



# Potomac Valley Chapter American Rhododendron Society

www.arspvc.org

Winter Newsletter: January 2012

## Calendar

- \* **January 29, 2012** – Regular Meeting, Photography Contest
- \* **March 2-4, 2012** – Plant Trip to North Carolina Nurseries
- \* **March 18, 2012** – Regular Meeting – Karel Bernady, Propagation
- \* **April 28, 2012** – Annual Flower Show, Arboretum
- \* **May 4-7, 2012** – ARS/ASA Joint Convention, Asheville, NC

### Chapter Officers

**President:** Richard Mohr

rngmohr@msn.com

**Acting Vice-President:** Bob McWhorter

mcwho@comcast.net

**Treasurer:** Phyllis Rittman

prittman@erols.com

## Next Meeting: Photography Contest and Annual Share Session

**Date: Sunday, January 29, 2012**

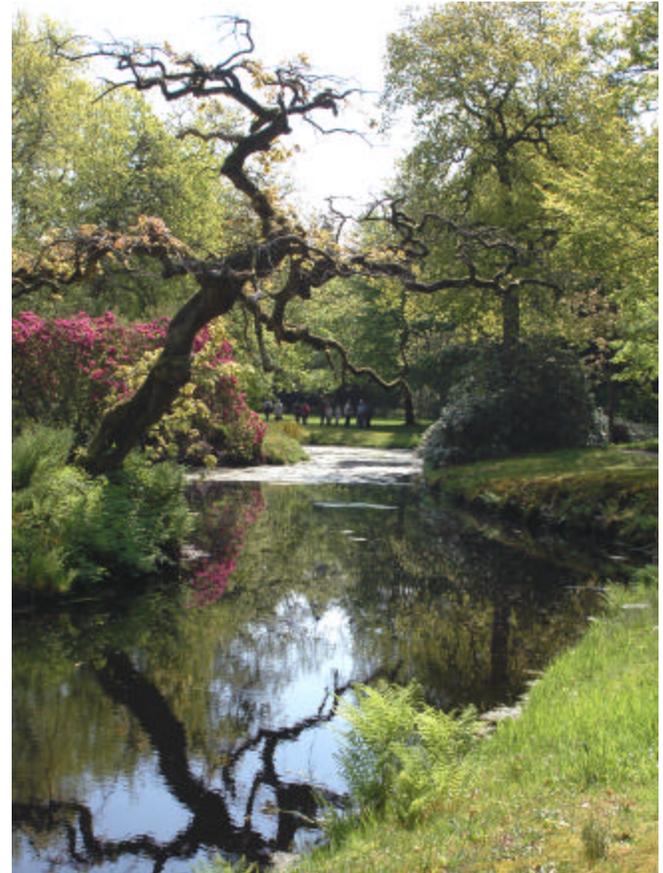
**Time: 1 – 4 PM**

**Location: Potomac Community Center**

As always, our winter meeting will feature multiple activities. We hope you took some great pictures in 2011 so you can enter them in our contest. Guidelines appear on the next page. We have three categories and people cannot enter more than two entries in any category. There is also a restriction that no individual can win more than one of the prizes. In the past, almost everyone who entered went home with a prize so please enter. The Mohrs will be out of town so Bob McWhorter will officiate.

You may have noticed in the Fall ARS Journal that our society is starting a photography contest that will be run by email. We want to encourage our members to enter this contest and we will summarize their rules elsewhere. One important note to emphasize is that photos submitted to the ARS competition must not have been entered elsewhere. However, photos submitted to their contest can be entered in ours next year.

It is always nice to learn what people have been doing, so our winter meeting has traditionally been a “Share session” where people bring in a few pictures from their garden or places they visited and tell us what they have been doing. Please bring in some digital images on a CD or memory stick to share with everyone. We do ask you to limit your presentation to no more than 5 to 10 minutes. If you want to join the share session, please let Don Hyatt or Bob McWhorter know so we can better plan the activity. Thanks!



**2011 Best in Contest: Don Hyatt**  
*Lütetsburg Castle Gardens, Germany*

**Refreshment Duty:** Persons whose last names begin with **I** through **P** are asked to bring some refreshment goodies for the table.

**Directions to the Potomac Community Center:** From **I-270 North**, stay in the **Local lanes** and take exit **#4B/ MONTROSE RD WEST**. Continue west on Montrose Rd. for **1.7 miles**.

