

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XXXXI No.2

May 2014

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Proposed: October 2014 (third or fourth weekend) Graves Mountain or Wintergreen
Proposed: Third weekend of April 2015 Raleigh, N.C.
April 20-24, 2016 ARS Convention, Williamsburg, Virginia

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	http://www.rhododendron.org/
ARS Store Order from Amazon thru this site	http://arsstore.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/
Old Quarterly Bulletins & JARS	http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/
Rhododendron Blog	www.rhododendron.org/blog/
Friends of the National Arboretum	http://savetheazaleas.org/
FONA's Save the Azaleas and Boxwood site	

MAC SPRING MEETING, May 2-4, 2014, Flatwoods, West Virginia

Forty-six attendees enjoyed a great meeting in the Flatwoods-Sutton area of West Virginia. Many thanks to Doug Jolley for organizing the meeting. Thanks also to Davetta Jolley, Sharon Horn, and Theresa Brents for all the work they did for the meeting.

Three directors were elected: Jeanne Hammer, Billy Constable, and George McLellan. Sharon Horn gave a report on JMU Arboretum workdays.

Jim Brant said that J Jackson and Lindy Johnson had donated plants for the Hooper planting and they had been planted this spring since the planting could not take place in the fall due



Sharon Horn answering questions near the book sale. Photo S. McDonald.

to the government shutdown. Don Hyatt announced an upcoming District 9 Luncheon with Harold Greer as speaker on October 11. Work towards the 2016 convention in Williamsburg is continuing.



Paul James and Ken McDonald chatting near the plant sale. Photo S. McDonald.

The Friday evening speaker was Charles Garrett, a great photographer and friend of Doug. He showed some spectacular photos and a video of the opening of a rhododendron truss using time lapse photography. Some of his photos can be seen at grayowl.com.

The flower show had 38 entries in 17 classes and a rock. The Best Lepidote and Best in Show Wheeldon Trophy was a Doc Tolstead seedling Doug Jolley brought. Best Deciduous and Best Native was Millie Mac from Sandra McDonald. Best Evergreen Azalea was an unknown entered by Ben Dukes. The points sweepstakes winner was Sandra McDonald.

Dr. Jay Gillenwater had a nice bunch of plants for our P4M with some native azaleas from Appalachian Native Plants and some other rhododendrons. The book sale was open as usual.

Norman Cole spoke about patenting plants, citing his experience with boxwood. He has two he patented, 'Highlander' and 'Little Missy'.



Ron Brown and Glenn Kauffman. Photo S. McDonald.

Saturday started with a tour of Doug and Davetta Jolley's garden. The season was late as it has been for all of us, but there were a few things in bloom including his Best In Show plant. Most gardens we visited had fencing to keep out the troublesome deer!

Lunch was at Falls Mill Picnic Area with a waterfall and some very interesting rocks. The North Hills Nursery was the stop right after lunch. We had a short talk about succulents and then had an opportunity to purchase some sempervivums. The McCormick garden was after that. They had deer problems, too, and had some garden areas fenced in.



MAC members touring Doug & Davetta Jolley's garden. Photo S. McDonald.

Back at the hotel we had quite a large and successful auction, a buffet dinner, then more auction. Doug Jolley was the Keynote Speaker. He showed lots



Doug leading the tour of his garden. Photo S. McDonald.

of great photographs of birds, orchids, rhododendrons, scenery, and so on with interesting commentary on the photos.

There were three awards given: a Certificate of Appreciation to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson, a Bronze Medal to Lloyd Willis, and a Bronze Medal to Dr. Jay Y. Gillenwater. The text follows:

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to **J. Jackson and Lindy Johnson** this **Certificate of Appreciation**.

We are grateful for the generous support of our Chapter's projects with native azaleas through your Appalachian Native Plants Nursery. You grew plants from seeds collected on superior forms of *Rhododendron calendulaceum* found on Hooper Bald. Then you donated both the plants and mulch to establish a new area on Hooper Bald and nearby Huckleberry Knob, where both locations will have public access from the Cherohala Skyway in North Carolina for future enjoyment and study. Thank you.

