

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

Vol. XLVIII No. 4

December 2021

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 4-8, 2022

ARS Spring International Convention, Vancouver,
Washington

American Rhododendron Society

ARS Store Order from Amazon thru this site

MAC Website (UPDATED REGULARLY)

UVA Special Collections

Old Quarterly Bulletins & JARS

Rhododendron Blog

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

<http://arsstore.org/>

<http://www.macars.org/wordpress/>

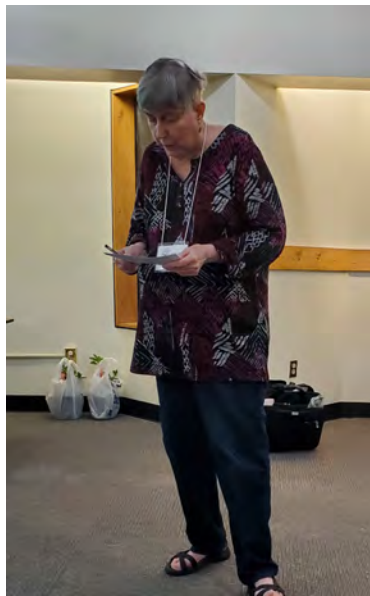
<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/>

<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>

www.rhododendron.org/blog/

MAC FALL MEETING

The MAC Fall Meeting was held at Roslyn Retreat Center on Friday, September 24 and Saturday September 25. We had 16 people at the meeting, and it was really great to see our friends again. We had refreshments of coffee, tea, and open face sandwiches and really good cookies on arrival. Thanks, Debby. Then we had wine and cheese and a welcome get together and good auction before heading over to dinner at the dining hall. Peggy Singlemann, Director of Park Operations and Horticulture at Maymont Foundation, gave a talk about “Plants From Japan That Thrive In Virginia.”



President Theresa Brents.

We had our P4M sale with lots of Plants that Jeanne Hammer and David Taylor brought.

Saturday morning after our breakfast in the dining hall our own Doug Jolley gave an excellent

presentation about native plants. Doug had lots of photos of ericaceous plants, hollies, and many other native plants both in his own garden and in the wild. He compared information in an old monthly plant periodical, “The Home Garden”



Doug Jolley, Saturday speaker.

(January 1943 to initial 1945 issues, published by Walter E. Thwing, Concord, N.H.), to information he found in new publications. He found that the old periodicals were excellent in covering most things we read about our plants now. His talk is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag7l5HH24Rg>

We had some catching up to do in our business meeting. Due to the disruption of in-person meetings because of the Covi9-19 pandemic we were not able to have our regularly scheduled elections in 2020 and 2021. We elected the following:

Officers

President: Theresa Brents 2021-2023

Vice President: Doug Jolley 2021-2023

Secretary: Jeanne Hammer 2021-2023

Treasurer: Debby Sauer 2021-2023

Directors: Exp May 2023

David Taylor

George McLellan

Sharon Horn

Directors: Exp May 2024

William Bedwell

Sandra McDonald

Lloyd Willis



Peggy Singlemann, speaker.



David Taylor.



David Taylor and Theresa Brents observing aerial map auction.



Dave Banks.



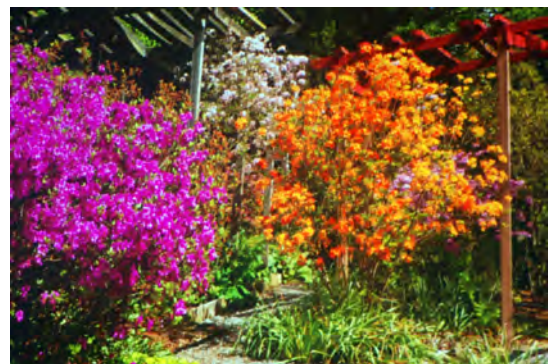
Hubert and Mary Barb and Becky Jenkins..



Debby Sauer.



Margaret and Lloyd Willis.



Azaleas in Doug Jolley's shade house..

