

## DALLAS CHAPTER

Peggy Kirkland, *President*

The first official meeting of the year was held on February 27, 1996 at the Highland Park Town Hall. Plans for the upcoming ASA National Convention were discussed, and after the business was taken care of, we watched videos on Bellingrath Gardens, Callaway Gardens, and a video on butterfly gardening.

As you are reading this, the ASA Convention is a memory, and the Dallas Chapter hopes it is a fond one. We hope that you enjoyed the time you spent with us as much as we enjoyed having you. We look forward to seeing you again in the future.

The chapter would like to thank Peggy Kirkland; without her devotion and organization the convention would not have been possible. Many thanks to Steve Brainerd, our liaison officer and speaker extraordinaire, all the volunteers, Eugene Westlake and everyone at the Dallas Arboretum, and our garden hosts for allowing us a peek at their own world. And last, thanks to our other speakers, Thomas Brinda, Mark Wegmann, Naud Burnett, and Col. Ronald C. Vines, our keynote speaker. Everyone came away very excited about Mr. Vines' Holly Springs hybrids. How long do we have to wait?!!!

## LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Bill F. Bode, *President*

The Louisiana Chapter Spring Quarterly Meeting was held on February 11, 1996, at the Hammond Experiment Station, Hammond, Louisiana. Routine reports were made and accepted. A special report on their participation in the Ten Oaks Glenn Dale project was made by Perry and Ann Corkern, owners of the A & P Nursery, Franklinton, Louisiana. Their report gave a good overview of the early history of the project and

also detailed their experiences so far in the project as to the selection, delivery, rooting, and tagging of the cuttings. The report was very well received and caused a great deal of useful discussion.

Dr. W. Larry Brown updated the membership about the status of the chapter's Show and Tell (slide show). He reported that acceptance by the local garden clubs has been very good to excellent, and that three presentations will be made in March and April.

In answer to the most-asked question at our shows in the past, "Where can I buy...", 'Southern Summer Rose' or 'Sir Robert' or 'Pink Camellia', the chapter will include a sale as part of our Spring Show, which is held in conjunction with Azalea Week in Hammond. The Show and Sale was held in and adjacent to the Downtown Hammond Azalea Exhibit Garden, Hammond, Louisiana, on March 23, 1996.

Drs. Brown and Constantin, who are the local coordinators for the Russian seed project, announced the growers and discussed how the chapter can participate.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER

John Zottoli, *President*

The December meeting of the Northern Virginia Chapter was held on December 10, 1995 at the Pimmit Hills Library. A clinic was conducted by Bob Stewart and Joe Klimavicz on growing azaleas from seed. Both of these members have a lot of experience in, and lots of enthusiasm for, growing azaleas from seed.

They showed how to collect the seeds from pods, sift them to remove the chaff, and spread them over the medium, consisting of sphagnum peat moss. The demonstrations included taking small seedlings and planting them in pots for the

next stage of growth. The seedlings were grown from crosses of 'Pocono Pink', 'Refrain', and 'Janet Rhea'. Each person attending could take one of the pots home for further cultivating and enjoyment.

For fertilizing these plants, they have found that the liquid fertilizer, Schultz Instant Plant Food (10-15-10) works best.

The February meeting was held on February 11 at the Fair Oaks Merrifield Nursery location. Our program was Bill Miller speaking on "Photography and Azaleas". The single lens reflex (SLR) camera is preferred, principally because you see what the camera sees, and the ability to interchange lenses for various pictures. He gave pointers on the interaction of high speed film and resulting depth of field, as well as the graininess of the higher speed film. He also cited the importance of documentation of the pictures you take. Record events or unusual occurrences, as well as characteristics of the plants in the pictures.

It is often advisable to have a ruler or some measuring device handy to place beside the flowers being photographed. He talked about the desirability of slides versus prints. The new digital cameras were discussed, but no one has had experience with them yet. The cameras are expensive, and the affordable ones have very simple photographic capability.

## OCONEE CHAPTER

Earl Hester, *President*

On February 18, 1996 the new president, Earl Hester called the meeting to order with 27 members in attendance. The treasurer's report was given and guests were introduced. Jim Thornton reported that there are 65 members in the chapter. Jim Thornton was elected Chairman of the Azalea Society Convention Committee for 1997. A few members volunteered for some of the committees.

