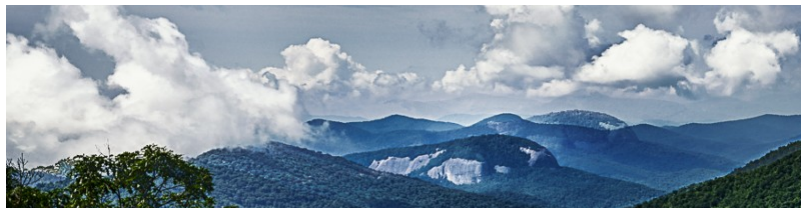




The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

November/December, 2017

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

AMAZING TOUR OF BOTANICAL TREASURES NURSERY ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd AT 11!

On Saturday, Dec. 2 we will have a tour of Botanical Treasures Nursery, 106 Sandy Creek Trail, Fletcher, NC. We will meet at the Nursery at 11 AM.

Botanical Treasures is owned by Robert Stone and is the only local grower/nursery in western North Carolina that produces premium quality well-rooted perennials. The perennials are not forced in greenhouses, but are naturally grown and acclimated; they are guaranteed hardy in WNC and surrounding regions. The nursery continually grows and seeks out a vast assortment of North American native perennials and cultivars, with emphasis of eastern U.S. origin.

Botanical Treasures is a Wholesale Perennial Nursery that has been serving our area since 1999. They provide plants for all situations: sun, shade, woodland, drought-resistant, deer-resistant, rain gardens, naturalizing, and erosion control. The NC Agriculture website further describes the fine plants and processes that we will be exposed to on our tour:

Our selections includes a large choice of the tried and true bread & butter perennials you need. We continue to grow an expanding assortment of North American native perennials & cultivars with an emphasis on Eastern U.S. Origin. Our native plants are nursery propagated; we produce native plants from our own stock or purchase liners from reputable nurseries with the same practice. One of our many goals is targeted toward staying on the "leading edge" of many new plant varieties. We continue to seek out top breeders and hybridizers to help provide us with many grade # 1 liners that we procure and grow to provide you with premium plants you know will grow and perform as described. We grow the majority of our plants in trade one-gallon containers. We also grow some varieties in trade two-gallon containers. Most ground covers are available in trade quart pots in flats of 18 per flat.

www.ncagr.gov/ncproducts/ShowSite.asp?ID=100542

Robert will make his plants available to us for purchase during our nursery tour at wholesale prices.

LUNCH AFTER BOTANICAL TREASURES TOUR

We will have lunch at Tupelo Honey Restaurant at 1 PM, at 1829 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville, NC. Please **RSVP to Jerry Neff**

if you wish to have lunch at Tupelo Honey, so he can make reservations.

Inside This Issue

Barry Yinger - Asian Plants	2
Barry Yinger (cont)	3
Bronze Medals	4
Kindness Award	4
Plant Auction	5
Honoring Ray Head	5



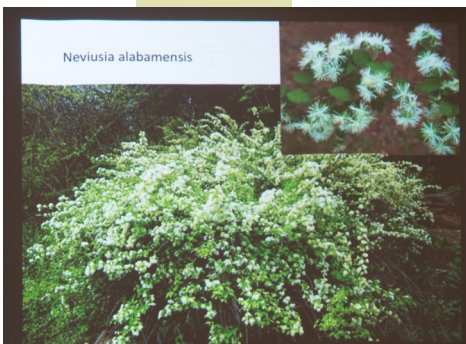
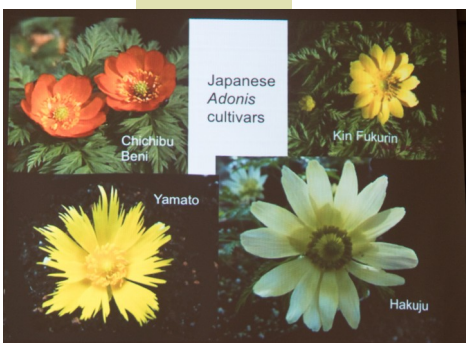
Meet Barry Yinger

The Blue Ridge Review

BARRY YINGER INTRODUCED US TO ASIAN PLANTS THAT ARE FRIENDLY WITH RHODODENDRONS

Barry Yinger's diverse and knowledgeable background was on full display at our September meeting as he spoke about and showed us examples of so many plants that complement rhododendrons. His comment that "rhododendrons derive beauty from other plants" is supported by his wide and varied experiences, primarily with plants in Asia that grow as companions to rhododendrons. From early experiences, including overseeing the Asiatic Collection in the National Arboretum and running his own Asiatica Plant Nursery for ten years, to his current project as part-owner of a nursery in Thailand, Mr. Yinger has bountiful knowledge of and obvious affection for the kind of rare companion plants that enhance the beauty of rhododendrons. We are thankful he was able to share the benefits of his life's-work with us.

