

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

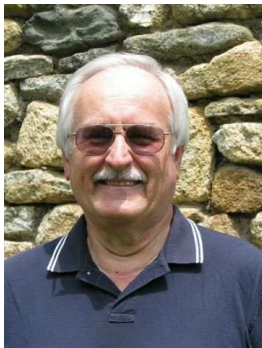


Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

April 2011

"Beware the Green Invaders:" Sunday, April 17, 2:00 PM

"Beware the Green Invaders: the invasive non-native plants of WNC." is the topic for Sunday, April 17, with Alan Mizeras of Horseshoe, NC, at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731.



Alan Mizeras is a Senior Master Gardener beginning his ninth year with the NC Extension Service volunteer program. He has been recognized as a local expert in Plant rescue having been a principal organizer of the Henderson County Native

Plant Rescue Group in September 2005. He has also received the 'Seasoned Sapling' Award for volunteer service as a Master Gardener. He is a Biologist by training and is a graduate of Catawba College in Salisbury. He retired in 2001 and lives on 4 acres in Horse Shoe on the French Broad River. He has lived and gardened in the south all

his life, 32 of those years in Virginia in the Tidewater, Richmond and Roanoke areas. His collection of rescued plants, trees and native azaleas is extensive and growing. There is valuable reading material connected to this program so it is another not to be missed meeting; pertinent information that every Western North Carolinian should know!

Flower show chairman, Glenn O'Sheal, will bring entry cards to this meeting to encourage people who plan on entering flowers to fill them out **before** they arrive with their trusses on Saturday morning. Since we cannot get in to the Arboretum until 8:00 AM, we will need extra people putting the flowers out on the tables so it can be done faster than in the past. It will work if everyone puts their full effort into the show. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome, so please bring your friends.

52nd Annual Flower Show

Sat. April 30, & Sun. May 1, 2011

NC Arboretum, Bent Creek, NC

Bring trusses and sprays between 8:00 & 9:00 AM on Saturday, or 2:00 - 4:30 On Friday.

Show open to the public 12:00-5:00 both days.



Spring Open Gardens & Tours

Wayne Hutchins' garden at **Plants-A-Plenty Farm**, 890 Crowe Dairy Road, Forest City, NC 28043, specializes in growing and selling shade garden plants. Wayne has had many prize winners in our flower shows. His nursery has been providing landscaping plants in the Carolinas for over 25 years. They have several acres landscaped for you to walk through and see the plants they have to offer. They are open Wednesday-Saturday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. Best time to come for spring blooms is **April 20-23**.



Todmorden
2008 winner.



White Rosebud
2008 Best of Show

Ray Head's garden, Rutherfordton, NC, about a 10 acre collection of plants, mainly hollies, native azaleas, camellias and lepidote rhododendrons, plus many evergreen azaleas and eleipode rhododendrons that represent the hardiest of these groups. Ray also has a collection of native trees, shrubs, and wild flowers from the southeastern states, some of which are rare plants. Practically everything was grown from cuttings or seed. It's not far from Plants-A-Plenty, and bloom times are similar, **April 20-23**.

Doley and Melody Bell's garden, Hendersonville, NC 28791, has over 3,000 rhododendrons including Dexter, Haag, Leach, Kehr, Gilkey, Delp, Van Veen, Richardson and Lee hybrid rhododendrons and Glenn Dale, Back Acres, Exbury and Girard hybrid azaleas, plus many deciduous native azaleas all in a beautifully harmonious landscape. This remarkable garden will be open for guided tours on **Tuesday, May 3, 2:00 - 4:00 PM**, or call for an appointment.



Bob & Audrey Stelloh's garden, Hendersonville, NC, is named Kairaku, meaning "Joint Pleasure." This 2 acre garden has many native wildflowers with ground covers, many evergreen and deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons and Japanese maples and other ornamental trees



with an over story of mature oaks, tulip poplars, pines, sourwoods and dogwoods. They are welcoming guests to tour on **Saturday, May 7**.

Ed Collins garden, is at Hendersonville, NC 28739. This 8 acre garden in Flat Rock, NC, includes over a thousand varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, dwarf indumented rhododendrons, evergreen and deciduous azaleas, wildflowers, unusual trees and shrubs, plus the most extensive collection of Cowles hybrid rhododendrons in the South. **Call Ed, 828-697-9228, for an appointment.**



Don & Marilyn Haynes' garden, Hendersonville, NC 28791, is nearly an acre with a mature collection of over 200



varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas, with a few hollies and conifers. Come any time on **Saturday, May 7**, or call 828-696-2996 to come another day.

This year we want every SE-ARS member to be familiar with the gardens that will be on tour for the 2012 convention, Bell's, Stelloh's and Collins, because we'll need everyone's help next year for that. So, be sure to get out and enjoy these fabulous gardens during their peak blooms in 2011!

