
In Memory of Jason O. Thornton

It is very hard for me to write this but I knew some of you needed to know our son Jason passed away October 29, 1997.

Jay was not a member but he attended more conventions than most members, simply because he loved the azalea, as he loved all plants, and he loved to visit the gardens. He loved the people he met and I know some of you grew to love him. For that, Patsy and I thank you. We also want to thank you for the calls, the cards and letters and the donations in his memory.

Jason loved his plants. If you could have seen his place, the back porch, the yard, you would understand his passion. He couldn't bear to see a plant go unattended, no matter how pitiful a shape it was in. He would restore it and find it a good home. I guess you could say he was a chip off the old block but I think sometimes, rather most often, he went over-board.

We had already planned on attending the 1998 and 1999 conventions and I know in my heart, he'll be there.

Jim Thornton □

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following is the slate for new officers:

For Secretary: Ruth Bryan, Lithonia, Georgia. Ruth is a member of the Oconee Chapter, and she currently serves the chapter as secretary. She is active in local garden clubs. Ruth and her husband Frank are avid gardeners, now specializing in azaleas.

For Treasurer: Robert T. Stelloh, Hendersonville, North Carolina. Bob has been an azalea enthusiast for more than 20 years and in past years developed an extensive azalea and rhododendron collection in the woods around a home in Maryland. Bob retired a few years ago, from a career in computer programming, and is currently developing and marketing a computer program for garden information management. He is a member of Brookside Gardens Chapter.

For Director: Dr. Charles Owen, Cedartown, Georgia. Dr. Owen received his DDS at the University of Tennessee in 1947. He retired in 1989. His interest in evergreen azaleas began in the 1960's, and he is now a hybridizer of deciduous azaleas. He is a member of the Oconee Chapter.

For Director: Stephen Schroeder, Evansville, Indiana. Mr. Schroeder received his BS in agriculture at Murray State University. He operates Holly Hills Nursery in Evansville, Indiana. His family introduced the Schroeder Azaleas and received the 1983 Bronze Medal Award from Great Rivers Chapter of ARS. He is a member of the Tri-State Chapter.

For Director: Robert E. (Buddy) Lee, Independence, Louisiana. Mr. Lee received his BS in biology. He is a trauma nurse in Intensive Care Unit. He served as host for the 1991 national convention. Past president of Louisiana Nurserymen's Association, District 3. He is a hybridizer of evergreen and deciduous azaleas and past president and a member of the Louisiana Chapter.

The ballot for the election of officers and directors is on the wrapper of this issue. **PLEASE VOTE.** □

Letter To the Editor

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the name *Rhododendron prinophyllum*? *R. periclymenoides* is named for the similarity of its flowers to those of the honeysuckle, *Lonicera periclymenum*. *R. calendulaceum* calls our attention to flower colors that resemble those of *Calendula*. "Phyllum" means leaf—but what is "prino"?

Searching for the origin of the specific epithet applied to our native clove-scented azalea, I consulted several reference books dealing with plant names. Result: zero. But a clue was found in the azalea volume of Davidian's new work on *Rhododendron Species*: "With the leaves like *Prinos*." Recent lists of genera were checked; result: zero. Then an old—though now outdated—stand-by came to mind, Willis's *Dictionary of the Flowering Plants*. Eureka! "*Prinos* Gronov. ex L. = *Ilex* L. (*Aquifoliac.*)" The author reference for *Prinos* takes us to Gronovius, who, with assistance from Linnaeus, published the 1739 *Flora Virginica*.

Linnaeus included the genus *Ilex* (hollies) in his 1753 *Species Plantarum*, the starting point of modern botanical nomenclature. But he also included the genus *Prinos*, comprising the two species now known as *Ilex glabra* and *Ilex verticillata*. The name *Azalea prinophyllum*, the basionym of *R. prinophyllum*, was published by the American botanist Small in 1914. He apparently saw some resemblance between the leaves of this plant and the North American hollies placed in the genus *Prinos* by Linnaeus. Thus the epithet *prinophyllum* connotes, as stated by Davidian: "With leaves like *Prinos*!"

Donald H. Voss
Vienna, Virginia □