



Potomac Valley Chapter ARS
Newsletter Email Update
April 2015

Chapter Flower Show and Plant Sale!

Annapolis Farmers Market:

Saturday, April 18, 2015 8:00 AM – Noon

On Saturday, April 18 our chapter will hold a flower show and plant sale at the Annapolis Farmers Market (Riva Rd. & Harry Truman Pkwy) from 8:00 – Noon.

This will not be a typical flower show where we award ribbons, but instead it will be more of a floral display where we try to show the diversity in the genus *Rhododendron*. We intend to have a show table displaying rhododendron trusses and azalea sprays. We encourage our members to bring flowers to the market, but please try to include bottles for display. Label each one with the proper variety name. We will be asking visitors to vote on their favorites.

We realize that it is early for peak bloom of our rhododendrons and azaleas, but this will be a great time to show off some of the early blooming varieties we rarely have a chance to see. The blood red trusses of 'Taurus' are expanding now and the pink species, *R. degronianum* ssp. *heptamerum*, (*R. metternichii*) may be in bloom. There should be some early blooming azaleas like pink 'Dayspring' or bicolor 'Festive', and some of the small leaf lepidote rhododendrons like the dwarf yellow Japanese species, *R. keiskei*, and the bright pink 'Olga Mezzit'.

This activity is primarily a chance to educate the public about the many fine rhododendrons we grow in our region. We intend to have information on culture available and will try to answer questions from the public. We do have some plants that we intend to sell that day including a number of deciduous azaleas. Please join us!

Directions from the Washington Beltway: Take route 50 east to the Aris Allen Parkway (rt. 655). Exit and proceed to the Riva Road turnoff. Turn right; proceed to second light Harry Truman Parkway); turn right and you will see the shelter of the Farmers Market on your left. Park your cars and look for our table.

Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market
275 Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401
<http://aacofarmersmarket.com/>

Open Gardens in Maryland: Saturday, April 18, 2015 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM

After the Farmer's Market, two nearby Maryland gardens belonging to those helping to stage the Annapolis event that day will be open for visitation. Spring is late and their big display may not happen until later in the season, but we had to shift dates due to a conflict after the Middle Atlantic Chapter changed dates for their meeting in Raleigh-Durham which many of us expect to attend. Our Maryland gardens should have early things in bloom, though, and we haven't seen them at that time of year.

We will first convene at Carol Segree's garden from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Then we will go to Bob and Rosa McWhorter's garden afterwards from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Those of us working at the Farmer's Market will grab lunch before we go to Carol's place since it is only 10 to 15 minutes from the Farmer's Market. Bob and Rosa's garden is about 15 to 20 minutes away from Carol's garden. Addresses below:

Carol Segree Garden
Time: 12:30 to 2:30 PM
(csegree@msn.com)



Rhododendron keiskei



'Taurus'

Bob and Rosa McWhorter Garden

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

(mcwho@comcast.net)

Pennsylvania Nursery Trek

April 22. Some may be going on April 16 instead

We planned a one day trip to some excellent nurseries in Pennsylvania for April 22. Unfortunately, for many of those who also expect to attend the Middle Atlantic Chapter ARS meeting on April 24-26 in Raleigh-Durham, we will be unable to go this year and are considering going on April 16 instead. You can certainly visit these places on your own, but below are the locations and approximate times we expect to be at various nurseries. We will try to follow the same general schedule for each date. If you are interested in going with a group, please let Don Hyatt know.

Groff's Plant Farm (9:30 – 11:30 AM)

6128 Street Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536

717-529-3001

This nursery has a wide selection of annuals, perennials, wildflowers, hostas, and shrubs. They arrange plants by sun or shade requirements. Please note that they do not take credit cards so you must pay by check or cash.

<http://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

This nursery seems to specialize on trees and shrubs. They have had a good selection of conifers in the past as well as perennials at inexpensive prices including tree peonies! They also carried some of the intersectional herbaceous peonies developed by Dr. Itoh like the magnificent yellow 'Bartzella'. Note that they are 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

This nursery has a huge selection of bedding plants, house plants, vegetable starts, and various other flowers and perennials. Sizes range from market packs to gallon size and prices are excellent.

More Nursery Options

For those traveling to the Middle Atlantic Chapter meeting in Raleigh-Durham the weekend of April 24-26, this is a "heads up" that some of us are heading down there early and plan and plan to spend Thursday night in Garner, NC. Since we had to cancel the North Carolina



Typical Nursery Trip Haul



Virginia Bluebells



Tree Peony



Rex Begonias and Yucca 'Color Guard'

Nursery Trek in March due to snow, we are going one day early so we have time to visit a few nurseries we missed. We will be staying at the Comfort Inn in Garner, NC, on April 23 and visiting Big Bloomers Flower Farm on Friday morning, and then tour Tony Avent's Plant Delights Nursery in the afternoon before going to the MAC meeting. Plant Delights will not sell directly from the greenhouses as they do during regular open houses, but we can order plants in advance and pick them up. Feel free to join us.

Comfort Inn – Garner
126 Cleveland Crossing Drive, Garner, NC 27529
(919) 773 – 1110

Big Bloomers Flower Farm
275 Pressly Foushee Road, Sanford, NC
www.bigbloomersflowerfarm.com

Plant Delights Nursery
9241 Sauls Road, Raleigh, NC 27603
www.plantdelights.com



Peony 'Bartzella'

Jim Gears – Pennsbury Gardens Open House:
April 17-18 and May 8-9

Associate member Jim Gears is holding his spring open houses on April 17-18 and May 8-9 this year. The hours will be 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day. He carries a number of wonderful wildflowers including many Trillium species, Bird's Foot Violets, ferns, native azalea species and hybrids, rhododendrons, evergreen azaleas and other treasures you will not likely find elsewhere. He is only open twice a year but you can also call to make an appointment to visit at other times. He is located near Longwood Gardens.

Jim Gears, Pennsbury Gardens, LLC
West Chester, PA 19382
jdgers@verizon.net

Multi-Chapter Picnic and Plant Sale at White's Nursery: Sunday, May 17, 1-4 PM

The Mason-Dixon Chapter ARS and White's Nursery are having a picnic at the nursery the afternoon of May 17. They are inviting a number of nearby chapters to join them. Bring your own picnic basket, but chapters are encouraged to bring plants to sell as well. They have built a lovely new house on the property where Mike White's grandfather, George Harding, used to live. George Harding was considered by many to be one of the most knowledgeable azalea experts in the Washington, DC, area. Mike and Deb are now expanding the nursery and they have multiple greenhouses with choice azaleas of all sizes. Come join us for a great afternoon with friends and flowers. The nursery is open regularly on Saturdays now. Please RSVP to Deb White if you can make it: whiteaz@verizon.net

White's Nursery, Germantown, Maryland 20876
whiteaz@verizon.net

Cape Cod Trip: May 25 - 29

We understand that the snow is melting in Massachusetts and we are finalizing plans for the Cape Cod trip this year. If you are interested, please let Norman Beaudry know by May 1 if you plan to join us. Some of the activities we are considering will have limits with respect to numbers who can attend. We plan to travel to the Cape on Memorial Day, May 25, and return on May 29. For three days we will be visiting gardens in the area. Contact:

Norm Beaudry: BeauNorm@verizon.net

Potomac Valley Chapter ARS
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