

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 MEETINGS

April 24-26, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn Southport: Chapel Hill-
Raleigh-Greensboro, N.C.

Proposed: Fall, 2015

Roslyn Center, Richmond, VA

April 20-24, 2016

ARS ASA 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/>

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

SPRING MEETING 2015

Reserve the dates April 24-26 for the MAC Spring Meeting which is being planned for the Chapel Hill-Raleigh-Greensboro area of North Carolina. Several public and private garden visits are being planned as well as two keynote speakers on rhododendrons and azaleas.

MAC FALL MEETING NOV 7-9, 2014 by Sandra McDonald

Thirty-three MAC members had a cool meeting at Wintergreen Resort on November 7-9. Most of the meeting was indoors in the very nice Pryors Porch Meeting Room, but a hardy group did take the Guided Nature Walk of mainly trees led by Josh Palumbo on the mountainside (approximate elevation 3800 ft) on Saturday morning. It was a bit strenuous in a couple of places. We learned about the native trees and also visited an excellent lookout point.

Food preparation was by the Coppermine Restaurant and was very good. We had an excellent speaker on Friday evening, Doug Coleman who is Executive Director of The Nature Foundation at Wintergreen <http://www.twnf.org/>. He presented "North American Ecosystems" From Grasslands to Glaciers", a fascinating program.

We heard about the Naked Mountain Natural Area Preserve from owner, Marcia Mabee Bell. She

told us about some of the rare plants that had been found there. Her Web site can be found at <http://nakedmountain.net/>



Tour guide Josh Palumbo pointing out some sites from the overlook on the hike at Wintergreen. Photo by S. McDonald

Following Marcia Bell was a short discussion of our plant loves and hates, which turned out to be mostly about plants that we found to be pests or even invasive in our particular locations after we tried them. Sharon Horn recommended the 'Pineapple' tomato. Marshy Point's Humdinger was also recommended. The coral bark maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango kaku') and *Prunus mume* were a couple more favorites. A few plants that were found to be pests in some locations were *Miscanthus*, *Croscosmia*, and *Hedera helix*.

Don Hyatt gave a presentation about the upcoming 2016 convention. There is now a Web site about the meeting. Don had also donated three beautiful prints of his watercolors as prizes for the meeting.

<http://arsasaconvention2016.org/>

We had a small *Rhododendron* foliage show. Winners were:

R. kiusianum 'Mangetsu' Best in Show - Doug Jolley

R. 'August to Frost' Azalea 1st- Billy Constable

R. yakushimanum 'Mist Maiden', Elepidote species 1st, Doug Jolley

R. periclymenoides, Deciduous species 1st, Doug Jolley

R. 'Girard's Sandra Ann', Azalea 1st, Doug Jolley

The P4M plant sale had many plants. Dr. Jay Gillenwater brought many native azaleas and rhododendrons, and Carolyn and Paul Beck brought a large number of evergreen azaleas in gallon containers that Carolyn had propagated. There was an abundance of very nice plants.

Doug Jolley acted as auctioneer for our plant auction. In addition there was a silent auction.

The Saturday night speaker was David Anhold, a botanist and landscape architect and photographer who uses native plants in his landscape designs.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS, December 2014 by Doug Jolley

Our garden had foxgloves, coneflowers, *Impatiens*, petunias, Girard's Pleasant White azaleas, and more in bloom: on October 31! This is more than a month past our normal last killing frost date. 2014 proved to be a terrific garden year for ornamentals, vegetables and lack of deer. Pleasant conditions came to a screeching halt the third week of November however as record low temperatures were recorded on multiple days. We experienced nights in the low teens on at least three nights. Fortunately our hoop houses were tucked in with multiple layers of shade fabric.

