

Appalachian Spring 2012: A Visit among the Blue Ridge Mountains

Bob Stelloh—Hendersonville, NC



The Vaseyi Chapter of the Azalea Society of America and the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society invite you to experience Appalachian Spring 2012, the joint international convention of the ASA and ARS, May 4 - May 7, 2012, in Asheville, North Carolina. This is peak bloom time for azaleas and rhododendrons in the Asheville area, so be prepared to see a lot of flowers!

We welcome you to be a part of this exciting joint convention. First, register online or fill out the convention registration form and mail it before March 1, 2012, to get the early registration discount. Be sure to let us know any special dietary needs, and be sure to note both your ARS membership and ASA membership if you belong to both societies.

Then, make your hotel reservation. Our headquarters is the Crowne Plaza Resort, One Resort Drive, Asheville, NC 28806. It is a recently renovated tennis and golf resort hotel located on 125 acres one mile west of downtown Asheville, with free parking and free shuttle service to Asheville. Reserve your room online or call 888-233-9527 before April 30, 2012 and say your reservation is for the American Rhododendron Society Convention to get the reduced rates starting at \$99—do it now; rooms are limited and no other hotel is within walking distance.

Finally, figure out how to get here. Either fly to the Asheville airport 10 miles away (a hotel shuttle bus is available with advance notice for \$20 each or \$50 for up to 6 persons), or fly to the Greenville-Spartanburg airport 75 miles away; or drive a long day trip from Chicago, Washington D.C., Florida, New Orleans, East Texas, or St. Louis.

We hope you will bring some of your trusses and sprays to enter in the flower show, and bring some of your flower pictures to enter in the photo contest. You can download copies of the rules for the shows online from the Azalea Society Web site, or request them on the registration form. You can submit your entries on Thursday and Friday afternoons, and the shows will be open for viewing starting Friday evening.

Asheville is the largest city in western North Carolina, with a population of around 85,000. It is an interesting city to visit, with winding hilly streets and historic Art Deco architectural gems, hundreds of arts and crafts galleries and communities, lots of great restaurants, outdoor recreational opportunities, and a variety of entertainment and night life. Called the “Paris of the South,” it has made a number of “top 10” lists: one of the “10 Most Beautiful Places in America” (*Good Morning America*, 2011); the “Happiest City for

Women” (*Self* magazine, 2002); one of the world’s top 12 must-see destinations and one of the top seven places to live in the U.S. (*Frommer’s* travel guides, 2007); and one of the “Best Places to Reinvent Your Life” (*AARP* magazine, 2003). Be careful: many people who visit Asheville come back again—and again—and end up moving here! You may see why when you visit. You’re coming at a perfect time: at 2200’ elevation, Asheville in early May averages 50°F in the evening, and 70°F during the day.

Friday, May 4 Convention Opening

The convention opens on Friday, May 4, with the ARS Board meeting at 9 a.m. and the ASA Board meeting at 1 p.m. For the rest of us, the registration desk opens at noon, the plant sale opens at 3 p.m., and a welcome reception begins at 4 p.m. (don’t miss this—there will be lots of appetizers, enough to call it dinner, along with a cash bar and live music). Plan to arrive early, so you can be settled in before the welcome reception. Better yet, plan to arrive a few days early or stay a few days later to enjoy some of the many pre- and post-convention on-your-own tours we have suggested for you.

Opening remarks begin at 7 p.m., followed by Don Hyatt setting the tone of the convention with his presentation on “Chasing the Bloom.” He will focus on the rich botanical diversity of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and scenic locations along the Blue Ridge Parkway. As is Don’s typical presentation style, expect an entertaining and fast-paced program filled with many beautiful images, occasional touches of humor, and a few digital tricks, too. With a Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture and a Master of Science degree in Computer Science, both from Virginia Tech, he has maintained a keen interest in gardening and plants since he was a toddler.

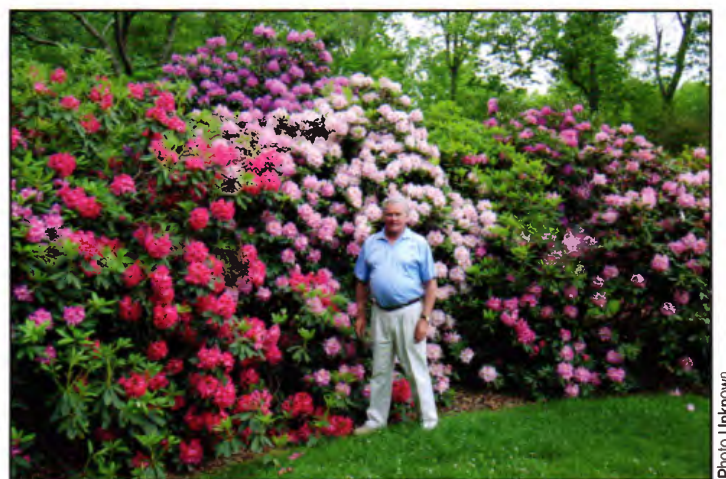
The registration desk and the flower show, photo contest, and plant sale will be open for a few hours after the talks.

