

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XXXIV No.4

December 2008

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

May 8-10, 2009

MAC meeting, Holiday Inn Tanglewood, Roanoke, 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/>

MAC FALL MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN PATRIOT, WILLIAMSBURG, VA

MAC members who attended the Fall Meeting in Williamsburg enjoyed a fun-filled meeting in the wonderful colonial atmosphere of Williamsburg. The temperatures were balmy and at one point on the tours rain was threatening, but we were lucky and it held off until we returned to the motel for the talks.

Laura Viancour, the Garden Programs manager

A P4M (Plants for Members) sale took place on Friday evening with many rare and unusual plants available. A chapter business meeting also took place on Friday night.

On Saturday, a bus took us to CW where the garden tours were organized with tour leaders garden historian Don McKelvey and landscape supervisor Susan Dupree.

After the garden walk and before the rain started,



MAC members on garden tour in Colonial Williamsburg.

for CW gave an excellent slide show and overview of the gardens and explained how they changed from the somewhat modern versions that were done when the restoration began to the closer to historical gardens now. In some places, there are both types, keeping the best of each type.

Don Hyatt gave an excellent digital propagation presentation. Then Doug Jolley demonstrated how to pot, repot, or plant rhododendrons and azaleas. George McLellan followed with a demonstration on pruning.

A Fall Foliage Show and a Photography Contest were held. Foliage Show results are shown later in a



Don Hyatt demonstrating propagation. Photo by W. Przypek.



George McLellan demonstrating pruning. Photo by W. Przypek.



Doug Jolley demonstrating repotting. Photo by W. Przypek.

separate table. Don Hyatt won the Photography Contest.

Theresa Brents arranged the book sale. We had the Plant Auction and buffet on Saturday evening followed by two Certificates of Appreciation, Jay Gillenwater and William Constable, Jr., and one Bronze Medal award, Jane McKay. Bruce Feller gave the evening slide show showing his lovely Long Island Garden through all seasons and through some years of development.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents this Certificate of Appreciation to **Jay Y. Gillenwater, M. D.**, in recognition of his vital services to our Chapter in rescuing our Plants for Members Program at a crucial time, for bringing high standards to the production of the plants, and for his exceptional generosity in



MAC President Jim Brant. Photo by S. McDonald

support of this program and its many benefits to our members. In addition, he has graciously opened his lovely garden for several tours during Chapter and

District meetings. For these and other outstanding contributions we present this certificate.

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents this Certificate of Appreciation to **William Constable, Jr.**, in recognition of his vital services to our Chapter in helping to rescue our Plants for Members Program at a crucial time and for his work in growing and transporting plants. In addition, he has provided excellent help and support with our Chapter exhibits at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in Richmond, and he has provided valuable help with many meetings. For these and other outstanding contributions we present this certificate.



Saturday evening speaker Bruce Feller. Photo by S. McDonald.

BRONZE MEDAL TO JANE MCKAY

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Jane McKay this Bronze Medal Award in recognition of your many contributions to our Chapter, including your services as a valuable member of the Board of Directors, your hard work as Membership Chairman for the last nine years, your very regular columns in the Chapter newsletter for the last thirteen years, and for moving your primary ARS membership to our Chapter. For these and many other contributions in support of our

Chapter, we gratefully present our Chapter's highest honor.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

It's almost mid November and we are yet to have a killing frost. I'm still trying to get rid of some of the zillion acorns that litter the ground and now it's raining leaves. It is also very dry so I'm still watering, I've drained the sprinkler system so I'm back to dragging hoses. The color this season has been gorgeous (I bet I say that every year) especially the dogwoods, Japanese maples and the deciduous azaleas. The evergreen azaleas also color up but in a more subtle way. R.'Lynn Robbins Steinman', a little known lepidote rhododendron that blooms early with lovely deep pink flowers, has leaves with outstanding fall color ranging from yellow to bronze to pink all at one time. The Encore azaleas, 'Amethyst', 'Autumn Royalty' and 'Autumn Sangria' among others are still blooming. On September 11 I was surprised to see buds opening on a deciduous azalea we had brought home from the Rhododendron Convention held in Asheville, N.C. in 1994 labeled 'Late Yellow *arborescens* clone 2 Kehr'. This azalea that continued to bloom for a month, is more pale salmon than yellow but still beautiful especially noticeable when blooming out of season. *Salvia guaranitica*, a gift from Barbara Hall many years ago, is still in full bloom, this is one great plant. This flower is the bluest possible blue and the favorite flower of humming birds in my entire garden. *Salvia guaranitica* (I wish I could pronounce it) is claimed to be only marginally hardy in my zone 7 garden (which is very often more 6b) but has never failed to return and bloom non stop from mid summer until a hard frost.



