

Southeastern Chapter ARS Board Meeting  
Home of Chuck and Judy Van Rens  
25 July 2025  
1 PM

President/Board Chairman Chuck Van Rens called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. Although Ray Head was unable to attend, Chuck verified that the eight Board members present constituted a quorum. Chuck distributed copies of the previously emailed agenda and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to plan Chapter meetings and activities for the coming year, at least to the end of the 2025 calendar year. He mentioned that Agricultural Research Station Director Tom Ranney has received rhododendron cuttings from Charles Dexter Owen's spectacular collection.

Vice President Mike O'Hara suggested two speakers, Will Farrell from Raleigh, and Ryan Schiller of Seneca. He has agreed to contact both to schedule presentations. The group agreed to try to schedule our Christmas pizza party on December 7, 2025, possibly with a plant exchange.

It was the consensus that for the sake of extending terms of office for several officers, the Chapter would continue a loose interpretation of the bylaws' stipulated term limits.

Treasurer Jack McCarter presented the Treasurer's Report. Two CD's are due to mature in the near future and the Board opted to reinvest in CD's. Expenses include \$40/member to the ARS, liability insurance, and website support.

Former book sale chairman April Sanborn reported that she has a book sale account containing about \$600. Chuck recommended that she close that account, transfer the funds to the Chapter treasury, and bring her remaining books to upcoming meetings for sale and/or distribution to interested members.

Leon Pace was asked to look up the history of the awards presented to members, a list preserved by Leon's late wife, Jean, who maintained an archive of the Southeastern Chapter. In keeping with the resumption of a plant presentation to each new member, Board members were asked to contribute plants. Chuck requested that his wife, Judy, Communications Chairman, distribute an email of the Membership Roster to all members. He plans to write an accompanying note suggesting that members contact neighbors and friends to encourage them to participate in meetings. Chuck also suggested that we publish a notice about meetings in the local newspaper but no action was taken by the Board.

Chuck reported that he has cleared the storage unit but left the lock in place to prevent unauthorized use. Jack plans to inform the storage facility. Chuck has volunteered to add himself as an authorized signatory on the Home Trust accounts, to which Jack McCarter and Past President Ray Head are currently the only signatories. This change is to be accomplished at a meeting at Home Trust at 3 PM today. The next Board meeting is to be scheduled for a date in November to discuss plans for 2026. Two ideas for discussion might be a cutting workshop and Timely Topics: Problems and Solutions.

New member, Karin Bailey, who recently completed a horticultural internship at UT Gardens at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, introduced herself.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 3:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela McCarter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pamela McCarter

Secretary

## **Joint Meeting of Southeastern Chapter ARS and Vaseyi Chapter ASA**

Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
13 July 2025, 1 PM.

President Chuck Van Rens convened the meeting at 1 PM with 18 members and guests attending. He notified members that for those who prefer not to receive the print ARC journal, dues remain at \$40/year and for those who wish to continue receiving the print edition, dues are to increase to \$50/year. Chuck recommended that we reinstitute our policy of offering a free plant for each new member. Members accepted this proposal by voice vote. Chuck mentioned that membership has increased during his tenure.

Mike O'Hara introduced long-time rhododendron hybridizer, Stan Southerland, from Chapel Hill, retired biologist neuroscience researcher. Stan became interested in rhododendrons during his youth in his birthplace, Brevard, NC. A former member of the Piedmont Chapter, Ken became aware of the problems associated with the drenching rains alternating with searing heat which have spurred the growth of Rhodo-threatening phytophthora, a water mold that attacks the roots of the plants inevitably killing them. Stan's goal was to create hybrids that would inhibit the growth of this devastating disease. He selected hyperythrum as his hybridizing stock for its' resistance to phytophthora, heat and cold tolerance, and variety within the species. He sought to produce plants that would adapt to their site rather than altering the site to the plants needs. He looked for good color quality in the first cross, compact habit, dark green foliage, and the ability to hold leaves for three years. He found that good parents for heat resistance are Janet Blair, Jean Marie de Montague, Vulcan, Blue Ensign, and R. Decorum. Some of his excellent named hybrids are: Cece, Karen Bryant, Little Red, and Yellow Eye. He has found in his gardening experience that hybrids with less than 50% hyperythrum heritage are less phytophthera and die back resistant. Although his hybrids are somewhat drought resistant, they do require some watering. For more information, you may contact Stan: Stan Southerland

908 Highland Trail  
Phone. 919-548-9778  
stansoutherland@gmail.com

Chuck reported that an ASA Convention is planned for April 12-14, 2026.

New member, Karin Bailey, who recently completed an internship in horticultural therapy at UT Gardens at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, introduced herself.

Chuck closed the meeting at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary

Joint Christmas Party of Southeastern Chapter ARS and Vaseyi Chapter ASA  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
7 December 2024

Sixteen members of both Chapters met for a pizza, salad, and dessert buffet to celebrate the holiday season. A brief business meeting followed the meal. Southeastern President Chuck Van Rens opened the meeting by recognizing past joint President Aaron Cook. Aaron announced the cancellation of the Azalea Society of America national meeting, originally scheduled to be held in the Hendersonville area in 2026, due to extensive Hurricane Helene damage to area gardens and nurseries, including Bill Jones' Native Plant Nursery. Aaron reported that because of the tragic death in an auto accident of ASA President-Elect, Bill Johnson, Aaron has agreed to assume the ASA Presidency in 2025.

Southeastern Chapter past President and Board Member Ray Head, who brought holly sprigs to adorn our tables, recounted the development of his interest in hollies, beginning in his childhood and later piqued by Harry Logan's gift of a specimen from his garden. Ray identified the cuttings he brought, offered them to members, and explained how to prepare and plant the seeds for propagation.

Audrey Stelloh, Vaseyi member and past-President, brought Arisima seeds and maidenhair ferns which she generously distributed to members.

Members briefly introduced themselves, including Gary Pace, a new Vaseyi Chapter member and former Southeastern Chapter member.

Chuck reminded us of a yet to be scheduled meeting with Irene Palmer at the NC Horticultural Research Center. He adjourned the meeting at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary  
Southeastern Chapter ARS

Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Home of President Chuck Van Rens, Flat Rock, NC  
10 November 2024

President Chuck Van Rens convened the meeting at 2:15 PM. Following his previously prepared agenda, Chuck reviewed current officers, including himself, President, Mike O'Hara, Vice President, Jack McCarter, Treasurer, Judy Van Rens, Communications Director, Pamela McCarter, Recording Secretary, and Directors, Ray Head, John Kendall, Aaron Cook and Chuck Van Rens.

Jackson McCarter, Treasurer, reported that the organization is operating under a \$1500/year deficit, covered by a contribution of funds from the now defunct William Bartram Chapter formerly located in Greenville, SC. Members of that Chapter, including several lifetime members, transferred to the Southeastern Chapter. Expenses include the cost of meeting venue, distribution of membership renewal notices, a storage facility for flower show equipment, and internet costs for the website. It was the consensus that the Board discontinue the use of the storage facility and dispose of the contents. John Kendall agreed to contact the proprietor of the newly remodeled Saluda Inn, to see if he had an interest in purchasing the mint condition black tablecloths currently in the storage area.

Chuck reported that in view of a financial shortfall, the national ARS has asked for input on ways to address the problem. He read several suggestions from members he received in response to member polling. It was the consensus of the Board and, in consideration of member input, that the ARS publish the newsletter twice a year with an emphasis on rhododendrons rather than companion plants and that the editor make use of previously published valuable articles on rhododendrons as appropriate. Members may be offered the option of the journal online.

The Board discussed meetings for the coming year: 1. A visit to Bill Jones' Native Plant Nursery is to be rescheduled; 2. A visit to North Carolina Horticultural Research Center with a talk by Irene Palmer; 3. A talk by Mike O'Hara about new hybrids and hybridizers; 4. A talk by Andy Whipple about his tissue culture lab; 5. July picnic and plant sale, perhaps at Bullington. Mike agreed to contact Andy.

We then discussed the Christmas party to be held December 8, 2 PM, at Bullington Center. It was agreed that we have a pizza party with pizza delivery by Papa John's. Members will be asked for their choice of pizza and to RSVP. Members should also bring a salad or dessert to complement the pizza. Drinks, plates and flatware will be supplied by the Chapter. Ray Head agreed to bring hollies to decorate the meeting space.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela McCarter



Joint Picnic Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi  
Chapter Azalea Society of America  
The Park at Flat Rock  
55 Highland Golf Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731  
14 July 2024

Aaron Cook, President, convened the meeting at 1:25 PM. Nineteen members and guests attended. Aaron offered a prayer of thanksgiving to grace the meal. Attendees enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Ray Head, Southeastern Chapter past-president and current board member, thanked Aaron for his more than five years of service as joint president. He then presented a slate of officers to serve the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS for the next two (or more) years. Officers are: Charles Van Rens, President; Michael O'Hara, Vice President; Jackson McCarter, Treasurer; Pamela McCarter, Secretary; Judith Van Rens, Communications Director; Elizabeth Wells, Outreach and Hospitality Chairman. Officers were elected by a show of hands and voice vote.

