

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.

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### *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.

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### *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.

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### *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.