

Ben Morrison Chapter

Sue Switzer, *President*

A meeting of the Ben Morrison Chapter was held September 27, 1992 at the Calvert County Tourist Information Center. Barbara Bullock, Curator of Azaleas at the U.S. National Arboretum led a great discussion on "Labelling-Problems and Answers".

Officers for 1992-1993 were elected as follows:

President: Sue Switzer

Vice President: Dale Flowers

Secretary: June Thomas

Treasurer: Sewell "Deac" Moore

The next meeting will be the annual Christmas Party to be held at the home of Bobbie and Alan Jones December 20. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Bill Johnson, *President*

Our speaker at the October 7 meeting was Bill Miller, who lead us in a round table discussion on diseases and pests of Azaleas for this area. Bill had a number of slides illustrating some of the most common problems in the garden. The slides were not all pretty but were wonderful in helping us identify problems in our gardens. Some members brought in samples of damaged plants which were examined and identified. Carol Allen was appointed chairperson of the nominating committee for election of officers. Denise Stelloh agreed to chair the Flower Show at Landon and we all owe her many thanks for a job that requires organizational skills and many hours of time. Bob Stelloh provided us with a status report on the progress at the George Harding Azalea Garden.

Our December meeting was held at the Potomac Library at 7:30PM on Monday December 7. Jim Plyler was

our speaker. He is the owner of Natural Landscapes in West Grove, Pennsylvania. Natural Landscapes is a nursery that propagates and grows native plants for wholesale distribution. Jim has been studying and growing native plants for the past 13 years and is an active supporter of the conservation of native flora. Jim shared some of his knowledge on collecting native Azaleas.

Mark your calendars for the next three meetings at 7:30PM at the Potomac Library: February 1, April 5, and June 7. □

Oconee Chapter

Jim Thornton, *President*

The Oconee Chapter met May 31 at Mrs. Estelle Ledbetter's estate. Allison Fuqua discussed proper azalea pruning techniques, and Jim Thornton presented a few azalea companion plants such as ground covers and *Acer palmatum* trees.

After a short break, members joined together for some real "hands-on" pruning work on some of Mrs. Ledbetter's Southern Indica azaleas, including specimens of the variety 'Formosa', which had been around her place for nearly 40 years. (Evidently this is a strain more hardy for this area than today's plants.)

On July 11, the Chapter met at Fran and Allison Fuqua's home and gardens to hear James Harris on azalea propagation from cuttings. James gave an actual demonstration and led a discussion on use of the "Nearing propagation frame." In addition, the Chapter had its first swap and sale meeting. Although many members brought cuttings, a surprise visit by Hugh Caldwell (from Doctor's Inlet, FL) bearing bags of Glenn Dale cuttings created quite a rush on the cutting table.

Our last meeting for 1992 was held on October 25 to elect the Chapter's 1993 officers. Jim Thornton continues as president; Tom Anderson is our new vice-president; Pheleta Hambrick is our new secretary, and Fred Vick continues as treasurer. Jimmy Hambrick continues as editor of our newsletter. We want to thank Monty Laster, our out-going vice-president, and Cindy Dial, our out-going secretary, for their excellent work during 1992.

The meeting concluded with a superb slide presentation conducted by Ralph Bullock. Ralph brought some beautiful slides taken on his family's trip to the Azalea Society of America's convention.

The Oconee Chapter closes out 1992 with 80 members (not bad for one year, huh?), and looks forward to 1993 and continued growth. □

Addition to Azalea Book List

Title: *"Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas"*

Author: H. Edward Reily

Publisher: Timber Press, Inc.

Date: 1992 □

In Memory

Azalea Society of America, Northern Virginia Chapter member Mr. Clyde M. Stewart, 77, a retired Veterans Administration statistician, died November 8, 1992. Mr. Stewart who lived in Annandale, Virginia, was born in Milam County, Texas and moved to the Washington area in the 1930s. He graduated from American University. Mr. Stewart was an enthusiastic gardener, a former president of the National Capitol Dahlia Society, member of the American Rhododendron Society and a consultant to the U.S. National Arboretum. □