Early Bird Tour

To the first 100 guests able to tour on Friday morning, we offer an early-bird pre-convention tour of the Biltmore Estate house and gardens. The Biltmore house, with 250 rooms and four acres of floor space, is the largest single-family house in America, and is nestled within 8,000 acres of forest and gardens designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.



▲ Biltmore House



▲ Charles Dexter Owen, Jr. and Dexter Rhododendrons

After leaving the hotel at 9 a.m., you will be dropped off at the entrance to the Shrub Garden to ramble. From there you will take a self-guided tour through the Shrub Garden, Spring Garden, Walled Garden, and Conservatory, ultimately arriving at the Azalea Garden to admire the extensive collection of azaleas and other unique plants. The lower part of this garden contains magnificent examples of Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), China Fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*), Katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), and Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*).

Planted under the trees is an equally interesting shrub layer. Look for the rare *Disanthus cercidifolius* peeking out from under the hydrangeas and tree-like *Cephalotaxus*. Other plants of interest are the large Stinking Cedars (*Torreya taxifolia*), a very large Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), and Cut Leaf European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia'). It is worth noting that Dr. Michael Dirr made an annual pilgrimage with students to the estate while teaching at UGA. Of the more than 325 genera listed in his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, almost 200 are represented in these gardens.

After visiting the gardens, you are welcome to tour the "largest single family home in America." Expect to spend about 90 minutes in the house. Lunch at any of a number of restaurants, with the Stable Cafe and Courtyard Market being the closest, just to the right of the house. Be back at the Shrub Garden by 2:30 p.m. for a ride back to the Crowne Plaza Resort on the tour bus.

Saturday, May 5

The Flower Show and Photo Contest will be open to the public all day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday Tour

The Saturday tour price includes a hot buffet breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. and a fine lunch during the tour. We will board the buses by 8 a.m. and return by 4 p.m.

Charles Dexter Owen Garden

This fabulous garden belonging to Charles Dexter Owen, Jr. is in Biltmore Forest, near the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. This 3-1/2 acre property with more than 40 varieties

of rhododendrons has the largest collection of Dexter hybrid rhododendrons in the South, exceeded only by the original Dexter garden on Cape Cod, which provided the plants "by fully loaded box cars." Many are original plants from his great grandfather's nephew, Charles Owen Dexter, hybridizer of the Dexter rhododendrons at Heritage Museum and Gardens on Cape Cod.

The house, built in 1936, is located on the back third of the property with a full wall of rhododendrons cascading over a 50-foot long brick wall on the parking area. The front terrace of the house looks out onto a huge outdoor "room" surrounded by a five-foot holly hedge. Perennial beds in each corner soften the view. Beyond the hedge are newer plantings of native azaleas, a recent interest of the current owner, 'Charlie' Owen. Total privacy is maintained in the garden by 60-foot trees around three sides of the property. On the street side, scattered trees remain with rhododendrons throughout. Only the side of the house is visible from the street.

North Carolina Arboretum at Asheville

Located within the Bent Creek Experimental Forest of the Pisgah National Forest a few minutes south of Asheville, the 434-acre arboretum property encompasses 65 acres of cultivated gardens and 10 miles of forested hiking/biking trails.

The garden themes reflect the cultural and natural heritage of the Southern Appalachians to help people understand the role of plants in their lives. Several gardens you may see during your visit include: the Quilt Garden with colorful raised beds designed after traditional quilt patterns; the Heritage Garden featuring plants used in traditional folk medicine and crafts of the Appalachians; the Bonsai Exhibition Garden showcasing one of the best collections of bonsai in the southeastern United States, with special emphasis on native plants; and the Canopy Garden, which includes 75 unnamed Dexter hybrids given by Charles Dexter Owen, Jr.

Most importantly to us, the Arboretum is home to the National Native Azalea Collection, approximately 8 acres in size. This garden was established to maintain a germplasm collection of azalea species native to the United States, and to interpret the diversity and value of native azaleas and their companion plants. The collection currently holds more than



▲ Entry sign to National Native Azalea Collection

► *R. vaseyi*, *R. minus* var. *carolinianum*

100 accessions of 16 of the 17 azalea species native to the U.S., and some of their named selections and hybrids.

