MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XXXIX No.3 September 2012

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

Nov 2-4, 2012 Massanutten Resort, McGaheysville, VA

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/
Rhododendron Blog	www.rhododendron.org/blog/
Friends of the National Arboretum	http://savetheazaleas.org/
FONA's Save the Azaleas and Boxwood site	

FALL MEETING TO BE HELD AT MASSANUTTEN RESORT

The Fall Meeting scheduled for November 2 to 4, 2012, at Massanutten Resort sounds like a real winner. Sharon Horn went over the meeting plans at the MAC Board Meeting on August 25th. You will need to register early with Massanutten to be sure you have a room since the resort fills up fast at this season.

Our Friday and Saturday night speakers will be announced in the meeting announcement. They are special. Saturday will feature a bus tour to JMU Arboretum, a buffet lunch at Mimslyn Inn in Luray where MAC celebrated its 50th anniversary, and then a ranger guided walk focusing on rare and endangered plants in Shenandoah National Park. There will be several stops along Skyline Drive.

We will have a special P4M sale with some large 3 gallon unusual evergreen plants from Transplant Nursery. There will be our usual Book Sale and Plant Auction. Sunday will have an optional tour.

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

The June 29, 2012, storm hit some areas of central Virginia very hard. [There was much in the national news about this "derecho"* which caused a lot of damage in Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and in parts of New Jersey.] We were blessed to have limited damage to our house and within 48 hours the power was back on for most of Crozet. The main conversations were about how many trees ended up in your driveway and how long did the driveway clean-up take. So one friend had 45 trees down in their long driveway and it took from 9pm to 4 am using two workers and chain saws and one bob cat.

We had no trees down in our drive way, but enough branches that it took four workers without chain saws two hours to clear the driveway. In our yard most of our damage was not caused by falling trees but by very large falling branches from the tops of the trees. After 33 days of part-time working (3 to 6 hours per day) on front yard clean up and having 20 hours of a chipper, we decided the front yard was clean enough.

I am happy to report not a single rhodo, hosta or Japanese maple was killed by the storm. Most of the Japanese maples were only missing one or two branches per plant.

Now our side yard which still looks like a war zone has its clean up scheduled for starting on January 1, 2013, or 2014, or 2015.

* The following excerpt is from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_2012_North_American_derecho. More information about the storm is available at the website.

The June 2012 Mid-Atlantic and Midwest derecho was one of the most destructive and deadly fast-moving severe thunderstorm complexes in North American history. The progressive derecho tracked

across a large section of the Midwestern United States and across the central Appalachians into the Mid-Atlantic States on the afternoon and evening of June 29, 2012, and into the early morning of June 30, 2012. It resulted in 22 deaths, widespread damage and millions of power outages across the entire affected region. The storm prompted the issuance of four separate severe thunderstorm watches by the Storm Prediction Center. A second storm in the late afternoon caused another watch to be issued across Iowa and Illinois.

DON HYATT'S NEW POWERPOINT INSTRUCTION CD TO GO TO ARS PROGRAM LIBRARY by Sandra McDonald

Several MAC members and a few Gloucester Master Gardener's were privileged to attend an instruction session about PowerPoint that Don Hyatt gave in Gloucester on August 8th. Don had worked to put together a CD presentation on how to construct a PowerPoint presentation. Since color slides are becoming nearly obsolete and many organizations are moving toward digital presentations with computers and digital projectors, it has been harder to find people who can put together the new digital presentations and give programs to our groups. His CD contains clear instructions on how to use the newer versions of PowerPoint to do a program.

Walter Przypek had recently been the ARS Program Library Chairman, but had to step down when Sybil became ill. The new chairman is Marvin Fisher in New York. DVDs are available for members to purchase. Don's CD will end up there eventually.

Don has also been working with Don Voss on a PowerPoint digital presentation on "Rhododendron Registration". The Potomac Valley Chapter will have a presentation on this by the new ARS Registrar, Michael Martin Mills. The ARS Program Library will also be receiving a version of this when Don Hyatt is finished working on it.

Information about the ARS Program Library is on page 170 of the Summer 2012 issue of the *Journal.* There is a list of currently available DVDs.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Ben Dukes, Portsmouth, VA 23703

Steven D. Mace. Huntington, WV 25708-0383

BOXWOOD BLIGHT INVADES NORTH AMERICA by Sandra McDonald

The January 20th, 2012, Web edition of *Science News* reported that the boxwood blight fungus was first discovered in North America in October 2011. It was referred to as *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* or *C. buxicola* in the *Science News* article and *C. pseudonaviculatum* in a *Nursery Management* article referring to a Connecticut discovery. Boxwood blight was unknown to science before 2000. It has now spread through Europe and New Zealand. Infections were found in North Carolina and Connecticut, and by mid-January had been found in at least five more states: Virginia, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Oregon, and in British Columbia.

