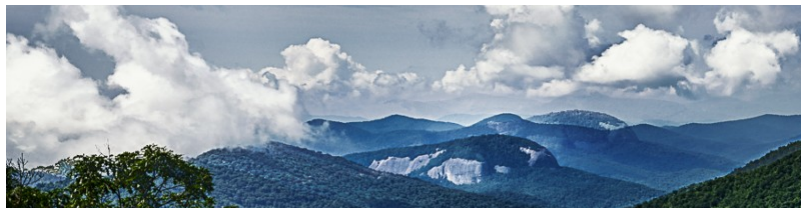




The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

July, 2019

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

JULY PICNIC AND PLANT SALE—JULY 21ST Read About the New Plant Sale

Our annual Potluck Picnic meeting will be generously hosted by Hazel and Byron Richards at their beautiful home and garden at **2 p.m. on Sunday, July 21st**. The Richards live at 31 South Ridge Dr., Hendersonville, NC. We hope you will join us to enjoy delicious food and spend a pleasant afternoon conversing with fellow plant lovers.

Please bring some picnic food to share. Try to think of a dish that is easy for you to prepare and will be part of a tasty meal. You might want to bring a great salad, an appetizing main dish, a healthy and delicious veggie dish, or a wonderful dessert. If you remember, bring a chair for the picnic and the plant auction, along with some cash to spend on plants for your garden. Beverages and tableware will be provided.

Since we have not had good luck recently with finding a place to root cuttings, we are changing the format of the plant offerings this year. Our resident clever auctioneer, Doley Bell, has agreed to run a plant auction at our annual picnic July 21st. Here's how you can share your plants at the picnic:

- **Look over your garden collection and find some plants to contribute to the auction. If you are into rooting cuttings, bring some of those. I'm planning to bring some daylilies that I have divided. Ray says, "Most wildflowers can be decided. How many people would not like a chance to bid on a clump of Oconee Bells?" So, walk through your garden and choose some wonderful plants to share.**
- **Set a fair starting price for the plants you are sharing. I'm sure Doley will be able to raise the bids from there.**

We look forward to another wonderful picnic at the Richards' home. We're counting on a memorable day of fellowship and plant magic!!



Ray says:

"A lot of things have changed with our chapter in the 42 years that I have been a member, but the one thing that remains a constant is members' desire to purchase good plants. The July picnic and plant sale is our best opportunity for this to happen."

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ANOTHER GREAT FLOWER SHOW

We held another successful flower show on April 27. This was our second year at St. John's. Again, this is proving to be a good location for our group. The ease of setting up the show, the help provided by church staff, and the volunteers in the SE-ARS chapter all add up to creating an enjoyable experience.

We had 12 people bring a total of 135 entries. This is down somewhat from last year, but better than two years ago. My thanks go out to everyone who participated in this year's show.

Now, on to the winners.

Best Lepidote Rhododendron- Doley Bell- R. Carolinianum

Best Elepidote Rhododendron- Doley Bell- R. Dexter's Purple

Best Deciduous Azalea- Ray Head- R. Alabamense

Best Evergreen Azalea- Ray Head- R. Kiusianum

Best Grown From Seed By Exhibitor- Ray Head- R. Winnie B.

Best Group H. Specimen Plants- Ray Head- R. Sport of Easter Parade



Rhododendron Sport of Easter Parade



R. carolinianum



A great way to spend an afternoon!



Sweepstakes went to Ray Head for the second year in a row. He was followed closely in points by Doley Bell, and Leon Pace.

Congratulations go out to all of the winners, as well as to everyone who brought entries and took part in the show.

*Submitted by
April Sanborn*



July, 2019

VISITING THE DISTINCTIVE STELLOH GARDEN

We spent a pleasant few hours on a Saturday in April touring Audrey Stelloh's amazing garden. 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 garden is very walkable with its meandering paths visiting beautiful sections of unique, and often rare, plants.