Blue Ridge Parkway

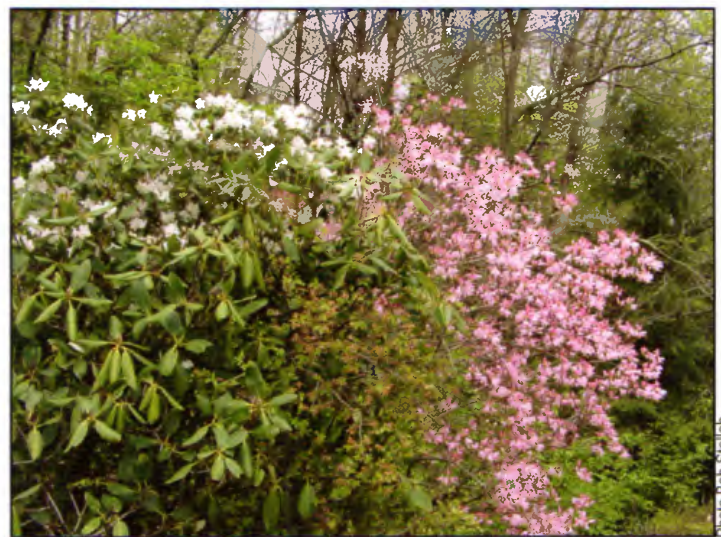
We will tour the Blue Ridge Parkway to view wildflowers, azaleas, and rhododendrons in the wild. We will start at milepost 393 at the North Carolina Arboretum entrance, and may get as far as milepost 423 at NC Hwy 215 before returning.

Although some of the native azalea and rhododendron species will not be in bloom in early May, we should be seeing *R. vaseyi* and *R. minus* var. *carolinianum*—at least they were blooming on May 1, 2002 at milepost 416.9 near the Looking Glass overlook, 4492' elevation, as shown in the picture.

Saturday Evening

We have a full afternoon and evening of events planned after we return from the tours at 4 p.m., starting with the plant sale being open for a few hours.

Marianne and Bruce Feller will lead a flower-show judging workshop at 4:30 pm for those who want to learn what



a judge looks for when awarding ribbons, as well as those contemplating a future role as a flower-show judge. This will be a "walk-through discussion" of the flower show after the entries have been judged, to discuss the selection, grooming, and preparation of trusses and sprays, their presentation and other factors bearing on the process of evaluating entries. The Fellers have organized and conducted the flower shows for the New York Chapter for the past 10 years, as well as

participating as exhibitors, with numerous awards to their credit, in flower shows held by many ARS Chapters—including Greater Philadelphia, Massachusetts, Middle Atlantic, and Princeton.

There will also be a hybridizers' roundtable at 4:30 p.m. Attend this popular discussion group if you have any interest at all in hybridizing. It may be formal or informal, with prepared remarks or free-flowing discussion of topics relating to hybridizing, depending upon who is in attendance.

Saturday evening is the American Rhododendron Society Banquet and Annual Meeting with everyone invited, starting at 6 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. After the banquet, annual meeting and awards, we will have a presentation entitled "From Mountain to Plain: Niagara's Program for Evaluating Cold-Hardy Rhodies in Diverse Locales" by Christina Woodward and Nick Yarmoshuk. Christina, the late Dr. Joseph Brueckner's daughter, is curator of her father's studbooks and more than 500 of his hybrids in Mississauga, Ontario. She will describe his breeding program and the resulting plants, which are the subject of the evaluation program.

Nick is Secretary of the Niagara Region Chapter of ARS District 12, Chair of the ARS Test and Demonstration Garden Committee, and past president of the NRC and the Rhododendron Society of Canada. He will share with us the Brueckner Evaluation Program rationale, design, and implementation.

The plant sale, flower show and photo contest will then be open for several more hours following the presentation.