Newly elected President Chuck Van Rens, opened a discussion of upcoming meetings. It was decided that we meet in September to tour the Carolina Native Plant Nursery. An October meeting might feature Irene Palmer as our speaker. An auction could be held at this meeting, a time more suitable for planting.

Aaron suggested that we continue having joint meetings. In 2026, during the first week in May from Sunday through Tuesday, the Vaseyi Chapter, is planning to host a national convention of the Azalea Society of America in Hendersonville. Members of the ARS Southeastern Chapter as well as members of both groups are invited to participate in planning and assisting with the convention. Aaron reported that at the first planning meeting, Andrew Whipple and Paul Becker agreed to handle the plant sale. The NC Arboretum, with Carson Ellis, azalea curator and member of both societies, will be a featured venue. The gardens of Audrey Stelloh and Marilyn Grist will be featured. The 2025 Azalea Society convention is to be held in Philadelphia, where attendees will be able to visit the spectacular Jenkins Arboretum. Board member April Sanborn mentioned that the Holly Society will also meet in Philadelphia next year.

In gratitude for his service, Audrey Stelloh presented Aaron with a beautiful hummingbird mosaic of her creation. Buffy Wells introduced new members, Steve and Ann Knipp.

The meeting dissolved at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter

Secretary, Southeastern Chapter, ARS

Joint Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Bullington Centler  
24 March 2024, 2 PM

Sixteen members and guests assembled for a meeting featuring Biltmore Estate Horticulture Manager Stacey Weir. Our joint President, Aaron Cook, convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. He reminded us of upcoming events including a visit to Betty Montgomery's garden on Saturday, April 13 at Forty Oakes Farm near Campobello, SC. John Kendall remarked that the Greenville (SC) News recently published an article about this excellent garden. Other visits include Vaseyi Chapter member Audrey Stelloh's garden in Hendersonville on April 27, and a visit to Tom Rainey and his crew at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Center in Mills River, NC, on June 12 at 9:30 AM. A visit to Charles Dexter Owens' garden is also planned.

Aaron Cook turned the meeting over to Audrey Stelloh who introduced our speaker. Stacey's fascinating program covered the history of the garden, favorite plants, with an emphasis on azaleas, diverse collections, and new acquisitions with some details of how plants are procured and propagated and how the various gardens are designed with particular attention to the intentions and design features created by the original landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. Aaron recommended two books, including 'The Lady on the Hill,' by Howard E. Covington, Jr., for those interested in learning more about the history of the Biltmore Estate.

The Bullington Center will hold its annual plant sale, which historically has included over 100 plant varieties, between April 25 and 27; they have asked that our Chapters set up an outreach and educational table. Aaron agreed to set up the table on the Members Only Day, April 24. Jack McCarter and Audrey Stelloh agreed to provide their respective Chapter membership application forms, and Southeastern Chapter Vice President Chuck Van Rens offered to provide a poster. Audrey and Board Member Ray Head offered to bring trusses for display and to man the table.

Mike O'Hara reported that the Valley Forge Chapter has a large collection of greenhouse grown plants that they may be able to share with our members. Aaron said that if a list of these plants could be created, members might be interested in purchasing them.

Aaron mentioned that Leon and Jean Pace have a large archival collection covering the history of the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS which they would like to present to the Chapter for storage and/or examination.

Aaron suggested that members might enjoy a hike to visit the Curtis Creek area where the rare red Rhododendron Maximum was discovered. Ray remarked that a gavel, made of the wood of this plant, had been presented to the North Carolina Arboretum by late member Augie Kerr.

Blueridge Review Editor Judy Van Rens asked if members would be willing for her to communicate with members by means of informative emails rather than the Review. It was the consensus of the 12 members present that this would suffice.

The meeting concluded at 3:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McCarter  
Southeastern Chapter ARS Secretary

**Joint Meeting Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
8 October 2023**

**Southeastern Chapter Vice President Chuck Van Rens convened the meeting at 2:03 PM. He explained that our President, Aaron Cook, was out of town and unable to attend. He asked that we consider arrangements for our December Christmas meeting. It was the consensus that we meet for a pizza party like the one we held in March 2023. Members would be asked via email to express their pizza topping preferences and to bring a salad or dessert to complement the pizza.**

**Chuck mentioned that he, Ray Head, John Kendall, Mike O'Hara and Jackson McCarter had visited new member, Charles Owen, and that Charles, whose garden contains an extensive collection of unique original Dexter rhododendrons, intends to become active in our chapter, but was unable to attend our October meeting. Chuck also reported that Byron and Hazel Richards, our gracious July picnic hosts for many years, have moved to their condominium.**

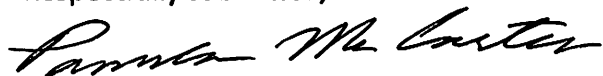
**Mike O'Hara reported that he is looking for rhododendron cuttings to share with ARS members in Pennsylvania.**

**Chuck introduced our speaker, Steve Pettis, North Carolina Extension Agent for the Henderson County Center. Steve treated the eleven members present to an informative program covering vital knowledge for anyone who gardens or, for that matter, lives in and enjoys nature. Fortunately, for members who were unable to attend the meeting, much of his presentation can be accessed by visiting the Henderson County Center Extension Service website where many of Steve's well-researched articles are published. A link to the website can be found at: [se-ars.org/past events](http://se-ars.org/past%20events).**

**Following the program, Chuck revisited the Christmas party issue; it was decided that we request December 10 as the date. This request was subsequently approved by Annie Higgins, Bullington Center director.**

**The meeting closed at 4:15 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Pameia McCarter  
Recording Secretary, Southeastern Chapter ARS**

**Picnic Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Home of Byron and Hazel Richards  
Hendersonville, NC  
Sunday, 16 July 2023**

Seventeen members and two guests met on the patio of the Richards' unique and beautiful home at 2 PM. Hostess Hazel Richards welcomed guests with a brief history of the picnic which she and Byron have hosted for the last six years. Attendance has dwindled somewhat from the sixty guests who attended the first picnic. Hazel blessed the meal which consisted of dishes prepared by members.

Following the meal, President Aaron Cook introduced Mike Bamberg and John Kohli from the Azalea Chapter of the ARS in Atlanta. Mike, also a member of Vaseyi Chapter ASA, was one of the organizers of this year's joint national ARS-ASA Convention, currently serves as eastern ARS vice president and is slated to serve as our next ARS national president. John is a renowned hybridizer and nurseryman from Dahlonega, Georgia.

Aaron and Hospitality Chairperson Buffy Wells auctioned off 72 plants donated by members, including several from Leon Pace and Suzanne Jackson who were unable to attend the meeting. Net proceeds from the auction including pending checks were \$770.

The members dispersed at 4:15 PM. Hazel and Byron welcomed visitors to tour their garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary  
Southeastern Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

Joint Meeting of Vaseyi Chapter Azalea Society of America and Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
5 March 2023

Twenty-six members of both chapters and guests gathered for a joint meeting followed by a pizza party. President Aaron Cook called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM. He introduced Jenny Gray and Jeff Wilkey, current owners of Ed Collins' property, and the Babcock family, now owners of the former property of August Kehr, renowned horticulturist, late member, and magnolia hybridizer.

Aaron then presented the day's speaker, Kevin Parris, who teaches at Spartanburg Community College where he serves as director of the arboretum. Kevin regaled us with the history of his interest in magnolias which stemmed from an unusually magnificent specimen in his grandmother's garden, which he named for his mother, Kay Parris. That species has found its way into the nursery trade and is available to all. It is found in gardens around the world such as Wisley in England. Some rhododendron and azalea fanciers tend to think of magnolias as bigger simpler rhododendrons and there is some logic behind this idea, as magnolias are ancient plants, having coexisted with dinosaurs when the continents were all conjoined as Pangea. This history explains the close genetic relationship between species on now far separated continents. Kevin, himself a prolific hybridizer, pointed out the importance of identifying the taxonomy of different species and outlined his method of hybridizing, which requires meticulous timing to coincide with the optimum window for pollination, careful and even watering, acid soil and good drainage.

Following a question and answer session, our President reminded us of the joint ARS/ASA International Meeting in Atlanta, April 19-23 and a zoom meeting with Joe Klimavicz in June. Hazel and Byron Richards received a round of applause when it was revealed that they have agreed to host our picnic in July. The meeting was adjourned for the pizza party. Several members provided desserts.

