



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

April, 2019

Encouragement of the club

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27

I am April Sanborn, Chairperson of the Flower Show, and I want you to know that the annual SE-ARS flower show will be held on April 27. The show will be a one-day show held at St. John In the Wilderness in our regular/old meeting room. This show always provides a great opportunity to show and share rhododendron and azalea blooms with fellow members and the public. I am hopeful that in spite of the unusual weather we have been experiencing, we will have a good show representing our local rhododendrons and azaleas. I urge everyone who has nice things in bloom to please bring



entries to the show that day. It is easy to enter and someone will help you if you have not entered a show before. Show entries may be brought on Saturday morning when the building opens at 8:00am. Show entries need to be in by 9:00 am on Saturday, with judging to take place beginning at 10:00 am.

Complete rules will be available on the SE-ARS web page, but here are some basic tips for entering the show.

- Bring clean entries. Wipe dirt and pollen from large leaved rhododendrons as needed and remove debris like bits of oak pollen from all entries. It always improves their appearances.
- Pay attention to size: Elepidote rhododendrons must be a single truss with flowers coming from one bud. Other entries, such as lepidote rhododendrons, deciduous and evergreen azaleas, must be a single stem spray or a single or multiple truss typical of the variety. Sprays must be 16" or less outside of the containers. In Section H (Miniature Truss or Spray), entries must be 1"x4" or less outside of the container.
- Color should be typical of the variety.
- Consider Form -- A single truss should be full, with a full set of leaves, typical of the variety. Sprays should be well shaped, attractive and typical of the variety.

(cont. page 6)

By April Sanborn

APRIL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SET-UP THE FLOWER SHOW!

Please come to St. John in the Wilderness on Friday, April 26th, at 2 pm to help

Inside This Issue

Enjoy the Stelloh Garden	2
Using the SE-ARS Website	2-3
Election of Officers	3
Rhododendron Cultivar Signage	4-5
Flower Show (cont)	6
Calendar	6

The Blue Ridge Review



Welcome sign



Blaney's Blue



Azalea at Stelloh Garden

ENJOY THE STELLOH GARDEN IN ITS FULL GLORY

Audrey Stelloh has invited SE-ARS members to tour her garden in April, 2019. Members are invited to visit her garden between 10 a.m and 4:00 p.m. on either Saturday, April 20 or Saturday, April 27. Audrey's garden is at 65 Sierra Dr., Hendersonville.

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 and Rhododendron maximum and calendulaceum azaleas that has been enhanced with more deciduous azaleas and 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 solomon's seal, ferns, lady slippers, gingers, trout lily, bloodroot, tiarella, Virginia bluebells and more. Peak wildflower bloom is usually around April 20th. The rhododendrons and Japanese azaleas, hopefully, also will be blooming with stunning colors.



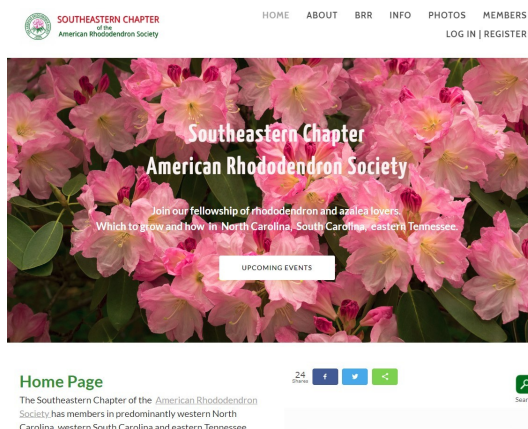
Arbor with honeysuckle

USE THE SE-ARS WEBSITE

We want remind all of our members of the wonderful resource Jackson McCarter has made available to us: the SE-ARS website (www.se-ars.org).