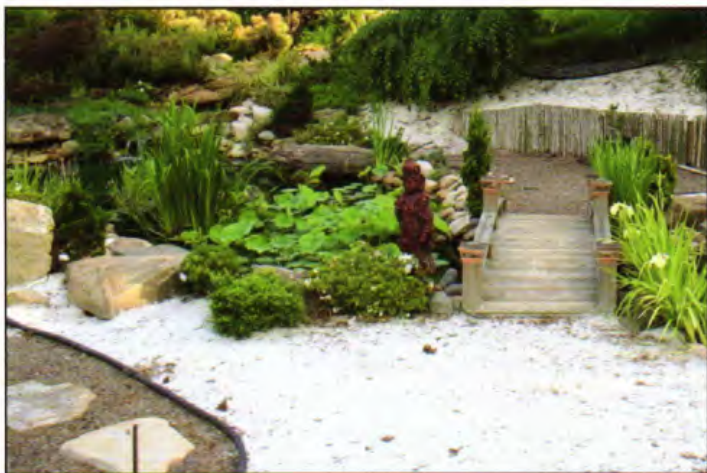
Sunday, May 6—Tour

The tour price includes a hot buffet breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m., and a fine catered barbecue lunch at Camp Green Cove. We will board the buses by 8 a.m. sharp and return by 4 p.m.

Grist Gardens—A Tout le Monde (For All the World)

The Grist Gardens have served as a refuge and pet project since 1979 for Dr. Marilyn Grist, a practicing veterinarian for more than 30 years. The nine-acre garden is nestled between Greenville, South Carolina, and Asheville, North Carolina, in the sleepy little town of Travelers Rest.

▼ Grist Japanese Garden



Dr. Grist chose to convey her love for her family by building a special, individualized garden based on their personalities and dedicated to each of her four children and two grandchildren. Dr. Grist also created a Japanese Garden, Charleston Garden, formal orchard, and Victorian Rose Garden. The Japanese Garden features conifers, waterfalls, and a pagoda. The Charleston Gardens contain a gazebo, hollies, and roses. Throughout the property are varieties of azaleas, rhododendrons, shrubs, and trees—a truly unique and stunning collection. As a final touch, the North Saluda River bubbles by on the northern portion of the property, providing a calming place to rest.

Mary and Ed Collins Garden

Six years ago Mary and Ed Collins purchased the Charlie and Ethel Larus property in Flat Rock, North Carolina, and moved 3 miles away to a beautifully established garden located on seven-plus acres with two streams. Charlie had eclectic tastes with a special interest in dwarf plants. As a result, the garden had a large and densely planted collection of dwarf indumented rhododendrons, evergreen azaleas, deciduous azaleas, dwarf conifers, and a large number of perennials, wildflowers, and unusual trees and shrubs.

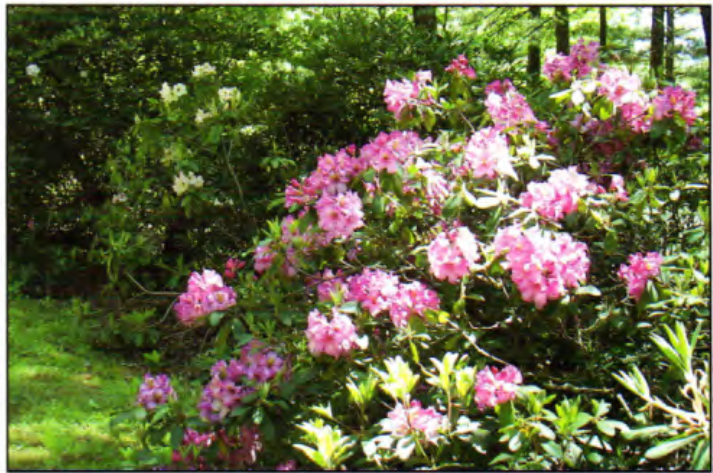
The Collins are still in the process of incorporating more than a thousand plants from their previous garden into the landscape, by opening up an additional two acres to display their Cowles hybrid rhododendrons and many deciduous azaleas, and revamping the existing dense plantings by selectively transplanting to that new area.

James and Mary Ann Stewart Garden

Eight years ago the Stewarts obtained the fabulous garden developed by Dr. August "Augie" Kehr during the previous 24 years. It is located adjacent to the Collins garden, to give us two gardens for one stop. The property encompasses some 10-plus acres with two streams. The back part of the property is the meadow Augie used for his later magnolia hybridization work, and has what may be the largest collection of magnolias in the United States.

