



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

June/July 2015

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

IMPORTANT JUNE 14th MEETING

SE-ARS and Vaseyi are joining forces for some of our meetings during the coming year. Come to the June 14th meeting to learn about how this will affect the way we operate moving forward. At the June meeting you will also have the unique opportunity to sign up for “**First Picks**” at our Plants For Members event during our Annual Picnic on July 19th at the Richards. “First Picks” means you can acquire the most beautiful, most lusted for, rarest, choicest plants before anyone else can get them! (See list on pages 3 & 4) Here's what you need to know about this important meeting:

1. Election of SE-ARS Officers

Ray Head and Sieglinde Anderson have agreed to one more 2-year term if there are no other nominations. Please be prepared to make nominations from the floor.

President - **Ray Head**

Vice President - **Sieglinde Anderson**

Secretary - **Frances Jones**

Board of Directors - **Audrey Stelloh; Wayne Hutchins; Chris Wetmore**

2. Recommendation from the By-Laws Committee for Changes in By-Laws

This amendment to our by-laws will be voted on at our June 14th meeting.

Current Wording:

Section B. Chapter Meetings

The Southeastern Chapter shall hold [**at least seven (7) meetings each year**] with the other special events and activities scheduled at the pleasure of the President and/or the Board of Directors. Notice of meetings shall be mailed to the membership at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting date.

Amendment to the By-Laws

Section B. Chapter Meetings

The Southeastern Chapter shall hold [**as many meetings each year as deemed appropriate**] with the other special events and activities scheduled at the pleasure of the President and/or the Board of Directors. Notice of meetings shall be mailed to the membership at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting date.

3. Round Table

In addition to voting for officers and directors at the June meeting, during our Round Table discussion following voting, you have an opportunity to ask our experts for “expert advice” on rhododendrons and azaleas. Bring a leaf, bring a plant; ask about insect problems, how to plant, how to prune, how and when to fertilize, and best varieties for your specific area.

PRIZES

Ray will provide choice, unusual plants as door prizes, selections from East Fork Nursery and Ray's Garden. There should be enough for everyone to take a prize home!

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Garden Jubilee Festival

Marilyn says our booth was a great success. "We sold 111 plants for net proceeds of \$762." "Thanks to all who helped."



SE-ARS Garden Jubilee Booth
Tom Wright and Don Haynes are watering. Jerry Neff observes.

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SE-ARS FLOWER SHOW - NC ARBORETUM

We had another successful flower show at the Arboretum the first weekend in May. In all, we had eleven people bring 135 entries. This was down somewhat due largely to so many of the plants finishing their bloom earlier than usual. Attendance was good and steady for both days of the Flower Show.

The BIG WINNERS are as follows:

Best in Show- Ray Head with a deciduous yellow calendulaceum

Best Elepidote Rhododendron- Jackson McCarter with 'Anna Rose Whitney'

Best Lepidote Rhododendron- Doley Bell with a pink unknown

Best Evergreen Azalea- Doley Bell with 'Pleasant White'

Best Grown From Seed by Exhibitor- Rich Becker with 'Janet Blair' x 'Margolit x Richard Becker Wood Bench

Best Floral Arrangement - Georgia Burson

Doley Bell was this year's Sweepstakes winner.

This was my first year as show chair. My dog Bogey helped in the sense that he took the bundle of entry card stubs and scattered them all over the living room. That was fun.
By April Sanborn



Jackson's best elepidote, Doley's best evergreen azalea, Rich's best from seed, Ray's best in show, Doley's best lepidote.

Georgia Burson's Arrangement



Blooms Days Bonsai Exhibit



Entomology at UT Blooms Days

UTN BLOOMS

The weather was perfect for the UT Gardens Blooms Days event on Saturday, May 9. Joining me were Ray Head, Jackson and Pamela McCarter, and Audrey Stelloh. I believe some others were planning on attending either later in the day or on Sunday. After seeing Vivian Abney at her East Fork Nursery booth, we toured the campus gardens and checked out the numerous vendors selling all kinds of plants and garden art. The bonsai, rose, and iris displays put on by their respective societies were lovely. The Bug Zoo wasn't quite as lovely, but was very interesting and informative. The various gardens include a native grass display, shade, rock, pollinator, kitchen, and many more. It is well worth a visit to gain inspiration and ideas for one's own garden.
By April Sanborn