The attendees at the MAC fall meeting might wish to revisit Wintergreen during the month of May. The



Doug Jolley



Viburnum 'Cardinal Candy' and 'Michael Dodge'. Photo Doug Jolley

Wintergreen Nature Foundation hosts a wildflower weekend which features talks, walks and demonstrations of all phases of Virginia natural history. The Foundation has a terrific native plant propagation program. Initiated



'Girard's Sandra Ann'. Photo by Doug Jolley

by Foundation Executive Director Doug Coleman, the program has grown from a few basic native plant offerings to an excellent plant sale for native plants growing in the Wintergreen area. Another treat is to see a forest full of the pink form of great white trillium; *Trillium grandiflorum* f. *roseum*. While white trilliums will mature from white to pale pink, this endemic form opens as a deep pink. The event schedule and registration details can be accessed from the Foundation's website www.twnf.org in early spring.

Fall foliage was particularly colorful for rhododendrons and azaleas and other ericas this fall. The *Enkianthus* and many of the Girard evergreen azaleas were outstanding. Another nice combination is *Viburnum dilatatum* 'Cardinal Candy' and *Viburnum dilatatum* 'Michael Dodge'. The scarlet berries of Cardinal Candy and the yellow berries of Michael Dodge provide a striking combination. According to Michael Dirr, the two fruit more heavily when planted together and I believe that he is correct.



MAC members preparing for hike. Photo S. McDonald.



MAC members on hike with Josh Palumbo. Photo S. McDonald.



Doug Coleman



Marcia Mabee Bell



David Anhold



MAC President Theresa Brents



Dave Horn helping Doug Jolley with the auction.



George McLellan, Margaret Willis, and Jeanne Hammer at work.



Winner *R. kiusianum* 'Mangetsu'



Meeting organizer Sharon Horn



Ella and Kathie Constable

Who knows what weather swings these next few months will bring but hopefully this winter will allow next spring to be outstanding as well!

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is November 12 at 7:00 a.m. as I start to write this. We have had only one morning of a very light frost on nearby house roofs. All the hostas in the ground are on the way out. All the hostas in pots from the garden center waiting to be planted look fine. (There are only 40 of those.) The rhodos and azaleas still look for the most part totally green. The American and English boxwoods are also for the most part totally green.

Now the joy of this time of year is, of course, the sugar, red, and Japanese maples in our and nearby yards. They have been quite beautiful this fall. We received two phone calls to remind us how pretty the large sugar maple is in the front yard.



Lloyd Willis

Most of our Japanese maples during the spring and summer are shades of green, just a few reds. So we always look forward to the fall bonus. Our Japanese maples have turned red, orange, yellow and even pink. There are many now over 12 feet that can be enjoyed from a block away. Each morning's walk brings joy from so many shapes and colors. We are truly blessed to be able to enjoy nature nearby.

So where is the humor in this article? As we were packing for our very long trip to the fall meeting at the Wintergreen Resort, the phone rang. Our oldest grandchild, Ava, who is 15 today, called to say she had a two hour block open to do yard work for us that evening. I said I will call you back in 10 minutes.

Mrs. Willis suggested that I have Ava weed in the long beds and fill up the 2 and 3 gallon buckets with mulch. I rushed outside to place 50 buckets side by side at the edge of the mulch pile. That took more time that I want to admit.

When we returned from the trip, I could see two five gallon buckets full of weeds in one of the long

beds (a great view) and quickly walked over to the mulch pile. Two of the buckets were full of mulch and forty-eight of the buckets were each half full of mulch. Quite a surprise! Ava's two hour block had turned into a one hour block. She had stood at the top of the mulch and broadcast mulch in the direction of the buckets in the 10 minutes she had left in her schedule. Gramma Margaret (Mrs. Willis) was quite pleased. My next job of adding mulch to the buckets was half finished.

DEATHS

Although not a MAC member, **Helen V. Ring**, widow of George (Pat) Ring, of Roanoke will be remembered by many MAC members. She died September, 15, 2014. She and George shared their garden and even some of their plants with us.

Helen was executive secretary for the Commander, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Paris and then in Belgium. She returned to Washington, D.C. in 1973 to become executive assistant for the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Helen and George had lived in Fairfax, Virginia, before retiring to Roanoke. The Fairfax garden had been on several tours as George was an avid hybridizer. MAC also toured their Roanoke garden.

