

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Bill Johnson, *President*

At the February meeting Carol Allen began our meeting with a brief presentation on soil preparation and site selection for azaleas. Carol provided us with an informative hand-out and stimulated a lively discussion with the group.

New chapter member, Gwen Stauffer spoke about the upcoming restoration of the garden and Azalea collection at Hillwood Museum and Garden. Gwen has been focusing this winter on removing overgrowth of the surrounding plants as a means to provide more light and air movement. This will improve the growing conditions of the azaleas and reduce some of the fungal problems. Gwen is asking for our help in the labeling of the azaleas. □

Louisiana Chapter

Larry Brown, *Secretary*

On March 6, the Louisiana Chapter met to finalize plans for our annual show and to elect officers. Dr. Roy Constantin was elected president and Bill Bode, vice president. Other officers elected were Jerry Ladner, treasurer; Larry Brown, secretary; and Wally Warren, historian.

On March 25, Hammond Mayor Charles McKaskle dedicated the Azalea Exhibition Garden that was a cooperative effort by the Louisiana Chapter of the Azalea Society of America, the Hammond Urban Forestry Committee, and the City of Hammond. The garden was planted in the last six months with a wide variety of azalea cultivars, all provided by members of the chapter. The mayor applauded the tireless efforts of Roy and Dale Constantin and the city's Urban Forester, Ernie Useman, in developing the garden and proclaimed March 26 through April 2 as "Hammond Azalea Week".

The chapter's Annual Azalea Show was held March 26-27 at the LSU Agricultural Center's Hammond Re-

search Station. The March weather had been very cooperative, so a large number of cultivars were at their peak at this time. Special guests at the show were members of the Ozark Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society who held their meeting in the area. □

Oconee Chapter

Jim Thornton for Pheleta Hambrick

The Oconee Chapter of the Azalea Society of America held its latest meeting February 6, 1994. The meeting was at 2:00PM at the First Baptist Church of Conyers, Georgia. Sixteen members were present.

Newly installed President David Butler called the meeting to order. He then gave a preview of our program and reminded everyone of the need to support our chapter.

Jim Thornton read the minutes of the November 14, 1994 meeting for Pheleta Hambrick, who was out of town. He then read the Treasurer's report in Fred Vick's absence. Jim, as our new membership chair, reported that we have a few over sixty members who have renewed their memberships. He encouraged all who had not renewed to please do so. We were down a few members at this time last year, but had since gained some new members to make up for the loss. We need to do the same thing this year.

President Butler then introduced our speaker, James Harris. Mr. Harris is a member of our chapter, and the owner of The James Harris Nursery in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

James, a noted hybridizer, began with a little background. He stated he had started back in 1964 raising azaleas as a part-time business. Working around and getting acquainted with other well-known hybridizers, James honed his skills and began to develop the Harris Hybrids. James now has forty-two named varieties, with several patents over the world, in France, The Netherlands,

Holland, Australia and Turkey. James presented slides of some of his favorite hybrids and commented on each. Some of these are:

- 'Midnight Flame', a dark red, hardy to -5°F.
- 'Gloria Still', a pink and white variegated plant.
- 'Fascination', a pink with red borders.
- 'Frosted Orange', white with an orange border.
- 'Bruce Hancock', white with a pink border.
- 'Seven Dwarfs', a two-foot high, five-foot wide shrub with various colors.
- 'Georgia Giant', which is white.
- 'Ming Chu Wen', a white with pink marks which makes a good Bonsai.
- 'Low Boy', a deep pink which grows to 18 inches in ten years.
- 'Carolyn's Day', white with a red border.
- 'Pink Cascade', a trailing pink ground hugger.

Although there were many other varieties this writer was too busy looking to record all the varieties shown.

In case you missed the meeting, you can catch up by reviewing the September 1989 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. An article entitled "The James Harris Azaleas: A 24-Year Status Report" recounts James' story.

James went on to explain how to develop your own hybrids (see "Pollinating the Azalea" following).

Mr. Harris also exhibited the official color charts of the Royal Horticulture Society of London, England. If you need help identifying the proper colors of your azaleas, you know where to go.

After a short break, President Butler led a discussion to plan our next meeting and our annual Azalea show. Refreshments for our break were furnished by Nell and Dave Butler.

Our next meeting is April 24. The annual Flower Show has been sched-

uled for May 14. The location for the Flower Show is still undecided. Look for the location to be announced in this space at a later date.

David then conducted a drawing for one of our porcelain azalea figurines. The winners were Steve and Margaret Collins of Lithonia, Georgia.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned. □

Pollinating the Azalea

Jim Thornton

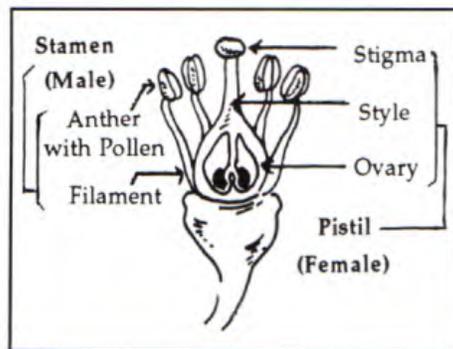
Although, at our last meeting, James Harris briefly explained cross-pollinating (cross-fertilization), I felt it might be worthwhile to go into the procedure in a little more detail. James says "It's nothing to it". For him, yes—for me, that's a different story!

Here are a few of the basics. First you need an understanding of the parts of the flower, discounting the petals and such. We want to get to the heart of the bloom, or the "sex parts". Basically, they are the pistil which is the "female part", and the stamen, which is the "male part".

