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The Azalean

Journal of the Azalea Society of America



2002 Convention in Review

**Dedication Ceremony at Callaway
Gardens Honors Fred Galle**

Reclaiming the Clouds' Garden



1000 Moody Bridge Road
Cleveland, SC 29635

President's Letter

Joseph E. Schild, Jr. — Hixson, Tennessee

Friends,

It has been a very busy summer for me, and I would guess most of you have had the same. The planning for the 2003 Convention here in Chattanooga has taken much time and work on the part of the committee, but in the end, we feel it will be worth the effort to have all as guests in our fair city.

My letter will contain some items of both good news and some of the other kind, too. After receiving a June letter from our treasurer Bob Stelloh, the good news is that our Society's financial situation is not as bad as first stated in Atlanta, though we still need to continue building membership and a long-term strategic plan.

A planned tour at the 2003 Convention to McMinnville and the Cumberland Plateau has been canceled due to the destruction of thousands of native azaleas on the mountain. We will end up with a new high-speed roadway, but no azaleas along the verge. The good news is that we have located additional gardens to tour and this will cut drive time to about 30 minutes or less between stops.

On a more regional note, Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Chattanooga has agreed to become a site for a resource garden, first, for the Glenn Dale azaleas and, later, for the other azalea collections of the US National Arboretum. A local group has started the cutting collection process and has stuck them for rooting. An article for **The Azalean** will be published next year on this program. Before any azaleas are planted, a detailed map will be drafted with plant locations indicated with global positioning satellite (GPS) and survey markers. This arboretum will also be the home for a number of my Schild hybrid releases.

Well, the sudden rainstorm here has ended, and my garden is calling for more attention. Since it will be on the tour next year, a lot of new work is to be completed, not the least of which is the water garden. The annoying rock is at last blasted out, and now I can lay the padding and liner. I just wish for cooler weather and autumn.

Remember, make a new friend a new ASA member.

Azalea Society of America

The Azalea Society of America, organized December 9, 1977 and incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an educational and scientific non-profit association devoted to the culture, propagation and appreciation of azaleas Subgenera *Tsutsusi* and *Pentanthera* of the genus *Rhododendron* in the Heath family (*Ericaceae*).

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Attention: Members with E-Mail Addresses



When you renew your membership, please include your e-mail address. Where possible, the Society would like to correspond with you in the least expensive method. You may specify it is to be used only for Society e-mail and not published for general use.

Corrections

The editor regrets these two errors from the Summer 2002, 24(2) issue:

- Frederic P. Lee is correct, Frederick is not.
- Don Voss points out the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* should be followed for treatment of Japanese

names, with hyphens before and after the lower case particle "no." Words following the final hyphen are in lower case. Thus, the following are corrected forms from Table 2 on page 30:

Tama-giku
Shinnyo-no-hikari
Shinnyo-no-tsuki

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On the Cover



The Robert Greenleaf Garden on the Opelika/Auburn, Alabama, Tour showed how garden design and plant selection benefit from the owner's symphonic composition skills. He used native deciduous azaleas liberally in a chromatic pattern to punctuate large swaths of ornamental trees. This example is an unknown but very

vibrant yellow deciduous azalea from his garden. (Photo by

William C. Miller III.) Robert has a video on azaleas and rhododendrons for sale for \$15. Contact him at greenler@bellsouth.net or call him at (334) 821-3698.

Dedication Ceremony at Callaway Gardens Honors Fred Galle

Hank Bruno — Pine Mountain, Georgia

On the beautiful spring afternoon of April 5, 2002, Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia, paid tribute to Fred Galle, their director of horticulture from 1953 until 1979. A gathering of family, including his wife Betty and daughter Peggy, friends, and horticultural professionals remembered Fred with the dedication of a plaque in his honor at Callaway's Overlook Garden. Galle worked with the founders and staff to create the beautiful landscape we enjoy today. Those of you who design and cultivate your own gardens can appreciate the effort required to establish a garden of 2,500 acres.

The offices he held and awards bestowed to Fred Galle during his career were as numerous as they are prestigious. Naming just a few here demonstrates the scope of his impact on American horticulture. Over the years he served as the president of the American Horticultural Society, the Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, the Holly Society of America, and the American Rhododendron Society. Galle was a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the recipient of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award of the American Horticultural Society, the Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden Award of Swarthmore College, a Gold Medal from the American Rhododendron Society, and a Silver Medal from the National Council of State Garden Clubs. He was truly a horticultural Olympian. Never one to rest on his laurels, Fred Galle went on to publish the authoritative texts on both azaleas and hollies.

Azaleas, native deciduous and exotic evergreen, have always been the heart of spring at Callaway. It was not the profusion of color or the sweet fragrance of deciduous species but the brilliant orange of plumleaf azalea (*Rhododendron prunifolium*) in the summer woods that began this legacy. Garden founders Cason and Virginia Callaway discovered the rare plumleaf azalea on what was to become their Blue Springs farm, which combined

sanctuary for native flora and for the display of exotic plant collections. Overlook Garden is the exotic azalea collection of Callaway Gardens.

Several speakers at the dedication shared their recollections of a man unlike any other in the Azalea Society of America. In his opening remarks at the dedication, Ralph Callaway, grandson of the founders, characterized the invitation to direct horticulture in the Georgia woodlands as the "opportunity of a lifetime." Galle was recognized as a rising star in horticulture by his teaching and research at the University of Tennessee. Hired first as a consultant for his knowledge of native azaleas, he was soon employed by the Callaways full-time. Overseeing the propagation and installation of thousands of plants, Fred Galle "changed the face of this land forever" according to Ralph Callaway.

Ernest Koone, second generation plantsman at Lazy K Nursery in Pine Mountain, Georgia, told of the tremendous influence of Fred's writing and lectures in creating a market for native azaleas.

Koone credited Galle with influencing his own career choice of running a business that sells thousands of native azaleas annually. He also commented on the generous way Fred would make plants available to the nursery industry—the best examples were his discovery and release of *Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird' and the wild ginger selection *Asarum shuttleworthii* 'Callaway'. The economic impact of Fred's work cannot be overestimated, as it extends far beyond Pine Mountain, Georgia.



The Fred Galle memorial plaque on a boulder of native Hollis quartzite, with native azaleas in the background and the wild ginger he popularized, *Asarum shuttleworthii* 'Callaway', in front. (Photo by Bob Stelloh.)

sustainable farming practices with a vast assortment of crops to reclaim worn-out land. It was a natural extension of this conservation ethic to plant thousands of seeds of the threatened plumleaf azalea. The creation of a public garden and the hiring of Fred Galle as director of horticulture in 1953 were the next phases in a saga of landscape restoration. The tireless efforts of Fred and the horticulture staff in plant rescues and extensive plantings established Callaway as a garden of distinction, both as a



The sheer beauty of the native azaleas Fred Galle propagated and grew for Callaway Gardens is shown here, with ASA secretary John Brown dwarfed by a plumleaf azalea, *R. prunifolium*. As Ernest Koone said at the dedication, "If you seek his monument, look around you." (Photo by Bob Stelloh).

Dr. John Floyd, Jr., editor of *Southern Living* magazine, remembered Fred's long and fruitful association with the faculty and students of Auburn University. Floyd was an undergraduate student of Dr. Henry Orr and roomed with Dr. Bill Barrick, who would become vice-president of Callaway. A field trip to Callaway was a "walk in the park" for the horticulture professor because Fred Galle taught the class. The influence of such visits on students and interns was tremendous and guided many of them into future careers in horticulture.