Rosa Carter, a former MAC treasurer, recipient of the Bronze Medal, and long time MAC member died on October 18. She was the widow of Harvie Carter. Rosa had worked for Estes Express for 45 years and was Corporate Secretary for them when she retired. Rosa was active in many other horticultural organizations. Rosa had withdrawn from MAC in recent years for health reasons.



Rosa Carter

PASSING OF DR. NORLYN L. BODKIN FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE EDITH J. CARRIER ARBORETUM AT JMU by Sandra McDonald

Norlyn Bodkin of Harrisonburg died on September 28, 2014, of a brief illness with leukemia. MAC members may remember Dr. Bodkin from our tours of the JMU Arboretum, the garden dedications there and even for the lecture he once gave us about

Dolly Sods in West Virginia before he retired from his teaching at JMU in 1998.

He was a man of immense energy and enthusiasm and inspired many students. He taught a wide variety of courses over the years including Plant Taxonomy, Flora of Virginia, Plant Ecology, Plant Communities, and Plant Pathology to full classes.



Dr. Norlyn Bodkin at garden dedication May 30, 1996

In 1977 he wrote a proposal for the development of an arboretum at JMU. It was approved by the administration and construction was finally started in 1985. He became the arboretum's first director in 1995, the year after the McDonalds began working



He was a recipient of many honors and was a member of many societies, but was most proud of being elected a fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the oldest natural history society in the world.

The Arboretum received plants from Ron Brown, George Ring, Harry Wise, Doug and Davetta Jolley, Frank Pelurie, Merle Aitken, the Jarretts, Mike



Some MAC members at the May 30, 1996 dedication.

with the arboretum. He served as Director of the Arboretum for 15 years.



Norlyn Bodkin receiving a plant for the MAC garden from Doug Jolley and Harry Wise.

Breiding, and Jim Boyer for the arboretum and the



Ron Brown and Dr. Bodkin at Le-Mac.



Dr. Bodkin talking to MAC members, May 16, 1998.

MAC garden, and Ken and Sandra McDonald for the McDonald Garden when they were downsizing their nursery in 1994 and 1995. Dr. Bodkin, Ron Brown, and a member of the Arboretum staff made at least 6 trips in vans and trucks



Betty Wise on the Sheuchenko bench in 1998.

from Harrisonburg to Hampton (over 400 miles round trip) to dig over 500 landscape size rhododendrons and azaleas, many over 20 years old. These consisted of a few species, many *Rhododendron prunifolium*, some named varieties, and many of Sandra's unselected hybrids.

MAC donated a garden bench in honor of its President Terry Sheuchenko after her death.

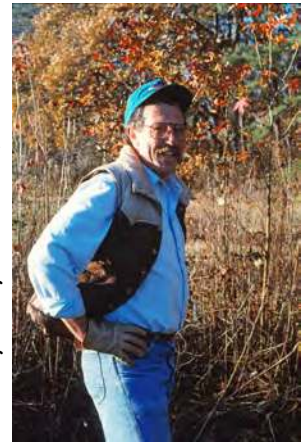
In the early days of the arboretum, MAC member Ron Brown put in innumerable volunteer hours

working at the arboretum as well as donating many woodland plants like *Trillium*.

Now deceased MAC member, Mrs. Gladys Wheeldon, made a substantial monetary donation to the Arboretum some years ago which was used to purchase a large selection of rhododendrons.

Currently a group of MAC members who live within an hour's driving time of the Arboretum have been having

occasional work days at the Arboretum to clean up damage from the derecho storm in 2012 that blew down branches and trees. They had three workdays this spring and several last year. Sharon and Dave Horn, Glenn Kauffman, Lloyd and Margaret Willis, Theresa Brents, and Rick Bauer have volunteered.



