



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Winter Newsletter: January 2020

Potomac Valley Chapter Calendar – 2020 (Some dates not confirmed)

- **January 26, 2020** – Chapter Meeting, Potomac Community Center
- **February 28-29, 2020** – North Carolina Nursery Trip
- **March 12-15, 2020** – ASA Convention, Houston, Texas
- **March 29, 2020** – Joint Meeting with NV-ASA, Kirkwood Presb. Church
- **April 16, 2020** – Tentative Pennsylvania Nursery Trip
- **April 24-26, 2020** – MAC Meeting, Richmond, VA
- **April 29-May 3, 2020** – ARS 75th Anniversary Convention, Portland, OR
- **May 9, 2020** – PVC Flower Show/Plant Sale, Annapolis, MD
- **June 10-21, 2019** – Tentative Mountain Hikes - Roan Mountain, etc.

Chapter Officers

President: Ginny Mohr
rngmohr@msn.com

Secretary: Diane Reinke
Isabelle49@aol.com

Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman
prittman@erols.com

Next Meeting: Maria Price on Herbs!

Also: Annual Photo Contest

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Where: Potomac Community Center

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, at the Potomac Community Center. In addition to our annual Photo Contest, we will have an exciting speaker, Maria Price, who is specialist on herbs. Her talk is titled “The Delightful Culinary and Medicinal Properties of Herbs” and should be very enlightening.

Maria has a BS in Biology from the University of Maryland and an MS in pharmacognosy from the University of Rhode Island. Pharmacognosy is a branch of knowledge concerned with medicinal drugs obtained from plants or other natural sources. Maria started Willow Oak Flower and Herb Farm in Severn, MD, that she and her family ran from 1979 to 2017. She has now scaled back to a retirement nursery focusing on native plants. She calls it Beaver Creek Cottage Gardens.

Maria has taught classes at the Anne Arundel Community College, the Tai Sophia Institute for alternative medicine, the University of Maryland Extension Agency as well as various garden clubs. She also writes a weekly garden column for *Bay Weekly*, an Annapolis newspaper. Check out her column which covers diverse topics such as using herbs and natural plants to make wreaths or displays, useful garden tools, environmentally sound gardening practices, recipes for healthy living, and more:

<https://www.bayweekly.com/category/article-category/features/gardening>



Sage ‘Mystic Spires Blue’

Our Speaker: Maria Price

Expect Maria to discuss some of the properties of various herbal plants, and interesting topics like how to make a simple poultry seasoning, or how to make an herbal tea for relaxation or sleep.

Photo contest rules are on page 3 of our newsletter.

Refreshment Duty: We ask members whose last names are in the first third of the alphabet (**A – H**) to bring a snack for the refreshment table.

Directions: Potomac Community Center

11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD

From **I-270 North**, stay in the **Local lanes**

Take exit **#4B/ MONTROSE RD WEST**

Continue west on Montrose Rd. for **1.7 miles**

Turn **LEFT** on **FALLS RD (MD-189)**

Continue **1.4 miles** to the Center (on the left)

11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

Herbs in the Landscape

The following images have been taken by your editor showing some landscapes effects using herbs as ornamentals. Consider joining us on our nursery trips since several of the places we go have excellent herb selections.



Rosemary at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens, Norfolk, VA



Sage: *Salvia officinalis* 'Berggarten'



Colonial Gardening Techniques
Williamsburg, VA



Sage: *Salvia officinalis*



Basil 'Purple Ruffles'



Woolly Thyme



Vista from the National Herb Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum



Russian Sage at the National Cathedral



Last Year's Best Photo: "Fox and Azalea"

Photo by Dan Neckel

PVC Photography Contest Rules

Our annual photography contest will be held as part of our January 26 meeting. Look through the pictures you took in 2018 or 2019 and bring a few prints to the meeting.

Attendees will select winners by popular vote and prizes will be awarded. A single individual can win only one of the prizes so all those who enter usually get something. Be sure to enter!

We have established the following categories and rules for our contest:

Category I: Flowers – Close-up of rhododendron or azalea flowers, such as in a truss or spray.

Category II: Scenery - Rhododendron or azalea plants in the landscape or in the wild.

Category III: Other – This category is for any photographs featuring rhododendrons or azaleas that don't seem to fit into the first two categories, such as pictures that feature rhododendron foliage, people, animals, or whatever.

