

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society



Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

September 2010

SE-ARS and Vaseyi to meet together in September

Easy Natives is the topic for Sunday, September 26

John Bodiford, Senior Horticulturist at The South Carolina Botanical Garden will be our speaker for the first meeting of the new season for both SE-ARS and the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, at the Bullington Center in Hendersonville, NC. John was born on a farm in the SC upstate, which is where he started his horticultural career. He went to Clemson to study horticulture and met his lovely wife of 23 years. They have two sons 17 and 12. As a family they love to backpack, canoe and spend as much time in nature as they can. He claims to be a certified plant nut and has been with the Botanical Garden for 24 years.

John's subject of enlightenment is "Easy Natives." These are plants he grows in the Botanical Garden that are very useful in any landscape and are great companion plants for Rhododendrons.

The South Carolina Botanical Garden (295 acres) is located on the campus of Clemson University. This garden has nature trails, pathways, ponds, streams, woodlands, trial gardens,



the Bob Campbell Geology Museum, and the Fran Hanson Discovery Center, which has exhibits by local artists. It is open to the public every day of the week.

"Mosses in the Landscape" and Plants for Members on Sunday October 17th

Dr. Robert Wyatt of Athens, GA, a retired professor of botany and ecology, and Adjunct Professor of Botany at University of GA will present a program on "Mosses in the Landscape" on Sunday, October 17, at 2:00 PM, at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall in Flat Rock, NC. He will discuss where mosses typically grow, how to grow them, which ones to grow, where to obtain them, and beneficial reasons to grow them. This is going to be an excellent program -- not to be missed!. Be sure to come.



Our annual Plants for Members event will take place right after the program, and won't take long, because **all the plants are free!** Photos and descriptions as well as a profile of Dr. Wyatt are



on page 2. Georgia Burson will be our hostess for this meeting, but she is looking for volunteers to host the Feb. and April meetings. Volunteers should e-mail Georgia to let her know your intentions.

Hypnum_cupressiforme capsules

Plants for Members an Exciting Change -- All Plants FREE!

Glenn O'Sheal has announced that this October's P4M consists of several **free** plants. Included are 'Ingrid Mehlquist', 'Yaku Prince', 'Anna H. Hall' and 'Bubblegum' (a lepidote). Also kalmia "Pristine." Please RSVP so Glenn will know how many to bring. Please RSVP to Glenn at rhodosheal@yahoo.com or Marilyn Haynes.

'Ingrid Mehlquist' Besse Howells x degronianum ssp yakushmanum. Broadly funnel-shaped 2" flower, slightly fragrant, pale pink, maturing to pure white, burgundy blotch. Ball-shaped trusses of 20-22. Blooms late midseason. Dense, spreading habit, 2 ft. in 10 yrs.



'Yaku Prince' - King Tut x degronianum ssp yakushmanum 'Koichiro Wada'. Tubular funnel-shaped 2½" flower, opens purplish-pink, ages to a lighter pink, purplish-pink blotch. Ball-shaped truss of 14. Blooms Late Midseason. Upright, rounded, well-branched plant, 3 ft. in 10 yrs.



'Anna H. Hall' - catawbiense var album x degronianum ssp yakushmanum 'Koichiro Wada'. Funnel-campanulate, 2" flower, white flushed faintly with light pink. Truss holds 14-15 flowers. Blooms Midseason. 3 ft. in 10 yrs.



'Bubblegum' - Chemically induced tetraploid of 'Weston's Aglo', a P.J.M.-type rhododendron. Single, pink flowers with small foliage and showy red stems. Blooms early. Globe shaped habit, 3 ft. in 10 yrs.

Kalmia "Pristine" - Mountain Laurel, White buds open up to reveal beautiful pure white flowers.



Selected by Ernestine Law from a natural population of *Kalmia latifolia* in Aiken, SC, and introduced in 1988 by Woodlanders in Aiken. Blooms mid-late spring. Relatively slow growth, 3-4', dense habit.

October 17 Speaker, Dr. Robert Edward Wyatt

Robert Edward Wyatt was born in Charleston, SC, and attended high school in Statesville, NC. From the seventh grade, he was committed to become a naturalist and to study native plants. He received his bachelor's degree in Botany from the UNC Chapel Hill and a doctorate, also in Botany with a minor in Zoology, from Duke University. He taught for two years at Texas A&M University before joining the faculty at the University of Georgia, where he was a Professor of Botany and Ecology for more than 20 years and still retains an adjunct appointment. From 1999 to 2005 Dr. Wyatt served as the Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Station in the mountains of western NC, an inter institutional center of the University of NC. His faculty appointment was as a Research Professor of Biology at UNC-Chapel Hill.

