

April 2025 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Spring is finally here for most of you. For your editor it is the beginning of fall down under since we are currently in Australia. Fortunately, through the powers of Zoom, we were able to "attend" the last chapter meeting and hear **Don Hyatt's** excellent presentation.



The next big event is the society convention in the Brandywine Valley. We're coming up to the deadline for registration and special rates at the convention hotel. This is a convention which shouldn't be missed. Not only is it in close proximity to many of our members, but it is in an area of the country with some magnificent gardens, both as part of the convention, but also to visit on your own. This is also an area for history buffs to explore.

We will also have our first plant sale of the year at Meadowlark Gardens. This is always a great venue for selling plants and introducing the general public to our society and chapter. We rely on chapter volunteers to run our sales. Information on what's needed and how you can help is shown later in this message.

Chapter Meeting with speaker Don Hyatt 23 March 2025 – by Carolyn Beck



Figure 1, Don Hyatt presenting "Garden Art and Accents with a Bit of Whimsy", photo – K. Jentz.

We had a very nice turnout for the meeting, both in person and via Zoom, on Sunday, March 23rd. After a time for socializing and snacking on delicious treats, President **Barbara Kirkwood** made some announcements. She reminded us of our upcoming ASA Convention in Pennsylvania, May 7-9, and our plant sale at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on April 19th with rain dates of April 26th and 27th.

Our presentation was by the renowned **Don Hyatt** showing photos of Art and Accents in the Garden with a Bit of Whimsy. Images of many art forms that enhance the garden included selections from many of the gardens he has visited.

Depicted were animals and birds made from various materials, sculpture, carvings, ceramics, Japanese lanterns, planters (including sinks and toilets), trellises, arbors, furnishings, rocks, wind spinners, water features and much more.

Those who attended were provided with inspiration to add some interesting touches to their gardens. We thank **Don** for sharing his thoughts on the benefit of adding art forms to our gardens, and, as always, for entertaining us.

Thank you!

We want to give a big "Thank You" to **Mike White** of White's Nursery. He donated a large number of rooted cuttings for our chapter to use. Most will be going to this year's

convention for the plant sale.

Meadowlark Workday April 3rd (rain date April 8th)

A work day is planned at Meadowlark for the morning of Thursday, April 3rd with a rain date of Tuesday, April 8th. Please let Carolyn Beck (carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703.860-5676) know if you are able to join us to start planting the second section of the Klimavicz Legacy Garden.

Chapter Plant Sale at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens 19 April 2025

We have our one and only sale at Meadowlark Garden coming up on April 19 from 9-3 (with set up at 8 am) with rain dates for April 26 or 27. We are always looking for our newer or less active members to come be friendly enthusiasts to help set up, share knowledge, and help others select new plants for their gardens.

This sale is one of our major raisers which help fund our donations to various garden



Figure 2 Meadowlark Plant Sale – photo C. Beck

related organizations. Here is a link for a [Signup Genius](#) or give **Barb Kirkwood** a call (703-268-6958) and let her know what times you are able to be there. **To date we've only had a couple people sign up.** Please come for an hour or come all day and join the good company. It's always a lot of fun. It enables us to interact with the public to expose them to some of the beautiful varieties of azaleas not normally found in the garden shops and "big box" stores. Additionally, it introduces them to our society and chapter.

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

This is your last chance to register for the upcoming ASA National Convention in the Brandywine Valley before the registration fees increase and the special hotel rates expire on 8 April.



Figure 3 Chapter members at the Jenkins Holly Springs Legacy Garden Dedication - photo S. Bauer

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.

2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events –

Date	Event	Organization	Location
April 3 (April 8 rain date)	Meadowlark Klimavicz Legacy Garden workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Garden
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	American Rhododendron Society	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.