



Potomac Valley Chapter

American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Newsletter: April 2010

Calendar

- * **April 24, 2010** – Flower Show, National Arboretum
- * **May 14 - 17, 2010** – ARS Convention, Long Island, NY
- * **May 18-25, 2010** – International Rhododendron Conference, Germany
- * **June 4-6, 2010** – Sandwich Club, Cape Cod, Mass
- * **June 19, 2010** – District 9 Luncheon, Tyson's Corner, VA
- * **July 18, 2010** – Chapter Picnic, Seneca Creek State Park

Chapter Officers

President: Bob McWhorter

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Vice-President: Richard Mohr

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Treasurer: Phyllis Rittman

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The Flower Show: National Arboretum

Setup: Friday, April 23 - 9 AM to 2 PM

Show: Saturday, April 24 - 9 AM to 5 PM

This will be an abbreviated newsletter so that we can provide members information about our upcoming flower show. It will be held at National Arboretum Administration Building on Saturday, April 24, the same day as the FONA Plant Sale. The Arboretum is expecting large crowds on the order of three to four thousand visitors.

We intend to do the bulk of the setup on Friday, April 23, with the show itself the next day. Because of parking restrictions for the FONA plant sale, parking near the Administration Building will be limited. Do not worry since shuttle buses will be circulating all day from.

We can enter the NA auditorium on Friday, April 23 anytime after 9 AM and must leave by 6 PM. Due to traffic problems on Friday afternoons and commitments of some of our leaders, we are going to wind things up by 2:00 PM on Friday if we can. Therefore, we encourage people to bring their entries to the Administration Building between 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM.

Show entries may be registered on Saturday morning between 7:30 and 8:45 AM, but we want to register as many entries on Friday as possible in order to avoid problems on Saturday morning. Judging will start at 9.

The NA will have 12 to 15 Handicap parking spaces in front of the Administration Building but those slots will be first come, first serve. It will be wise to come early since there are no time restrictions on these spaces.



'Cape White' – Either one is a "perfect" trusses

Saturday is a long day. Helpers should arrive by 7:30 AM and we need assistance through 5 PM. Volunteers need to arrive early and check in with the security. We will have use of the upstairs lunchroom so we ask volunteers to bring their own lunch. The chapter intends to provide drinks for volunteers. We need help to clean up at 5:00 PM.

Come for the day. We need your help! It will be a great time to see the azalea display at the Arboretum and buy some choice plants, too.

Flower Show Details:

We instituted a new approach for our Flower Show last year and it was very successful. People should bring in entries that are properly labeled by variety, put them into one of eight classes listed below. The show committee will arrange entries according to flower color and may at their discretion subdivide large categories into smaller classes so that entries can be more easily compared and judged.

Flower Show Entry Rules

1. The exhibitor must be a member of the American Rhododendron Society.
2. Only one entry of a variety may be made by any individual. There is no limit to the number of varieties that may be entered in a class.
3. Entries exhibited must be grown and wintered outdoors under ordinary garden conditions and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least six months.
4. An elepidote (large-leaf) rhododendron entry shall be a cut truss from a single terminal bud. Not all of the flower buds need to be open.
5. An azalea or lepidote (“scaly”) rhododendron entry shall be a single-stem spray not to exceed 15 inches in height and width above the container. Sprays may not be artificially constrained above the top of the container.
6. Entries should be properly groomed and conditioned. Only water may be used for cleaning leaves. Damaged leaves may be removed; trimming of leaves is not permitted.

Flower Show Classes:

Class 1: Lepidote Rhododendron Species

Small leaf “scaly” types like *R. keiskei* or *R. minus* var. *carolinianum*.

Class 2: Lepidote Rhododendron Hybrids

Small leaf “scaly” hybrids like ‘PJM’, ‘Olga Mezzit’, ‘Winbeam’ or ‘Mary Fleming’.

Class 3: Elepidote Rhododendron Species

Large leaf species like *R. metternichii*, *R. fortunei*, or *R. yakushimanum*.

Class 4: Elepidote Rhododendron Hybrids

Large leaf rhododendron hybrids like ‘Gigi’, ‘Wheatley’, ‘Taurus’, or ‘Janet Blair’.

Class 5: Deciduous Azalea Species

Deciduous azalea species like *R. austrinum*, *vaseyi*, *periclymenoides*, or *schlippenbachii*.

Class 6: Deciduous Azalea Hybrids

Deciduous azalea hybrids like ‘Gibraltar’, ‘Cecile’, ‘Rosy Lights’, or ‘Admiral Semmes.’

Class 7: Evergreen Azalea Species

Evergreen azalea species like *R. kiusianum*, *indicum*, *nakaharae*, or *stenopetalum*.

Class 8: Evergreen Azalea Hybrids

Evergreen azalea hybrids like ‘Ben Morrison’, ‘Glacier’, ‘Hino Crimson’, or ‘Dream.’

We Need Your Help!

Cleanup at the White Garden

Tuesday, April 20, 2010: 9 AM to 12 Noon



Margaret White's Garden

Now that Margaret White has passed away, her lovely 13-acre garden has been transferred to the Fairfax County Park Authority and is under their control. Mary Olien, the Director of nearby Green Spring Gardens, is coordinating access to the property now. She has asked if we could assist with cleanup after this disastrous winter.

Ms. Olien has set a cleanup date for Tuesday, April 20, from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. If there is rain on Tuesday, we'll try for Wednesday, April 21. Apparently, a number of boxwoods, azaleas and rhododendrons on the property have broken branches after this winter's heavy snow. I suspect there are lots of leaves and debris that need to be cleaned up, too. Please try to join us if you can, and bring your own tools like rakes, pruning saws, and clippers. Bring refreshments as needed, too.

