

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter ***Diane Reinke Secretary***

Chapter members were treated to visits to magnificent open gardens this spring. First, Rosa and Bob McWhorter in Gambrills, Maryland, held an open garden highlighting azaleas. Two weeks later, they held an open garden highlighting rhododendrons. On the same day, Carol Segree, President of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS, and also a Gambrills resident, held an open garden, to feature rhododendrons. Many lovely companion plants were blooming at both gardens, such as irises, pansies, clematis, and peonies. There were good turnouts at both sites, and visitors enjoyed tasty goodies. A future open garden, featuring a spectacular collection of daylilies, is scheduled at the home of Faith Bange of Davidsonville, Maryland. Many thanks to the hosts for their generous hospitality.

The chapter mourns the passing of William Haines “Bill” Scott on April 24, 2023. Bill and his wife Gabrielle were married for 55 years. Long-time chapter members, the Scotts were very gracious hosts.



Chris Schmidt gives attendees of the Northern Virginia Chapter's March 26 meeting a presentation on Blandy Arboretum. Photo by Rick Bauer.

Northern Virginia Chapter ***Rick Bauer, Corresponding Secretary***

The chapter started our year with a joint meeting with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS). Chris Schmidt, chief arborist, gave us an interesting presentation on the history and current status of Blandy Arbo-

retum and Experimental Farm located in Boyce, Virginia. We had a great turnout, both in person and online. At the end of the presentation, Don Hyatt presented Chris with a ‘My Mary’ Beasley hybrid. We also had a plant exchange with a broad selection of beautiful azaleas and companion plants.



Northern Virginia Chapter member Don Hyatt presents speaker Chris Schmidt with a ‘My Mary’ azalea at their March 26 meeting. Photo by Rick Bauer.

Don also gave us an update on the White Garden in Fairfax County, VA. This former property of chapter member Margaret White was given to Fairfax County in 2010 for the county residents to enjoy. The county was on the verge of designating the house as a historic structure under the Resident Curatorship Program, removing the property from public use. This would have been contrary to Margaret’s wishes. Don, along with several chapter members and many other individuals, raised objections to this action. To the credit of Fairfax County officials, they listened to the public input and removed the property from the Resident Curatorship Program. The plan now is to pursue developing the property in accordance with Margaret’s wishes.

The chapter was also doing the final planning for our support of the upcoming national convention in Dunwoody, GA. We have collected a substantial number and variety of plants for the convention. Planning the logistics of moving the plants and setting up the sale has been a challenge; however we thank chapter member Paul and Carolyn Beck and Dale Berrong of the Alabamense



Society Officers for 2024-2026

For our next election, we will be electing society officers to serve during the term 2024-2026. The positions up for election are Society Treasurer and Secretary. Additionally, we will be electing three Directors to serve during the same period. Those interested in volunteering for one of these positions, or who would like more information, should contact the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Rick Bauer, at rickfbauer@gmail.com. Volunteers should submit a copy of their resume no later than 30 September. These will be published in the Winter issue of *The Azalean*.

chapter for their efforts in preparing for the sale. We also thank Maarten van der Giessen, Mike White, Aaron Cook, Spring Meadow Nursery, Karel Bernady, and other members of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter (ARS), John Kohli, Carolyn Beck, and Dale Berrong for their contributions of plants to the sale.

Finally, spring is the highlight of our bloom season. The chapter has planned two plant sales at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on 29 April and 6 May. We also have members opening their gardens for visits by other chapter members.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall, Secretary

Texas Chapter President David Creech was a guest speaker at the Cherokee Master Gardener Spring Conference held on March 25 in Jacksonville, Texas. The Chapter hosted a booth to promote the Azalea Society as well as sell azaleas.



Texas Chapter members at the recent Cherokee Master Gardener Spring Conference: Tammy Purser, Donna Vandermolen, and new Chapter member Carol Power. Photo by Sherrie Randall.

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Best Article Announced

Congratulations to the Best Article in *The Azalean* in 2022! The members voted for "The Kurume Azaleas Part 1 and 2." by Carolyn Beck and Dr. Ajit Thakur.