As trails manager at Callaway, I recalled Fred Galle as teacher and mentor. Galle inscribed my personal copy of the book *Azaleas* with, "Azaleas offer endless challenges," and a few years later in the holly book he wrote, "Have a great time." Beyond the valuable information about plants that Galle shared unstintingly, he was equally generous as a career counselor, providing perspective and a sense of purpose. I related the story Fred called the 'Bear Facts on Gregory Bald' to the audience. Starting in 1947, Galle had been conducting morphological and cytological studies on the hybrid swarm of native azaleas atop Gregory Bald in Tennessee. His notebooks and plant maps held enough information to complete a Ph.D. dissertation. In the summer of 1954, he returned to Gregory Bald with his friend Ben Pace. It was a hike he had made often without incident, one season climbing to the 4,948-foot summit seven times. But on this ill-fated trip a bear stole the backpack containing all his research data. The backpack was never recovered, the degree never conferred. Lesser men would have been devastated, but Fred returned to Callaway and started hybridizing plumleaf and sweet azaleas, making over 200 crosses that same summer. Fred always joked that he did the work—but the bear got the Ph.D. By his example, the life of Fred Galle encourages all to put forth their best effort.

For those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, and for all of us who continue to benefit from his published works, Fred Galle will long be remembered. He was quoted as saying the Gardens at Callaway were "built on compost and enthusiasm." Ernest Koone aptly concluded his remarks about Galle with the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren: "*If you seek his monument, look around you.*"

Future generations that are inspired by a visit to Callaway should know that through these woods passed a horticultural giant. To that end the plaque placed in the Overlook Garden reads:

*The enduring beauty of this garden is a tribute to Fred Galle.
As plantsman, author and teacher,
Galle dedicated his life to horticulture.
For 30 years he was instrumental in shaping
Callaway Gardens. His legacy is reflected in the plants,
books and gardens he gave us.*

For more images of the dedication ceremonies, consult the following Web site, which has 12 images: www.pbase.com/bstelloh/galle.

Hank Bruno earned undergraduate degrees in Botany and Anthropology from Duke University in 1976. Following Peace Corps service in Guatemala and two years of archaeological fieldwork in the southeastern United States, he entered graduate school at Texas A&M University. Working full-time as a landscape maintenance supervisor, he received his MA. in 1988 with research in Ethnobotany. He has worked at Callaway Gardens since October 1991, where as the trails manager, he cares for 150 acres of wildflowers and woody ornamental plant collections.

Acknowledgments

ASA secretary John Brown and treasurer Bob Stelloh attended the dedication ceremonies and provided insights to Hank for this article.



On May 24, 2002, Jane Kinzie of Kinzie Farms presented a landscape-size specimen of the new cultivar 'Brookside Delight' to Phil Normandy, Plant Collections Manager of Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. This new azalea was introduced at the 49th Annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival, May 3-5, 2002, and was featured in the Spring

2002 issue of **The Azalean**, 24(1): 4-5; 17. Jane did all the propagation in preparation for the formal introduction of this azalea. (Photo by William C. Miller III.)

2002 Atlanta Convention in Review

Barbara Stump — Nacogdoches, Texas

[This review is based in large part on material from the Oconee Chapter Newsletter, edited by Frank Bryan, research material from Roger Duvall, and images from Walter Przypek, Ed.]

Total registration at the Family Reunion Convention was outstanding: 408 total, with 179 ARS members, 28 ASA, 137 members of both ARS/ASA, and 54 non-affiliated persons. Thanks go to workers and contributors from the **Azalea Chapter of the ARS** and the **Oconee Chapter of the ASA**.

Edith Davis coordinated the registration and the information desk functions, which were ably staffed from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily. Edith also processed pre-convention registrations. Volunteers included **Ruth Bryan** and



Mary Beasley (shown above). **Jim Pruckler** set up the computers for registration and visual display of plants on sale.

Hugh Denny coordinated the **plant sale** of several thousand azaleas and rhododendrons. He, **Allison Fuqua**, and **Frank Bryan** were primary plant salesmen, attending to buyers' questions and needs daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Many other volunteers helped, including **Pat** and **Wesley Smith**, **Don Bloodworth**, **Barbara Milton**, **Ken Gohring**, and **Ed and Ruth Mellon**. Several nurseries and members contributed plants for the sale. What a wonderful opportunity this was to buy choice plants not readily available anywhere! This writer/gardener was especially happy to see this a big feature of the convention.



Kathryn McKinsey, assisted by **Ruth Bryan**, handled the **convention store**, which sold hats, tee shirts, books, cards, art prints, and other merchandise from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Pictures from the new CD and slide series, "Selecting

and Growing Azaleas" were prominently featured on the store's bulletin board. (See Oconee Chapter News p.67 for more about this CD series.)

Ray Goza coordinated the tours, and **Jim Thornton** did some of the initial selection of the gardens. This effort was simply outstanding. The garden owners were gracious, and it was very evident they took pains to prepare their gardens for visitors.

Bus captains riding along with every bus helped the tour groups get ready for each garden in turn, some even conveying local history. Oconee Chapter bus captains included **Hank Bruno** (shown right), **Ken Gohring**, **Ed and Ruth Mellon**, and **Ray Goza**. Servers for the South Metro Tour were **Jim Thornton**, **John Callaway**, and **Al Penland**.



Joe and Donna Coleman coordinated and set up the **flower show**, which was recorded by **Edith Davis**. Several volunteers helped them.

Walter Ligon coordinated the **visual arts competition**, which he helped judge with the aid of a professional photographer. Several volunteers helped, including **Frank Bryan**.

Earl Sommerville chaired the convention, coordinated the many planning activities and troubleshooting during the actual events, besides inviting us to tour his wonderful garden.

Many, many thanks to these chairmen and their able helpers. To all of the Oconee Chapter members, what a superb job you did to make us feel comfortable and connected to other azalea enthusiasts in Atlanta.

Awards

President **Joe Schild** is shown (see page 55) presenting the Society's highest award to **William C. Miller III** at the convention banquet April 20, 2002. (Photo by **Bob Hobbs**.)

Several of the ARS award recipients are also ASA members and deserve special notice here as well. Notably, **Don Hyatt** was awarded the **ARS Silver Medal** for his development of a Web site about azaleas, including native hybrid swarms on **Gregory Bald** and a simplified classification system for native azaleas; for his hybridizing; for his numerous contributions to **The Azalean**.

Distinguished Service Award — William C. Miller III



In grateful appreciation for his many years of dedicated leadership and service to the Azalea Society of America at both the chapter and the national level, including chairing the Glenn Dale Preservation Project and researching the Glenn Dale azaleas, and for his faithful

services as our Membership Chairman and public interface for many years, and for his frequent and insightful articles in *The Azalean*, we present our Distinguished Service Award to
William C. Miller III

James Harris was awarded the ARS Silver Medal for his hybridizing activities over the past 30 years and for his contributions in providing the world with many beautiful evergreen azaleas, including 'Pink Cascade', which is grown throughout the world for containers and hanging baskets; for many bicolored or red azaleas; and for azaleas with long bloom periods.

Flower show top awards were: Best in Show (also best unknown evergreen azalea spray)—**Theresa and Tim Ridley**; Best Named Species or Hybrid Rhododendron—*Rhododendron* 'Sam A. Everitt'—**Joe and Donna Coleman**; Best Deciduous Azalea (an unknown pale orange)—**Glenda Jones**.

Top visual arts awards were: Best in Show—**Tom Ahern**; Landscape—**Don Hyatt**; Blossoms—**Gregory Book**; Macro—**Gregory Book**; Miscellaneous—**Pat Draisey**; Original Art—**Don Hyatt** (watercolor).

