

THE BLUE RIDGE REVIEW

Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

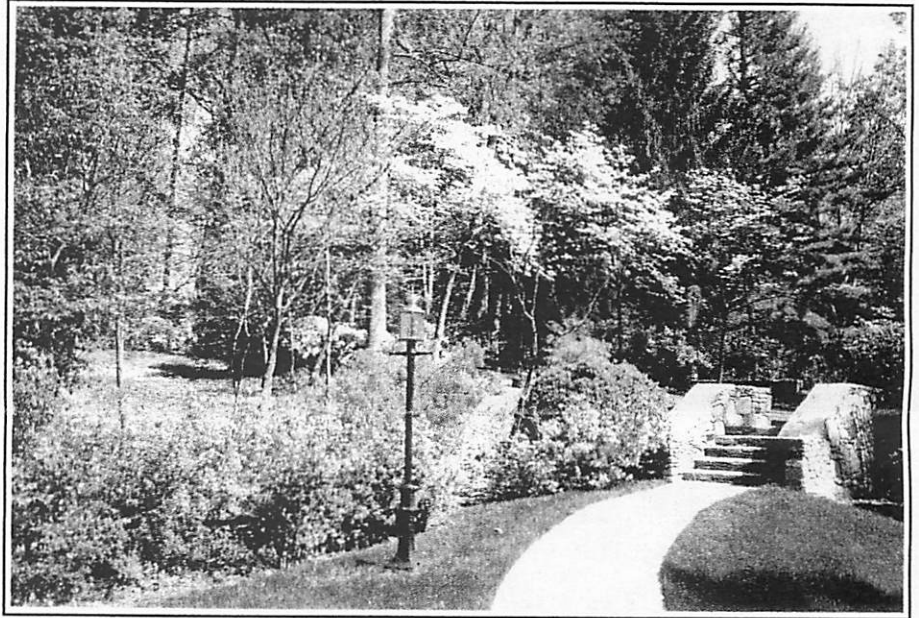


May 2005

May 15 at 2:00 P.M. - A Visit to the Obolensky's Garden

The two acre garden at 331 Vanderbilt Road was laid out by the landscape designer "Doan Ogden" in 1955. We have the original plan...Mrs. Keener, the original owner, planted most of the large rhododendrons and azaleas that are in the forest garden today. As of January, 2005, this garden is included in the Archives of American Gardens, Smithsonian Institution. Many wildflowers can be found throughout this garden. There is a 200 year old log cabin in the back garden near a small stream.

Please park on the side of the road. We will supply drinks and nibbles



George and Ruth Obolensky

Directions to our Biltmore Forest home are from US 25. At the South Forest Shopping Center [Ingles etc.] turn onto Busbee Rd. At the light, travelling north turn left, travelling south turn right. Take Busbee to the first stop sign, turn right on Vanderbilt Rd. and 331 is on the left where there is a low stone fence.

Looking Ahead

June 12, 2005 will find our chapter enjoying our annual picnic at the Doley and Melody Bell's garden. This year it will be the second Sunday instead of the usual third Sunday because Father's Day falls on the third Sunday.

Start potting up your plants for the auction. It is always such fun to come home with plants from other members gardens. We will also be having a cutting exchange. It is an opportunity to acquire some special azaleas.

Look at your garden and decide what you can contribute. We will also need plenty of food as the group loves to eat and eat and eat.....

June is election of officers. The nominating committee has been putting a list of names together. If you are interested in serving a position please contact Ray Head at jrhead_1@yahoo.com or (828) 287-3529

From The President's Desk



Are our woods and fields and gardens already on their way to another radical change?

Starting a century ago, the native stands of American chestnut that provided lumber—and food for people and animals throughout Appalachia—were destroyed by an Asian fungus. Balsam wooly adelgids (BWA) have destroyed 91% of the Fraser firs on the ridges of the Great Smoky Mountains. The Park Service is battling the hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) at the Carl Sandburg house, these little bugs have now appeared in my subdivision, and I expect our hemlocks will be devastated within a few years. Once white pines are the only native conifers left in this area, that's probably what some specialist beetle or aphid will attack next. (Google on "Great Smoky Mountain fir beetle" for additional gloomy information.) Chestnuts were replaced by the ubiquitous Yellow poplars and once the hemlocks are gone, *Liriodendron tulipifera* may become the dominant tree.

Consider the implications of a deciduous-only forest. The lack of an evergreen wind break in the winter could mean harsher winters, wider swings in temperatures, greater exposure to the winter sun and less protection from hail. It may also mean hotter summers. You can draw your own conclusions about what this would do to

your heating bill, your air conditioning bill, and the expensive and delicate plants you have in the garden. Such a change would also mean a profound change in the native forest plants such as the lady slipper and trilliums.

We don't have the option of burning the forests which, in one instance, seems to have killed off the anthracnose that destroys *Cornus florida*. Should we try to save a few hemlocks with expensive injections in the hope that HWA will die out naturally and the forest regenerate itself? Should we take to heart the message that highly adapted monocultures are especially susceptible to highly adapted insects and diseases?

