

# MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

July 17, 2005	MAC Special Board Meeting, Staunton, VA
Oct 14-16, 2005 (New!)	Days Inn, Raphine, VA
May 12-15, 2006	Joint National Meeting of ARS & ASA Rockville, MD (District 9 is sponsor.)

### Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	<a href="http://www.rhododendron.org/">http://www.rhododendron.org/</a>
MAC Website	<a href="http://www.macars.org/">http://www.macars.org/</a>
U VA Science & Engineering Libraries	<a href="http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm">http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm</a>
UVA Special Collections	<a href="http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/">http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/</a>

### FALL MEETING 2005

Please note the new date and location for our Fall Meeting, October 14–16th at Days Inn in Raphine, Virginia. The planners are hard at work on the meeting now. Full details will be forth-coming this fall. So far events include:

Friday evening Mike Andruczyk will talk about Sudden Oak Death, a new disease that is catching the attention of many gardeners. Bill Bedwell will do a slide talk on Butchart Gardens at Victoria plus several gardens in Vancouver: Van Deusen Garden, University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, Natobi Japanese Garden, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden, which he visited prior to the convention.

Saturday will include tours of both public and private gardens. Several of the gardens include mature specimens of some interesting plants.

Because of limited parking at one of the gardens, travel will be by bus. We will enjoy a picnic box lunch at one of the gardens or a local vineyard.



Days Inn, Raphine, Virginia.

The after dinner speaker on Saturday night will be Karel Bernady from Pennsylvania.. His talk is entitled "Highlights of Rhododendron Gardens in the Pudget Sound Area." It will highlight rhododendrons, people and views of private gardens within a drive around the Pudget Sound. Gardens featured include

those of Frank Fujioka, Jim Barlup, Ned Brockenbrough, June Sinclair and Warren Berg.

Other activities include two walking trails in Lexington that will be offered as optional activities on Friday, Saturday afternoon, or Sunday. Sunday's departure path can include a portion of the Parkway headed north or south or a short side trip through Goshen Pass.

### SPRING MEETING-DISTRICT MEETING IN WESTMINSTER, MD

Nearly forty MAC members and spouses attended the District 9 Meeting in Westminster, Maryland, May 13-15th, hosted by the Mason-Dixon Chapter. This meeting replaced our normal chapter meeting.

There was an all-day garden tour on Saturday which featured four very different gardens. In Maryland there were the collector's garden of George Brubaker; the large and spacious, well color-coordinated new garden of the Kelleys; the mature garden with many lovely old plants of the Reileys'; and in Hanover, Pennsylvania, the small, but very well tended and displayed city garden of Ray Miller.

The Friday night speaker was C.J. Patterson of Massachusetts, who spoke about rhododendron foliage, and the Saturday night speaker was Ed Collins of Hendersonville, NC, who spoke about the Cowles rhododendrons and also about some native azaleas.

Sunday morning George McLellan and Don Hyatt put on a workshop about native azaleas.

MAC had two of the main flower show winners. Bill Bedwell won Best Evergreen Azalea and

People's Choice with 'Puck', and Sandra McDonald won Best Deciduous Azalea with an *R. austrinum* hybrid.

### **PLANT LABELING**

At the District Meeting in Westminster, several people asked about the labeling in Ed and Mary Reiley's garden. Mary sent a flyer with information about their markings. They use Permanent Paint Markers from Abbeon Cal, Inc. 123 Gray Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. These paint pens are opaque, weatherproof, non-toxic enamel that dries to a glossy finish. The pen has a pressure sensitive felt tip. Phone 800-922-0977, Fax: 805-966-7659, e-mail: [abbeoncal@aol.com](mailto:abbeoncal@aol.com), and web address: [www.abbeon.com](http://www.abbeon.com).

### **NEW OFFICERS ELECTED BY MAC AT MEETING IN WESTMINSTER**

MAC members met for a general meeting shortly after 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2005, to elect officers.