The upper garden has a very large collection of azalea and rhododendron hybrids, many of them developed by Augie, along with other rare and unusual plants. One of his

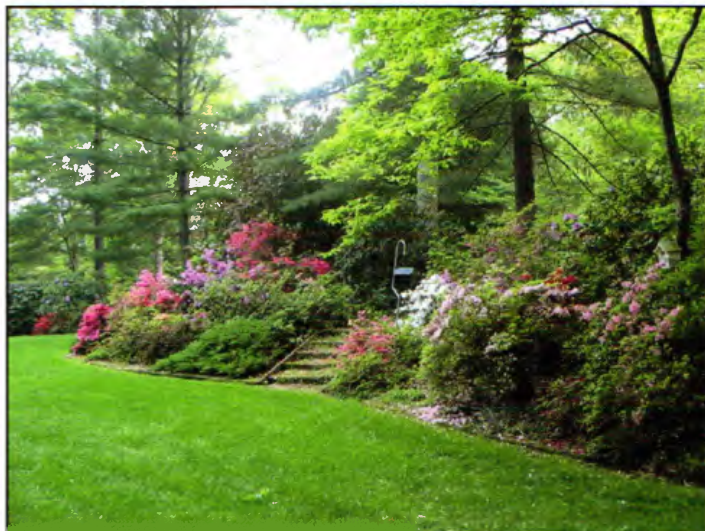
▼ Collins' Rhododendrons





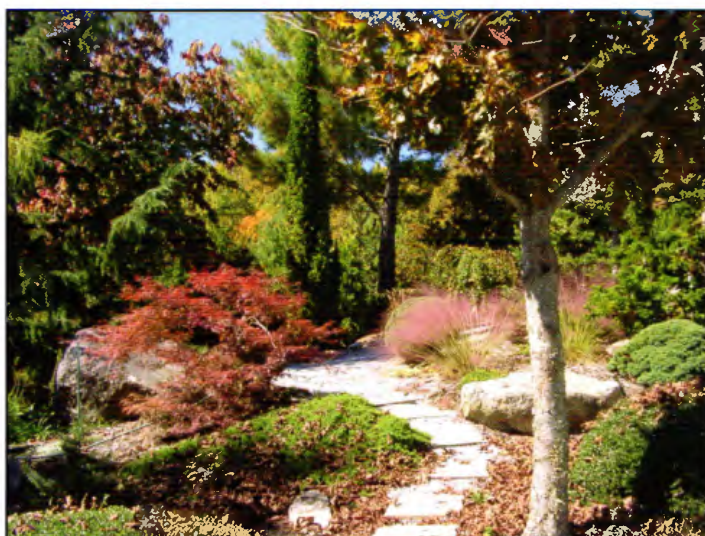
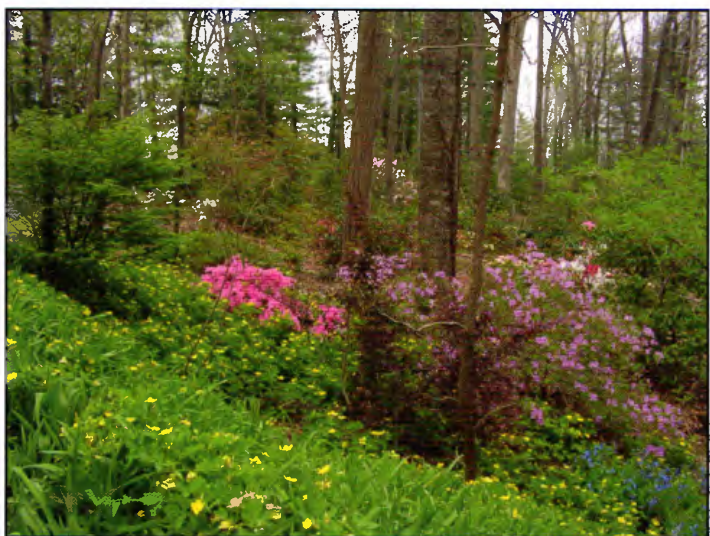
▲ 'Kehr's Moonbeam'

▼ Stelloh Garden



▲ Bell Garden

▼ Richards Garden



goals was the development of a good yellow evergreen azalea using various propagation methods. Although he never reached this goal, about a dozen azaleas in the garden are the result of this effort, and his best, 'Kehr's Moonbeam', is being marketed in California.

Audrey and Bob Stelloh Garden

This wonderful woodland tapestry was begun in 1996 by Bob and his late wife Denise. They moved 600 favorite plants from their old garden near Washington, D.C., to a hilly two-acre site with many native wildflowers, mountain laurels, *R. maximum*, and a few native azaleas—all under mature oaks, tulip poplars, pines, and sourwoods. Now, thousands of choice azaleas and rhododendrons will be in full glory, along with trillium, lady's slipper, bloodroot, anemone, tiarella, primrose, fern varieties, hellebore, hosta, astilbe, arisaema, solomon's seal, pulmonaria, saxifraga, Virginia bluebell, wood poppy, and other companion plants. There are also many different varieties of Japanese maples, camellias, stewartias, conifers, and other ornamental trees.

