

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

Aug.-Sept. 2013

## Ferns and Their Companions

with Tom Goforth

**Saturday, September 14, 10:30 AM**

Our September meeting is a special field trip to Tom Goforth's Crow Dog Native Ferns and Gardens in Pickens, SC. It's at 10:30 AM on a Saturday to allow more time.

Tom likes to do his programs in the field so he can talk about fern details and requirements. He has room for 20 in his lab and will take us on a walk in nearby public lands to view native ferns in the wild. Tom has a great day planned for us!



*Dryopteris intermedia*, Fancy Fern

*From Tom:* "Native ferns as companions for Rhododendrons are acidophiles, so in the Southern Appalachians the geologic substrate is granite composition rock (granite gneiss) and in the Valley and Ridge and Cumberland Plateau, sandstone and shale. We will look at and discuss native ferns in those environments and specific niche conditions they occupy, i.e. light, moisture, aspect (slope facing direction), and general soil chemistry. We will also discuss general and specific fern morphology, the life cycle of ferns, and pros and cons of the use of native vs. non-native fern species in landscaping and gardens.

"After the lecture/demo, we will go to a site(s) nearby that includes a number of native fern species in an acidic environment with Rhodos, Kalmia, and other acidophiles. The sites are close to a highway... short walks. Sneaker type shoes would be appropriate... boots not required. We could go to several such sites depending on your time allotment.

"We will have the lecture/demo at 10:30 AM, eat lunch around 12:00, (**please bring your own**) then go to sites along Hwy. 11 for a couple of hours."

Tom does extensive native fern ecology research mostly east of the Mississippi. His other major research is in large-scale evolution patterns going back to the beginning of the Universe (Big Bang). He'll touch slightly on that in his lecture.

He will have ferns for sale: \$3.00 for 4" and \$6.00 for gallons.

His place is located near Pickens, his web site at [http://](http://www.crowdognativeferns.com/)

[www.crowdognativeferns.com/](http://www.crowdognativeferns.com/) to see how much you can learn about ferns, geology and its relationship to soils and therefore ferns. You can also look at his catalog, and make a list of ferns you want to get. Directions on how to get to the nursery are on his site at "Location."

Please let Sieglinde know if you plan to come.

**Don't forget to bring your lunch!**



## Annual Meeting at Bullington Gardens

Our Chapter's Annual Meeting was on June 16, at Bullington Gardens in Hendersonville, NC, with 22 members and 1 guest present. President Jackson McCarter, presided.

New Member, Elizabeth (Buffy) Wells and guest, Suzanne Medd were introduced. Buffy received a nice Waterer's "Doc" rhododendron, provided by Jackson.

Audrey Stelloh, Nominating Chair, presented the slate for the next two year term.

**President:** Ray Head

**Vice President:** Seiglinde Anderson

**Secretary/Editor:** Marilyn Haynes

**Treasurer and Past President:** Jackson McCarter

**Directors 'til 2014:** April Sanborn, Jean Pace, Betty Becker

**Directors 'til 2015:** Wayne Hutchins, Leon Pace, and Audrey Stelloh.

They were elected unanimously then took their positions.

New President, Ray Head expressed appreciation to those going off the Board, John Brown as Treasurer, Glenn O'Sheal as Director and Doley Bell as Past President. Joan Hardy brought delicious refreshments for all.

Bob and Audrey Stelloh, lead a discussion, with pictures, about which Haag rhododendrons to have propagated for our 2014 Plants for Members event, since there are too many to have all of them propagated. They asked the group to vote on which of the



*Buffy Wells  
New Member*



*Ray Head  
New President*



*Jackson McCarter  
New Treasurer*



*Wayne Hutchins  
New Board Member*

beautiful flowers they liked, in order to help them choose which ones to propagate for our P4M. The other members of the Haag Study Group, David Grantham and Leon Pace added their perspective.

