

MID-ATLANTIC RHODODENDRON NEWS AND NOTES

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

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September 2007

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MAC MEETINGS

Oct 12-14, 2007	MAC Fall Meeting, Lynchburg, VA
Oct 12-14, 2007	ARS Eastern Regional Meeting, Mentor, OH
Apr 16-19, 2008	ARS Annual Convention, Tulsa, OK
May 7-11, 2008	International Rhododendron Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

Rhododendron Web Site Addresses:

American Rhododendron Society	http://www.rhododendron.org/
MAC Website (UPDATED REGULARLY)	http://www.macars.org/
U VA Science & Engineering Libraries	http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-rhodo.htm
UVA Special Collections	http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/
Henry Skinner Website	http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/collections/projects/rhodo/skinner/

FALL MEETING IN LYNCHBURG by Sharon Horn

Our theme is “A Virginia Country Experience” for the meeting to be held on October 12-14, 2007, at the Ramada Inn, 3436 Odd Fellows Road, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

We have not had the opportunity to meet in this area for quite a long time and are excited to be able to get re-acquainted with this



Virginia Piedmont region on a prime fall color weekend. The program will begin on Friday evening with our own always entertaining and informative Paul James followed by the Plants 4 Members Sale. The gardens and nursery of several MAC members will be featured on the Saturday tour, along with lunch at the Bedford Welcome Center and a guided tour at the National D-Day Memorial. Saturday evening will feature a “Ribs & Bibs” buffet and we are very pleased to have Ed Collins from Hendersonville, North Carolina, as our evening speaker. The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning with a Maymont display garden planning session and a Species Study Group meeting. And, of

course, the meeting will include the Fall Foliage Show to determine who will have the Best in Show bragging rights for the next year, the Book Sale to keep our bookshelves full, and the Plant Auction with intense bidding for the acquisition of choice plants for our gardens. Information will be available for other area gardens for you to tour on your own as you travel towards home on Sunday.

The Saturday tour includes the Wroncy Garden, the Lockerman Garden on beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, the Duis Nursery, and the National D-Day Memorial dedicated to the Allied Forces for the valor, fidelity, and sacrifices they showed on June 6, 1944, during the largest air, land, and sea military operations ever undertaken.

Wear your best jeans, bandannas, and boots to the “Ribs & Bibs” buffet on Saturday evening. It is definitely a “No Tie – No Fancy Dress” evening with time to relax and visit after a busy day.

FROM THE MIDDLE OF MAC by Jane McKay

We finally received a much needed rain last night, a whole inch and a half with lots of thunder and lightning but very little wind, which allowed the trees to stay where they belong – upright. We still have a few deciduous azaleas showing color. Three of the four *R. prunifolium* are still in bloom after three weeks of very hot temperatures. We also have our plant ‘Late Yellow *R. arborescens* Cl. 2, Kehr’ a lovely salmon color still partially in bloom. This

plant was purchased at the 1994 convention plant sale in Asheville N.C. We have three plants of *R. arborescens* in the garden, the first to bloom, usually in early to mid July, is 'Starshine', also purchased at the Asheville plant sale. The individual flowers in this form are larger than the others. The second to bloom is just plain *R. arborescens*, very fragrant and blooming late July to



Jane McKay

early August. The last *R. arborescens* to bloom is the 'Late Yellow Cl 2 Kehr' which starts to show color about the second week in August. I noticed this morning that the 'Encore' azaleas, 'Amethyst', 'Royalty' and 'Sangria' are starting to bloom. Even though the Spring season is the main show here the garden always has something of interest going on.

We have had the deer fence in place and working fine for about ten years, but this year a doe has managed to breach our defenses. We thought at first she was somehow coming in under the net fence as we found some holes but they have all been fixed and she is still coming in, a very determined cuss. She now appears to be coming in over the top so now we are trying to put objects in the open areas where she has room to jump. We still don't know if this is working. She started eating the hosta first so I sprayed the rest with 'Deer Away' and so far she hasn't eaten those. Of course all the coleus and caladiums are chewed to the ground. The rabbits are eating the lilies, we have cured the raccoons from tearing apart the grill by spraying it with vinegar after each use and the fish pond is protected from the raccoons by using a 'scarecrow' (this shoots a stream of water at anything approaching the area). We do have to remember to shut it off in the morning unless we want a cold shower. We still have a vole problem but I recently heard of a worthwhile article on the internet <http://hgic.clemson.edu/pdf/pcwdivoles.pdf>

which is interesting. There is always something around here that keeps us hopping.

