



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

March/April, 2017

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

March 26th -- Mossin' Annie Enlightens and Entertains

A Mountain Moss program on Sunday, March 26, at 2 pm at St. John in the Wilderness will be an event to remember. With zeal and enthusiasm, Mossin' Annie will share her love and knowledge of mosses with us as she did during our December outing to her nursery. If you missed that incredible event, this is your opportunity to learn everything you ever wanted to know about growing mosses in your own garden. In an informative Power Point presentation with impressive photographs, emphasizing the aesthetic and environmental advantages of eco-friendly, native mosses in the landscape, she will teach us the 3 W's of successful moss landscaping: WATER, WALK and WEED.

In her own words "**Mosses always bring a smile to your face whether you are the beholder or the gardener**". Since bryophytes have been around for millions of years, it seems like there would be plenty of moss gardening references. Yet, mosses have been overlooked as horticultural choices and little definitive research exists on gardening with bryophytes. Moving beyond generalizations to specific guidelines has been a priority of research and field testing. Mountain Moss is breaking new ground with innovative ways of using mosses in today's world of new "green" approaches to living.

As public interest in moss gardening continues to increase, it is just a matter of time until horticultural programs at universities start to examine bryophyte applications or academic bryology research focuses on specific bryophyte benefits and growth patterns. As experts accumulate and share knowledge about moss gardening, there are implications for further research and documentation of methods. There are various levels of moss awareness and ways people embrace them as a landscape option. The most basic approach seems to **stop fighting mosses** by permitting them to grow in shady areas or disturbed soils where nothing else will grow. The next level of moss gardening is to **consciously encourage mosses** to move in on their own by adjusting pH level of your soil; periodically removing leaf litter from moss colonies; and weeding.

This program begins to address how you can achieve success. There is so much to say that these guidelines barely touch the subject. There is so much to say about the moss subject that Annie has written a book to share her expertise. She will bring copies of "*The Magical World of Moss Gardening*" for us to purchase at the meeting. She has also promised to bring some trays of mosses for those who are anxious to get started with planting in your own landscape. You can also follow her Mountain Moss blog for future postings with more detailed

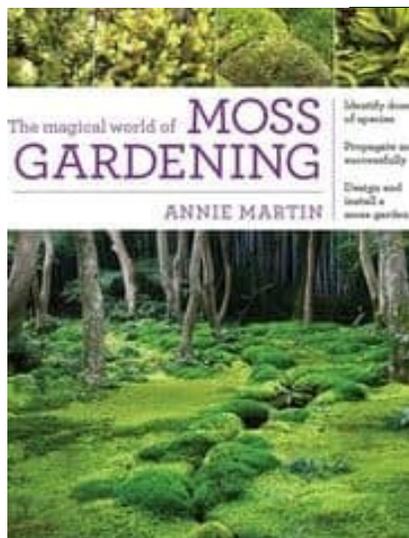


Meet Annie Martin

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March 26—Mossin' Annie (cont.)

information on these topics and be sure to visit her website at <http://www.mountainmoss.com>.

We are indeed fortunate that Annie will give us this invaluable program. She has presented programs at The North Carolina Arboretum, The North Carolina Botanical Garden, the Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and for the North Carolina Native Plant Society. Garden clubs and environmental groups throughout the Southeast have responded with positive reactions and encouragement for Mossin' Annie's advocacy efforts. She assures us that we will leave with a "mossy" smile and will view bryophytes with a newfound appreciation.

Submitted by Sieglinde Anderson

Voting for Next Year's SE-ARS Board

We will be voting on new SE-ARS officers for the coming year at the March 26th meeting. Before we vote, members in attendance will have a chance to nominate someone new. The current SE-ARS Board met in January and nominated the following group:

- President - Sieglinde Anderson
- Vice President - Jerry Neff
- Secretary - Pamela McCarter
- Treasurer - Jackson McCarter
- Board Members until 2019
 - * Wayne Hutchins
 - * Jay Jackson
 - * Chuck Van Rens
- Newsletter Editor - Judy Van Rens

We are grateful that Buffy Wells has agreed to continue as our hospitality person, greeting people and having them sign in at the entrance. Think about contacting her to offer to help out.

NOTE: The officers whom we elect at the March meeting will begin their terms on July 1, 2017.

Special 'Thank You'

Our chapter greatly appreciates those who have served SE-ARS by being on the board for the past several years. Thank you for your help:

Outgoing President -
Ray Head

Outgoing Board
Members -
Audrey Stelloh
Chris Wetmore

Share Your Treasures at the Annual Flower Show!!

