

years ago, after receiving several plants from her mother, Frances Louer, an avid collector in her own right. Leslie Ann's azalea collection continues to grow, currently numbering more than 2,500 plants of over 1,000 varieties. She is concentrating on obtaining complete collections of several hybridizers, such as Robert Gartrell's Robin Hills, Pete Vines' Holly Springs, and the Huang azaleas.

**Maarten van der Giessen.** Maarten van der Giessen is the vice-president of van der Giessen Nursery, Inc. in Mobile, Alabama, a wholesale grower of azalea and woody ornamental liners and containers since 1990. A current ASA board member, Maarten was chairman of the 1999 ASA convention committee in Mobile, Alabama, and regularly emceeds the annual ASA plant auctions. He is a past president of the South Alabama Nurserymen's Association and an active member of the International Plant Propagator's Society. Maarten and his father, Peter, have been working on azalea evaluations at their nursery since 1994 to provide new and exciting selections to the industry.

**John Migas.** From Saugatuck, in southwestern Michigan, John has a harsh climate and short growing season to contend with when growing his 250 varieties of azaleas and 150 varieties of rhododendrons. He has been a member of the ASA since 1996, but has been growing azaleas for 10 years and hybridizing them for three. He runs both a general contracting firm and a primarily wholesale nursery. Most of his sales have been to landscapers and retail nurserymen in the area, who are very surprised to find the broad range of azalea cultivars he has successfully grown in his five-acre display gardens. He has found membership in the Society to be very rewarding, and he hopes to increase interest in the ASA in his area and increase the activity of the Tri-State Chapter.

## The Society's Database is in Good Hands

*[Thanks to David Nanney for providing material about Art Vance's contributions to the Society, Ed.]*

### John Brown Takes Over

We hate to see Art Vance leave his position as Society database chairman, but alas, he needs to relinquish the reins for health reasons. John Brown, candidate for the ASA Secretary, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to take up the work of managing the Society's database. John is quite computer-literate, hardworking, energetic, and has a good sense of humor.

### Thanks, Art Vance!

Art Vance was one of the charter members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America. Art had frequented Frank White's nursery, Azalea Acres. Frank was then the chairman of the Board of Directors of the ASA and had the vision of expanding its membership across the country. Art and Frank had talked about plants and about the Society over a number of visits when Frank "encouraged" Art to host an organizational meeting in northern Virginia, resulting in the chapter being awarded a charter in 1980. We "rewarded" Art by making him our first chapter president. At the following Society meeting he was elected the president of the National ASA and served concurrently as president of both.

Despite all that, Art remained an active member of the northern Virginia Chapter, co-chairing their plant sales and keeping them straight. A few years ago, Art gave up the hectic life in Northern Virginia to retire to New Bern, North Carolina, for the Southern experience. He remained a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter, while serving the ASA as the database chairman, a job requiring patience and precision, as well as knowledge of computer databases. Art has also served as a member of the Board of Directors, and is the Society's slide chairman.

When he got started in azaleas his intent was to have a complete collection of Robin Hills and Ben Morrison's Back Acres, but that was never fulfilled because some of the sources dried up and so did the well at their house in Annandale, Virginia. By the time they were tied into the county water supply, they decided to move to North Carolina. The Coastal Carolina experience has made it clear that not all azaleas like hurricanes and the resultant wet feet in the flooded back yard. It is now time for the natives!

## Attention Satsuki Aficionados!

Bill Miller, the ASA Membership Chairman wants to be sure you don't miss out on the summer issue of **THE AZALEAN**. Our quarterly journal is worth the \$25 annual dues alone. But this next issue will have a major article on Satsuki hybrids you won't want to miss.

If your membership is in danger of lapsing, or you have friends who are looking for a reason to join, tell them

about the convention in Asheville and the summer issue. Both are very good reasons to learn more about azaleas with the ASA.

You can join the ASA electronically by visiting ASA website, [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org) and pay by credit card or by check. Or, following the instructions on the ASA website, you can send a \$25 check to the West Bethesda address there indicated.