

# MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XXXII No.3

September 2006

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

Nov 3-5, 2006      Ramada Inn, Va Beach, VA  
April 27-29, 2007      Richmond, VA

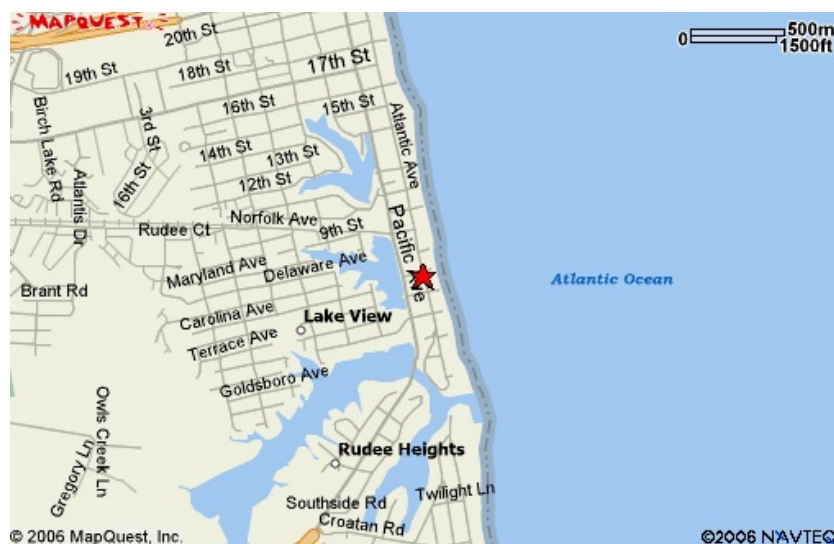
### Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	<a href="http://www.rhododendron.org/">http://www.rhododendron.org/</a>
MAC Website (*UPDATED*)	<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>
Henry Skinner Website (*NEW*)	<a href="http://http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/">http://http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/</a>

**MAC FALL MEETING TO BE HELD  
NOVEMBER 3-5 IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA** by  
Sybil Przypek

the gardening books *Designing with Perennials*, *Time-tested Plants: Thirty years in a Four-Season Garden*, and *Color Echoes: Harmonizing Color in the Garden*. She will speak on “Companion Plants for Rhododendrons and Azaleas”.

We have planned a tour of Hampton Roads Research Station (part of Virginia Tech University), on Saturday morning then on to Norfolk Botanical Garden for lunch and a tour of the garden. We will tour one private garden on the beach on the way back to the hotel. (The local Camellia Society chapter will be having its show on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 4:30 pm in the old auditorium and you might



Mark your calendars now! Our Fall Meeting will be held in Virginia Beach at the "Ramada on the Beach" hotel, November 3 - 5, 2006. Hotel rooms will be \$52.00 plus tax, a great rate for our just off-season meeting.

Our Friday night speaker will be Dr. Linda Johnson, from the Department of Biology at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. She is interested in native plants and does research into population ecology and pollination biology.

Our keynote speaker for Saturday night will be Pamela Harper, a renowned speaker and author of



Ramada on the Beach in Virginia Beach. Photo from Website.

enjoy a peek at the show of fall blooming camellias.)



*Evodia daniellii* at Hampton Roads Research and Extension Center.  
Photo by Mike Andruczyk.

Our plant sale will consist of plants leftover from the 2006 Convention in Rockville, Md. this past spring that we have been growing on. These plants should be of interest to everyone. They were some nice plants. We will also have a foliage show so bring your unusual sprigs to show.



Pamela Harper. Photo by S. McDonald.

FREE PLANTS, GORGEOUS GARDENS, and FABULOUS SPEAKERS, all in a relaxing atmosphere with others who share your love of gardening! Does this sound like fun? We sure hope so! So mark the dates of April 27 – 29, 2007 on your calendar now so you won't miss the ARS District 9 meeting in Richmond, VA, which will be hosted by the Middle Atlantic Chapter. We're planning what we think will be a fantastic weekend and we've taken care of all the details for you! After you arrive at the Holiday Inn Crossroads on Friday afternoon, just relax and let us handle the rest.