Then Sieglinde Anderson led a rousing Roundtable of Experts when several people asked a number of interesting questions for group discussions.

### ~~ Follow-up to Haag project ~~

Audrey Stelloh wishes to thank everyone who came to the June 16th meeting and voted for their favorite Haag rhododendrons from which to take cuttings. The committee took cuttings in mid-July and if all goes well we will have lots of plants for the 2014 Plants for Members meeting.



*Leon and Audrey taking cuttings at the Haag garden*

---

## Proven Performers List Update - a Summer Project

Jackson McCarter was recently asked to help update the "good doers"/proven performers list for our district. "Last year we had some ROY (Rhododendron of the Year) nominations from our chapter members, solicited through the SEARS newsletter", he said. "Hopefully, we can dig into the proven performer list project this year."

At the June 16th SE-ARS Board meeting we decided to work on updating the proven performers list during this summer, so we can provide some newer candidates for the rhododendron of the year. The ROY nominations for each of the four classifications, elipidotes, lepidotes, deciduous azaleas and evergreen azaleas must come from the list of proven performers for our district. The current list of these are on pg. 4 of this newsletter.

Please take a few minutes to look over the list of proven performers and see if there are plants that you would like to add. Please e-mail suggestions to Ray Head by August 30.

## Picnic, Plant Auction and Cutting Exchange Lots of Fun

The picnic included a fabulous variety of delicious home style dishes brought by the 18 members and 3



guests who came to the Richards' lovely home and garden on July 21.

The rain was off and on, but the venue was perfect! Those who arrived early had personal tours of Hazel and Byron's beautiful garden. While it rained, we ate on the loggia and when the sun came out the plant auction began on the stone driveway, until the rain forced us to scramble into the garage to finish.

It was a mystery until the very last minute.... Who will be the auctioneer? Our gracious hostess, Hazel Richards rose to the task and did an outstanding job, with Leon Pace assisting. Bob Stelloh graciously recorded the winners and collected the money. We raised \$352.00.



Audrey Stelloh and Jean Pace did a fabulous job of organizing the event. Fascinating cuttings came from several members which were shared with all who wanted them.

Sieglinde Anderson announced the September 14 meeting/field trip to Crow Dog Nursery in Pickins, SC, and encouraged everyone to please let her know if they plan to come, due to limited space in Tom Goforth's lab.

An umbrella was left behind. Contact barhr2@aol.com if you think it's yours. If you're missing a plastic lid, contact alexadogg@gmail.com.

## June Hikes to the Balds

**From Audrey Stelloh:** The native azaleas were in full bloom for these trips. We went to Wayah Bald on June

24th and got rained on. We went to Hooper Bald on June 25th and got rained on. The forecast for the 5 mile hike to Gregory Bald on the 27th was for more rain, so we canceled that trip and will try to go next year.



*At Hooper Bald showing some of the original people who worked on Hooper Bald clearing away competing plants from around the native azaleas: John Brown, the Stelloh dog Gus, Duke Rankin (Forest Service District Manager), Jim Brant and Bob Stelloh.*

### **From Chuck and Judy VanRens:**

**Rhododendron calendulaceum**, the Flame Azalea, is surely one of the most spectacular native shrubs of the Wayah Bald, if not the Appalachians. The



flowers are larger than most of the natives, measuring from 1.5 to 2.5 inches across, and come in a wide range of colors from clear yellow, through shades of orange, to brilliant red; the color range was surprisingly delightful.

Two large concentrations were along Wayah Rd., a

road comprised of switch backs that approach the Bald. The concentrations were literally the whole hillside! Of particular note (*photo above*) were the brilliant oranges where the Appalachian Trail (AT) crosses the road near the stairs.

