

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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September 2022

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 27-29, 2022

Eastern Regional in Gettysburg, PA

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/wordpress/>

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/

EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Information about the Eastern Regional Meeting is available at:

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

MAC is not having a separate Fall Meeting this year, but rather will meet in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Meeting in Gettysburg. You should have received email notices about the Eastern Regional Meeting. The above link takes you to the page where you can find the link to register and the phone number for the hotel.

IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is Thursday, August 25, 2022 as I sit down to write this article. For the past few weeks, the best words to describe the garden would be damp, wet, or simply soggy. The soil has stayed wet, most of the grass has stayed wet, and most of the trees and shrubs are wet part of each day. Last Sunday we had the downpour of the summer as we left the morning church service. Margaret (Mrs. Willis) handed me two umbrellas and suggested that I needed both of them. By using both, only one arm got



soaked. Later she told me her suggestion was to give one of the umbrellas to someone else. I have my version; she has hers.

All this rainfall has kept the grass quite green and needing to be (but not getting) mowed twice a week. Grandson Silas (14) is learning to use our zero turn riding lawnmower. After three lessons, he shows promise of replacing his older brother Stuart (20), especially since Stuart has returned to college.

Not sure why but this past week there was enough leaf fall from the tulip poplar trees to almost cover the grass. Is this a case of premature senescence or just a case of I can't remember the first leaf fall from last year?

The deer have once again left all our hostas alone that were sprayed weekly with liquid deer fence. That is another way of saying that 95% of our hostas have been eaten by the deer. I can remember to spray the hostas for 6 to 12 weeks then I forget. One year at the nursery as I purchased several hostas, the checkout person said, "So buying food for the deer." She wasn't there the next week—she was probably home doing like one of our neighbor who puts grain out for the deer.

Most of the Japanese maples have done well this summer. One hundred percent of the boxwoods and autumn ferns made it through the summer. The excessive rain has helped the rhodos and azaleas. No loss of plants in either group so far this summer

which was definitely not the case with the drought last summer. The bud set is looking quite good on most of the rhodos.

So where is the humor in this article? About two weeks ago, Margaret pointed out an area in the garden about ten feet by twenty feet covered with Japanese stilt grass. I of course thanked her (silently) for pointing that out to me. I think I said it was on my list, consider it done. The next day Karen, the younger daughter, reported for duty for three hours of yard work as a helper for her dad. I showed her the Japanese stilt grass patch and said we would turn this problem area into a new plant bed to surprise her mother. My plan was to put a three-gallon Japanese maple in the center of the area, then weed and mulch. I told Karen we needed 12 minutes to dig the hole, 3 minutes to plant the plant, and 30 minutes to weed and mulch. In 45 minutes we would be off to another project. I started digging the hole and Karen put the dirt into buckets. The first two or three inches was topsoil, then small roots, then red clay. After about 30 minutes, we found tree roots too large to remove. The hole was moved eight inches north, another 30 minutes digging, the hole still not deep enough, another 30 minutes labor of removing red clay. The hole was now too deep so we went to the topsoil pile for the needed soil. The Japanese maple was planted, weeded, and mulched in 180 minutes. As Karen was getting ready to leave, she told her mother, "Dad is the best boss I have ever had. He did not stop telling me stories for the whole three hours. The time just flew." So glad my story telling did not slow down the project.

CUTTING REQUEST

Does anyone still have a live plant of the azalea 'Williamsburg'? The Colonial Williamsburg Arboretum wants to grow a plant of that



and will even propagate it by cuttings if anyone has it. My old plant nearly died in the drought and has only a very small branch left with a few tiny shoots on it. Please contact me sfmcdonald@verizon.net or call if you can help. Thanks. Sandra

WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS by Doug Jolley September 2022.

(Photos are by Doug Jolley.)

The Mountain Laurel bed has finally gotten its due. Year after year our collection of Laurel blooms without fail. The flowers are admired, and the plants basically ignored. Now instead of grassy, weedy carpeting the whole area is



Mountain laurel 'Galaxy'.



Mountain laurel.

w e e d e d , fertilized, and mulched. While admiring the completed project from a comfortable seat on the back deck a question arose.



Mountain laurel seed heads.

“How did an elderberry go unnoticed in a pure stand of mountain laurel?” So much for relaxing for a spell! I can’t say that I have seen a mountain laurel produce the deep glossy purple seed pods that this plant has this summer. None of the other laurel here have such an appearance. It’s a very attractive trait. Maybe if one spends time in neglected areas off season one can make such observations.



R. cumberlandense and *R. calendulaceum* × *arborescens*.

best of rose gardens. *R. cumberlandense* keeps the red season going through June then yields to *R. prunifolium* in July and beyond. With the concern



Sweet Azalea, *Rhododendron arborescens*.

Given witch hazels which bloom during our winter months, something blooms here twelve months a year. The glory of the summer months, June through August, must be the native azaleas and their hybrids. A finer bouquet than a spray of Sweet Azalea (*R. arborescens*) would be hard to collect even in the



Black cohosh.

for butterflies, we are fortunate to still see good numbers and summer azaleas are among their favorites.

Summer is also time for big wildflowers. Black Cohosh was named Wildflower of the Year in 2017 by the Virginia Native Plant Society. Bright candles

of small white flowers make a nice back drop in late June into July and plants reach five feet or more in height here. The two Canada Lilies obtained during



Black cohosh.

the MAC meeting at Wintergreen now number ten. They provide the burst of orange between the June and July native azaleas.

I haven't grown seed for years, but a *Rhododendron maximum* bloomed for the first time this summer. It is a keeper. Now to find a suitable spot!



New *R. maximum* seedling.

Finally, we had a successful crop of fawns. Fortunately, this occurred outside the deer fence.



