



# The Blue Ridge Review



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

April/May 2016

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

## APRIL 23RD SE-ARS SPRING GARDEN VISITS

We're invited to visit John Kendall's garden from 10 until 12 on Saturday, April 23. John lives at [redacted] in Greenville, SC. John has graciously invited us to enjoy his two-acre lot which he has been working on since the late 1970's when they built their home. The original lot has many hardwood trees. When he started gardening there, it seemed like a good place to grow azaleas. His love of azaleas evolved into an appreciation of hybrid rhododendrons, which now comprise the majority of plants on the property. He loves his Dexters, but really likes all of the hybrids. John favorite activity is being in the yard and working with the plants. His latest project is growing his plants from seeds. On the day of the visit, we should find a wonderful display of plants in their full blooming splendor.

Our second part of the April 23rd Garden Tour will take us to Glenn O'Sheal and Victor Watts' garden at [redacted] in Easley, SC. It's a little more than a half hour's drive from John's garden, so plan on having lunch on the way and tour Glenn's garden from 1:30 to 3:30. Glenn and Victor have been developing this one-acre garden since 1989. Glenn was already interested in rhodo's and decided to focus on them, along with deciduous and evergreen azaleas. However, the garden has evolved since then. He started out with Dexter hybrids, but now he has added others. Glenn said he also has "quite a collection of companion plants: i.e. ferns, hostas, iris cristata, camellias, a dwarf collection of conifers and a few other dwarf specimens. There is sort of an eclectic collection of a lot of things that we like. There is a boxwood that I rooted from one at Mount Vernon that George Washington had planted." When asked about an unusual feature of his garden, Glenn was quick to answer, "I suppose the most unusual thing is a true redwood brought from California in a zip-loc bag hidden away in my suitcase. I did not steal it, but hid it to bring it out of the state. I had a friend who lived on the edge of the Muir Woods near Santa Rosa, and he had trees growing in his yard. A seedling came up and he asked if I'd like to have it, and of course I said yes. It was planted in 1989 and is approximately 70 feet tall with a circumference that I cannot reach around. We also have a fish pond. When asked what is his favorite part of his garden, Glenn's response was, "Everything!! (SEE PAGE 4 FOR ANOTHER SE-ARS GARDEN VISIT)

### VASEYI GARDEN VISITS

Vaseyi invites SE-ARS to two garden visits:

**Saturday, April 9th**—Field Trip to East Fork Nursery, 2769 Bethel Church Rd., Sevierville. Meet there at 1 pm. Bring a picnic lunch.

**Saturday, April 16—1 pm**  
Visit Ray Head's Garden, [redacted] Rutherfordton and Wayne Hutchin's Plants-a-Plenty Farm, 890 Crowe Dairy Rd., Forest City (Call Ray, [redacted], for an update on bloom time.)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>HALE BOOTH ENLIGHTENED US</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FLOWER SHOW AT NC ARBORETUM</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CALENDAR</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VISIT DOLEY BELL'S GARDEN</b>	<b>4</b>

## The Blue Ridge Review

### Hale Booth Delights Joint Vaseyi/SE-ARS Meeting



Hale Booth presents...



Smiling  
Prize  
Winners



Vaseyi President, Audrey Stelloh, graciously introduced our March 20th speaker, Hale Booth as an "intelligent, witty, cheerful, and kind" man who is an active member of at least four plant societies, and is head of the Azalea Research Fund. Hale's response was, "I really love plants!" Then he proceeded to enlighten us about the outstanding broadleaf evergreens that live in his mostly woodland garden, located at 2000 feet on Signal Mountain in Chattanooga, TN.

*Illicium* look similar to rhododendrons for fifty weeks out of the year. Hale praised their qualities of being cold-hardy, durable, reliable, and tolerant of many kinds of soil. He talked about the licorice smell of the plant, and showed us the range of flower colors from the deep pink of the US native *illicium floridanum* to the pale yellow petals of the Chinese native *illicium simonsii*.

Hale's next subject was *daphniphyllum*, which he said some call the 'red-neck rhododendron'. These plants are appealing because they are durable in cold weather when the not-very-outstanding flowers hold out hope for the more glorious blooms that spring exudes.

Hale's discussion of *osmanthus* led into his discussion of *ilex* (holly) because the *osmanthus* looks like a holly and has a strong fragrance, which is especially distinctive in the *osmanthus heterophyllum* varieties, *rotundifolia* and *gulftide*. Hale thinks the red holly variety, *ilex conty*, is one of the most beautiful holly on the market with its larger leaves with soft spines. Another soft-spined variety, *koehneana*, is easy to handle. Hale introduced us to *ilex arenata* (coinleaf holly), which features small, spineless leaves of varied colors (even yellow).

Our tour of broadleaf evergreens led us to learn some unique characteristics of common varieties. Hale showed us amazing photos of *euonymus fortunei*: *carrierei*, *emerald gaity*, and *kewensis* were all growing gently up the sides of trees. Then he showed us how boxwoods, if left alone, can become trees, which one might see in a Civil War cemetery. He said there is a great deal of color and texture variation in the species.

