

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

September 2007

Wild Flowers of the Southern Appalachian

Sunday September 16 at 2:00 PM

Saint John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC



*Lilium superbum,
Turk's Cap Lily,
found along the Blue
Ridge Parkway on
July 21.*

Our guest speaker, **James Drake**, will give a presentation on selected families of the wildflowers of the Southern Appalachian Region of the United States. This area of ancient mountains and alluvial valleys hosts one of the most diverse and complex array of flora in the world. The variation in altitude from the lowest valleys to the highest mountains that are over 6000

feet high presents several vertically stratified ecosystems. This situation allows one to observe the unique characteristics of each ecosystem within a short span of time.

James is an avid photographer, writer and authority on our native plant material. This outstanding speaker is one you will not want to miss. See his website at www.breathospring.com.

A drawing for a choice rhododendron and refreshments are part of the afternoon activities.

Visitors are welcomed!

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

For a color copy of the Blue Ridge Review,

From the President, Don Johnson

We need to bring in new members, and once they become members we need to get them active:

- Field trips in the spring
- Getting plant advice for them
- Where to buy plants
- How to get in touch with the extension service, for help with plant problems.

The following chairpeople have been appointed:

Programs: Tami Wagner

Publicity: Barbara Montgomery

Membership: Tami Wagner

Flower Show: Glen O'Sheal and April Sanborn

Book Sales: April Sanborn

Plants for Members: Glenn O'Sheal

Species Study Group: Bill Klippel

Liason to Fletecher Research. Station: Ray Head

Liason to Aboretum: Bill Klippel

April Sanborn has discounted books for members with plant info.

Right now we need to be looking for borers and die back on our plants, and what to do about them. At our September meeting I will give a short discussion on them, hopefully with examples of each, before the main program.



Don Johnson

Annual Meeting and Picnic

At the beautiful garden of
Doly and Melody Bell, June 10, 2007

Doley and Melody Bell graciously hosted our Annual Meeting and picnic at their beautiful



yard and woodland garden. About 30 or so members and guests shared in the bounty of scrumptious favorite dishes.



Glenn O'Sheal lead the selection process for an early 'Plants for Members' event. There were nearly 200 two year old rhododendron plants in one or two gallon pots, each for a small donation. Many who vowed not to buy any more, went back to their homes with especially treasured plants.

Bill Klippell then conducted the annual lively auction of plants, of many varieties, being shared by the members. Again, nearly everyone brought home something special.



Ray Head, chairman of the Nominating committee, announced the slate of officers and directors as shown on the address panel of this newsletter. They were duly elected and assumed their roles.

A Hendersonville Times-News features writer interviewed outgoing President, Bill Klippel, and

others. On June 18 a great article ran, on our society and some of the Rhododendrons flourishing in the mountains of North Carolina. It focused on the unique Melody Bell rhododendron which Doley found on his property and officially named for his wife. You can see the entire article, with photos, at www.blueridgenow.com and click on features, then search on "rhododendrons."



Joe Coleman talks with Lois Tennant, from the Times-News.



April's Book Review

Native Perennials for the Southeast

by Peter Loewer

The Southeast is blessed with an abundance of native plant species and people have been making good use of them in their gardens. There are many advantages of using these plants. They are not only beautiful, but tough. They are already adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and are more pest and drought resistant. They have also become readily available in both the local nursery and mail order trades. A good way to become familiar with Southeastern native plants is with Peter Loewer's book. He goes into the basics of planting, care, as well as landscape uses of these plants. He describes hundreds of species and cultivars and includes interesting historical information for many of them. Additional chapters are devoted to ferns, grasses and sedges, and bog and water plants. The book is filled with beautiful full-color photographs and illustrations by the author. Anyone interested in making better use of our native plants, especially the less well known ones, will find this book a welcome addition to their library. The book retails for \$23.00, but is available from our chapter for \$18.00. April will have copies of this and other discounted books at our September meeting.

THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY CELEBRATED ITS 50TH YEAR ON MARCH 13, 2007

The Southeastern Chapter was organized on the 13th of March, 1957, at a meeting which was held in the George Vanderbilt Hotel, Asheville, NC. There were twenty charter members, from several localities in the western mountains.

In 1957 when the Board of Director of the ARS authorized the formation of the Southeastern Chapter, it was the eleventh group to gain official status. The first President of the newly formed chapter was Joe Brooks of Enka, NC. The Vice President was Dr. Ernest Yelton of Rutherfordton, NC and the Secretary-Treasurer was W.H. (Buck) Thorne.

(Editor's note: To be continued in future 2007 newsletters.)



Note from your Historians: We have collected several items but still would love to have more. If you have anything such as newspaper articles, obits of former members (we have created a Memorial Notebook), or photos that you can share with us please let us know. We will bring the notebooks to our next meeting in September.

Leon and Jean Pace



In Memorium

Harold L. Crutcher, PhD

November 18, 1913 - June 11, 2007

Dr. Crutcher was a Life Member of the American Rhododendron Society and a long time member of the Southeastern Chapter. He was a Statistician, Chemist and Meteorologist with the US Weather Bureau. He was a leading authority on upper air climatology for which he received several prestigious awards. He and his wife, Clarice, participated



Dr. Crutcher at the SEARS Christmas Party--2003.

in the initial establishment of the North Carolina Arboretum. Ray Head remembers him telling about consulting with the highway department on calculating the slopes on I-40 going down the mountain into Marion, so the sun would melt the winter ice.

To read his full obituary, go to <http://citizen-times.com/obituaries>.

Passing the Torch...

Your new editor of the Blue Ridge Review wishes to thank Tami Wagner for all her work and dedication in the previous 5 plus years to this monumental project. She and her husband, Jim, were awarded the Bronze Medal last spring for countless contributions, mountains of toil, and numerous achievements. She set up the format for the BRR layout, making the task relatively easy for me to take over. She will continue to keep her "hand in", as a contributor of material and my proof reader. She is a very talented lady, and deserves many thanks from all of us in the Southeastern Chapter.



Southeastern Chapter of the ARS

Officers and Directors

President: Don Johnson **Treasurer:** Billy Joyner

Vice President: Tami Wagner **Past President:** Bill Klippel

Secretary/Editor: Marilyn Haynes **Directors 'til 2008:** Ray Head
Patricia Phillips, April Sanborn

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

September is membership RENEWAL month. Please send your renewal to our Treasurer, Billy Joyner. There will be a drawing among "early birds" for a free membership at the Christmas party.



Annual meeting and picnic. Story and more photos inside.

Board Meeting

The newly elected Board of Directors met at the home of Billy Joyner on August 4, 2007. The chapter is financially solvent, committee chair people are activated, new membership recruitment initiatives are planned and some very interesting programs are on the horizon.

Deadline for copy for the October Blue Ridge Review is September 15. Please send to

Mark Your Calendar Now!

September 16 2:00 PM Saint John in the Wilderness, Wild Flowers of the Southern Appalachian, James Drake.

October 21 2:00 PM Saint John in the Wilderness, Plants for Members.

November - Give Thanks and mulch; no meeting.

December 2 2:00 PM Saint John in the Wilderness, Annual Christmas Party.