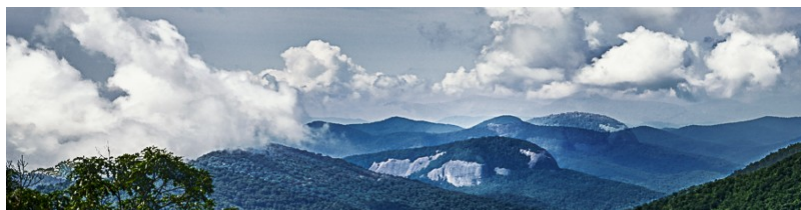




The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN

January-2021

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

ON CHRISTMAS EVE THE WORLD SAID 'FAREWELL' TO A WONDERFUL MAN — DOLEY BELL

Doley was a man of great faith. He loved and worshiped God above all else. He was regularly in attendance at his Church and always served in leadership roles.

He loved his wife, daughters, grandsons and son-in-laws with an unconditional love. He spent untold hours with the grandsons on fishing trips, attending and supporting them at baseball games and golf matches. When they were younger, he set aside several days for what they called "Gramps Camp" during the summer. This time was devoted to activities which they enjoyed doing. Meals always included foods of their choice. Doley's grandsons have a lot of precious memories of time spent with Gramps.

He greatly cared for his friends and was concerned for their well-being.

Doley and Melody joined the Southeastern Chapter in 1999. In 2000 Doley accepted a position on the Board of Directors.

In June of 2000 they closed on and moved into the former home and property of David and Naoma Dean, known as Rugby Knolls, which they had contracted to buy several years before. As you know this garden is made up of a very diverse collection of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and other plants. Doley entered trusses and sprays in the 2001 Truss Show and became hooked. He became a very enthusiastic exhibiter, having a lot of **Best in Section** and several **Best in Show** over time. He also has won the Sweepstakes. He thoroughly enjoyed the competition and camaraderie of the shows.

Doley and Melody were awarded the Bronze Medal at the 2009 Spring Banquet for their valued contributions and achievements and for hosting the picnics and plant auctions. They hosted our Annual Picnic and Plant Auction from July 16, 2000 through July 10, 2011 for a total of twelve years. He was elected to serve as President in 2009. He served as auctioneer for several of our plant sales. He always made this an enjoyable event with his wit and sense of humor. For several years Doley and I took cuttings to Transplant Nursery for rooting and went back to pick them up for the Plants for Members Auction; this was always a very enjoyable trip. Doley organized the bus tours for the 2012 Joint Convention. This proved to be very successful.

(continued on page 2) by Leon Pace



Auctioneer Extraordinaire

Ray's Greetings

I'm hoping that all of you have a healthy year and that we can start getting back out before long,

I do miss the opportunities to get together to share our knowledge. Maybe that will improve soon.

Ray

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LEON PACE'S TRIBUTE TO DOLEY BELL— (continued from page 1)



Wayah Bald—2010



Could bring in top dollar for plant
auction



Lover of Plants



A Good Friend to All

He loved our native azaleas. We made many trips to Andrews, Hooper, Wayah and Copper Balds to see them, and especially the exotic hybrids. There is a place on Copper Bald at which we had been told was the last of the hybrids. We always turned back here. One day when we had reached this point, Doley said, "there must be more hybrids-why not continue a little farther and see what is there". In about one-half mile we found pink, pink with yellow blotch, clear yellow, reds and one red double. Doley unofficially named this spot Pace Bald. One year we went every week for six weeks to make sure that we had seen everything in bloom. On the trip home Doley would always ask "well what do you think is the find of the day?" We would talk about the flowers that we had seen and make plans to return in the fall to collect seed.

Nothing would please Doley better than having his friends walk in his garden with him and admire the plants and flowers. He was always trying to identify unknowns. This would sometime lead to lengthy discussions. You were welcomed to bring pruners and take all of the cuttings you wanted ,but shovels were not allowed. To know Doley was to love him. He will be missed in a lot of places by a lot of people.

