

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

October 2007

## Plants for Members

Sunday October 21 at 2:00 PM

Saint John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC



Our October meeting is one of our most exciting events of the year. Members will have the opportunity to select from a wide variety of rooted and potted cuttings or larger two year

old plants, just perfect to fill out your collection, or to fill a certain space in your landscape. Glenn O'Sheal and Patricia Phillips have spearheaded this effort so you can choose from creamy white, to rosy pinks, to yellow hybrids, to deep reds, early mid or late bloomers, some very rare. The list is included with this newsletter. If you can find them elsewhere, these varieties may range in price from \$45 to \$80. Our price for members only is \$6.00! Plants are subject to availability.

The first group on the list are rooted cuttings from Van Veen Nursery in Oregon. The P4M Committee has carefully selected superior distinctive plants that should do well in the southeastern US, that are sure to grab your attention. To learn more about how these plants come about, visit [vanveennursery.com](http://vanveennursery.com). And while you're there, check out their feline office managers.

For a color copy of the Blue Ridge Review, please send an e-mail to [mphaynes@juno.com](mailto:mphaynes@juno.com).

The second group of plants for our members consists of two year plants raised by our own Don Johnson, from cuttings from favorite plants belonging to some of our own members. Several are exquisite hybrids of Don's that are just not available anywhere else! Don has lovingly kept them shaded and watered through this past very challenging growing season.

You will see pictures of most of the blooms at this meeting before having the opportunity to pick out the ones you simply MUST HAVE.



Members with plants of these varieties will tell us about their experiences.

Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to attend, but they must join our Chapter before participating in this one of a kind sale. Even with the cost of a membership these plants are a bargain! This event is the premiere benefit of membership in SEARS.

*Saint John in the Wilderness* is at 1895 Greenville Highway (US 225 South [old 25 south] at Rutledge Dr.) Flat Rock, NC.

**REMEMBER - BILLY JOYNER MUST HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CHECK BEFORE OR AT THIS MEETING, SO YOU CAN BE IN THE DRAWING FOR A FREE YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP.**

## September meeting well attended.

33 members and guests attended our September meeting to hear **James Drake**, photographer, writer, and authority on our



native plants, present a superb program on the many wildflowers of the Southern Appalachians. He began by showing beautiful photographs of his favorite flowers in the Trillium, Orchid, Lily, and



Gentian families. He also showed wonderful wildlife photos such as butterflies, bumble bees, and various animals.

There were many 'oos' and 'aahs' from the audience as the pictures came up on the screen.

Don Johnson spoke about some of the problems our plants have had this season, the worst in 20 to 30 years! He showed samples from his own garden of damage from the April freeze, die back, and borers. The female borer moth lays eggs all the way around the stem. One of these will hatch and bore a hole down the stem. He explained that WD 40 would kill the borer, if sprayed down into the hole in the stem. Tami and Jim Wagner told of a very effective trap for the Clearwing Rhododendron borer moth. They will provide information for our February newsletter, since April is the time to place the trap.

Ray Head encouraged us to attend a Field Day coming up at the NC Mountain Horticulture and Research Station on Thursday, September 20th, to learn about the various projects they are doing, including the one which our Chapter has funded. He also told us about the upcoming **National Holly Convention** at the NC Arboretum on November 1-4, and invited us to attend the sprig contest and auction they are having on Saturday night.

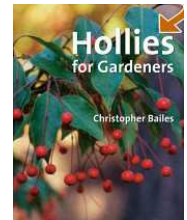


## April's Book Review

### Hollies for Gardeners

by Christopher Bailes

Over the years, very few books have been written about hollies and most of them are out of print. That is why the publication in the fall of 2006 of *Hollies For Gardeners* was eagerly anticipated. I believe this book will be useful to anyone with an interest in the genus *Ilex*. The author begins with an overview of the genus, its history and classification, and habits of growth, foliage, flowering, and fruiting. He then briefly touches on religious and cultural, practical and medicinal uses of holly, from the British Isles to the Americas. And while this is all very interesting, not many of us need to plant hollies in hedgerows to ward off witches, or brew up a batch of birdlime to catch small birds or rodents. Fortunately, most of the book is devoted to more practical uses of hollies. The author gives practical advice for using hollies as landscape shrubs, topiaries, bonsai, hedgerows and screens, as well as planting for winter interest. He includes suggestions of specific cultivars with each topic. Another chapter covers cultivation, propagation, pruning techniques, and dealing with pests and diseases. The largest section of the book is a directory of deciduous and evergreen holly species, hybrids, and cultivars. This is nicely done and while not as extensive as Galle's *Hollies*, it contains enough information to get a novice started and inspire experienced growers with some new ideas for using this plant in their gardens. An appendix of hardiness zone maps, sources of hollies, and locations of holly gardens from the British Isles to America rounds out the book. *Hollies For Gardeners* is well illustrated throughout with full color photographs and is available from this chapter for the discounted price of \$28.00. Copies of this and other discounted books will be available from April at our October meeting.



