

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 MAC MEETINGS

October 15–17, 2004 Charlottesville, VA

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society

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

U VA Science & Engineering Libraries

<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm>

FALL MAC MEETING 2004 by Jeanne Hammer

The October 15th - 17th fall meeting will find the Middle Atlantic Chapter in the middle of MAC – Charlottesville, Virginia. Headquarters for the fall meeting will be the English Inn, a locally owned, non-chain hotel just off Rt.29/Emmet Street and close to the University of Virginia.

For our Saturday field trip, we will take advantage of the close proximity to Monticello and enjoy a guided tour of its Thomas Jefferson Parkway.

The Parkway includes a new arboretum and small lake and a combination gravel path and boardwalk with a gentle 5 degree slope up the little mountain. Numerous interesting native species can be seen along the boardwalk, including several Pawpaw patches.

We will also visit the Thomas Jefferson Center

for Historic Plants on nearby Tufton Farm and lunch at Michie Tavern.

Don Voss, our District IX Director, will be our featured Saturday banquet speaker. Don will give a slide talk about the story of Robert Gartrell and the Robin Hill azaleas.

Our P4M (plants for members) sale will feature some nice mountain laurel as well as other plants.

SPRING 2004 MEETING IN KILMARNOCK by

Jeanne Hammer and Bill Bedwell

With eighty-one registrants, we can hail the spring meeting in Kilmarnock, Virginia a grand success. Thanks go to Mary Lloyd and David Lay, Jim Brant, Sybil Przypek, and George McLellan for handling the local arrangements and to the Lays, Jim & Pam Brant, Barbara & Alton Hall, Maurice & Anne Dickerson, and John & Anne Olsen for opening their beautiful gardens to us on Saturday and Sunday.

We were fortunate to have perfect weather for the garden tours, and our generally cooperative spring weather resulted in many lovely entries for the flower show, chaired ably again by Sharon Collins.

It was a major treat to see yet another stage in the gorgeous development of the Lay and Hall gardens and the many improvements

in the relatively young woodland garden of azaleas and rhododendron being developed by Jim Brant, with a complementary garden closer to their house for sun-loving plants. It is so helpful for members to see how others incorporate landscape features into their rhododendron gardens, such as the unobtrusive deer fence around the Lay garden and the effectiveness of adding many companion plants to create a lovely setting for enjoyment from the house. The Halls' mature garden is a veritable botanical



A Harry Wise seedling in the Hall garden. Photo by W. Bedwell.

showcase with many rare and fascinating cultivars and hybrids tucked here and there. In full bloom were lovely mature specimens of one-of-a-kind deciduous azalea hybrids that the Halls raised from



Caroline & Ted Scott. Photo by W. Bedwell.

seedlings brought to meetings by Harry Wise and Ed Reiley. A new feature was a lovely rock garden with artificial, cascading stream that incorporates azaleas and rhododendrons among many other interesting plants and features. Their water garden had matured into a restful natural setting, and in the back end of the garden visitors were treated was a mature plant of Kennell's Gold in full, glorious bloom, untouched when Hurricane Isabel removed nearby trees.



Jim Brant helping with plant auction. Photo by S. McDonald.

Friday evening's informative slide talk by Don Hyatt on landscaping with rhododendrons and azaleas on Friday evening was open to the public, and the room was filled. Everyone was charmed by Don's use of visual humor in his slides to illustrate important points about garden design. Our Saturday banquet speaker, Clarence Towe, exuded Southern charm in his talk after our Saturday banquet on hybridizing deciduous azaleas. His talk included a

succinct overview of the genetics involved in making crosses and his adventures seeking out naturally occurring plant mutations for propagation.

Friday's business meeting included a report from Harry Wise, chair of the nominating committee, for board elections. The committee's recommendation of David Banks as a first-time board member and renewal of Theresa Brents and Jane McKay, all for three-year terms, was approved unanimously. Bill Bedwell gave an overview of the relatively new A.R.S.-sponsored Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) program and solicited recommendations for future year candidates for best elepidote, lepidote, deciduous azalea, and evergreen azalea.

Best-in-Show in the flower show was won by the Fellers for a spray of *R. schlippenbachii*.

