

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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June 2002

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

Oct 11–13, 2002

Holiday Inn, Bluefield, WV

Apr 24–26, 2003

District Meeting, Washington, D.C. area

Meeting opens Thursday evening

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

R & A News <http://members.aol.com/RandANews/news.html>

American Rhododendron Society <http://www.rhododendron.org/>

U VA Science & Engineering Libraries <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm>

MIDDLE ATLANTIC CHAPTER MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY by Kenneth McDonald, Jr.

The Middle Atlantic Chapter met at The Mimslyn Inn, Luray, Virginia, on May 3, 4, and 5, 2002, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, its first meeting having been held on March 23–25, 1952, at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond, Virginia. One hundred and six people were in attendance at the 50th celebration.

The weekend began with a presentation on Friday night by a former park ranger, Bob Johnson, who was born on land that was later to become part of the Shenandoah National Park. Mr. Johnson related the human side of the creation of the Shenandoah



Sharon Collins with Dave Horn setting up for the flower show.
Photo by W. Przypek.



Ken McDonald, Frank Pelurie and Bill Constable checking on P4M Sale. Photo by W. Przypek.

National Park. The weekend proceeded on a positive note from this unique beginning.

A Saturday morning garden tour through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains included Katherine Stark and Richard Clark Bull's mountainside retreat,

'Killermont', which had a lovely young garden with many unusual plants; Long Mountain Nursery, where members were able to purchase some plants; and a picnic lunch at Evergreen, John and Judy Tole's



Dr. Doug Jolley auctioning plants. Photo by W. Przypek.

home and nursery in a setting of a broad expanse of lawn overlooking a pond. There were some

interesting engineering projects to observe, too.
New ARS Silver Medal recipient, Don Hyatt, and



Jeanne Hammer chuckling as Harry Wise, alias Mr. MAC, tries to figure out how to display the rhododendron applique. Photo by W. Przypek.

“The University of Virginia Library, Official
Repository American Rhododendron Society and



Esther Jordon and Ruth Anderton car-pooling from the Long Mountain Nursery. Photo by S. McDonald.



Ted and Carolyn Scott and Ray and Alice Doggett at P4M Sale. Photo by W. Przypek.



Dorothy Robinson. Photo by S. McDonald.

members of the family of Gold Medal recipient, the late Austin Kennell, were recognized at the Saturday evening gathering.

To commemorate the chapter’s history, the University of Virginia Library was presented with a plaque which read:



Bruno Kaelin and Gloria Sanders. Photo by W. Przypek.

Middle Atlantic Chapter Documents.”

This recognizes that these records have a permanent home and place in history.

A Certificate of Appreciation was also presented which recognized the above facts and many of the library staff and ARS members who helped secure this repository.

University Librarian and Middle Atlantic Chapter member Kendon Stubbs received the Bronze Medal for his efforts for the library, the chapter, and ARS.

The Saturday night program, “This Is Your Life, MAC”, prepared by Judy Tole and Jeanne Hammer, was a nostalgic history of MAC, highlighted with a PowerPoint presentation of photos depicting each decade. Jeanne Hammer and Judy Tole spent many hours reading the early MAC archives at the University of Virginia Library to gain information for the presentation. Some photos from the library



Theresa Brents and Sharon Collins. Photo by W. Przypek.

archives as well as many photos from a handful of long-time chapter members (Sandra and Ken McDonald, Elmer Lapsley, the Kennell family, and Walter Przypek) were put together to make up this program. Judy Tole had not received many responses in her plea in the newsletter for old slides



Alton and Barbara Hall, Paul James and George McLellan. Photo by W. Przypek.



Theresa Brents, John Withers, Harry Wise, and Dell Taylor. Photo by W. Przypek.

and photos. Elmer Lapsley had provided slides of vireyas he saw on his trip to Borneo a number of years ago. The program was given in 10-year segments of history and remembrances starting with Vice President Jeanne Hammer who did the earlier



Mike Andruczyk, Bob and Jay Murray and Sybil Przypek. Photo by W. Przypek.

years, Ray Doggett who did the 1960s, Ken and Sandra McDonald who did 1972-1982, Debby and David Sauer who did the 1980s that included a video tape interview with charter member A. J. 'Bert' Shoosmith, now deceased, and the current decade by President Frank Pelurie.

Many older members and Bronze Medal recipients were recognized or mentioned and/or pictured, including founders Thomas and Gladys Wheeldon, Henry Skinner, Mavis Haywood, D. D. Withers, Helen and Kenneth McDonald, Sr., and Austin and Betty Kennell. Mr. "MAC" was symbolized by Harry Wise. He had a red rhododendron applique that he held. A book of honors awarded to chapter members and associates over the years as well as other historical documents for the University of



Jane McKay, Frank Pelurie, Judy and John Tole after the celebration. Photo by W. Przypek.