The annual SE-ARS flower show, crazy weather permitting, will be held at the North Carolina Arboretum April 29 and 30. This show always provides a great opportunity to show and share rhododendron and azalea blooms with fellow members and the public. I urge everyone who has nice things in bloom to please bring entries to the show. It is easy to enter and someone will help you if you have not entered a show before. Show set up will take place on Friday April 28 between 2:00 and 3:00pm. Show entries may be brought at this time or Saturday morning. On Saturday the arboretum gates open at 8:00 am. However, the Education Center opens at 8:15am, so plan accordingly. Show entries must be in by 9:00am on Saturday. I would like to thank, in advance, everyone who volunteers to put on this show. You are the ones who make the show possible every year. I will bring entry cards to the March meeting and will also have the free parking passes the arboretum provides for the show at that time. If you have any questions or need a parking pass (and cannot attend the March meeting to get one), please contact me

Complete rules will be available on the SE-ARS web page, but here are some basic tips for entering the show.

- Bring clean entries. Wipe dirt and pollen from large leaved rhododendrons as needed and remove debris like bits of oak pollen from all entries. It always improves their appearances.
- Pay attention to size: Elepidote rhododendrons must be a single truss with flowers coming from one bud. Other entries, such as lepidote rhododendrons, deciduous and evergreen azaleas, must be a single stem spray or a single or multiple truss typical of the variety. Sprays must be 16" or less outside of the containers. In Section H (Miniature Truss or Spray), entries must be 1x4" or less outside of the container.
- Color should be typical of the variety.
- Consider Form -- A single truss should be full, with a full set of leaves, typical of the variety. Sprays should be well shaped, attractive and typical of the variety.
- Foliage should be full and well-shaped and of good color and size for the variety, with minimum blemishes, free of any artificial shine.
- Condition -- Ideally, all blooms should be at or near their peak, not faded or wilted, with no more than three unopened florets on an Elepidote rhododendron, or 20% unopened buds on a lepidote or azalea spray.

Submitted by April Sanborn

Find Out More!!

For detailed information about the flower show, go to www.se-ars.org --

- Click on **Upcoming Events** on the homepage
- Then click on **Flower Show Information**.
- At the bottom of this SE-ARS page, you will find links to the following information:

1. *Contact the Show Director for Questions*
2. *Tips for Exhibiting Flowers*
3. *Flower Show Rules*
4. *Classification*
5. *Classifications by Variety Name*
6. *Directions to the NC Arboretum*

The "Tips for Exhibiting Flowers" article (ref. above) is a must-read for all who plan to enter the show!



2016 Flower Show Winners



The joy of learning about moss.



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December Visit to Mossin' Annie

Mossin' Annie welcomed about 12 SE-ARS members to her Mossery in Brevard on a chilly Saturday in early December. Her glowing personality and her enthusiasm for her subject helped keep us warm and focused as we explored with her the unique and fascinating qualities of the 'oldest living plant'.

Annie Martin told us that she has admired moss since she made a terrarium as a little girl. Her favorite moss is Climacium (a genus commonly known as 'tree moss' because it grows in colonies like trees grow in a forest). Some of its appealing features are that it grows all year around on sideways growing rhizoids with upright growth, and it grows well from fragments and dead-looking pieces rejuvenate. Even though mosses don't have roots, the Climacium rhizoids go deeper into the ground than most mosses.



She then went on to list some of the advantages of growing moss: Moss does not need mowing. It's environmentally advantageous, contributing to clean air more than the rainforest. It is 99% bacteria-free; that fact, along with its characteristic of absorbency explains why it was used for bandages in World War I. Mosses also help break down the soil so that other plants can grow. She told us that moss is also social; it likes to live with other plant species.

One of Annie's mottos is, "Blow and sweep, but don't rake." She gave us some other tips on how to care for moss: If moss looks bad, fluffing it or rubbing it with hands will often restore it's richness. It's easy to keep it healthy during dry spells in this area: it doesn't need to be watered at night, and one can keep it healthy by watering it 2 or 3 times-a-day for 2 or 3 minutes. People should also realize that moss does not destroy roofs; instead, it protects them.

Her affection for moss was most evident when Annie sat on the ground surrounded by moss and showed us how easy it is to plant moss on bare spots of ground. She calls it the cookie sheet method: You just take cookie sheet (or smaller)-sized pieces of moss and lay

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North America Meets Europe

The 2018 ARS Convention will be in Bremen, Germany from May 21 through May 26. There will also be 3 optional pre-tours starting around May 7, 2018, and one optional post-tour lasting until May 31. Following is the preliminary list of pre- and post-tours for your information. The schedule may and probably will change slightly in the next couple months.

