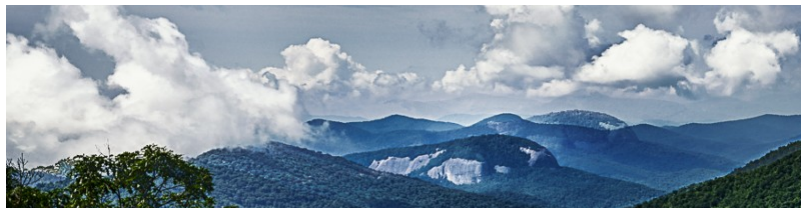




The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

September/October 2018

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

GROWING NATIVE RHODODENDRONS FROM SEED Presented by Bill Jones

Join us on **Sunday, Sept. 16**, at 2 o'clock at our new meeting place at Bullington Gardens (Hicks House) to learn from Bill Jones. Bill established Carolina Native Nursery in 2003 in Burnsville. He founded Carolina Native "to aid in the preservation of the plants, birds, butterflies, bees, and the rest of the flora and fauna that make western N.C. one of the truly special places in the world." Carolina Native grows close to 200 species of eastern U.S. native shrubs, perennials, ferns, and grasses. They specialize in rhododendrons, azaleas, and Mt. Laurels indigenous to the Southern Appalachian mountains that they grow from seed. Their clients range from landscape architects, landscape design and installations firms, independent garden centers, commercial developers, and gardeners that want native plants for their backyards. You can find their plants on the Biltmore Estate, in Central Park, on the Mall in D.C., and at Monticello.

Before starting Carolina Native Nursery, Bill was founder and president of Terra Systems in Charlotte, N.C. Terra Systems specialized in organic based lawn and shrub care services. Scotts bought this company in 2001. Bill is a member in good standing of The Sierra Club, The N.C. Nurseryman and Landscape Association, the Virginia Nurseryman's Association, International Plant Propagators Society, and the Asheville Rugby Club. He has served on the Charlotte Tree Commission, Earthday Charlotte Festival (chairman), the Asheville Tree Commission (chair for 4 years), the Strategic Planning Council for the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service for NC A&T University, and chaired the western region, and the Asheville Civic Center Commission. He has also served on the board of trustees for The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and Asheville Greenworks.

Bill says: "Our mission is to get more native plants in the ground. Consequently, we have only concerned ourselves with supplying growers with the best plants possible."



SE-ARS MEETINGS CHANGE OF VENUE

New Meeting Place:
Bullington Gardens
95 Upper Red Oak Trail
Hendersonville, NC

Directions

- I-26, Exit 49A —onto Hwy 64 E
- 2.5 Mi. Left on Howard Gap Rd.
- 1 Mi Right on Zeb Corn Rd
- .6 Mi. Right on Upper Red Oak Trail

Jerry says, "Sept 16 is a good time for a meeting at Bullington Gardens. The Dahlia gardens will (hopefully) be in full bloom."

Inside This Issue

Plant Auction	2
July Picnic	2
ARS Conference	2
McCarters' Trip of a Lifetime	3



The Blue Ridge Review

PLANT AUCTION — OCTOBER 14

The Plant Auction at the Sunday, October 14, meeting promises to be full of tempting choices for members' gardens. Join us at 2 P.M. at the Bullington Gardens. Please bring prime plants from your personal collections to add to this year's auction selections. Everyone in this group is interested in trying new varieties and increasing their own collection. Members of Vaseyi will also be participating in this auction. Share what you love!! Start potting your plants for the October auction today!!

Doley Bell will again be our auctioneer. He does a great job of entertaining us and making the auction profitable by encouraging people to keep bidding. I'm surprised he doesn't become a professional auctioneer.

JULY PICNIC—DELICIOUS AND INFORMATIVE

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, July 16th, about 25 of us gathered for a delicious pot luck. We thank our gracious hosts, Hazel and Richards, for sharing their wonderful home with us. We were delighted to present Pamela and Jackson McCarter with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of their leadership and service since 1971. Both of them have served in numerous important roles to support and enhance our group: Jackson has served as both president and treasurer, and Pam as secretary. Jackson frequently has educated us about rhododendron species, propagation, gardens in the United Kingdom and Japan, as well as sharing their own garden with us. We salute them both.