Turn **LEFT** on **FALLS RD (MD-189)**. Continue **1.4 miles** to **11315 Falls Rd on the Left**.

## 2012 PVC Photography Contest Rules

We have established the following rules for our local chapter photography contest. Please enter!

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

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

**Category III: Other** – This category is for any photographs featuring rhododendrons or azaleas that don't seem to fit into the first two categories: pictures of foliage, creative effects, people, or whatever.

### Photography Contest Rules

1. Open to chapter members or associates only.
2. Exhibitors may not enter more than two pictures in any category.
3. Photos must have been taken in 2011.
4. Photos must be naturally occurring, no composites.
5. Photos may be matted, but no frames or glass is allowed.
6. Prints no larger than 8" x 10" including matting.
7. Photos should be backed with mat, foam or cardboard no thicker than ¼ inch.
8. Name, address, picture title and category should be entered **ON BACK ONLY**.
9. Photos remain the property of the exhibitor and will be returned, but we request permission to reproduce a copy of the winners in our newsletter.

Attendees will vote for their favorites with prizes awarded at the end of the meeting.

## North Carolina Nursery Trek: *March 2 - 4*

Once again, Joe Marsala will be coordinating our annual Nursery Trek in early March. This is becoming one of our most popular chapter activities so if you haven't been in the past, please consider joining us this year. It is always fun. We use the Comfort Inn in Garner, NC, as a base, and then buy plants at several nurseries in the area including Pine Knot Farms, Plant Delights, and Big Bloomers. It is great therapy!

### Comfort Inn – Garner

126 Cleveland Crossing Drive  
Garner, NC 27529 (919) 773-1110

The trip is very informal. We have no strict itinerary and people can join us for any part of the trip. You will need to make your own hotel reservations and some people do carpool. More details will be provided later, but let Joe know you want to participate so he can keep you informed:

**Joe Marsala: [joe-marsala@comcast.net](mailto:joe-marsala@comcast.net)**

## The New ARS Photography Contest

We thought it would be good to remind people that the ARS is having a Photography Contest, too. We want to encourage our members to enter this contest, so we summarize it here. Full details can be found in the Fall 2010 ARS Journal on page 210.

**ARS Categories:** Photos must feature rhododendrons, azaleas, or vireyas, and can be entered in one of six categories: 1) Flower, 2) Plant, 3) Landscape, 4) Foliage, 5) Rhododendrons and people or animals, 6) Other, including creative and artistic effects.

**Guidelines:** A person may not enter more than 2 entries per category. Photos must be taken between January 1, 2011 and July 31, 2012 and must not have been entered in a prior photo contest. Do not send full size digital images but scale them first to a modest size no larger than 1280 x 768 pixels. Cropping of images and minor adjustments to exposure or color balance are permitted in all categories, but composite images and use of advanced image editing features are only allowed in category 6.

**How to Enter:** Send images by email to the ARS Editor, Glenn Jamieson: [ars.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ars.editor@gmail.com)  
Entries must be received by the editor no later than midnight PST on July 31, 2012. Please include a caption or description, not to exceed 200 words and some details about the camera used and settings. Briefly describe how entries in category 6 were made.

## Karel Bernady on Grafting

March 18, 2012

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next meeting. Karel Bernady will present a new talk he is putting together on an exciting propagation method some of us witnessed in Germany in 2010. Learn how to graft and also about some the advantages of growing grafted plants that have vigorous, disease resistant root systems. We expect to meet at the National Arboretum!

## Sad News

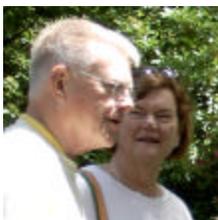
A number of our friends in nearby chapters have passed away recently. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the families of David Lay and Jane McKay of MAC, and Lou Reichart of Mason-Dixon.

## Problems with Peat

Have you been looking for peatmoss? It may be in very short supply this year and *very* expensive. Due to the abnormally wet conditions, Canadian peat harvests were less than 30% of normal. Since they supply most of the peat in the US, we may need to find alternatives.

## District Director's Report

### By Ann Mangels Fall ARS Board Meeting October 21, 2011



*Bill and Ann Mangels*

The Board of Directors meeting, sponsored by the Middle Atlantic Chapter, at its regular Fall meeting, proved to be successful as most eastern representatives were present and many of the western folks also attended. This was Don Smart's first meeting as ARS President, and from all indications we are in capable hands.