This should be a great time to see the early bloom in Margaret's garden. Judging from my own garden, I suspect it will be just about peak for the early azaleas and wildflowers. It would be great to have as many of our people come out to show support for the wonderful gift that Margaret has given to our community.

Directions: From the Beltway, travel east on Rt. 50 and turn left on Annandale Road. Turn right on Holloman Road and then left on Princess Anne. Margaret's property is at the end of Princess Ann: 3301 Hawthorn, Lane, Falls Church, VA.

Ambrosia Beetles Are Active!

Bob McWhorter reports that Dr. Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist with the University of Maryland, has been alerting people that the Asian Ambrosia Beetles are active in our area right now. It is wise to repeat a warning. This tiny insect is just 2 to 3 mm long but it attacks a wide range of plants. It can easily kill large shrubs and trees.

The female beetle bores nearly perfectly round 2 mm hole into the stem or trunk of host plant, where it lays its eggs. The evidence that beetles are already boring into a tree or branch will be the presence of delicate sawdust-like structures exuding from the branch. As seen in the picture below of a deciduous azalea trunk, this “frass” is very distinctive. It is also easily broken off by winds or rain. The beetles prefer thin-barked hardwoods and branches from 1 to 2 1/2 inches in diameter.



The size of the hole is not the difficulty. The problem is that the Asian Ambrosia Beetle carries fungus that infects the host plant and becomes food for its larvae. It is that fungus that kills the host plant, not the hole.

Once inside the plant there is nothing that can be done to control the pest. There are no known systemic or other chemicals that can kill the insects once inside the plant. The recommended course of action is to cut out all infested stems and branches and burn them. Ambrosia beetles will emerge from the infested plant in about 55 days and find new host plants to infest.

Bob has demonstrated how to make a trap from 2-liter plastic bottles turned upside down. They have openings in the side and an attractant made from a smaller bottle with a wick that is filled with ethyl alcohol. In what is now the bottom of the bottle is put soapy water. The beetles are attracted to the alcohol, but then fall into the soapy water.



Dr. Gill notes that there are preventative sprays and the time to apply them to prevent females from drilling into the trees is now. In the nursery trade, he recommends bifenthrin sold under the name Onyx. Certified pest applicators can either use Onyx or permethrin, sold under several names including Astro and Permethrin E.C.

2010 Sandwich Club Meeting

The Sandwich Club Plant Auction and Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, 2010 from 10 AM until 1:00 PM at the Heritage Museums and Gardens, 67 Grove Street, Sandwich, MA. This is the former home of Charles Dexter and has a lovely landscape with mature rhododendrons.



The Dexter Display Garden at Heritage

Each year, the committee selects a number of plants on the property and they root cuttings to be sold the following year at the auction. Norman Beaudry and John Delano will post the images online later this spring. Proceeds of the auction go to help support student interns at Heritage.

In addition to the tour of the Dexter Estate and the auction of rare rhododendron varieties, a number of people in the area will have their gardens before or after the meeting. We provide a tentative listing below.

On Friday, June 4th, we plan to visit two gardens in the morning, one belonging to Henry and Barbara Wrightington in Hanson, MA, and the other of John and Donna Delano in Duxbury. On Friday afternoon, Gene and Barbara Gingras have offered to host a barbecue lunch in their garden at Norwell, MA.

On Saturday afternoon after the auction, Richard and Cathy White will open their garden to our members. It is located near Sandwich.

On Sunday, June 6th, Bob and Audrey Furman will host Sandwich Club Members in their garden near Brewster, MA, from 10:30 AM until noon. Parking is very limited at their place so people are encouraged to carpool. In the afternoon, Harold and Eveline Pilkington will have their garden at Monument Beach open to our members.

Accommodations: The Earl of Sandwich Motel

East Sandwich, MA 02537

The Earl of Sandwich Motel is holding fifteen rooms for Sandwich Club Attendees until May 1st. They are giving us their weekday rate of \$75 per night and will include a light breakfast. The Earl's contact number is 1-800-442-EARL. Mention that you are with the rhododendron group to get a reduced rate. In the event that motel is full, other popular places to stay in Sandwich include:

Country Acres Motel: 1-888-860-8650

Daniel Webster Inn: 1-508-888-3622

Contact Norman Beaudry for more information including directions to the various gardens:

beaunorm@verizon.net

District 9 Luncheon: June 19, 2010

10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Maggiano's Italian Restaurant

Tysons Corner, VA

We are still finalizing plans for our District Luncheon on Saturday, June 19, but please keep the date free. Maggiano's is well known for its excellent food, so come hungry. We will have two speakers, one of which will be Don Hyatt giving a version of his amusing talk, the "Legacy of Joe Gable." Registration forms will be sent in May.

Part of our motivation for this meeting is to pay tribute to people from our district who have left behind great legacies. Most people do not realize that greats in the rhododendron world like Joe Gable, David Leach, Fred Galle, Henry F. du Pont, and Augie Kehr all originally belonged to ARS chapters that later became District 9.

Of course, in our own Potomac Valley Chapter we have icons like George Ring as well as our recent loss of Jane Goodrich and Margaret White. Who can forget Ed Reiley and Russell Parsons from the Mason Dixon Chapter or Austin Kennell, David Sauer, and Harry Wise from the Middle Atlantic Chapter? Please be thinking about others who have made such a difference since we don't want to leave anyone out. See you in June!!

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