

April 2026 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Spring is finally here and I'm sure that many of us are already out in our gardens removing winter debris, planting, weeding and in some cases, fertilizing. For those of us who attended the presentation at the 22 March meeting, we know that it's beneficial to leave some of the debris such as sticks and leaves to provide a habitat for pollinators. So we can cut back on some of the spring cleaning and justify it by saying we're helping the pollinators!



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

This coming month is the Azalea Society convention in Athens, GA. We have very good representation from our chapter. Conventions are always a great place to see beautiful gardens, listen to interesting speakers, add to your azalea collections and finally, to see friends you only see once a year. If you haven't attended a convention in the past, I recommend you sign up for one in the future.

Chapter Meeting with Speaker Dr. Sally Valdes 22 March

The chapter held its first meeting of the year on 22 March at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. We had a great turnout of 28 members to hear **Dr. Sally Valdes** from the Xerces Society, give us an interesting presentation on pollinators. She described the different types of pollinators, focusing mainly on insect pollinators. She also described things which adversely impacted on these pollinators such as insecticides and loss of habitat.



Dr. Valdes describes different pollinators

The presentation was well received with members asking many questions throughout the presentation and at the end.

If you were unable to join us, you may view **Dr. Valdes'** presentation, posted on our [videos page](#).

We ended the meeting with our ever popular plant exchange. Being early in the season, a large number of hellebores were available as well as amaryllis, azaleas other plants.

Once again, we had a great selection of refreshments provided by our Hospitality Chair, **Susan Colby-Hedrick**. Thanks **Susan!**

Additional photos from the meeting are at the end of this message.

Azalea Society Convention 2028

Azalea Society conventions are typically sponsored by individual chapters. The society is approaching its 50th anniversary in 2029. The Northern Virginia chapter was one of the original chapters in the society, being formed in 1980.

The Chapter Executive Committee felt it would be a good idea to have the convention in the area where the society was founded. Additionally, the last time we had a convention in the Metro D.C. area was in 2009. We presented the proposal to the chapter at the meeting on the 22nd and there was agreement that we should sponsor the convention.



Don Hyatt's garden was one of the gardens visited in 2009

The first phase of the convention is the planning phase. If you are interested in helping in this regard, please contact **Rick Bauer** at rickbauer@gmail.com.

During the convention, we will need volunteers to help with such things as manning registration tables, being bus captains, helping with the plant sale, distributing box lunches etc. We hope you'll be able to assist at that time.

Chapter Plant Sale – Meadowlark Botanical Gardens 25 April (raindate 26 April)



Chapter plant sale at Meadowlark in 2024

The chapter will be holding its spring plant sale at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on 25 April from 9am to 3pm. This is our major fundraiser for the year and has been well received by the general public in the past. Hopefully this year is no different.

If you're able to assist with setting up, tearing down or assisting during the sale, please contact **Barb Kirkwood** at 703-268-6958

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**, was later formalized by **Rick Bauer** and then adopted as a project of the Azalea Society.

For over a year, **Carolyn** has been working with **Haley Gilbert** at 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.

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 **Haley** and **Carolyn** for all of their efforts to promote and preserve these beautiful varieties.

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.

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, or know someone who can, please contact **Barb Kirkwood**, 703-268-6958.



Monique Marie - photo Carolyn Beck



Mockup of Proposed Signage

2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Organization	Location
12-15 April	ASA Convention	ASA	Athens, Georgia
21-25 April, 2026	American Rhododendron Society (ARS) Convention	ARS	British Columbia, Canada
25 April- rain date 4/26	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
To be scheduled	Meadowlark Workday	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
May TBD	Takoma Park Garden Visit	NV and Ben Morrison -ASA	Takoma Park, Maryland
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 w Speaker	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

Other Activities/Notes –

Bowie Mills Cuttings Needed - Rick Edwards, the legacy lead for the Bowie Mills azaleas, is still looking for five varieties of Bowie Mills. If you have these varieties and can send him cuttings, please contact him at rickedwards098@gmail.com.

1. Aunt Bess
2. Debbie Beth
3. Dorothy King
4. Layne Ashlee
5. Susan Lynn

Satsukis for Sale - Chapter associate member **Lewie Phillips** has Satsuki azaleas for sale. His website is <https://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 [rickbauer@gmail.com](mailto:rickerbauer@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 Chapter Meeting Photos



Members enjoy delicious refreshments



Once again, we had a great selection of plants in the exchange



Chapter Vice President Laurel Hill introduces the speaker



Dr. Valdes gives her presentation on pollinators – Photo Laurel Hill



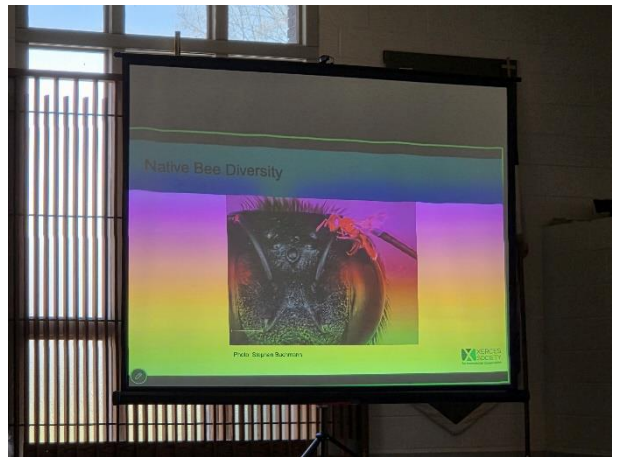
I-r New Chapter Secretary Pat Insley and new Vice President Laurel Hill – photo Carolyn Beck



Speaker Dr. Sally Valdes in discussion with Haley Gilbert from the National Arboretum – photo Carolyn Beck



I-r Craig Hudson, David Meadows and Ralph Habbeger in discussion – photo Carolyn Beck



Slide showing the range of sizes for bees, from the largest to the smallest varieties



Plants available to attendees in our plant exchange



Speaker, Dr. Sally Valdes – photo Pat Insley