

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

November-December 2008

Ray Head presents *Uncommon Hollies for the Garden*

Sunday December 7 at 2:00 PM

Saint John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC

It's the **Annual Christmas Party** and you are all invited, where you'll experience the best food in town and enjoy a wonderful presentation on **Uncommon Hollies for the Garden** by Ray Head



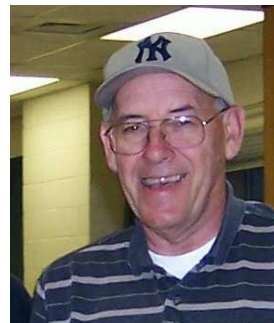
Members enjoy the array delicious food at last year's Christmas Party.

The chapter will furnish turkey and ham plus beverages. Members are asked to bring their favorite side dish, dessert, or appetizer. Ray and Mary Ann Head will bring samples of their beautiful hollies, and there will be door prizes too.

Ray grew up on a family farm in the 1950's. He was interested in plants at an early age as he remembers his grandmother's love for gardening.

Ray studied engineering at North Carolina State University then began a thirty six year career with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He joined the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1977. Ray has served as President; Vice President, Truss Show Chairman, Chairman of the Show Awards, District Director and is currently a board member. He was

For a **color** copy of the Blue Ridge Review,



Ray Head

awarded the Bronze Medal in 1990, The President's Award in 2004 and again in 2008. Ray also belongs to the Vaseyi Chapter of the Azalea Society of America.

Ray has been interested in hollies for 15 years and grows most of the species and many hybrids. Altogether

he would guess that he has at least 500 hollies. Ray has served as Administrative Vice-president and on the board of directors for the National Holly Society of America, and now is their President. He has also served as President of the local Harry Logan, Carolinas Chapter.



Deciduous Holly, "Harvest Red"

Books for Christmas Gift Giving

Plants or gardening books make wonderful gifts. You can contact April Sanborn

Saint John in the Wilderness is at 1895 Greenville Highway (US 225 South [old 25 south] at Rutledge Dr.) Flat Rock, NC.

Plants for Members a Spectacular Success

Well over 300 plants were set up on tables at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall at our October 19 meeting. There was however, some added excitement as an unexpected visitor was spotted. Linda Hendrix with camera in hand tells this story.



Don Johnson and Don Haynes arrange the plants alphabetically.

"Someone saw the toad and it hopped under the



"Who let you in?"

plant tables. I went to get it and, before he started hopping away down the baseboard, I took some photos of him while under the table. April caught him and we took him (her?) outside to release it.

All in all, we had a very exciting meeting indeed!! We did have fun, or at least I did."

Linda also had fun with the delicious refreshments she and others brought for the occasion. The rats on the fruited jello didn't stop anyone from eating it or spoil the flavor one bit!



Linda Hendrix and "friends"

Prior to the sale, Don Johnson called attention to the articles on rhododendron care that have been in recent newsletters. He explained that the plants in the sale will need to be transplanted into larger pots right away, then demonstrated how to butterfly the roots. He recommended removing the top buds to keep them from growing too tall, and this will force

out the smaller buds. He also explained that the plants need to be placed in a sheltered spot. "The longer you keep the roots warm, the better," he said.

Glenn O'Sheal had everyone take a colored bead before beginning the sale. He drew one color at a time. When your color was called, you could get your choice of 3 plants. After everyone had a turn, then it was a free for all. Our Treasurer, Billy Joyner, reported that we took in \$570 on 190 plants. He said, "Congratulations to the Plants 4 Members group



Members joyfully select their plants

who made this outstanding result possible," and offered his personal thanks to Rose Johnson and Jim Wagner for helping in handling the money and receipts. .

After the excitement of the sale some folks toured the Augie Kerr Memorial Garden and David Dethro reminded us that there are still about a dozen plants that need to be replaced due to the 2007 spring freeze and current drought. The list of plants was in the April issue of the Blue Ridge Review.



Patricia Phillips and Tami Wagner

The Board of Directors, met following the regular meeting and approved two very important motions: 1. To request from ARS that Southeastern Chapter host the 2012 Annual Convention; and 2. We split the cost of the NC Arboretum's Azalea Repository Interpretation signage with the Vaseyi Chapter ASA.

Bullington Center Grafting Workshop
January 5, 2009, 1:00-4:00 PM
Learn the rewarding craft of grafting.
Fritz McCall will instruct participants in the technique of grafting Japanese maples.
All materials will be provided.
\$25.00 **Call 698-6104** to register.

Trusses Are Nice But..

