

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouraging the culture of Rhododendrons

March 2010

Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction 'Rhododendron from Captivation to Creation' - by Bob Head Saturday, March 20, 12:30 PM at The Chariot, Hendersonville, NC



As a young teen, the genus *Rhododendron* always captivated Bob and he spent many hours selling azaleas to home gardeners. Bob later embarked upon a journey to create new hybrid varieties of *Rhododendrons*. In his presentation he will talk about why he began his breeding program as well as discuss the challenges of growing and maintaining healthy *Rhododendrons* in the Piedmont and mountains of the Carolinas.

Bob is a second-generation nurseryman earning his B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Clemson University. He worked for 14 years as an Area Ornamental Horticultural Specialist for Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. In 1998, Bob returned full time to his family business, Head-Lee Nursery, Inc. in Seneca, South Carolina, a 50 year old family owned retail-wholesale nursery.

An extensive collection of plants selected over a 40-year period yielded many exceptional plant cultivars so in 1999 Bob formed Head Ornamentals, Inc. with his wife, Lisa. Head Ornamentals, Inc., advertising through the web site at www.gardendebut.com and the trademark, Garden Debut® introduced Teddy Bear® *Magnolia* and 'Amethyst Falls' *Wisteria* among many others.

They will soon release the Debut Series® of re-blooming evergreen Azaleas.

Bob presents lectures at the International Plant Propagators Conference, Southern Plant Conference as well as State Master Gardener Conferences and local meetings. He recently authored the book "Hutchinson's Tree Book- A Reference Guide to Popular Landscape Trees"

You won't want to miss this fabulous presentation, delicious meal, fun and fellowship with other Rhodo fans. The Silent Auction will feature 30-40 very special plants from Vivian Abney's East Fork Nursery in Sevierville, TN, selected by April Sanborn, plus a few really outstanding plants from some of our members' own gardens. If you have a very desirable plant or two, please contact April at (828) 586-8648 or ASanbornA@aol.com. There will also be special raffle drawings. So make your reservations now, **before March 10**, by sending a check for \$20.00 per person to our treasurer, John Brown.



The Chariot is at 715 North Church Street, corner of Seventh Ave., in Hendersonville, NC. From exit 49B off I-26, go west on 64. That becomes 7th Ave.

Many Visitors and Members Heard Cathy Davis' Talk About the Appalachian Balds

Responding to an article in the Hendersonville Times-News, as many as 12 visitors arrived to hear Cathy Davis' presentation entitled "A Walk Along the Appalachian Balds, Sunday, Feb. 21st. There were 39 people who enjoyed the fascinating talk and gorgeous pictures as Cathy took us for a 3 mile hike along a trail leading across the Round, Jane and Grassy Ridge Balds in the Roan Mountain area of the Appalachians. She showed us amazing plants, offering a wide variety of textures, that can be used in our own landscapes with rhododendrons and azaleas, providing a natural look.



Both door prizes, brought by Rich Becker, were won by visitors. Scrumptious refreshments brought by Jean Pace, Glenn O'Sheal, Claudine Miller and Rose Johnson were enjoyed by all, as members and guests shared their love of plants with one another. The visitors all were encouraged to join our Association before the March Banquet.

A short business meeting resulted in two motions. One was to approve the proposed agreement on the disbursement



of 2012 Convention funds between SE-ARS and the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA. The other was to approve a motion to not sell plants at the 2010 Hendersonville Garden Jubilee on Memorial Day weekend. This may be a viable option for next year. It was announced that the Vaseyi Chapter ASA will hold a garden tour open to the public in cooperation with

ECO on Saturday, May 8. SE-ARS garden tours will be arranged, and there will be hikes to see the native azaleas in mid June.



John Brown made a short presentation on the Hooper Bald Project sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, ARS. They are looking for people to join them on April 9, 10, and 11 at the Micro-tel in Robbinsville, to clear away overgrowth which is causing the balds to disappear. He said that Gregory Bald used to be about 20 acres, and due to reforestation receded to only about 13 acres. It is their goal, in cooperation with the US Forest Service, to restore it back to 20 acres. Contact John for more information about the project or to volunteer early in April.

