

# MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

May 5,6 & 7, 2000

Charlottesville, VA

### Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

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

**American Rhododendron Society** <http://www.rhodie.org/>

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

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

All of you were great, the way you pitched right in and did whatever needed to be done. You really showed our guests how MAC does things right! We heard many compliments on how you carried out the entire weekend. You should rightly be proud of yourselves. Thanks again for all everyone accomplished!

George McLellan & Ray Doggett, Co-chairs  
1999 ARS Eastern Regional Conference

### FALL MEETING '99 by Dr. Douglas Jolley

Members of MAC played host to the 1999 Eastern Regional Conference. There were 251 members in attendance at the Fort Magruder Inn in Williamsburg on November 5 for a weekend of activities.

On Friday and Saturday members went by bus to nearby Richmond to tour the renowned Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Eighty degree sunny weather throughout the weekend made it perfect for late fall outings. Many also found time to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown.

Friday evening, MAC President Alton Hall welcomed attendees, and conference chairman Ray Doggett introduced our evening speaker Henry Schannen. A review of past hybridizing accomplishments, current trends, and future goals gave members an overview of the hybrid rhododendron world.

Saturday was filled with speakers addressing a myriad of topics. George McLellan, David Sauer, and Paul James, all of MAC, spoke on Native Azaleas, New Kurumes, and Delp/Haag Rhododendrons, respectively. Past ARS President and hybridizer George Ring shared his experiences in growing rhododendrons in the D.C. suburbs and his present mountain top environs. Don Hyatt

combined computers and rhododendrons and Dr. John Thornton spoke of growing plants in the heat and humidity of Louisiana. Later Sonja Nelson took us to many gardens and highlighted her expertise in landscaping with rhododendrons.

At the conclusion of our evening banquet ARS President Lynn Watts introduced attending ARS dignitaries both past and present. Past presidents in attendance included Richard Brooks, Bud Gehrlich, Geroge Ring, Herb Spady, and Gordon Wylie. Bud Genrich presented Robert and Jay Whitney Murray with the ARS Gold Medal. Western Vice-president Mike Stewart urged that we all work towards increasing membership. Attention then turned toward our evening speaker Tony Avent and his account of his China expedition. Tony covered all facets of the trials and tribulations of plant exploration in western China. Tony is certainly an engaging speaker and via his Plant Delights Nursery is evaluating and introducing many new plants into the nursery trade.

Sunday morning, George McLellan introduced the group to the MAC Species Photo Project which utilizes closeup and habitat pictures of native eastern azalea and rhododendron species. The ensuing breeders roundtable included brief talks by Dr. John Thornton, Werner Brack and Walter Przypek. Harry Wise and Doug Jolley concluded the session with an overview of the ongoing MAC Nursery Project and its introduction of native azaleas into public gardens.

Also included in the program were a plant and book sale, an auction, a photo contest, a foliage show and an ongoing hospitality room. Heartfelt thanks are extended to the volunteers who helped throughout the planning and the running of the conference and to the local Williamsburg gardeners who graciously opened their gardens on Sunday for

us to enjoy.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to new members:

Cami Harding, , Castleton, VA  
22716

Madison County Library, , Madison  
VA 22727-0243

Bobbi Pasternak, , Springfield,  
VA 22151

### DECEASED MEMBER

**John Richardson** of Richmond, Virginia, died this past spring of melanoma. Our condolences to his family.

### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Ted Scott was honored at the Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants held at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, where he was presented the 1999 Tom Dodd Jr. Plantsman Award.

### FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

This fall has been beautiful and we have been fortunate to receive some welcome rain after the spring and summer drought. I'm writing this in mid November, the weather is still mild though night temperatures have dropped to 29°F on several occasions. We are happy to note that the azaleas, dogwoods, k a l m i a s a n d rhododendrons are well budded. We are excited about two camellias we acquired a few years ago, these are the cold hardy camellia hybrids developed by Dr. Jane McKay



William Ackerman of the U.S.D.A. We have 'Snow Flurry' and 'Winter's Star' both in bloom right now. They also root easily from cuttings taken in July. Azalea 'Opal' is still opening a few flowers as are a few miniature roses. Violas and pansies are revving up for their winter show.