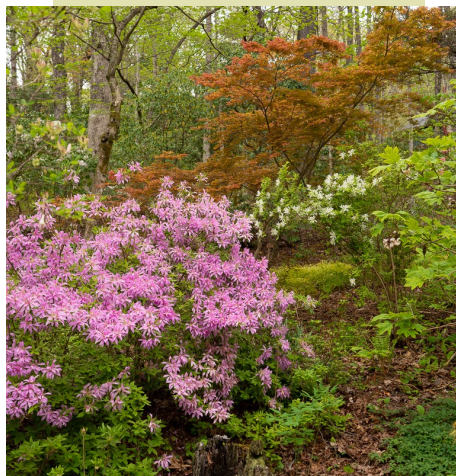
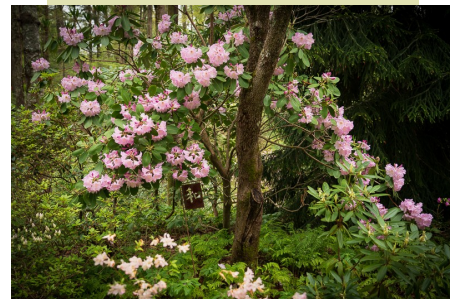
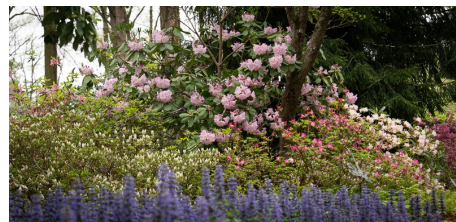
It looks like there was a steady flow of visitors: Sieglinde was leaving as we arrived, and others came as we were touring. We all stopped and admired Bob's newspaper wall as we walked near the house.

There were many highlights to our guided tour; Audrey is very knowledgeable, and we walked away feeling blessed to have learned from her. One of the first plants she pointed out was Dexter Spice; I can almost sense the beautiful smell still. The Yak Angel looked so soft, especially with so much moss along all the paths. Audrey also has a beautiful wall of wild flowers. As we meandered farther, we were treated to a Japanese Maple with whitish leaves near an azalea with variegated leaves called 'The Robe'. We walked around a bend to find Himilayan Maidenhair ferns, and more trillium that I've ever seen in one place.

Coming around a bend in the path, we were treated to a rare and beautiful deciduous azalea, *Rhododendron Quinquifolium*. Its white, bell-shaped flowers are beautiful, but the most unique part of this plant is the leaf coloring: the leaves mature with a pinkish-red outline, and I'm told, turn a brilliant red in the fall. Another stand-out was Blaney's Blue with its striking blueish purple flowers. One person described the color as 'electric blue'.

As we continued our stroll, we noticed saucers on many stumps. Audrey uses the saucers to grow native plants.

One of my last memories of this wonderful walk was seeing the beautiful bi-colored azalea called Wabi Sabi. The meaning of this Japanese term applies to many applications, but my research showed me that the meaning that applies to this species is fitting: the term 'Wabi' refers to uniqueness and rarities, and the word 'Sabi' is beauty or serenity. We could definitely call Audrey's garden "Wabi Sabi". Thank you, Audrey, for sharing your beautiful garden and for making us smarter.



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

Officers and Directors

(beginning July 1, 2019)

President: Ray Head

Treasurer: Jackson McCarter

Vice President: Jerry Neff

Directors until 2020—Leon Pace,
April Sanborn, Chuck Van Rens

Directors until 2021—
John Kendall, Alan Mizeras,
Buffy Wells

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, July 21, 2 pm

**Annual Picnic
Richards Home**

31 South Ridge Dr.,
Hendersonville, NC.

Sunday, Sept. 15—

**Steve Pettis— Diseases of
Rhododendrons and Azaleas
at Bullington Gardens,
95 Upper Red Oak Trail**

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT
THE SE-ARS WEBSITE!!**

www.se-ars.org

Articles for next newsletter due August 15

Weyerhaeuser Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

There are few places more beautiful than the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden on Weyerhaeuser's property outside Seattle in Spring. But alas, I missed that and had to settle for a walkabout in mid-June. I must say, the high canopy gave the walkout wonderful shaded comfort.

For this walk, instead of blooms, the 22 acres collection of over 450 species put on a show in texture and structure. There were, of course, a few blooms, the red *R. elliotii* being one. There was interest at every turn. New growth on the *R. rex* ssp. *fictolactum* surprised with its brownish new leaves contrasting with the shiny gloss older leaves. I was also struck by the new growth on the *R. thomsonii* ssp. *thomsonii* and rounded leaves of the *R. electum*.

I had never seen the *R. keiskel* "Yaku Fairy" as a mounded shrub so that was fun. In this time of the year, I found myself very attracted to the dwarf and smaller growing species which I had never seen: *R. yuefengense*, *R. williamsianum*, *R. brachycarpum* ssp. *brachycarpum*, *R. semibarbatum*; the list goes on. The visit was actually my second visit to the garden, and it will not be my last.—

Chuck Van Rens

