

1993 Convention and Annual Meeting

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Dallas, Texas

The 1993 ASA Convention and Annual Meeting will be held April 1-3 at the Doubletree Inn Campbell Centre in Dallas, Texas. The Doubletree Inn, located on the southeast corner of Highway 75 and Loop 12, is centrally located to shopping, restaurants, entertainment and fine gardens in north Dallas. It is an intimately sized hotel which will give national convention delegates a sense of group.

Tours on Friday and Saturday will celebrate the landscape architecture of Naud Burnett II. Mr. Burnett uses azaleas often in his projects. Delegates will be treated to formal and informal residential gardens, public and private gardens, and urban and rural sites.

Speakers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings will include Jeff Beasley of Transplant Nursery, Pete Girard, Jr. of Girard Nurseries, and Fred Galle, noted author and azalea expert.

Registration and plant sales will be Thursday afternoon and evening. Following the dinner hour, an introduction to the tours will be presented by Naud Burnett. Friday morning and afternoon will feature a sensual feast of planting design in exceptional urban gardens. Lunch will be served at the Dallas Arboretum overlooking White Rock Lake. Following dinner which is not a scheduled event, speakers Friday evening will be Pete Girard addressing the Girard evergreen azaleas and Jeff Beasley discussing native deciduous azaleas. Saturday morning and afternoon, delegates will experience a twenty-five-acre country estate with six acres devoted to 850 varieties of azaleas. Lunch will be served near the estate. Saturday's banquet will be at the Doubletree Inn with Fred Galle as keynote speaker.

On Friday morning the group will tour gardens constructed in the fall of 1990 which surround a French style home and guest house. Baroque cast iron sculptures made in Paris, France, in 1897 by sculptor J. J. Ducler-Fils are prominent. Planters on the entry terrace are carved in Indiana limestone by sculptor Michael Cunningham. Inside the gates are two elaborate wooden arched arbors to focus the eye on a fountain between the arbors and a distant view of a raised planter with another sculpture. The arbors are detailed based on one at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. The gardens are surrounded by beds of mid-season azaleas in pink shades. Clipped hedges of boxwood surround the gardens in front of the azaleas. Carved stone pedestals have been installed at intervals in the boxwood hedges to aid the gardeners in pruning the hedges to exact heights and widths. All exposed surfaces have been carved in a botanical motif. The pool area is enclosed in tree Savannah hollies. The pool and spa were finished in a grey-green marble dust finish and slate green tile to complement the Pennsylvania blue-green sandstone terraces and walks. Seasonal color throughout the gardens is changed twice a year using mixed flowers around the sculptures. In the fall, pansies and bulbs are planted and replaced in the spring with red leaf "Cocktail Series" begonias, strap-leaf caladiums and impatiens.

The second tour on Friday will be the gardens of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society (DABS) where lunch will be

served. DABS is the site of a 6.5-acre planting of over 2,400 varieties of azaleas. Designed by Naud Burnett and Partners at a cost of three million dollars, the gardens were dedicated in the spring of 1990. The raised azalea planting beds consist of 60% finely milled pine bark and 40% coarse Canadian peat moss with 1-1/2 pounds of Micromax fertilizer per cubic yard. A fertilizer injector and acid injector were installed with the irrigation systems to provide nutrition and adjusted water pH to the plants. The annual budget for seasonal color is \$400,000. A fog system in the fern dell provides mood and a theatrical flair. The borders of perennial phlox are stunning. Within the azalea beds and fern dell are collections of all varieties possible of crape myrtle trees, redbud, dogwood, hardy fern and ajuga with hundreds of species of other shade and sun loving plants.

