

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XLV No. 3

September 2018

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Oct 6, 2018
Oct 19 - 21, 2018

MAC Fall Meeting Roslyn Center, Richmond
ARS Fall Conference, Chattanooga, TN

Rhododendron website addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	http://www.rhododendron.org/
ARS Store Order from Amazon thru this site	http://arsstore.org/
MAC Website (UPDATED REGULARLY)	http://www.macars.org/
UVA Special Collections	http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/
Old Quarterly Bulletins & JARS	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	

MAC FALL MEETING

By now you should have received your meeting announcement for the MAC Fall Meeting to be held at Roslyn Retreat Center, 8727 River Road in Richmond, Virginia, on Saturday, October 6, 2018. Registration is required upon arrival and is from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Powers Hall. There is a business meeting from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM in Gibson Hall, then a buffet lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM at the Dining Hall. There will be a slide talk by Don Hyatt at 1:15 PM about the 2018 ARS Convention in Bremen, Germany, and a slide talk by Rick Bauer of post-convention garden tours in Finland. An afternoon refreshment break and plant auction and book sale are scheduled, too. The meeting will wrap up at 4:15 to 4:30 PM.

See <http://www.roslyncenter.org> for more information about Roslyn Center facilities.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS, SEPTEMBER 2018 - by Doug Jolley

Driving by a new-to-me hillside covered in blooming flame azaleas (*R. calendulaceum*) is a great way to begin



Doug Jolley

summer. The hillside is an abandoned hillside pasture outside Elkins, WV, along Rt. 33 east of town. As is often the case, time was short, rain was falling, and the hillside fenced and private. A few quick record photos would suffice for the time being.

Speaking of falling rain, our entire summer has been rainy here in central West Virginia. Despite this or because of this, our rhodos, azaleas and most everything in the garden has bloomed and grown terrifically. A 'Red Max' seedling from a chapter meeting is now 3 feet tall and 5 or so feet wide. The buds are dark pink and the open flowers retain dark pink margins. Add a green blotch to the upper petal



'Red Max' seedling. Photo by Doug Jolley.

and the truss is very nice for sure. Luckily, petal blight is not a problem here. Despite lots of rain and

humidity, flowers have not suffered from this affliction.

By mid-July our Plumleaf Azaleas (*R. prunifolium*) reached its full display. The season for this plant seems to be creeping from late July toward the middle of the month now. A nice salmon colored hybrid from the ARS seed exchange also was a nice companion to the scarlet of the



Closeup of *R. prunifolium*. Photo by Doug Jolley.



R. prunifolium. Photo by Doug Jolley.

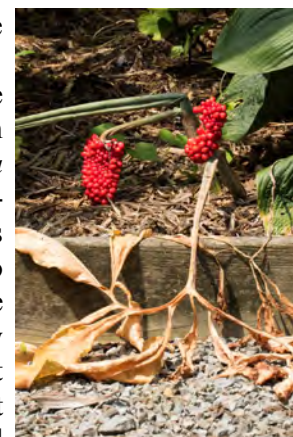


Hummingbird on *Lobelia cardinalis*. Photo Doug Jolley.

Plumleaf Azaleas. The hummingbirds love to visit these plants. One “weed” that we have throughout our landscape beds is Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). These native lobelias self-sow profusely. Plants can grow, are given away to garden groups and pulled and discarded. Butterflies, hummingbirds and various other insects make for interesting walks through the garden. Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*) and Downy Lobelia (*L. puberula*) also are nice companion plants and bloom through the summer months.



Green Dragon. Photo D. Jolley.



Green Dragon seed. Photo D. Jolley.

Another favorite companion plant is Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*). The jack-in-the-pulpit like flowers bloom in late April into early May. The foliage then continues to grow upwards nearly 2 ½ feet tall. By late August attractive bright red clusters of seeds and fading foliage signal that the end of summer is near and the October 6 chapter meeting will soon convene.

MAC HAS NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES

David Taylor brought the new membership brochures that he designed and had printed at the request of President Jeanne Hammer and our board to our August 11th MAC Board Meeting. Some brochures were taken to be distributed to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and some other botanical gardens in our chapter area.



