

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

January-February 2012

## Companion Plants to Rhododendrons

Sunday, February 19, 2012, 2:00 PM

As a result of the questionnaire many of you filled out, Companion Plants to Rhododendrons – Trees & Shrubs (#1) and Herbaceous Plants (#2) were the top choices for programs for 2012.

On February 19th at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall in Flat Rock, NC, “COMPANION PLANTS TO RHODODENDRONS – An Introduction,” will be presented by Sieglinde Anderson, our Program Chair. Then at our March 17th Banquet, Tom Ranney will continue with plant selections for recreating a “bald” in his private garden consisting of rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants, including bog plants.



*One of the most outstanding fall color companions: *Enkianthus perulatus**

shrubs and herbaceous plant materials to create interest throughout the seasons. We in the Blue Ridge have an incredible wealth of native plants to draw on but why not also include introduced plants from different parts of the world that have similar or the same cultural requirements as rhododendrons

While rhododendrons and azaleas in bloom are quite stunning, mono culture of any kind can be boring. To avoid the look of “just a bunch of green plants” when they are out of season, and, to avoid “plopping” newly acquired plants into just any open space, this fascinating presentation will focus on integrating trees,

and azaleas? We will center on selection criteria for trees, shrubs, ground level perennials, including ferns, grasses and bulbs.

Sieglinde received her B.S. in Landscape Architecture from Ohio State University and has been a registered Landscape Architect in private practice since 1981. Over the last 30 years she has designed landscapes for the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown, NJ, as well as many municipal public spaces and private gardens in New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, California, Florida, New York, Virginia and Ohio. Her work has been published in a number of books and magazines and she has given talks and slide lectures to various garden clubs and organizations in many parts of the country. Currently Vice President/ Program Chair of our chapter, she is a past president of the Watnong Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, a member of the American Conifer Society since its inception as well as other horticultural organizations. In 2006 she gave a 5 week course on “Introduction to Landscape Architecture” at the North Carolina Arboretum to professional designers. She is a passionate gardener in Fairview on two acres where she is in the process of introducing hybrid rhododendrons into the existing woodland of native species. You can find out more about her work on her web site at: <http://sieglindeanderson.com>.



A Convention meeting will follow. All are welcome.

## Lots of Fun and Friendship at the Annual Christmas Party

The food was delicious and plentiful! Wonderfully delicious side dishes to go with the turkey and ham were brought by the 24 people who came to join in the party and hear Aaron Cook's talk and demonstration of grafting. Doley Bell offered a prayer of Thanksgiving for the gathering.

As everyone finished up their dinner Jackson McCarter began the meeting by thanking the folks who did the work, especially Audrey Stelloh for doing the turkey and bringing the paper goods, and Jean Pace for doing the ham and Leon for bringing the festive holly decorations. Beautiful plants were brought by Jackson and Rich Becker as door prizes.



We are honored to have Judy and Chuck Van Rens as new members. They are from Ohio and recently purchased Fred Kalmback's house in Hendersonville.

Welcome Judy and Chuck! They were offered first pick of the 4 plants for their free plant for joining, and chose the beautiful Solidarity plant from Jackson. They've invited us to visit their garden and help them learn what they have.

Doley Bell won the drawing for the free year's membership. This is an annual drawing among those whose renewal dues are in to the treasurer by the October meeting.

Bob Stelloh gave a short report on the early registrations for the 2012 convention. He had 26 registrations and believed that John Brown had another 10 that he is sending him. Eight are from Australia, one from Germany, and one from France. By early last week, 139 people had reserved rooms at the Crowne Plaza. Neither of the Journals are out yet, so this is excellent!

Aaron Cook provided our program on grafting. Aaron explained that he actually teaches Anatomy and Physiology to about 250 students at Caldwell



Community College, Horticulture to 26, and Propagation to 10. He explained the grafting techniques in the context of how he teaches it to his students, which made it very interesting. He

began by showing the tools that are used, including knives and sharpening tools. He also demonstrated the grafting techniques for Japanese Maples, which are the easiest to graft, then invited the attendees to gather round the table he was working at and actually do it, as the rooted stock was from his own 1/3 acre yard. He invited folks to take their grafted treasures home. He explained that his students, when they are finished with his lesson and doing at least 10 grafts, could be hired by a nursery to do grafting. Their skill and success rate would improve with practice. The most interested listeners (mostly the men) were fascinated for quite some time, as the ladies cleaned up the remnants from the meal. It was a relaxed and festive time!