From the outset, Dr. Wyatt's research interests blended plant evolution, ecology, and systematics to focus on plant reproduction. Over the years he received numerous awards for teaching, as well as research, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1988 that enabled him to produce a book entitled *Ecology and Evolution of Plant Reproduction*. He was able to travel widely to give lectures, short courses, and do research in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Sweden, Norway, China, and Japan. He trained more than 40 graduate students, received millions of dollars in competitive grants, and published more than 150 scientific papers.

Picnic and Auction a Fun Time in July

The food was fantastic, as predicted, and the annual plant auction was lively as ever, with John Brown as



auctioneer. There were a few plants left from the sale of the Bob Head deciduous azalea stock plants that were sold for \$6.00 each. What a bargain! Other plants included rhodos,

hollies, hostas, day lilies and all sorts of other varieties. And, you guessed it, it rained! So what else is new? Many thanks to Doley and Melody Bell who graciously opened their beautiful home to all of us rogues.



The Board had a short meeting at which time the Board members for the 2012 term was nominated and elected. They are Aaron Cook, April Sanborn and Jackson McCarter. The Officers and other directors will remain on for another year.

John Brown gave the Treasurer's report, stating that it's been a good year financially, as we increased our net worth by \$126.00. SE-ARS and Vaseyi each gave \$500.00 to open a Joint Convention Account. We sold over \$3,000 worth of plants in the last year and after expenses, cleared nearly \$1,400. .

Georgia Burson announced the programs for the coming year, most of which you can see now on the Calendar section on the BRR's last page. President, Doley thanked her for doing such a wonderful job, as well as thanking the other Officers and Board members.

Fall is Membership renewal time!

Please bring your dues payment (\$40.00 per household) to the September meeting or mail to John Brown before the October meeting.

Don Hyatt Promotes 2012 Convention Abroad

Here is an excerpt from an email received by a member in June from Don Hyatt.

"Just wanted to let you know that when I gave my talk last week on the Native Azaleas of North America at the International Rhododendron Conference in Bremen, Germany, I made a strong pitch for the 2012 Convention. There were about 240 attendees but only 170 or so came to the presentations. I showed them lots of pictures of what they could expect to see the week prior to the convention at lower elevations in Virginia and North Carolina, and then recommended that they be sure to include the week after the conference which is usually peak bloom for *R. vaseyi* and the wonderful wildflower display along the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville all the way to Cherokee. Bob (Stelloh) and John (Brown) gave me a large number of copies of your wonderful handout when we were at the ARS Convention in New York so I passed those out to people who expressed interest in coming to the convention. I was sure I had plenty of them but they ran out very quickly! Believe me, there are a lot of people from all over the world, not only in Europe but as far away as Australia and New Zealand, who told me they were seriously considering coming to the 2012 Convention."



"Many of these people admire the pictures that plant hunters show of rhododendrons in the wild in China but they don't go on those trips due to the many hardships involved. I pointed out that our natives are more easily accessible and equally as dramatic... "Plant Exploration Lite" as I referred to it in my talk."

"Incidentally, that meeting in Germany was phenomenal... incredible rhododendron and azalea bloom. It was like Scotland on steroids. I have seen pictures of the tulip fields in Holland but I never expected to see the equivalent for rhododendrons in Germany. That area supplies most of the nursery products for all of Europe. We went to nurseries as well as spectacular gardens and had perfect weather the entire trip. I only took 7000 pictures. I was trying to record every single sight but it was not enough. Just Gorgeous!!!"

(See www.donaldhyatt.com)

June 15 Trip to Wayah Bald

Doley Bell and Leon Pace led a small group to Wayah Bald on June 15. Those attending, in addition to Doley and Leon, were Ed Collins, Larry and Ellen Hull, and Bob and Audrey Stelloh. Here are some pictures taken by our newest member, Larry Hull.



The flame azalea (calendulaceum) is a double.



The arborescens is a rare cream color.