Images of the Convention

When you get over 400 keen gardeners on tour, you get a great many cameras. Thankfully, they have been generous in sharing their good images with their own chapters and have sent many for use in this issue. My particular thanks go to William C. Miller III, Walter Przypek, Bob Stelloh, and Art Vance for sharing digital images. Walter Przypek, of the Northern Virginia Chapter, has put over 370 slide images of the convention onto a CD/slide show that is set to classical music by Chopin and Mozart. This format really gives you a good feel for the rich experience

we had during the four-day convention. Contact him at 757-898-9159 (or Wprzypek@aol.com) for a copy. Bob Stelloh has 36 labeled images in a photo gallery at www.pbase.com/bstelloh/2002convention.

Talks

A few of the many talks are described here. The full list of tours and speakers was included as an insert in Winter 2001 issue of *The Azalean* 23(4).

George McLellan presented slides to describe characteristics of native species that grow in the Carolinas. *R. arborescens* blooms after the leaves have expanded; the flower tubes are glandular, and the stems are smooth. *R. atlanticum* blooms before leaves have expanded; the flower tubes are also glandular, and the plant is stoloniferous. *R. calendulaceum* blooms with the expanding leaves, and the flower tubes are very glandular. *R. canescens* blooms before leaves have expanded; the tubes are glandular. *R. cumberlandense* blooms after the leaves have expanded; flower tubes are glandular, but have no glands on the pedicels. *R. eastmanii* blooms after the leaves have expanded; the flower tubes have weakly developed glands, and the flowers have a yellow blotch. *R. periclymenoides* blooms before leaves have expanded, and flower tubes are nonglandular. *R. prinophyllum* blooms before leaves have expanded; the shorter tubes are glandular and have a clove fragrance. *R. vaseyi* blooms before leaves have expanded, and the flowers are flat without tubes. *R. viscosum* blooms after leaves have expanded, and the flower tubes are very glandular.

McLellan listed sites to view native azaleas, with bloom times for average years. Bloom time can vary as much as two to three weeks:

- **Wayah Bald**, North Carolina, reached from Franklin, NC, off State Route 1310: *R. calendulaceum* and *R. arborescens*, blooming mid- to late June.
- **Gregory Bald**, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, in both NC and TN: *R. cumberlandense*, *R. arborescens*, *R. calendulaceum*, and hybrid swarms, blooming in late June.
- **Parson Bald**, Great Smoky Mountain National Park: *R. viscosum*, *R. arborescens*, *R. calendulaceum*, and some hybrids in the northeastern corner, bloom in late June.
- **Copper Bald**, NC (north of Wayah Bald on the Appalachian Trail): *R. calendulaceum*, *R. arborescens*, *R. cumberlandense*, blooming in late June and *R. viscosum* and hybrid swarms blooming in early July.
- **Blue Ridge Parkway**, NC: *R. calendulaceum* at mile posts 308-310, 368-380, and 412-423, which blooms mid- to late June.
- **Roan Mountain**, NC and TN: *R. calendulaceum* (Round Bald, Engine Gap, Jane Bald), blooming the 3rd and 4th weeks in June.
- **Cherohala Skyway**, NC and TN: *R. calendulaceum* (west end of Hooper Bald) and *R. cumberlandense* (near Lake View Overlook), blooming late June.
- **Providence Canyon State Park**, Lumpkin, GA: *R. prunifolium*, blooming in late July.

In his remarks during the fabulous banquet on April 20, **Clarence Towe** stated that, of the 15 known native species azaleas, 12 occur in Georgia, more than in any other state. In addition to those cited by the other speakers, *R. austrinum* occurs in South Georgia along the Florida border, *R. flammeum* grows along the Oconee River and in the Atlanta region, and *R. prunifolium* grows in a narrow region in western Georgia and eastern Alabama along the Chattahoochee River near Callaway Gardens. He is working on a book called "Natives of Georgia" to be published in 2004.

Sandra McDonald described the history of Le-Mac Nurseries, which began in 1927 and moved to Hampton, Virginia, in 1932. Pericat seedlings were obtained, such as 'Hampton Beauty', 'Sweetheart', 'China Seas', 'Margaret Ann', 'Helen', 'Orchard', 'Glory', and 'Margie Ann'.

The McDonald hybrids were grown for 15 years or longer before being released. Some examples include: 'Chessie Lavender Gem', 'Chessie's Pink', 'Blushing Angel', 'David's Blush', 'Dream Angel', 'Angel Honey', 'Williamsburg', 'White Orchard'. Her double reds are not too hardy. The Chorus Girls Series was developed for greenhouse forcing. She likes round ruffled flowers. In her hybridizing activity, she often used 'Hot Shot' and 'Elsie Lee' as parents. She used peat and Perlite as a medium for the cuttings. It was wetted down and cuttings were dipped into Captan before inserting into the medium. Hormone was not used, but the cuttings were misted.

Jim Berry of Flowerwood Nurseries described the history of Buddy Lee's Encore™ azaleas. The first releases were: 'Autumn Rouge', 'Autumn Amethyst', 'Autumn Coral', 'Autumn Monarch', 'Autumn Cheer', 'Autumn Embers' (a bright scarlet red and the most popular), 'Autumn Bravo',

'Autumn Royalty'. Next released were: 'Autumn Carnival', 'Autumn Twist' (purple and white striped), 'Autumn Ruby' and 'Autumn Princess'. A new one, 'Sangria', will be released in the future. Convention attendees were each given one as a banquet dinner favor. 'Holy Grail', a white with a yellow throat will be released in 2003.

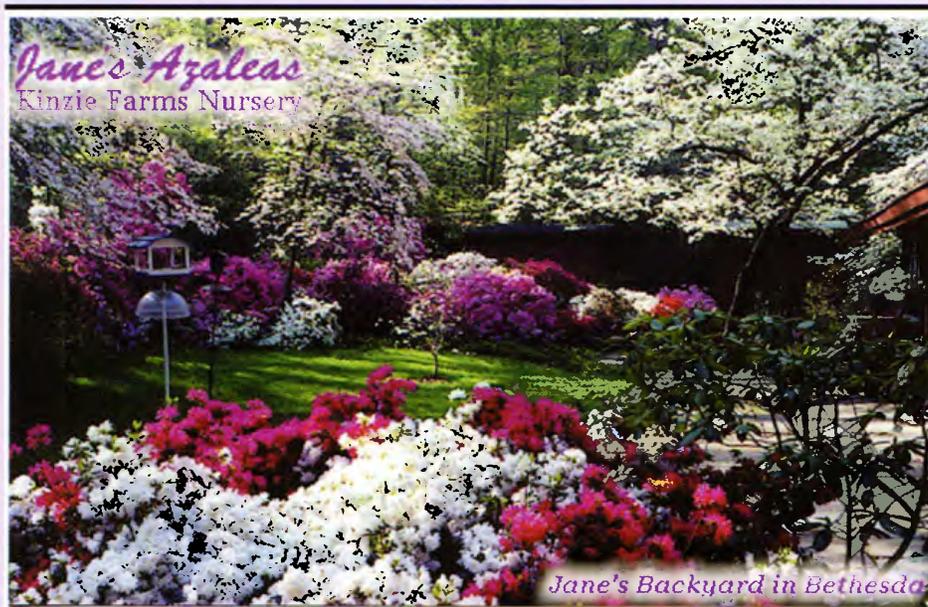
Other azalea presentation highlights were:

- Maarten van der Giessen's talk about Dr. Aromi's hybridization program, which has continued to bring new flower forms and colors to the market, by arrangement with Maarten's liner nursery.
- Don Hyatt's talk about "Computers in the Garden", giving tips about organizing your own plant records and building your own Web site.
- Maarten van der Giessen's spirited auction, which delighted the audience and beguiled them out of a lot of money for the societies.
- Barbara Bullock's amazing story of all she and her dedicated volunteers have done to improve the azalea gardens at the US National Arboretum.
- Don Voss's fine presentation on "The Robin Hill Story," which was already published in the last issue of *The Azalean*, Summer 2002, 24(2): 28-33.