Virginia Library collection were available for viewing.

Table favors for the dinner celebration were a printed program and decorative tiles, hand-painted with a rhododendron copied from the 1963 MAC program and dated to commemorate the occasion by

Judy Tole. Live piano music by Leslie Nichols was a pleasant background for the dinner and two large 50th anniversary cakes with rhododendrons on them



Ken McDonald, Sybil Przypek and Walter Przypek.

were the special dessert.

Other 50th history making activities were a time capsule which was available as a depository for MAC memorabilia and a banner to be signed by all.

A special plant sale of Delp rhododendrons acquired by Frank Pelurie and Paul James concluded a very successful meeting. The usual MAC Seedling Sale to raise funds for the ARS Research Foundation, a book sale, plant auction, and hospitality room were also highlights of the weekend. The large turnout of old and new members made this meeting a friendly and memorable event.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

I know I promised to stop talking about the weather, but how can I? The prolonged drought really showed its ugly head this spring. Very little bud set on the rhododendrons of course meant very few flowers. The big surprise to me was the sporadic bloom or complete lack of flowers on many of the evergreen azaleas. At first I thought it was the effect of freezing temperatures in early April, but on closer inspection I found that no buds had been set. This lack of bud set seems to have affected the later blooming azaleas more than the early ones. It hasn't all been a disaster though since there was still enough bloom to make a fairly good show.

At the spring meeting Paul James told us he felt we were coming out of the drought cycle. Since mid April we have had a few decent rains, more than in recent years, so I hope Paul is right.

This week's weather has been another record setter, this time for low temperatures. Though we were lucky

and stayed above freezing, many areas in mid and western Virginia and probably West Virginia were not. (I can't even imagine how bad it has been in the northeast.) Our lowest for the week was today (May 22) at 37 degrees. According to the weatherman the worst should be over. The garden seems to be enjoying the cool down—the flowers are holding better than when it is hot.

A strange happening in our garden this spring has been with the Glenn Dale azalea 'Louise Dowdle'. We have two plants, both at least ten years old. The color is pink with a darker blotch. Occasionally, it throws a sport with a white center. This spring one entire plant bloomed with white centers. There was not one 'normal' flower on this plant. I'm anxious to see if this happens again next year.

As I write this we are still enjoying a few rhododendrons: Madam Masson, Great Smokey, Helen Everitt, Scarlet Romance, Album Elegans, and Haag's Choice are still in bloom. The azaleas putting on a good show are the Robin Hills Red Tip, Mrs. Emil Hager, Sara Holden, Betty Ann Voss, and Laura Moreland. Also in bloom are Margaret Douglas, Bruce Hancock, and Chinzan. The *R. nakaharai* are about to open along with several late blooming seedlings. We also look forward to the late deciduous azaleas calendulaceum, arborescens, viscosum, and prunifolium, and the many hybrids of them. The clematis are lovely and the 'green' season will soon begin.



Jane McKay

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT, SPRING 2002 by Bill Mangels, District 9 Director

Earlier this year ARS President Ed Reiley asked me to chair the Endowment Fund Committee (EFC). The previous chair and current Treasurer Tim Walsh found he didn't have the time to devote to both responsibilities, so I have formed this committee from the membership of the Ad Hoc Swisher Committee. At the Board meeting in April the EFC, I was given a green light to proceed developing a grant program that can utilize endowment income after offsetting inflation. This is a first for the American Rhododendron Society. An announcement of the program will be in the summer issue of the *Journal* and full particulars following in the fall.

The Board also acted to establish a \$5,000 Startup Fund for chapters and districts to tap in setting up regional meetings, conventions, etc. In some cases there

has been difficulty in planning events because of the need to use funds that weren't available. This will be a revolving fund with repayment expected after the event. Individual chapters will be asked to contribute towards the \$5,000 target amount. Funding for this program will not come from the ARS budget.

At the society's annual meeting in Atlanta, several awards were given that directly affected District Nine. First of all was the Gold Medal awarded to Austin Kennell. Austin's wife Betty was on hand to accept the award on his behalf. I don't think everyone knows that Ken McDonald initiated this nomination before Austin's death. It's unfortunate Austin didn't personally



Betty Kennell (right) with grandson Mike Sanders and Austin Kennell's Gold Medal citation. Photo by S. McDonald.

receive the recognition he was due. Then there was a Silver Medal awarded to Don Hyatt. Don received a Silver Medal for his outstanding contributions at the regional level. Carol Segree of the Potomac Valley Chapter coordinated Don's nomination for this award. Interestingly, these were the only medals awarded that evening. The remaining

item of acknowledgment was recognition of the Potomac Valley Chapter for increasing membership more than 10 percent – the actual figure is 12 percent.