HOOPER BALD RESTORATION PROJECT

Get in on the fun
April 9, 10, 11
Headquarters at the Robbinsville NC
Micro-tel Inn

You will come home a lot younger and happier, also dirtier and tired.

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*.

- Regular.....\$40.00
- Commercial.....90.00
- Sustaining.....75.00
- Sponsoring.....150.00
- Commit for Life (Individual).....1,000.00
- Commit for Life (Family).....1,500.00

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

John Brown

Welcome and Thank you for joining the...

**Southeastern Chapter
 AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

This form reflects the new prices for 2010. Commit for Life, Individual, is payable over a 3 year period in one increment of \$400 & 2 of \$300. Commit for Life, Family, is payable over a 3 year period in increments of \$500.

In Memorium

John Paulding Mixner, 94, retired Research Professor Emeritus of Animal Physiology, Rutgers University, and a resident of Carolina Village, in



Hendersonville, died January 19. He served on the Rutgers faculty for 30 years and was Chairman of the Department of Animal Sciences for the second 15. His principal areas of research dealt with dairy cattle for which he published numerous journal articles and received several prestigious awards.

He retired in 1977 and moved to Hendersonville where he and his wife developed an outstanding rhododendron and azalea garden. They were awarded the Bronze Medal of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1993 in recognition of their contributions to the Society. He enjoyed photography in his travels to over 50 countries around the world.

Glenn's Blackberry Wine Cake

- ½ cup pecans (broken)
- 1 pkg. white cake mix
- 1 pkg. blackberry jello
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup blackberry wine



- Glaze:
- ½ cup margarine or butter, melted and cooled
 - ½ cup blackberry wine
 - 2 cups confectioners sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour tube pan. Sprinkle nuts evenly on the bottom of the pan. Blend cake mix, jello, oil, wine, and eggs on low speed for one minute. Increase speed to medium high and beat for 5 minutes. Pour batter into pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until top is brown. While cake is baking prepare glaze. Combine cooled margarine or butter and wine. Stir in sugar until smooth. Make holes in top of cake with a fork. Pour glaze on **hot** cake.

This was served at the February SE-ARS meeting and several asked for the recipe. So here it is!

**Southeastern Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**

Officers and Directors

President: Doley Bell

Treasurer: John Brown

Vice President: Georgia Burson

Secretary/Editor: Marilyn Haynes

Past President: Don Johnson

Directors 'til 2010: Aaron Cook,
Ray Head, April Sanborn

Directors 'til 2011: Don Haynes,
Glenn O'Sheal, Leon Pace



R. mucronulatum

**Do you have any nice plants
for our silent auction on
March 20th? If so, please let
April Sanborn know, by
calling (828) 586-8648 or
ASanbornA@aol.com.**

Set up Saturday, 9:00-11:00 AM (Not Friday)



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**2010 MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY INSIDE**

**Deadline for the April-May Blue Ridge
Review is March 18**

For a **color** copy of the *Blue Ridge Review*

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**Saturday, March 20, 12:30 PM - Banquet
and Silent Auction, 'Rhododendron from
Captivation to Creation' with Bob Head.**

**April 9, 10, 11 - Hooper Bald Project,
Micro-tel, Robbinsville, NC.**

**Sunday, May 9 -2:00 till? - Tour of Velma
Haag Garden, Brevard, NC.**

**May 1-2, Flower Show and Plant Sale, NC
Arboretum.**

**May 14th – 17th, ARS National Convention,
Long Island, NY. "The Eastern Challenge"
<http://www.nyrhododendron.org/2010.html>**

**June - Hikes to the Balds to see the native
Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Dates TBD.**

**July 18, Sun., 2:00 PM, Annual Meeting
and Picnic- Home of Melody and Doley Bell,
Hendersonville, NC**