David Taylor

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

As I start to write this article, it is August 23, 2018. I am in my downstairs office which means I am sitting on the living room couch looking out the window to a beautiful sight. Sunshine, finally sunshine, is hitting at least five Japanese maples. That is a beautiful sight.



Lloyd Willis

We have had lots and lots of cloudy days in August and lots and lots of rain. This past week in one 24 hour period, a nearby friend reported nine inches of rain. The frequent rains have caused the weeds to grow like crazy, the grass to have to be mowed wet, and places on a steep bank to have a loss of top soil down to red clay. So most of August in the garden has been pulling weeds or having a helper use the weed eater, mowing wet grass, and adding topsoil, grass seed and straw to the areas of red clay. None of these are really fun activities for me.

I just walked outside to the holding bed to count our plants in pots waiting to be planted. There are at least 110 plants in pots. These plants are Japanese maples, ferns, hostas, azaleas, and rhododendrons. The number of potted plants is getting dangerously close to the point of Mrs. Willis (Margaret) strongly suggesting that no more plants are to be purchased until the current ones are planted.

On a positive note, seeing the new grass coming up through the straw has been a treat. Also, being able to work with a helper in the yards of both daughters has been a treat.

So where is the humor in this article? I am pretty sure one of my helpers is going to be less help this fall. That helper is granddaughter Ava who moved into her freshman dorm at JMU on Sunday, August 19. Within two days she had made three new good friends. I just had an idea—maybe Ava and her three new friends would like to come to Crozet to weed one weekend since it only takes 47 minutes to travel by car from JMU to Crozet. On second thought, maybe all that rain has washed away some of my brain cells.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Garretson, Inanna, Elkton,
VA 22827-4103

DAVID BANKS RECEIVES GOLD MEDAL

Dave Banks was honored with the ARS Gold Medal at the ARS Banquet at the meeting in Bremen, Germany.

The citation:

Your tireless efforts on behalf of the ARS at Chapter, District and Society level, have been an inspiration to those of us having had the pleasure to work with you

You have served as District 9 Director and functioned simultaneously as Chair of the Society's Budget and Finance Committee and ARS Treasurer.



Bill Meyer reading Dave Banks' Gold Medal Citation in Bremen.
Photo by Don Hyatt.

You played a major role in the search effort for an Executive Director replacement and the restructuring of those duties, the training of a replacement and your continued role as prime mentor.

You have committed tremendous time and effort to the organization of this international Convention, developing creative and efficient solutions to a myriad of challenges.

Your commitment to the continued viability of the ARS has materially strengthened the Society. For your outstanding service the ARS is proud to award the Gold Medal to Dave Banks.

DEATH

ARS Past President Bob MacIntyre died on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Bob was ARS president when MAC had its 2016 Convention in

Williamsburg. He had become a member of our Middle Atlantic Chapter although his home chapter was the Southwest Oregon Chapter.



Bob MacIntyre at April, 2016, ARS Convention in Williamsburg.

ARS District 9

Director's Report by

Bill Meyers, July 23, 2018

My wife Peggy and I, and Alternate District Director, Dick Mohr and his wife Ginny, were four of the almost 200 fortunate attendees from 20 countries at the recent Joint Convention of the American Rhododendron Society and the German Rhododendron Society. Though we didn't attend the pre or post-convention tours, those who did were completely impressed. The talks and tours in Bremen were fantastic. Rhodies everywhere were in full bloom, the weather was perfect, though unusually warm, and the attendees were wonderful and knowledgeable. For highlights and photos, see the latest ARS Summer 2018 Journal just received by us.

As you'll note several well-deserved Gold Medals were awarded including one to our own Dave Banks who is a legend in the Society and a huge part of the re-organization of the ARS and an organizer of this Convention. Others went to Dr. Hartwig Schepker of the German Rhododendron Society, Director of the incredibly beautiful and huge Rhododendron-Park Bremen who had done a magnificent job in arranging the festivities and tours, one went to June Walsh, former ARS Secretary, now Chair of the ARS Membership Committee and one to Hans Rudolph Lytchoff. Elberg, founder of the Danish Rhododendron Society. A Silver Medal was awarded to Christian Theqvist who, among many other attributes, chaired the Finnish Post tour. A special, ARS Pioneer Achievement Award was given to Jim Barlap for his many years as a skilled hybridizer, contributor of his vast knowledge and creator of many, truly special crosses and for his donation of his creations to the Victoria Rhododendron Society.

