

# Chapter News

[Editor's Note: Many thanks for the wonderful newsletters I get from the various chapters. The hard work of the editors is quite evident, and the care and culture articles are especially welcome as material to publish for the entire readership of **THE AZALEAN**. The newsletters are a key way to share information, and my primary source of up-to-date input for the Azalea Calendar and In Memory sections of the Society's journal. Consider writing items for your local newsletter editors; they will really appreciate it, and so will I.]

## Ben Morrison Chapter

Joan Sweeney, Newsletter Editor

Reporting about the February meeting hosted by Dr. Greg Stiverson at London Town Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland, chapter president Joe Miller especially noted the new faces at the meeting, particularly from Anne Arundel County and the northern reaches of Ben Morrison's membership area. The chapter voted to donate \$500 to London Town Gardens to assist in development of their native azalea gardens. To quote from the newsletter: "We all should be proud of this achievement, as it will represent a permanent contribution to the community in an effort to educate plant lovers about azaleas. Thanks to all who helped in this effort."

The chapter met May 7 at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, St. Leonard, Maryland. Long-time chapter member L. Courtland Lee of the Boxlee Nursery, Glenn Dale, Maryland, discussed "Companion Plants for Your Azalea Garden." Boxlee Nursery features historic Glenn Dale azaleas and a wide selection of native azaleas, Satsuki, and companion plants. Bob Hobbs also presented a slide show of highlights from the 2000 ASA Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. Members exchanged favorite companion plants following the meeting.

## Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary

In a nice regional gesture, Frances sent the April 2000 newsletter to the former Richmond, Virginia, chapter members and other "At-Large" members in the northern Virginia area, inviting them to attend the meetings usually held at Green Spring Gardens Park, near Annandale.

## Louisiana Chapter

### Robert (Buddy) Lee Receives Award

Robert (Buddy) Lee, current director of ASA and past president of the Louisiana Chapter, was recently recognized with a Professional Achievement Award from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA).

Buddy was selected for his significant contribution to the industry through development of the "Encore Azalea" Series. These are a new group of multi-seasonal flowering azaleas being marketed by Flowerwood Nursery. Buddy received his award during LNLA's annual membership meeting held in Mobile, Alabama, during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in January 2000. [Information contributed by Allen Owings, Executive Secretary, LNLA, Ed.]

Recent speakers: November, 1999, meeting: Don Voss, "Robin Hill Azaleas Revisited." Don discussed how his father-in-law, Robert Gartrell, who developed these azaleas, got started and continued to evolve other varieties. One special note, the correct name for one of the most well known is 'Nancy of Robinhill,' three words only. February 27, 2000: Don Hyatt, "Computers in the Garden." April 9, 2000: Several speakers on early-blooming varieties, with a focus on hybridizing. Local hybridizer Joe Klimawicz reported on results of his recent crosses. Members were invited to bring samples of their early-blooming plants. May 6, tours of members' gardens were held, organized by Barry Sperling.

Frances' report on the ASA Convention in Charleston, South Carolina, made interesting reading. We agree with her, "Ya should 'av been there!"

Finally, Phil Louer summarized the e-mail list's discussion of the effects of black walnut trees on azaleas. (See Azalea Care and Culture Section.)

## Oconee Chapter

Ruth Bryan, Newsletter Editor

The March 5, 2000, meeting was a participation workshop held at the Rockdale Cooperative Extension Service in Conyers, Georgia. The Extension Service had asked a subcommittee of the Oconee Chapter to revise a slide series on azaleas. Jim Thornton, Al Penland, and Frank Bryan make up the subcommittee that is working with the existing slide series and script produced in 1981. Members were invited to attend to critique slides proposed to fill in gaps in the existing series and to contribute slides for duplication to make up the new slide series. Also invited

were design ideas for the title and subtitle slides that the Cooperative Extension Service will make to complete the project.

The Rockdale Cooperative Extension Service is now providing the meeting space for the Oconee Chapter, an arrangement that began with the November 5, 1999, meeting. The slide show describes common cultivars in yards in Georgia, shows other cultivars that are unique in color, bloom type, and time of bloom and culture techniques. The project is still in progress, with new slides coming from chapter members and the script is now in its fifth draft.

John Callaway agreed to fill the chapter vice president vacancy. He also serves as program chairman. Members were encouraged to contact him with ideas for future programs.

A cutting party and swap is planned for later this year, so azalea wish lists were to be sent to the Bryans, or phoned in to 770-760-1569.