

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

April 9-11, 2010	Work date at Hooper Bald (contact Jim Brant)
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
June 19, 2010	District 9 one day meeting, Maggianos Little Italy at Tyson's Corner
Fall 2010	Winchester, VA
Spring 2011	Lewisburg or Mt. Rogers area
Fall 2011	Richmond area (with ARS Board Meeting)

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 2010 SPRING MEETING by Sandra McDonald

Reserve the dates May 7-9 for the MAC Spring Meeting at the English Inn of Charlottesville. The Friday evening speaker will be Colston Burrell, a garden designer, award-winning author, photographer, naturalist, and teacher, lecturing at University of Virginia, who will talk on shade gardens. Our Saturday evening speaker is Norman Beaudry of the Potomac Valley Chapter and also a member of MAC. He will speak about rhododendrons studied by the Sandwich Club (Cape Cod), plants by Consolini, Dexter, and Pilkington. Norman has been organizing the Sandwich Club tours for several years. In addition he is now the ARS Seed Exchange Chair.

On Saturday we will visit some lovely gardens in the Charlottesville area, including Dr. Jay Gillenwater's garden, Fox Haven (a garden designed by the well-known landscape architect Charles Gillette), the White Hall Winery with garden designed by last fall's speaker Ian Robertson and possibly another garden. Celia Dollarhide will show

us the garden made by her father, General Robert Porter, which will be an on your own tour on Sunday.

Watch your mail for the meeting announcement. We also plan to have online meeting registration available at our MACARS.org Web site for those who wish that option. This should be available about the time you receive your meeting announcement in the mail. A link for payment at PayPal will be available there and you can pay with a regular credit card and do not have to be a PayPal member. If you don't want to pay online, you can still print out a registration form on the web site and mail that in to the meeting registrar.

SPECIAL DISTRICT 9 MEETING

A special meeting for District 9 will be held on June 19th at Maggianos Little Italy at Tysons Corner in Fairfax. Don Hyatt will give his talk on the Rhododendron legacy of Joseph Gable and there will be also be a small plant sale. The meeting is still taking shape. There will be a mail out to our District 9 membership before the meeting.

ARS JOURNAL MAILING PROBLEM AND CORRECTIONS TO 2010 LONG ISLAND CONVENTION INFORMATION THAT WAS IN THE JOURNAL

There has been a USPS mail problem with the winter 2010 *Journal*. Quite a few members in the Gloucester, Richmond, Hampton areas, and perhaps other areas have not received their *Journal* five weeks after the normally expected date. This presents a problem with obtaining convention information for the May 14th - 17th meeting on Long Island. If you didn't receive your *Journal* yet, you can still go to the Web site in the next paragraph and download the correct convention information.

Bruce and Marianne Feller, Registrars for the 2010 ARS Convention on Long Island, have notified us that the information published in the *ARS Journal* on pages 29-33 was the preliminary draft and was published by mistake. The New York Chapter Web site has the correct information online. Go to <http://nyrhododendron.org> and click on the Convention link to read and download the correct information. There are no substantive errors in the agenda or registration costs, but there are a few differences.

- Expanded Registration Desk hours Noon - 5:30 PM, Friday, May 14th
- Email address for the Registrar is thefellers@verizon.net
- Use of the Registration Form in the corrected copy will facilitate the registration process
- International guests who are unable to make payment in US dollars drawn on a US bank should contact the Registrar to arrange alternate payment procedures

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC By Jane McKay

February 9, 2010 – I've had Rhododendron, Azalea, and Critter Years, this year is definitely SNOW year. I can't figure out how many snow storms we've had here in Fluvanna County, approximately 20 miles southeast of Charlottesville, Virginia since December. They just all run together. We don't get rid of one storm before another shows up. There is one waiting in the wings right now. This last one was a 'killer'. There was still several inches of snow on the ground when approximately 6" of sleet fell and then 6" or more of snow fell on top of that. The trees and shrubs looked beautiful with all that sleet coating them and next came all the snow on

top of that. Some of the plants are still coated after five days.

