden
May 7-9	ASA Convention	Jenkins Arboretum	Jenkins Arboretum, Devon, Pennsylvania
June 5 - 8, 2025	ARS Convention	ARS	Nova Scotia, Canada
Sunday 13 July	Cutting Exchange and Member's yards presentations	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Saturday 20 September	Plant Sale	NV-ASA	Beck Home
Sunday 2 November	Fall Meeting with speaker Kathy Jentz	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
Sunday 7 December	Holiday Social and Annual Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

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 corresponding editor at rickfbauer@gmail.com.

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***. We are also always looking for articles for ***The Azalea Clipper***. They can be on any azalea related subject (e.g., gardens (public or private), hybridizers, companion plants etc.). Please consider authoring an article. Contact **Rick Bauer** at rickfbauer@gmail.com or 757-771-4446 if you have any questions.

The Azalean – The editor of ***The Azalean*** relies on member submissions of articles of interest to the general **ASA** membership. If you have an article to share, send it to theazalean@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word. Illustrations are highly encouraged and should be at least 4 x 6 inches at 300 dpi.