



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Winter Newsletter: February 2024

Chapter Officers

President: Carol Segree
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Potomac Valley Chapter Calendar – 2024

- **March 1 – 2, 2024: Possible North Carolina Nursery Trip**
- **April 2 – 4, 2024: ASA Convention, Auburn, AL**
- **April 28 – 30, 2024: ARS District 9 Meeting, Annapolis, MD**
- **May 2 – 5, 2024: ARS Convention, Bellingham, WA**

District 9 Meeting – Annapolis!

Sunday, April 28 – Tuesday, April 30

Your chapter officers have been hard at work finalizing plans for the District 9 Meeting we will be hosting this spring in Annapolis, MD. We are inviting the other two ARS Chapters in our District 9, the **Middle Atlantic Chapter** and the **Mason-Dixon Chapter**, as well as members of the new **Delaware Valley Chapter ARS**. We will also be extending an invitation to members of our local ASA chapters and additional gardening friends.

We are staging the meeting at the Comfort Inn and Suites by Radisson in Annapolis. By starting on Sunday evening, we obtained significant savings on the hotel rooms. Our conference rate will be only \$99 a night plus tax and that does include breakfast.

Knowing how expensive conferences can be, we have been trying to make this meeting as affordable as possible. The single registration fee of **\$210** per person covers everything including all meals and bus transportation for two days of garden tours. Our featured attraction will be Historic London Town & Gardens and three exquisite private gardens in the area, the homes of Bob and Rosa McWhorter, Carol Segree, and Richard Bradshaw. (See next page)

We want this meeting to be a casual event so we are allowing plenty of time to socialize. Our tours are not rushed and we expect them to leave at 9:30 AM and return by 3:30 PM each day. Unfortunately, our chapter is not set up for credit card payments or online registration so please pay by check when you register.

Please register early. The hotel has set aside a block of 25 rooms for our event until March 31, our registration deadline. Due to restrictions at the hotel and other venues, we have to limit attendance so our target range is from 50 to at most 70 persons. This will be a rare opportunity to renew old friendships and make new friends as we admire some lovely gardens.



London Town & Gardens, Edgewater, MD



Country Inns & Suites - Annapolis

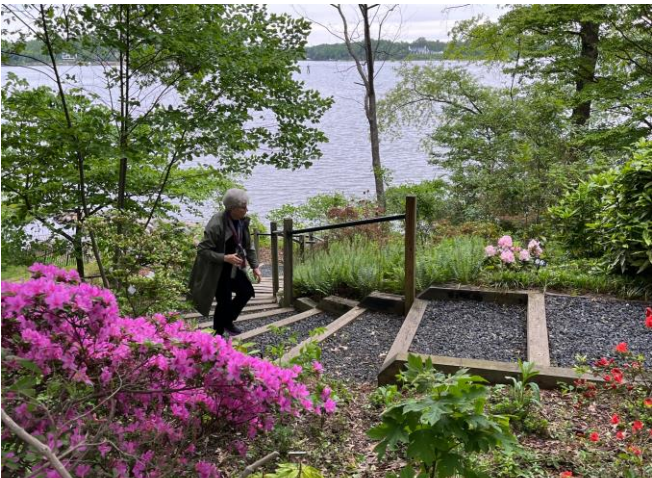
We have set up a website which has lots of pictures and more information about our meeting. It has the full schedule, more images of the gardens, meal options, and the registration form. We expect to post the plants we will have in our sale. Check out the link below to see our meeting website:

<http://www.arspvc.org/2024/index.html>

Tour 1: Bob & Rosa McWhorter Garden



Tour 1: London Town & Gardens



Tour 2: Carol Segree Garden



Tour 2: Richard Bradshaw Garden





Mount Baker, WA Photo: D. Hyatt

ARS 2024 Convention

“Rhododendrons on the 49th Parallel”

Bellingham, WA

May 2 – 5, 2024

This year's ARS Convention will be held in Bellingham, Washington, about 100 miles north of Seattle. The program offers speakers, two banquets, several tours including a post-convention trip on Sunday to Vancouver, BC. Here is a link to their convention site:

<https://www.ars2024.org/>

There are scenic attractions near Bellingham like the spectacular North Cascades National Park east of town. Mount Baker is the highest peak in the park and dominates the horizon but many of the roads and high trails at upper elevations will be blocked by snow until late June or July.

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden near Seattle was planning a symposium in that same time frame as the convention but they cancelled due to speaker conflicts. They will probably offer it next year. Their garden is excellent and that would make a great visit after the meeting. Incidentally, their spring catalog is open to the public now.

<https://rhodygarden.org/plant-catalog/>

Did You Remember to Renew?

If you forgot to pay your dues, be sure to renew as soon as possible. You can send a check to our Treasurer, Phyllis Rittman, using the membership form at the end of this newsletter. Regular membership is \$40 per year. Associate members who already belong to another ARS Chapter pay only \$10. You can also renew online at the ARS website: www.rhododendron.org

Rhododendron ‘London Town’

One of the seedlings from Paul James that has Carol Segree has been growing in her garden for years has been a real “show stopper.” The cross was listed as ((‘Odee Wright’ x *wardii*) x unknown) but one can only speculate what the other parent was. The known parents are yellow and quite tender. Carol’s plant is tough as nails and it opens pink and changes to white. There is no evidence of those tender yellows in that plant but we wonder if it might be a hybrid of *hyperythrum*. The foliage is slightly recurved and the flower trusses are slightly open. Below is a picture of Carol beside that plant.



