

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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Rhododendron Society

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May 2010

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

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

Sixty-seven attendees enjoyed wonderful weather and a grand meeting in the Charlottesville area May 6th - 9th for our Spring MAC Meeting. Our home base was the English Inn.

Dr. Jay Gillenwater was elected to a term ending 5/12 to fill in the Director's vacancy left by Lloyd Willis. Theresa Brents, Dave Banks and Sharon Horn were reelected for the term ending 5/13.

C. Colston Burell gave a talk "With Nature in Mind: Design and Plants for Shaded Gardens" on



Sharon Horn working on the Flower Show. Photo by S. McDonald

Friday evening. He illustrated his talk with slides

and took questions afterwards. One of the more interesting questions put to him was what were the worst invasive plants he was finding. A species of *Viburnum* was mentioned first, then *Ligustrum* and several other plants including some species of the grass *Miscanthus*.

Jay Gillenwater had another batch of good plants for the P4M sale and Theresa Brents had various plant books for sale.

Saturday was a wonderful day of garden tours. Jay Gillenwater arranged for us to see some very special gardens: Fox Haven Garden, the Gillenwater Garden and nursery where we had lunch, the magnificent Wilton Farm Garden of Courtney Daniels, and the White Hall Winery and Gardens where we were able to see the gardens and also enjoy a wine tasting event.

Carol Segree won the flower show again with her unknown elepidote rhododendron taking Best



One of Jay Gillenwater's cairns with a fountain in it. Photo by S. McDonald.

Lepidote and Best in Show. She also had best Deciduous Azalea with 'Jock Brydon' and Best Native(?) with 'Cecile' x 'Sweet Charity'. Glenn Kauffman won Best ARS Seed Exchange, and Sandra McDonald Best Lepidote with *R. minus*.



Friday evening speaker Colston Burrell. Photo by S. McDonald.



Saturday evening speaker Norman Beaudry. Photo by S. McDonald.

Saturday Evening Norman Beaudry gave a PowerPoint presentation "The Dexter, Consolini, and Pilkington Rhododendrons". This was a wonderfully

informative talk giving the history and background of these plants that do so well from Cape Cod and South, as well as photos of a large number of the plants.

Sunday morning the group was invited by Celia Dollarhide to tour her father General Robert Porter's Middle River Farm where she, her brother Bob Porter, Jr., and his wife Debbie and manager John Jenkins showed visitors around to see the many mature Consolini and other rhododendrons. Kathie Constable had also invited those who would be in the area to stop by and see the Constable garden.



Ken McDonald & Dave Banks talking in the Whilton Garden. Photo by S. McDonald.

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. There will be a mail-out to our District 9 membership before the meeting.

David Banks now has a Google Calendar posted on the MACARS.org Web site. See <http://macars.org/events.html> and click on the "Calendar View" in green to see the calendar form of



Courtney Daniels & Dr. Jay Gillenwater at Whilton. Photo by S. McDonald.



Celia Dollarhide & Ian Robertson at White Hall Winery & Gardens. Photo by S. McDonald.



Lunch in the Gillenwater Garden. Photo by S. McDonald.



MAC members at Fox Haven Garden. Photo by S. McDonald.



Bill Bedwell with his Certificate of Appreciation. Photo by S. McDonald.



Robert Porter, Jr., and Doug Jolley at Middle River Farm. Photo by S. McDonald.



John Jenkins & Celia Dollarhide at Middle River Farm. Photo by S. McDonald.



Carol Segree's winning truss.



Auctioneer Bill Bedwell.



The yellow garden at Whilton. Photo S. McDonald.

events for our three district 9 chapters. The District 9 luncheon arranged by the Potomac Valley Chapter is online on the web site. You can also register and pay with PayPal. Even the menu is on the Web site: <http://macars.org/distIXlunch.html>



Bill Bedwell, Debby Sauer, & Don Hyatt at the wine tasting. Photo by S. McDonald.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO WILLIAM BEDWELL

Middle Atlantic Chapter American Rhododendron Society This Certificate of Appreciation is presented



Some of the Flower Show entries. Photo by S. McDonald.

to William Bedwell in recognition of his counsel and steadfast support on the Board of Directors, his able guidance as Chair of the Honors Committee and his wise counsel as investment advisor. His generous donation of time to MAC throughout the years as a member of the Finance and Budget Committee,

charter member of the species study group, judge of flower shows, speaker at Chapter meetings, and past President of MAC, has given the joy of Rhododendrons to many. We offer our thanks and gratitude.