A Zoom meeting, coincident with the live program, met with some problems, but our speaker suggested that absent members might access his program on the Spartanburg Community College website.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary  
Southeastern Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society

**Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter ARS and Vaseyi Chapter ASA  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, North Carolina  
Sunday, 29 January 2023**

**President Aaron Cook convened the board meeting at 2:53 PM, immediately following the general meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a schedule of events for the coming year. Options were discussed, including field trips, garden tours and a spring banquet. The tentative schedule, following a February hiatus, includes:**

**March 12 Spring banquet with silent auction at Bullington with a catered meal and speaker.  
[There is a conflict-March 5 requested].**

**April 19-23 ARS-ASA Joint Annual International Meeting in Atlanta**

**April 29 Azalea Day at North Carolina Arboretum**

**May Individual Member Garden Tours and/or Field Trip to Dexter Owen Garden**

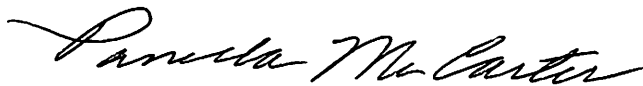
**Informal (unjudged) flower show date and location to be determined**

**July Picnic at Richardson home date to be determined**

**Aaron agreed to contact a caterer and potential speaker and Southeastern Chapter Vice President Chuck Van Rens offered to contact Trish Ockinga about a Charles Dexter Owens garden field trip and a possible speaker for the spring banquet.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Pamela McCarter**

**Recording Secretary**

**Southeastern Chapter ARS**

Joint Meeting Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
29 January 2023

Joint President Aaron Cook convened the meeting at 2 PM. Fifteen members from both Chapters attended. Aaron presented a demonstration of his seed propagation procedure. Seed should be collected in fall or may be purchased from the ARS Seed Exchange. Aaron prefers a sphagnum moss medium such as NoDampOff and waters the medium and mists sown seed with a 1 teaspoon per liter peroxide in water solution for purposes of oxygenation as well as fungus inhibition. He wears gloves while sowing seeds to protect against infection or injury from toxic chemicals in some seed, such as an irritating compound found in Arisaema seed. Rhododendron and azalea seedlings should germinate within ten to fifteen days; seeds may be sown in flats outdoors in spring but should be brought indoors around Thanksgiving and should remain in shelter until March.

Southeastern Chapter Recording Secretary Pamela McCarter conveyed a request from Annie Higgins, Bullington Director, that we prune the deciduous azaleas in the Bob Stelloh memory garden. Aaron and Southeastern Chapter Treasurer Jackson McCarter pointed out that pruning should only be done at the end of bloom season in late spring.

Carson Ellis, azalea curator at the North Carolina Arboretum, introduced herself and reported that she is planning an Azalea Day at the Arboretum and would welcome our hosting a table in the collection area which is near the gate where members may park. North Carolina residents may acquire a free pass to the Arboretum from a public library in Hendersonville. Carson also offered to be our liaison and to help with our flower show should we choose to have it at the Arboretum.

Aaron then convened a Board Meeting beginning at 2:53 PM and welcomed members to attend.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary  
Southeastern Chapter ARS

**Christmas Party of Vaseyi Chapter Azalea Society of America and Southeastern Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society  
Sunday, 4 December 2022  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville. North Carolina**

**Twenty-two members and guests convened at 2 PM for a covered dish dinner party to celebrate the Christmas season. Entrees of turkey and ham, provided by the Chapters, were prepared and served by our President, Aaron Cook, who offered a prayer of thanksgiving prior to the meal. The party was greatly enhanced by decorative fresh greenery, brought by Suzanne Medd, to embellish our tables.**

**Aaron introduced Carson Ellis, curator of the azalea collection at the North Carolina Arboretum. The Arboretum's annual holiday light show will be on display until after New Year's Day. Carson offered to accompany members on tours of the Arboretum as requested.**

**A silent auction was held to find homes for the few plants remaining from the sale of Beasley specimens. This sale yielded \$172 which, in addition to the \$488 from the original, gives us a total of \$660, to be divided between the Chapters.**

**The party concluded at around 4:30 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary  
Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society**

Joint Meeting Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
16 October 2022

Joint President Aaron Cook convened the meeting at 2 PM and introduced Jackson McCarter, Southeastern Chapter ARS treasurer, who presented a slide show highlighting activities at the May 2022 ARS International Meeting in the Vancouver, Washington-Portland, Oregon areas. Included in the presentation were photos, not only of outstanding garden vistas but of rare and beautiful rhododendron specimens, many of which are not growable in our area. The Meeting, which was held following a Covid 19 pandemic related hiatus, was a celebration not only of the northwest area's contributions to the Society but of the Society's seventy-fifth anniversary.

Following the presentation, Aaron drew the attention of the twelve attending members to the importance of providing plants for members. He asked for a report on the proceeds from the October 15 sale of Beasley rhododendrons. Jackson reported that after outstanding bills of \$700 are paid, approximately \$244 will be distributed to each chapter. Approximately ten plants remaining from the Beasley order will be held for future auction events, and Mike O'Hara and Aaron volunteered to maintain them in the meantime. Aaron called attention of members to plants available from Van Veen Nursery, a list of which has been distributed to members.

Chuck Van Rens, Southeastern Chapter vice president, introduced and welcomed new board member, Mike O'Hara.

Aaron reminded members of the upcoming Christmas party on December 4. The Chapters will provide a meat or poultry entrée as well as drinks, and members will be asked to bring a dessert or side dish. Aaron will create an email and ask members to RSVP so that appropriate amounts of food may be ordered.

Audrey Stelloh brought seeds of red buckeye and other plants which she offered to members. Aaron explained a simple way of germinating buckeye seed in the refrigerator. Aaron asked members to bring seeds to meetings.

Aaron suggested a meeting to plan events through July's picnic. He noted that several members are unable to attend meetings due to health problems and he asked that we consider visits to folks who are incapacitated.

Jackson reported that Ken Gohring of the Azalea Chapter in Atlanta has requested that a volunteer, preferably from the Southeastern Chapter, take over administration of the southeastern region "Rhododendron of the Year" project for the ARS. This designation is established by polling rhododendron experts, growers, hybridizers and gardeners in this region on their favorites.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter

Southeastern Chapter ARS, Recording Secretary

Joint Meeting Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society of America  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
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Joint Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and  
Vaseyi Chapter Azalea Society of America  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
25 September 2022

Joint President Aaron Cook convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. He reminded the twenty attending members of upcoming meetings on October 16 and December 4. Ray Head provided a list of plants that members may want to order from the Beasley nursery to be picked up at his property on October 15. Judy Van Rens, Blue Ridge Review editor, plans to distribute this list in an email to the membership. Plants may be ordered for \$20 apiece.

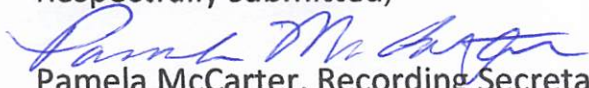
Aaron introduced our speaker, Chuck Van Rens, Southeastern Chapter vice president, who in turn introduced Trish Ockinga, gardener at the Charles Dexter Owen garden in Asheville, the garden featured in his presentation. Chuck presented the history of the Dexter collection, beginning with Shawnee Farm, proceeding to the Heritage Plantation in Sandwich, Massachusetts, and the transfer of Charles Owen Dexter's company, Beacon Blankets, from New Bedford, Massachusetts, to Swannanoa, North Carolina. During his lifetime, between the years 1925 and 1940, Dexter made between five and ten thousand crosses, only six of which were named at the time of his death. He generously donated many of his plants to his nephew, Charles Dexter Owens, when he built a new house in Biltmore Forest in 1936. This garden, managed by Trish Ockinga, as it has been for many years, is available for members to visit. It is to be hoped that some members may help identify plants

Chuck turned the presentation over to Ray Head, who has acted as chair of the Dexter Study Group for many years; the group was founded by Don Kellam and Ed Collins over forty years ago. Ray explained the history of the Dexter Study Group and displayed the Dexter Cup, presented to the group by rhododendron enthusiasts and nursery owners, Ted and Ann Richardson, an award Ray has received twice, most recently in 1992.

