
1994 Azalea Society of America Annual Meeting and Convention

Ann Watts

Richmond, VA



Left: Nachman garden

Right: April in Virginia.
Scenes from the Watts' garden



The 1994 ASA Annual Meeting and Convention will be held April 28-30, at the Sheraton Park South in Richmond, Virginia. Richmond will have just concluded "Garden Week in Virginia", which is scheduled when the azaleas and dogwoods are spectacular. During the convention we have planned tours to show you some of the best historical gardens in Richmond. Of equal interest will be your visit to three gardens of our members which show how we can develop our own style and design of gardens using many plant materials and natural surroundings. Our Saturday night banquet speaker, Mr. Frank L. Robinson, Executive Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden of Richmond, will inform us on "Azaleas in the Japanese Gardens". Mr. Robinson is recognized nationally as an expert on Japanese culture and Japanese gardens.

The Sheraton Park South is about ten miles southwest of downtown Richmond. It is close to major traffic arteries, shopping, restaurants and the Chesterfield Towne Center. Convention registration and the hospitality room will open Thursday afternoon at 4:00PM. Thursday evening you will be free to dine and visit with friends.

Early Friday morning caravan tours will be provided to gardens surrounding two old historical homes. The Virginia Home, an ancient priory from Warwick, England, built in 1125, was rebuilt in Richmond in Windsor Farms in 1925. The gardens at Virginia House are formal gardens, terraced gardens, water and wild flower gardens. Almost all flowers native to this area are cultivated there. Its next-door neighbor is pre-Elizabethan Manor House, Agecroft, brought from Lancashire, England, and reconstructed on a large estate with beautiful sloping grounds stretching to the north bank of the James River. Its setting gives expansive landscaped views but also extensive English gardens around the manor.

Friday afternoon we will have short slide presentations showing new Kurumes, Greenwoods, Satsuki hybrids, Dewey Garretts and Polly Hills. During our social hour on Friday, the plant auction will be held. Time that evening will be scheduled for early entries to be entered into the flower show to be held on Saturday.

Friday evening's program will be presented by three members of the Richmond Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Nancy Swell will speak on hardy ferns and how ferns beautify and add interest and texture to azalea gardens. You will have a chance on Saturday to visit Nancy's home and to see the many ferns she has incorporated into her gardens. Nancy is a past president of the Richmond Chapter. Nancy and her husband, Leon, have opened a nursery which specializes in azaleas, ferns and hostas.

Rosalie Nachman, one of our at-large Directors of the ASA and a contributing writer to *THE AZALEAN*, will enlighten us on shade gardens. Her own garden, which she has developed over the years, is a show place for tours in Richmond. Rosalie is a master of creative Japanese gardening. With her small compact garden, she has been able to introduce most every plant available in just the right size and bright color to leave the viewer with a sense of awe and peace.

George K. McClellan, past president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society, will talk on the use of bulbs in landscape plantings. George has spent years on his gardens in Gloucester, Virginia, and is an authority on bulbs and their special care and treatment.

Saturday will be a full day with tours of four gardens in the morning: Swells, Nachmans, Tiemes and the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, where we will have lunch. In the afternoon before the social hour and annual banquet we will have the viewing of our flower show.

Two of our gardens on the tour are medium-size gardens in suburban settings. These gardens use every available square foot to display all the shade plants known to survive in our area. These are the Nachman and Swell gardens in the west end of Richmond. Driving further

west we will visit the Tieme's garden located on an acre of secluded woodland. This garden was started in 1960 with the purpose to preserve the natural environment. Its main features are native stones and plants displayed under a canopy of tall trees. Gus Tieme has built a terraced stone waterfall with a stream descending into a lovely pond and pond house.

Springtime would not be complete without a visit to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The garden's mission is one of horticultural displays, public education and botanical research. You will appreciate the identification labels on each plant in the garden. While there you will visit the Henry M. Flagler Perennial Garden with over 12,000 plants and 655 different cultivars; the Grace Arents Garden, a traditional geometric garden featuring colorful plantings surrounded by low boxwood and the Lora Robins Teahouse which overlooks the central lake. You will cherish the lunch hour on the lawn of the Bloemendaal House, a restored Victorian country estate decorated with a collection of period furniture.