Our esteemed speaker took us on a methodical journey through the year, revealing companions for beloved rhododendrons. He began with the first flower of the year, *Adonis amurensis* (commonly called 'pheasant's eye'); he told us he became familiar with these plants when he lived for two years in a Korean fishing village. His discussion referred us to eleven different varieties with various orange and yellow colors along with a modern cultivar, *Adonis hakuju*, that his white. (Adonis fukujakai is the most common variety.) His experiences in Japan, where they are grown as potted plants, showed him that this flower is a symbol of the New Year. These plants are easy to grow in deciduous shade; they hold their ferny foliage until June. One can divide them in summer or fall.



Our attention shifted to the only Helleborus which is native to east Asia and two outstanding Magnolia species. *Helleborus thibetanus* has an elegant flower and is easy to grow. *Magnolia zennii*, a Chinese variety which is frost resistant and fragrant, blooms in late spring with the early rhododendrons.

Magnolia salicifolia grows in the Japanese mountains with the rhododendrons; Mr. Yinger praised this species for its open form and its elegant and delicate appearance. He also mentioned two American magnolia varieties: *Magnolia pyramidata*, which is slow-growing, and *Magnolia ashei*, which has dense leaves which turn yellow in the fall and are outstanding for the silver-backing on the leaves as the lie on the ground.

Mr. Yinger spoke next about the value and diversity of *Asarum* (wild ginger) in Japan. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

November/December, 2017

BARRY YINGER (continued)

He mentioned that *Asarum* collecting is very popular in Japan; it can also be very expensive - he talked about one variety that had sold for \$5000. *Asarum* is popular as a family crest in Japan, and people hang them on a building as protection from earthquakes. There is an annual *Asarum* Festival to celebrate the founding of Kyoto. He referred to plant auctions (where wild ginger is always available) that are for collectors and hobbyists and are 'by-invitation only'. These are boisterous affairs filled with hilarity, along with serious bidding. Plant shows are popular also, and are for both displaying and selling rare species. We all took home a list of plants from the program. There were 15 *Asarum* varieties on the list including *Asarum sieboldii*, an albino form; *Asarum takaoi*, which has 1-inch leaves and gradually forms a carpet; *Asarum nipponicum*, whose leaves have color variation; and *Asarum shuttleworthii*, whose leaves turn purplish in the winter. Two common varieties in our country are *Asarum speciosum*, an Alabama native with big shiny leaves, and *Asarum caudatum*, a variety prevalent on the West Coast.

Mr. Yinger cautioned us about choosing companion plants with variegated color; he said the variegation must be subtle. He spoke of several varieties of *Polygonatum* (Solomon's Seal). Standouts were *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Byakko', which is green turning to white; *Polygonatum macranthum* and *macranthum* 'Moon Tower' which are 4 to 5 feet tall, and *Polygonatum falcatum* Silver Lining Strain, which are 2-feet tall with narrow, elegant foliage and a silver stripe on the leaves. He went on to recommend several other plants with slightly variegated color: *Orixa japonica*, "Pearl Frost", has silver variegated leaves and is 8 to 10 feet tall; he said it will "light up a shade garden." *Lindera salicifolia* is a spice bush with silver leaves with red tips. Two *Disanthus* from the witch hazel family are on the list: *Disanthus cercidifolius* is 6 to 8 feet tall and turns from green to reddish-purple in the fall; a variation, *Disanthus cercidifolius* 'Mine-no-yuki', has a silvery leaf with fall color.

Finally, Mr. Yinger entertained us with the story of his discovery of his namesake plant, *Hosta yingeri*. He discovered it on Taehuksan Island, a Korean island which can only be reached by fishing boat. These boats are always full of people and goods. Mr. Yinger discovered it on a walk along the shore; then he journeyed to Sohuksan Island and found it growing on the cliffs. He gathered the seeds and sent them to a friend in the US. He didn't know for quite awhile that the friend had named this plant after him. Several years ago Mr. Yinger went back to his old house in the Korean fishing village; someone had planted *Hosta yingeri* all around the house, a fitting tribute to a man who has embraced so many beautiful plants.

Note from Jackson McCarter

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your SE-ARS membership. There are still about 30 members who haven't yet renewed for 2018. Renewals should be received by Dec 1 to receive winter ARS Journal. Renew online at www.se-ars.org or send \$40 check to SE-ARS c/o Jackson McCarter, 280 Trammell Rd., Travelers Rest, SC 29690



The Blue Ridge Review

FITTING AWARDS HONORING VALUABLE MEMBERS



Jerry Neff presents the Bronze Medal to the Beckers



Bronze Medal for the Haynes

At our September 17 meeting, started out with a presentation of two Bronze Medal Awards (the highest award a chapter can give). The first award was for **Betty and Richard Becker**. They graciously accepted the award, which you can read below.

