

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

District 9 Meeting Apr 29-30, 2024, Annapolis, Maryland
ARS 2024 Spring Convention May 2-5, 2024, Bellingham, Washington

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/

SEPTEMBER FALL MEETING RECAP-

MAC had an a one day Fall Meeting from 9AM to 4PM on October 7, 2023, at Roslyn Center in Richmond with 20 attendees. Treasurer Debby Sauer reported on various projects that MAC has sponsored over the years. Money had been given for a mower for Gregory Bald to try to keep the bald fairly clear for the Rhododendrons. We had also assisted the botanical garden in Williamsburg, the Piedmont Garden, the Rhododendron Species Foundation, Norfolk Botanical Garden and the Hahn Garden at VPI.



Debby Sauer.



Doug Jolley.

President Doug Jolley gave a presentation on plants that he and Davetta had obtained over the decades from M A C meetings, other members, and Rhododendron society friends. They have a beautiful garden with personal connections to many chapter friends and others over the years.

Don Hyatt gave a presentation on new hybridizing efforts with beautiful photos of many new plants. Don had a large number of slides of new plants.

We had lunch at Roslyn's cafeteria and a small plant auction, too.



IN THE CROZET GARDEN by Lloyd Willis

It is Wednesday, November 15 as I sit down to write this article. As Mrs. Willis (Margaret) is the one who is kind enough to type the article before it goes to Sandra, I will be very careful in my penmanship as I have been told it needs improvement.



To me this year will be the one with two fall seasons in the garden. About three weeks ago, it looked as if most of the large tree leaves had turned brown. It was quite dry and many leaves had curled and/or dropped in a week's time. That first fall to me lasted a week. Then after two or three weeks of more dryness the Japanese maples, which are mostly small trees, started to turn from green leaves to red, yellow, or orange if they hadn't already curled up. This was our second fall and definitely the more colorful of the two falls.

What do I see on the morning walk in the garden with Margaret? All the hostas can only be located by their faded white leaves. Most of the ferns look nice and green but not quite turgid. The azaleas have just a little red and yellow color in the older leaves. The two rhodos in pots need to be watered every two or three days. The rhodos in the ground mostly need water but only a few have curled leaves. Overall, the boxwoods look quite good. I am hoping that one group of four boxwoods will look better in the spring.

Where do I find joy today in our fall garden? One of the places is on the west side of a one and a half story white house. There are dark green four foot tall boxwoods at the base of the house. Then the four two story tall bright red leaved Japanese maples near the house. Then there are the one story boxwoods ten feet from the house. The white, dark green, and bright red colors are a joy to see. Actually, every day of the fall colors brings joy.

So where is the humor in this article? For many, many years, Margaret and I have piled up leaves for the grandchildren to jump into. Our daughters have at times called to remind us to pile the leaves for the grandchildren. Last week I noticed a three to four foot pile of leaves not placed there by Margaret or me. The grandson that I last remember wanting a leaf pile is now six foot, fifteen year old Silas. I called Silas' mother to ask if Silas had piled up the leaves to jump into. She told me that Silas had piled up the leaves but it was for Louie, their very young at heart chocolate lab, to jump into. She reported that Louie had a great time.

**WINDBEAM WAY
WANDERINGS ,
DECEMBER 2023** by Doug
Jolley (photos by Doug Jolley)



Since our early MAC Chapter meeting in Richmond, our Autumn in central West Virginia has, from a gardening standpoint, been exceptional. The first damaging frosts occurred in early November. Monarch Butterflies continued visiting zinnias through October and harvesting vegetables also continued into November. Many



Monarch butterfly on a zinnia. Photo by Doug Jolley.

rhododendrons and assorted trees sported beautiful foliage. Rhododendron second year leaves discolor



Dexter's Champagne



A carpet of golden fallen ginkgo leaves



Lepidote fall foliage

at the end of the year but the leaves on our *R.* 'Dexter's Champagne' turn a dull gold initially and subsequently mature into bright yellow. For a few weeks this makes a striking display. Many native azaleas and lepidotes are also colorful. It's always satisfying to walk the garden among rhododendrons and azaleas heavily budded and just waiting for spring.

For several years now, another "Gold Rush" is provided by a maturing ginkgo tree. Bright gold leaves are held for a couple of weeks and then suddenly they all drop virtually overnight. The result beneath the tree is a magical golden carpet. This second leafy display from this tree makes for an



Spider web on *R. chapmanii*

annual "Icing on the lawn" so to speak.

During this mild fall, often plants were decorated with spider webs of many shapes and sizes. They really are showy in the early morning covered with sparkling dew.

