

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

September 2011

Cutting Exchange with Discussion on Propagation! --- Sunday, September 18 ---

What's your favorite rhododendron that you know other members would love to have? It could be a named variety or something you've hybridized yourself. Maybe there are several you'd like to share. First label a zip lock bag, then carefully take cuttings from that favorite plant and place them in the labeled bag with a few sprinkles of water. The label should say



the plant name, the cross if you know it, the date, and your name. Bring as many as you are willing to share. They're best if taken the day of the meeting, but if you need to cut them earlier, keep them in the refrigerator. If you're traveling a distance, bring them in a cooler. Those who bring cuttings will be first taking their choice of treasured cuttings for themselves. If you don't bring any, you will probably still have a chance to take some,

because sharing is what it's all about.



*Rich Becker
and
April Sanborn
with
rhododendron
cuttings in
2009*



In addition to exchanging cuttings, we want to learn from those who have successfully rooted cuttings. Our new Program Chair, Sieglinde Anderson, will lead a discussion on this topic with questions, and you, my friends, will provide the answers. This will be ideal for the novice to learn from the experts!

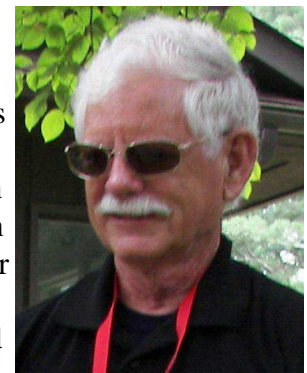
We'll also share some yummy refreshments, according to whatever people want to bring. A few of our members like to bring goodies, so don't feel you have to.

We've reserved the Parish Hall at St. John in the Wilderness, at 1905 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock, NC 28731-0185. See you there at 2:00 PM.

Plan to stay for an important convention planning meeting to begin promptly at 3:00 PM.

President's Message

This promises to be an exciting – and busy – year, as we complete preparations to host the 2012 ARS/ASA joint national conventions in Asheville in May. This is an opportunity to showcase our region to the country and to the world. Aaron Cook and his convention



subcommittees have done a great deal of work already in preparing, and much work remains to be done. Sieglinde Anderson, as our vice-president and program chairperson, has many good ideas for upcoming chapter programs. The directors and officers will be meeting following the regular chapter meeting on Sunday, October 16 to discuss activities for the coming year; any other chapter members with ideas to present are also welcome. As always, members are encouraged to recruit new and returning members among gardening friends.

It Didn't Rain on the 2011 Annual Meeting, Picnic, and Plant Auction!

The skies were threatening most of the afternoon, but it really didn't rain! The events started at the home of Doley and Melody Bell with a Convention planning meeting, then everyone ate, and ate.



Rick Ellis, wearing a 1996 ARS Convention T shirt, is welcomed by Bob and Audrey Stelloh. Audrey is a new Board member.

We were honored with a visit from Rick Ellis, Newsletter Editor and Program Chair for the Piedmont Chapter, ARS, and our newest members, Mo and Carol Watson from Copperhill, TN.

President Doley Bell opened the official 2011 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter American Rhododendron Society's at 3:30 PM, with 28 members present.



Carol and Mo (Emil) Watson

Don Haynes, Nominating Chair, announced the following slate for the 2012 Board term.

- President:** Jackson McCarter
- Vice President:** Seiglinde Anderson
- Secretary/Editor:** Marilyn Haynes
- Treasurer:** John Brown
- Past President:** Doley Bell
- Directors 'til 2012:** Aaron Cook, Jean Pace. April Sanborn
- Directors 'til 2013:** Ray Head, Glenn O'Sheal, Audrey Stelloh

A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate of officers and directors as presented. The vote was unanimous. A simple installation ensued.

President Jackson McCarter announced that there will be a Board meeting on October 16, following the regular meeting and program. He arranged with Sieglinde Anderson to handle the September meeting for him as he will be away.



A rousing plant auction followed with John Brown as auctioneer, Leon Pace as runner and Bob Stelloh as record keeper and money collector. Many plants were brought by members to share and raise funds for the club. John managed to keep us all laughing and bidding and more laughing.

At the end of the day John Brown reported that Bob Stelloh's numbers all added up correctly, neatly, and promptly. We had taken in \$534, more than double last year's amount!

