

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

**March 2012**

## Convention Preview!

### Banquet - Silent Auction - Tom Ranney speaks Saturday, March 17, 2012, 12:00 Noon

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Ranney as our speaker for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Banquet, Silent Auction and Convention preview. Tom lives, works, and plays in the mountains of Western North Carolina where he leads a research program at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC. To find out more, visit his web site:



<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/mcilab/index.html>

Tom is one of our featured speakers for the 2012 ARS-ASA Joint Convention, May 4-7, so we will preview some of the other convention activities and invite the members of all ARS District 10 Chapters to join us. We will have gorgeous pictures of the plants to be in the convention plant sale rotating on the screen during the Silent Auction, and we will encourage attendees to participate in the convention flower show and photo contest. April Sanborn is coordinating the silent auction, so please contact her, if you have any nice plants to contribute. Don Haynes is coordinating a raffle, so contact him, if you'd like to contribute a gift item.

Reservations for this exciting event at the Chariot in Hendersonville must be in to John Brown by **March 1st!** Send a check for \$20.00 per person, now. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

The Title of Tom's talk will be: "**Building a Mountain Bald.**" He will tell us about how and why this project in his own front yard came about.

"Sometimes you just have to tear it out and start over. But, try convincing your spouse to rip out your entire front yard and recreate a mountain bald in its place! Challenging enough. Though, if you're a plant breeder you tend to obsess and want to design not only the space, but the plants as well (i.e., not their arrangement, rather their phenotype).

Plant breeding is an addictive gamble, premised on creativity and design, wrapped in genetic vagaries, with a thick outer enigma of horticulture and gardening - all fun. Breeding projects at the NC State Mountain Crop Improvement Lab are making great strides in developing new plants with enhanced utility, sustainability, and dazzling garden appeal. In an act of sheer folly, Tom's terraforming project tests the limits of design, genetics, and marriage."



*Tom Ranney's front yard in process.*

## Huge Turnout for “Companion Plants”

Sieglinde Anderson sure drew a crowd for her presentation on “Companion Plants to Rhododendrons” and Azaleas at our February meeting. There were 42 people there; half were



guests who had seen it in the paper.

Her informative presentation focused on how to create an effective landscape which

extends the blooming season. First you must consider what kind of gardener you are. Plant selection criteria include color, texture, hardiness, heat tolerance and plant height. She showed beautiful pictures and provided a 3-page handout with the names of the plants she showed.

Leon Pace brought in what’s left of a PJM rhododendron which was perfectly healthy a week ago, then fell over dead. The roots had been eaten by voles!

Ray Head told about the plants he brought for give aways: one Virburnam Nudam and 5 or 6 Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*).



## The 2012 ARS-ASA Convention Planning Committee met ...

...on February 19, 2012, just after the SE-ARS meeting. Aaron Cook chaired the meeting with 13 members present.

Bob Stelloh reported that we have 247 people registered so far. Since we have learned that the Canadian members will not receive their journals before the March 1st deadline, we decided that if Bob receives a registration from Canada, they will not need to pay the additional fee. We can accept up to 300 people for the banquets and up to 330 for the Saturday and Sunday tours. Final numbers for all meals are needed 3 days before the event. Bob will put names on a cancellation list after the limits are reached.

Doley Bell has arranged for Calvary Baptist Church on Haywood Road, Asheville, to do the lunch for the Saturday tour and Woodburn Barbecue to do the Sunday lunch at Camp Green Cove.



Aaron, Bob and Audrey

The Henderson County Visitors Center will do a Pre-convention mailing of their *Seasons Magazine* which contains information about the Blue Ridge area, to our convention registrants in the US. They will include certain items that we will produce, including the DIY Tours. Marilyn Haynes is coordinating this.

April Sanborn will see to it that ribbons saying something about the “2012 Joint ARS-ASA Convention” will be ordered for the flower show and photo contest. She also will find trophies for Best in Show and Sweepstakes winners.

John Brown explained that the plant sale phytocertificates will cost \$61. Foreign registrants are being emailed whether they would be willing to pay that to acquire our plants.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is nearly sold out of rooms, despite our room block being increased. An overflow hotel is being pursued.

**Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 25, at the Bullington Center, at 2:00 PM.**

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 --*

**MARY LOUISE FAWCETT**, 91, of Asheville, passed away in May of 2010.. She taught in the Asheville City School System, and retired from Rankin School in 1982. She was an avid swimmer and reader, a world traveler and she loved her garden, birds, and the beach, especially at sunrise.



She was a SE-ARS member in 1979, when she helped with refreshments, through 2009.

She was always working outside in her garden or playing her piano. She had a pet rabbit she adored.

**HENRY A. MUNTZ**, 96, of North Fort Myers, FL, died in October of 2010. He was born in 1913. He and his wife Sophia were SE-ARS members for more than 25 years. Henry was our Flower Show Chairman in 1989 and has served as a judge. They were members through 2008, and moved to Fort Myers shortly after that.

An article published in the Hendersonville Times News May 2, 2005, when he was 91, states that Henry Muntz says he's as appreciative of plants and flowers as he was when he started growing them 30 years ago. A look around his landscape near Horse Shoe confirms this long-term dedication. Few local gardens can equal his collection of rare specimens or the harmony of the total. Muntz does nearly all of the physical work on his one-acre property. He said he has a broad interest in horticulture, but his main focus in recent years has been on rhododendrons and azaleas, especially those adapted to the local climate. He has collected a lot of special varieties and developed several himself, none of which he registered or tried to market commercially. He has a small greenhouse that he uses mainly for growing seedlings into transplants.



# 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



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Robert W. Dobes

Santa Rosa Beach, FL  
32459



For a **color** copy of the *Blue Ridge Review*,  
please send an e-mail to [mphaynes@juno.com](mailto:mphaynes@juno.com).

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

**Banquet - Silent Auction - Fabulous Speaker**

**Tom Ranney**

**"Building a Mountain Bald"**

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

Chariot, 715 North Church St., Hendersonville

**\$20.00 per person**

**Send check to John Brown**

**before March 1**

## Mark Your Calendar, Now!

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

**April 15, Sunday - 2:00-5:00 PM Visit to  
Betty Montgomery's Garden, Campobello, SC**

**April 24, Tuesday - Visit to Bill Garren's  
Garden, Travelers Rest, SC.**

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

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

**May 12, Saturday - Visit to Haag  
RhodoGarden, Brevard, NC.**

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

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