

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

May - June 2011

Annual Flower Show April 30-May 1

Our 52nd Annual Flower Show is Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 at the NC Arboretum in Bent Creek, NC. The show is open to the public noon to 5:00 both days, when we'll have an opportunity to educate and inspire folks to enjoy rhododendrons and azaleas.



Last Year's Winners' Table

Members and non members are encouraged to bring trusses and sprays between 8:00 & 9:00 AM on Saturday, or 2:00 - 4:30 on Friday. Glenn O'Sheal has free gate passes and entry cards, which we are to fill out in advance in order to save time Saturday morning. If you didn't get them at the April 17th meeting, contact him. If you need the classification sheets, he can send those too, but most of the information you need is on the Show Schedule which was sent out last month.

We are encouraged to either bring our own lunches or purchase lunch from the Savory Thyme Cafe, since we will not be having the usual barbecue lunch. However, Glenn has promised to bring his famous cheesecake, and some morning snacks. Hooray for Glenn!

Garden Jubilee Festival May 28-29

We have another wonderful opportunity to meet lots of fellow plant lovers and encourage the culture of rhododendrons on Memorial Day weekend in downtown Hendersonville, NC. People come from miles around to this enormous celebration of the beginning of the planting season.

We will have an assortment of rhododendrons to sell, some from our fall plants for members, and some we will be getting from member Nurseries.

We'll have the same booth location as last year, #111, in front of 125 Main Street. There is a parking lot on the corner, and a welcoming business nearby for rest breaks. You can sign up at the flower show, for your most convenient time to be at our booth, or you may contact Marilyn Haynes.

Each year this has proven to be a real fun event, as well as an opportunity to sell some of our favorite plants and educate people about how to successfully enjoy them.



Alan Mizeras Shares Valuable Resources With Members

The top 10 least desirable plants list was one of several valuable resources shared by Alan Mizeras, a volunteer plant rescuer for Henderson County, NC. He also gave each person present a copy of two books published in 2010 by the U.S. Forest Service: *A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* and *A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests*.

His top 10 list of least desirable plants included Oriental Bittersweet, Napalese Browntop, Chinese Privet, Multiflora Rose, Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive, English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, Kudzu, and Chinese Wisteria. He also describes several other plants which may be on other least desirable lists. He described each with pictures and characteristics and gave us some valuable tips to manage or get rid of them.



SE-ARS President, Doley Bell, opened the combined meeting of SE-ARS and Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, on April 17. He acknowledged the beautiful flowers brought by Ray Head, Marilyn Haynes, and Glenn O'Sheal. Ray announced that a *R. alabamense* from Mobile, AL, given to some members a few years ago, is actually *R. colemanii*.

The members voted to approve half the funding for the reprinting of the Native Azaleas brochures for the NC Arboretum. John Brown gave a treasurers report, showing a current balance of \$859 in the SE-ARS checking account, including income of \$104.64 interest from the CD's, but indicated that the account will run close to the wire with upcoming expenses. The convention account has \$1500 in it, \$500 start up from each chapter and



\$500 from the sale of plants. Doley appointed Leon Pace and Don Haynes to serve on the nominating committee. Glenn O'Sheal gave the details for the flower show and had entry forms and gate passes available. Since things are blooming early this year, he encouraged the more northern members to be sure to bring trusses to make a good showing for the public.

Rich Becker brought a beautiful white evergreen azalea plant called Linwood Hardy Gardenia for a door prize. Joan McCord was the proud recipient of this "Best in Show" winner from last year's flower show.



SE-ARS Member Receives High Honor

Dick Bir, N.C. State University Extension Horticulture Specialist Emeritus in Mills River, NC, has been named the 2011 recipient of The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award. This is the American Horticultural Society's most prestigious award, and one of 12 Great American Gardeners Awards the AHS presents annually to individuals, organizations and businesses that represent the best in American gardening.



The full article, explaining about the award criteria, plus some about Dick's impressive career,

appeared in the April 18, issue of the Hendersonville Times-News. Here is the link to the full article:

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20110418/NEWS/110419822>. Or www.blueridgenow.com, then search on "Richard E. Bir".

Hooper Bald by Bob Stelloh

Hooper Bald is in western North Carolina, a short hike from the Cherohala Skyway west of Robbinsville, North Carolina. Hooper Bald has a unique collection of *R. calendulaceum* growing in clumps of huckleberries, hawthorn trees and other shrubbery.



R. calendulaceum Hooper Copper
Most well known flower

Spear-headed by Jim Brant, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the ARS started a project in 2007 to help the azaleas by cutting down and hauling out



Audrey Stelloh and Gus

many of the competing plants. Members of our chapter, the Azalea Chapter in Atlanta, and the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA, have helped on this project.

