

Chapter News

Northern Virginia Chapter News

Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary

We were all saddened to hear of the death of **Frances Louer**, a founding member of the ASA and the Northern VA Chapter. Among many chores over the last 30 years she was co-editor, with her husband Phil, of the chapter newsletter "The Azalea Clipper."

On a brighter note we all enjoyed the annual Cutting Exchange, held at the home of **Bonnie and Frank Pattie** on the Potomac River in Stafford. This enjoyable afternoon included extensive food selections, a large variety of cuttings, and a tour of the grounds led by Bonnie.

Paul Beck has been hard at work on the new chapter website and it is already a top-notch destination. Check it out at: www.nv-asa.org (note that is a hyphen and not an underscore.)

We all have fine selections from hybridizers **Joe Klimavicz** and **Bob Stewart**, but now Joe has introduced a special plant named 'Bob Stewart'. This looks to be a major feature in all our gardens for years to come!

The fall will be busy, as usual, with the annual auction on Oct. 12 at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Virginia, a meeting with a speaker on Nov. 17 and the annual holiday social December 8. Join us if you can!

Oconee Chapter News

Mike Sikes, Chapter Member

After hosting the 2013 ASA Convention in Athens, Georgia, the Oconee Chapter was proud to present a check for \$2,500 to the ASA General Fund. The Oconee Chapter also sent \$2,500 for the Azalea Research Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to foster knowledge and improvement of the standards of excellence with regard to azaleas. A \$1,000 check was made to the Georgia Master Gardeners Endowed Scholarship Fund to encourage the passion for growing, learning and teaching in University of Georgia horticulture students. A gift of \$500 was given to support the future Children's Garden at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Texas Chapter News

Barbara Stump, Chapter Member

We've begun our planning for hosting the 2015 convention in our fair city of Nacogdoches, Texas, from the roots up. Pardon the pun, but besides collecting committee chair people and looking at private gardens to visit, we've begun our first-ever cutting propagation project. Under the experienced and organized direction of our chapter secretary **Sherrie Randall** and member **Peg Kern**, we've got our first set of rooted cuttings now potted into gallons for you for

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2015. Both have been trained in this as SFA Mast Arboretum volunteers by Research Associate for Plant Evaluation Dawn Stove for over 10 years, so they are leading the more timid of us into this new territory. I got to select my top 30 evergreen cultivars from the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden as our preliminary cutting stock; Sherrie picked her top 20 hydrangea cultivars as well. So far our best luck has been with 'Hampton Beauty', 'Wakaebisu', 'Chinzan', and 'Speckled Spider'. We're negotiating with **Maarten van der Giessen** for our favorite liners of Aromi hybrids and we're nursing along more deciduous liners from **J Jackson's** Native Plant Nursery. This is all very standard stuff for you who've been in the ASA for years, but it is very exciting for us. Good practice for our propagation next spring as well. When you visited us in 2007, we had plants from generous friends, but we wanted to grow our own this time.

In other news, we hope to help the City of Nacogdoches and Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful with their first-ever "Tree and Azalea Planting" event in October. What a great idea, actually planting azaleas at the best time—the fall.

Vaseyi Chapter News

Suzanne Medd, Corresponding Secretary, and Audrey Stelloh, President

Our April meeting was a field trip to two different gardens, one owned by Ray Head and the other owned by **Wayne Hutchins**. Some special plants that the group enjoyed were 'Grandiflora' silverbell, 'Winter King' hawthorne, 'Madison' dogwood, and many blooming rhododendrons and azaleas.

At our June meeting members voted to send \$200 to the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville in order to print more brochures for the Native Azalea Repository. Our speaker was Laura Felt, an accomplished Ikenobo Ikebana artist who lived in Japan for 4 years. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arrangement which dates back more than 500 years and is still practiced as a highly respected cultural art form in modern day Japan. Laura delighted us with her artistry, spontaneity and the ten beautiful arrangements she created, using branches of azaleas in bloom brought by members.

Our July meeting was our annual cutting exchange in Hendersonville, NC. The 50 baggies of cuttings to share were scooped up enthusiastically. **Bob Head** showed 3 of the hybrid azaleas that he developed for repeat blooming from July to frost - one with frilly double pink blooms, one fuchsia, and one dark magenta with a white center. They are being sold in nurseries as "Bloom-a-Thon" and "ReBloom" and are hardy to zone 6.

Bob Stelloh led a discussion to find out the members' views about the ASA investing in conservative dividend-paying stocks because the CD rates earned by the Endowment Fund are no longer high enough to supplement the cost of the publication of *The Azalean*. Many members were knowledgeable about investing, and voted that it would be good to invest a portion of the Endowment Fund in conservative dividend paying stocks.

We decided to help the ARS with nominations of azaleas that should be on the Proven Performers list for our area. We nominated 21 new evergreen azaleas and suggested that the Rhododendron of the Year award for the azalea category be given to either 'George Lindley Taber' or 'Hardy Gardenia'. We recommended 8 new deciduous azaleas, with *R. prunifolium* nominated for deciduous azalea Rhododendron of the Year.

In Memory

Frances Lucille Louer



Frances Lucille Louer passed away Monday, June 17, 2013. She is survived by her loving husband Phil as well as five children and their families, including Leslie and David Nanney. Frances began growing azaleas in the late 1960's. She joined the American Rhododendron Society a few years later and also completed the Master Gardener course.

Frances was a founding member of the Northern Virginia chapter ASA in 1981 and became its first corresponding secretary. She and Phil produced the chapter newsletter for 30 years. In 1983 they moved to a new home on five acres in Haymarket, Virginia and began to assemble one of the largest privately held azalea collections in the country. It now has 9,200 plants of 3,500 different cultivars displayed in a beautifully designed woodland garden. Frances always welcomed visitors to the garden and hosted as many as 20 tours every spring for local plant societies, church groups and, of course, the ASA and ARS.

In 2009 the ASA awarded Frances and Phil the Distinguished Service Award for their long-standing contributions to the Northern Virginia Chapter and the National ASA.

Sybil Przypek

Sybil Przypek, a longtime member of the ASA and the Northern Virginia Chapter, passed away on July 25, 2013. Sybil was also very active in a number of other horticulture societies, including the American Holly Society, the American Rhododendron Society and York County Master Gardeners. She was a founder of the York County Learning Garden and Arboretum in Yorktown, Virginia. We extend our condolences to Walter, her husband of 55 years, and the entire family. For those who want to send cards, the Przypek mailing address is: PO Box 1087, Yorktown, VA 23692.



Article of the Year Award

To encourage the continuing high quality of articles in *The Azalean*, the Azalea Society sponsors a monetary award for the author of the article judged best for the year by vote of our members. The award is in the form of a check presented at our annual conventions. The award was instituted in 1990.

Congratulations to 2012 winner **Patrick Thompson**, President of Alabamense Chapter, for his article entitled "Auburn University's Davis Arboretum," on page 62 of the Winter 2012 issue of *The Azalean*.