

Northern Virginia Chapter

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Dave and Leslie Nanney went to the International Rhododendron Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in May. But before they left, Dave reported success with a recruiting approach. He strongly recommends and supports having Bob Stelloh "pass on" membership inquiries to chapter presidents. He says his first experience went really well.

ASA President Joe Schild spoke at the March 30th chapter meeting, both about his own Schild hybrid azaleas and about the workshops held at the US National Arboretum in March. (More about this in the next issue.)

[See the sidebar article on Friends of the White Garden.]

Oconee Chapter

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[The Oconee Chapter did yeomens' work in putting on the 2002 ARS/ASA Joint Convention with the Azaleas Chapter of the ARS. All members are to be highly commended. Let's hope they are now enjoying their wonderful gardens, now that the fun is over, Ed.]

The chapter had a booth in early April at the plant fair and sale at Callaway Gardens.

We have completed the CD/slide series, "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" in cooperation with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. It contains 80 slides and narrative on the subject; many of the slides contain 4 pic-

tures and some graphics. It will probably be made available in one or more forms in the future, but this is preliminary. The authors are Dr. Frank Bryan, Albert Penland, and James Thornton, Oconee Chapter, ASA, and Dr. Gary L. Wade, Extension Horticulturist, UGA. The developments of this series have been described in the newsletters over the past couple of years.

Tri-State Chapter

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The chapter held a spring banquet at Bockelman's Restaurant in Evansville, Indiana, on March 16, 2002. A delicious family-style dinner was served. Members Ken and Jean Brown gave the program about butterflies in the garden. Steve and David

Friends of the White Garden

Bruno Kaelin — Centerville, Virginia

Margaret and John White of Annandale, Maryland, gardened at their home since 1939. Over the years they collected many plants, including rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias. Now mature, these plants are of great size. Some are rare, such as Gable rhododendrons and Gable azaleas. Each year in June, Margaret graciously invites the Potomac Valley Chapter, ARS, to have a picnic, cutting exchange, and plant sale at her home during which time the *Rhododendron cumberlandense* is typically in bloom, putting on quite a show.

Margaret White has graciously donated her home and garden in Annandale to the Fairfax County Park Authority. As long as she lives, Margaret will remain in her home. She is most desirous of having a "Friends" organization in place as soon as possible so that her plans and hopes for her garden can be established before it is turned over to the Park Authority. By helping to form this organization, we hope to be able to determine the direction for the development of the garden in accord with Margaret's wishes.

To that end, Don Hyatt and I have been searching for a way to get the Friends group started. There are two hurdles to cross. In gathering information I spoke to the local office of the State of Virginia Attorney General. I had hoped that we would be able to have a simple Friends association, but I was told that in Virginia, there is no legal entity such as an association. The local attorney gave his opinion that the Friends would have to be a Non-Profit Corporation, and recommended strongly that this be done by an attorney. Following establishing the Corporation, an application for Non-Profit status will have to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service of the federal government. Without a treasury and funds, these tasks are impossible.

The plan we have devised is to contact the local plant societies: Northern Virginia Chapter of the ASA, Potomac Valley Chapter of the ARS, and the DC chapters of the Camellia and Magnolia Societies to solicit interested parties to join an official group to get the Friends started. Modest dues would be sought to keep prospective members informed of developments. Hopefully, we will be able to find a lawyer who would take on the job of filing for incorporation at less than the usual fee.

We ask anyone interested in becoming part of the group to establish the Friends of the White Garden to call, write, or e-mail either Don or me:

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