Throughout this long process, volunteers share in a portion of the work. Some will tend a number of plants themselves. We appreciate that Lars Larson, David and Patsy Meadows, Dan and Joanne Neckel, and Fred Newlan have helped recently with this care! Some members will come by and help out in the long, tedious process of up-potting in the spring, and throughout the growing season.

Further afield, the Cosbys have been growing plants from cuttings for the chapter. Mike White’s nursery is raising about 500 azaleas a year from cuttings we provided, to be purchased by NV-ASA for a nominal fee when the plants are two years old and ready to be placed in gallon-size pots.

The hard work goes on and has for many years. This is vital, supporting the activities of the club, such as the newsletter and our end-of-year donations.

Nothing is forever, however. Our club will thrive only as long as members grab the wand and keep the magic flowing, asking “What can I do to help?” Carolyn and Paul will answer, “Well, we have a few cuttings over here …”

Sources and Acknowledgements

Barry Sperling is the editor of “The Azalea Clipper,” the online newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter. Barry thanks Carolyn and Paul Beck for their knowledgeable assistance with this article.

The Beginning of Jasper, Texas,
Beautification Projects

By Robert Thau—Jasper, Texas

The city of Jasper, Texas, has embarked upon a beautification project. This project has received state funding and azaleas will be a prominent part of the effort. On Saturday, February 16th the Texas Forest Country Chapter held the first of many plantings planned in the beautification project. The chapter planted 50 evergreen azaleas donated by Nature’s Way Gardens, which are cultivars that people have never seen in this area. Fifty varieties of evergreen azaleas were planted at the Beaty Orton house, among other varieties of plants already there and which are maintained by the Jasper Master Gardeners. Future plans include a nature trail with native azaleas.

We had 14 chapter member and family volunteers helping on this project. This included children of our members. The project was coordinated by chapter members Laura Golden and Robert Thau.

The chapter would like to thank the people who have been supportive of this project and the promotion of azaleas, including Denise Kelly-Jasper City Manager, Beverly Holly-Director of the Jasper/ Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce, the Jasper Master Gardeners, and the Jasper Arboretum.