



# The Azalea Clipper

## Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event will be our spring chapter meeting with speaker and plant exchange.

It will be held 22 March 1:00-4pm at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

Refreshments will be provided by the chapter.

## 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 Speaker 1:00-4pm – 22 March Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Our first meeting of the year will be on 22 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield.

Dr. Sally Valdes, representing the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, will be giving a presentation on pollinators.



Want to learn more about our native pollinators, the threats they face, and how to help them thrive? Dr. Valdes will explain how we can all contribute to the conservation of these species that provide us and the plants we love with vital services.

More information on the Xerces Society can be found at <https://xerces.org>

For those members unable to attend in person, the presentation will be broadcast via Zoom. Information on accessing the presentation is at the end of this message.

We will also have a plant exchange. This is an opportunity for members to share their excess plants and to add new varieties of plants to their collections. Information on how to prepare and label the plants is at the end of this message.

We hope you're able to join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in person or via Zoom.

## President's Message

Like many of you, I'm looking forward to the arrival of spring. This has seemed to be a longer and colder winter than most. The arrival of spring is accompanied by the start of our chapter programs.

The Northern Virginia chapter is the largest in the society and we have an active program of meetings with speakers, plant and cutting exchanges, support and maintenance of Legacy Gardens and promotion of azaleas with the general public through our plant sales. I'm thankful for the members who volunteer to support these activities. I would encourage more members to get involved.

The society also sponsors a convention each year. This year's convention was originally scheduled for Hendersonville, NC, however it had to be postponed until next year as some of the venues continue to recover from Hurricane Helene in 2024. The society has put together a great convention to be held in Athens, GA. I highly encourage you to register for this event. Conventions not only give you the opportunity to see some beautiful gardens and hear excellent speakers, but it also gives you the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. This is especially important to our chapter members as we are spread geographically from California to Europe and Canada to Florida.

Our first event of the year is on 22 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. I look forward to seeing you there.

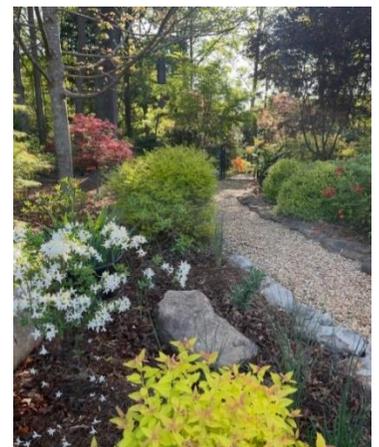


## 2026 Azalea Society Convention 12 – 15 April, Athens, Georgia

This year's Azalea Society convention will be held in Athens, Georgia. The convention was last held in Athens in 2013. There are some beautiful public and private gardens on the itinerary and some great speakers.

The hotel for the convention is the Spring Hill Marriott Athens West. The rate is \$149 per night plus taxes. **This rate is good until 30 days before the start of the convention.**

Don't miss out on attending. Registration is now open. More information on the convention program and links to convention and hotel reservations are on the [ASA website](#).



Floyd Garden

## Legacy Project - Klimavicz and Stewart Azaleas at the National Arboretum

The Legacy Project was originally started in the Northern Virginia Chapter to preserve and promote the hybrids developed by chapter hybridizers. It was inspired by the efforts of **Carolyn Beck** and was later adopted as a project of the Azalea Society.

For over a year, **Carolyn** has been working with the U.S. National Arboretum to place a number of Legacy varieties at the Arboretum. We recently received confirmation that the Arboretum will be adding several Klimavicz and Stewart varieties to their collection. They will also likely be sharing copies of these varieties with other scientific institutions.



Rebecca Taffet - photo Joe Klimavicz

The varieties to be included are:

Klimavicz: Isabella Maria, Mary Lou Dority, Ryleigh Paige, Rebecca Taffet

Stewart: Bobbi McCeney, Debra White, Dr. David Creech, Mary Rutley, Monique Marie, Sheri Ann, Susan H. Bauer

We are excited to have these varieties introduced at the Arboretum and thank **Carolyn** for all of her efforts to promote and preserve these beautiful varieties.

