

# 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 12-15, 2007 ARS Annual Convention, San Francisco  
April 27-29, 2007 Richmond, VA

### Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	<a href="http://www.rhododendron.org/">http://www.rhododendron.org/</a>
MAC Website (*UPDATED*)	<a href="http://www.macars.org/">http://www.macars.org/</a>
U VA Science & Engineering Libraries	<a href="http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm">http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm</a>
UVA Special Collections	<a href="http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/">http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/</a>
Henry Skinner Website	<a href="http://http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/">http://http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/</a>

### MAC FALL MEETING NOVEMBER 3-5 IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

The Fall Meeting had 62 attendees who gathered in sunny, but quite cool weather in Virginia Beach. Some folks even arose early to watch the sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and others tried to leave their windows ajar to hear the surf.

Friday night Linda Johnson of Christopher Newport University gave a spirited talk about "Wild Rhodes & Azaleas for the Civilized Garden".

Park Service to use on Gregory Bald and said the mower had been delivered and was used on the Bald this summer. He also said an article about the Species Study Group's Gregory Bald projects would appear in the Spring issue of the *ARS Journal*. There is a possibility the State of Tennessee may purchase some of the aerial photos of Gregory Bald to use at various visitors centers across the state.

President Sybil Przypek indicated that MAC and the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the Holly Society of America were sharing a booth at a garden show in

Virginia Beach on January 21, 2007. Volunteers should contact George McLellan email him at [gkmcl@visi.net](mailto:gkmcl@visi.net).

Dave Banks has added more to the chapter web site [macars.org](http://www.macars.org).

Debby Sauer outlined the meeting plans for the Spring Meeting in Richmond. This will be a District Meeting. Watch for more information about this special meeting. There will be a plant swap, Rosalie Nachmann's, Pat and Hugh Green's, and Joe and Junko Liesfeld's gardens on tour. Azalea Society of America President Buddy Lee will be a speaker.



MAC members touring waterfront garden of Bob and Jerri Molloy in Virginia Beach. Jerri Molloy in center. Photo by S. McDonald.

On Saturday morning a brief business meeting took place. Jim Brant told about the Endowment Fund grant to purchase a DR Mower for the National

Fall meeting tours were excellent. Members visited Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center and the Norfolk Botanical Garden, both of which have

matured and changed with new buildings and more and larger plants since our previous trips many years ago. Some of Sandra and Ken McDonald's plants



MAC members touring HRAREC. Photo by S. McDonald.

being tested were pointed out to the group. There were also two private gardens on tour, both on waterfront property. One garden (Jerri and Bob Molloy's) was a lovely intimate garden, well-designed, with many unusual plants. The other nearby garden belonged to Mr. & Mrs. Peter Agelasto and was a serene and restful garden with larger swaths of lawn.

The Foliage Show was won by the Fellers from New York with impressive foliage from 'R. Babylon' receiving Best in Show. Doug Jolley won Best Hybrid Deciduous Azalea with *R. calendulaceum* × *R. austrinum*. The Fellers swept all the other classes with Deciduous Species *R. vaseyi*, Hybrid Lepidote 'Hanks's Yellow', Species Lepidote dwarf *R. mucronulatum*, and Elepidote *R. strigillosum*.

Following a tasty dinner-buffet on Saturday night, Pamela Harper, who is author of several books about plants, gave a wonderful presentation "Companion Plants for Rhododendrons and Azaleas". The Plants for Members sale took place afterwards.

Thanks to all the members who worked hard in putting on this meeting. I'm sure I don't know of all the contributions, but we do thank Sybil Przypek, Jim Brant, and Peggy McComb for



*Rhododendron* 'Babylon'

much work in setting up the meeting, Sharon Horn for chairing the Foliage Show, Theresa Brents for the Book Sale, Billy Constable (and Kathy) for work on the P4M sale, and Doug Jolley for auctioneering and other officers, committee chairs, and members who helped get it all together.