Chuck then presented Trish with a brick from the original Beacon Blanket Factory in Swannanoa.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Recording Secretary, Southeastern Chapter ARS

**Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America Joint Picnic Meeting  
Sunday, 17 July 2022**

**Members and guests met at the home of Byron and Hazel Richardson in Hendersonville, NC, for a picnic and plant auction. After a prayer of thanksgiving, the twenty-seven attendees shared a potluck meal enjoyed by all.**

**Following the dinner, guests were invited to purchase plants brought by members. President Aaron Cook presented Jonathan Hodges with Fred Galle's comprehensive guide to azaleas; he also distributed other books from the library of late member Doley Bell. Several plants had been contributed by Leon Pace, some from the Bell collection. Many of the plants were rare and unusual cultivars not available in the nursery trade. Auctioneers were Aaron Cook and Outreach Chairman Buffy Wells. Proceeds from the sale were \$585.00**

**Aaron reminded members of the next meeting to be held on September 25. That meeting will feature a joint presentation by Charles Dexter Owens gardener, Tricia Ockinga and Chuck Van Rens, Program Chairman. A meeting planned for October 16 will feature highlights of the 2022 National Meeting of the American Rhododendron Society in Portland last May and December 4 will be our annual Christmas meeting. All three of these meetings will be held at the Bullington Center in Hendersonville.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary**

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter Azalea Society of  
America Joint Meeting  
Minutes  
Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC  
19 June 2022

Aaron Cook, President of both chapters, convened the meeting at 2 PM. He welcomed the twenty members and guests present and introduced new member, Suzanne Woosley, who explained that she had become interested in joining us through her friendship with her neighbor and garden mentor, Audrey Stelloh. Aaron presented Suzanne with a book on wild flowers.

Vice President Chuck Van Rens introduced Tricia Ockinga, long-time gardener at the Charles Dexter Owens garden. Tricia has been a gardener for 22 years, the last 18 in her current position.

Aaron introduced our speaker, Hale Booth, from Chattanooga; he credited Hale with having inspired him to add such plants to his garden as to ensure year-round blooms. He challenged members to make a list of cultivars recommended by Hale, that they have in their own gardens. Hale presented a slide show of desirable rhododendron and azalea companion plants that are good additions to our gardens, such as interesting varieties of buckeyes, boxwoods, hollies, Leucothoe, camellias, Cunninghamia and many others. He promised to provide a list for Judy Van Rens, Blue Ridge Review editor, to include in next month's issue.

Following the presentation, plants provided by Hale Booth and members were distributed to members using numbered tickets.

Members were able to visit the beautiful Bullington garden before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary

**Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter  
Azalea Society of America  
Home of Aaron and Lisa Cook, Hendersonville, NC  
24 May 20**

Aaron Cook, joint president, convened the meeting at 6:06 PM. Representing Vaseyi Chapter were Suzanne Medd, Audrey Stelloh, You-Ying and Andrew Whipple. Southeastern Chapter Board members present were Ray Head, John Kendall, Jackson and Pamela McCarter, April Sanborn, and Judy Van Rens. Aaron reported on his attendance at the ASA National Convention in Louisiana and the recent ARS convention in Oregon/Washington, explaining that he had called the meeting for the purpose of moving forward in the coming year by establishing a tentative schedule of meetings and events. He reminded Board members of the upcoming tour at the NC Agricultural Research Center in Fletcher, NC, on Friday, May 27, at 10 AM.

Our annual joint picnic is to be held at Hazel and Byron Richards' home on July 17. Ray Head suggested that Judy Van Rens, Blue Ridge Review editor, strongly encourage members to bring plants for auction at the picnic. Visitors may also be invited.

Aaron, Ray Head, and John Kendall discussed the importance of providing rare and desirable plants for new and old members to generate continued involvement in our organizations. Two possible sources of such plants are Beasley Nursery in Lavonia, Georgia, and Van Veen in Oregon, now managed by Mike Stewart and the Portland Chapter. Van Veen has an exhaustive list from which one may choose to have cuttings rooted for sale and shipment. Aaron mentioned that Ken Griffith also has a large collection of rhododendron seedlings which is available for sale to our members. Transport of these plants from Kannapolis will require a suitable covered transport vehicle.

Ray suggested that we have a members-only flower show with no judging and a simpler set-up procedure. The Board members agreed to this plan for a date to be established later.

For our fall meeting, Judy Van Rens suggested that we might invite the gardener from the Charles Dexter Owens garden. Tentative dates of Sept 25, 2022, or October 16, 2022, were chosen for fall meetings. Judy agreed to ask the gardener which date she might prefer to speak for us and Jack McCarter agreed to show highlights from the Portland National Convention on the date not chosen.

It was the consensus we have an early Christmas party on Sunday, December 4, with the Chapters providing an entrée and members providing covered dishes.

Mike Dirr, near Athens, Georgia, issued an invitation to Aaron to open his display garden to our members at some future date.

**Tentative Schedule for 2022-2023: Sunday, June 19, 2022, Hale Booth Program on Rhododendron and Azalea Companion Plants; Sunday, July 17, 2022, Picnic at the home of Byron and Hazel Richards; Sunday, September 25, 2022, Gardener from Charles Dexter Owens Garden or Highlights of Portland 2022 ARS Convention; Sunday, October 16, 2022, Charles Dexter Owens' gardener or ARS Convention Highlights; Sunday, December 4, Christmas Party. All meetings, except as noted, are held at Bullington Center at 2 PM.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Pamela McCarter, Secretary,  
Southeastern Chapter, ARS**

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi Chapter Azalea Society of  
American Joint Membership Meeting  
Bullington Center  
6 February 2022

Members gathered in the general meeting room at Bullington Center. Twelve members attended this meeting. In the absence of President Aaron Cook, who had recently undergone minor surgery, Chuck Van Rens, Southeastern Chapter ARS, Vice President, convened the meeting at 2 PM. He reminded members of the Azalea Society of America National Conference to be held in Louisiana in March and the National American Rhododendron Society meeting in Portland in May. Chuck reported that a day lily conference is to be held in Asheville and that volunteers are needed to help. The conference is to feature an ice cream social. Aaron Cook can provide detailed information about this event.

For our spring gathering, Chuck has planned garden tours and asked for volunteers who might welcome visitors to their gardens during April and/or May. Audrey Stelloh, Ray Head and Jackson McCarter agreed that their gardens would be open at a time to be established at a later date when blooming times are predictable.

Chuck introduced our speaker, fellow member and experienced horticulturist, Bob Head, who presented a program on grafting techniques. Reasons for using this means of propagation are: 1. It can be done at any time of year; 2. It may enhance the survivability of plants affected by root rot and adverse climate conditions; 3. It may encourage bloom in sparsely blooming species; 4. It may be used on plants which are difficult to root. Bob demonstrated his methodology and materials to be used. Hardy root stock plants, such as *R. hyperythrum* and English roseum, are the best choice on which other varieties may be grafted. He mentioned that in order for grafted plants to flourish, plants need 10 to 12 weeks of chilling time to replenish metabolites. He demonstrated several techniques for cutting and placing grafts to ensure successful bonding of cambium layers.

After a question and answer period, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Recording Secretary, SEARS

Joint Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society and Vaseyi  
Chapter Azalea Society of America  
Blue Ridge Community College  
29 August 2021

Board members met in the Henderson Building to establish a tentative schedule for joint meetings to be held in the 2021-2022 season. Aaron Cook, president of both chapters, stipulated that this joint arrangement was for the 2021-2022 season only. In attendance were: Aaron Cook, President; John Brown and Audrey Stelloh, Vaseyi Board; Judy and Chuck Van Rens, Pamela and Jackson McCarter, Southeastern Board. Audrey Stelloh, Vaseyi Chapter treasurer, suggested that, in the presence of the Covid19 pandemic, we not plan indoor meetings until spring 2022.

Several outdoor venues for possible meetings and/or flower show, were discussed: Bullington Center, the patio area of the home of Victoria Flanagan in Flat Rock, perhaps a joint meeting with the hundred plus member Flat Rock Mountain Gardeners; the North Carolina Arboretum; St. John in the Wilderness.

Aaron plans to contact Bill Alexander about the possibility of touring the Charles Dexter Owen garden in the spring.

Chuck Van Rens, Southeastern Chapter vice president, suggested that we alert the membership to the virtual National ARS fall meeting to be held via Zoom in October. Judy Van Rens, Blue Ridge Review editor, agreed to include information about the meeting and required registration in the upcoming Blue Ridge Review.

