

# 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

**ARS Conference**  
**American Rhododendron Society**  
**MAC Website (UPDATED REGULARLY)**  
**UVA Special Collections**  
**Old Quarterly Bulletins & JARS**  
**Rhododendron Blog**  
**MAC SPRING MEETING**

Oct 19-23, Florence, OR  
<http://www.rhododendron.org/>  
<http://www.macars.org/wordpress/>  
<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/>  
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/>  
[www.rhododendron.org/blog/](http://www.rhododendron.org/blog/)

MAC and PVC had a combined Spring Meeting at Shrine Mont at Orkney Springs in the mountains of Virginia. Our Friday afternoon activities started with a plant auction and wine and cheese get together before dinner. Doug Jolly was very busy being our

auctioneer before dinner, as well as our after dinner speaker. His program was “Enjoying Companions Both Wild and Tame.” Food was served cafeteria style and was quite hearty and good.

Saturday was garden tour day and we car pooled to Hubert Barb’s home in Bayse, VA. Hubert has



George McLellan and Jeanne Hammer in front of Virginia House at Shrine Mont. Photo by Don Hyatt.



a very large number of rhododendrons and many evergreen and deciduous azaleas. Many were blooming. We returned to Shrine Mont for lunch, then left again for two more gardens. We visited Curtis Barb's garden in Edinburgh, VA. He had a lot of rhododendrons, but not as many as his father! After that we visited Linda Baker's garden in Bayse, VA. She specialized in wild flowers and had many lovely plants.



Doug Jolley auctioning plants.  
Photo S. McDonald.



Hubert Barb and Debby Sauer.  
Photo S. McDonald.

We returned to Shrine Mont again, had another wine and cheese get-together followed by another cafeteria style dinner. There were still more plants to work through. Then we had an interesting program by Sally and John Perkins "Bushwhacking and



Hubert Barb's garden. Photo by Doug Jolley.

Boating the Native Rhododendrons". Sally and John talked mainly about Florida plants with John talking about rhododendrons and Sally talking about other kinds of plants, switching back and forth as the different plant photos came up.



Phyllis Rittman, Theresa Bents and Karel Bernady in the garden. Photo S. McDonald.



Saturday night speakers Sally and John Perkins. Photo S. McDonald.

Our President Theresa Brents was kept very busy seeing that everything went smoothly and helping people with rides from place to place.

On Sunday morning MAC had our business meeting and a Plant Exchange. We had our election.



Officers are:

<b>President</b>	Doug Jolley
<b>Vice-President</b>	Theresa Brents
<b>Treasurer</b>	Debby Sauer
<b>Secretary</b>	Jeanne Hammer
<b>Board Members</b>	David Taylor
	George McLellan
	Sharon Horn

Assistant for nominating committee

Ben Dukes

Meeting attendance was 34.

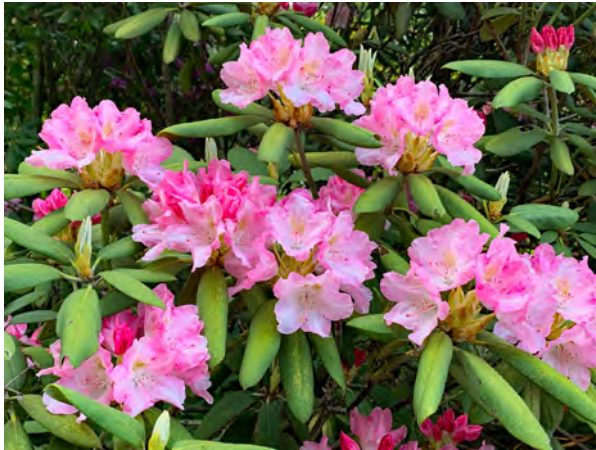
**WINDBEAM WAY WANDERINGS MAY 2023** by

Doug Jolley *Photos in this article are by Doug Jolley.*

Memorial Day is less than a week away and in central West Virginia we are beginning high mountain laurel season. Foxglove is one companion plant that has established itself in multiple spots in the garden. Three plants years ago have produced progeny which pick and choose their own



Foxgloves.



