



# Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Winter Newsletter: March 2016

## Calendar

- \* **March 20** – Joint Meeting with NV-ASA, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
- \* **April 20-24** – Joint ARS/ASA Convention, Williamsburg, VA
- \* **April 28** – PVC trip to Pennsylvania Nurseries. (date tentative)
- \* **May 7** – Proposed Member Garden Tours
- \* **May 21** – Joint Chapter Picnic – White's Nursery, Germantown, MD
- \* **May 23 to May 26** – Cape Cod Field Trip, Sandwich, MA
- \* **June 12 to 20** – Native Azalea Field Trip, North Carolina/Tennessee
- \* **July 16** – Saturday Propagation Workshop, Potomac Community Center.

### Chapter Officers

**President:** Dan Neckel  
vaneckel@verizon.net  
**Vice President:** Ginny Mohr  
rngmohr@msn.com  
**Treasurer:** Phyllis Rittman  
prittman@erols.com

## Joint Meeting / Plant Exchange

**Speaker: Martha Brettschneider**

**“The Garden as Mindfulness Mentor: How Digging in the Dirt Brings Focus to Mind, Spirit, and Camera”**

**Date: March 20, 2016, 1:30 – 4:30 PM**

**Where: Kirkwood Presbyterian Church  
83346 Carrleigh Parkway  
Springfield, VA 22152**

This meeting will be a joint activity between our Potomac Valley Chapter ARS and the Northern Virginia Chapter ASA. Bring a plant worth about \$5 if you want to participate in the exchange.

Our speaker is Martha Brettschneider, a Fairfax County Master Gardener, author, blogger and award-winning photographer. She will weave together her passions for gardening, photography, and mindfulness in a slide show presentation for us. Along with practical tips to take your garden photography to the next level, Martha will share how her garden introduced her to the practice of mindfulness long before the term was popular in the media.

Martha stumbled upon mindfulness teachings after breast cancer forced a reorientation of every aspect of her life – body, mind, and spirit. She insists her garden has helped her grow much more than the other way around. She lives in Vienna, Virginia with her husband, two sons, and a rascally golden retriever puppy who takes great pleasure in eating her garden.

Her new book, *Blooming into Mindfulness: How the Universe Used a Garden, Cancer, and Carpools to Teach Me That Calm Is the New Happy* is available on Amazon (January 2016). Check out her website to learn more about Martha, her new book, her stunning photography, and her charming dog, Apollo.

<http://www.marthabrettschneider.com>



*Will you accept this rose?*

**Refreshment Duty:** Persons whose last names begin with **L** through **Z** are asked to bring something for the refreshment table.

**Directions: Kirkwood Presbyterian Church  
83346 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA**

### From the East:

- From **I-95**, take **exit 169B, Franconia Road West** which becomes **Old Keene Mill Road (Rte 644)**.
- In about **3 miles**, after passing Irving Middle School, turn **Right** on **Carrleigh Parkway**.
- Make a **U-turn** at **Dabney Avenue** and go back to the church which will be on the right.

### From the West:

- From the **Fairfax County Parkway (Rte 286)**, exit East on **Old Keene Mill Road (Rte 644)**.
- Travel about **3.5 miles** past Rolling Road, and turn **Left** at the light on **Carrleigh Parkway**.
- Make a **U-turn** at **Dabney Avenue** and go back to the church which will be on the right.



*Typical Nursery Trip Haul*

## Pennsylvania Nursery Trip

We planned a one day trip to some excellent nurseries in Pennsylvania for April 28 but that date is too close to the convention for some of us. You can certainly visit these places on your own, but below are the locations and approximate times we normally visit these excellent nurseries.

If you are interested in going with a group, let Dan Neckel or Don Hyatt know and maybe we can arrange a convenient time. Tuesdays and Sundays are not good as several nurseries will be closed, but other dates before or after the convention are certainly possible.

### Groff's Plant Farm (9:30 – 11:30 AM)

6128 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536  
717-529-3001

Groff's has a wide selection of annuals, perennials, wildflowers, hostas, and shrubs. Their nursery will not open until late March, but they have thousands of varieties and many rare plants. They do arrange their plants by sun and shade requirements. Please note that they do not take credit cards so you must pay by check or cash. The nursery is closed on Sunday.