Many thanks go out to the members for bringing such wonderful food dishes to share, for bringing so many desirable plants and for bidding against their fellow members. **Very very special thanks go to Melody and Doley Bell for again hosting this wonderful event!!!**



Annual Fall Plant Sale
Sept. 15-Oct. 15
 Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Hostas, Ferns,
 Wildflowers, Shade Plants
Most items Reduced
Plants-A-Plenty Farm
 890 Crowe Dairy Road, Forest City, NC 828-286- 2493

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Wayne Hutchins, Owner
www.plantsaplentyfarm.com

Slow but Steady Progress on 2012 Convention Planning



The 2012 ARS-ASA Convention Planning Committee met on July 10, before the SE-ARS picnic at Doley and Melody Bell's place. Aaron Cook led the meeting with 18 people present.

For the tours, Doley Bell is reserving 8 busses. The Biltmore garden tour and lunch will be a pre-convention tour on Friday. We plan to make some arrangement for tours of the entire property at advanced purchase discount rates on Thursday. The Saturday tour will include the NC Arboretum, Owen garden, and part of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Sunday's and Monday's tours will include the Dr. Marilyn Grist gardens in Travelers Rest, SC, a 15 acre VanWingerden greenhouse in Mills River, the Collins, Stewart, Stelloh and Bell gardens in Hendersonville, and several other possibilities. The tours committee has met and made several outings to explore suggested options. There's still a lot more to do.

Maps will be provided for other places that people can visit on their own, like Willis Harden place, We-Du Nursery, Plants-A Plenty, East Fork Nursery, and some beautiful gardens that are too far out to include on the convention tours.

If you sell plants or have a garden you would like to show off to convention travelers, please let Bob Stelloh know for this special list of places to visit that will be on the convention web site.

Jackson McCarter has the Photo contest rules and

entry form ready to go. He has inquired about possibly having our photo contest winners in a post convention write up in the ARS Journal.

Bob Stelloh is working on the 2012 Convention web site. He and John Brown are producing a web based catalog for the plants in the plant sale. John Brown and some of his plant sale committee have checked on our plants. Plants in the sale will be in 3.5" pots, 18 to a tray, hopefully with 18 of each cultivar. He is looking to add some plants to our inventory, to complete various series, i.e.: James Harris plants, Gene Aromi plants and the Confederate Series, which we don't yet have. We need to borrow a lot of carts for storage of plants, but there is concern that this is the busiest time of year for nurseries. Aaron will check with a few places. Leon Pace is in charge of the floor. We can be in the rooms at 6:00 AM on Thursday to begin laying plastic and set up.

No progress on speakers. Our deadline for the convention insert for the Winter issues of both the ARS and ASA Journals is October 15.



The schedule is still in process. Input has been requested from the committee heads.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, September 18, promptly at 3:00 PM following the SE-ARS regular meeting and program.

Nominations for Rhododendron of the Year

Nominees received from enthusiastic SE Chapter members were:

ELEPIDOTE RHODODENDRON: Rona Pink, Acclaim, Tom Everitt, Anna Rose Whitney.

LEPIDOTE RHODODENDRON: Chapmanii Wonder

EVERGREEN AZALEA: Blaauw's Pink

DECIDUOUS AZALEA: Homebush, Sunstruck (Aromi), R. prunifolium, R. calendulaceum

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROGRAMS IN 2012

from Sieglinde Anderson, VP and Program Chair

Your input would be greatly appreciated so that preferred programs and speakers for the coming year can be scheduled by your new Program Chair. Please check the Program box you are interested in and number them from the most important to you (#1) to least important (#8). Please bring the form to the September 18 meeting or mail the form to: Sieglinde Anderson.