Theresa Brents, President

May 3, 2014, Sutton, West Virginia

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to **Lloyd Willis** this **Bronze Medal Award**.

You have served our Chapter in many ways over the years, volunteering to help with various chores, serving on the Board of Directors, then as Vice President, and then President when you conducted the Chapter meetings with humor and grace. Perhaps most importantly you ran our Board of Directors meetings with a new level of efficiency and effectiveness, with Margaret Willis quietly assisting in the background. You have continued to delight us with your special humor by writing regular articles for our Chapter newsletter and your participation in Chapter field trips to the mountains. For these and other exceptional

contributions we gratefully present to you the ARS Bronze Medal, our Chapter's highest honor.
Theresa Brents, President
May 3, 2014, Sutton, West Virginia

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to **Jay Y. Gillenwater, M.D.** this **Bronze Medal Award**

You volunteered at a crucial time years ago and rescued our Chapter's Plants for Members program from probable extinction. You have selected and purchased special new varieties. You obtained selected cuttings of new and time-tested varieties and propagated them. You grew the plants, labeled them, and transported them to meetings, while personally absorbing all costs. Additionally, you have donated plants to our auctions. Proceeds from both the sales and auctions have raised significant funds for worthwhile Chapter Projects and Contributions to public gardens every year. You have opened your beautiful garden for tours during Chapter meetings, and you have organized our tours of other great gardens in the Charlottesville area. You have contributed wisdom to Chapter Board Meetings and you are now serving as our Vice President. For these exceptional contributions we gratefully present to you the ARS Bronze Medal, our Chapter's highest honor.
Theresa Brents, President
May 3, 2014, Sutton, West Virginia

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

About five years ago, I got a phone call from the younger daughter asking if she could have an Easter Egg Hunt in our garden. That type of question always gets an immediate "yes", as I was thinking her two sons ages 5 and 3 would be a joy to watch hunt eggs in our garden.



Lloyd Willis



About a week later I asked when they were coming. The answer was unexpected. She and her mother's group of eight plus their 16 to 18 children plus other extra visiting

cousins and neighborhood children (another 10 + 12) children had already been to our garden and had their Easter Egg Hunt. They came while we were gone on our usual Saturday morning shopping trip.

So while we were disappointed that we missed the event, I knew it would be quickly forgotten. I also told the younger daughter to please schedule us to be included in the next Easter Egg Hunt.

The possible humor of this story is for the last five years we have been finding the very colorful plastic Easter eggs from that hunt all over our garden. I have mowed them, I have had them fall out of trees and shrubs in front of me, I have stepped on them, I have seen them rolling in the wind, and I have grown to hate the sight of those plastic Easter eggs.

So this year when the request came again after five years to have a second Easter Egg Hunt, I immediately have my answer, "Yes, but the this time I get to hide the Easter Eggs. So far only 12 eggs are still missing from the 144 eggs I hid.

I am not sure why Mrs. Willis did not do a better job of supervising Mr. Willis when he hid the eggs.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS, MAY 2014 by Doug Jolley

I would like to begin by thanking all the members who attended the Spring Meeting here in Flatwoods. Davetta and I were overwhelmed by the attendance. It is not an easy commute. We certainly had looked forward to and enjoyed hosting the event! Also a special thank you to Dave Horn, Lloyd and Margaret Willis and Ben Dukes who helped to pick up and return our vans during the



Doug Jolley



Doug's Peppermint Nudi. Photo by D. Jolley.



Theresa Brents presenting Bronze Medal to Dr. Jay Gillenwater. Photo S. McDonald.



Bill Bedwell and Theresa Brents presenting Bronze Medal to Lloyd Willis with Margaret Willis. Photo S. McDonald.



Theresa Brents presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to J Jackson and Lindy Johnson. Photo by S. McDonald.



Visiting North Hills Nursery, Specialty Succulents. Photo by S. McDonald.