Austin C. Kennell

If I were a rhododendron, don't believe I'd be much impressed with folks who make such a big fuss over my flowers but practically ignore my many other interesting and, in most cases, more important, attributes. I'd probably be quite disappointed that none of these other good points were given much attention. I find it hard to understand why my beauty is seemingly judged by something I do only a few weeks out of each year, particularly when that judgement is made in an artificially created setting rather than in context with the rest of me. And, along with most of my fellow "rhodos" who don't have a big perfectly formed truss with magnificently hued flowers, I'd undoubtedly lead a vociferous protest for equal time!

But since I'm not a rhododendron, I guess I can't speak for them. I can, however, speak as an individual who loves rhododendrons for their multifaceted and year-round appeal. Flowers are an important part of the composite attractiveness of a rhododendron, but they are not the most significant component to me. Nice big perfect trusses and gorgeously coloured flowers are certainly nice but do not in themselves make outstanding rhododendrons.

I hope no one gets the idea that I'm against flowers, I like them. I'm also not against Truss Shows, I enjoy them! What I don't particularly like is a tendency to focus so much attention on trusses that the other desirable and attractive characteristics of my beloved rhododendrons sort of get shunted into the background.

I don't advocate the abolishment of Truss Shows, but I would like to also see some other shows that focus attention on the other interesting and beautiful rhododendron features. Some possibilities are Foliage Shows, Fragrance Shows, New Growth Shows, Fall Coloration Shows, Plant Habit Shows, Stem Shows, and Indumentum Shows. Such shows would add new dimensions to the fascinating subject of a rhododendron's appeal.

There are many rhododendrons I'd love even it they

never bloomed. There are many rhododendrons I cherish even though they do not have perfect trusses. But I've never seen even one rhododendron I would want if it had nothing but flowers._____

Reprinted from the ARS Quarterly Bulletin Summer 1978 . Photos added by BRR editor.



Upper left, Girard's Crimson in November; upper right, R. eastmanii buds; left, Wavy leafed Max; lower left, Indumentum of a Yak hybrid; lower right, R. Bear Claw plant; and bottom, R. Goldflimmer.



SE-ARS to Partially Fund Interpretation of Azalea Repository at NC Arboretum

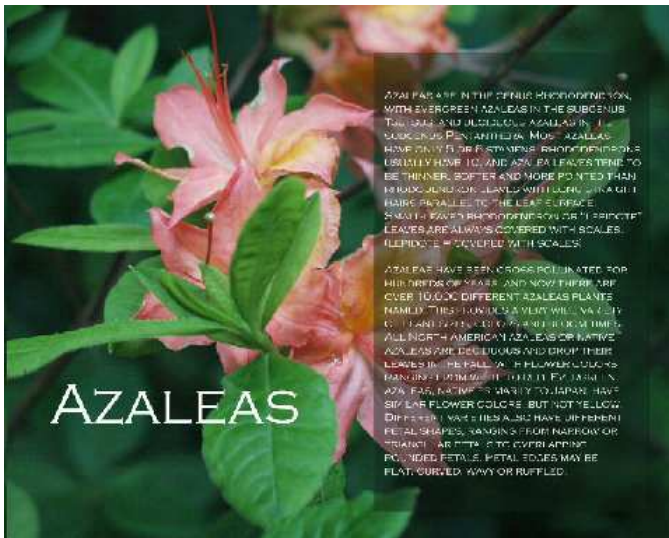
Partners with Vaseyi Chapter, ASA

Alison Arnold, Director of Horticulture, The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, submitted identical funding proposals to the Southeastern Chapter, ARS, and the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, regarding signage and interpretation at the National Native Azalea Repository.

Alison explained, "The product, Folia, that will be used in this project has been used in other garden areas at the Arboretum, proven to hold up very well over time and in all types of weather and has been well received by Arboretum visitors"

"Together, the support from both groups is tremendous and a wonderful demonstration of partnership," Alison said.

There will be one 36" x 48" Folia Interpretation Introduction Panel to be placed at the entrance on



Mock up of 36" x 48" Interpretation Introduction Panel to be placed at the entrance, to the Azalea Repository.

Bent Creek Road; and seven 12" x 18" Folia Exhibit Panels to be placed through the garden interior. The project will also fund the design and printing of the first 1,000 2-color trifold brochures.

Bill Klippel, past president of SE-ARS, with April Sanborn and Marilyn Haynes, representing both organizations, visited Alison at the Arboretum in October to find out more about the project. They learned that she wishes to include the names and



Mock up of one of seven Exhibit panels

contact information for both groups as resources for visitors to obtain more information about these plants. The project is hoped to be completed by March first.

