

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XXXXII No.4

December 2015

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 20-24, 2016

ARS ASA Convention, Williamsburg,
Virginia

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

Our 2016 Convention site (NEW)

www.arsasaconvention2016.org

FALL 2015 MAC MEETING IN GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA

MAC had a delightful Fall Meeting at the Courtyard Marriott in Glen Allen co-chaired by Debby Sauer and Barbara Hall. The hotel was very nice and the food was quite good. There were forty-two attendees. Dr. Jay Gillenwater held a very brief business meeting for an election.



Jeanne Hammer and Theresa Brents arriving at the Courtyard Marriott. Photo W. Przypek.

Karel Bernady from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter gave an interesting and informative talk on grafting. His pictures showed how to do it.

Saturday morning featured a car-pool visit to Colesville Nursery where plants could be purchased. We had a box lunch at Hanover Wayside, then went back to the hotel.

After lunch Rachel Yungman demonstrated "Making Concrete Leaves and Orbs for the Garden." She gave clear instructions for the complete process and also the painting of the leaves. She had many finished leaves to show and sell.

Theresa Brents had the book sale set up and open. Jay Gillenwater had the P4M plants set up for the sale, and Bill Bedwell and Don Hyatt successfully auctioned plants on Friday evening and Saturday evening.

The foliage show had only 5 entries from Debby Sauer and Carol Segree and was not judged.

Saturday evening speaker Mike O'Hara had the digital photography presentation that well-known West Coast hybridizer Jim Barlup put together. Jim Barlup is a retired professional photographer so the photos were excellent. That talk had been given the ARS Conference.



Co-chair Barbara Hall giving instructions to the group. Photo S. McDonald.



Rachel Yungman demonstrating how to make concrete leaves.
Photo by S. McDonald.



Walt Przypek and Phyllis Rittman at Collesville Nursery. Photo D. Banks.



Rick Bauer and George McLellan at Colesville Nursery. Photo D. Banks.



Meeting speaker Mike O'Hara. Photo by S. McDonald.

**MAC SPECIAL
ELECTION AT
THE FALL
MEETING**

MAC had a brief election at the Fall Meeting at which Margaret Willis and Lloyd were added to the Board.



Margaret & Lloyd Willis. Photo W.Przypek

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 20-24,
2016 CONVENTION IN WILLIAMSBURG
from Don Hyatt**

When our District hosts the ARS/ASA Convention in Williamsburg from April 20-24, 2016, we will need lots of help. Please volunteer.

Co-Chairs:

Rick Bauer
115 Hunter Lane
Yorktown, VA 23692
(757) 833-7737

Don Hyatt
1948 Lorraine Avenue
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 241-5421

DEATHS

Rosalie Nachman

Former MAC member Rosalie Nachman of Richmond died on October 6, 2015. She and her



David Sauer and Rosalie Nachman. April 28, 2007 on Rosalie's patio. Photo S. McDonald.

husband Larry moved to a home on nearly an acre near the University of Richmond in 1952. Over the years, her gardening made its grounds "into one of Richmond's most spectacular yards," according to a 1987 story in *The Richmond News Leader*. MAC members had several tours of her beautiful garden over the years. In addition to belonging to MAC, she was a long-time member of the Azalea Society of America. She loved azaleas and filled her yard with more than 1,000 azaleas. Rosalie gave talks about azaleas and camellias. She served on the board at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Many groups and classes toured her yard.

Rosalie had a fine arts degree and used her artistic talent in composing her garden. She once said she liked red and purple azaleas together which is an unusual combination for many, but Rosalie made it work. Her garden was almost like a painting. There was a tremendous amount of plant

material in a limited space, but with her talent, it worked.

Bruno Kaelin

Former MAC associate member Bruno Kaelin died on October 16, 2015. Bruno's primary membership was with the Potomac Valley Chapter, but he and his wife Evelyn came to many of our MAC meetings.



Bruno Kaelin. Photo by S. McDonald.

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is October 29, 2015 as I sit down to write this article. What has been happening in the garden?