I am pleased that two well-deserving District Nine people received medal recognition at the annual meeting. Undoubtedly there are other people deserving this level of recognition and I would be pleased to work with you on their behalf.

PLANT LEFT AT THE MIMSLYN

If you left a plant of Hosta 'Hydon Sunset' at the Mimslyn, contact Frank Pelurie at 304-968-3793. It will be auctioned at the Fall Meeting if the owner is not found.

DONATIONS TO MAC FOR 50TH CELEBRATION

The chapter thanks Gladys Wheeldon and John Buschmann for their most generous financial contributions to MAC to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the chapter. Attendees will long remember this very special celebration.

HOSPITALITY ROOM AT THE MIMSLYN

Sybil Przypek thanks all the people who donated goodies for the hospitality room at our meeting in Luray. Several people requested the recipe for the "Zesty Mustard" dip that Alice Doggett brought. The recipe follows:

Zesty Mustard Dip

4 eggs, slightly beaten
 3/4 cup sugar
 2 oz dry mustard
 1 cup white vinegar
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper (HOT!! - 1/2 to 3/4 teas ???)
 1 stick butter

Combine all ingredients in top of double boiler and cook over low heat, whisking constantly until thickened (about 10 minutes). Cool slightly and pour into 4 oz glass containers with top. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 3 cups or 6 jars (four oz ea.)

This came from *My Favorite Recipes* Marie Anderton Baldwin, Gloucester Point, Va.

PLANT SALES AT SPRING MEETING

The Seedling Sale brought in \$215 for the Research Foundation. Plant Auction proceeds were \$575.

NEW DIRECTORS

New directors elected at the Spring Meeting for terms expiring in 2005 were Glenn Kauffman and Jim Brant. John Buschmann was re-elected for the 2005 term. Harry Wise and Kenneth McDonald, Jr. were elected Directors Emeritis.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Richard & Sandy Antony,
 Richard & Katherine Bull,
 Bruce & Marianne Feller,
 Carolyn Segree,
 Jerome V. Ward,
 Renewal:
 Sharon Collins,

DEATH

Ray Longley recently of Bloomfield, Connecticut, died in November of 2001. Our condolences to his

wife, Eleanor.

BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Kendon L Stubbs the Bronze Medal in recognition of his service to the Chapter over many years.

On May 26, 1983, the Alderman Library of the University of Virginia became the official repository of MAC ARS documents to secure ARS records, manuscripts, and other relevant materials for preservation along with its rhododendron manuscript and book collections. In the late 1990s, the Science & Engineering Library of the University of Virginia began developing a website of rhododendron resources that notably now includes back issues of the Rhododendron and Azalea News.

It is doubtful that these events would have transpired and come to fruition without his efforts.

We recognize Kendon L. Stubbs for his quiet devotion to our chapter, the ARS and the genus *Rhododendron* with this, our chapter's highest honor.



Jeanne Hammer and Kendon Stubbs receiving a plaque for the library. Photo by W. Przypek.

Franklin Pelurie, President
Luray, Virginia
May 4, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society recognizes

**The University of Virginia
Library and Staff
with this**

Certificate of Appreciation

for receiving, sorting, organizing and preserving

many of its documents, papers, non-financial books and other records, photos, and mementos of both our chapter and our parent organization and of many individual members and researchers.

This could not have been accomplished without the University's backing and its library staff. We wish to recognize the particular efforts of Kendon Stubbs, Jeanne Hammer, Sharon Defibaugh, Michael Plunkett, and Fred O'Byrant. Middle Atlantic Chapter members Austin Kennell, Harry Wise, Sandra McDonald, and especially Mrs. Gladys Jenkins Wheeldon also helped initiate, promote and finance this wonderful and enduring collection.

Franklin Pelurie, President,
Luray, Virginia
May 4, 2002

The library also received a plaque which said:

Certificate of Appreciation presented to
The University of Virginia Library
Official Repository for American Rhododendron Society and Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS documents

IN THE NEWS

The April 3, 2002, issue of the *News Virginian* contained an article about Austin Kennell's receiving the ARS Gold Medal. The article chronicled Austin's involvement and activities with rhododendrons and azaleas and with the Middle Atlantic Chapter and the American Rhododendron Society. A photo of Betty Kennell with a rhododendron and another photo of Austin were included with the article.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

The University of Virginia Library Rhododendron Book Fund received another donation from Harry Wise in memory of Austin Kennell and George Ring.

FENCE US IN, FENCE DEER OUT by David Lay

The Lays finally bit the bullet and invested in a deer fence. David says the devastation to all sorts of unusual shrubs had just become more than they could bear. All the seven-foot azaleas along the driveway had been browsed to about four feet up the sides. This spring there were almost no flowers on the lower branches.

