

# MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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December 2018

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 19 to 21, 2019

May 15 to 19, 2019

MAC Spring Meeting, English Inn, Charlottesville, VA

ARS 2019 International Convention, The Desmond Hotel,  
Malvern, PA

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

**American Rhododendron Society**

**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/](http://www.rhododendron.org/blog/)

**Friends of the National Arboretum** <http://savetheazaleas.org/>

**FONA's Save the Azaleas and Boxwood site**

## MAC FALL MEETING RECAP

MAC had a short but very nice meeting at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Henrico just west of Richmond on October 6.

Twenty-five members attended the meeting and enjoyed a buffet lunch before our meeting program. Don Hyatt showed excellent slides from the ARS International Convention in Bremen and Rick Bauer showed slides from the post-convention tour in Finland and gardens he visited in Tromso, Norway. It was almost like being there.

Two new members, Randall Sharp and Jean Salemme, were first time attendees and received new members plants. Theresa Brents had a nicely laid out selection of books for the Book Sale and Doug Jolley did his usual good job as auctioneer for the Plant Auction.

Bill Bedwell, Chairman of the Honors Committee, had MAC President Jeanne Hammer do a surprise presentation of the MAC Bronze Medal to Dave Banks.

## BRONZE MEDAL CITATION FOR DAVE BANKS

“The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to David Banks the Bronze Medal Award in grateful recognition of his outstanding services over many years. Quietly, he established and maintains our Chapter Website, posting our newsletter, information on upcoming meetings and past meetings. He manages Pay Pal to



Dave Banks receiving the Bronze Medal from MAC President Jeanne Hammer. Photo by S. McDonald.

handle meeting registrations, served on our Board of Directors and our Budget and Finance Committee, served as our District 9 representative on the ARS Board before becoming the ARS Treasurer, all while continuing his Chapter services. David is truly an outstanding member of our Chapter.”

October 6, 2018

Jeanne Hammer

**FALL ARS MEETING WELL ATTENDED** by Jeanne Hammer

Over twenty MAC members registered for the ARS Fall Meeting in Chattanooga (October 19-21) hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter. This was a notable turnout as MAC registration rivaled attendance at MAC's own fall meeting on October 6 in Richmond. While the ARS Board held their meeting on Friday, the other attendees shopped the plant sale and silent auction, greeted old friends, and introduced themselves to members of the Tennessee Chapter.



View from Frances Jones garden. Photo by Jeanne Hammer.

The general meeting got underway on Friday evening with a plated dinner and three outstanding talks by Tom Patrick, Botanist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; Jack Johnston, a naturalist who specializes in the genus *Stewartia*; and Charles R. "Charlie" Andrews, III, current president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS, who visits and studies native populations of azaleas. The topics of their respective talks were: "Trilliums: American Treasures"; the two native *Stewartia* species; and "American Azalea Natural Hybrids." Attendees had the option of taking home a small packet of *Stewartia ovata* seeds with

propagation instructions. The seed pods were collected by Jack Johnston from the Georgia/North Carolina border in the southern Appalachians and shelled from the pods by Tennessee Valley Chapter volunteers.

On Saturday morning we were greeted with rain at the start of the garden tours, but spirits were not dampened. Two busloads set out for the charming, courtyard/cottage-style garden of professional garden designers, Scott and Olga Drucker, at the base of Lookout Mountain, for coffee, tea, and scones. Next stop was the Rock City Gardens on top of Lookout Mountain. This 85 year old garden is an historic tourist attraction with paths through deep, natural crevasses in the boulders, well planted with "ironclad" rhododendron hybrids developed from crosses with *R. catawbiense*, and offering expansive views from the bluff looking towards the Blue Ridge Mountains.

After enjoying a box lunch and conversation at the 317 acre Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center, we took the opportunity of seeing a few of the forty native fauna species cared for at the Center. We were introduced to a male and female of the 8<sup>th</sup> most endangered mammal in the world, the Red Wolf, which are bred at the Center for re-introduction into the wild in NE North Carolina. We also met a playful Bob Cat, two Opossums cuddled in blankets in the arms of Arboretum staff, and an Eastern Screech Owl. The flora was not neglected, however, as we walked some of the Arboretum grounds



The Banks, Don Hyatt, Charlie Andrews, George McLellan at the Wooten garden. Photo by Jeanne Hammer.

admiring large, old rhododendrons and shopping at the Arboretum nursery where native plants are propagated.





George McLellan, Charlie Andrews and Don Hyatt with *Magnolia macrophylla* in Frances Jones' garden. Photo by J. Hammer.

The next stop was the woodland garden of Jimmy Wooten and his late wife, Ilona, which features a large collection of decades-old and now often rare rhododendron hybrids that have “stood the test of



The Drucker garden. Photo by Don Hyatt.

time.” Jimmy invited us to take cuttings, and a few on the spot took advantage of his generous offer.

