

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

November-December 2010

It's a Holiday Party! - Sunday, December 5, 2:00 PM

There is no program. It is a party! Bill and Georgia Burson will bring the meat, utensils, and coffee.

Everyone is asked to bring a yummy covered dish. An invitation has gone out for the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, to join us.

Georgia will make another Christmas Swag to be given as a door prize and others may want to provide a door prize as well. Let's have lots of them!



Christmas Party food table last year



Georgia Burson with the beautiful Christmas swag, she gave as a door prize last year.

We'll have our annual drawing for a free membership for 2012, from the names who renewed their membership on or before the October meeting.

By all means, bring along a friend who also enjoys gardening... and good food.

Where? At St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, in Flat Rock, NC.

Convention Planning Meeting Sunday, Nov. 14, 11:00 AM

The 2012 Convention Planning Committee will meet on Sunday, November 14, at 11:00 AM before the Vaseyi Chapter's Annual Meeting and Covered Dish meal, at the Bullington Center. May 2012 is getting closer and closer, so if you are heading up a sub committee, please make every effort to be there, or confer with Aaron Cook before the meeting date.

In the meanwhile, one of the sub committees for hospitality has been working on developing a packet of information to be sent out to people who register for the convention, before they get to Asheville. Cathy White has put together a list of Western North Carolina attractions of interest to gardeners, which she has posted on the 2012 Convention Yahoo Group, inviting comments or suggestions. If you are not receiving regular e-mails from members of the convention

Committee, please add your name to the group. The name of the convention planning e-mail list is 2012convention@yahoo.com, with a home page and some ground rules at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/2012convention/>.



Cathie & Courtland White, Sieglinde Anderson, Suzanne Medd. Cathy Davis was not present.

September Meeting With Vaseyi

We had a great time at the Bullington Center in Hendersonville with the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, when John Bodiford, Senior Horticulturist at The South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson was our speaker.



His presentation included wonderful slides on the enlightening topic, "Easy Natives in the Landscape," which included Foliage plants, Iris, Tiarellas, Trilliums, Hydrangeas, Hipericum, Illicium, Kalmias, Leucothoe, Rhododendrons, Vaccinium, Maples, Dogwoods, Stewartia, Magnolias, and Plicatas, and answered many questions.

April Sanborn, Vaseyi Chapter president, announced that the local chapter of the Iris Society has gone under, and has donated all of their flower show supplies to SE-ARS. We offer our many thanks to them, although we are sorry they could not continue as a viable organization.

Georgia's Pumpkin Bread

Makes 2 loaves

2 1/2 C. all purpose flour	1 C. Wesson Oil
2 tsp. baking soda	3 C. sugar
1 tsp. allspice	4 eggs
1 tsp. nutmeg	2/3 C. water
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 C. canned pumpkin
1 1/2 tsp. salt	1 C. chopped pecans

Combine 1st 6 ingredients and set aside. Cream oil and sugar then add eggs one at a time. Add water, pumpkin, and nuts-MIX WELL. Lastly, add dry ingredients and pour into well-greased and floured loaf pans. Cook at 350 degrees F. for 1 hour or until done.

October meeting: Biggest Attendance in Ages!

There were 41 people who packed in to St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, on Oct. 17, inspiring the early arriving members to get more chairs out of the closet! 41 people attended, including 7 guests, perhaps anticipating getting some free plants.

President Doley Bell opened the meeting and called on treasurer, John Brown, for a membership report. John announced that we had a good response to the Secretary's challenge for the drawing, representing a \$40.00 prize! He added, "We also need **new** members, now!"



Program Chairman, Georgia Burson introduced our speaker, Dr. Robert Wyatt of Athens, GA, who offered a fascinating presentation on "Mosses in the Landscape." He showed us some beautiful mosses that are relatively low maintenance in shade. His greatest advice was to encourage the mosses that are already present.

After the edict from John, "Thou shalt not sell the plants!" it was a courteous free for all for the 550 plants, of five varieties, available. Members selected theirs first, then the guests. Everyone went home with some potting to do, but happy, and the free plants?... well all 550 of them left the hall in 26 different vehicles



The absolutely delicious refreshments were provided by Georgia Burson, who's recipe for Pumpkin Bread was requested.

***The “King of Shrubs” and
“Shady Grove”*** *by Anne Guelker*

Rhododendrons first entered my life when I was developing a garden in University City, Missouri (a suburb of St. Louis). Over a 13-year period (1991-2003), I planted many trees and broadleaf evergreens there, including a few rhododendrons. In 2004 I decided to leave city life behind, and began making plans to relocate. The big move to my

newly constructed home (Shady Grove*) took place in October 2006, where I am now enjoying life in the Missouri Ozarks (Shannon County).