Canada lily.



Fawns

Over a decade now: deer free in the garden. The next upcoming garden chore is to make hominy!

DEATHS

Jean Beaudry

MAC and Potomac Valley member Jean Beaudry passed away on June 17, 2022.

Jean was a very active member of the Potomac Valley Chapter as well as an associate MAC member. She and her husband Norman attended many of our MAC meetings. Jean was ARS Secretary and also helped Norman when he was Seed Exchange Chairman. Norman and



Jean were also founding members of the "Sandwich Club" which studies the Dexter rhododendrons on Cape Cod.

Jean and Norman developed a beautiful garden in Bethesda, Maryland, which was included in many garden tours.

They raised two children Jeffrey and Lara (Byer) and have four grandchildren. Jean had a very outgoing and warm personality and made people feel welcome. She will be sorely missed by many plant friends.



Jean and Norman Beaudry. Photo by S. McDonald.

David Anderton

Long time MAC members may remember David Anderton and his wife Ruth. David was active in MAC during the 1988 Williamsburg Convention time. David died at the age of 94 on July 27, 2022. David and Ruth had been from Gloucester and moved to Williamsburg. He made many trips on the Liberty Ships and Troop Ships and later joined the Army and served in the Army of Occupation in Japan under Gen. Douglas MacArthur. He then went to work for the Peninsula Bank and Trust where he worked for 36 years and was Senior Vice-President.



Betty White

MAC member Betty White was born February 7, 1923, and died March 20, 2022. She was well traveled around the world and served with the US Army-OSS and later worked for the CIA in Austria. She was married to Arthur White and lived in Bethesda, Maryland, and then later moved to Gloucester. They had a daughter Sally.

Betty had a lovely garden that George McLellan was familiar with and arranged tours for MAC in the Gloucester - Ware Neck area.

'HAMPTON BEAUTY' AZALEA by William Bedwell

For unknown reasons, I woke up today thinking of 'Hampton Beauty' azalea. So I thought I would share this while I was thinking about it.

Back in the 1960's I bought 'Hampton Beauty' from a nursery in Richmond (or Chesterfield County) as one of a group of potted azaleas that came from Le-Mac Nurseries in Hampton. In the years that followed 'Hampton Beauty' became one of my favorites. I was intrigued that despite the fact that it is a pink azalea and there are so many varieties of pink azaleas,



'Hampton Beauty' has its own very distinct look when in bloom. So distinct that years later during the first ARS convention in Georgia, I saw it growing in a garden and recognized it. There was no label so I asked it if might be 'Hampton Beauty' and the owner beamed and said that was the name and it was a favorite.

I just looked online and found a lot of entries, one saying that 'Hampton Beauty' is believed to be a Pericat Azalea, which is a group of hybrids that were bred in Pennsylvania for the florist trade. But, unlike some of the Pericats, it is fairly hardy. It was named and introduced by Le-Mac Nurseries in 1930 when Ken McDonald's father owned the nursery. The interesting thing is that I cannot describe what makes it so distinctive that I could recognize it in gardens where pink azalea varieties and the most numerous.

It is probably distinctive because it is so floriferous with flowers opening at differing times, which gives it that distinctive contrast between the much darker, more intense pink of the opening



'Hampton Beauty'



Swallowtails.

flower buds vs. the lighter color of the fully open florets. Also the fully open flowers have a distinct shape that is quickly recognizable to me, but I cannot describe what is so distinctive about the shape. I just know that shape is part of the reason I can recognize the variety.

Interestingly, it is available from a lot of nurseries, and even available from Amazon. For an azalea introduced nearly 100 years ago, it has stood the test of time.

An internet search produced many photos, but these two at these links seem to capture what makes the flowers so distinct, better than most photos I saw:

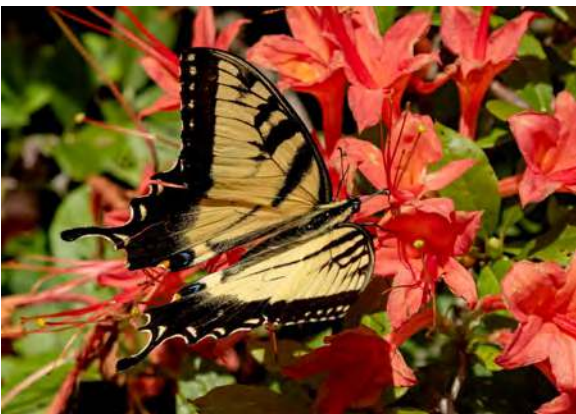
<https://pics.davesgarden.com/pics/2005/04/30/walkerh/607648.jpg>

https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/810S5J7HP9L._AC_SL1000_.jpg

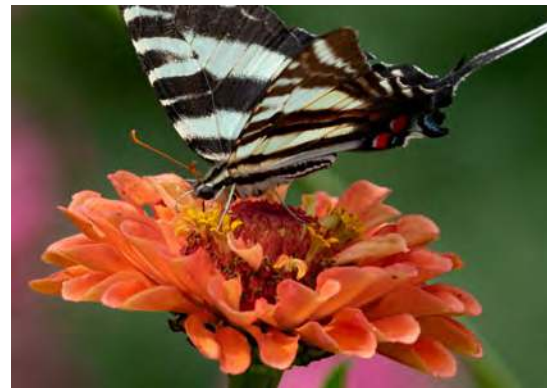


'Weston's Pink and Sweet'

MORE GREAT DOUG JOLLEY PHOTOS:



Swallowtail on an azalea.



Tiger Swallowtail



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



Butterfly on Clethra 'Ruby Spice'.



Butterfly on *R. periclymenoides*.



Swallowtail butterfly on *R. prunifolium*.



Swallowtail butterfly.

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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