

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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June 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

September 17, 2008

ARS Board meeting in Hawaii

October 24-25, 2008

MAC meeting, Williamsburg, 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 (*NEW*)

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

MAC SPRING MEETING AT CANAAN VALLEY RESORT JUNE 6-8

MAC had a fun-filled meeting at Canaan Valley Resort Lodge. The weather was quite warm and sunny after some heavy rains before we got there.

At the business meeting District 9 Director Ken McDonald gave a report on the ARS Board meeting in Tulsa. Jeanne Hammer announced the new board members who were subsequently elected: Mike Andruczyk, David Parmer, and Slim Lockerman.

William Grafton gave an interesting talk on Friday night about the history of Dolly Sods and the plants there. He led us on the tour of Dolly Sods on Saturday morning, pointing out many interesting

plants. *Rhododendron prinophyllum* was at its peak bloom for our trip.

There was a successful Book Sale and a Seedling/Plant Sale on Friday night and again to finish off on Saturday night.

After a lunch cookout of hamburgers and hot dogs and all the accompaniments at the Lodge on Saturday, we re-boarded the buses for a trip to Blackwater Falls. The group split in two and some of



Friday night speaker and Saturday Dolly Sods tour leader Bill Grafton. Photo by W. Przypek.



Dr. Stephen Krebs. Photo by W. Przypek.

us went to the falls while others had a more leisurely walk.

Saturday evening featured a barbecue dinner followed by Dr. Stephen Krebs talking about hybridizing for root rot resistance in addition to other characteristics. He uses *R. hyperythrum* in his newer crosses.

Sybil Przypek received a Bronze Medal.

The flower show only had two people with entries due to the lateness of the meeting and the recent hot weather. Doug Jolley won Best-in-Show, Best Deciduous Azalea, and New MAC Hybrid with *R. calendulaceum* × *R. arborescens*.

Sandra McDonald had *R. calendulaceum* x *R. arborescens*. Photo by W. Przypek. Best Azalea Species with *R. arborescens* and Best Evergreen Azalea with Pink Macrantha.



BRONZE MEDAL AWARDED TO SYBIL PRZYPEK:

In recognition of many years of services: arranging and chairing Chapter meetings, serving as meeting registrar, hosting committee and species meetings, arranging hospitality for meetings, serving on the Board of Directors, Vice President, President and Past President. For these and many other contributions in support of our Chapter we gratefully present this award. June 7, 2008, Davis, West Virginia. Signed Jim Brant, President



Sybil Przypek receiving Bronze Medal from Honor's Chairman Bill Bedwell and MAC president Jim Brant.

DEATHS

Walter (Wally) B. McKay, died on May 16, 2008 in Palmyra, Virginia, after an extended illness. Wally was the husband of Jane McKay, MAC membership chairman. He had come to a number of meetings before his illness. Besides Jane, he leaves a son, Darren, and daughter-in-law, Denise, and three grandchildren, Glenn, Danny, and Samantha

OLD QUARTERLY BULLETIN ARS

The old ARS Quarterly Bulletins are now online at Virginia Tech thanks to ARS webmaster Bob Weissman and some folks at Virginia Tech. See the URL on the front page of this newsletter. You can also visit the ARS website : rhododendron.org and find a link there. You will probably need to type American Rhododendron Society into the search blank at Tech.



Wally McKay.

NEWS FROM OUR GARDEN ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY by David Lay

On the western shore of Chesapeake Bay the last year has been extraordinarily rough. The severe drought of 2007 devastated our garden. This past spring we carted away two truckloads of the dead or dying.

Almost all the casualties were azalea or rhododendron and it was heartbreaking to see the 6-8 foot plants smashed by a front-end loader into the rear of a dump truck. We have reluctantly concluded that global warming and drought make the whole genus less and less suitable for the climate of the coastal Middle Atlantic Chapter.

Yak hybrids and the Gables almost all survived but Dexter, Leach and West coast hybrids were universally poor. We even lost three 'Scintillation'. Among the evergreen azaleas Glen Dales and newer hybrids which had been weakened by previous droughts all showed extensive dieback and even *R. nakaharai* and Polly Hills suffered. The natives came through beautifully, however, as did almost all our species, including the rarer ones: *Rhododendron sanctum*, *weyrichii*, *nudipes*, *prunifolium* and *serrulatum*.

Other non-ericaceous plants in the garden did surprisingly well. The deciduous magnolias were magnificent. We now have more than two dozen- and they put out quite a show as did the Japanese maples

with their early spring red and pink tinted new leaves. We only lost one maple to the drought and no magnolias.

Fortunately the spring has been somewhat wetter than usual at least until June and spring bloom has been as prolonged by several unusually cool spells, a big help to our camellias and daphnes. I hope this report doesn't sound too gloomy. The Lays still enjoy their 30-year-old, 5-acre garden but gardens mature while gardeners simply age.



MAC group at Blackwater Falls. Photo by S. McDonald.



Jeanne Hammer on Dolly Sods in field of *R. prionophyllum*. Photo by S. McDonald.

GILLENWATER GARDEN

The Gillenwater's had their Charlottesville garden open on April 12th. Their garden is on land that was owned by the Meriwether Lewis family in 1700s. It was an apple and peach orchard at that time. Virginia Cooperative Extension had organized the garden tours for this event.



Dr. Jay Gillenwater setting up the plant sale with plants he grew.
Photo by S. McDonald.

TIDEWATER NOTES by Sandra McDonald

For a while it looked like we might look forward to a good year for the garden even though the 2007 rain deficit was hard on our plants. 2008 started out dry, too, but the weather was cool and gave us a nice bloom period in the early spring. We did have some rains, but now they have become very spotty again with Gloucester and Kilmarnock having plentiful rains for period while the rain skipped around us in Hampton and Norfolk. We are still very dry.

