

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

April-May 2014

It's Finally Bloom Time!

Spring Private Garden Visits Rhododendron Truss Show

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1:00 PM

Judy and Chuck Van Rens, Flat Rock, NC



This one acre garden was developed by former SE-ARS member, Fred Kalmbach, in the

1980's, inspired by his neighbor John Creech, former director of the National Arboretum. Judy and Chuck have cared for it for four years.

Designed primarily for enjoyment and exploration, it features an eclectic selection of rhododendrons, azaleas and dwarf conifers, hollies and Judy's annuals and perennials. It is punctuated with maples, dogwoods and other varieties of specialty trees. A rose and day lily display delight as well. There are well over 100 Rhododendrons, including nine varieties of Dexters, plus hybrids by Greer, Fraser, Gamble, Schannen, Watterer, Haag, Koster, Whitney and others. Chuck has labeled about 80% of the plants, leaving 20% as unknowns, to him at least. Any tagging of unidentified Rhododendron during the tour will be reward at the refreshment table with extra cookies.

(See April 27 Garden visits on Pg.5)

The Annual Flower Show, **May 3 & 4**, at the NC Arboretum in Bent Creek is when we can really carry out our mission - to encourage the culture of Rhododendrons! We feature a huge array of our own rhododendron trusses and azalea sprays. Entry cards and free parking passes are available by mail if you contact Marilyn..



Set up is at 2:00 PM on Friday, May 2 at the Arboretum Education Center. You can bring your trusses and sprays then or early Saturday, 8:00-9:00 AM. Even non members may exhibit flowers, so encourage your friends to bring trusses too.

Hendersonville Garden Jubilee Festival, May 24-25

Come join us in 'Encouraging the Rhododendron Culture' to thousands of garden enthusiasts at booth W100, corner of Main and Allen St., 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. If you can help please let Marilyn Haynes know.



Unusual Plants in Polk County Subject of February Meeting

On Feb. 16, Botanist David Campbell told about 25 SE-ARS members that he has found what he believes is a new, woodland species of yucca plant right in Polk County, NC. Thought to be unknown to science, the floodplain-loving yucca was just one of dozens of unusual plant discoveries Campbell shared. He said this species grows to "massive dimensions" in shaded riverside forest near Lake Adger, sending up a 10 ft. high flower stalk once every 25 years! Most NC counties have comprehensive botanical surveys, but Polk does not, so David is working with the Pacolet Area Conservancy to raise funds for a proper one. He wants local landowners and anyone who finds rare plants or new species in Polk county to contact him. Call the Pacolet Area Conservancy at 828-859-5060 or email landprotection@pacolet.org.



Members were reminded to send in their check for the banquet. Jackson gave a short Treasurers report. Ray suggested the revival of "5 Minutes of Questions" at the beginning of each meeting, which was done in years past. All agreed. A question was asked about winter damage on rhododendrons.

March Banquet a Great Success

The Chariot in Hendersonville was the site for our March 22nd Banquet, with 39 people, including 12 guests, present. President Ray Head welcomed the members and guests. The Silent Auction had 45 fabulous plants from Mountain Mist Nursery, Big Frog Nursery, East Fork Nursery and 1 donated by Chris Whetmore. April Sanborn sold at the wholesale price Larry Mellichamp's book, *Native Plants of the Southeast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Best 460 Species for the Garden*. Glenn O'Sheal had free parking passes for the Arboretum for the **Flower Show** weekend, as well as some entry forms.

Sieglinde Anderson announced an all day hike not necessarily on trails with David Campbell, is scheduled for April 12th. Contact Sieglinde if interested.

Ray Head and April Sanborn presented the Bronze Medal to Jackson McCarter for his 40+ years as a member of ARS, William Bartram and Southeastern



Chapters, plus all he has done for those chapters in various officer and service roles.

Following the delicious buffet meal, Program Chair Sieglinde Anderson introduced Dr. Sue Hamilton, director of the Univ. of TN Gardens, administered by the Department of Plant Sciences. She very enthusiastically spoke on "The Beautiful Winter Landscape." Her well received talk with many colorful photos, focused on plants valued for their form/architecture, colorful foliage, winter flowers,



showy fruit, and unique bark color and patterns.

