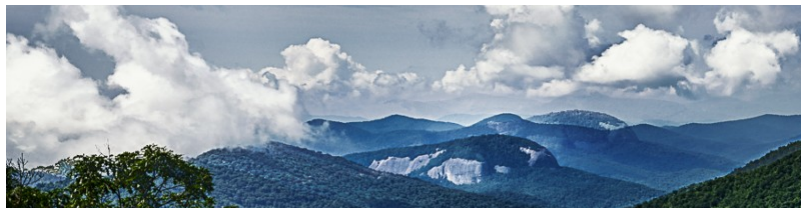




The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

October, 2019

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

BORIS BAUER — MAGNOLIA EXPERT

We will be educated and entertained on Sunday, October 20, at Bullington Gardens by Boris Bauer, Magnolia expert. Our speaker comes to us because of the admiration our Director, John Kendall, has for Boris Bauer. They have been friends for 50 years and participated together in the now-closed William Bartram chapter of ARS in Greenville.



Boris and his wife Jane maintain a six-acre property just outside of Easley, SC, where they've lived for over 40 years. The property is filled with many types of deciduous magnolias, as well as bulbs and perennials, rhododendrons and azaleas, and other ornamental plants. Boris was a media specialist at Berea High School in Greenville for many years, where the media center is named after him (an honor which shows he is effective in his

areas of expertise: one of these areas is plants, especially magnolias and rhododendrons; another is photography).

Here's an example of Boris Bauer's skill as a photographer, as well as a knowledgeable plant expert: If you search on the American Rhododendron Society web page in the category of 'Rhododendron Plant Search', you might notice that some of the photographs of these plants are attributed to Boris Bauer. As I searched the list, I found that Boris Bauer had taken photographs of ten of the plants listed, including species rhododendrons, hybrid rhododendrons, species azaleas, and hybrid azaleas. I think that makes him an expert photographer. (cont. page 4)



John Kendall says

"Boris Bauer's knowledge is far and wide with a broad focus. He's also a top notch photographer. He'll do an excellent program, no doubt about that!!"

Inside This Issue

Steve Pettis— Treating Diseases	2
SE-ARS History Article — Biltmore	3
Boris Bauer — Magnolias (cont.)	4

The Blue Ridge Review

STEVE PETTIS TEACHES US ABOUT DISEASES IN RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS

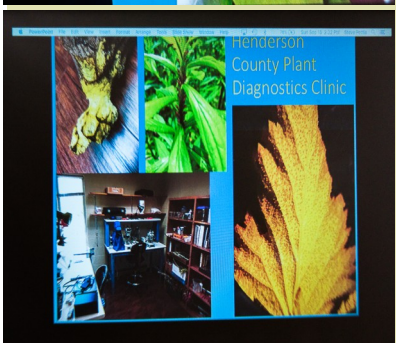


Rhododendron sp. Plant Diseases



Sample Collection, Diagnosis, Treatments

Diagnosing Plant Problems



Evergreen Plant Leaf Drop

- Typically in spring
- Nitrogen mobile in plants
- Trees pull N out of older less productive leaves during periods of growth or flowering or fruiting



The speaker for the Southeastern Chapter's September 15, 2019, meeting was Steve Pettis, Commercial and Consumer Horticulture Agent for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension's Henderson County Center. He explained that the NC Extension Centers, located in 101 counties, function in part as consulting centers for both commercial and domestic planters who need advice on the care and nurture of plants commonly (4000 species) grown in NC or rarely grown in the area. It is a cooperative effort between NC State University and the State of North Carolina.

Several preventive measures should help protect our plant collections from adverse conditions and diseases. Soil should be tested every five years and pH adjusted for the proper level according to plants grown. Plants, especially azaleas, rhododendrons and trees, need to be planted so that their roots lie above the grade enabling the roots to dry out between waterings. Soil should have very good drainage. Azaleas should receive ground watering or drip irrigation rather than overhead sprinkling. To avoid introducing diseases, new plants, especially those imported from other parts of the country, should be quarantined to be sure they are disease-free before adding them to your garden.

Pesticides should be a treatment of last resort, and if they are used, biorationals, made of natural origin materials, are the best choice. Aphids and spider mites may be washed away by hosing off the plant or by picking off the offending pests. Eighty percent of plant diseases are caused by fungi, which thrive in cool wet conditions, and, while they can't be cured once they've become established, they can sometimes be prevented by the application of a fungicide, ideally applied in advance of a rainy spell. Fertilizer, applied before a freeze, may prevent cold damage. Leaf drop, an unsightly but benign condition, occurs when older leaves, no longer as engaged in photosynthesis, have less of the nutrients used by the younger leaves doing most of that work. It is essentially a normal transition and needs no special treatment. Azalea stem borers, on the other hand, must be located on a wilted branch and cut down to the area where the borer is located. Finding this sign will distinguish the condition from "die back" (*Botryosphaeria*) which leaves no borer tunnel.

