

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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May 2022

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 27-29, 2022

Eastern Regional in Gettysburg, PA

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/

EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Information about the Eastern Regional Meeting is available at:

<http://arsstore.org/Fall2022/>

APRIL 22-23 MAC MEETING - by Sandra McDonald. *All photos in this article by Sandra McDonald unless otherwise noted.*

We had a really great meeting at the Drury Inn in Glen Allen, VA April 22 to 24. Our President Theresa Brents had made arrangements in a short period of time finding the hotel when our other Richmond location was not available. A breakfast buffet and dinner buffet were included with the cost of the rooms. There was not a huge variety to chose from for



MAC President Theresa Brents.

dinner, but it was more than enough food with even soup to start, and it was very convenient not to have to worry about going out to eat. Many of us took our plates to our meeting room tables instead of the seating arrangements in the dining room.

Friday night we had Brian Trader, Ph.D., the new President and CEO of Lewis Ginter Botanic Garden give an "Update on Lewis Ginter Garden and the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve (the Cosby Garden)." He is an enthusiastic plantsman and gave the best overview of the garden that I have ever heard. Those of us in



Brian Trader, our speaker.



Curator and tour leader Laurel Matthew.

attendance know a lot more about the garden now than we did before, even though we had visited it several times.

We had a small plant auction with David Taylor as auctioneer.



Director of Horticulture and tour leader John Morse.



Margaret and Lloyd Willis at Ginter.

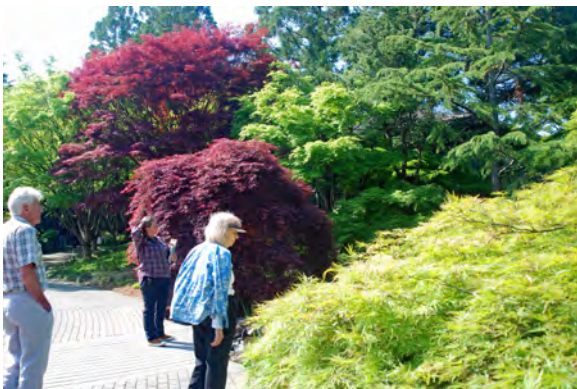


MAC group touring at Ginter.



Lovely little irises around base of Crape myrtle.

On Saturday morning we car-pooled to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden then broke up into two tour groups, one led by Director of Horticulture John Morse and the other led by Curator Laurel Matthew.



Bruce Feller, Laurel Matthew and Margaret Willis at Ginter.

Our tours meandered through the garden and ended up at the Japanese Tea House where we had large box lunches we had previously ordered.



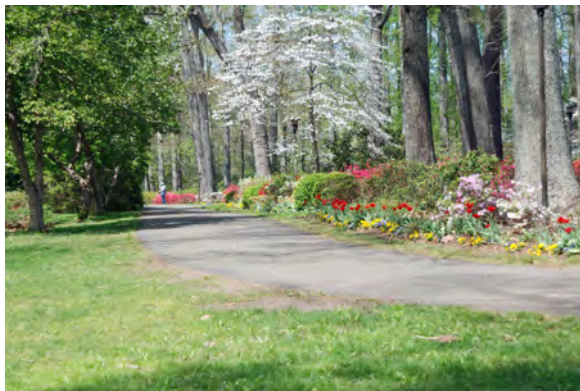
Dave Horn, Debby Sauer, Jeanne Hammer, Marianne and Bruce Feller at Ginter.

Lewis Ginter Botanical was founded in 1984. Members of MAC donated some rhododendrons in the early days and Bill Bedwell and Rosalie Nachman and possibly others in the chapter were involved in the early days of the garden. MAC has had several meetings at which we toured the garden and we have watched many of the garden's large variety of plants mature in the nearly 40 years of its existence.



Linwood azalea 'Garden State Glow' at Ginter.

