

The Azalea Clipper

Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event will be a meeting with speaker **Kathy Jentz**.

She will be giving a presentation on Ground Covers for Azaleas and Rhododendron. The presentation will also be broadcast via **Zoom starting at 2pm EST**.

It will be held 2 November 1:30-4pm **EST** 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 presentation by Kathy Jentz on Ground Covers for Azaleas and Rhododendron on 2 November 1:30 - 4pm – *NOTE: Daylight Savings Time Ends 2 Nov – set clocks back one hour*

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by Chapter member and editor of the society journal, *The Azalean*, **Kathy Jentz**. **Kathy's** presentation will be on Ground Covers for Azaleas and Rhododendron.

In addition to *The Azalean*, **Kathy** is the editor and publisher of the award-winning Washington Gardener Magazine. She is also the editor of two other plant society journals, *Water Garden Journal* (IWGS) and *Fanfare* (Daylily

Society Region 3). She hosts the popular GardenDC Podcast.

Kathy has presented programs at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the Philadelphia Flower Show, U.S. Botanic Garden, the History Society of Washington, DC and many other venues.

In addition to the presentation, we will have a selection of ground covers available for a nominal cost. A list of plants available for sale is at the end of this newsletter. **Kathy** will also have copies of her book *Groundcover Revolution* to sign and sell - they are \$27 each and she can take card, Apple Pay, check, cash, etc. She will also sign copies of the book if someone bought them elsewhere and wants to bring theirs to the meeting.

The presentation will be broadcast via Zoom **starting at 2pm EST** and will be recorded for later viewing. Instructions for access are at the end of this newsletter.



Native Woodland Phlox underneath azaleas at the National Arboretum
- photo Kathy Jentz

President's Message

Mother Nature has certainly not been kind to us this year. Our group has taken quite the hit on club plants, and I keep hearing from many of you that your azaleas in your yards have suffered. We can only hope for a better season for next year.

Meadowlark Gardens has issued an invitation to our members who have participated in any of the work projects on the Klimavicz garden to attend their Fall Appreciation lunch on Thursday, October 23 at 12 in the Atrium at Meadowlark. They will be providing lunch, but you may bring a dish to share if you would like. The RSVP deadline is October 15. If interested, call me or drop me a line and I will send you the link.

We are at a deadline for leadership for next year. I have approached a number of our members to consider taking on the presidency for next year. It could even be a shared position. The main job is to preside over the four yearly meetings (Spring and Fall speakers, cutting exchange and holiday party). The VP arranges the speakers. We are now down to one plant sale a year and our members come out to help set up and run the sale. The president writes a message for our Clippers. It is a most enjoyable volunteer position and only requires a little background organization. Please step up and send me a note.

Member, **Bill Miller**, has recommended a website to our members that provides all sorts of useful information about garden pests, weeds and critters. It is meant for commercial landscape and nursery businesses but as a member of a horticulture group, the Azalea Society, we are eligible to participate. You get a Friday newsletter with what is currently out there potentially bothering our plants or could use some attention. The web address will take you to a page with current and past issues as well as a signup button.

<https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/ornamental-horticulture/ipmnet/ipm-alerts-landscape-nursery/>

As we begin our end of season garden tasks, don't forget our last speaker of the year on November 2, our own member and editor of *The Azalean* and *Washington Gardener*, Kathy Jentz. She will be speaking about Ground Covers for Azaleas and Rhododendrons. We have invited a number of other garden clubs to join us, so please say hello to faces you do not recognize at the meeting.



Help Wanted – Chapter President

Friendly person, enjoys a good time in the garden, and willing to do a little organizing. Time commitment is about one hour per week or two, averaged over the year (outside of the meetings). Should have a welcoming smile and enjoy eating delicious refreshments at meetings. A little gardening knowledge is a plus but not needed as you will be surrounded with friendly, helpful, knowledgeable members to fill in anywhere needed. Green thumb not necessary. Position available only for a person willing to have a little fun. Call **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958 kirkwoodb@aol.com to fill this position.