A ROUND TABLE OF EXPERTS

Drawn from our own membership to answer questions from the audience on such subjects as:

- Soil Preparation for Rhododendrons & Azaleas in the Garden, Woodland, and in Containers (including adjusting acidity levels for proper ph)
- Fertilizing where, when and what's best
- Pruning of large leaf vs. small leaf rhododendrons and azaleas
- Diseases and troublesome pests – how to recognize and control (mildew, petal blight, vine weevil, etc. and how to prevent problems in the first place)
- How to Select Rhododendrons at local nurseries and growers (varieties most easily grown by beginners as well as some to challenge experienced gardeners)

COMPANION PLANTS FOR AZALEAS & RHODODENDRONS part I

- Trees & Shrubs including conifers

COMPANION PLANTS FOR AZALEAS & RHODODENDRONS part II

- Herbaceous Plants – grasses, ferns, wildflowers, other perennials & bulbs

DESIGN IN THE LANDSCAPE with azaleas and rhododendrons & companion plants

- Using design principles of Form, Color, Texture to create interesting garden scenes



PROPAGATING & HYBRIDIZING

- Cuttings – how to take cuttings, when, and how to root them
- Seed – how to grow new plants from seed
- Hybridizing – the mechanics of basic hybridizing

GARDEN VISITS

- Garden visits are part of the Convention Schedule. Others could be open in April and later in May
- Gardens open for member visits (a list and time/date schedule supplied by our members)

ONE EASY HIKE

- A HIKE to see the native blooms (bring your own drink & food for a day in the mountains)
- Open to suggestions (car pool - easy hikes that come to mind for viewing rhododendron and azaleas in bloom are Max Patch, Roan Mountain, Linville Falls, etc. – member input greatly appreciated! Easy hikes in northern SC or GA, others in NC?)

TRAVEL/SHOW & TELL OF GARDENS VISITED

- Presentation by Member or other Speaker of travels to see rhodies or special gardens



**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

Dot Turlington, former SE-ARS member, passed away on June 24. Dot's home in Hendersonville had belonged to Henry Skinner, former director of the U.S. Arboretum in Washington, DC, who traveled the



world in search of plants that would adapt to American conditions. Scores of the rare species he found are in Turlington's landscape, plus some that he bred while living here for nearly 25 years.

"I am lucky to have all these wonderful plants," she said to a Times-News reporter, who did an article on her and her

garden in May 2005, which can still be read at <http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20050328/NEWS/503280314>.

A dedicated gardener and naturalist, who often said she relishes the time she spends in the diverse landscape, is a native of Maryland, she and her husband, Dick, spent most of their life in northern Virginia, near his job in Washington, DC. He retired in 1979. They purchased the Skinner home in 1995 and he passed away in 1997.

Dot volunteered one day a week at the NC Arboretum. Her garden was on tour for the 2008 ASA National Convention.

Don Johnson recalls that Dot was a "good worker for the club, that didn't like to be disturbed at night over things that could be answered in the A.M."

2011 Eastern Region Fall Conference

The Middle Atlantic Chapter, ARS, is hosting the Eastern Regional Conference in Richmond, VA, October 21-23, 2011, at the Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport in conjunction with the ARS Board Meeting. Any member may attend.

Highlights include talks by Elizabeth Mundy, owner of Acer Acres Japanese Maples, and Eureka Chapter's Tim Walsh on the Humboldt Botanical Garden. There will be plant sales, a plant auction and book sales at the event.

For schedule and registration information, see www.macars.org/. Registrations must be in by September 30, 2011, in order to avoid paying a surcharge.

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Officers and Directors

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Treasurer: John Brown

Vice President: Sieglinde Anderson **Secretary/Editor:** Marilyn Haynes

Past President: Doley Bell

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Jean Pace, April Sanborn

Directors 'til 2013: Ray Head,
Glenn O'Sheal, Audrey Stelloh



2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

COMING TO YOU SOON!

**Renew by the October 16 meeting to get
in on the drawing for free membership!**

"Appalachian Spring"

2012 ARS-ASA International Convention

**May 4-7, 2012
Asheville, NC**

*Hosted by the Southeastern Chapter, ARS
and Vaseyi Chapter, ASA*

Reserve your room at the Crowne Plaza Resort at
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ARS2012>

**Come to the next planning meeting at 3:00 PM
Sunday, September 18, at St. John's.**

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**September 18, Sun., 2:00 PM - Cutting
Exchange & Propagation Discussion, St. John
in the Wilderness Parish Hall.**

**September 18, Sun., 3:00 PM - 2012
Convention Planning Meeting, St. John in the
Wilderness Parish Hall.**

**October 16, Sun., 2:00 PM - Round Table of
Experts and Board Meeting, St. John in the
Wilderness Parish Hall.**

**December 4, Sun. - Christmas Party, St. John
in the Wilderness Parish Hall.**

**Deadline for the October Blue Ridge
Review is September 18.**

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