Jane McKay

I want to thank the Chapter for awarding me the Bronze Medal. I was certainly surprised since I think many others are more deserving. I have been a member of the ARS for 46 years and enjoying every minute. I feel the best way to go in any organization is to get involved and hope in some small way to make it better. Wally and I made many friends over the years and it would be more fitting for me to give the ARS and MAC a medal instead of my receiving one. Again, thank you for allowing me to be part of you.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Warren & Diane Robinette,
Fincastle, VA 24090

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Ken McDonald, Jr.

Mary Reiley attended the ARS Board of Director's meeting in Hawaii in September and acted as a substitute District Director since neither I nor Alternate District Director Ann Mangels could attend.



District 9 Director Ken McDonald. Photo by W. Przypek.

They were 2 short of a quorum at the meeting. All motions passed with only 1 or 2 nays. They will be considered adopted with the concurrence of 2 additional votes (even if nay). A lot is lost however by not being there -face to face - to hear the proposals, arguments and personal opinions presented. I am glad that we were represented.

As Mary reported, there will be some changes in dues and membership renewal dates. A full ARS roster will be available for \$5 a copy if ordered and paid for by Dec. 31st. Please let me know your requirements and send check(s) and addresses ASAP.

The insurance issues were addressed satisfactorily. Cost estimates are now approximately \$2.50 per member based in the US. Thanks to some negotiating by Dee Daneri who attended the meeting.

Future Society Annual Meetings will be 'required' to remit 10% of the profits (if any) to the ARS General Fund.

Some of the motions approved would appear to change existing policies and procedures. There was talk of even dropping future Life memberships. ARS Insurance was previously to have been required by all US based chapters. Student memberships have yet to be acted on (referred to committee). Some items effecting the Budget should have waited for the Spring meeting; but finances are short and those attending must have considered it necessary to act now.

Kenneth McDonald, Jr., ARS D/D 9

HARRY'S PLANT LEGACY

The Charleston West Virginia Sunday *Gazette-Mail* featured an article about Harry Wise in the October 19, 2008 issue with some comments from Doug Jolley. Some of the plants mentioned were 'Harry's Happy Hour' which won a foliage show, 'Wise Maxmak'-- a cross between *R. maximum* and *R. makinoi*, and 'Wise Decision' – a cross between *R. austrinum* and *R. calendulaceum*.

Doug mentioned several of the projects he and Harry had donating plants to West Virginia Wesleyan College, the College of William & Mary, James Madison University, the University of Virginia, Blue Ridge Community College, the Orlando White Arboretum of UVA, and the Museum of Frontier Culture and History in Staunton, Virginia.

HERBICIDE FELLS TREES

Hannah Mathers, an Ohio State University Extension nursery and landscape specialist, said that glyphosate (Roundup) applied improperly or in too high a dosage is causing bark split and destroying the winter hardiness of landscape and nursery woody plants. A safer formulation is under development.

The mix of glyphosate and surfactants weakens the bark structure enough to cause the trunks to split

under stress. It seems to not be the glyphosate itself that is causing split bark, but the surfactant found in some glyphosate products that is causing the problem. A surfactant is a wetting agent that allows for easier spreading of the chemical, and increases uptake of the chemical in woody plants. Surfactants are known as adjuvant loads on glyphosate product labels.

More information can be found at <http://extension.osu.edu/~news/story.php?id=4685>

Some plants susceptible to this damage are: Pyrus species, especially Callery pears; Prunus species, especially Yoshino cherry and Kwanzan cherry; Crab apples; Sycamore; Serviceberry; Hawthorn; Mountain Ash; Black Gum; Paper bark maple; Japanese maples, especially variety dissectum; Norway maple, especially ‘Emerald Queen’; Red maples; Dogwood, especially Kousa dogwood; Magnolias, especially Magnolia ‘Elizabeth’; and the yellow magnolias such as Magnolia ‘Butterflies’, ‘Sawada’s Cream’, Magnolia ‘Yellow Bird’ and Magnolia ‘

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



David Sauer and Slim Lockerman. Photo by S. McDonald.