By Leon Pace

RAY'S HOMAGE TO DOLEY

Christmas morning, as we were watching my five year old grandson open his gifts, my daughter handed me my phone and said dad you are not going to believe this. It was an email from Leon telling me that Doley had died. The Southeastern Chapter had lost one of its most dependable members, and I had lost one of my best friends. I had texted with Doley the day before and everything seemed fine. Over the past several years we had spent many hours trying to identify and propagate many of the cultivars in his garden, especially the Dexter's. I will miss the text messages of his stock tips, new nurseries he had located, pictures of his grandson playing golf and another when he caught his first trout. His friendship has left me with many good memories and that is all a person can hope for. *Ray*



Doley, the Presenter

January-2021

GRACIOUS REFLECTIONS FROM MELODY BELL

When Doley and I moved onto this property in June of 2000, our best hope was to be good stewards of the garden and keep it well enough so the Clagues would not be embarrassed by our efforts! Our basic knowledge was that there was more than one color of rhodies as Doley laughingly said. When we joined the Rhododendron Society, we were in awe of members with amazing knowledge: expert gardeners, propagators, a plant geneticist, growers, etc.

We were blessed to quickly make friends with all of you (and with many who have gone on). And you shared generously with us: cuttings, plants, expertise, best practices, your friendships.

Because of your willingness to welcome a couple of rookies, Doley's 20 years here at Heaven's Beginning were some of the best of his life.

Even now as I write these words azalea seeds are sprouting downstairs under grow lights. He excitedly watched them even to the end.

I have come to appreciate that a lot can be cultivated in a garden besides beautiful plants: a love of nature, a connection with our Creator God, peaceful solitude, lasting memories and enduring friendships.

Whatever each of you did to nurture Doley's love for plants and people, he was truly grateful and so am I.

Melody

TREASURES FROM BOB GREENLEAF'S GARDEN IN AUBURN

For the past 20 years I have visited gardens in the Auburn-Opelika area of Alabama during native azalea blooming time. I have for many years considered the garden of Bob Greenleaf's in Auburn to have the finest collection. What I was seeing around April 1st were mainly plants from the species *astrinum*, *canescens*, *alabamense*, and *flammeum*. Efforts to root cuttings were never successful and the most desirable plants seemed to never make seed. Vivian Abney, working with Bob, began tissue culture work on his best selections. I'm happy to report that this work is paying off. Vivian has 18 cultivars that are in different stages of production. Our members should be able to purchase these in the coming years. These plants are heat and drought resistant, derived from species

of low elevation southern distribution, should be disease resistant. They have been tested in Bob's garden for 30 to 40 years. I think there is a website where you can view Bob's flowers but I do not have it. I thank Bob for making these plants available and to Vivian for all the time and work to make this possible.

Ray



R. Flammeum



Treasures from the Bells' Garden



Bob Greenleaf's Curved Terrace

The Blue Ridge Review

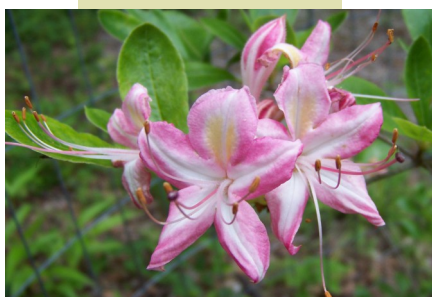
REFLECTIONS ON THIS YEAR'S WONDERFUL GARDEN OF JEAN AND LEON PACE



Calsap Elepidote



Cowles Hybrid 5085



Ribbon Candy Mezit Hybrid



Turkey's Tail (Trametes versicolor)

What a year this has been with the uncertainties of the pandemic and the social isolation brought on by it. The garden has become a source of comfort and distraction from the unpleasant things we now face.

This year was one of our better years for bloom. We could have put on one of our better shows, but since we could not have a public show, the Virtual Show was a very nice substitute. This allowed us to see flowers being enjoyed by other members.

I have spent more time in the garden enjoying the flowers and plants this year than ever before. We have had flowers of all kinds starting with hellebores in late January and early February until frost and freeze took out the dahlias and re-blooming day lilies and azaleas in October. After the hellebores came daffodils and lepidote rhodies in March and April. April and May brought the elepidote rhodies, evergreen and deciduous azaleas to their big show of color.