Photography Contest Rules

1. Open to chapter members or associates only.
 2. No more than two entries in any category.
 3. Photos must have been taken in 2018 or 2019.
 4. Photos must be naturally occurring, no composites. Digital editing software can be used to crop photos or correct brightness or contrast.
 5. Photos may be matted, but no frames or glass.
 6. Maximum dimensions: 8" x 10", even if matted.
 7. Put your name, the title and category on the back.
- Photos are the property of the exhibitor but we ask permission to reproduce winners in our newsletter.

Sad News - Virginia Banks

We were saddened to learn that Virginia Banks passed away suddenly on November 27, 2019 at the age of 77. Many of us had just seen Dave and Virginia at the Middle Atlantic Chapter meeting in Richmond a few weeks before. We are so sorry!

Virginia and David Banks have been long time supporters of the ARS and ASA for many years. They made a fantastic team and willingly volunteered to assist with almost anything we needed such as serving as registrars for the 2016 Williamsburg Convention. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service is planned on Sunday, January 19, at 3pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3051 Ironbound Road in Williamsburg, Virginia. We send our sympathies to Dave and the rest of the family.



Virginia and Dave Banks

More Sad News: Joanne McLellan Bartlett

We also extend our sympathy to George McLellan who lost his sister, Joanne M. Bartlett, on December 23, 2019. An avid gardener, she lived on the property adjacent to George's home near Gloucester, VA.

Joint Meeting: *March 29, 2020, 1- 4PM*
Potomac Valley Chapter ARS and the
Northern Virginia Chapter ASA
Where: Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
8336 Carrleigh Parkway
Springfield, VA 22152

Mark your calendars! Last year we held a very successful joint meeting with the Northern Virginia Chapter ASA so we have decided to repeat the experience this year. The date will be March 29. The two groups are working out details but expect interesting presentation or two, and likely a plant exchange. Details will be in your next newsletter.

Gray Carter Memorial Dedication

Chapter members have been busy working with the staff and volunteers at London Towne Gardens in Edgewater, MD, as we proceeded with the installation of a bench in Gray Carter's memory and associated landscaping. On October 23, we gathered with members of the Ben Morrison Chapter ASA to dedicate the bench and pay tribute to our good friend.

We toasted Gray and shared memories and some pizza and other food items at an adjacent pavilion, and gathered at the bench and then toured the grounds. The bench has the following engraved dedication:

"In Memory of Henry Gray Carter, 1921-2018, a kind and generous man, who propagated rhododendrons to share with plant enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region."

We have been very excited about the association with London Towne Gardens and hope the chapter will continue to support this garden as a great place to invest in an expanded display of rhododendrons and azaleas. In our October supplement we showed some of the plants we selected. In December, we moved some large, mature specimens of Marshy Point hybrids donated by Carolyn and Paul Beck to expand the display. We hope people will consider making additional donations to help complete mulching, care, and further rhododendron acquisitions for the garden.



Gathering at the Pavilion for the Dedication



The Bench Honoring Gray Carter



Dedication Attendees: Seated left to right: Carol Segree, Phyllis Rittman, Don Hyatt, Joe Miller. Standing left to right: Harold Belcher, Bill Scott, Gabrielle Scott, Richard Mohr, Rosa McWhorter, Bob McWhorter, Diane Reinke, Donn Tuebner, Louise Tuebner, Budne Reinke, Lois Duffy, Linda Smith, Ray Smith, Mike Duffy, Steve Morrison, Bee Hobbs, and Richard Bradshaw.

NC Nursery Field Trip

February 28-29, 2020

It is time for our annual trip to North Carolina to visit a few mail order nurseries that have open houses at this time of year. We buy some plants, socialize, go out to dinner, and have fun. Won't you join us?

We had hoped to delay the trip until March but two of the nurseries will not be open then. How better to spend "Leap Day 2020" than buying plants!

People coming from long distances will often skip Pine Knot and go directly to Camellia Forest. It is possible to visit Pine Knot on Saturday on the way home. Let George or Don know if you are coming so we can keep an eye out for you.

Don Hyatt

donaldhyatt@verizon.net

don@donaldhyatt.com

Friday: February 28, 2020

Friday Morning (if time allows)

Pine Knot Farms (Hours: 10 am – 4 pm)

681 Rock Church Rd, Clarksville, VA 23927

www.pineknotfarms.com

Target time at Pine Knot: 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Approximate travel time from DC: 4 hours

For those who get an early start, we will try to visit Pine Knot Farms for their Hellebore Festival on Friday AM. This is the 25th anniversary of their Hellebore Festival and the garden has been maturing and should be a great place to visit. It is always good to select hellebores in bloom unless they are tissue culture plants. Pine Knot will have some plants from other sources including trees, shrubs, and cyclamens.