Organizer Doug Jolley.



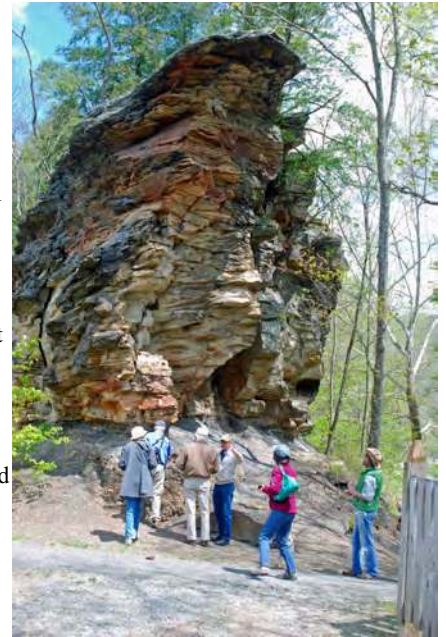
Auctioneer George McLellan.



Best-in-Show.



Bill Bedwell at Flower Show.



Rocks at Falls Mill Picnic Area of the Burnsville Dam Project where we had our picnic lunch. The ancient Pennsylvanian Period rocks had fossils in them. Photo S. McDonald

busy schedule. The number of plants blooming for the meeting was limited but it seemed that once the meeting had adjourned, our “company shy” garden plants have burst into bloom. The garden looks totally different in just a few days than it did the first weekend of May. Perhaps the arrival of warm weather has been influential. The *R.austrinum* × *R.calendulaceum* cross are in full bloom now (May 9) as are the *R.periclymenoides* which are scattered about. We have one plant which was collected in our county which is as deep rose as I have seen. We call it “Peppermint Nudi.”

One occurrence which has not been favorable has been the recent loss of mature rhododendrons at the hands of rhododendron borers. We have removed severely damaged plants and hope to control the infestation. Some of the ironclads had been originally planted in the 1980’s.

Hopefully, the remainder of the spring blooming season will proceed normally.

MAC MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Doug Jolley has another great article in the magazine *Wonderful West Virginia*. The lucky attendees of our MAC Spring Meeting in West Virginia received a copy of the magazine in their registration packet. The article about the birds that visit the Jolley’s property is six pages with 12 of Doug’s beautiful photos. The magazine does have some articles online at www.wonderfulwv.com, but apparently this article is not one of them.

FLORA OF VIRGINIA FEATURED AT LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA IN RICHMOND
(From www.lva.virginia.gov/news/calendar.asp)

The *Flora of Virginia* will be featured from Monday, March 17, 2014 – Saturday, September 13, 2014, at the Exhibition Hall. Free admission.

Discover the power of the flower. Delve into Virginia’s natural environment through *Flora of Virginia*, an exhibition featuring hundreds of colorful illustrations from the Library of Virginia’s collections. Learn fun facts about Virginia’s native plants. Examine the history of botanical description and illustration. Explore the personalities behind the folks who collected and described these plants. Try your hand at sketching a specimen at the drawing station. Check our Web calendar for information about exhibition-related events.

[MAC members who attended our meeting in Gloucester in May 2013 will be somewhat familiar with this new book.]

ADVENTURES AFTER WV MAC MEETING

MAC meeting attendees were given brochures of places to visit and of parks where native azaleas might be seen after our meeting. Several people took advantage of this, but their fun was not without incident.

Near Sandstone Falls Paul McWhinney is changing



Paul McWhinney changes Don’s tire. Photo by J. Hammer.

Don Hyatt’s tire with Jim Brant, while Don Hyatt is on the phone to AAA, and George McLellan and Bill Bedwell are probably chatting about plants.



Doug & Davetta’s horses.



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

Memberships and renewals should be sent to our Membership Chairman Jeanne Hammer at 815 Porter St. Apt 301, Richmond, VA 23224.

Annual membership dues are \$40 per year.

Miscellaneous inquiries may be sent to the editor (address below) for forwarding to proper individual.

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
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