

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

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The March 9, 2003, meeting was held at Severna Park Library. The guest speaker was Dr. Mike Raupp, from the University of Maryland Entomology Department, presenting the program, "Old Pests, New Problems: Problems with Managing Lace Bugs on Landscape Shrubs." Dr. Raupp's research has focused on the mechanisms by which plants escape attack from herbivorous insects. These mechanisms include inducible and standing plant defenses and host and habitat mediated interactions with natural enemies. His goal is to create sustainable landscape systems with minimal dependence on synthetic pesticides through the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity, with special emphasis on natural enemy communities. Students in his laboratory investigate mechanisms of host plant resistance, the ecology and behavior of herbivores and their predators, parasitoids, and pathogens, and the impact of landscape design on pest and natural enemy populations dynamics. As an extension specialist, he focuses the work of his laboratory on the development and implementation of **integrated pest management** (IPM) programs for landscape, nursery, and greenhouse systems. He and his colleagues emphasize the use of resistant plant materials, manipulation of cultural regimes, and utilization of biological control. His laboratory evaluates biorational pesticides and formulated microbials to determine which materials and techniques are efficacious and minimize disruption to natural enemy communities.

His extension programs provide training on the theory and practice of IPM to diverse clientele that includes

growers, public and private sector landscape and park managers, and private citizens. In addition to his research activities, Mike teaches several entomology and IPM courses at the University of Maryland. He has received awards from the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the US Department of Agriculture. He and his colleagues have published many papers on the various aspects of IPM.

The chapter welcomes new members **Phyllis** and **Bill Meyers** of Baltimore, Maryland, **Patricia** and **Harold Belcher** of Cheverly, Maryland, and **James Fry** of Northpoint, New York.

May 11 **Bob** and **Rosa McWhorter** opened their home and gardens, "Rosa Gardens" to the chapter for the spring tour. Summer events included the July 28 Potting Party, Cutting Exchange and Picnic, at the home of **Dave** and **Eileen Holm** and the July 2 trip to the US National Arboretum to take additional cuttings. Plants from both events will be available for sale at the 2004 National Convention in Bowie, Maryland.

Brookside Gardens Chapter

Dr. Charles Evans, President
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The 24th annual Brookside Gardens Chapter azalea show took place during the Chattanooga convention. 'Appleblossom' exhibited by **Buck Claggett** was selected as Best in Show, and **Charlie Evans** won the Sweepstakes Award.

With respect to the 2006 national meeting the Brookside Gardens Chapter continues to offer to host the meeting. The convention might be held the same weekend as the Landon Azalea Festival where we have staged our flower show for over

20 years. That is usually the first weekend in May. We cannot be more specific at this time as Don Hyatt has expressed interest in having ASA meet jointly during part of the convention with the ARS who will be holding their convention in the Washington, DC, area in the spring of 2006. So far there are no details, just an expression of interest. We will talk further with Don if ASA decides next week to have the 2006 ASA convention hosted by the Brookside Gardens Chapter. *[The ASA board of directors did approve Brookside Gardens' proposal to host the 2006 convention and approved in principle holding some events jointly with ARS in 2006, pending clarification of details and support from both Brookside Gardens and the relevant ARS chapter, Ed.]*

Lake Michigan Chapter

John Migas, President Pro-tem
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This chapter submitted its charter to the membership at the Chattanooga convention May 2 and was accepted into membership in the Society. This chapter covers a large geographic area, including Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Illinois. They are currently recruiting constantly, including during a joint garden tour of Chicago area gardens with the ARS, Midwest Chapter. Formal election of chapter officers is planned for their next meeting at the end of July.

Chapter members are making plans for a number of projects: Vice-president pro-tem **Sandra Wearne**, who is a professional Web site developer, is to design a chapter Web site by this fall. They have selected three planting sites—in northern Illinois, in Chicago, and in Michigan—in which to test new azaleas, with plant-

ing beginning this fall. Finally, they are already visiting private gardens in anticipation of the 2005 ASA Convention, which will be held in Holland, Michigan, and hosted by this chapter.

Louisiana Chapter

W. L. Brown, Secretary
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April 6, 2003, the Louisiana Chapter toured John Thornton's nursery and Margie Jenkins' nursery, both located near Franklinton, Louisiana.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, President
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The second meeting of the year, held at the Sherwood Regional Library, featured Phil Normandy, from Brookside Gardens, a public display garden in Wheaton, Maryland. He related the history of the Gardens' plant accession program, which included nearly 2,000 plants collected by Barry Yinger from the wild and from nurseries. Phil discussed the Brookside Gardens' plant introduction program and showed slides of many of these introductions. This is truly a significant piece of the history of azaleas in America!

The chapter welcomed new members **Eve and Bob Harrison** and **Suzie and Rick Bauer** and invited them to

select from complimentary azaleas contributed by **Larry Martin**. Now that's a great ASA way to say hello.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
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The April 13 meeting was held at the Rockdale Cooperative Extension office with 16 members present. President **Allison Fuqua** provided deciduous species azaleas as well as Aromi hybrids and specimens of 'Admiral Semmes' seedlings for sale. He opened the meeting with a discussion of the procedure for rooting cuttings used in New York. In that climate zone, deciduous cuttings are taken about Memorial Day and evergreens about July 1. After **Ray Goza** showed some unique azalea blooms, including 'Variegated Dogwood', the meeting ended with **Frank Bryan** showing the new CD/PowerPoint presentation "Selecting and Growing Azaleas" that he also was demonstrating at the Chattanooga Convention in May.

The annual cutting party and plant swap was held June 14 with the Azalea Chapter of the ARS at the garden of **Joe and Donna Coleman**. Joe won the most total points, from many first places, the best un-introduced hybrid evergreen, and the best seedling award at the Azalea Chapter, ARS, flower show this spring.

Tri-State Chapter

Robin Hahn, President and Editor
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A spring azalea garden tour was held at the home and garden of **Steve and Beverly Knight** of Hazleton, Indiana, on Sunday, April 27, 2003. The property is heavily forested and contains two lakes with their banks landscaped with evergreen azaleas. Some plants are not quite mature, but they offer beautiful mirrored images that reflect off the lake waters for an awesome effect.

A tour of the grounds in the Knights' golf carts offered a rare view of mature stands of quaking aspen trees, Virginia blue bells, and large creek rocks that have been painstakingly moved around the home and garden, interspersed with azaleas and other plant material. Features were a wonderful specimen weeping elm, various hollies, and dogwoods with flowers with very large bracts that were transplanted from their own woods to positions near the home.

The azalea collection consists of a large number of Schroeder hybrids bred by the late Dr. Henry Schroeder, which are used extensively along with Gable hybrids and other varieties. Some of the plantings are young, but in a few years this garden will present an awesome display of colorful evergreen azaleas.

Upcoming Conventions

2004 National Convention—to be hosted by Ben Morrison Chapter, May 6-9, 2004. The theme is "Best Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country." Convention headquarters will be the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. The convention steering committee, led by chief coordinator, Carol Segree, is now meeting monthly to arrange speakers and gardens. Input is welcome. Contacts: Carol Segree (301-261-6215) csegree@msn.com or chapter president, Bob McWhorter (410-923-6408) mcwho@erols.com .

2005 National Convention—to be hosted by the new Lake Michigan Chapter, and headquartered in Holland, Michigan. Details to be announced as they become available.

2006 National Convention—to be hosted by Brookside Gardens Chapter in the Washington, DC, area.

2007 National Convention—to be held in Nacogdoches, Texas, with assistance from the Louisiana Chapter.