

Chapter News

Northern Virginia

Barry Sperling - Corresponding Secretary

On November 11, Chapter President Rick Bauer gave a talk on the hybrids of his Tidewater neighbor, Sandra McDonald. Many of her plants are in the nearby Norfolk Botanical Garden. Rick had many slides of her flowers, and we were making up our own lists of her plants to get for ourselves. Additionally, Don Hyatt discussed a possible joint convention in Norfolk with the ARS, coming up in 2016.

The annual Holiday party was enjoyable for everyone as many people brought homemade dishes and no one had a need for supper that night. A business meeting discussed the previous year's and upcoming budgets, with a surplus of several thousand dollars going to the National Arboretum's azalea intern fund, the White Botanical Estate and at least one of three other possibilities to be decided on later. The upcoming convention in 2016 was also discussed at length and it all was topped off with a gift exchange. We have to thank Barbara and Roger Randall, of Spotsylvania, for opening their spacious, beautifully Christmas-themed home to our chapter. We're all looking forward to a great 2013!

Texas

Sherrie Randall- Corresponding Secretary

The Texas chapter held their fall meeting at the Doremus wholesale nursery in Warren, Texas. Manager Mark Bronstad welcomed us then gave us a brief history of this family-owned nursery followed by a tour. The members were impressed with the vast but impeccably maintained greenhouses. They supply hard-to-find and Texas-tough plants mainly to the southern nurseries of Texas. After the tour, members scattered to purchase plants of their choice. Our brief business/lunch meeting concluded with a plant raffle thanks to donations from Mark and Bayou Bend, courtesy of Vice President Bart Brechter.

Alabamense

Pam Thompson - Corresponding Secretary

The Alabamense Chapter is visiting the northern end of its range for a fall meeting at the Huntsville Botanical Gar-

dens. It will include our first seed swap and propagation tips from one of the state's most prolific growers, Vernon Bush. Azalea gardeners from across the state have noticed surprising amounts of fall blooms from native azaleas, rhododendrons, and hybrid deciduous azaleas. Auburn locals report great success with propagation efforts over the summer to secure plant material from Auburn University's Camp Hill Azalea Research Project. This should result in hundreds of Satsuki azaleas cropping up in gardens around East Alabama as our cuttings continue to grow.

Rev. John Drayton

Lynda Creek - Corresponding Secretary

On October 22, 2012 a regular business meeting was held. Suzi DuRant and Lynda Creek gave an update on where things stand for the 2014 Convention as well as what needs to happen next in order to keep everything on schedule. The goal is to have everything in place by the 2013 Convention in Georgia.

Our new Officers and Executive board were selected. They are as follows:

President-Tom Johnson
Vice President-Miles Beach (program chairman)
Treasurer-Maggie Fernald
Secretary-Linda Wood
At Large
1. Norma Wolf
2. Shirley Maggard
Committees:
Propagation-Miles Beach, Tom Johnson,
Bob Williams
Fund Raising-Ron Boyce
Public Relations-Donna McCellan
Membership Committee- Mary Ann Johnson,
Lynda Creek
Hospitality-Maggie Fernald, Tom Johnson
Scribe-Linda Wood
2014 Convention Chair-Suzi DuRant

Tom Johnson gave a program on azalea seed propagation, hybridization, collecting and planting. There was also a plant giveaway.