



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Newsletter: Number 2, June 2009

Calendar

- * **July 26, 2009** – Chapter Picnic, Seneca Creek State Park, MD
- * **September 20, 2009** – Regular Chapter Meeting, Location TBA
- * **October 23-25, 2009** – ARS Eastern Regional, Lionville, PA
- * **November 1, 2009** – Chapter Banquet, JR's Steakhouse, McLean, VA
- * **November 6-8, 2009** – MAC Meeting, Fredericksburg, VA
- * **May 14 - 17, 2010** – ARS Convention, Long Island, NY
- * **May 20-24, 2010** – International Rhododendron Conference, Bremen, Germany

Chapter Officers

President: Bob McWhorter
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Vice-President: Richard Mohr
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Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman
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Next Meeting: Chapter Picnic

Sunday, July 26, 2009: 1 – 5 PM

Seneca Creek State Park - Fawn Pavilion

11900 Clopper Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Mark your calendars for our chapter picnic. It will be held the same place as last year, the Fawn Pavilion at Seneca Creek State Park near Gaithersburg, Maryland. Although we have rented the pavilion for the entire day, from 8:00 AM until sunset, we anticipate the picnic to run from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. This covered picnic facility is situated on the shores of 90-acre Clopper Lake and has a charcoal grill, parking area, and restrooms nearby. The park does charge an entry fee of \$2 per person for Maryland residents and \$3 for out of state but check the entry signs since senior citizens 62 and older did not have to pay any fee last year.

The chapter will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns, plus standard items like drinks, plates, and eating utensils. However we ask you to bring some other picnic type food to share with others. Remember that there is no refrigeration, so please bring items that will not spoil quickly on a warm day. Since there are no trashcans, visitors are expected to collect all trash after the picnic and take it with them as they leave. Bring garbage bags!

We also intend to have two plant activities! First, bring a plant from your garden for a plant exchange. Second, the Beaudrys will bring rooted cuttings from our plants for members program that will be for sale.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Take I-495 to I-270N toward Frederick
2. Merge onto I-270 Local N
3. Take the Exit #10 West, toward MD Rt. 124
4. Turn **RIGHT** onto MD 117 (Clopper Rd)
5. Turn **LEFT** into the Park: 11950 Clopper Rd



Jean Beaudry helps Margaret White celebrate another Birthday

Margaret White Turns 103!

Several chapter members including Jean and Norman Beaudry, Jane Goodrich, Phyllis Rittman, and Don Hyatt dropped by Margaret White's house at the end of March to help her celebrate another milestone, Margaret's 103rd birthday. Rather than bringing a birthday cake with all those candles, Jean brought a delicious fruit tart instead. We had a delightful afternoon discussing old times, favorite plants, and plans for the coming year. Margaret is such an inspiration to us all!

As you may know, Margaret has transferred her lovely 13-acre Property to Fairfax County so it can become a future horticultural center. How fortunate we are that the Margaret and John C. White Garden will remain in its pristine condition and will become a beautiful natural resource for our entire region.

2009 Photography Contest Winners

At our January meeting, we had an excellent turnout for the Photography Contest with a total of 55 entries. Every person who entered received a prize. We delayed publication of winners so we could include a color page showing the pictures that won the top awards. Check out the color page of those images.

We hope you have been taking some wonderful pictures this spring to enter in next year's contest. We thank Bob McWhorter for coordinating the event and Rosa McWhorter for selecting prizes. We also appreciate Barry Sperling for tabulating the results. Below is a summary of our top 2009 winners:

Category 1: Flowers

1. "Butter and Eggs" by Don Hyatt
2. "Phyllis Korn" by Jon Wallenmeyer
3. "Susan" by Don Hyatt

Category 2: Scenery

1. "Calendulaceum at Engine Gap" by Don Hyatt
2. "Bench" by Dan Neckel
3. "Mendenhall Glacier" by Jon Wallenmeyer

