



The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

February/March 2015

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

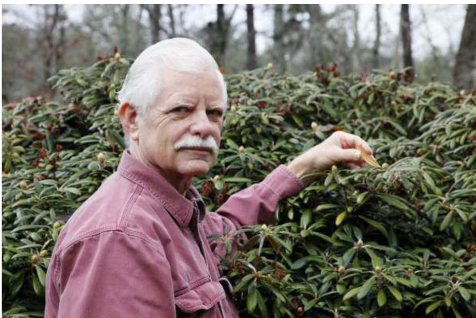
YAKS: HISTORY, HORTICULTURE, HOMELAND

Dr. Jackson McCarter of Travelers Rest, S.C., is the featured speaker for the SE-ARS meeting at 2 p.m. Feb. 15, at the St. John in the Wilderness Church Parish Hall. His presentation is entitled "YAKS: History, Horticulture and Homeland."

Jackson has been growing rhododendrons and has been a member of ARS since 1971. He is a semi-retired surgical pathologist, working in Greenville, S.C. His emphasis in rhododendrons has been on growing rhododendron species, especially Japanese, from seed. Many years ago, he lived for a short time in Japan and studied the Japanese language. Later, while in the Air Force studying tropical diseases and based in Manila, he traveled over Asia, including several short assignments in Japan, although regrettably never to Yakushima. He is also an avid photographer and a cycling enthusiast.

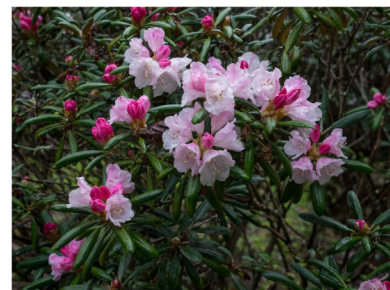
Jackson will enlighten us with his knowledge of the history of yaks (*Rhododendron degronianum* ssp. *yakushmanum*) in the garden, how to grow them, and a virtual tour of Yakushima Island in Japan. He'll explain how yaks are related to other rhododendrons while educating us about their unique characteristics. We'll be 'wowed' by photos showing their distinctive traits, along with pictures of several varieties (both familiar and obscure) in various settings. Jackson will share his knowledge of how to grow them, including tips on how to force yak seeds to germinate. He'll also tell us about their history in the garden, sharing the bounties of his diligent research with historic photos and scholarly evidence of the uniqueness of these wonderful plants. A special feature will be little known findings about the history yak FCC and yak Exbury.

Finally, with Jackson as your tour guide, the audience will travel virtually around the world to the small island of Yakushima, Japan. We'll get a feel for the wonders of this unique part of the world while absorbing scientific information that explains the conditions that make the yaks thrive. While exploring the island through photos, we'll see variations in leaf form and growth habits along with gaining understanding of how these splendid plants stand out and blend with their natural companion plants.



Dr. Jackson McCarter and "Yak".

If you could grow but a single rhododendron, what would it be?
A yak!!



R. degronianum ssp. *yakushmanum*

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Annual Banquet Features Ed Davis, Native Plant Expert

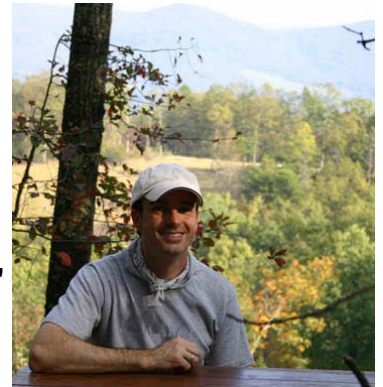


At our annual SE-ARS banquet (Saturday, March 21st at The Chariot) be prepared to learn from an expert about native plants. Our speaker will be Ed Davis, the new Horticultural Director of the UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens, where he was the design and construction coordinator for the recent development of the Mellichamp Native Terrace Garden. His presentation will be about this fascinating garden. Ed says, "This special garden is a brand new concept where homeowners can come and learn about what native plants are best for their home landscape."