**The Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
Presents you with its highest award, the Bronze Medal,
in recognition for your time and service
For your distinguished contribution to furthering the knowledge
of hybridizing,
propagation, care, and general appreciation of Rhododendrons
And**

**In recognition of your outstanding participation in the activities of
the SE-ARS Chapter,
Presented with deep gratitude by the SE-ARS Chapter of the ARS
In the County of Henderson the State of North Carolina,
United States of America on the 17th day of September 2017**

Marilyn and Don Haynes also received a Bronze Medal Award at the October 15th meeting.

**The Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
Presents you with its highest award the Bronze Medal
in recognition for your time and service
as Secretary/News Letter Editor,
for representing our SE-ARS Chapter at the
Hendersonville Garden Jubilee Festival,
And**

**In recognition of your outstanding participation in other activities
of the SE-ARS Chapter,
Presented with deep gratitude by the SE-ARS Chapter of the ARS
In the County of Henderson the State of North Carolina,
United States of America on the 17th day of September 2017**

* * * * *

A SPECIAL AWARD FOR KINDNESS



Before the Plant Auction started on October 15th, Buffy Wells, our Hospitality Chairman, presented a quilt she had created to April Sanborn for her personal kindness at the time of Buffy's loss of her dog, Daisy .

Here's April's reaction: "I was pleasantly surprised to receive a quilted wall hanging made and presented by Buffy Wells. The quilt features roosters and is embroidered with the names of the special chickens I have owned throughout my life. It is a very thoughtful and meaningful gift. I will cherish it.

November/December, 2017

SUCCESSFUL OCTOBER 15TH PLANT AUCTION

We had a beautiful day for our October Auction. Thirty-one people attended. We had a good selection of plants and all sold. The Auction was quite lively at times and as usual Doley Bell did a wonderful job moving the Auction along at a rapid rate. His sense of humor had everyone laughing. His able assistants, Leon Pace and John Kendall, helped make sure everyone was satisfied.

Plants donated for the auction included elepidote species, hybrid and lepidote rhododendron, evergreen and deciduous azaleas, boxwoods, hollies, hostas, ferns, bottle brush buckeye, ginkgo trees, plus other miscellaneous plants. Nearly 190 plants found new owners at the auction, yielding a profit of \$1162 to be shared with the Vaseyi Chapter of ASA.

HONORING RAY HEAD

Before beginning the auction, Doley Bell presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Past President Ray Head for his years of service beginning in 1977, serving in several offices and sharing his love for rhododendrons and hollies. His work has been an inspiration to the members, introducing many to the enjoyment of our shared interest.

James Ray Head Is Hereby Presented

The Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of Leadership and Service

Ray, you have supported The Southeastern Chapter actively since you joined in 1977; you have held numerous offices in the chapter including Chapter President, Vice President, Board Member, Chairman of the Show Awards, District Director

You also served as Truss Show Chairman and Co-Chairman and Truss Show Judge

You have presented numerous Chapter Programs

You have encouraged new members with your advice and sharing of plant material

You were awarded the Bronze Medal in 1990

The President's Award in 2004 and again in 2008

As a member of the Dexter Study Group you propagated Dexter rhododendrons before they became generally available and made them available to Chapter members

You have shared many beautiful holly sprigs to adorn our tables at Christmas Time

The Southeastern Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society salutes you and bestows this, the Lifetime Achievement Award



**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

Saturday, December 2nd, 11a.m.

Visit Botanical Treasures

Wholesale Nursery, 106 Sandy
Creek Trail, Fletcher, NC

1 pm Lunch at Tupolo Honey

Café—1829 Hendersonville Rd.

Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m.

**Steve Pettis — Pests and
Disease in Rhododendrons
and Azaleas**

St. John in the Wilderness Hall

Saturday, April 14, 10 am Tour

**Mountain Crops
Improvement Laboratory
with Dr. Tom Ranney**

*Please submit articles for next news-
letter by January 15*

DEC. 2nd—DIRECTIONS TO BOTANICAL TREASURES

These directions are for those coming north on I-26. If approaching from a different direction, adapt the directions in relation to NC 25.

- * From Exit 44 on NC I-26 -- Head north on US-25 N for 1 mile
- * Turn right onto Old Brickyard Rd -- travel .3 mi.
- * Turn left onto Old Hendersonville Rd -- travel .5 mi
- * Turn left onto Howard Gap Rd - travel .1 mi
- * Turn right onto Jackson Rd -- travel 2.8 mi
- * Turn right onto Souther Rd -- travel .4 mi
- * Continue onto Livingston Rd - travel .3 mi
- * Turn right to stay on Livingston Rd for 353 ft,
- * Keep right to continue on Sandy Creek Trail for .1 mi
- * Botanical Treasures Nursery is on the right
(106 Sandy Creek Trail)