



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN

April, 2022

Encouragement of the cu

VISITS TO OUR MEMBERS' GARDENS IN THE NEXT MONTH

Betty Montgomery's Garden

Betty has graciously invited us to tour her wonderful garden on April 9th, 10th, and 16th from 10 to 4. As you read the following, I'm sure you will want to come and enjoy this beautiful creation. Chuck and I commented after our visit last year that Betty's garden could be a public park because it has so many enjoyable features.

Forty Oaks Garden was a garden started by Betty Montgomery in 2002. The garden is about 5 acres and contains many azaleas, rhododendron, bulbs, Japanese maples and other plant material. Betty has made it a fall, winter and spring garden. There are some spring perennials but it is mainly a garden of trees and shrubs.

The garden is perfect for a stroll though the many areas of color tones. It has the feel of an English garden with a geometric design containing different areas surrounding a large 2-acre pond with a statue in the middle. There are plenty of benches along the way to sit and enjoy so much beauty. It looks like Betty had fun choosing the many pots, statues and other accents that enhance the garden. A stroll through the garden tells us that Betty is a natural collector because of the many unusual plants you find in her garden.

Here's the location: 100 Forty Oaks Farm, Campobello, SC. 29322. You can find directions on Google maps. Here are a few details that Betty provided: there is white fencing along Walnut Hill Church road. You turn into the driveway of 985 Walnut Hill Church Road and follow the road to the top of the hill. Our driveway is Forty Oaks Farm Road.

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The Stelloh Garden—Woodland Garden Stroll

Audrey Stelloh has invited SE-ARS and Vaseyi members to take a Woodland, Garden Stroll in her lovely garden between 10 and 4 on these dates: April 22,23,24,25, 30, and May 1,2,3,4,5. Come on any of these dates; she'll be home to welcome you and give you a tour. The Stelloh garden is an exciting woodland garden with a mixture of native and exotic plants. The garden is located just outside Laurel Park on 4 heavily wooded acres on the side of a mountain. The understory is a maze of native Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron maximum and calendulaceum azaleas that has been enhanced with more

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Tom Ranney showed a newly developed plant to Bob Head in 2018



Irene Palmer shows us tissue culture



Audrey's Beautiful Garden



Begin near the house

Visit the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Center

On Friday, May 27, 2022, we will have a tour of the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, at 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC. We will meet at the Center at 10 AM. Dr. Tom Ranney (a SE-ARS member) along with Irene Palmer, Research Specialist, will provide a behind the scenes tour of plant breeding and new crop development at the Mountain Crop Research Center. They work on a broad diversity of landscape and bioenergy crops. Tom's major research is focused on three areas:

- ✦ Development of new nursery and bioenergy crops with greater adaptability, pest resistance, and commercial potential.
- ✦ Enhancing production efficiency and quality of crops.
- ✦ Research in plant science, cytogenetics and reproductive biology

Tom received his B.S. degree from The Ohio State University followed by a M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University. He has been a faculty member at North Carolina State University since 1989 and is currently JC Raulston Distinguished Professor, North Carolina State University, Department of Horticultural Science, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center. When we tour with Tom Ranney, we will definitely be learning from an expert. His recent awards include Publication Award, Extension Education Award and Distinguished Achievement Award for Nursery Crops from the American Society of Horticultural Science; the Research Friend of Extension Award from NC State University; the Porter Henegar Memorial Award for Research from the Southern Nursery Association, and the H. Marc Cathey Award for outstanding scientific research from the American Horticultural Society. Tom is definitely abiding by the motto of the Horticultural Research Center which is *Meeting the Agricultural Research Needs of Southern Appalachia*.

When we visit in May, we can look forward to learning about their current research and results in developing new plants that are not invasive, finding color variations, creating climate adaptability, reliable flowering, and disease-resistance. On our last visit, we had a chance to purchase some newly developed plants, so bring your wallets just in case.

Members' Gardens (cont. from page 1)

The Stelloh Garden—Woodland Garden Stroll (cont. from p.1)

deciduous azaleas, hybrid and species rhododendrons and azaleas. The floor of the garden is scattered with a large variety of native plants such as trillium, solomon's seal and false solomons seal, ferns, lady slippers, gingers, trout lily, bloodroot, tiarella, Virginia bluebells and more.

