

# Chapter News

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## *Ben Morrison Chapter*

Robert W. Hobbs, Newsletter Co-editor  
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The chapter met on March 9, 2003, at Severna Park Library. The chapter holds its meetings at diverse locations in Calvert and Anne Arundel counties to accommodate existing members and to possibly attract new members. Plans for future meetings include tours of members' gardens.

The speaker at the March 9 meeting was Dr. Mike Raupp, an expert on integrated pest management (IPM) from the University of Maryland Entomology Department. The subject of his talk was "Old Pests, New Problems: Problems with Managing Lace Bugs on Landscape Shrubs." The objective of IPM is to control predators by improved culture and by encouraging the presence of insect predators, without the use of pesticides.

2004 Convention Planning. Under the leadership of Carol Segree, the convention steering committee continues planning for the May 2004 Convention. The convention headquarters will be the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. Bowie is 15 miles east of Washington, DC, and 12 miles west of Annapolis, Maryland. The Comfort Inn has easy access from interstate routes and other controlled access highways, and is 15 miles from the Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport. More plans will be presented at the 2003 Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

## *Brookside Gardens Chapter*

Dr. Charles Evans, President  
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At the December 1, 2002, annual meeting of the chapter, the existing slate of officers was re-elected.

## *Louisiana Chapter*

W. L. Brown, Secretary  
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At the December 8, 2002, meeting, the following officers were elected:

*President – James Campbell*

*Vice-President – Thomas Milner*

*Treasurer – Margie Jenkins*

*Recording Secretary –  
Keith Pendergraft*

*Corresponding Secretary –  
Larry Brown*

Also at this meeting, the chapter membership voted to send a \$1000 contribution to the national organization to help with the funding deficit. Then the meeting brainstormed many new ideas about attracting new members and changing the meeting routine.

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## *Northern Virginia Chapter*

Barry Sperling, President  
barrysperling@ix.netcom.com

Sunday, March 2, the Northern Virginia Chapter started off its 2003 season with a presentation by Don Voss, covering a topic that he knows intimately: the Robin Hill azaleas. Don, who registered the last 42 of Robert Gartrell's 69 Robin Hill cultivars, presented slides of virtually every one! The hybrid group is known for being cold hardy and floriferous. While filling in the gap between the mid-season flowers and the Satsuki, the group actually has a wide range of bloom times. Additionally, the range of colors and plant habits make the group a great addition to every garden. Don has spoken often at the national ASA conventions and written for a variety of publications, as well as being a frequent contributor to *The Azalean*.

## *Oconee Chapter*

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor  
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As of the February 2003 meeting, the new chapter officers are:

*President – Allison Fuqua*

*Vice-President – Ed Mellon*

*Secretary – Ruth Bryan*

*Newsletter Editor – Frank Bryan*

*Membership – Jim Thornton*

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*Observations – continued*

*Don White has been a member of the ASA for the past three years. He retired in December 2002 from 22 years as a Financial Services Registered Representative of the Prudential Financial Services Company. For 20 years previously he was in the professional golf ranks during which he played with the likes of Ben Hogan and Arnold Palmer. He has been married to his wife Kathy for 33 years, ironically meeting when he was attempting to play in the old Bing Crosby tournament at Pebble Beach. He worked at golf clubs in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, North Hollywood, and Washington State, trying to save enough funds to play the golf tour. Wherever he has traveled, from coast to coast from Maine to Florida, he has been captivated by all the colors of the plants. Kathy and he had always enjoyed gardens, plants, and flowers, but only when he had settled down to the insurance business were they able to begin our own collections. He says he has been a "bonsai freak" for over 30 years, and also belongs to the Watsonville Bonsai Club.*