A tentative schedule for the upcoming year is:

- ARS Virtual Fall Conference, "Fall into Gardening", October 23-24, 2021
- Tour of Clemson Botanical Garden Saturday, October 30, meeting at 1PM at caboose
- Tour of NC Agricultural Research Center, December (Aaron to contact Jeff Chandler)
- Bob Head-Hybridization Program, Saturday, February 6, 2022, 2 PM, (Blue Ridge Community Coll.)
- ASA 2022 Convention, March 10-13, Lafayette, Louisiana
- Flower Show, Saturday, Sunday, April 30-May 1, 2022, Venue to be determined by April Sanborn, Chairman
- ARS Annual Spring International Convention, May 2-10, 2022, Portland, Oregon
- Propagation Workshop, Saturday, June 11, 2022, 9 AM, Blue Ridge Community College Greenhouse
- Picnic-date in July to be determined by the host and hostess

The meeting closed at 3 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela McCarter  
Secretary*



**Southeastern Chapter ARS Meeting (Picnic)**  
**18 July 2021**

After a long hiatus brought about by the Covid19 pandemic, members gathered at 2 PM for a covered dish picnic at the home of Byron and Hazel Richards. Hazel blessed our meal with a special remembrance of our long-time Board member Doley Bell, who died on Christmas eve, 2020. A good meal was enjoyed by the twenty-four participants.

Following the meal, President Ray Head convened the meeting at 3 PM and introduced new members, Jonathan and Kay Hodges, and guests, Ray and Linda Palmer.

Ray presented a slate of officers and Board members for the upcoming year. President Aaron Cook, Vice President Chuck Van Rens, Treasurer Jackson McCarter, Blue Ridge Review Editor Judy Van Rens, Secretary Pamela McCarter and three Board members were elected by unanimous voice vote.

Plants, many of them rare and even unique, had been provided by members; several from Doley Bell's and Leon Pace's collections and unusual cultivars hybridized by Ken Griffiths were included. Buffy Wells, Hospitality Chairman, ably auctioned these valuable plants. The auction yielded a little over \$570.

The meeting ended at 4 PM and several members enjoyed a tour of the wonderful Richards garden.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pamela McCarter

Secretary

**Southeastern Chapter ARS Meeting (Christmas Party)  
15 December 2019**

President Ray Head convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. He yielded the floor to Treasurer Jack McCarter who introduced Furman Cantrell, long-time member and ARS silver medal winner, and his wife, Myra, who are visiting from their home in Leesville, SC, between Columbia and Aiken. Ray reminded the members of our March meeting where our speaker will be Don Hiott, a retired teacher and accomplished speaker who will be visiting from Virginia.

Board of Directors member Doley Bell blessed our meal and the twenty-six members present were invited to partake. Following the meal, Vice President Jerry Neff introduced Jack McCarter who gave a presentation of impressions from the 2018 American Rhododendron Society European Tour, hosted by the Germany Chapter based in Bremen. The tour included optional adventures in The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland.

Ray reminded folks about Audrey Stelloh's contribution of books and a shirt for distribution to interested members.

The meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



**Pamela McCarter  
Recording Secretary**

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
General Meeting  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
20 October 2019

President Ray Head convened the meeting at 1:58 PM, with 22 members in attendance. He notified members of a scheduling change for our December meeting. Ray returned the book, "Hybrids and Hybridizers," donated by Audrey Stelloh at the September meeting, to be auctioned to members. He opened the floor to a question and answer session. Chuck VanRens asked if his cuttings should be wintered outdoors. He was advised to shelter cuttings for the winter. Sieglinde Anderson mentioned that one of her rhododendrons had wilted and died. She was advised to take the plant for inspection to Steve Pettis, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Agent,

Jackson McCarter, Treasurer, reminded members that dues may be paid this month and that Steve Pettis has been awarded an honorary membership.

John Kendall introduced our speaker, Boris Bauer, who, in the course of planting 204 magnolias on his own property, has become an expert in the area. Magnolia magniflora is the most widely planted ornamental worldwide. 320 varieties have been identified since 2000, and 150 species have been found. Of the deciduous variety, there are 4 native and 30 Asian species. They range in height from 5 to 80 feet. New hybrids are constantly under development. Boris presented slides to illustrate the various ornamental types available. He advised that grafted plants not be planted too deep and that suckering be prevented. New spring plantings require winter watering. He recommended several varieties suitable for various gardening needs.

Two books, a yellow bird magnolia, and a robin hill azalea, donated by Leon Pace, were auctioned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
General Meeting  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
15 September 2019

President Ray Head convened the meeting at 2 PM. Ray presented a novel method he has devised for an efficient long-lasting plant labeling solution. His method consists of painting the name of the plant on a solid 6 by 6 inch paver to be placed near the foot of each plant. The paint he uses is an indoor-outdoor acrylic, commonly use for crafts, available in big box variety stores. This system has the advantage of being too heavy and durable for small animals to damage or carry away. So far the painted lettering has withstood a year of outdoor weathering with little fading.

Leon and Jean Pace presented a lovely Electra azalea for the Chapter to give to a member. Audrey Stelloh presented two new quality books, Fred Galle's "Azaleas" and "Hybrids and Hybridizers" by Philip Livingston and Franklin West, to be given to members.

Vice President Jerry Neff presented our speaker, Steve Pettis, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Agent, specializing in pest control and management. Steve gave an instructive presentation on disease prevention, planting techniques, maintenance and care of our plant collections. One of his suggestions is to create a quarantine area for newly acquired plants so that we don't unwittingly introduce diseased plants to our healthy cultivars.

With Leon and Jean's permission, Ray auctioned the Electra azalea, which sold to Doley Bell for \$16. Ray suggested our members visit the Bullington Dahlia garden. Marilyn Haynes, who, with her husband, Don, recently moved to Lake Point Landing, reported that the director of that development would like to organize a tour of two or three gardens in the Hendersonville area. Lake Point Landing would be responsible for a bus to transport residents to this event. Ray agreed to take this matter under consideration. The meeting closed at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Secretary

The speaker for the Southeastern Chapter's September 15, 2019, meeting was Steve Pettis, Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Agent for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's Henderson County Center. He explained that the NC Extension Centers, located in 101 counties, function in part as consulting centers for both commercial and domestic planters who need advice on the care and nurture of plants commonly (4000 species grown in NC) or rarely grown in the area. It is a cooperative effort between NC State University and the State of North Carolina.

Several preventive measures should help protect our plant collections from adverse conditions and diseases. Soil should be tested every five years and pH adjusted for the proper level according to plants grown. Plants, especially azaleas, rhododendrons and trees need to be planted so that their roots lie above the grade enabling the roots to dry out between waterings. Soil should have very good drainage. Azaleas should receive ground watering or drip irrigation rather than overhead sprinkling. To avoid introducing diseases, new plants, especially those imported from other parts of the country, should be quarantined to be sure they are disease-free before adding them to your garden.

Pesticides should be a treatment of last resort and if they are used, biorationals, made of natural origin materials, are the best choice. Aphids and spider mites may be washed away by hosing the plant or by picking off the offending pests. Eighty percent of plant diseases are caused by fungi, which thrive in cool wet conditions, and, while they can't be cured once they've become established, they can sometimes be prevented by the application of a fungicide ideally applied in advance of a rainy spell. Fertilizer, applied before a freeze, may prevent cold damage. Leaf drop, an unsightly but benign condition, occurs when older leaves, no longer as engaged in photosynthesis, have less of the nutrients used by the younger leaves doing most of that work. It is essentially a normal transition and needs no special treatment. Azalea stem borers, on the other hand, must be located on a wilted branch and cut down to the area where the borer is located. Finding this sign will distinguish the condition from "die back" (*Botryosphaeria*) which leaves no borer tunnel.

Steve noted that not all damage to our plants comes from disease. Environmental factors such as weather extremes, too much or too little water, chemicals, mechanical damage, rust, algae, water damage, and voles or other pests can leave our plants in a perilous condition. To identify the source of the problem, the Extension Center requires a complete living plant rather than a dead specimen. In our area, the specimen may be taken to the Henderson County Center, 100 Jackson Park Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

**Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Board Meeting  
Bullington Center  
1 September 2019**

Ray Head, President, convened the meeting at 1:58 PM. Attending were: Doley Bell, Ray Head, John Kendall, Jerry Neff, Leon Pace, April Sanborn, Chuck and Judy VanRens, Buffy Wells, and Jackson and Pamela McCarter.

Ray explained that Doley is in attendance because he promised to step in should Ray become incapacitated.

Jack gave the Treasurer's Report for the last 12 months. He reported a modest \$120 decrease in the Chapter's net worth. Jerry has scheduled low or no cost programs which haven't depleted the treasury. We have \$26,000 in the checking account and \$18,000 in CD's.

Jack passed out "100 Ways to Attract New Members" for consideration by the Board. The Azalea Chapter, in Atlanta, has an incentivized plant sale where buyers receive a special discount if they are or become Chapter members.

Our next general meeting is to be September 15, 2 PM, at the Bullington Center, with Steve Pettis, NC Cooperative Extension agent, as speaker. Judy has written an article about Steve for the Blue Ridge Review.