Audrey will welcome you at 65 Sierra Dr., Hendersonville — in Laurel Park. Bring walking shoes to enjoy the meandering paths.

April, 2022

Bob Head Showed Us How to Graft Rhododendrons

(on pages 3 and 4)



Twelve members learned about grafting from Bob's thorough and specific demonstration. He has broad experience grafting rhododendrons onto John Thornton's root rot resistant cultivars of hyperythrum hybrid Rhododendron. He used a Black Sport Rhododendron that he had rescued from the Van Rens' garden during a Spring Garden visit years ago. Bob obviously has a magic touch with plants. In his demonstration, he created a graft from the original Black Sport, grafting it onto the stronger root stock.



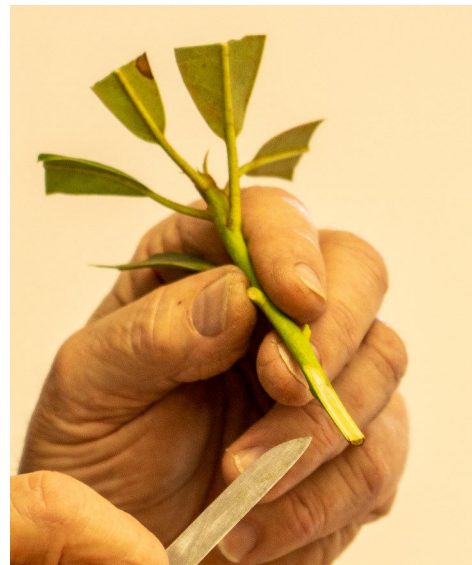
Bob brought several plants that he had grafted successfully. One of his pieces of advise was the importance of understanding the physiology of the plant.



Above is a picture of the cambium layer. This is the layer between the bark and the wood (xylem). It contains chlorophyll and is the medium for nutrients to travel down to the roots, as well as to facilitate bud formation on the plant.



An essential element of grafting is matching the cambium layers of the root stock and the scion. Even if the sizes are different, the cambium of the two parts needs to match on at least one side.



It's important to reduce the foliage area on the scion, but you must keep some foliage to keep the plant nutrients flowing.

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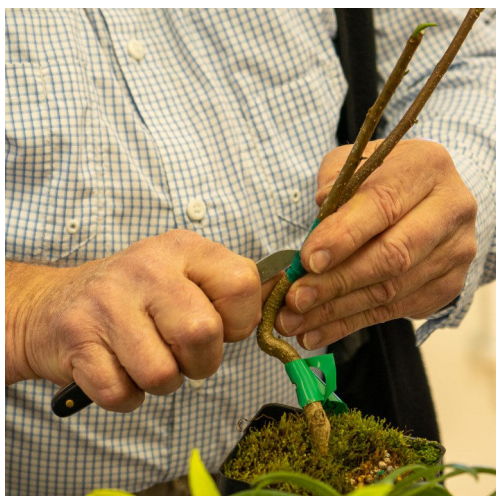
Bob Head's Grafting Lesson continues.



Here's an example of the cut you should make in the root stock. It's important to make sure that the cut you make assures that the cambium layer is easily accessible to the scion you attach.



Manipulate the scion and the root stock so that the cambium layers are joined.



Tie the graft with a double wrap of a tiny plastic strip. It's important to develop a good tension with the plastic strip (tight, but not girdled).



Wrap a second layer of plastic tape for a secure graft.



Make sure that the cuttings are not near the bottom of the plant because the lower part of the plant carries too much water. After the wrap is secure, cover it with a clear, perforated adhesive wrap. Then place a small piece of electrical tape loosely over the crotch of the graft to make a 'roof' for the graft. After the graft takes, cut back the buds on the root stock so that the energy switches to growing the graft.