### BRONZE MEDAL FOR JEANNE HAMMER

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Jeanne Hammer this Bronze Medal Award in recognition of your outstanding services as a Board Member, Vice President, President, Past President, and all-round dependable and reliable member of our Chapter.

Your leadership resulted in an outstanding presentation of our history at the MAC



Jeanne Hammer. Photo by S. McDonald.

50th Anniversary Celebration, and your efforts have provided many excellent meetings. You have promoted interest in the ARS Archives at the University of Virginia. Your leadership renewed promotion of our organization through an exhibit at The Maymont Flower Show. For these and many other contributions we gratefully present this award.

November 4, 2006  
Sybil Przypek, President  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

### FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

What a great fall season here in central Virginia with plenty of rain to help makeup for the hot dry summer. We have received almost an inch a week for



Friday night speaker Dr. Linda Johnson. Photo by W. Przypek.



Saturday night speaker Pamela Harper and Sybil Przypek. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC Treasurer Debby Sauer and Barbara Hall. Photo by W. Przypek.



Jane & Wally McKay. Photo by W. Przypek.



Jim Brant addressing MAC. Photo by S. McDonald.



Doug Jolley auctioning plants. Photo by S. McDonald.



David Sauer & Ken McDonald at Hampton Roads Ag. Research & Educational Center. Photo by W. Przypek.



David Parmer, Norfolk Botanical Garden employee Marcus Jones, Sharon & Dave Horn, and Mary & Glenn Kauffman. Photo by S. McDonald.

the past six weeks or more. Our rhododendron bud set is good except for the few that rarely do well 'Scintillation', 'Long Island', 'Tripoli', 'Dexter's Victoria' and 'Voluptuous'. These plants all do well on Long Island except 'Dexter's Victoria'. I can only assume they have a dislike for our summer heat.



Jane McKay

This fall I did some rhododendron propagation – the easy way. I used to do flats of cuttings with wire hoops over them and inserted in large clear plastic bags. This year I used individual Styrofoam cups with holes punched in bottoms and lower sides. I filled them with a 50/50 combination of peat and perlite that I wet until moist but not dripping. I then made slices down the sides of the cuttings (with a potato peeler) and dipped them in 'Dip'N Grow'. I used the strongest solution mentioned on the container as I was doing this in mid October. If I do the propagating in July I use the weaker solution. I then inserted each cutting in it's own cup and inserted the cup in a small plastic bag and closed it with a tie and put it under lights for sixteen hour days. Now on the 25th of November I have about 80% rooted. I will probably leave the cuttings as they are until the first of the year before potting them up. Just a note about peat and perlite, I always use a new bag of peat to make sure it is not contaminated and bleach my shovel or trowel. Regarding perlite make sure you use pure perlite and not the one that contains fertilizer. 'Miracle Grow' now puts out a perlite with fertilizer – do not use this! As far as lights, right now I have one cool and one warm tube but I have used two cool whites without a problem and I do not bother to change bulbs each year. A perfectionist I'm NOT. Try propagating it's easy, it's rewarding and it's fun.

Now for some business – I have not received renewals from the following list. If you have sent in your dues and are on the list please contact me at [wbjlmckay@earthlink.net](mailto:wbjlmckay@earthlink.net). We already have one member who sent a check that I did not receive so please check the list. **If your name is on the list and you haven't sent in your renewal please do so ASAP. Non renewals are: Ross Albert, Chris and Don Bartlett, Karel Bernardy, Susan Harman, Lynn Jennings, Bruno Kaelin, John Marshall,**

**Wesley and Judy Olsen, M/M R. Coleman Rice, Nancy Splan, Dr & Mrs Leon Swell, Judith & John Tole, Helen West, and Dave and Cathy Wheeler.**

Hope your holidays are healthy and Happy..