The most unusual plant in bloom right now is *Clematis florida* 'Sieboldia' with flowers 3-4" across, creamy white sepals with purple central clusters of petal like stamens. This vine starts to bloom in spring and continues until the onset of high temperatures. It then turns completely brown and remains so all summer until September when

it leafs out again and reblooms right through November. If I hadn't been lazy I would have pulled it out and disposed of it the first year it happened, so sometimes it pays to sit back and wait.

One thing I should not have waited to do this year was to spray for borer. Each year we have increasing numbers of plants with borer damage, and each year I make one excuse after another why I don't spray. Every fall I make resolutions regarding what I will do next year but like the ones most people make at year's end they rarely are accomplished.

I don't want to go into great detail about our recent Eastern Regional Conference as I'm sure others will. However, I would like to thank my husband Wally for all his help before the meeting and at the registration desk. I also want to thank Gretchen Johnson for her help at the desk. Two other couples who sent notes with their registrations offering to help and did were Barbara and Tom Smith and Joan and Paul Netherwood both of Mason-Dixon Chapter. Jane Goodrich of Potomac Valley also offered to help if I needed her.

We certainly should remember to offer our services if these chapters need it during their functions.

Dave and Joyce Delp Harris brought lots of her fathers rhododendrons to the auction and we know that many of you would like to acquire more "Delps". Crystallaire Rhododendron Naturescapes is the name of the Harris' nursery located at Rt 8, 550 S Main Street, Harrisville PA 16038. Phone 724-735-4055. They do not ship but I'm sure they would welcome your visit.

One final note, if you didn't attend the after conference garden tours you certainly missed a treat. All were different, all interesting, all beautiful. Thanks to Ken McDonald for arranging it.

P.S. Just as I finished writing this a buck cornered a doe right in our front yard. She escaped by crashing through the net fencing protecting the garden so now we have another job to do!

### ONLINE NEWS

The ARS Flower Show Book by Eleanor Stubbs is available online for downloading. Get it at: <http://members.aol.com/randanews/news.html>

Anyone who is not receiving notices of when new issues of the R&A Newsletter come out, please send your e-mail address to <[bettyspady@aol.com](mailto:bettyspady@aol.com)> and she will add you to the list.

### REPORT ON UVA LIBRARY ARS AND MAC COLLECTIONS by Kendon Stubbs

The endowment fund established and nourished by the Middle Atlantic Chapter continues to flourish and bear fruit. The great thing about a book fund is that it often allows us to buy books that we couldn't afford otherwise. This year we continued to buy the bread-and-butter books from U.S. publishers like Timber Press. But we were also able to undertake a project to buy \*every\* in-print book that we did not have from Japan and China about rhododendrons and azaleas. Actually, as it turned out, most of the books that we hoped to get were out-of-print, and will take longer to find. But we did acquire some exceptional books, of which the following are examples.

To me the prize of the lot was Ishikawa's *Satsuki Kantei Jiten*, a three volume encyclopedia of Satsuki azaleas. Each volume describes about 100 azaleas, including for each azalea two pages of descriptive information and four very good color pictures: of the whole plant or part of it in bloom; of one bloom; of a sprig of foliage with a bud; and of a single leaf. Even if you don't know Japanese, this is an extremely useful work for locating pictures of 300 Satsukis. With a little practice, you



Page 216 of Ishikawa's *Satsuki Kantei Jiten* showing 'Wakaebisu' flowers.

can get the hang of finding a particular azalea. The Japanese alphabet starts at what is for us the back of the volume, and runs to the front. The names are in the order: a, i, u, e, o; ka, ki, ku, ke, ko; sa, si, su...etc. Thus, Issho no Hikari comes before Eikan

in the early part of the book. With some trial and error, it becomes possible to find pictures of those Satsukis that are described in Galle's *Azaleas*.

Other Japanese books include a book with beautiful pictures of Satsuki bonsai (Yamaguchi's *Satsuki Bonsai Gijyutsu Taikan*); a book on how to grow rhodies (Wakisaka's *Shakunage*); and other books on azaleas and bonsai. Chinese books include volume 3 of the *Rhododendrons of China*,



Page 217 of Ishikawa's *Satsuki Kantei Jiten* showing 'Wakaebisu' foliage.

*Yunnan Camellias of China*, and others.

