

Save the Dates – April 5-7, 2018 for Azaleas in Arkansas!

By Gerald Klingaman—Fayetteville, Arkansas

For several years there has been discussion of bringing the ASA convention to Arkansas, a state where our group has never met. In 2018 our time has come. Thanks to the courage and generous support of the Louisiana Chapter and the organizing skills of Buddy Lee and Allen Owings, next year's ASA convention will be held in Little Rock on April 5, 6 and 7. Mark your calendars now.

Details are still being firmed up but we plan two days of tours, including a visit to Ronnie Palmer's Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery where he propagates and grows a wide assortment of azaleas including groups such as numbered Gartrell hybrids, Glenn Dales, Holly Springs, Linwood Hardy, North Tisbury, Robert Stewart, and others.

Garvan Woodlands Garden, a jewel of southern gardens and the botanical garden of the University of Arkansas, is an incredible blending of architecture and nature in a woodland setting where meandering trails lead the visitor through sculptured Japanese gardens, beautiful floral displays and architectural features designed by award winning architects such as Arkansas' own Fay Jones. Private gardens will round out the Arkansas experience and showcase two gardens in the southern Ozarks, including the spectacular hillside azalea and rhododendron garden developed by Larry Coleman.

Allen Owings, in brainstorming with Janet Carson, Arkansas' leader of over 600 Master Gardeners, decided to initiate a daylong workshop for gardeners new to the world of azaleas. The workshop—intended to introduce a new generation of gardeners to azaleas—will be held on Thursday, the day the



Photo Nataly of Divine Studios, Batesville, AR

▲ Larry Coleman's hillside garden has been a 20-year labor of love for this long time ASA member.

▼ The Moon Bridge at Garvan Woodlands Garden is one of the many iconic architectural features you will enjoy during the 2018 ASA convention.



Photo Gerald Klingaman

convention starts. This workshop is not a part of the ASA convention.

So, mark your calendars now and plan on joining us April 5 through 7 in Little Rock for the 2018 ASA convention. For more information on the 2018 convention contact Gerald Klingaman, gklingaman@bgozarks.org. Watch the Winter 2017 issue of *The Azalean* and the ASA website for registration information and convention details.