A forest fire in N.C. and another fire which started June 9th in the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia have been burning for some days now. The smoke has been drifting up to us in Hampton and Newport News, and newspaper reports say it has also reached Richmond and even as far north as Delaware. Fire in the ground in peat can burn a long time. You know it is dry when the swamp burns. Gardeners are optimists and we continue to water and hope the weather pattern will get better.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Brandom, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Vicky Herrala, Blacksburg, VA 24060

John Partin, Gloucester, VA 23061

Late renewal: Karel Bernady, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Email corrections:

Jim Brant: jandpbrant@verizon.net

Dennis Barnes: dcbarne@ntelos.net

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



MAC members on field trip to Dolly Sods to see *R. prinophyllum*. Photo courtesy of Jim Brant.



Working hard to get MAC meeting set up. Foreground: Sharon Horn & Celia Dollarhide. Photo by S. McDonald.



Slim Lockerman at plant sale. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC group hiking on Dolly Sods. Photo by W. Przypek.



Doug Jolley & Sybil Przypek at Blackwater Falls. Photo W. Przypek.

DISTRICT NINE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Ken McDonald

The Tulsa, Oklahoma ARS Spring meeting was excellent, but only 112 people were registered. 150 members are required by ARS bylaws for a meeting which is required at least once each year. It is a terrible shame that more members did not attend, as Past President Len Miller, Keith Johansson and others of the Ozark Chapter put a lot of effort into organizing good tours, speakers and entertainment in a very nice hotel.

The Board meeting was well attended by 27 persons including Ann and Bill Mangels and Sandra and Ken McDonald of District 9. Secretary June Walsh is complimented for getting out the minutes in less than 2 weeks. These should be accessible on the OARS website (arsoffice.org). Future meetings and publications available are also there, in the Journal and the meeting agenda.

As meeting attendance fell far below expectations; the Ozark Chapter will sustain a large loss. ARS provides a \$3000 start up fund (POB 14.0) for conventions and will absorb up to a \$5000 loss (POB 11.4). To help get the immediate bills paid, the Board approved a loan to the Ozark Chapter of an additional \$5000 for Convention expenses.

They had an excess of very attractive meeting pins of which I have a bag full and would be glad to share with your chapters at \$3 each, or in appreciation for your director's expense partial reimbursement.

A slight deficit budget was again approved with the hope that memberships, upgrades of memberships, fund earnings and donations might increase. In December 2007, Treasurer Bill Mangels and OARS Laura Grant sent an 'end of year' appeal to about half of ARS members who are Life or who joined before 1990. The response was over \$9000 in contributions. This is a great help for the current fiscal year budget. Donations in memory of Ed Reilly should be sent to Laura Grant at OARS for the ARS General Fund marked for Educational Purposes.

It has been suggested that there are too many meetings which are too long with too many tours; all of which adds up to be too expensive in these difficult to travel times. If we do not support our chapters and Society by attending meetings and getting to know our fellow rhodoholics, then we should sustain these groups in other ways or dues will increase, or the quality of meetings, publications, and education and research efforts will diminish.

There were no changes to dues or to how chapters share them.

Karel Bernady is replacing Hank Schannen as chair of the ARS Research Foundation. Shirley Rock is the new Membership Committee chair. A Long Range Planning Committee chair, Secretary and Journal Editor will be needed. Sonja Nelson is retiring at the end of this

year. June Walsh wishes to end her term next summer. Volunteers? Contact W-VP Don Smart or let me know.

Continue to send chapter newsletters to OARS in hard copy with e-mails to ARS Officers and District 9 Director and Alternate; Press Releases and actual copy of printed articles to Jerry Reynolds; and ROY selections to Ray Smith.

Also, please keep Laura Grant current on Chapter Presidents, Treasurers, all member addresses and e-mail changes, and any chapter bylaw up dates.

Costs of a printed ARS member roster in addition to the present on line chapter lists will be investigated. Does anyone besides me want this?

Wing Fong continues to expand the DVD Library and welcomes contributions of additional programs.

A motion to set a goal of 50% 'how to' articles in the Journal passed by a close vote. In my opinion this was ill advised and unnecessary. Certainly 50% of content is too much for a high quality journal that many of us value and keep permanently.

The meeting concluded at 5:45 pm, but a lot of Old Business and Action Items were not addressed.

The next Board meeting will be Sept. 24th in Hilo, Hawaii. Neither we or the Mangels plan to attend so a substitute representative can be appointed if anyone is interested in attending. There is a protocol involved so we should know of any candidate well beforehand. There is precedent for chapters to pay partial expenses for unelected or substitute delegates.

Chapter Presidents will need to nominate a new director and alternate by October. This will be Potomac Valley's turn, but anyone could be selected. Jon Wallenmeyer is chair of this nominating committee.

It has been suggested that ARS, the District or chapters make available pins, patches, pens, ties, caps, sweat or t-shirts, coffee cups, briefcases, etc. for sale to members. Any preferences and/or ideas will be appreciated.

ARS Honors nominations for next Spring must be submitted through the District Director to the Chair: Dee Daneri by November 15th (POB 9.5). Several persons have been mentioned as eligible and deserving, but it takes time to organize and put together 'The Package' and petitioners are needed. I would be glad to help and even do one nomination. This years recipients were: Gold: Bud Gehnrich and Bob Weissman, Silver: June and Tim Walsh, John Thornton, and Marc Colombel.

To better sustain the ARS, from which our chapters derive our legal and tax exempt status, we need to keep our chapters strong and vital, and also do all that we can to promote and support our parent organization, the ARS. Neither would exist as they do today without the other.

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
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