

# THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

*Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society*



*Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons*

January-February 2013

## "Lepidote Rhododendrons-Good plants for the Southeast"

### Ray Head & Jackson McCarter

### Sunday, February 17, 2013

Ray Head, well known for his expertise on Hollies, will bring to us a delightful program on Lepidote Rhododendrons, at 2:00 PM, Sunday, February 13 at St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall in Flat Rock, NC.

Ray last spoke to SE-ARS formally on Hollies in December of 2008, yet he often shares some of his beautiful lepidote rhodies at spring meetings when they are in bloom.



For this meeting, Ray plans to cover: native range, good growing conditions, flower color, plant size, species selections, hybrid cultivars and a list of nurseries that sell these plants. Jackson McCarter is preparing a Power Point presentation to illustrate his talk.

Ray grew up on a family farm in the 1950's. He was interested in plants at an early age as he remembers his grandmother's love for gardening.

Ray studied engineering at North Carolina State University then began a thirty six year career with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He joined the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1977. Ray has served as President, Vice President, Truss Show Chairman, Chairman of the Show Awards, District Director and is currently a board member. He was awarded the Bronze Medal in 1990, The President's

Award in 2004 and again in 2008. Ray also belongs to the Vaseyi Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Ray also has served as Administrative Vice-president, President and on the board of directors for the National Holly Society of America, and as President of the local Harry Logan, Carolinas Chapter.

We're in for a real treat at this program! Bring friends and invite others to come along.

*Mary Fleming,  
the Lepidote  
Rhododendron of  
the Year (ROY)  
for the Southeast  
in 2011.  
See 2012 ROY's  
on page 4.*



Since we did not have a quorum at our December meeting, **members will be voting on the by-law changes this time, if we have enough present for a quorum.** The required number for a quorum is the primary change to be voted on. *See page 5.*

We will also discuss whether to reserve a booth at the Hendersonville Garden Jubilee, May 25 and 26, Memorial Day weekend. It's important to advance our mission, but we must have enough people available to help get plants and host the booth. If you can help, please let Marilyn Haynes know.

## Christmas Luncheon Lots of Fun

...and there was lots of food! The tables were decorated with a variety of hollies from Ray and Mary Ann Head's garden. Audrey Stelloh and Jean Pace did a fabulous job of preparing the delicious ham and turkey plus providing the table covers, utensils, paper supplies and beverages. Many thanks to them! 17 people were there.



Jackson did a nice job with the projector to show our photos which were beautiful, captivating, informative, interesting, and some even humorous!

Bob and Audrey Stelloh began with photos of gardens at the 2011 ARS convention in Portland, OR, and some fascinating shots around their garden, including Bob's newspaper wall, plus a mosaic stepping stone and bench which Audrey had hand crafted herself.



Claudine Miller shared beautiful photos of her last trip to France,

including a 700 year old castle, a granite farm house her friend rents for vacations, plus a quilt which her group makes to sell for charity.

Don and Marilyn Haynes shared some of their favorite garden and flower photos, children and grandchildren, and other activities they do in the community.



Jackson McCarter showed pictures of a September bicycle climbing trip over the Col's of the Pyrenees and in Provence, France..

Sieglinde Anderson showed



photos of "before and after" of her own property and how she converted the steep slopes all around her house to usable garden spaces..



Ray Head didn't bring pictures, but he shared some insights about the beautiful hollies he had brought to decorate the tables.

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## December Board Meeting

The Board met following the Christmas lunch to determine our contribution to the ARS following our very successful 2012 International Convention, which we co-hosted with the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA, in Asheville in May. SE-ARS netted \$21,839, and the Board voted to send \$4,000 to the national organization. A subcommittee to include John Brown, Ray Head and Bob Stelloh was appointed to explore how to invest and use the remainder of the money.

We voted to increase the budget for next year's programs in order to attract new members. The programs and schedule for the rest of the year were determined, with the exception of the Garden Jubilee, which requires members other than the Board to help. This was tabled until the February membership meeting. Sieglinde Anderson reported that Brian Upchurch will be the banquet speaker in March. The Flower show will be May at the NC Arboretum on May 4th and 5th. Sieglinde has some fabulous garden visits planned for April and May.





