

Chapter News

Alabamense Chapter

The Alabamense Chapter was invited by the Blanche Dean Chapter of the Alabama Wildflower Society to join them on a visit of a large population of Alabama azaleas, *Rhododendron alabamense*.



Patrick Thompson

The trip was timed perfectly. On April 25th we saw and smelled hundreds of plants in full bloom in the Talladega National Forest. Most of the plants were on a single large slope. They were growing with tulip poplars, red oaks,

and deciduous umbrella magnolias, but the shrub layer was almost entirely Alabama azaleas! We were able to see the great variety in color and form. We encountered shades of pink, split petal forms, and even a yellow individual among many of the standard white flowered form with a yellow blotch.

Ben Morrison

The annual cutting picnic was held July 12 at the home and garden of **Joe Miller** in California, Maryland.

The Potomac Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society invited chapter members to join them at their meetings and other functions without requiring an ARS membership.

We had our chapter picnic on July 13th at Seneca State Park, Fawn Pavilion.

Central Carolinas Chapter

Don Hyatt gave a presentation on *America's Treasure: Our Native Azaleas* to the chapter members and guests at the UNCC Botanical Gardens on March 2. Over 70 people were in attendance and 10 new members joined. One hundred native azalea quarts were sold at the plant sale done in conjunction with the presentation.

The Chapter held its first ever public plant sale at the Charlotte Regional Farmers Market on April 26. It was a huge success, thanks to chapter members who volunteered for the sale and because of azaleas that were donated by the Northern Virginia and Vaseyi Chapters. **Larry Mellichamp**, chapter member and Director of the UNCC Botanical Gardens, gave a presentation on pollinating azaleas on May 25. There was also a brief intro on how to take a cutting. On July 27 was our cutting exchange. Chapter members Sandy **Yakob** and **Danny Little** gave a presentation on how to grow azaleas from cuttings.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Our chapter got together with the Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS on March 16 to hear *The Garden in Winter* by George McLellan. We visited members' gardens on May 4 and 10, and participated in the annual Green Spring Gardens Plant Sale on May 17. The annual cutting exchange was at the home of **Paul** and **Carolyn Beck** on July 20.

We're using our Facebook page to bring more attention to our chapter and gain more members.

The Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS has invited our members to attend their September 7 meeting with speaker Karen Rexrode discussing Plant Explorers. Our annual Public Azalea Sale and Auction will be September 20 in Springfield, Virginia. On October 11 **Harold Greer** will speak at a joint dinner meeting with ARS.

Plans for the joint 2016 ASA-ARS Convention continue to take shape. We are in the process of finalizing the gardens to be visited as well as the speakers. Legacy Hybridizers will be featured (along with other special azaleas). **Carolyn Beck** has volunteered to coordinate the chapter efforts in identifying, propagating and raising 2000 azaleas for the convention.

On a national level, **Paul Beck** and **Rick Bauer** were both elected Directors for 2014-2016. **Dave Banks** took over webmaster duties from **Bob Stelloh**. **Paul**, **Dave** and **Barry Sperling** join **Dan Krabill**, **Leslie Nanney** and **Lars Larson** on the Board of Directors. Paul is also working, in coordination with Dave, to put the ASA membership roster online under password control.

Rev. John Drayton Chapter

This winter and spring were focused on plans for hosting the 2014 ASA Convention, which included many details and volunteer hours. The chapter had a booth at the Carolina Yard School on March 22 to sell azaleas and promote chapter membership and the ASA Convention and enjoyed a picnic and auction at the Magnolia Pavilion on May 31.

Vaseyi Chapter

Rick Bauer from Yorktown, Virginia, spoke about the Legacy Project at the March 23 meeting. Several private and public gardens have devoted space to plant a garden dedicated to a particular hybridizer to make those plants available at plant sales and perpetuate unique plants that have not been marketed by large scale nurseries. Locally, in Hendersonville, North Carolina, the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society has planted a garden of Augie Kehr hybrids. Several Vaseyi members are interested in creating gardens to highlight more of our local hybridizers.