



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Early Spring Newsletter: March 2013

Calendar

- * **March 10, 2013** – Joint Meeting PVC & NV ASA, Centreville, VA
- * **April 6, 2013** – Work Session, Azalea Collection at the Arboretum
- * **April 18-21, 2013** – ASA Convention, Athens, GA
- * **April 24-25, 2013** – Field Trip, Pennsylvania Nurseries
- * **April 27, 2013** – Flower Show & Sale, Annapolis Farmers' Market
- * **May 1-5, 2013** – ARS Convention, Seattle, WA
- * **May 10-12, 2013** – MAC Spring Meeting, Gloucester, VA
- * **May 11, 2013** – Mason-Dixon Flower Show, Westminster, MD
- * **Late May (TBA)** – Dexter Field Trip to Cape Cod, MA
- * **Early June (TBA)** – Native Azalea Field Trip to NC
- * **June 23, 2013** – Chapter Picnic, Seneca Creek, MD

Chapter Officers

President: Bob McWhorter
mcwho@comcast.net
Vice President: Dan Neckel
vaneckel@verizon.net
Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman
prittman@erols.com

Our Next Meeting:

Norman Beaudry - "Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron"

Date: Sunday, March 10: 1:30 – 4 PM

Location: Centreville Regional Library

Note: Joint Meeting & Plant Exchange!

Please note a change in location for our March 10 meeting. We are holding a joint meeting with the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, and will convene at the new Centreville Regional Library in Northern Virginia. Our featured speaker, Norman Beaudry, should be well known to everyone. Recipients of the ARS Silver Medal, Norm and Jean are two of the hardest working members in the ARS. Their garden is spectacular.

As Chair of the ARS Seed Exchange, Norm has a new talk "Searching for the 5/5/5 Rhododendron." A "5/5/5" plant would be a "perfect rhododendron" with the highest rating for flower, foliage, and plant. He will show us some of the best so far from hybridizers like the late Bob Furman and Eveline Pilkington on Cape Cod, Delbert Brim from North Carolina, Frank Fujioka and Jim Barlup on the West Coast, and Jens Birck from Denmark. Of course, Norm and Jean have some lovely hybrids of their own.

We will also be having a plant exchange, so bring a few plants with you: small rhododendrons, azaleas, or companion plants. Be sure things are clean and properly bagged so we don't make a mess.

Refreshment Duty: Persons whose last names begin with **I** through **P** are asked to bring something for the refreshment table. Since this is a joint ASA meeting, we encourage those who belong to both groups to bring something, too.



Norman and Jean Beaudry

Directions to the Centreville Regional Library:

The library is in Virginia but very easy to find. It is right off of I-66 at exit 52, only a few well marked turns once you are on the Beltway. Also note that the road construction in Virginia is over!

- ? If heading south on **I-495** take **EXIT 49, I-66 West** to Front Royal
- ? Continue West on **I-66 West** for 13 miles to **EXIT 52, US-29 (Lee Hwy)** the second Centreville exit.
- ? Turn **LEFT** at the light onto **US-29 N (Lee Hwy)** and go under I-66.
- ? Take the first **RIGHT** onto **MACHEN RD**
- ? The Library is on that corner but entrance into the parking lot is right at the next intersection: **(14200 ST. GERMAIN DR)**

Centreville Regional Library
14200 St. Germain Drive
Centreville, VA 20121

2013 Photography Contest Winners

Congratulations to our 2013 Photography Contest winners. Because of the large number of really great entries in the "Other" category this year, we decided to pull some of them to form a new category, "People and Animals." Below is a full list of the winners but the color insert has pictures of the top two winners in each category. Congratulations to Jon Wallenmeyer who took Best in Show with his picture of the tetraploid version of 'PJM' called 'Northern Starburst'.

Best in Show:

Jon Wallenmeyer – 'Northern Starburst'

Category I: Flowers

Jon Wallenmeyer – 'Northern Starburst'

Jon Wallenmeyer – 'Dayspring'

Bob McWhorter – 'Tiana'

Category II: Scenery

Jon Wallenmeyer – 'Mt. St. Helens'

Bob McWhorter – Azaleas #5

Bob McWhorter – Azaleas #6

Category III: People and Animals

Jon Wallenmeyer – Bob and his 'Apritan'

Tom Chapin – Necco and Taffy

Bob McWhorter – Rosa and 'Admiral Semmes'

Category IV: Other

Tom Chapin – Tree on Beach

Rosa McWhorter – 'Skylands Sunset

Rosa McWhorter – View from Skyline Drive

North Carolina Nursery Trek: March 1 - 3

Many of us are getting ready to head out for the NC nursery trip but there may still be time to join us:

Joe Marsala:

joe-marsala@comcast.net

Arboretum Flower Show Cancelled:

Regrettably, our chapter has had to cancel its annual flower originally scheduled at the National Arboretum on April 13. Renovations at the Administration Building continued to be delayed and they were not able to confirm our date. Maybe next year!