# Quince Isn't just for Spring

By Betty Montgomery



A white quince -- Courtesy of Betty Montgomery

When one hears the word Quince, most people immediately think of Spring. For me, Quince makes me think of Christmas. Every year, I bring bare branches of Quince into the house. The buds slowly start to swell. Shortly I see flowers starting to open and that means that soon our home will be filled with lovely flowering branches.

Quince is a member of the rose family. It is an heirloom plant that has been around for thousands of years. It will go in and out of favor but for me, it is always a must have plant. When most of the garden is still dormant, flowering quince is a welcome sight as it opens a flower here and there to test the weather. Their profusion of pink, red or white flowers put on a magnificent show of color.

Flowering quince consist of three species. Japanese flowering quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*) which grows 3 feet tall and wide. It is a little more refined looking with flowers in lovely shades of salmon to orange. It will spread outward if it is in a happy spot.

The Cathay flowering quince (*Chaenomeles cathayensis*) is a small tree that has spines which are intimidating. It grows in more temperate regions and has fruit that is available commercially.

The species quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*) grows to about eight feet tall and wide. This is the traditional kind you see in front of old houses that almost out live the house. It is a deciduous woody shrub with a thorn here and there but nothing to scare you away. It sports lovely flowers that are larger than the Japanese flowering quince, therefore showier, flowering before the leaves are visible.

The Quince we know has small edible fruit that form during the summer and consist of a hard texture. The taste of quince has an acidic tartness that most people find distasteful. It is used sometimes in cooking. When it is cooked, the acids and the fruit take on a more mellow flavor. It is rich in pectin making it ideal for jelly.

Some recent exciting news about quince is that Tom Ranney with NCSU Research Station has developed three new varieties of quince. All three are about six feet at mature height plus are thornless and fruitless.

'Orange Storm' is a multi stemmed shrub that Tom says looks like orange petticoats. 'Pink Storm' has about a two inch diameter, double pink flowers that resemble sweetheart Roses. 'Scarlet Storm' also has large scarlet red double flowers and unlike most quince, 'Scarlet Storm' tends to flower all the way to the tops of its branches. All three are coming on the market and will be available very soon.



'Orange Storm'



'Scarlet Storm'

For me, I love my white quince best but I plan on finding one of these wonderful new plants. I can not wait to grow one, bring it inside along with the branches that I have growing now. It might not take the place of my old timey plant but I am sure that if Tom Ranney had

something to do with these new varieties, they are going to be a home run.

## 2012 Rhododendron of the Year Awards - Plants suitable for Southeastern USA

The ARS proudly announces its Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) awards for 2012. Chosen for excellent foliage, flower and habit, these beautiful rhododendron varieties make wonderful additions in your garden.

### Elepidote Rhododendron: 'Nestucca'

R. fortunei ssp fortunei x R. degronianum ssp yakushmanum

Flower white with greenish-brown spotting in throat, openly funnel-shaped, frilly lobes, 5" across.

Dome-shaped truss holds 14 flowers.



*Photo by T. Lawrence Mellichamp*

Blooms midseason. Leaves elliptic, 4" long, glossy, dark green. Compact plant with spreading habit. Height: 3 ft. in 10 yrs. Tolerates heat and sun. Flower bud hardy to -10° F (-23° C). Hybridized by C. Smith.

### Lepidote Rhododendron: R. minus var. Minus

Species rhododendron in subgenus Rhododendron section



*Photo by Boris Bauer*

Rhododendron subsection Caroliniana

Flower pink to purplish pink or white, sometimes spotted green, funnel shaped with deep cut lobes.

Truss holds 4 to 12 flowers.

Blooms early

midseason to midseason. Leaves broadly elliptic to lanceolate, up to 4" long, apex acuminate. Compact to rather straggly plant habit. Typical height: 4 ft. in 10 yrs. Plant is hardy to -15°F (-26°C). Native to Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama

### Evergreen Azalea: R. 'Coronado Red'

R. 'Chikyo-no-haru' x R. 'Surprise'

Flower deep red, unmarked, broadly funnel-shaped, 3" across. Truss has 2 flowers.

Blooms early midseason.

