Addressing some of the typical plant material we will be seeing on our travels to Tyler on Friday.

Greg is a horticulturist with the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center. He is co-author of *Home Landscaping—Texas* (2004) and *The Southern Heirloom Garden* (1995), and is a frequent contributor to *Texas Gardener, Ornamental Outlook*, and *Neil Sperry's Gardens*. He has worked for two other botanic gardens: Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Houston, and San Antonio Botanic Garden. His current assignment at the SFA PNPC allows him to garden with some of the native plants he first learned to love in nearby Arcadia, Texas.

Following Greg’s talk we will hold a Rare Plant Raffle—This is an SFA Mast Arboretum stand-by; the rare plants come from Dr. Creech’s Arboretum Shade House. Be sure to get a ticket at the door!

**Friday Night, March 30**

Robert (Buddy) Lee, “Azalea Revivals—The Rising Tide.”

Buddy will discuss many of the strains of azaleas that he has enjoyed, evaluated, and used in his long experience with breeding azaleas. He will also discuss some of the goals of his breeding work and may introduce some new azaleas.

Buddy is the president of the Azalea Society of America (2003 to 2007). He has been a member of the Louisiana chapter of the ASA since 1983, serving as president of the chapter from 1990-1992. A true promoter of the azalea, he coordinated two national conventions for the ASA, one in New Orleans (1991) and the other in Charleston, South Carolina (2000). From 1973 through 1986, he owned and operated Savannah Spring Nursery, a wholesale plant nursery specializing in container-grown azaleas. During this period he developed the multi-season-blooming Encore® Azaleas now marketed through Plant Development Services (PDSI) in Loxley, Alabama. The Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association recognized his significant contribution to the industry by awarding him a Professional Achievement Award, presented during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile, Alabama, in 2000. He is presently active in the development and testing of new azalea varieties through Transcend Nursery in Independence, Louisiana. He is also a tireless promoter of the Society, speaking at many nursery and garden shows, from which he has gained the Society an impressive list of new members.


Drawing on his travel and gardening experiences, Len will show how important Japanese maples and Japanese garden design have been as complements to azaleas in our gardens. In particular, he will emphasize how Japanese garden design uses the shapes of plants and topographic features in a symbolic way to create desired effects.