Category 3: Other

1. "Swallowtail at Hooper Bald" by Don Hyatt
2. "Koi at Arboretum" by Jon Wallenmeyer
3. "Anna Rose Whitney and Friends" by Bill Wallenmeyer

Best in Show:

"Calendulaceum at Engine Gap" by Don Hyatt

Upcoming Events – *Mark Your Calendars!*

Doug Jolley: September 20, 2009

Doug Jolley, one of our Associate Members from West Virginia, has agreed to be the speaker for our regular meeting on September 20th. Doug is a superb photographer and one of our regional experts on rhododendrons, native plants, and wild orchids. We are not sure what his topic will be at this time, but you can be sure it will be very entertaining and a visual delight. We will provide more details in a future newsletter, but be sure to save the date.

At this point, we are not sure if we will try to meet in the lower level classroom area at the National Arboretum or try to find another location for Doug's talk. The Arboretum plans to close the administration building soon for an extended period of time for renovations. Stay tuned!

ARS 2009 Fall Eastern Regional:

October 23-25

Our ARS neighbors in District 8 will be hosting a fall regional conference at the Chester Inn located in Lionville, Pennsylvania. The theme for this conference

is the "Rhododendrons in Penn's Woods," the rich legacy of rhododendrons from the many hybridizers in Pennsylvania. The committee has arranged for many entertaining speakers who will be giving talks on a variety of topics including history, local hybridizers, new introductions, and companion plants. Don Hyatt will be giving the keynote on the Legacy of Joe Gable.

We understand that members of District 8 have been working hard on the plant sale and have lots of rooted cuttings and plants that will be offered for sale. Be sure to include some extra time in your schedule to visit several nearby horticulture centers, such as Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, the Tyler Arboretum, Chanticleer, Jenkins Arboretum, Mt Cuba, Bartram's Garden and the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. All are within 30 minutes of the hotel. Registration forms should appear later this summer in the ARS Journal, but check out their website to help your planning since registration deadline is in mid September:

www.arsfall2009.org

Bruce Feller: *Potomac Valley Chapter Banquet* November 1, 2009

We have already booked the very popular JR's Steakhouse at Tyson's Corner, VA, for our Fall Banquet. Bruce Feller from Long Island, NY, will be our featured speaker. Bruce and his wife Marianne have a superb garden filled with choice rhododendrons, dwarf conifers, and Japanese maples.

Other Upcoming Meetings:

There are a host of other meetings that many of us will attend. The Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS is planning a fall meeting in Fredericksburg from November 6-8, 2009. The ASA Convention will be in New Orleans March 15-17, 2010. The ARS Convention next year will be on Long Island, NY, from May 14 – 17, 2010. From May 20–24, 2010, the German Rhododendron Society is hosting an international conference in Bremen, Germany. Don Hyatt will be speaking there, so he wants to add a few days so he can see the Alps. Anyone else interested?

In Memoriam:

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of several Associate members. They will all be greatly missed and we express our sympathy to their families.

David Sauer passed away on January 12 at his home in Chester, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Debby Sauer, treasurer of the Middle Atlantic Chapter.

Phyllis Meyers, wife of Mason-Dixon's past president Bill Meyers, passed away on April 20.

Gilbert Myers, husband of Mason-Dixon's current President Helen Myers passed away on May 30th.

Category I: Flower / Spray



1st - 'Butter and Eggs' Don Hyatt



2nd - 'Phyllis Korn'
Jon Wallenmeyer



3rd - 'Susan' Don Hyatt

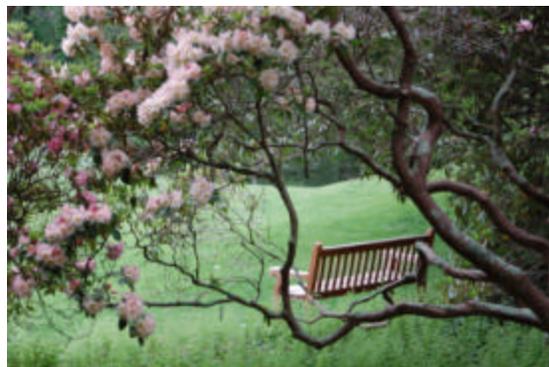
**Potomac Valley
Chapter ARS
Photo Contest**