The blight begins as spots on the leaves and black streaks on twigs. A shrub can turn into bare sticks in a few weeks. Young plants die while older plants survive and regrow their leaves for at least several cycles of attack by the fungus.

A July 11, 2012, article of *Nursery Management* online said that boxwood blight was confirmed on pachysandra in a residential property in Fairfield County that had installed B&B boxwood plants in May 2012.

DOUG JOLLEY IN *WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA* AGAIN by Sandra McDonald

Doug Jolley has published another article, "The Woodland Orchids of August" in the August 2012 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia*. Doug has wonderful photos and description of the rare lesser rattlesnake plantain *(Goodyera repens)*, crested coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata*), tooth-rooted coralroot *(Corallorhiza odontorhiza)*, spotted coralroot *(Corallorhiza maculata).*, and Bentley's coralroot *(Corallorhiza bentleyi)*. He also shows crane-fly orchid *(Tipularia discolor)*, and the helleborine orchid *(Epipactis helleborine)*. In 40 years Doug has photographed all the native orchid species listed in the state. He is quite a native orchid expert as well as a fine photographer.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS by Doug Jolley

Davetta and I essentially missed the derecho which swept across West Virginia and much of the mid-Atlantic region. Although power was lost Friday evening, June 31, we were up and out of the house at

Rhododendron prinophyllum at Spruce Knob. Photo by Doug Jolley.

Rhododendron prinophyllum. Photo by Doug Jolley.

Rhododendron calendulaceum. Photo by Doug Jolley.

Rhododendron calendulaceum. Photo by Doug Jolley.

MAC board meeting at the Gordon Library in Charlottesville on August 25th. Left to right: Treasurer Debby Sauer, board member Bill Bedwell, Secretary Doug Jolley, President Lloyd Willis, and Vice president Theresa Brents. Photo by S. McDonald.

5:00 am Saturday morning. We attended the Lavender Fair in Washington, PA. While Davetta vended native plants, Dr. Cindy DeBerry from Washington and Jefferson University and I presented three talks each on both Saturday and Sunday. We referred to our speaking schedule as "tag team presentations." When we returned home Sunday night, the dusk to dawn light was on and we immediately realized that power had been restored. Other homes on our road and in our county were without power until the following Saturday. No structural damage had occurred either. We remain grateful that more damage had not occurred.

R. prinophyllum was in full bloom on Spruce Knob on May 27 this year. The show was outstanding too!

The accelerated blooming season continued into June. *Rhododendron maximum* was blooming just after Memorial Day this year. One cross done by Harry Wise that has never failed to perform is *R. calendulaceum* × *R. arborescens*. The buds are nearly as highly colored as the flowers. The candy cane appearance of dark orange and white buds appear in early June and then open to mostly orange flowers. The foliage is bluish green and glossy. The summer blooming Weston native azalea hybrids were right on schedule. Weston's 'Lollipop', 'Innocence' and 'Parade' were all floriferous. Rainfall was regular all summer. Little extra watering was needed to see plants through July and August.

In traveling across West Virginia this summer, R. maximum and *Kalmia latifolia* had good blooming years. It is still amazing to me how full size plants cling to rocky sites and thrive. One new site for a colorful population of *Rhododendron calendulaceum* in Pocahontas County was shown to me by Jay Shaner from Staunton, VA. This site will fulfill my seed collecting needs for this fall.

With summer on the wane, it time to weed the garden… again!

EAST COAST SEA LEVEL RISE ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHEAST VIRGINIA by Sandra McDonald

My husband Ken has been thinking that he doesn't see nearly as much of the sea floor and sand and mud flats at extreme low tides as he used to as a young teenager about 63 years ago in the very same waterfront home that we are in now. He used to see 150 or so feet at extreme low tide. His parents had some evergreen azaleas growing in the back yard near the water for years that would show occasional salt spray damage when bad storms or minor hurricanes came near. Some of the azaleas have been damaged or killed in recent years from salt spray from various storms or salt water flooding from Hurricane Isabel resulting in our paying more attention to what future happenings might be here.

