

Ben Morrison Chapter
Dale Flowers, *President*

Our last meeting was held at the Dunkirk Library and Information Center on September 19, 1993. Bob Hobbs gave a very nice slide presentation of the convention in Dallas this year.

Lots of thanks to our members who were willing to cover an Azalea Society table at the Homestead Gardens Center on the weekends of October 1-2 and 9-10. Bobbie & Allen Jones, Bob & Bee Hobbs, Margaret Church, June Thomas from our own chapter and Bill Miller from the Brookside Gardens Chapter contributed lots of time and effort to promote membership in our society. Thanks again.

The next meeting will be our annual Christmas Party to be held December 12, 1993 at 2:00PM at the home of Dale and Carol Flowers. □

Brookside Chapter
Bill Johnson, *President*

The July 31 meeting was on one of the few nice days in July. We were treated to a very informal cook-out at Debby Emory's garden. Debby has one of those very comfortable stroll-type gardens that both young and old can enjoy. We were all impressed with the large Koi in the spring-fed pond. Of course, the garden is filled with azaleas but the range of companion plants creates interest in other seasons. Debby makes use of the borrowed landscape by planting into the woodland park that joins her property.

The plant exchange was lots of fun with people getting rid of things they had too much of and leaving with some new additions for their gardens. About 50 plants were exchanged by lottery.

Carol Allen presented plans for the Ryon Page Memorial project at Parklawn Cemetery. Her plans were approved by the membership and we are committed to implementing hopefully this autumn. We will be receiving a number of Satsuki azaleas from McCrillis Gardens that Ryon Page actually helped propagate. Carol Allen has been active in soliciting labor

from the Silver Spring Garden Club and contributions from other chapter members. For further information or to volunteer your support, contact Carol at (301) 258-0313.

On a sad note, Denise Stelloh will be passing the torch as chairperson for the flower show at the Landon Azalea Festival. Denise has been doing a superlative job in this position for ten years. Although Denise will be a tough act to follow, it is now time for another member to rise to the occasion—however, given the growth in the Festival, the job may require two members.

The auction held in the auditorium of the National Arboretum on September 12 was once again very successful with over \$1,000.00 raised. At the next meeting we will vote on the amount to be shared with Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA). The money we give to FONA will benefit the azalea collection at the Arboretum. A special thanks to all who donated plants for a job well done. Even with fewer plants this year, our auctioneer, Bill Miller, did an excellent job getting the best prices. In addition to the auction, we also had a raffle which gave the small investors who were frequently outbid a chance to participate. Jean Cox and Mary Rutley were great at the information table answering questions, selling raffle tickets, collecting the proceeds and signing up three new members. We must also single out Barbara Bullock who worked very hard with the set-up, organization, and making sure everything was labeled. And thanks to all who helped with the refreshment table—VERY tasty.

At the October 18 meeting, Carol Ottesen was the speaker. Carol is a garden writer who lives and gardens in Potomac, Maryland. Carol has authored and co-authored several popular garden books; her latest project, a calendar, is in the bookstores now. She did all the photography for the 1994 Mid-Atlantic Gardening Calendar published by Starwood Press. "Twenty Companions for the Azalea Garden" was the topic of the meeting. □

Dallas Chapter
Stephen Brainerd, *President*

In October, the Dallas Chapter was treated to a presentation on the Exbury Gardens in England. Peggy Kirkland provided the attendees with some incredible historical facts and a memorable pictorial tour with help from slides loaned by the Garden staff for this specific presentation. Her photography and the garden slides were absolutely beautiful. The presentation was so well received that an encore is obviously indicated.

The chapter elected a new slate of officers for 1994. They are:

President: Steve Brainerd
Vice President: Jim Garrison
Secretary: Cathy Garrison
Treasurer: Keith Johansson

A special commendation is extended to Ronnie Brown for carrying the mantle of secretary for the four years of the chapter's existence. Ronnie's contributions, particularly during the National Convention, were outstanding.

The next chapter meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Tuesday, February 22, 1994 at the Highland Park Town Hall. Naud Burnett will give a presentation on companion plants for azaleas. □

Oconee Chapter
Jim Thornton, *President*

The Oconee Chapter of the ASA met at 9:00AM at Ben Reid's Azalea Farm for our cuttings and swap session on July 10, 1993. Seventeen members were present, and as of July 10 we had a membership of 89.

Chapter librarian Cilla Cartwright and her husband are in the process of placing our library materials in their computer. Hopefully, our library will be available for use soon.

Ben Reid presented the program. The first part of the program, Ben gave explanations and answered questions on how to propagate azaleas from cuttings. The second part consisted of swapping cuttings given by Ben Reid, Allison Fuqua, Ralph Bullard and Jim Thornton. These

were in plastic baggies and labelled. Jim Thornton furnished additional baggies for members' use. He explained that you should take at least three cuttings of each variety, put them in the bags and keep them in a refrigerator until planted. Rooting powder, supplied free-of-charge by the chapter, and Captan were also available. (Captan should be mixed one tablespoon to one gallon of water. This is a fungicide and helps prevent damp-off.)

