

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

February-March 2014

Botanical Discoveries in Polk County with David Campbell Sunday, February 16, 2:00 PM

David Campbell will present a talk on "Recent Botanical Inventories and Discoveries in Polk County" on Sunday, February 16, at 2:00 PM, at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall.

He tells us, "the present study of Polk County was initiated by myself and UNCC in order to understand more about the very unique plants and associated habitats of Polk County. It is our wish that this first investigation lead to a comprehensive botanical survey of the county as a whole, which is lacking. Most NC counties already have such inventories completed. Findings of significance will be published in relevant peer-reviewed journals."



"Polk County is an area of great botanical interest and diversity," David explains. "Unique in our state, and still not as well explored and documented as it should be. Members could help by pointing out areas they feel might be of special interest to Botanists, or by giving permission to look at tracts of land in their possession."

"Things of interest to myself personally," David continued, "have been the number of plants found in Polk County that are predominantly Ozarkian in their distribution... Plants like *Veratrum woodii* for example. This plant's common name is Ozark

(See David Campbell on page 3)

Banquet/Silent Auction Winter Landscapes with Dr. Sue Hamilton Saturday, March 22, 12:00 Noon

Dr. Sue Hamilton is the director of the University of Tennessee Gardens where over 100,000 visitors enjoy their beauty and education each year. The UT Gardens are important "proving grounds" where each year hundreds of different cultivars of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and herbs are evaluated for their landscape performance. Dr. Sue is co-host of "Garden Talk", a talk radio show and has authored the book "The Best Garden Plants for Tennessee" and writes for several newspapers, magazines and a monthly e-newsletter. Sue also enjoys plant and garden photography and regularly speaks to groups on various horticultural topics. She is a member of the Garden Writers Association, American Conifer Society, Perennial Plant Association, American Public Garden Association, and the American Society of Horticultural Science.



She also is an avid gardener and enjoys travelling to visit gardens, nurseries, and garden centers.

Dr. Sue has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Tennessee, a Master's degree in Horticulture from Ohio State and a Doctorate degree in Adult Education from the University of Tennessee.

(See Banquet on page 3)

Christmas Gathering Among the Hollies

13 SE-ARS Members met at the Mountain Horticultural Crop Research and Education Center in Fletcher, NC, on December 7, to see the Holly trials there.

Dr. Anthony LeBude explained the four replications and gave us all maps of the sloping trial area.



There were 55 different cultivars in the trial, most started from cuttings from Ray Head's yard in Rutherfordton, NC. The main purpose of the trial is to see which varieties were most suitable, without winter damage, for the nursery trade in this climate which resembles a large area of the eastern US, extending up through Maryland.



There was quite a diversity of interests among us, including landscape architecture, nursery

owner, conifer experts, rhododendron enthusiasts, holly expert, and all around plant lovers.

Frustration was expressed that many of the most beautiful holly varieties are not available in the nursery trade. Dr. LeBude regrets that funding is not available for research station staff to "just take a flat of 50 seedlings of one or two great varieties to each nursery and ask them to grow them out and give them a try." He very generously allowed members to take cuttings of whatever they wanted.

We gathered for lunch and Christmas cookies in the conference center, where Ray and Don Haynes brought out sprigs of various varieties of holly for further discussion and identification. Sieglinde Anderson discussed the upcoming programs.



Members Impressions:

"We do not have enough or the right kinds of holly in our garden and thanks to their generosity we soon will have! Local outlets just do not have much selection of decent hollies. The speaker was very witty and I thought interesting as well. I enjoyed him immensely. Also didn't know that Ray Head was so holly knowledgeable. What else lurks out there in the membership?" *Byron and Hazel Richards*

"Today I learned how to prune hollies to keep them shapely. I also learned from Ray that feeding my hollies with compost is safer than feeding them with fertilizer. I saw a number of hollies that I would want to have in my garden but, since most are not carried by nurseries, I will need to find suppliers on line -- unless I am willing to take cuttings and root them." *Frances Jones*

I was really surprised how much the hollies had grown in such a short time. I think everyone should take away from this how important it is to start a holly correctly from early in its age. Most all of them will become large shrubs or small trees and would be better as single stem specimens. Hollies are long term garden plants that may very well last 100 years or more so you might as well allow plenty of space and make it a beautiful specimen. *RayHead*

"I had no idea there are so many beautiful, even magnificent, hollies. I feel really sad that so few of these beautiful hollies are actually available in the trade as many would make excellent additions to the rhododendron-azalea garden by adding different textures, leaf color and shine, forms and berry colors during the fall/winter. Thank you Ray for organizing this day and thank you Anthony for sharing your knowledge with us." *Sieglinde*

(David Campbell, cont. from page 1)

Bunchflower. It's only known occurrence in NC is Polk County. Other plants whose only known locations in NC include Polk County are Allegheny Spurge and Whorled Horsebalm. In general, the forests in Polk County are more diverse and nutrient rich than similar areas to the east."