Friday Afternoon

Camellia Forrest Nursery (9 am - 5 pm)

9701 Carrie Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

www.camforest.com

Target time at Nursery: 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Travel time from Pine Knot: 1.5 hours

From Pine Knot, we will return to I-85 and head south via Rt. 25 to Chapel Hill, and travel west on NC-54 to the nursery for camellias and many other plants. Afterwards, we will drive south to Sanford via NC-15 to avoid Raleigh's rush hour traffic.

Friday Night - Hotel in Sanford, NC

Hampton Inn Sanford

1904 S Horner Blvd, Sanford, NC 27330

(919) 775-2000

Travel time from Camellia Forest: 55 minutes

We have stayed at this hotel before and have had good results. We usually gather in the lobby in late afternoon, drink some wine and have snacks (bring your own), and go out to dinner in town.

Saturday: February 29, 2020

Saturday Morning

Big Bloomers Flower Farm (8:30 am – 5 pm)

275 Pressly Foushee Road, Sanford, NC 27330

www.bigbloomersflowerfarm.com

Target time at Big Bloomers: 8:30 – 10:30 am

On Saturday morning, we usually go to Big Bloomers first and Plant Delights Nursery next. Those who get to Sanford early enough on Friday can start shopping at Big Bloomers that afternoon and finish up the next morning. In the past, Big Bloomers has allowed us to leave our carts in the greenhouse and come back the next morning to finish buying and check out. Great selections!

Saturday afternoon

Plant Delights Nursery (8:00 am – 5:00 pm)

9241 Sauls Road, Raleigh, NC 27603

www.plantdelights.com

Target time at Plant Delights: 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Travel time from Sanford: 1 hour

Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery carries premium plants but also expect premium prices. However, many plants are things that you can't find anywhere else or you never knew existed.

Plant Delights and Pine Knot Farms both have wonderful display gardens that show off some of the plants they sell. Pine Knot is known for their hellebores but Tony carries them, too, and so does Big Bloomers. Tony has many other plants of interest and has really expanded his landscape to feature the rare plants he offers in a garden setting.

After Plant Delights, many of us will head directly home to avoid another day on the road.

Note:

George McLellan may head down to Greensboro, NC, on Thursday so he can pick up a wholesale order of camellias from Cam Too Wholesale Nursery on Friday morning for his landscape business. Cam Too is a wholesale only and not open for retail sales. With 30 acres of hoop houses, it is not a place to stroll around and shop for plants. Orders must be placed in advance. <https://camtoocamellia.com/>

2020 Rhododendrons of the Year

Every year we must select the Rhododendrons of the Year for our Middle Atlantic Region. We did include input not only from District 9 but also from Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey since their climate is similar to ours. Below are the selections we made for 2020. As your plants bloom this spring, pick out favorites for consideration in 2021.

‘Bea MacDonald’ is one of the very popular Dexter / Cowles hybrid rhododendrons (elepidote) that has become favorite parent used by some hybridizers. The flowers are a blend of pink and orange and the foliage is a deep green on a rounded plant.

R. keiskei is lepidote species from Japan that has a small stature and lovely, light yellow blossoms. It blooms early in the season and gives the impression of being a yellow evergreen azalea. There are some very dwarf selections but those have proven more difficult for us than the standard form

‘Wagner’s White Spider’ is an azalea developed in the 1970’s by one of our early chapter members, Dave Wagner, of Burtonsville, MD. He selected the plant from some crosses he was making made with the lavender ‘Koromo Shikibu’. The blossoms are pure white and the petaloid nature with each petal being separate provides a very distinctive landscape effect.

R. periclymenoides is one of the most common native deciduous azalea species in the Middle Atlantic region. It has been known as the “Pinxter Bloom” and some called them “Wild Honeysuckles” and has been highly prized for its light pink to white fragrant blossoms since Colonial times. Its delicate flowers and carefree habit still make a beautiful addition to any garden.



2020 Elepidote Rhododendron ‘Bea MacDonald’



2020 Lepidote Rhododendron *R. keiskei*



2020 Deciduous Azalea: *R. periclymenoides*



2020 Evergreen Azalea ‘Wagner’s White Spider’

Carol Segree has Retired - Congratulations!