This article merely touches upon the many good things that happened at the convention. **The lesson for the true azalea enthusiast is you need to come to the next convention to hear the great information exchange for yourself and get the most benefit.**

Be good to yourself; plan to attend the next convention, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, May 1-4, 2003.

For more convention photos and news, turn to pages 60-61 and 64.



Jane's Azaleas

- Over 150 Varieties Grown at our Montgomery County, MD Farm
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Azalea Gardens

Reclaiming the Clouds' Garden

Martha Derthick — Charlottesville, Virginia

In the spring of 1992, I bought 2/3 acre of a mature but neglected garden in Charlottesville, Virginia, that had been planted by the late Warren and Virginia Cloud. Five years later, I bought another piece of it, so that I now own 1.2 acres of what was originally a 2-acre garden of azaleas, rhododendrons, English boxwoods, forest trees, and wildflowers, along with dogwoods, hollies, hemlocks and a smattering of camellias, mountain laurel, *Pieris japonica*, and *Leucothoe*. There are also indigenous remnants of a rural past: cedars, short-leaf pines, and persimmon trees.

I bought this property because I was looking for a construction site. With a long-standing interest in architecture, I aspired to build a distinctive house. I did in fact build the house, a major undertaking in itself, but before long reclamation of the garden began to claim priority. Demanding as was the house, that project was at least finite. Reclamation of the garden will go on for the rest of my life.

The Clouds, then in their early 30s, bought the land from a dairy farmer, P. H. Gentry, in 1936. They must have known exactly what they were doing, for they selected a bowl with a spring at the bottom. Perhaps they saw Mr.

Gentry's cows drinking from the spring. Perhaps Mr. Gentry had a pond there. At any rate, the Clouds must quickly have envisioned a pond as the focal point of their garden.

On the rim of the bowl, overlooking the pond site, the Clouds built a modest, well-proportioned house that was characteristic more of New England than of Virginia. With a foundation of native



In 1936 this area was a pond and became the focal point for the Clouds' garden. Since 1992, Martha Derthick has been restoring the area, now drained, to the rich mix of azaleas, rhododendrons, and ornamental trees the garden contained during the 1970s. The mass of lavender on the right is 'Corsage'. (Photo by Martha Derthick.)

stone, brown shingle siding, painted white trim, and a granite chimney, it was as sturdy as it was unassuming.

Unfortunately, the Clouds' garden book does not survive, but it is said that the garden contained approximately 400 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. The rhododendrons were mainly Dexters and Gables, with a relatively late addition of Shammarellos; the azaleas

were Gables and Glenn Dales, with later additions of Robin Hills and Linwoods. It has been possible to reconstruct much of the contents from three principal sources: tags, both affixed to plants and fallen; an incomplete yet valuable collection of 35 millimeter Kodachrome slides, dating from the late '60s and early '70s, and kindly made available by the Clouds' nieces; and a likewise valuable yet incomplete audiotape created by neighbors, Ginny and Ted Davenport, in 1982. While the Davenports circulated in the garden, Mr. Cloud recorded the names of specimens as they passed.

The pond was surrounded by azaleas, which in turn were surrounded by boxwoods at spaced intervals. This central area was in deep shade, cast by tall sycamores and tulip poplars. The shade also made it possible to grow a wide variety of woodland wildflowers. At the far end of the pond (far from the house, that is), there was a dam, and beyond the dam an arched wooden bridge—graceful, hand-hewn, unpainted—that connected parts of the garden that otherwise would have been separated by a streambed. On the slopes of the bowl, leading down to the pond, was a dense, gently curving profusion of boxwoods, azaleas, rhododendrons, wildflowers, and trees, with

paths carefully laid to facilitate descent into this ordered wilderness from the outside world.

The garden probably reached a peak in the 1970s. The azaleas around the pond were fully mature as of the late '60s. Virginia Cloud died in 1979; her husband, in 1986. There followed a period of neglect that, given Charlottesville's climate, quickly turned the place into a jungle by the time I saw it in 1992. There were many dead and fallen trees. Honeysuckle, wild grape, smilax, and Virginia creeper smothered and distorted the azaleas and rhododendrons. Poison ivy stood in waist-high thickets and formed thick ropes around trees, broadcasting seeds as it ascended. Several of the big trees that had shaded the pond were going or completely gone. *Ailanthus* and other weed trees had sprung up. The bridge had rotted, and the dam had been breached. The pond was derelict, with dirty water only a few inches deep. Azaleas of advanced age, covered with fungus, reached far over it. The place was a desolate sight in February, when I first viewed it, late on a Sunday afternoon with hardly any light remaining, yet one could discern that something wonderful had been there.

At the time, I elected to buy only one parcel of the three that were on the market, the garden having been subdivided by an intervening owner into nearly equal parts of 2/3 of an acre each. I resisted a real estate agent's advice to buy the house, inasmuch as I had the absolutely fixed idea that I would build one. Deterred by the fungus and general decay, I elected not to buy the site that included the pond. Instead, it and the lot that contained the original house were bought by a young man who would be my neighbor until 1997. I bought a piece of the bowl that included many rhododendrons and azaleas and a barely feasible building site. Later, when the young man left—along with, by then, a wife and child—I bought the pond site.

The reclamation has been an incredible amount of incredibly satisfying work, worth the time, the tick bites,

and repeated outbreaks of oozing, violently itching blisters of poison ivy. ("If I were you, I would hire someone else to clear that garden," the head of dermatology at the University of Virginia Medical Center, said.) Looking back, the reclamation progressed in more-or-less inevitable stages: 1) a rapid, furious clearing of the vines and underbrush in the first summer, in the hope of keeping as much as possible of the garden alive; 2) removal of dead trees and pruning of live ones to elevate their canopies; 3) major pruning of azaleas and much gentler pruning of rhododendrons to renew them and restore shapes that had been distorted by the overgrowth; 4) continued work on the understory, to get unwanted vines out and encourage the return of bulbs and wildflowers and the spread of preferred ground covers—*Vinca*, *Euonymus*, and *Pachysandra*, all of which the Clouds had planted. They had also planted English ivy and giant *Vinca*, which I fought to remove. 5) continued pruning of the azaleas, which take some years to achieve health and a good shape; and 6) refined weeding, to get out one generation after another of ground ivy, potato vines, wild strawberries, garlic mustard, and chickweed, in addition to the persistent poison ivy, honeysuckle, Virginia creeper, wild grape, and wild blackberry. Happily, the succeeding owner of the original house, arriving in the fall of 1997, quickly proved to be an obsessive enemy of weeds.

