
SOCIETY NEWS

Northern Virginia Chapter

Joe Klimavicz, President

Election of Chapter Officers

Election of officers for the 1998 chapter year was held at the December 1997 meeting. The following officers were elected:

President: Joe Klimavicz
Vice President: Dan Krabill
Secretary: Virginia Banks
Treasurer: John Krogmann

1998 National Convention Update

Our 1998 National Convention is a very important chapter event, and we will need everyone's help to pull it off. The convention will occur 30 April - 3 May 1998 at the Holiday Inn at Tysons Corner, Virginia, and the convention committee chairs are listed below:

Plants: Dave Raden
Transportation and Lunch: Dave Nanney
Registration: Dave and Virginia Banks
Hotel: Dan Krabill
Tours: Don Hyatt
Speakers: Bruno Kaelin
Publicity: Phil Louer

The complete convention article appeared in the December 1997 issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Thanks to everyone who helped produce this article; especially Phil Louer. In summary, I think we are on schedule with the convention planning, but we still have a lot of hard work ahead. We really need your support and we will be getting in touch with you.

Glenn Dale Preservation Program 1998

William C. Miller III

The ASA's National Project at the Glenn Dale station is entering its 16th year. Coincidentally, it is also its final year. On November 27, 1997, I informed the ASA Board of Directors (BOD) of my intention to withdraw from the Glenn Dale Preservation Program (GDPP). With the pressure of matters at work and at home, and the recognition that the opportunities at Glenn Dale had diminished, managing a graceful sunset to the project had been on my mind for a number of years. Since the GDPP is an ASA National Project, the BOD had the option of appointing someone to "carry on" in my place. It was my recommendation, however, that an orderly termination of the project made more sense. While the value of the germplasm that remains in the woods cannot be overstated, no one would be willing to put forward the major commitment of manpower, time, and money that would be necessary to support a rescue.

ASA members have followed the program's progress through the reports that appeared annually in the March issue of **THE AZALEAN**. With more than 25 articles in **THE AZALEAN** from a number of people, two books (*The*

Bell Book and *The Glenn Dale Azaleas Revised*), and an offshoot project (Dick West's Ten Oaks Glenn Dale Project) directly related to the research that we did at Glenn Dale, I would say from a productivity point of view that the project was an unqualified success. That it did not succeed in achieving all of its goals is not so important, but it is a lesson to be learned.

For those not familiar with the story, the National Project at the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, began in the early 1980's with the efforts of Roger Brown of New Carrollton, Maryland, who was the president of the Ben Morrison Chapter. Roger Brown and Frank White had discussions with Dr. Howard Waterworth, the chief of the Germplasm Resources Laboratory at the Glenn Dale station, which resulted in the issuance of a special USDA permit on June 17, 1982. As president of the Brookside Gardens chapter, I was an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors (then called Board of Governors), and I remember the Board's deliberations. For the record, I was not entirely in favor of the proposal, as I had major reservations about the ASA's ability to sustain such a commitment. Not to be denied, there was a very strong but general sense that the ASA needed a "national project." The Board approved the project despite a lengthy list of concerns, and the ASA's first National Project was born with Roger Brown as the program's leader. The agreement with the USDA called for the ASA to restore the original azalea test area and to develop and maintain a germplasm preservation garden for named and unnamed azalea cultivars. In the Fall of 1982, general work sessions commenced which resulted in considerable progress being made toward restoring the former test area. This was a formidable task since the area was badly overgrown with volunteer/nuisance plant material due to the many years of neglect. A committee was formed (Roger Brown, Andy Dietz, and myself) to create a working document to provide a structure for the ASA activity which the Board eventually reviewed and approved. At that point, I decided that I would do