We will have a flower display and chapter plant sale at the Farmers Market in Annapolis on April 27 from 8:00 AM to noon. See details in the next column.

The Mason-Dixon chapter will be holding their flower show and plant sale on May 11 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Their location is the Carroll County Ag Center, 706 Agricultural Center Dr, Westminster, MD.

Plant Sale and Flower Show!

Annapolis Farmers Market: April 27

On Saturday, April 27th our chapter will hold a plant sale and flower show at the Annapolis Farmers Market (Riva Rd. & Harry Truman Pkwy) from 8:00 – Noon. We need several volunteers to help us set up the display, staff the booth, provide flowers, and clean up.

This will not be a typical flower show where we award ribbons, but instead it will be more of a floral display where we try to show the diversity available in the genus *Rhododendron*. We intend to have a show table displaying a range of different rhododendron trusses and azalea sprays. We want each one labeled with the proper variety name so people can admire the many colors and flower forms, and we will ask them to vote on their favorites. If we have duplicate varieties, those flowers will be used elsewhere in our exhibit.

We view this activity as an opportunity to educate the public about the many fine rhododendrons we grow in our region. We intend to have information on culture available and will try to answer questions from the public. This may be a way to recruit new members but we also want to test whether this technique might be a viable model for other outreach activities.

If you would like to volunteer to help with staffing or set-up/teardown, e-mail **Joe Marsala:**

joe-marsala@comcast.net

If you would like to furnish trusses or sprays, e-mail **Bob McWhorter:**

mcwho@comcast.net

Once you let us know of your interest, we will get back to you to keep everyone in the loop.

This can be a great opportunity to let others know about our chapter and its many activities. Please volunteer to help us out!

Yes, we do have chapter plants that we intend to sell that day including many choice rhododendrons and azaleas in varying sizes. We are working on an inventory list now. If you don't have time to volunteer and just want to buy a plant, come to the Annapolis Farmers Market on April 27 and stop by our booth.

Directions from the Washington Beltway: Take route 50 east to the Aris Allen Parkway (rt. 655). Exit and proceed to the Riva Road turnoff. Turn right; proceed to second light Harry Truman Parkway); turn right (the Farmers Market will now be on your left); turn left into the Farmers Market. We are not sure where our booth will be located, but park and come to the Farmers Market and look for us.

Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market:

<http://aacofarmersmarket.com/>



2nd Category 2: Bob McWhorter *Azaleas #5*



1st Category 2: Jon Wallenmeyer
'Mt. St. Helens' View

PVC Winners 2013



1st Category 1 and Best in Show
Jon Wallenmeyer *'Northern Starburst'*



2nd Category 1: Jon Wallenmeyer *'Dayspring'*

P H O T O G R A P H Y C O N T E S T



1st Category 4: Tom Chapin
Tree on Beach



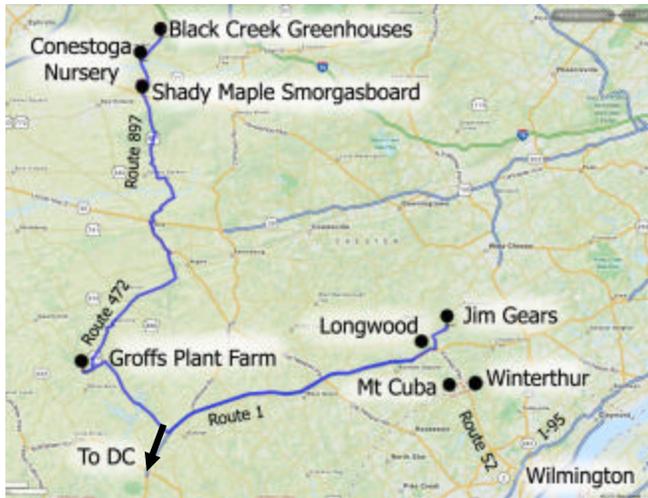
2nd Category 3: Tom Chapin
Necco & Taffy



1st Category 3: Jon Wallenmeyer
Bob and His 'Apritan'



2nd Category 4: Rosa McWhorter
Skylands Sunset



Pennsylvania Nursery Trip: April 24-25

Because of the popularity of our annual North Carolina nursery trip, we are trying another one to Pennsylvania this year. The first day will focus on public gardens and the next day will be a tour of some great nurseries where we can buy plants.

This is our first attempt at this event so timing and details are sketchy. Since many of your chapter officers will be attending the ASA Convention in Athens, GA, the weekend before, some of us may only be participating on the second day. We offer a suggested timetable, so feel free to join the group on any part of the trip or visit the nurseries and gardens on your own.

