

the wholesale trade. Currently, they are producing approximately one and a half million liners and rooted cuttings annually. The nursery leased a 90-acre site in 1997, and is expanding into the container market.

Maarten is an active member of the Azalea Society of America, the American Rhododendron Society, the International Plant Propagators Society, and Past President of the South Alabama Nurserymen's Association. His interest in "alternative" azaleas dates to his work with azaleas at Cottage Hill. He and Peter are actively pursuing ways to introduce new plants into commercial markets at van der Giessen Nursery.

WANTED !

At the convention the Board of Directors authorized several projects for us to work on and we need your help!

The first is to find a replacement Editor for **THE AZALEAN** since Bob and Bee Hobbs will be retiring with the completion of the December issue. So far we've been unable to find someone internally and we're seeking outside help, possibly from a college or university, or maybe another professional editor.

Bill Bode, our Vice President, is heading up the search and would like your input. He can be reached at 504-892-5105 or 235 ROBINHOOD RD., COVINGTON, LA 70133.

In addition to this, Bill is also heading up a new petition to gain new members. Assisting Bill with the Membership Recruitment Committee are Joe Klimavicz, John Magis and Bill Lucas. If you have any ideas, etc., please contact these guys.

About the back issues of **THE AZALEAN**...ASA Director Col. Murray Sheffield (and wife Inez) will

be distributing and collecting your money. Details will come out in the September issue.

Finally, another project I will head up is to revamp our welcome package and application brochure. In addition we plan to develop a pamphlet on the basic azalea culture. Again your input will be greatly appreciated but please hurry, we want to get started like NOW! You can reach me at 884 June Drive, Conyers, GA, (770) 483-1593 (fax same #).

Jim Thornton, President □

Chapter Achievement

Following is a list of Chapter membership numbers as of May 19, 1998.

	Members Total	New
Ben Morrison	33	1
Brookside Gardens	126	10
Dallas	46	5
Louisiana	31	2
Northern Virginia	67	7
Oconee	77	6
Richmond, Virginia	31	11
Tri-State	24	1

Society Honor Roll 1998

Endowment Members

L. Malcolm Clark
Jane Newman
Don Voss

Sustaining Members

William B. McIntosh
Dr. and Mrs. Donald E. Moreland
W. T. Norris, Jr. MD

PRIZE FOR BEST ARTICLE IN THE AZALEAN—1997

*Alice Holland
&
Kathleen A. Kron*

In 1989, the Board of Governors authorized the editor of **THE AZALEAN** to establish an annual prize for the best article to appear in **THE AZALEAN**. The concept was to acquire through donations, a fund which when invested would provide an annual prize for the best article published in **THE AZALEAN**. Funds were donated by the following chapters to establish the "CHAPTER'S PRIZE":

Tri-State
Richmond, VA
Ben Morrison
Northern Virginia
Brookside Gardens

As stated in the September 1990 issue, the best article each year will be selected by a poll of the membership. The prize will be announced and awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

The prize for Best Article in **THE AZALEAN** in 1997 has been awarded to Alice Holland for her article "How It All Began" which appeared in the December 1997 issue of **THE AZALEAN** and to Dr. Kathleen A. Kron for her article "Identifying the Native Azaleas" which appeared in the September 1997 issue. The editor and staff wish to express a special thanks to these authors for their efforts on behalf of the members of the Azalea Society of America. □