Bob and his new wife Audrey have been actively renovating their enchanting woodland garden, named Kairaku

(Joint Pleasure), and welcome you to share and enjoy it with them as you wander along its winding paths.

Lunch at Camp Greencove

The Carolinas are noted for their fine barbecue. We will sample it with a sit-down barbecue lunch at Camp Green Cove, itself an example of another fine Carolina tradition: summer camps for children.

Sunday Evening

We again have a full afternoon and evening of events planned after we return from the tours at 4 p.m., starting with the plant sale being open for a few hours.

Laura Grant, the ARS Executive Director, will lead a free-ranging discussion forum from 4:30 to 6 p.m. with a primary focus on the ARS.

Sunday evening is the Azalea Society Banquet and Annual Meeting, with everyone invited, starting with a short social hour and cash bar at 6 p.m. Following the banquet and meeting will be a live auction at 8 p.m. and a presentation entitled "Trekking through Swarms of Azaleas and Double Helices." Dr. Thomas Ranney and two of his graduate stu-



Photo Bob Steloh

▲ Sargent's Hemlock



Photo WhiteGate Inn

▲ WhiteGate Inn

dents, Kimberly Shearer and Jason Lattier, will review two research projects that study the role of hybridization and polyploidy (multiple sets of chromosomes) in plant evolution:

- How the unique azaleas found on Gregory and Wayah Balds in the Appalachian Mountains evolved from complex hybridization among multiple native species including *R. arborescens*, *R. cumberlandense*, *R. viscosum*, and *R. calendulaceum*;
- Is *R. canadense* really a tetraploid species as commonly thought? A new survey suggests otherwise. Science aside, many of these species and their hybrids provide fantastic garden plants. Enjoy the diversity.

With a Ph.D. from Cornell University, Tom is a professor of horticultural science for North Carolina State University. He lives, works, and plays in the mountains of western North Carolina, where he is program leader of the Mountain Crop Improvement Lab of the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, North Carolina.

The plant sale will be open for a few hours following the presentation.

Monday, May 7

For most of us, it is time to say our goodbyes until next year. To ease the pain of separation, the plant sale opens for a few hours starting at 8 a.m. to let you load up with still more plants. The new Azalea Society board will also have a short meeting starting at 8 a.m.

Bonus Tour

If you can stay in town for another day we offer a post-convention bonus tour of more gardens for you to visit. It includes a hot breakfast buffet, lunch, and an all-day tour of gardens in Asheville and Hendersonville. We will board the buses by 9 a.m. sharp and return by 5 p.m.

Melody and Doley Bell Garden

The Bell garden began in the 1970s as a retirement venture for former educators David and Naoma Dean. Following David's death, Naoma married Dr. Allen Clague and they continued improving and maintaining the garden. In June of 2000 Doley and Melody Bell became stewards of the garden and have been continually upgrading it since then.

This remarkable garden includes formal areas and woodland areas, and has an estimated 3,000 mature rhododendrons and azaleas including Dexter, Haag, Leach, Kehr, Gilkey, Delp, Van Veen, Richardson, and Lee hybrid rhododendrons, and Glenn Dale, Back Acres, Exbury, and Girard hybrid azaleas, along with many native azaleas. Special plants include flowering peaches, crab apples, hybrid dogwoods, hybrid laurels, *Franklinia*, *Cunninghamia*, camellias, dawn redwood, *Enkianthus*, *Pieris*, and Japanese maples.

Hazel and Byron Richards Garden

In 1988, the Richards began building their home, and a few years later began their magnificent three-acre garden. Fascination with conifers led to 30 years membership and a national directorship in The American Conifer Society. Though conifers may be their signature plant, they have many others of interest as well. Initially they enjoyed the many native plants on their property including mountain laurel, flame azaleas, rhododendron, and large oaks and pines. They have complemented those plants with 200-300 conifers, 23 cultivars of beech (*Fagus*) from A to Z, and many hostas and Japanese maples. Certain plants such as *Microbiota decussata* (Russian juniper), *Abies*, *Chamaecyparis*, *Cryptomeria*, *Tsuga*, *Taxus*, *Pinus*, along with berries and fruit trees, help make an eclectic garden.

They enjoyed the challenge of building a koi pond in 1998. The 70 x 90 foot lined pond is up to 12-feet deep and supports a submerged *Taxodium ascendens* (pond cypress) and an *Acer palmatum* 'Waterfall'. Everything on the property has been accomplished by the two of them. Gardens are always changing and they have enjoyed growing old with their plants—as Hazel has said “We move our plants like we move our furniture.”

