

winners of the Best Article award will be available in the near future.

Bob Stelloh thanked the membership for financial and labor support given the George Harding Memorial Garden project. He announced that an Azalea Day is being considered at River Farm for this time next year. Consideration is being given to establishing a trust fund for supplies and maintenance. George Harding's sister recently visited the garden.

Next Malcolm presented the Distinguished Service Award to William C. Miller III. Malcolm announced that, due to the loss of his calligrapher, the award certificate will not be available until a later time.

Bob Stelloh announced the results of the recent election:

- President - Steve Brainerd
- Vice President - Jim Thornton
- Directors At Large:
 - Fred Minch
 - Rosalie Nachman
 - Art Vance

President Brainerd spoke briefly, his major points being that he expects to lead by example and that he will demand performance by the elected Officers and Directors.

Bill Miller closed the meeting by announcing that Roger Brown, who furnished the 1988 convention attendees with specimens of 'Pocono Pink', has done it again. This time the selection was 'Seattle White', described by Bill as a plant with single, semi- and fully-double flowers. Jane Newman was awarded a large specimen.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40pm.

BEN MORRISON CHAPTER

Niki Baker, *President*

The Chapter's annual cutting picnic was held on July 16, hosted by Sue and George Switzer. Thirty-one persons attended.

Officers were elected for 1995-1996:

- Niki Baker, President
- Alan Jones, Vice President
- Dale Flowers, Secretary
- Carol Flowers, Treasurer

During the brief business meeting, the possibility of holding an Azalea Show in 1996 was discussed. Several members donated cuttings for other members to choose from, and the Switzers' made their extensive collection available to members for obtaining cuttings. The Chapter members wish to thank Sue and George for hosting this annual event once again this year.

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Carol Allen, *President*

Rod Simmon's presentation at the April meeting on the Winkler Botanical Preserve was a fascinating look at a local nature preserve. The staff of the preserve has done an amazing job of dealing with the maintenance of a natural area in an urban setting. The T-shirts and bags for the convention were previewed. Barbara Bullock's design looked great! Several 'T's' were purchased by members (all the well-dressed ones). The aforementioned hot fashion statements were available for purchase at the June meeting. Thank you Roberta Hagen for the execution of the above items.

1995 Convention

The convention was all anyone could have wished for! We were blessed with perfect weather, good food, exciting speakers, wonderful plants to buy, good company, and lots

of "azalea talk". Thanks to all who made it work! Bill Miller, Bill Johnson, Jean Cox, Dottie Murphree, Mary Rutley, Tina Kelley, Barbara Bullock, Roberta and Gordon Hagen, Bill McIntosh, Lou Aronica, Ted Munter, Dick West, Andy, Ruth and Roberta Adams, Phil Normandy and the Brookside Gardens staff, Debbie and Mike White, Carolyn Beck, Bobbi McCeney, Lee Payne, Mary Ann Jarvis and a cast of thousands!

Good things happen at conventions. Steve Brainerd won the 'Best Article' award for his piece on design. Our own Bill Miller received the 'Distinguished Service' award for his years of service. The auction Friday night netted over \$600.00 for the new color picture fund for **THE AZALEAN**.

Landon School Festival and Azalea Show

An unprecedented number of entries (310 entries--the most ever and 19 exhibitors) was the high point of the show this year. Perfect weather preceded the event so most sprays were in excellent condition. The judges had some tough choices to make. The Best in Show was awarded to Charlie Evans for his entry of 'Osaraku'. The Sweepstakes Award for the highest number of points was won by Bill Miller. All of our overworked volunteers (Tina Kelley, Janet Miller, Bill Miller, Bobbi McCeney, Buck Clagget, Frank Sharpnack, Gi Adams, Dorothy Nowers, Connie Simmons, Bill Johnson and Hillwood Museum, Bob and Denise Stelloh, Bill McIntosh, Mike White, Emile Deckert, Bob Stewart, and Bob Hobbs) receive a heartfelt thank you! Next year wouldn't you like to see your name listed here?