We ended the day at Frances Jones' beautiful, mature five-acre Dolan Garden and home sited on Signal Mountain's bluff overlooking the Tennessee River Valley, a beautiful vista that includes not

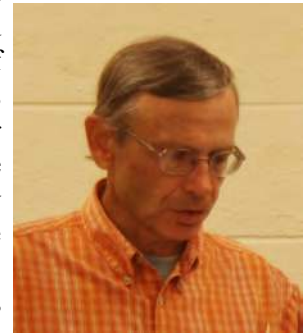
only the river but also Lookout Mountain. Attendees roamed the garden of choice, rare plants and enjoyed drinks and appetizers followed by a catered, buffet dinner. There were remarks by Hale Booth, District X Director, and Rick Bauer, MAC member and current president of the ASA, presented our hostess with an evergreen azalea named for her. Rick spoke in appreciation of Frances' contributions to the success of the ASA.

On Sunday, attendees had the opportunity to visit the gardens of Tennessee Valley Chapter members, Lynn and Lynn Marcy [correct!], George and Fay Taylor, Hale and Susan Booth, and re-visit the Drucker, Wooten, and Jones gardens.

### WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS, DECEMBER 2018 - by Doug Jolley

Here in central West Virginia, we certainly did not have an autumn for leaf peeping. Our hillsides throughout much of our state just did not display the reds and yellows that they normally do. Despite little color from our landscape trees, we did have pockets of color in the garden.

One native azalea that traditionally is quite showy in the fall is the Pinkster Azalea (*R. periclymenoides*). Again, the bright red and the deep burgundy foliage helped to brighten the



Doug Jolley



*Rhododendron periclymenoides*. Photo by Doug Jolley.

garden. One hybrid from decades ago that was very nice this fall was a hybrid lepidote from the late John Buschmann. It is a reliable early bloomer and often is very colorful come October.

The constant rain is continuing even at this writing. We have not experienced any really dry spells this growing season so why two rhododendrons decided to bloom in early October is unknown to me. Unlike other fall blooming miscues from our plants in previous years that open



Lepidote hybrid by John Buschmann. Photo D. Jolley.



R. 'Mist Maiden'. Photo D. Jolley.



Cyclamen. Photo D. Jolley.

a flower or two per bud in lieu of a full truss, R. 'Mist Maiden' and R. 'Landmark' bloomed nearly to perfection. By mid-October, both were in full springtime regalia and quite enjoyable. Both

apparently will take next spring off for relaxation.

Our *Cyclamen*, pass along plants from Ron Brown, are increasing in numbers and now put on quite an autumn floral display. The foliage is attractive, and the flowers last from September until killing frost. Our first frosty nights were timelier this year. By the third week of October, the garden had come to a halt. Last fall, we were still picking tomatoes and peppers into mid-November. Finally, our native witch-hazel (*Hammamelis virginiana*) provided bright yellow highlights as usual. One of the few colorful plants across our area this fall was witch-hazel.

Although we have a small stockpile of pine bark compliments of Lloyd and Margaret Willis, the White Pine needles are now falling and soon it will be time to begin raking our favorite garden mulch.

#### A LINK FROM DOUG JOLLEY

This link leads to a nice article about Ginter. <https://triblive.com/lifestyles/homegarden/14255861-74/lewis-ginter-botanical-garden-a-gem-in-richmond-va>

#### IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is November 1, 2018 as I sit down to write this article. The wind must be in excess of 20 mph and the view outside for about 10-20 seconds is a solid sheet of yellow. The leaves are coming off a sugar maple so fast that the view is blocked. The front yard sugar maple is the source of these yellow leaves. The back yard sugar maple has mainly brown leaves coming down. Upon closer inspection, the leaves are actually yellow with several thumb size brown spots on each. Maybe that maple will become known



Lloyd Willis

as the yellow-brown-spotted-leaf-maple. A few days later there is a carpet of yellow leaves in the front yard and a carpet of brown leaves in the back yard.

At this point in the season (November 10), all the hostas are without leaves except for one set of the *Hosta* 'June' which is very close to our house. The deer have left several *Hosta* stems but no leaves. Several of the canopy trees are now leafless.

The evergreen azaleas and the rhodos are currently providing the dark green background for the other



more colorful understory fall plants. We have had a wonderful November bloom on one set of azaleas. Of course, these azaleas are not fall bloomers nor are they re-bloomers.

A real highlight in the fall garden was seeing in our front yard on the same day the colors purple (a dogwood), orange (a crape myrtle), red (a Japanese maple), yellow (the sugar maple), and green (rhodos, azaleas, and pines). I really enjoyed seeing all the colors together.