SPEAKERS – Rosalie Nachman's entertaining program on shade gardening will set the tone for the weekend. Our keynote speaker on Saturday evening will be Robert E. "Buddy" Lee, developer of the Encore series of evergreen azaleas.

FREE PLANTS - The "Pot Luck Plant Swap" is based on the time honored tradition of gardeners "passing on" plants to other gardeners, FREE OF CHARGE! Everyone is encouraged to bring plants that they would like to share. This includes all types of desirable plants (not just rhodies and azaleas), ranging from seedlings to rooted cuttings to divisions or even extra plants that you just don't have room for in your garden. While you're working in your garden this fall, please keep the "Swap" in mind and pot up some goodies to share. This will give the plants a chance to settle into their pots so that they will be ready to travel to their new homes next spring. If you're a new gardener and don't have anything to share, not to worry. You're still welcome to take plants home! Since we have quite a few gardeners in the group who have established some amazing plants in their extensive collections, you could end up with some real treasures!

GARDEN TOURS – On Saturday, we will visit several private gardens, including the outstanding garden of long-time MAC member, Rosalie Nachman, our Friday night speaker. Then we will meet at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for a box lunch and tour. It's been a few years since our group has been to Ginter and there have been lots of changes. On Sunday morning, directions will be provided so you can visit other local gardens on your own before heading home.

So please plan to join us for what promises to be a fun and relaxing weekend.

**SPRING 2007 ARS DISTRICT 9 MEETING IN RICHMOND** by Barbara Hall, Meeting Registrar



Planting at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Photo by Mike Andruczyk.



Norfolk Botanical Garden entrance. Photo by M. Andruczyk.



Norfolk Botanical Garden. Photo by M. Andruczyk.



Arboretum at Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Photo by M. Andruczyk.



Colorful display at Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Photo by M. Andruczyk.



New building at Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Photo by M. Andruczyk.

## DEATH

Dr. John J. Neal, Jr., died Saturday, August 12, at Duke Hospital, Durham, NC. Dr. Neal had served on the MAC Board of Directors in the past. He had joined MAC in December 1975. He was active in several organizations including American Association for the Advancement of Science and our MAC Chapter of ARS, the Danville Life Saving Crew and the Hatteras Anglers. He had recently gone back to school to study painting and had become an accomplished painter. Memorial donations may be made to the Danville Life Saving Crew, 202 Christopher Lane in Danville, Virginia. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Caroline and to his family.



Dr. John Neal.

## CORRECTION TO MAC ELECTION OF THREE DIRECTORS

The three directors elected at the Spring Meeting were Bill Bedwell, William (Billy) Constable, Jr. (not Sr.) and Sandra McDonald.

## MAC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The July 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Sunday Gazette-Mail* in Charleston, WV, had an extensive article about Doug and Davetta Jolley and their Windbeam Way Nursery. The article had three good-sized color photos. Its title was "From a 20-year addiction, a new business blooms." The article talks about Doug's interest in orchids and the 8 species found growing wild on his property. It mentions that with Harry Wise and Frank Pelurie, Doug is breeding new varieties of native azaleas and rhododendrons and they are in the process of registering several of these with ARS. Doug is planning on naming rhododendron 'Coudy High Purple' in honor of his Pennsylvania high school whose colors were purple and white. There is also a *R. chapmanii* that he plans to name 'Wise Chap'. (Guess who this is named after!) It has a golf-ball sized pink bloom and is a nice plant after 15 years.

The nursery is open from early September until the end of October. They open again in the spring in early April and close for the summer. They sell

native azaleas and rhododendrons along with a few West Virginia wildflowers and perennials and shrubs that attract birds and butterflies.

Audiences at Doug's lectures and slide presentations over the years wanted to know where to buy some of the pretty plants Doug had shown and that seems to be what gave him the idea of growing larger sized plants of his special things for sale.