Well—several projects have been completed this fall. Most of those projects were pointed out to me by various family members.

There is an area on our side lot that now has about 75 pounds of grass seed and five bales of straw. Thanks to the rain and some warm days the new grass is looking great. There is another area on the side lot that will be getting the other 25 pounds of grass seed and straw--eventually.

Someone in the family noticed that the very cute mouse ear hostas were 75% off at a local garden store and were crying out for a new home. We only took home thirty-eight orphans. These and twelve other hostas (25% off) enlarged an existing bed. Someone has to supply the salad for the deer.

We have been adding to the holding area for the fall plant purchases. This is always an enjoyable project. The MAC fall meeting in Richmond provided eighteen very nice plants. Then the local garden store had another 75% off which gained us eight 3-gallon azaleas and sixteen 1-gallon boxwoods



from the Staunton store and five 1-gallon boxwoods and twelve hostas from the Waynesboro store. The purchases filled most of the trunk and the back seat. Some space needed for plants was taken up by a few groceries and a box of kitty litter. (There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that I have asked Margaret to remain behind so I would have more room in the car for plants.)

So where is the humor in this article? Fall leaf cleanup involves a helper, Mr. Huff, who blows leaves into low piles which are then chopped up by me on the riding lawn mower. Last week when we were near the end of a two hour work session, I asked him to please prepare a pile of leaves for grandsons Silas (age 7), Jacob (age 9), and Michael (age 11). The focal point of the pile was getting the pile taller than Silas. Once the pile was about five feet tall, Mr. Huff and I went in the house to visit. Margaret called Silas' mother to tell her there was a leaf pile for Silas in the maple field. The other grandsons weren't available at that time. Within 20 minutes, Silas and his mother were in our living room. Silas thanked Mr. Huff and Grand Dad for his huge leaf pile. Silas' mother asked, "Did you know that the leaf pile is about 63 feet long?" I'd missed that minor detail since the focus had been on the height not the length.

**WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS
DECEMBER 2015** by Doug Jolley

This fall has been one of bountiful insects. Beneficial ones. We had more butterflies in the garden from late summer on than Davetta and I can remember. We found Monarch caterpillars on milkweed plants in the yard, multiple chrysalis remains and saw Monarch butterflies post emergence on six occasions. Praying Mantis were plentiful too. We continually encounter mantis egg masses in planting beds.



As usual, most viburnum varieties have been berry laden. *Viburnum nudum* 'Brandywine' berries appear in pastel shades and then turn a deep purple as fall proceeds. Our favorite pairing is of adjacent plants of 'Michael Dodge' and 'Cardinal Candy'.

Somewhat disconcerting this fall has been a



Praying mantis. Photo by Doug Jolley.

widespread bloom of elepidote and lepidote rhododendrons and evergreen azaleas. 'Mist Maiden' and 'Lee's Dark Purple' have been sporting flowers into November for several weeks. Girard azalea cultivars including 'Sandra Ann' and 'Pleasant White' have been blooming for several weeks as



Girard's 'Pleasant White'. Photo by Doug Jolley.

well. The Girard cultivars produce some of our most striking fall foliage displays. *Rhododendron kiusianum* 'Komo Kulshan' is actually quite attractive now. Late October frosts have not seemed to deter new flowers from opening. As of mid-November, we have awoken to less than a handful of truly frosty mornings. None of our deciduous azaleas have decided to open early and many native azaleas have exhibited gorgeous foliage this year.

One of the results of a late season visit to the garden of MAC member Ron Brown resulted in the gift of a handful of hardy cyclamen. These seem to have found a happy home and in the fall the flowers they produce and the striking evergreen foliage are a welcome addition to the garden. Remember:



Monarch butterfly and chrysalis. Photo by Doug Jolley.

Hellebore and snowdrop season is less than three months away !

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

An article by Scott Burrell in the December issue of *Virginia Gardener* featured the garden of Elissa Steeves. Scott Burrell talks about Elissa’s garden being full of surprises, illusion and humor. She loves plants especially natives and unusual ones, and makes a place for the plant if she likes it. There are at least eight colorful photos showing her good sense of composition.