We wish Carol Segree the best in her retirement. Effective January 1, 2020, her email address at Kiplinger’s is no longer valid so please use this email instead: csegree@msn.com

**75th ARS Anniversary Convention
Portland-Vancouver, April 29 - May 3
“20/20 Vision: Looking Forward,
Reflecting Back”**

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the American Rhododendron Society. The Convention will be held in Portland, OR, where the ARS began. Co-chairs Harold Greer and Mike Stewart have been working hard to put on a fantastic program. Check out the convention website for details:

www.ars75.org

Don't wait too long to register, though. This will be a popular meeting and expect things to fill up quickly. I have been to Portland several times and know this will be another top of the line convention. In the digital version of your newsletter I have assembled some images of those word class gardens.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

This garden is on an island in the city of Portland and has been a display garden for the ARS.



Portland and Mount Hood



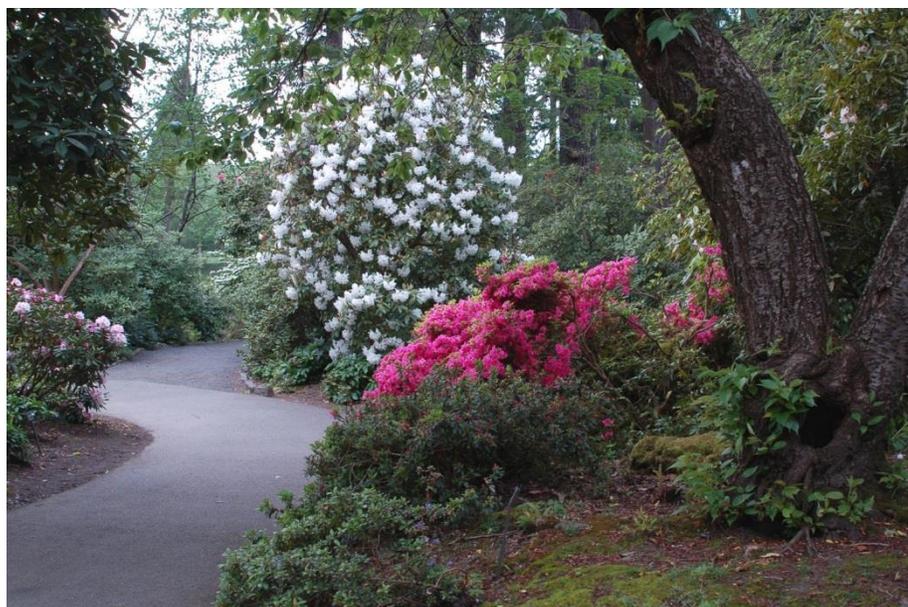
Crystal Springs - Deciduous Azaleas



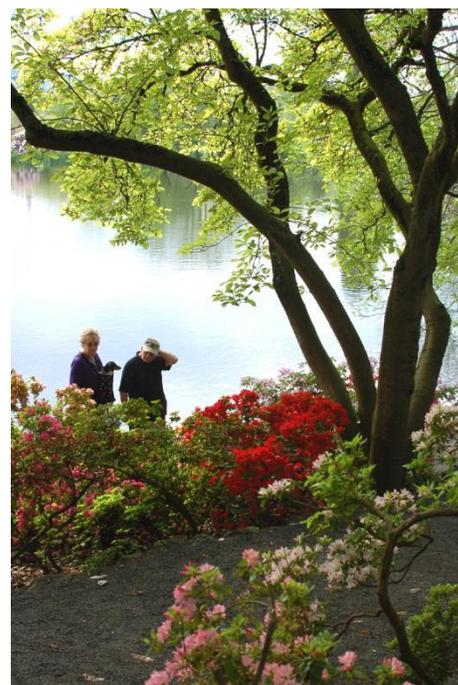
Crystal Springs - Fountain



Vista from the Bridge



Crystal Springs - Rhododendrons and Azaleas along a Garden Path



Azaleas at the Water's Edge

Portland Japanese Garden

This is one of the finest Japanese Gardens in the US and has a very scenic setting on top of a foothill overlooking the city of Portland and Mount Hood.