Gardening here involves rocky soil and dealing with wildlife, but the sense of space and serenity is incomparable. My home and garden are on a south-facing slope, under a canopy of short leaf pines, with a priceless view of the Ozark hills. Fallen pine needles carpet the ground, with a



Lower southeast backyard at Shady Grove

noticeable absence of weeds. Of course, this requires ongoing maintenance. In addition to foundation plantings, my main garden is a 6,500 square foot expanse planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, *Illicium*, mountain laurel, other shrubs and trees such as paper-bark maple. This garden area is on a lower level than the house, and is accessed by a stairway built from large slabs of native sandstone,

edged with plantings of boxwoods and hollies enclosed with native sandstone edgers. The upper sides of the rock stairway are planted with Baltic ivy.

The majority of the plantings in my very young garden are rhododendrons, the first of which were planted in the spring of 2008. The early plantings at Shady Grove include *Rhododendron maximum* purchased and brought back from North Carolina. These were soon joined by desirable varieties from local garden centers and nurseries. My interest has developed, and I now spend hours studying catalogs in pursuit of specimens to add to my collection. Recent additions include *Rhododendron yakushimanum* ‘Phetteplace form’ and *Rhododendron wasonii*. I am intrigued by unusual leaf shapes, and have these (among others) on order for spring planting: *Rhododendron bureavii* ‘Lem’s form’, *Rhododendron* ‘Mission Bells’, and *Rhododendron* ‘Oudijk’s Sensation.’



Rhododendrons do well here, given the proper siting, planting medium, and water requirements. The ARS Journal, as well as on-line newsletters such as the Seattle *Rhododendronland* are primary educational resources for me. A selection of books, recommended by the ARS are ready references.

My future plans include adding select rhododendrons, learning more about them, and taking time to enjoy this special place in the Ozark hills.

*”Shady Grove” is an 18th century folk song. The lyrics include “... if I can’t have Shady Grove, I’ll have no one at all ...” These words summarize my feelings about my Ozarks home.

Anne Guelker
Ozark Chapter ARS

9/7/10

Editor's Note: Anne Guelker inquired about our 2012 ARS Convention early in 2009. She and I have been engaged in an e-friendship ever since, and she has since become an Associate Member of SE-ARS.

*In Memoriam**We are deeply saddened by the loss of four of our SE-ARS members and friends.***Mary Beasley**

Mary Beasley of Lavonia, GA passed away on August 26, 2010. Mary was born in Concordia, Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Home Economics. She was married to George Beasley, and lived in Georgia.

Mary was a significant part of George's native azalea hybridization efforts, helping in selecting the plants for the crosses and evaluating the results. She managed Parkertown Tree Farms and was a co-founder of Transplant Nursery which her son, Jeff and his wife, Lisa, continue to operate.

Mary was a longtime member of the Azalea Chapter of ARS, ASA and the Lavonia garden club. She and George were awarded a bronze medal in 1980 and later Mary served as ARS District 10 Director.

Many of the Beasley hybrids are still popular today and sold under Transplant's "Maid in the Shade" series in large-scale retail stores. Probably the most famous of the Beasley hybrids is a cross of three native azalea species, 'My Mary,' named by George in honor of his wife. 'My Mary' is a cross of the cultivar 'Nacooche' and *R. austrinum*. 'Nacooche' is a cross of *R. periclymenoides* and *R. atlanticum*. Other Beasley hybrids include 'Camilla's Blush,' 'Lavender Girl,' 'Kelsey's Flame,' 'Lisa's Gold,' and many others.

That 'My Mary' is one of the most popular native azaleas is a testimony to Mary's radiant personality, her gracious interactions with others and her part in the development of the Beasley hybrids.

Excerpted from an article by Ken Gohring

Mary Beasley was a member of SEARS for years and quite the plant lady. *John Brown*

Mary was a very pleasant wonderful person, who always had time to talk and give advice about plants to anyone who asked. *Don Johnson*

**Col. E. H. McCarter** (1915 - 2010)

Colonel E. H. McCarter, 95, died August 5, 2010. He was born in York County, SC. He received a BS degree from Clemson University; a Master's degree in Industrial Management from the University of Pittsburgh and Master's degree in Business Administration from Jackson College, Honolulu, HI. Col. McCarter had a stellar military career in the Army then the Air Corps. During World War II, he served in the Mediterranean Theatre, where he flew 50 combat missions. He received many military honors. After the war, Col. McCarter served in Hawaii; Washington, DC; Tokyo, Japan; back to Hawaii; then returned to the US to serve at Langley AFB, VA; as commander of Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville, NC; and was Comptroller of the Twelfth Air Force, Waco, TX. Upon retirement from the USAF with thirty years of service, he became Assistant VP for Business and Finance at Clemson University from which he retired in 1977.