2009 Winners

Category II: Scenery



1st & Best in Show - "Calendulaceum at Engine Gap" Don Hyatt

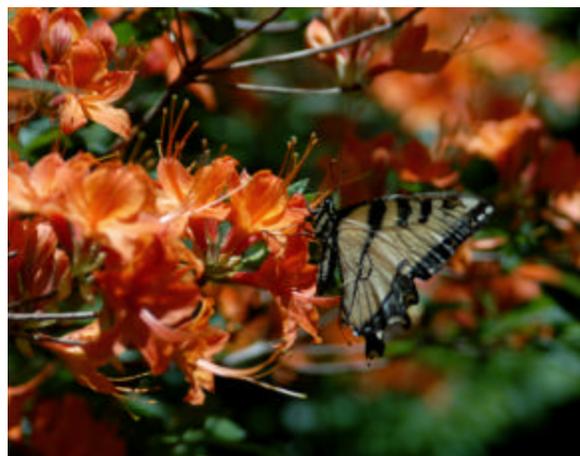


2nd - "Bench" Dan Neckel



3rd - "Mendenhall Glacier"
Jon Wallenmeyer

Category III: Other



1st "Swallowtail at Hooper Bald" Don Hyatt



2nd - Koi at Arboretum
Jon Wallenmeyer



**3rd - Anna Rose Whitney
and Friends** Bill Wallenmeyer



The Beaudrys Accepting the Silver Medal in Everett, WA
Photo by Sandra McDonald

Jean and Norman Beaudry Receive the ARS Silver Medal

At the American Rhododendron Society Convention in Everett, WA, Jean and Norman Beaudry were honored with the ARS Silver Medal. This award is for outstanding service over a period of time, either to the Society or the genus Rhododendron, or both. The primary consideration for the Silver Medal is that impact is more regional in scope. The Gold is designed for national or international impact. The Bronze Medal is for local contributions.

In the citation, the Beaudrys were praised for their efforts in our eastern region including being convention registrars, garden hosts, and their tireless work with the Sandwich Club for the past 20 years. Congratulations Jean and Norman! Well deserved!!!

2009 PVC Flower Show

Our Flower Show this year was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Herndon, VA, in conjunction with the Azalea Society Convention. We wish to thank all the people who assisted in making the show such a grand success, especially our staff of hard-working volunteers including Bob and Rosa McWhorter, Carol Segree, Joe Marsala, Dan Neckel, and Jim Hayes. We appreciate all who entered flowers. We wish to give special thanks to our excellent judges including chief judge Don Voss who helped design the new flower show approach. The other judges were Bill Bedwell from Dinwiddie, VA, Joe Coleman from Lavonia, GA, and Rosalie Nachman from Richmond, VA.

The flower show was greatly simplified this year. Entrants only had to decide into which of eight general classes their flowers should be entered, and the flower show team took it from there. They arranged entries according to color, and subdivided classes as needed so

that similar type flowers were judged with one another. Below is a summary of the Best in Class awards and other prizes given by the judges:

Flower Show Classes and Results

Class 1: Lepidote (scaly) Species

No Entries

Class 2: Lepidote (scaly) Hybrids

'Yellow Eyes' – Carol Segree

Class 3 Elepidote (large-leaf) Species

No Entries

Class 4: Elepidote (scaly) Hybrids

'Ken Janeck' – Rosa McWhorter

Also: *Best Rhododendron*

Class 5: Deciduous Azalea Species

R. canescens – Valerie Lorenze

Class 6: Deciduous Azalea Hybrids

'Queen Emma' – Carol Segree

Class 7: Evergreen Azalea Species

R. indicum – John Keshishian

Class 8: Evergreen Azalea Hybrids

'Rose Greeley' – Don Hyatt

Also: *Best Azalea* and *Best in Show*

Because there were so many excellent azaleas, the judges decided to give four Special Awards:

