Chapter News



The Northern Virginia Chapter members enjoy socializing with each other for the first time in two years. Photo by Rick Bauer.

Northern Virginia Chapter Rick Bauer, President

The Northern Virginia Chapter ended our year with our annual holiday social and meeting. It was originally planned to be held at the home of Paul and Carolyn Beck, however due to social distancing concerns, we moved it to Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. We had a great turnout of 34 members and guests and a delicious selection of food brought by our members.

During the annual meeting portion of the event, we approved the budget and elected officers for 2022. Finally, we decided on our contributions for 2021, which included \$2,000 for the ASA as well as contributions to Jenkins Arboretum and the Title I program at Green Spring Gardens.

The end of January we joined with several chapters of the American Rhododendron Society to view an excellent Zoom presentation on *R. austrinum* given by Dr. Ralf Bauer from Offenbach, Germany. Ralf has been to the states multiple times to explore and view native azaleas and is well versed on the subject. He gave an excellent presentation.

Our next meeting will be on 27 March. Jake Summers, the project manager for the Holly Springs Legacy Garden at Jenkins Arboretum, will give us a Zoom presentation on the efforts to plan and develop the garden. The chapter has been a major supporter for the garden, donating 216 plants as well as making monetary donations. The garden is expected to be dedicated this spring.

Texas Chapter Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Several Chapter members traveled to Bud Willis' nursery in Louisiana this past November. Those making the drive were rewarded with purchasing some of his unique rhododendrons that are otherwise unattainable in nearby Texas.

Next up, following the ASA convention in Louisiana, the Chapter will be focusing on hosting a spring plant sale during the Azalea Trail in Nacogdoches, TX. The main goal will be recruiting new members as Chapter membership has declined the past couple years. Past plant sales have proven to be an excellent way to reach fellow gardeners. An added bonus is the revenue generated enables the Chapter to award horticulture scholarships.



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