### Best Article and Society Officer Voting

Annually, in conjunction with the timing of the society convention, members vote on the best 2025 article in ***The Azalean*** and half of the society officer positions (the other half are elected in alternate years). In the past this was done manually through paper ballots. ASA Webmaster **Paul Beck** put this process online. Members may vote for up to three articles in ***The Azalean*** and vote for (or write in) one candidate for each officer position. **Voting must be done by 15 March.** To access the online ballot, [click here](#).

### 2026 Society Membership Renewal

As of the date of this newsletter, 27 chapter members have not yet renewed their membership for 2026. Renewal reminders have been sent to these members. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, we hope you do so soon to ensure your continued receipt of our journal, ***The Azalean***. **Per the notice on the ASA website, expired memberships become inactive on 1 March.**

You have the option of setting up an automatic renewal using PayPal. An easy way to renew is through the ASA website [membership page](#). If you have difficulty using online registration, you can also download a form to send in with your membership with a check written on a US bank in US dollars. Finally, if you have any difficulties or questions, contact the ASA Membership Administrator, **Pat Insley**, at (703) 597-7539 or [membership@azaleas.org](mailto:membership@azaleas.org).

## Year/Month of the Azalea

The National Garden Bureau (NGB) has named 2026, Year of the Azalea. The NGB is a non-profit organization founded in 1920 to educate and motivate people to increase plants, seeds and plant products in their homes, gardens, and workplaces. A large amount of information on azaleas is on the organizations website at <https://ngb.org/year-of-the-azalea/>.

April is also listed in Chase's Calendar of Events as Azalea Month.

## Sad News – David Taylor

Chapter member **David Taylor** passed away on 16 February. David retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel and joined the Azalea Society in 2009. He was also a member of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society where he was a board member for several terms. **David** lived with his wife **Joan** in Yorktown, VA and was an active member of the local Master Gardeners. He will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery at a future date to be determined.

## Photographer Needed

As we move forward with the signage for the Klimavicz Legacy garden at Meadowlark gardens, we need some photographs of Klimavicz Azaleas that we can enlarge to 2-3 feet. That means we need to take photos with a camera capable of 72 Megapixels. An iPhone typically has a maximum resolution of only 48 MP.



Mockup of Proposed Signage

We hope to get assistance from a chapter member who has a camera and expertise to take this quality of photos.

If you're able to help, please contact **Barb Kirkwood**, 703-268-6958.

**Calendar for 2026**

Date	Event	Organization	Location
22 March	Spring Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
To be scheduled	Meadowlark Workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
12-15 April	ASA Convention	ASA	Athens, Georgia
25 April- rain date 26 April	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
Late April	Takoma Park Garden Visit	NV-ASA	Takoma Park, Maryland
21-25 April	American Rhododendron Society (ARS) Convention	ARS	British Columbia, Canada
9 May or 30 May	Bonsai Day	NV-ASA	Beck Home
June 6 or 13	Meadowlark pruning workshop	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
12 July	Cutting Exchange and Member yards	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
To be scheduled	Meadowlark Workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
October 18	Fall Meeting	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian
To be scheduled	Board Meeting	NV-ASA	To be determined
6 December	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	Kirkwood Presbyterian

**Zoom session login information**

To join the meeting via Zoom, click on the link below and login with the meeting ID and Passcode.

NV-ASA Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/8930825140?pwd=OVhNdjhHaWpaamNGR1IQWkVEa2xXdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 082 5140

Passcode: TS7E4i

### Preparing Plants for the Plant Exchange

The plant exchanges provide an excellent venue for parting with your excess plants and for adding additional varieties to your collection. Plants should be watered before donating, though not overly wet (i.e., no dripping water from the container). Please label them with the name of the plant and the donor (the latter is in case someone has questions about the plant).

### 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**.