The National Holly Convention is at the NC Arboretum November 1-4. More info is available from Ray Head, our local Holly Chapter President.

## SEARS PLANTS FOR MEMBERS

**One year potted cuttings from Van Veen**

**‘Grandma’s Hat’**, 0F, (parentage unknown), blooms mid-late. The blooms are unusually showy, with greenish white centers rimmed with deep purplish red, and accented by a darker red blotch. Trusses of 18 to 20. It will knock your *chapeau* in the creek, and perhaps your grandmother’s hat, too! Lem hybrid.

**‘Markeetta’s Flame’**, -5F, (Loderi x Anna), Blooms mid-season. This plant is the same cross as Markeetta’s Prize, was originally known as Markeetta’s Prize #2.. Deep fir-green foliage with red petioles. It flowers in magnificent rose-red trusses. (Beck, Korth)

**‘Merley Cream’**, -20F, (Dexter #62), -5F 6 x 4 feet, One of the original Dexters, with flowers of creamy white, sporting a yellow-green blotch. The truss is tall and formal.

**‘Midnight Mystique’**, -5F, (Midnight x 1000 Butterflies) Blooms mid-season. Dramatic flowers with edges of dark maroon and centers of silvery gray to yellow. Full trusses. Upright plant habit. New growth will catch your attention with bronze tones. (Frank Fujioka hybrid)

**‘Midsummer’**, -15F, (R. maximum x unknown) Very heat, drought, and borer tolerant. Rouge pink blooms with a hint of gold in the throat appear in compact trusses long after most rhodos have finished their shows. Deep green leaves. As plant matures, the bloom color improves from year to year. (Note from The Trailing Arbutus – ‘Midsummer’ has survived and thrived next to my garden path in spite of years of benign neglect.)

**‘Parker’s Pink’**, -25F, (Parentage Unknown) C.O. Dexter, 5 x 5 feet, Mid-May bloom, Large and fragrant flowers of deep bright pink are heavily spotted red, fading to white in the throat. 12 flowers per truss. Large foliage.

**‘Point Defiance’**, -5F, (Anna x Marinus Koster), Blooms mid-season. Hybridized by Halfdan Lem, and part of his famous ‘Walloper’ Group. Large succulent blooms display pink picoteed edges, which blend to lighter shades, then to white in center.

**‘Purple Splendor’**, -5F, (ponticum hybrid), Blooms mid-late season. Still the deepest rich royal purple, displaying a black throat. Wavy-edged flowers sit atop the dark green foliage. Plant in an area with good drainage. (from Boskoop, via England)

**‘Rainbow’**, 0F, (a lost hybrid named ‘Anthony Waterer’ x griffithianum), Tall upright plant with vertically directed narrow angle branches. Irresistible flowers are edged in deep pink with white centers. (Sloccock)

**‘Red Brave’**, -25F, (America x Mars), Stately, dome-shaped trusses of deep red flowers are exquisitely accented by white stamens. Medium sized, sage green leaves, held for three years. (O. Pride)

**R. hyperythrum** mixed pink, -10°F, Funnel campanulate, usually white, rarely pale pink. Truss has 7-12 flowers. Early Midseason 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Leaves elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, up to 4 1/2" long, margins usually recurved. Compact, rounded shrub.

**‘Todmorden’**, -15F (Pygmalion x <haematodes x Wellfleet> possibly selfed, exact combination is uncertain) Dexter/Scott. Selected by John Wister. 5 x 3 feet. Early May. Exciting color combination. Distinctive veined dark green foliage. Flowers are a bi-color of reddish pink, then white, then pink again. Unforgettable! Needs some sun and must be well established to bloom. A fast grower, so give it plenty of space!

**‘Trude Webster’**, -10F, (Countess of Derby x Countess of Derby), Blooms mid-season. Superior Plant Award! Huge trusses of very rich pink with dark spots on upper lobe. Large slightly twisted foliage. If you have seen this at a flower show, you know it is Superb!

**‘Very Berry’**, -10F, (Trude Webster x Jean Marie DeMontague) Greer. 5 x 5 feet. Another fast grower. Blooms are heavily substantanced and exceptionally large. Blooms are ripe raspberry red, with striking ruffled petal margins. Should be heat tolerant, due to parentage.

