

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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September 2019

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov 9, 2019

Roslyn Center, Henrico, VA

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/>

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

FALL MEETING

The MAC Fall Meeting is being planned for November 9th at the Roslyn Center outside of Richmond in Henrico. One of the speakers will be Lynn Cameron of the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain (George Washington National Forest). She will talk about the current long-range plan to conserve the scenic area between Rt. 250 and Rt. 33, which includes a population of rhododendrons in the Reddish Knob area. There are also rare plants in an area of shale barrens.

See <http://www.friendsofshenandoahmountain.org/>
A second speaker has not been confirmed yet.

Lunch there was excellent last year and should be this year, too.

POSSIBLE IDEAS TO INCREASE ARS CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

(Condensed from Ray Smith of Mason-Dixon's treatise on ideas to increase membership.)

- Communicate with new members. A membership chair, chapter president, or near neighbor of a new member can keep the person interested. Communicate by mail, email, or telephone. Be sure the correct email address is listed. You can offer rides, answer questions, etc. (Mason-Dixon has had good luck with this. MAC used to have Betty Wise help make new people feel welcome.)
- Give new members a free plant at their first meeting. (MAC does this.)

- Give members a membership roster at least every two years. (MAC already makes this available via the newsletter.)
- Build contacts with other chapters in the region and try to avoid conflicting meetings.
- Try joint memberships with other chapters and plant groups.
- Have members give talks to local garden clubs.
- Develop a handbook for new members. Information on the chapter website should work, too, but tell them about it so they know where to find it.
- Survey your members to see if they have a different preferred meeting day, time or location. This may be complicated for MAC with its widespread membership. But there may be some ideas out there.
- Have a mentorship program for new members for when they ask for help.
- Have a Plants for Members program. MAC had this program for many years, but now is trying to pick up after Dr. Gillenwater retired.
- Encourage associate memberships in nearby chapters. Make members aware of other chapters/society events.
- Be sure to communicate with members who don't have an email by some other means.
- The more you can involve a member in chapter and Society activities, the more likely the member will be to stick around.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Benjamin Dukes, Portsmouth, VA 23703
Jan & Dan Mahon, Crozet, VA 22932
Asa Radigan, Hume, VA 22639
UVA Alderman Library, Charlottesville, VA 22904

RENEWALS SINCE FEBRUARY ROSTER

Jim Brant, Gloucester, VA 23061-4335
Adam Holmes, Troy, VA 22974
Sharon & Dave Horn, Mt. Solon, VA 22843
Linda M.K. Johnson, Pittsburgh, PA 15221
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA
23228

DEATHS

Former MAC member and MAC chapter president, **Franklin B. Pelurie**, of St. Albans, died Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Frank had transferred from MAC to the Great Lakes Chapter. He was born in Columbia, PA, on March 30, 1935, and lived there until he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1953. Frank served as an aviation electronics technician, and went on to work for Litton Industries, traveling the world while instructing on how to repair the A6 Intruder, one of the first fully electronic jets. He attended Ventura County Community College and later transferred to Penn State where he graduated with a degree in forestry in 1974.



Frank moved to WV in the late 1970s, and worked for the Nature Conservancy as a field supervisor for the Heritage Trust Program. He dedicated himself to preserving land across WV, and coordinated with state officials to write effective legislation to protect native species of trees and plants, including ginseng. Frank later worked for the WV Department of Natural Resources in the Water Resource Division until his retirement.

He was an active member of the Allegheny Trail Club, American Rhododendron Society, Brooks Bird Club, WV Rivers Coalition, WVU Extension Master Gardeners Program, and several other organizations. Frank was an avid river runner, frequently exploring rivers and trails, and educating people along the way about the state's prolific



Frank Pelurie on Gregory Bald in 2002. Photo S. McDonald.

flowering rhododendron and mountain laurel. He worked closely with others, teaching them about plants, propagation, and grafting. Many of the azaleas along the Carriage Trail are a result of those efforts.

Frank had climbed Gregory Bald with the MAC Species Study group.

Frank is survived by his wife Mary Helen Sutton Pelurie of St. Albans, WV, two sons, a step-son, and seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Former MAC member **ROBERT JONES SINGLETON**, DDS, 91 of Charleston, died April 27, 2019, at Edgewood Summit.



He was born January 22, 1928, and grew up in Mannington, WV. Bob was the youngest son of nine children. He graduated from Mannington High School one year early and then from West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon.

He earned a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) from the University of Pittsburgh in 1950.

Bob joined the United States Navy, earning the rank of Lieutenant (O-3), and during the Korean War served as a dentist attached to a field hospital south of the Punchbowl often filling cavities using a potter's wheel driven drill.

After the war he joined a dental practice in Charleston with his brother, Charles R. Singleton. In 1954, he married Olivia Lakin Ray. They had three children: Marion S. Jones (married to George), the late Robert Ray Singleton and John A. Singleton (married to Margaret); and two grandchildren, Henry and Robert Singleton.

Bob lived a full and happy life. Known as the gentle dentist, he enjoyed breeding, training and riding horses, building and tending oversize vegetable, flower and shrubbery gardens and playing bridge.