In regard to manuscripts, the library was saddened by the death of Fred Galle, but pleased that Mrs. Galle donated his papers to the ARS and MAC manuscript collections. The Galle collection has been processed, and the guide to the collection will soon be added to the online guides. Within the past few weeks the manuscript collections have added another group of papers from former ARS President Austin Kennell.

The past year was also the year when the library put up a rhododendron and azalea Web site at

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm>.

We are trying to make this as comprehensive as possible in providing links to rhody information on the Web. We were honored to be chosen as the archival home of Rhododendron and Azalea News at our Web site.

We continue to be grateful to the ARS and to MAC for making resources on rhododendrons and

azaleas available at this repository for an audience that is now, thanks to the Web, worldwide.

## LETTERS

To Ray Brush:

I sat down to write you a letter of resignation from the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, since it seems unlikely that I will get to attend future meetings.

I changed my mind when I thought of no longer receiving the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* and the *Mid-Atlantic News and Notes*. I love to read about the plants, friends, and of all the trips and activities, and keep up-to-date on you all. So put me down for another year with also a donation to the General Fund.

Best Wishes,  
F. Lorraine Chappell, Butner, NC

To MAC members via e-mail:

Congratulations to the members of the Middle Atlantic Chapter for a job well done. Herb and I wish to personally thank each of you for everything. The Eastern Regional Rhododendron Conference was an outstanding meeting in every way. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones. Those who could not attend missed an exceptional event.

Most sincerely,  
Betty and Herb Spady

## EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTO CONTEST by Dr. Douglas Jolley

Seventy-six outstanding photographs made the photo contest a great success. Entries were submitted by members from nine ARS chapters (Mason-Dixon, Massachusetts, Middle Atlantic, New York, Noyo, Potomac Valley, Princeton, Seattle and Valley Forge). Photographs were divided into four categories and attendees voted for their favorites. Wing Fong from the Princeton Chapter won Best-in-Show with his stunning foliage closeup of *Rhododendron yakushimanum* × *Britannia*. A selection of non-judged photos accompanied the show.

Chairman: Doug Jolley; Assistants: Davetta Jolley, Joan Netherwood

76 entries      47 ballots

Close-up of truss:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dick Gustafson, Doug Jolley, Joe Parks
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Katherine Constable, Dick Gustafson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Katherine Constable, Sandra McDonald, Joe Parks

Foliage:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wing Fong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Katherine Constable, Wing Fong
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Eleanor Philip

Landscape:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wing Fong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Gustafson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Katherine Constable

Creative:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Don Hyatt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Gustafson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Katherine Constable, Wing Fong

Best-in-Show:

"Two Faces of Rh. yak. × *Britannia*" Wing Fong

## REPORT OF DISTRICT NINE DIRECTOR ARS Board Meeting of 5 November 1999 by Sandra McDonald

I attended the ARS Board of Directors Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, on 5 November 1999.

The Society is still in its membership drive called Campaign 2000. The goal is 6,000 members in 2000. ARS memberships make nice Christmas gifts. Consider this when doing your Christmas list.

The general liability insurance for ARS chapters is now obtainable through ARS since the required 30 chapters are participating. The program began on October 1, 1999. It costs a chapter \$140 per year. One chapter was paying \$1200 for a similar plan.

The ARS roster is online (password protected) for specifically designated chapter officers to access their chapter rosters. The Board voted to save printing expense for the regular ARS roster in hard copy and have it available in .txt format from Dee. Members who still need a printed copy will be able to contact Dee Daneri, the Executive Director, and get printed copies if they need them. Only nine chapters are now without anyone on their boards who have listed an email address. Therefore, 62 Chapters can access material from the webpage. The Society's web page is still operating with much information for people interested in rhododendrons.

An "18 month membership" for new individual members joining after April 12 will be available in the year 2000 for \$28, the same as the normal yearly membership. This is a good promotional tool to get new members to join while the azaleas and rhododendrons are still in bloom. These new members will receive 6 *Journals* if they join after April 12, 5 *Journals* after July 12 or the regular 4 after October 1. There had been problems keeping members with the six month membership because these people received renewal notices before they had received much from ARS.

Dr. Joseph Coleman of Lithonia, Georgia, is the new Azalea Chairman.