New officers and directors are:

President Sybil Przypek

Vice President Jim Brant

Secretary Doug Jolley

Treasurer Debby Sauer

Directors Exp 5/08:

Celia Porter Dollarhide

Glenn Kauffman

J. R. Lockerman, Jr.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to:

Ross Conover Albert, Richmond,

VA

Donald & Chris Bartlett,

Hampton, VA

John Creech, Columbus,

NC

Nancy Splan, Yorktown, VA

Thomas & Carole White,

Richmond, VA

Richard Wroncy,

, Goode, VA

### **MAC SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

A special MAC board meeting will be held Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia,

at the intersection of Rt 250 and Interstate 81. All MAC members are invited, especially if they have ideas! Non-board members please contact Sybil Przypek if you plan to attend so we can make arrangements. A light lunch will be available at the meeting.

Topics to be discussed at this meeting include declining membership and meeting attendance and recent events. We hope to:

(1) Review Chapter Bylaws to insure that Board members and Chairpersons have clear understanding of duties, responsibilities and authority.

(2) Get clear understanding of rules for chapter spending.

(3) Review programs and activities to determine if they should continue as is or if changes should be made by adding more activities or dropping some.

(4) Determine how member involvement can be increased for the benefit of members and the chapter.

Directions to the Frontier Culture Museum:

Just north of the intersection of I-64 East and I-81, take I-81 Exit 222 and follow Route 250 West for less than a half mile. The entrance for the Frontier Culture Museum will be on the left at either the first or second stoplight (depending on whether you are traveling north or south on I-81). Follow the drive to the large parking lot and park to the left of the lot. Look for other MAC members or for a sign.

### **FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC** by Jane McKay

It's Monday May 23rd as I start to write this and sunny, but we are promised rain later today. We had two inches of rain Friday, and it was certainly welcome as it had been a dry May up till then. This Spring has not only been dry, but cool (we haven't used the air conditioner yet), and fortunately we have had no late frosts. I have a love/hate relationship with April. I love to watch all the plants that pop up or pop out, but I hate to listen to the weather forecasters when they, gleefully it seems, report a chance of frost.

The first rhododendron to bloom here is a seedling given to me by Frank Arsen (NY Chapter) *R. pseudochrysanthum* × 'Small Wonder'. It starts from deep pink buds fading slowly to light pink. It's a slow growing, compact plant 3 ½' × 3 ½' 12 years from seed. The plant, leaves, and flowers are in perfect unison. Next to bloom, again a seedling from Frank Arsen, is *R. hyperythrum* × *R. metternichii*.

This is a larger plant with fantastic large deep green shiny foliage and large white flowers. Beautiful! I did have a few plants of this a few years ago in P4M. Both of the above plants bloom before *R. 'Taurus'*, and I feel they are well worth growing. I will try to propagate these this year so look for them in P4M or auction in the future. Yes, Frank, I do plan to propagate again this year.



Jane McKay

It has been a beautiful Spring. Our rhododendrons produced the most flowers ever, and both azaleas and rhododendrons held their flowers a long time due to the cool temperatures. Our plant of *R. austrinum* stayed in bloom for close to a month, Friday's rain finally did it in. Newcomers to bloom this year are *R. 'Andrew Paton'* (*Scintillation* × *R. calophytum*) fantastic, large foliage with white flowers and red blotch, *R. 'Consolini's Windmill'*. WOW, a gorgeous bicolor! Try it you'll like it. Last, but certainly not least, Sandra McDonald's cross of *R. 'Jean Marie'* × *R. decorum* (yellow form). The flower looks similar to *R. 'Anita Gehrich'* and *R. 'Solidarity'* with flowers as large or larger. The difference between these flowers and Sandra's is a red circle deep in the throat. The foliage is great same color as 'Jean Marie' but larger. I will also try to root some cuttings of this. Some of my old favorites that bloomed are 'Dexter's Giant Red', 'Janet Blair', 'Rochelle', 'Fantastica', 'Jean Marie' (properly 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague') and 'Parker's Pink'. The azalea growth the last few years is huge. Major pruning is about to start as this place is starting to resemble a jungle.

