

# Chapter News

## Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Newsletter Editor  
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The July 11 meeting at the home of **Bob** and **Eve Harrison** introduced members to their “little part of Heaven that West Virginia is so famous for.” **Don Hyatt** told the group that when they host the ASA convention, that the focus will be on local azalea hybridizers, and that he hoped members will be able to propagate plants for the event. President **Barry Sperling** also asked members to look for records on the early years of the ASA to send to the Society’s archives project. Then the group had fun “selecting cuttings for future landscaping fantasies” and toured the **Harrisons’** lovely garden.

The chapter’s annual plant auction was held August 29 at the home of **Dave** and **Leslie Nanney** in West Springfield, Virginia. Members were invited to bring both plants to auction and new friends to introduce to the ASA. The August issue of the *Azalea Clipper* contained an interesting article by chapter president **Barry Sperling** in which he recounted how difficult it is to choose “his favorite azalea.” After saying he liked **Harris’** ‘**Coronado**’ as the best red he knows, **Glenn Dale** ‘**Prudence**’ for growing well for him and covering itself with flowers, and the bi-colors ‘**Martha Hitchcock**’ (**Glenn Dale**) and ‘**Ashley Ruth**’ (from **Bob Stewart**), he set out his criteria for what it takes to be the best:

1. Looks good in the landscape as a focal point plant,
2. Grows vigorously enough to be a “foundation plant” in a few years (i.e., a plant with real substance, not necessarily planted around the foundation),
3. Is floriferous, covering itself densely,
4. Has a flower and truss that look

good on close inspection,

5. Has a flower that is bi-color (or tri-color), with the darker color a strong one, such as a good red or purple,
6. Is a low-maintenance plant,
7. Appeals so much to non-azaleaphiles that they say, “Where can I get one?”, and
8. Causes azaleaphiles to say, “That looks good! Why don’t I get one?”

The newsletter also announced that **Mich** and **Bill Steele** were closing their nursery. **Jim Fry**, president of the New York Chapter of the ARS has purchased all of their liners (1000 varieties of azaleas and close to 300 varieties of lepidotes). He will carry on where the **Steeles** left off.

September 26th, chapter vice-president **Dan Krabill** presented images from his CD of **Glenn Dale** azaleas as mentioned in the article in *The Azalean* [26(3): 28-31]. He provided the narrative for the 350-plus **Glenn Dale** images, and members were able to ask questions.

## Ben Morrison Chapter

Co-Editors: **Bob Hobbs** —  
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**Carol Flowers** —dflowers@bellatlantic.net

October 1, 2004, chapter members attended the special ceremonies recognizing the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the **Ben Morrison Garden** at the US National Arboretum. (See article by **Bob McWhorter** on page 79.) The October 31 meeting was held at the home of **Dave** and **Eileen Holm**, at which time members drew numbers to decide which lucky home would “grow on” the rooted cuttings from the US National Arboretum that the chapter is growing for the 2006 national convention. Members then brainstormed ideas for meetings for 2005.

At the November 19th meeting at

the home of **Bob** and **Rose McWhorter**, president **Carol Segree** led a discussion of what future chapter activities should be. She also suggested it would be helpful if a few standing committees could be responsible for planning the meetings and special events, as this would increase member participation and add some diversity to the meetings. The annual holiday celebration was held at the home of **Dale** and **Carol Flowers** on December 5, 2004.

## Oconee Chapter

**Frank Bryan**, Newsletter Editor  
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The July newsletter reported on the 2004 convention and the ASA archives project, and contained a very detailed listing of all the hybrid groups of evergreen azaleas, including many that have been developed since **Galle’s** 1987 encyclopedic book.

The August 15 meeting covered three topics: 1) **Allison Fuqua’s** new procedures for rooting cuttings, including soil and hormone, 2) **Jim Thornton’s** slides of tropical plants and other sights from his recent trip to Southeast Asia, and 3) discussion of what constitutes members’ favorite azaleas. The newsletter asked members to review the following list of “proven performers” that the Azalea Chapter of the ARS published in 2000:

‘**Beth Bullard**’  
‘**Boldface**’  
‘**Conversation Piece**’  
‘**Corsage**’  
‘**Elsie Lee**’  
‘**George Lindley Taber**’  
‘**Glacier**’  
‘**White Rosebud**’  
‘**Koromo-shikibu**’  
‘**Marian Lee**’  
‘**Midnight Flare**’  
‘**Gumpo White Sport**’

Similar listings were submitted by

the Birmingham and Chatahoocnee chapters of the ARS and published in the Winter 2003 issue of the *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society*.

The November 14 meeting speaker was Mike Francis, owner of Greenhouse Nursery and Maple Farm in Decatur, Georgia. His slide presentation was "Japanese Maples from A to Z," and included varieties well adapted to the northern Georgia area.

The November 2004 newsletter included a long technical article by Frank Bryan on "Nutrients for Plant Growth, Survival, and Health." [To be published in a forth-coming issue of *The Azalean*, Ed.]

### *Chapters Organizing and Reorganizing*

The Alabamense Chapter has 35 members and will receive its official charter at the national convention in May 2005. Carlton LeMond, president and other members are busy speaking to garden clubs and holding seminars. Contact Carlton at [cllemond@direcway.com](mailto:cllemond@direcway.com) (or 205-665-9089) for more details.

Some members of the Dallas Chapter met in Nacogdoches, Texas, November 6 and decided to work toward reorganizing the Texas members into a Texas chapter, with a focus on East Texas activities. Revised By-Laws will be presented to the ASA board of directors at the national convention. Contact Barbara Stump ([bsstump@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsstump@sbcglobal.net) or 936-462-7195) for more details.

# New Members

The following members joined the Society as of December 20, 2004.

#### **At Large**

Robert Z. Callahan  
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Orinda, CA 94563-1950  
925-254-0624

William Shulleeta & Virginia Kilgour  
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804-262-2481

#### **Alabamense Chapter**

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#### **Ben Morrison Chapter**

Luella Ferguson  
1530 Sixes Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

#### **Brookside Gardens Chapter**

James Rieden  
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#### **Dallas Chapter**

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#### **Bob Herbert**

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#### **Lake Michigan Chapter**

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#### **Louisiana Chapter**

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301 Camille Street  
Amite, LA 70422  
985-747-1211

#### **Vaseyi Chapter**

Mountain Mist Nursery  
Larry M. Mucci  
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Fairview, NC 28730  
[lmucci@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmucci@bellsouth.net)



### **Official ASA Address**

Remember the official Society mailing address is:

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c/o John Brown, ASA Secretary  
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Cleveland, SC 29635-9789