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

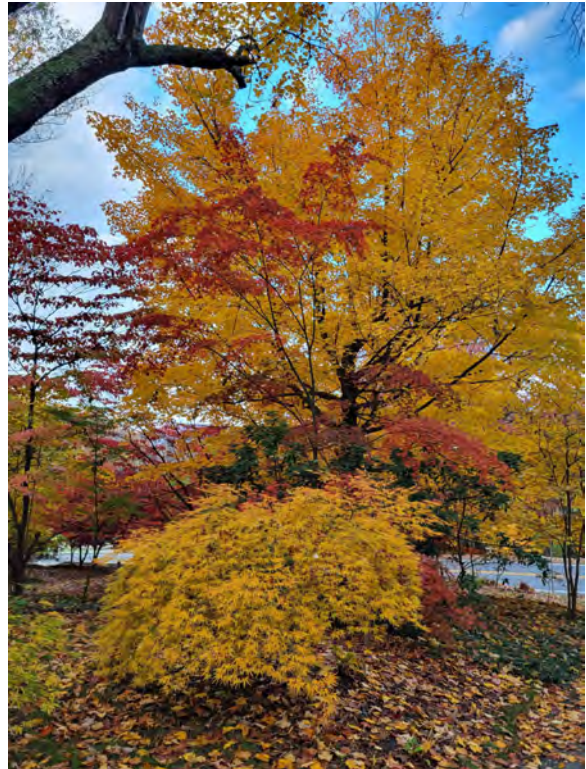
It is November 4, 2021 as I sit down to write this article. On our kitchen door, Margaret (Mrs. Willis) had posted a small note that read, "Lloyd, Newsletter article due by November 19." I was headed out to count hostas and saw the note. It was my second reminder of the morning. I have forgotten my first reminder.



One new project has been a new Hosta bed in our front yard next to the highway. Every one of the 32 hostas in that bed was purchased at end of the season prices. It took parts of six weeks to complete the bed. The new hostas were sprayed once a week on a Monday or Tuesday with liquid deer fence and until today that worked. Sometime between 9 and 11 am today, deer neatly trimmed the leaves off six hostas in a row. The stems were left.

Under good news, none of our Autumn ferns that were highly water stressed this summer died. Lots of fern fronds did die but lots of new growth has

occurred. Most of those fern clumps are about half the size they were in the spring.



Under pretty fall colors in our garden, there are several sugar maples turning a very pretty yellow and some sugar maples in neighboring yards turning a nice orange. This morning we saw two red maples in our yard that were giving a great red and yellow leaf color combination. The peak color for our Japanese maples usually occurs in mid-November so we are excited about what could occur then.

At the end of our walk in the garden, I asked Margaret to come look at one of the Japanese maples on the north side of our driveway. It was planted 27 years ago and we walk past it at least once a day. I wanted her to see again the wonderful shape of that tree. She came as requested and then pointed out another Japanese maple with a totally different shape that she wanted me to see again. Both trees were a treat to see. It is good to share the blessing of a garden.

If you haven't noticed, there has been no mention of rhododendrons so far. That is probably because is it a bit depressing to think about some of them. The heat and drought this summer was not kind to them. Time has been spent cutting the dead limbs from the plants. Much more time will need to be spent doing that. The only encouraging thing is that several of the plants have started sending out new shoots. Some of

the undamaged rhodos are a great backdrop for the Japanese maples as are the maples for the damaged and undamaged rhodos.

So where is the humor in this article: Maybe a good-news story might help provide a little humor. The good news is that the description I read about a certain variety of Japanese maple was quite true. The description said this variety turns a brilliant red in the fall. That sounded great about thirty years ago when I purchased nine of these trees. I waited with much excitement for fall to come and saw not a single brilliant red leaf. This happened each fall for the last thirty years. But this fall, I am happy to report that one of those nine trees has lots and lots of brilliant red leaves. I just needed a little patience.

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS December 2021 by Doug Jolley.

