

Society News

Nominating Committee Report

David Nanney, Chairman —
Springfield, Virginia

After much work, talking on the phone, and consultation with nominating committee members Don Hyatt and Joe Schild, and with input from the Society's board of directors, we offer the following slate of officers for 2003-2004:

President

Robert (Buddy) Lee

Vice President

Bill McDavit

Secretary

John Brown

Treasurer

Bob Stelloh

Directors:

Leslie Nanney

Joe Coleman

John Migas

Officer Candidates

Robert (Buddy) Lee, candidate for president, resides in Independence, Louisiana. He has been a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the ASA since 1983 and served as president of this chapter from 1990 to 1992. He is serving his second year as vice-president of the ASA. He is also a member of the American Rhododendron Society and the Louisiana Nursery Association. He served as coordinator of the ASA national conventions in 1991 (New Orleans) and 2000 (Charleston, South Carolina). He owned and operated Savannah Spring Nursery, a wholesale plant nursery specializing in container grown azaleas (1973-1986). Buddy developed the multi-season blooming Encore® Azaleas. He is presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties (through Transcend Nursery). In his work life, he is a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse who works with

person suffering from stroke, multiple-trauma, and brain and spinal cord injuries.

Bill McDavit, candidate for vice-president, is a retired electrical design specialist for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. He and his wife of 50 years, Mary, lived in Oxon Hill, Maryland, before settling into Sunset Beach, North Carolina, in 1988. They collect rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and iris species and varieties. Their 3/4-acre garden and nursery, called "Azalea Sunset," serves as a site for in-ground evaluation. Bill is a member of Vaseyi Chapter and lectures on what he's learned about how to extend the bloom season to a variety of audiences.

John Brown, candidate for secretary, lives with his wife Carolyn in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, raising several varieties of hay for horses. He is currently serving as the ASA secretary and as secretary of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and secretary of the Vaseyi Chapter, ASA.

His introduction to azaleas came about when Jim Egan founded the Flame Azalea Chapter of the ASA in the early 1980s. In its short life, that chapter had such speakers as Fred Galle and James Wells, pretty heady stuff for a bunch of neophytes. Those experiences have led to a consuming interest in plants in general and azaleas in particular. John, along with several co-conspirators from the Vaseyi Chapter, is attempting to chart the range of *R. vaseyi*.

Bob Stelloh, candidate for treasurer, has been azalea gardening since 1970, has been a member of the ASA since 1980, and has been the ASA treasurer since 1995. He develops and markets gardening software for the Macintosh, and he spends a lot of time chasing down native azalea sightings in the North Carolina mountains.

Board of Directors Candidates

Leslie Nanney, of Springfield, Virginia, is a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and the Potomac Valley ARS Chapter, and enjoys attending the regional and national conventions of both societies. She began collecting azaleas more than 30 years ago, and her collection is continuing 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 Bob Stewart's hybrids among others. In the last few years, her interests have expanded to include the native azaleas and kalmias of the eastern United States. She has previously served as treasurer of the Northern Virginia Chapter and is currently an ASA national director.

Joe Coleman, of Lithonia, Georgia, is a very familiar name to members of the ARS and ASA. He has been a member of the Society since 1979, gaining his early inspiration from none other than George Harding. He is an active member of the Oconee Chapter, and he and his wife Donna organized the flower show for the Joint ARS/ASA Convention in Atlanta in 2002. He is speaking about Kurume azaleas at the upcoming 2003 Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee. For more details about Joe, see the convention insert.

John Migas, from Saugatuck in southwestern Michigan, is working hard on the ASA convention for 2005, which will be held in Michigan. We hear he is also gathering prospective members to help the ASA grow in the upper Midwest. 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 Society since 1996, but has been growing azaleas for 15 years

and hybridizing them for five. 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 growing 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 increasing the activity of the Tri-State Chapter.

Membership Reports

*Membership Committee Chairs —
John Brown, Bob Stelloh*

Dues Renewal Time

We sent out 466 e-mails in early September, one to each member with a known e-mail address. A few of those were returned due to bad addresses. About half of the remainder were information-only e-mails to our life members, or to members who had renewed for multiple years and were already members for 2003. The other half of them asked you to renew, soon, and offered a \$1 "early-bird" renewal discount for checks received before we mailed out the dues envelopes.

By the time we mailed the dues envelopes in late October, 68 of you had already renewed based on the e-mail notice. Thank you—you saved us the cost and effort of mailing you a dues renewal envelope. And our special thanks to you if you didn't even take the \$1 discount you had earned.

The address label on your dues renewal notice envelope shows much of the information we have on file for you. Besides your name and mailing address, it shows your chapter affiliation, when you first joined, your telephone number, and e-mail address. Please check the information over carefully, and write down any changes or missing information on the envelope before you mail it with your check. And please mail it soon, to avoid our having to mail you more envelopes.

If you can, renew for several years. That helps you and it helps us. You get to take a \$1 discount for each extra year and save the postage, and we get to save some dues renewal envelopes and postage and put your money to work drawing some interest for the Society.

It helps even more if you can upgrade to a life membership. At the

current low interest rates, that means you can pay your dues for around \$15 per year. And it still helps us, because we know we can count on having you as a member for a (hopefully) very long time, and we can again put that money to work for the Society drawing interest. Since we treat it as an annuity, your life membership amount lasts a long time even at the current low interest rates. And that's one more dues envelope we won't have to mail again each year.

Chapter Growth — THANKS

In 2001 we had a total of 775 members. In 2002 we had a total of 759 members. In spite of this overall decrease, four chapters actually increased their membership totals! The chapters that increased their membership are:

| Chapter | 2001 | 2002 |
|-------------------|------|------|
| Brookside Gardens | 126 | 127 |
| Louisiana | 34 | 36 |
| Tri-State | 25 | 26 |
| Vaseyi | 50 | 53 |

Congratulations! And please share your secrets of success with us, so we can all grow next year!

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

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

November 3, 2002, our speaker was **Sarah S. Boasberg**, a landscape design consultant who lives and works in the greater Washington, DC area, and who is a member of the Brookside Gardens Chapter. She described a number of gardens she has designed.

2004 Convention Planning: Since the Ben Morrison Chapter is hosting the 2004 ASA Convention, we are working hard on a theme for the con-

vention, gardens and speakers. Contact **Carol Segree**, convention coordinator, at 301-261-6215 or e-mail her at csegree@msn.com with ideas or to offer your help. Carol will have some advance publicity ready to report during the Chattanooga Convention in May 2003.

The holiday meeting will be held December 8, with location and speaker to be announced.

A warm welcome to the ASA to new Ben Morrison Chapter members **Jim** and **Lois Duffy**, from Severna Park, Maryland; **Nanci Aydelotte**, from Chevy Chase, Maryland; and **Warren Leitzel**, from Woodward, Pennsylvania.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary
703-754-2824
plouer@msn.com

Lee McElvain, chapter secretary reported in his minutes of the July 28, 2002, meeting about the results of the latest crosses **Jim Klimavicz** and **Bob Stewart** had made. They said these azaleas were not up to their expectations or standards, although Lee said there were many beauties. As Lee put it, all admired their work, because "it made all of us realize how difficult their choices must be, but truthfully most of us would have been delighted to add their discards to our gardens."

continued on page 89