## Solidarity

Hank Schannen of Rare Find Nursery developed this beautiful hybrid from The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague x degrobianum ssp yakushmanum, in 1968. He wanted to name it after his Polish mother, but she turned down the opportunity, saying, "No one will buy a rhododendron called Wanda Pipchinski." So she named it for Poland's labor movement.



## Convention Worker Registration Guidelines

We are glad you are going to help make the 2012 ARS/ASA Convention a success by working at some of the events. Here is how the registrars expect you to sign up.



If you are working at the convention, you need to register, to get a badge and to be covered by our convention insurance. You might also get a special T-shirt that shows you are a worker, so be sure to write down your shirt size on the registration form. Also, write down the names of the events you are working, so we can print them on your badge.

### 1. Registration fee:

- If you are only working at the convention and you don't attend any convention events for fun, you don't need to pay the registration fee, and you don't need to be a member of the American Rhododendron Society or the Azalea Society of America.
- If you do attend any convention events for fun, you do need to pay the registration fee, and you do need to be a member of the ARS or the ASA, and if the convention event you attend for fun costs money, such as a banquet, you do need to pay for the event.

### 2. Tours:

- If you are the only bus captain on a bus, you don't need to pay anything for the tour.
- If you are an extra bus captain on a bus, such as a spouse or a friend of the first bus captain, you do need to be a member, and you do need to pay the registration fee, and you do need to pay the price of the tour.

### 3. Other Convention Events:

- The other convention events that cost money are the welcome reception and the banquets, and, since the hotel is doing the work for them, any work you do such as checking tickets is certainly appreciated but it doesn't earn you a free event.

- Any convention work entitles you to use our worker hospitality room #220 to take a break, socialize, and eat the lunches and snacks we will provide.

If you register and then change your mind about the events you are working, either fill out another registration form, or just e-mail the registrars, [bstelloh@mac.com](mailto:bstelloh@mac.com), with the changed information.

Please come to the convention registration desk at the hotel to pick up your badge and other information.

Thanks again for helping, and thanks for registering. You will get a letter confirming your registration about a week after you mail it in.

Bob & Audrey Stelloh, Joint Convention Registrars

## Many Workers are Needed

A spread sheet has been developed to be sure enough people are available to help get the many tasks done at the right times. If you'd like to see where you would best fit in, send an e-mail to [mphaynes@juno.com](mailto:mphaynes@juno.com), or call (828) 696-2996. Many members have already signed up. More help is needed as bus captains, meal greeters, flower show set up, banquet centerpiece arrangers, hospitality suite help and plant sale workers.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 19, after the program at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall.

## "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>

**Please Register Now!**

<http://www.rhododendron.org/>

## District 10 Report for the Richmond Regional Conference

*(Ken Goering submitted this report to the ARS Board and Chapter Presidents just before retiring as District 10 Director. We thank Ken for his years of service. Photos added)*

The district continues to experience variable climate conditions, which contribute to difficulties in growing rhododendrons. The Southeast experienced one of its hottest summers in many years. In addition, drought conditions existed August through most of September. As a result, many gardeners watered extensively to save plants. However in situations where watering was not possible, plants were lost. Species native to the region did best, but losses were experienced with broadleaf rhododendrons, particularly in the lower South.



Most of the district's chapters had successful programs, including flower shows, plant sales, plant swaps, cutting parties, picnics and field trips. The Azalea Chapter had its largest plant sale for

many years, offering an especially large collection of native and deciduous azaleas. An interesting event occurred which insured good profitability for the sale. One customer found some jewelry in the parking lot at the church where the sale took place. It was turned over to the chapter, which sought to find the owner. Not succeeding with this, chapter president Hugh Denny showed the material to his jeweler, who indicated that the jewelry had a 1-carat diamond of good quality. He paid the chapter \$700 and the proceeds of the sale were enhanced. The goal of this plant sale was to attract new members and through aggressive pricing and good contact work, the chapter signed up 10 new members.

Some of the other district chapters held spring sales with good results. In particular, President Hale Booth reports that the Tennessee Valley Chapter netted over \$1000 on their sale. President Rick Ellis reported that the Piedmont Chapter held its first flower show in years with good attendance.



*Piedmont Chapter President, Rick Ellis*

Southeastern doubled its receipts from last year's plant auction.

