

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

A Publication of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American
Rhododendron Society

Vol. XXXV No.2

May 2009

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

June 19 th - 24 th , 2009	NC trip by Species Study Group
Oct 23-25, 2009	Eastern Regional, Lionsville, PA
Nov 6-8, 2009	MAC meeting Hospitality House, Fredericksburg, VA
May 14-17, 2010	Annual ARS Meeting, Long Island
May 20-24, 2010	German Rhododendron Soc., Bremen, Germany

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	http://www.rhododendron.org/
MAC Website (UPDATED REGULARLY)	http://www.macars.org/
U VA Science & Engineering Libraries	http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm
UVA Special Collections	http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/
Henry Skinner Website	http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/
Old Quarterly Bulletins ARS	http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/



Attendees at MAC Spring Meeting in Roanoke. Photo by George McLellan.

MAC 2009 SPRING MEETING

MAC had a great turnout for the Spring Meeting "Gardening at the Peaks" in Roanoke, May 8-10, 2009. There were about 87 people there from MAC, PVC, and Great Lakes Chapter. We had people from 11 states and Canada.

Our Friday night speaker was Kristine Johnson, Supervisory Forester at Great Smoky Mountains National Park who gave a presentation on "Grassy Bald and other Ecological Restorations". The chapter business meeting



Kristine Johnson. Photo by S. McDonald.

was held Friday night and we elected Celia Dollarhide president, and Lloyd Willis vice president. Debby Sauer is treasurer and Doug Jolley is secretary. Bill Bedwell and Sandra McDonald were re-elected as directors.

Saturday featured two great tours, one to the extensive Rhododendron, azalea, and rock garden of Paul James and another to Glebe Hill Gardens that specializes in hostas and daylilies. Members were able to purchase some hostas there. Our bus tour got back to the hotel about 4 p.m. in time to change for the auction and evening festivities. Flower show results are presented below.

Paul James was "roasted" Saturday night with a hilarious digital slide show by Don Hyatt and many



Bus captain Celia Dollarhide speaking to her tour group.
Photo by W. Przypek.



Joanne Ortiz & Anita Burke with Ron Brown's beautiful tree peonies. Photo by W. Przypek.

features such as urns and other non-plant things often make a photo special. She showed color combinations, butterflies, foliage, berries, and bark, beautiful fallen leaves and petals in autumn, beautiful plants in winter, and serendipitous happenings.

RECOGNITION FOR MAC

At the dinner meeting Jim Brant read a Certificate of Appreciation that MAC had received from Tennessee and its



Dave Banks & Bill Walker. Photo by W. Przypek.

awards arranged by Jim Brant.

Paul received a Distinguished Service Citation from MAC, a framed aerial photo of Gregory Bald, A framed R. vaseyi painting by Don Hyatt from the PVC, a commemorative letter from Karel B e r n a d y (S u s q u a n n a h Valley Chapter), and a garden plaque from the

Great Lakes Chapter recognizing his service to the genus and the Society.

Pamela Harper gave a beautiful slide show and talk "Just Because it's Beautiful." She has a wonderful collection of slides and mentioned that



Jim Brant

work with native azaleas there:

"Certificate of Appreciation: Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS in recognition of outstanding service in the best interests and in the highest traditions of the State of Tennessee." signed Phil Bredesen, Governor, 31st March 2009.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION for Paul James

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Paul James this Distinguished Service Citation

When Paul attended his first Chapter Meeting in 1983, he said he had begun to landscape a mountain! Five years later he opened his garden for the 1988 ARS Post Convention Tour when two busloads of ARS visitors from all over the nation and several other countries marveled at his progress. With exceptional perseverance and passion, he carried out

his dream, creating a showcase where thousands of visitors have learned to appreciate the best rhododendrons, including the Delp hybrids. For more than 20 years, Paul has freely shared the beauty and cuttings, and his friendly hospitality has brought our Chapter many new members.

Paul has served as our Chapter President and he received our Chapter's highest honor, The ARS Bronze Medal, in 1992. He has presented many enjoyable and informative talks at meetings of our Chapter and other Chapters, as well as other horticultural and botanical groups. He has helped develop public gardens to inspire more interest in garden landscapes. For Paul's mountain of accomplishments and services, we present this Distinguished Service Citation on May 9, 2009 in Roanoke, Virginia.



Dave Horn, Bill Bedwell & George McLellan at plant auction. Photo by S. McDonald.

FLOWER SHOW

The flower show was not very large, but there were some beautiful blossoms.