'Dreamsickle' - Walter Przypek

Unknown pink and white - John Keshishian

'Madame Butterfly' - Rosa McWhorter

'Girard's Fuchsia' - Rosa McWhorter



PVC's Joint Flower Show at the 2009 ASA Convention

The Next District 9 Meeting

It is Potomac Valley's turn to host the next District 9 meeting. We haven't selected a date but it probably won't be before 2013, which will give us a breather from the recent pace. We have been discussing some other options besides the typical weekend meeting, too. If you have some creative ideas, let your chapter officers know. Stay tuned for more details.

Spring Garden Travels by Don Hyatt

It certainly was a busy spring for me! How many trips and conventions were you able to make? Here are a few thoughts and pictures from my spring's escapades. For me, there is nothing more enjoyable than admiring flowers in the company of good friends.

North Carolina Plant Trip

From March 6-8, many of us took off to North Carolina to visit a number of nurseries that were holding open houses. Some of these places sell mail order only, but will have an a few times during the year when they open their display gardens and sell plants on site. Joe Marsala coordinated the event this year, and we all had a great time. Spring fever is always rampant at that time of year so it is nice to buy a few plants to ease us through the end of winter.



Most of us stopped at Pine Knot Farms on our way to Raleigh, North Carolina, to pick up a few hellebores and admire the hellebores in their display garden, such as the double white above. We convened that evening in Garner, NC, where we partied for two full nights.

We first visited Big Bloomers Flower Farm. They have an incredible selection of plants at very reasonable prices. Below is just part of our group posing on an oversized chair in front of Big Bloomers.



We then went to Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery to spend more money on rare plants, but also to see his display garden. Pictured below are some of the hardy agaves Tony grows around his private home.



The next morning, we made arrangements to visit Camellia Forest Nursery. They had some wonderful camellias and other plants for sale so we loaded up our cars. My car was filled to the brim so I headed home after that, but others stopped by Niche Gardens to purchase a few more plants including native azaleas.

The ASA Convention

After that, my focus was on the Azalea Society Convention from May 1-4. My garden was on tour but a huge oak fell in a storm the prior spring destroying much of my front yard. I had much to do to get ready! In a way, I enjoyed having a place to landscape but a natural disaster so close to the convention wasn't my preference. The day of the tour, I was still trying to clean up outside when the first people arrived. I said hello, ran inside for a quick shower, and then tried to greet visitors as the buses arrived. Soon it was all over.



I was so busy, I never got around to photographing my own garden, but others did and I am thankful. Bill Bedwell took the above photo of my house from the bank where that big oak tree once stood. The white rhododendron in the foreground is 'Martin Keister White', my hybrid of (*yakushmanum* x *metternichii*) named for Margaret White's late son.

We had a strange spring with early and mid-season plants blooming at the same time. Judging from others lovely photos, my garden must have been at peak bloom during the tour but I really don't remember.

The MAC Meeting

With the ASA Convention out of the way, the next event was the Middle Atlantic Chapter spring meeting in Roanoke from May 7-10. Many of us are associate members and enjoy MAC's meetings since they are like mini-conventions with speakers and tours. The Roanoke meeting included a tour of the garden of Paul James and also Glebe Gardens, a nursery that specializes in hostas and daylilies. Naturally, we all bought plants. I forgot to recharge my camera battery so I couldn't take any pictures, but I remember that the gardens were gorgeous. Trust me!

The Vaseyi Trip

After the MAC meeting a number of us headed south to the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway south of Asheville from May 10-12 so we could see the *R. vaseyi* in bloom. We were not able to hike up Pilot Mountain because the access road had been washed out but we had many other things to do. The Parkway was in peak bloom for the early spring wildflowers. Below is a picture near the John Rock Overlook with pink *R. vaseyi*, white *Pieris floribunda*, a native counterpart of the common landscape shrub *Pieris japonica*, and delicate white flowers of the Service Berry trees, *Amelanchier arborea*. The effect was as though the mountains had been frosted with tufts of white.