**PLANTS FOR MEMBERS (P4M) LIST FOR JULY PICNIC
JULY 19TH AT THE RICHARDS' GARDEN**

In April of 2014 Ed Collins gave permission to myself and Leon Pace to take rhododendron cuttings from his garden for the SE-ARS Plants for Members sale. Ed had bought his property from a long time member of SE-ARS, Charlie Larus, who was an enthusiastic collector of rhododendrons, especially the hard to find Yakushimanum hybrids. Many of the plants Charlie acquired came from the ARS seed exchange seedlings raised by Dr. Russ Gilkey, who was written about in the last issue of the Blue Ridge Review. As Leon and I walked through the Collins garden last April we realized that we had a chance to preserve some of the rare and beautiful Yak hybrids. We chose around 15 of the best yak hybrids that had tags. We also chose around 15 non-yak rhododendrons that are unusual. We hope they will have rooted successfully and that the members of SE-ARS will be able to grow and enjoy them. *By Audrey Stelloh*

Sign up for "First Picks at the June Meeting!!

Look at all these fantastic choices. Thanks for this opportunity provided by Ed Collins, Audrey, and Leon!

Collins P4M List



1. Purple Lace



4. Yak '(dwarf/COX/O.P.)' pink flowers, heavy indumentum, good foliage, 3' tall



7. 'Makinoi Mt. Horaiji', pink flower, (wild) ARS seed exchange, 1' tall



9. 'Tanana' large white flowers, small leaves, 4.5' tall



10. Yak (Wada) x Lacteum, dark green leaves, heavy indumentum, 4.5' tall



2. Yak x 'Medussa', 'Bowhan' Yellow flower, low grower ~18" tall



5. Yak 'Gosseer x ? (90-1)' recurved, upright leaves, 4' tall



8. Scintillation x Yak (Exbury) recurved leaves, 4'



11. 'Golden Delicious', yellow flowers, 9' tall (get cuttings from Stelloh's b/c tag is unfindable)



Yak x 'Pink Walloper' 3' tall



6. Yak 'Today and Tomorrow' Smirnowii x Yak, Mehlquist, flat leaves, heavy indumentum, 5' tall

12. Queen Anne's' (Skinner hybrid named for his wife) double white flowers, 9' tall > > >



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P4M LIST (cont.)



13. Dorothy Russell x Yak purple frill flowers, 6' tall



18. 'Blue Vision', flower lavender with purple blotch



22. ? x 'Ruby Bowman', (ARS seed), very heavy indum., very shiny stiff



26. 'Degronicum'-'Wakefield', OP, compact, dull leaves, slight



14. Yak x Smirnowii (Whitney Compact), white flower, good indum., 5' tall (Leon in pic)



19. 'White Peter', flower white with maroon blotch



23. 'Mettemichii' x 'Degronicum', shiny, kinked leaves, 1.5' tall x 2' wide



27. Yak 'FCC' x Yak 'Doleshey', white flowers, shiny foliage, thick, light brown indum., 4' x 4'

15. Yak x Pachysanthum, (Kehr/Sobeck), wide flat leaves-
NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO



16. 'Finlandia', (Catalga x Williamsianum), white flower, small truss, unusual leaves



20. 'Purple Lace' x Yak, flower white with freckles, 6-7'



24 'Ken Janeck' x ?, relatively narrow leaves, compact, good indum., 4' tall x 3' wide



28. 'Chapmanii' x 'Keiskii' 'Southland', (Kehr) late bloomer, yellowish pink, 2' tall x 4' wide



17. 'Sphinx', flower dark pink with maroon blotch



21. 'Sir Charles Lemon' x Yak (Whitney), wrinkley leaves, heavy cinnamon indum., 2.5'tall x 3' wide



25. 'Frills', (yak), white flower, thick beige indum., 6' tall



29. 'Mettemichii' var. 'Tsukushianum', 3' tall x 2' wide

30. Yak 'Doleshey', shiny leaves, heavy indumentums
NO PHOTO

TOURING UNC-CHARLOTTE WITH DR. MELLICHAMP

Our enthusiastic group met with Dr. Mellichamp in an area of the green house that housed two beds of pitcher plant varieties. The area is titled "Bizarre Botanicals". One bed contained samples of wild pitcher plants; the other one housed a collection of hybrids with names like love bug, lady bug, doodle bug, June bug, red bug. This was a fitting start to our tour because Dr. Mellichamp is a world expert on pitcher plants.