Several MAC members were honored on Saturday night. The citations are below.

SHARON COLLINS

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron



Auctioneer George McLellan. Photo by S. McDonald.

Society presents to Sharon Collins this Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of your excellent work with MAC's garden display at the 2004 Maymont Garden and Flower Show in Richmond. Working with the chapter president and other MAC members, you provided hands-on leadership in planning and putting together the project. You were essential in helping design the display, searching out and procuring plants, helping set up and take down the display, organizing the schedule of volunteers to "man" the display, and promoting MAC to Maymont attendees. We are grateful for the ideas, attention to detail, hard work, and enthusiasm that you contributed to the success of MAC's display and

hereby recognize you with this Certificate of Appreciation."



Sharon Collins receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Jeanne Hammer. Photo by W. Przypek.

In gratitude for her excellent service to our chapter we present this Certificate of Appreciation.

JANE MCKAY

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Jane McKay this Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of excellent work as our chapter Membership Chairman.



Jane McKay receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Jeanne Hammer. Photo by W. Przypek.

Jane was President of the New York Chapter (1982/1985) and received their ARS Bronze Medal in 1977.

Upon retirement she and Wally moved to Virginia and became Associate members of MAC. Both have contributed a great deal to the on-going quality of our chapter. She has been a chapter board member since 1995, and offered excellent suggestions from her experience with the New York Chapter.

In gratitude for her excellent service to our chapter we present this Certificate of Appreciation.

BARBARA HALL

The Middle Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents to Barbara R. Hall this Distinguished Service Citation.



Barbara Hall receiving Distinguished Service Citation from Jeanne Hammer. Photo by W. Przypek.

Barbara has distinguished herself and brought honor to our chapter through her service as American Rhododendron Society Secretary and Executive

Director (1989-1997). She is the only person to have held both ARS offices.

She received the ARS Bronze Medal from our chapter in 1988 after service as Convention Director and Registrar for the 1988 ARS international meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia.

She continues to be a dedicated chapter member and has been actively involved in planning the ARS Eastern Regional Meeting in Williamsburg in 1999 and the Chapter Spring Meeting in Gloucester in 2001. When her husband, Alton, served as Chapter President, she assisted in the major project of drafting more up-to-date bylaws for the Chapter.

For her exemplary service to our chapter over time and in many capacities we present this Distinguished Service Citation.

HARRY WISE RECEIVES ARS SILVER MEDAL

The medal was awarded in Charleston after the annual meeting because Harry was unable to attend the meeting.

SILVER MEDAL CITATION

You have a long and significant service within the Society and promoting the genus *Rhododendron*.

You have served in chapter offices and as District 9 Director. You have helped secure a permanent repository for ARS records. You have worked to find financial resources for the Society. Your Chapter Seedling Sales evidence considerable personal effort towards this goal.

Most of all you have induced an environment where people can get involved with rhododendrons and each other through the gardens that you have helped establish and the many talks and workshops that you have conducted throughout Virginia, West Virginia and surrounding states.

For these and many more accomplishments in helping to grow rhododendrons and increase membership in ARS, the ARS is grateful and presents this Silver Medal in commemoration thereof to Harry L. Wise.

May 15, 2004

NEWS FROM ARS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 12 MAY 2004 by Don Voss, District 9 Director

The big news for District 9 is the award of the Society's Gold Medal to Ed Reiley and Silver Medal to Harry Wise. Though no longer news, the

resignation of Dee Daneri as Executive Director calls for immediate action. The selection committee has already interviewed two or three applicants.

The Treasurer is making cautiously optimistic projections for investment returns. Dee reported another \$10,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to renew the supply of care guides; chapters are encouraged to distribute these to garden centers and other venues that attract plant people. (Contact Dee for a supply.)

Among the Chapter and District donations to the various ARS funds were several designated for petal blight research. This is a popular cause for those of us south of the Mason-Dixon line!