Carol in her garden beside ‘London Town’

Carol had thought that she really should name and introduce this rhododendron. In honor of our District meeting, she decided to name it ‘London Town’ in honor of the garden we will be visiting this year on our tour. Carol already had a second plant in her garden that has now been moved to London Town. We have taken cuttings and will have plants available for sale eventually.



Rhododendron ‘London Town’

2024 Rhododendrons of the Year

These are the Rhododendrons of the Year in 2024 for our Mid-Atlantic region.

Elipodote Rhododendron:

'Ingrid Mehlquist'

'Besse Howells' (s) X *yakushimanum*

Gus Mehlquist hybrid. Flowers pink in bud, opening pale pink, maturing to white with burgundy dots. Leaves elliptic to slightly obovate, glossy dark green and powdery above, puberulent below (hairs pale tan at first, ageing to rusty brown). Compact shrub 0.9 x 1.25m in 25 years. Very resistant to root rot. Blooms in May.



'Ingrid Mehlquist' Photo: D. Hyatt

Lepodote Rhododendron:

R. carolinianum

Flower vivid purple, no markings, openly funnel-shaped, flat-edged lobes, 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ " across. Truss holds 3-9 flowers. Blooms early season. Leaves elliptic, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " long, semi-glossy, moderate to light yellow-green, scaly below. Typical height: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet in 10 years. Dense growth habit. Hardy to at least -8°F (-22°C). Anderson Hybrid.



R. carolinianum Photo: D. Hyatt

Evergreen Azalea:

'Pocono Pink'

Selected, named, and introduced by Nancy Swell in 1979 from a group of unlabelled plants at Pocono Nursery in Virginia. Flowers single, 2 per bud, funnel-shaped, 40 x 52mm, light to pale purplish pink, slightly tinged with a light pink shading to white at base; blotch pale yellow with light yellow red spotting over pink ground. Leaves strong yellow-green. Shrub 1.2m in 10 years. Mid May.



'Pocono Pink' Photos: D. Hyatt

Deciduous Azalea:

'Admiral Semmes'

One of the most heat and humidity tolerant deciduous azaleas available for southern gardens. A very adaptable plant developed and introduced by the Dodd Nursery in Alabama from a cross between the Florida species *R. austrinum* and the Knap Hill hybrid 'Hotspur Yellow'. The plant grows rapidly and matures as a large, rounded shrub measuring 5 to 10 ft (1.5 to 3 m). Medium sized flowers measure 2.5-3" long (63-75 mm) and 1.5" wide (38 mm). Flower color is bright yellow with darker blotch, and blossoms are extremely fragrant. Blooms in early May. Leaves are lustrous dark green, mildew resistant, and turn orange-bronze to scarlet before shedding in autumn. Winner of the 2007 Georgia Gold Medal Award.



'Admiral Semmes' Photo: D. Hyatt

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS - Newsletter
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Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

The Potomac Valley Chapter ARS is one of three American Rhododendron Society chapters located in District 9 which represents the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. Some of our chapter activities include:

- Regular Meetings with Speakers
- Annual Chapter Banquet
- Garden Tours
- Field Trips to Nurseries or to Wild Stands of Native Azaleas and Rhododendrons
- Local and National Seed Exchanges
- Plants for Members Program
- Flower Show
- Informative Chapter Newsletters
- Annual Photography Contest
- Access to Chapter Library Books

Our regular chapter meetings are usually held four times a year at the Potomac Community Center in Potomac, MD, on Sunday afternoons. However, we do hold occasional meetings at other locations in nearby Maryland, Virginia, or Washington, DC.

We encourage you to check out our chapter website which includes at least 16 years of previous newsletters that contain interesting articles, more color pictures, and examples of past activities:

www.arspvc.org

As a member of our local chapter you will also become a member at the national level of the American Rhododendron Society. This entitles you to a year's subscription of their outstanding quarterly **Journal** filled with information and many color pictures. You will also be invited to attend national conventions or regional conferences.

The cost of ARS membership is \$40 per year and includes membership in a chapter of your choice, such as our Potomac Valley Chapter. If you are already a member of another ARS Chapter, you may join the Potomac Valley Chapter as an Associate Member for only \$10 per year but you will need to identify your home chapter.

For more information about the American Rhododendron Society, check out their website:

www.rhododendron.org

Membership Application *American Rhododendron Society*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip/Country _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____

Memberships are on a calendar year basis and include the local chapter membership:

Individual/Family.....	\$40.00
Student (proof of age required).....	10.00
Commercial/Corporate.....	90.00
Sustaining	75.00
Sponsoring.....	150.00
Life, single	1,000.00
Life, family.....	1,500.00
Associate Membership*.....	10.00

**Associate Members must identify home chapter*

I would like my "home" chapter to be the
Potomac Valley Chapter

☐

To join our chapter, send this form with payment to:

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER ARS

PVC-ARS Chapter Treasurer

rittwoman@gmail.com

You may also send this form with US Funds payable to the national organization:

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 43

Craryville, NY 12521

To pay online by credit card, follow the link to
"Membership" on the ARS website:

www.rhododendron.org

More ARS National Contact Points:

Phone (631) 533-0375

Email: member@arsoffice.org