Virtually all of the English boxwoods had died a natural death, which must have been a great blow to Mr. Cloud, who lived long enough to see it begin. I have not undertaken to replace them, as the garden promises to be quite full without them, and I prefer the informality of what survived. When I acquired the second lot in 1997, I assumed that I would restore the pond, but after a series of meetings with excavators and landscape architects, I decided not to. The heavy equipment that would have been required to do the work would have been too damaging, and there was no good place to put the many cubic feet of muck that would have had to be removed. More-

over, it would probably have been much harder to keep the pond clean today than it was for the Clouds in the 1940s and 1950s. They built their pond and garden in a rural setting. By the mid-1960s, the development of urban and suburban Charlottesville had engulfed them, bringing automobile traffic and run-off from paved streets. I decided that the pond should become a bog garden, and it is showing promise as such, with cranberry bushes, pitcher plants, and an island containing *Ilex glabra* and *Clethra*.

Not until 1998-99, when I finished the house and then retired, was I able to study the garden and published works on azaleas and rhododendrons in order to figure out what I had been frantically seeking to save. When I retired, several of my students very kindly gave me a copy of Galle's *Azaleas*, which has been invaluable. From my parents, who were avid gardeners in northern Ohio, I had inherited a copy of David Leach's *Rhododendrons of the World*. More recently, I got out of the University of Virginia library a copy of *Hybrids and Hybridizers*, which produced a breakthrough. All of a sudden, with the help of these books and the other sources on the Clouds' garden, I began to be able to piece together what they had done, more or less in what order.

Most of the first plantings around and approaching the pond were Gable azaleas and early introductions from Japan such as 'Flame', 'Snow', 'Bridesmaid', 'Amoenum', 'Sweet Briar', 'Hinomayo,' and 'Hinodegiri'. The Gables are very old, with thick, woody trunks, and have been harder than later plantings to revive. Still, they have a will to grow. My original neighbor, who had a chain saw and a passion for neatness, cut some of them right down to the ground, but most came back even from that assault.

Some of the Glenn Dales likewise appear to have been planted early, but their planting apparently extended over a longer period of time. They are planted up the slope, farther from the

continued on page 59

Society News

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Azalea Society of America Marriott Hotel • Atlanta, Georgia • April 19, 2002

President Joseph E. Schild opened the meeting at 7:14 PM with a call of the roll of chapters and a report of the activities of the board of directors meeting. He noted that the projected deficit was being addressed by looking at increased membership to reduce the outflow of cash. Membership in the Society had increased during the early 1990s, topping out at 941 members in the year 1993. The year 2001 had a large increase of new members due in part to the formation of the Vaseyi Chapter and 57 new members who signed up on the ASA Web site. Total membership for the year, however, was only 775, due to non-renewals over the years, although this is up from 680 in 2000. Hopefully, the upward trend in new and renewing memberships will continue, but does not solve our current budget problem. The board is working on ways to reduce costs and increase public relations for the Society.

The secretary reported the results of the elections. The new directors, who

will serve until 2004, are Margie Jenkins, Robert Hobbs, and Donald Voss.

A very closely contested race for best article in *The Azalean* resulted in a tie for first place. Several other articles received almost as many votes as did the winners. The winners are **Don Hyatt**, for his article "Best of the Best: In Search of Native Azaleas" and **Roger Duvall**, "A Family Reunion—Joint ARS/ASA Convention Preview." Congratulations are in order to these and all contributors for their excellent articles.

An open discussion period on the budget deficit followed with ideas from the floor for consideration.

1. Chapters should look into why their members are not renewing.
2. Annual membership dues are payable as of January 1. We will continue to send a list of non-renewals to the chapters so they can contact the non-renewing members for their concerns. The idea of person-to-person contact would seem to be better than an overdue notice. We are sending the renewal notices by e-mail, when pos-

sible, to save costs.

3. Chapters should be able to get their own members back. Chapters can generate mailing labels by chapter by going to the ASA Web site roster. This might help in the retention effort.
4. The Board Action Item List (see *The Azalean* 24(2): 39) addresses ways to increase membership: more person-to-person contact with new members, more recruiting, more reliance on chapters for recruiting and member retention, and several ideas to increase public recognition.
5. The two key causes of the budget shortfall are the increased cost of *The Azalean* and lowered interest rates on CD investments. There was unanimous agreement that the quality of *The Azalean* was well worth the cost, and that maintaining the color printing and quality would help draw new membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Brown, Secretary

pond. Among the Glenn Dale varieties that I have reason to believe were in the garden are: 'Ambrosia', 'Ballet Girl', 'Boldface', 'Caress', 'Carmel', 'Cavalier', 'Copperman', 'Dayspring', 'Delight', 'Dream', 'Echo', 'Fakir', 'Festive', 'Frivolity', 'Glacier', 'Greeting', 'Isolde', 'Louise Dowdle', 'Lyric', 'Modesty', 'Morning Star', 'Mother of Pearl', 'Nocturne', 'Picotee', 'Quakeress', 'Refrain', 'Surprise', 'Treasure', 'Vespers', and 'Wavelet'. Undoubtedly, there were/are more. There were also at least five Back Acres azaleas: 'Debonaire', 'Friendship', 'Margaret Douglas', 'Pat Kraft', and 'Red Slippers'.

I would welcome the help of anyone who would care to take up the challenge of identifying the garden's contents. Or come just to celebrate the beauty and durability of these survivors of neglect and abuse. And also, of course, to honor the memory of Warren and Virginia Cloud, as well as the hybridizers whose plants they chose and tended for half a century.

Note

The Clouds were amateur yet expert gardeners. He was a native of Charlottesville and worked for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, holding various jobs in its station in Charlottesville.

Reference

Livingston, Philip A. and Franklin H. West, eds. 1978. *Hybrids and Hybridizers: Rhododendrons and Azaleas for Eastern North America*. Newtown Square, Pennsylvania: Harrowood Books.

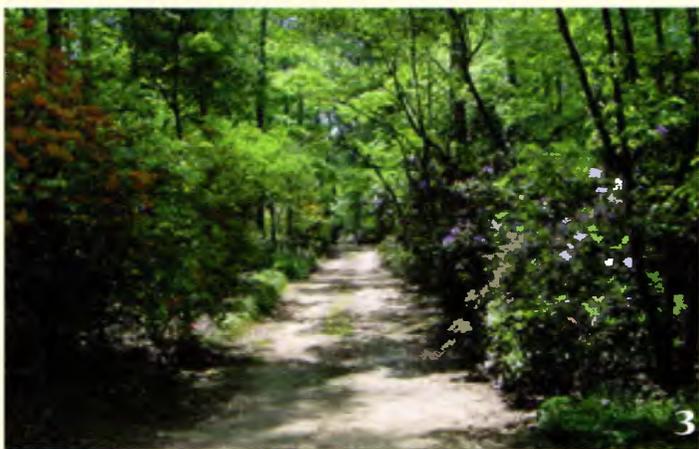
Martha Derthick, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, is a retired professor of American government at the University of Virginia and a member of both the ASA and the American Rhododendron Society. Her best known books on government are Policymaking for Social Security (Brookings, 1979) and Up in Smoke: From Legislation to Litigation in Tobacco Politics (Congressional Quarterly Press, 2001).

2002 Joint ARS / ASA



1. Convention chairman Earl Sommerville (left) and North Atlanta Tour bus captain Ken Gohring prepare to greet the first tour to Earl's fabulous gardens of native azaleas, camellias, choice ornamental trees, and woodland stream. (Photo by Walter Przypek.)

2. Dr. Walter Ligon and his wife kindly gave us refreshments on their deck. This scene looks down on their oriental-inspired garden, complete with small brook and a very beautiful timber-framed screened viewing house. (Photo by Art Vance.)



3-4. Native azaleas abounded in some gardens on tour. Here, in the Corley garden they framed a path and were reflected in the lake. If you went on the tour to Corley's you also got to lunch in a log cabin! (Photos by William C. Miller III.)