Our Editor, Sonja Nelson, again discussed the copyright situation as it relates to use of material from the *Journal ARS* on the Society's Internet web site. A plea for cooperation and a form to be xeroxed or clipped from the *Journal* were included in the Spring 2004 issue (pp. 93-94), titled Attention! All Past Journal Authors and Photographers. As of the date that Sonja left home to attend the meeting, only 10 responses had been received. **PLEASE CONVEY TO YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBMITTING THIS AUTHORIZATION FOR ARTICLES AND PHOTOGRAPHS PUBLISHED AFTER 1963.** Receipt of the forms will save endless correspondence by the Editor and her cohorts, who otherwise will have to write each author and photographer. Please cooperate.

District 2 Director Bill Stipe discussed the desirability of chapters donating JARS subscriptions to libraries in their areas as a means of spreading awareness of the Society and its activities. This is an important way to discharge our obligation to share educational information with the public. Even in the absence of the Society's high-energy membership chairman, Mike Bones, the need for all chapters to participate in a full-court press to obtain and keep new members was reflected in discussions of nearly every aspect of ARS activities.

The highlight of the meeting was some 6 pages of proposals for updating and amending the Policies of the Board (the POB comprises about 32 pages of fine print!). Unfortunately for the Board (which meets again in Hilo, HI, in September), about half the proposals were tabled for later consideration. Accepted were the purpose and goals for the Digital Archives Committee; a simplification of paperwork



Looking towards the water at the Lay's garden. Photo by S. McDonald.



A charming vignette in the Hall's garden. Photo by W. Bedwell.



Saturday night speaker Clarence Towe. Photo by S. McDonald.



The Lays' garden. Photo by S. McDonald.



Waiting for the Friday evening program to begin. Photo by S. McDonald.

required for application for loans from the Startup Fund; change of last date of submission for gold and silver medal proposals to 15 November (formerly 15 December) and limitation of suggested citation text to 125 words; Editor of R and A News is to be added to chapter newsletter distribution; POB 3.1.6. Quoting Society Publications has been changed in essence, for both text and photographs the first step should be to check with the Editor (Sonja Nelson) because permission for republication including placement on web sites may already be on file there, otherwise you will need to contact authors or photographers directly (and some may agree to newsletter but not to web-site inclusion).

When page 4 of the POB proposals was reached, disagreements reared their ugly heads. It became clear that reworking the proposals relating to duties of the Secretary would be required, and the Bylaws and Policies Committee had had insufficient time to deal fully with recommendations by the Endowment Fund Committee. This led to tabling of the remainder of the POB proposals until the Hilo meeting.

The Digital Publications Committee (Bob Weissman) recommended and the Board approved pursuing on-line archiving of past issues of the JARS and Bulletin in the Digital Library and Archive (DLA) of Virginia Tech University. Wearing his Electronic Media Committee hat, Bob reported high usage of the Society's web site: 25,000 pages of information being viewed weekly, 45,000 visitors to the site in May 2003.

Only one grant was proposed by the Endowment Fund Committee and approved by the Board: \$4,600 to the Tacoma Chapter for ongoing refurbishment of the Pt. Defiance Park display garden. The chapter plans to seek certification as an ARS Recognized Rhododendron Display Garden within two years.

Discussion of the revised Plant Awards procedures by Ed Reiley's committee centered on whether only registered names may be included in the Rhododendrons of the Year selections. The Board supported the registration requirement. The ARS Registrar, Jay Murray, asks that chapters explain to their members that plant-name registration exists to ensure distinctness, uniformity, and stability of names. It is the name and description of the plant that are recorded; registration does not signify superior plant quality. Having a unique name for a cultivar and having its description available to facilitate identification are important advantages of

the registration system. The process is easy and requires little time, it is free, and a handsome certificate is issued to the registrant.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

Last week I had been praying for rain as we hadn't had any for several weeks. From now on I will be careful what I ask for. The afternoon of May 19 we had a terrible storm. In a short period, maybe 20 minutes to a half hour we had hail, pouring rain and wind as bad as if not worse than we had with Isabel. Many large trees, 80' to 100', are uprooted—how many at this point I cannot tell nor can I see what has happened to the garden underneath the debris. The upended root ball of the tree that started the domino effect measures approximately eight feet across and six feet high. My favorite *R. arborescens* is at the top of the root ball six feet in the air perpendicular to the ground. Many seedling hollies along with a hardy camellia *Snow Flurry*, many native azaleas and rhododendrons are buried. It will take us all summer to clear this up and what we will do with all the debris I have no idea. This is the third major storm in the past 10 months that has uprooted many large trees to hit us. We are getting too old for this stuff!

