

New Members

At Large

Renee Halsey
402 Ridgeway Drive
Norfolk, NE 68701

Keep Pike County Beautiful
PO Box 2161
McComb, MS 39649

Eric Oesterling
110 Bliss Lane
New Alexandria, PA 15670

Robinson W. Schilling, Jr.
3402 Sasanqua Drive
Augusta, GA 30909

Frank Q. Smith
PO Box 4825
23350 Meadow View Drive
Dowling Park, FL 32064

Alabamense

Mr. & Mrs. James L. Williams
12323 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
LaFayette, AL 36862

Lake Michigan

Barbara Kurtzhals
793 Parkside
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Oconee

John Kohli
896 Birch River Drive
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Northern Virginia

Ben Dukes
4335 Heron Point
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Texas

Sandra Dugan
628 Whittle Street
Tyler, TX 75701

Bonnie Lyons
4320 Raguett Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Craig W. Reiland
420 Rose Park Drive
Tyler, TX 75702

Charles and Anne Rhodus
261 Saddle Creek Drive
Tyler, TX 75703

Vaseyi

John Barnes
1110 Marshall Road
Greenwood, SC 29646

Chapter News

Northern Virginia

Barry Sperling - Corresponding Secretary

It was great seeing the large turnout for the Holiday Social in December. Thank you to Barbara and Roger Randall for hosting the chapter in their beautiful home in Massaponax. There were a number of items of business that I would like to report:

Chapter Officers for 2013 – the following members were elected to fill the leadership positions for 2013:

President – Rick Bauer
Vice President – Lars Larson
Treasurer – Paul Beck
Secretary – Susan Bauer

The meeting included a vote on several donations to be made on behalf of the chapter as well as discussion of the ASA Convention for 2016 in Norfolk. There is a possibility

of holding it in conjunction with the American Rhododendron Society, but there are some details that need to be determined before a final decision is reached. These details will be presented at the March meeting.

The meeting also covered the budget for 2013 and financial results for 2012, last year was very successful for us financially. Any member who wants information on our finances should contact Paul Beck at pabeck@gmail.com.

Our chapter has been working with the Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG) to expand their collection of Glenn Dale azaleas. Our chapter was recognized by NBG in the November-February issue of *Bloom Magazine*. In July, I was able to take cuttings from NBG's Sandra McDonald azalea garden, accompanied by one of their horticulturists. We are propagating these cuttings in support of the Legacy Project.

Texas

Barbara Stump, Chapter Member

Several members of the Texas Chapter met November 30, 2012, to join me in dedicating an eight-foot metal memorial bench in honor of my late husband and previous Texas Chapter president Michael M. Stump. When 12 members of the chapter and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Miller III donated memorial funds to the SFA Gardens' Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden in Nacogdoches, Texas, we decided a memorial bench would be the most appropriate use of these gifts. This is especially appropriate, since way back in 1998 Mike had driven me to Amite, Louisiana, to meet Miss Margie Jenkins at her nursery and pick up the first 150 'Koromo-shikibu' azaleas that grace the eastern front of the garden today. The dedication day was glorious, full of fall colors from southern sugar maples and Japanese maples accented by sasanqua camellias.

In a separate donation, Caryl and Harold Hall, also Texas Chapter members, donated funds for another memorial bench in the newest of the SFA Gardens, the Gayla Mize Garden, which is located just east of the Ruby Mize Garden.



photo: Barbara Stump

▲ Chapter members Don Parsons, Jimmy Rodriguez, Cecil Settle (back row, left to right) with Peg Kern, Sherrie Randall, Margie Rodriguez, and Gloria Settle seated on bench in Bed 26 of the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden. Donors not pictured: Bobbie Bounds, Bitsey Hail, Bill and Janet Miller, Jo Ann Smith, Nancy Snoberger, Vickie Snyder, and Sue Whitfield.

Alabamense

Pam Thompson - Corresponding Secretary

At the end of our first year as a revitalized chapter we can pat ourselves on the back. We have a growing membership, a bank account, and we had a full year of meetings all over the state. We are planning our first publication, an Alabamense Chapter specific insert for the

ASA brochure that we have been sharing every chance we get. Most recently that was on a trip to the Huntsville Botanical Gardens where we had a seed swap and learned about the many propagation techniques of Vernon Bush. We saw the staggering number of azaleas he has added to the HBG grounds and received the kind of hospitality you'd expect from a master azalea grower with room to work.

Let's keep the ball rolling in 2013 by renewing our memberships, and inviting friends, family, and fellow gardeners to join us as we share our love of azaleas. This spring we plan to visit azaleas in gardens and in the wild. Field trips currently being considered include Calloway Gardens, Mobile Botanical Gardens, and Cane Creek Preserve. We are also hoping to make a run for the Georgia border. If our friends in the Oconee Chapter aren't too busy with convention business, they might be able to help us catch *Rhododendron flammeum* or *R. calendulaceum* in bloom. Our spring meeting will be held at the Auburn University Davis Arboretum where we will raffle off native azaleas and a year-long membership to the Azalea Society of America, date TBA.

Rev. John Drayton

Linda Wood - Corresponding Secretary

Our regular meeting was held on November 26 with 22 people in attendance.

Officers/Executive Board beginning Nov. 26, 2012

President – Tom Johnson
Vice President – Miles Beach (program chairman)
Treasurer – Maggie Fernald
Secretary – Linda Wood

The group was welcomed by Tom Johnson, president. After an excellent meal provided by the membership of fried chicken and sides, Miles Beach discussed his visit to the Boconnoc Flower Show in England in early 2012. The show included azaleas, camellias, rhododendron, daffodils, etc. He noted a few differences in this show and those held in the states; the judging occurs in the evening prior to the show with only the judges present, multiple blue ribbons for each category, and the name of plant could be unknown and you could still win a blue ribbon!

The Christmas Party was held December 18, at Magnolia Plantation in the Carriage House. As in the past the party was a combined effort with the Camellia Society.