In nature, azaleas are usually self-sterile, but can easily cross-pollinate. Some self-crosses (selfing) occur. To accomplish the cross-pollination, first tag the branch (flower) to show the female plant and the male plant (this is usually a different variety altogether) with the date of the cross.

Next, when the flower opens, remove all petals and stamens. It also helps to remove adjacent flowers. Leave only the pistil.

Take the stamens from another variety and apply pollen-loaded anther



Anatomy of a Flower

to the stigma (when sticky) of the plant to be pollinated. You can do this several times to ensure fertilization. There is no need to cover the stigma. Now you just wait...

When the seeds start maturing, gather them. Make certain you carry their heritage information through storage, planting, growing and flowering.

Who knows, you may become another James Harris! How to name and register a plant is another matter. More details will follow in other issues. For more information, I suggest "The Azalea Book" by Frederic P. Lee and/or "Azaleas" by Fred C. Galle. □

Tri-State Chapter

Helen Schroeder, *Secretary*

The President of the Tri-State Chapter is now Mr. Loren Gabe, 1503 Harmony Way, Evansville, IN 47720. The Secretary-Treasurer is now Helen Schroeder, 1216 Hillsdale Road, Evansville, IN 47711. □

Election of Officers and Directors

The results of the annual election of Officers and Directors was an-

nounced at the Annual Meeting of the Society held on April 30 in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with the 1994 Convention of the society. The officers elected for two-year terms are:

Secretary — Bill McIntosh
Treasurer — Glenn Taylor

The president and vice president were elected last year for two-year terms.

The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors for two-year terms:

Carol Allen
Jack Beith
James A. "Tony" Dove □

Report of the Public Information Committee for 1994

William C. Miller III, *Chairman*

For the period beginning May 1, 1993 and ending April 30, 1994, I submit the following report. One hundred and fourteen requests for information were received from 28 states and the District of Columbia, two Canadian provinces (Quebec and Ontario), and seven foreign (non-North American) countries (West Germany, France, Portugal, Australia, Argentina, South Africa, and Korea).

Azalea Calendar

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|---------------------|---|
| June 6 | Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at the Twinbrook Library |
| June 7 | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum |
| July 15 | Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN |
| July 23 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| September 21 | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30, Tuesday, at the Dallas Arboretum |
| October 8 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| October 7-9 | ARS Western Regional Conference in Lynnwood, Washington |
| October 15 | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day, for more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692 |
| October 15 | Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN |
| October 29 | Board of Directors' Meeting at The U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC |
| November 1 | Dallas Chapter Meeting at 6:30PM, Tuesday, at the Highland Park Town Hall |
| November 19 | Glenn Dale Preservation Project Work Day, for more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692 |

The most requests for information came from the state of Maryland (13) with Georgia (9) following close behind. June of 1993 was the busiest with 17 letters received, December of 1993 was least busy with only one letter. This averages out to a little more than ten responses per month and a whole lot of time in the line at the post office.

The transition to the new box at the West Bethesda address has progressed as expected. For those who may not be familiar with the post office box story, the ASA changed its official address to West Bethesda several years ago. The establishment of a new address was necessitated by the fact that the old Silver Spring box (actually located in Aspen Hill) had long since ceased to be convenient to anyone willing to be responsible for it. It was felt that we could not just discontinue the old box without a transition period since the old address was so well established and

had been published extensively. After several years of transition, however, the Silver Spring address will be terminated with the expiration of the current rental period. The official address for the ASA is:

The Azalea Society of America
P.O. Box 34536
West Bethesda, MD 20827-0536

I would like to thank the many nurserymen who mentioned the Azalea Society in their catalogs. All such help in getting the "word" out is appreciated and to everyone's benefit. Speaking of catalogs, I am sometimes asked where or how someone might find a particular cultivar. This usually takes some digging since I do not know precisely who is specializing in what. If you have a nursery, whether you ship or not, it would be a good idea to make sure that I receive a copy of your catalog or list. That would simply be good business. While I am committed to being as fair as possible, I am inclined to first look

very closely at those folks who advertise in **THE AZALEAN**. Support **THE AZALEAN**, take out an ad, and send me your catalog or list of plants. ☐

≡ Azalea News ≡

Note on Winter Weather in Southern Maryland

The following is an excerpt from a newsletter from Azalea Trace which describes some of the adverse conditions experienced in Southern Maryland in January and February of 1994 [ed.].

Azaleas do not look their best this year. The hot, dry summer of 1993 caused early leaf yellowing and the loss of old leaves. The unusually cold, icy and windy winter caused foliage damage and even some old favorites have brown leaves. Don't despair just yet, such plants are probably alive. Gently scrape a stem, if it shows green rejoice and wait.

We hope most of you escaped mother nature's revenge this year. Days of freezing rain put a thick ice coating on our azaleas as well as the trees overhead. Wind and ice toppled more than 100 trees on our azaleas. Ice falling from the trees peppered the azaleas like a hail storm. Some of our potted azaleas were badly damaged.

Most of the sales area is cleared but clean up in other areas will continue well into summer. Broken and badly damaged azalea branches are cut out but major pruning will wait until new growth starts.

We expect the azaleas will produce fewer flowers than usual. We saw the first blooms on 7 April and expect peak bloom by mid-May.

See you in The Garden
 Charles and Wanda Hanners
Azalea Trace
 5510 Stephen Reid Road
 Huntingtown, MD 20639
 PHONE: (301) 855-2305
 (410) 257-0837

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ASA New Members

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