## ANOTHER ACCIDENT ON WVA ROADS

MAC life member Mike Breiding and his wife Betsy were involved in a head-on accident in West Virginia on August 20<sup>th</sup> in which another vehicle crossed the center line and hit them. It was not long ago that Doug Jolley was involved in a similar accident. Mike suffered minor lacerations and whip



Betsy Breiding on the Monongohela River outside of Morgantown. Photo by Mike Breiding.

lash, but Betsy had a broken left femur, dislocated right wrist, chipped vertebrae and patella damage. She should be out of the hospital by the time you receive this newsletter. Their home address is Morgantown 26508 if anyone wants to contact Mike or Betsy. Their vehicle was totaled.

## FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

There is not much to say about the past few months except that we have had too much heat, too much drought, too many Japanese beetles, and too many high water bills. We have lost a few plants due to lack of water among them *R. 'Henry's Red'*. I do not have another plant of 'Henry's Red' but it is available in the trade. If you have plants that are one



Jane McKay

of a kind consider propagating them. Many beautiful plants have been lost forever due to lack of propagation.

I recently read in *The Avant Gardener* that the sales of books on gardening are declining and the sales of lawn and garden products are also falling. This has shown up in the falling membership in many plant societies. I recently was thumbing through some old records looking for the background on a particular plant (which by the way I did not find) when I came across a note I made in 1976 when I was active in the New York Chapter. The note was made on 3/18/76 – total paid membership was 346, regular members 286 associate members 60. I know those numbers have decreased significantly today. I don't know about the membership numbers in MAC but I'm willing to bet they have also declined. It would be great if we could all sign up a new member.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** – It's that time again and you should be receiving your notices shortly. Please note the following changes: **DUES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15 and CREDIT CARDS WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED** except for new members joining on the web and the offshore members.

If you have made any changes in your mailing address or your email address please note this on your renewal form. The earlier renewal date has been made to avoid the conflict with *Journal* address distribution. Please, please, please send your renewals in on time.

#### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Helen Chew, Vesuvius VA 24483-2906

Pete & Stephanie Louquet, Fairfield VA 24433

#### **ANOTHER PHYTOPHTHORA FOUND IN VIRGINIA**

The email newsletter GMPRO in their April 11<sup>th</sup> newsletter said that *Phytophthora tropicalis* was recently confirmed on *Pieris japonica* and *Rhododendron catawbiense* taken from a garden center in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in 2004. Researchers at Virginia Tech also confirmed *Phytophthora* isolates collected in 2000 and 2001 from irrigation water at a Suffolk, Virginia nursery and from soil samples taken from two mixed hardwood forests in Fairfax County. The foliage blight damage to nursery plants was minimal. The

report of *P. tropicalis* was believed to be the first report of this disease in the continental U.S. The pathogen had been reported in Hawaii on crops including *Anthurium andraeanum* and *Dianthus caryophyllus*.

#### **MAC AUGUST BOARD MEETING**

The MAC officers and board of directors met at Rowe's Restaurant in Staunton all afternoon on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Under President Sybil Przypek's guidance they completed an extensive agenda which included the annual budget and financial report given by Treasurer Debby Sauer with approval of donations to the ARS General Fund, ARS Research Foundation, ARS Endowment Fund, Margaret White garden, Azalea City project, Rhododendron Species Foundation, the azalea garden at the U.S. National Arboretum, and several smaller donations.

Other items discussed were the digital projector that MAC purchased after use at the 2006



Ellen Lockerman, Theresa Brents, Debby Sauer, Glenn Kauffman, Jim Brant. Photo by S. McDonald.

convention, the information from Bill Bedwell about the ARS Rhododendron of the Year project, awards, updates on the MAC Species Study Group by George McLellan, Jim Brant's update on the Gregory Bald project aerial photo and the brush cutter obtained for the National Park Service, a report on the chapter Web site MACARS.org by webmaster David Banks, reports on P4M by Billy Constable and Dr. Jay Gillenwater, reports on nominations, newsletter, long range planning, and books and plans for the upcoming 2006 Fall Meeting, the 2007 District Spring Meeting (by MAC), and possibilities for the 2007 Fall Meeting.

GARDENS OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS - New members are encouraged to visit members' gardens in their area. The officers and board members have agreed to show new members through their gardens if the member will call ahead and arrange a convenient time. Telephone numbers and towns are listed below.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor  
Mid-Atlantic Rhododendron News and Notes  
P.O. Box 268  
Hampton, VA 23669