Donor Recognition will include permanent recognition as an acknowledgment line on

the introduction sign, an acknowledgment line on the first printing of the brochures, an article in *Branching Out* or in their monthly email newsletter at the time of installation or soon after, and recognition in their Annual Report.

At it's October meeting, the SE-ARS Board if Directors approved sharing the funding with the Vaseyi Chapter of The Azalea Society of America.

You can visit The North Carolina Arboretum at 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806 or on the web at www.ncarboretum.org.

SE-ARS Chapter History Books

We have several Bios' on our chapter members in our SE-ARS Chapter History Books. If we don't have yours yet we would love to add it to our books.

If you have any questions please get in touch with your Chapter Historians Leon and Jean Pace,



Leon & Jean Pace

Southeastern Chapter
**AMERICAN
 RHODODENDRON
 SOCIETY**



Application for Membership

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Fax _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS. 18 months for new members joining after April 1st. New _____ Renewal _____

Membership dues include chapter and national membership, and the *ARS Journal*.

- Individual.....\$35.00
- Family.....40.00
- Commercial/Corporate.....90.00
- Sustaining.....50.00
- Sponsoring.....100.00
- Life.....1,000.00

Send this form with your check payable to 'SE-ARS' to:

Welcome and Thank you for joining the...
Southeastern Chapter
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

**USE THIS FORM TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
 OR GIVE IT TO A FRIEND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN OUR GROUP.**

SE-ARS to Host 2012 ARS National Convention



Aaron Cook

Member, Aaron Cook, proposed to the SE-ARS Board of Directors that we host a national convention in 2012. His reason was that several people attending the recent very successful ASA convention in

Asheville asked why SE-ARS had not hosted one in so long. The last time was in 1994, 14 years ago. He feels that attendance here could be 300-400 people. Aaron had previously inquired about possible support from key member groups. Tom Ranney said the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station in Fletcher would back us, and Alison Arnold said she could get her staff from the NC Arboretum to help. Gene Stano has students at Haywood Community College and Aaron has his students from Caldwell Community College. Since Aaron offered to chair the Convention, the Board accepted the challenge.

The Secretary contacted ARS and received approval from Ted Stecki, Eastern Vice-president.

Aaron immediately sent out an e-mail to the key players in the 2008 Azalea Society of America's National Convention held in Asheville last spring and obtained their wholehearted support. Most of them are also SE-ARS members. He then set up a SE-ARS group on Yahoo for use in planning the convention. He is requesting if you are willing to be involved in the planning for the convention please use the following address and join the new SE-ARS group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SE-ARS>.

"Now is idea time," Aaron said. "So if you have some good ideas let's share them with the group. Lodging, Garden Tours, Speakers, etc."

"We have the perfect combination of location, gardens, and people to put on one of the best ARS conventions ever. With everyone's help, we can put on a relaxing and informal 2012 ARS convention," Aaron said, "I am grateful to the SE-ARS BOD and to Ted Stecki the Eastern VP for having enough confidence in us to award us this opportunity. I am looking forward to working with everyone and believe that hosting a convention will excite and invigorate our chapter for the future."

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Officers and Directors

President: Don Johnson

Treasurer: Billy Joyner

Vice President: Tami Wagner

Past President: Bill Klippel

Secretary/Editor: Marilyn Haynes

Directors 'til 2009: Leon Pace
Don Haynes, Jim Wagner

Directors 'til 2010: Ray Head
Patricia Phillips, April Sanborn



Welcome

New Member:

Jeff & Lisa Beasley
Lavonia, Georgia



2009 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The SE-ARS **2009** Directory will be published this winter and included as a supplement to the next issue of the BRR. If you have a change of address, phone number or e-mail, please notify Marilyn Haynes, number and e-mail above, before January 3.

**Deadline for copy for the February
Blue Ridge Review is January 10.
Please send to**

Mark Your Calendar Now!

November - Give Thanks and plant; no meeting.

December 7, 2:00 PM - Christmas Party & Ray Head will speak on "Uncommon Hollies for the Garden." St. John in the Wilderness Church, Flat Rock, NC.

***** 2009 *****

February 15, 2:00 PM - Sieglinde Anderson, Landscape Architect. St. John in the Wilderness Church, Flat Rock, NC.

March 21, Saturday, 1:00 PM - Annual Meeting Banquet and Plant Auction. Speaker. **Dr. Joe Coleman**, rhododendron specialist. The Chariot, Hendersonville, NC.

April 25 & 26, Annual Truss Show North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.

May - Garden Tours to be announced.

June - Picnic, date and location TBA.