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The garden of David and Mary Lloyd Lay is featured in the Summer 2005 issue of *Perennials, Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications*. The title of the article is "The Perfect Pair." Text is by James Baggett and photos are by Celia Pearson.

Jeanne Hammer is mentioned in the NCSU Libraries *Focus*, Vol 25, No.3, 2005 issue. This issue also includes an article "Azaleas Bloom in the Special Collections Research Center", which is about

the Library's acquisition of the papers of the Azalea Society of America.

The May 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Washington Post* had an article by Adrian Higgins that featured Don Hyatt's garden in the Home Section. Much of it was about good doers, especially Gable and Dexter rhododendrons. The article is presently online at the *Washington Post*. You can search the *Washington Post* web site <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>> for "Adrian Higgins" and go to his article entitled "Rhodie Love, So Unrequited", or type in the url below:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/25/AR2005052500587.html>

### DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM VICTORIA BOARD MEETING

from District 9 Director Don Voss

The ARS Board of Directors meeting in Victoria, BC, on 27 April began at 9:00 A.M. and concluded at 5:20 P.M. This was Mike Stewart's final meeting as our president, and he again demonstrated his dedication, thoughtfulness, and efficiency. Before summarizing several matters of general application that arose in Board discussions, I report two comments that are relevant to D9/ASA planning for the 2006 convention.

1. Mike Stewart emphasized that ample time for the medal presentations should be provided in the ARS membership meeting. Medal recipients have devoted great time and effort over many years to achieve the accomplishments being recognized, and they deserve a dignified ceremony of recognition.
2. Laura Grant mentioned that if convention attendance exceeds 300 persons, sponsors must apply for additional coverage 2 to 3 months in advance of the convention. This coverage does not cover ARS for the time attendees spend in gardens. Coverage for each garden visited is available at \$25 for each garden. The owner's name, address, etc., are to be included in application for this additional coverage. Check with Laura for details.

The Executive Director mentioned that the "Guide to Planting and Care of Rhododendrons" has been reprinted; chapters are encouraged to contact Laura Grant to receive supplies of this Guide. Hang tags are no longer being supplied, and THE OLD HANG TAGS SHOULD NOT BE USED!!

Please note that when contacting the Executive Director by e-mail, the subject line of your message should begin with ARS.

Late submission of membership renewal lists to the Executive Director have become a serious – and expensive – problem for the Society. When the deadline is missed, mailing of the *Journal* is suspended; then, after late renewal, the domestic mailing cost for each *Journal* is \$1.70. To make matters worse, some late renewers then complain about the late receipt of the *Journal*! Chapter treasurers are implored to submit chapter renewals (even if not all members have renewed) by the deadline, making sure that names, addresses, and zip codes are correct (and that the spelling conforms to that on record). Please check your membership lists on the ARS web site and verify the data there. For members who have not renewed, please follow up by telephone as well as by supplementary billing.

Chapters are reminded that anything in local papers that refers to Rhododendrons (including, of course, azaleas) and chapter activities should be clipped and sent to Jerry Reynolds.

During the Board's consideration of new and revised text for certain provisions of Policies of the Board, some difference of opinion arose as to the wisdom of maintaining two accounts in the Donor Restricted portion of the Endowment Fund. The Board reaffirmed its position that the two-account structure should be maintained – one to provide income for educational publication purposes, the other to provide income to fund grants for other purposes of the Society.

The Society's Internet sites have expanded, and members should be encouraged to become familiar with <http://www.rhododendron.org/> and the linked newsletter site. Bob Weissman has created a treasure trove of images available in the plant data section of the site.

Chapters planning to submit petitions for awards at the Society level are encouraged to consider the Citation of Service and Award of Merit in addition to the Gold Medal and Silver Medal. Details on awards will be found in Policies of the Board 9.5, available on the OARS web site. The deadline for submission of award petitions is now November 15, and proposed medal citations are limited to 125 words. Unlike the hierarchical structure of most award schemes (gold=1st, silver=2nd), the Society's Gold

Medal is distinguished from the Silver Medal by recognizing accomplishment that includes an international character.