There were several announcements made initially including a reminder that there is a [new blog](#) on our website, [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org). The new feature is called "All about Rhododendrons" – check it out!

Concern has been expressed about the late delivery of the ARS Journal. If you do not receive your Journal within one month of its normal delivery time, it will be replaced free of charge. However, you must call Laura Grant at the ARS office. Delivery dates are as follows: Winter issue - March 1<sup>st</sup>, Spring issue - June 1<sup>st</sup>, Summer – September 1<sup>st</sup>, Fall issue - December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chapters need to send their annual reports to the IRS by January 15<sup>th</sup>. You will follow the same method of reporting as in the past.

Membership chairs: Please send Laura updates with emails and phone numbers of members quickly.

The By Law section on recognition awards and honors committee has been rewritten to clarify procedures for granting the ARS Pioneer Achievement Award as well as including information regarding the Citation for Service/Award of Merit. These changes were read and approved at the meeting and will be adopted at the convention in Asheville. Also, the BOD asked the Digital Publications Committee to complete the publishing of the ARS Quarterly on the web. At present, issues 1 – 35 have been archived and available through the Virginia Tech Univ. Digital Library and Archive (DLA). The site was visited by more than 110,000 people during 2009-2010, especially since Google and other search engines rank the DLA very highly. The committee requested endowment funds with support from the Endowment Fund Committee to archive volumes 36-54 (1982-2000) electronically. The award of \$2100 to the Digital Publication Committee was approved.

There was discussion concerning individual chapter's involvement with community partners. These could include co-hosting plant sales/shows; restoration of historic gardens; developing or maintaining new gardens; developing educational materials; hosting demonstrations; acting as speakers, etc. District Directors were asked to question chapters in their districts as to what type of partnership activities they are involved with. These can be formally documented arrangements or occasional partnerships. One outcome of this type of activity is attracting new members. It was suggested that an article be written in the Journal relating successes and how involvement has strengthened chapters.

I have been part of an ad hoc committee to discuss the future of holding two ARS Board meetings per year as required by the By-Laws. The financial burden is heavy on some District Directors who do not receive adequate support from their districts for travel expenses. Options including telephone voice conference calls, computer video conference calls (something like Skype) or using video network software have been considered. These options all have serious drawbacks especially when you consider a typical meeting lasts from 8:30 until 5:00 or so. The Committee/Board will continue deliberating about this in Asheville. It may necessitate a By-Law change.

The electronic edition of the JARS is still a hot topic. The Editorial Committee is studying various means of transmitting Journals to the membership. One thing is certain; the printed copy will be available to all members desiring it. Unfortunately the USPO is slow and slower, and getting more and more expensive. Laura Grant reported that the readership seems to be enjoying articles more recently which have appeal to a wider range of gardening audiences. Other topics for future articles were mentioned.

There will be Vireya brochures available at the Philadelphia Flower Show – the theme will be Hawaii.

Treasurer, Bill Mangels, brought to everyone's attention that we are continuing to draw down on our General Account reserve and are now tapping into the Endowment Fund to support operation. This past year was the first time in Bill's tenure that that has happened. The Endowment Fund at the time of the meeting stood at \$642,000.

Walter Przypek has taken over the Program Library and is receiving inventory from Pearl Fong and her son following the death of Wing Fong.

Sandra McDonald reported that two new acquisitions from Jane Goodrich and Emil and Betty Hager have been added to the Rhododendron and Azalea Manuscripts Collection at the UVA Library.

Shirley Rock, Membership Chair, needs to receive newsletters from each chapter. Her email address is: [samnjerryrock@frontier.com](mailto:samnjerryrock@frontier.com) She would like her committee to include members and volunteers from all districts.

Norm Beaudry reported a successful year with the Seed Exchange. He said that left over seed was contributed widely, including university graduate programs, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, & Rhododendron Species Foundation.

Encouraging new chapter membership has been an ongoing topic, and much time was spent brainstorming ideas. Hands on activities, field trips, gift membership to the society, plant give aways, phone trees, and general educational planting programs were all mentioned, as well as having interesting and varied programs. There are presently 67 chapters in 36 different countries around the world, and growth in membership seems to be on the upside.

It was a long day and much was discussed and voted upon. I particularly enjoyed the accommodations for the meeting and general participation of all attendees. Again, thank you for supporting my participation on the board and if there is anything I can do for you or your chapter, please let me know.