Has anyone tried the fruit of the Chinese Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)? I always have some each fall when they are ripe and if not for the overwhelming “seediness”, we would harvest them and use them for at least something. Not that I sit and watch these fruits ripen but this fall I noticed that



Warbler eating fruit of *Cornus Kousa*. Photo by Doug Jolley.

many fall migrating warblers were partaking of these delectable bright red globes. Warblers would work a fruiting structure and seemingly be as delighted with the flavor as me.



Witchhazel. Photo by D. Jolley.

Again, frost did not arrive in central West Virginia until the first week of November. Peppers and tomatoes were harvested on Halloween! Fall foliage



R. 'Landmark'. Photo by D. Jolley.

displays have been lacking as leaves mature and fall from trees and shrubs without pigmented fanfare. This



Yates Best x Mrs. H. R. Yates flower buds. Photo D. Jolley.

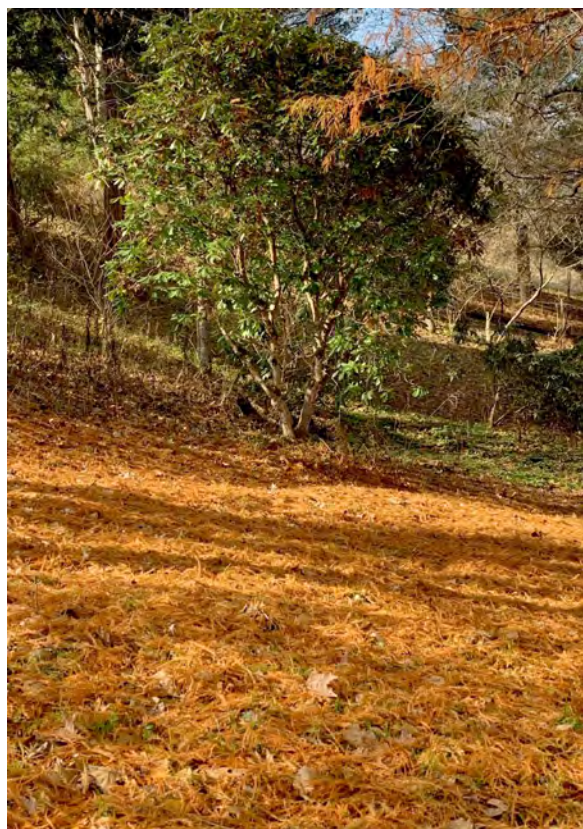
goes for the overall hillside landscapes as well as our garden plants. Now that multiple hard frosts have occurred, a post-Thanksgiving walk around highlights native witch-hazels and bountiful buds on rhododendrons and azaleas. Some attractive lepidote rhododendrons include R. 'Landmark'. It is always a

bright maroon accent plant. A favorite elepidote plant in winter is Yate's Second-Best x Mrs. H. R. Yates and its indumented foliage.



Pieris japonica and oak trunk lichens. Photo D. Jolley.

Lichen covered tree trunks serve as a backdrop to *Pieris*, and Praying Mantis egg masses are attached to



R. Caroline with cypress needles. Photo D. Jolley.

branches of *Kalmia*. A bald cypress at the corner of the barn drops its needles which cover the lawn in front of *R. 'Caroline'*. These cypress needles are fine in texture and are great to apply as mulch on rhododendron and azalea beds. They decay rapidly and often we give areas mulched with cypress a

second light coat of white pine needles or purchased pine bark mulch.



Flower buds of *R. arborescens* x *R. calendulaceum*. Photo D. Jolley.

Finally, plants from the recent MAC meeting in Richmond are tucked into growing beds for the winter and spring will see that they become part of the landscape! Many thanks to those who were able to get our chapter back together again!

ARS MOUNT ARROWSMITH RHODODENDRON SOCIETY VIRTUAL FALL CONFERENCE, FALL INTO GARDENING 2021
by Sandra McDonald

For those of you who missed this virtual conference or had poor reception, the videos are now **posted online until January 1, 2022**. The password is fall2021. The link is

<https://marsrhodos.ca/2021-fall-into-gardening-conference/>.