Japanese Garden - Vista in the Flat Garden



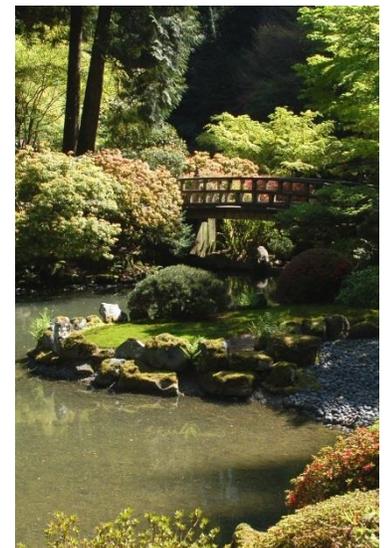
Japanese Garden - Pavilion and Maples



Japanese Garden - Decking at the Pond Garden



Pagoda and Deciduous Azalea



Bridge at the Pond Garden

Lan Su Chinese Garden

This is a pristine but small garden in the city of Portland that has carefully manicured plants in a setting surrounding a pond and scenic structures.



Chinese Garden - Bridge and Rocks



Chinese Garden – Pavilion and Tea House

Cecil and Molly Smith Garden

This spectacular garden was given to the Portland Chapter ARS and boasts huge rhododendron hybrids, rare species, and many companion plants in lovely landscaped setting.



Smith Garden - 'Loderi King George' and 'Loderi Pink Diamond'



Garden Path



'Loderi King George'



West Coast species *Trillium kurabayashii*



'Lem's Cameo'



'Crest'

The Stewart Garden

Mike and Maria Stewart used to run Dover Nursery which specialized in propagating rhododendrons for the wholesale trade. They have a lovely display garden around the home and some of the newest introductions in the landscape.



Mike Stewart



Maria Stewart



R. proteoides



'Blaney's Blue' in the Stewart Garden



'Razorbill'

More Hybrids in the Stewart Garden



'Orange Prelude'



'Pomegranate Splash'



'Cimarron Sun'

2020 Seed Exchange – Potomac Valley Chapter ARS

The following seeds are offered to chapter members and associates at \$0.60 per packet including postage. Available seed will be divided among those who request the selection. Thanks to donors: Norm & Jean Beaudry (BE), Don Hyatt (HY), George McLellan (ML), Phyllis Rittman (PR), and Carol Segree (SE). Please return orders to Don Hyatt with payment to Potomac Valley Chapter ARS by February 10, 2020. Seed will be distributed after that date.

The seed set in the mountains was scarce this year. We are not sure why but we suspect the heavy rains of 8 to 12 inches that hit certain areas at bloom time. The native azaleas still put on a lovely display but we suspect that butterflies which are their primary pollinators did not fare so well.



Carol Segree and her (('Odee Wright' x wardii) x ??)

Species, collected in the wild (cw)

1. *calendulaceum*, mixed plants Hooper Bald, cw, (HY, ML)
2. *calendulaceum*, 'Hooper's Copper', orange, (HY, ML)
3. *calendulaceum*, 'Hooper Duke Rankin', orange, (HY, ML)
4. *calendulaceum*, 'Hooper Frilled Red', (HY, ML)
5. *calendulaceum*, 'Hooper Orange Sickle', (HY, ML)
6. *calendulaceum*, 'Hooper Second Best Red', (HY, ML)
7. *maximum*, red, 'Curtis Creek Red Max', (HY, ML)
8. *maximum*, white/blush, Transylvania Cnty, NC (HY, ML)
9. *vaseyi*, pink, el. 5500 ft., Haywood Cnty., NC (HY, ML)

Species, open pollinated garden origin (op)

10. *adenopodum* pink, op (HY)
11. *arborescens* white, op (PR)
12. *metternichii*, pink, Hyatt Form, op, (HY)

Rhododendron Hybrids (op)

13. '24 Karat', lepidote. yellow, op, (BE)
14. 'Cornelia Sanders', *hyperythrum* hyb., pink, op (BE)
15. 'Dexters Appleblossom', pink, op (BE)
16. 'Dexters Peppermint', fragrant pink, op (BE)
17. 'Hardy Giant', white, large leaves, op (BE)
18. 'Hardy Loderi', fragrant cream, op (SE)
19. 'Moonlight Bay', fragrant cream, op (BE)
20. (('Odee Wright' x *wardii*) x ??), blush to white, op (SE)

2020 Seed Order Form - Potomac Valley Chapter ARS

Return to: Don Hyatt, donaldhyatt@verizon.net by February 10, 2020

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Packet No.	Variety		Packet No.	Variety

_____ **Total Packets x \$0.60 each =** _____
 (Make checks payable to **Potomac Valley Chapter ARS**)

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



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, contact our treasurer:

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER ARS
prittman@erols.com

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

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 214
Great River, NY 11739

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, Fax (866) 883-8019

Email: member@arsoffice.org