

Chapter News

Ben Morrison Chapter

Budne Reinke—Chapter President

Following up on the September meeting— Bob and Rosa McWhorter visited the Ben Morrison Memorial Garden in Pass Christian, MS, on the Pineville Presbyterian Church property. The garden consists of a collection of Back Acres Hybrids developed by Ben Morrison when he retired to MS. Some consider these hybrids Morrison's best work. The chapter sent cuttings to Drs. Wayne and Sylvia McLaurin to get the garden started. The McLaurins provide financing and maintain the garden. Chapter members approved sending \$300 to the church for upkeep of the garden and approved a donation to the USNA in memory of Don Voss. The chapter held a noon-time holiday celebration on Wednesday, November 30th, hosted by Bill and Gabrielle Scott, from Upper Marlboro, MD.

NVA Chapter

Barry Sperling—Corresponding Secretary

Since our well-attended Cutting Exchange in July the Northern VA Chapter has held two more successful events.

September saw the annual auction and plant sale with many of the offerings cared for by Carolyn Beck and the computerized sales with bar codes and credit card acceptance engineered by her husband Paul Beck. His database automatically kept track of who-bought-what and how-many-of-each-plant there were. The auction was successful and will provide funds for our coming donations.

In October we were treated to a talk on the Web of Life in our soils, the importance of maintaining a complex biota of plants and animals which make available nutrients to the roots. Master Gardener Dr. Paulette Royt, currently volunteering at Green Spring Gardens, gave the talk in a clear and enjoyable manner that left us all with a deeper appreciation of the need to develop and care for the action beneath the greenery.

New members: Robin and Brent Baer, Oak Hill, VA and Helen Li, Falls Church, VA.

Texas Chapter

Sherrie Randall—Secretary

The fall meeting was held at Robert Thau's home on September 24, with 13 members and one guest attending. New officers were elected: Harold Hall, president; Robert Thau, vice-president; Sherrie Randall, secretary; Don Parsons, treasurer. Robert demonstrated his methods and equipment for azalea propagation and his garden. (See related article on page 84.)

For the second year, we had a booth at the fall Nacogdoches Farmer's Market. Our chapter-grown azaleas were available, along with handouts on planting and growing tips. As we also consider this event a chance to introduce folks to the society, we were able to share past issues of *The Azalean* with them, thanks to those provided to us by Susan

Bauer at the Williamsburg convention. In March 2017, the chapter will be hosting a booth at the Jasper Azalea Festival, where we will again be selling azaleas and introducing folks to the society.

New member: Joyce Adams, Nacogdoches, TX.

Vaseyi Chapter

Audrey Stelloh—Past President

In October we joined forces with the Southeastern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society in a massive plant auction. About 45 people attended with most donating plants to the auction. Ray Head and Jackson McCarter purchased wholesale deciduous azaleas and rhododendrons to provide over 60 large plants to the sale. Doley Bell, Vaseyi treasurer, masterfully auctioned off over 150 plants. Leon Pace and John Kendall handed him plants lightning fast and Pamela McCarter miraculously kept track of all the purchases.

In November we had the annual Vaseyi BBQ and yummy pot luck supper. Jim Brant and his wife Pam drove all the way from coastal Virginia to present a slide show about the native azaleas of Hooper Bald, NC, where Jim has spearheaded efforts to remove encroaching vegetation from around the native azaleas. Although J Jackson was unable to attend, we used a photo of J and crowned him the new president of Vaseyi Chapter. Our Augie Kehr award for dedicated service to Vaseyi Chapter went to Secretary Suzanne Medd.



Photo Audrey Stelloh

▲ Audrey Stelloh presents the Kehr Memorial Award. Plaque inscription reads: Awarded to Suzanne Medd, for your distinguished contribution to furthering the knowledge of propagation, care and general appreciation of azaleas, and, in recognition of your outstanding participation in the activities of the Vaseyi Chapter. Presented with deep gratitude by the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA during the fourteenth annual meeting of the Vaseyi Chapter in the county of Henderson the state of North Carolina, United States of America on the sixth day of November, two thousand and sixteen.

Welcome new At-large Members: Tony Baron, Gary Milliman, Dennis Triglia, all from Brookings, OR, and Mike Osbon, Tignall, GA.