After a several year span of having not engaged in plant propagation, I



Cutting for rooting

I have struck 54 cuttings and three flats of layered cuttings. Hopefully some of these efforts will result in some attractive offerings for the fall 2024 meeting. This 2024 fall chapter meeting will be held at the Roslyn Center in Richmond. This



Cuttings pinned in flat

location has proven to be a suitable location for many attendees. The dates are Friday evening October 25 and Saturday October 26. Lodging will be available at the center.

Our next chapter meeting will be a District Meeting to be held in the Annapolis, Maryland area. I think it promises to be an outstanding event.



Cuttings in chamber

DAVE BANKS

Dave Banks is now at home and continuing his recovery from his broken hip there. He is having his therapy at home with visiting instructors and says he has lots of catching up to do.

*****YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION*****

Fifteen of our MAC members do not have email addresses listed in our records. If any of you do have

email addresses now, it would be a help to us to have your email address and you would receive Chapter Meeting Notices and other material. You can send you contact information to DFBanks@earthlink.net or SFMcDonald@verizon.net

**ARS’s Potomac Valley Chapter
to Host
District 9 Meeting in Annapolis
April 28-30, 2024**

Plans are under way for a three-day meeting at the Country Inn & Suites in Annapolis. The hotel has given us a special rate of \$99 per night since we plan to arrive on Sunday night and leave on Tuesday. Expect good food, excellent talks, and beautiful gardens, an opportunity to share memories with our rhododendron friends. The Chapter is planning a great plant sale with many rhododendrons, azaleas, and companion plants to satisfy our unrelenting need to acquire new varieties. The Marshy Point azaleas will be featured in this sale.

Our speakers are Don Hyatt and Tony Dove. Don will talk about the Marshy Point azaleas, which were hybridized in Maryland. Tony, the original designer of the landscaping at Historic London Town & Gardens, will talk about its history and the development of his own nearby garden.



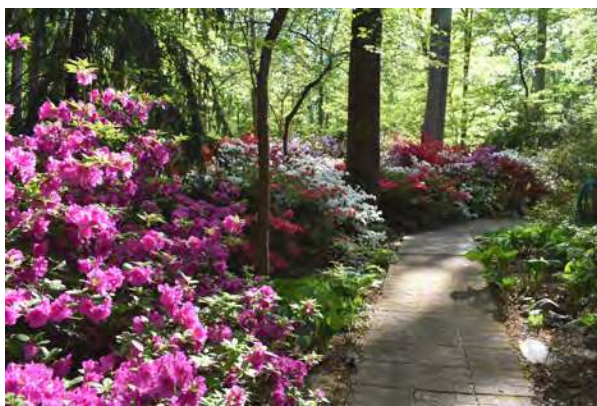
Carol Segree’s garden. Photo by Don Hyatt.

Tours will begin with Historic London Town & Gardens, a 23-acre park and museum that



Carol Segree's garden. Photo by Don Hyatt.

overlooks the South River. The Potomac Valley Chapter has established memorial gardens there for Gray Carter and Jean Beaudry. We look for to showing you these special sites. There is a mile-long walking trail among ornamentals and native plants. In addition to their rhododendrons and azaleas, there are many camellias, magnolias, and hollies.



McWhorter garden. Photo by Don Hyatt.

Among the private gardens on tour will be Hidden View Farm owned by Richard Bradshaw. This 100-acre wooded estate has a 10-acre fenced garden that includes a large pond with water features, a massive camellia collection, azaleas, a redwood forest, hollies, and a vast collection of ornamental trees, shrubs and companion plants.

The suburban gardens of Rosa & Bob McWhorter and Carol Segree will complete the garden tours. The McWhorter garden is a mature landscape under a tall canopy of trees with many winding paths among the plantings. It features large evergreen and deciduous azaleas, as well as an extensive rhododendron collection. The McWhorters have many rare Dexter and Cowles hybrids that came from the Sandwich Club distributions on Cape Cod and also some exciting new plants Bob raised from the Seed Exchange.

The Segree garden is a diverse landscape with both sunny and shady areas. Carol has wooded paths among mature rhododendron and azalea plantings. She has added significant stonework in recent years including retaining walls and a second patio with a fountain. She is now refining her collection keeping only the best rhododendron and azalea cultivars while adding new introductions and choice companion plants like camellias, evergreens, Japanese maples, flowering trees, and perennials.



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



SAVE THE DATE !
ARS 2024 Spring Convention
Bellingham, Washington
May 2-5, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton, Bellingham
 Hotel and Conference Center
 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA, USA, 98229
 Phone: +1 360-671-1011

Pre-Tour: May 1 Private Gardens around Seattle
 Convention: Tours, Seminars, Workshops, Banquets
 Post-Tour: May 5: Gardens around Vancouver, Canada
 Plant Sales, Auctions, Raffles, Photo Booth, etc.
 Time to Check your Passport!

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.

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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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