**American Rhododendron Society, Proven Performers for  
Southeastern, William Bartram, Piedmont Chapters  
(North & South Carolina & Eastern Tennessee) USDA Zone 8**

<b>Elepidotes:</b>	'Scintillation'	PJM Group	'Delaware Valley
	'Solidarity'	<i>R. keiskei</i>	White'
'Acclaim'	'Summer Snow'	<i>R. minus</i>	'Easter Parade'
'Anna Kruschke'	'Summer Summit'		'Elsie Lee'
'Anna Rose Whitney'	'Taurus'	<b>Deciduous</b>	'Fashion'
'Arthur Bedford'	'The Honourable Jean	<b>Azaleas:</b>	'Frostburg'
'Ben Moseley'	Marie de Montague'		'Girard's Crimson'
'Calsap'	'Tom Everett'	'Buzzard'	'Girard's Hot Shot'
'Caroline'	'Vivacious'	'Gibraltar'	'Girard's Rose'
'Chionoides'	'Vulcan'	'Homebush'	'Hardy Gardenia'
'County of York'	'Wheatley'	'Klondyke'	'Helen Curtis'
'Cynthia'	'Wyandanch Pink'	'Marydel'	'Herbert'
'David Gable'	Sham's Royalty Series	'Mount Saint Helens'	'Hilda Niblett'
'English Roseum'	<i>R. degronianum</i> ssp	Choptank River Group	'Komo Kulshan'
'Gigi'	<i>yakushmanum</i>	Northern Lights Group	'Margaret Douglas'
'Gomer Waterer'	<i>R. hyperythrum</i>	<i>R. alabamense</i>	'Martha Hitchcock'
'Grace Seabrook'	<i>R. maximum</i>	<i>R. atlanticum</i>	'Mary Ann Egan'
'Great Smoky'		<i>R. austrinum</i>	'Michael Hill'
'Haag's Choice'	<b>Lepidotes:</b>	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>	'Nancy of Robinhill'
'Janet Blair'	'Chapmanii Wonder'	<i>R. canescens</i>	'Olga Niblett'
'Joe Brooks'	'Dora Amateis'	<i>R. cumberlandense</i>	'Purple Splendor'
'Josephine Everitt'	'Ginny Gee'	<i>R. flammeum</i>	'Renee Michelle'
'Ken Janeck'	'Manitou'	<i>R. molle</i> ssp.	'Robin Hill Gillie'
'Lee's Dark Purple'	'Mary Fleming'	<i>japonicum</i>	'Scott Gartrell'
'Maxecat'	'Olga Mezitt'		'Snow'
'Mountain Marriage'	'Patty Bee'	<b>Evergreen</b>	'Stewartsonian'
'Nestucca'	'Ramapo'	<b>Azaleas:</b>	'White Rosebud'
'Percy Wiseman'	'Southland'	'Ben Morrison'	'Wintergreen'
'Phyllis Korn'	'Windbeam'	'Blaauw's Pink'	<i>R. yedoense</i> var
'Red Eye'	'Yellow Eyes'	'Conversation Piece'	<i>poukhanense</i>
'Roseum Elegans'		'Coronado Red'	

**Rhododendron of the Year Awards, Most Recent 10 Years  
Plants suitable for the Southeastern USA**

Year	Elepidote	Lepidote	Evergreen Azalea	Deciduous Azalea
2013	'Haag's Choice'	'Southland'	'Nancy of Robbinhill'	<i>R. vaseyi</i>
2012	'Nestucca'	<i>R. minus</i> var. <i>minus</i>	<i>R. 'Coronado Red'</i>	<i>R. calendulaceum</i>
2011	'Solidarity'	'Mary Fleming'	<i>R. 'Mary Ann Egan'</i>	<i>R. 'My Mary'</i>
2010	'Queen Anne's'	'Dora Amateis'	<i>R. 'Midnight Flare'</i>	<i>R. flammeum</i>
2009	'Taurus'	'Windbeam'	'Conversation Piece'	<i>R. 'Gibraltar'</i>
2008	'Vivacious'	'Olga Mezitt'	'Elsie Lee'	<i>R. austrinum</i>
2007	'Janet Blair'		'Herbert'	<i>R. atlanticum</i>
2006	'Jerico'		'Carrie Amanda'	'Red Pepper'
2005	'Scintillation'	'Mary Fleming'	'Stewartsonian'	<i>R. alabamense</i>
2004	'English Roseum'		'Autum Royalty'	'Colonel Mosby'

