

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

June-July 2012

Successful Convention Celebration! Annual Picnic and Plant Sale Sunday, July 15, 2012, Eat at 2:00 PM

In celebration of all the hard work resulting in a very successful 2012 Joint International Convention, our annual picnic will be catered! April, Jean, Audrey and Doley have arranged a BBQ catered by Flat Rock Wood Room. They will bring the traditional Pulled Pork and Pulled Chicken with BBQ sauces, slaw, buns, baked beans, potato salad and iced tea. Members are asked to bring a yummy dessert. The food will be served at 2:00 PM inside St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall. So come early for fun and fellowship.



Memorable member desserts

The plant sale will be different from the usual this year too. Jackson McCarter is organizing a grand plant sale of small plants left over from the convention plant sale. There will be many small 2-4" plants available at low cost to

members. Proceeds from sale of these plants will be used for potting media for additional plants for future chapter member distribution. It won't be necessary to bring plants or cuttings for auction, since the small plant distribution and instructions for care will take up all the available time. **Bring lawn chairs**, as we'll do this outside in the parking lot if the weather is nice.

Annual Flower Show at Convention Brings New Exhibitors and New Winners!

Willis Harden of Commerce, GA, took home the beautiful platter and bowl prize for his Best of Show Evergreen Azalea, 'Wakaebisu'.

Other winners among the 131 entries were: Lepidote: April Sanborn - 'Pequot'; Elepidote: Tom Ahern - 'Accomplishment x 'Fashion Plate'; Deciduous Species: April Sanborn - Cumberlandense, Gregory Bald seedling; Deciduous Hybrid: Rick Gothard - 'Girard's Yellow Pom-Pom' and Floral Arrangement: Georgia Burson. Doley



Bell was the Sweepstakes winner with the most points for his many entries..



Photos by Angela Beattie, Crowne Plaza Director of Sales.

2012 ARS-ASA Joint International Convention in Asheville a Tremendous Success!

"We heard a lot of "Best Convention Ever", "Best Plant Sale Ever", "First trip to Asheville, NC and definitely would attend another Convention here". Met a lot of wonderful people!!! We had a great time!!! - *Leon & Jean Pace*:

"I have received numerous e-mail's today from ASA and ARS folks saying this was one of the best conventions they have ever attended."- *Aaron Cook*

"Fred & Mary Nelson of the Ozark Chapter expressed their deep appreciation to me on several occasions, stating that the convention was most enjoyable. Many others, names unknown, shared similar feelings. They were all overflowing with joy. I personally got the impression that attendees were happy to be there. Additionally, the hotel staff is to be commended. Every time I asked for something, there they were to accommodate me. And my requests were not always run of the mill." - *Anne Guelker*

Superb Plant Sale

"The **plant sale** was superb! The plants were priced to insure you took home all you wanted, and the plant selection was wide. There were sufficient quantities available so we got everything we went for initially.



Betty Montgomery
Sieglinde Anderson carefully selects some treasures at the Plant Sale.

However, when we started our "greed" passes, a few varieties were gone.

I am also pleased with the quality of the plants which are well rooted. It does suggest that I can't blame any survival problems on the source. They offered many 4" pots so you could choose to buy many cheaply, or fewer at a very reasonable price.

We are greedy, so many small babies to pamper for a few years.



John Brown and Leon Pace, Co-chairs of the Plant Sale

"This is the first convention where every plant in the sale had a detailed description on every pot. We have a label removal gremlin who accompanies us on all plant road trips.

This is the first and only convention in which every plant arrived home with intact identification. That is a serious improvement and an idea to be borrowed." - *Dave Nanney, Springfield, Va.*

Book Sale

"The book sale was very popular, with new and used books for sale. There were 32 different titles



of newer *Betty Becker, April Sanborn, Jean Pace* ran the book sale. all, and 55 of those sold. There were two boxes of assorted donated books, a little over half sold. Overall, people were happy with the selection and pricing. It is unfortunate that so many of the azalea and rhododendron books have gone out of print. I could have sold more of them.

"Rich Becker sold beautiful hand turned rhododendron and holly wood pens. We also sold tee shirts. These items were popular, as well." - *April Sanborn*

Thank you for a wonderful time!! Please share our congratulations on a "Job Well Done!" with your convention teammates. Thanks, Ray & Ann Clack, Oregon City, CA.

"Many thanks to all of you who put on such a first class convention in Asheville. Wonderful time! Best regards!" - Don Hyatt

Garden Tour Highlights

"The Garden tours were wonderful, with many magical discoveries. It inspires me to get busy in my own garden. It was also fun seeing the different plants your area grows so well." - *Ray Clack Oregon City, CA*



Photo by Marc Colombel, Fouesnant, France

Charlie Owen's Garden:

Charlie enlisted several of his friends from the French Broad Garden Club in Asheville, to be hosts or docents in his garden to welcome everyone and to tell some of the history of the plants, many of which were seedlings planted by Charles Owen Dexter himself in 1938, in the garden of Charlie's mother and father. Charlie was so concerned with the early blooms, that he had a photographer take photos beginning in mid April, which he showed to the group at the Welcome Reception on Friday evening.

Vaseyi on the Blue Ridge Parkway Dazzle Convention Guests

Looks like bloom time on the Parkway hit it just right for our convention guests. Our International visitors were most generous in sharing their photos. Many of us on the hosting committee did not attend the tours, and some of us have never seen the R. vaseyi in bloom in the wild.