Best Native & Best Deciduous Azalea:

native azalea David Wheeler

Best Lepidote: 'Survivor' Sandra McDonald

Best Evergreen Azalea: Pink Ruffles

David Parmer

Best Elepidote: Calsap David Parmer

Best-in-Show: Calsap David Parmer

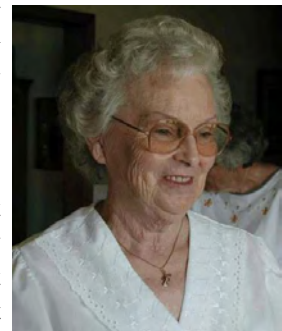
MAC SPECIES STUDY GROUP TRIP TO NC JUNE 19TH - 24TH

The schedule for this year's MAC Species Study Group trip to NC has been set. They will meet Friday June 19th in Franklin, NC at the Microtel Inn & Suites. Saturday, June 20th they will visit Wayah

Bald. Sunday they will visit Hooper Bald and clean up the Huckleberry area for a couple of hours. On Monday the climb up Gregory Bald is scheduled. Tuesday's activity is not definite yet, and Wednesday, June 24, they will hike up Mt. LeConte. For more information contact Jim Brant at jandpbrant@verizon.net or call him at 804-693-7556.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

While the spring of 2008 was a 'Rhododendron Year' with every plant loaded with buds and blooming to perfection, the spring of 2009 was not. This year, in my garden at least, the rhododendron flowers were at a minimum. What could have caused this, my lack of dead heading, or not watering adequately at crucial times or the alternate year theory, I guess I will never know.



Jane McKay

To make up for the absence of rhododendron flowers the azaleas stole the show making 2009 an 'Azalea Year'. Every plant deciduous and evergreen was covered in flowers. Now on May 20, the early flush of bloom is over but 'Sara Holden', 'Laura Moreland' and 'Betty Ann Voss' are still in full bloom with many late evergreen varieties yet to come. A few late blooming deciduous azaleas are just showing color. The mountain laurel are all blooming well.

This is the first year in more than 25 years that I have not sprayed for petal blight. In spite of the rain, the misty days and nights and some pretty warm days which should have been prime weather for petal blight I am just now seeing a few spots. Nature never seems to amaze me.

MAC AFTER MEETING TOUR TO NC

A good sized group of MAC and PVC members went on a trip to NC following our meeting in Roanoke after Don Hyatt had worked out an itinerary with some special stops for us.

Our group met at the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway Monday afternoon and went to try to hike up Pilot Mountain to see the *Rhododendron vaseyi* in bloom. However, we ran into a snap when the Forest Service road was closed and our hike would have been quite a lot longer and we didn't have

time to do it in an afternoon. For an alternative we made some stops to see *R. vaseyi* along Route 215 and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. It seemed to be peak bloom. We saw many other interesting wildflowers, too, as well as some plants of *R. minus*.

On Monday morning we went to Brevard and visited the Russell and Velma Haag garden that is soon to be sold. Russell is deceased and Velma needs to move. Curt Haag showed us around the property. There is still an interesting area where they grew their hybrids in addition to the mature garden closer to the house. The very tall hybrids are growing on about 1 foot centers.

After a Chinese lunch in town we went on to the Lake Toxaway area to the top of Toxaway Mountain where we visited the 130 acre Southern Highlands Reserve at elevations up to 4700 feet..

The Southern Highlands Reserve is "a private native plant garden and research center dedicated to the preservation, cultivation and display of plants native to the Southern Appalachian Highlands."

It is open to academic and horticulture professionals on an invitation only basis.

The office building features a library, a collection of artifacts, and several rooms for small groups to gather. Outside there is a roof garden with large soapstone fireplace, a beautifully landscaped core park area around the building which includes mature *Rhododendron vaseyi* and other native plants as well as some cultivated plants, other gardens and a wildflower labyrinth. There is a man-made pond and



Olivia Singleton, Joe Miller, and Art Burke relax in the gazebo at Glebe Gardens. Photo by W. Przypek.

further out a natural area with trails and a large stand of *R. vaseyi*. Only native plants are in this area of the property.

MAC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The May 2009 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine had an article "West Virginia's Botanic Gems" on pages 24-26, written by our own **Doug Jolley**. This article about small native orchids also had several of his photographs of orchids.

MAC member Kate Cole and her husband Sam had their home and garden "Kenwood" featured in the *Daily Press* on May 13th in an article "Historic Homes Secret Gardens".



Ed Collins, Sandra & Ken McDonald at the Haag garden.

AMBROSIA BEETLES

The TPM/IPM Weekly Report for Arborists, Landscape Managers & Nursery Managers University of Maryland Cooperative Extension for the week of May 1st contained the following information on ambrosia beetles:

"We captured granulate ambrosia beetles, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, at CMREC in Ellicott City this week. Examine trees for wet areas on the trunk and watch for the frass tubes projecting from the trunks. Hosts of ambrosia beetles include crape myrtle, styrax, yellowwood, birch, zelkova, holly, deciduous azalea, red bud, maple and Chinese dogwood.

Control: Synthetic pyrethroids such as permethrin (Astro) and bifethrin (Onyx) need to go on preventatively to keep the adult beetle from boring through the bark into the heartwood."

EDITOR'S NOTE: To see all photos in color go to our MACARS.org website and look at the newsletter there.



Paul James receiving Distinguished Service Citation from Bill Bedwell. Photo by W. Przypek.



