

New Officers Elected

Results of the election of officers were announced at the Annual Meeting held in Rockville, MD on May 6, 1995: Steve Brainerd, President and Jim Thornton, Vice President. Fred Minch, Rosalie Nachman, and Arthur Vance were elected to two-year terms as directors. □

Ben Morrison Chapter

Nuran Miller, *President*

Members have been delighted with the long, cool springtime weather in Maryland this year. The azaleas began blooming earlier and have lasted longer than in recent years. Some chapter members have been involved in developing the George Harding Garden while others have been preparing for the spring azalea show. Members who attended the ASA convention were appreciative of the outstanding program and garden tours arranged by the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

Our azalea show and plant sale, held May 13 and 14 in Prince Frederick, was an acclaimed success this year. More than half of our membership actively participated in the show, resulting in 170 entries of primarily mid-season and late-season early bloomers. Educational displays on companion plants and shrubs, azalea culture, and videos complemented our flowers. The plant sale was a success. A few new members also joined the society and the chapter. Most importantly, we had lots of fun and fellowship.

Members are looking forward to our annual cutting picnic and plant exchange to be held at the home of Sue and George Switzer on July 16. □

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Carol Allen, *President*

February Meeting: Past President Bill Johnson finally got a chance to delight us with his own program. His slides suggested many fine companions for the azalea garden. I'm sure all present took home several new ideas for their gardens. Dottie Murphree gave the treasurer's report. Bill Miller updated us on the convention. Tina

Kelly reported on the Landon School Show. All is going well in both endeavors. A volunteer sheet was passed around and I'm sure Tina and Bill will now have plenty of help?

Cultural Calendar: The warm days of Spring are finally upon us, bulbs are making a fine show and I'm sure everyone is out in the garden looking at azalea buds expectantly.

March is a good time to fertilize while things are relatively slow. Pansies and primroses can give dull corners an instant boost. Make notes where bulbs are lacking or thin. Plan to try something new, maybe one of the minor bulbs. *Eranthis hymnalis*, *anemone blanda*, and species *crocus* are some of my favorites.

Make plans for summer annual plants. Now is a good time to remove old mulch (a recommended practice of debatable efficacy if fungus is a problem) and put down new.

Take stock of staking materials. It is not too soon to put supports in the ground for peonies and other floppy perennials. Better to do it now than later. If leaf gall or petal blight is a problem initiate your spray program.

Spring's cooler weather is a good time to reroute those downspouts if water has been a problem around the house. Consider attaching a length of black plastic hose and burying it under ground. For best results it must point downhill and either emerge from under ground at the far end or run into a drywell.

Promise yourself to take the time to enjoy the spring while we have it. Visit other gardens both private and public for some fresh insights. Who said taking some time off couldn't be spent in doing "research"? The garden tours at the convention could be your best opportunity. □

Dallas Chapter

Jim Garrison, *President*

The Dallas area had an earlier than usual azalea bloom with the Kurumes peaking about March 20. We had 23°F in early-mid March that caught

'Vittatum' and 'Jennifer' in full bloom. 'Sherbrooke', 'Red Slippers', 'Coral Bells', 'Hino Crimson' and several other varieties were starting to bloom but soon recovered and finished their bloom cycle. 'Sherbrooke' bloomed all fall in my yard and seemed to be earlier than usual this year.

The Dallas Chapter has been granted permission to construct a greenhouse on the grounds of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society. The greenhouse will be 12' x 96'. We have about 630 one- and two-gallon plants consisting mostly of Glenn Dales from Naud Burnett's collection to start out. Our plans are to take cuttings of these plants and the 2000+ varieties and cultivars in the Arboretum and sell them as 4" plants starting next spring. Several volunteers helped us remove existing hackberry trees, privet and smilax to clear the area for the greenhouse. The greenhouse should be completely erected and irrigated by May.

Dr. Willis Cottel's garden will be featured in the May issue of *Southern Living* magazine. Those of you who attended the 1993 National Convention in Dallas will remember this garden designed by Dallas landscape architect and past Dallas Chapter President Naud Burnett.

Our February 28th chapter meeting featured Ray Bond, a Dallas horticulturist who propagates camellias; he discussed the differences and similarities between camellias and azaleas and their care in the Dallas area. On April 4, Mark Wegmann addressed our chapter with a demonstration of bonsai techniques. Mark brought several of his azaleas and Japanese maples he has been working with and offered to do an initial pruning for some of our members who brought their own azaleas.