Photo by Hans Eiberg, Smorum, Denmark



Photo by Marc Colombel, Fouesnant, France

Lunch at Camp Green Cove:

A delicious southern style barbecue lunch, catered by the Wood Room of Flat Rock, was served.

"I loved it there." - *Anne Guelker*



Photo by Marc Colombel, Fouesnant, France

Bullington Center:

Paul James enjoys friendships and the native azaleas in full bloom at the Bullington Center on the Monday Bonus tour. A different Bullington tour photo was in the Hendersonville Times-News on Thursday, May 17.

Photo by Barbara Wilcox, PR volunteer for the Bullington Center.



Evening Programs & Speakers

"Leslie and I had a wonderful time in Asheville. It was great to see so many friends, to enjoy some incredible gardens, **to listen to Don Hyatt give what could be his best presentation ever**, and then to bring home so many affordable treasures."

- David Nanney, Springfield, Va.

Yes, Don Hyatt was superb on Friday evening, as he told about the incredible native rhododendrons in our beautiful Southern Appalachians, following a rousing Welcome Reception.



On Saturday evening, Don was the recipient of the prestigious ARS Gold Medal Award presented by Ann Mangles, out-going District 9 Director.

Saturday night's ARS Banquet featured Nicholas Yarmoshuk and Christina Woodward from St. Catherines, Ontario, telling about the Brueckner



hybrids and a research project the Niagara Chapter is doing to increase membership interest.



Sunday's ASA Banquet featured our own Tom Ranney and two of his graduate students, Kim Shearer and Jason Larrier, who "presented a very fine program on

the use of plant DNA research to study the hybridization of azaleas on isolated balds of the Appalachian Mountains." - Ted Hewitt, President, Eugene Chapter, ARS.

Flower Show Judging Workshop:

Approximately 25 individuals attended, both those considering future roles as flower show judges, as well as exhibitors who wanted to learn what a judge looks for when awarding ribbons. A "walk through discussion" of Flower Show entries helped to illustrate how to select, groom and otherwise prepare trusses and sprays and other factors bearing on the process of evaluating entries. - Bruce Feller



Photo by Marc Colombel, Fousnant, France

"The Hybridizers

Roundtable was a great success. There were 30-35 people who attended. Don Johnson helped me. Everybody had good questions on hybridizing. One woman from Maine was totally interested in getting some yellow and she is a first time hybridizer. We had well known hybridizers and people who are interested in hybridizing."

- Rich Becker

The Executive Director's

Forum, headed by Laura Grant, had about 10 people interested in various issues related to the operations of the ARS national organization, not the least of which was the proposal about the on-line Journal. Attendees were assured that the printed Journal would not go away.



Robert "Buddy" Lee & Laura Grant

Surprise Award:

The Augie Kehr Memorial Award was presented to **Leon and Jean Pace** for their "distinguished contribution to furthering the knowledge of, propagation, care and general appreciation of Azaleas. And, in recognition of your outstanding participation in the activities of the Vaseyi Chapter. Presented with deep gratitude by the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA During the annual meeting of the Azalea Society of America, In the County of Buncombe the State of North Carolina, United States of America on the Sixth day of May, 2012."



**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!

Many Many Thanks

To our 2012 Convention Committee

- Chairman - Aaron Cook
- Plant Sale - John Brown, Leon Pace
- Registration - Bob & Audrey Stelloh
- Hotel Liaison - Marilyn Haynes
- Flower Show - Glenn O'Sheal, April Sanborn
- Photo Print Contest - Jackson McCarter, Courtland White
- Tours - Doley Bell, Audrey Stelloh, Marilyn Haynes
- Hospitality - Suzanne Medd, Marilyn Haynes
- Book Sales - April Sanborn
- Audio Visual - Jackson McCarter
- Treasurers - John Brown & Bob Stelloh
- Web Site - Bob Stelloh
- Publicity and Promotions - Marilyn Haynes
- Workers scheduling - Audrey Stelloh
- Sponsors - Marilyn Haynes, Anne Guelker
- Silent Auctions - John Brown
- Welcome Reception - Marilyn Haynes
- Speakers - Aaron Cook
- Banquet Centerpieces - Ross Miller, Claudine Miller

...and many other helpers too numerous to list.

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- Jesse Israel Nursery**
- Gardens of the Blue Ridge**
- Henderson County Visitors Center**
- and **Jeff and Lisa Beasley at Transplant Nursery**

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



'Appalachian Spring' in Pace's Garden

Photo Print Contest a Big Hit at the Convention!

Jackson McCarter and Courtland White headed up this very exciting event for the convention for which there were 121 entries in five categories. Photo panels were loaned by The Carolinas Nature



Photographers Association (CNPA) - Asheville. Judges were Susanna Euston and Karen Rowe, Asheville, and Dr. Bruce Schlein, Greenville, SC.

The first place winners were:

CLASS A TRUSS OR SPRAY

Lonnie Player - Hachmann's Charmant
(Best of Show)

CLASS B SHRUB/MULTIPLE TRUSSES

Richard Becker - Phyllis Korn

CLASS C GARDEN LANDSCAPE

Don Haynes - "High Country Garden"

CLASS D NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Don Haynes - Roan Mountain

CLASS E MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Cathy Bird - Vireya

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

July 15, Sunday - 2:00 PM Annual Picnic and Plant Auction, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall Parking Lot.

September 16, Sunday - Meeting and Program

October 21, Sunday - Meeting and Program

If you're getting a printed copy of the *Blue Ridge Review*, you're missing some beautiful colors. For a **color** copy.