Wednesday, April 24: Gardens

There are many world class gardens near Kennett Square, PA. One can easily spend several days in that area and still not do them justice.

There may be some bargain hotels in the area but we haven't located anything at this time. Lodging is on your own for those who plan to spend the night.

Below are some of the public gardens in the region. Many of them are huge and one can easily spend a full day there and not see everything. Many of the gardens have timed tickets so they limit the number of people in the garden. Tickets can be purchased online.

Longwood Gardens

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348
Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tickets: \$18 (\$15 seniors)
Website: www.longwoodgardens.org

Winterthur

5105 Kennett Pike (Route 52), Winterthur, DE 19735
Hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (last entry 3:15 PM)
Tickets: \$18 (\$16 seniors)
Website: www.winterthur.org

Mt Cuba Center

3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin, DE 19707
Advance Ticket Purchase Required: \$10
Website: www.mtcubacenter.org

Thursday, April 25: Nurseries

We do have a time table for our nursery visits. Jim Gears usually has just a few open house days a year, but he has kindly invited us to visit him on this trip. Located just a few minutes from Longwood Gardens, we will start there. Please visit during the time window unless you make special arrangements with Jim. Be aware that numbers on his street are illogical and parking is limited, but feel free to call if lost. Jim does not take credit cards, so pay by cash or check. The other sites are more flexible with respect to nursery visits. If you can't make it to Jim's place in time, meet up with us at one of the other nurseries along the way.

Bring some snacks for lunch or feel free to stop for fast food. We do plan to meet for dinner at a good Pennsylvania Dutch restaurant in East Earl, PA, before heading home. Price is \$17.99 (\$16.19 seniors) and includes a huge salad bar, home made breads, desserts, and grill. Let Bob McWhorter know if you plan to attend. We may have some updates.

8:30 to 10:00 AM

Jim Gears, Pennsbury Gardens

2065 Parkerville Rd., West Chester, PA 19382
610-793-2313

Native Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Wildflowers

10:30 – 1:00 PM

Groff's Plant Farm

6128 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536
717-529-3001

Perennials, Annuals, Shrubs (No Credit Cards)

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Conestoga Nursery

310 Reading Road, East Earl, PA 17519
717-445-4076

Landscape Plants and Perennials

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Black Creek Greenhouses

211 E. Black Creek Road
East Earl, PA 17519
717-445-5046

Annuals and Perennials

5:00 – 6:30 PM (Dinner)

Shady Maple Smorgasboard

129 Toddy Drive, East Earl, PA 17519
717-354-8222

Website: www.shady-maple.com

2013 Potomac Valley Chapter Membership Roster (Removed)

Note: We do not post membership information online

Upcoming Events

It is still too early to select dates for two of our popular annual field trips. It doesn't make much sense to travel such long distances to see flowers if those flowers are not in bloom. It is better to wait until we can predict whether spring will be early or late than take a long trip to find we missed the season.

The pilgrimage to Cape Cod to see the Dexters will be sometime in late May. The heavy snows they have been getting this winter will melt eventually. Norman Beaudry will be coordinating that trip. In prior years, we usually went around Memorial Day (May 27) and stayed 3 to 4 days. Last year, spring was very early and the rendezvous was about May 15.

Don Hyatt will be organizing our annual trip to the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee to see the native rhododendrons and azaleas in bloom. That will be sometime in early to mid June depending upon the season. If spring is early, we may head down around June 5 to June 10 and stay about week. If spring is on time, we could be going from June 14-21. We will be back in time for our chapter picnic on June 23.



Flame Azaleas on the Appalachian Trail

HELP! *Email Address Verification*

With the ever increasing expense of first class postage, we will need to use email for some of our correspondence and meeting reminders from now on. The email addresses we have on hand are listed in the chapter directory, but we do need help in verifying that addresses are correct. We also need to get contact info from those whose email addresses are missing.

For that reason, we are asking all members to send a quick email message to our chapter treasurer, Phyllis Rittman, and copy newsletter editor, Don Hyatt. That way we will be sure we have your correct email address:. Please take a moment to send a quick email to them:

Phyllis Rittman: prittman@erols.com

Don Hyatt: don@donaldhyatt.com

We realize that not everyone has email or Internet access yet, but those who do will receive a digital version of each newsletter as well as a printed version. The digital version does have more color pictures!

We want to emphasize that we do not post any sensitive contact information like home addresses and telephone numbers online. We will use your email address only to get important information to you in a timely manner.

If you are interested, we have posted versions of our newsletters for at least the past 10 years on our website. Personal information has been removed but the articles are still informative. Check it out:

www.arspvc.org/newsletter.html

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS - Newsletter Donald W. Hyatt, Editor Don@donaldhyatt.com
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