[www.groffsplantfarm.com](http://www.groffsplantfarm.com)

### Lunch in East Earl, PA 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### Conestoga Nursery (12:30 Noon – 2:00 PM)

310 Reading Road, East Earl, PA 17519  
717-445-4076

Conestoga seems to focus on trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous forms. They often carry rare conifers and some perennials including tree peonies at inexpensive prices. Note that this nursery is closed on Tuesdays and Sundays.

### Black Creek Greenhouses (2:15 – 4:30 PM)

211 E. Black Creek Road, East Earl, PA 17519  
717-445-5046

I have found Black Creek Greenhouses as the best place for bedding plants, house plants, vegetable starts, and various other flowers and perennials. They have a huge selection of choice plants in sizes ranging from market packs to gallon size at excellent prices.

## ARS Leadership Changes:

**Laura Grant Retires:** As many of you have heard, Laura Grant, the Executive Director of the ARS, will be stepping down at the annual meeting this year. A committee of ARS leaders has designed a new structure for the ARS with a position for an Administrative Assistant instead of an Executive Director. Details and the new person who will be taking over have not been shared with us at this time, but we want to thank Laura for her service to the ARS for the past 10 years.

**Sam Burd Retires:** ARS Treasurer, Sam Burd, has worked hard during the past two years trying to resolve serious budget deficits caused by escalating expenses and decreasing membership. In past newsletters, I shared some of our financial problems with this chapter. Sam has served on the committee to design a new structure for the ARS, and now that everything seems to be in place, he has decided to pass the torch and let a new leadership team move the ARS into the future. Budget cuts and reorganization are never easy, but we need to thank Sam for helping to take the ARS from a position of deficit spending to one of greater fiscal responsibility. Thanks, Sam!

## Happy Birthday, Gray!

Carol Segree sent me this picture of Gray Carter (center) taken during a recent birthday celebration at his home. Gray turned 95 years young on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations, Gray! You are an inspiration!!!



Photo: Lois Duffy

## District 9 ROY Awards

The Rhododendron of the Year Awards for District 9 have been announced. Three of them are species!

Elepidote: *R. hyperythrum*

Lepidote: *R. minus var. minus*

Evergreen Azalea: 'Inch'

Deciduous Azalea: *R. atlanticum*



*Williamsburg Convention: April 20- 24, 2016*

## 2016 PVC Photo Contest Winners

We thank all those who entered this year's PVC Photography Contest. The winners were chosen by popularity vote of the attendees at our January meeting. The color insert in this newsletter has pictures of the winning photographs.

Remember, we will have lots of opportunities to take pictures this year, so be sure to bring your cameras with you. We will have the convention and its wonderful gardens, and a number of other activities including field trips and tours.

**Category I: Flowers** – Close-up of flowers, such as a rhododendron truss or an azalea spray.

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Bob McWhorter** – “No Peeking”
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Don Hyatt** – “Knap Hill Hybrid”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Joanne Neckel** – “John C. White”

**Category II: Scenery** - Rhododendron or azalea plants in the landscape or in the wild.

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Don Hyatt** – “Calendulaceum at Engine Gap”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Don Hyatt** – “VanDusen Botanical Garden”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Dan Neckel** – “Delaware Valley White”

**Category III: Other** – Photographs of rhododendrons or azaleas with emphasis on something else like foliage, people, animals, creative effects, or whatever.

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Don Hyatt** “Paying Homage to BFBY”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Rosa McWhorter** – “Martha’s Vineyard Paradise”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Dan Neckel** – “Lewes Hydrangeas”

**Best in Contest: Don Hyatt** – “Calendulaceum at Engine Gap”

## Azalea Cleanup: National Arboretum

Barbara Bullock is looking for about 20 volunteers to assist with the annual cleanup of the Azalea Collection on **April 9** from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact Barbara for details:

**Barbara.Bullock@ars.usda.gov**

## Reminder... Williamsburg!!!

Some important registration deadlines for our joint ARS/ASA Convention in Williamsburg are getting close. The convention dates are April 20 – 24, but you need to register soon.

**Early Registration Deadline (\$50): March 22**  
**Regular Registration Cutoff (\$65): April 5**

Below is the link to our convention website, but you can also find details in the Winter Issue of the ARS Journal. You may also contact Don Hyatt who can email you a digital copy of that information. Since we need to finalize details with hotel, caterers, bus companies, and other vendors, the final cutoff date for all registrations is April 5.

