

# 1995 Convention and Annual Meeting

William C. Miller III

Bethesda, Maryland

The 1995 ASA Convention and Annual Meeting is being sponsored by the Brookside Gardens Chapter and will be held May 4-6 at the Woodfin Suite Hotel in Rockville, Maryland. One of our primary goals in selecting a convention site was to avoid much of the local traffic and congestion of the suburbs close to Washington D.C. The hotel is very easy to find, the rooms are extremely nice, and there is plenty of convenient parking.

Registration opens on Thursday, May 4 at 4:00PM, and the registration table will be located in the meeting room itself. Supper is on your own. See information in your welcome packet on FOOD. Following welcoming remarks at 7:00PM, the first speaker for the evening will be Phil Normandy of Brookside Gardens. After a brief seventh inning stretch, the second speaker will be Jim Plyler of Natural Landscapes in West Grove, Pennsylvania. The evening's events will conclude with THE AZALEAN Roundtable sponsored by Dr. Bob Hobbs, the editor of THE AZALEAN.

## Roundtable Discussion on THE AZALEAN

In order to maintain and improve the ability of the Azalea Society of America to achieve its goals of promoting interest and exchange of knowledge of the azalea, and to study the principles of hybridization, propagation, culture and care of azaleas, the editor of THE AZALEAN will lead a panel discussion as part of the 1995 convention and annual meeting. Since the Society's quarterly journal, THE AZALEAN, is the main means of communication within the society, it is essential that material published in THE AZALEAN supports these goals. The discussion will focus on general content, subjects for articles, the need for regular columns, format, and how to inspire contributors to the Journal.

The panel will be held on Thursday evening, May 4, 1995, the first night of the convention. It is important that all of those attending the convention attend this meeting which will be about one hour in length. The format for the discussion will include brief presentations by three panelists, discussion among the panelists, and most important, comments and questions from the audience. The editor will summarize the discussion in closing remarks.

The brief remarks by the panelists will address the questions:

What is good about THE AZALEAN?

What changes would improve THE AZALEAN?

What should be specifically addressed in articles in THE AZALEAN?

The make-up of the panel will be an azalea novice, an experienced azalea hobbyist, and a professional azalea grower. If you would like to volunteer to be on the panel, please contact the editor:

**ROBERT W HOBBS**  
737 WALNUT AVENUE  
NORTH BEACH MD 20714-9644  
PHONE: (301) 855-5269

If you decide not to volunteer, your telephone may ring sometime before May 4, 1995. □

On Friday morning, the registration desk will open at 8:30AM. The American style buffet breakfast in the hotel is free, so be sure to take advantage of it. We will board our buses promptly at 9:00AM to begin the tour. The first stop will be my place, a half acre, private garden featuring many unusual plants and landscape features. A mature landscape which I have only slightly modified (who enjoys mowing grass?), the overall theme is azaleas. Largely the vision and product of my in-laws, Lois and Paul Bowker, from whom we acquired the property four years ago, new beds have been created and a deck and patio/water garden complex have been created to take best advantage of the existing topographical characteristics.

The next stop will be McCrillis Gardens, the five-acre home of the late Virginia and William McCrillis, which was presented to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1978. It is managed by Brookside Gardens. Mr. McCrillis, a plant collector, was Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower. Beginning in 1941 with azaleas and rhododendron, he expanded his collection to include many rare, unusual, and exotic plants.

The tour continues as we proceed to the Landon School where we will have lunch, view the 16th Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Show, the Perkins Garden, and the forty-second annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival.

Our final stop on Friday's tour will be at Brookside Gardens, which is one of my favorite examples of what local government can do right. The fifty-acre public display garden is operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and has something blooming all of the time. Known for its colorful seasonal displays, Brookside Gardens offers extensive educational programs and information services for children and adults, and it maintains a 2,000 volume horticultural reference library.

Returning to the hotel, supper will be on your own. The first speaker for