'Harry's Happy Hour'



'April Snow'

suitable locations to grow and require no pampering from Davetta or me.

One of our late blooming rhododendrons is dubbed Harry's Happy Hour. It is a Harry Wise cross (Yak x Francesca) from 1987. What brings this plant to mind is that on our recent MAC meeting tour of Hubert Barb's garden near Orkney Springs, VA, Hubert showed me his plant in bloom and it's doing well. While the flowers are

attractive, one additional highlight here is the heavily indumented new foliage which equally attracts the eye. April began with wildflowers and early rhododendrons. 'April Snow' and 'Gable's Early Bird' are reliable performers. A late April frost occurred in between the early lepidote bloom and the big wave of rhododendron and azalea flowers. Fortunately, very little damage was done.





'Gable's Early Bird'

The pleasant surprise this year was the first-time flowering of a tree peony seedling. We don't plant tree peony seed but there are scattered self-sown plants. This new bloomer is a clear yellow and opened just as most plants were fading. Hopefully this time frame will



Yellow tree peony seedling.



*Kalmia* 'Ostbo Red'

continue to annually extend the bloom season another couple weeks.

With high laurel season underway it will soon be time for *Rhododendron maximum* and summer native azaleas.

### IN THE CROZET GARDEN

by Lloyd Willis

It is 10 a.m. May 26, 2023 as I sit down to write this article. It is a full sunshine but a very cool and windy 58°F spring day. I want to go and am ready to go outside to work. However, I told Margaret (Mrs. Willis) that I would work inside the first part of the day.



On Wednesday, May 24, Margaret and I abandoned the Crozet garden to go to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden workday with Theresa Brents, Ben Dukes, Jeanne Hammer, Al and Barbara Hall, and Debby Sauer. Quite a bit was accomplished at Ginter that day with the planting, watering, and mulching of thirty-eight





Our tools from the work session. Photo by Margaret Willis.



Debby Sauer, Barbara and Al Hall and Ben Dukes at work. Photo by M. Willis.

azaleas. The soil ranged from very wet to bone dry with rocks. The azalea placement was decided before the group arrived so we did not have to do a committee decision on the placement.

On Wednesday while we were gone to Ginter, the last tree on our original to-be-removed list was taken down without us being in Crozet to watch. Thursday the branches were chipped. While I was working on this



Dry rocky cypress knee area that Jeanne planted. Photo by Margaret Willis.

and dump truck arrived to remove the logs. Of course, it's taken so long to get those trees down that I have a whole new list of ash trees that need to be done. The son-in-law continues to cut

up the logs for firewood. The pile of logs is growing a bit faster than they are being cut into firewood. I try to think of the logs as lawn art.

When I do go outside, what beauty can I find? For us, this spring was earlier, cooler, and wetter.



Azaleas we just planted. Photo by M. Willis.

Therefore, most of the azaleas and rhododendrons had excellent flowers. One of our eight foot azaleas that I call the three-day-wonder since the heat usually wilts the blooms in three days actually had flowers that lasted two weeks. Margaret and I did at least one garden tour per day



(often 6 two or three per day) in our garden to enjoy the flowers, the hostas, the ferns, and the Japanese maples.

A quick note on the hostas: I have used liquid deer fence on our hostas once a week for the last seven weeks. That's a new record for me using that but so far only one hosta leaf has had deer damage.

So where is the humor in this article? I was fully dressed in my old, patched, less than clean work clothes when I

volunteered to come out of the garden to drive a friend to the hospital for an afternoon treatment. It was my first visit to that section of the hospital and once inside I was



A little visitor watching us work. Photo by M. Willis.

shown the visitors' space and told the bathroom was down the hall. After my friend was taken to the treatment room, I headed down the hall to the bathroom. When I came out of the bathroom, there were four hallways available and they all looked exactly the same to me (no nice plants for me to recognize). As I stood in the hall totally lost, a masked nurse came up to me, took hold of my jacket, and said, "Do you need help?" I said, "I want out of here." Without letting go of my jacket, she said "I am sorry sir. I cannot let you go." I then said, "Please show me the way to the visitors' waiting room." With a smile in her eyes, she did. After I got home, I wondered if that masked nurse might have been one of my former students at the community college.