The next Dallas Chapter meeting will be June 6 at 7:00PM at the Camp house in the Dallas Arboretum. □

Oconee Chapter

Jim Thornton for Pheleta Hambrick

The Oconee Chapter met at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, GA on De-

ember 11, 1994 at 2:00PM with 21 members and guests attending.

President David Butler opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked Jim Thornton to read the minutes and treasurer's report in absence of the secretary and treasurer. David then asked Jim to report on the results of the Election Committee. Jim reported the following nominees for our 1995 officers:

President: David Butler
Vice-President: Ralph Bullard
Secretary: Ruth Bryan
Treasurer: Fred Vick

Asking for nominees from the floor and receiving none, Jim then asked the nominees to be accepted. The nominations were closed and all members voted in favor of the new officers (Note: Tom Anderson will continue to interface with the church for meeting arrangements and Jim Thornton will continue to act as Membership Chairman and Public Relations. Jimmy Hambrick continues to support us as Editor of our newsletter.)

Next, President Butler introduced Jim Thornton's presentation on an "Economical Watering System". Jim presented several slides featuring the use of electronic water timers for a cheap but functional misting system.

Next David asked those who brought samples of their cuttings from our cuttings meeting to share their cultivation practices. David started with his own plants. The meeting then broke for refreshments provided by Patsy Thornton. After the break a drawing was held for three porcelain figurines of the azalea flower. Winners were Dr. Joe Coleman, Mrs. Frank Bryan and Mrs. Martha Cannon Meeks.

A rooted cutting of species "macrogemmum", donated by James Harris was auctioned. [The Japanese botanist Nakai created the epithet *macrogemma* at specific rank in 1931. In the latest revision of the genus, however, Nakai's name is sunk in synonymy under *R. kaempferi*, Ed.] The winning bid was made by Dr. Coleman. Christmas wreaths brought by Allison

Azalea Calendar

- June 6** Brookside Gardens Chapter Meeting at Twinbrook Library
June 6 Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at the DABS
July 15 Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the September issue of **THE AZALEAN**
July 16 Ben Morrison Chapter Cutting Picnic at Sue and George Switzers
September 26 Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at DABS
October 15 Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of **THE AZALEAN**
October 24 Dallas Chapter Meeting at 7:00PM at DABS

Fuqua were also sold, and the rotted samples were given away on a first come basis.

Some discussion then followed concerning our upcoming flower show (second Saturday in April). This is going to require a lot of work by a lot of members, but thankfully we have Dr. Coleman and other veterans to guide us. Start thinking now how you can help in supporting this Chapter activity. This will be our first judged show. Let's make it a success!!

It was suggested the chapter donate a number of azaleas to the church for the church grounds because of their allowing us to use their facilities without charge. Tom Anderson will coordinate with the church and we will ask members to donate plants.

Jim Harris mentioned a problem that is caused by spider mites and suggested a spray program of using Kelthane or Cygon 10 days apart.

Allison Fuqua mentioned an article in the American Nurseryman Magazine about a new strain of mildew that attacks the azalea. This can be treated with sulphur.

Jim Harris reported that recently a lady ran over a rabbit in front of his house. She got out of her car, ran over to the rabbit and sprayed something on it. The rabbit got up and ran away. Asked what the lady used, Jim replied, "hair restorer". Later, Jim's wife opened her refrigerator and there was a rabbit, she asked it what it was doing in the refrigerator. The rabbit said, "Isn't this a Westinghouse? I was just westing!" □

Report of the Public Information Committee for 1995

William C. Miller III, *Chairman*
Bethesda, Maryland

For the period beginning May 1, 1994, and ending April 30, 1995, I submit the following report. Eighty requests for information were received from 24 states and the District of Columbia, one Canadian province (British Columbia), and two foreign (non-North American) countries (Columbia and England). This figure is significantly below the number of cards and letters that were reported for the previous period.

The most requests for information came from the state of Maryland (9) with Virginia (8) following close behind. May of 1994 was the busiest with 15 letters received while June of 1994 and February of 1995 were least busy with only two letters received. This averages out to a little more than six responses per month and, as always, a whole lot of time in the line at the post office.

Effective October 1, 1994, the old Silver Spring post office box was terminated. For those who may not be familiar with the post office box story, the ASA changed its formal address to West Bethesda four years ago. The establishment of a new address was necessitated by the fact that the original Silver Spring box (located in Aspen Hill actually) had long since ceased to be convenient to anyone willing to be responsible for it.

My thanks to the nurserymen and women who favored me with their catalogs. □