

SOCIETY NEWS

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Carol Allen, *President*

A fine time was had by all at the December 1995 meeting. Bill Johnson created a beautiful wreath right before our eyes and told us how to go home and do it ourselves. The food and company were excellent, per usual. The presentation of the Lee award was delayed until the February meeting. The nominating committee persuaded our current officers to run again and the membership approved. The officers for 1996 are:

President: Carol Allen
Vice President: Mary Rutley
Secretary: Jean Cox
Treasurer: Dorothy Murphree

DALLAS CHAPTER

Peggy Kirkland, *President*

Our last meeting of the year featured Mr. Chris Delaporte, currently an assistant to Oklahoma Governor Keating. Mr. Delaporte has extensive knowledge of the Parks Department, and has worked in this field throughout the United States. He also worked in the Carter Administration, and gave us some unique insights into how projects are funded and bills brought about.

We also had a potting party, where several members repotted about 700 azaleas in our greenhouse at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. On January 24 the executive committee of the chapter will meet at the home of Lorine Gibson, one of the convention garden hostesses, to finalize details on the upcoming ASA convention. There is much to do and we are all excited about hosting the convention here in Dallas.

On February 4 our chapter, along with several other plant societies and clubs, will participate in North Haven Gardens 'Greenhouse Open House'. It is a chance for the public to learn about azaleas and our own society, as well as others in the Dallas area.

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

W. F. Bode, *President*

The annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter ASA was held on Dec. 3, 1995, at Hammond Experiment Station in Hammond, Louisiana. Reports of the Treasurer were accepted, and election of officers for 1996 was held. The results were:

President: William F. Bode
Vice President: Robert J. Miravalle
Secretary: William L. Brown
Treasurer: Jerry Ladner.

The membership expressed its appreciation to the last two for a job so well done that they were reelected.

Principal objectives set for the coming year are:

- (1) To increase membership by at least 10%.
- (2) To properly map and tag all plants in both azalea plantings at Hammond Experiment Station.

Reports of Special Committees discussed:

- (1) The circulation of the list of Fall Blooming Azaleas to chapter members and other interested persons. Project Chairman was Robert J. Miravalle. The listing which has been forwarded to **THE AZALEAN** for possible publication was compiled from actual field observations by members of the chapter. Photographic documentation was also made.
- (2) The results of participation in the Fall Garden Festival at New Orleans Botanical Garden:
 - (a) The exhibit of blooming plants was awarded Honors in Horticulture. Visitors to the exhibit exceeded 500.
 - (b) The slide presentation and narrative by W. L. Brown, Ph.D., was given to an overflow crowd. The viewing area accommodated only 65. Visitors to both the Exhibit and the "Show & Tell" were given a printout naming the fall bloomers being shown and an application to join ASA.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

John Zottoli, *President*

The Northern Virginia Chapter met on Sunday, December 10. There were two speakers, Bob Stewart and Joe Klimavicz. They conducted a "clinic" on growing azaleas from seed.

Many members of the Azalea Society belong to the American Rhododendron Society as well. Our own chapter's Don Hyatt serves as president for the local ARS chapter. As part of his leadership in the ARS, Don suggested that both organizations coordinate our program planning. So we came upon the idea of the Azalea Society joining what turned out to be a wonderful ARS dinner meeting that focused on the "Asian Influence" in azaleas and other rhododendrons. We saw an excellent slide program on azalea and other rhododendron cultivars—and the Asian species that were the hybrids "parents".

Several ASA members helped with the event. Don Hyatt presided. Bob Stewart contributed Asian-bred azaleas that every participant took home as a door prize. Also, Bruno and Evelyn Kaelin took the reservations for the dinner. Bruno Kaelin was presented an award for his volunteer efforts. The event attracted many ASA members not only from Northern Virginia, but from Maryland chapters as well—both Brookside and Ben Morrison Chapters.

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, Secretary

The Oconee Chapter met on September 17, 1995 in Conyers with 24 members present.

David Butler, the president, called the meeting to order and gave the treasurer's report. He mentioned that we really had a good time, despite the heat, at the last two cutting swaps.