On a lighter note the garden was beautiful this spring even though rhododendron flowers were scarce the azaleas were exceptionally lovely. We attended two events this Spring, the MAC meeting in Kilmarnock and the ARS convention in King of Prussia, PA. Both events were delightful. We saw so many beautiful gardens but to us the best part of these meetings is getting together with old friends and meeting a few new ones. The highlight of the convention for MAC members was when the ARS awarded the Silver Medal to Harry Wise. How nice it is that the national organization recognized all that Harry has done for the rhododendron world over the years. Congratulations Harry and thank you.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

DeBanico, Donald & Elaine,
Charlottesville, VA 22911
Jarrett, Sherman, Davis, WV 26260
Lombardo, Sue, Crofton, MD
21114
Scanlan, Jan, Harrisonburg,
VA 23801

Shulleeta, William, Richmond,
VA 23228
Wilkinson, Phillip, Linden,
VA 22642

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Ray & Betty Brush,
, Charlottes, VA 22911
Charles Gredlar, Culpepper, VA
22701-4143



A festive Sunday night program. Photo by W. Przypek.

HELP WANTED: MAC SECRETARY

Next spring, MAC's Secretary, Joanne Ortiz, plans to step aside from her role as a chapter officer when her current two-year term as Secretary ends. Harry Wise, chair of the nominating committee, is asking that any MAC member willing and able to take on this critical responsibility get in touch with him.

Joanne has served our chapter as Secretary since 1997, and the board is very grateful to her for keeping official MAC records complete and accurate. Her warmth, sense of humor, and beautiful smile have graced board and chapter meetings and made everyone feel welcomed. She is a valued member of our MAC family, and we regret that pressing family matters leave her less time to devote to MAC.

If you want to learn more about what the office of Secretary entails before volunteering for the role, please get in touch with Joanne.

MAC AT MAYMONT FOLLOWUP by Jeanne Hammer

Although the MAC garden display at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show in Richmond is a distant memory now, its effect lives on. MAC received a \$150 grant from the Maymont Foundation to offset our 2004 expenses and an invitation to participate in the 2005 show. Best of all, we welcomed two new members at the Spring meeting in Kilmarnock, who became acquainted with MAC at the Maymont show. They are Phillip Wilkinson and Jan Scanlan. We enjoyed their company and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

Many members helped make MAC presence at Maymont a success, and their contributions deserve mention. Sharon Collins in particular stands out, because she was involved from start to finish: from helping plan the display to procuring plants, to setting up the display, to organizing the schedule of volunteers, to cleanup. Frank Pelurie did a well-attended workshop on propagating from seeds and cuttings, along with taking on a couple shifts "manning" our display. Others who "manned" the display were: Bill Bedwell, Theresa Brents, Billy and Kathy Constable, Martha Derthick, Jeanne Hammer, George McLellan, Joanne Ortiz, Sybil Przypek, and Bill Saunders. Theresa and Bill also helped with the display set up, and Bill came back to help Jeanne and Sharon dismantle the display. Jane McKay helped plan the display and obtained brochures to handout. John Buschmann donated



Peggy McComb, George McLellan, Mike Andruczyk and Barbara Hall touring the garden. Photo by S. McDonald.



John Jenkins & Celia Dollarhide. Photo by S. McDonald.

snow drops in bloom to help fill in around the rhododendrons in the garden display, and Billy Constable obtained a donated rhododendron. Doug Jolley provided a photo album of photo enlargements from past MAC meetings to illustrate our activities.

Thanks to all. Having learned from the process this year, our planning for 2005 should go smoother. So, don't be surprised to see a larger garden design next year.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Bill Bedwell won the top awards at the 2004 combined flower show for the Azalea Society of America (ASA) National convention and the Potomac Valley Chapter ARS show held in Bowie, Maryland, May 8. His azalea 'Puck' won Best Evergreen Azalea and Best in Show, 'Rosy Cheeks' won Best Deciduous Azalea, and 'Consolini's Windmill' won Best Elepidote Rhododendron.

Sandra McDonald, Ph.D., Editor
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