We have no speaker yet for our October 20 meeting. John Kendall agreed to call Boris Bauer for a possible presentation on magnolias. He will let Judy know in time for her to write an article about Boris.

For our December meeting, it was the consensus, confirmed by a show of hands, that we have a holiday-themed covered dish dinner. Jack agreed to present photos and commentary about the International Rhododendron Society meeting in Germany and the Netherlands.

We have no speaker for our March 15 meeting but there were several suggestions: Joe Coleman from the Azalea Chapter, Charlie Andrews on native azaleas, a speaker from Southern Highlands Reserve or from Mr. Maple.

Our annual Flower Shower will be held at St John in the Wilderness either April 22 or May 2, depending on weather condition prospects. April has agreed to chair the Show once again and will determine the final date.

April and May are months we might arrange private garden visits. Buffy suggested that perhaps our Chapter could have a designated garden plot at Bullington. Jerry mentioned that there is already an azalea garden reserved for native specimens. Buffy promised to contact a nursery we have visited in the past to find out if we

might visit that nursery again. Judy recommended we attend the Clemson Plant Sale which typically takes place in April. Ray suggested we publicize and attend Wayne Hutchin's (Plants Aplenty) fall sale in September and also his going out of business sale in the spring.

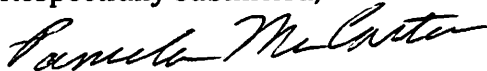
Our annual picnic, along with a Plants For Members sale, is tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2020.

Jerry recommended that we remind members to read the Blue Ridge Review and also check out the SE-ARS website.

Ray plans to have a question-and-answer session at the beginning of each meeting. He also plans to share his labeling innovation.

Ray closed the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
General Meeting  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
17 March 2019

President Sieglinde Anderson convened the meeting at 1:55 PM. She reported that she had been approached by a Flat Rock organization to see if our Chapter would be interested in participating in their garden show. She has also received a message from the Tennessee chapter inviting our participation in their flower show. She mentioned that in the course of the year, we have lost 20 members; she outlined the distribution of members according to their location. Several South Carolina members have dropped out.

Sieglinde pointed out that both Jackson McCarter and Hale Booth have been delegates to the national society for several years and asked that in the event we appoint another delegate from our Chapter, if the Chapter might be able to defray the expenses of that delegate's participation in national conventions. Jackson pointed out that our treasury is solvent because of the national meeting our Chapter hosted in 2012 and that if we are to ever mount another such effort, we will need those funds. April Sanborn reported that the recent ASA Convention was actually funded and operated by the Magnolia Plantation staff.

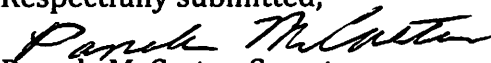
Ray Head says a good way to generate interest in our Chapter is through plant sales, perhaps during our annual picnic at the Richards' house in July. He suggested we might consider inviting the public. Hazel and Byron Richards agreed to consider that proposal. Ray again admonished members to propagate plants for the sale.

April reported that Flower Show is scheduled to be held on April 27, with setup on the 26<sup>th</sup>, at St. John in the Wilderness in our former meeting room, the Wilderness Room. Jean Pace agreed to photograph the show. Volunteers are needed to help with show. Judy Van Rens agreed to publish a Blue Ridge Review with details.

Jerry introduced Jack McCarter and Chuck Van Rens, who gave slide presentations of their travels among the rhododendrons and other wonders of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.

The meeting ended at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pamela McCarter, Secretary

Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
17 March 2019

Sieglinde Anderson, President, convened the meeting at 4:25 PM. Board members attending were, Chuck Van Rens, John Kendall, Doley Bell, Wayne Hutchins, and Jackson McCarter, and Jerry Neff. Sieglinde reported that she had received the bill for the Chapter's liability insurance with a suggestion that the Chapter might want to invest in "directors' insurance," liability insurance specifically for officers. It was the consensus that the Chapter reject such coverage. There was some discussion of liability in case of carpool or van use by the Chapter. It was concluded that as long as the Chapter does not arrange, provide or recommend such arrangements, the Chapter has no liability for members who choose to ride with other members.

Sieglinde proposed that we set aside funds to be used to defray expenses for national delegates to attend national meetings. The consensus was that we should consider this proposition when the next election of delegates comes due in three years.

Leslie Dulin, President of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, has approached Sieglinde with the suggestion that we arrange a three-chapter initiative, including the Atlanta chapter, to help strengthen our society. One idea is a jointly arranged plant sale. Sieglinde expressed concern that we won't have enough plants for members at the picnic in July. Doley, John, Jack, and perhaps Leon may have plants to sell for that event. It was the consensus that we not open the picnic sale to the public but that members may invite guests, who might purchase plants contingent upon joining the Chapter. Sieglinde recommended that those of us who know formerly active members should contact them and invite them back to the Chapter, perhaps for the picnic. Doley moved that we auction off plants at the picnic and set a minimum price on plants. The motion was seconded and carried.

Sieglinde asked if we could appoint a publicity chairman and agreed to contact Jean Pace to see if she would be interested.

Ray presented the slate for 2020:

President: Ray Head  
Vice President: Jerry Neff  
Treasurer: Jackson McCarter  
Blue Ridge Review: Judy Van Rens  
Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Board Members (2 year term):  
John Kendall, Buffy Wells, Alan Mizeras  
(1 year term): April Sanborn,  
Chuck Van Rens, Leon Pace

The meeting ended at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Joint Meeting with Vaseyi Chapter, Azalea Society of America  
General Meeting and Auction  
Bullington Center  
Hendersonville, NC  
14 October 2018

President Sieglinde Anderson convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. She announced that the International Convention of the American Rhododendron Society is to be held May 15-19, 2019, in Philadelphia. The ARS Regional Meeting is scheduled for next week, Oct 17-19, in Chattanooga. Jerry Neff, Vice President and Program Chairman, reminded members of the Christmas, December 9, meeting where Chuck Van Rens and Jack McCarter have agreed to share slides and anecdotes from their recent European travels. Members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. There was some discussion of changing our Christmas meeting to a dinner at a local restaurant paid for by the Chapter, but this idea was tabled until next year. Aaron Cook agreed to look into restaurant possibilities for a future meeting. Sieglinde introduced a guest, Dr. Bryan Worthington, of Greenville Internal Medicine Associates, master gardener and plant enthusiast. Our next regularly scheduled meeting, March 18, might tentatively feature a report on activities from the Chattanooga meeting. Sieglinde turned the meeting over to auction chairman, Doley Bell.

Doley explained the rules of the auction and stipulated that plants purchased at Big Frog, Plants a Plenty, and East Fork nurseries require minimum bids, based on original price, which he enumerated. John Kendall and Leon Pace assisted Doley by distributing plants to their new owners. After all plants were sold the meeting was informally closed at 4:10 PM and members paid for their purchases. Net profit for the sale came to \$584, to be divided equally between Southeastern Chapter and Vaseyi Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
General Membership Meeting with Program  
Bullington Center  
23 September 2018

President Sieglinde Anderson convened the meeting at 2:02 PM with 26 members attending. She requested new business. Audrey Stelloh offered bags and Tshirts left over from the 2012 joint ARS/ASA national convention. She called our attention to a supplier of small mesh bags available for sale to protect plant roots against vole depredation. Ray Head recommended that members grow plants from cuttings and let the Chapter know the number and variety of plants they are growing for future sale to members. Pamela McCarter reported that Marilyn Grist has requested that for the upcoming auction, October 14, plants should be sorted and grouped according to variety and that plants of the same variety be sold at the same time.

Jerry Neff introduced our speaker, Bill Jones, owner of Carolina Native Nursery in Burnsville, N. C. Bill's presentation covered his professional propagation process, from collection of seed pods all the way to production of a healthy 1 gallon to 3 gallon plant. He invited members to visit his retail shop at 1639 Prices Creek Rd. Although his is primarily a wholesale business, he does have a retail shop, a website, [www.carolinanativenursery.com](http://www.carolinanativenursery.com) and a Facebook page.

Sieglinde suggested that we hold our December meeting on the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving, December 2, and that Chuck Van Rens and Jack McCarter give a presentation about their recent European adventures.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela McCarter*

Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Annual Picnic  
15 July 2018

The annual picnic of the Southeastern Chapter was held at 2 PM at the home of Byron and Hazel Richards, 31 South Ridge Dr., Hendersonville, NC, with approximately 27 members and guests present. Doley Bell led the group in prayer before members enjoyed a potluck lunch.

Following the meal, Sieglinde Anderson, President, convened the meeting at 3 PM. Jerry Neff, Vice President, reminded members of the September 16 meeting to be held at the Bullington Center in Hendersonville. Sieglinde introduced Ray Head, who presented a lifetime achievement award to Jackson and Pamela McCarter, members since 1971.

