

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

May 2012

International Convention Time is Finally Here! 440 People Representing 6 Countries to Meet in Asheville

The Flower Show and Photo Contest are Open to Anyone!

Nonmembers as well as members are welcome to enter rhododendron trusses and/or azalea sprays to the 53rd Annual Flower Show, sponsored by the Southeastern Chapter, ARS, on Friday, May 4, between noon and 4:00 PM. All must be in place by 4:30 for the judging to begin at 5:00 PM. The show is open to the public on Saturday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. This year it is being held at the Crowne



The "Best of Show" winner will receive this beautiful hand painted ceramic bowl and platter set, selected by Hazel Richards. The engraved plaque on the bottom says "Best in Show 2012 International ARS-ASA convention."

Plaza Tennis and Golf Resort in Asheville, NC, in conjunction with our 2012 Convention. Driving directions can be found at the Crowne Plaza's web site. We expect a few flowers from far away places, which will make the show fascinating to us locals, and the guests are looking to see flowers that

are grown around here. So let's make a good showing for this very special event!

We also want to encourage everyone who takes pictures of their flowers (which is most of us) to submit entries in the Photo Print Contest. The instructions are available on line at the convention

web site, www.azaleas.org/convention12.html.

Don't worry if you think yours can't be a winner; just pick out a few of your best and enter them to make for a great show. Entry form needs to be sent to Jackson McCarter at the address on the form or to jacksonmccarter@yahoo.com, by May 1.

Our committee heads met with the hotel staff on Monday, April 23, to determine everything at the hotel, down to the exact number of chairs, tables, menu items, beverages, centerpieces, projectors, microphones, podium, signs, packets, plants, name badges, meal tickets, band, vases, ice, coolers, snacks, water, rooms, and personnel to all be in the right place at the right time, to make sure everything will run very smoothly. We're READY!

Hendersonville Garden Jubilee Festival, May 26 & 27

We'll have 2 1/2 weeks to rest after the convention is over, then we're busy again with the Garden Jubilee Festival in downtown Hendersonville. We have the same booth as last year, right in front of the new Flat Rock Playhouse, downtown location. We need to find a 10' x 10' canopy to borrow, since the one we've had is no longer available. We also need plants and people. If you have any ideas about a canopy or plants, or if you are available to help Memorial Day weekend, e-mail Marilyn Haynes. This is a perfect opportunity to carry out our mission of 'Encouraging the Culture of Rhododendrons and Azaleas,' and it's fun!

Garden Visits – APRIL 15, 2012

By Sieglinde Anderson

Those of us who were fortunate to visit three member gardens on April 15 were treated not only to a wonderful day, weather wise, but to some very exciting visual rewards. Sincerest thank you to those who opened your gardens and were tolerant of our many, sometime naïve, questions. Herewith my impressions:

Ray Head's garden in Rutherfordton, NC, is a treasure trove of his hybridizing work for 35 years. Not only are his own hybrids "show worthy", but his property also contains some wonderful native and introduced rhododendron companions. Notable is a stand of Pink Lady's Slipper orchids (*Cypripedium acaule*), a native Deerberry or Squaw



Ray Head shows off *R. 'Gibraltar'* next to his house.

Huckleberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) - never seen before by me - and Bashful Wakerobin or Catesby's Trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*).

Ray also has great interest in hollies and

for me it was interesting to see some recent *Ilex crenata* hybrids in large sizes, as I had thought them to be small. Magnificent rhododendrons in bloom were the highlight – a *R. prinophyllum* hybrid, *R. fortunei* 'Lu shan' (soft lavender/white), *R. arborescens* 'Whitewater', *R. 'Platinum Pearl'*, several *R. calendulaceum* hybrids ranging in colors from pale melon to yellow and apricot, a spectacular super fragrant azalea called 'Jerry's Find', *R. 'Anna Rose Whitney'* – a deep garnet red with the largest flower buds I have ever seen on any rhododendron.

