

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

September 2008

## Spring in New Zealand

Sunday September 21 at 2:00 PM

Saint John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock, NC

Our speaker this time will be our own **Bill Klippel**.

Bill is a former SE-ARS president and two time Bronze Medalist. He and his wife, Arlene, visited friends in New Zealand last fall during peak rhododendron blooming season. Bill has many spectacular pictures to show us and some great stories to tell. We're all really going to enjoy this one!



Plus... We have nearly 100 R. flammeum and R. austrinum azaleas from the Mountain

Horticultural Crops Research Station in Fletcher, NC. Anthony Lebude states, "All are in quart pots, fertilized, looking good and ready to go." The Azaleas will be free, at the September meeting.

Delicious refreshments are always part of the afternoon's activities., plus April will bring a large selection of books for sale at discounted prices.

**This would be a good meeting to bring friends, who might be interested in joining our group. All are welcome!**

A Board meeting will follow the regular meeting.

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

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## News from ARS

ARS is planning to print a complete membership list to include information on "members gardens to visit" listed by states. (See "From the Executive Director", page 121 of the Summer 2008 issue of *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.)

Do we have volunteers willing to compile information on the gardens of each of our states, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida? Or perhaps one could do it for the Southeastern chapter.

They only need a short description of the garden, owner's name, address, preferred times of visit or by appointment and contact information.

We all know that there are some fabulous rhododendron gardens in our area that could be shared with other ARS members and guests. Please let our Secretary, Marilyn Haynes, know if you are willing to help.



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

# Annual Meeting and Picnic

Doley and Melody Bell graciously hosted our Annual Meeting and picnic at their beautiful yard and woodland garden on June 22nd. About 30 members and guests shared in the bounty of scrumptious favorite dishes. Melody Bell's Fudge Filled Cheese Cake, a new recipe from *Southern Living* was a big hit..

*New member, Georgia Burson, and her husband, Bill, enjoy the picnic in spite of a little rain..*

Our President, Don Johnson conducted a brief annual meeting at which he announced that all the officers and board members have agreed to continue for a second year, for the usual 2 year term. Also we have about 150 deciduous azaleas from Anthony



*..and "Mr. Moto" is Melody's puppy.*

Lebude at the Horticultural Experiment Station in Fletcher. They will be given away to members at the September meeting.



The rain didn't put a damper on the plant auction, as Bill Klippel conducted the bidding for

the variety of plants from members' gardens. Nearly everyone brought home something special.



*Billy Joyner and Jim Wagner calculate the totals, while Stan and Nancy Rogan wait to pay for their treasures.*

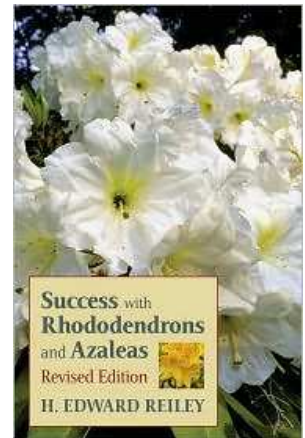
# April's Book Review



## *Success With Rhododendrons and Azaleas*

by H. Edward Reiley (2004)

This recently revised edition of *Success With Rhododendrons and Azaleas* has a lot of information packed in one handy volume. It is especially useful for the new gardener who is interested in growing these great plants. The book begins with a brief chapter on the taxonomy and history of the genus *Rhododendron*. Following chapters deal with practical matters such as site selection, soil ph, cold and heat tolerance and other growing considerations. Reiley discusses the use of rhododendrons in the landscape and addresses their placement in woodland plantings, in borders and as hedges. He also touches on container growing and bonsai. Several chapters are devoted to watering and nutritional needs, pruning and deadheading. Another discusses the various disorders, diseases, and insects which sometimes trouble these plants. He briefly touches on propagation and hybridizing.



A chapter on flower shows offers some good advice for preparing trusses and sprays as show entries. The "Good-Doer" lists from the previous edition have been fully revised. A new and informative chapter on native azaleas, written by Donald Hyatt has been added to this edition. Over 100 full color photos are included, as well as many other black and white photos, charts, and maps. Again, this book contains a lot of useful information and would be a good addition to any gardener's library. This book retails for \$25.00, but is available through our chapter for \$20.00 at our September meeting.