When you arrive at the Homepage, you will find links to upcoming events (both local and national), membership renewal, along with descriptions of recent events (like the international ARS convention). Currently Jackson has posted some recent photos of blooms in his garden (making those of us

(continued on page 3)



SE-ARS.org Homepage

April, 2019

ELECTION OF SE-ARS OFFICERS—2019/20

In January, Ray Head and April Sanborn graciously volunteered to find a slate of officers for next year. We will be voting by email (or on the SE-ARS website) on Monday, April 15. Here is the slate of officers:

President - Ray Head
Vice President - Jerry Neff
Secretary - Pamela McCarter
Treasurer - Jackson McCarter
Two-year Board of Directors
 John Kendall
 Buffy Wells
 Alan Mizeras
One-year Board of Directors
 April Sanborn
 Chuck Van Rens
 Leon Pace
Newsletter editor - Judy Van Rens

Make sure to look for the email on April 15 and vote on that day. If you don't have an email account, you can go to the SE-ARS website (www.se-ars.org), and there will be an obvious link for you to use to vote. (Make sure to put the hyphen in 'se-ars').

USE THE SE-ARS WEBSITE *(continued from page 2)*

who live above the escarpment a little jealous). There are also links to special shopping techniques (ARSSStore.org) which earns 5.6% of purchase for ARS, and you can find references to excellent books about rhodis.

The 'ABOUT' section gives you links to 'Benefits of Membership', 'History of SE-ARS', and instructions on how to use the website.

Click on 'INFO' to find articles about The Dexter Study Group, 'Good-Doers' (recommended plants), 'How to Plant and Care for Rhododendron', and 'Common Rhododendron Diseases'.

In photos you'll enjoy the collection of photos of many varieties of rhododendron, as well as a featured species (currently R. hyperythrum), where Jackson shares abundant information about the plant and its purposes, as well as links to other articles about the current featured species and wonderful photos.

I've described just a few of the resources on this bountiful webpage. So check out this useful tool, and, if you haven't already, set-up your own account.

[CLICK HERE](#)
to vote



You will receive this email
on April 15th.



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER
of the
American Rhododendron Society

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www.se-ars.org

CHANGE IN THE JULY PICNIC P4M

Since we have lost our resource for growing cuttings to sell at the July picnic, we are changing our method of providing our members with good plants. Some of you will have cuttings ready to offer; that will be great. Any of you that have other plants to share, please consider bringing them; you will set the price. If you have wild flowers or other plants like daylilies that will separate easily, consider potting them and bringing them to the July Picnic.



Biskra



Irene Koster

RHODODENDRON CULTIVARS –A NORWEGIAN EXPERT'S DESCRIPTIONS ON GARDEN SIGNAGE (cont.)

In the March issue, we published some of the messages on the descriptive signs in the Rhododendron Cultivar Collection at the Bergen, Norway Arboretum which Curator Per H. Salvesen, shared with Chuck. The writer was rhododendron aficionado and former Curator Dr. Per Magnus Joergensen. We continue sharing the text on these signs which present thorough descriptions of cultivars:

Ghent-Azaleas

This is the oldest classic group among deciduous Rhododendron. The pioneer in this breeding was a Belgian baker, P. Mortier from Ghent, as early as in the 1820's. He used the European Rhododendron luteum as a starting point and crossed it with 2-3 of the American species which had just become available. It resulted in this new group of azaleas, appropriately named after Ghent, their city of origin. Of the original ones we have 'Coccinea Speciosa' the first flame azalea. In some cultivars the stamens are transformed into petals, resulting in double flowers, known as Rustica azalea. The best known is 'Narcissiflora'. Very special is the large-flowered 'Nancy Waterer', an English cultivar which was the first attempt towards the large-flowered garden azaleas, the end-result being the well-known Knap Hill-cultivars. Ghent-azaleas are, in spite of their small flowers, valuable garden-plants, which can be forced in flower indoors in early spring. They are modest, rich flowering plants, with rich autumn colors.



'Coccinea Speciosa'

The Wax Chamber

In eastern Himalaya there is a small group of Rhododendrons with special narrow bell-shaped flowers, varying from yellow to purple. This is the *R. cinnabarinum* group. The flowers are undoubtedly adapted to bird-pollination as obvious from the colour, form and unusual, wax-like consistency of the flowers. There are relatively few cultivars based on these species, but those in existence are very special and elegant. Unfortunately most of them are scarcely hardy in our climate, and need a protected corner. Several of them are known to be susceptible to mildew, which not yet has turned up in our collection. The safest cultivar in our region is 'Biskra'.