Sieglinde announced that the Tennessee Valley Chapter has invited our members to attend a fall conference to be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 19 and 20. The meeting will feature talks by Charlie Andrews (azaleas), Jack Johnson (Stewartias) and Tom Patrick (new trilliums). Because our October meeting is scheduled for October 21, it was suggested that we might reschedule that meeting.

Doley Bell, who along with Leon Pace and Audrey Stelloh, had provided cuttings to be rooted by Transplant Nursery, reported a crop failure due to an employee's neglect of necessary watering which led to the death of all but a few cuttings. The group briefly discussed an alternative way to propagate cuttings for sale to members, either by a nearby nursery or by member volunteers.

Marilyn Haynes invited members to take cuttings from the Haynes' garden in the near future as she and Don are planning a move. Ray Head reported that his friend, Ken Griffith, has alerted him to another man who is moving away from his home and wants to sell his gallon-size plants for \$5 apiece; Ray has contact information for this individual.

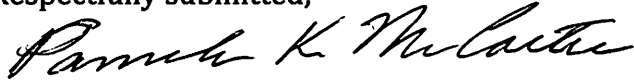
Jack McCarter, Treasurer, presented instructions on planting and rooting cuttings. The same instructions are available on-line at the Southeastern Chapter ARS (SE-ARS) website. To provide both air and moisture and to prevent rotting, he uses a six inch layer of saturated pine bark mulch in a bottom-vented plastic container covered with a clear lid. Tips of the leaves are trimmed and stems should be between 1 ½ and 3 inches. With a sharp knife he trims off an inch or two of bark down the side until a slice of the cambium is exposed. Cuttings are dipped in a solution of water with a little antiseptic-containing dish detergent. Moist stems are dipped in a container of growth hormone such as Hormodin, and then inserted into a hole created by an instrument such as a ballpoint pen so that the exposed part of the stem is in contact with the medium. Rhododendrons, hollies, and blueberries (without Hormodin) can be propagated using this method but it does not work with

deciduous azaleas. A fungicide solution may be sprayed on after planting containers.

Returning member Suzanne Jackson reported that she had brought Dexter cuttings, including purple specimens to share with the members. Sieglinde introduced and welcomed Suzanne.

The meeting was closed and members were invited to enjoy the Richards' beautiful garden.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
St John in the Wilderness Parish Hall  
18 March 2018

The Board Meeting was convened by President Sieglinde Anderson at 3:55 PM. In attendance were board members, Wayne Hutchins, Doley Bell, Leon Pace, Ray Head, Judy Van Rens, Blue Ridge Review Editor, Jerry Neff, Vice President, Jackson McCarter, Treasurer, April Sanborn, Flower Show Chairman and Pamela McCarter, Secretary.

The question of a venue for the Flower Show was discussed. April and Jerry agreed to explore such possibilities as St John's Wilderness Room, Jackson Park, the extension service facility, and Bullington.

Also discussed was the possibility of moving our meetings to Bullington. Jackson disclosed that St John has prepared a new fee schedule for use of their facilities.

Sieglinde recommended that we revive our tradition of introducing new members and guests at the beginning of each meeting and presenting each new member with a free plant. Leon and Doley agreed that they would assist with this effort.

Sieglinde asked for volunteers to assist with the picnic at 2 PM, July 15, assuming that this works out with the Richards' schedule. Jerry volunteered to take care of drinks, Jean Pace will handle paper goods and Chuck Van Rens will help with cleanup duties.

Ray Head reminded us that the Dexter rhododendrons will soon be in bloom and suggested that visits for the Dexter Study Group may be arranged in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
General Membership Meeting with Program  
St John in the Wilderness Parish Hall  
18 March 2018

The Chapter met in the new parish hall, a recently completed building immediately behind the site of our usual meeting room, now designated "The Wilderness Room," which is undergoing renovation. President Sieglinde Anderson convened the meeting at 2 PM. There were 26 members in attendance.

April Sanborn, Flower Show Chairman, announced that the Parish Hall is no longer available for our flower show, scheduled for April 28. She will pursue other options.

Jerry Neff, Vice President and program coordinator, reminded us of our April 14 visit to the North Carolina Agricultural Research Station, Mills River Facility, where we will meet for a guided tour at 10 AM. Our annual picnic is tentatively scheduled for July 15, contingent upon the schedule of Hazel and Byron Richards.

Jerry introduced our speaker, Steve Pettis, NC State Cooperative Extension Agent, who presented a program with slides entitled "Azalea and Rhododendron Pests." He presented recommendations for tree planting as well as various treatments for insect pests that afflict our rhodos and azaleas. (Our speaker noted that the acoustics in the Parish Hall were poor. Also, slides were difficult to see as the room could not be darkened. Members complained of both conditions.)

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Board Meeting of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
St John in the Wilderness  
Conference Room  
October 15, 2017

Sieglinde Anderson, President, convened the meeting at 4:15 PM. Attending: Jerry Neff, Vice President; Jackson McCarter, Treasurer; Wayne Hutchins, Leon Pace, John Kendall, and Charles Van Rens, Board Members.

The meeting was held for the purpose of establishing dates for the year's upcoming meetings which are: March 18; April 15; Flower Show tentatively April 28-29; July 15 Picnic; September 16; October 21 Auction; December 1 or 2<sup>nd</sup> Garden and/or Nursery tour.

Taking suggestions from a survey taken a few years ago, Sieglinde proposed programs to include "bulbs for the woodland garden," garden and nursery visits, and/or a program on Dexters to follow up on Dexter Study Group. Other suggestions were designing with rhododendrons and azaleas or a hike through the rhododendron and azalea collections at the Biltmore Estate or the NC Arboretum.

John Kendall volunteered to contact individuals known to have Dexter collections. Members might be encouraged to share their own photos of Dexters in their personal collections.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Joint Meeting with Vaseyi Chapter, Azalea Society of America  
General Meeting and Auction  
St John in the Wilderness  
Flat Rock, NC  
October 15, 2017

President Sieglinde Anderson convened the meeting at 4:05 PM. There were thirty three members and guests present.

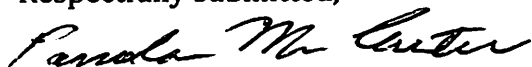
Buffy Wells, hospitality chairman, presented the Bronze Medal to Don and Marilyn Haynes for their years of valuable service to the Chapter. Buffy then presented a quilt she had created to April Sanborn for her personal kindness at the time of Buffy's loss of her dog, Daisy. Doley Bell presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Past President Ray Head for his years of service to the Chapter beginning in 1977, serving in several offices and sharing his love for rhododendrons and hollies. His work has been an inspiration to the members, introducing many to the enjoyment of our shared interest.

Members were reminded to renew their memberships, expiring in October: dues are \$40 a year. Nine members paid their dues.

Sieglinde instructed each bidder to pick up a numbered paddle to identify their purchases and to be sure to return them at the end of the sale. Doley Bell ably conducted the auction assisted by Leon Pace and John Kendall. The sale was closed at 4:10 PM.

Nearly 190 plants were sold, an assortment of azaleas, deciduous and evergreen, rhododendrons, ferns, hostas and woodland plants, yielding a total of \$1162, to be shared with Vaseyi Chapter ASA..

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter  
Secretary

Southeastern Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society  
September 17, 2017  
St. John in the Wilderness

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM by Sieglinde Anderson, President, with 20 members and guests in attendance. Doley Bell reminded us of the plant auction to be held October 17. Plants available for auction include 90 deciduous azaleas, evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons and 75 plants from Chris Wetmore. He reported that Ray Head, who is currently battling a serious illness, suggested that members bring plants from their own gardens to supplement the sale.

Jerry Neff, Vice President, presented the Bronze medal, the highest award offered by a chapter of the ARS, to Marilyn and Don Haynes (not present) and to Richard and Betty Becker, for their valuable services to the Chapter.

Judy Van Rens asked for a volunteer to write an article about the auction as she will be unable to attend. April Sanborn and Jean Pace volunteered.

Sieglinde introduced our speaker, Barry Yinger, former owner of Asiatica Nursery in Lewisburg, PA, former curator of the Asian collection at the National Arboretum, plant explorer and plantsman extraordinaire. Barry, who now lives part-time in Thailand, where he operates a nursery on the east side of Bangkok, and in Tanzania, presented "Rhododendrons Need Friends Too." His slide show featured plants that thrive in the environment of rhododendrons and are compatible with and complement rhododendrons and azaleas. He also detailed his travel experiences, some of them arduous, while exploring for new plant species in Asia. It was on one of these journeys that he discovered *Hosta yingeri* on a small Korean island.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Secretary

**Annual Picnic of Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
16 July 2017**

The annual picnic was held at the home of Byron and Hazel Richards. Thirty seven members and guests attended. Jerry Neff, vice president, welcomed members and thanked our hosts. Doley Bell said a prayer of thanksgiving.