I recently was informed by 'Embarq' which is the new name for 'Sprint' that I have to switch from 'earthlink' to 'embarq' for my 'high speed internet service'. Since I am a 'computer illiterate individual' I called my DSL service center for help. He sent me 8 pages of information on how to make sure I don't lose any of the stuff I now have. The first step has me totally confused so if you never hear from me again you will know why.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

That time is fast approaching. Please, please, please send in your dues as quickly as possible so that I do not have to send a second notice. This second mailing gets more expensive every year. Thank you

Jane McKay, Membership Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Bennett, Teri, Powhatan, VA
23139

East, Kathleen & David Nadia Nikolai,
, Charlottesville, VA 22911

Johnson, Linda K. Dept Biology, CNU,
Newport News, VA 23606

Slotnick, Gerald & Lois,
Boones Mill, VA 24065

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Chappell, Matthew & Sarah,
Crawford, GA 30630

LEAD IN GARDEN HOSES by Sandra McDonald

According to a July 12, 2007 report from the Phoenix affiliate KNXV-TV of ABC News, tests of 10 garden hoses found five with lead levels over EPA standards. Water standing in the hoses for a day was sent to a testing lab and came back showing five hoses had levels over 15 parts per billion, with four of those having extremely high lead levels.

Check your garden hose labels, many have a tiny "do not drink" warning. Flush the hose out before you use it. Camper or marine or RV hoses are generally safe for drinking since they are made from medical-grade vinyl. Brass hose fittings can leach lead into the water. **Play it safe and don't drink from your garden hose.**

MAC-ARS Spring Flower Show - April 27, 2007, Richmond, Virginia
Chairman Sharon Horn

Rhododendron Species

Lepidote

Blue Bill Bedwell *R. minus* var *chapmanii*

Rhododendron Hybrids

Elepidote

White

Blue Bill Bedwell 'Bell Ringer'

Red B. Bedwell *R. maximum* × *R. hyperythrum*

Light Pink

Blue B. Bedwell 'Van Ness Sensation'

Medium Pink

Blue B. Bedwell 'John C. White'

Red B. Bedwell 'Wheatley'

Green Slim Lockerman unknown

Green B. Bedwell 'Dexter's Apple Blossom'

Red

Blue Jon Wallenmeyer 'Taurus'

Lepidote

White

Red The Fellers 'Hardgrove's April Snow'

Pink

Blue The Fellers 'New Patriot'

White The Fellers 'Tiffany'

Yellow

Blue The Fellers 'Mary Fleming'

Red The Fellers 'Lemon Tea'

Lavender

Blue The Fellers 'April Rain'

Blue The Fellers 'Ambrose Light'

Blue The Fellers 'Alfreda Wacieczk'

Purple

Red The Fellers 'Princess Susan'

White The Fellers 'Legacy'

Azalea Species

Evergreen

Red Sandra McDonald *R. kaempferi* v. *album*

Green S. McDonald *R. serpyllifolium*

Deciduous

White

Blue S. McDonald *R. alabamense*

Red S. McDonald *R. weyrichii* v. *album*

Pink

Blue S. McDonald *R. vaseyi*

Red Barbara Hall *R. vaseyi*

Green S. McDonald *R. canescens*

Yellow

Red B. Bedwell *R. austrinum*

Azalea Hybrids

Evergreen

White

Blue S. McDonald 'Wagner's White Spider'

Red B. Hall unknown

White w/green blotch or tint

Blue B. Bedwell 'Sandra's Green Ice'

Blue S. McDonald 'White Surprise'

