
Society News

Continuing Society Concerns

At the September 23rd Board of Directors teleconference meeting, three issues were raised that may have a big impact on the Society:

- 1) photographic reproduction quality in **THE AZALEAN**;
- 2) disposition of back issues of **THE AZALEAN**; and
- 3) need to increase support of Azalea Projects at the National Arboretum.

As the Society's journal, **THE AZALEAN** is the most visible and vivid image the Society presents to the public. It is also a key means to recruit new members. As such, it

needs to be of the highest quality, while using the most cost-effective processes. A committee has been formed of Don Hyatt, Art Vance, and Barbara Stump to examine potential methods that could improve the photographic quality. The group will report to the board before the annual meeting in Charleston in 2000. A key issue in this group's work is to find the best sources for slides of azaleas within the membership. Members may provide feedback on this topic to Barbara Stump (contact information page 67).

Since requests for back issues seem to be low, the backlog in personal storage being handled by member Col. E.M. Sheffield is getting out of

hand. Also, future electronic storage of the text is available. The board suggested the Society develop a list of worthy institutions which could benefit from gifts of complete sets. The Chapters and At-large members should suggest institutions they consider worthy. Make these requests to Jim Thornton.

The most effective indication of the Society's sincere support of the U.S. National Arboretum's Azalea Projects would be for members to write a large number of personal letters to their State Representatives. Gen. Bryghte Godbold will be contacting chapter presidents; At-large members can write directly.

Azaleas in Mexico - continued

plants, but there are lots of others that are not available. It is a problem to import plants to Mexico, so it is not easy to get new ones. Besides the troublesome permits we need the cooperation and personalized service of the sender, so we can retrieve them from customs at the airport as soon as possible. But as I said at the beginning I am a plant lover and will do anything to get more!

Three years ago in New Zealand I saw Vireyas for the first time, and I

became very excited about them. I would like to grow some, and I am going to order some. I also have a home in Texas, near Lake Conroe, and that would be an easier place to have them sent to. I extend an invitation to visit my place to anyone that is interested, just let me know.

Esther Salinas lives in Mexico City and is a new member of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society, but she has been growing and

propagating azaleas for many years. Her greatest hobbies are growing plants and flower arranging. She has been a garden club member since 1968 and belongs to clubs in Mexico and belonged to clubs in Houston when she lived there. She has been President of every club she's belonged to, as well as the Mexican Federation of Garden Clubs. At present, she is President of the Judges Council of Mexico City, and she is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Azaleas Online II

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

In the June issue, we showed several complete threads, or topics, that online members have been discussing. Here we summarize a few of the other threads on the <azaleas@azaleas.org> maillist, and how to find them in the online archives. [Editor's note: any text within angle brackets < > is something the computer user would type in.]

Cuttings Clearinghouse: Trade Mart

Tom Hughes mentioned a wish for some Satsuki cuttings in a private message to Bill McDavit, but sent it to the list by mistake. John Kaylor saw it, thought it would be a good idea to have a clearinghouse for such requests, and coined the term Trade Mart. With some help from Nancy Swell's experience with an ephemeral seed exchange for the North American Rock Garden Society, John Brown

developed the Trade Mart guidelines and is chairing the clearinghouse. It works like this:

- you post a <[TM] Want Cuttings> e-mail to the list describing the plants you want and your mailing address
- someone with those plants sends a private message to you, and you two work out the details via private e-mail