From there we wandered the paths of the 7-acre rhododendron garden called Van Landingham Glen, which was started in 1966 while Dr. Mellichamp was a student in the botany program at UNC-Charlotte. Biology professor Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner was inspired by the gardens of Ernest Yelton (co-founder of SE-ARS) and set out to create a living classroom for biology students and a horticultural and botanical resource for the campus and greater community. We discovered the fruition of this dream on our tour that cold Sunday.

Dr. Mellichamp showed us what he described as the single finest plant in the Van Landingham Glen, the Rhododendron Hyperythrum, still beautiful even though it had finished blooming. He also mentioned that this garden contains "every plant native to the Carolinas that is worth growing." All the plants are labeled; the garden contains over 40 Dexters, and he mentioned a collection of Ed Collins hybrids also. No pruning is necessary because of the high shade and well-drained soil.

Next he started pointing out some of the stand-outs as we walked along the multiple paths that meander through the glen: First we came upon a magnolia with huge leaves called Magnolia Macrophylla, which has the largest leaves and largest flowers of any magnolia in the world. It grows in the southeastern United States, but only in five counties west of the Catawba River. Next we came on a rhododendron called Peggy's Freckles, a Cowles hybrid from the Dexter estate; it has salmon blooms with red centers. Dr. Mellichamp said, "It's an ugly plant with beautiful flowers." We could see the splendor of the tall, deep red Anna Rose Whitney, one of the top 5 rhododendrons on display. It's an old hybrid by the older Van Veen. Another stand-out was pure red Vulcan's Flame, a 50-year-old famous red ironclad rhodo

Our focus was directed closer to the ground as we approached an appealing bridge designed by an Irish stone-mason. We walked through an area that contained 25 of the 65 species of ferns in the Carolinas. These were complemented by beds of Alleghany Spurge, which Dr. Mellichamp says is "one of the finest groundcovers," and Carex, another great groundcover. We had a lesson on the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, which changes sex (cont. page 6)



Exploring Pitcher Plants



Dr. M's Prize Specimens



Jackson's Past Donation



Anna Rose Whitney



Dr. Mellichamp shows us the Magnolia Macrophylla



Analyzing the Jack -in-the-Pulpit



"It doesn't get any better than this." *Dr. Mellichamp*

**Southeastern Chapter of
American Rhododendron
Society
Hendersonville, NC 28791**

Officers and Directors

President: Ray Head

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

Vice President: Sieglinde Anderson

Directors until 2016—April Sanborn,
Byron Richards and Chuck Van Rens

Secretary: Marilyn Haynes

Directors until 2015—Wayne
Hutchins, Leon Pace and Audrey
Stelloh

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark Your Calendar

**June 14, Sunday, 2 p.m. —
Annual Meeting, Voting for
Officers, Roundtable Discussion
St. John in the Wilderness**

**July 19, Sunday. 2 p.m.— Picnic
at Richards' Garden, P4M**

**Sept. 27, Sunday, 2 p.m.- Betty
Montgomery Enlightens Us
St. John in the Wilderness**



Splendor of Van Landingham Glen

DR. MELLICHAMP UNC-CHARLOTTE (CONTINUED)

from male to female as it matures. Jack-in-the-Pulpits are structurally identical; their difference is not a species difference, but a color difference. An area of coastal planes species yielded a rare lowland gooseberry called ribes echinellum, which only grows in two places, one of them here.

As we approached an area where an old tree fell down and created a sunny area, Dr. Mellichamp showed his amazement that the wildflowers that are shade-loving are now thriving in a sunny area. At this point he gave us all lesson for dealing with cankerworms: It is a winter treatment to be used after the leaves have fallen--wrap a three inch girth of duct tape around the trunk, about eye-level; smear this with Tree Tanglefoot. Keep this in place until late April to trap the larvae.

As our tour came to an end, we all knew that our brains had been enlightened by our excursion through this "living classroom". Thanks to Dr. Mellichamp for sharing your amazing knowledge.

Deadline

Submit articles for the next newsletter by August 15. Share your expertise!