So where is the humor in this article? I meet Silas, the fifth grade grandson, at the bus stop at his house about four days a week. We walk to Gramma Margaret's house (Mrs. Willis) for his snack, homework, and TV time. From his house to ours is a five minute walk with around 30 Japanese maples.



Colorful maples. Photo by Margaret Willis.

Some of the Japanese maples make excellent climbing trees for ten year olds but are a bit small for most folks who are grandparents. As we go by these maples, I often groom them from the ground by

removing the dead twigs and limbs. "Could I help with that task for money?" Silas asked. When I agreed, Silas quickly climbs the tree I had been working on so he can get the twigs and branches that I can't reach. By day three, Silas states, "I could do this job for the rest of my life." Turns out I also really enjoy grooming them



Japanese maple. Photo M. Willis.

so maybe Silas and I can form a business partnership: Silas and Grand Dad's Japanese Maple Tree Grooming Service.

#### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Lisa Hall, Chester, VA 23831

Becky Jenkins, Woodstock, VA 22664

Jean Salemme, Bethesda, MD 20824-0857

Randall Sharp, New Kent, VA 23124

David Sleasman, Longwood Gardens Library, Kennett Square, PA 19348



New MAC member Randy Sharp seated at table with David Taylor at Roslyn meeting. Photo S. McDonald.



Carol Segree, Gray Carter and Barbara Bullock. Photo by D. Hyatt.



New MAC member Jean Salemmé at Roslyn Meeting. Photo S. McDonald.

Gray went to Auburn University and University of Georgia. He was an engineer by training and worked at Westinghouse. He had an artistic bent, having done



Gray Carter with his aides at Colesville Nursery at the Oct 2015 MAC meeting in Ashland, VA. Photo by Walter Przypek.

wood carving, painting, needlepoint and furniture making among other things. He was a propagator who liked to give away his plants. His favorite plant was *Rhododendron alabamense* which reminded him of his southern roots .

### MAC VOLUNTEERS FOR GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN IN RICHMOND

At the MAC Fall Meeting Barbara Hall reported on Debby Sauer and Barbara's discussion with John Morse, Director of Horticulture at Ginter for revamping the Rhododendron plantings and possible new plantings at the garden. Volunteers from MAC will be needed and a sign-up sheet was passed around. A work day will be planned for the spring.



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

### DEATHS

**Donald Paul DeBanico** passed away March 18, 2018. He graduated from the University of Colorado in June 1950 with a B.A. in political science and economics and went on to get his M.A. in secondary education. He was part of the Strategic Air Command during the Korean War and spent many hours in the B-47 Jet Bomber. During his time in the service he was stationed right below the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) in Korea, Australia, Japan. He was discharged from Military service in 1955 as a 1st Lieutenant, and went on to become a history teacher in Catskill, New York, and later a middle school principal. He and his wife, Elaine, resided in Charlottesville at the time of his death.

**Gray Carter**, longtime MAC Associate Member, died in July of this year. Gray had attended many MAC meetings in recent years even with his care giver. He had celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday in March.



## PHOTOS FROM ARS FALL MEETING IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



Becky Jenkins, Hubert Barb, and Lloyd Willis at Drucker Garden.  
Photo by Jeanne Hammer.



Azalea 'Festive'. Photo J. Hammer.



Rock City. Photo by Don Hyatt.



Mary and Glenn Kauffman at Rock City. Photo D. Hyatt.



Rock City trails. Photo D. Hyatt.



Rock City "Fat Man's Squeeze". Photo D. Hyatt



Pileated woodpecker sculpture in Jones garden. Photo J. Hammer.





Rock City suspension bridge to Lookout. Photo D. Hyatt.



The cliff at Lookout Point. Photo D. Hyatt.



The Burkes and Willises at the Wooten garden. Photo J. Hammer.



The Jones patio. Photo J. Hammer.



Hale Booth and Jeanne Hammer and others watch feeding of the rare red wolves at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. Photo by D. Hyatt.



Owl at Reflection Riding Arboretum. Photo by Don Hyatt.





The Dolan garden on Signal Mountain that surrounds the home of Frances Jones. Photo by Don Hyatt.



Rick Bauer presents Frances Jones with an azalea hybrid from Bob Stewart that the ASA has named in her honor. Photo by Don Hyatt.

### **DOUG JOLLEY PHOTOS FROM HIS GARDEN AND TRIP TO CANADA**



Colorful holly berries in Doug Jolley's garden. Photo by D. Jolley.



Short Eared Owl. Photo D. Jolley.



Snowy Owl from a cold birding trip to Amherst Island and Algonquin Park in Canada. Photo by Doug Jolley.



Short Eared Owl from Doug's birding trip. Photo D. 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.

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