Voracious deer also defoliated camellias and destroyed 20-year-old Japanese maples by rubbing the velvet on their antlers against the trunks completely girdling the bark from some of the choicest specimens.

Deer are creatures of habit. Once they acquire a

taste for something in their territory they return over and over again. Since the death of our last large dog they have become bolder and more persistent. We have tried every type of taste and smell deterrent without success. They even chomped off the ends of azalea branches that have white spray residue on the leaves and would be found blithely browsing within ten feet of the front door!

The Brenner Company manufactures the fence we chose. It is a strong black plastic with two-inch squares and stands 8 feet tall. It is attached to three black plastic cables: one at the top, one at the three feet level and one at the ground. These cables are attached to trees 25-30 feet apart; and where there are no trees two-inch, black plastic encased metal poles are installed. The base of the fence is pegged into the ground every six feet. There are several people gates and a doublewide cattle guard on the entrance to the driveway.



Dave Lay

The whole thing is remarkably inconspicuous and nearly invisible from 100 feet away. We have had nearly five acres of garden completely enclosed and deer-free for the last two months, which has been wonderful. The downside is the cost, which is considerable and the necessity of walking the fence after every violent storm to make sure our defenses have not been breached by windfall. The cables have proven very resilient, however. As an oak limb 25 feet long and a foot in diameter was found resting on the fence after one thunderstorm, but with some chain sawing the whole thing popped back up to normal.

With hindsight I suppose we would have achieved the same effect by encircling our property with hollies which deer never eat but the thought of a 2000 foot impenetrable hedge of *Ilex opaca* was so appalling it was not seriously considered.

MEMORIES OF THE EARLY DAYS OF MAC

I have many fond memories of the early days of the Chapter, which I am happy to share with you. I do not remember, however, if I was ever 'elected' to the office of Secretary, but I do know that I did all the work of the Secretary and appreciated the privileges it offered me and all the wonderful people I met and experiences I enjoyed.

I remember: We had no 'start-up' money, and

most of the early meetings were underwritten by generous contributors such as Ken McDonald, Dr. Edgar McPeak, Bert Shoosmith, Henry VanWormer, Dr. Fred Coe, Henry Hohman, and Dr. Wheeldon. I am sure there were others.

I remember: All of the knowledgeable speakers who came to share their knowledge not only from this country, but from abroad. They were 'movers and shakers' in the horticultural world.

I remember: We did not have the finances to pay for travel expenses and hotel bills, and the speakers financed their travel and when in Richmond, Mrs. Wheeldon graciously opened her home to them. Others did likewise when the meeting was in their area.

I remember: The meeting in the Asheville area and our trip to Roan Mountain to see the beautiful rhododendron. On top of Roan, the female and male "potty" consisted of old auto tires over a hole in the ground and the two were separated by a hedge of rhododendron. I remember we had to hold onto Marion Lee because she was afraid of falling in, and the laughter exploded on both sides of the hedge.

I remember: The meeting at Chamberlain Hotel at Fort Monroe, when the sagacious Fred Lee made a motion to double my salary from zero to double zero for all my hard work. It passed unanimously.

I remember: The first annual meeting of ARS held in the East at Winterthur and Longwood, and I believe it was the first time that a reception and dinner had been held in Longwood's atrium, and this was thru the generosity of Mr. Henry DuPont. The West finally realized we could grow rhodos in the East and acknowledged us.

I remember: All the wonderful people who opened their hearts and gardens for tours, luncheons, and the sharing of plants and knowledge of growing azaleas and rhododendron.

I remember: How dedicated Dr. and Mrs. Wheeldon were to this project of starting the Middle Atlantic Chapter, and how nothing was too hard or too big to tackle to assure its survival.

Thank you for asking me to share my memories—there are many more.

Mavis Haywood, CPS





W. Constable, K. McDonald, M. Aitken, K. Constable, M. Aitken in Bull garden. Photo by S. McDonald



H. Wise as Mr. MAC & Jeanne Hammer. Photo by S. McDonald



F. Pelurie & J. Tole. Photo by W. Przypek



J. Hammer, K. Stubbs, K. McDonald. Photo by W. Przypek

MAC ARS
50th
Anniversary
Photos



MAC members picnic on the grounds of the Toles' home. Photo by S. McDonald



J. Neal signing banner. Photo by W. Przypek



Judy Tole. Photo by W. Przypek



S. & K. McDonald with V62381, Best in Show. Photo by W. Przypek



MAC members enjoying dining room. Photo by W. Przypek



MAC touring the Bull garden. 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

Memberships and renewals should be sent to Jane McKay, Membership Chairman, 3 Cobb's Ct., Palmyra, VA 22963.

Annual membership dues are \$28 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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