David was born in Toronto Canada, but has resided in North Carolina for the last 14 years. He was educated in Biology at Trent University (Canada) and at UNCC here in North Carolina. He has published several articles on plants and wildlife in this region and throughout eastern North America. His botanical explorations have taken him all across Canada and the United States, the UK and the cloud forests of Costa Rica. He now resides in Hickory, NC.

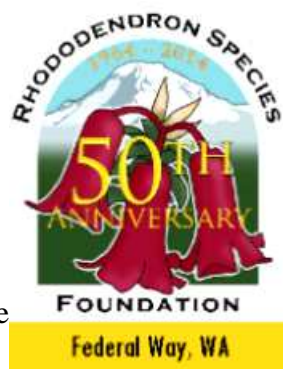
"I can't wait for this program - what a delicious find!" exclaimed Sieglinde Anderson, our Program Chair. "Many thanks to Wayne Hutchins for telling us about him."



A rare Orchid, Small Spreading Pogonia (Cleisteslopsis bifaria), which David found growing in Polk County in 2013, the first time this rare species was ever recorded in Polk County.

The Rhododendron Species

Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington, is preparing a special event, April 24-26, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Garden! All members of the ARS are invited. Speakers include David Chamberlain, Harold Greer, Douglas Justice and Steve Hootman. The full schedule of events as well as registration information and a link to the hotel is available on the RSF website, RhodyGarden.org.



(Banquet, cont. From page 1)

Dr. Sue will speak about "The Beautiful Winter Landscapes." Winter can be an exciting time in the landscape with careful planning and plant selection. This is the season where the real 'bones' and architecture of your garden stand out. Plants which have striking forms and growth habits become living sculptures in the landscape.

Don't miss this exciting annual event with fabulous plants in the exciting silent auction, interesting raffles, this very special speaker and a delicious meal at the Chariot in Hendersonville. Please send your check for \$15.00 per person to Jackson McCarter, **before March 7th.**

In Memoriam

Marshall Stilwell, 86, from Thomasville, NC, died January 11. He retired from International Paper/Masonite Corporation and was a US Coast Guard/Merchant Marine veteran. He leaves his wife Peggy and two sons.

"Marshall was a long time member of the ARS, an active hybridizer, a grower of Dexter and Cowles rhododendrons, and was a charter member



of the ARS sponsored Sandwich Club." Norman Beaudry, *Betheada, MD.*

"Marshall Stilwell, a charter member of the Sandwich Club, with Consolini # p 142."

"Marshall was a Piedmont Chapter transfer to SE-ARS, and a current SE-ARS member. I knew him 30 years ago, but lost track after I no longer attended Piedmont functions. He and his wife, Peggy, were very friendly and active in ARS, and he did hybridizing... I have some of his seed." *Jackson McCarter .*

See the article, **The Sandwich Club, A Little Known Committee of the ARS**, by Donald Kellam at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v46n2/v46n2-kellam.htm>, the source of this photo.

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

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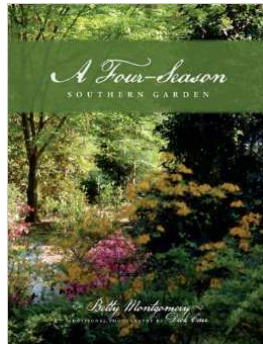
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A Four Season Southern Garden

Our own Betty Montgomery, and well know garden writer, has written a book that has just been published. Sales were great in Spartanburg the first week, and now it is about to go into the second printing! 1200 books were sold in 2



months! It is selling for \$24.95 at the following stores: Wrinkled Egg in Flat Rock; Carolina Ace Hardware in Hendersonville, NC; Staffords Jewelry Store, Carolina Farm and Wildlife and Hub City Books in Spartanburg; and Fiction Addiction in Greenville, SC.

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

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

February 16, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Botanical Discoveries of Polk County, David Campbell, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall.

March 7, Friday - Deadline to RSVP for Banquet. Send check to Jackson McCarter.

March 22, Saturday - 12:00 N -Banquet, Silent Auction - Dr. Sue Hamilton, Director of the U. of Tenn. Gardens, Chariot, Hendersonville, NC.

March 23, Sunday - 2:00 PM - Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, Rick Bauer, past president, Northern Virginia ASA Chapter, Bullington Gardens.

May 3 & 4, Saturday & Sunday, Flower Show, NC Arboretum, Bent Creek, NC.

April & May - Garden Visits

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

July 20, Sunday - Annual Picnic and Plant Auction, Richards', Hendersonville, NC.