This year, John Brown, Bob & Audrey Stelloh (who first met on Hooper Bald a year ago), and Tom Wright met with Jim Brant and George McLellan and began cutting brush on April 6. The next day, 14 members of the Sierra Club arrived, equipped with saws and loppers loaned by the U.S. Forest Service. After quick tutorials on how to distinguish

native azaleas from huckleberries (buds, bark, and branching habit), the Sierra Club volunteers went to work, and did more in two days than we had accomplished in the previous four years!



L-R: Tom Wright, Jim Brant, John Brown, Gus, Audrey Stelloh. George McLellan

Here is a link to a good background info article by Don Hyatt about Hooper Bald:

<http://www.tjhsst.edu/~dhyatt/azaleas/other/hooper.html>

There's a wonderful Power Point presentation, *The Native Azaleas of Hooper Bald* by Don Hayatt at www.macars.org/HooperBald.pdf.



R-L: John Brown, George McLellan, Sierra Club volunteers



Hooper Compact Yellow



Hooper Bald Red



Hooper Pumpkin



Hooper Tall Gold

Flower photos courtesy of Don Hyatt

Two Garden Visits in Georgia

by Marilyn Haynes

In mid April, your editor, Marilyn Haynes and husband, Don, took advantage of a unique opportunity to visit the gardens of two of our Associate members in north east Georgia. They were Ted Meredith and Joe Coleman.

We got just a glimpse of **Ted Meredith's garden** and Meredith Woodlands in last month's BRR which really didn't prepare us much for what we were about to see. We met him at his lovely home, designed and superbly decorated by his late wife Sandy, with gorgeous pristine formal gardens all around, in an upscale subdivision.



Then Ted drove us about 5 miles to the Meredith Woodlands, 13 acres of managed forest on a hillside. After issuing us walking sticks, Ted led us down the hill

and over the many paths near where hundreds (or maybe thousands) of native azaleas were growing naturally. We saw where Ted had removed significant under story and trees to let more light in, leaving logs on the lower side of plants to hold the natural mulch in place. There were many varieties of native azaleas of varying sizes, happily blooming. He had little flags marking where there were tiny new azaleas coming up. It seemed miraculous! He admitted, however, to adding a few purchased hybrids to fill in here and there, plus a rhododendron or two.



Early the next morning, we went to **Dr. Joe Coleman's garden**, where the azaleas were just a bit past peak bloom due to this year's early spring. But there was still plenty of color!



Joe and Donna have lived on the property, bordered by two roads and a stream, for 30 years. They have been collecting azaleas and rhododendrons all of that time, and there we were, in the midst of them at just the right season!



All the plants are labeled, and arranged in categories, by hybridizer, etc. Similar types are together so they can be compared.

Well maintained paths and steps lead around to various "rooms", each with another theme.



Occasionally we'd come across a tastefully placed concrete bench or pagoda, or some other decoration, with something gorgeously blooming nearby.

We got to our conference in Peachtree City fully renewed.



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 Treasurer

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!

In Memorium

Naomi Kurinsky, of Pisgah Forest, died March 28 at the Oaks of Brevard. She was born in 1928 in Denver.

She was an avid rock gardener, an honorary member of the Southern Appalachian Chapter of the North America Rock Garden Society. She was a member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the Azalea Society and former member of SE-ARS. She is survived by her husband Allan of Brevard.

"I remember Allan and Naomi coming to meetings and I believe she helped out at some of the shows." *April Sanborn*



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New members joining ARS between April 1 and June 30 will receive the Summer and Fall Journals and a 1/2 year extra for the price of a full year!

"Appalachian Spring"
**2012 ARS-ASA
 International Convention**
 May 3-7, 2012
 Asheville, NC
*Hosted by the Southeastern Chapter, ARS
 and Vaseyi Chapter, ASA*
 Stay up to date and see how you can help by joining the
 Yahoo 2012 Convention e-mail group.
 Send an e-mail to Bob Stelloh, and he will instruct you in how to join the group.

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



MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL
GET 1 1/2 YEARS
FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
JOIN NOW!

Hendersonville Garden Jubilee
Main Street, Hendersonville
Sat. & Sun. May 28-29
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sign up to help at our booth # 111 on
the West side, near Allen St.
Contact Marilyn Haynes
828-696-2996 or mphaynes@juno.com

**Deadline for the July-August Blue Ridge
Review is June 17**

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

April 30, Sat. & May 1, Sun. - Flower Show,
NC Arboretum, Bent Creek, NC

May 3, Tuesday, 2:00 - 4:00 - Open Garden
at Doley & Melody Bell's, Hendersonville, NC

May 7 - Saturday, Open Garden at Stellohs,
Hendersonville, NC

May 21, Sat. - Trip to East Fork Nursery,
Sevierville, TN

May 28-29, Sat. & Sun. - Hendersonville
Garden Jubilee, Main Street, Hendersonville

June - Trips to the Balds, etc. Contact John
Brown, Leon Pace, or Doley Bell.

July 10 - Picnic and Plant Auction at the
Bell's, Hendersonville, NC.

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