At the beginning of his presentation, Ben gave some information about the farm he and his wife Linda share. Although they have had the land for about 20 years, they did not move there until about ten years ago. Their azalea farm is more of a hobby than a business and consists of 1,360 different varieties, in addition to their blueberries and four goats. Ben said he discovered by accident that goats will not eat azaleas. Deer are another story! (See June 1993 issue of THE AZALEAN.)

Their farm is on a computerized watering system and waters three days a week, twice a day—at 12 noon and 12 midnight—easily watering while Ben and Linda sleep. Ben feels keeping azaleas wet produces prettier flowers and he uses a whirly-bird type, screw-on sprinkler or mister for best results. Also, contrary to some beliefs, Ben said azaleas will grow in the sun. He showed one area of azaleas which had morning shade only.

To root his azaleas, he prepares the medium by mixing six parts pine bark mulch, three parts peat moss and one part sand. He suggests using a flat which holds 30 small containers. After preparing the medium and placing it in the containers, water completely 24 hours prior to placing cuttings in the well soaked containers. Ben stated he preferred the peat moss in the mixture because it produced good root systems and he liked his plants to be root bound when he replanted them. He said to allow approximately six weeks for rooting, remembering to keep misting and water the cuttings. During the six-week period, Ben said he takes the cutting out to see if a root ball is forming and then easily returns it to the container. He does not strip the

cutting prior to planting, nor does he use rooting hormones.

Mr. Reid does not prune any of his plants after mid-June, and then clips his cuttings for rooting about July 1. For his older, larger plants, he uses Sierra Blend 18-7-10 fertilizer. Another fertilizer commonly used is Osmocote. At the end of his presentation, Ben donated two Glenn Dales, 'Dayspring', to be auctioned.

Following this first part of our program, we stopped for a short break. The cold drinks and cookies were especially refreshing since we were meeting outside and the heat was already building. Our appreciation to Patsy Thornton for these cooling refreshments, and to the Reids for the delicious cookies.

The second part of our program consisted of everyone swapping cuttings, placing them in baggies, and obtaining the root powder and Captan. Ben also gave us a guided tour of his garden estate.

In addition to the Glenn Dales donated by Ben, Jim Harris brought two of his plants to be auctioned. One was 'Coronado Red' and the other was 'Vivacious'. Mr. Harris said they were "one of a kind," or, in other words, a new Harris introduction.

At the September 12 meeting, the speaker was Mr. George Sanko, Botanist, who established the DeKalb College Botanical Garden on DeKalb's South Campus in 1990. He gave us a walk-through via slides of the garden. Beginning with the jungle-like growth on the property, until the landscaped, grassy pathways and flower surrounded rocks centered in the middle of the garden that are now continuing to grow and give pleasure to so many visitors. This garden is now home to more than 800 species of native plants, including 60 species of ferns and fern allies, 13 species of trillium, six species of blue stars and seven species of wild gingers. The new Sun Garden, scheduled for completion by the end of 1994, includes several plant family beds, some rare and federally endangered species and a three-acre meadow. Many of the endangered species are now being propagated at the gardens.

The Botanical Garden is located at 3251 Panthersville Road, Decatur, Georgia behind the parking lot adjacent to the Occupational Education Building. You may tour the garden, Monday through Friday, 11:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information you may call (404) 244-5077.

At the conclusion of this most interesting program and by unanimous decision of the membership, the Hugh Caldwell azaleas left from our Spring Plant Sale were donated to Mr. Sanko for the Botanical Garden.

John Ayers won our door prize. □

In Memory William M. Walker

William M. Walker, 85, a retired self-employed commercial artist, died June 20, 1993, in his home in Virginia Beach, VA.

Mr. Walker was born in South Shields, England. He emigrated to the U.S. from Liverpool, England, on the SS Havefore and applied for U. S. citizenship on April 23, 1923. He became a U.S. citizen on March 10, 1930. He was a veteran of World War II, U.S. Army Air Force 34th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron. Before moving to Virginia Beach in September 1992, he resided in Burke, VA.

Bill was well known by the nickname of "Mr. Azalea Man" by many in his community. His expertise included articles about his garden which were published in the local newspapers. Bill was a member of the Azalea Society of America and took a lifetime of enjoyment from this hobby. Many an azalea in Homewood originated in Bill's "cold frame" where he rooted some of his prized azaleas to share with his friends.

For 40 years Bill created and nurtured a beautiful azalea garden in the neighborhood of "Homewood" in Burke, Virginia. Bill turned a wooded lot into an azalea fantasy land...with thousands of azaleas, many dog woods, and beautiful walking trails throughout. He opened his garden each spring to his neighbors and the general public to enjoy. □