**‘Vulcan’**, -15F, (griersonianum x Mars), Blooms late-mid season. Fiery red trusses visually jump out of the landscape to knock you right between the eyes! Blooms of fire engine red. Buds reliably every year, putting on a spectacular show. Heat tolerant, drought tolerant, sun tolerant! What more can be said without embarrassing myself!

**‘Vulcan’s Son’**, A friend of Kathy Van Veen spotted this sport of ‘Vulcan’ in his garden, suspected from its attributes that it may be tetraploid, and generously shared cuttings of the new version with Kathy.

(Continued on onther side.)

**'Waterer's Rose Perfection'**, Hybrid of *R. thomsonii*. Rose-colored blooms. Not available in any of the half dozen major rhodo catalogs which were referenced. Not available through the United Kingdom Waterer Nursery website, either. Kathy Van Veen speculates that this plant may not be available commercially anywhere except through her.

**'Wild Affair'**, -5F, (The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague x Moser's Maroon), Greer, blooms mid-season. Sets floral buds consistently. But you really want to know how it got that name, yes? Because it is so racy looking! Glowing red flowers with a huge golden blotch will grab your attention. Heat tolerant.

### Three year plants in larger pots:

**100A Miss Diane**, (Yellow) Whitney late orange x Haag's yellow, Clear yellow.

**161 Yellow, Lavender edge**, (Caroline x Donna Hargrove) x Haag's yellow, 2 tone.

**161 Lavender**, (Caroline x Donna Hargrove) x Haag's yellow, Lavender.

**161A Yellow**, same as above, Clear yellow.

**63 Pink (DJ)**, Vulcan x Haag's yellow, good bloomer, many pink flowers.

**97A Little Hope**, Bellringer x Haag's yellow, Clear yellow. Named for Don and Rose's Granddaughter.

**Al Raustein**, Large pink blooms, excellent large foliage.

**Bernstein**, -10°F, Goldsworth Orange x Mrs. J. G. Milieus, Flower saucer-shaped, wavy lobes, 2" to 2 3/4" across, pale yellow with conspicuous vivid reddish-orange blotch. Trusses have 12-15 flowers. Blooms Late Midseason, Leaves elliptic, 3 1/2" to 4 1/3" long, hairy. Upright plant habit. 6 ft. in 10 yrs.

**Blondie**, O.Pride plant, combo light lavender and yellow mix.

**Cowles 150-70**, yellow, pink edge.

**Dexter Apricot**, 0°F, Pink flower open funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 3" across, light purplish-pink with dark pink edge and yellow-green blotch, held in flat trusses of 12-15 flowers. Late Midseason. 4 1/4" long leaves, olive green, retained 2 years. Broad, rounded habit. 5 ft. in 10 Yrs.

**Dexter Decorum**, Huge white decorum flowers, quite hardy, nice foliage.

**Dexter Jeanne Gillis**, 3' blued pink.

**Dexter Ramona**, Believed to be a catawba hybrid, pink.

**Dexter Xerox**, -5F, 5' Midseason, pink and white flowers; good branching, medium green.

**Donna Hargrove**, -5°F, *fortunei* ssp *fortunei* x (*wardii* var *wardii* x *dichroanthum*) Flower widely funnel-campanulate, wavy lobes, 2 1/2" across, open apricot pink and age to light orange-yellow, edged strong orange-yellow. Lax truss of 8. Midseason. Leaves elliptic to lanceolate, obtuse apex, cuneate base, 3 1/2" long, medium green, retained 1 year. Plant rounded and well-branched. 2 ft. in 10 yrs.

**Dr. John**, Wister plant, max cross, pink, mauve, yellow.

**GiGi**, -5°F, Heavy bloomers, ruffled trusses, ruby red flowers. Unknown parentage. Flower openly funnel-shaped, wavy lobes, 3 1/4" across, vivid purplish red with deep red spotting. Held in a ball-shaped truss of 15-18 flowers. Late Midseason. Leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic, broadly acute apex, rounded base, 4 1/2" long, moderate olive-green, retained 3 years. Broad, dense habit. 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Prefers a shady location.

**Gloxieum**, -15° F, pink with golden flare on upper lobes; slightly fragrant.

**Northern Star**, *discolor* x *Lodauric*, large white mauve mix, tough plant.

**Nuance**, Leach plant, light yellow orange, blushed purple pink.

**SW 281-G**, Wister plant, max cross, pink mauve yellow

**SW 281-M**, Wister plant, different from above, same cross.

**Viscy**, -10°F, Bruns Nursery, Germany, *Diane* x *viscidifolium*, Flower campanulate, 2 3/4" to 3 3/4" across, heavy textured, open orange with strong dark-red spotting, age to coppery yellow. Reverse tinted rose along midribs. (Whisky color) Loose truss holds 5-9 flowers. Late Midseason. Leaves are large, glossy, dark green and insect resistant. Open habit. 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Tolerant of shade and sun. Needs spraying against mildew.

