

# Chapter News

## *Ben Morrison Chapter*

Co-Editors: **Bob Hobbs** —

rwhobbs@mindspring.com

**Carol Flowers** — dflowers@bellatlantic.net

Chapter member **Bill Scott** presented the program for the July 31 meeting, with his report on the Ben Morrison Chapter's five-day trip to Roan Mountain. He thanked **Don Hyatt** for leading the trip. Don asked members to let him know about small azalea nurseries in the area, so he could add their names and contact information to handouts for the 2006 convention attendees. New officers were also elected by acclimation at the meeting:

President—Harold Belcher

Vice-president—Bob Hobbs

Secretary—Carol Flowers

Treasurer—Dale Flowers

The October 29 chapter meeting was held at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens in Washington, DC. The site overlooks Washington's Rock Creek Park, and the gardens feature azaleas, a French parterre garden, a rose garden, a Japanese style garden, and cutting gardens (see more information on this garden in the article on p. 64).

## *Brookside Gardens Chapter*

From convention co-chairs

**William C. Miller III**,

bill@theazaleaworks.com

**Don Hyatt**, Don@donaldhyatt.com

The Brookside Gardens Chapter cordially invites you for "A Capital Adventure" in the suburbs of Washington, DC. The chapter is hosting the joint ARS-ASA convention to be held May 12-15, 2006 with the Potomac Valley, Middle Atlantic, and Mason-Dixon Chapters of the American Rhododendron Society. Headquartered in nearby Rockville, Maryland, the convention will begin on Friday evening and close on

Monday morning, to help reduce costs for participants and to avoid the weekday rush hour traffic. The convention features world class speakers, a great plant sale with many new azalea introductions, exciting tours to private and public gardens in the region, and an overnight trip into the Blue Mountains of Virginia after the convention. A flower show is also on the program. Full details can be found on the convention Web site [www.arspvc.org/2006](http://www.arspvc.org/2006), which can also be visited through the ASA Web site "conventions" link. Registration materials will arrive in the Winter 2005 issue of *The Azalean* and will also be posted on the ASA Web site in January 2006.

## *Northern Virginia Chapter*

**Frances Louer**, Corresponding

Secretary, plouer@msn.com

The annual plant auction was held at the home of **Bill and Val Lorenz** on August 28th. There are many advantages of a plant auction: you get to take home a plant already started as opposed to cuttings that have to be rooted; you are exposed to new azalea varieties; and you can learn more about azaleas and how they are grown, even if you are just getting started. Chapter members were encouraged to invite friends and members from other chapters.

The September 25th meeting gave the chapter their first opportunity to try out a digital projector, thanks to a search of possible sources by **Phil Louer and Don Hyatt**. With this technological aid, **Caitlin Klimavicz** was able to show her digital images for her program, "Developing New Evergreen Azalea Hybrids." Caitlin has assisted her father Joe Klimavicz in hybridizing new evergreen azaleas since the 1980s; together they've produced 500-1000 new hybrids each year. Two new hybrids were registered just this past summer. [See also her article on p. 58 which describes

other research and some possibilities for future azalea hybridization, Ed.]

## *Oconee Chapter*

**Frank Bryan**, Newsletter Editor

Rudie2rudie@aol.com

At the September 18th chapter meeting, and the program consisted of **Dr. Joe Coleman's** and **Dr. Frank Bryan's** slides and discussion of the gardens in Holland, Michigan, that they saw during the ASA convention in May. Then, for comparison, Frank showed slides of The Netherlands to show some gardens in the real Holland. The September 2005 issue of the chapter newsletter contained a detailed article on "Azalea Root Fungi" and description and discussion of three more deciduous azalea groups: The Confederate Series hybridized by the Dodd and Dodd Native Nursery in Semmes, Alabama; Towe-Anastos deciduous azaleas hybridized from species found in the wild by Clarence Towe; and the "Maid in the Shade" hybrids developed by George, Mary, Jeff, and Lisa Beasley of Transplant Nursery in Livonia, Georgia. Newsletter editor **Frank Bryan** researches and writes much of this newsletter and requested articles from other azalea enthusiasts in the Oconee Chapter and the ASA. Contact Frank at the above e-mail or by phone at 770-760-1569.

## **WANTED**

### **Azalea Festival Information**

Send any news about local azalea-oriented festivals, celebrations, special "garden-open days", azalea trails, or conferences to the Editor, [bsstump@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsstump@sbcglobal.net) or by fax to 936-462-1842. They will be featured in a highlighted list in the Spring 2006 issue. Be sure to include your contact information (e-mail and/or phone numbers).