

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Bob McWhorter, President
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September 7, 2003, the chapter held a cookout and plant auction at the home of **Jim and Lois Duffy** in Severna Park, Maryland. The proceeds of the auction were used to promote the 2004 ASA Convention, "The Best Bloomin' Azaleas in Bay Country." Members were invited to bring azaleas or any kind of companion or garden plants to donate to the chapter to add to the stock of plants to be propagated for the plant sale. Several lucky members bought some of the 20-30 plants auctioned at the picnic as well. The 2004 convention steering committee was on hand to share the results of their hard work. **Carol Segree** (csegree@msn.com) is convention coordinator; **Debra** and **Peter Hughes** (dah@dahughes.com) are handling publicity; **Dave Holms** is in charge of the plant sale; and **Dale Flowers** is working on the registration forms. Watch for all the convention details in the Winter 2003 issue of *The Azalean*.

Great Lakes Chapter

John Migas, President Pro-tem
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The big news was the chapter was officially chartered at the Chattanooga convention May 3. Officers will be elected this fall. Work is already well under way to select the gardens to tour for the 2005 convention in Holland, Michigan, which is timed to coincide with the Tulip Festival there. Several special tour packages will be offered for members who want to come early or stay after the convention. John reported that he thoroughly enjoyed the trip to **Bill**

Pinkerton's garden in Tennessee this past May right after the Chattanooga convention, with **Tijs Huisman**, **Ed Collins**, **Buddy Lee**, and **Tadeuz Daukza**.

Northern Virginia Chapter

Barry Sperling, President
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The chapter's annual plant auction was held at the home of **Dave and Sharon Raden** on August 24. It proved a great chance to obtain some new and unusual varieties.

Don Voss and **Don Hyatt** are preparing a compact disc highlighting **Robin Hill** azaleas and other information that will be available to members when the project is completed. **Barry Sperling** has copies of **Pete Vines'** catalog available for members. In addition, Barry mentioned the possibility of working with **Fairfax County Parks** on an educational project concerning azaleas, with local nurseries helping distribute an informative azalea fact sheet.

Big thanks to the people who have worked so hard to make this chapter so successful: **Phil** and **Frances Louer** for putting out the chapter newsletter, *The Azalea Clipper*, six times a year; **Dan Krabill** for setting up the meetings and programs; **Larry Martin** for working on the **Pete Vines** reference manual; **Don Hyatt** for scanning in **Don Voss's** **Robin Hill** slides to put on a CD for chapter members; **Valerie Lorenz** for volunteering to write a guide to area plants for beginning gardeners; and **Bruno Kaelin** for answering questions on soils for an upcoming newsletter article.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor
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The August 17 chapter meeting was a full one, with two topics. First, **Dr. Joe Coleman** and **Dr. Frank Bryan** presented a slide show of gardens visited at the 2003 ASA convention. Then, there was a panel discussion on rooted cuttings. Participants included: **Ed Mellon** (moderator), **Allison Fuqua**, **Ray Goza**, **Joe Coleman**, and **Frank Bryan**.

Thirteen people attended the annual cutting party and plant swap June 14 held at **Joe Coleman's** home. President **Fuqua** said the cuttings at this party were the best he'd seen in 10 years. So good, in fact, that two ASA members from Alabama came to exchange cuttings.

Azalea Research Foundation Donation

On September 21, 2003, **Dr. Joe Coleman** gave an excellent talk and slide show on southern native azaleas to the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Continuing the precedent established last year by **Bill Steele** and the New York Chapter-ARS, **Joe** suggested his \$100 honorarium be donated to the Azalea Society Research Foundation, which the ASA board of directors is thinking about establishing.