

June 2025 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Many of us have just returned from a wonderful Azalea Society of America convention in Malvern, PA. The chapter was well represented with 37 of the 100 registered attendees.

Additionally, we gained five new members who were previously in At Large status. More information on the convention is below.



Azalea Society of America Convention 7-9 May

We're on the Web!
<https://www.nv-asa.org>

The society held its annual convention in Malvern, PA this year. Normally conventions are sponsored by local chapters, however since the society has no chapters in the Brandywine Valley area, Jenkins Arboretum graciously agreed to host the convention. Chapter members **Steve Wright** and **Tara Spears**, both working at Jenkins, were co-chairs of the convention. The chapter has had a great working relationship with Jenkins over the past few years, most notably in the creation of a Holly Springs Legacy Garden.

The convention was held in the Desmond Hotel in Malvern. Registration started at noon on 7 May. The convention organizers had provided a list of gardens in the area which weren't on the convention itinerary and many members took the opportunity to visit some of these gardens. The society board of directors members held their annual meeting in the afternoon, and in the evening we had a welcome reception on the back patio of the hotel.



Welcome Reception

Thursday was the first day of garden tours and we had beautiful weather. The gardens on the itinerary were [WynEden](#) (a private garden), [Chanticleer](#) and [Jenkins Arboretum](#). We had two busses, and due to parking constraints, only one bus could go to WynEden at a time, so one bus went to WynEden and one to Chanticleer in the morning and switched in the afternoon. We were all together at Jenkins Arboretum for several hours, mid-day, which allowed us to enjoy the garden, buy plants at the plant sale and have a delicious catered lunch at the Jenkins house.



WynEden



Chanticleer



Holly Springs Legacy Garden

One of the highlights at Jenkins was the Holly Springs Legacy Garden which many of us visited in 2022 for the dedication of the garden. Chapter member **Pete Vines**, the hybridizer of the Holly Springs azaleas, attended this year's convention. **Jake Summers**, the designer of the garden, had moved on to another job in the area, but was invited to return for the convention. We had worked with him in developing the garden and it was great to see him again.

The convention hosts did things a little differently this year in that the main plant sale was at Jenkins Arboretum, rather than the hotel (as is usually done). This worked out

well in that they were able to leverage the infrastructure of the existing plant shop at Jenkins without the need to man a separate plant sale at the hotel. Attendees could take the plants back to the hotel on the bus or they were delivered to the hotel. Many of the gardens visited during the convention also had their own plant sales so members had the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of plants, not just azaleas.

That evening we had buffet dinner at the hotel with two speakers. **Nicole Juday** spoke about some of the gardens in her book "A Historical View of Philadelphia's Private Gardens." **Linus Chen** previously brought this book to our attention. A [video](#) is available on YouTube. Our second speaker was **John Lonsdale** who spoke on Azalea Companion Plants. He had a number of plants available for sale after the presentation.



Pond at Winterthur

Friday we were not as lucky weatherwise as we were the day before. We had rain, sometimes heavy, in the morning. Our first garden was [Winterthur](#). This former DuPont property not only has a beautiful garden, but the main house (nine stories) now houses a beautiful collection of antiques. We had the opportunity to visit both.

When we got to Winterthur, we were given an introduction on the history of the property. Afterwards, we were on our own. They provided ample transportation on trams for those who desired it.

We had a catered lunch at Winterthur after which we went to [Mt. Cuba](#), another estate belonging to members

of the DuPont family (in this case, the Copelands). This garden focuses mainly on native plants and is a test bed for different varieties.

Friday evening we had our banquet with keynote speaker **Karel Bernady** who gave an interesting presentation on "Native Azalea Hotspots of the Northeast." We also had



Mt. Cuba with part of the Copeland House in the background

our annual meeting with the announcement of new officers and presentation of awards. Chapter member **Michael Martin Mills**, North American Registrar for the genus rhododendron and Chapter President **Barb Kirkwood** both received Distinguished Service Awards for their contributions to the society.

An announcement was made of the 2026 convention site. It was originally supposed to be Hendersonville, NC, however with the damage done by Hurricane Helene, Hendersonville has been pushed off until 2027. The convention next year will be in Athens, GA. Our new president, **Aaron Cook**, took over the reins of the society from **Charlie Andrews** who received an Exceptional Service Award from **Aaron**.

Once again we had a thoroughly enjoyable convention. We thank **Steve** and **Tara** for making it such a good experience and for sharing some of the beautiful gardens in their area. More coverage of the convention will be in an upcoming issue of **The Azalean**. There are also a large number of photos on the Azalea Society of America Facebook page.

Additional photos appear below and at the end of this newsletter.



