

Joint ASA/ARS Convention—Williamsburg, VA

April 20-24, 2016

We cordially invite you to a joint meeting of both the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society in historic Colonial Williamsburg, VA. The meeting will be held from April 20-24, 2016, typically peak season for our dogwood and azalea bloom.

Our convention site is the Fort Magruder Hotel which is located near the Williamsburg Historic District. Our theme is “Legends and Legacies,” and we hope to reflect on those who have enriched our lives and our gardens.

Garden Tours

Tours to the Historic District will be offered but we encourage attendees to explore those attractions on their own in small groups. Our primary garden tours will focus on public and private gardens in other nearby areas.

On Thursday, we will head to Richmond, the capital of Virginia, and the 80-acre Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. We will also visit two private gardens, one which has an extensive evergreen azalea collection and the other which is an elegant Japanese garden.

On Friday, we will explore the 155-acre Norfolk Botanical Gardens with its waterfront setting and many collections including the McDonald Azalea Garden. We will also visit a waterfront garden near Suffolk with an artistic landscape featuring rare companion plants.

Saturday’s tour will head to the town of Gloucester and the display garden of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. We will tour several charming private gardens, each with a different focus.

Speakers

We have many distinguished speakers, and Thursday night’s focus will be the legacies of great plant explorers. Our first speaker will be the famous colonial botanist, John Bartram, humorously portrayed by Kirk Brown, Vice President of the Garden Writers Association. He will be followed by one of our most celebrated modern plant



▲ Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg

▼ Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden



explorers, Steve Hootman, Director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Federal Way, WA.

Rick Lewandowski, the former Director of Mt. Cuba Center, will be Friday’s keynote. He will discuss landscapes utilizing native azaleas and other native plants. Rick is now Director

of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens in Texas.

Saturday’s keynote will be Mike Stewart, past ARS President and noted nurseryman from Sandy, OR. He will share some of the contributions of legendary plant collectors and hybridizers, and their lasting legacies.

Photo Don Hyatt

Photo Don Hyatt



Photo By Don Hyatt



Photo Don Hyatt

▲ Norfolk Botanical Garden

Plant Sale

Our members have been busy propagating rhododendrons and azaleas for the convention plant sale. We are anxious to showcase rare and unusual cultivars that deserve wider distribution among members of our societies. Among the many evergreen azaleas we are raising, expect to see hybrids from Dr. Sandra McDonald, Bob Stewart, Joe Klimavicz, and hybrid groups like Holly Springs, Bowie Mill, Marshy Point, and others. Deciduous azaleas will include hand pollinated seedlings raised from superior forms identified in the wild and others propagated vegetatively, too.

Our rhododendrons will be either cutting grown or grafted plants, and include many new and hard to find varieties. We will post a list of plants including images on our convention website well in advance of the meeting for those who want to research possible purchases. Every room at the hotel has a patio or balcony where plants can be easily tended during the meeting, so feel free to visit the sale early and often.

Getting to the Convention

The Fort Magruder Hotel is conveniently situated off of Interstate I-64 at historic Colonial Williamsburg. Three international airports serve the greater Williamsburg area including Richmond, Norfolk, and Newport News. Taxi and shuttle services are available, and Williamsburg is also serviced by AMTRAK. The hotel has ample free parking. The hotel will be offering a special convention rate of \$119 per

night (single or double) which includes breakfast for two. This rate is valid for the period two days prior until two days after the scheduled convention. Attendees may reserve this rate by calling the hotel at (757) 220-2250 and identifying themselves as attendees at the ASA/ARS Joint Convention 2016 or by using the group code ASA on the hotel website www.fortmagruderhotel.com.

A more detailed article will appear in the Winter issue of *The Azalean*. You are also invited to visit our website at <http://arsasaconvention2016.org>. This site is continuously updated as new information is available.

We hope to see you in Williamsburg in 2016!



Illustration Don Hyatt