

Society News

Chapter News

Louisiana Chapter

The chapter has been actively involved in the Garden Party honoring Ms. Margie Jenkins and the dedication of a new azalea garden in her honor at the LSU AgCenter in Hammond, Louisiana. (See article on p. 59)

Northern Virginia Chapter

Frances Louer, Corresponding Secretary

The chapter held their annual cutting exchange on July 9th at the home of Eve and Bob Harrison in Luray, Virginia. President Dan Krabill promoted this activity to all chapter members as a way to gain new plants, especially the hard-to-come-by ones.

The annual plant auction was held on August 27th at Phran's Azalea Trails (home of the Philip Louers) in Haymarket, Virginia.

Oconee Chapter

Frank Bryan, Newsletter Editor

Buddy Lee, President of the ASA, visited the chapter meeting held August 13th to help members prepare for fall collection and propagation of Oconee azaleas (*Rhododendron flammeum*). While Buddy was there he updated the members on current issues and the future of the ASA.

Vaseyi Chapter

John Brown, Secretary Reporting

Dr. Joe Coleman brought us a tiny part of his knowledge and enthusiasm on Sunday September 24 with his talk, "Dependably Old and Excitingly New: Kurume Azaleas." He covered the oldest of the hybrid evergreen groups, going from their introduction during the Pacific Exposition at the start of the last century through the introductions by Wilson; importation by the Domotos and Stevenson of several groups; then all the way up to the newest exploration by Dr. John Creech and the latest introductions by the US National Arboretum. Joe's slides covered all the color combinations available.

Joe is currently serving as a member of the ASA board of directors and has been a member of the Society since its second year of existence when George Harding introduced him to the group.

The chapter's board met August 24 to set up the schedule for the meetings for 2007.

In Memory

Walter Galloway Burch

H. M. "Fuzzy" Perritt reported that Alabamense Chapter member Walter Galloway Burch died June 4, 2006, at age 79. He said:

"Walt lived across the creek from me and was noted for his wildlife photography. He has thousands of pictures of everything from Alaskan Brown Bear to hummingbirds and from wildflowers to magnificent forest and mountain scenes. I did the eulogy at his funeral and it was a tough challenge. Walt is really going to be missed up this way."

Dr. Ben Reid

Jim Thornton of the Oconee Chapter reports with sadness:

"Dr. Ben Reid passed away July 1, 2006, at the age of 81, at his home, after a battle with leukemia. Ben was a long-time member of the ASA and the Oconee Chapter. He was a retired military man, a retired educator, and a retired azaleophile. He and his wife Lina owned and operated Reid's Azalea Farm, where they raised, sold, and collected thousands of azaleas, with hundreds of varieties for landscaping and propagation purposes. Their garden was always open to the public; and, on more than one occasion, the Oconee Chapter held their annual "cutting party" at their place. He was always willing to share his "secrets." He will surely be missed!"

Helen Schroeder

Larry Miller of the Tri-State Chapter reported that Helen Schroeder of Evansville, Indiana, age 81, died September 20, 2006. She was Tri-State Chapter's original secretary. Her husband, Dr. Henry R. Schroeder, Jr. was a well-known Evansville hybridizer of cold-tolerant azaleas, and he named one of his compact, very double purplish pink hybrids 'Mrs. Henry Schroeder' for her.

George William Wood, Jr.

Bob Kelly of the Alabamense Chapter reported that George William Wood, Jr. of Northport, Alabama, age 87, died July 17, 2006 at home.

Mr. Wood was a highly decorated World War II veteran. He was the founder of the Alabama Wildflower Society and editor of their newsletter and was associated with the Tanglewood Arboretum at the University of Alabama. He was the forester for the University of Alabama from 1959 to 1987.

Bob Stelloh contributed that he had also noticed that Mr. Wood had bought gift memberships for a number of our members, including Caroline Dean who is a friend of Bob's and, it turns out, was a really good friend of George. She has a strong interest in wildflowers as well as azaleas and lives in Opelika, Alabama.