Next on my route was Betty Montgomery's garden at Forty Oaks Farm in Campobello, SC. The residence sits on top of a hill at the end of a very long driveway. The entrance between two brick columns is emphasized by an allee planting of Willow Oaks (*Quercus phellos*) and *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Margaret Davis'. The garden of interest is under a high canopy of Long Leaf Pines,

Short Needle Pines and native oaks. Long grassed allees provide structure. One is accented with *Heptacodium miconioides* (Seven-son flower)



Sieglinde Anderson gets a guided tour from Betty Montgomery at Forty Oaks Farm.

which will flower later in the summer with white fragrant panicles, while another provides linear planting with green Japanese maples. Interesting trees and shrubs abound throughout and include large

stands of Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) as well as rarities such as *Osmanthus fragrans* (Sweet Olive), a white flowering Chinese Redbud (*Cercis chinensis* 'Alba'). Betty has edged nearly all beds of this extensive garden with Vardar Valley boxwood which she plants as small liners. Large stands of Lenten Roses (*Helleborus orientalis*), peonies, Lily-of-the-valley and other perennials support flowering shrubs of azaleas, viburnums, dwarf lilac, native and Chinese dogwoods, Edgeworthias and many magnolias and hollies. Seeing a Long Leaf Pine seedling 7 or 8 feet tall was a real eye opener for me as the candle itself is over a foot long.

Dr. Jackson McCarter's place at Travelers Rest, SC, is interesting both in architecture and horticulture. This is a very large natural "garden" with rhododendrons and azaleas along the drive, woodland paths and ponds. Jackson grows all his rhododendrons from seed obtained from overseas and native sources. It is a treasure trove of as yet un-introduced rhododendrons and azaleas. As you



Jackson's *R. fortunei* seedling

meander through the forest of mainly hardwoods and pines, you are treated to many different Rhododendrons. Jackson has spent years growing, evaluating and hybridizing *R. degonianum* (*yakusimanum* are but one variety), *R. fortunei*, and native as well as Japanese azaleas. (Cont. on pg. 3.)

Southeastern Chapter
**AMERICAN
 RHODODENDRON
 SOCIETY**
Membership Sign-up Form



Name _____
 Address _____
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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*.

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Send this form with your check payable to "SE-ARS" to:

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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!

Selecting them for heat tolerance, for leaf shape and indumentums has been his passion. Indumentum, Jackson told me, varies by which mountain in Japan the plant of *R. degrobianum* originated, the result being either very little indumentum, the color ranging from near white to milk chocolate brown to reddish, from being fairly flat to being noticeably velvety in nature. Future planting areas are prepared ahead of time by laying short sections of tree trunks in a sort of square, 3-4 ft., filled with pine bark and allowed to partially decompose before plants are set in, or by tilling pine bark into native soil, with addition of superphosphate. Jackson uses a slow release fertilizer (12-12-12) that contains urea and ammonium phosphate in new plantings which have a high pine bark content, and little or no fertilizer in established plantings. A substantial nursery is filled with plants he has raised, waiting to be evaluated, planted or shared with us during plant sales. A misting solar greenhouse, 7 or 8 Nearing frames and lath house shelters as well as open nursery beds are used to house plants before planting them into the woodland.

Garren Garden, APRIL 24 - M. Haynes
 We missed the full tour, but Bill Garren's garden was spectacular! Around the pond the Dexters were just gorgeous with the arched bridge and reflections of pink Dexter rhododendrons across the way. There were many others of all sizes and colors scattered throughout the woods along with azaleas, trillium, hollies, iris, and many plant varieties that you would expect to see in the garden of a horticulturist. There is a natural stream and pond giving the visitor a wide variety of views, even a water wheel, as you meander up and down the washed stone paths and across the various bridges. This is a very hard to beat garden paradise!



**Southeastern Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**

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Directors 'til 2013: Ray Head,
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**Haag Rhodogarden Sold, but
not Lost!**

Curt Haag is very excited that the new owners of his parents beloved home in Brevard, NC, Carl Caudle and his wife Sarah wanted to become new members of ARS, and to be introduced to the rhododendron community. They attended our March banquet, joined SE-ARS, and are attending the convention, where they will be introduced as the new owners of Rhodogardens. They want to "become competent rhododendron breeders."

They and Curt Haag have invited our members to visit them at the Rhodogardens on Saturday, May 12, 1:00 - 4:00 PM. Curt is moving to Colorado right after our visit, so come say "Goodbye", wish him well, and "Welcome" to the new stewards of the Haag legacy!

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**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.

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

**2012 Flower Show
Brochure inside!**