GARDEN REPORTS AT THE MAC BOARD AUGUST 17TH MEETING

Sharon Horn reported that at JMU's Carrier Arboretum the native azaleas need to be moved across the path because of the completed stream/stormwater mitigation project. A spot will be cleared for the move of the azaleas and for Terry Sheuchenko's memorial bench. Also two dead rhododendrons near the McDonald Garden need to be replaced. A fall work day has not been determined yet. Sharon said honeysuckle and poison ivy were cleared out in the back planting of rhododendrons.

David Taylor and Theresa Brents reported that a large area has been cleared at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and is ready for new plantings. Debby Sauer has been arranging workdays there.

Theresa read a report from Elissa Steeves about a MAC project that is underway at the Hahn Horticulture Garden at VA Tech. Paul James is donating larger plants from his collection. Cuttings will be rooted for future plantings. The garden area will be near the Vet School.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS SEPTEMBER 2019 - by Doug Jolley

Our terrific spring blooming season carried over and continued throughout this summer. Summer blooming rhododendrons and summer blooming native azaleas



Red Max seedling in bud. Photo D. Jolley.

flowered beautifully. Here in central West Virginia we had a mild and somewhat rainy late spring and early summer. We have had very adequate rainfall all summer and regular rainfall continues to this writing in early September.



Red Max seedling B June 26. Photo D. Jolley.

Rhododendron maximum is common throughout much of our state and does well in our garden. A Red Max seedling purchased from the P4M program a few years ago is now three feet high and about four feet wide. It now blooms profusely from late June through early July. The bright rosy pink buds give way to white flowers edged with a deep rose. New stems sport a distinct maroon color and are attractive all summer.



Rhododendron maximum July 9th A. Photo D. Jolley.

Given the elevation range in our state, *R. maximum* can be enjoyed somewhere from mid-June

through late July. The Cranberry Glades area and the nearby Scenic Highway is one area that is worthwhile to visit in mid-July. This year glades filled with blooming *R. maximum* were complemented by drifts of Turk's Cap Lilies (*Lilium superbum*).



Roadside *R. maximum* with Turk's Cap lilies. Photo D. Jolley.

While traveling in early July I spotted a very distinct plant of *R. maximum*. I rarely stop anymore to photo this plant but this one caused me to turn around and take time for some photographs. The adjacent *R. maximum* plants were well past prime for flowering



Rhododendron maximum C July 9. Photo by D. Jolley.

and for the most part the flowers were a classic white with a green blotch on the upper petal. This one was in perfect condition. The flowers in each truss were heavily edged with a deep rose much like my Red Max seedling at home but the timing was nearly a month later. The location is near Babcock State Park in Fayette County and *R. catawbiense* grows in the general area but it blooms in early June in this area. At any rate the plant is unique from my experience and very photogenic.



Rhododendron prunifolium on July 24. Photo D. Jolley.



A Carolina Wren on an azalea on July 7. Photo D. Jolley.

Rhododendron prunifolium grows in a handful of sites in our garden. The variety of locations affords a blooming season to extend from early July through mid-August. Hummingbirds, butterflies and birds actively bug hunting are attracted to this plant. Also, July is a prime season for native azalea hybrids from the ARS seedling exchange. Our chapter Plants for Members and the organization's seedling exchange are two programs that have provided plants that now are mainstays in our garden.

Late season weeding is underway, and it will soon be November and time to spread pine needles and wait with anticipation for next season's flowering season. We have had a nice crop of twin and single fawns and hopefully they too will enjoy our garden; but from outside the deer fencing!



Why we need deer fencing. Photo D. Jolley.

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is August 20, 2019, as I write this article. What is going on in our garden in Crozet, Virginia. First to note is that for the past four weeks, we have had at least one severe thunderstorm each week. We have not needed to water for that time but have had to do major limb and twig pick up every week. Our limb pile removal a few days ago took eight dump truck loads to complete the job. The good news is that five families put limbs in that pile.



Thanks to the deer, the hostas are basically down to six inch tall stems without leaves. Several of the boxwoods appear to be doing a slow recovery from the boxwood blight. In places the dwarf mondo grass looks great and needs to be weeded daily while in other places it seems not to have grown any in the past three years. The rhodos and azaleas seem to be in fairly good shape.

We have potted some green and some red Japanese maple seedlings in four inch pots (as of today at least 125). The seedlings range from one to four inches tall. The newly planted three gallon size Japanese maples seem to be doing well—so far eight newly planted ones seem alright but two dead ones from last year’s planting were removed.

So, where is the possible humor in this article? Behind our house is a rental cottage whose lawn we maintain. The plant bed east of that cottage has large sugar maples shading the area. This summer I decided

to try the Brilliance Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) in that bed. I asked one of my expert helpers, Mr. Yogie Huff, about plant numbers and placement of those ferns. He suggested 21 ferns. I dug the 21 ferns. He planted the 21 ferns. Those looked nice so I asked if he had any other fern suggestions. He suggested 13 additional ferns. I dug the 13 holes. He is to plant those this afternoon. Looking into the future, I really and truly believe with only an additional 9 ferns we will have the completed design for the new fern bed. In order to find the first 21 and the second 13 ferns, Margaret and I only had to visit eight nurseries in person and another eight on the internet. Hopefully this is not considered excessive behavior.

MAC BOARD MEETING AT PVCC, AUG 17, 2019



Sharon Horn, President Theresa Brents, Jeanne Hammer.



Bill Bedwell, Dave Banks, Sharon Horn, Lloyd Willis.



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

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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