

week to cover the four or five hundred cultivars in the garden and the nursery. Within the month I should be able to straighten out Mobile County and then ...

The dew on the flowers made the cards a little sticky. As it soaked into the paper the cards began to wrinkle a bit. Maybe it wouldn't hurt if the sunlight were a bit more direct. I laid the project aside for a few hours. When I returned sometime later I found to my horror that the cards had firmly glued to each other, and prying them apart left the paper backing on the chips. O.K., check for a color match on a couple of bushes and see if I can fix this later. At worst I should be able to approximate the right color, and let Galle pin it down.

I flipped through the deck quickly. Too rich, too dark, too purple, close, closer, closer...yes. 49C. That was the answer--no question. Of course it fades a little toward the edge, and maybe this isn't the freshest flower. A good quantitative analyst always runs three samples, so I check again. 56D. Was that what I got the first time? I rechecked the first flower. 56D. Wait a minute. Realizing that I was tampering with raw data here I dropped my doubts and bent down to analyze my final sample. 38D or I'm blind.

Later that evening I sat in a funk waiting for the North Star to rise above the horizon. I whipped out my sticky color cards and checked again in the fading light. Yes, if you looked at it this way then 55C would work. But so would 35C through 90D. And these mercury streetlights aren't helping. About then my cards began to flash electric blue. "Turn that damn light off, can't you see I'm working here?" I snarled at the patrol car parked at the curb. In the back seat of the cruiser, I couldn't help but notice that the crumpled blossom in my hand matched the Merlot stain on my white trousers almost exactly. I wondered if the vintage would matter.

Maarten van der Giessen is the Manager of the Van Der Giessen Nursery in Semmes, Alabama. The nursery is a wholesale liner operation specializing in modern azaleas and other ornamentals. Maarten is a collector of azaleas. □

SOCIETY NEWS

BROOKSIDE GARDENS CHAPTER

Dianne Gregg, *President*

A number of members went to Atlanta in April for the National Convention in Atlanta and enjoyed seeing spectacular gardens. There were excellent speakers and of course the legendary Southern hospitality by the Oconee Chapter.

Spring Chapter meetings featured Anne Brooks in April speaking on "Plants with Good Foliage," and in June, Gordon and Roberta Hagen exploring a new topic to many of us, "Magnolias as Good Companion Plants for Azaleas."

The first weekend in May featured the annual Brookside Gardens Chapter Azalea Show at the Landon School Azalea Festival. Bill Miller's 'Palestrina' won the top award. The Azalea Mart sale was held the second Saturday in May. This annual sale is happily anticipated by many people in the Washington area.

In July, the Chapter held a picnic at Lee and Jim Blue's garden. They were the lucky people who bought the Stelloh property. Fortunately, they are gardeners too.

In September there was another annual event, the Azalea and Companion Plant Auction at the National Arboretum. Bill Miller was again the Auctioneer. This auction is lots of fun and a good fund raiser for the Chapter and the Arboretum.

In the photograph at the right Bill Miller (left) and Bobbi McCeney (center), both members of the Brookside Gardens chapter, present a specimen of the new evergreen azalea 'Landon Pride' to Landon School Headmaster Damon F. Bradley (right) at a ceremony in the Perkins Garden at the 1997 Landon Azalea Festival in Bethesda, Maryland. A Miller F2 hybrid of two 'Kobold' open-pollinated progeny, 'Landon Pride' (syn. Landon #6) is a single, 2 to 2-1/4-inch flower. The flower is a very attractive, glowing purplish red, RHS86-60C, with darker dots on the upper lobe and a yellowish tinge in the throat. 'Landon Pride' was introduced at the 1997 Landon Azalea Festival and can only be obtained from the Landon School.



Photo by Dianne Gregg

OCONEE CHAPTER

Ruth Bryan, *Secretary*

The Oconee Chapter met at Allison Fuqua's home/garden for an azalea cutting swap with 24 present. Members arrived and left at different times because of the weather. Allison demonstrated his method of propagation. Earl Hester, our president, asked members to introduce themselves and welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Maddox as new members. Earl expressed regret that he was not able to attend the ASA Convention. Earl volunteered his place for next year's (1998) cutting party. We are hoping to set up a regular meeting date and place to be able to schedule speakers.

A CD was purchased, and a donation to the ASA was agreed upon. The new meeting place will be at the Conyers Kroger meeting room. Jim Thornton, president of the ASA, discussed the ASA Board meeting and stated that the

Oconee Chapter now has 84 members, and that the Chapter and the ASA need more members.

At the next meeting, September 14, speaker Jim Thornton described the new fall-blooming azaleas. The Encore azaleas are from crosses made by a fellow ASA member Buddy Lee, Louisiana Chapter.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER
Joe Klimavicz, President

The Chapter met on August 17, 1997. This meeting was the annual plant auction. The cutting exchange in July was a great opportunity for us to obtain cuttings for plants we may not have already in sufficient quantity. Of course, there is some risk that the cuttings we set will not take root. With the plant auction, that risk is not there, and you can just sit and watch the plant grow. All you need to do is make the highest bid on the plants you want, and they are yours for that price. This plant auction was especially important this year. We will be hosting the National Convention next year, and we will need extra money in our treasury to cover initial expenses and deposits. All proceeds went into our Chapter treasury.

The speaker for the October 12 meeting was Bill Steele who has a nursery in West Chester, PA. He traveled down here to talk about "Tales of Azalea-holic." His talk was accompanied by slides. Bill grows and sells about 2,600 varieties of azaleas in his nursery. Some of us have been there to purchase his plants. In talking to other customers while there, one finds that many people come from long distances in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to buy azaleas from him. Bill is Chairman of the Azalea Study Group for District Eight of the ARS. He has been an officer and Board member of the Valley Forge Chapter, and has received a Bronze Medal for his achievements. One of his goals is to build a complete collection of the Holly Springs azaleas. □

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of December 1, 1997:

	Members	
	Total	New plus Renew
Ben Morrison	35	20
Brookside Gardens	129	66
Dallas	51	25
Louisiana	35	16
Northern Virginia	63	27
Oconee	86	45
Richmond Virginia	39	15
Tri-State	24	19

AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

1996 SOURCES & USES OF FUNDS

	Totals
INCOME (SOURCES)	
The Azalean	399.50
Membership Dues	14,605.00
Gifts	831.00
Interest	1,737.01
Other Income	0.00
Total Income	17,572.51
EXPENSES (USES)	
Awards & Memorials	0.00
THE AZALEAN	12,400.81
Dues Expense	3,315.40
Member Roster	1,226.00
Other Expense	87.97
Other Postage	369.67
Total Expenses	17,399.85
Income less Expenses	172.66

Total, All Accounts 45,349.94

R. T. Stelloh, Treasurer 6/15/97

Azalea Calendar

1998

January 15	Deadline for receiving material for the March issue of THE AZALEAN
April 15	Deadline for receiving material for the June issue of THE AZALEAN
April 30-May 3	Annual Convention and Annual Business Meeting, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter, McLean, Virginia
July 15	Deadline for receiving material for the September issue of THE AZALEAN
October 15	Deadline for receiving material for the December issue of THE AZALEAN