5-7. Michael Vuocolo has been working on his 15-acre garden since 1984. The buses parked several hundreds of yards away, and visitors hiked a short way across a pasture to find acres of very diverse and very young plants, then wandered on to more mature plantings including Satsuki, Exbury, native azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons, and very choice ornamental trees such as the Dove Tree (*Davidia involucrata*). This view of a major pathway through their woods was taken from one of their two-story viewing platforms. (Photos by Barbara Stump.)

Convention Photo Essay



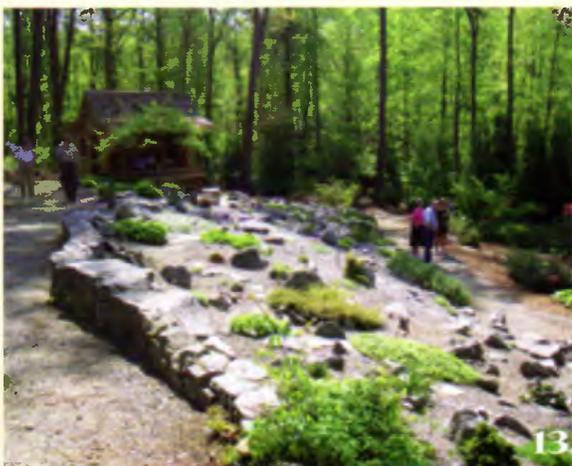
8. The Dean Garden on the Opelika/Auburn tour captured the attention of no less an azalea enthusiast than George McLellan, shown here photographing a native azalea.



9-10. One of the many beautiful but alas, unknown, azaleas in Speake Garden. These yellow Lady Slipper Orchids made a bright spot of yellow in the Speake Garden. (Photos by William C. Miller III.)



11-12. People who signed up for the South Atlanta Tour on Saturday got to see the wonderful gardens of the Colemans, Dr. Sams, and Mike Vuocolo, and we also had a great box lunch in historic Downtown Conyers. Jim Thornton arranged for this treat in the spacious pavilion that is part of the 15-acre Lewis Vaughn Botanical Garden. This small 'pocket' park was a perfect jewel, complete with its own brochure with a map and guide to all the plants.



13-15. The Bob Gilbert garden on the North Atlanta tour was a feast for both the horticulturists and the artists, since every vista we saw was framed by beautiful sculpture, or had as its focus sculpture and plants in combination. The granite hillside rock garden is the result of such patience and vision. The ponds in the streamside were framed by Japanese maples and water plants, with a lovely viewing house perched on the hillside above it. Bob is a devoted bonsai expert, and his outdoor viewing area was a real lesson in how to display these precious plants, exemplified by this azalea. (Photos by William C. Miller III.)

Let's Grow

2002 Membership Committee Report

John Brown — Cleveland, South Carolina

Bob Stelloh — Hendersonville, North Carolina

With the current number of members, each of our 775 member is paying \$25 per year for services that are costing the Azalea Society of America around \$28. Since that will eventually break the bank, we have two choices: raise our dues, or attract and retain more members. Those choices work against each other, because raising the dues might make it harder to get more members, and it would probably even result in the loss of some of our existing members. Fortunately, some of the Society's largest expenses are the same regardless of the number of members, so our best choice is to have more members. A prime example is the expense of publishing **The Azalean**. The major cost of producing **The Azalean** is editing, layout, typesetting and press preparation, and these costs are incurred before even one copy is printed. Therefore, the cost of **The Azalean** per member is reduced by having more members. Another example is the ASA Web site: the cost for it is the same no matter how many members are in the Society. National is doing about all it can to attract more members. We have the outstanding journal you are reading, we have an informative Web site about azaleas, and we are encouraging the formation of new local chapters. **The rest is up to you.**

One thing you can do is to tell your friends. If you are fortunate enough to belong to a chapter, bring a friend to a meeting to see how friendly, interesting, knowledgeable, and sharing the other members are, and let

the chapter help you sell memberships to your friends.

Another thing you can do is to bring your latest issue of **The Azalean** and a membership form with you on your next doctor or dentist visit. They surely have magazines in their waiting rooms, and they want you to be a happy repeat customer. That makes them excellent prospects for membership, simply to get the magazine for their waiting room. And, with our policy of new members receiving an extended initial membership period of up to a year and a half, joining now gets them the journal through the end of next year (2003). Since each of us goes to at least one doctor or dentist, it wouldn't take long to grow significantly. And, who knows? Someone who picks up **The Azalean** and reads it may be astounded to learn that there is a national organization for azaleas, and that they may join us.

By comparison with similar organizations, we have done pretty well with our membership so far this year. But we need to do much more. You can see our chapters and how their membership has changed so far in 2002.

The table on page 63 shows several interesting things. Besides overall membership, two measures of our health are the number of new members and the number of renewed members. The "New" column for 2002 shows we have recruited 71 new members so far, which seems pretty good. But the "Non-Renew" column shows we have lost 100 members this

year. Bottom line: we are still 29 members short of our 2001 membership. So, besides attracting more new members, we must do more for our existing members to get them to renew. Local chapter officers have a ready list of 48 ex-members to contact in an effort to get them to renew. Failing that, ask them why they chose not to renew, and what we can do at the local or national level to make them reconsider. The membership committee would be interested in that information.

The largest single group is the At-large group with 301 members. All At-large members should understand that it does not cost them any more money to belong to a chapter, even if they live a considerable distance away. Several chapters have interesting newsletters, and all have activities that would be worth an occasional trip to a chapter meeting or event.

Another real possibility is that there might be enough members in your area to **form a new chapter**. Anybody with an interest in starting a new chapter should contact John Brown, your national secretary.



2002 Treasurer's Report

	2001 Totals	2000 Totals	1999 Totals
Income (Sources)			
Azalean Advertisements	482.00	1634.00	2220.00
Azalean Back Issues	468.74	369.52	621.98
Azalean Postage	165.00	45.00	90.00
Membership Dues	19,630.00	17,982.00	19,893.00
Gifts	1,410.00	3,580.00	1,433.00
Interest	2,373.35	2,234.17	1,951.86
Other Income	1,638.89	4,964.63	4,038.50
Total Income	\$26,167.98	\$30,809.32	\$30,258.34
Expenses (Uses)			
Awards and Memorials	100.00	503.60	111.85
The Azalean	20,363.16	19,818.28	18,544.93
Dues Notices	140.98	376.53	489.21
Dues to Chapters	2280.00	1925.00	2735.00
Member Roster	844.45	914.58	700.33
Web site	1,500.00	1,812.00	1,801.00
Other Expenses	1,864.05	8,164.29	1,860.95
Other Postage	472.55	995.67	618.98
Total Expenses	\$27,565.19	\$34,509.95	\$26,862.25
Income Less Expenses	-1,397.21	-3,700.63	3,396.09
Total Assets*	\$55,624.83	\$58,039.74	\$59,468.38

*Total Assets includes amounts not shown in the details above, such as the Harding Garden fund, and thus it will not add from year to year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Stelloh,

Treasurer July 24, 2002

Membership Summary

Chapter	2002 New	2002 Renew	2002 Total	2002 Non- Renew	2001 Total	Change From 2001	% of 2001
Al-large	35	266	301	52	318	-17	95
Ben Morrison	4	38	42	6	44	-2	96
Brookside Gardens	10	117	127	9	126	1	101
Dallas	2	25	27	6	31	-4	87
Louisiana	3	32	35	2	34	1	103
Northern Virginia	2	55	57	6	61	-4	93
Oconee	7	73	80	13	86	-6	93
Tri-State	3	23	26	2	25	1	104
Vaseyi	5	46	51	4	50	1	102
Totals	71	675	746	100	775	-29	96

THANKS CHAPTERS!