Rick Bauer with John Bartram (aka Kirk Brown) and Ann Bartram (aka Sara Brown) – photo S. Wright



WynEden



WynEden



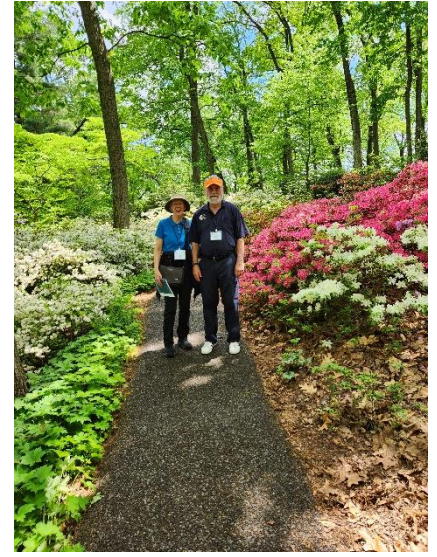
Jenkins Plant Sale



Pat Insley at WynEden



Jake Summers at the Holly Springs Legacy Garden



Bill and Janet Miller at Jenkins



Kathy Jentz at Chanticleer



Peter Iverson at Chanticleer



Tara Spears thanking convention attendees

Appalachian Mountain Hikes 14-21 June



Calendulaceum on Roan Mountain

For many years, members of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society have taken hikes in the Appalachian Mountains to view the native azaleas, rhododendron and other varieties of plants in bloom.

This year, **Charlie Andrews**, the ASA past president, is organizing the hikes. A detailed PDF describing the hike and the locations to be visited is attached to the email forwarding this monthly message.

Participants may join all or any of the

portions of the hike, however they must make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible. The itinerary contains information on the recommended hotels.

Participants need to let **Charlie** know what their plans are. He will need **cell phone numbers and emails** so he can coordinate during the trip. Weather and road closures due to Hurricane Helene may cause alterations in the plans, flexibility is key.

As in the past, the procedures are as follows:

- You may join on part or all of the itinerary. Some hikes will be easy and some strenuous.
- You must let **Charlie** know what you plan to do so he will be expecting you.
- Provide **Charlie** with your cell phone number so he can communicate, if necessary, during the trip.
- You are responsible for your own motel reservations (see the motel(s) for each base location in the detailed itinerary).
- On each day's event, they may carpool to reduce the number of vehicles.
- Plan to provide for your lunch needs while you are out each day.
- Be prepared for hiking, photographing, and all weather conditions.

Point of contact is **Charlie Andrews**, candrews@mindspring.com (770) 630-9798

Chapter Plant Sale at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens 27 April 2025

Last month we reported on the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (MBG) plant sale where we sold 82 plants for a total of \$2,123.

The same day, the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society had a display at MBG. Bonsai Society and Northern Virginia ASA chapter member **Mike Mitchell** displayed some of his bonsai azaleas. Photos by **Carolyn Beck** are below.



Barb Kirkwood with a customer



Cashier Paul Beck and Chuck Croft



Mike Mitchell with a bonsai azalea



View from Hooper Bald

New Members

The chapter gained new members at the annual convention. These are members who switched from At Large to the chapter. We welcome **Eleanor Rakonitz** from Menlo Park, CA and her daughter **Sarah Rakonitz-Stein** from Manhattan, NY. **David Bortner** joins us from West Chester, PA. Finally, many of us know **Darlene** and **Stephen Henning** from the American Rhododendron Society. They hail from Lancaster, PA.

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.

2025 Calendar of Upcoming Events –

Date	Event	Organization	Location
June 5 - 8	ARS Convention	American Rhododendron Society	Nova Scotia, Canada
June 14-21	Appalachian Mountain Hikes	ASA	Various
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

Other Activities/Notes –

Satsukis for Sale - Chapter associate member **Lewie Phillips** has Satsuki azaleas for sale. His website is satsukionline.com.

Glenn Dale and other Azaleas for Sale - Chapter associate member **Ronnie Palmer** owns Azalea Hill Nursery in White Hall, Arkansas. He has a large number of Glenn Dale azaleas as well as other Legacy varieties for sale. His website is <https://azaleahillgardens-arkansas.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***. 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.

More Convention Photos



Joe and Brenda Klimavicz at Jenkins



Dave and Leslie Nanney with Jean Mauldin and Pete Vines at the banquet



WynEden



Carol Bruch and Judy Shapleigh at Chanticleer



Paul and Carolyn Beck at Chanticleer



Barb Kirkwood at WynEden



Sitting room in the Winterthur mansion



Jeanne Hammer and Paul McWhinney at Winterthur



Laura Grant and Bob Ramik at Winterthur



Chanticleer House



Bench at Chanticleer



Jenkins Arboretum