

January 2026 Message to Members

Chapter Members,

Happy New Year! We're in a slow period for the chapter with our first scheduled event in March. Hopefully you've had a great holiday season and will enjoy a relaxing winter before your gardens beckon in the spring.

We have a full calendar of events for 2026 including chapter meetings, Meadowlark workdays and the society convention in Athens, Georgia. We have a lot of chapter members living well outside of the Northern Virginia area, but hopefully you'll be able to join us on some of our events broadcast via Zoom or meet at the convention.



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

Holiday Social/Annual Meeting – 7 December

The chapter held its annual holiday social and meeting on 7 December at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. Once again it was a great event with a delicious potluck lunch where attendees shared their favorite holiday dishes. We thank all of the members who attended and helped set up, tear down and decorate the room. Below are some photos from the event.



l-r Carol Bruch, Joyce McKenzie, Ralph Habegger, David Meadows, Helen Li, Barry Sperling and Judy Shapleigh – photo Carolyn Beck



The room was nicely decorated – photo Don Hyatt



Outgoing President Barb Kirkwood conducts the business meeting – photo Don Hyatt



Janet and Bill Miller, Diane Marcus, Joe Gutierrez and Chuck Croft enjoying the holiday dishes – photo Carolyn Beck



l-r Lars Larson, Don Hyatt, Haley Gilbert, Kathy Jentz, Carol Allen – photo Carolyn Beck



l-r Tri Dang, John and Barb Kirkwood, Joe Klimavicz – photo Carolyn Beck

Barb had door prizes for everyone there. There were a lot of books from the collections of **Bob Hobbs, Jane Kinzie,** and **Bill Miller,** all festively wrapped. Then all the table decoration poinsettias were distributed.

An important part of the function is our annual meeting. We elected officers, approved donations for 2025 and approved the budget for 2026. Additionally, we published the chapter financial report and the schedule for 2026.

After **Paul Beck's** financial report and before the vote on donations for the year, **Carolyn Beck** presented information on two of the recommended recipients of chapter donations for 2025.

The chapter has supported the Title One Program at Green Spring Gardens, sponsored by Friends of Green Spring (FROGS), for many years. Our contributions help subsidize participation in programs at the garden for students from low income areas.

In 2025 the Title One Program provided field trips scholarships for 1750 elementary school students. The typical fee for these trips is \$10. The scholarship provides \$5 with the school paying the other \$5.

The programs are all nature based.

The most popular group is the second grade. They:

- Go on a Nature Walk
- Look for and discuss pollinators
- Talk about butterflies in particular
- Dissect flowers
- Look at different seeds

The first graders enjoy a Sensory Walk:

Touching (gently) different types of plants

And a Dig It experience:

Digging in the soil with little shovels

Talking about the importance of and what is in the soil (worms, insects, pieces of wood, stones)
 Looking at plant roots

Green Spring also provides summer camp opportunities.

The chapter has also partnered with Jenkins Arboretum for several years. We have provided both financial and plant contributions and we worked with Jenkins in developing the Holly Springs Legacy Garden. Jenkins, in turn, sponsored a great convention for the society last year. **Carolyn** provided an update about the deciduous azalea efforts at Jenkins Arboretum. Chapter member **Steve Wright**, Director of Horticulture/Curator at Jenkins Arboretum had provided the following information:

Funding efforts to continue our ongoing germplasm preservation efforts. This would involve mostly exploration of natural populations in search of exceptional specimens that we would then collect/propagate to add to our Native Rhododendron Germplasm Repository. The space for these plants is about 1 acre and though we had not done any planting yet when you all visited this spring, we completed the initial rounds of planting this year - 141 individual plants.

In other business, the attendees approved the list of chapter officers for 2026:

- President – **Rick Bauer**
- Vice President – **Laurel Hill**
- Treasurer – **Paul Beck**
- Secretary – **Pat Insley**

They also approved the chapter donations for 2025-

- Jenkins Arboretum - \$2000
- Green Springs Title 1 - \$1000
- ASA General Fund - \$2500
- Kirkwood Presbyterian - \$500

2026 Calendar of Upcoming Events –

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 4/26	Meadowlark Sale	NV-ASA	Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
Late April	Takoma Park Garden Visit	NV-ASA	Takoma Park, Maryland
21-25 April, 2026	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

Date	Event	Organization	Location
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

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 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.