## Anemones

By Betty Montgomery

When one thinks of the anemones, most people think of the spring blooming ones that come in many shades and are low to the ground. However, there are other lovely anemones. Towards the end of summer a favorite of mine comes along, Japanese Anemones. These plants came to us from China through Japan, hence the name Japanese stuck. But no matter where they were derived, they add a touch of elegance to any landscape. They are delicate and beautiful and come in colors from pink to white with shades in between. They grow best in some shade, just the plant to brighten that dim corner of the garden. They form a nice 12 inch ground cover before putting on the tall graceful stems that support the lovely flowers atop. Spring planting is preferred but I have planted some in fall since that seems to be when the garden centers have this plant available. The type of soil will determine how fast they get established and the flowers tend to last longer if they get some shade.

The first ones I planted were given to me by a German lady who did not know the name, but she sure knew how to grow them. The variety she gave me was Robustissima' which is pink and gets to be about 30 inches tall. It is a very robust plant that



will take over if it likes the site. Knowing nothing about the plant when it was given to me, I put it in the narrow driveway bed which has a variety of flowers. After a few years, I realized Robustissima was going to take the bed over if I did not do something. I tried to

dig it out and thought I had but the next year, it came right back. The deep roots were almost impossible to eradicate since I had so many other plants in the same area. Any piece of root left behind took root so that did not help when trying to

move the flowers. I finally did succeed in removing it from the bed but this particular variety is very aggressive so, think long and hard about where you will put Robustissima. It also was planted in full sun but in a bed where it got sufficient moisture. Where they are now, they get some shade and they like this site better.

Not long after I was introduced to my first anemonea, I came

across Honorine Jobert' and I fell in love. I think this is one of the loveliest flowers, it is white with a yellow center and so delicate, graceful



and elegant. I bought two plants and planted them immediately but did not see any sign of them for about two years. I learned that they liked a soil that is not as acidic as ours here so I applied just a little dolomitic lime to the area. Suddenly they appeared. I have since read that most Japanese anemones take some time to get established, though at the time I thought it was the lime that brought them along, I think they are just slow to establish. The Honorine Jobert comes along the second week in September and has stems about 36 inches. This lovely plant was so admired by the Royal Horticultural Society that they gave it the Award of Garden Merit. This plant as most other anemones forms more of a clump and is not aggressive like the Robustissima happens to be.

Whirlwind is another white variety I have planted and love. It is a semi-double white flower and stands lovely atop the long graceful stems of about 30 inches. It comes along about the very first of September, just before Honorine Jobert.

There are many forms of pink from light pink to deep pink, single and semi-double and all shades and shapes between. I have a few others coming along but they are new to my garden and the three I have mentioned, I have enjoyed for at least 6 or 7 years. To me, this is an under used plant. I have not seen it available very often in garden centers so not as many people know about this fall blooming jewel.

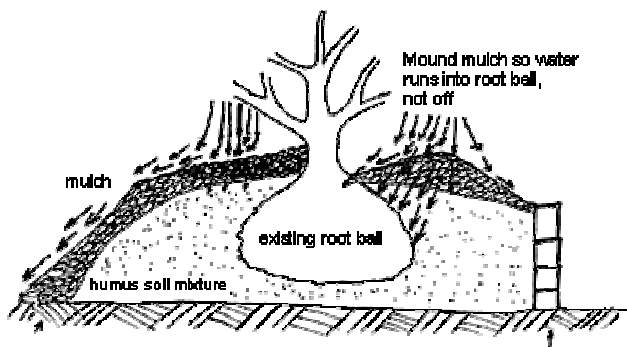
## From Your President

### Donald Johnson

The below was first written up as humor, but it does get people's attention, plus getting to the point.

#### *How to care for Rhododendron*

1. Drainage
2. Drainage
3. Drainage
4. Drainage
5. Drainage
6. Mulch, 2" Pine needles, & Oak Leaves
7. Acid Soil
8. Dapple Shade (Rhododendrons are a woodland plant)
9. Water when needed
10. Containerized plants, Quarter the root ball, Loosen roots thoroughly
11. When in doubt plant high
12. More drainage



#### *How to kill Rhododendron*

1. South side of a house
2. Full Sun
3. Heavy clay soil
4. Wet, poor drainage

5. Down Spout nearby
6. Neutral or alkaline soil
7. Plant, plant in ground container and all
8. Ignore 1 to 12 above..

#### *How to cope with the drought*

WHEN IN DROUGHT, RUN AROUND HOLLER AND SHOUT-----RAIN DAMNIT-----

We are definitely going through a water shortage, and have been for the last 10 years or so, except for a few tropical storms that hit here. The area needs one right now to raise our water table.

