

**Southeastern Chapter American  
Rhododendron Society  
Dexter Study Group  
St. John in the Wilderness Parish Hall  
June 25, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Ray Head at 2:04 PM. A total of 26 members and guests were in attendance. He explained that he had convened the meeting for the purpose of studying, preserving and propagating Dexter rhododendrons, many of which thrive in our southeastern climate zone.

Ray presented a history of Dexter propagation beginning with Mr. C. O. Dexter, who began hybridizing in 1921 and amassed his collection at Heritage Plantation in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Since that time, Dexter Study Groups have been formed beginning in the 1940's, including the one begun by the Mashburns and others in our own chapter in the nineties. The goal of these study groups is to help identify and describe characteristics of 150-200 varieties of Dexter hybrids.

Ray proposed that this meeting be the first in a series to promote interest in Dexter hybrids and to encourage members to propagate cuttings of various plants. We are currently looking for a nursery to grow cuttings on a large scale but members who would like to grow their own are

directed to consult instructions posted on the SE-ARS website.

Danny Little provided books, photos and slides from the Piedmont Chapter Dexter Group of Marshall Stillwell and Don Kellam in Charlotte, given to him by Peggy Stillwell. to Jack McCarter for inclusion in the SE-ARS website.

Ray introduced guests, Chip and Cathy Gilbert, who purchased Ed Collins' original Hendersonville property three years ago.

Bob Head displayed plants he had grafted onto R. hyperythrum root stock and gave a brief report on his method for producing healthy plants.

Members were asked to provide lists of Dexters in their gardens and Chuck Van Rens agreed to compile a composite list to be shared with the membership.

Ray reminded us of the July 16 covered dish picnic to be held at 2 PM at Byron and Hazel Richards' home, 31 Southridge Dr., Hendersonville.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela McCarter, Secretary