Ralph Bullard, Jr., the Vice President, introduced the first speaker, Dr. Charles Owen. Dr. Owen explained his technique for seed propagation. He showed slides of various colors of seedling hybrids that developed from one seed pod. He recommended pruning directly after blooming.

After a refreshment break, Ralph introduced Jeff Beasley, Transplant Nursery, Lavonia, GA. Mr. Beasley showed slides of *R. speciosum*, native to Tray Mountain. He gave a history of these plants and that it takes many years to develop them for commercial sale. He described his method of seed propagation. He gave advice that *R. speciosum* plants would bloom more profusely if they have light, but not hot afternoon sunlight. Ralph and Jeff discussed an idea of a field trip to Tray Mountain, perhaps in the middle of June, next year. David auctioned specimen azaleas that were donated by Jeff Beasley to benefit the Oconee Chapter. Thank you Jeff.

Azalea plants donated by Earl Hester and Jim Harris were set out by Tom Anderson and Jim Thornton at the First Baptist Church in Conyers, where the chapter often meets. What started out as "let's plant a few azaleas around the church" ended up as an azalea garden

donated by the Oconee Chapter in memory of Jimmy Hambrick.

The garden is in front of the administration building and we've already planted a hedge row of Hinos completely around the garden. We've bedded the garden with pine straw and plan to add pine bark mulch later. We plan to install a bench and an "Oconee" native azalea . . . when we can find one of our gracious members to make the donation (hint, hint). Our thanks to all who contributed, and a special thanks to Tom for staying on top of this and preparing the area.

At the December 3, 1995 meeting Jim Thronton discussed the Azalea Convention last spring and showed slides taken at that event and his garden. Ralph Bullard showed slides of gardens in Salem, Oregon, Portland, Oregon, Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He also showed slides of Dr. Charles Owen's garden and of his own garden. Fred Sorg showed slides of his special azaleas. He also donated plants for the church garden. Thank you Fred.

It was suggested that members of this chapter go on tours of the Rhododendron Society, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Calloway Gardens, etc. to help prepare for the Azalea Society of American's Convention. This convention will be hosted by the Oconee Chapter in 1997.

The officers for 1996 are:

President: Earl Hester
Vice President: Ralph Bullard
Treasurer: Fred Vick
Secretary: Ruth Bryan

GLENN DALE PRESERVATION PROJECT

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 14th year. In March of last year, the station at Glenn Dale suffered a loss. "Al's House," which was an old, former residence on the station, burned to the ground. Over the years, the two-story house had become a catch-all storage for old files and miscellaneous small equipment. The FBI investigation attributed the fire to the actions of an arsonist. Sadly, historic records dating back some seventy years were lost.

One of the chief goals for 1996 is to renegotiate the USDA permit by which we are granted access to the Glenn Dale station. The existing permit is much outdated and commits the ASA to activities (like maintaining a germplasm collection) that are not achievable under current circumstances and resources. Negotiations with the appropriate parties at the USDA, regarding the terms of the proposed new permit, are ongoing and at some point under current ASA policy, will require review by and approval of the ASA Board of Directors (BOD).

In anticipation of the need for obtaining a new permit and in an effort to streamline matters, I petitioned the ASA BOD at the 1995 National Meeting in May for delegated authority that would allow the chairman of the Glenn Dale project to review and sign a new permit on their behalf. A decision from the BOD on my request for signatory authority, one way or the other, is still pending.

On September 19, 1995, Dick West and I met with Dr. Thomas Elias in his office at the U.S. National Arboretum to discuss future plans. The Arboretum continues to be very supportive of our activities and is seeking new ways to form cooperative efforts with the ASA.

IN MEMORY

Azalea Society of America member Mary Ann G. Thane passed away on September 18, 1995. She is survived by her husband, Society member Frederick L. Thane. She was active in community affairs, garden clubs, and was a charter member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

Society member Dr. Arthur Baker died January 9, 1996. His garden contained approximately 1,500 azaleas. He was a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter.

THE APPLICATION FORM
FOR REGISTRATION OF
CULTIVAR NAMES IN GENUS
RHODODENDRON HAS BEEN
SIMPLIFIED AND REVISED. FOR
FORMS AND INFORMATION

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