Bullington Horticultural Center

The Bullington Center, once the nursery of Bob Bullington in the early 1970s, is on 12 acres of rolling land. Visitors enjoy the educational gardens which include a therapy garden, shade garden, perennial borders, native woodland garden with a half-mile nature trail, rain garden, a pumpkin patch, and herb garden. These gardens incorporate many unusual now-mature trees that Mr. Bullington introduced, along with a large collection of deciduous azaleas, including a number of Gregory Bald natural hybrid azaleas.

During our visit, Bullington Center volunteers will be our tour guides, and tell us what they do for children, their partnership with the school system, and how the special-needs children plan and plant their own gardens.

WhiteGate Inn

The owner and gardener, Ralph Coffey, will introduce his award-winning gardens of this Asheville inn. The garden rooms have an extensive collection of Japanese maples and unusual small trees, shrubs, and conifers. These include more than 300 different varieties of perennials, hostas, roses and herbs. A greenhouse houses a collection of more than 800 orchids and tropicals. Paths and sitting areas throughout the gardens and along the waterfalls make the grounds a perfect place to wander stress free, or to sit and meditate among nature's beauty and abundance.

These are the only Asheville gardens to have won awards as "Best Water Garden" and as "Best Landscape Garden." They were featured on the National Garden Conservancy tour in 2005, and have been on several local Father's Day tours.

Sponsors

We thank a number of sponsors who have helped with the convention. They include:

- Anonymous
- BB Barns Nursery
- Gardens of the Blue Ridge
- Greer Gardens
- Jesse Israel & Sons Nursery
- Mast General Store
- Timber Press
- Whitney Gardens & Nursery
- Worm's Way

Plant Sale

Each day after the tours, come check out the plant sale. Sold out of the one you want? Check back again, as they are being restocked frequently. No room for plants because you will be flying home? We will have a service to provide packing materials and to ship your plants.

More than 3,000 choice plants are being grown for the plant sale, thanks to the efforts of local chapter members and good friends in eight states. Most of the plants will be 3-1/2" liners, large enough to plant out and grow, yet affordable and convenient to carry more of them home with you. A full list of the plants, many with pictures, is shown on the Azalea Society website.

The theme of the plant sale will be to highlight the collecting and hybridizing efforts of our many local area plantsmen. We have sought and are collecting the works of such notables as James Harris, Velma Haag, Gene Aromi, George Beasley, Tom Dodd, Augie Kehr, James Todd, Ben Morrison, Don Johnson, Lonnie Player, Kelly Strickland, Earl Sommerville, Zophar Warner, and others.

We will also be offering a few other selected items in the plant sale area, including an assortment of garden-related books, some new and some pre-read, all offered at a significant discount from the list price.

Convention Schedule

Thursday, May 3, 2012

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3 - 6 p.m. | Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room, Biltmore Foyer |
| 4 - 6 p.m. | Registration Open—Laurel Registration Desk |
| 5 - 6 p.m. | Flower & Photo Show Entry Submission—Overlook Ballroom |
| 6 p.m. | Dinner On Your Own—Free Shuttle Buses to Downtown Asheville |

Friday, May 4, 2012

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 6:30 - 9 a.m. | Breakfast on Your Own—Pro's Table Restaurant |
| 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | ARS Board Meeting—Foxfire Room |
| 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Early Bird Tour—Biltmore House and Garden |
| 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Sightseeing on your own—Free Shuttle Buses to Downtown Asheville |
| Noon - 1 p.m. | Lunch for ARS and ASA Boards—Roan Room |
| Noon - 5:30 p.m. | Flower & Photo Show Entry Submission—Overlook Ballroom |
| Noon - 6 p.m. | Registration Open—Laurel Registration Desk |
| 1 - 3 p.m. | ASA Board Meeting—Dogwood Room |
| 3 - 6 p.m. | Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room, Biltmore Foyer |
| 4 - 7 p.m. | Welcome Reception (heavy appetizers and cash bar)—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms |
| 6 - 7 p.m. | Flower & Photo Show Judging—Overlook Ballroom |
| 7 - 7:30 p.m. | Welcoming Remarks—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms |
| 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Keynote Speaker Don Hyatt, "Chasing the Bloom"—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms |
| 8:30 - 10 p.m. | Registration Open—Laurel Registration Desk |
| 8:30 - 10 p.m. | Flower & Photo Show Open—Overlook Ballroom |
| 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. | Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room, Biltmore Foyer |

