

Oconee Chapter

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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