E-Conversations: *I'm experimenting with a new idea for our feature, that allows for lots of people to get involved with their advice and informative experiences. Please let me know what you think, and if you're involved in an e-conversation about our beloved Rhododendrons, please send me a copy. Here's our first try at it. Editor*

Ted Meredith of Clermont, GA, an Associate member of SE-ARS, has shared an interesting e-mail conversation, which started with this question, **"If a plant sets a large amount of seed, is it typical the next year for the blooms to be sparse?"** from Bill Butts, Ellijay, Georgia.

Answers and comments came from a number of people from near and far, some names you may even recognize.

"Bill: I would say that's not a 'hard and fast rule' but in many cases it applies.



Bruce Clyburn - Cumberlandense

R. flammeum is a bit tender to carry buds here. I have quite a number of R. calendulaceum forms and most years they put on a good display. I find if they're sited in a sunny location

they're more dependable. Cheers." Bruce Clyburn, New Waterford, NS; zone 6a.

"Bill, I do not find that as a rule. If the plant gets water in July you will get bud set." Earl Sommerville.

"Here in Salem, NH, the amount of sunlight determines if Rhododendron and azaleas set bud.

The amount of water determines the extent of bud set if there is sunlight." John Perkins, Salem, NH.

"John, All native azaleas need sun to grow and set bud. The more sun that a plant gets from sun up to mid afternoon control the plant's growth and amount of bud set; more sun, better bud set and less plant growth. But if the ground is dry to very dry you will wait till the following year for blooms." Earl Sommerville, Marietta GA.



Earl Sommerville's Light Yellow Alabamense

"Important information from Earl." Deloris Smith.

"Deloris, When we first purchased the Henson Road 13 acres, very few of the native azaleas were blooming. The reason was, I felt, because there was too much competition for light, water, and nutrients from brush and trees. So, we went about reducing that competition by removing competing brush and some trees. It worked--the native azaleas began to bloom and some began to bloom heavily. I have continued to remove competing vegetation around newly found native azaleas and every year there are more native azaleas in bloom that have not bloomed before. That is true for this spring



Native azaleas at Meredith Woodlands, Clermont, GA

too. There will be plants that have never bloomed before, which will be blooming. It is always very suspenseful and interesting to see the color of the new ones when they bloom.

"I believe another restricting factor re growth and bloom is lack of mulch or organic matter around the native azalea. This is especially important for native azaleas located on sloping topography. The mulch serves several



Ted Meredith's native azaleas

positive purposes. One of the mulches I use is portions of tree trunks and large tree limbs. The tree trunk and limb portions will gradually decompose. They

last about five years depending on diameter and species of the wood. The appearance of the tree trunk material can be non-natural looking. However, I would have to buy a railroad box car of mulch if I would use commercial, with no way to get it into the woods and on the plants, especially on the steeper slopes. The tree trunks are placed on the downhill side of the native azaleas and they trap tree leaves in the fall and winter.

"A very interesting observation on our property is that after native azaleas are released from competing vegetation, some native azaleas put on flower buds within the next year or two while other native azaleas put on vegetative growth. I don't know if that is due to genetics, site, or physiology." Ted, Clermont, GA.

(Continued on Pg. 4)

(Continued from pg. 3)

After giving his permission to use the e-mails in the newsletter, Ted continued, "I haven't counted the number of native azaleas on our woodland property, but estimate it at about two hundred plants, somewhat evenly divided between naturally occurring plants and ones I've planted. Included in the planted native azaleas are several of the Floyd and Millie McConnel collection from Mobile, Alabama as well as Ghent, Knap Hill, Aromi, Tom Dodd, Beasley, Exbury, Arneson, and other hybrids and species native to the South. Four species were naturally occurring on the 13 acres when we bought the property." Ted, Clermont, GA.

Sounds to me like a place worth visiting. Editor

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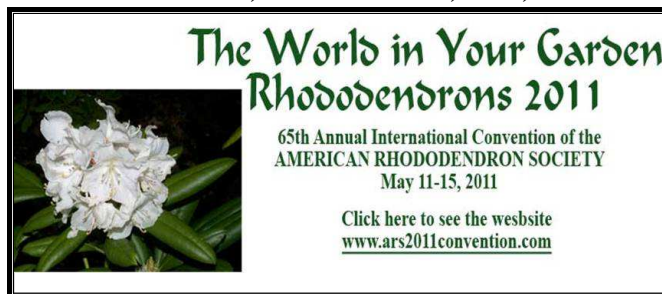
By the way, if you want to see some fabulous photographs of rhododendrons and azaleas, visit Earl Sommerville's Photo Website at <http://earlsommerville.com/>. His images have been collected over a period of almost 50 years, mostly in the state of Georgia. Photos include native azaleas, evergreen azaleas and rhododendron.