Saturday, May 5, 2012

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 6:30 - 9 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet, included in tour—Roan and other rooms |
| 7 - 8 a.m. | Registration Open—Laurel Registration Desk |
| 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Tour—Owen, North Carolina Arboretum, Blue Ridge Parkway |
| 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Flower & Photo Show Open—Overlook Ballroom |
| 4 - 6 p.m. | Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room, Biltmore Foyer |

- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Workshop: Flower Show Judging—
Overlook Ballroom
- 4:30 - 6 p.m. Hybridizers Roundtable—Foxfire Room
- 6 - 7 p.m. Social Hour (cash bar)—Roan, Pisgah,
Pilot Rooms
- 7 - 8 p.m. ARS Banquet—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms
- 8 - 8:30 p.m. ARS Annual Meeting—Roan, Pisgah,
Pilot Rooms
- 8:45 - 9:45 p.m. Presentation “From Mountain to Plain,”
Christina Woodward and Nick Yarmoshuk—
Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms
- 9:45 - 11:15 p.m. Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room,
Biltmore Foyer
- 9:45 - 11:15 p.m. Flower & Photo Show Open—Overlook Ballroom

Sunday, May 6, 2012

- 6:30 - 9 a.m. Breakfast Buffet, included in tour—
Roan and other rooms
- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tour—Hendersonville: Grist, Collins,
Stewart, Stelloh Gardens
- 4 - 6 p.m. Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room,
Biltmore Foyer
- 4:30 - 6 p.m. ARS Executive Director Forum—Dogwood Room
- 6 - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour (cash bar)—Roan, Pisgah,
Pilot Rooms
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. ASA Banquet—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms
- 7:30-8:00 p.m. ASA Annual Meeting—Roan, Pisgah,
Pilot Rooms
- 8 - 8:30 p.m. Auction—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms
- 8:45 - 9:45 p.m. Presentation “Trekking Through Swarms of
Azaleas,” Tom Ranney, Kimberley Shearer, and
Jason Lattier—Roan, Pisgah, Pilot Rooms
- 9:45 - 11:15 p.m. Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room,
Biltmore Foyer

Monday, May 7, 2012

- 6:30 - 9 a.m. Breakfast Buffet, included in tour—
Roan and other rooms
- 6:30 - 9 a.m. Breakfast on your own if not on tour—
Pro’s Table Restaurant
- 8 - 10 a.m. ASA Board Meeting—Dogwood Room
- 8 - 11 a.m. Plant and Book Sale Open—Mitchell Room,
Biltmore Foyer
- 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bonus Tour—Bell, Richards, Bullington Center,
White Gate Inn

Magnolia Plantation Gets USNA Cuttings

Over the summer, **Tom Johnson**, director of gardens at Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, and founding member of the Great Gardens of America Preservation Alliance, visited the U.S. National Arboretum along with members of the Rev. J. G. Drayton Chapter of the ASA.

The expedition had a purpose—preserving azaleas. In December 2010, Johnson contacted the arboretum with an unusual request. He wanted to take cuttings from the prized Glenn Dale azalea collection bred by former arboretum Director Ben Morrison in the 1940s. At the time, the azaleas on the southern face of Mount Hamilton were slated for destruction, and Johnson wanted to do what he could to preserve Morrison’s work.

In late December, Johnson received approval to take 500 cuttings from the more than 3,000 of Morrison’s azaleas still residing at the arboretum. It is believed that Morrison planted as many as 10,000 azaleas during his tenure at the Arboretum, but the majority were lost in the 1980s.

Johnson doesn’t want history to repeat itself. He plans to propagate the cuttings in greenhouses at Magnolia Plantation and then distribute the azaleas to 30 other public and private gardens across the United States.

Magnolia Plantation’s effort distributing the plants is very important, so all the eggs are not in one basket. A plant is lost forever when it’s lost, according to Scott Aker, the Arboretum horticulture director, who proposed destruction of the azaleas.

Meanwhile, a public outcry, coupled with a \$1 million anonymous donation, has saved, for at least a while—the valuable azalea collection on the southern face of Mount Hamilton. However, this doesn’t lessen the importance of Johnson’s efforts. Plants can be devastated by more than budget cuts. Threats such as insects and disease can also wipe out a species.

“We have learned it’s really scary to have one plant in (only) one location,” Johnson said in an interview with Charleston’s *The Post and Courier*.

Advertise Your Business!

The Azalean is the official journal of the Azalea Society of America, devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas. It is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter). Each issue is 24 pages, 16 of them in full color. It is mailed to approximately 1,000 dedicated azalea buyers. For more information, visit www.azaleas.org.