Since the twin pleas for more membership and income—at the board meetings at the 2002 convention and Bob Stelloh's article in the Summer 2002 issue of **The Azalean**—four chapters have really come through with gifts for us! These special contributions are:

Ben Morrison —
\$723 from a special
plant sale

Brookside Gardens —
\$1000

Dallas — \$2000

Oconee — \$2000 from
April 2002 convention
proceeds

These are wonderful gifts and will certainly help keep **The Azalean** coming to you in its present wonderful format. However, treasurer Bob Stelloh still suggests that a really "huge" gift from someone would be wonderful as well, to be able to support our mission, including research, from the interest. For example, we need a \$250,000 capital investment to yield \$6,250 interest annually to begin funding research projects. Today we have \$50,000 in principal, yielding only \$1,250—this does not allow funding of significant research projects.

More Convention Photos



16. Steve Yeatts (pointing) tells John (center) and Dan Migas (far right) from Michigan about his garden during the Athens Tour. John was very interested in how this convention was organized because he is organizing the 2005 convention. It will be a treat to see some northern gardens.

17. New board of directors member Miss Margie Jenkins and vice-president Buddy Lee admire a large specimen Encore™ azalea, 'Autumn Royalty', in the garden of University of Georgia football coach Vince Dooley in Athens.

18. Don Hyatt, Lucie Sorensen-Smith, and E. White Smith enjoy pre-banquet banter.

19. (Left to right) Patricia Draisey, Bill Miller, Barbara Bullock, Rose Musumeci, and John Brown, seen at the 2002 banquet. *(Photo by Walter Przypek.)*

20. Don Hyatt beams after the ARS presented him with ARS Silver Medal Award. *(Photos 16-18, 20 by William C. Miller III.)*

Thanks to all the photographers, thanks to all the gardeners who allowed us to see their glorious gardens and even gave us refreshments on those hotter than normal April days, and thanks to all the organizers who handled the many complex logistics to make this a grand and glorious convention!

Major Donors

Here, the Society recognizes those members who have contributed funds to the Society at the various levels of membership beyond the standard regular membership. This year, with a deficit budget, these members are especially to be commended for their generosity.

Endowment Members

L. Malcolm Clark
Harold M. Dodd
Donald H. Voss

Sustaining Members

John & Carolyn Brown
Gen. & Mrs. Bryghte D. Godbold
William B. McIntosh
Dr. & Mrs. Donald E. Moreland
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Nachman
Franklin B. Pelurie
Jack & Ann Root

Contributing Members

Adkins Arboretum
Annmarie Garden On St. John
Drew Arnold & Leslie Overstreet
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Bode
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Craft, Jr
Margarette L. Erdman
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton
Mrs. Arthur Frazer
Mrs. Dorothy Frisbie
Karl. W. Glander

Helene & Jerry Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Groomes
William & Eleanor Gural
Billy Joyner
Mary M. King
Kinney Nursery
Mr. Charles Larus
Don & Flo Mabe
W. T. Norris, Jr, MD
H. M. "Fuzzy" Perritt
Richbourg Nursery, Inc.
Rio Bravo Enterprises
Scott Arboretum
Bruce Seal & Liz Rachun
Barbara S. Stump
Mr. Frederick L. Thane
Roger A. Thompson
Maarten van der Giessen
Peter van der Giessen
Mr. & Mrs. Art Vance
Margaret Vogel
Marjorie H. & Judson H. Wingard

Honorary Members

Mrs. Julian W. Hill

Life Members

Debbie Bizal
Pam Blackwell
Hugh Caldwell
R. A. Comunale, MD
P. L. Crafts, Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dodd, Jr
Tom Dodd, Jr

William R. Dodd
Teresa Dunnington
M. Patton Echols, Jr
Dr. & Mrs. Charles H. Evans
J. Raymond & Ann Goza
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Grandjean
Hadden Landscaping
William R. Hambrecht
Cameron Harris
Robert & Belinda Hobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Graham Holland
Wiley C. Hutchins
Tina Kelley
David Lay
Robert & Dixie Lee
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz
Mr. & Mrs. James McCeney
William P. McClure
Nan Elizabeth Miles
Nick & Peggy Milfeld
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Miller III
Betty Montgomery
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Neal, Jr.
Nuccio's Nursery
Helen Ann Patton
Walter A. Przypek
Elizabeth H. Queen
William David Robinson
Mrs. H. Roland Schroeder
George & Mary Slankard
M. Thais Spencer
Denise & Bob Stelloh
Deborah Van Vecten
Donald H. Voss

ASA Membership Roster

As a strategy to reduce costs, the board decided not to publish a print version of the ASA Roster for 2002. The roster will be printed early in 2003, to be mailed with the spring issue of **The Azalean**. The online roster is updated regularly to include all new members. Go to www.azaleas.org, sign in, and click on the Roster selection, then select the appropriate letter for the person's last name.

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Bob Hobbs, Newsletter Editor:
rwhobbs@mindspring.com
Carol Flowers, Co-editor:
dflowers@bellatlantic.net

June 8 the chapter met at **Dave and Eileen Holm's** house to pot up plants that had rooted from cuttings taken from the US National Arboretum last year. Thanks to good help, 167 plants were potted up. They also held their business meeting and discussed ways in which the chapter could help the fiscal problems of the national Society and planned for the 2004 convention. They decided that based on the small size of the chapter that they should hold a plant auction as a fundraiser. **Carol Segree** agreed to chair this effort.

Bob and Bee Hobbs hosted the chapter cutting picnic and plant auction, July 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. at their home in North Beach, Maryland. The election of officers was also held at the meeting. With 23 members attending and participating in the auction, the chapter raised \$723 to send to national ASA. The chapter has three new members to report: **Chuck and Nancy Adams** from Prince Frederick and **Patricia Laubscher** from Edgewater. Welcome new members!

Results of chapter elections: President: **Bob McWhorter** for a second year; vice-president is **David Holm**; secretary: **Carol Flowers**; treasurer: **Dale Flowers**; Newsletter editor: **Bob Hobbs**; Co-editor: **Carol Flowers**.

USNA Azalea Collection Project: On July 3, members went back to US National Arboretum to take more cuttings for propagation. The team this year is **Bob McWhorter, David Holm, and Virginia Hennings**. **Dave and Eileen Holm** will root these cuttings as they did last year. They are also car-

ing for the potted plants from 2001. A big thanks goes to these two who have made this cutting project a success.

2004 Convention Planning: Ben Morrison Chapter is hosting the 2004 ASA Convention. Contact **Carol Segree**, convention coordinator, at 301-261-6215 or e-mail her at csegree@msn.com with ideas about theme, speakers, garden tours and other activities. Planning is well underway. Remember that some of the USNA plants will be for sale at this convention. Carol will have some advance publicity ready to report during the Chattanooga Convention in May 2003.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary
plouer@msn.com

The annual chapter cutting picnic was held at George Mason Branch Library in Annandale, Virginia, July 28. Members brought cuttings and, by random draw, got to select from the collection of cuttings.

The July issue of *The Azalea Clipper* contained "Cutting Suggestions" to ensure best after-care results for participants. Briefly, these are:

Taking cuttings

- Choose from new growth at terminal bud ends, not sports.
- Collect after leaves mature, but before the stems are woody.
- Collect in early morning.
- Water plants night before if droughty conditions.
- Select from several branches.
- Take stems of medium diameter.
- Verify plant is properly labeled.
- Label each set of cuttings on a plastic bag, especially if you are sharing.