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 our Treasurer:

Jackson McCarter

*Welcome! ...and Thank you for joining the...*

**Southeastern Chapter  
AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY**

*Commit for Life Memberships are payable in increments over a 3 year period.  
 ♥ Encourage a friend to join! They'll get a free plant at their first meeting!*

*In Memoriam*



Martha Howard McCarter, 93, of Pickens, SC, passed away in July. She was the widow of Col. E.H. McCarter, and mother of Dr. Jackson McCarter and wife, Pamela, of Travelers Rest.

She was born and raised in Barnesville, Ga, where she excelled in school. She attended Gordon Junior College, where she met her future husband, then Lt. E. H. McCarter. As an Air Force officer's wife, she traveled extensively with her two children, Jackson and Andrea, managing multiple moves. She was a champion golfer for many years.

Gardening was a large interest of hers. She maintained a beautiful garden at the "Ridge" in Pickens, SC, for many years. As an active member of the William Bartram Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, she won numerous awards in the annual Rhododendron and Azalea shows held in Greenville, SC. In 1999 she was awarded the Bronze Medal by the William Bartram Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for her service as the secretary and monthly newsletter editor for thirteen years (1981- 1994).

She was also adept at sewing her own couture outfits, reupholstering furniture, playing bridge, and was a formidable Scrabble opponent as well. As her husband "Mac" was a 1936 Clemson alumnus, and Assistant VP for Business and Finance at Clemson University for ten years after his retirement from the Air Force, they were both avid Clemson football fans, and attended home football games with second row center season ticket seats for many years. She was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church in Pickens, SC.

**To Our Newer Members:**

Over the years we have been collecting Bio's on all our members for the Chapters History Notebooks.



Share as much as you would like with us. Most important - when did you become interested in Rhododendron's and how did you find out about our SE-ARS Chapter. Some have also included where

they were born, schools attended, career, other organizations they belong too and hobbies. Your Chapter Historians-Leon and Jean, landjpace@bellsouth.net.

**Southeastern Chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society**  
31 Peachtree Lane  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
**Officers and Directors**

**President:** Ray Head

**Treasurer:** Jackson McCarter

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

**Past President:** Jackson McCarter **Directors 'til 2014:** Betty Becker,

Jean Pace, April Sanborn

**Directors 'til 2014:** Wayne Hutchins,

Leon Pace, Audrey Stelloh



---

---

## Welcome New Member:

Elizabeth (Buffy) Wells  
Hendersonville, NC 28791



---

---

## The Former Augie Kehr Place is For Sale

Hendersonville, NC 28739. Present owners, James and Mary Ann Stewart are moving to a condo. The 3,774 sq. ft. house has 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and 8.2 acres of land. The asking price is quite reasonable (\$499k) and the garden is still well maintained with Augie's famous magnolias still lined out, and there's still plenty of room for more planting! Just 'Google' the address for the real estate information on it.

---

## Summer Project: Help Update the ARS Proven Performers list for the Southeastern Chapter!

See pages 2 and 4, look around your garden then send your suggestions for additional "good-doers" to Ray Head by **August 30**, so he can have it ready to submit for the Winter ARS Journal. How about some of the repeat bloomers?

## Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**August 30 - Deadline to send 'Good Doer' suggestions to Ray Head.**

**September 14, Saturday - 10:30 AM - Tom Goforth: Ferns and Their Companions** - 'in the field' at his Crow Dog Native Ferns nursery in Pickens, SC.

**October 20, Sunday - Plants for members and Stan Southerland - "Dilbert Brim Hybrids,"** St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall.

**December 8, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Christmas Party,** St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall.

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