A Note from a Member...

Jeff Abt—Nacogdoches, Texas

I hope some of the readers of this journal are acquainted with the Southern Garden History Society, which is another wonderful gardening organization. SGHS members are keen gardeners that have a passion for Southern culture and tradition in their gardens. Their annual meeting each spring brings to the forefront a piece of gardening history in the American South.

For me, the meetings are a chance to broaden my horizons, visit gardens, and attend lectures. I can truthfully say these annual meetings have changed my life as a gardener.

This last April my wife and I attended the SGHS annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. One of the highlights was a visit to the famous Glen Saint Mary’s Nursery. The nursery, begun in 1882, has had a storied impact on Southern horticulture. The Tabers are into their fifth generation of nurserymen. We all are well acquainted with the justly famous ‘George Lindley Taber’ azalea. It was wonderful to take a tour of the nursery, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

SGHS members spent a delightful evening at the nursery having dinner right there in the garden adjacent to the original house of George Taber (currently the home of George Taber III). But the piece de resistance was that the folks of Glen Saint Mary’s Nursery sent us all away with our own small clay pot of ‘George Lindley Taber’. This azalea is common throughout the South. It is common in my hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas. But this particular plant has taken root in my heart as it is especially valued because it was a gift from the Taber family.

Jeff Abt is vice president of the ASA Texas Chapter and has recently retired from 25 years of writing a weekly gardening column for the Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel newspaper. To learn more about the Southern Garden History Society, visit southerngardenhistory.org

ASA Financial Statement - December 31, 2017

Paul A. Beck, Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT
Year 2017

INCOME
Contributions, Donations & Gifts $11,215
Dues Income (Life & Regular) $15,655
Seed Exchange $540
The Azalean Income $3,310
Investment Income $2,306
Total Income $33,026

EXPENSES
Grants $0
Professional Fees $5,400
Printing, publications, postage $7,297
Other expenses $886
Total Expenses $13,584

INCOME – EXPENSES $19,442

ASSETS
Checking $11,619
Savings $27,455
PayPal $311
CDs $158,258
ARF Stock Investments $31,921
Total Assets $229,564

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES
Uncashed checks $455
Credit Card Account $117
Operating Fund $37,632
General Endowment $82,183
Research Fund $109,177
Total Liabilities and Reserves $229,564

1 Includes $3,515 to the Azalea Research Fund, $3,590 in large donations, $875 in excess dues, and $3,235 in other donations (mostly from George Harding Foundation).
2 Only three Azaleans were published in 2017; The Winter issue came out in early 2018; this issue cost $4,209.
3 The chapter reimbursement expense of $5.00 per member, or $1,725, normally paid in December, was not made until early January 2018.
4 The net revenue for 2017 would have been $13,508 if the above two items were expended in 2017. This means that 2017 was a very good year financially. Most of the overage was due to a much heavier than usual level of donations to the Society.