

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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December 2009

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

May 7-9, 2010	MAC Charlottesville, 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/

DUES, DUES, DUES

Membership chairman Jane McKay reports that some of us still haven't paid our dues for 2010 in spite of the second notice she sent out. The back page of this newsletter has contact information for Jane in case you can't find your renewal form.

MAC 2009 FALL MEETING by Sandra McDonald

MAC members had a beautiful fall weekend for their meeting November 6-8. Our attendance was down, but those of us who came had a good time with lots of time to talk to old friends.

M A C member Phillip Wilkinson was very determined to attend the meeting. After having an accident on the way to the meeting which ruined his car, he went back home and got another car and made it to the meeting.



Phillip Wilkinson. Photo by S. McDonald

That shows determination and dedication to MAC and the P4M offerings!

We had a general meeting on Friday evening and elected Sharon Horn to the board to fill the vacancy left by Lloyd Willis when he moved up to be Vice President.

President Celia Dollarhide had Jim Brant update the members on the happenings with our mountain projects. The chapter provided \$2500 for a summer intern to work on Gregory Bald. The brush mower that was obtained with a grant from the ARS Endowment Fund has been put to good use by the Park Service and the bald area has increased from about 12 acres up to 22 acres, almost what it used to be many years ago. Also, *R. calendulaceum* seed was collected this fall at Hooper Bald and given to the Southern Highlands Reserve to grown on seedling azaleas to be planted across the Cherohala Skyway at Huckleberry Ridge. They want to grow the local native forms there rather than bring in plants from other places. Jim said labor is needed rather than money for cleanup in a couple of areas. He plans to have a work group the weekend after Easter to do some cleanup. MAC also donated some money to the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) to help support a summer worker for the azalea collection at the National Arboretum.

Two awards were given out at the Fall Meeting. The text of the citations for Jim Brant and Ken McDonald are below.

There were several excellent talks at our meeting. On Friday evening Ian Robertson took us on a visit to Scotland that brought back fond memories to several of us who had attended the ARS meeting in Oban, Scotland, in 1996. He showed slides from many of the gardens we had visited.



Ian Robertson. Photo by S. McDonald

We started Saturday morning with a trip to the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico where we saw a movie about the Marines and toured the museum to see the many exhibits.



The Marine Corps Museum at Quantico. Photo by S. McDonald

On Saturday afternoon we had a talk by Adam Downing about major forest threats. He talked about the insect and disease problems of our forests, and

gave us some helpful web sites to view for forest problems.



Adam Downing. Photo by S. McDonald

Doug Jolley presented a very informative talk about garden photography. He covered the basics of depth of field, close up photography, and macro lenses, framing your shots, different angles of photos to change perspectives such as by kneeling to view from a better angle, polarizing to change the intensity of the sky color and reduce glare, considering proportions or thirds when setting up your shot, and many other hints that good photographers know.



Doug Jolley. Photo by S. McDonald



Jim Brant receiving the Bronze Medal from Celia Dollarhide. Photo by W. Przypek



Ken McDonald receiving the MAC Certificate of Appreciation from Celia Dollarhide. Photo by W. Przypek



Carol Segree with her Best in Show *R. makinoi*. Photo by S. McDonald



Doug Jolley auctioning plants. Photo by W. Przypek



Relaxing after the evening festivities in the hospitality room. Photo by W. Przypek.



Relaxing after the program in the hospitality room. Photo by W. Przypek.



Dr. Jay & Shirley Gillenwater. Photo by W. Przypek



Jim Brant tempting Theresa with an auction plant. Photo by W. Przypek



George McLellan chatting with new member Audrey Alexander. Photo by W. Przypek



Sharon Horn and Robert Singleton selecting plants from P4M. Photo by W. Przypek

On Saturday evening following the dinner, George McLellan did a slide show about the garden through the seasons focusing on plants other than rhododendrons. Besides all the beautiful slides he showed, George passed on many tips about gardening, especially about hydrangeas. He said *Hydrangea* 'Annabelle' can be cut to the ground and advises pruning *H. macrophylla* in April. 'Pee Gee' should be pruned to strong wood.



George McLellan. Photo by S. McDonald

The P4M (Plants for Members) had a large number of tempting varieties of rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas raised by Dr. Jay Gillenwater. In addition the plant auction had some spirited bidding on many of the auction plants on Saturday just before dinner. Many MAC members went home happy with all their new plant acquisitions.

President Celia Dollarhide and Vice President Lloyd Willis presented Jim Brant with a special gift of a heavy naturalistic bird bath.

The Fall Foliage Show was won by Carol Segree with her *R. makinoi* taking Best in Show. Doug Jolley had a blue ribbon for a specimen plant *Leucothoe* 'Girard's Rainbow'. Carol had ribbons for several other entries: 'Odee Wright' × *R. metternichii*, *R. yakushimanum* × *R. bureavii*.

BRONZE MEDAL TO JIM BRANT

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to James Brant this Bronze Medal Award IN RECOGNITION OF

your many contributions to our Chapter, year after year, including President, member of the Board of Directors, and leader of many projects that have benefited Gregory Bald and other mountain Balds for their enhancement and study. These projects have brought gratitude of the National Park Service and their renewed appreciation of our native species and natural hybrids that are national treasures. From the time you joined us, you always look for what needs doing, and then pitch in with remarkable energy to get it done. Whether it is helping with chores at meetings, organizing meetings, working on the convention, working on the Chapter's exhibit at Maymont Flower Show, or hosting Board and Species Study Meetings, you are always working for the Chapter. For these and other contributions, we gratefully present our Chapter's highest honor.