White w/splotch

Red	S. McDonald	'Sandra's Harlequin'
Light Pink		
Blue	B. Bedwell	'Pericat Dawn'
Red	S. McDonald	'Springtime Blush'
Red	B. Hall	unknown
Green	S. McDonald	'Dainty angel'
Green	B. Hall	unknown
Pink - Peach		
Blue	S. McDonald	'Chisolm Merritt Rosebud'
Red	B. Hall	unknown
Rink - Rosy		
Blue	S. McDonald	'Williamsburg Rose'
Red	S. McDonald	'Ripples' × 'Evening Glow'
White	S. McDonald	'Mademoiselle Yvette'
White	B. Hall	unknown
Lavender - Purple		
Red	B. Bedwell	'Content'
Green	B. Hall	unknown
Red - Salmon		
Blue	S. McDonald	'Cavalier'
Green	S. McDonald	'Caroline Graham'
Red - Dark		
White	S. McDonald	'Kara Fume'
Deciduous		
Yellow		
Blue	S. McDonald	'Sommerville 72'
Blue	B. Bedwell	'Old Gold'
Green	B. Hall	'Kennell's Gold'
Bi-color		
Blue	B. Bedwell	'Colonel Mosby'
New Hybrids - Not Previously Exhibited		
Azalea		
Evergreen		
Blue	S. McDonald	Seedling
Blue	S. McDonald	A 93-9-3
Class Awards		
Best Elepidote Rhododendron		
'Taurus'		Jon Wallenmeyer
Best Lepidote Rhododendron		
'Ambrose Light'		The Fellers
Best Evergreen Azalea		
'White Surprise'		Sandra McDonald
Best Deciduous Azalea		
'Colonel Mosby'		Bill Bedwell
Best MAC New Hybrid		
Seedling		Sandra McDonald
Perpetual Awards		
The D. D. Withers Trophy for Best Rhododendron		
'John C. White'		Bill Bedwell
The Kennell Trophy for Best Native Azalea		
<i>R. alabamense</i>		Sandra McDonald
The Clemmer Trophy for Best Azalea		
'White Surprise'		Sandra McDonald
The Pryzpek Trophy for Best MAC New Hybrid		
Seedling		Sandra McDonald
The Wheeldon Trophy for Best in Show		
" 'Ambrose Light'"		The Fellers
The Sheuchenko Trophy for Sweepstakes Award		Sandra McDonald

MAC SPECIES STUDY GROUP by Sandra McDonald

The MAC Species Study Group met on Saturday, August 25th at Ken and Sandra McDonald's home for lunch and a program. George McLellan showed slides of some native azaleas and of *R. minus*. Don Hyatt showed a movie he had made of *R. vaseyi* from



Ken McDonald, Linda Johnson, Bill Bedwell, Jim Brant. Back row Don Hyatt, Walt Przypek. Photo by S. McDonald.

several visits to its native habitat. Dr. Linda Johnson showed some digital photos she made of her trip this summer with the MAC Species Study Group (SSG) to the mountains.

George McLellan and Don Hyatt have written an article for the Rhododendron Species Foundation 2008 Yearbook.

A few members of the SSG may be starting a new project working on Study Guides on deciduous azaleas for the Rhododendron Species Foundation.

MAC AUGUST BOARD MEETING by Sandra McDonald

The MAC board met at the Gordon Library in



President Jim Brant & Webmaster Dave Banks. Photo by S. McDonald.

Charlottesville on August 18th for their regular summer board meeting in which they go over the budget, make plans for future meetings, and get status reports from all the committees.



Secretary Doug Jolley. Photo by S. McDonald.

Webmaster Dave Banks has been updating the MACARS.org web site and even has the fall meeting registration materials on it now if anyone needs more copies or did not receive the recent mailing for the meeting. There is a new "In Memoriam" section with photos and a short article about Merl Aitken. The Gregory Bald aerial photo is also on the web site along with some other native azalea information. To



Some MAC board members. Photo by S. McDonald.

see it click on the left side of the menu for Other Activities. Then click on the blue link to Native Azaleas and the Species Study Group. There are several options there including the Gregory Bald Aerial Photo. If you have not visited the MACARS.org web site yet, you are in for a treat. You can find much interesting and useful information about our chapter there.

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