



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

Aug/Sept 2014

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

The Ginkgo Biloba Story –Nichols Sunday, September 21, at 2:00pm

Tim and Mat Nichols of Mr. Maples Nursery will be presenting a program on Ginkgo. There are a number of mail order nurseries that offer dwarf and semi-dwarf forms of Ginkgo biloba so we are fortunate that we have access to a local nursery to inform us about the many dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties and to give us the opportunity to purchase plants at the end of their presentation. If you want to familiarize yourself and to know about the many different forms available, just take a look at “dwarf ginkgo biloba images” on Google and you will be amazed.

In Tim's words "Ginkgo are under utilized in the landscape and garden often because of unfamiliarity and lack of selection in the typical garden center. We grow over 50 different cultivars of male ginkgo at our nursery. Our program will include an introductory talk about growing ginkgo including a look into classic selections, rare ginkgo, and the latest ginkgo on the market. It is amazing that there is such a diversity of male ginkgo that can provide a unique appeal in the ornamental garden."



Tim Nichols in the Ginkgo Nursery

Here's some background information: Ginkgo biloba is the sole survivor of a group of trees which grew on this planet over 200 million years ago, and it has changed very little in all that time. It has survived all our planetary climatic changes and even survived the atomic bomb dropped at Hiroshima in the Second World War. This tree was the closest living organism to the epicentre of the bomb and although blown apart above the ground, sent shoots up after the war and now has a shrine dedicated to it at Hiroshima. It is a true survivor being very tough and untouched by any pests or diseases. Every part of the tree is used in Chinese folk medicine, and it is gaining popularity in the West. Even without these attributes, the Ginkgo makes a remarkable feature in any garden and is renowned for its spectacular yellow autumn color. Many varieties of Ginkgo biloba are available. All are very well suited to container growing where they will live happily for many years

-Sieglinde Anderson

Make sure to invite your friends to come to this program. Everyone will benefit from learning about this interesting species.

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The Blue Ridge Review



SE-ARS members' maple shopping

THE NON-INVASIVE
ROOT SYSTEM GIVES
JAPANESE MAPLES
FLEXIBILITY TO BE
PLANTED NEAR ROCK
WALLS, WATER
FEATURES, AND
DRIVEWAYS
WITHOUT FEAR OF
CRACKING.—

TIM AND MATT



Sieglinde's Prize.



April Sanborn and Doley Bell among the maples.

Mr. Maple on *Acer palmatum*

The speakers at our annual meeting on June 15 treated the audience to a delightful and informative presentation. Not only have Matt and Tim Nichols spent their lives enthusiastically becoming experts on Japanese maples, but their brotherly dynamics made their presentation vibrant and interesting. The audience literally listened to a conversation between the two brothers about their beloved maples. One of the convincing stories that they told showing their dedication to their subject was about how, after giving their father a new maple every Father's Day for years, they realized that they were more excited about the gift of a new kind of maple than their dad was. That realization of their passion for these fascinating trees set them on the path to becoming "Mr. Maple", turning their love of these beautiful trees into their life-force and their livelihood.



Matt and Tim Nichols

Matt and Tim willingly shared their expertise with us. From aesthetic awareness, that the spreading nature of these trees represents the sky and accentuates the colors of the garden, to practical tips, like encouraging people to trim them in the early spring when the buds are just starting to swell, our experts increased the audience's knowledge. They talked about using Japanese maples to soften the other greens in the garden; Japanese maples are perfect companions to rhododendrons for this reason. They create a landscape filled with the colors of crimson, red, orange, yellow, and green in unique shapes and sizes. We learned that genuine cultivars do not come from seed, but must be developed through grafting. Then they introduced the audience to many specialized varieties showing the versatility in color, texture, and habitat that characterizes Japanese maples. They mentioned Bill Ziperman's garden as a local maple showcase. Standouts they introduced were Shelina's Beauty, 'LileeAnne's Jewel, and Geisha Gone Wild.

Our speakers reinforced their energetic portrayal of so many intriguing forms, sizes, and colors by providing an opportunity for members to buy these unique species. They had brought a truck full of samples with them. Many of us went home richer in knowledge of the uniqueness of Japanese maples, along with a chance to improve our own gardens with a new tree. Check out their website: mrmapple.com. They're right in East Flat Rock.