Next the power outages began. I was fortunate, I only lost power twice, the longest time being ten hours. My neighbor's parents who only live a short distance away have not had power since the storm began 5 days ago. This morning,



Jane McKay

while driving through the lake area where I live, I noticed that nearly every pine tree was down. They look like they went down like dominoes. We also had another eight to ten hour period that while we had power, no one had phone service. We had neither regular nor cell service. That made me nervous more so than a power failure. What would happen if a medical emergency occurred or a fire? There is no way anyone could be contacted for help.

Now let's get back to the garden. I haven't walked through the paths since I can't find them. I have no clue where they are or what I'm stepping on. The evergreen azaleas are flattened out on the ground, partially under the snow. The deciduous azaleas are bent every which way. The elepidote rhododendrons look pretty good but I can't see all of them as most of them are further away from the house than where I'm standing.

The lepidote rhododendrons look much like the azaleas. A lot of the boxwood, holly and conifers are pretty much a mess, I only hope they shape up again. Some of the dogwoods were bent to the ground but have popped up now that the snow fell off. I can see my big Kousa dogwood, *Cornus kousa* is split down the middle and one of my Japanese maples, *Acer palmatum* 'Beni komachi' just outside my living room window has one side split off. There are branches littering the ground front and back and I have no idea where they came from.

We are supposed to get some more weather later today and tomorrow. At the moment they are not predicting too much, but they keep changing the amount. This too shall end (I hope).

See you in Charlottesville in the spring.

ELIMINATING RHIZOCTONIA FROM AZALEA CUTTINGS

(The following is extracted from The USDA Agricultural Research Service Web site article by Stephanie Yao <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/091223.htm> and from HortScience.)

Rhizoctonia is a fungal disease found on many ornamental plants. A hot water treatment was found to eliminate the disease.

The disease is especially prevalent in containerized nursery production in the south and east. The fungus lives on all azalea plant surfaces and in the pine bark soil throughout the year. The damage takes place in July and August when heat and humidity are high.

The disease first affects the internal leaves in June and within 24 hours, a plant can go from appearing healthy to having one-third of its leaves turn brown and die.

Disinfectant or chemical treatment has not been very successful in controlling the disease which made it necessary to find better controls. Placing the cuttings in 122 degrees Fahrenheit water for 20 minutes was found to be the most effective treatment. The pathogen can be eliminated in less time with water at higher temperature, but there is more risk of damaging the cuttings.

The interesting report on *Rhizoctonia* control was published in *HortScience* 44: 1370-1376 (2009) "Chemical and Hot Water Treatments to Control *Rhizoctonia* AGP Infesting Stem Cuttings of Azalea" by Warren E. Copes of the USDA Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory in Poplarville, MS, and Eugene K. Blythe of the Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville, MS.

[Thanks to David Taylor for bringing this to my attention.]

LETTER FROM BARBARA BULLOCK

MAC treasurer Debby Sauer received a letter to MAC from Barbara Bullock at the National Arboretum. She was very appreciative of the "chain reaction" our chapter's donation started. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA and Potomac Valley and Mason Dixon Chapters of the ARS followed our example and contributed funds towards an azalea internship in the Azalea Collection. MAC had contributed \$2900 over two years and the other

three chapters contributed a combined amount of \$3500 for a grand total of \$6400. This help is very much needed because Barbara is the only full time person working in the 35-40 acre azalea collection. Her supervisor has been helpful in getting part time help, and she does have a group of dedicated volunteers.

DEATH

Long-time PVC and MAC member Margaret Keister White died on January 5, 2010, at age 103. She would have been 104 in March. As many of you know Margaret had made plans to transfer her 13-acre garden in Falls Church to the Fairfax County Park Authority. It is supposed to become a horticultural park. The Potomac Valley Chapter had held picnics there for many years and Margaret's garden has been on tour for *Rhododendron* enthusiasts many times.



Margaret White and Jane Goodrich. Photo by S. McDonald.

FEBRUARY MAC BOARD MEETING

That MAC board met at the Gordon Library in Charlottesville on February 27th for its winter board meeting. Items discussed in addition to routine items were the hosting of the ARS Board Meeting in October 2011, purchase of a microphone for the Spring Meeting, MACARS.org Web site -- updating policies of the board, and approval of online registration through the Web site for the upcoming Spring Meeting-- and plans for the Spring Meeting and ideas for subsequent meeting locations.

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.

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