



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Fall Newsletter: September 2006

Calendar

- * **September 24, 2006** - Regular Meeting at the Arboretum
- * **October 28, 2006** - Fall Banquet, JR's Stockyards at Tysons
- * **January 14, 2007** - Regular Meeting at the Arboretum
- * **March 18, 2007** - Regular Meeting at the Arboretum
- * **April 12-15, 2007** - ARS Convention, San Francisco, CA
- * **April 27-29, 2007** - District IX Meeting, Richmond, VA

Chapter Officers

President: Jon Wallenmeyer

jjjp1984@mac.com

Vice-President: Bob McWhorter

mcwho@comcast.net

Secretary: *(Your name can go here!)*

(Still not filled at this time)

Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman

prittman@erols.com

Our Next Meeting: **Joe Klimavicz** “*Evergreen Azalea Hybridizing*” **September 24, 2006 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Come join us for our next meeting at the National Arboretum to hear Joe Klimavicz speak about his evergreen azalea hybridizing program. We raised a number of Joe's hybrids for the convention, and they sold out very fast. Joe has never spoken to our chapter before, but some of you may have heard him elsewhere. Even so, Joe will show us some exciting new hybrids that bloomed for him this spring. Few people have seen those treasures!

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article highlighting some of Joe's hybrids that we sold at the convention, such as the full double pink, 'Caitlin Marie', pictured to the right. It is named for his daughter, Caitlin, an avid hybridizer, too.

Rather than meeting in the main auditorium, we will be meeting downstairs in the smaller but very cozy classroom area where we met in January. We will be trying out our chapter's new digital projector, too, and if all goes well we will end the show with a short music video featuring azaleas and/or rhododendrons.

Refreshment Duty:

Persons whose last names begin with **A** through **H** are asked to bring refreshments for the table.

Directions:

The Arboretum is located in northeast Washington, D.C., off of Bladensburg Road at 24th and R St. The Arboretum website provides great directions: www.usna.usda.gov



Joe Klimavicz Hybrid: 'Caitlin Marie'

Fall Banquet: October 28, 2006 4:30 – 8:00PM **Clarence Towe - “American Azaleas”**

We are very excited to announce that Clarence Towe, author of the book American Azaleas (Timber Press, 2004), has agreed to be our banquet speaker. Clarence, a retired superintendent of schools in South Carolina, has been studying native azaleas in the wild for nearly 30 years. In addition to being an excellent author and speaker, many of his native selections are just getting into the trade. Maybe we'll have a few for the auction. Don't miss this program!

Our banquet will be held at the popular JR's Stockyards Inn at Tysons Corner. The menu will be a choice of prime rib or grilled salmon. Look for separate banquet registration details.

Chapter Photography Contest

Your chapter officers are organizing a photo contest in conjunction with our January 2007 meeting. Between now and then, look over the photos you took during the last season so you can be ready to enter some of your best. The photo to the right was taken this spring when Bob and Rosa McWhorter opened their lovely garden to visitors.

Our chapter vice-president, Bob McWhorter, has suggested the following guidelines.

Purpose:

- ?? To promote an appreciation for the beauty and diversity of rhododendrons; and
- ?? To promote interest among chapter members in photography as a fun and inexpensive means of sharing the beauty and diversity of their rhododendrons and gardens.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Digital and film camera photos may be entered.
2. Photos must have been taken 2006.
3. Photos must be naturally occurring, no props, setups or posing.
4. Photos must be taken in the member's garden or that of another chapter member with consent.
5. All photo entries must be 5" X 7" including matting and backing.
6. Photos can be matted but not required.
7. Photos must be backed with mat, foam or cardboard no thicker than ¼ inch
8. No frames or glass allowed.
9. Photo entries must be taken by chapter and associate chapter members only.
10. Name, address, picture title and category to be entered ON BACK ONLY.
11. Limit of two pictures per member per category.
12. Photos remain the property of the member and will be returned. Entry of a photo grants permission for the chapter to distribute printed versions (newsletter) or e-mail copies within the ARS.

Category I – Close up of a rhododendron (including azalea) flower or truss

Category II – Scenery – One or more rhododendrons in the landscape



The McWhorter's "Rosa Gardens"

D. Hyatt

Procedure:

The contest coordinators are:

- ?? Bob McWhorter – 410-923-6408, mcwho@comcast.net
- ?? Barry Sperling - 703-765-7062, barrysperling@ix.netcom.com

Each contest participant must submit the number of photos entered in each category to Barry Sperling. The list, which can be submitted by U.S. Mail or email, must be received no later than the date of our winter meeting at the Arboretum on **January 14, 2007**. This information will be used to facilitate display and judging at that time.

Planning Ahead: March 18, 2007

Hank Schannen to Speak

Hank Schannen is well known, surely one of the most knowledgeable and entertaining rhododendron experts in the field. We are happy to announce that he has agreed to be our March speaker, so we wanted to give you advance notice so you can mark your calendar. Maybe you can give us a few ideas for a program, too.

Hank informs us that he has on the order of 15,000 slides, and since he probably can't show all of them to us in one afternoon, he asked us what topic we'd like to hear when he speaks. If you have some thoughts, let your chapter officers know you so we can forward them to Hank for possible program ideas.