Winners for the raffle items, all created by SE-ARS members,

were drawn. Rick Starkweather won the Mosaic Stepping Stone by Audrey Stelloh; Susan Boland won the Rhododendron Wood Pen by Don Haynes; and Byron Richards won the book, *A four Season Southern Garden* by Betty Montgomery. Guests, Rick and Judy Starkweather are the new stewards of the Skinner-Turlington property.

Everyone went home happy, including Ken Griffith of Kannapolis, NC. >



(April 27 Garden Visits, cont.)

Joe and Beverly French, Flat Rock, NC.



An avid Rock Gardener, Joe has built a pond, surrounded by a ring of screen gardens, boulders,

dogwoods and Japanese maples. He has many hand made hypertufa trough gardens and a greenhouse where he builds and plants them. There is a natural stream and woodland garden with cinnamon ferns and rhododendrons. Joe has also developed a great method of crevice planting in the rock wall next to the garage. This was the Rock Garden Society's Outstanding Southern Appalachian Garden in 2013!

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1:00 PM

Larason & Juanita Lambert, Hendersonville NC

“Fernhaven,” the Lambert's three acre forest garden with streams, waterfalls and a pond has more than 50 native species of ferns, planted in drifts in natural settings

and inter planted with a wide variety of native azaleas. The garden is adorned



with steps, paths and bridges leading visitors to viewpoints and resting spots with garden vistas. With nearly a mile of trails, three shelters and numerous benches, there is plenty of opportunity to explore and rest in this uniquely lovely garden.

SUNDAY, May 11, 1:00 PM

Meet at the FOOD LION PARKING LOT at 1350 Charlotte Highway (74A) in Fairview, NC.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO PARKING other than car pooling at either location, and kindly leave your pets at home.

Mountain Mist Nursery, 828-628-7910

web site: www.mountainmist-nursery.com

10 Log Gap Rd, Fairview, NC

Owner and our host:

Larry Mucci

Larry specializes in native azaleas as well as their hybrids, hostas, ferns and woodland perennials. Their goal is to supply shade and



native plants not available at local nurseries or big box stores, at reasonable prices. Please visit his web site if you are interested in purchasing plants but be aware, since we are car pooling; you may want to return on your own later.

Sieglinde Anderson's Garden, in Fairview, NC.

web site: www.sieglindeanderson.com

Sieglinde's garden is divided into several sections: a formal hedge enclosed front garden, a perennial border and vegetable

garden, a conifer collection on a steep bank, and a woodland garden with adjoining rain garden. Most likely, in bloom will be native wildflowers,



primulas, native shrubs and perhaps still some bulbs. The garden was started in 2005 in the woods, 2007 in the front. During those years Sieglinde has lifted the existing tree canopy, cleared brush, eliminated poison ivy and Japanese honeysuckle and planted a number of Japanese maples and other small trees. Since joining SE-ARS she has added rhododendrons and mountain laurels and a large number of ferns, shrubs and wildflowers. She is experimenting with growing conifers in various levels of overhead shade.

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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 Members:

Dana & Michael Bledsoe,
Buds & Blooms Nursery,
Mary W. & V. Frank Chafin,
Richard Ellis, Sandy Yakob
See Directory pg. 3-4.



Lepidote Study Group



Ray Head has begun a
Lepidote Study Group.
Please send your e-mail
address to Ray if they
would like to be included.

**The South Carolina Botanical Society on the
Clemson Campus, is having their Annual Plant
Sale on April 12 & 26.**

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**April 12 & 26, Saturdays - 9:00-1:00 - South
Carolina Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale.**

April 12 - Hike with David Campbell.

**April 27, Sunday - 1:00 PM - Hendersonville
& Flat Rock Garden Visits.**

**May 3 & 4, Saturday & Sunday - Noon-5:00 -
Flower Show, NC Arboretum, Bent Creek, NC.**

**May 4, Sunday, 1:00 PM - Lambert Garden
Visit with Vaseyi chapter, ASA, Hendersonville.**

**May 11, Sunday - 1:00 PM Fairview Garden
Visits - Mountain Mist Nursery & Anderson Garden.**

**May 24-25, Saturday & Sunday - Garden
Jubilee Festival, Main Street, Hendersonville.**

**June 15, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Annual
Meeting- "Mr. Maple", St. John in the
Wilderness Parish Hall**

**July 20, Sunday - Annual Picnic and Plants
for Members, Richards', Hendersonville, NC.**

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