Ed's extensive knowledge comes from a lifetime of involvement with visual art and gardening, starting with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree of the University of Georgia. He honed his skills for ten years in Savannah where he was field coordinator for the historic Forsyth Park and Gardens renovation project, and also maintained his own residential landscape design business.

A native of the Carolina Piedmont, Ed returned almost twenty-five years ago and has grown in knowledge and experience through serving as UNC-Charlotte's botanical gardens' nursery curator and also developing commercial landscape projects and custom private garden designs as a licensed Landscape Architect in Charlotte. He says, "I am quick to separate myself from most of my colleagues who are experts at land development, 'hardscaping' and outdoor kitchen design. I, on the other hand, have a natural interest in plants. In my gardens, the plants are the primary players...". He goes on to explain that, "I also believe that in order to be competent as a garden designer, one must first be an experienced gardener and plantsman. My own garden is more like a collection of trial plots, instead of a garden where everything is programmed and predictable. I find it valuable to be able to speak about my personal experiences with a plant and put into practice the philosophy of 'right plant, right place'."

With such an authoritative speaker, the annual plant auction, and the good atmosphere at The Chariot in Hendersonville, you'll want to be sure to make your reservation for the Banquet by March 14. It will be \$20 person. You can either make your reservation online at the SE-ARS.org website, or you can do it by mail.



Banquet Registration

Register on the website:
www.SE-ARS.org

or

Send your check for \$20 per person to this address:

SE-ARS,
c/o Jackson McCarter, M.D.
280 Trammell Rd.
Travelers Rest, SC 29690.

February/March 2015

Appeldoorn Nursery 'Wowed' Us!

Mr. Appeldoorn was very gracious, agreeing to accompany the 13 attendees and educate us about his nursery, even though he was recovering from a foot injury (a tractor ran over his foot).

The setting is called the Golden Valley because it was the location of the early gold rush. It was also inhabited and farmed by early Indian tribes, and arrowheads still appear on the property. Mr. Appeldoorn lives in the early 1900's farmhouse. Cotton was grown on the property until the 1950's.



Wonderfully organized nursery displays

It was 45-50 degrees and rainy -- perfect conifer-growing weather. Mr. Appeldoorn discussed the botanic challenges for evergreens in this climate: he talked about the freezing/thawing cycle which is sometimes disruptive for conifers. He said it is definitely the isothermal. He mentioned using plastic bags full of leaves to insulate the conifers he has in containers.

Our host talked about the kinds of plants that do well in the climate of the Southeastern United States, specifically Western North Carolina. He said that plants from Alaska, the Northwest US coast, Canada, Europe, and Central Asia tend to thrive. He said plants from South America and the African tropics do not prosper here.



On our tour of his amazing and spacious property he talked about several thriving species: He showed us many varieties of Hinoki Cypress with its fans of foliage characterized by x's on the backsides. Another prominent plant in his collection was the Himalayan Cedar with



Frances Jones, Bruce Appeldoorn, Judy van Rens and Red



Rainy damp weather could not hold us back from the conifer show



Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Lutea' showing its golden charm

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Appeldoorn Visit (continued)



Meadow stroll showed results of years of selecting best conifer-terroir matching

its cascading habit. Many of us were impressed by the standout Himalayan Pine Zabrina (Pinus wallichiana 'Zebrina'), a golden 5-needled specimen that is the Asian version of the Eastern White pine. As we admired the diversity of the collection of plants available, we were further impressed by finding out that all of the plants available are grown from cuttings to insure the integrity of the species.



Sloping hill on backside of the house gave color

After his informative tour, Mr. Appeldoorn gave us a chance to explore the spacious property on our own. Meandering on paths through rows of trees of varying ages and sizes, we all gathered back at his multiple greenhouse structures, where we wandered and shopped for a new prize for our gardens. Most of us came home with a treat.

Exploring this remarkable property for several hours made us all hungry for lunch, which we enjoyed at Countryside Barbeque in Marion.

If you want to find out more about Mr. Appeldoorn's primarily conifer nursery, its history, the landscape business, and the expansive list of plants that are available, visit his website:

appeldoornlandscapenursery.com



As information flowed, interest grew.