Our disappointment at the lack of P4M cuttings was replaced by Jackson instructing us on how to grow our own cuttings so that we can help each other propagate valuable species. His presentation was a compilation of a talk he gave in 2014:

www.se-ars.org/how-to-propagate-rhododendrons.html

2018 ARS FALL CONFERENCE—CHATTANOOGA

The Tennessee Valley Chapter cordially invites you to the 2018 ARS Fall Conference, October 19-20 in Chattanooga, TN. The meeting features outstanding talks by Charlie Andrews (Azaleas), Jack Jackson (Stewardias), and Tom Patrick (new Trilliums). Tours include a visit to the iconic Rock City Gardens atop Lookout Mountain and to the outstanding Signal Mountain Garden. Go to website <http://arsstore.org/Fall2018/> for details.

September/October 2018

MC CARTERS' GRAND TOUR OF A LIFETIME

Rhododendron societies of The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland hosted an international group of between 45 and 63 American Rhododendron Society members on a fairytale tour of the gardens and nurseries of their respective locales.

We visited gardens and festivals, as well as large public parks, in Bremen and elsewhere dedicated entirely to the rhododendron. In spite of the disruption of two world wars, many gardens and nurseries have been in operation for several generations having been passed down from father to son..

Garden and nursery owners in Sweden explained that in recent years climate change has brought about a change in the number of species that can be grown. Gothenburg Botanic Garden has not experienced a really cold winter since 1987. Therefore, they are now able to grow some subtropical and even tropical species such as large leafed rhododendrons.

In Finland, we were guided by Peter Tigerstedt, eminent educator and former consultant to the World Bank and to Tanzania, through the Mustila Arnoetum which boasts a woodland chapel which has been designated as a church. With its many islands and semi-maritime climate, gardeners in Finland, with poor soil as a result of glaciation, can grow only about 42 species of rhodos, while in Norway, at the same latitude, they can grow 350.

In Denmark, we visited Kronborg Castle, site of Shakespeare's Hamlet. In Copenhagen, where we stayed in tiny, but clean with well-equipped cubbyholes, we made our way to the meat packing district where we dined on authentic South Carolina barbecue with mustardy sauce slapped onto squares of brown wrapping paper. In the medieval town of Ribe, we stayed in the Hotel Dagmar, dating from the 16th century.

We enjoyed walking tours of a few medieval cities, Utrecht in The Netherlands, Bremen in Germany, Ribe in Denmark and Porvoo in Finland. Pedestrian activity in big cities is a little hazardous because of the ubiquitous bicyclist. Bike paths are everywhere and you must exercise extreme caution when crossing or venturing onto one. This was especially daunting in Amsterdam where bicycles have replaced flower boxes on the bridges, alas!

We enjoyed several ferry rides on the state run Finnish ferries and a couple of cruises: one on the Zaan near the Zaanse-Schans in the Netherlands, a reconstructed "ancient" town where 14 windmills have been erected and are still; another on the River Weser in Bremen. Jack and I also took a canal ride in Amsterdam; our barge was furnished with rattan furniture and oriental rugs.

(continued on page 4)



Arboretum Belmonte-Netherlands



Bremen, Germany



Sofiero Castle Garden - Sweden



R. russatum 'Lauretta'

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

Officers and Directors

(beginning July 1, 2017)

President: Sieglinde Anderson

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

Vice President: Jerry Neff

Directors until 2018—Doley Bell,
John Kendall, and Leon Pace

Directors until 2019—
Wayne Hutchins, Jay Jackson,
Chuck Van Rens

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

**Sunday, Sept. 16, 2 pm
GROWING NATIVE
RHODODENDRONS FROM
SEED - BILL JONES of
Carolina Native Nursery
Bullington Gardens, 95
Upper Red Oak Trail,
Hendersonville, NC**

**Sunday, Oct. 14, 2 pm
Bullington Gardens
PLANT AUCTION**

**October 19 & 20— ARS FALL
CONFERENCE
Holiday Inn—Chattanooga
Hamilton Place
Chattanooga, TN**

Articles for next newsletter due Nov. 15th

McCARTERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME

(continued from page 3)

We spent many wearisome hours on buses, (with some mighty fine folks who must surely always travel first class,) but the bus-time was nicely offset by plenty of perambulation. We all walked between two and six miles a day, even those among us who were well above eighty and/or dependent upon walking devices. Most of us felt a lot better for our exertions and some committed to starting a walking program when they got home. Also, there was plenty to eat and drink so that nobody felt depleted. Two of our favorite eating places were the Bremen Ratskeller in the cellar of the Townhall erected in 1504 and the restaurant in the Italianate manor of Gunter Bruninghauss, near Salo, home of Nokia in Finland.

In addition to the wonderful sights and pleasures we experienced during this meticulously planned and graciously accomplished tour, there was the true joy of sharing the adventure with the fantastic folks of our Rhododendron Society. We can't think of anything that would improve upon that.

By Pam and Jackson McCarter