



SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY

April/May, 2017

Encouragement of the culture of Rhododendrons

Announcing Spring Garden Visits

Visit Dr. Marilyn Grist's Garden on Sunday, April 23rd

Please arrive at 1:00

A Tout le Monde (For All the World)

The Grist Gardens have served as a refuge and pet project since 1979 for Dr. Marilyn Grist, who has been a practicing veterinarian for more than 30 years. The nine acre garden is nestled between Greenville, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina near the sleepy little town of Travelers Rest.

Dr. Grist chose to convey her love for her family by designing gardens in their honor. Even when her children and grandchildren are not with her physically, they will always be with her in spirit because her four children and two grandchildren each have a special, individualized garden based on their personality dedicated to them.



This extensive formal and informal garden has one of the most outstanding plant collections. Of particular interest are unusual bulbs, many azaleas and rhododendrons, rare and unusual conifers, trees and shrubs, perennials and groundcovers. There is a lot to see, and sturdy shoes are necessary to transverse the entire terrain.

Directions to Grist Garden

Meet there at 1:00

From NC: 25 South 8.7 miles past SC state line, left at sign for "Camp Old Indian/ Poinsett Bridge" which puts you on Old 25, go 1.7 miles to Grist on right (gated gravel drive opposite a stone bench and Beaver Dam Rd intersection on left of road). (I recommend not to go on Beaver Dam Rd -- hard to get on from 25 and narrow, winding).

From South—Turn Right on Old 25, then 1.7 Miles to Grist Garden

On Google maps—

Grist address is
695 Old Highway 25,
Travelers Rest, S.C



Visit Jackson's Garden

Directions from Grist to

McCarter: (We should arrive at 3).

(McCarter GPS address 280 Trammell Rd., Travelers Rest SC) Head back west on Old 25 about a mile, take first left at Chiquapin Rd (at Hincapie's Hotel Domestique), follow Chiquapin to cross SC 11 at Stop Sign, go straight for 0.4 mi past Stop, turn right on Trammell Rd (at Cross Plains Church), destination is red mailbox 2 miles on left (a less than 10 minute total drive).

Leaving McCarter:

To head north to NC: turn right from driveway, nearly immediate left at Sweetgum Valley Rd, then right on US 25 North.

To head south toward Greenville: turn left from driveway, then left on US 25 South.

Haynes Phone: (828) 696-2996

Haynes Address for Google Maps:
31 Peachtree Lane
Hendersonville, NC

Visit the McCarter Garden on Sunday, April 23, 3 pm

Dr. Jackson McCarter's place at Travelers Rest, SC, is interesting both in architecture and horticulture. This is a very large natural "garden" with rhododendrons and azaleas along the drive, woodland paths and ponds. Jackson grows all his rhododendrons from seed obtained from overseas and native sources. It is a treasure trove of as yet un-introduced rhododendrons and azaleas. As you meander through the forest of mainly hardwoods and pines, you are treated to many different Rhododendrons. Jackson has spent years growing, evaluating and hybridizing *R. degronianum* (yakusimanum are but one variety), *R. fortunei*, and native as well as Japanese azaleas.

Selecting them for heat tolerance, for leaf shape and indumentums has been his passion. Indumentum, according to Jackson, varies by which mountain in Japan the plant of *R. degronianum* originated; the color ranges from near white to milk chocolate brown to reddish, the texture fluctuates from being fairly flat to being noticeably velvety in nature. Future planting areas are prepared ahead of time by laying short sections of tree trunks in a sort of square, 3-4 ft., filled with pine bark and allowed to partially decompose before plants are set in, or by tilling pine bark into native soil, with addition of superphosphate. Jackson uses a slow release fertilizer (12-12-12) that contains urea and ammonium phosphate in new plantings which have a high pine bark content, and little or no fertilizer in established plantings. A substantial nursery is filled with plants he has raised, waiting to be evaluated, planted or shared with us during plant sales. A misting solar greenhouse, 7 or 8 Nearing frames and lath house shelters as well as open nursery beds are used to house plants before planting them into the woodland.

Visit Haynes Garden, Saturday, May 6, 1-5

This is an invitation from Marilyn and Don Haynes. We would like to invite SE-ARS members and friends to come see our garden at 31 Peachtree Lane, Hendersonville, on Saturday, May 6, any time between 1:00 and 5:00 PM. There are well over 100 named rhododendrons and azaleas that were planted well before we came to Hendersonville. Some we were told were gathered from seed in England by John Peavey years ago; some he hybridized. Plus we've added a few recently from our SE-ARS and Vaseyi adventures. There are also numerous hollies, magnolias, and daylilies. We will be selling our home in the next year or two, so we'd like our friends to see it while things are blooming. If May 6th is inconvenient for anyone, please call and let us know when you would like to visit our garden.

