
SOCIETY NEWS

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Dianne Gregg, *President*

At the December meeting speaker David Vismara, Director of Brookside Gardens, outlined the exciting new plans for the new Education and Visitors Center being built and to be completed by the Fall of 1997. He also described the new programs and exhibits to be staged, such as a Light Show, and a special butterfly exhibit.

Vice President Mary Rutley awarded the 1996 Frederic P. Lee Commendation posthumously to Richard (Dick) T. West. Among his many accomplishments, he and Bill Miller wrote "The Glenn Dale Azaleas Revised" based on B. Y. Morrison's Monograph. He will certainly be missed by all of us. The award citation reads:

THE FREDERIC P. LEE COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHERING THE KNOWLEDGE OF AND APPRECIATION OF AZALEAS IS AWARDED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER OF THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA TO

RICHARD T. WEST

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER IN ADVANCING THE PROPAGATION, CARE, AND GENERAL APPRECIATION OF AZALEAS.

PRESENTED WITH DEEP GRATITUDE DURING THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER, IN THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, THE STATE OF MARYLAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ON THIS SECOND DAY OF DECEMBER, NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-SIX.

FREDERIC P. LEE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Brookside Gardens Chapter was held February 2, 1997 at the Davis Library in Bethesda at 7:30PM. The program, entitled "Selection and Culture of Azaleas and Rhododendrons", was given by speaker Ed Reiley, author of "Success with Azaleas and Rhododendrons". Mr. Reiley owns a nursery in Woodsboro, MD (near Frederick). The meeting was particularly well attended.

The new officers for 1997 are as follows:

President: Dianne Gregg
Vice President: Mary Rutley
Secretary: Jean Cox
Treasurer: Dorothy Murphree

DALLAS CHAPTER

Virginia Salter, *President*

The Dallas Chapter held its first meeting of 1997 on February 18, at Northaven Gardens. Past Chapter President Peggy Kirkland will give a slide presentation on her trip to England. This past fall our chapter was busy winterizing our hoop house to protect our cuttings, which will be sold during "Dallas Blooms" at the Dallas Arboretum. The chapter will also have a display table set up one weekend during this event.

LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Robert Miravalle, *President*

At the December 1996 Chapter Meeting the following were elected:

President: Robert J. Miravalle
Vice President: Vincent Ciolino
Secretary: W. Larry Brown
Treasurer: William Bode

Robert "Buddy" Lee, Society Director and Chapter Member discussed his use of the species *oldhamii* in breeding summer blooming evergreen azaleas. Flowerwood Nurseries of Alabama evaluated Lee's hybrids, named several and will begin merchandising them in 1997.

The next meeting on March 2 will feature Larry Rogers, Director of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Experiment Station (LSUAES). Dr. Rogers will discuss current and further plans for ornamental research in the LSUAES with emphasis on azalea investigation.

On March 22 the chapter will exhibit azaleas and sponsor an azalea sale at the Hammond Spring Festival. A few years ago the chapter planned an azalea exhibit garden at the Hammond Railroad Station. This year's exhibit and sale will be centered around this garden.

Roy Constantin has our chapter web site up and running with color pictures of fall blooming azaleas and a narrative including chapter and society information and membership

application. The site can be addressed at two locations:

<http://www.I-55.com/plantweb/azaleasociety/>

<http://www.lan.org/>

These sites were donated to us by the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen whom we would like to generously thank.

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter of the Azalea Society met at the First Baptist Church, November 10, 1996. Twenty-three, including new member Al Penland, were in attendance.

Our president, Earl Hester, called the members to order and turned the proceedings over to Ralph Bullard, our program chairman. He talked about evergreen azaleas and showed beautiful slides of them. Afterwards, Ralph asked those present to participate in a survey of favorite groups of azaleas and good doers in the Atlanta area. The group was given 25 major evergreen hybrid groups grown in the Atlanta area and was asked to select five. Attendees were to list their most favored first, followed by their second favorite, third, fourth and fifth. Nineteen ballots were submitted.

