

This Week in the Garden #07: “April Showers Bring May Flowers” - May 2, 2020
by Don Hyatt - Potomac Valley Chapter ARS

As we move into May, it is amazing to think that Washington DC had 6.3 inches of rain in April. I realize our District 9 covers a large area and not all gardens have seen that same amount. In the DC region, this was the seventh wettest April on record. It was very cool, too.

With the early spring season, we did have many of our May flowers bloom in April. In these supplements, I like to share images of gardens we did not have a chance to visit. Please send me photos of your garden to share with members!

Carol Segree Garden

During recent garden tours, we have been to Carol Segree’s beautiful garden several times. Her place is spectacular but she has been busy since last year.



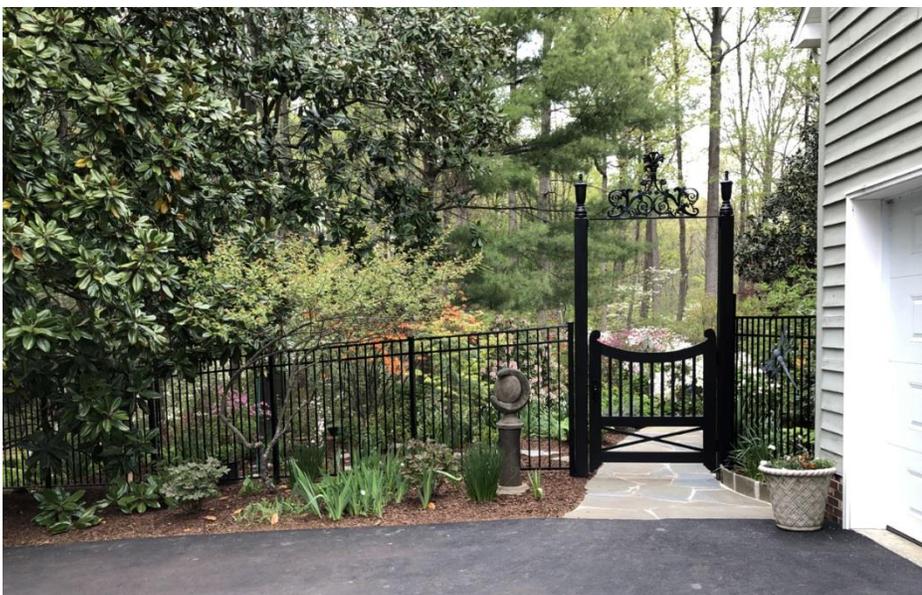
Carol’s New Circular Patio and Fountain Photo: C. Segree



R. alabamense Seedling from Gray Carter Segree

Carol has made some major renovations to her garden. She decided to give up on trying to maintain a grassy area under the trees in her backyard and installed a circular patio in that area with a fountain instead. In the image above, the deciduous azalea framing the picture is a blush pink seedling of *R. alabamense* that Gray Carter gave her. In the foreground is a white *R. metternichii* seedling. The pink rhododendron in the distance is ‘John C. White’.

A real plus is that she has fenced her backyard to stop deer browsing so she can now grow hostas and other choice plants. Another addition is a beautiful iron gate that opens at the driveway edge to access the backyard. Stunning!



Carol’s New Gate

C. Segree



‘Wagner’s White Spider’ & Hosta



Main Backyard Patio Adjacent to Carol's Kitchen



Some of Carol's Whimsical Garden Sculptures

Look carefully in Carol's garden or you may miss her many art objects, whimsical sculptures, and planters. There is a large black dragonfly on the fence as you enter the backyard, a copper heron hiding behind 'Arneson's Gem', a peacock strutting at the edge the patio with a blue hydrangea, and my favorite, a frog planter hiding under the patio furniture. Also look for an azalea with very tiny leaves and 1/2-inch flowers, *R. serpyllifolium*. So cute!

Lars Larson Garden

I want to thank Lars Larson for sending images from his garden. As President of our local Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, he has a large azalea collection including evergreen and deciduous forms, as well as many azaleas in containers he has been holding for future chapter plant sales and auctions.

Lars has rhododendrons, too, like the elegant and fragrant 'Pilkington's Pride', a blush pink from Cape Cod. It does change to a rich cream in time. Gorgeous!