Celia Dollarhide, President
May 8, 2010

LETTER FROM USDA FOREST SERVICE, NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Jim Brant and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society,

On behalf of the US Forest Service's Cheoah Ranger District, I am pleased to present this certificate to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in recognition of your volunteer service on Hooper Bald. Hooper Bald is an important historic resource to the US Forest Service and the local community. The work that your organization is doing to remove encroaching trees and shrubs is ensuring that this area remains an open meadow bald. Furthermore, removing competing vegetation from around the many Flame Azaleas on Hooper Bald has provided an exceptional flowering display for Rhododendron enthusiasts and other

forest visitors.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society contributed over thirty service hours to the Hooper Bald project in 2009. To date this year, your organization has already contributed over 127 hours of service, including a four day work

trip to Hooper Bald. I am pleased to thank you for and recognize this outstanding volunteer effort.

The Cheoah Ranger District relies on committed volunteers to accomplish our land management goals. We are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that Jim Brant and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society bring to the natural resources on Hooper Bald. Your volunteer efforts benefit both the natural resources on Hooper Bald and the visiting public.

Thank you for your dedication to Hooper Bald and for your service. I look forward to continuing our success together and viewing the brilliant flowering display on Hooper Bald in June. I applaud your efforts to date and commend your goal of 1250 service hours for 2011.

Sincerely,

Lauren Stull, Deputy District Ranger

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

David Wheeler, Hot Springs, VA 24445

(a returning former member)

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

I have finally decided to stop fretting about the damage from this past winter storms and focus on how well the plants that weren't damaged performed. Most azaleas and rhododendrons not only bloomed well but the flowers seemed larger than usual. I can only attribute the extra moisture that went into the soil as the snow melted (I still had some snow on the ground in mid March) as the cause of the larger flowers. Time will tell how much the growth will be affected. I can already tell that my paths have gotten considerably narrower.

The hollies in the garden also are showing the effects of the extra ground moisture. They are exceptionally heavy with berries, some blooming for the first time. The Japanese maples have put on far more growth than they usually do. The hemlocks and Leland's have really put on height and also spread out, thanks to the weight of the snow and ice, I can see a lot of pruning in my future.

Several years ago (April 2007) the temperature here dropped to 23 degrees F. Of course all flowers that were in bloom froze, and I also noticed bark splitting on some of the rhododendrons.

The splits appeared slight but as the years went by the splits have expanded. Those same plants are now showing the effects, some have cut down on

blooms and leaf size others have bloomed heavily but I'll bet the leaf size will be considerably smaller. One of the plants with all the flowers is 'Phipps's 32'. I'm guessing not too many in this area are familiar with this plant, it is a bright yellow

It was hybridized By Howard Phipps (deceased). I am sure it has been renamed but I cannot, for the life of me, remember it. Mr. Phipps hybridized into his late years. He had a large estate on Long Island in New York. I have decided to start propagating again (haven't done any in a few years) and I hope to get some of my unusual cuttings to Jay Gillenwater this fall.

One of my problems this year is missing plant labels. Every plant that went in this garden was labeled. I used metal labels approximately two inches wide with eight inch double pronged metal

Stakes through the label on every plant. The label was then stuck in the ground in front of each plant. At least half of them are missing. I used to be able to name every plant and in many instances give the parentage without looking at the labels but no more.

Two years ago Wally was sick and then passed away so I was not paying too much attention to the garden. Last year I had health problems so again did not pay much attention to the garden.

Of course my age has to be added to the equation. Consequently, I have spent much of this spring on my hands and knees looking for labels. Sometimes I find one but more often all I collect is ticks.

The next sight to envision would be me trying to get to my feet with nothing to hold on to, that would be a sight for a video.

See you in the Fall.



Jane McKay



'Cecile' x 'Sweet Charity'

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
Mid-Atlantic Rhododendron News and Notes
4302 Chesapeake Ave
Hampton, VA 23669