During the Board Meeting held Monday of the week in Bremen, one significant piece of business

was the agreed rescue and operation by the Portland Chapter, of the Van Veen Nursery subsequent to the untimely death of Kathy Van Veen. This effort, was put together by past president Mike Stewart, his wife Maria and Brenda Ziegler, both of the Portland Chapter which was bequeathed the Nursery and its land under the Will of Kathy Van Veen subject to a Conservation Easement. The ARS Board unanimously agreed the ARS would be the Grantee of the Easement at no cost to the ARS. This assures the Nursery will remain open for business.

It was announced the Guide to Planting and Care is being updated and a grant from the ARS Endowment of \$2,929 was awarded to The Hinsdale Garden near Reedsport, OR.

Financially, the ARS continues to be on a sound footing however, membership continues to slip in some chapters due to attrition, aging and unfortunate deaths. June Walsh as Chair of the Membership Committee continues to look for suggestions to attract, and retain, new members. For our District, Mason-Dixon has recently added 5 new members, PVC has added 1 and MAC has added none. However, some chapters are doing much better attracting new folks. As examples, Eureka added 7, Siuslaw added 9, Noyo added 11, the Azalea Chapter added 14 and Mt. Suislaw added 15, so it can be done.

The following schedule of forthcoming events was agreed upon and is listed on page 167 of the latest Summer 2018 ARS Journal:

October 19-21, 2018 – ARS Fall Conference, Chattanooga, TN. Registrations can be submitted now on a form included on Page 142 of the recent ARS Summer "Journal".

May 15-19, 2019 – ARS National Convention in the Philadelphia area at the Desmond Hotel, Malvern, PA.

September 27-29, 2019, ARS Fall Conference Parksville, BC

April 30 – May 3, 2020 – 75th Anniversary ARS National Convention in Portland, Oregon, where it all started.

Spring 2021 – ARS Convention to possibly be in Montreal, Canada.

Forthcoming District 9 Chapter Events:

MAC Chapter – Fall meeting - Oct. 6, 2018 – Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond, VA

PVC Chapter – Chapter Picnic – Sep 23, 2018 – Seneca Creek State Park, MD

Fall Banquet – Normandie Farm – Noon- Oct. 27, 2018

Mason – Dixon Chapter – Fall Picnic – Sept. 29, 2018 at home of member, Harry Reid, Jefferson, MD.

Fall Chapter Meetings – October 14 and November 4, 2018 at Bear Branch Park, Westminster, MD

Lastly, Ken Webb, current Western V.P., will become ARS President at the 2019 Spring Convention when our own Ann Mangels “retires”. Replacing Ken as the new Western V.P. will be John Stephens of the Portland Chapter.

Remind all members that if ordering anything on-line through Amazon, go first to: amazon.ARSSore.org. The ARS will get a percentage of the amount of your order at no cost to you. This past year, its fifth year of participation, the ARS made an extra \$3,000 this way!

If any questions, feel free to give me a call or send an e-mail.

(410)-321-6822 or bpmeayers@aol.com



Remember all photos can be seen in color and ENLARGED at MACARS.ORG. Click on Newsletter on left panel.



July 15, 2018, ARS Seed Excjamge seedling. Photo by Doug Jolley.

DOUG JOLLEY sent a link to a good Rhododendron article:

<http://triblive.com/lifestyles/homegarden/13673818-74/retired-dentist-takes-great-pride-in-his-20-acre-woodland-garden>



June 2, 2018, Flame Azalea hillside. Photo by Doug Jolley.

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.

Memberships and renewals should be sent to our Membership Chairman Jeanne Hammer at 231 N Robinson Dr, Macon, NC 27551.

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
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