More than Native Azaleas were Budding on the Balds

It all began in April, on Hooper Bald, a wooded mountain peak below Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the NC/TN line. The occasion was the native azalea rescue party, wherein a small group of rhododendron enthusiasts, with the blessing of the US Forest Service, were rescuing the azaleas by cutting down a lot of competing plants. That's when our dear friend, Bob Stelloh met a beautiful and delightfully happy enthusiastic



lady, Audrey Alexander, in the woods. They were instantly attracted to each other as they worked together one day, and toured the Joyce Kilmer National Forest together the next morning.

Audrey was living and working in Chapel Hill, NC, a four hour drive from Hendersonville, NC, so they learned more about each other by e-mail and phone. She too is an avid gardener, they have lots of similar interests, and they quickly fell in love. In May they both attended the annual ARS Convention in Long Island, NY. Soon after, he visited Audrey at her home and enjoyed seeing the beautiful garden she had created over quite a few years. He made friends with her great dog Gus, and met a number of



her friends and neighbors. They took a trip to visit family and on June 9 they were married.

Audrey has left her job and has moved with Gus and many of her plants to Hendersonville. Bob says they are both even happier than they thought was possible!

Congratulations Audrey and Bob Stelloh!

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!

Convention Plans Under Way

The 2012 ARS-ASA Convention Planning Committee met on June 27 at the Bullington Center. The Asheville gardens: Biltmore, Arboretum, and Owens are confirmed. The Hendersonville tour will include Stewart & Collins, Stelloh, and Bell's. Aaron is negotiating with a couple of great places for the lunches for these tours.

Doley has prices from one bus company for two days. Our registration deadline needs to be further ahead so arrangements can be made for additional people, if necessary. There may be pre and post convention tours to various other places.



Doley Bell (standing), Ed Collins, Aaron Cook, Betty Becker (standing). Leon Pace, Richard Becker, April Sanborn, John Brown, Don Haynes, Jean Pace. Marilyn Haynes took the picture.

Biltmore will have a staff person board each bus to guide the tour, plus we could add free tours of the winery. We could also tour a new section of the estate across the French Broad River which will be open via a new bridge. Discount coupons to tour the house will be given to each participant. Biltmore could possibly showcase their wines at the welcome reception.

Tourist information will be sent out to convention registrants before the convention, so they can plan their trip to include some additional attractions.

We need someone to come up with an artsy design for Convention shirts. Leon suggested the white periclymenoides, which was named "Appalachian Spring" at the 1994 ARS convention in Asheville. Collared shirts can be pre ordered, so people can get them when they arrive.

Bob Stelloh will do the convention web site. Aaron has found that we can have photos taken during the convention and have a CD of the pictures ready when people leave.

Our next convention planning meeting will be after the joint Vaseyi/SE-ARS meeting on Sunday, September 26 at the Bullington Center.

**Southeastern Chapter of the
American Rhododendron Society**

Officers and Directors

President: Doley Bell

Treasurer: John Brown

Vice President: Georgia Burson

Secretary/Editor: Marilyn Haynes

Past President: Don Johnson

Directors 'til 2011: Don Haynes,
Glenn O'Sheal, Leon Pace

Directors 'til 2012: Aaron Cook,
April Sanborn, Jackson McCarter



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Fall is Membership renewal time!

**Please bring your dues payment
(\$40.00 per household) to the
September meeting or mail to John
Brown before the October meeting.**

**Free plants for all members at this
year's Plants for Members Event,
October 17! Plus an outstanding
program on Mosses. Be sure to
bring some new folks to join.**

Mark Your Calendar, Now!

September 26, Sun., 2:00 PM - "Easy Natives" with John Bodiford, Sr. Horticulturist SC Botanical Gardens. Joint meeting with Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, at the Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC.

October 17, Sun., 2:00 PM - "Mosses in the Landscape", Dr. Robert Wyatt of Athens, GA Also **Plants for Members** - St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, Flat Rock, NC.

December 5, Sun. 2:00 PM - Christmas Party, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, Flat Rock, NC.

February 20, 2011 - "Yaks" with Jackson McCarter, St. John in the Wilderness.

March 19, Sat. - Annual Banquet - "Delbert Brim's Nursery and Hybridizing Program" with Stan Southerland of Chapel Hill, NC, Chariot.

April 17, Sun. - "Beware the Green Invaders: the invasive non-native plants of WNC." with Alan Mizeras of Horseshoe, NC, St. John in the Wilderness.