Fall Plant Sale – September 20th

The chapter held our fall plant sale at the home of **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck** on the 20th of September. While the sales were not as brisk as in the past, the chapter made \$1968 gross. We'd like to thank **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck**, **Lars Larson**, **Ralph Habegger**, **Barbara Kirkwood**, **Bill Miller**, **Carol Bruch**, **Louise** and **Don Teubner**, **Barry Sperling**, **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney**, and **Laurel Hill** for their help in preparing for the sale and assisting customers.



Preparing for the fall plant sale, l-r Carolyn Beck, Barb Kirkwood, Bill Miller, Carol Bruch – photo Paul Beck

Meadowlark Workdays – October 14th and October 21st

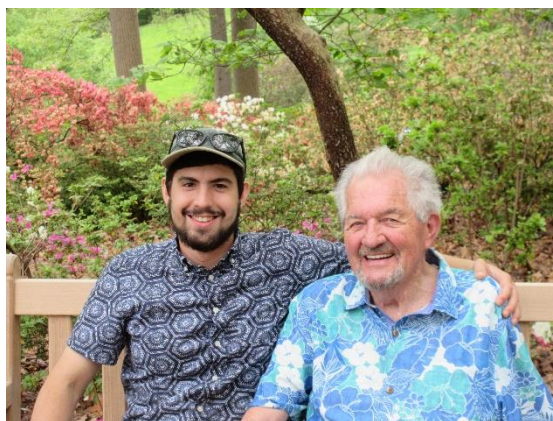
We are planning on having two workdays at Meadowlark Botanical Garden in October. Tuesday, October 14th with a rain date of Thursday the 16th and Tuesday, October 21st with a rain date of Thursday the 23rd. We will work in the garden from 9am-12:30pm.

If you are able to help on any of these days with the planting of Section B of the Klimavicz Legacy Garden, please contact Carolyn Beck (carolyn.f.beck@gmail.com or 703-860-5676).

Sad News – Pete Vines' Passing (by Rick Bauer and Carolyn Beck)

It is with great sadness that we report that chapter member and noted azalea hybridizer, **Pete Vines**, of Amelia Island, FL passed away on 5 September. **Pete** retired from the U.S. Army in 1982 as a colonel after 30 years of service. He joined the Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA in 1980.

Ronald Cassell (Pete) Vines grew up in Beckley, West Virginia. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1952 and entered the U.S. Army. He married his wife **Wilma (Peggy) Vines** in 1954. His tenure in the army took him to a variety of locations in the United States and in Asia (including tours in Korea and Vietnam). He also attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI.



Pete with Jake Summers, the designer of the Jenkins Arboretum Holly Springs Legacy Garden at the garden dedication in 2022 – photo Susan Bauer

Pete developed his love of plants from his father and grandfather. His father, **Woodrow Wilson (Buck) Vines**, was an avid gardener and loved unusual forms of azaleas, such as those with strap petals. **Pete** named one of his strap petal hybrids 'W. W. Vines' in his honor. In 1970, after **Pete** returned from his second Vietnam tour, **Buck** asked him to help him raise 500 small azaleas in his Virginia yard. Within a year, **Pete** was hooked. His

brother had an extra lot in Richmond where **Pete** moved the plants and healed them in. He started propagating these varieties.

Pete started a nursery in 1979, Vines Horticultural Garden, in Springfield, VA and started hybridizing azaleas. He named his hybrids "Holly Springs" azaleas, after the town of Holly Springs, Mississippi, near his alma mater, the University of Mississippi. His goal in developing these hybrids was to produce plants with larger blooms (greater than 3 inches), dwarf to mid-sized growth habit (3 feet or smaller in 10 years), extended bloom season, variability of bloom color and increased cold hardiness (down to -20°F). Cultivars were selected for naming after lengthy testing and rating. Over 41,000 seedlings were produced from 451 crosses.



Pete at his home in Amelia Island, FL with a sign from his nursery - photo Carolyn Beck

As part of his preparation for his hybridizing program, **Pete** collected hundreds of cultivars from other hybrid groups. From these he chose what he considered the best potential parents. Among them were selections from Back Acres, Eden, Harris, Girard, Glenn Dale, Robin Hill, Linearifolium, Linwood, Mossholder, Roher, Rutherford, Satsuki, Shammarello, Sonoma Dwarf, and Southern Indian. As he began to identify superior clones from his program, these were added to the parent pool.