A written report from Jay Murray, Registrar of Plant Names, reported she had received 128

applications through mid-August, 1999. The International Registration Authority has accepted 125, and three are delayed because of missing information. The application form and instruction sheet are being converted to PDF files using Adobe Acrobat to take advantage of the fact that so many applicants have e-mail.

Betty Spady is receiving positive feedback for the electronic "R&A NEWS". Visit the site at <http://members.aol.com/randanews/news.html> and read what is new in ARS. There is an amazing amount of material on her site. The Shows and Judging Book is also on the "R&A NEWS" site. ARS has its own web site at <http://www.rhododendron.org>. There are some problems with the plant database online there, but they are being corrected.

Lynden (Lynn) Watts of Bellevue, Washington, is ARS President. H. Edward Reiley remains Eastern Vice-President. Mike Stewart of Sandy, Oregon, is the Western Vice-President. Jean Beaudry of Bethesda, Maryland, is Secretary, and Tim Walsh of Eureka, California, is Treasurer. The Executive Director is Deanna Daneri, 11 Pinecrest Drive, Fortuna, California 95540-9203, e-mail [deedaneri@aol.com](mailto:deedaneri@aol.com).

Minor changes were proposed for the By-Laws and were approved on second reading.

The new chairman of the Seed Exchange is John Nicolella. George Woodard, the immediate past chairman, will assist him with the catalog and finances. A new chairman is still needed for the Vireya Seed Exchange.

ARS received its first grant from Dr. and Mrs. John Root in the amount of \$6000 to be distributed as follows: \$2,000 to the Life Fund; \$4,000 restricted gift to be used to create a full-color membership brochure and a membership decal. The \$1,300 already budgeted for brochures for the new fiscal year must be used as a matching fund for the project. 10,000 decals will be printed.

ARS has filed a grant application with the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. If this is granted, the \$20,000 request will launch the Education Committee's Good-Doer project and the Membership Committee's plant tag program. The announcement of grant awards will take place in December.

The Endowment Fund grew \$18,222 in F/Y 98-99 to \$135,219. General Fund donations for the first month of F/Y 99-00 have already passed last year's total, largely due to a plea that went out on the membership renewal notices.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 24, 2000, in Burlington, Massachusetts.

Sandra McDonald  
District Nine Director

## **THE GARDEN** by Sandra McDonald

At the Eastern Regional Meeting Paul James told me it was dry in the mountains near Roanoke in spite of the hurricanes that we have had here on the coast. I believe it. Our local paper here in the Hampton-Newport News area just said mandatory water restrictions remain in effect in Roanoke and Norton, while residents near Abingdon are still hauling water to their homes. The drought has been blamed for at least four forest fires this month in Virginia's mountains, where rainfall has been about 75 percent below normal.

Here in the Tidewater area of southeast Virginia, we had (after a very dry spring and summer) a total of four hurricanes or remnants of hurricanes pass over or close enough to us that we felt some of the winds or rain. We had Dennis, which only brought a very little rain and some wind; then Floyd, a whopper, which brought wind and 12 inches of rain to us and more – up to 18 inches – to others nearby, plus flooding to many unfortunate people in North Carolina and some parts of southeast Virginia. Then Irene came along and dumped about 8 inches of rain on us, and lastly the broken up remnants of Kirstin came up from the Gulf of Mexico with the odd tiny misty rain blowing sideways that hurricanes have, although the winds were not bad.

Fall has been beautiful with the colorful foliage peak occurring just about the time as our Eastern Regional Meeting. We also had wonderful warm, sunny weather for our guests.

Now we are starting to come into the cold weather, which has not occurred yet, but should by the time you read this. There was nearby frost a couple of weeks ago, but we seem to have escaped unscathed. A freeze is predicted this week.

The *Camellia sasanquas* have been beautiful and are just barely past their peak bloom. The tall, blue asters are pretty now, too. *Prunus mume* looks as if it has dancing snowflakes in its branches. And finally the Japanese maples have abruptly undressed and left their pretty discarded leaves at their feet. They are favorites in any season, be it spring, summer, fall, or winter. May your gardens have a gentle winter.

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 Ray Brush, Treasurer, PO Box 266, Madison VA 22727.**

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  
Mid-Atlantic Rhododendron News and Notes  
P.O. Box 268  
Hampton, VA 23669

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