A recent report in the *Virginian Pilot* and then in the *Washington Post* said, "The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warns that Hampton Roads, anchored by Norfolk, is at the greatest risk from sea-level rise for a metro area its size, except for New Orleans."

USGS map of area of impact crater in the Chesapeake Bay.

Our area is a guinea pig for the East Coast. Other cities along the southeast coast in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida are monitoring

Norfolk's response. The rise in sea level is not expected to have an affect on most American cities for at least 30 years. Other cities in Hampton Roads including Virginia Beach and Portsmouth on the borders of Norfolk are very flat and the Chesapeake Bay tributaries cut inland. I can vouch for the flatness of the land around here. I was born and raised in Kansas which has a reputation of being flat, but the land around here close to the water is much flatter than my area of Kansas.

Seas have risen and push up the Chesapeake Bay around Norfolk a few inches each year according to scientists.

Another concern for us is that the ground is sinking here in Hampton Roads or Tidewater Virginia as it is also known. We are situated in an area affected by the nation's largest known geologic impact crater, an Ice Age formation that is causing land to sink about seven inches a century which accounts for about one-third of the sea level change around here.

In 1983 came the first suspicions of the existence of a large impact crater buried beneath the lower part of the Chesapeake Bay and the surrounding peninsulas when ejecta was discovered during some drilling off the New Jersey coast. In 1993, Texaco, Inc. and Exxon Exploration Company were exploring beneath the Chesapeake Bay for structures that might contain oil and gas. They made seismic reflection profiles that showed a huge peak ring impact crater beneath the Bay with its center near the town of Cape Charles on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The crater is 90 km in diameter and about 1.3 km deep.
(http://meteor.pwnet.org/impact_event/seismology.htm)

The abstract of U.S. Geological Survey Paper 1622 by David S Powars, Feb 2000, follows:

> About 35 million years ago, a large comet or meteor slammed into the shallow shelf on the western margin of the Atlantic Ocean, creating the Chesapeake Bay impact crater (CBIC). Virginia Coastal Plain sediments, the southern part of the Chesapeake Bay, and a small part of the Atlantic Ocean now cover the crater. The impact apparently affected pre-impact structures near the CBIC. Subsequent structural adjustments of these structures likely were influenced by the crater and by the regional post-rift stress regime typical of the passive margin scenario described for the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Structural adjustments disrupted pre-impact sediments and basement rocks in the southern Chesapeake Bay region and influenced subsequent deposition, erosion, and preservation of sediments. Correlations of litho- and biostratigraphic data from borehole cores and cuttings and geophysical logs were used to identify the location and geometry of the CBIC and possible pre-impact structures. This report focuses on the Virginia Coastal Plain south of the James River and complements a recent study of the CBIC's effects on the geologic framework beneath the lower York-James Peninsula. The report was prepared in cooperation with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/p1622/

According to a USGS report released 6/24/2012, sea level rise is accelerating in the U.S. Atlantic Coast. In fact it is increasing three to four times faster along portions of the Atlantic Coast than other parts of the world. The report says, "Since about 1990, sea-level rise in the 600-mile stretch of coastal zone from Cape Hatteras, N.C. to north of Boston, Mass. -- coined a "hotspot" by scientists -- has increased 2 - 3.7 millimeters per year; the global increase over the same period was 0.6 – 1.0 millimeter per year."
http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3256
It also reported, "To determine accelerations of sea level, USGS scientists analyzed tide gauge data throughout much of North America in a way that removed long-term (linear) trends associated with vertical land movements. This allowed them to focus on recent changes in rates of sea-level rise caused, for example, by changes in ocean circulation."

The report, "Hotspot of accelerated sea-level rise on the Atlantic coast of North America", can be found at
http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1597.html

Our house has not been flooded yet, but because of the damage to azaleas and rhododendrons in the back yard nearer the water we are not replacing these plants with ericaceous plants when they are damaged. Rather, we are putting in more salt tolerant plants like camellias, some hollies, wax myrtle, daylilies, and other plants that can take a bit of salt spray without suffering too much.

REMEMBER ALL NEWSLETTER PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN IN COLOR AT OUR MACARS.ORG WEBSITE

Memberships and renewals should be sent to our Membership Chairman Jeanne Hammer at 815 Porter St. Apt 301, Richmond, VA 23224.
Annual membership dues are $40 per year.
Miscellaneous inquiries may be sent to the editor (address below) for forwarding to proper individual.

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
Mid-Atlantic Rhododendron News and Notes
4302 Chesapeake Ave
Hampton, VA 23669