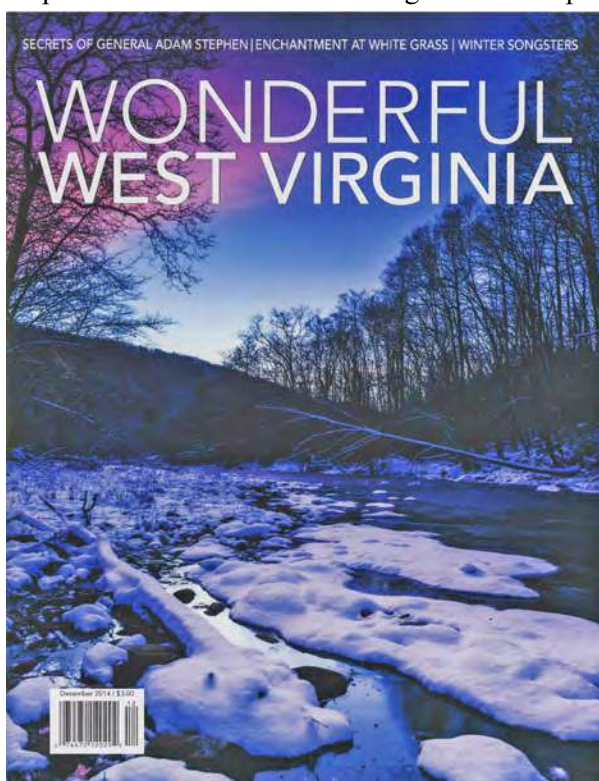
Dr Bodkin digging plants at Le-Mac.

Sharon has been working with the present Arboretum Director, Jan Mahon, in arranging work days.

The MAC Board recently voted some funds to help support the azalea and rhododendron gardens at JMU. MAC has had a reciprocal agreement and exchanged memberships for a number of years.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Doug Jolley has another article with photos in the December 2014 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia Magazine*. It is "Special Winter Songsters" on pages 24 and 25. A magazine subscription is available for \$18 per year at:
<http://www.wonderfulwv.com/Pages/default.aspx>



Doug's article is about four less showy birds that winter in West Virginia: the fox sparrow, white-throated sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, and the American tree sparrow. These birds are noted for their singing abilities. Doug describes the appearance, songs, and behavior of these birds and has photographs of each of them.

DISTRICT NINE MEETING

Bill Bedwell and about seven or eight other MAC members attended the October 11th Joint District Meeting for ARS and ASA in McLean,

Virginia. Bill reported that Don Hyatt gave an excellent presentation about the upcoming 2016 Convention. Harold Greer made an excellent presentation tackling the subject of "Rhododendron Diversity" covering the huge range with great photos of the extremes of natural plant sizes, leaf variations, extreme close-ups of characteristics, leaf color, bud variations, species variations, flower colors and shapes with some extreme variations, and so on.

Bill noted that the food was great. They had a plant auction, but socializing was limited due to the crowd of people attending.

PLANT BIODIVERSITY DATA ONLINE

(Adapted from *Science Daily Trends in plant biodiversity data online, November 14, 2014*)

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141114124909.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28Latest+Science+News+--+ScienceDaily%29

The herbaria as well as all other collections-based environments, are now transitioning their collections data onto the web which is available in today's smartphone environment.

The study "Trends in access of plant biodiversity data revealed by Google Analytics" by Timothy Mark Jones, David G. Baxter, Gregor Hagedorn, Ben Legler, Edward Gilbert, Kevin Thiele, Yalma Vargas-Rodriguez, Lowell E. Urbatsch was published in the open access *Biodiversity Data Journal* examined 15 plant data websites. It showed widespread usage, each site being visited by users in over 100 countries and some in over 200 countries, totaling 4.5 million sessions in the past year. They can be accessed by computers, tablets, and smartphones.

Online plant databases make botanical information available via open information that exceeds the speed of retrieval from a cabinet or bookshelf. Type specimens no longer need to be shipped back and forth across the globe. This eliminates wear and tear on the specimens. All researchers can now share equal access around the world without travel.

<http://biodiversitydatajournal.com/articles.php?id=1558>



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 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.

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