Hale's discussion introduced many of us to some unique varieties of common plants. The flowers on the *pieris floribunda* have stems that grow upward; the *cotoneaster rothschild* bears golden fruit; and the *nandina domestic* var. *leucocarpa* have white berries.

Hale says that *aucuba*, which like deep shade, can light up dark spots in the garden. The variegated forms like *mr. goldstrike* and *marmorata* have green leaves strongly speckled with white; the green forms, like *longifolia*, have lightly speckled leaves.

At the end of Hale's presentation, we felt enthusiasm and curiosity about so many wonderful plants.



Audrey's gift to Hale

### Share Your Prize Blooms at the Flower Show

The annual flower show is fast approaching and will be held on April 30 and May 1 at the NC Arboretum. This presents a great opportunity to show off the rhododendron trusses and azalea sprays from your gardens to fellow chapter members, as well as the general public. Free parking passes will be available by mail if you contact April Sanborn

Entry cards will be available at the arboretum on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Friday set-up will take place at 2:00pm at the Arboretum Education Center. Show entries may be brought Friday between 2:00 and 3:00pm, and again early Saturday morning between 8:00 and 9:00am. Non members may also enter the show, so please encourage your friends to bring entries from their gardens. Thank you in advance to all who help set up and take down the show, as well as all who take the time to bring in entries. You are the ones who make this show possible every year.

Here are some basic tips for preparing your entries: Try and bring entries which are at or near the peak of opening, rather than past peak and fading. It is helpful when taking cuttings to get them in water and keep them well hydrated. Bring clean entries. Wipe dirt and pollen off of the large leaf rhododendrons and remove debris from trusses and sprays. It makes a big difference in appearance, even with the more humble entries.

Here are important Flower Show Rules:

1. **Size:** Section B (Elepidote Rhododendrons) entries must be a single truss with flowers coming from one bud; other entries must be a single-stem spray or a single or multiple truss with the size and number of flowers typical of the variety. Section H (Miniature Truss or Spray) entries must 1x4" or less outside of the container; other entries must be 16" or less outside of the container.
2. **Color:** The color must be typical of the variety.
3. **Form:** A single truss must be full, with a full set of leaves typical of the variety; a spray must be well-shaped, attractive and typical of the variety.
4. **Foliage:** Leaves must be well-shaped and of good color and size for the variety, with minimum mars or blemishes, and free of any artificial shine.
5. **Condition:** All blooms must be at their peak and not faded or wilted, with no more than 3 unopened florets on an elepidote truss or 20% unopened buds on a lepidote or azalea spray.

*Submitted by April Sanborn*

### Find Out More!!

For detailed information about the flower show, go to [www.se-ars.org](http://www.se-ars.org) --

- Click on **Upcoming Events** on the homepage
- Then click on **Flower Show Information**.
- At the bottom of this page, you will find links to the following information:

1. *Contact the Show Director for Questions*
2. *Tips for Exhibiting Flowers*
3. *Flower Show Rules*
4. *Classification*
5. *Classifications by Variety Name*
6. *Directions to the NC Arboretum*

The "Tips for Exhibiting Flowers" article (ref. above) is a must-read for all who plan to enter the show!



Last year's Flower Show Winners

**Southeastern Chapter of  
American Rhododendron Society**

**Hendersonville, NC 28791**

**Officers and Directors**

**President:** Ray Head

**Treasurer:** Jackson McCarter

**Vice President:**

**Directors until 2016**—April Sanborn,  
Byron Richards and Chuck Van Rens

**Secretary:** Frances Jones

**Directors until 2017**—Wayne  
Hutchins, Audrey Stelloh, and  
Chris Wetmore

**Editor:** Judy Van Rens

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**Mark your Calendar**

**April 23rd - 10-12. Visit John  
Kendall's Garden,**

**April 23—1:30—3:30. Visit  
Glenn O'Sheal's Garden,**

**April 20-24— ARS/ASA  
Convention-Williamsburg, VA**

**April 30-May 1. Flower Show,  
NC Arboretum**

**May 7th, 2-4. Visit Doley Bell's  
Garden,  
Hendersonville**

(Note Vaseyi garden visits  
mentioned on page 1)

*Please submit articles for next news-  
letter by May 15*

**VISIT DOLEY BELL'S GARDEN ON MAY 7TH**

Doley Bell has graciously invited us to share in the glory of his garden on **Saturday, May 7th from 2 until 4.**

Their garden was started in the 1970's by David and Naoma Dean. The Bell's bought the 8-acre garden in June of 2000. The garden features a few thousand azalea and rhododendrons accompanied by accent ground covers and special plants such as camellias, Japanese maples, and Franklinia. Some of the hybrid groups are Dexter, Haag, Glen Dale, Gilkey, and Kerr. Doley says, "Our favorite flower is that one we are looking at now.

Doley says that when you visit, you should note any plants from which you would like to have cuttings. "We're very happy to share," he says. The garden begins to bloom in mid-March, but our visit in early May should show us the largest bloom display. He also said if May 7th doesn't work for you, let him know, and he'll arrange a different time.