I don't have any certain answers, but I think the adelgid—and other bugs like the azalea and rhododendron borers—will find a way to change and deal with our defenses. Perhaps we should immediately start planting several different varieties of conifers and evergreens to replace the doomed hemlocks. Perhaps we should renovate our specialized rhododendron gardens, remove the varieties most susceptible to borers and other diseases, and opt for a more varied garden, with an emphasis on native species.

Billy Joyner

April's Book Review

Armitage's Garden Perennials: A Color Encyclopedia, by Allan Armitage

It is springtime and I know our members have been busily working in their gardens. And while the focus of the ARS is rhodies and azaleas, no garden is really complete without a full range of plants, including perennials. This is where a book like Armitage's Garden Perennials can be very useful.

The book is a comprehensive encyclopedia of perennials in 136 genera. Arranged alphabetically, each plant has one or more pages devoted to such pertinent information as growing conditions required, ease or difficulty in growing, habits and forms, USDA zones and regions where plants will thrive are also included. The second

section of the book consists of more than a dozen lists for growing in specific locations: drought tolerance, wet and boggy conditions, ground covers, sun/shade tolerance, winter interest, etc.

In addition to writing a book packed with information, Armitage also writes in a highly opinionated and often humorous manner. As a long-standing professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, he really knows his perennials and if you read this book, you will too.

As always, this book sells through the chapter at the discounted price of \$40.00.

April Sanborn

In Memoriam Mary L. Kehr (1911-2005)

CEDAR FALLS - Mary Louise Kehr, 93, of Cedar Falls, formerly of Hendersonville, N.C., died Monday, April 11, at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo, of heart failure.

She was born Sept. 14, 1911, in Laquin, Pa., daughter of Dr. Charles Melvin and Nellie Brigham Coon. Because her mother was ill with tuberculosis at the time of her birth, she was removed from the home at two weeks of age, to be raised by another family. She married August E. Kehr in 1943. He died in 2001.

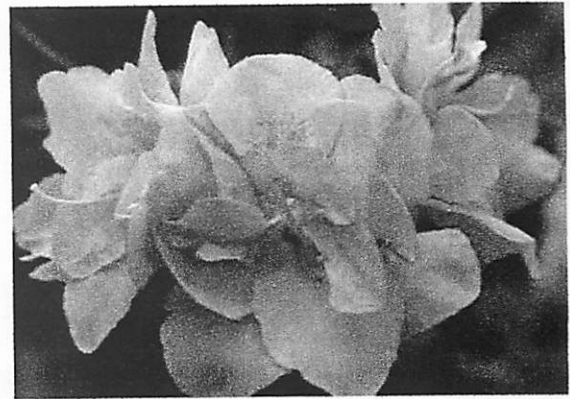


Mrs. Kehr received a bachelor's degree from Elmira College, Elmira, N.Y., in 1933; and a master's degree from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., in 1934. She taught English, Latin and French in Unadilla, N.Y., from 1934 to 1943. She and her husband lived in Hudson, N.Y., Ithaca, N.Y., Baton Rouge, LA. and Silver Springs, Md., retiring in 1979 to

Hendersonville, moving to Cedar Falls in 2001.

Survivors include: a daughter, Janet (Charles) Flick of Cedar Falls; two grandsons, Robert Flick of Shen Zhen, China, and William Flick of Huxley; and a great-granddaughter, McKenzie Flick of Huxley.

Memorials: may be directed to Pinecrest Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 421, Flat Rock, NC 28731 in lieu of flowers.



Rhododendron ' Mary Lou Kehr'

A lovely pink evergreen azalea introduced by Augie Kehr



Mary Lou Kehr (left) at the dedication of the Augie Kehr Memorial Garden Flat Rock, NC March, 2003

Plants-A-Plenty Farm

Plants-A-Plenty Farm owned by SE-ARS member Wayne Hutchins is a lovely garden and nursery located off Highway 74 heading toward Forest City.

Wayne is noted for his ferns, many not available locally except at his nursery. Not only does he have numerous ferns, he grows rhododendrons, azaleas, wild flowers

and several other woodland plants.. All are displayed in the four and a half acre garden among mature rhododendrons, azaleas and meandering streams. Most plants in the display garden are available for sale at the nursery.

Plants-A-Plenty Farm Wayne Hutchins, owner
890 Crowe Dairy Road
Forest City, NC 28043
(828) 286-2493

Directory Correction

Alexander Ristau (828) 966-9676

Great Web Site

History of the Anderson Garden In Enumclaw,
Washington—1961-2002

[http://www.eskimo.com/~enumclaw/
Specimens2/Companion%20Plants.html](http://www.eskimo.com/~enumclaw/Specimens2/Companion%20Plants.html)

This is an exceptional web site giving the history of the Anderson Garden plus much useful information including companion plants for rhododendrons. The Andersons originally gardened in New Jersey before moving to the Pacific Northwest.

*"Out of gardens grow fleeting flowers but
lasting friendships."...Beverly Rose Hopper*

Upcoming Programs for 2005

May 15th 2:00 pm-Tour of the George and
Ruth Obolensky's Garden

June 12th 2:00 pm -Annual Picnic in Doley and
Melody Bell's Garden

July-No meeting Entertain your company.