Leaves obovate, broadly acute apex, rounded

base, about 1¾" long, semi-glossy, yellow green, retained 2 years. Spreading plant habit. Grows to a height of 4 ft. in 10 years. Hardy to -5°F (-21° C). Hybridized by Harris.



*Photo by Joe Coleman*

### Deciduous Azalea: R. Calendulaceum

Species rhododendron in subgenus Pentanthera section

Pentanthera subsection Pentanthera

Flower shades of orange, scarlet and yellow, funnel shaped. Sometimes slightly scented. Truss has 5-9 flowers.



*Photo by Sally and John Perkins*

Blooms late midseason to late. Leaves ovate or obovate to elliptic, up to 3½" long, deciduous.

Grows as an upright, spreading

plant. Reaches a typical height of 5 ft. in 10 yrs. Insect and disease resistant. Plant and bud hardy to -20°F (-29°C). Found in the wild growing from Pennsylvania to northern Georgia.

Twenty-nine rhododendrons selected for their adaptability in eight regions of the United States have been awarded Rhododendron of the Year (ROY) honors for 2012. The purpose of the awards is to educate the public about the wide range of rhododendrons that can be grown successfully in people's gardens. For ROY plants in other areas, see <http://www.rhododendron.org/royawardsintro8.htm>



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!*

**SE-ARS Chapter Proposed By-laws Changes – September 15, 2012**

*Deleted words are shown with a strike through, and added words are shown with underlines.*

**Proposed Changes**

**Section B. Classes and Dues**

There shall be seven ~~class~~ classes of membership: 1. ~~Annual~~ Regular 2. Commercial or Corporate 3. Sustaining 4. Sponsoring 5. Life 6. Honorary ~~and~~ 7. Associate. The privileges of and dues for each class of membership shall be those defined by the Society Board in its policies.

**Section C. Chapter membership and Voting**

All Chapter members and associate members in good standing are eligible to hold office and vote. ~~Husbands and wives joining under a single family membership~~ Two persons joining as a regular-family membership may each enjoy all the privileges of full membership without restriction. Membership voting shall be either by a show of hands, by voice vote or by ballot with the secretary recording an

accurate count of votes. ~~Thirty~~ Twenty members present or more shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and a majority vote shall carry a motion, however, a 2/3rds vote is needed to approve or change the Chapter Bylaws.

*We now have on average less than thirty members attending meetings so we feel the number should be lowered to "Twenty".*

**Section C. Election of Officers and Directors**

Chapter Officers and Directors shall be elected ~~and begin their term at the June meeting.~~ prior to June 30th and will begin their term July 1st. Notice of such election shall be provided to the Executive Director within two weeks following the election.

*Respectfully submitted by the By-laws Committee: Jean Pace; April Sanborn; Audrey Stelloh; Leon Pace*

**MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON THESE BY-LAW CHANGES IF A QUORUM IS PRESENT ON FEBRUARY 17.**

**PLEASE COME!**

# Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

## Officers and Directors

**President:** Jackson McCarter

**Treasurer:** John Brown

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

**Past President:** Doley Bell

**Directors 'til 2013:** Ray Head,  
Glenn O'Sheal, Audrey Stelloh

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



## Welcome New Members:

Missy Galloway  
Ponte Vedra, FL  
32082-4203

Robert W. Dobes

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Rick Gothard

Asheville, NC 28896

Thomas Wright

Alexander, NC 28701



## Mark Your Calendar, Now!

**February 17, Sunday - 2:00 PM. "Lepidote Rhododendrons-Good plants for the Southeast",** Ray Head, St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall, Flat Rock, NC.

**March 23, Saturday - 12:00 noon. Annual Banquet and Silent Auction** at The Chariot, Hendersonville, NC. Speaker: **Brian Upchurch, "Rhododendron Companions - New Tree & Shrub Introductions."**

**April 14 or 28, Sunday - 2:00 PM. Garden Visit - SC.**

**May 4 - 5, Saturday and Sunday - Flower Show, NC Arboretum.**

**May 19, Sunday - Garden Visit - Asheville.**

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, NEXT ISSUE**

If you're getting a printed copy of the *Blue Ridge Review*, you're missing some beautiful colors. For a **color** copy..