Hank owns Rare Find Nursery, one of the best on the East Coast. It is always worth a trip to New Jersey to buy in person, but you can also order online: www.rarefindnursery.com

2007 Group Order from VanVeen

In past years, our chapter has ordered year-old rhododendron liners or “Spring Yearlings” from VanVeen Nursery, a wholesale firm in Portland, Oregon. Plants usually run about \$4.00 each including postage, and arrive bare root in late March or early April.

At our picnic, we distributed a list from prior years, but we understand that VanVeen has a rather limited number of yearlings in inventory for this spring. Most of the varieties on our list were not available, so we provide below a revised list of some plants that are known to grow in our region for which they had at least 15 plants in inventory. We expect to order some of these for the chapter. Since Van Veen places orders on a first come / first serve basis, we cannot be guaranteed of availability for even those, but we hope to get some of the varieties for our plant sale at the Flower Show in May.

If you want to submit your requests for the group order, let Don Hyatt know by our next meeting on September 24, 2006.

PINK: ‘Caroline’, ‘Dexter’s Harlequin’, ‘Dexter’s Peppermint’, ‘Fantastica’, ‘Katherine Dalton’, ‘Solidarity’

RED: ‘Gigi’, ‘Grace Seabrook’, ‘Todmorden’, ‘Vulcan’

LAVENDER: ‘Blue Peter’, ‘Lavender Princess’, ‘Van Ness Sensation’

WHITE: ‘Alena’, ‘Boule de Neige’, ‘Chionoides’, ‘Ken Janek’, ‘Nestucca’, ‘Phyllis Korn’, ‘Ruth Davis’, ‘Tiana’, ‘Yaku Prince’

YELLOW/MIXED: ‘Viscy’

SPECIES: *hyperythrum*, *yakushmanum* ‘Koichiro Wada’, *yakushmanum* ‘Phetteplace’

Now that the convention is over, our chapter plans to start a “Plants for Members” program where we root cuttings of promising hybrids and species that we expect might do well but deserve wider testing. We will be selling those plants to our members at low cost so they can be grown in various gardens. We want to know how well they perform in our region. As you may have guessed, not all rhododendrons grow well here!

Until that time, we will be supplementing with young plants from commercial growers. Is your garden full yet?

Reminder! Don’t forget to pay your

ARS District 9 Meeting: April 27-29, 2007 Richmond, VA by Barbara Hall, Registrar

Free plants, gorgeous gardens, and fabulous speakers, all in a relaxing atmosphere with others who share your love of gardening! Does this sound like fun? We sure hope so! So mark the dates of April 27 – 29, 2007 on your calendar now so you won’t miss the ARS District 9 meeting in Richmond, VA, which will be hosted by the Middle Atlantic Chapter. We’re planning what we think will be a fantastic weekend and we’ve taken care of all the details for you! After arriving at the Holiday Inn Crossroads on Friday afternoon, just relax and let us handle the rest.

SPEAKERS – Rosalie Nachman’s entertaining program on shade gardening will set the tone for the week-end. Our keynote speaker on Saturday evening will be Robert E. “Buddy” Lee, developer of the “Encore” evergreen azaleas.

FREE PLANTS - The “Pot Luck Plant Swap” is based on the time honored tradition of gardeners “passing on” plants to other gardeners, **FREE OF CHARGE!** Everyone is encouraged to bring all types of desirable plants that they would like to share (not just rhodies and azaleas). They can be seedlings, rooted cuttings, divisions, or even extra plants that you just don’t have room for in your garden. While you’re working in your garden this fall, please keep the “Swap” in mind and pot up some “goodies” to share so plants can “settle into” their pots and be ready to travel to their new homes next spring. If you’re a new gardener and don’t have anything to share, do not worry. You’re still welcome to take plants home and could end up with some real treasures!

GARDEN TOURS – On Saturday, we will visit several private gardens, including the outstanding garden of long-time MAC member, Rosalie Nachman, our Friday night speaker. Then we will meet at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for a box lunch and tour. It’s been a few years since our group has been to Ginter and there have been lots of changes! On Sunday morning, directions will be provided so you can visit other local gardens “on your own” before heading home.

So please plan to join us for what promises to be a fun and relaxing week-end. Oh, and did I mention there will be **FREE PLANTS?**

The Klimavicz Azalea Hybrids - Joe Klimavicz and his daughters have been hybridizing evergreen azaleas in Vienna, VA, for over 15 years. They have developed many outstanding hybrids, most of which have large flowers, great plant habit, hardiness, and superb foliage. We rooted cuttings for the convention and they sold out rapidly. Did you get any of his new azaleas?

Photos by J. Klimavicz



'Brenda Marie' (BE-97-27)
3" single white w/ a green blotch.



'Pride of Valdosta' (LP-93-3)
2" single bright pink, black V-mark



CH-96-84
2" single ruffled white w/ lavender blush, yellow blotch, red stamens.



'Caitlin Marie' (see page 1 also)
2" double, ruffled, pink.



'Sandy Dandy'
2" single, very ruffled, yellow white with a light pink tube base.



CL-95-101
2" double white w/ pink stripes.



'Gloria Louis' (KF-98-123)
2" single, purplish pink border w/ a white center and a red blotch.

Joe also provided us cuttings of some numbered plants that he has under evaluation. He may name them eventually, but he has so many excellent new hybrids it must be very difficult to choose. Check these out!



LS-90-1
3" double white with green blotch.



'Lovely Linda'
2" single h/h, pink w/ a light center.



CH-96-72
3" semidouble white w/ lavender blush and green blotch.



LS-91-1
3" double purple.

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