Steve noted that not all damage to our plants comes from disease. Environmental factors such as weather extremes, too much or too little water, chemicals, mechanical damage, rust, algae, water damage, and voles or other pests can leave our plants in a perilous condition. To identify the source of the problem, the Extension Center requires a complete living plant rather than a dead specimen. In our area, the specimen may be taken to the Henderson County Center, 100 Jackson Park Rd, Hendersonville,, NC.

By Pamela McCarter

October, 2019

HISTORY OF THE RHODODENDRON COLLECTION AT THE BILTMORE (1959)

The following article first appeared in *The Quarterly Bulletin of the ARS Journal* January 15, 1959-Vol. 13 No.-1. It is a continuation of our exploration of the history of SE-ARS:

The newly created Rhododendron Collection at the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, has already received national recognition.

The Board of Directors of the American Rhododendron Society meeting in Portland, OR, has designated the new plantings as an official test garden of the Society.

The recently formed Southeastern Chapter of the ARS, meeting in Asheville, unanimously approved the action of the Board. Dr. Ernest Yelton, of Rutherfordton, NC, president of the Chapter, said, "We are fortunate indeed to have the world-famous gardens and their extensive facilities made available for large scale testing of these aristocrats of shrubs under our own conditions."

"We here in the Southeast are in one of the finest Rhododendron growing areas in the world," commented Dr. Fred J. Nesbit, Superintendent of the Estate, when he was informed of the appointment. "It is unfortunate that we have limited our plantings in the past mostly to a few native kinds. There are literally thousands of sorts which could grow here, for we have a wonderful combination of soil and climate. Many of the Asiatic species and European hybrids are among the choicest shrubs grown anywhere. What we have to do now is find which are adapted to our conditions."

A twenty-year program of forming a major collection of these shrubs, which include the well-loved azaleas, was begun in 1957. A specially adapted nursery has already been constructed where thousands of small plants representing more than 500 species and varieties have been planted since last October. As these grow to "planting out size" the permanent planting areas for the collection will be prepared.



Early Spring at the Biltmore

The gardens of Biltmore Estate are known to gardeners and plantsmen everywhere. Developed by Fredrick Law Olmsted for George Vanderbilt from 1889 to 1895, they surround the magnificent 250 room Biltmore House. This French Renaissance mansion has been called "the finest home in America".

The original estate covered 125,000 acres and was the "cradle of forestry and conservation in America." Mr. Chauncy Beedle, the first Superintendent of the Estate, made it a plantsman's paradise during the 59 years he was in charge. Included in the 12,000 acres remaining in the Estate is the Chauncy Beadle Memorial Azalea Garden, "the largest and only complete collection of native American Azaleas in the world."

"We have a big start here," admitted Dr. Fred J. Nisbet, "as azaleas are just one series in the genus *Rhododendron*. During the next few years we should assemble one of the finest and most nearly complete collections known. We hope that our testing will lead thousands of gardeners, nurserymen and botanists in our area to plant many of the finer kinds which we find adapted to our conditions."

A special Judging Committee of the Southeastern Chapter of the A.R.S. will pass on the performance of all new varieties and species grown at Biltmore. The reports of this committee will be available to all members of the Society. From time to time reports will be made to the public as well.

As more than 65,000 visitors from all over the world tour the Estate each year, the influence of this new Test Garden and Rhododendron Collection should indeed have far reaching effects. Happily, the gardeners of the Southeast stand to gain the greatest benefits from the whole program.

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

WEBSITE - WWW.SE-ARS.ORG

Officers and Directors

(beginning July 1, 2019)

President: Ray Head

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

Secretary: Pamela McCarter

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 20—2 pm
**Boris Bauer Educates Us
About Magnolias**
at Bullington Gardens,
95 Upper Red Oak Trail

Sunday, Dec. 8 — 2 pm
Potluck Dinner
plus—Jackson McCarter
Presentation —
Gardens in German and the
Netherlands from 2018
International Rhododendron
Society Convention.
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 Nov. 10

**BORIS BAUER SHARES HIS EXPERTISE ABOUT
MAGNOLIAS**

(continued from page 1)

Boris Bauer's garden has a collection of over 40 hybrid deciduous magnolias. His garden, a featured field trip at the 2014 Magnolia Society International annual meeting in Atlanta, had this description: "Some of the cultivars planted here are among the largest and finest accessions growing in the Southeast." Another recommendation of Mr. Bauer's expertise is found on the JC Raulston Arboretum (NC State) webpage. This Arboretum is part of a Multi-site Magnolia Collection (which includes 16 nationwide botanical gardens and arboretum). The connection to the Atlanta Botanical Garden shows Bauer's garden is the home garden for nine magnolia species that are part this nationwide collection. We are looking forward to a wonderful learning experience from Mr. Bauer.