With our plants in mind: All Rhodies and Azaleas need a good mulch. I find that oak leaves and pine needles mixed are ideal. Put 4 or 5 sheets of old newspaper around the plants, for moisture and weed control. Cover the whole area with your oak leaves and pine needles, 2 to 3 inches deep.

Coarser mulches like bark and chips are OK, but don't break as fast as the leaves and needles.

Leaves and needles should be renewed each fall. This gives a continuous supply of nutrients to the plants as a secondary benefit. For heavens sake stop burning the leaves, putting all that carbon in the air!

Think how smart your plants will be after reading the newspaper.....dj



*Don Johnson, who's garden is in Mountain Rest, SC, features his hybridized yellow rhododendrons.*



**Southeastern Chapter  
AMERICAN  
RHODODENDRON  
SOCIETY**

**Application for Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS. 18 months for new members joining after April 1st. New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_**

Membership dues include chapter and national membership, and the *ARS Journal*.

- Individual.....\$35.00
- Family.....40.00
- Commercial/Corporate.....90.00
- Sustaining.....50.00
- Sponsoring.....100.00
- Life.....1,000.00

Send this form with your check payable to 'SE-ARS' to:

Billy Joyner, Treasurer,

*Welcome and Thank you for joining the...*  
**Southeastern Chapter  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

**USE THIS FORM TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
OR GIVE IT TO A FRIEND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN OUR GROUP.**

*In Memorium*

Denise Stelloh died peacefully on August 13, 2008, at Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville, NC. She had three close lady friends and her husband, Bob, with her at the end. Denise had been fighting a number of debilitating health problems over the past 5 years.

Her family will have a celebration of her life at their home and garden in mid-September.

Tax deductible gifts in her honor could be made to - Dan Krabill, ASA Treasurer, 6009 Copely Lane, McLean VA 22101, earmarked for "Azalea Society Research - Denise Stelloh"

Bob and Denise Stelloh have been members of the Southeastern Chapter, ARS, since moving to Hendersonville, NC, in 1996. Denise was the chapter's show chairman for a number of years and Bob served on the Board of Directors as the chapter treasurer. Bob was presented with the President's Award in 2003. Bob and Denise were presented with the Bronze Medal in 2001.

Denise was a very active member of the Azalea Society, and Bob recently registered an azalea 'Deni's Delight' in her honor, featured on the cover

of the Summer 2008 issue of *The Azalean* and shown at <http://www.pbase.com/image/60837176>.

*Here are a few of the e-mailed comments about Denise Stelloh:*

"Deni will always be remembered for her willing smile and kind heart." "She was a great and classy lady." "She was a real lady thru all her suffering." "Bob and Denise were a very special couple who truly shared the love of a beautiful garden. Denise will be missed by all that knew her."



'Deni's Delight'

**In Sympathy**

We offer our deepest sympathies to our dear friends and members, Jack and Pamela McCarter in the loss of their son, Christopher Howard McCarter, 44, of Greenville, SC, who died on June 1, 2008. Chris was an avid cyclist and a dedicated journalist. He was also the grandson of SEARS members, E.H. and Martha McCarter.

# 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



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## Welcome New Member:

Cathy Davis  
Asheville, NC 28805



**It's Time to renew your  
membership with SE-ARS!**

Save us postage and send your dues check,  
now, to our Treasurer, Billy Joyner,  
address above.

**See membership form on page 5.**



*Annual June picnic at  
the Bell's. See story  
and more pictures  
inside.*

**Deadline for copy for the October Blue  
Ridge Review is September 15.**

## Upcoming events!

**September 21, 2:00 PM - Bill Klippel's Spring  
in New Zealand, photos and talk.** St. John in the  
Wilderness Church, Flat Rock, NC.

**October 19, 2:00 PM - Plants for Members.** St.  
John in the Wilderness Church, Flat Rock, NC.

**December 7 - Christmas Party & Ray Head will  
speak on Hollies.** St. John in the Wilderness  
Church, Flat Rock, NC.