August-No meeting Take a cool drive on the
parkway.

September-To be announced.

October-Plants for Members

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SE-ARS History Project

Material needed to develop a Historical View Point of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

We are planning to create scrapbooks using archival safe components to house all photos, artifacts and documents. This will make the material more user friendly. The scrapbooks will be displayed at chapter functions and meeting as designated by the Board of Directors.

Photos needed: Photos made at chapter events such as meetings, picnics, flower shows, field trips, members gardens, members at conventions, members working on special projects such as the Kehr Memorial Garden, Blue Ridge Community College, Guest Speakers at meetings and banquets and Award Winners.

Printed material: Show reports, newsletters, newspaper articles and reports on special projects or studies conducted either by the SE-ARS Chapter or by individual members working independently. Reports and diaries of plant breeders who have developed plants, that are being grown successfully in our area whether they are members or not. Write ups of awards that have been awarded to members for achievements both in SE-ARS

work and in other activities such as Church, Civic and Community. Originals or copies will be great.

We would especially like to have a scrapbook on Presidents and Vice Presidents. This would include a photo of your choice. Preferable this would be a photo of the person serving as President and their spouse. We have observed that in most cases this is a team effort and deserves recognition. We would also like photos of all other office holders.

If you have photos or can obtain photos of former Presidents and spouses this would be greatly appreciated. These photos will be tastefully displayed along with any available information pertaining to activities carried out and progress made during each term.

Please feel free to submit any information with your photo that you would like to have displayed along with the time frame that you held the office.

If there are categories other than those mentioned above that you feel should be preserved please let us know. Thank you for your greatly needed help.

Leon and Jean Pace
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Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-692-7518
landjpace@bellsouth.net

The picture to the left is of the first Bronze Medal Winner awarded by SE-ARS The award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Johnston by past president Ann Richardson.

Contributed by
Leon and Jean Pace

Source: American Rhododendron Society Quarterly Bulletin Vol. 32 Winter 1978 No. 1

Southeastern Chapter Awards First Bronze Medal



The Southeastern Chapter recently presented the Bronze Medal to Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Johnston of Asheville, North Carolina for many years of outstanding service to the chapter and to the Na-

tional Organization. Pictured at the presentation ceremony are left to right Mrs. Marian Johnston, Mr. J. D. Johnston, and Mrs. Ann Richardson, past president of the Southeastern Chapter.

What are these numbers???

By Don Johnson



On the front of a fertilizer bag there are (3) large numbers like 10-10-10 or 24-3-8 etc.

1st number is.....Nitrogen

2nd number is.....Phosphate

3rd number is.....Potash

The higher the number the more you get.

This is only part of the equation, on "the back of the bag" there is more info (maybe).

Like -Organic-Quick release-Slow release- Fillers (like sand)- Trace Elements.

What does this do for the plants in simple terms??

Nitrogen = Nice green leaves good growth

Phosphate = Helps produce flowers

Potash = Helps with plant health

Beware: to much of a good thing can kill your plants and in extreme cases sterilize the soil.

We "go to the back of the bag"...No info?? -very strong chemical-(Quick release)-(Farm use, will burn).

Organic.....Like dried manure (very slow release little or no burn).

Mixture some fast and some slow....A mixture could be good.

Chemical slow release—The fast stuff has a coating (like a time release pill) to slow down the release.

A plant cannot tell if the fertilizer came from chemical or animal...(no advantage either way)

Trace Elements = minor elements for the plants proper growth, but absolutely necessary, try to include.

Examples... will be given "on the backs of liquid fertilizer cans" (Miracle Grow-Kmarts-Walmarts etc.).

Incidentally these liquid fertilizer are excellent for young Rhodies, cuttings, seedlings etc. use at 1/2 strength.

Surprise, surprise...Even some of the granular fertilizers contain trace elements....,"Read back of bag's" and

may be hard to find.. Rainbow Fertilizer, Royster - Clark inc, 999Waterside Dr. Suite 800, Norfolk, Va. 23510.. \$3.00 to \$4.00 a bag..and I am not selling fertilizer

Clay Soils....Di- Ammoniated Phosphate ("on the back of the bag") as a source of the nitrogen and phosphate. The Di-Ammoniated Phosphate breakes down in clay soil making the nitrogen and phosphate useable to the plant..Where as Super Phosphate generally will get locked into the clay and is of little use....

All this to grow a couple of dumb plants!! After the first couple of applications, you will see the difference..

In conclusion

1st.....Don't listen to the sales clerk: chances are good he doesn't have a clue, but does have something high priced in a little bag for you.

2nd.....You have to get the STUFF to the plants (Some Di-Ammoniated Phosphate).

3rd.....Trace Elements.

4th.....A little fast release and a lot of slow release...

da-beep da-beep da-beep.. That's all folks...dj

Editor's note:

Rainbow Fertilizer may be purchased locally at the following supplier:

UAP Carolinas
605 Sugarloaf Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828 692-0214

Man - despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments - owes his existence to a twelve inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.
- Author Unknown