## **Bicolor Rhododendrons** by Don Hyatt

We were due for a color issue of our newsletter, so I was trying to decide what would be a good topic. I could discuss some of the plants in the seed exchange, but we didn't make many crosses this year. Instead, I thought I would try to encourage more of you to make some crosses for next year for bicolor rhododendrons.

At the International Rhododendron Conference in Bremen Germany in May of 2009, attendees were impressed with some of the hybridizing they were doing. The late Hans Hachmann was well known for his many hybrids and his son Holger seems to be continuing in his father's footsteps. As we looked at some of his new crosses, we realized he was building on many of the hybrids developed in the U.S. by noted hybridizers like Frank Fujioka and Jim Barlup.



**Bicolor Rhododendron: 'Hans Hachmann'**

We saw the plant he named for his father, 'Hans Hachmann', which is a beautiful hybrid with white flowers edged in rosy purple, and with a contrasting dark blotch. It is a hybrid of 'Midnight Mystique.'

'Midnight Mystique' is a Frank Fujioka's hybrid and has flowers with light lavender blush flowers with a deep purple edge, and dark blotch. Frank often refers to it as his "Midnight Mistake" because the plant habit is lacking. However, the hybrid seems to throw many excellent bicolors when used in other crosses.

We saw a number of seedlings at Hachmann's using 'Midnight Mystique' as one parent and most had bicolor flowers of red or purple. Undoubtedly, the show stopper was a seedling from the cross (Midnight Mystique x Midnight Beauty) which had large white flowers bordered in deep burgundy red with a yellow-green blotch. It blew us all away!

Frank Fujioka has used 'Midnight Mystique' in his own crosses, too. It was a parent of his stunning new

hybrid, 'Pomegranate Splash' which has white flowers edged in crimson, and a dark blotch in the throat. 'Midnight Mystique' does grow in our area since Richard and Ginny Mohr have had it for a number of years. We should be spreading that pollen around!

There are a number of rose red and white bicolor Dexter and Cowles hybrids. 'Consolini's Windmill' is probably the most famous, but plants that look similar include 'Xerox', 'Dexter's Harlequin', and several others. There are versions lighter pink edges like 'Taj Mahal' with its strong green blotch that turns to bronze and 'Eveline Pilkington' which has huge trusses.

Bicolors don't always have white as the background color. There are many stunning plants with a yellow or cream base color and red or pink edge. One of the eye catchers from Jim Barlup is 'Fire Rim', a yellow edged with coral that has a red center. It is from the cross (Nancy Evans x Pink Petticoats) and sadly, it is just as difficult to grow here as its parents.

I was impressed with 'Earl Murray' that I saw in Mike and Maria Stewart's nursery in Oregon this year. It has creamy yellow flowers edged in red, but the new growth is equally stunning since it is bronze with bright red bracts. It is a hybrid of cantankerous 'Lem's Cameo' which means it may be very difficult to grow.

There are many Dexter and Cowles hybrids that have more delicate coloring, often so subtle we don't even notice they are bicolors. My favorite is 'Jack Cowles' with its ruffled creamy yellow flowers blending to soft pink at the edge. 'Peach Petticoat' has similar coloration, and fades to blush. 'Orphan Annie', 'Dottie', and 'Always Admired' are much stronger.

Of course, there also are many wonderful bicolor azaleas. Let's make crosses with bicolors this year!

## **2012 ARS /ASA Convention – Asheville**

If you haven't made your reservations for the ARS/ASA Convention in Asheville and want to go, please do so soon. If you wait for details in the ARS Journal it may be too late as they can only handle 330 registrants. Details are online at:

[www.azaleas.org/convention12.html](http://www.azaleas.org/convention12.html)

## **Brookside Gardens Chapter ASA Folds**

We understand the Brookside Gardens Chapter ASA dissolved in December. Some members have aligned with other ASA chapters but if you have plant friends in need of a home, invite them to one of our meetings. Guests are always welcome.

## **Flower Show at the Arboretum**

We will be back at the Arboretum for our annual Flower Show on April 28. This is the FONA Plant Sale weekend so we will need lots of helpers.