Annual Banquet Canceled

We deeply regret that the Annual Banquet and Silent Auction in March had to be canceled, so we don't have pictures or a story on this event.

The SE-ARS Board of Directors would like to hear from you about the types of activities you would want to attend. Please send an e-mail to the Secretary, Marilyn Haynes, mphaynes@juno.com with any ideas or suggestions and I will pass them on to the Board. Thanks.

District 4 of ARS invites everyone, including non-members, to Vancouver, WA, for --



It costs more after April 15! So, register now! Headquarters hotel is already sold out! Others available.

Hooper Bald Work Party

This will be the final big push to accomplish the reclaiming of this valuable azalea resource. This project of reclaiming the very rare azaleas on Hooper Bald is being accomplished by a combined effort of the United States Forest Service and volunteers from the American Rhododendron Society and the Azalea Society of America. Here is the schedule. Please feel free to join Jim Brant's team on Hooper Bald at any time from **1 pm, Wed., April 6, and 9 am on Thurs., Fri., and Sat., and possibly Sun.** Get more details on the schedule, where to stay, and information about what to bring, etc., by contacting John Brown.

"Appalachian Spring"

2012 ARS-ASA International Convention

**May 3-7, 2012
Asheville, NC**

*Hosted by the Southeastern Chapter, ARS
and Vaseyi Chapter, ASA*

Stay up to date and see how you can help
by joining the
Yahoo 2012 Convention e-mail group.

Send an e-mail to Bob Stelloh, bstelloh@mac.com
and he will instruct you in how to join the group.



**Southeastern Chapter
AMERICAN
RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY
Membership Sign-up Form**

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

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

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

- Regular.....\$40.00
- Commercial.....90.00
- Sustaining.....75.00
- Sponsoring.....150.00
- Commit for Life (Individual).....1,000.00
- Commit for Life (Family).....1,500.00

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

John Brown, SE-ARS Treasurer

Welcome! ...and Thank you for joining the...

**Southeastern Chapter
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

Commit for Life, Individual, is payable over a 3 year period in one increment of \$400 & two of \$300. Commit for Life, Family, is payable over a 3 year period in increments of \$500. ♥ Encourage a friend to join!

In Memorium

Billy Joyner Passed away on March 22. He and his wife, Claire, moved to Flat Rock from Washington, DC in 1995 when he retired from GEICO. He was born in West Tennessee, served in the Navy after college, and lived all over the country working for insurance companies as an actuary and in investment management.

Billy was raised on a farm, and both his parents were gardeners, bringing plants from the woods to the house. He recently reported that he still had a begonia his Mother gave him about 40 years ago.

"When we bought our place, I saw that rhododendrons would be an essential part of our gardens, and I saw what was available at the local nurseries, but I did not know what a wonderful array of native azaleas existed." Billy wrote.

"I think I found out about SE-ARS from the newspaper. I joined in July of 1999, and soon had my first Plants for Members, including a Velma Haag 'Great Smokey' which bloomed for the first time last year." (2007)

He served as Vice-president, President, Secretary and Treasurer of our chapter.

Since 2004 he has been working from his home as an investment analyst for a Canadian insurance group and still expanding their garden despite droughts, freezes and borers.



From Tami Wagner:
 "Billy had one of the premium rhododendron gardens in our area. He was a dear friend and always a gentleman. His death was sudden with no known health problems. He served on several organizations and contributed his many talents to our area. If you would like to send a card, send it to Claire Joyner.

"Jim and I will miss all the good times we had with him. He just bought a bunch of new plants to add to his extensive garden. His beautiful garden is a living reflection of him!" *Tami*

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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Happy Easter!

Deadline for the May-June Blue Ridge Review is April 20. Please send copy to mphaynes@juno.com.

Hendersonville Garden Jubilee
Main Street, Hendersonville
Sat. & Sun. May 28-29
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sign up to help at our booth # 111 on
the West side, near Allen St.
Contact Marilyn Haynes

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

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

April 6-10 - Hooper Bald Project, See pg. 4.

April 17, Sun. - "Beware the Green Invaders: the invasive non-native plants of WNC." with Alan Mizeras of Horseshoe, NC, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall

April 20-23, 8:30-5:30 - Garden tours at Ray Head and Wayne Hutchins, Rutherfordton and Forest City, NC

April 30, Sat. & May 1, Sun. - Flower Show, NC Arboretum, Bent Creek, NC

May 3, Tuesday, 2:00 - 4:00 - Open Garden at Doley and Melody Bell's, Hendersonville,

May 7 - Open Garden at Stellohs, and Haynes' Hendersonville, NC

May 11-15 - ARS International Convention, Vancouver, WA. (Register by April 15)

May 28-29, Sat. & Sun. - Hendersonville Garden Jubilee, Main Street, Hendersonville.

July 10 - Picnic and Plant Auction at the Bell's. Hendersonville. NC.