

# Chapter News

[We proudly publish news of chapter activities as a way of keeping in touch and sharing ideas for meetings and projects. But that news needs to be sent to [theazalean@gmail.com](mailto:theazalean@gmail.com) to make it into this column. The deadline for the Summer 2017 issue is April 15, 2017. I hope to hear from all chapters by that date. And, welcome to all the new members, Ed.]

## Ben Morrison Chapter

*Harold Belcher, Secretary*

Our November 30, 2016 meeting was held at our holiday party and get-together at the home and garden of Bill and Gabrielle Scott. Twelve members attended and one guest. We had a great time as we always do when we get together. There was good food, good company and conversation. President Budne led the business meeting with status reports about current chapter events and future plans.

Bob McWhorter gave a presentation on the Estate of Jean White and the status of her bequest to the chapter. Ms. White's Estate is pending in that her assets are still being settled prior to the distribution of the remainder of those assets.

Bob also mentioned that the Ben Yeo Morrison Memorial Garden at the Pineville Presbyterian Church, 4476 Menge Avenue, Pass Christian, MS, is currently being maintained by Sylvia McLaurin and her husband, Wayne. The McLaurins, may move and if they do move, there may be no one to maintain the garden. Also, there have been some floods in that area so the status of the garden is somewhat uncertain. If you plan on attending the 2017 ASA Convention in Hammond, LA (March 30-April 1, 2017), you might consider a side trip to Pass Christian to see the garden; however, you should check its condition before planning a side trip.

Future events include: a cutting picnic and a possible trip to nurseries in Pennsylvania, members' garden tours in the spring, and a trip to the Smokies to see the native azaleas. Roan Mountain was mentioned as a possible destination for viewing the native azaleas. Hopefully there are some still left after the wildfires. With respect to acquiring new members, Budne mentioned that they may wish to become affiliates of the Northern VA chapter.

## Louisiana Chapter

*Allen Owings, Louisiana Chapter President*

The chapter is busy with final preparations for the Hammond, LA, convention March 30-April 1, 2017. There's still time to register! And Congratulations Buddy on your award!

### **Buddy Lee Named James A. Forest Award Winner**

Buddy Lee, past president of the Azalea Society of America and chair of the Azalea City Program, was named the 2017 recipient of the James A. Foret Award from the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA) at their recent annual meeting held during the Gulf States Horticultural Expo in Mobile, AL. This award is for career contributions to the nursery and landscape industries.



▲ LNLA President Roger Steele and Buddy Lee

Pictured with Buddy is LNLA president Roger Steele. The Azalea Society of America is proud of you!

New members: Klayton Martinez—Prarieville, LA

## Northern Virginia Chapter

*Barry Sperling, Corresponding Secretary*

Many chapter members and their families joined together for a Holiday Social on December 4th. Thanks to Barb and John Kirkwood for opening their house to such a large hoard!

We hadn't finished digging through all of the great food that was brought when President Rick Bauer brought the business meeting to order. Treasurer Paul Beck went through the details of this active year which started with the Convention, followed by the annual Green Spring sale and concluded with the auction/sale in September. This income allowed the club to continue the yearly donations. This time they were awarded to: a) Green Spring Gardens supporting an intern at the White Horticultural Garden, b) the Title I educational program at Green Spring, c) a donation to the National Arboretum honoring the late Don Voss, and d) support for the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

New business centered on the election of officers. Barb Kirkwood agreed to be the new president and Lars Larson as VP. Joanne Neckel and Paul Beck will continue their work as secretary and treasurer. Susan Bauer filled in as secretary for this meeting. Carolyn Beck is heading up the work on the plant propagation efforts as she and Paul are looking to spread the work, which they have been doing for many years, among a large number of volunteers.