The top favorite hybrid group was the Kurume followed by the Robin Hills, then the Glenn Dales. The second choice showed the Glenn Dales followed by the Kurumes then the Satsuki. There appears to be a strong Club preference for these four groups.

The survey was not intended to be scientific, but a fun mixer for the Oconee chapter.

When each hybrid group was weighed equally, the Glenn Dales and Satsuki were at the top of the list followed in descending order by the Kurume, Harris, Robin Hill, Back Acre, Southern Indica, Carla, and Kehr. The Gables, Hersheys, Pericat and Nuccio followed with each receiving the same number of votes.

From our little poll, we believe that the six hybrid groups not receiving a single vote indicates a general lack of familiarity with these groups. It also appears that our trading and cutting parties should focus on getting these groups into greater appreciation.

The second part of the Oconee poll was to list 50 "Good Doer" azaleas for the Atlanta area. This survey will need to be redesigned because not enough time was allowed for the balloting. Only one person was able to list all 50! Several others managed to list from 42-44 varieties.

The most notable aspect of this exercise was the interaction among individuals and groups. There was much light-hearted conversation, discussion and consultation between groups and individuals. Summed up—everyone had a good time.

So what were the results? For brevity, we list only the top 25. 'George Lindley Taber' ranked number one, followed by 'Coral Bells', then 'Ben Morrison'. 'Glory' placed fourth. 'Ambrosia', 'Fashion', 'Glacier', 'Sunglow' and 'Wakaebisu' each received the same number of votes. 'Corsage', 'Elsie Lee', 'Hampton Beauty', 'Miss Susie' and 'Zulu' placed next in line. 'Fascination', 'Formosa', 'Hershey's Red', 'Hinode Giri', Margaret Douglas', 'Midnight Flair', 'Orange Cup', 'Refrain', 'Sherwood Red', 'Trouper', and 'Vittata Fortunei' [*Vittatum*, ed.] each received the next in line. We will talk about the hybrid groups, where each variety is classified at our next meeting.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Joe Klimavicz, *President*

The December 1996 meeting took place on December 8, 1996 in the library at Green Spring Gardens Park, with Jean Cox as the featured speaker. She had made trips to Scotland in 1984 and 1989, and she took many slides of plants and scenes of interest to all azalea and rhododendron lovers. It was a very colorful presentation.

Election of officers for the upcoming year took place. Elected were

Joe Klimavicz for President, Dan Kraybill for Vice President, Alfred Stober for Secretary and John Krogmann for Treasurer.

A plant exchange took place, and excellent refreshments were available. Attendance was disappointingly low, with only 14 members present.

At the February 23, meeting Barbara Bullock, Curator of the Azalea Collection at the U.S. Arboretum. She will speak on "The Morrison Garden at the U.S. Arboretum, the Hillside Garden, and the Cultural Care and propagation of Azaleas", with accompanying slides.

Glenn Dale Preservation Project
1997

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 15th year. Ironically, the untimely death of Dick West in October coincides with what is likely to be the beginning of a period of uncertainty for our project at the historic plant introduction station at Glenn Dale, Maryland.

In mid-November, Dr. Bruce Parlman (the location leader at Glenn Dale and our long-time friend and supportive colleague) and his staff were transferred to another USDA facility at Beltsville, Maryland. While Dr. Parlman's move did not come as a surprise, as it had been anticipated for a number of years, the only personnel remaining at Glenn Dale are a handful of National Arboretum staff. With the significant reduction in the number of people and the program at Glenn Dale, I can foresee a situation where the station, established in 1920 by P. H. Dorsett, could be shut down, though that is just my speculation.

Perhaps the most tangible result of the ASA's project at Glenn Dale has been the publication of the revision of Monograph 20, Ben Morrison's account of the development of the Glenn Dale Hybrids. A long-term goal of Dick West and more than three years in preparation, the final manuscript was completed the week before his death. As such, it is dedicated to his memory.