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Catherine 'Kate' Cole, ,  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
Molly Hilton, Charlottesville,  
VA 22902  
Charles E. Hurt, Charleston WV  
25314  
Sally Moore, Gloucester,  
VA 23061-4134  
Tracey Mosley, ,  
Chesapeake ,VA 23321-4134  
William Walker, Dutton, VA 23050

### 2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO

For our adventurous annual convention attendees, next spring's convention is being held quite early in South San Francisco, California, at the Embassy Suites. Meeting information will be in the Winter *ARS Journal*. Deadlines are quite early, the cutoff for hotel reservations being March 21, 2007. A brief schedule is currently online at [www.ars2007conf.org](http://www.ars2007conf.org).

### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Health problems have plagued several long time MAC members including Harry Wise and Ken McDonald, Jr.

W h e n  
B i l l  
Bedwell  
returned  
h o m e  
from the  
M A C  
F a l l  
Meeting  
i n  
Virginia  
Beach, he  
found a  
large white pine had fallen on his house while he was gone. Some of the damage includes a hole in his



Bill Bedwell's house after the MAC Fall Meeting. Photo by Don Hyatt.

roof, a broken bedroom window, and some smashed plantings. Bill had recently had a new roof put on.

### **ANCIENT TREES IN SWAMP FOREST** by Sandra McDonald

The *Bulletin of the Virginia Native Plant Society*, Vol.25, No. 5, has an interesting article about some ancient trees recently discovered near Courtland (west of Norfolk) in Southampton County by ecologist Gary Fleming and retired Suffolk science teacher Byron Carmean. The area was subsequently revisited and studied by Carmean and ecologists from VNHP. The 37 acre area had very large water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The understory trees are Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) and medium-age *Quercus lyrata*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Ulmus americana* are rooted on the tops of the tupelo and bald cypress buttresses, six to eight feet above the ground where they can survive by keeping much of their root mass above mean water level. At least 12 individual swamp tupelos and six individuals bald cypress exceed eight feet in diameter. The largest individuals are between 10 and 12 feet in diameter. Coring could not be done on the dominants, but between 500 and 600 annual rings were counted on two three-foot diameter bald cypress logs, suggesting that the larger trees are probably over 1000 years old. Six new national and state champion trees were documented. This area (now defunct Cypress Bridge) was a favorite collecting site in the 1930s and 1940s of M.L. Fernald as he worked on updating *Gray's Manual of Botany* to its eighth edition.

### **MAC ARS DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT** by Kenneth McDonald, Jr.

The ARS Fall Board meeting took place September 21, 2006, at Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, Canada. Alternate Director Ann Mangels represented our district.

The Seed Exchange Committee was working through some problems.

A suggestion that more emphasis be given to Life Members was acted on by making Life Memberships payable in three yearly installments of \$300, \$300, and \$400. A motion was also made to explore creating a student membership.

"A Guide to Planting and Care" is available for free distribution at garden centers and all plant related events. "Fundamentals of Rhododendron Culture" is available to the chapters for \$8.10 postage for a flat rate box.

Executive Director Laura Grant would like all member's email addresses. Publicity Chair Jerry Reynolds would like copies of any chapter publicity articles. Send to 1220 E. California Ave, Arcata, CA 95521-5241. Membership Chair Mike Bones would like to know of "towns that hold Rhododendron festivals". Email: [rhodies@charter.net](mailto:rhodies@charter.net).

#### Future Meetings:

April 12-15, 2007, Embassy Suites Hotel, South San Francisco

October 12-14, 2007, Eastern Regional Meeting at Holden Arboretum, Mentor, Ohio

April 16-19, 2008, District 11, Tulsa, Oklahoma

### **DEATHS**

Although he was not a current member of MAC, many MAC members will remember Lawrence (Larry) Nachman, who passed away on October 27, 2006, in Richmond. He was the husband of Rosalie Nachman whose garden we will be visiting next spring at our district meeting. Our condolences to his family.



One table of the Fall Foliage Show. Photo by W. Przypek.



MAC members riding the train at NBG. Photo by W. Przypek.

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.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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