Barb Kirkwood was working on her idea for a set of mini-presentations at the March meeting, which would include some hands-on demos and things for children to get involved with. A meeting with a speaker will be on April 16. Stay up-to-date on our schedule, read "The Clipper," *The Azalean*, and look at pictures of specific varieties on our website: <http://www.nv-asa.org>

New members: Lee Ann Mravunich & Frank Myers—Indiana, PA

# Society News

## 2017 Officer Candidates

Excellent leadership is invaluable to our society. The following four candidates for the Executive Committee and three new Board of Directors' candidates have been nominated for two-year terms, 2017-2019. Be sure to fill out the ballot—on the wrapper of this issue—for these officers and mail it back to ASA Secretary Leslie Nanney as directed by March 17, 2017, or email to her at [dnanney@cox.net](mailto:dnanney@cox.net).

## National Officer Candidates

### Rick Bauer—Candidate for ASA President

Rick Bauer and his wife Susan have been members of Northern Virginia Chapter since 2002. Rick served as the chapter vice president of the Northern Virginia Chapter for four years and chapter president for five years. He also served as an ASA director for two years. He was co-chair of the 2016 ASA/ARS Convention in Williamsburg, VA. He also was a member of the team which digitized *The Azalean*. Rick was part of the team which started the “Legacy Project” within the Northern Virginia Chapter. This project is designed to help ensure the continuation of knowledge of azalea hybridizers and their plants and maintain true specimens of their cultivars. He retired from the US Army in 1994 after 20 years of active service and retired in 2011 from Science Applications International Corporation, where he helped develop software applications for Army customers.

### Charles Andrews—Candidate for ASA Vice-president

Charles Andrews of Cumming, Georgia, is a member of the Vaseyi Chapter of the ASA and a former member of the Oconee Chapter. He is a plant lover in general, but his heart is with azaleas. He enjoys writing and speaking on azalea topics, has contributed to *The Azalean*, and serves on the journal's Editorial Advisory Board. He also serves as president of the Azalea Chapter of the ARS. Charles believes the ASA and ASA chapters can be more proactive in membership and knows we have to give value for annual dues in order to retain members. For over 35 years, Charles has been studying American deciduous azaleas, a group of plants that are poorly understood, even today. He and like-minded “azaleaphiles” spend many hours in the field each year trying to better understand the distribution, habitat, characteristics, and dynamics of this amazing plant complex, primarily found in eastern North America. He believes these plants deserve more scientific study and horticultural emphasis. Charles is working to make accurate information on the history, identification, distribution, and culture of native azaleas more available.

### Leslie Nanney—Candidate for ASA Secretary

Leslie Nanney has been an ASA member for more than 36 years. She is a founding member of the Northern Virginia Chapter and has served as its treasurer. She is also a past national director and has served as the national secretary since 2012. Leslie retired from the US Department of Agriculture,



Photo Barry Sperling

▲ (Left to right, front row) Carolyn Beck, Brenda Klimavicz (seated on couch). Joe Gutierrez, Barbara Hambrook, Lars Larson (seated behind). Paul Davis is standing in back.

## Texas Chapter

### Sherrie Randall, Secretary

March 18, 2017, the Texas Chapter will host a booth at the Jasper Azalea Festival, where we will again be selling unique azaleas and introducing folks to the ASA. Three-year-old plants grown from cuttings, raised by chapter members, will be available. Most are azalea cultivars not readily found in the retail trade. The event is another step in the chapter's goals to raise scholarship money and to introduce the ASA to more Texans. We will also share past issues of *The Azalean* thanks to those provided to us by Susan Bauer at the great Williamsburg convention.

New members: Joyce Adams, Bill Patton—Nacogdoches, TX, and Judge Judith K. Guthrie, Pat & Linda Alvey—Tyler, TX

## Alabamense Chapter

New member: Morgan Beadles—Auburn, AL

## Central Carolinas Chapter

New Members: Dale Berrong—Danielsville, NC; Julia Prince—Charlotte, NC

## Vaseyi Chapter

New members: Jim & Tami Wagner—Landrum, SC

## New At-large Members

Winifred & Carmen Thompson—Conway, AR; Mail Order Natives—Lee, FL; Patricke Westbrook—Summerville, SC; Glendoick Gardens & Garden Centre—Glendoicke, Glencarse, Perthshire, UK; Pam Hayward—Woodtown, Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon, UK; Alasdair Maclean—Nairn, Highland, UK