I was able to watch the conference without problems and enjoyed the informative talks. A few of you may remember Dr. Hartwig Schepker who made a trek with our Species Study Group to Gregory Bald and Roan Mountain in 2002. Hartwig was the opening speaker. PVC and MAC member Don Hyatt was the fourth speaker. All the talks were informative, Chalker-Scott on mulches being especially practical.

Day One

1. Dr. Hartwig Schepker: Sichuan: A Plantsman's Paradise
2. Dr. Shannon Berch: Your Living Soil
3. David Sellars: From Rhododendrons to Rock Gardening
4. Don Hyatt: A Walk in the Woods

Day Two

1. David Millais: Conservation of Heritage Rhododendrons

2. Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott: Mulches- The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Ugly

3. Richard Dionne: Growing Rhododendrons in Quebec's Harsh Winter

4. Don Wallace: Fragrant and Fancy- Bringing Fragrance into the Showiest Rhododendron Flowers.

INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE OCTOBER 13TH ARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

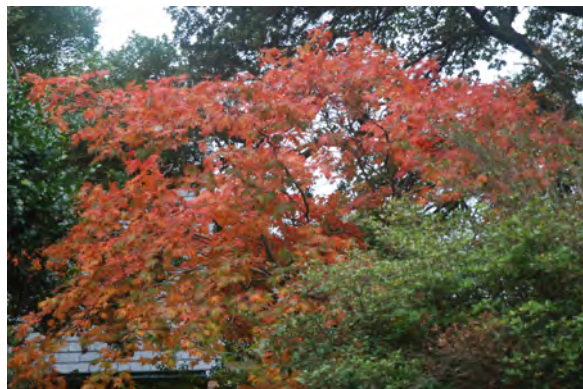
ARS Webmaster Bob Weissman reported that during the past two years JARS visits made up 26% of the total page views at Virginia Tech's Scholarly Communications library. "A Chapter Field Trip to Roan Mountain and Gregory Bald" by Don Hyatt and published in JARS in 2005 was the most visited with 14,000 views.

A new feature at the ARS public website has a series of rhododendron-related podcasts. So far five ARS podcast episodes have been produced and posted at www.rhododendron.org. The ARS Next-Gen Committee has been doing this project. Podcasts are accessed by going down the page to ARS Next-Generation Podcasts and clicking on Podcast index. The index of the available podcasts will come up and you can choose what you would like to hear. Or you can go directly to the index https://www.rhododendron.org/next_gen_podcasts.htm.

FALL COLOR IN TIDEWATER by Sandra McDonald

Fall color, especially of the Japanese maples, has been lovely this fall. Many species of maples are noted for their wonderful fall color.

Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium' is a small tree that has orange and gold leaves in autumn.



Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'. Photo by S. McDonald.

Acer griseum (paperbark maple) × *A. maximowiczianum* (Nikko Maple) is a rather large growing maple hybrid by Dr. Sidney Waxman from

the University of Connecticut back in the days when I was there in the 1970s. It has pretty foliage with the fall color somewhat variable. It always has some color and some years even appears pink to me. The bark is cinnamon brown and is "flakey".



Acer 'Cinnamon Flakes'. Photo by S. McDonald.



Closeup of bark of 'Cinnamon Flakes'. Photo by S. McDonald.

One of my favorite Japanese maples is *A. palmatum* 'Sango Kaku', also known as Coral Bark maple. It is outstanding in every season from the red young twigs and branches in winter to the bright yellow foliage the other three seasons.



Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku' in autumn. Photo S. McDonald.



Lovely yellow foliage of 'Sango Kaku'. Photo S. McDonald.

Another nice Japanese maple is *Acer palmatum* 'Peaches and Cream'. In summer it has pale yellow leaves with red edges. Then in the fall it turns a darker yellow. I'm having to keep mine pruned back because I really don't have space for it to grow very large.



Acer palmatum 'Peaches and Cream' in summer. Photo S. McDonald.



'Peaches and Cream' in fall. Photo S. McDonald.



Acer palmatum 'Crimson Queen' and fallen leaves from mature red seedlings of a UCONN campus tree. Photo S. McDonald.



Remember all photos can be seen in color and ENLARGED at MACARS.ORG.

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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