The Southeastern Chapter, jointly with the Vaseyi Chapter of ASA continues to prepare for the 2012 National Convention, planned for May 4-7, 2012. A web site detailing the convention is being developed by Bob Stelloh, who serves as web master of the ASA web site. Members are vigorously seeking to have a successful convention.

Southeastern Chapter President Jackson McCarter indicates that activity planning is going well. The planners are striving to keep costs low but include



*Southeastern's successful plant auction*

activities that will appeal to all. Jackson indicated that climate variability is a significant factor. A good example of this is the experience of District 10 chapters planning field trips to natural areas. The South experienced conditions this year that resulted in plant bloom occurring 10-12 days earlier than normal. Such variability makes planning field trips difficult. Chapters can adjust their schedules based on observation of plant populations; however, this flexibility does not exist for chapters planning trips months in advance for events with fixed schedules.



*Southeastern Chapter President, Jackson McCarter*

Those planning the plant sale for the convention have worked diligently on offering a wide variety of plants. The plant selections will be evenly divided between rhododendron, deciduous and evergreen azaleas. The majority of the plants will be 3 1/2 inch liners. The obvious advantage of these smaller plants is less cost and more ease in arranging transportation home. The selections will feature many of the South's well-known collectors and hybridizers.

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 --*

**Dorothy Ellen "Dotty" Alkire**, of Pisgah Forest, passed away on December 13. She and her husband, Boyd, moved from central Pennsylvania to Pisgah Forest in 1974. She joined SE-ARS in 1985 and was a member of ASA.



*October 2008 Plants for Members*

"I didn't know her well at all. I do remember she was nice and she did help with show set up once or twice. She was very nice and pleasant, but tended to be on the quiet side. I think most of us never had much opportunity to get to know her." - April Sanborn

Dorothy regularly served as hostess for SE-ARS mtgs. She was an attendee to the South Eastern Regional Meeting of the ARS Nov. 1-3, 1985, in Greenville, SC. She helped with the Plant Sale at the 2001 ASA Convention. - Jean Pace

**Marvin Overcash**, of Rutherfordton, passed away on December 15. He was a graduate of Western Carolina University. Marvin was a retired teacher and coach for Rutherford County Schools. After his illness forced him to retire, he developed a love for woodworking. He made beautiful furniture for his family and friends.

Marvin was a past member of the Southeastern Chapter ARS for many years. Failing health prevented him from attending meetings but he always kept up with our group through the Newsletters. He grew numerous Dexter cultivars along with his evergreen and deciduous azaleas and camellias.



Marvin was a close friend to Dr. Ernest Yelton and grew several of his selected hybrids. Each spring many neighbors enjoyed his garden in bloom more than he ever realized. - Ray Head

**The 2012 Membership Directory will be in the next issue. Please send any changes to [mphaynes@juno.com](mailto:mphaynes@juno.com)**

# Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

## Officers and Directors

**President:** Jackson McCarter      **Treasurer:** John Brown

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

**Past President:** Doley Bell      **Directors 'til 2012:** Aaron Cook,  
Jean Pace, April Sanborn

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



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Barbara J. Neal  
Hendersonville, NC



Judy and Chuck VanRens  
Hendersonville, NC

**\*\*\* Convention Preview \*\*\***

**Saturday, March 17, 12:00 N**

Chariot, 715 North Church St., Hendersonville  
**Banquet - Silent Auction - Fabulous Speaker**  
**Tom Ranney**

**“Building a Mountain Bald”**

**Reservation Deadline - March 1**

**Deadline for the March Blue Ridge  
Review is February 19.**

## Mark Your 2012 Calendar, Now!

**February 19, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Speaker:**  
Sieglinde Anderson, **Companion Plants.** St.  
John in the Wilderness Parish Hall. **Convention  
Meeting 3:15.**

**March 17, Saturday - 12:00 N - Annual  
Banquet & Silent Auction, Convention  
Preview, Speaker: Tom Ranney, Chariot.**

**April 14, Saturday - SC Garden Visits.**

**April 15, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Convention  
Work Session, St. John in the Wilderness Parish  
Hall.**

**May 3, Thursday - 6:00 AM - Convention  
Setup, Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville.**

**May 4-7 - ARS-ASA Joint Convention,  
Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville.**

**May 26-27 - Garden Jubilee Festival, Main St.,  
Hendersonville, NC. SE-ARS booth is 111W.**

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