What about the toughest audience of all? "I think the landscape architect did a great job," said Ina Brundrett. "I’m eager to see the new varieties in bloom. Most of the homes on the Azalea Trail have older plantings, and this will give people the chance to see some newer varieties."

As a member of the TJC Botanic Garden Advisory Committee, her work is far from over, though. She’s keen to raise enough funds to handle maintenance, the addition of new varieties as they become available, and care of any plantings that need replacement over time.

The official opening of the Brundrett Azalea Garden is timed to coincide with the annual Azalea Trail celebration in the spring of 2006. During the Azalea Trail, people come from all over Texas and beyond to enjoy the incredible profusion of azaleas that decorate every nook and cranny of Tyler and the surrounding communities. With its banquet of new plants, the Brundrett Azalea Garden at TJC is going to attract a lot of attention and traffic.

“We’re so pleased by the community response to this project,” said Mitch Andrews, TJC Foundation director of principal gifts. “Our Master Plan for the College calls for each of the themed gardens to bring people to the campus, whether they be students, visitors looking for beauty, or area residents who wish to get involved in building Tyler through its community college. These gardens would not be possible without the enthusiastic support of the people of Tyler and the surrounding area. The educational value of the botanical gardens can’t be overestimated, and seeing Naud Burnett’s vision literally coming to life here on campus in the Brundrett Azalea Garden makes us all the more anxious to keep on building and improving the other gardens. It’s truly a living legacy that the community is building at TJC,” he said.


Groundbreaking photo caption. Participating in the August 10, 2005, groundbreaking for the expansion of TJC’s Brundrett Azalea Garden were members from area garden clubs, who provided much of the funding for the project. Pictured (from left) are: Annette Findley and LaVerne Gollob, The Tyler Garden Club; Dr. William R. Crowe, TJC president; Maymerle Brown, Gertrude Windsor Garden Club; Ina Brundrett; Linda Whetsell, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District III; Linda Dyer, Tyler Area of Council of Garden Clubs; Mitch Andrews, TJC director of principal gifts; Arlene McReynolds, Pionette Garden Club; and Anne Brown, Azalea Garden Club.

Becca Anderson is a freelance writer from Longview, Texas, who writes and does graphic design for a variety of trade magazines, websites and organizational publications. She can be reached via her Web site, www.beccathewriter.com.

**New Members**

The following members joined the Society as of December 6, 2005.

**At-Large**
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