Best-in-Show Calsap. Photo by S. McDonald.



R. vaseyi. Photo by S. McDonald



R. vaseyi. Photo by S. McDonald.



Paul James with speaker Pamela Harper. Photo by S. McDonald.



Shirley & Jay Gillenwater on the Blue Ridge. Photo by S. McDonald.



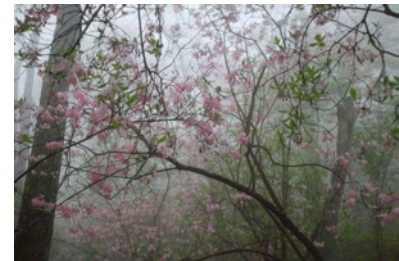
John Turner speaking to our group at SHR. Photo by S. McDonald.



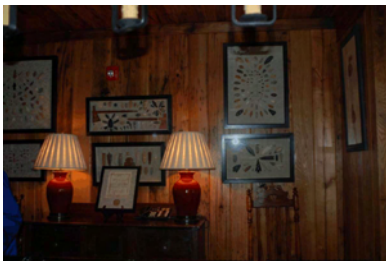
Exploring for plants along the Blue Ridge. Photo by S. McDonald.



Looking through *R. vaseyi* to the mountains. Photo by S. McDonald.



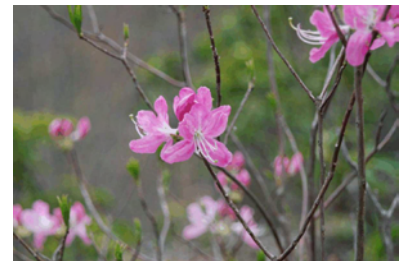
R. vaseyi in fog at SHR. Photo by S. McDonald.



Scene from office at SHR showing part of artifact collection. Photo by S. McDonald.



Richard Bryson, folklore and native plant expert at SHR. Photo by S. McDonald.



R. vaseyi. Photo by S. McDonald.

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM EVERETT, WA, BOARD MEETING

by Kenneth McDonald, Jr.

The ARS minutes are not available yet, but here is my recap of the ARS board meeting in Everett, Washington on April 29th.

A few things of note: Jean and Norman Beaudry received the ARS Silver Medal.

Dues will be raised to \$40 for a regular membership (single and family). Sustaining and sponsoring will also go up; I am not sure what the final decision was on the chapters's shares and will need the minutes to be sure of what it will be.

Joint life memberships prior to April 29, 2009, will be 'Grand-fathered'. Now spouses or significant others may be added for \$500. Thus Single Life Members are \$1000 or Joint \$1500. There will be qualifying language and terms added to this.

ROY (Rhododendron of the Year) post cards were not printed this year since no budget item was approved for this last spring. Since they are sold, it should be a self sustaining program. I said that District 9 Chapters should be able to donate sufficient funds to pay for next years printing. This should cost between \$500 and \$1000. Any donation to the General Fund marked for ROY Post cards would be helpful in getting this program going again. Our Ray Smith of Mason-Dixon Chapter is the chair.

New ARS Officers:

President	Ted Stecki
Western Vice President	Don Smart
Eastern Vice President	Bruce Feller
Secretary	Kathleen Collier
Treasurer	Bill Mangels
Past President	Fred Whitney
Executive .Director	Laura Grant
JARS Editor	Glen Jamieson
District 9 Director	Ann Mangels
Alternate District 9 Director	Donald W. Hyatt

Phyllis Meyers, the Mason-Dixon Chapter Treasurer, passed away April 19th. She will be missed by all of us as Bill was a MDC Past President, and they attended many Society and Chapter meetings. As we have a new JARS Editor who will need both technical and 'how to' articles from our volunteer member writers, in addition to others that he may have or solicit, please advise him or Editorial Comm. Chair Sandra McDonald of any thoughts or comments that you may have on the latest Journal.

Other ARS medals went to Mike Stewart-Gold, Jens C. Birck-Gold, and Harry Wright-Silver.

Calendar: Try not to schedule chapter meetings within 10 days of these Society events:

Oct. 23-25, 2009, Eastern Regional Lionsville, PA

May 14-17, 2010, Annual Society Long Island, NY

May 20-24, 2010, German Rhododendron Society, Bremen, Germany

ARS DVD's are available from Wing Fong for \$17.50 each.

Ann Mangels' email address is amangels@cbmove.com

Don Hyatt's is don@donaldhyatt.com so that you may send future comments and problems to them.

NOTE ON ENGRAVER USED BY GLEBE GARDENS:

Several people wanted to know about the labels at Glebe Gardens. The source is AAA Quality Engravers, P.O Box 741100, New Orleans, LA 70174-1100 Phone 504-361-3944. Email Bestsign@bellsouth.net.



Mike Andruczyk admiring the tree collection at Glebe Gardens. Photo by W. Przypek.



Don Hyatt at the after-meeting tour heading across the lawn to the special Haag hybrid collection. Photo by S. McDonald.

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