After partaking of the meal provided by member contributions, members gathered on the patio for a plant sale chaired by Audrey Stelloh. Plants from cuttings grown by Transplant Nursery as well as from members were sold. Proceeds from the sale totaled \$550.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter, Recording Secretary

**Southeastern Chapter American  
Rhododendron Society  
Dexter Study Group  
St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall  
June 25, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Ray Head at 2:04 PM. He explained that he had convened the meeting for the purpose of studying, preserving and propagating Dexter rhododendrons, many of which thrive in our southeastern climate zone. Twenty-six members and guests attended.

Ray presented a history of Dexter propagation beginning with Mr. C. O. Dexter, who began hybridizing in 1921 and amassed his collection at Heritage Plantation in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Since that time, Dexter Study Groups have been formed beginning in the 1940's, including the one begun by the Mashburns and others in our own chapter in the nineties. The goal of these study groups is to help identify and describe characteristics of 150-200 varieties of Dexter hybrids.

Ray proposed that this meeting be the first in a series to promote interest in Dexter hybrids and to encourage members to propagate cuttings of various plants. We are currently looking for a nursery to grow cuttings on a large scale but members who would like to grow their own are

directed to consult instructions posted on the SE-ARS website.

Danny Little provided books, photos and slides from the Piedmont Chapter Dexter Group of Marshall Stillwell and Don Kellam in Charlotte, given to him by Peggy Stillwell. to Jack McCarter for inclusion in the SE-ARS website.

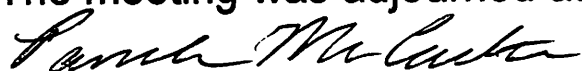
Ray introduced guests, Chip and Cathy Gilbert, who purchased Ed Collins original Hendersonville property three years ago.

Bob Head displayed plants he had grafted onto Hyperythrum root stock and gave a brief report on his method for producing healthy plants.

Members were asked to provide lists of Dexters in their gardens and Chuck Van Rens agreed to compile a composite list to be shared with the membership.

Ray reminded us of the July 16 covered dish picnic to be held at 2 PM at Byron and Hazel Richards' home, 31 Southridge Dr., Hendersonville.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.



Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela McCarter, Secretary

**Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**March 26, 2017**  
**St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC**

President Ray Head convened the meeting at 2 PM. Twenty members and 4 guests were in attendance.

April Sanborn, flower show chairman, updated us on the upcoming flower show to be held at North Carolina Arboretum on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29. She provided members with parking passes and entry cards for flower entries, which should be filled out to include flower name and owner's name in two places. April and Don and Marilyn Haynes will set up for the show beginning at 2 PM Friday. Those wishing to enter specimens may do so beginning at 8:15 AM Saturday and no later than 10 AM. John Kendall and Jerry Neff have agreed to serve as judges.

Ray reminded members of the upcoming garden tour on Sunday, April 23, which will include the garden of Marilyn Grist at 1 PM followed by a visit to the McCarter garden. Sieglinde asked that we let her know of other gardens that might be available for visiting.

Ray suggested that members might like to purchase a Buckthorn Blaster applicator device to control growth of twigs and stumps among rhododendrons and azaleas. Device may be purchased from [landscape-restoration.com](http://landscape-restoration.com). Ray recommended that herbicide be diluted with water for application.

The annual picnic will be held at the home of Hazel and Byron Richards on July 16.

Ray presented a slate of officers for the 2017-2019 term.

President: Sieglinde Anderson

Vice President: Jerry Neff

Blue Ridge Review Editor: Judy VanRens

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

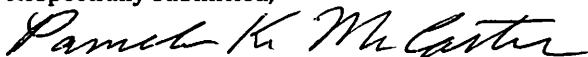
Ray thanked retiring board members, Chris Wetmore, Audrey Stelloh, and Wayne Hutchins for their service.

New board members nominated are Jay Jackson, Chuck VanRens, and Wayne Hutchins.

Ray asked for other nominations to all positions and there being none, the slate was unanimously elected.

Sieglinde introduced our speaker, Annie Martin or "Mossin' Annie," who presented a fascinating look into the world of mosses and moss gardening.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter

**Southeastern Chapter  
American Rhododendron Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 25, 2017**

St John in the Wilderness, Library, Flat Rock, NC

Present: Ray Head, presiding, Sieglinde Anderson, Judy VanRens, Leon Pace, Doley Bell, Wayne Hutchins, John Kendall,  
Jackson McCarter, Pamela McCarter (notetaker)

Meeting was convened by Ray Head at 12:30 PM.

Upcoming Meetings (Sieglinde Anderson presented the following tentative schedule):

March 26, 2017 Mossin' Annie at St John in the Wilderness

April 23, 2017 Garden and/or Nursery Tour (possible choices Marilyn Grist's garden, McCarter garden, Hawkins nursery all in northern Greenville County, SC)

April 29-30 (or other date to be determined) Flower Show at NC Arboretum

July (16 or 23): Annual covered dish picnic. Sieglinde will contact Byron and Hazel Richards

September: possible visit to Carolina Native Nursery in Burnsville, NC

October Plant sale at St John in the Wilderness

Ray mentioned that he has received an email from Jay Jackson suggesting that Vaseyi Chapter of ASA and SE Chapter ARS hold joint meetings. He noted that our April, Flower Show, and October gatherings are joint meetings. Doley suggested that we might encourage an open discussion, with the membership, of merging the Vaseyi Chapter ASA with The Southeast Chapter ARS.

Ray reported that due to the disparity between the different categories of plants, there will no longer be a ribbon for "Best-in-Show". Instead there will be ribbons for "best deciduous azalea," "best evergreen azalea," and "best rhododendron." It was recommended that tickets for the Arboretum be distributed during one of the meetings preceding the show.

Jackson presented the Treasurers Report, consisting of a Cash Flow sheet as well as a record of a checking account and CD's. Since there is a significant cash balance, it was recommended that we consider worthy causes to be brought before the membership such as: a. Scholarship to local student; b. A rhododendron, azalea display garden; c. A bulk quantity of potting soil to be shared among members; d. Contribution to rhododendron research, possibly through the national ARS.

Jackson noted that a roster of members is available on the SE-ARS website and that 20 members have yet to renew their memberships.

Ray mentioned that a new slate of officers needs to be elected in July and he asked acting secretary, Pamela McCarter, and current treasurer, Jackson McCarter, if they would consider running for these offices, to which they agreed. Sieglinde Anderson, current vice president, agreed to run for president. Other officers will be nominated in the future after consultations with the membership. The board memberships of Wayne Hutchins, Audrey Stelloh and Chris Wetmore are due to expire in 2017. Wayne Hutchins agreed to serve for another term, leaving two board positions to be filled.

Ray presented the treasurer with an insurance certificate received from ARS; this will be posted on the website.


He asked that we consider ways to encourage participation and enhance enjoyment for our members. Buffy has done a fine job with greeting members and guests and has agreed to continue to be our hospitality chairman. Guests are encouraged at meetings. To improve our meetings, it was agreed

that refreshments might be added. Jackson suggested that, like some chapters, we might consider subsidizing membership fees by \$10/member beginning next year, so as to make it less expensive for members to belong to both the Vaseyi Chapter and Southeast Chapters.

Ray reported that the NC Arboretum has contacted him with regard to the printing of brochures describing their azalea collection. In the past, the cost of this printing has been defrayed by equal contributions from both Vaseyi Chapter and Southeast Chapter ARS. Doley will contact Vaseyi Chapter president Jay Jackson for their share of this expenditure.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



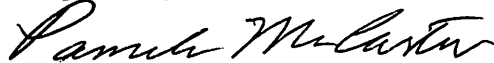
Pamela McCarter  
Acting Secretary

Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society  
Outing  
Saturday, December 3, 2016  
Mossin' Annie's Mountain Moss Mossery  
100 Elks Club Road  
Brevard, NC

Eleven members met at 10 AM to enjoy an illuminating talk about moss culture and moss characteristics delivered by Mossin' Annie Martin. We were encouraged to tour the Mossery and to purchase mosses and Annie's new book, "The Magical World of Moss Gardening." Those present were Denise Cherry, Jerry Neff, Sieglinde Anderson, Audrey Stelloh, Judy and Chuck VanRens, Richard and Betty Becker, and Jack and Pamela McCarter.

Lunch followed at the Square Root Restaurant on Arcade Alley in Brevard. A good time was had by all and some of us got to watch the Brevard Christmas Parade on our way back to our cars.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela McCarter