**[www.arsasaconvention2016.org](http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org)**

Our hotel, the Fort Magruder Inn, is conveniently located near the Historic District of Williamsburg. They have given us a very favorable rate of \$119.00 a night which includes breakfast and is valid two days on either side of our event. Make room reservations directly with the hotel and give the code “ASA” to get our rate.

**[www.fortmagruderhotel.com](http://www.fortmagruderhotel.com)**

The hotel was using a third party reservation system but is terminating that contract since some staff members have told people that the hotel is full. That is wrong! There are **PLENTY OF ROOMS** available!! In fact, if we don't get at least **60 more reservations**, we may have pay for other rooms we are planning to use for banquets, meetings, and the plant sale.

You can call the regular reservations number but they have set up a special number for our convention due to repeated problems. It is not staffed 24-7 but you can call them and leave your contact information. They will call you back and handle your reservations. Here are both reservation numbers:

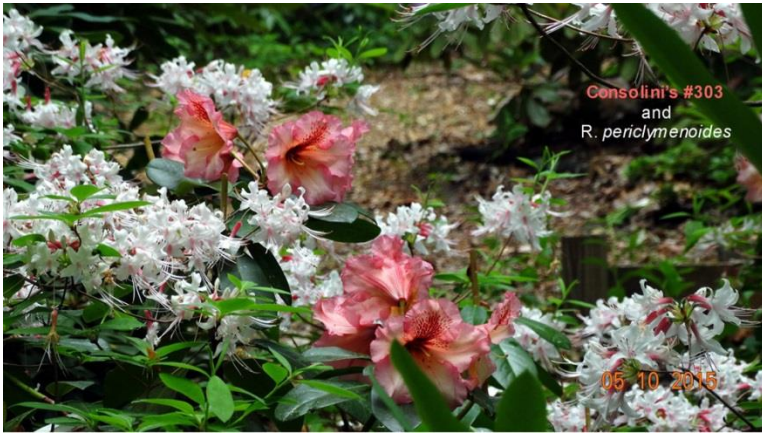
**757-220-2250** (regular reservations number)

**757-221-6916** (special ARS/ASA number)

The plant sale listing is online now, so you can check out images and descriptions of over 800 cultivars that we expect to have in the sale:

**<http://www.nv-asa.org/sale>**

We have worked hard to stage a great convention and we hope people will come to our event. So far, reservations are below what we would normally expect by this time so we hope people are just procrastinating and do plan to come to our meeting. I must admit that as co-chair, I have not registered yet myself, but I will do it this week! I am planning to go! Please join us for an exciting meeting at one of the premier vacation spots in the United States. We are throwing a party for our friends and we want as many of you there as possible.



1<sup>st</sup> Flowers: Bob McWhorter "No Peeking"



1<sup>st</sup> Flowers (tie): Don Hyatt "Knap Hill Hybrid"



2<sup>nd</sup> Flowers: Joanne Neckel "John C. White"



1<sup>st</sup> Scenery, Best in Contest: Don Hyatt  
"Calendulaceum at Engine Gap"



2<sup>nd</sup> Scenery: Don Hyatt  
"VanDusen Botanical Gardens"



3<sup>rd</sup> Scenery: Dan Neckel "Delaware Valley White"

## Potomac Valley Chapter ARS Photography Contest 2016



1<sup>st</sup> Other: Don Hyatt  
"Paying Homage to BFBY"



2<sup>nd</sup> Other: Rosa McWhorter  
"Martha's Vineyard Paradise"



3<sup>rd</sup> Other: Dan Neckel  
"Lewes Hydrangeas"

## Potomac Valley Chapter ARS - 2016 Membership Roster

### Chapter Membership Roster

This newsletter contains your chapter Membership roster. Some people have requested that we keep personal information like phone numbers and email addresses confidential so we only list the city and state where they reside. We will not post any names and addresses on our website.

**(Roster Not Printed on Web)**

### Useful Links:

**ARS Website:** [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

**ARS Store:** [www.arsstore.org](http://www.arsstore.org)

**ARS Office (online Journal):** [www.arsoffice.org](http://www.arsoffice.org)

**2106 Convention:** [www.arsasaconvention2016.org](http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org)

**Hirsutum (Image Archive):** [www.hirsutum.info](http://www.hirsutum.info)

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS - Newsletter Donald W. Hyatt, Editor Don@donaldhyatt.com
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