After lunch in the tea house we car-pooled to Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve (the Cosby Garden) where we wandered around on our own and looked at the hundreds of azaleas in bloom and a few rhododendrons and other plants.



Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve.

At Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve there were many tulips, and pansies adding even more color to the landscape. The dogwoods were at peak



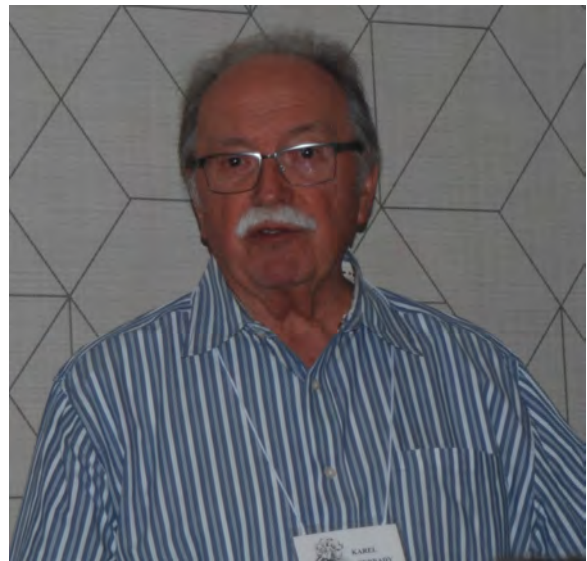
Hubert Barb, Laurel Matthew, Kathe Beder, Sharon Horn, Carol Segree, Theresa Brents, and Marianne Feller at Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve.

bloom, too. We had time to take many photographs.



A beautiful spot to sit and contemplate at the LGNR.

After returning to the hotel we had our Kickback dinner with drinks and then had a talk and slide show by Karel Bernady about the new "Hybridizers Test and Display Garden" at Tyler Arboretum.



Our speaker, Karel Bernady.

A new Rhododendron test garden is being planned at the Tyler Arboretum in cooperation with the District 8 Chapters: Greater Philadelphia, Valley Forge, and Lehigh Valley. It will focus on plants from District 8 and the entire mid-Atlantic region and showcase and emphasize new hybrids.

DEATHS

Elizabeth "Betty" White of Ware Neck, Virginia, died on March 20, 2022. Betty had a lovely garden which the Middle Atlantic Chapter toured several years ago.

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is April 28, 2022, a Thursday, as I sit down to write this article. The mornings here are still quite cool (in the 40's) and several layers of clothes are needed for the morning walk. I put off the first mowing of grass until this week then stayed



two hours on the riding mower without a break. With the mowing done, the grass is a nice background for the sugar, red, and Japanese maples. All the maples are leafed out. At least two of the Japanese maples are now over two stories high making a nice contrast with the white house that we live in.

The hostas are up and I am spraying them with deer repellent every 3 to 7 days for the first month. I will be going out to spray them again as soon as I finish this article.

A recent treat in the garden was provided by out tulip poplar trees. They were shedding petals in huge numbers. It looked as if we were having a snow storm of large pale yellow snowflakes. A slight wind added to the snow storm look.

The weeding of the garden has started and yesterday I put in several enjoyable hours weeding. We have a large mound and a small mound in our driveway. We call these our islands. The large island has one large weeping Japanese maple, one small boxwood, and thousands of clumps of dwarf mondo grass. The small island has one upright Japanese maple, one azalea, one rhodo, a few clumps of dwarf mondo grass, and six clumps of wild onions over a foot tall. I had been watching them for two or three weeks getting taller and taller. I worked on those wild onions and some dandelions and that area looked great. Until.....I stepped back to view the bed as a whole which is when I saw that about the upper half of that Japanese maple was dead. I asked Margaret (Mrs. Willis), "When did that happen?" She said, "Two or three weeks ago. I knew you were concentrating on other things and would see it eventually." I spent the next hour removing dead branches and twigs from that maple.

