

# Chapter News

## Cape Fear Chapter by *Matt Hunter*

Our new chapter held its first face-to-face meeting in late December 2013 for the purpose of getting better organized, planning actions for the first quarter of 2014, and getting to know each other better. We accomplished all three objectives with the tentativeness you might expect of a brand new chapter. Our new officers are:

**Matt Hunter**, President and Chapter Contact

**Al Hight**, Vice-President

**Tom Ericson**, (Interim) Secretary

We did not designate a Treasurer because at the time we had no money or checking account. That will be remedied sometime during the first quarter of 2014.

## Lake Michigan Chapter by *Tadeusz Dauksza*

With cooler temperatures our attention turned to our garden to see what survived our brutal summer without much-needed rain. Some of us got tired from the constant watering and just left everything to nature—survival of the fittest.

During our July ASA Lake Michigan Chapter meeting at the home of **Jim and Karen Ellis** in Holland Michigan, some of us brought persistent and deciduous azalea cuttings. The rooting media put together by **John Migas** (his secret concoction,) plus Jim's 2 gallon zip bags were basically the tools we needed with those cuttings. No hormone or IB were used to stick the cuttings into those jugs.

After about 10 weeks, late in September, I decided to take a peek as to those cuttings. What a nice surprise: close to 80 % had a great root system, the rest of the cuttings had some small roots and they went back into the bags.



1. Azalea Cuttings in 2 gallon zip bags.



2. Great Root system after about 10 weeks.



3. Rooted cuttings placed into pots in late fall—early winter. These babies are on their own for winter— I will cover them lightly with Pine Needles, in the spring the survivors will go into garden.

## Northern Virginia Chapter by *Barry Sperling*

Our annual plant auction was held on October 12. **Paul Davis** took the reins as auctioneer for the first time and did a great job keeping us entertained and buying more plants than we intended. A large contingent helped to set up, show the plants, move them to the purchasers and then break down and clean up the area. **Carolyn and Paul Beck** grew most of the plants, carried them to the show, kept track of the finances and carted the remainder back for later sales.

We completed an active year in early December as **Jean and Lars Larson** once again opened their home to the club for our annual Holiday Social. In addition to the great food and camaraderie we elected Lars as our new president, following the great work of former president **Rick Bauer**. **Paul Davis** has now stepped into the VP role. We also agreed to distribute a total of \$5000 in donations to the National Arboretum and Green Spring Gardens Park's Title I program, as well as their overseeing of the Margaret White Horticultural Garden.

**George McLellan** will talk about "The Winter Garden" on March 16th, open garden tours will be on April 27 and a plant sale will be held May 17 at Green Spring Gardens in Annandale.

Check out our great new website, created by the hard work of **Paul Beck**, at [www.nv-asa.org](http://www.nv-asa.org).

## Oconee Chapter by *John Harrison*

Our goal in this New Year is to bring growth to the chapter by getting established members more active and new members on the membership role. One way we will do this is with upcoming events.

On a sad note past **President Jim and Patsy Thorton's** daughter Jami passed away on January 10. Thoughts and prayers are with them during this loss.

## The Reverend John Drayton Chapter by *Linda Wood*

Booths were set up at Magnolia Plantation during Autumn on the Ashley on October 12-13 and on November 9, when **Buddy Lee** gave a talk there. These booths are to inform the public about the Azalea Society, increase membership, and get others involved in the convention.

There will be a large selection of azaleas and other plants available for sale at the convention. Speakers will be interesting and a little different than the usual for a convention. There will be tours of Magnolia and Middleton, as well as a Cypress

Garden tour and a Downtown/City Market tour and a silent auction of artworks and baskets. Our Christmas party, in conjunction with the Camellia Society, was held at Magnolia on December 17.

### Vaseyi Chapter by *Suzanne Medd*

In September Dr. Joe Coleman shared photos of gorgeous naturally occurring azaleas from Hurricane Creek in Lumpkin County, Georgia. These azaleas are a varied group of diploid, triploid and tetraploid hybrids on property owned by Charlie Andrews.

**J and Lindy Jackson** brought seedlings of *R.alabamense*, *R.calendulaceum*-Hurricane Creek and *R.calendulaceum* white from Cahas Mtn. to share.



Hurricane Creek azalea.  
Photo by Charlie Andrews

## In Memory



**Ruth Joan Amos**, age 90, Azalea, Oregon, died January 7 of natural causes. Ruth and her husband **Charles** owned and managed the Azalea Gardens for 20 years. Ruth was a teacher and real estate agent. She served as a WAVE in the navy during World War II and was an avid underwater diver.



## Thanks Again, Ethel

by Bob Stelloh

The first paragraph of the "Thanks, Ethel" article in the Spring 2013 issue of The Azalean states: "On December 24, 2012, the Azalea Research Foundation received \$10,000 worth of Ameriprise common stock from **Ethel Larus**, in memory of her husband Charlie Larus, who was 88 when he died in 2007."

That gift forced us to open a stock brokerage account to accept it as stock, and it is our very first stock investment. It has turned out to be an excellent investment. As of November 26, 2013, just 48 weeks later, the value of that gift has grown from \$10,062 (160 shares at \$62.89 per share) to \$17,650 (160 shares at \$108.30, plus \$322 in dividends)—an increase in value of \$7,588, or 75.4%.

Ethel had donated the stock to be able to receive the full tax benefit of its appreciation while she had owned it. You can do the same, simply by donating the stock itself instead of selling it and donating the money from its sale. For more information about this and other ways to support the Azalea Research Foundation, please contact:

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