*Hachmann's (Midnight Mystique x Midnight Beauty)*



*Fujioka's 'Midnight Mystique'* Photo: K. Bernady



*Fujioka's 'Pomegranate Splash'* (Midnight Mystique x Magenta Sky)



*Consolini's Windmill*

## Striking Bicolors

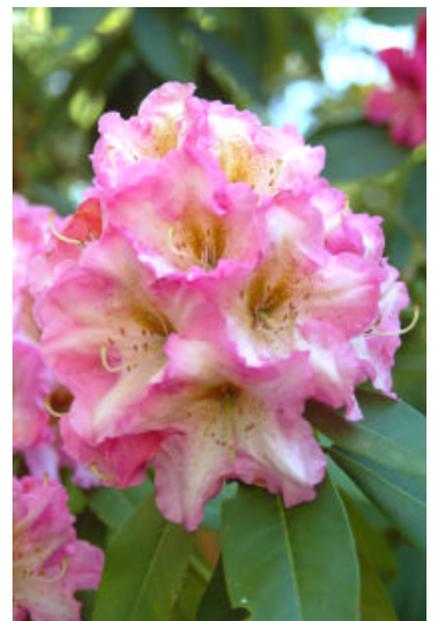
Rhododendrons with flowers bordered in another color always attract attention. Try making crosses with them this year!



*Barlup's 'Fire Rim'*



*Jack Cowles*



*Taj Mahal*



## Wallenmeyers Receive the Bronze Medal

In the picture above, Ginny Mohr looks on as President Richard Mohr presents the ARS Bronze Medal to Jon Wallenmeyer and family at the Fall Banquet. Congratulations! The official citation reads:

*The Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is pleased to award the Bronze Medal to the Wallenmeyer family: Jon, Phyllis, Jackie, and James. For many years, the Wallenmeyers have promoted the goals and activities of our organization. Jon served as Vice President and then President of the chapter, providing key leadership throughout the 2006 ARS Convention and beyond. He has served as banquet coordinator and has assisted with flower shows, plant sales, and auctions. Phyllis helped with many convention details, and has helped publicize the Potomac Valley Chapter, always encouraging her own family's support of the ARS. Jackie and James have faithfully attended our meetings since they were very young. They have joined us on many trips to see rhododendrons, acted as young ARS ambassadors at local and national meetings, and actively bid on auction plants to help raise chapter funds. The Wallenmeyers helped recruit new members and are always there to assist when needed. For these and many other reasons, the Potomac Valley Chapter wishes to honor the entire Wallenmeyer team with the highest award we can bestow, the ARS Bronze Medal.*



**Phyllis, Jackie, James, and Jon Wallenmeyer**

## The Great Azalea Planting: *Success!*

For several years, Jim Brant has been coordinating activities related to the "Great Azalea Planting". This was a cooperative venture between the ARS, the ASA, the National Forest Service, the Southern Highlands Reserve, and several other participating organizations. The goal was to replant seedlings of the the very large flowered forms of the flame azalea, *R. calendulaceum*, back into the wild on Hooper and other nearby balds.

Everything came together on the Columbus Day weekend. We had 800 native azaleas to plant, helpers from seven states and the District of Columbia. There was even a troop of Boy Scouts from nearby Robbinsville. We also had perfect weather.



Pictured in the photo above are Carolyn Beck and Barbara Bullock at one of the planting sites on Oak Knob. The first shift worked so quickly that by the time many of us got there on Saturday most of the azaleas were already in the ground. We finished planting about 100 of the seedlings on Hooper Bald and then had nothing much to do but enjoy the sunny weather and glorious fall foliage. It was perfection!

In a few years, these plants will have reached blooming size and we will all be able to appreciate the beauty. Congratulations to Jim and all who helped.

### 2012 Seed from Paul James

The rest of this newsletter is devoted to our local seed exchange, but we want to emphasize some seed from Paul James. He sent a mix from his best three-leaf Japanese deciduous azaleas including *hyuganense*, *mariesii*, *tashiroi*, *wadanum*, and *wadanum album*. These are spectacular!

He sent open pollinated seed of his most fragrant rhodo, an *R. fortunei* selection. Two other favorite plants with great potential are his beautiful (*soulei* x *Idealist*) and a stunning Kehr cross, (*catawbiense-wardii* x *vernicosum*).

This is our first offering of *R. calendulaceum* and natural hybrids he collected in the wild on nearby Cahas Mountain. Expect large flowers in red, yellow, peach, and multicolor blends. Most will have a blotch and some are almost white!