On this morning's walk, we were able to find one view (where we will put the bench if we ever get around to it and have time to sit on it) where I could count eight different colors of Japanese maples, azaleas, and rhodos in bloom with no clashing colors.



Lloyd Willis trying to get a dead branch out of his beautiful *Rhododendron*. Photo by Margaret Willis.

So where is the possible humor in this article? Yesterday, Margaret said, "I think you need to weed the walkway." I heard, "It is time to weed the mondo grass beds on each side of the walkway." I did that and asked her to come see what a great job I had done. She said, "You really did a great job on the beds beside the walkway. Would you please now look at the walkway?" Well, I looked at the walkway which is a herringbone pattern with bricks and stone dust between the bricks. The walkway looked like it was covered with a fuzzy coat of baby weeds where they had grown in the stone dust. Guess what I did for the next hour. It does look weed free now.

VIREYAS ON HAWAII by Jeanne Hammer. *Photos by Jeanne Hammer.*

Although I claim no expertise, the vibrant-colored, tropical vireyas have fascinated me ever since seeing a few in bloom on the slope of Mt. Kinabalu in July 2011 and trying my hand, with modest success, at growing a couple as



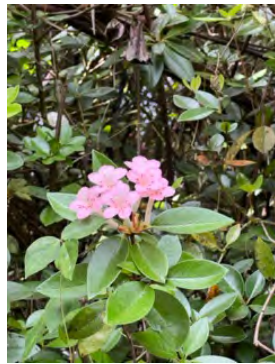
houseplants. Thus, my appetite was wetted for seeing vireyas growing in the open during a long-awaited trip to Hawaii in late January-early

February of 2022. Thanks to the Journal of American Rhododendron Society (see articles in JARS v60n4 and JARS v63n1), my sights were set on the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens outside Hilo on the "Big Island" of Hawai'i.



Vireya photos by Jeanne Hammer.

The Pana'ewa plantings were started shortly after the zoo/gardens director extended an



invitation in 1999 to the Hawaii Chapter-ARS to create a vireya garden to complement plantings by the Palm Society, Bamboo Society, and Water Garden Society. Pana'ewa is an ideal location at 500 feet above Hilo on the east (wetter) side of the "Big Island" and is maintained by the County of Hawai'i as a public facility (with free admission). The vireya plantings encompass perhaps an acre just inside the entrance and consist of species, rooted by Chapter members from cuttings taken from their gardens, and hybrids crossed by members.



Fortunately, my visit coincided with the height of the autumn to spring bloom season, and I was

rewarded with a gorgeous, not-to-be forgotten display of color and form.

(See more photos of Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo & Garden and vireyas on page 8.)

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS by Doug Jolley May 2022.

(Photos are by Doug Jolley.)

Without question, Davetta's and my favorite garden ornament is our horse Mist. He is now 26 years old and since the passing of his buddy Montana (at 33 years of age) three years ago, he has the run of the garden. Unbelievably he does not go into the garden beds and even stays on the few



Twenty six year-old Mist who has free run of the garden.

gravel paths when not on the lawn. Davetta says that dental floss would hold him in. I remember reading in one of Gertrude Jekyll's writings about her "manuring the rhododendron beds in winter." Well, this is a bit beyond that.



When we held our open houses in years past, occasionally youngsters might venture into the

Peppermint Nudi x *R.periclymenoides*.

display beds. Just the casual informing a parent that the offenders were walking on manured ground immediately resolved the trespass.



R. carolinianum, Pink form from Newton Edwards.



R. 'Millie Mac'.

This spring has been fantastic overall. Delete a once flooded driveway, some snow on early rhododendrons and daffodils and two mildly damaging frosts and our blooming season has been wonderful.