American Azaleas

In the United States there are 15 deciduous rhododendrons (azaleas) in the Nature. One only is known from the Pacific coast: *Rhododendron occidentale*. This is, however, the largest-flowered of all the American species, and scented as well. It is particularly valuable due to its late flowering. It has for that reason been used in the breeding which has resulted in an extended flowering-season for garden azaleas. The best known, of these crosses is 'Irene Koster' from (continued on page 5)

RHODODENDRON CULTIVAR SIGNAGE (cont. page 4)

around 1900. Recently a renewed interest in using this species can be seen in the States, and new cultivars are continuously being launched. Also several of the other American species have been used in breeding, moving forward from early times, resulting in the Ghent azaleas (discussed previously). A very special breed has come from the strongly scented, small and late flowered *Rhododendron viscosum*. They have a distinctive, elegant effect, which are easily damaged if mixed with large-flowered ones. Most of these are in pastel colours, like 'Soir de Paris', though the fiery 'Diorama' have intensively red-orange colours.

The Trinity

In this group the flowers appears in triplets; accordingly they are named the Triflorum-group. The inflorescences are moderate, but their number is high, so the plants are completely covered in bloom. They have sadly not been much used, neither in our gardens nor in breeding. They are the higher relatives of the small lepidote alpine species, and have often been crossed with these to obtain lower, more densely growing plants, f.ex. 'Russautinii' (= *R. russatum* × *augustinii*). Quite sumptuous is 'Contina' with unusually colourful red-violet flowers. Not to forget our own 'Madam Felle' which was baptized (of course in beer) by Lord Major Lisæth in the inauguration of the Rhododendronarium in Central Bergen. It is a so-called 'Hummel-hybrid' of *Rhododendron concinnum*, one which was created accidentally by a bumblebee.

Alpenroses

The first described rhododendron species was a dwarf shrub from the Alps. That is why rhododendrons here often are called "alperoser" in Norwegian. These alpenroses are rather dissimilar to "ordinary" rhododendrons. They are dwarf, alpine plants with small pinkish flowers.

The three species in this group have not been used much in breeding, and those cultivars which are still in the trade are rather scarce in use. The best is the procumbent 'AlpinGem' and the small bush 'Tottenham'.

We have also placed the few named cultivars of the related *Pogonanthus*-group here. Of particular interest is 'Arctic Tern' which is a cross with 'Ledum'. This has led to questions about how well these genera are separated, and actually some botanists recently, on the basis of molecular data, have united the two. Across the road we continue with cultivars of other lepidotes (those with scales on the leaves). Particularly the *Rhododendron saluenense*-group has given origin to some fine low-growing, large-flowering plants like 'Lavandula'.
(The rest of the labels will be in the next issue)



Diorama



R. Contina



Arctic Tern

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

WWW.SE-ARS.ORG

Officers and Directors

(beginning July 1, 2017)

President: Sieglinde Anderson

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

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

Vice President: Jerry Neff

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

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Mark your Calendar

**Saturday, April 20 and 27 from
10 am to 4 pm — visit
AUDREY STELLOH'S
GARDEN**

**Saturday, April 27 - 8 to 4
Annual Flower Show
St. John in the Wilderness**

**Friday, May 3, 3 pm to 4 pm—
Bullington Gardens— Wes
Burlingame Native Azalea Walk**

**Sunday, July 21 — picnic at
The Richards Home**

**Sunday, Sept. 15—
Steve Pettis— Diseases of
Rhododendrons and Azaleas**

Articles for next newsletter due May 15

FLOWER SHOW — (continued from page 1)

- Foliage should be full and well-shaped and of good color and size for the variety, with minimum blemishes, free of any artificial shine.
- Condition -- Ideally, all blooms should be at or near their peak, not faded or wilted, with no more than three unopened florets on an Elepidote rhododendron, or 20% unopened buds on a lepidote or azalea spray.

The SE-ARS chapter provides the containers for the show entries. Also, there will be couple of experts available who check to see that everything has been placed in the correct category before judging begins. The show will open for public viewing at 11:00am to its conclusion at 4:00pm.

I would like to thank, in advance, everyone who volunteers to put on this show, as well as those who bring the entries. You are the ones who make the show possible every year. If you have questions about the show please contact me at: asanborna@aol.com or call (828) 586-8648. Also, if you want to volunteer to work at the show, please let me know

by April Sanborn