- Add a few drops of water and seal bag.
- Don't overheat bag (no direct sunlight)

Cutting Materials

- Stick as soon as possible.
- Or, store in refrigerator for a week or less.
- Use sterile, well-aerated rooting medium that retains moisture.
- Try 50% coarse sphagnum peat moss to 50% Perlite, mix well and moisten.
- Press out excess water.
- Root in sterile containers that allow several inches of medium.
- Cover container and cutting with a plastic bag to attain 100% humidity.
- To prevent mold and algae, spray medium surface and cutting with broad-spectrum fungicide.

Sticking Cuttings

- Strip leaves from lower half of cutting.
- Pinch out tip of cutting.
- Dip lower end in liquid rooting hormone 5 seconds or,
- Dip lower end 1 inch into dry powdered hormone.
- Stick cuttings in prepared containers about 2 inches apart.
- Water lightly and cover with plastic bag.
- Label the container as to azalea variety.
- Place container in good, not direct, light.

After-Care

- Don't let leaves dry out.
- Watch humidity level.
- Rooting may take up to 6 weeks.
- Cuttings are rooted when they resist a light "tug."
- Repot in good potting mixture and remove plastic bag.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
rudie2rudie@aol.com
770-760-1569

The August 3 meeting took chapter members to the University of Georgia Griffin Campus for several technical azalea care sessions. Led by Oconee Chapter member **Carol Robacker**, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences, the group visited the university's tissue culture laboratory, native azaleas greenhouse, test sites and plots for species azaleas, and the research and education gardens. The main topics discussed were native azalea propagation by tissue culture and azalea lacebug screening and plant resistance.

The completed CD/slide series, "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" contains 80 slides and is also available in CD format for PowerPoint presentations. The slide version comes with a script. Well done, authors and contributors who worked through 14 drafts and the taking and sorting of many slide images. Authors are cited as: **Dr. Frank Bryan, Albert Penland, James Thornton**—all Oconee Chapter members; **Dr. Gary L. Wade**, Extension Horticulturist, University of Georgia, and the UGA Department of Horticulture, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. The PowerPoint presentation allows you to see the "show" on your computer. The CD program runs on Microsoft PowerPoint on IBM-compatible PCs and was developed in PowerPoint 2000. If you are using an earlier ver-

sion of the software, some of the bullets and fonts may appear different from those in the original presentation. Upgrading your software will solve this problem. Contact Frank Bryan for information on getting copies for your use.

The *Oconee Chapter Newsletter* has been reprinting the early letters Ben Morrison sent to Hugh Caldwell in edited form. Frank Bryan is hoping to collect this material and archive it for posterity.

Dr. Joe and Donna Coleman, who are veteran flower show participants, organized the flower show at the Atlanta convention and gave a presentation to the Oconee Chapter March 17 on exactly how to prepare flowers for the competition.

In Memory — George Phair (1919-2002)

[This remembrance is based on material from the Washington Post supplied by Harry Dewey, who circulated it among Alpine-L members. Ed.]

It is with sadness that we announce the death of George Phair, 83, August 5 of cancer. He was a member since 1982 of the Brookside Gardens Chapter of the ASA and a longtime member of the Potomac Valley Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. Phair was a geologist whose research helped lead to the exploration of one of the largest uranium reserves in North America in the Algoma district of Canada. He lived in Potomac, Maryland.

He contributed to the journals of both the ASA and the North American Rock Garden Society, as well as to other horticultural journals. Dewey's remembrance tells something of George. Speaking of his experience in both plant societies, he says:

All the members of our chapter benefited enormously over the years from George's erudition, scientific bent, dedication and generosity.

Most of us grow plants acquired as a result of his liberal contributions to our plant exchanges. One of my favorites, which will always remind me pleasantly of George, is the hardy touch-me-not, *Impatiens omeiana*.

Dr. Phair retired in 1984 after 35 years with the US Geological Survey. His research into uranium ore focused in Colorado. During World War II, he was a chemist at the Carnegie Institution's geophysical lab in Washington. His work on gun design and propellants led to development of an erosion-resistant alloy that dramatically increased the life of machine-gun barrels.

After he retired, Dr. Phair turned to his second interest, horticulture. He published articles in professional journals on shade and rock-garden plants and organized national meetings on the subject of rock gardens for

the North American Rock Garden Society. He also contributed to *The Azalean* in 1981 with an article, "Ferns as Companion Plants for Azaleas," 3(4): 1-6.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Cecil Alice Phair of Potomac; two children, Raymond Weston Phair of Potomac and Susan Marie Kelley of Midlothian; a brother; and three grandsons.—Reprinted under Phair use provisions of copyright law (to use a pun that George enjoyed using).

Harry Dewey <HTD10@Columbia.edu> (lifetime e-mail address) lives in Beltsville, Maryland. He founded and moderates *Alpine-L*, the *Electronic Rock Garden Society*:
www.thealpinegarden.com/alpine-l.htm

New Members

We welcome these 23 new members who have joined the Society as of September 10, 2002.

At-Large

Tim Davis
174 McMillan Road
Cleveland, TN 37323
varnursery@aol.com

Betty H. Eveler
91 Eagle View Land
Felton, PA 17322-7816

Rosemary Ford
300 Washington Avenue
Chestertown, MD 21620

Deiere Fountain
1234 North Main Street
Raynham, MA 02767
rudderless@tmlp.com

John B. Green
2620 Spring Pl Road, SE
Cleveland, TN 37323
ww2620@aol.com

Maurice M. Hall, MD
2576 Route 1107
Paintsville, KY 41240-8617

Richard Higa
1041 Kamahale Street
Kailua, HI 96734

Mr. & Mrs. Carlton LeMond
11123 County Road 73
Montevallo, AL 35115
clemond@aol.com

Andrew Lockett
1529 East Tamar Highway
Dilston Tas 7252
AUSTRALIA
alockett@microtech.com.au

Vicki Molina
3119 SE 43rd Ave
Portland, OR 97206
vickimolina@hotmail.com

Berkeley & Dot Poole
4992 Honolulu Cove
Hernando, MS 38632-4012
poolebd@bellsouth.net

Wanda Wiersma
5109 Wehawken Road
Bethesda, MD 20816-2224

Ben Morrison Chapter

Warren Leitzel
123 Blue Heron Drive
Woodward, PA 16882
wleitzel@uplink.net

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Nanci Aydelotte
3819 Kenilworth Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
loupnoir@bellatlantic.net

Dallas Chapter

Tony & Mary Ogletree
PO Box 7
Canton, TX 75103

Oconee Chapter

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bartlett
126 Mockingbird Lane
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Matthew Brimberry
Earth Place Garden & Nursery
3918 Traverse Lane
Baconton, GA 31716

Danny & Marena Hall
921 Moores Lane
Hueytown, AL 35023

John & Jane Hay
459 Shake Rag Road
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
jandihay@cs.com

Paula L. Leu
202 Westchester Avenue SW
Huntsville, AL 35801
leu2500@mindspring.com

Elizabeth Volz
780 Skyline Drive
Covington, GA 30014

Craig Walker
7145 Bramlett Lane
Harrison, TN 37341

Vaseyi Chapter

Drs. Moore & McChristian
100 Beverly-Hanks Centre
Hendersonville, NC 28792-2300

WANTED

More new members to recognize in the Winter 2002 issue, which will describe the wonders to come at the 25th Annual ASA convention to be held in Chattanooga, TN, and organized and hosted by president Joe Schild, Jr.