

## **July 19 Message to Members**

Chapter Members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I'm happy to be home and also happy that Mother Nature is helping out with the watering duties. My garden is doing very well (unfortunately also including the weeds).

### **Smoky Mountain Hikes**

My travel schedule precluded participating in much of the Smoky Mountain hikes this year other than the activities on Hooper Bald (see below). **Don Hyatt** has an article on the hikes in the latest ***Azalea Clipper***.

### **Graham County Native Azalea Festival 14-15 June Robbinsville, NC**

**Susan** and I attended the second annual Graham County Native Azalea Festival. Joining us were chapter members **Don Hyatt**, **George McLellan**, associate member and society VP **Charlie Andrews** and ASA members **Mike Bamford** and **Joe** and **Jan Nicholson** (president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS). This was in addition to the local ASA members in the Graham County region. We had beautiful weather and the azaleas on Hooper Bald were in great form. Society members and members of the Partners of the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness conducted guided hikes through the azaleas.



**View of the Smoky Mountains from Hooper Bald**

Friday evening's program included a dinner of typical Indian foods as well as an entertaining and educational performance by a Cherokee Indian dance troupe.

The festival on Saturday included 40 vendors, a major increase over last year, and the foot traffic was also heavier than last year. The ASA had a booth at the festival and signed two new members and two renewals. The chapter also sold deciduous azaleas, many grown from seed from Hooper Bald and Roan Mountain. We sold 41 plants for \$795.

More photos from the event are at the end of this message.

### **Cutting (and Plant) Exchange – 1-4:30pm 14 July**

This is my favorite annual meeting. It is a pot luck as well as an opportunity to expand your collection of azaleas through propagation of cuttings. Members should bring bagged cuttings with the name of the cultivar, hybrid group and your name (in case anyone has questions). Normally each bag has five cuttings (or more).

We will also be having a plant exchange. This is a good opportunity to share your excess plants with other chapter members as well as gaining new plants. The plants should, as a minimum, be marked with the plant name. Other information such as

characteristics of the plant (e.g., habitat) is desirable. Plants should be watered, but not dripping wet.

More information is provided in the latest edition of ***The Azalea Clipper***.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:**

Below is the schedule for 2019. As always, events will be added (and rarely deleted) throughout the year:

Date	Event	Organization	Location
Jul 14 1-4:30 pm	Cutting Exchange	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
Sep 28	Fall Sale and Auction	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
Oct 27 1-4:30pm	Meeting with Speaker	NV-ASA	<a href="#">Kirkwood Presbyterian Church Springfield, VA</a>
Oct TBD	Executive Committee Meeting	NV-ASA	TBD
Dec 8	Holiday Social	NV-ASA	TBD

Rick



## 2d Annual Graham County Native Azalea Festival



**George McLellan and Don Hyatt relaxing at Tapoco Lodge**



**Meadow on Hooper Bald**



**View from Cherohala Skyway**



**Calendulaceum on Hooper Bald**



**Don Hyatt, Charlie Andrews, Mike Bamford, Rick Bauer and George McLellan in front of calendulaceum on Hooper Bald – photo S Bauer**



**Garden at Stecoah Art Center**





**View of Tapoco Tavern - photo D Hyatt**



**Main street of the festival - photo D Hyatt**



**Calendulaceum on Hooper Bald – photo S Bauer**



**ASA tent at azalea festival – photo Joe Nicholson**



**ASA tent at azalea festival – photo Joe Nicholson**



**Seed propagation workshop at Graham County Library – photo D Hyatt**