His most successful cross was 'Nancy of Robinhill' x 'Shinnyo-no-tsuki'. Eleven cultivars from this pairing were named: 'Double Delight', 'Jeffery Alan', 'Nightingale', 'Orange Fluff', 'Peggy Vines', 'Pink Parfait', 'Poignant', 'Rose Gutierrez-Kolb', 'Saint Moritz', 'Virginia Vines', and 'Whipped Cream'. **Pete** declared this cross his best. By far, 'Peggy Vines' was his favorite. He was very proud of this cultivar.

Pete's nursery, Vines Horticulture Gardens, offered "rare and unusual azaleas for the discriminating collector." In spite of space constraints, in 1990, approximately 1700 varieties, including 84 of his hybrids, were available for sale. To assist his customers, he produced a yearly catalog listing cultivars, along with detailed descriptions.

In 1991, **Pete** moved to Amelia Island, FL where he continued to make crosses on a limited basis. Currently there are 102 named and registered Holly Springs varieties in the Azalea Society of America's (ASA) database. The Holly Springs



Pete with Vines family members at the 2022 Holly Springs Legacy Garden dedication - photo Rick Bauer



Pete and fellow hybridizer, Joe Klimavicz at the 2025 ASA convention – photo Jean Mauldin

azaleas were a Legacy variety in the ASA's Legacy Project. One of the output products of the project is the creation of Legacy Gardens. Jenkins Arboretum in Devon, PA was interested in developing a Holly Springs Legacy Garden and in working closely with the Northern Virginia Chapter, developed the garden, which was dedicated in May 2022. **Pete**, his friend **Jean Mauldin** and members of the **Vines** family were able to attend the dedication and meet **Jake Summers**, the Jenkins Hamilton Educational Fellow, who designed and coordinated the development of the garden.

Jenkins Arboretum sponsored and was also on the itinerary of the 2025 ASA convention. We were pleased to see **Pete** again and have the opportunity to see the growth of the garden after three years.

Pete will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. Our condolences go out to **Jean Mauldin** and the **Vines** family.

Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Last month we reported that we were finalizing the signage for the Klimavicz Legacy Garden at Meadowlark. In working with Meadowlark, we found that we needed a photo at a higher resolution than we currently have, so we have put off the finalization of the signage until the requisite photo can be taken in the spring.

Calendar for 2025

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Tuesday Oct 14 th (rain date Oct 16 th) 9am-12:30pm	Klimavicz Legacy Garden workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA
Tuesday Oct 21 st (rain date Oct 23 rd) 9am-12:30pm	Klimavicz Legacy Garden workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA
Sunday 2 November 1:30 – 4pm	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 editor at rickfbauer@gmail.com.

Groundcovers for sale, November 2nd NV Meeting

Sedum John Creech	Hosta Pandora's Box
Sedum Angelina	Geranium Max Frei OP
Viola pedate Eco Artist Patette	Epimedium Red Maximum
Viola walteri	Thalictrum kiusianum
Viola Sylvia Hart	Lysimachia japonica var. minutissima
Ajuga Chocolate Chip	Heuchera Forever Purple (Coral Bells)
Ajuga Princess Leia	Lamium purpureum Orchid Frost
Astilbe Sprite	Heuchera Spearmint (Coral Bells)
Pulmonaria Trevi Fountain	Mitchella repens (Partridgeberry)
Hosta Tiny Tears	Saxifraga stolonifera (Strawberry Begonia)

Zoom session login information

To join the meeting via Zoom, click on the link below:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/8930825140?pwd=OVhNdjhHaWpaamNGR1IQWkVEa2xxdz09>

Note: The Zoom presentation will commence at 2 pm EST. In order to preserve integrity of our Zoom meetings, from now on you must have your full name on your Zoom session. In order to check or change your name, DO NOT click on the link above; instead, launch the Zoom app first. On the Home tab, under the Sign In button, click on the "Join a meeting" link. In the first field, enter the meeting ID 893 082 5140. In the field under the meeting ID, enter your FULL NAME. Click the "Join" button. On the next screen, enter the Passcode TS7E4i. Click Join. On the next screen, click Join again. If you would like to test this before the meeting, call Paul Beck at 703-209-2219 to do a test.

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**.