David and Virginia Banks. Photo by W. Przypek.



National Champion Tree: Compton Oak (*Quercus virginiana* × *Q. lyrata*) at Colonial Williamsburg with MAC members in a tour group beneath it. Photo by S. McDonald.

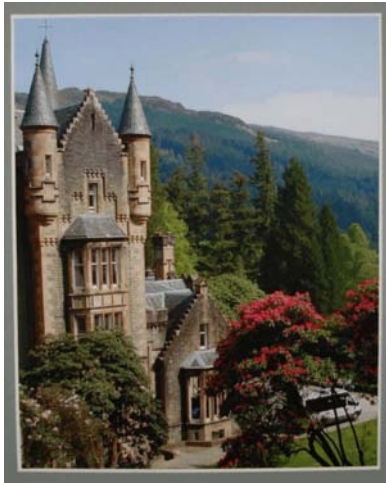


Photo contest winner: Arboreum at Benmore by Don Hyatt.



Best in Show - Fall Foliage Show, 'Hallelujah' by David Parmer. Photo by S. McDonald



Jane McKay after receiving her Bronze Medal. Photo by W. Przypek.



Bill Bedwell presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Jay Gillenwater. Photo by W. Przypek.



William Constable, Jr. receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Bill Bedwell. Photo by S. McDonald.



David Parmer listening as Garden Historian Don McKelvey explains old tools. Photo by S. McDonald.



Theresa Brents and Sharon Horn working the registration desk. Photo by W. Przypek.



Wm & Mary Homecoming Parade. Photo by W. Przypek.

MAC-ARS Fall Foliage Show, Williamsburg, Virginia, October 24-26, 2008

Rhododendron Species

elepidote (non-scaly series)

Blue	Bruce & Marianne Feller	R. maximum
Red	The Fellers	R. insigne
white	Sandra McDonald	R. hyperythrum

lepidote (scaly series)

Blue	The Fellers	R. impeditum
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Rhododendron Hybrids

elepidote - w/o indumentum

Blue	David Parmer	R. 'Hallelujah'
Red	D. Parmer	R. 'Solidarity'
Red	D. Parmer	R. 'Sunspray'
White	The Fellers	R. 'Goldflimmer'
White	The Beaudrys	R. 'Hardy Giant'

elepidote - w/ indumentum

Blue	The Fellers	R. 'Crimson Pippins'
Red	The Fellers	Unknown

lepidote

Blue	The Fellers	R. 'Smoke Signal'
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Azalea Species

evergreen

Blue	S. McDonald	R. oldhamii
Red	S. McDonald	R. serpyllifolium
White	The Fellers	R. macrosepalum linearifolium

Azalea Hybrids

evergreen

Red	S. McDonald	R. 'Silver Sword'
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Specimen Plant

Rhododendron hybrid

Blue	Doug Jolley	R. 'Landmark'
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Fall Blooming Species and Hybrids

Blue	The Fellers	R. jacksonii
Red	S. McDonald	R. 'Dorset'
Red	The Fellers	R. 'Smoke Signal'

Related Species in the Ericaceae Family

Blue	The Fellers	Pieris japonicum bonsai
Red	The Fellers	Pieris japonicum variagata

Fall 2007 Foliage Show Class Awards

Best Rhododendron Species

Bruce & Marianne Feller	R. maximum
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Best Rhododendron Hybrid

Bruce & Marianne Feller	R. 'Smoke Signal'
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Best Azalea Species

Sandra McDonald	R. oldhamii
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Best Specimen Plant

Doug Jolley	R. 'Landmark'
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Best Fall Blooming Species or Hybrid

Bruce & Marianne Feller	R. jacksonii
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Best Related Species

Bruce & Marianne Feller	Pieris japonicum bonsai
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Best In Show

David Parmer	R. 'Hallelujah'
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Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
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