He was active in many civic groups including the ARS. In the late 70's and in the 80's he served as treasurer of the William Bartram Chapter, which awarded, him and his wife, Martha, the Bronze Medal. Since the 90's he had been a member of the Southeastern Chapter. Their interest in gardening began in the late 30's in Lamar County Georgia. However, because of an Air Force career serious gardening had to wait for retirement, first in Clemson in the late 60's and then in Pickens.

He and Martha worked for many years on their home garden, containing native azaleas, hybrid rhododendrons and wildflowers, on Fox Squirrel Ridge just north of Pickens, SC. His wife of 72 years, Martha Howard McCarter and son, Dr. Jackson McCarter and his wife, Pamela, of Travelers Rest, SC., are also SE-ARS members.

Excerpted from an article by Jackson McCarter



**Southeastern Chapter
AMERICAN
RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY
Membership Sign-up Form**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 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, plus the quarterly *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, SE-ARS Treas

Welcome! ...and Thank you for joining the...

**Southeastern Chapter
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

Commit for Life, Individual, is payable over a 3 year period in one increment of \$400 & two of \$300. Commit for Life, Family, is payable over a 3 year period in increments of \$500. ♥ Encourage a friend to join!

Linda Mary Hendricks - 62 -



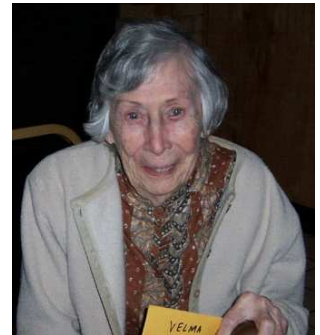
Linda Hendricks passed away at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, on Sept. 4, 2010.

She was born in New London, CT, and grew up in CT and RI. She worked as a chef and a waitress in fine dining establishments throughout Southeastern CT, and as a security guard and secretary at Northeast Utilities in Waterford, CT. She retired in her mid-40s when she and her family moved to Phoenix, Ariz. She and her husband Frank subsequently lived in Arkansas, Florida, and most recently in Hendersonville, NC.

She excelled at many hobbies including cooking, gardening, and photography. She will be most remembered for her outgoing personality, altruism to strangers, those in need, and animals.

Her second husband of 24 years Frank M. Hendricks lives in Hendersonville. Linda and Frank frequently volunteered for Kitchen Duties at our SE-ARS Chapter meetings in Hendersonville.

Velma Haag



Velma Haag passed away October 8, 2010, just days short of her 100th birthday which would have been on Oct. 28.

In 1981, the American Rhododendron Society awarded Russ and Velma *SE-ARS Banquet in 2005*

Haag the Silver Medal in recognition of their contributions. That award, in part, mentions their active involvement at all levels of the Society, their key roles in establishing a 5,000-plant public display garden and their extensive work as hybridizers which resulted in a number of their crosses becoming registered and unselfishly made available to the membership.

In 1995 they were presented with the Bronze Medal by the Southeastern Chapter in Hendersonville, NC. They were part of the Gable Study Group. Russ was a past president of our chapter.

Jean and Leon Pace

Due to lack of space here, more on Velma Haag will be in our next issue of Blue Ridge Review.

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

Directors 'til 2012: Aaron Cook,
April Sanborn, Jackson McCarter



Welcome New Members:

Susan Stockdale
Lenoir City, TN 37772



Dave Rozendale

Membership Renewals

Please send your renewal check **right now** to John Brown if you haven't already. Renewals after **Dec. 1st** are in "Journal Jeopardy" when there **may** be an extra charge for the winter issue, or you may miss receiving it entirely.

Deadline for the January/February Blue Ridge Review is December 30.

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

November 14, Sun. 11:00 AM - 2012 Convention Planning Meeting, Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC.

December 5, Sun. 2:00 PM - Christmas Party, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, Flat Rock, NC.

2011

February 20, 2011 - "Yaks" with Jackson McCarter, St. John in the Wilderness.

March 19, Sat. - Annual Banquet - "Delbert Brim's Nursery and Hybridizing Program" with Stan Southerland of Chapel Hill, NC, Chariot.

April 17, Sun. - "Beware the Green Invaders: the invasive non-native plants of WNC." with Alan Mizeras of Horseshoe, NC, St. John in the Wilderness.

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