Chapters need to update and make available to the Executive Director the list of people able and willing to present programs. There are many members who have much of interest to report but are unwilling to speak at meetings or write an article for the *Journal*. If you know such people, try to find a way to break the shell!

It was noted that APHIS – the Department of Agriculture's plant inspection and quarantine unit – is tightening restriction on importation of seeds. Depending on how the regulations are formulated, access to seed from abroad may curtail the availability of new plant material.

Finally, at the end of the Saturday evening membership meeting of the Society, past-President Stewart figuratively passed the gavel to Dr. Leonard O. Miller of Oklahoma, the new President, American Rhododendron Society. The new Eastern Vice President is Ted Stecki, chairman of the Budget Committee.

#### **BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS**

MAC member Sharon Collins married Dave Horn in early May. You have seen Dave helping Sharon with the flower show! They didn't attend the meeting in Westminster since they were on their honeymoon. Our best wishes to them both.

#### **MAC MAYMONT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW DISPLAY FEB 24-27 AT THE GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER**

Several hard-working MAC members participated in the Maymont Flower Show again this year by building and manning a landscaped booth. Sharon Collins was organizer of the booth with help from Jeanne Hammer and husband Paul McWhinney, George McLellan, Jim Brant, Dave Horn, Bill Saunders and wife Joanne Ortiz, Billy Constable, Theresa Brents, Debby Sauer, Sybil and Walter Przypek, Bill Bedwell, Ron Brown, and Jan Scanlon.

The display garden was constructed beginning about 11:00A.M. on Saturday before the show opened, and the wall construction, plant placement and mulch spreading went quickly with all of the helping hands that showed up. Bill Bedwell and Bill



The Kelly garden with oriental poppies and rhododendrons at the District 9 meeting. Photo by Bill Bedwell.



George McLellan and Don Hyatt at Ray Miller's garden at the District 9 Meeting. Photo by S. McDonald.

Saunders checked on the exhibit and watered the plants between Saturday and Wednesday. The final touches - forced daffodils and primroses and last rocks along the path - were added on Wednesday morning before the display area was closed at noon for judging. Cleanup and de-construction of the garden unofficially began at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday evening after the show closed with the sale of plants used in the exhibit. Everything was taken apart,

He says that ladybug, green lacewing and parasitic wasps are given top billing as beneficial insects, but they are used mostly in IPM in greenhouses.

The three most important groups in a home landscape are ants, spiders, and ground beetles since they eat everything, including themselves. These will be present in a landscape where the grass is never cut lower than 2 inches and is thick from overseeding



Ken McDonald, Jeanne Hammer, and Bill Bedwell in the Kelly Garden at the District 9 Regional Meeting. Photo by S. McDonald.

mulch was bagged, vehicles were loaded and the floor was swept clean by just after 9:00 P.M.. With all of the help, the entire week went smoothly. The MAC garden display had lots of traffic and questions from people attending the show, and we also had visits from several former and current MAC members who are not able to attend the chapter meetings.

### **MODERN PEST CONTROL**

The Avant Gardener newsletter in the June 2005 issue features some information from Jeff Ball on pest control which is recapped below.

every 3 to 5 years.

They will be present if everything is mulched with 3 to 4 inches of organic mulch and if no broad spectrum insecticide is used on large areas, whether it is synthetic or organic.

He also advocates the use of bioactivated compost tea made with either compost, worm castings, or factory-raised microbe packages.



Debby Sauer manning the MAC booth at Maymont. Photo by S. McDonald.



Sharon Collins talking with visitors about rhododendrons at the MAC booth at Maymont. Photo by S. McDonald.



Front left to right: Glenn Kauffman, Guest, Ross Conover Albert, Jeanne Hammer, Don Hyatt. Back: Dave Banks and Mary Kauffamn. Photo by Bill Bedwell.



Evergreen azalea 'Puck', Bill Bedwell's winning entry in the District 9 Truss Show. Photo by S. McDonald.