Rare Azalea, *Rhododendron serpyllifolium* from Japan



Native Azalea Larson



Azaleas in the Larson Garden

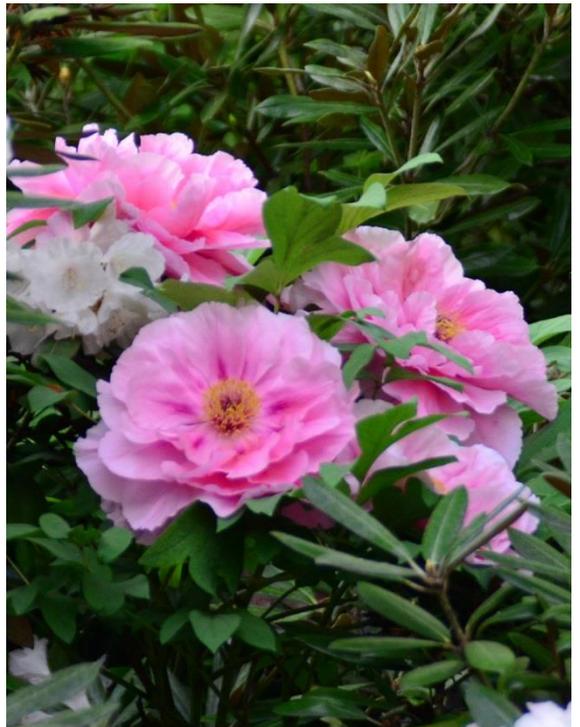


'Pilkington's Pride' Larson

Ron Brown Tree Peonies

Did you get some of the tree peony seedlings that the late Ron Brown donated to our 2016 Convention plant sale? I bought a couple but I have some from prior years, too. I have also bought peonies from commercial sources. Many of my Ron Brown tree peonies bloomed for the first time this spring. With my older plants and new seedlings, I see so much variation. They are all gorgeous!

Tree peonies make great companions to rhododendrons since their huge flowers, often 8 to 10 inches across, are in scale with those large trusses. A real plus... Deer don't eat tree peonies!



Tree Peony among Rhododendrons Hyatt



Variations of Tree Peony Flowers in the Hyatt Garden Hyatt

Doug Jolley in West Virginia had to deal with several freezes but he covered his tree peonies and other plants with gauze during those cold nights. He said his plants came through in fine form and were putting on a beautiful display this week. With the cool weather, the flowers have lasted well.



Hyatt Tree Peony & Trillium Hyatt



Doug's Kitty & Frost Protection



A Tree Peony in the Jolley Garden Jolley

Odds and Ends

Realizing that I need to rework much of my garden in the next few years, I have been looking at the plants I have purchased at recent conventions and plant sales and I am trying to decide where to put them. I want to give more thought this time.

I have been looking for nice landscape groupings and did stumble on one this week. I recently had the house painted and had to move many container plants so painters could get to my garage siding. Unknowingly, I sat 'My Mary', my most fragrant native azalea, next to a maple called 'Autumn Moon'. It has yellow foliage brushed with red. 'My Mary' is a deeper hue this year but the color harmony was lovely. When I find a place for them, I will have to add a yellow tree peony to the group!



Acer 'Autumn Moon'



Tree Peony 'High Noon'



'My Mary' with 'Autumn Moon' Hyatt



Ranunculus ficaria 'Brazen Hussy' Hyatt

More Yellow Treasures

I do like yellow in the garden. To the left is *Ranunculus ficaria* 'Brazen Hussy'. It has chocolate colored leaves and yellow flowers. The species is in the Buttercup family and can be a thug, reseeding in the lawn. It is an ephemeral and dies down quickly. I got mine several years ago at Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery on a North Carolina Nursey trip. At Tony's this year, I admired another ephemeral, *Adonis amurensis* 'Hanazono'. It has fern-like foliage and double yellow flowers. Then I saw the price, \$117.00 for a plant in a 3-inch pot! I put it back. I have lots of yellow dandelions and they bloom all summer. Below is the variegated Hakone grass, a "class act" ornamental with yellow striped foliage. It is very easy to manage and stays about a foot tall. It makes a great border accent.



A. amurensis 'Hanazono'



Taraxicum officianalis Hyatt



Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' Hyatt

Garden Share - ARS District 9
www.arspvc.org/newsletter.html
 Donald W. Hyatt, Newsletter Editor
donaldhyatt@verizon.net