One cross of my Peppermint Nudi (*R. periclymenoides*) x Rhododendron Species Foundation *R. periclymenoides* has yielded a

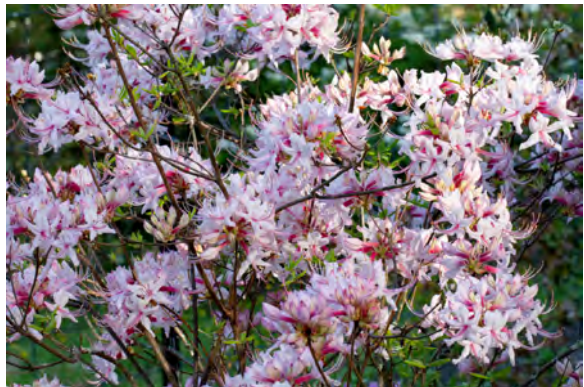
nearly all deep pink-red flower. This year is a first-time bloom for this seedling.



R. minus from General Porter.



'Koromo Shikibu'.



R. periclymenoides.



R. periclymenoides in bud.



R. vaseyi.



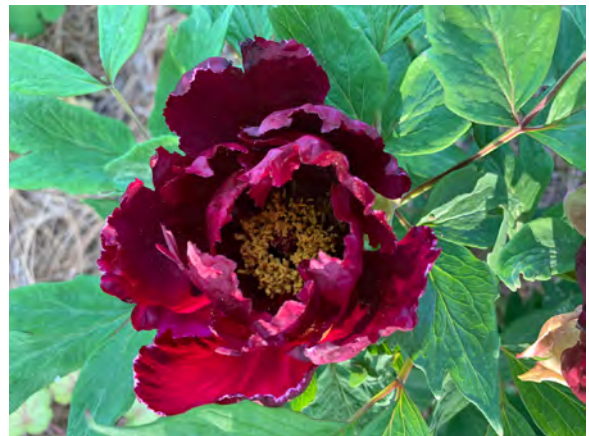
R. 'Fantastica'.

As usual, many Plants for Members plants take center stage. Some good doers include Newton Edwards Pink Carolinianum, Millie Mac, *R. vaseyi*, *R. 'Fantastica'* and *R. 'Janet Blair'*. The P4M evergreen azalea 'Koromo Shikibu' has been on our keep or remove list for a couple years now. This year this plant is now firmly established on the "keep" list. A plant of *Rhododendron minus* acquired from General Porter decades ago is never failing.

Even though the garden continues to be downsized one new dogwood species is a corner brightener. *Cornus alternifolia* 'Golden Shadows' is now becoming a real favorite. A tree peony which is outstanding is a deep wine-red flowering plant that Davetta 'horse-traded' Bill Myers for one of our native azalea plants. This transaction was done years ago when we vended at the Mason-Dixon Chapter plant sales. Hopefully Bill's plant from us has done as well for his garden as this peony has done for ours.

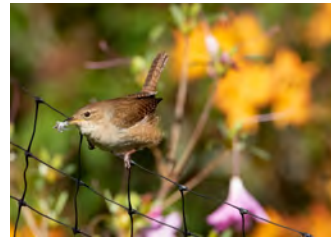


Cornus alternifolia 'Golden Shadows'.



Tree peony from Bill Meyers at Mason-Dixon Chapter meeting.

Finally, a high blooming spring makes for some nice songbird backdrops.



House wren and rhododendrons/

VIREYAS ON HAWAII continued from page 5.



Announcing the zoo and gardens.



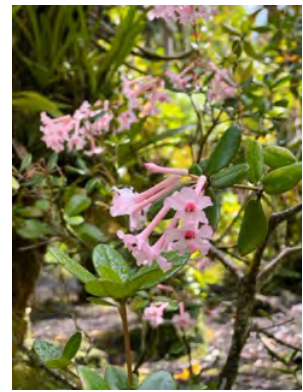
Road leading to Pana'ewa.



The drive into the gardens.



Vireya bench.



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



Doug Jolley's plant of 'Janet Blair', one of the best plants for the Middle Atlantic region. Photo by Doug Jolley.



R. hyperythrum, one of the best plants for heat tolerance in the Middle Atlantic. Photo by Sandra McDonald.

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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