



The Azalea Clipper

Next Chapter Event:

The next chapter event will be our summer cutting exchange with speaker and plant exchange.

It will be held 12 July 1:30-4:00 pm at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church.

Refreshments to be provided by members whose last name begins with A-K.

We're on the Web!

<https://www.nv-as-a.org>

The Northern Virginia Chapter web page is a great source for late breaking news, such as weather-related cancellations.

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Cutting and Plant Exchange with Speaker Rick Edwards 12 July 1:30-4:00 pm, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Our annual cutting exchange will be held on 12 July at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield from 1:30 – 4:00 pm.

Rick Edwards, a member of the Arkansas Chapter is joining us from Missouri to give us a presentation on azalea propagation. **Rick** is a proficient propagator and hopefully his presentation will teach us how to become more proficient in our propagating efforts.

Rick will deliver an engaging lesson in azalea propagation with a visually stunning slideshow and a live demonstration during the regularly scheduled meeting. After the meeting, enthusiastic members are invited to travel to **Dave Nanney's** residence and join a follow-on "propagation working party" with **Rick** and **Dave**.



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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.

Members are also asked to bring azalea cuttings to the meeting to exchange with other members. Instructions for taking the cuttings are 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 12th in person or via Zoom.

Our Hospitality Chair, **Susan Hedrick**, will not be able to join us this month for this meeting. We ask any members attending, whose last names begin with the letter A-K, to bring a snack to share.

President's Message

I'm looking forward to our meeting on 12 July. We are fortunate to have Rick Edwards speak to us about his successful methods of propagating azaleas. Rick is a member of the Arkansas Chapter of the ASA and lives in Missouri. He is energetic and enthused about propagating and raising azaleas. It will be an interesting presentation.

We have also started preliminary planning for the 2028 convention which will be sponsored by our chapter. We will be looking to have members volunteer for the various tasks required to conduct a successful convention. We hope that many of our members will step to volunteer or will agree to assist if asked.

One of the goals of the ASA is to preserve and perpetuate azaleas. Our chapter is doing this through our support of the Legacy Project and by providing azaleas to various public gardens including Jenkins Arboretum, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Norfolk Botanical Garden and the National Arboretum. This helps ensure the continuation of these varieties of hybrids.

We are now officially in summer which is turning out to be another hot one and a dry one in the east and other parts of the country. This requires extra efforts on all of our parts to maintain our gardens under these conditions. I wish you success in your efforts.



New Members

The Chapter welcomes new members **Ira Burnim** from Silver Spring, MD; **John Ferrell** from Milford, DE and Associate Members **Ethan** and **Lynne Assal** from Potomac, MD. We hope to welcome you in person at a future chapter event.

Azalea Society Convention 2028

Azalea Society conventions are typically sponsored by individual chapters. The Society is approaching its 50th anniversary. The Northern Virginia chapter was one of the original chapters in the society, being formed in 1980. We have volunteered to host the 2028 convention.

We have started looking for hotels in the Northern Virginia area and have already met with a couple of hotels. Right now we're in the process of coming to an agreement on the terms of the contracts. **Pat Insley** and **Barb Kirkwood** are taking the lead in the search for the hotel.

We will soon need others to volunteer for such activities as coordinating gardens and bus transportation, speakers and If you are interested in helping in this regard, please contact **Rick Bauer** at rickfbauer@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.

Calendar for 2026

Date	Event	Organization	Location
12 July	Cutting and plant exchange and 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

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

Taking Cuttings

Select cuttings from new growth found at the terminal branch ends (avoid branches that have produced "sport" blossoms uncharacteristic of the named variety). Collect cuttings after the stems are fully mature, but before they turn woody. The parent plants must be in good health. A good time to take the cuttings is in the early morning. If drought conditions are present, water the plants well the evening before. Select stems of medium diameter rather than thin weak wood. Place cuttings (4 to 6) from each plant in a separate plastic bag (identified by the parent variety) along with a few drops of water, and seal it to retain 100% humidity inside. Print the name of the plant variety on the outside of the bag, along with a short description of the plant. Avoid overheating of cuttings from direct sunlight.

Cuttings should be stuck in the rooting medium as soon as possible after taking the cuttings, but they can be stored in a closed container in the refrigerator for up to a week.

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.