November 7, 2009

Signed: Celia Dollarhide, President, Fredericksburg, VA

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION TO KENNETH MCDONALD, JR.

Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Kenneth McDonald, Jr. this Distinguished Service Citation.

For nearly 50 years, Ken has served our Chapter and ARS in every way possible. He has served many terms on our Board of Directors eventually being named a Director Emeritus in perpetuity. He has served as Chapter President, chaired many meetings, served in major capacities for at least two ARS conventions and the ARS Eastern Regional Conference hosted by our chapter, presented talks, served on many committees, chaired major committees, generously donated plants from his Le-Mac Nurseries, Inc. for auctions and Plants for Members, participated in every Chapter activity including Flower Shows and the Species Study Group, participated in our mountain explorations of native species, and advised members on rhododendron culture. As Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, Ken has kept our Chapter financially healthy and able to fund projects and contributions for worthy causes. Recently, Ken completed three years of exceptionally conscientious service as our District 9 Director on the ARS Board. In 1984, he was honored with our Chapter's Bronze Medal Award. For Ken's many years of exemplary service in so many capacities we now present this



George Ring, Jane and Col. Ray Goodrich, Dr. Franklin West, Dr. John Wister. Photo by Emil Hager

Distinguished Service Citation on November 7, 2009 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Signed: Celia Dollarhide, President, Middle Atlantic Chapter, ARS
William Bedwell, Honors Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Susan & Earl Walker, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
Rosa & Bob McWhorter, Gambrills, MD 21054

DEATH

Jane Goodrich, widow of Ray Goodrich, died on November 21st after suffering a stroke earlier in the week. Jane was a member of MAC and also Potomac Valley Chapter. She knew a lot about the Gable rhododendrons and had been one of the original

members of the Gable Study Group. The committee was headed by the late George Ring who worked with Caroline Gable and others documenting the work of Caroline's father Joe Gable. They transcribed his personal notes and letters, investigated his nursery records, and studied his plants in the woods at the Gable farm. The book *Hybrids and Hybridizers* by Livingston and West, has a summary of their work.

Jane had been a MAC member for many years although she had not been able to come to recent meetings.

ANOTHER STORM: NOR'IDA by Sandra McDonald

Southeast Virginia took a hit from this surprisingly powerful storm, a combination of a nor'easter and the remains of Hurricane Ida which seems to have gone on to wreck havoc in Great Britain.

Varying amounts of rain were reported in our area with Walter Przypek reporting 10 inches in Yorktown. Bill Bedwell said he had 6.7 inches in Dinwiddie. Winds in Norfolk and Virginia Beach were reported to have reached 75 to 76 mph which is actually hurricane force. There was a lot of coastal flooding with some places having higher water than they did in Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and some places having lower levels. Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and the lower part of the peninsula had more high water than did the Gloucester area which is a bit further north.

Water was up about four feet into our yard, but no damage appears to have been done unless more plants die from salt left from the storm as next year's growing season progresses. We were out of town for the storm so did not get to witness its progress. The electric power was only out for 24 hours this time instead of 10 days as before.

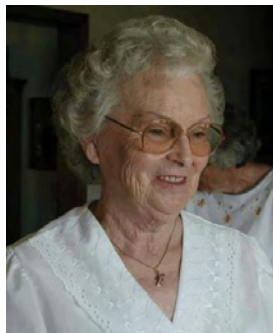
Some trees were blown down, but not nearly as many as in Isabel although the Norfolk Botanical Garden did report quite a bit of damage from downed trees. So many trees were blown down all over the area by Hurricane Isabel that there were many fewer trees to hit this time.

MAC RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION

The Budget & Finance Committee announced at a recent committee meeting that Elmer Lapsley had made a generous donation to MAC. Thank you, Elmer.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

Thanksgiving is over and my son and family have gone back home to New York after a week spent with me. My son and daughter-in-law even completed all the tasks that I had listed that were beyond my capabilities so I have a lot to be thankful for. I'm writing this on November 28 and this is the latest date that I can



Jane McKay

remember that we have not had a hard frost. Several azaleas are still in bloom, George Ring's 'August to Frost', the Encore azaleas, 'Autumn Amethyst', 'Autumn Royalty', and 'Autumn Sangria', and 'Opal'. Two of the cold hardy 'Camellias', 'Snow Flurry' a white peony form flower and 'Winter Interlude', a pink anemone form are still blooming after several weeks. Two

rhododendrons, 'Gordon Jones' (this plant partially opened every bud) and 'Glenda Farrell' a Dexter, opened only a few buds are still showing color.

One strange occurrence this year is that I have not seen one acorn from at least 30 or 40 oak trees after last year's onslaught. Even the hickory nuts that usually hit me in the head every time I walk out on the deck for several weeks in the summer were almost non-existent.

Going back to the critters I wrote about last issue of the newsletter I had forgotten to mention one incident with voles. Six or seven years ago I noticed the Hosta 'Wide Brim' disappearing into the ground. I knew I had nothing to spray with and I went into the house to see if I had anything I could possibly use when I spotted a small bottle of hot sauce. I figured it was worth a try and I poured it in the holes around and on top of the plant. The voles disappeared and that plant was vole free until this year.

The garden has received more than enough rain this fall as it did in the Spring, July and August were dry so I spent the usual small fortune on keeping it watered.

Happy Gardening, Jane



The photographers get their picture taken. Sandra McDonald & Walt Przypek. Photo by Sybil Przypek.

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

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.

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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