As summer came on the siberian and bearded Iris, day lilies, phlox, foxglove, columbine, calla and surprise lilies took their place in the spot light. We started seeing a few dahlia flowers on the 4th of July. The first of August most of the rest were blooming. All 46 plants were in their full glory on the first of September. The higher than usual annual rainfall contributed greatly to a good performance. A neighbor also grows dahlias and she gifted me with tubers of ten varieties which were new and different than the ones I am currently growing. Some of these are show stoppers. It was nice having these to look forward to.

I planted thirteen different Rhodies this fall. These included 5 lepidotes-augustinii #896—cuttings from Audrey, and the following selection of cuttings from Doley—Blue Jay, Senora Meldan aka Code Blue, Chapmanii Wonder and

Carolinianum Webb. There are also eight elepidotes - Dexters Zest, Zanzibar, Asheville Dexter, and Harliquin along with Francesca, Lemon Dream, My Jane and Janet Blair. A lot of beautiful flowers to look forward to. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

Leon and Jean



Lemon Dream

January-2021

AUDREY'S ANNUAL WAR ON WEEDS

One of the best compliments I've gotten is when a friend visited my deeply shaded woodland garden and said, "You don't ever have to weed, do you?" At first I was aghast. I said: "I weed all the time!" Later I realized that, after seeing my garden, she thought a shady garden didn't need to be weeded.

I admit I'm pretty pleased that I went to war on stilt-grass one year. I had to get it out before it went to seed. I pulled and pulled and pulled. My eye was trained to see stilt-grass from 50 yards. Every day I woke up thinking, "Gotta get more stilt-grass today." I started pulling stilt grass out of my next door neighbors yards in order to keep the seeds from blowing into my garden. Now, a few years later, I have very little stilt-grass and I'm still trained to spot it hiding under an azalea or behind a fern.

Another year I went on the warpath against what I call "poppers". I finally learned their habits and their name. It's called hairy bittercress and was voted "weed of the month" by Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It comes up in the winter and makes seeds that "pop" all over the place. "A gentle touch or passing breeze triggers the pods to explode and send the seeds flying as far as three feet from the mother plant." It starts as a cute little basal rosette of finely textured leaves showing up in December. It has delicate tiny white flowers that look so innocent. Then around March the seeds start popping all over. If I see one that is ready to pop I have to be very careful while trying to pull it. It seems like we ought to be able to take a break from weeding in the winter. Humpf.

Then there is that volunteer bright yellow daisy flower that is so cheerful. Oy Vey. For a couple of years I was happy to have the bright yellow cheerful volunteers. Until I realized: "They're everywhere!" I'm not sure of it's ID. When it goes to seed, the seeds blow all over like dandelion fluff. The leaves look similar to money plant leaves, but smoother. Now, whenever I see a yellow speck anywhere in my garden, my first thought is, "kill!"

If anyone wants to visit my garden, please contact me. Feel free to pull weeds while you're here;-)

Audrey Stello

LONNIE PLAYER'S RECORDS

I have received notes that represent 45 years of hybridizing records of Lonnie Player of Fayetteville, NC. I plan to make a copy and send it to Leon Pace for our archives. Please let all our members know that this information is available. A lot of our members have plants of Lonnie's, and more will have them in the future.

Ray



Stilt-Grass



Hairy Bittercress



Kaye Player

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WEBSITE - WWW.SE-ARS.ORG

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RAY'S SURPRISING HOLLY DISCOVERY

Every once in a while you come across a plant in your garden that is really a pleasant surprise. This happened yesterday with a holly I have. I know we are a Rhododendron Newsletter, but hollies are their best in the Winter. I rooted this cutting several years ago, most likely from Dawes Arboretum Ohio. It is an *Ilex opaca* cultivar "Big Red". Checking Galle's book on hollies I find that it was found growing in southern New Jersey in 1937 by Earl Dilatush. It has large, dark green foliage and large red fruit so it is aptly named. I'm attaching a picture of it and the popular variety Satyr Hill. Big Red is on the right. I doubt that this holly can be bought but anyone is welcome to take cuttings. If you have access to bottom heat, winter is a good time to root cuttings.

Ray