Cultural Calendar

Well the push is over. The majority of the azaleas have bloomed and now the roses, peonies, and iris

take the stage. Satsuki azaleas are continuing to bloom, and I'm looking forward to my later blooming natives. If you heard Jim Plyler's talk at the convention you'll know to what I'm referring. Monitor your garden plants for insect pests. Make sure you ask questions first, before reaching for that insecticide. The Extension Service is a good place to take an individual insect for proper identification. Watch those weeds, the late spring rains we are having can really make them grow. It is not too late to mulch those bare areas and even embellish empty spots with some annual or even perennial plants. The local nurseries are bursting with containerized plants just now. Make sure all newly installed plants get extra special watering attention throughout their first year.

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter met at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, GA, March 12, 1995. President David Butler called the meeting to order by welcoming members and asking the guests to introduce themselves. David then turned the program over to Ralph Bullard, our Vice-President. Ralph introduced Ray Goza who showed slides of Roan Mountain, TN where *R. calendulaceum* and Catawba rhododendrons are abundant.

After a break for the refreshments that Ann and Ray Goza provided, Ralph announced dates of upcoming events: April 22, 2:00 to 5:00PM the gardens of Charles and Virginia Owens and April 29, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Azalea Show.

Ralph then introduced Joe Schild from Hinson, TN, who showed slides of native azaleas and mountain laurel at Wayah Bald, Cumberland Mountain and Cumber Gorge near Signal Mountain, TN.

Both speakers drew OOH's and AAH's for their breathtaking slides and had all in attendance vowing to

take trips to see these areas (ed. Note: Plan to go around the middle of June).

Mr. Fred Sorg donated several azaleas for sale to benefit the Oconee Chapter. Thank you, Fred.

The next meeting of the Oconee Chapter is set for June 10, 1995. The meeting will be hosted by Allison Fuqua at his home. We'll begin the meeting at 11:30, but please be there by 9:30AM for a clipping party and demonstration by Allison. Remember to bring a folding chair, plastic baggies, and a lunch.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
John Zottoli, *President*

March 5 Meeting

The speaker for our March fifth meeting was Charles Hanners, who, with his wife, Wanda, own and operate a nursery called Azalea Trace in Calvert County, Maryland. The Hanners started this as a hobby, obtaining plants and other equipment from an old nursery that had gone out of business and was neglected. For \$250.00, Charlie bought all the stock and started their hobby which has now led to their business. The stock included many azaleas and rhododendrons without names attached.

Their seven-acre lot is heavily wooded, and they have many azaleas planted in beds with paths leading through the area. He cited problems that many of us have experienced, like ordering from nurseries and getting plants with incorrect identification. When he notified one grower that his plant was in error, the reply was that some customers were used to the wrong plant and continued to request it by the wrong name. He described his observation in taking cuttings, that it seemed timing was critical to success in rooting. He does not have any guidance, they just

experiment with different times each year. Beyond this, he gave a detailed description of the procedures they go through every year, taking cuttings, gathering seeds, and growing the plants.

Since this meeting, the Hanners have received local recognition in a weekly newspaper, the New Bay Times, published in Deale, Maryland. A reporter visited Azalea Trace and wrote a full page article on how the Hanners began a hobby that "...sort of got out of hand". The article recommended that readers visit the site and see the thousands of azaleas, and purchase nice plants at a good price. A picture of the Hanners was included in the publication.

May 21 Meeting

Our May 21 chapter meeting was quite special. For a very long time, I will fondly remember our "pot luck" lunch at the Haymarket home of Frances and Phil Louer.

We scheduled the meeting to catch the Louers' late blooming azaleas still in flower. We were delighted to see how beautiful and natural the mature plants looked--nestled under huge trees and set off by pools, grassy patches and woodland paths. As we toured the property, Frances and Phil helped us to identify plants, and they shared their experiences in growing them.

Though the plants and food were spectacular, I will most fondly remember the companionship from that afternoon at the Louers. At our regular meetings, we squeeze in a bit of time for socializing; but there is always so much else to do. At the Louers' we had the luxury of the whole afternoon for each other's company. We talked plants. We talked about the Society. We got to know each other.

Thanks Frances and Phil--for the chance to see your garden, for the wonderful setting for our lunch; but most of all thanks for the chance to spend that beautiful afternoon with each other.