James Harris has developed a brilliant bright red azalea with a large bloom and heavy texture. This plant will be given to persons who attend the 1997 convention next spring. The plant needs a name; suggestions are welcomed.

Ralph Bullard introduced our first speakers, Earl and Dorothy Hester. They showed slides of their many varieties of azaleas and gave information on size, texture and cold hardiness of the plants. Refreshments were served by Pat and Jim Thornton.

Ralph then introduced our next speaker, Earnest Koone. Earnest showed slides of his production of seeds to plant sales, and suggested companion plants for beds. He likes to collect seeds from the wild or natural azalea plants. He also donated azaleas which were auctioned. Joe Coleman was the auctioneer; \$86.00 were raised for the Chapter.

A discussion about the flower show and 1997 Convention followed.

On March 17, 1996 the meeting was called to order by president Earl Hester. There were 27 members and guests present.

The Oconee Chapter will have a flower show, April 20 and 21 at the Garden South Nursery in Lawrenceville. James Harris and Fred Sorg are co-chairmen for this event.

Ralph Bullard introduced Richard Clapp who gave a talk and showed slides on do's and don'ts in photographing flowers and gardens.

Following a brief break, there was a discussion on the 1997 Convention of the Azalea Society of America.

Larry Meeks donated azaleas for the Church garden. Thank you, Larry. A garden bench was donated by Fred Sorg. Thanks, Fred.

The ASA Convention held in Dallas, March 28-30, 1996 was very eventful. There were 75 persons registered, including seven members of the Oconee Chapter. Each person in attendance received a Texas Azalea (*R. oblongifolium*). Despite the terrible weather that Dallas has had, there were some azaleas to be seen. The tours of the Dallas Arboretum and Ft. Worth Botanical Gardens were very pleasant, as were the private gardens that we had the privilege to see. The seminars on bonsai, landscaping and hybridizing were very informative. We were very lucky to have sunny days. We thank the Dallas Chapter for their very gracious hospitality.

The Oconee Chapter is the host of the ASA Convention next spring, 1997. We need volunteers and suggestions to make the 1997 Convention go as smoothly as the Dallas Convention. Please review the Committee Listings in the last newsletter and call Jim Thornton, Chairman, (770) 483-1593.

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

#### MINUTES OF THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING DALLAS, TEXAS, MARCH 30, 1996

The annual meeting of the Society followed the banquet and the featured presentation by Col. Ronald ("Pete") Vines entitled "The Holly Springs Hybrids".

A number of announcements were made prior to the business meeting being called to order. Although technically not a part of the annual meeting, these are included in the minutes.

President Steve Brainerd briefly discussed the recent yearly declines in membership and the impact on the Society. He then announced that Fred and Jean Minch had brought a check for \$800 to the

meeting, representing 40 annual memberships, almost all of which were new. Steve encouraged the assembled membership to follow that example. If each member could recruit only one newcomer, the cause would be well served. Steve then thanked Col. Murray and Inez Sheffield for the thousand-dollar check they had given to support color in **THE AZALEAN**. Editor Bob Hobbs thanked the Dallas Chapter for their work on the convention. He announced the results of the mail balloting, as follows:

*Secretary:* Incumbent **Bill McIntosh**  
*Treasurer:* Acting Treasurer **Bob Stelloh**  
*Directors at Large:*  
**Robert ("Buddy") Lee**  
**Dr. Charles Owen**  
**Stephen Schroeder**

Bob gave a preview of new features in forthcoming issues of **THE AZALEAN**, including a Q&A section, cultural notes and an azalea personality feature. Bob also thanked Don Voss, Jane Newman and George Switzer for their service as the Advisory Editorial Board and thanked other donors to the journal, Don Voss for \$400 and the Brookside Gardens Chapter for \$600. He noted that digital color had begun with the December 1995 issue.

Certificates for previous Best Article winners were presented to Jane Newman for 1991 and Steve Brainerd for 1994. Certificates were also prepared for and will be mailed to other past winners. And finally, the 1995 award for Best Article was won in a tight race by Richard T. West and William C. Miller III for the article "The Ten Oaks Azaleas and the Glenn Dale Distribution Project" in the September issue.

At this point the annual meeting was called to order. Steve Brainerd discussed his forthcoming letter to Chapter Presidents. The Board action to raise the annual dues from \$20 to \$25 was announced and a motion to support that action was made and