Dominant Himalayan Pine Zabrina anchored on end of the meadow



Cryptomeria Japonica Yoshino shows healthy clusters

Announcing 2015 SE-ARS Photo Contest

If you are planning photo trips this year to places such as Callaway Gardens, Blue Ridge Parkway, Grandfather Mountain, Gregory Bald, Roan Mountain, etc., take the opportunity to showcase your photos of rhododendrons and azaleas. The Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, is hosting an online photo contest. Photos may be submitted from March 1 through September 30.

Photos by SE-ARS members (regular or associate) submitted to the SE-ARS Photo Contest will be displayed on the SE-ARS website in the Photo Contest section. beginning March 1, 2015. Our goal is to increase the number and quality of rhododendron/azalea related photos on the website. At the end of the year, the winner in each CLASS will be awarded recognition and a plant, and the overall winner will receive a sponsored one-year membership extension.

In October, a voting form will be available on the website, so that members may vote for their favorite photos within each CLASS. Contest results will be posted on se-ars.org in November.

CONTEST RULES SUMMARY (see website for details)

- SE-ARS members may submit an unlimited number of photos. Non-members may submit a single photograph in each category.
- For all photos, include the name and email address of the contestant.
- Photos may also be eligible for the ARS National Contest in May.
- There is no restriction on the dates when the photos were originally taken, as long as they have not been published elsewhere.
- Names of contestants will not be published until after the final contest voting. Pictures subsequently used on the website will acknowledge the photographer, unless otherwise directed.
- Submitted digital photos should be jpeg files of images up to 1400 pixels in width. See the website for the upload form.
- Photos should preferably be submitted online by the PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM.
- Photos may also be submitted by flashdrive, CD, etc., and we will downsize files as necessary.
- All photographs submitted to SE-ARS remain the property of the photographer as copyright owner.
- Include the following in the information boxes: captions, location, names and dates, names of visible plants, persons, and buildings.
- Photos must be submitted by the photographer or by someone who has prior permission from the photographer.
- Photographs containing a photographer's watermark or other copyright mark may not be submitted.
- Photos of identifiable persons, that are not SE-ARS members, and private properties should have a release form signed.

Photo Contest Categories:

- A Rhododendron/azalea Truss or Spray.
- B Rhododendron/azalea Shrub.
- C Garden View.
- D Natural Landscape.
- E People and Plants.
- F Macrophotographs.
- G Foliage

Ray's comment:

"At the beginning of the meeting we will take a few minutes for a question and answer session."

Ray says,

"After serving as chapter secretary for many years, Marilyn Haynes has decided to take a break. We need a volunteer to serve as secretary beginning in July. If anyone has any ideas, please contact me."

**Southeastern Chapter
American Rhododendron
Society
Hendersonville, NC**

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Travelers Rest, SC

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Hendersonville, NC

Editor: Judy Van Rens
Hendersonville, NC

Mark your Calendar

Feb 15, Sunday, 2 pm
Jackson McCarter's
Yakusimanum Program
St. John in the Wilderness Hall

March 21, Saturday, Banquet
Speaker—Ed Davis,
Horticultural Director of
UNC-Charlotte Botanical
Gardens
At The Chariot

May 2-3—SE-ARS Flower Show

May 23/24—Garden Jubilee

June 14—SE-ARS Meeting
Program to be announced

ARS 70th Anniversary Convention

May 6-10, 2015

The world is coming to Sidney, BC, Canada for the 70th anniversary ARS 2015 Convention. Hear presentations from international experts: Jim Barlup, Marc Colombel, Lionel de Rothschild, Ken Cox, Harold Greer, Guan Kaiyun and Hartwig Schepker. With special presentations from Laura Grant and Dr. Ben Hall; 29 private and public gardens will be on display over three days. Availability of new hybrids, species and rare rhododendrons for purchase. Please visit our SE-ARS website for comprehensive information and registration forms.

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE BANQUET
BY MARCH 14TH!! (see page 2)**

Deadline

Submit articles for the next newsletter by March 15. Share your expertise!