The ASA annual banquet will be at the Sheraton Saturday at 7:00PM. We are pleased that our new Executive Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Frank Robinson, will share with us his knowledge of landscape and garden design. Frank Robinson is the former Executive Director of the American Horticultural Society. His degree in Japanese studies and his year in a Japanese university well prepare him for his address: "Azaleas in Japanese Gardens".

We look forward to your visit in April. Please find included with THE AZALEAN a registration form and a schedule of events. Please return your registration form and check by March 15, 1994, to Dorothy W. Robinson, Convention Registrar, 4424 Shoremeade Road, Richmond, VA 23234 (PHONE: (804) 271-1013).

Ann Watts is a native of Virginia. She is a graduate of Lynchburg College, and she has a Master's degree in education from the University of Kentucky. She is active in The Presbyterian Church USA. □

Report of the Nominating Committee

Robert Stelloh
Darnstown, MD

The positions which are open for the 1994 election are Secretary, Treasurer, and three At-Large Directors, each to serve for a two-year term starting with the 1994 Annual Convention. The nominees were selected by the nominating committee based on their knowledge, enthusiasm, experience, and sociability, as well as, their geographical location, and their willingness to use their capabilities to serve the Azalea Society.

For Secretary:

Bill McIntosh, *Churchville, Maryland*

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Bill earned a B.S. from Virginia Tech and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, all in biology. He worked as an Associate Professor of Zoology at Ohio State University, and retired in 1986 after 24 years as a statistician for the U.S. Department of Defense. With an interest in horticulture and gardening most of his life, he became a very active member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society when he retired, and recently served the national society as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Bill has held a variety of positions in other organizations, including President of the Harford County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, President of his community association, and Chairman of his community Neighborhood Watch Program.

For Treasurer:

Glenn Taylor, *Lt. Colonel, USMC Ret., Springfield Virginia*

Glenn has served as your treasurer since 1984, and is also a charter member and long-time President of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society. Glenn is well known to many members, having served the needs of the membership for many years.

For At-Large Director:

Jack Beith, *Carriere, Mississippi*

As the son of Janet Rhea and the nephew of Al Reid, Jack worked in Al Reid's nursery, and quite literally grew up with azaleas. After serving 22 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, he retired in 1980 as a Chief Warrant Officer. Jack is within a few credit hours of earning his A.A. in Horticulture from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and recently passed the state examinations to become a Certified Horticulturist and Licensed Landscaper in Mississippi. He has been the proprietor since 1986 of Linwood Acres Nursery, which recently became a member of the Southern Quality Growers cooperative. He is a long-time member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA, and has served as their Secretary. Jack is also a member of the Mississippi Nurseryman's Association and President of their Pearl River County Chapter.

James A. 'Tony' Dove, *New Bern, North Carolina*

Tony has a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Maryland. After a tour with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he designed and developed the gardens at London Town Publik House and Gardens in Annapolis. He has been a consultant to the Keeper of the Royal Gardens of Windsor Great Park, Windsor, England, and he is a popular speaker on horticulture. Tony is currently working as the Branch Head, Horticultural Services for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Tryon Palace Restoration in New Bern. He is a long-time member of the Ben Morrison Chapter, and has experience at the national level, having served both as a Director and as President of the Azalea Society.

Carol Allen, *Germantown, Maryland*

Carol studied biology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute for a time, and has been an avid amateur horticulturist for the past 30 years. Six years ago she founded Poplar Hill Design, a landscape design and installation company specializing in gardens featuring azaleas and native plants. For the past five years, Carol has been an active member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the Azalea Society, and has been a board member of the National Capitol Orchid Society. She is also a founding member and a board member of the Maryland Native Plant Society for the past two years. □