A large azalea that Debby planted. Photo by M. Willis.

## DEATHS

Longtime MAC member Walter Anthony Przypek's passing was reported in the May 3, 2023 issue of the *Daily Press*. Walter was born on June 13, 1934, in Poland, and died on April 30, 2023. He was a Retired Air Force Msgr with 21 years of service



Walt Przypek. Photo S. McDonald

and served in both the Korea and Vietnam wars. He later worked as a civil servant for NASA and the Eastern Naval Oceanography Command. He served in many countries including Turkey, Taiwan, Thailand. He worked in developing secret crypto technology and helped in the development of quieter helicopters.

Walter loved plants and had a garden with many azaleas and rhododendrons in Yorktown, Virginia. He was active in several other plant societies besides MAC ARS.



Sybil and Walter Przypek, April 17, 2008, at the ARS Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Photo S. McDonald.

Walter was very generous with his talents in photography and computers. He sent disks of photos of our MAC meetings to the editor to be included in our newsletters.

Walter's wife Sybil was also active in MAC and died July 25, 2013. Walter leaves two daughters Suzanne Przypek James (Scott) of Yorktown, and Nancy Przypek Christopher (Wally) of Poquoson, VA, and grandchildren Heather, Jake, Lora, Kelley, Kayleigh, Kevin, and Ashley, and great grandchildren Thomas, Addison, Emma, Owen, Ania, and Dylan.



## MORE MEETING PHOTOS



Arriving at Hubert Barb's garden. Front Hubert Barb, Davetta and Doug Jolley, and Theresa Brents.



David Taylor, Jing Huang, and Margaret Willis.



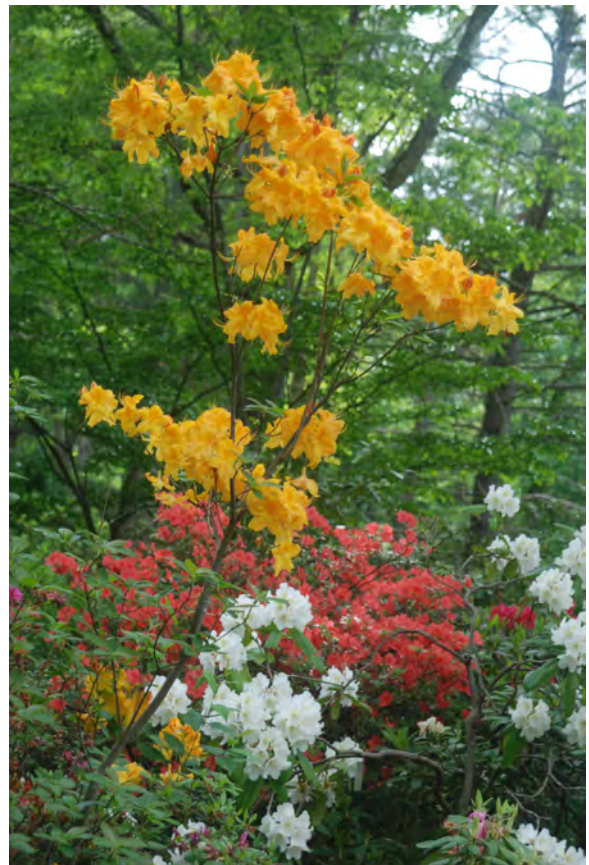
Cody Barb in Hubert's garden.



Linda Baker and Doug Jolley in her wildflower garden.



Ben Dukes and Dave Banks.



Azaleas in Hubert Barb's garden.



**Remember all photos can be seen in color and ENLARGED at [MACARS.ORG](http://MACARS.ORG).**

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

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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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