Bob Stelloh - In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Theodore Stelloh, of Hendersonville died peacefully in his sleep at home July 15th, 2014, after a long battle against cancer. He was four days short of his 80th birthday. He is remembered by his friends and family as a gentle, thoughtful, wise and gracious man.

Bob was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. When Bob and his wife Denise (who died in 2008) retired, they moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina, where he pursued his passion for gardening, especially his love of azaleas and rhododendrons. They joined the



Hendersonville based Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in 1996, where they were presented with the Bronze Medal in 2001; also Bob was presented with the President's Award in 2003.

The Stelloh Garden is his legacy, a work of art featuring over 1000 different azalea cultivars. He mapped his garden beds and tracked precise plant locations and detailed plant descriptions using a computer program he developed and named "Garden Information Manager". GIM was purchased and is used by several Arboretums and Botanic Gardens including the Lewis Ginter Garden in Richmond VA.

The Stelloh Garden has been featured on numerous national and local garden tours, during which visitors couldn't help but appreciate Bob's genuine, friendly spirit, his keen interest in sharing garden knowledge and experiences, and his overall love of life.

Bob was an extremely ardent member of the Azalea Society of America. He designed and managed the Azalea Society website for 15 years and served as Treasurer for 10 years. He was co-founder of the local Vaseyi Chapter in 2001, where he served as treasurer. In 1993 he won the Azalean Article Award for an article titled- George Harding Azalea Garden-a progress Report. In 2005 Bob was awarded the ASA Exceptional Service Award, and at the same time John Brown presented him with a state-of-the-art computer that the board and friends in the ASA contributed toward; in 2009 he received Augie Kehr Award. He was registrar for the ASA Convention in 2001 and 2008; he was also registrar for the 2012 Joint ASA/ARS Convention.

-J. Pace

Quote from Bob-
"I enjoy the plants for themselves, enjoy keeping track of plants, and have authored a plant inventory control and mapping program for the Macintosh in 1987. Two years ago, I got a digital camera and went "nuts" over it." I have a little handheld computer, and can now wander around the garden and enter data on any one plant I see...and label and locate them".



Stelloh Yak LuShan



Stelloh Home

“NOT IN RECENT
MEMORY HAVE
WE LOST TWO
SUCH
PROMINENT
MEMBERS
WITHIN FIVE
DAYS.”

RAY HEAD

The Blue Ridge Review

Ed Collins — Rest in Peace

Edward ‘Ed’ William Collins died July 20, 2014 at Hobe Sound, FL.

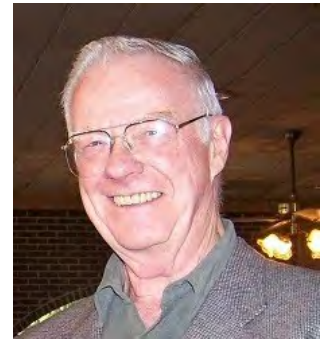
Ed was chairman of the ARS National convention in 1976 when it was held in Valley Forge, PA. He served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter beginning in 1977. Ed founded the Pine Barrens Chapter in 1980 and was president for five years. He served as District ‘8’ Director for six years. Ed propagated and distributed Tyler Arboretum Wister Hybrids and was considered to be the regional authority on hybrids produced by Jack Cowles at the former Dexter Estate. Ed was awarded the President’s Award in the Pine Barrens Chapter, also the Bronze Medal in both the Philadelphia and Pine Barrens Chapters. Ed was awarded the ARS Silver Medal in May of 1994. Ed was active in the North Carolina Arboretum, the Botanic Club and was a member of the Rock Garden Society. Ed was speaker at both ARS and ASA Conventions and Regional Meetings.

Ed and Mary have lived in Hendersonville since his retirement in 1990 from RCA in Camden, NJ. and have been members of the Southeastern Chapter of the ARS since they moved here. He was presented with the Bronze Medal in 2000. He recruited many members for our chapter. He served as president and vice president as well as the District ‘10’ Director and served on the Board of Directors. He started the SE-ARS Native Azalea Study Group and led many field trips. He started a rhododendron and azaleas display garden at Blue Ridge Community College. He chaired our annual plant sale many times. Ed and Mary hosted many of our meetings.