1st Pre-Tour: Optional 5 days visiting Dutch Gardens including Keukenhof Gardens

Tuesday, May 8 - Zaanse Schans Village with Windmills of Zaanse Schans; Keukenhof Gardens in Lisse

Wednesday, May 9 - Esveld Nursery in Boskoop; Arboretum Trompenburg in Rotterdam; drive to Wageningen

Thursday, May 10 - private garden of Dr. Lou Traas in Blaricum; Utrecht Old City Centre tour; Fort Hoofdijk Botanic Garden

Friday, May 11 - Van Gimborn Arboretum in Doorn; Appeltern Gardens; Arboretum Belmonte in Wageningen

Saturday, May 12 - Palace Garden of Het Loo; drive to Bremen

2nd Pre-Tour: Optional 2 days at RHODO 2018 Rhod. Festival & Hachmann's

Saturday, May 12 - Palace Garden of Het Loo; drive to Bremen [new arrivals meet us in Bremen]

Sunday, May 13 - visit of the RHODO 2018 in Westerstede, Hobbie Rhododendron Park [& more arrivals of new participants at Bremen]

Monday, May 14 - Hachmann Nursery with lunch; Thiensen Arboretum; garden in Southern Jylland; drive to Rode in Denmark

3rd Pre-Tour: Optional 7 days public & private garden visits in Denmark & Sweden

Monday, May 14 - Hachmann Nursery with lunch; Thiensen Arboretum; garden in Southern Jylland; drive to Rode in Denmark

Tuesday, May 15 - 3-4 gardens of Jylland, Bangsbo Park at Frederikshaven

Wednesday, May 16 - drive to South Sweden, visit of Gothenburg Botanic Garden, 2 private gardens near Helsingborg

Thursday, May 17 - Sofiero Castle, private garden near Helsingborg, cross the Oresund, visit Kronborg Castle near Helsing or 3 gardens near Copenhagen

Saturday, May 19 & Sunday, May 20 - Visit Danish and German gardens on the way back to Bremen, Germany

Convention: 6-day convention in Bremen from May 21 to 26 including 3 tour days

Post-Tour: Optional 4 days visiting gardens in Finland.

Sunday, May 27 - Flight from Bremen to Helsinki by air

Monday, May 28 - Haaga Rhododendron Park, Porvoo Old Town, Arboretum Mustila, Sapokka Water Garden and Fuksinpuisto Park

Tuesday, May 29 - Ilola Arboretum, Arboretum Apaskeri

Wednesday, May 30 - Rhodogarden in Parainen

Thursday, May 31 - Departure Day

Many Tempting Options

Calendar this now! It is a do-not-miss event.

You can choose to start in Holland or Germany with one of the 3 pre-tours or start with the convention. Then you can choose to finish in Germany after the convention or in Finland after the post-convention tour. That means there are 8 possible combinations ranging from 6 days & nights for just the convention to 24 days & nights if you do everything which includes the 3 pre-tours to the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden; the convention; and the post-convention tour to Finland.

Here's the website:

<http://arsstore.org/ARS2018/>

Explore gardens in these countries:

Holland

Germany

Denmark

Sweden

Finland

**Southeastern Chapter of
American Rhododendron Society**

Officers and Directors

President: Ray Head

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

Vice President: Sieglinde Anderson

Directors until 2017—Wayne Hutchins, Audrey Stelloh, and Chris Wetmore

Directors until 2018— Doley Bell, John Kendall, and Leon Pace

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

**Sunday, March 23, 2 pm,
Mossin' Annie Enlightens
and Entertains** St. John in
the Wilderness Hall

**Sunday, April 23—Garden
Visits —
1 pm— Grist Garden
3 pm — McCarter Garden**

**April 29 & 30—Annual Flower
Show — NC Arboretum**

**April 27-30, 2017 — Annual
ARS Convention
in Eureka, California**

**July 16 --SE-ARS Picnic and
P4M at Richards Home**

*Please submit articles for next
newsletter by April 15.*

April Garden Visits

Sieglinde says:

We have our spring Garden Visits scheduled for Sunday, April 23. First, at 1 pm, we will all gather to visit Marilyn Grist's expansive and diverse garden. Then, at 3 pm we will explore Jackson McCarter's woodland garden with its wonderful selection of rare and treasured plants. Both gardens are in Travelers Rest, SC. We all benefit from exploring the bounty others have created and cared for.

**** NOTE: Look for further information about the garden visits in an email later this week!!**

December Visit to Mossin' Annie (cont. from pg. 4)

them out, putting fragments between the bigger pieces. Then you water the newly spread pieces of moss; then you walk on it to help it cling to the ground. With proper watering, soon you have a moss garden. The biggest challenge is choosing which of the multiple varieties you would like to plant. Annie would be able to help you with that!