**Whitney Late Orange**, 5'x5', Unknown, possible *dichroanthum* x *discolor*, Orange, yellow, pink.

**yak x Nova Zembla**, Excellent foliage, Pink to white flowers.

**THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY CELEBRATED OUR 50TH YEAR ON MARCH 13, 2007**

*(Continued from September newsletter)*

Three years after its organization, the chapter held its first flower show on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1960 in the First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. Since then a flower show has been held every year. Beginning in 1961 and continuing until 1971/1972, most shows were held in the John Cecil room of the Biltmore Dairy Bar. The 1967 show was held at the Grove



PRIZEWINNING AWARDS SHOWN ABOVE, LEFT, THE PRESIDENT'S Award to Mrs. George H. V. Cecil by William R. Garren, president S. E. Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society which held its fifth annual show at the Cecil Room of Biltmore Dairies last weekend, entitled Purple Splendor. Center is the best throdendron presented by the chapter to Mrs. C. A. Mashburn. On right is the best azalea presented by the chapter to Mrs. Joe Adams. MAY 1965 SHOW

Park Inn in conjunction with the American Rhododendron Society National Convention held in Asheville. In 1969 the show was in the Tunnel Road Mall, in 1973, at the Valley Springs School Cafeteria, and in 1974 in the Biltmore Town Hall. From 1975 to 1979 the shows were held in the Holiday Inn West and in 1980 at the Asheville Mall. We now hold the shows at the NC Arboretum in Bent Creek Community, Buncombe County.

**Note from your Historians:** We have collected several items but still would love to have more. If you have anything such as newspaper articles, obits of former members, or photos that you can share with us please let us know.  
*Leon and Jean Pace*

## Wonderful Field Day

Several of our members, including yours truly, attended the 2007



Nursery Crops Field Day at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station in Fletcher, NC, on September 20. The weather was perfect! We were impressed with the extent of the facilities, and fascinated by the diversity of projects going on there. Don and I learned about breeding cold hardy and fragrant Azaleas and Rhododendrons, novel applications for plant tissue culture, weed control, fluff

substrate amendment made from trash, and the project we funded, **Propagating Native Azaleas.**



*The Weed Control project at NC MCRC*  
For that

project, Jeff Jones showed us a field where “our” plants had been planted and allowed to establish before they were hedged severely to within 6” of the ground. The many new stems were mounded (covered) with up to 15” of substrate in a wire mesh to exclude light and provide an environment conducive for root formation. The objectives are to develop protocols for propagation of *R. flammeum* and *R. austrinum* by manipulating stock plant management techniques, rooting hormones, and



6-10 rooted cuttings from ‘our’ plant.

timing of stem cutting collection. Jeff showed us that mound layering was quite successful, especially when cuttings were taken in March.

# Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

## Officers and Directors

**President:** Don Johnson

**Treasurer:** Billy Joyner

**Vice President:** Tami Wagner

**Past President:** Bill Klippel

**Secretary/Editor:** Marilyn Haynes

**Directors 'til 2008:** Ray Head  
Patricia Phillips, April Sanborn

**Directors 'til 2009:** Leon Pace  
Don Haynes, Jim Wagner



## RENEW NOW!

Please send your membership renewal check to our Treasurer, Billy Joyner. If he doesn't have it by the October meeting, you might miss out on the Winter issue of *The Journal*, and the drawing at the Christmas party for a free membership!

## Welcome New Members:

Danee Hoover  
Horse Shoe, NC 28742

Claudine J. Miller  
Canton, NC 28716



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**Deadline for copy for the December  
Blue Ridge Review is October 25.**

## Mark Your Calendar Now!

**October 21, 2:00 PM** Saint John in the Wilderness, Plants for Members. Hosts: Linda Hendricks, Rose Johnson, and Ray Head.

**November** - Give Thanks and mulch; no meeting.

**December 2, 2:00 PM** Saint John in the Wilderness, Annual Christmas Party. Program: Making Christmas Decorations from Native Plants, by Collette Ballard.

## 2008

**January** - No meeting

**February 17, 2:00 PM** Saint John in the Wilderness, Program: To be Announced.

**March 15, 1:00 PM** Annual Spring Banquet and Silent Auction. Location and Speaker TBD.

**April 26 & 27, Annual Truss Show** North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.