We were also able to make arrangements to visit the garden of Russell and Velma Haag. Russell has been deceased for many years and Velma is now 98 years old. Velma's son Curt is staying with her but the Haags have made arrangements to sell the property, so this might be one of the last chances to see the garden. We were all impressed with one of Velma Haag's hybrids of (CatFortCampy x Ted's Yellow). The 4-inch flowers were about the color of orange juice! It is



hard to appreciate the beauty of those blossoms from the black and-white photo above but it must have been a great cross since not far away was an equally beautiful light yellow sister seedling. CatFortCampy, also known as 'Hannah Hersey,' is well known a Gable hybrid of (*catawbiense* x *fortunei*) x *campylocarpum*. Ted's Yellow was a plant developed in North Carolina and may no longer be in existence but it has passed its good genes to yet another generation.

In addition to breeding rhododendrons, Velma was also interested in preserving rare wildflowers. Along her driveway was a wide bank of *Shortia galacifolia* that must have been at least 100 ft long and so thick it almost looked like ivy. Since *Shortia* is one of the rarest wildflowers in North Carolina, we suspect that Velma has one of the largest populations in existence.

After lunch at a Chinese buffet in Brevard, we went to the Southern Highlands Reserve near Lake Toxaway. This 170-acre private wildflower preserve is on the top of the mountain and only open to academic and horticultural professionals by invitation. I was totally blown away by the landscaping and stonework.



In the above photo, Sandra McDonald and Anita Burke are walking along a garden path in the mist.

The Reserve only tries to enhance the natural beauty of the site and uses only native plants in the design. They hauled huge slabs of granite from as far away as Georgia to the top of that mountain and those became steps and rock garden features. Some of the boulders measured as much as 40 ft in length, but they were skillfully placed as though they had been there for eons. Below is a photo of a lake they built near an existing stand of *R. vaseyi* with groundcovers of ferns and pink *Trillium catesbaei*. The mountain was gripped by dense fog all day so we never saw the views, but the effect was beautifully surreal anyway.



The Vaseyi Pond at the Southern Highlands Reserve

The Sandwich Club

We certainly had a great time with the Sandwich club this year. We visit a number of local gardens and also went to Martha's Vineyard. What a great trip!

On Friday morning, we met at the home of John and Donna Delano, and after admiring their garden we headed off to the home Gene and Barbara Gingras. They served us lunch, and then we toured their extensive property. I really admired a stunning bicolor Norway maple called 'Harlequin' pictured below.



Most people went to Cathy and Dick White's garden next, but instead, some of us went to the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods.

The Saturday auction at Heritage was long because so

many cuttings rooted this year. Norman says we cleared \$3300, which will support student interns. John Delano led a tour through the rhodos afterwards.

On Sunday, we parked our cars at Woods Hole and took the ferry to Martha's Vineyard. We first went to the Polly Hill Arboretum where staff members gave us a guided tour. We then ate lunch and had additional time to explore. Below is a vista at the Arboretum.



Peter Norris who had arranged the sightseeing bus on Martha's Vineyard invited us to his garden, too. His home is exquisite, and the garden has many rare rhododendrons although many are still quite young. His perennial garden was really spectacular.

On Monday, we visited Bob and Audrey Furman's garden. Bob had arranged a "Flower Show" of his new hybrids and I am sure he was pleased that we selected his favorite truss as ours, too. Below, Jean Beaudry is holding the winner, a cross of 'Angel Eyes' with 'Snow Candle.' This huge, perfectly formed truss has pure white flowers with red markings in the throat.



After the Furman's, we toured the Pilkington garden before heading home. Many were thrilled to see the varieties they purchased at the auction in full bloom. Some of us were rueing the fact that we let choice plants get away. Well, there is always next year!

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