April, 2022

Members' Garden Visits (cont. from page 1 & 2)

The McCarter Garden

Dr. Jackson and Pamela McCarter's place near Travelers Rest, SC, is interesting both in architecture and horticulture. This is a very large natural "garden" with rhododendrons and azaleas along the drive, woodland paths and ponds. Jackson grows all his rhododendrons from seed obtained from overseas and native sources. As you meander through the forest of mainly hardwoods and pines, you are treated to many different Rhododendrons. You can spend hours wandering and discovering Jackson's bountiful collection. Jackson has spent years growing, evaluating and hybridizing *R. degronianum*ssp.*yakusimanum*, *R. fortunei*, and native as well as Japanese azaleas.

You'll also find a substantial nursery, filled with plants he has raised, waiting to be evaluated, planted or shared with us during plant sales. A misting solar greenhouse and 7 or 8 Nearing frames are used to house plants before planting them into the woodland.

You will get an email notification of the date and time of this garden visit. Put 280 Trammel Rd., Travelers Rest, SC, into your GPS; know that when you turn into the drive, you'll go quite a ways before you reach the house.

Ray Head's Garden

Another garden visit where you will hear about the date and time in an email later this month will be going to Ray Head's 40+ acres just south of Rutherfordton, NC. Though Ray's holly collection will be the focus of our tour, you'll find Ray has a special affection for four plant groups: deciduous holly, deciduous native azalea, blueberry, and dogwood.

Since most hollies need sun, Ray's expansive open areas are especially suited for his spectacular collection. He willingly shared the knowledge he has gained after growing them for 25 years. Holly's are easy to root, and Ray rooted most of his collection 22 to 25 years ago; the key is to take cuttings that are growing straight up on the plant. Also, it's good to know that the male and female plants are separate. Ray will educate us about these wonderful plants.

The last time we visited Ray's was 7 years ago in December; in this spring visit, it will be wonderful to see that other species besides the hollies will be available for our admiration. The native azaleas should be spectacular.

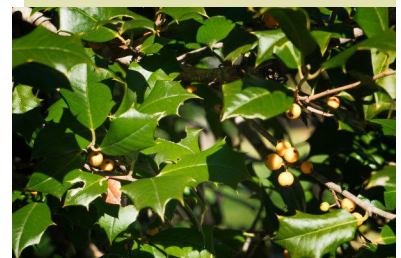
Ray's address is 1087 Baber Road, Rutherfordton, NC. So watch for an email in the next couple weeks that will tell you when you can come and enjoy Ray's wonderful and unique garden



Jackson's Nursery



Ray's Garden in winter.



**Southeastern Chapter of
American Rhododendron Society
280 Trammell Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC 29690**

WEBSITE - WWW.SE-ARS.ORG

Officers and Directors

(beginning July 1, 2021)

President: Aaron Cook

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

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Directors until 2022—

John Kendall, Alan Mizeras,
Buffy Wells

Directors until 2023—

Ray Head, Leon Pace, April
Sanborn

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

**Various April Dates—
Garden Visits to
Montgomery, Stelloh, Ray
Head, McCarter, and Van
Rens Gardens**

**4/23—BRCC Plant Sale
8-4, at the Greenhouse**

**5/27-Visit Mountain
Horticultural Research
Center — 10 a.m.**

**Make Sure to Check Out the
SE-ARS Website —
www.se-ars.org**

Members' Gardens (cont. from page 1 & 2, 5)

The Van Rens Garden

On Saturday, April 30th from 1-3, come and enjoy this one-acre garden at 109 Woodhaven Dr., Hendersonville, that was developed by former SE-ARS member Fred Kalmbach in the 1980's, inspired by his neighbor, John Creech, former director of the National Arboretum. Judy and Chuck have made additions and cared for the garden for 12 years.



Designed primarily for enjoyment, and exploration, it features an eclectic selection of rhododendrons, azaleas, dwarf conifers, hollies, and Judy's annuals and perennials. It is punctuated with maples, ironwoods, a bald cypress, a dawn redwood and other varieties of specialty trees. A rose and day lily display is a delight as well. There are well over 100 rhododendrons, including nine varieties of Dexters, plus hybrids by Greer, Fraser, Gamble, Schannen, Watterer, Haag, Koster, Whitney and others. Chuck has labeled 80% of the plants, leaving 20% unknown, to him at least. Perhaps you can help him with the rest.