He was also instrumental in organizing the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA. He was awarded the ASA Distinguished Service Award in 2008 and the Vaseyi Chapters Augie Kehr Award in 2009. He served as president, served on the Board of Directors, managed the drawings for the gift plants and most important of all he always brought his famous German Potato Salad to our yearly luncheons.

He grew one of the largest collections of Cowles Hybrid Rhododendrons in existence. He also loved dwarf conifers, Japanese Maples, wildflowers and native azaleas. He was always sharing plants with friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Mary in 1996. He is survived by Mary his wife of 62 years; two sons, Edward “Rusty” Collins, Timothy Collins; daughter, Eileen Collins; five grandchildren, Collin, Logan, Ryan, Meaghan, and Bailey. *-J. Pace*



Austrinum x ‘Red Ball’ Collins



TC Bic—Collins Garden

Haag Plants for Members at The Richards'

Our July 27th Plants for Members event started with a picnic lunch offering delightful and tasty varieties of homemade sandwiches, salads, gourmet dishes, and desserts provided by our members. The Richards, as usual, provided a wonderful setting for relaxing and socializing.



Ray Head leads a short meeting

After everyone had satisfied their appetites for food and conversation, we moved outside for the main event -- Plants for Members, featuring plants propagated from cuttings gathered last year from the Haag Estate by Bob and Audrey Stelloh, David Grantham, and Leon Pace.

Audrey Stelloh summoned her normal outstanding care in organizing this year's Plants for Members event. Those attendees who had voted last summer on which cuttings to develop got the chance to choose first. To make things fair, Audrey had organized a raffle format with those involved in acquiring the cuttings getting two rounds of choices. Then the raffle expanded to the rest of the members, who by that time had a sense of the value of this collection of plants. An observer of the raffle would have seen members sharing lists of plant offering and engaging in consultations with those who had knowledge of the collection. Everyone went home with new prize species for their gardens at only \$2.00 per plant, and also with the satisfaction of knowing that the Haag collection has been preserved and expanded to so many wonderful habitats.

Background on the Plants from the Haag Estate

The cuttings from the Haag Estate were rooted at Transplant Nursery. The Haag Estate is a 176 acre property which became Russ and Velma Haag's retirement home in 1971. They moved 4,000 rhododendron plants with them from New Jersey. After moving here they continued hybridizing until there were 15,000 plants. Their goal was to develop a good yellow rhododendron that would be hardy and easy to grow. Their Blue Ridge is a very good blue flowered lepidote rhododendron. The estate contains Russ and Velma's lifelong work of hybridizing as well as a wealth of wild flowers which Velma planted. The plantings of shortia and pink lady slippers are huge and a sight to behold. *J. Pace*

Plants for Members

The Plants for Members program has been in place for several years. The purpose is to have rare and desirable plants available to members for a reasonable price.



Shopping Spree



Making Choices



Everyone's excited.

**Southeastern Chapter of
American Rhododendron
Society**

ENCOURAGEMENT OF RHODODENDRONS

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Stelloh

Editor: Judy Van Rens

Mark your Calendar

Sept. 21, Sunday at 2 pm
The Ginkgo biloba Story
Tim and Matt Nichols
St. John in the Wilderness Hall

Oct. 19, Sunday at 2 pm
Garden Plant Auction
St. John in the Wilderness Hall

Dec 7, Sunday at 2 pm
Christmas Party
St. John in the Wilderness Hall

Deadline
Submit articles for the next
newsletter by September 20.
Share your expertise!

2014 ARS Western Regional Conference

Come to Everett, WA September 26-28, 2014 and enjoy the beautiful fall weather in Northwest Washington with your fellow rhodoholics. We have a great group of speakers scheduled to talk not only about rhododendrons, but garden companions like hardy fuchsias, trilliums, and Japanese maples. On Saturday evening, Steve Hootman will be taking us along on his first trip to Australia, including Tasmania. Come and enjoy good fellowship and food, too. Hosted by the ARS District 2 Chapters. For conference schedule, speakers, and registration form go to <http://fall2014.arscascade.org/>

Welcome New Members

Margaret Hancock
Flat Rock NC 28731

Leann Shearouse
Asheville, NC 28804