

Society News

Ben Morrison Chapter Exceptional Service Award

In December 1999, the Ben Morrison Chapter presented both Sue and George Switzer with Certificates of Recognition of Exceptional Contributions to the Ben Morrison Chapter.

The citations read as follows:

Sue Switzer, a charter member of the Chapter has for many years served the Chapter as President, gracious hostess, and in support of other activities. She

has supported the objective of the Society to promote interest and exchange of knowledge of the azalea and to study the principles of hybridization, propagation, culture and care of azaleas. She has served the Society as a key member of the team that developed the George Harding Memorial Garden.

George S. Switzer, a charter member of the Chapter, has for many years served the Chapter as President and

supporter of meetings and other activities. He has supported the objective of the Society to promote interest and exchange of knowledge of the azaleas and to study the principles of hybridization, propagation, culture and care of azaleas. He has served the Society as a Director, Assistant Editor of **THE AZALEAN**, and as a key member of the team that developed the George Harding Memorial Garden.

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Charleston, South Carolina — March 24, 2000

The business meeting was brief, since it followed both the banquet and the speaker. President Bill Bode summarized the work of the Board of Directors meeting March 22.

Old Business. After work by Treasurer Bob Stelloh, the board could recommend that the Society could accept credit cards (at its website, only) as payment for dues or renewals. Bill McIntosh so moved, seconded by Art Vance. There was no discussion; the motion passed.

Regarding the election of directors, this will be delayed pending publication of a slate by the Nominating Committee. The terms of directors Lee and van der Giessen ended as of this meeting. Mr. Schroeder's position from Tri-State is open, but John Migas is serving out this term. Based on Bode's recommendation, Art Vance moved that in 2001 the Society vote for the whole slate, President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Jim Thornton seconded the motion. Discussion clarified that the terms of Lee, van der Giessen, and Migas would end in 2002, a scheme that was instituted when the Society began. The motion passed.

Former President Jim Thornton requested a point of personal privilege to make a special presentation to Dr. Robert and Bee Hobbs who retired from their 10-year tenure as the Editors of **THE AZALEAN** in 1998 but were unable to attend that convention. He

proudly presented them with a beautiful case clock in recognition of their service from 1988-1998. Bob Hobbs thanked everyone who had provided articles and recognized the support he and Bee had gotten from Jane Newman, Don Voss, Bill Miller, and in the early days, George Switzer. They all worked really hard to get **THE AZALEAN** right. Without their help he and Bee could not have been able to do the job. Thanks also to Brookside Gardens chapter's funding of their training in use of PageMaker software. These remarks were met with a standing ovation for Bob and Bee.

New Business. Barbara Stump, the current editor of **THE AZALEAN**, presented the Award for Best Article in 1999. She said that there had been such a close vote that two awards were being made. Donald H. Voss won one for his article "The Growth Cycle of the Evergreen Azaleas" from the December issue, and Tom Dodd III won one for his article "Breeding and Propagating Native Azaleas" from the September issue.

Bob Stelloh announced plans for the 2001 convention to be held in Asheville, North Carolina, June 14-17. Watch for more information on this "Fun in the Mountains with Native Azaleas" conference in **THE AZALEAN** and at the Society's website.

Bob Stelloh also reported progress on the website: new features include a searchable membership Roster and a

garden data index, which you can use to upload your own garden pictures. Join the e-mail forum; 125 people currently subscribe to this free service, of whom 85 are Society members. In the total Society, 229 members have e-mail. When asked what the Society was doing to encourage membership via this means, he responded that we have posted an online membership application on the website.

Bill McDavitt asked how many members had taken advantage of the multiple-year membership option and was told that 50 have to date. It was suggested that mailing labels on **THE AZALEAN** should carry the membership expiration date.

Bill Miller reported on his work to increase membership through production of an updated membership application brochure indicating new information such as the website address. Copies of the new brochures were mailed to chapters and supporting nurseries which had agreed to distribute the brochures. Bob Hobbs suggested that members should each take a few brochures to their local garden centers where they buy their azaleas to continue the distribution process. As President Bode has said before, we are all ambassadors for the ASA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stump