

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

seconded. Malcolm Clark gave a convincing argument for the increase, comparing it to increases in the Consumer Price Index. Very little discussion ensued, and the membership approved the increase by voice vote. Bob Hobbs then handed out quantities of newly-printed ASA membership brochures, noting that the Dallas Chapter had paid for the printing and urged members to make good use of them, since they will become obsolete at the end of the year. Steve Brainerd announced the other dues increases approved by the Board, to wit: Contributing from \$30 to \$50, Sustaining from \$60 to \$100, Endowment from \$100 to \$200, and Life from \$300 to \$500. He also introduced the customary rooted cutting. This year's choice is the native *R. oblongifolium*, the Texas Azalea.

The Society's Distinguished Service Award was presented in absentia to Glenn and Marjorie Taylor by Malcolm Clark. Glenn served as Treasurer for years and Marge as Membership Chairperson.

It was announced that the next convention would be held in Atlanta and be hosted by the Oconee Chapter. With that, the annual meeting and the convention were adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. McIntosh
Secretary

Report of the Public Information Committee for 1996

William C. Miller III, *Chairman*

For the period beginning May 1, 1995, and ending April 30, 1996, I submit the following report. Fifty-six requests for information were received from 24 states, two Canadian provinces (British Columbia and Ontario), and three foreign (non-North American) countries (Colombia, Uruguay, and England).

The most requests for information came from the state of Virginia (6) with Maryland (5) following close behind. May of 1995 was the busiest with eight letters received while August and September of 1995 were least busy with only two letters received. Again, my thanks to the nurseries who favored me with their catalogs and inventory lists. Many of the requests for information are from people who are seeking assistance in locating particular cultivars. □

IN MEMORY

It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Jim Howard, who died of a heart attack on January 23, 1996 while vacationing in Florida. Jim has been a loyal member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and just a few years ago had the chapter to his home to see his gardens.

With regret we also report the death of Reid Denis on April 15, 1996 at 81 years of age in Haverford, Pennsylvania. He was a former resident of Great Falls, Virginia. He was an expert on azaleas and rhododendrons, and was a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America from 1979 until 1991. □

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of May 5, 1996, and new members for 1996:

| | Members | |
|-------------------|---------|-----|
| | Total | New |
| Ben Morrison | 30 | 2 |
| Brookside Gardens | 129 | 8 |
| Dallas | 55 | 10 |
| Louisiana | 33 | 7 |
| Northern Virginia | 68 | 1 |
| Oconee | 84 | 15 |
| Richmond Virginia | 41 | 3 |
| Tri-State | 22 | 1 |

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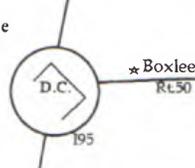
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