DISTRICT IX DIRECTOR’S REPORT, NOVEMBER 2015

by David Banks

The Fall ARS Conference was held on Long Island in mid-October. Attendees got to hear Dick Murcott talk about the history of rhododendrons on Long Island; Karel Bernady talk about grafting rhododendrons, and Don Hyatt presenting one of his famous talks on “things that didn’t grow”...



The Board meeting began with a discussion of virtual—electronic—board meetings, an alternative that has been discussed in the past but never implemented. It had been discussed as an alternative

to Fall meetings, given the costs to the Directors of traveling to two meetings a year. This time it was considered as a way for the Board to make necessary decisions between the two meetings—in particular decisions that may be needed as plans are firmed up relative to the retirement of Executive Director (ED) Laura Grant. No decisions were made.

At the Spring 2015 Board meeting in Sidney BC, significant budget savings were effected by reducing a number of line items—including reduction of travel budgets for both the JARS editor and the ED. At the Fall meeting the topic was opened for discussion again and those reductions rescinded, leaving the budget slightly further in the red than it had begun.

A small transition task force was created to research the duties of the ED and recommend how to proceed. Members are: Ann Mangels (Eastern VP) chair, Ken Webb (Western VP), Linda Derkach (Secretary), Bruce Feller (Past President) and Dave Banks. The team met the day after the Board meeting and has met twice since via teleconference. Duties have been reduced to a much smaller list than the six pages provided by the ED (largely by eliminating redundancy) and an attempt made to parse them among various positions. This will be a topic of future DD reports as progress is made in ensuring that the ED’s core duties are covered when she retires at the end of the 2016 Convention in Williamsburg.

The MAC Chapter had its Fall meeting the week after the Long Island conference, and everyone present got to hear Karel Bernady’s excellent talk on grafting. We toured Colesville Nursery, bought some plants, and had a great time talking to each other. Potomac Valley Chapter just held their Chapter Banquet at Wildfire Restaurant, in Tysons II. Mason-Dixon just held a Chapter meeting at the Bear Branch Nature Center in Westminster, Maryland.

The ARS-ASA Joint Convention 2016 planning team—representatives from all three ARS chapters and Northern VA Chapter of ASA—met on 16 November at the Fort Magruder hotel (convention site) to review schedule, duties, volunteer needs, publicity, etc.



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

MORE PHOTOS FROM DOUG JOLLEY FOR HIS ARTICLE



Rhododendron periclymenoides



'Michael Dodge' and 'Cardinal Candy' viburnums.



Viburnum nudum 'Brandywine'.



Rhododendron 'Lee's Dark Purple'.



Rhododendron periclymenoides colorful fall foliage.

PHOTOS FROM THE MAC FALL MEETING



Paul James and Barbara Hall at Colesville Nursery. Photo by Dave Banks.



Shirley Gillenwater at Colesville Nursery. Photo by Dave Banks.



Shirley Gillenwater. Photo by W. Przypek.



Carol Segree and Karel Bernady at Colesville Nursery. Photo by Dave Banks.



Gray Carter with his two helpers. Photo by W. Przypek.



Teri Bennett. Photo by W. Przypek.



Pansies at Colesville Nursery. Photo by W. Przypek.



George McLellan and Dave Banks. Photo by W. Przypek.



Co-chair Debby Sauer with Paul James at picnic lunch. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC members at picnic lunch. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC members at picnic lunch. Photo by W. Przypek.



Barbara Hall, David Taylor and other MAC members. Photo by S. McDonald.



The plant auction. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC President Dr. Jay Gillenwater and Shirley Gillenwater. Photo by S. McDonald.



Jan Scanlan and Theresa Brents. Photo by S. McDonald.



Meeting Co-chairs Debby Sauer and Barbara Hall. Photo by S. McDonald.



Glenn and Mary Kauffman. Photo by S. McDonald.



Alton Hall, Don Hyatt and Paul James at the plant auction. Photo by S. McDonald.

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

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
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